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Joshua trees frame the future Cady Mountains Wilderness

Photo by Vicky Hoover

House passes desert bill (with hunting in Mojave)

By Jim Eaton and Lucy Rosenau

On July 27, by a vote of 298 to 128, the House of Representatives passed H. R. 518, the California Desert Protection Act. The joy that greeted this long-awaited event was tempered, however. The bill that passed the House has been weakened significantly by amendments.

The legislation now goes to a House-Senate conference committee where differences between the House bill and the bill guided through the Senate by Senator Dianne Feinstein must be reconciled.

The greatest blow to environmentalists was the passage earlier in the month of an amendment downgrading the Mojave from a national park to a preserve, a designation under which hunting is allowed. This will be foremost among the issues that must be resolved by the conference committee; restoring park status to the Mojave is a priority for environmentalists and many of the bill's sponsors.

In most other respects, the House bill is similar to the bill the Senate passed in April. Both would enlarge Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and redesignate them as national parks. The majority of the parks and the Mojave would be protected as wilderness, and more than 60 additional new wilderness areas would be established under the protection of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Both the Senate and House bills allow grazing in perpetuity in the Mojave and in BLM lands that will be absorbed into Death Valley National Park.

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Headwaters advancing: Wilderness bill now before House and Senate

In July the Headwaters Forest Act made headway on two fronts: The legislation cleared a second House committee and subsequently was introduced in the Senate by Senator Barbara Boxer, who had been waiting for the legislation to make significant progress in the House before launching it in the Senate.

The Headwaters bill would authorize the federal government to acquire 44,000 acres of redwood forests in Humboldt County as additions to the Six Rivers National Forest. At the heart of the legislation is wilderness designation of the 3,100-acre Headwaters Grove, the largest remaining privately owned grove of ancient redwoods.

As introduced by its House sponsor, Rep. Dan Hamburg (D-Ukiah), last year, the Headwaters Forest Act would have required the land acquisition, but the version of H. R. 2866 which emerged from the Agriculture Committee on July 13 would make acquisition voluntary. As part of a compromise with Maxxam, the corporation that owns Headwaters Grove and the other forest lands addressed by the bill, the Agriculture Committee substituted the words "may acquire" for "shall acquire" and added a sunset clause requiring that any acquisitions must be made within ten years of the bill's passage.

The Agriculture Committee version of the Headwaters bill also stipulates that the lands will be subsumed into the Six Rivers National Forest only after they are acquired. The original Hamburg bill would have made Headwaters an inholding in the national forest on enactment. Another amendment specifies that the property can be acquired by other means than outright purchase, means that could include the debt-for-nature swap proposed by some environmentalists (see June 1994 WR) or the participation of a land trust or other third party.

In addition to the amendments sought by Maxxam, there was one other change made by the Agriculture Committee. Rep. John Doolittle (R-Rocklin) wanted the bill to specify that until Headwaters is acquired, there would be no restrictions on its owner's use of the lands. The Doolittle amendment was further amended—to no restrictions on the land's lawful use—before it was adopted by the committee.

The Environmental Protection Information Center's (EPIC) Cecelia Lanman is not particularly troubled by the Agriculture Committee changes. She points out that the bill always has contained a clause specifying that the

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Monthly Report

Generally, I'm a backpacker, not a whitewater rafter. I identify with the Pogo character Porky who preferred staying on terra firma: "The more firmer, the less terror."

But in lieu of our annual backpacking vacation, Wendy and I opted to spend eleven days floating through Desolation Canyon on Utah's Green River. Nancy Morton and Dave Foreman set this trip up for friends of The Wildlands Project. A motley crew of fifteen sporting pirate flags shoved off in eight (soon reduced to seven) inflatable boats.

The California contingent was the largest. Wendy and I were joined by CWC board member Steve Evans and his partner Jeanette Colbert, conservation biologist Michael Soule and his wife Joy McKinney, and Chico printer Ed Caldwell. *Wild Earth* magazine provided John Davis and Marcia Cary. Relatives and friends rounded out the group.

On the way east we stopped to visit former CWC staffer Nancy Kang in Wells, Nevada. We arrived bearing fresh fruit (a rarity in eastern Nevada) and learned of her adventures in Great Basin National Park. To avoid the tourists, she had tried backpacking along the western slope of the Snake Range only to discover that there is precious little water to be found. She apparently wasn't aware that Jedediah Smith had the same problem there 167 years ago.

There was no shortage of water on the river, but only because we brought all our drinking water with us. Our rafts looked like garbage scows, piled high with water jugs, ice chests, ammunition boxes (the military's waterproof contribution to rafters), lawn chairs, and crates of onions, potatoes, and tonic water.

This was not a trip for dieters. Nancy and Dave provided copious amounts of fresh food and ample drink to keep us well fed and happy. Melons and fresh milk every morning, turkey and ham for sandwiches at lunch, and a variety of dinner entrees. A week into the journey, dessert was cherries jubilee over vanilla ice cream. No freeze-dried food in sight.

There was another major departure from backpacking. Not only was *all* our garbage (even fecal matter) boated out, but liquid waste was thrown into the river. After years of scrupulously avoiding lakes and streams, here I was bathing, pissing, and

tossing dishwater into the Green River. With so much use concentrated along the few beaches, the river has proven a better repository for liquid waste than the shoreline.

Most of the signs of humankind we saw were left by the Fremont culture some 800 years ago. Petroglyphs, pictographs, and granaries marked the passing of these ancient ones.

I did see more wildlife than on my foot ramblings. We watched bands of bighorn sheep, bear, coyote, gray fox, badger, bats, golden eagles, great blue herons, and a host of other birds. On a sand bar one morning I examined mountain lion tracks so fresh that they were still filling with water.

I always enjoy stargazing in the wilderness, grappling with the concept of infinity as I look at stars hundreds of millions of light years distant. I searched for Jupiter every night to assure myself it had survived its collision with a large comet.

This trip provided an additional humbling experience: In eleven days I floated through 40 million years of Tertiary and Cretaceous sediments. I began my journey at the time of early horses and finished at the heyday of *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

The experience brought home two concepts that, for all their familiarity, always amaze me. All we are, all the elements in our organs, bones, and tissues, formed in the interior of a star billions of years ago. And all the wondrous diversity of life surrounding us evolved from critters that survived that awesome celestial impact some 65 million years ago that brought to an end the age of dinosaurs.

The last evening I sat on the beach under the full moon looking up at the tall sandstone cliffs. At that moment I had an inkling of how long 65 million years is. During those many millennia, life evolved into the millions of species we find today. Yet we continue to debate whether most of those plants and animals are too expensive, inconvenient, or inconsequential to preserve. How incredibly stupid!

Protecting biodiversity. That's what wilderness is all about.

By Jim Eaton

The Ecology Center joins Coalition

In July, the original Ecology Center joined the California Wilderness Coalition. Founded in 1969 (in Berkeley, where else?), the Center today operates three farmers' markets, provides curbside recycling to 35,000 households, and publishes a respected monthly, *Terrain*, which provides "local, regional, and world environmental news for the San Francisco Bay Watershed."

The Ecology Center's well-stocked bookstore sells gardening supplies and other green products along with books, and its library and information center has publications on everything from appropriate technology to vermiculture (berms to worms?) and beyond.

To avail yourself of the Center's services or to sample *Terrain's* consistently high-quality thought and writing, contact the good folks at 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702; (510) 548-2220.

Wishes really do come true

Scott Kruse's generous gift of a fax modem will allow the California Wilderness Coalition to wean itself from our neighbor's fax machine, saving paper, money, and typing time. For the technologically illiterate (and by the technologically illiterate, we confess), a fax modem is a nifty device that connects to a computer and phone line, enabling its owner to send and receive faxes or electronic mail without ever making or receiving a paper copy.

We look forward to the day when Linda, the office manager at Kelley & Associates down the hall, will make her daily visits to our office unencumbered by a trailing 20-page fax on slippery, unrecyclable paper. (Perhaps she'll come bearing chocolate, instead.) Once the new equipment is installed, we'll disseminate the number so CWC members who wish to can use it. (The chocolate we'll keep to ourselves, however.)

Master scavenger Barry Parker also was moved to generosity by the wish list published in last month's *Wilderness Record*. We arrived in the office one morning only to trip over the filing cabinet he had dropped off the night before.

Thanks, Scott and Barry.

Spread the word about wilderness

Please send a complimentary copy of the *Wilderness Record* to:

Name _____

Address _____

Area of interest (if known) _____

May we use your name? _____

California Wilderness Coalition,
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616

Wilderness Trivia Question:

How much of California is federal land?

Answer on page 7



News from

NATIVE CALIFORNIA

"An inside view of the California Indian world"

News from Native California, a 56-page quarterly magazine, focuses on Indian people of California and many of the articles are written by Native Californians. As a special service to readers of *Wilderness Record*, the editors of *News from Native California* would like to offer a special rate on new subscriptions! You can get the magazine for one year (four issues) for \$12.50, a savings of \$5.00.

To take advantage of this offer, send your name, mailing address, phone number and a check for \$12.50 to: *News from Native California*, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA, 94709. For more information, call (510) 849-0177.

Wilderness reflections

High summer in the High Sierra

By Canyon Fred

Canyon Fred sends us occasional dispatches from his sojourns in the Sierra. This piece is an excerpt from his log of a recent trip to what he calls the Three Corners—where Yosemite National Park meets the Emligrant and Hoover wildernesses.

Thursday, Three Corners. By the time I snapped out of my plugged-in urban-world catalepsy, I was somewhere deep in the Grizzly badlands. I had set out from Sonora Pass yesterday afternoon for an off-trail respite in this land of badgers, eagles, and other confident creatures. (Never sneak up on a badger.)

This is sacred ground. Patches of rich volcanic soils in full bloom, folded into red, white, ocher, and silver sandy knoblands, spotted with whitebark pine and hemlock. Nowhere else on the Sierra crest can you find a scene so reminiscent of the painted desert. Rising above this display are granitic beehives topped by the chocolate-red volcanic pillars of Grizzly Peak.

The deer know the way. Lose the path and you're alone to pick your way through a maze of steep, sun-baked, dead-end gullies. I lost the deer trail once, then turned up my concentration and followed it through. On one of the many steep traverses I found the still sharp two-inch tip of a once larger obsidian point. I paused for a while to hold it, then set it down and stepped over it as countless deer have done for centuries.

Working my way around toward Bond Pass, the landscape turns to the granite boulder-and-bench country more typical of the Sierra. I stroll through small meadows bright with lupine, paintbrush, buttercup, and elephant's head and discover a prehistoric village site with a direct view to the "eye" of Grizzly Peak. There are fragments of the usual black obsidian and red chert, but also several pieces of perfectly clear stone. I poke around a while, then sit for lunch in the shade of a huge, crumpled (but defiant) whitebark pine. A doe, seeming unaware of my presence, stands up in a patch of willows nearby, stretches out, squats to pee, then ambles off to graze. I watch her for a moment, then lie back to nap. As sleep approaches, I think of the many families who lived here during the last few thousand summers.

Back on my feet now, and just inside Yosemite Park. I pause to enjoy a dozen green-backed hummingbirds as they chatter and chase each other through a garden of columbine. Continuing, I carefully look both ways before crossing a trail. If I were to see anyone today, this would likely be the place. But all is quiet, and in moments I am again in trail-less country.

The familiar motions of slab-walking over polished granite and boulder-hopping past marmots brings me to a breathtaking sight: a turquoise subalpine lake ringed with large, wispy hemlocks. Statuesque whitebark pines stand

silently, waving from the rocks above. Beyond the far end of the lake, a massive peak rises in dark spires glued together by snow tongues, which reappear below as a cascading creek feeding the lake. I quietly slink into the water, then stand naked on the shore, dripping in the warm sunlight. The soothing song of the hermit thrush

stretched arms as the plane flies by me and disappears into Yosemite.

Although I don't spend my weekends inducing untold traumas in an effort to prove I can outsmart fish, I happen to be an omnivore who loves to eat them. I don't necessarily get excited when the government provides a "fish farm" experience for anglers outside of wilderness areas, but these few enclaves are supposed to be protected as refuges where natural processes operate freely without the interference of humans.

Keep in mind that these Sierra lake basins were scraped out by glaciers that receded only ten thousand years ago. Fish had not made it up here by the time we anglos arrived and stole the place from the locals, nor would fish be in most of these lakes today if it weren't for overzealous biologists at the California Department of Fun and Games.

As soon as the fish are dropped into these lakes, they start to eat. They eat just about anything they can catch, and many of the prey organisms have no evolutionary imperative to escape. The result is that native aquatic ecosystems are destroyed as endemic species of shrimp, amphibians, and other organisms are decimated. Research in the Sierra has shown that the stocking of non-native trout significantly alters natural aquatic communities, and, as in the case of the mountain yellow-legged frog, it sometimes sends species to



In Three Corners country: Tower Peak from Rainbow Canyon

Photo by Dave Willis

Beyond the far end of the lake, a massive peak rises in dark spires glued together by snow tongues which reappear below as a cascading creek.

interprets the scene.

After pulling on clothes, boots, and pack, I ascend further to the crest dividing Yosemite and the Hoover Wilderness. I stop to camp at a treeline tarn with broad vistas, a grove of twisted but tall whitebarks, and few mosquitoes. For some time I sit motionless in the absolute stillness—warm sun to the west, a towering thunderhead at least a hundred miles off to the east.

I look down canyon and ponder the fate of unprotected areas that were removed from the 1984 wilderness bill by then-Senator Pete Wilson. (Is that guy still around?)

In the fading light I am reassured by the thought that the place where I sit is safe, and that Jim and company down at the CWC will not forget about the threatened areas.

Friday, Three Corners. Did I say safe? I am awakened by the unmistakable sound of aircraft propellers at close range. The engines sound okay, but the plane is so close that I'm sure it must be going down. I sit up in my sleeping bag just in time to see a twin-prop airplane clear Dorothy Lake Pass by a mere 200 feet. Still thinking they are in trouble, I watch anxiously until the secret belly opens over Stella Lake and drops the payload: hatchery-bred trout. I watch in disgust as the plane circles over the area and swoops down on several lakes, depositing its exotic seed. My only recourse is to offer obscene gestures with out-

the brink of extinction.

But the biologists at Fun and Games believe that good fishing is more important than intact native ecosystems, so string your rod and head out into the wilderness for a jolly good time!

Postscript. After my trip I did a little research and discovered that the California Department of Fish and Game firmly believes that it has the right to stock fish wherever it pleases—even on federal lands. But although the federal government's own attorneys opine that the states have no such right, the good ol' boys at the helm of the Forest Service continue to order the ranks to allow the states to continue this outdated and destructive practice.

I also learned that this same Department of Fish and Game will (later this summer, just down canyon from my rude awakening) add cancer-causing chemicals to the West Walker River drainage to kill fish that were previously planted but are no longer considered desirable by the

Fish had not made it up here by the time we anglos arrived, nor would fish be in most of these lakes today if it weren't for overzealous biologists at the California Department of Fun and Games.

same agency that now wants to stock Silver Creek with Lahontan cutthroat trout. Is this the proper mission of Fun and Games, or is it a conscious attempt to foster job security? One thing is certain: we're paying a lot of money to wreak

havoc on wilderness aquatic ecosystems, and something definitely smells fishy.

Canyon Fred's last dispatch was from the newly cattle-free Echo-Carson (December 1993 WR).

Ancient forests

New Forest Service report promotes salvage logging as cure-all for ecosystems

By Ryan Henson

The San Francisco office of the Forest Service recently released its Timber Sale Program Annual Timber Sale Program Information Report System Report (its real name, honest) for fiscal year 1993. Understandably called TSPIRS for short, this bland, jargon-filled document is critical reading for forest activists. Intended to explain the purpose, benefits, and extent of the previous fiscal year's timber sale program, the report provides clues to how the Forest Service intends to justify and perpetuate this increasingly-controversial subsidy in the coming years.

The report reveals that Region 5 of the Forest Service, which includes most of California's national forests, allowed 720 million board feet of wood to be cut, received in exchange 55.9 million dollars from the timber industry, built or rebuilt 384 miles of road, and helped support 8,670 forest product-associated jobs in fiscal year 1993 (see chart). The data in the report indicate that logging in many of California's national forests is occurring at levels far beyond what conservationists consider sustainable and that two provinces, the Sierra Nevada and Cascades, are being logged the most severely. Sierra Nevada national forests led the region, for example, with 99 million board feet being cut in the Stanislaus, 97 million board feet in the Eldorado, 88 million board feet in the Plumas, and 85 million board feet in Lassen National Forest.

In addition to presenting raw data, the report also attempts to promote and justify the Forest Service's timber sale program, a job that is more difficult than ever. Both Congress and the Clinton administration increasingly are

Salvage sales are increasingly popular with the Forest Service and timber industry because as "emergency measures," salvage sales are not subject to many of the environmental regulations governing green sales.

questioning the former mainstay of the agency's timber sale program, below-cost timber sales. In 1993, President Clinton announced he plans to phase out all taxpayer-subsidized timber sales within four years.

To address the problem of below-cost timber sales as well as the public's concern that the agency is sacrificing the ecological health of national forest lands for the benefit of the timber industry, the 1993 report for the first time divides the region's timber sales into three categories with typically euphemistic titles: the "forest commodity component," consisting of green timber sales (the sale of unburned logs); the "forest stewardship component," or salvage and roadside

"hazard tree" timber sales; and the "personal use component," the sale or donation of firewood to the general public. By dividing the timber sale program into three parts, the Forest Service apparently hopes to separate in public perception the lucrative green tim-

ber sale program from the often-subsidized salvage sale program.

The separation of salvage logging from green tree logging in the report does not signal that the agency is retreating from this highly controversial practice, however. Indeed, far from abandoning its salvage logging efforts (which in 1993 accounted for over 25 percent of timber production in the region), the Forest Service in its TSPIRS report offers a new defense of these "forest stewardship" sales, arguing that since they are good for the forest, they should not be subject to rigid cost-benefit analyses. How, you might well ask, are salvage sales

good for forests? The report maintains that these sales enhance and improve wildlife habitat, enable the agency to attain its "scenic quality objectives," improve public safety, restore ecosystems, and maintain forest health, among other benefits. The report goes on to declare, "As more sales are sold and prepared under ecosystem management principles and harvested in the future, the proportion of harvest in the forest stewardship component is expected to increase."

What is galling about these arguments to many conservationists is that salvage logging as currently practiced offers few, if any, benefits for forest ecosystems. Indeed, salvage sales are among the most expensive and ecologically harmful of all logging operations because they often are conducted in recently burned areas or in terrain considered unfit for green sales: steep slopes, areas dominated by unstable or infertile soils, riparian zones, and sparsely for-

ested regions. Salvage sales are increasingly popular with both the Forest Service and the timber industry, however, because as "emergency measures," salvage sales are not subject to many of the environmental regulations governing green sales. Consequently, though salvage sales generally are more expensive than green sales, they require less preparation, research, and monitoring by the Forest

Service and therefore can provide a short-term boost to local timber-associated (or, as the Forest Service argues, timber-dependent) economies.

Many conservationists still hope that President Clinton's

plan to phase out below-cost timber sales and the Forest Service's adoption of an ecosystem management ethic eventually will result in the elimination of most large-scale salvage logging operations. The TSPIRS report reveals that the Forest Service is determined to find a role for these often highly destructive projects, however. Indeed, the report's new defense of salvage sales bodes ill for roadless areas, isolated groves of old-growth, and other wildlands

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Old-growth Jeffrey pine, San Joaquin Roadless Area, Inyo National Forest
Photo by James Wilson

National Forest Report, 1993

National forest	Amount cut (in thousands of board feet)	Road construction & reconstruction (in miles)	Acres logged
Angeles	317	0	474
Cleveland	260	0	0
Eldorado	97,400	71	9,241
Inyo	8,378	0	2,067
Klamath	22,736	28	1,976
Lake Tahoe Basin	3,179	0	91
Lassen	85,523	34	53,242
Los Padres	335	0	0
Mendocino	7,271	3	214
Modoc	37,024	6	177
Plumas	88,168	35	14,992
San Bernardino	4,202	0	0
Sequoia	46,275	18	25,392
Shasta-Trinity	73,426	20	4,215
Sierra	64,920	54	637
Six Rivers	41,931	0	27
Stanislaus	99,637	39	5,441
Tahoe	38,872	75	5,984
Regional total	719,874	384	124,170

All figures from 1993 TSPIRS report.
Acres logged does not include thinning.

Wilderness news

Desert bill: next stop, conference committee

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Differences remaining to be settled in conference include provisions on assessing private land and using vehicles in wilderness. The House bill requires that in valuing inholdings the National Park Service wants to acquire, appraisers may not take into account the presence of threatened or endangered species. The House bill also would allow the California Department of Fish and Game to use vehicles in wilderness whenever the agency deems it necessary.

The House bill exceeds the Senate bill in one important respect: Lanfair Valley, which was largely excised from the Senate bill, is included in the Mojave preserve.

"Years from now, when the history is written, it is going to be remembered that we, at this moment, had the foresight and the vision to act boldly to protect this majestic and fragile area of our American landscape."

Environmentalists will lobby the conferees to keep Lanfair Valley in the final bill, even as they seek to retain the park status the Senate bill would accord the Mojave.

The campaign to allow hunting in the Mojave was led by the National Rifle Association (NRA). The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) and Rep. Larry LaRocco (D-ID), was viewed as an opportunity for lawmakers who voted against the NRA on bills restricting the purchase of assault weapons and handguns to curry favor with the organization.

Report promotes salvage logging

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that cannot be logged profitably through green sales because road construction and other costs would be prohibitive. Though the subsidies required to carry out large-scale salvage logging remain a limiting factor, the Forest Service commonly justifies any salvage logging-related losses to the federal treasury by claiming that the sales are necessary to prevent disastrous fires. As the report puts it, "Since healthy young forests are less susceptible to insect and disease attacks and to fire, logging and reforestation offer an efficient way to improve and maintain forest health and sustain forest ecosystems."

In employing this argument, the Forest Service is ignoring an ample body of evidence demonstrating that logged and replanted forests in fact

burn more severely than unlogged forests. Conservationists argue that scientifically-proven fuels reduction methods, methods like thinning young trees, controlled burns, and hand-piling wood debris, are the answer to this admittedly serious problem. The Forest Service and the timber industry continue to maintain that salvage logging is the more effective method, however, and have used this controversial reasoning to justify dramatic increases in logging in the national forests of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascades, even in such sparsely forested areas as the

"The ability to drive 30 or 40 or 50 miles from your home and teach the traditional values of hunting is a very valuable thing for families," said Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Coronado). But Roger Kennedy, director of the National Park Service, pointed out that more deer are killed each year by motorists on the George Washington Memorial Parkway near Washington, D.C. than in the eastern Mojave.

Though the smoke and fury of eight years of bills, hearings, and debates is past, the final details of the California Desert Protection Act will be up to the conferees, who have yet to be chosen. The conference committee can adopt provisions from either the Senate or House versions of the bill but cannot make new amendments

or changes. That means that there will be no opportunity to curtail grazing in Mojave and Death Valley. After the committee crafts a final bill, it will be returned to the House and Senate for approval. Only then does the legislation go to President Bill Clinton for his signature.

After passing the Senate last April, the California Desert Protection Act bogged down in the House. House Republicans offered 45 amendments to the bill, forcing debate on the measure to be prolonged over several months.

Modoc, Lassen, and Toiyabe national forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

If the past decade is any indication, salvage sales are the foremost threat to roadless areas in California, surpassing even green sales and road construction projects in the amount of acreage lost. In the past five years alone, for example, 35 of the 52 logging proposals for roadless areas in California have been salvage sales. Most roadless areas



Hunters have their sights on bighorn in the proposed Mojave National Park, and Congress may accommodate them. Photo by Mark Jorgensen

remain roadless and intact today not because Congress and the Forest Service recognized their recreational and ecological importance and decided to spare them (though this is the case for many highly scenic and well-known areas), but simply because they were more expensive to log and develop than other, more accessible areas. If the Forest Ser-

vice is successful in overcoming President Clinton's stated plan to jettison below-cost timber sales and in redefining its new policy of ecosystem management to not only accommodate salvage logging but to encourage it, then defenders of wildlands will have their work cut out for them in the years to come.

Ryan Henson, the California Wilderness Coalition's conservation associate, has been known to exclaim "oh, boy" when a TSPIRS report arrives in the mail, thereby distinguishing himself from every other CWC employee.

The seemingly endless debate consumed so much legislative time that many members of Congress expressed frustration.

"We're calling George Miller 'Moses,'" chided Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). "He led us into the desert and we can't seem to get out."

But on what turned out to be the final day of deliberations, Rep. Miller (D-Martinez) won a vote limiting debate to that afternoon. After voting down an amendment from Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Corona) that would have forestalled purchases of inholdings by the National Park Service and a mining amendment from Rep. Barbara Vucanovich (R-NV), the House overwhelmingly approved the desert bill.

Reps. Bruce Vento (D-MN) and Miller worked closely with the bill's sponsor, Rep. Rick Lehman (D-Fresno), to achieve final passage in the House.

"Years from now, when the history is written, it is going to be remembered that we, at this moment, had the foresight and the vision to act boldly to protect this majestic and fragile area of our American landscape," said Lehman. "The real beneficiaries of this bill are people who are not yet born, who decades from now are going to enjoy the California desert and say, 'thank God the Congress back then had the wisdom to protect this for us.'"

Yosemite begins new fisheries plan

The National Park Service is soliciting input from the public on a new fisheries management plan the agency is developing for Yosemite National Park. Management emphasis has begun to shift in recent years, with the park service increasingly focusing on the needs of wilderness species instead of the needs of recreationists.

Three meetings will be held in August to discuss concerns that the public wants to see addressed in the new management plan. Members of the public also may submit written comments.

The meetings are scheduled for Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles on August 10, 11, and 16 respectively. For details, see the calendar on page 7. Written comments should be addressed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389, Attn: Fishery Management Plan.

Wilderness news

New ORV restrictions proposed for Toiyabe wildlands

Cross-country travel by recreationists in off-road vehicles (ORVs) will no longer be allowed in the roadless lands northeast of Yosemite National Park if the Forest Service adopts a new travel plan for the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest. The deadline to comment on the travel plan and its environmental assessment is August 10.

Currently, ORV users are allowed to travel cross-country in some Toiyabe roadless areas but are restricted to existing routes in others. Vehicle travel now is barred only in the portions of the Hoover Further Planning Area that the Forest Service has recommended as an addition to the Hoover Wilderness.

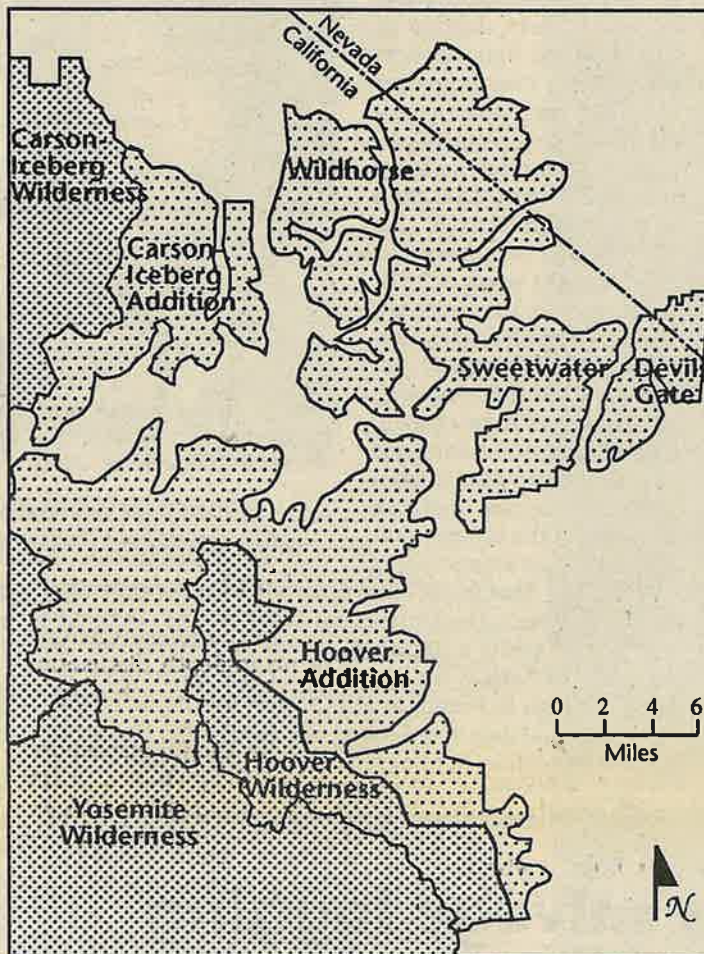
The new plan for the Bridgeport Ranger District, which comprises some of the Toiyabe lands in California as well as some in Nevada, would revise the existing vehicle travel map to make it consistent with the goals of the 1985 Toiyabe forest plan. In addition to restricting ORVs to existing routes, the Forest Service also plans to close specific routes where ORV use is harming wildlife or damaging sensitive environments.

Six roadless or further planning areas in California would be affected by the proposed change in management (see map). Most of the Sweetwater Further Planning Area and all of the Devils Gate and Long roadless areas now are open to cross-country travel, and cross-country travel is allowed in portions of the Wild Horse and Carson-Iceberg roadless areas and in part of the Hoover Further Planning Area.

Cross-country ORV use is considered particularly deleterious because it causes erosion, kills plants and animals, and creates casual routes that attract still more ORV use to wild areas.

Comments on the proposed travel plan should be sent by August 10 to Kathy Lucich, Bridgeport Ranger

District, P. O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. For more information, call Kim Dufty at the ranger district office, (619) 932-7070.



Roadless areas where the Toiyabe National Forest wants to ban cross-country ORV travel. Not shown: Long Roadless Area southeast of Devils Gate straddling the California-Nevada border. Map by Jim Eaton

Headwaters

continued from page 1

government may acquire the lands only if the seller is willing. Furthermore, she says EPIC's continuing litigation against any logging in the Headwaters Grove and adjacent forests, which are habitat for the threatened marbled murrelet, will protect the forest from logging until this legislation is passed and the lands ultimately are acquired.

Since the Headwaters bill that passed the Agriculture Committee differs from the bill the House Natural Resources Committee adopted in May, the two versions still have to be reconciled. Wilderness bills usually are addressed by the Natural Resources (formerly Interior) Committee; the Agriculture Committee is involved with the Headwaters bill because the Forest Service, which would manage the lands once they are acquired, is a division of the Department of Agriculture.

Though the Headwaters bill has moved relatively quickly through the House, getting it through the Senate will be harder. Just getting the bill introduced was "a big victory," according to Lanman. The next step for Headwaters advocates is finding co-sponsors in the Senate for S. 2285. The support of California's Senator Dianne Feinstein is especially important because public lands bills usually cannot advance without the cooperation of both a state's senators. The Headwaters bill probably will fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

If the Headwaters bill is enacted this Congress, which is by no means certain, new legislation would have to be introduced next Congress to fund the land purchase. And that legislation is sure to be much more controversial.

Controversial Eastside ORV plan rerouted

The reactions to a proposed new plan for off-road vehicle (ORV) use on the Sierra's Eastside were about what you'd expect. When the draft inter-agency motor vehicle use plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) were released in 1993, ORV users complained that too many routes would be closed, conservationists that too many would be left open (see December 1993 WR). But everybody complained that the documents were too confusing.

The confusion probably was inevitable, considering the scope of the plan. There are thousands of unpaved routes riddling the Inyo National Forest and the neighboring public lands of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bishop Resource Area, an area that extends from north of Mono Lake south to Owens Lake. Many of the routes never had been inventoried before the draft plan was prepared, so Eastside residents and recreationists could hardly be expected to submit knowledgeable comments about their closure or retention.

The universality of the confusion and frustration caught the attention of the BLM and Forest Service, which had jointly prepared the plan for the Eastside lands. In response, the agencies now are considering two courses: issuing a second, revised draft EIS, perhaps as soon as next spring, or issuing a final EIS that would address only those routes for which adequate information already is available. Whichever course the agencies take, they hope to close as quickly as possible routes that are non-controversial or that are causing documented damage to sensitive areas.

As for the other routes proposed for closure in the original plan, the Inyo National Forest's Bill Bramlette admits that the agencies do not have the data they need to justify the closures. As information is acquired, the agencies will address future closures in separate plans.

To be added to the mailing list for future documents about Eastside ORV use, write to the Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 873 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

Redesigned shooting range approved next to Masonic Mtn. WSA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has decided to lease public lands between Bridgeport Reservoir and the Masonic Mountain Wilderness Study Area to Mono County, which wants to develop a shooting range in cooperation with the Bridgeport Gun Club. The design of the shooting range has been changed from earlier proposals to minimize its impacts on migrating deer and the wilderness character of the Masonic Mountain area.

In its July 8 decision, the BLM determined that leasing the lands would have no significant impacts on wildlife or wilderness because the design for the shooting range has been re-oriented and because mitigating measures will be required. Even with the new orientation, the sights and sounds of gunfire at the range will be apparent inside the wilderness study area, but the BLM deems this intrusion insignificant.

To protect the East Walker deer herd, the shooting range will be closed weekdays during migrating season (October 15-December 20 and April 1-May 31), dogs will

be barred from the facility, guzzlers will be installed off the shooting range, and no lighting will be allowed for night shooting. To protect humans, signs will be posted on the jeep trail between the wilderness study area and the shooting range reading "Warning: entering shooting area. Honk horn three times. Do not proceed until all shooting stops."

Other mitigation measures include requiring the use of non-toxic shot and bullets "as soon as economically possible or if lead projectiles are outlawed" and posting wilderness study area boundary signs.

Early versions of the plan for a Bridgeport shooting range were criticized because the orientation of the trap and skeet shooting area would have caused shot to land inside the wilderness study area (see March 1994 WR). Under the configuration the BLM now has approved, the trap and skeet range will be situated north of Masonic Road, and an archery range will be the only facility south of the road and adjacent to the wilderness study area.

Book review

Viewing Tuolumne through a very long lens

Time and the Tuolumne Landscape: Continuity and Change in the Yosemite High Country
By Thomas R. Vale and Geraldine R. Vale, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1994, 212 pp., \$50.00.

Books that combine technical expertise with passion for the subject are not exactly an endangered genre, but an increase in their number is always welcome. This is one of those books. Thomas Vale is Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Geraldine Vale is a free-lance writer. In the process of exploring the upper reaches of the Tuolumne River from 1984-1988, they re-photographed scenes originally recorded on film around the turn of the century by G. K. Gilbert, F. E. Matthes, and others.

Time and the Tuolumne Landscape consists mainly of three sections. Pairs of photographs on facing pages, one the original and one the "repeat," make up the bulk of each section. Each pair is accompanied by a paragraph that points out how the landscape has changed between the beginning and ending of the twentieth century. Each section also has a brief introduction that summarizes what the authors believe can be learned from inspection of the photographs as a whole, first about changes in vegetation, then about rocks and water, and finally about the impact of increasing numbers of human beings. The three sections are framed by reflections on the nature of change in mountain landscapes.

The pairs of photographs are fascinating to look at, even though the changes in the landscape, for the most part, have been decidedly minor. The stability of this kind of landscape is impressive. The most evident change is an increase in vegetation. Interestingly enough this increase, for the most part, cannot be attributed to human presence. In fact, it is surprising how little an impact humans and their domestic animals have had. A climate that is gradually becoming more dry seems to be mostly responsible, although climate change does not explain all the evidence. In most instances where vegetation has decreased, the National Park Service is directly responsible. They have gone into the meadows and cut down the invading conifer saplings. A most welcome follow-up to this book would be a re-photographic survey of an area of the Sierra Nevada with aspect and elevation similar to the Tuolumne drainage but outside a national park. If such a major study has been done, I am not aware of it.

The photographs are likely to attract and keep the attention of readers already knowledgeable about Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. The accompanying prose narrative, however, is rather elementary. The authors are content mostly to list alternative explanations of changes in the landscape, with little or no in-depth discussion. This somewhat superficial treatment, although always clear and competently written, will probably frustrate those willing to give the photographs careful inspection. This disjunction between prose and the pictures is, I am sure, an editorial decision. The Vales are qualified enough to give us sophisticated, detailed discussions of their findings. I wish they had done so.

I also wish they had devoted significantly more prose to their own adventures, to what they saw with their own eyes as well as what they saw through a photographic lens. When they do mention themselves, they do so with insight and charm. Finally, I would have appreciated a full discussion of the technical aspects of repeat photography.

—David Robertson



CWC T-shirts

Scoba (right) models our six-tone landscape shirt now available in jade and fuchsia as well as the ever-popular light blue and pale green for \$15. Terri wears a design by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige or light gray for \$12. All shirts are 100 percent double-knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.



**California
Wilderness
Coalition**

Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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The *Record* welcomes letters-to-the-editor, articles, black & white photos, drawings, book reviews, poetry, etc. on California wilderness and related subjects. We reserve the right to edit all work.

California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616
(916) 758-0380
jeaton@igc.apc.org

Editor

Lucy Rosenau
Contributors
Canyon Fred
Jim Eaton
Ryan Henson
David Robertson
Photos & Graphics
Jim Eaton
Vicky Hoover
Mark Jorgensen
Dave Willis
James Wilson
Advisors
W. Cohen, J. Eaton

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DATES TO REMEMBER

August 10 COMMENTS DUE on a plan to restrict off-road vehicle use in the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest. Send to: Kathy Lucich, Bridgeport Ranger District, P. O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. (See article on page 6.)

August 10, 11, 16 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS to begin developing a new fishery management plan for the lakes and rivers of Yosemite National Park. Workshops are scheduled for Sacramento on August 10 (California Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 9th St.), San Francisco on August 11 (Building 201, Fort Mason), and Los Angeles on August 16 (William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills). All workshops start at 7:00 p.m. Comments on the plan also may be sent to Superintendent, Yosemite NP, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389, Attn: Fishery Management Plan.

September 24 MEETING of the directors of the California Wilderness Coalition in Davis. For details, call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

October 8-9 FREE WORKSHOP and field trip in Hoopa, California for activists working on the Clinton plan for Pacific Northwest forests (Option 9). For more information, call Deborah Ferber at the Wilderness Society, (206) 624-6430.

Wilderness Trivia Answer:

46 percent, or 46 million acres. By contrast, 85 percent of Nevada and 28 percent of Montana are federal lands.

Source: *Sierra Club Planet*

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Coalition Member Groups

Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland Butte Environmental Council; Chico California Alpine Club; San Francisco California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln California Native Plant Society; Sacramento Citizens for Better Forestry; Hayfork Citizens for Mojave National Park; Barstow Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes; Nipomo
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Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis

Finally, a real deterrent to ORVs

*"Warning: entering shooting area.
Honk horn three times. Do not proceed
until all shooting stops."*

Proposed wording for signs
at Masonic Mountain WSA.
(See article on page 6.)

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