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Legislation would require the Freel Peak area to be sold to Heavenly Valley Ski Area

Photo by Phil Farrell

Forest Service may be forced to sell ski areas

This fall the House of Representatives is expected to pass legislation requiring the U. S. Forest Service to sell at least 42 ski areas to developers. Six of the resorts are in California.

Though most ski resort operators own the land that encompasses their base facilities, the majority of the area for lifts and ski runs usually is leased from the Forest Service. These leased lands frequently are contiguous with wilderness and roadless areas.

The legislation could provide a financial windfall to ski resort owners. Under the proposal, both the Forest Service and the resort owner would value the lands to be sold, with the sale price bring the average of the two appraisals. But the appraisers must assume the land will be used for ski runs even though how the land will be used will not be restricted after ownership is transferred. In Colorado, some ski resorts sell lots for \$2-3 million an acre.

In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to sell or exchange additional adjacent lands to further enlarge ski areas. This provision is likely to affect roadless lands.

The sale is being promoted as a way to cut the federal deficit, though the appraisal restrictions assure the lands will bring a minimal return to the treasury.

Gary Sprung of the High Country Citizens Alliance in Crested Butte, Colorado, said, "it's a real raw deal for taxpayers. We'll get more money from the ski areas if we keep leasing them the land than if we do this one-time fire sale."

Opposition to the legislation quickly arose in Colorado, where 17 ski areas were listed as eligible for sale, including Aspen, Keystone, Snowmass, Telluride, and Vail. Governor Roy Romer wrote a letter in opposition to the plan, and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) is trying to keep the measure from passing the Senate.

Ski areas in California that could be sold include Boreal Ridge, Alpine Meadows, Kirkwood, Bear Mountain, *continued on page 5*

Hansen hatches a horror in Utah Wilderness System under attack

By James Catlin and Vicky Hoover

Last November's election hurtled wilderness advocates from proactive to defensive efforts. The Republican-dominated 104th Congress has placed staunch anti-environmentalists in key positions of power. They have taken the opportunity to declare war on almost every vital environmental law.

One of their central offensives is an attack on the National Wilderness Preservation System led by Representative James Hansen (R-UT), new chair of the Parks, Forests and Lands Subcommittee of the House Resources Committee. While Rep. Hansen's prime focus is on his home state, his battle plan goes far beyond Utah and takes a vicious stab at all American wilderness.

Rep. Hansen has introduced a bill which he plans to use as a model for future wilderness everywhere: HR 1745, or Wilderness Designation of Certain Public Lands, Utah. Utah's public lands would be only the first victims of this legislation which is soon to go to the floor of the House of Representatives. In effect, Hansen would disembowel the Wilderness Act.

Utah's senators Orrin Hatch and Robert Bennett have introduced an identical bill (S. 884).

What is so bad about this legislation?

• It demotes the concept of wilderness that Ameri-

cans have come to value by specifically authorizing inappropriate uses in wilderness—mechanized activities and permanent structures that currently are not allowed in designated wilderness.

• It sets a precedent for future wilderness bills with "hard release" language and, perhaps more significantly, by stipulating that *all* Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands not designated as wilderness must be "managed for the full range of nonwilderness multiple uses." This means that the BLM must favor consumptive and motorized uses and would not be allowed to preserve the wilderness qualities of its lands. For Utah, the mandated "nonwilderness management" of BLM lands is more serious than "hard release" language that prohibits the agency from reexamining areas omitted from the bill as possible future wildernesses. (In Utah, the BLM has made clear it will never, unless forced, reconsider any lands for wilderness anyway.) But a prohibition against managing lands to protect their wild qualities is unprecedented and, if enacted, would change future management of all our public lands in the-western U.S. that are not designated wilderness.

• About 1.5 million acres of Utah federal lands now protected as wilderness study areas (WSAs) will lose that interim protection. Another two million acres, including *continued on page 6*

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Coalition news



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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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Wilderness Trivia Question

What was the first California National Forest to issue a draft forest plan?

Answer on page 7

Monthly Report

September 9 turned out to be a delightful day for an outdoor wedding. But this wasn't a wedding like mine—within walking distance from home and a stone's throw from the office.

Actually, it was walking distance from the Lee Vining home of CWC Board member Sally Miller and her fiancée Roland Knapp. They were married in a meadow adjacent to the Log Cabin/Saddlebag Roadless Area with the snow-capped peaks of Yosemite as a backdrop. It was a warm, sunny day with birds and butterflies joining in the celebration.

The assembled group was a mixture of family, local friends, and activists, with many wearing more than one of these hats. A contingent of eastern Sierra activists attended, including Mother Wilderness herself (aka Marge Sill), one of Sally's esteemed mentors. Needless to say, some business was conducted while we ate great food, sipped champagne, and breathed in the pure mountain air.

After the festivities, the bride and groom left for a two-week backpack trip in the southern Sierra. Not having that much time, Wendy, Inyo, and I joined James Wilson, his wife Kay, and daughter Rosanne for a campout on the slopes of Glass Mountain south of Mono Lake. We had a great time around the campfire, telling stories and enjoying the night air. It was fun hanging out with a ten year old who likes to hike and camp and who, rather than being repulsed by bugs, runs to investigate them.

The day before the wedding we stopped off at Sonora Pass for a hike. I was amazed to find snow still lingering at the pass; in fact, to the south, the Pacific Crest Trail was partially buried. We went north instead where the wildflowers were just coming into their prime. One of these days I want to hike the PCT south from there. It is said to provide some of the best views in the state as it rambles around Leavitt Peak. I did most of my exploring in this region before the trail was built (much of it along an old mining road), but I missed this stretch.

There still will be quite a lot of snow on the ground when winter sets in. The high country got a

well deserved rest this year. If we get another heavy winter, the Sierra will be quite a challenge to visit next summer.

The memory of the mountains was still fresh when we spent an evening at Fort Mason at a fundraiser for the CWC hosted by the Patagonia store in San Francisco. Dave Foreman, Michael Soule, and I spoke about The Wildlands Project to an enthusiastic crowd. We all viewed and critiqued the premiere of a wildlands slide show, and the audience's comments received will help us improve the program. Money was raised from a silent auction featuring Patagonia clothing and a wild pair of Grateful Dead skis donated by Cool World Sports (but CWC Board member Mary Scoonover outbid Wendy for a neat sweatshirt that was just my size).

The Patagonia folks have been extremely generous to the Coalition. In addition to everything Ron Hunter and his staff have done in the San Francisco store, the parent corporation adopted The Wildlands Project this year. Their catalog features the project, and every store has a display about it and how to become involved.

The Santa Barbara store has helped organize a workshop for wildlands activists later this month. And Patagonia has given us a grant to kick off an adopt-a-wilderness campaign. Last month the CWC Board passed a resolution commending Patagonia for its efforts to save wildlands.

Other wilderness-oriented businesses have supported the Coalition for a long time. Tom Winnett of Wilderness Press has been backing us for 20 years, along with Genny Smith Books, Wilson's Eastside Sports, and Echo, The Wilderness Company. But this is the first time a really big corporation has thrown its muscle behind our efforts. We hope more companies will see fit to do the same.

By Jim Eaton



Ancient forests

Saving the worst for last

Final Mendocino forest plan released

By Ryan Henson

The Mendocino National Forest stretches for nearly 70 miles from Clear Lake in the south to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness in the north, encompassing almost 900,000 acres of public land. This little-known forest was the first of the Forest Preserves established in California early in this century, though it certainly has not been treated like a preserve by the U. S. Forest Service.

Originally a trackless wilderness of oak groves, grasslands, ancient forests, brush fields, and wild rivers, the Mendocino has been despoiled by nearly 3,000 miles of roads, countless clearcuts, and overgrazing. Today, only 141,950 acres of inventoried roadless lands (those recognized as roadless by the agency) remain in a reasonably wild and pristine condition, along with another 74,540 acres of roadless lands identified by conservationists but never inventoried by the Forest Service.

The Forest Service's recently released Mendocino forest plan is the latest attempt to resolve more than a decade of litigation, policy changes, and general acrimony over the management of old-growth forests and critical fish habitat. The first draft of the plan, released in 1986, was withdrawn in response to lawsuits over the decline of the northern spotted owl. President Clinton's plan to resolve the northwest forest crisis (Option 9) has subsequently changed how public land is managed in the Mendocino and other national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) districts within the range of the northern spotted owl. Now, with the release of this new plan, the Mendocino has lost the dubious distinction of being the only national forest in the United States without an approved forest plan.

Most areas receive increased protection

The plan allocates the majority of the forest outside designated wilderness areas and wild-and-scenic-river corridors to some kind of protective classification. For example, an estimated 162,300 acres of riparian lands are protected, as are nearly 208,670 acres of old-growth reserves. Though these areas are not completely safe from logging and development under the plan, they are immune from wholesale clearcutting and other types of commercial exploitation. When combined with areas set aside for primitive recreation, special interest areas (lands containing extraordinary geological, botanical, or historical features), research natural areas (botanical communities set aside for research and education), wilderness areas, and wild-and-scenic rivers, about 326,000 acres are left for intensive logging. From these lands, the Forest Service will allow 12.2 million board feet of trees to be cut annually, down significantly from past levels.

One of the most welcome surprises in the plan is a new commitment to protect the proposed Yuki Wilderness.

Named for the native people who once inhabited the area, the proposed wilderness is composed of two BLM wilderness study areas and two Forest Service roadless areas. Together, these wildlands comprise over 70,000 acres of ancient forest, oak woodlands, meadows, and anadromous fish streams. The California Wilderness Coalition began lobbying the BLM and Forest Service to protect the area in 1992, but with little hope of succeeding. To the surprise of conservationists, the new Mendocino forest plan dubs the region the "Yuki Management Area" and commits the Forest Service to "maintain future options for wilderness designation." Though the new Mendocino plan is far from perfect, activists owe a great debt to the Forest Service for this unexpected and welcome gesture.

With these land classifications and its overall thoroughness (past Mendocino forest plans were vague analyses at best) it is the best management plan ever produced in the history of the Mendocino National Forest. Nonetheless, the California Wilderness Coalition, California Trout, the California Native Plant Society, and other conservation groups consider the plan to be far inferior to the new plans for the neighboring Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers national forests.

Roadless lands at risk

One reason for the unfavorable reaction is that the future of the Mendocino's roadless lands is not very bright under the plan. Though it preserves 51,415 acres of the Deer Mountain, Elk Creek, Big Butte-Shinbone, Thatcher Creek, Thomes Creek, Briscoe Creek, and St. John Mountain roadless areas exclusively for backcountry recreation, forest planners carefully excluded the remaining 38,250 acres of inventoried and uninventoried roadless lands within these areas from protective designations. Indeed, only one of the roadless areas is entirely protected under the plan. Worse, nearly 79,000 acres of the Mendocino's

roadless lands do not receive any protection. These threatened wild areas include the Black Butte, Reister Canyon, Grindstone Creek, and Skeleton Glade roadless areas and critical additions to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel and Snow Mountain wilderness areas.

Fortunately, Option 9 contains two important provisions that may help. It prohibits road construction on the 35,470 acres of inventoried roadless lands within the Middle Fork Eel River, Black Butte River, and Thatcher Creek watersheds because of the critical role these watersheds play in sustaining anadromous fisheries. In addition, Option 9 requires that a lengthy watershed analysis be conducted before logging, road building, or other high-impact activities may occur in roadless areas, a provision that should make it a bit more difficult for the Forest Service to justify logging in extremely isolated and inaccessible roadless areas.

Wild rivers too

The wild-and-scenic river proposals in the final forest plan are just as disappointing. The three streams proposed for wild-and-scenic status (the upper Middle Eel River, Balm of Gilead Creek, and the Middle Fork of Stony Creek) already are within the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel or Snow Mountain wilderness areas. Their designation as wild-and-scenic rivers, though desirable as an added layer of protection, would not protect any of the wildlands now at risk in the Mendocino. The plan does propose, however, that Black Butte River and Clear Creek, both famed for their anadromous fisheries, and the geologically-fascinating and ecologically-diverse Thomes Creek be studied for their wild-and-scenic potential. Activists may be forced to appeal the plan for its failure to recommend other important waterways in the Mendocino for wild-and-scenic river status: Grindstone, Elk, North Fork Stony, Cold, and North Fork Cache creeks and the Eel River above Pillsbury Reservoir.

The Forest Service's failure to recognize the inherent value of the Mendocino's roadless lands, wild rivers, and designated wilderness areas is disappointing but not surprising. But it is not too late for the Mendocino National Forest to become the preserve it was meant to be when it was created in 1907. Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Forest Service, there is still a great deal of wilderness left in the Mendocino, lands that, if protected now, may one day serve as the seedbed for ecological recovery in the northern Coast Range.

Ryan Henson is the California Wilderness Coalition's conservation associate.



Thomes Creek below Henderson Glade, is protected by the forest plan

Photo by Ryan Henson



Protection for Eden-Thatcher is a pleasant surprise

Photo by Don Morris

Roadless areas

Salvage logging threatens Siskiyou wild area

By Tim McKay

Some 31 million board feet of trees may be put up for sale in the Dillon Creek watershed in the Klamath National Forest, triggering what Felice Pace, director of the Klamath Forest Alliance, says will be a "bitter struggle" among conservationists, the timber industry, and the Forest Service.

Dillon Creek is quickly becoming the most endangered roadless watershed in the Klamath-Siskiyou region, all because of a salvage rider attached to the recently passed recissions bill. Under the rider, citizens are prevented from appealing Forest Service logging plans and the arguments they can use against the agency in court are strictly limited.

The Dillon Creek watershed is part of the Siskiyou Roadless Area which links the Siskiyou Wilderness to the Klamath River. For the last two decades logging and road construction have slowly encroached on the north and south ends of the roadless area. During the 1950s and 1960s, an open-pit gold mine covering 150 acres yielded \$3.7 million in gold and silver from the watershed. The 1964 flood sent 250 cyanide drums from the mine cascading down Dillon Creek.

The proposed Dillon salvage sale is the latest assault on the roadless area. During the summer of 1994, a lightning fire burned 27,000 acres in the region. As soon as the flames were extinguished, the Forest Service began planning to salvage log the Dillon Creek watershed. Recently, a group of Forest Service employees who surveyed the sale area forgot to douse their campfire and started another 2,000-acre conflagration. The agency now is planning to salvage log that burn as well.

Fiery rhetoric

Pace argues that Forest Service press releases about the fire promoted the idea that vast areas had been consumed, when in fact natural fires, including the Dillon fire, burn in a mosaic pattern across the landscape. At times fires do wipe out entire stands of trees, but most fires simply burn along the ground, killing small trees and consuming brush, downed wood, and other small fuels in the forest understory. These "underburns" are essential to forest health. Even the Forest Service admits that we cannot have healthy forests without fire. But every time our forests burn the agency punishes them with salvage logging that compounds the effects of fire and hampers regeneration for decades.

Pace notes that the Forest Service is trying to justify salvage logging and road construction by fostering an "emergency" atmosphere every time a forest burns. The agency usually argues that if burned forests are not logged they will burn even more intensely in the future and perhaps never become forested again. What the agency ignores is that North America had some of the finest coniferous forests in the world before salvage logging came along.

In the nearby Grider Creek watershed, which flows out of the Marble Mountain Wilderness in the Klamath National Forest, examples of salvaged and unsalvaged areas can be seen side by side. Not only are the unlogged areas recovering more quickly from the fire, Pace says, but between 50 and 75 percent of the trees marked as dead or dying by the Forest Service are still healthy seven years after the Klamath Forest Alliance, the California Wilderness Coalition, and other groups stopped an earlier salvage sale. The lesson of Grider Creek appears lost on the Forest Service, however; the agency insists it can now identify dead and dying trees much more accurately.

What the agency ignores is that North America had some of the finest coniferous forests in the world before salvage logging came along.

But every time our forests burn the agency punishes them with salvage logging.

Sensitive fisheries and old-growth at risk

The Dillon Creek watershed contains thousands of acres of old-growth forest along its steep, rugged ridges. These forests host rare amphibians, northern spotted owls, goshawks, peregrine falcons, martens, fishers, and perhaps even the elusive wolverine and marbled murrelet.

Dillon Creek is home to chinook salmon, winter steelhead, and possibly coho salmon. Dillon Creek may also support as much as 10 percent of California's threatened summer steelhead population.

Much of the land proposed for salvage logging is so steep that the Forest Service considers it unsuitable for ordinary timber sales. Unfortunately, salvage logging is allowed even in areas where the agency admits trees may never grow again. Though much of the watershed is in an old-growth reserve established by President Clinton's northwest forest plan (Option 9), the president agreed to allow salvage logging in the burned area.

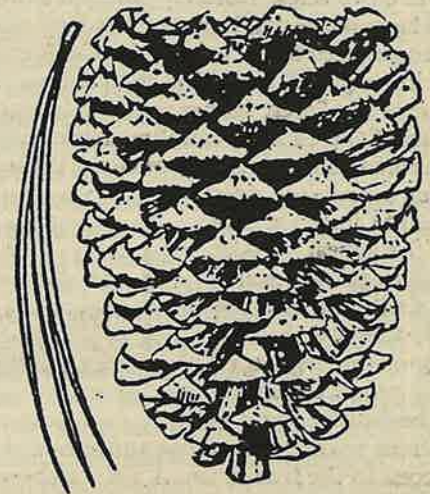
The Forest Service currently is seeking public comment on the proposed salvage sale, and a tour of the area is scheduled for October 24, 1995. Call Annie Gibson at (916) 493-2243 for more information.

What you can do

Write to George R. Harper, District Ranger, Happy Camp Ranger District, P.O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA

96039-0377. Request that the Forest Service avoid logging in the Dillon Creek watershed except along existing roads. Stress the importance of maintaining the Siskiyou Roadless Area in an undisturbed condition for the sake of old-growth dependent wildlife, water quality, and salmon and steelhead habitat.

Tim McKay is executive director of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.



"Cutting edge" logging experiment slated for the Pilot Creek Roadless Area

The Pilot Creek watershed in the Six Rivers National Forest feeds the Mad River and provides needed habitat for salmon and steelhead. Because of its value as a refuge for anadromous fish, President Clinton's northwest forest plan (Option 9) designated the area a "key watershed" where logging and road construction must be balanced with restoration and habitat preservation. The Forest Service now believes it has just such a balanced approach for Pilot Creek. If the agency goes ahead with its controversial plans, up to 16 million board feet of trees will be logged from the watershed.

The Forest Service's logging plans for the area are outlined in a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) released in September. For the most part, the plan for old-growth forests calls for thinning small trees while retaining large trees (conventional timber sales, by contrast, usually remove these canopies altogether). The plan also calls for the creation of "shaded fuelbreaks" (areas where the forest has been thinned to reduce the opportunity for fire to move freely from one tree to another), permanent road closures, streamside restoration, erosion control, oak woodland rehabilitation, prescribed fire (i.e., controlled burning), and landslide rehabilitation. No clearcutting will occur.

Though the Forest Service's plans are a marked improvement on previous logging proposals which stressed clearcutting and extensive road construction, the new plan also has several controversial elements.

The Forest Service intends to log within the Pilot Creek Roadless Area. Once a 10,000-acre wildland, the Pilot Creek Roadless Area now has only 4,600 acres because of salvage logging in the late 1980s. Despite its small size, the roadless area is critical to the health of the Pilot Creek watershed and serves as a refuge for species sensitive to human disturbance. Under the Forest Service's plans for the region, over 900 acres of the roadless area will be

logged or otherwise disturbed.

The Forest Service also proposes to construct over seven miles of road in the watershed. Road construction is allowed in key watersheds under Option 9 (part of a political compromise), but many biologists argue that no new road construction should occur in these watersheds. Option 9 strictly forbids the construction of new roads in roadless areas within key watersheds. Despite this, the Forest Service proposes to construct seven hundredths of a mile of new road in the roadless area. The agency asserts that the area is no longer roadless since it is now under 5,000 acres in size.

Though the Pilot Creek timber sale clearly is a vast improvement over the old-fashioned timber sales that destroyed vast areas of old-growth in the Six Rivers National Forest and other public lands, conservationists argue that roadless areas—especially those in sensitive watersheds—are no place for forestry experiments. Since roadless areas constitute no more than 15 percent of the Six Rivers National Forest, it is ridiculous to argue that the agency cannot find any less sensitive and controversial areas to log. The failure of the Forest Service to protect this important area in its new Six Rivers forest plan (see August 95 WR) is one of the major reasons the California Wilderness Coalition and other conservation groups have appealed the plan.

What you can do

To submit comments on the Pilot Creek draft EIS, write to Marcia Andre, District Ranger, Mad River Ranger District, Star Route Box 300, Bridgeville, CA 95526 by October 16, 1995 (letters must be post-marked by that date). Oral comments also are being accepted until October 16 at (707) 574-6233 (ask for either District Ranger Marcia Andre or Janice Stevenson). Request that the Forest Service select Alternative C as the preferred alternative in the final EIS for the sale. Stress that Alternative C will protect the remaining portion of the Pilot Creek Roadless Area from further harm and benefit water quality, old-growth habitat, and primitive recreation in the watershed.

Ancient forests and wilderness management

Forest Service tries to log Tom Martin Roadless Area—again

By Ryan Henson

Rising above the confluence of the Scott and Klamath rivers in the Klamath National Forest is Tom Martin Peak, a steep, dark mountain hosting endangered wildlife, rare plants, and verdant old-growth forest. The northern and eastern slopes also are roadless and undeveloped, though every few years clearcutting, road construction, and other development threaten the roadless portion. Once 9,400 acres in size, today the Tom Martin Roadless Area has been reduced to 6,000 acres. Not every attempt at logging the peak has been successful, however; two large timber sales have been defeated in the area by the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) and other groups since 1991.

But now the Forest Service wants to log more of the Tom Martin Roadless Area, and though the CWC and the Klamath Forest Alliance had appealed the timber sale, the signing of the salvage rider by President Clinton in July negated the appeal. Under the rider, all logging in northwestern California and the Pacific Northwest and all salvage logging (the logging of dead and dying trees) in the rest of the United States is exempt from environmental law and administrative appeal. Access to the federal courts also has been severely limited; activists now have to find constitutional issues and non-environmental laws and policies to use against the agency in court.

Though the Forest Service and the Clinton administration insist that the agency will follow all environmental laws despite the rider's provisions, even before the salvage rider the Forest Service had a well-deserved reputation for lawlessness. The agency flouted the law so routinely, in fact, that environmentalists almost always won in court. Judges, whether centrist, liberal, or conservative, have issued stern rebukes to the agency along with a stream of injunctions. Now, however, the ability of environmentalists to expose these violations has been severely undermined.

The Klamath has seen more of its roadless lands destroyed than any other national forest in California.

The exemption from administrative appeal and, for the most part, judicial review could not come at a better time for the Forest Service which currently is planning several large salvage sales in portions of the Klamath National Forest that have been jealously guarded by conservationists over the years. The Klamath has seen more of its roadless lands destroyed than any other national forest in California. Now that destruction has been made much simpler by the passage of the salvage rider.

The timber sale proposed for the Tom Martin Roadless Area is an excellent example of the abuses allowed under the salvage rider: it violates two policies critical to protecting watershed health.

President Clinton's northwest forest plan (Option 9) requires that a comprehensive watershed survey (called a watershed analysis) be conducted before a roadless area is logged, a recognition that roadless areas are essential in

maintaining water quality and healthy aquatic habitat. Although the proposed Guffy Timber Sale is within the Tom Martin Roadless Area, the Forest Service claims that the roadless area begins a quarter-mile beyond a road bordering the area. The justification for this reinterpretation of the word "roadless" is that the sights and sounds of roads are evident from a quarter-mile or more away.

To environmentalists, however, by definition a roadless area begins at the edge of a road, clearcut, or other development and continues until it meets another road or development. The deciding factor in determining whether an area is developed or pristine is ground disturbance (logging, roads, etc.), not the sights, sounds, or other influences from outside the area. To activists, the Forest Service's redefinition appears to be no more than an excuse to avoid completing the lengthy watershed analysis required by Option 9. In addition, environmentalists point out that the Forest Service's novel arguments may derive from the fact that of the most valuable trees stand

within a quarter-mile of the road.

The second violation of Forest Service policy is the agency's failure to protect areas of unstable soil on the mountain. Under Option 9, the Forest Service must identify potentially unstable areas and include them in riparian reserves (streamside protection zones where logging is normally not allowed). Substantial portions of the Guffy Timber Sale are on known landslides, though the Forest Service claims that these slides are dormant. Geologists question whether landslides ever are truly dormant, but the Forest Service is ignoring the possibility that logging, road construction, and the reopening of old roads across these slides may cause them to move again.

The only way to stop or modify the Guffy Timber Sale now is to appeal to the conscience of higher Forest Service authorities and to President Clinton himself. Since both the president and the Forest Service claim that existing law and policy will be obeyed despite the passage of the rider, conservationists believe they are duty-bound to stop this travesty before the trees begin to fall, before the roads are pushed ever farther across the mountain, and before the landslides begin to creep down to the salmon spawning beds of the Klamath and Scott rivers.

What you can do

Write to President Clinton (1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500), senators Feinstein and Boxer (Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510), and your representative in the House (House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515) and request that they work to protect national forest roadless areas from logging and other destructive practices. Stress that roadless areas are among our last irreplaceable wildlands and are essential to maintaining clean water, healthy wildlife habitat, and our overall quality of life. Remind them that the salvage rider is allowing terrible abuses of law and policy to occur (cite the Guffy Timber Sale in the Klamath National Forest as an example) and that it must not be renewed. Also request that they work to cut the Forest Service's logging and road construction budget during the appropriations process.

Ryan Henson is the CWC's conservation associate.

Fire sale on public land near ski resorts

continued from page 1

Sugar Bowl, and Heavenly.

The legislation was fashioned by Representative James Hansen (R-UT) and Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK). They intend to attach it to the budget reconciliation bill now being debated by Congress.

Many in the ski industry expressed surprise over the proposed legislation. Andy Weissner, a former congressional staffer and ski industry lobbyist said, "I always thought the ski industry had an excellent working partnership with the Forest Service and weren't looking for any major changes except in their formula for paying rental fees."

But only weeks earlier the *Sacramento Bee* reported that interests in the Telluride Ski and Golf Company had purchased 40 percent of California's Kirkwood Ski Area and had major expansion plans. In addition to several hundred new condominiums and homes, more ski runs are proposed. Under Forest Service ownership these plans would require an extensive environmental review. Developing these lands would be a lot easier if they were transferred to private ownership.

Alpine County Supervisor Cam Craik says he believes the big new development proposed for Kirkwood can co-exist with his small county. "We need to have reasonable growth," he says. Under the expansion plans for the resort, the new Kirkwood population could reach 6,500, nearly six times the current population of the county.



Private land near Granite Chief allows passage by the public—if you stay on the trail

Photo by Jorma Kaukonen

Roadless areas and wilderness management

Utah wilderness bill bodes ill for the nation

continued from page 1

some of the most magnificent Colorado Plateau canyons and Great Basin wildlands, will be left open to all kinds of destructive uses, including off-road vehicles, mining, oil and gas drilling, and commercial resort development. Some of the finest archaeological sites in North America will be vulnerable to vandalism and illegal pot hunting because the bill allows vehicle access to archaeological sites.

- For the first time, a wilderness bill, would expressly deny a wilderness water right. A special provision would allow future water claims to dry up rivers and streams within designated wilderness areas.

- In four of the new wilderness areas, dams, roads, power lines, and other facilities "needed in the public interest" would be permitted. In a fifth, a natural gas pipeline would be permitted.

- The bill apparently would grant unlimited reconstruction rights for existing facilities, such as stock

ponds, in wilderness. Expansion of present communication facilities is permitted in four wilderness areas.

- Actions to improve air quality, mandated under the Clean Air Act, would be prohibited.

- The BLM would be prohibited from closing roads within the new wilderness.

- The grazing of livestock in wilderness is referred to as a right, rather than as a permitted activity as it is under current law. Consequently the managing agency would not be able to reduce grazing levels even when overgrazing is causing evident problems.

- A special provision allows low-level overflights and expanded military flight training areas over designated wilderness areas throughout Utah.

Hansen's bill, has 33 cosponsors, and seven of them are from California: Reps. Calvert, Doolittle, Gallegly, Herger, Jerry Lewis, Pombo, and Radanovich.

What's Next?

Since its introduction in June, HR 1745 quickly passed Hansen's subcommittee and the full House Resources Committee and awaits a floor vote this fall. The Senate bill

has been heard only in the Senate Energy and Resources Committee. Nevertheless, senators Hatch and Bennett confidently anticipate passage of their bill this fall. The close coordination among Utah's members of Congress assures passage of identical bills in both houses, avoiding the potential delays of conference committee.

Congress' preoccupation with budget matters during September is expected to delay action on the Utah bills until at least the second half of October.

What can we do to avert this disaster?

Since the House of Representatives has obediently followed the anti-environmental agenda of the Republican leadership, our best chance to stop passage of the Utah bill is in the Senate. If we fail, we will need a presidential veto. We must show the Senate and the president the strength and breadth of opposition nationwide to this direct attack on Utah's wildlands and on the national wilderness system itself.

California's senators can be leaders in the battle to stop S. 884. We need them to mobilize their colleagues to mount an all-out fight, including a filibuster. We will ask them to rally opposition to Hansen's and Hatch's destructive efforts by introducing a companion bill to HR 1500 (see box at left) in the Senate.

Senator Hatch may use his position as chair of the Judiciary Committee to stall appointing federal judges. Only a voluminous outpouring of concern by constituents can overcome the effect of such political manipulation.

And what are the chances of stopping this bill with a presidential veto, if needed? In hearings this summer on HR 1745, Sylvia Baca, a Deputy Secretary of Interior, said "the Interior Department will recommend to the president that he veto the bill, in its present form." Though this first public message from the administration is encouraging, it does not ensure that the president will veto this dreadful legislation. We cannot count on a veto, but we can increase the likelihood of one with an outpouring of sentiment to the president from around the nation. California is particularly important because the president needs California in his 1996 re-election campaign. He has nothing to hope for from Utah politicians.

What you can do

1. Write to your senators and the president asking them to take every action possible to stop this threat to America's cherished wilderness. From your senators, urge a filibuster. From the president, urge a veto. Point out that many Utahans spoke up strongly in favor of wilderness at field hearings this spring. Polls have indicated that a majority of Utahans do not favor their own delegation's proposal. Moreover, stress that this is not simply a Utah issue—it is a nationwide wilderness issue. The foundations of our National Wilderness Preservation System must not be undermined.

Hon. Barbara Boxer or Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

To fax a letter:

Feinstein: (202) 228-3954; Boxer: (415) 956-6701

Sen. Boxer's e-mail address is

senator@boxer.senate.gov

To follow up a letter with a phone call (cheap before 8 a.m.)

Feinstein: (202) 224-3841; Boxer (202) 224-3553

President William (or Bill) Clinton

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

White House Opinion Phone line: (202) 456-1111

Fax: (202) 456-2461

e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Some of the finest archaeological sites in North America will be vulnerable to vandalism and illegal pot hunting because the bill allows vehicle access to archaeological sites.

The opposite side of the coin

As a wholesome counterpoint to Hansen's destructive legislation, Congress has an excellent Utah wilderness bill, HR 1500, entitled America's Redrock Wilderness Act. This is the citizens' wilderness proposal, which would designate 5.7 million acres of real wilderness. It was prepared by environmental activists over a dozen painstaking years of fieldwork and mapping. First introduced in the 101st Congress by then Rep. Wayne Owens, (D-UT), the bill is now championed by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY). It never has progressed far due to the adamant opposition of both Utah Senators. The present Congress, under Republican domination, certainly will not act on this bill. But it remains a strong inspirational rallying point for Utah wilderness advocates. There is no Senate counterpart of HR 1500.

HR 1500 now has 84 cosponsors. Sixteen are Californians:

Bellenson	Farr	Mineta
Berman	Filner	Royal-Allard
G. Brown	Lantos	Stark
Dellums	Loftgren	Waxman
Dixon	Martinez	Woolsey
Eshoo	Matsui	

In addition, Reps. Miller and Pelosi support the bill and vigorously oppose of HR 1745.

2. Ask member organizations of the California Wilderness Coalition to lend their name to the Utah wilderness campaign by becoming a member organization of the Utah Wilderness Coalition. (see box at right).

3. Write your congressional representative. If your representative has cosponsored HR 1500, write a thank you note and ask your representative to request the president to veto a bad bill. If your representative is one of the seven who has cosponsored HR 1745, write immediately to express your outrage. Urge him to withdraw his name from this legislation that is damaging to California and the nation. Representatives who have not taken a stand should be urged to cosponsor HR 1500.

Representative _____

House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

4. Help in our media campaign to send letters to radio, television, and newspapers editors. Already, the press in many states is beginning to take notice of this issue. We need your help in getting the word out in California. Great numbers of people who have visited Utah and fallen in love with its magical wildlands would respond if alerted to the threat. Letters to editors are a good way to get our message to the world. Legislators also watch local media coverage closely to assess the concerns of their constituents. The Utah Wilderness Coalition has assembled press packets that you can give your local media—newspapers, television, or radio.

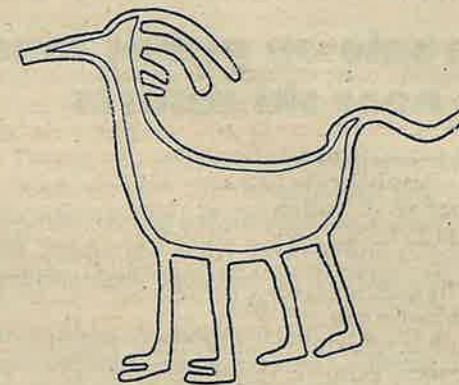
For more information, including action alerts, press packets and UWC membership forms, contact:

In California: Vicky Hoover (415) 923-5527 or James Catlin (510) 549-9202

In Utah: Lawson Legate, Sierra Club (801) 467-9294

In Washington, DC: Liz McCoy, Utah Wilderness Coalition, (202)675-7910

Sierra Club activist James Catlin led the volunteer field work and mapping in Utah during more than a decade that resulted in the 5.7 million acre wilderness proposal now in Congress as HR 1500; he now lives in California. Vicky Hoover chairs the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter wilderness committee and is the California Coordinator for the Club's Utah Wilderness Activist Network.



Join the Utah Wilderness Coalition

Alan Carlton, President of the California Wilderness Coalition, is worried about the too-real possibility that the powerful Republican leadership can push through its Utah Wilderness Elimination Bill which, if not vetoed, will have a disastrous effect on future wilderness in California. Says Alan, "Do you want to see the future Hoover Additions or the new Panoche Hills Wilderness filled with roads, TV towers, pipelines, dams, or other absurdities according to the 'Jim Hansen wilderness management plan'? If not—please lend the power of your organization's name to help fight the Hansen-Hatch threat to our public lands." Here's how to join the more than 75 local, regional, and national member organizations of UWC:

Write to Utah Wilderness Coalition

P.O. Box 520974

Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0974

Book review and letters

Wildlife Policies in the U.S. National Parks

by Frederic H. Wagner, Ronald Foresta, R. Bruce Gill, Dale R. McCullough, Michael R. Pelton, William F. Porter, and Hal Salwasser
Island Press, Covelo, 1995, 242 pp., \$26.00.

Wildlife Policies in the U.S. National Parks resulted from a five-year review of wildlife management policies in the National Park System. It is an exhaustive study that

reviews the public's changing values on managing parks, evaluates current policies and practices affecting wildlife, and recommends specific actions.

Although this is a scientific study, it is quite easy to read. The seven chapters are divided into short sections and organized logically. There is an extensive list of literature cited, but the references are quite unobtrusive.

Current wildlife policies usually are based on a report generated in 1963 by the Advisory Board of Wildlife Management, often referred to as the Leopold report. The authors frequently refer to this report because of its widespread influence, and misinterpretation.

Numerous examples of parks that are losing their healthy ecosystems, including Everglades, Great Smoky, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Rocky Mountain fill the book. The authors conclude that many parks are straying from the goal of preserving biodiversity and protecting threatened and endangered species.

While the authors feel that environmental organizations have a major influence on the Park Service, they point out that 90 percent of the agency's budget is for tourism, with only 8 percent allocated to resource management.

Concern frequently is raised that park managers either let nature take its course (as with the burgeoning elk populations in Yellowstone) or suffer from political constraints. The book has many good suggestions for correcting these deficiencies, but the current direction in Congress makes the implementation of these proposals doubtful.

Wilderness is ignored in the book. There is only a mention of the Wilderness Act of 1964, with no discussion of the value of wilderness to wildlife or the constraints wilderness designation places on management.

But *Wildlife Policies* is by far the most comprehensive book about wildlife management in our national parks and is a useful addition to the activist's bookshelf.

—Jim Eaton

WILDLIFE POLICIES IN THE U.S. NATIONAL PARKS



Taking care of the wilderness

Although the *Wilderness Record* is to be commended for allowing many different viewpoints in its pages, I must take exception to the *Opinion* in the August issue regarding size of parties and use of pack stock in wilderness.

I, too, have traveled in the Sierra in parties of thirty or more. I also have used pack stock both for a whole trip and for spot packs. When my children were very small, this seemed to be the only option to get them into the back country, and we had some very enjoyable experiences.

The question is not whether pack stock can or cannot be allowed in wilderness. By law it is allowed, and beyond that it has value for those who cannot or do not wish to backpack. However, pack stock by law must not be allowed to damage wilderness values. This too often happens.

Examples abound. During a recent backpack to South Fork Lake above Horseshoe Meadow in the southern Sierra, I saw where horses had torn up a very wet meadow next to where hikers had been able to cross on rocks doing no damage. The trail from the Horseshoe Meadow parking lot is much better and less dusty until it joins the trail from the pack station. Horses hooves tear up the trail tread much more than hikers' shoes, as a little observation will show.

A notorious pack station in the eastern Sierra also has been responsible for much resource damage. Pack stock is taken around a hardened section of trail because it is easier on the animals, the damage to the land be damned. They threw salt on the snow because it was melting too slowly (damaging vegetation); even worse, because they had put

the salt in the wrong place they made a new trail. They also dug up dirt and threw it on the snow, causing damage at the place the dirt came from, as well as to the trail.

The Forest Service, under pressure from the packers, usually does not take any meaningful action against scofflaw packers. The agency also does not enforce use quotas on the packers, while denying permits to backpackers right and left. I love the wilderness, but before I can put away my prejudices concerning other users, I would invite the law-abiding packers and recreational pack stock users to join publically with hikers and backpackers to urge the Forest Service and other agencies to protect the wilderness from those who misuse it. Voluntary compliance by an educated, informed public may be the minimum tool to achieve wilderness objectives, but it also is an insufficient tool. Meaningful enforcement of regulations is absolutely necessary.

Times change. Ethics change. It is no longer permissible to spit on the sidewalk, and attitudes even are changing about smoking in public. Backcountry ethics also change. I believe that there is ample evidence that large numbers of people, whether or not they are in a large group, detract from the wilderness experience. Likewise, there is ample evidence that pack stock tears up trails more than hikers do, and that grazing may damage meadows. We should all get together, agree on the obvious facts, and then proceed to protect wilderness from all threats, from whatever source.

Stan Hays
Independence

Calendar

October 13 COMMENT DEADLINE for the Pine Creek Canyon mining EIS, Inyo NF. For more information call Ryan Henson at the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

October 13 MEETING with Regional Forester Lynn Sprague in San Francisco. For more information call Louis Blumberg at the Wilderness Society at (415) 541-9144.

October 16 COMMENT DEADLINE for salvage logging in the Pilot Creek Roadless Area, Six Rivers NF (article on page 4). For more information call Ryan Henson at the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

October 19 COMMENT DEADLINE for salvage logging in the Warner Mtns., Modoc NF. For more information call Ryan Henson at the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

October 20 COMMENT DEADLINE for Los Padres National Forest oil and gas leasing. For more information call Ryan Henson at the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

October 24 FIELD TRIP to the timber sale proposed for the Dillon Creek timber sale (article on page 4). For more information call Annie Gibson at (916) 493-2243.

October 27-29 MAPPING WORKSHOP for the South-Central Coast portion of the Wildlands Project. For more information call Ryan Henson at the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

Wilderness Trivia Answer

The Cleveland National Forest, way back in 1985.

CWC T-shirts: use your imagination!

We temporarily ran out of models for our T-shirts. but if you think back to last month, Linda sported our newest T-shirt. The \$15 shirt features our logo in three colors on a background of jade, royal blue, birch, or cream. Sheila wore our six-tone landscape shirt in jade, fuchsia, light blue, or pale green for \$15.

Also not pictured but still available: our animal design by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank (beige or light gray) for \$12. All shirts are 100 percent double-knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.

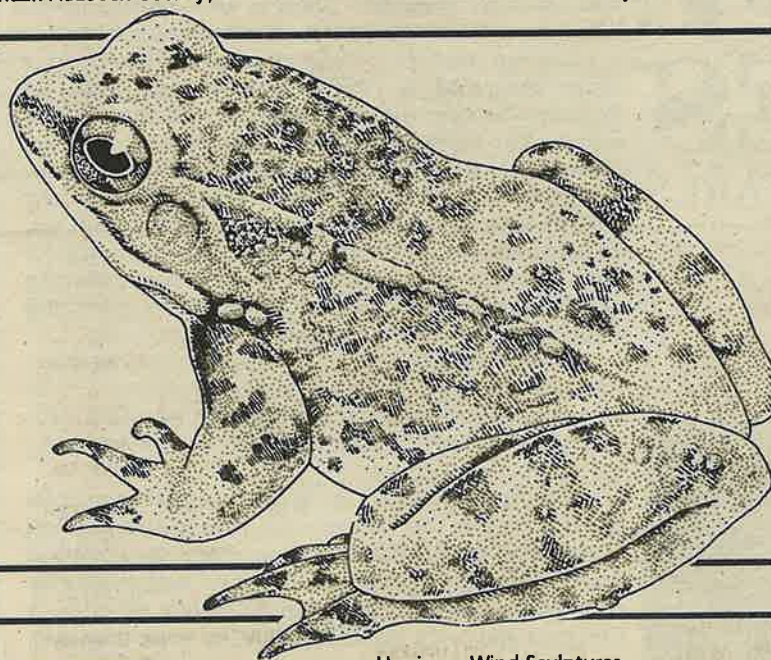
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Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland Butte Environmental Council; Chico California Alpine Club; San Francisco California Mule Deer 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 Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno Conservation Call; Santa Rosa Davis Audubon Society; Davis Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs Desert Survivors; Oakland Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop Ecology Center; Berkeley Ecology Center of Southern California; L. A. El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs (FAWN); Georgetown Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena Friends of the Inyo; Lone Pine Friends of the River; San Francisco Fund for Animals; San Francisco Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee

Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern River Valley Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna League to Save Lake Tahoe; S. Lake Tahoe Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club; Palo Alto Madrone Audubon Society; Santa Rosa Marble Mountain Audubon Society; Greenview

Marin Conservation League; San Rafael Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah Mendocino Forest Watch; Willits Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society; Carmel Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento Native Species for Habitat; Sunnyvale Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F. NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Nordic Voice; Livermore Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata Northern Coast Range Biodiversity Project; Davis Pasadena Audubon Society

Peak Adventures; Sacramento People for Nipomo Dunes Nat'l. Seashore; Nipomo Peppermint Alert; Porterville Placer County Cons. Task Force; Newcastle Planning & Conservation League; Sac. Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club; Mammoth Lakes Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Redwood Coast Law Center; Mendocino The Red Mountain Association; Leggett Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco Rural Institute; Ukiah Sacramento River Preservation Trust; Chico Salmon Trollers Marketing Ass'n.; Fort Bragg San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; Van Nuys Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE); Modesto Sea & Sage Audubon Society; Santa Ana Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville Sierra Ass'n. for the Environment; Fresno Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund; S. F. Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR South Yuba R. Citizens League; Nevada City Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society Ventana Wildlands Group; Santa Cruz Western States Endurance Run; S. F. The Wilderness Society; San Francisco Wintu Audubon Society; Redding Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis



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Like many citizen organizations, the California Wilderness Coalition depends upon sponsorship and support. We are grateful to the following businesses that have recognized the need to preserve the wilderness of California.

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Join the Coalition

Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$ _____ for first-year membership dues.
 Here is a special contribution of \$ _____ to help the Coalition's work.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Annual Dues: †

Individual	\$ 20.00
Low-income Individual	\$ 10.00
Sustaining Individual	\$ 35.00
Benefactor	\$ 100.00
Patron	\$ 500.00
Non-profit Organization	\$ 30.00
Business Sponsor	\$ 50.00

† tax deductible

Mail to:
California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616

T-Shirt Orders

- landscape design in light blue, pale green, jade, or fuchsia: \$15
- animal design in beige (no med.) or gray: \$12
- logo design in jade, royal blue, birch, or cream: \$15

Design	Size(s, m, l, xl)	Color	Amount
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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