



WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

January 1997

BLM to revise wilderness regulations

New rules sanction Native American religious rights, give BLM broad authority in administration of wildlands

By Jim Eaton

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking for public comment on a proposed rule, written in "plain English", that would revise and update existing regulations covering designated BLM wilderness areas. The agency will accept comments on the rule through February 18, 1997.

The proposed rule defines terms, specifies allowed uses, lists prohibited acts, notes special provisions, and allows access to inholdings. The rules affecting BLM wilderness areas currently in place were written in 1985.

Recreational use would be strictly controlled to protect wilderness values, and agencies would have much more leeway in managing wilderness areas.

Some of the key provisions of the proposed rule are:

Definitions:

- "Mechanical transports," prohibited in wilderness, will include sailboats, sailboards, parachutes, game carriers, carts, wagons, and similar devices.
- "Motorized equipment," also prohibited in wilderness, will include chain saws, power drills, and motor vehicles.

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Whitney Meadows, Golden Trout Wilderness. Photo by Martin Litton

A look back at 1996: California Wilderness Coalition's End-of-year Report

The *Wilderness Record* reports much of the work that the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) does each month. However, much of our efforts to preserve the last wild places in California do not make it into our newsletter. To give our members and supporters a better sense of CWC's role in the state-wide conservation community, here is our end-of-year report.

We try to respond to every major project proposed for California's public lands, however our priorities are defending the last vestiges of wild California, including roadless and wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild rivers, old-growth forests and other critical or sensitive wildlands.

This past year our work has been dominated by fighting the specter of the salvage rider, a law stripping the public of all legal review for so-called "salvage" logging. This law, probably the most anti-environmental piece of legislation in decades, flavored almost everything we did. It authorized the destruction of hundreds of acres of old-growth, much of it quite healthy, while barring all applicable environmental laws. The rider reminded us that, in the face of adversity, we must always look to the grassroots to accomplish what nothing else can. When no laws protected our right to have a say in how public lands are to be managed, we

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...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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Coalition News

Monthly Report

I was feeling sorry for myself last month as Ryan and Paul took a long weekend to backpack in my favorite wilderness area, Snow Mountain. My last backpack trip was in Montana back in July.

My mood improved when I thought of them tramping around in the snow and rain, for they chose the weekend of the massive snowfall for their hike. While they had a great time on their stormy adventure, I've been there, done that. I'm not a fair weather backpacker, but I do keep a weather-channel eye out for storms before departing into the wilds.

As our Conservation Associate, Ryan is doing most of the traveling to meetings and events, including ancillary rafting and hiking trips. I've been saving the better perks for myself.

As a board member of The Wildlands Project, last month I flew to Puerto Vallarta for a meeting. Interestingly, a record number of spouses also attended, including my own. Wendy didn't show any interest in accompanying me to previous meetings in Tucson and Portland, but Mexico was a different story.

Our meeting took place at the Chamela Reserve, one hundred kilometers south of Puerto Vallarta. Unfortunately, we spent almost all our time meeting, even during our Spartan meals. Meanwhile, our spouses were snorkeling, swimming, sunbathing, hiking, and enjoying gourmet food.

We did get a morning off for a tour of the reserve. I got to see jaguar tracks, an ocelot and a javalina (in a pen), and a huge tract of undeveloped dry tropical forest.

The first time I swam in the warm Pacific was at a midnight skinny dip of the board and staff our last night there. I was fascinated at the phosphorescence surrounding our bodies, although I kept wondering if sharks used the eerie light to locate their dinners. I eased my concerns by moving to the center of the human school of prey.

turned to you. Thousands of letters, faxes, and phone calls, as well as peaceful demonstrations, stopped many of the most destructive rider sales in the state. Unfortunately, many went through. Every healthy tree cut under the guise of "forest health" strengthens our resolve to make sure this will not happen again.

This month's installment of the end-of-year report covers our work involving national forests (the Forest Service keeps us busy). We summarize our efforts on a state-wide level, the Sierra Nevada, and finally on an individual national forest basis. Next month we will report on our work on Bureau of Land Management lands, our special programs (Adopt-A-Wilderness, The Wildlands Project) and everything else.

This year we've added a section on our membership, to report on our progress in expanding and maintaining this program, as well as an opportunity to thank some of our supporters.

In the coming months we will be preparing an annual report for separate publication. Please contact our office if you would like to be on the list to receive it.

Statewide

The California Wilderness Coalition was represented at the Seventh American Forest Congress in December. The Congress is designed to encourage debate and discussion amongst the various interests concerned with public and private forest management. We submitted a letter to delegates of the Congress urging them to support a repeal of the salvage rider. Though badly outnumbered at the Congress by 9 to 1 or more, activists were able to prevent

The Wildlands Project had a lot to be thankful for in 1996. A painful decision to change staff and consolidate operations in Tucson worked out splendidly. Steve Gatewood, the new executive director, worked in concert with Dave Foreman and Michael Soule to bring us out of the red and into a secure financial situation. After a rocky start, The Wildlands Project is gathering steam.

The Coalition also ended the year on a successful note. We toasted the expiration of the salvage logging rider on New Year's Eve, the worst threat to wildlands ever conceived by Congress. While we didn't stop all the bad timber sales, I don't want to imagine how much wilderness would have been lost had not Ryan and Paul been there to defend the threatened roadless areas and ancient forests. Their work was outstanding.

I appreciate the work of Herb, the new *Wilderness Record* editor, who had to deal with cantankerous computers, disregarded deadlines, and pernicious postal regulations. His droll sense of humor in the midst of adversity keeps the office a pleasant place.

Kathy has done a fantastic job of filling in after a sudden staff change last summer. She renewed our membership program, corrected our mailing list fraught with errors, and revived our fundraising efforts.

Working together, the Coalition's staff has made improvements on all fronts. Eighty percent of our grant income came in the last six months. You, our faithful members, have responded to our work with generous donations, and new members are increasing rapidly.

Our holidays were brightened by a \$10,000 grant from the Mennen Environmental Foundation for our Adopt-a-Wilderness program. Financially, we are hitting 1997 at full speed.

Despite the changes for the better, there is one still to come: I need to get out on the trail far more often than these past months.

By Jim Eaton

CWC's web of life

Thanks to a mountain of work by volunteer Curtis Bradley, the Coalition has its own web page. Curtis started us off with some great home page graphics and a ton of information.

At present, you can find the past few issues of the *Wilderness Record*, the *Wilderness Guide* (regulations covering all of California's wilderness areas), wilderness alerts, white papers on several topics, and information on our Adopt-a-Wilderness and Wildlands Project programs.

In the future we hope to have even more information available, and we promise to keep it timely.

We would appreciate any comments you have regarding the appearance and content of our page. Please bear in mind that we still have parts of it under construction.

Since a recycling group in Washington has claimed cwc.org, we are searching for another domain name that fits us. Until then, you'll have to use our long string:

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~cwc>

Wilderness Trivia Question

When and where was the first BLM land designated as wilderness in California?

Answer on page 7

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Wilderness News

Strange goings on in the Modoc National Forest

Part two of two

By Paul Spitler

When imagining a smoke-filled room full of deal-making politicians and industry lobbyists, one probably envisions a political center like Washington, D.C. or Sacramento. Instead, far off in the hills of California in the tiny town of Adin, a gathering like this resulted in the felling of hundreds of acres of national forest.

The agreement made at this meeting was between land managers of the Modoc National Forest and representatives of the local timber industry. After meeting in private with industry representatives, Forest Service officials agreed to increase the number of trees in several existing timber sale contracts. The increase in volume was completed without any significant environmental analysis. The primary beneficiary of the alterations is Big Valley Lumber Co., whose owner, Bruce Main, helped negotiate the deal.

Details of the accord recently surfaced after the Klamath Forest Alliance, a local environmental organization that monitors the Modoc National Forest, filed a Freedom of Information Act request. The deal was struck at a September 1995 meeting between Forest Service officials and local industry representatives. Present were Bruce Main; Big Valley District Ranger Sue Wheatley; Dave Muerer, aide to Representative Wally Herger (R-Redding); and industry lobbyist Jeffery Bryant.

According to a follow-up letter written by Bryant, agreements were reached at the September meeting to "modify existing timber sale contracts to allow removal of vegetation in excess of what is needed to maintain a healthy and resilient vegetative community." Translated into English, this means that the Forest Service agreed to add more trees to existing timber sales. The pact affected hundreds of acres of forest lands.

Several of the timber sales discussed at the meeting were subsequently altered. According to Forest Service

records, more trees were added to the Dutch, Johnson, Spring, and Ash salvage sales. The changes were made under a legal loophole that allows such actions to proceed without legal challenge or adequate environmental review. Because of the loophole, there was no assessment of the environmental impacts of cutting the extra trees. Since no assessments were made, the full impacts of the extra logging may never be known.

Several other sales not discussed at the meeting were

"It appears that Herger's staff directly pressured the Forest Service on behalf of a campaign contributor." Pace said. "As a result, Big Valley Lumber's profits were enhanced at the cost of increased fire danger and degraded wildlife habitat."

also altered, including the Knox Mountain and Southsun sales (See December *Wilderness Record* for more details on these sales). A December 5, 1995 Forest Service memo states that the alterations to the Knox Mountain sale (the addition of fifty-five acres of old-growth to the existing sale boundary) were made to "include additional salvage volume at the request of the timber sale purchaser..." Adding to conservationists' dismay is the Forest Service's reversal of a previously negotiated moratorium on old-growth logging. The agency later called the cutting of these fifty-five acres "an accident."

Felice Pace, head of the Etna-based Klamath Forest Alliance, denounced Representative Herger for his inter-

ference with the national forest. "It appears that Herger's staff directly pressured the Forest Service on behalf of a campaign contributor." Pace said. "As a result, Big Valley Lumber's profits were enhanced at the cost of increased fire danger and degraded wildlife habitat."

Bruce Main's family members have given generously to Representative Herger's campaign efforts in past elections. Representative Herger could not be reached for comment.

Main countered that "it wasn't a shady backroom deal" even though his company is poised to benefit from the additional trees. Based on an odd law meant to aid small timber companies, Main's Big Valley Lumber Co. has the exclusive right to offer the first bid on all timber sales within the Big Valley Ranger District. Main contends that the alterations were made in response to concerns about the fire threat posed by excessive dead and dying trees on national forest land. "Our whole purpose is to get the forests healthy again," said Main, "These forests are our livelihood."

Main added that the alterations were necessary due to increased mortality from bark beetles, an odd assertion considering the massive Poison Spring salvage sale in the same area was recently cancelled because there were not enough dead trees to justify the sale. The Poison Spring sale is directly adjacent to the Southsun sale, which had its volume increased after Main helped negotiate the deal.

The Forest Service is often criticized for its lack of accountability. When public officials responsible for safeguarding our national forests make backroom deals that threaten those very forests, it comes as no surprise the agency suffers from a lack of public trust. When Bruce Main couldn't get all the changes he wanted in the above mentioned timber sales, he lamented that "Politics is managing the land." Unfortunately, we couldn't agree more.

Paul Spitler works for the Western Ancient Forest Campaign

New BLM regulations

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Wilderness uses:

- Collection of physical specimens or samples would require advance authorization from BLM.
- Wheelchairs are allowed, but BLM would not construct facilities or modify land conditions within the wilderness.
- Native Americans would be granted access for traditional religious purposes, and portions of wilderness areas could be closed temporarily to protect the privacy of those engaged in religious practices.

Prohibited uses:

- Competitive events, such as foot or watercraft races, would not be allowed.
- The dropping of skydivers or materials would be prohibited, as well as the landing of aircraft. Aircraft would include helicopters, hang gliders, hot air balloons, parasails, and parachutes.
- Unless authorized by a land use plan, rock climbing devices, such as bolts, fixed anchors, permanent artificial handholds or footholds, or glues, would not be allowed.

Special provisions:

- Grazing would be allowed to continue at the level existing at the time of wilderness designation.

Access

- Property owners would be ensured of access to lands completely surrounded by a wilderness area.

Administrative uses:

- BLM may use, construct, or install motorized equipment, mechanical transport, aircraft landing strips, heliports, helispots, installations, or structures in designated wilderness areas, and prescribe conditions under which such items may be used, transported, or installed by other federal, state or county agencies or their agents to meet the minimum requirements for protection and administration of the wilderness area, its resources, and users.
- The agency may authorize occupancy and use of wilderness areas by officers, employees, agencies, or agents of the federal, state and local governments.
- Unspecified measures can be taken to control fire, noxious weeds, insects, and diseases where these threaten human life, property, or wilderness resources within the wilderness area or on adjacent non-wilderness lands.

While environmentalists generally are supportive of the improved definitions of uses not allowed in wilderness areas, they are concerned about the increased leeway BLM seems to be granting itself. The Wilderness Act does grant agencies the right to use motorized vehicles and

equipment as needed to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area, especially for the health and safety of people. But it does not confer the authority to construct aircraft landing strips, heliports, helispots, installations, or structures as proposed in this rule.

The Wilderness Act also does not sanction BLM's proposal to authorize occupancy and use of wilderness areas by officers, employees, agencies, or agents of the federal, state and local governments. While there may be specific instances where such use may be necessary, such as in managing wildlife, this part of the proposed rule seems overly broad and beyond the intent of the Wilderness Act.

The Act does not provide for special treatment for Native American religious practices or temporarily closure to protect privacy, although the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1996 does. Many environmentalists have expressed support for traditional Native American uses that do not degrade the land.

What you can do:

Let BLM know how you feel about their proposed rule to revise and update existing regulations covering designated BLM wilderness areas. As noted above, most of the rule affecting recreational uses is a good idea, but the

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Conservation Report

The California Wilderness Coalition's work:

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

CWC urged Representative Duncan Hunter (R-Imperial) to obtain Land and Water Conservation Funds to purchase the Rutherford Ranch adjacent to the No Name and Eagle Peak roadless areas. The ranch hosts rare Engelman oak stands and will serve as critical open space for fast-growing San Diego County.

ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST

We attended a two-day tour of logging and prescribed fire in this forest. The agency's current logging practices emphasize the retention of old-growth trees, followed by thorough piling of the debris and burning. The agency is also greatly increasing its use of prescribed fire to reduce the severity of wildfires and restore fire-dependent ecosystems. We were pleased by both the Forest Service's new approach to logging and its increasing use of prescribed fire.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

CWC submitted comments and issued a *Wilderness Record* alert on the Mammoth-to-June Ecosystem Project. The Mammoth-to-June study is ostensibly an attempt to impartially consider the potential uses of the Mammoth-to-June region and develop recommendations for how it should be managed in the future. The project may lead to logging, ski resort development, and other intrusions into the San Joaquin Roadless Area.

The Forest Service's newly privatized wilderness permit system, which is potentially biased in favor of commercial outfitters and discriminatory against dayhikers, concerned CWC about the impact this may have upon the public's perception of wilderness and wilderness management. Board member Sally Miller is tracking the development of this issue. A published *Wilderness Record* alert urged our members to offer their comments.

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST

CWC worked to stop salvage logging in old-growth stands adjacent to the Marble Mountain Wilderness and the Snoozer Roadless Area, as well as in the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area. We urged our members to write letters on proposed salvage logging in the Specimen Late-Successional Reserve (on the south border of the Marble Mountain Wilderness). We submitted comments on grazing in the Haypress Meadows area of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. The Coalition also opposed a Forest Service proposal to log northern spotted owl habitat adjacent to the Muse Roadless Area and the Marble Mountain Wilderness. We also submitted extensive comments to the Forest Service opposing the Dillon Salvage Sale. We opposed plans to log along the boundary of the Trinity Alps Wilderness in the Taylor Creek watershed. With the Klamath Forest Alliance, we were able to have the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area, as well as an old-growth grove, excluded from the proposed logging.

The Coalition also helped the Klamath Forest Alliance prepare several grazing appeals, including appeals of grazing plans in the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps wilderness areas.

LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST

We conducted outreach to students in the Chico area, encouraging their participation in our Adopt-A-Wilderness program, which offers opportunities for monitoring activities on public lands.

CWC worked to stop logging projects in the Chips Creek, Cypress, Devil's Garden, Heart Lake, Polk Springs, Trail Lake, and Wild Cattle Mountain roadless areas, as well as logging adjacent to the Cub Creek and Butt Mountain roadless areas. We also opposed logging along the Pacific Crest Trail in the narrow riparian corridor between the Butt Mountain and Cub Creek roadless areas.

The Coalition also supported a proposal to remove feral cattle from the Ishi Wilderness. We commented on the proposed wilderness management plan for the Thousand Lakes, Caribou, and Ishi wilderness areas. We urged the Forest Service to protect biological diversity and wilderness values while developing its grazing plans for the Chips Creek and Prospect roadless areas, as well as the Caribou Wilderness.

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

We supported prescribed burning projects in the Fox Mountain Roadless Area.

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

CWC appealed the national forest's land and resource management plan. We encouraged the Forest Service to close several roads and protect meadows in the Grindstone Creek watershed, as well as another road largely in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. We opposed the logging of old-growth forest in the Summit Springs, Bucknell Creek, Plaskett Meadows, Middle Fork Eel, Black Butte, Thatcher Creek, and Corbin Creek areas. The Coalition commented on the Forest Service's Black Butte River, North Fork Cache Creek and Thomes Creek watershed analyses. We also aided the California Native Plant Society with a lawsuit against the Mendocino National Forest for failing to comply with environmental laws and policies regulating grazing.

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

We opposed logging proposals for the Modoc National Forest's only California spotted owl habitat area (the Poison Spring region), the north Warner Mountains, particularly in the Mount Vida and Mount Bidwell roadless areas. CWC also opposed the logging of the Damon Butte Roadless Area and the felling of ancient forests near the Dry Roadless Area. The latter project was delayed until the logging rider expired.

The Coalition supported efforts to develop outfitter and guide regulations for the South Warner Wilderness and adjacent roadless areas. We opposed construction of a powerline through the heart of the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area.

CWC joined with the Klamath Forest Alliance (KFA) in calling for an investigation of Representative Wally Herger's (R-Redding) efforts to increase the flow of logs from the Modoc National Forest to the Big Valley Lumber Company in Adin, California (Big Valley is a major corporate supporter of Representative Herger). See article on page 3.

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

We opposed the rider-authorized logging of ancient forests in the Moonlight Creek, Indian Peak, and Granite



Bristlecone pines in the Inyo National Forest.

Photo by Jim Eaton

Conservation Report

one national forest at a time...

Basin areas of the forest. These projects were delayed until after the rider expired.

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

CWC supported an agreement between the Forest Service, the Sierra Club, and Friends of the River to settle a forest plan appeal by further protecting the Deep Creek and Sugarloaf roadless areas and by re-evaluating the wild and scenic river values of Holcomb Creek and the North Fork San Jacinto River.

We commented on California Department of Fish and Game plans to use helicopters to manage bighorn sheep in the San Geronio and Bighorn Mountain wilderness areas.

The Coalition convinced the Forest Service to exclude the Deep Creek Roadless Area from the proposed Devil Salvage Sale. The Forest Service had originally planned to allow off-road vehicle enthusiasts to drive cross-country to chop down burned trees in the roadless area. We argued that this would harm fragile soils and lead to the creation of permanent vehicle routes through the roadless area.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

CWC opposed Forest Service proposals to construct off-road vehicle routes in the Cypress, Mill Creek, Oat Mountain, Greenhorn Creek, Rincon, Chico, and Domelands Wilderness Additions (also known as Woodpecker) roadless areas. We also alerted local activists and our members about the project.

The Coalition educated the media about the Sequoia Trails Plan Environmental Impact Statement which proposes to construct several miles of off-road vehicle routes through roadless areas and other important lands.

CWC reviewed and commented on a draft of Representative George Brown's Sequoia Ecosystem and Restoration Preserve Act of 1996. The bill proposes to add seven roadless areas to the existing Dome Land, Bright Star, Monarch, and Golden Trout wilderness areas, and to designate the Slate Mountain Roadless Area as a stand-alone wilderness. We expressed our support for the bill.

We submitted comments on proposed logging adjacent to the Rincon Roadless Area. We also urged the Forest Service to refrain from logging large trees while constructing firebreaks near the Lyon Ridge Roadless Area.

SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST

CWC submitted comments on the draft Trinity Alps Wilderness Management Plan supporting the Forest Service's proposed fire management policy while encouraging them to adopt stronger grazing standards.

We opposed a proposal by the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station to study how northern spotted owls respond to logging near their nests.

The Coalition, in conjunction with Citizens for Better Forestry, Native American tribes and the Western Ancient Forest Campaign, opposed the Misery Timber Sale in the Cow Creek Roadless Area. The sale area is dominated by ancient forest and hosts countless old-growth dependent species. In September, the Forest Service cancelled its plans.

We also urged the Forest Service to acquire private inholdings in the Mount Eddy Roadless Area before these

areas are logged by their owner, the Michigan-California Lumber Company.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

CWC as well as Yosemite Audubon demanded that the Forest Service spare old-growth trees near Sample Meadow between the Kaiser and Ansel

Adams wilderness areas. The Forest Service agreed to our request after weeks of wrangling.

SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST

We opposed and alerted our members about the Pilot Creek Timber Sale in the Pilot Creek Roadless Area. We commented to the Forest Service in opposition to the logging of old-growth forest and roadless areas in the North Fork Eel River watershed. The North Fork Eel River is a designated wild and scenic river.

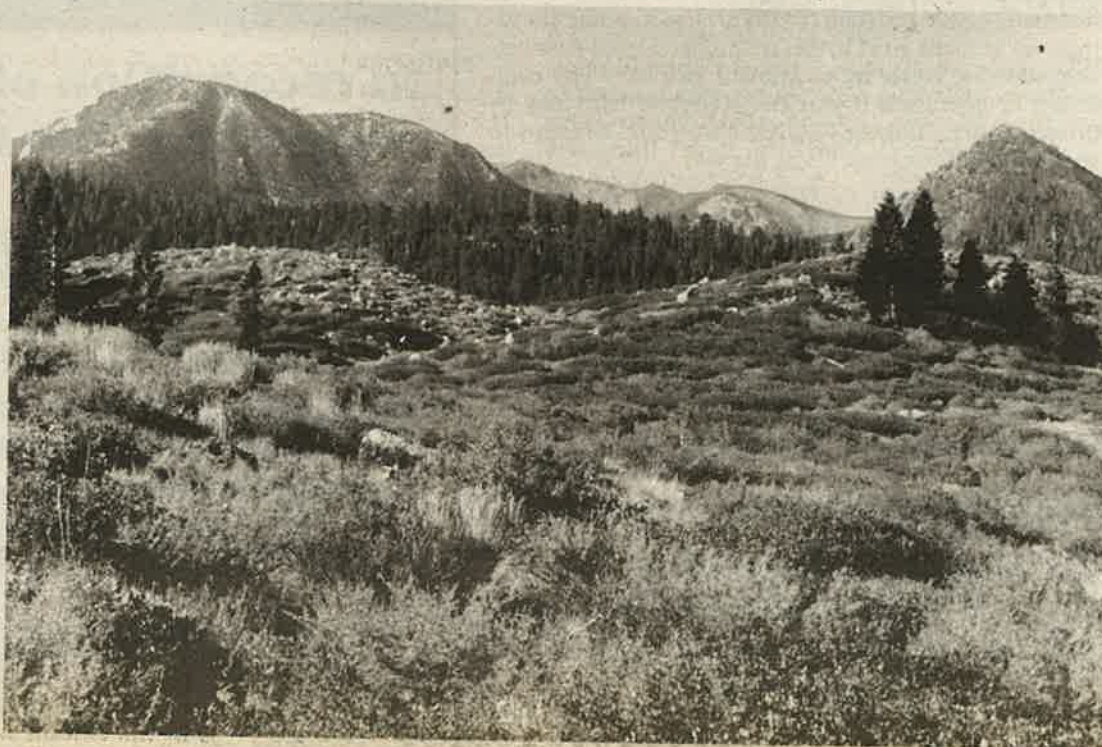
We also demanded that the Forest Service explain why one of its proposed salvage sales fell within the North Fork Eel wild and scenic river corridor. Such protective corridors prohibit logging. The agency claimed that it had not noticed its error and withdrew the portion of the salvage sale in the wild river corridor.

We also successfully opposed the Forest Service's request to salvage log the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area despite a Department of Agriculture directive to avoid such areas under the salvage rider.

The Coalition supported a Forest Service proposal to block off-road vehicle access to vernal pools and other sensitive areas near the Mount Lassic Roadless Area.

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

CWC, with the High Sierra Hikers Association, appealed the Forest Service's decision to authorize grazing in the Highland Lakes Allotment in the Carson-Iceberg and Mokelumne wilderness areas. We also appealed a decision to remove recommended wilderness status from 565 acres of the Tryon Peak Roadless Area. We alerted our membership on the Forest Service's failure to recommend wild and scenic river status for the North Fork Mokelumne River. CWC commented on the proposed wilderness management plan for the Emigrant Wilderness. We praised the plan for proposing to allow fire to burn naturally within the wilderness but criticized it for failing to correct



The Watterson Roadless Area, Inyo National Forest.

Photo by Jim Eaton

grazing problems. We urged our members to support a Forest Service decision to prohibit off-road vehicle use in roadless areas and other sensitive lands as part of its Motor Vehicle Travel Management Forest Plan Amendment. The Coalition also opposed the logging of old-growth trees in three timber sales proposed in the Stanislaus River watershed. We stood in opposition to continued grazing in portions of the Clavey River watershed where riparian areas are trampled and badly overgrazed.

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

CWC opposed logging near the Bald Mountain Roadless Area, as well as salvage logging in the Sagehen Creek area and an area adjacent to the Bald Mountain Roadless Area. In response to member concerns, we requested that the Forest Service do more to prevent snowmobile incursions into the Desolation Wilderness. The Coalition urged the Forest Service to recommend several important streams for wild and scenic river designation. We opposed the proposed Bullshead timber sale near the Granite Chief Roadless Area, as well as the Davies and Treasure timber sales north of Truckee.

TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

CWC commented on grazing in the Raymond Peak Roadless Area, and supported a Forest Service decision to exclude old-growth groves and the Raymond Peak Roadless Area from a proposed salvage sale. We commented on the Silver Creek watershed area analysis and the Silver Fork Creek landscape analysis. We supported a Forest Service proposal to avoid logging in the Horsethief and Raymond Peak roadless areas. The CWC and other groups successfully appealed earlier agency plans to log these wild areas. CWC also successfully opposed plans to log the Raymond Peak Roadless Area as part of the Poor Boy salvage sale.

Membership Report

1996 MEMBERSHIP: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our strength is in our members, and the more we ally ourselves, the more effective we can be in preserving the wild places of California. What follows is an overview of our membership program for 1996. Despite a staff transition, we've made great strides in improving our membership services. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Coalition, we would be happy to send some information his or her way.

NEW MEMBER MAILING

We began a direct mail campaign to increase our membership. The initial mailing was very successful and yielded 42 new individual, group, and business members. This campaign will continue throughout 1997. The totals for the year follow:

Individual and Business Members

- 75 new individual members
- Two new Business Sponsors
 - Laughing Bear Press, Covelo
 - Pinnacle Fundraising, Lytle Creek

Member Groups

Eight new organizations joined the Coalition in 1996.

• **Angeles Chapter Sierra Club:** This is the largest S.C. chapter, with over 51,000 members. They work on numerous environmental issues, and have task forces for the California desert, and the protection of ancient forests.

• **Golden Gate Audubon:** This Audubon chapter works to protect and preserve wetlands and wildlife. They also work for the conservation of our natural resources: clean air and water, and energy.

• **International Center for Earth Concerns:** Located in Ojai, the ICEC is an action-oriented organization whose mission is "to inspire people to take positive action towards protecting wildlife and wildlands." Their main focus is environmental education programs, both local and international. The ICEC hosts environmental education programs at their headquarters and is involved with the Cheetah Conservation Fund, as well as the 6th World Wilderness Congress to be held in India in October 1997.

• **L. A. Audubon Society:** The society offers a range of programs and services to educate citizens of Los Angeles on natural resources and wildlife in the area. They publish and sell guidebooks through their West Hollywood office. They also work for habitat conservation and the reintroduction of extirpated birds to their native habitats.

• **Seven Generations Land Trust:** The Land Trust is based in Berkeley, and their focus is the purchase of land, both urban and rural. This land is then used for projects that further deep ecology research and sustainable living.

• **Seventh Generation Fund:** The Fund is a Native American advocacy group and intermediate grantmaking organization. They work to protect reservation ecosystems and threatened sacred sites. They support Native autonomy and self-reliance.

• **Smith River Alliance:** The Alliance works to protect the only undammed river in California. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Smith River National Recreation Area in 1990.

• **Tule River Conservancy:** This local grassroots organization works for the conservation of the Tule River watershed in the Sequoia National Forest.

Thank you!

In recognition of our many friends and supporters, the California Wilderness Coalition would like to extend our gratitude to the following individuals and businesses:

\$500+

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Wilderness Forum

Letters

The price of wilderness

Thank you for your thought-provoking article on wilderness fees. I support the imposition of modest fees for use of our wilderness areas, under one condition—that the revenues from such fees are used for wilderness management and education. Our federal agencies need to commit far greater resources to educating the public regarding proper use of the wilderness and to enforcing wilderness regulations, and it is unrealistic to expect Congress to substantially increase appropriations. And it is only fair that wilderness users, who would benefit from improved management, should help to support it. Finally, as Randall O'Toole has long pointed out, imposing recreation fees would provide a needed budgetary incentive for our federal agencies to promote recreational uses of federal lands, rather than promoting resource extraction.

David Edelson
Berkeley

I'm writing in support of user fees as incremental funding for the maintenance and preservation of our wilderness areas. I also endorse the long overdue increase in entrance fees to the national parks. As environmentalists, we must put our money where our mouths and hearts are: how else can we defeat timber, mining, and other interests intent on the destruction of remaining wilderness for corporate profit, often subsidized at taxpayer expense? If we believe in wilderness as a society, we need to pay to protect it. And I would rather have a small part of my increased "wilderness taxes" go directly for the maintenance/preservation of areas that I use than into the general treasury, wouldn't you? It's sad to see the debate come down to money, but I honestly think that's where we are in this era of overpopulation, dwindling resources, and declining corporate responsibility for our quality of life.

Karen Barrett
Manhattan Beach

End-of-year report

continued from page 2

the timber industry from achieving a clear mandate to radically alter our nation's environmental laws. Activists were also successful in getting the Congress to support old-growth protection, sound watershed management, the maintenance and restoration of biological diversity, and other important principles.

CWC opposed Senator Larry Craig's "Forest Health" bill, which would have essentially made the salvage rider permanent. We encouraged Senators Feinstein and Boxer to filibuster the Craig bill if necessary.

We spoke at the Forestry Institute for Teachers in August in Quincy. Ryan Henson, our Conservation Associate, explained forest management issues to the assembled teachers from a conservation perspective.

After Chief of the Forest Service Jack Ward Thomas' resignation in October, we offered our assessment of potential replacements to the Western Ancient Forest Campaign (WAFC). WAFC passed on our assessments, as well as those of other groups around the country, to the Clinton administration.

Sierra

CWC attended the unveiling of the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report in Placerville. The SNEP report is a comprehensive study of the Sierra Nevada's old-growth, watersheds, wildlife, and other critical values. The report contains a wealth of information of enormous value to the conservation community.

In conjunction with the Wilderness Society and other groups, we urged the Clinton administration to withdraw the flawed California Owl EIS (CalOwl EIS) before it precipitates a lengthy court battle. In August, the administration withdrew the plan and ordered the Forest Service to start again from scratch. Since the plan would have greatly increased logging throughout the Sierra Nevada and replaced existing protections for old-growth habitat, the decision to scrap the EIS was one of greatest conservation victories of 1996.

The CWC is an active participant in the Sierra Nevada Campaign, a multi-year, multi-group effort to save the last wild areas of the Sierra Nevada. Ryan Henson was appointed to the Sierra Nevada Campaign Steering Committee which is charged with fine-tuning strategy and raising the funds to make the campaign work. Ryan also participates in the forest defense and constituency building committees.

Northwest

With other conservation groups, CWC sued the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to establish measurable sediment standards for the Eel, Trinity, Klamath, and other critical north coast rivers and streams. If successful, the suit will help to prevent large-scale sediment producing activities in these watersheds.

The Coalition has an active presence in the Northwest Sacramento Province Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is charged with advising the Forest Service and BLM on the implementation of President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan (Option 9), a strategy intended to preserve and restore old-growth forests and sensitive watersheds in the Pacific Northwest. The subcommittee's job is to approve watershed restoration projects in the portions of the Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino national forests within the Sacramento River watershed. The PAC has agreed to make watershed restoration, prescribed fire, and thinning policy-making priorities.

Along with other conservation groups and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF), we began planning a lawsuit against the Mendocino, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Klamath national forests for their failure to respond to our forest plan appeals in a timely manner as is required by law. We hope that we can enjoin timber sales in roadless areas, old-growth forest, and other sensitive areas through the suit.

Wilderness Trivia Answer

1,733 acres of the 21,250-acre Santa Lucia Wilderness, designated in 1978, are managed by the BLM (the Forest Service manages the rest)

Calendar

January 15: Planning meeting for the Bay Area Earth Day celebration. The theme of this year's Bay Area Earth Day is "Forests for Our Future." Call Fred Beddall of the Sierra Club at 510-839-7123 for details.

January 16, 23, 28, 30, and February 5: Public meetings regarding the proposed Headwaters Forest land swap (Ed: notice came too late for a *Wilderness Record* article). Call Ryan Henson at the CWC for details.

February 7-9: Friends of the River's River Festival. This year's theme is "Saving California's Last Salmon". Speakers include Rep. George Miller and Tim Palmer. There will be an auction and workshops on river related conservation. Call Ethan Winston at (510) 215-0101 for more information.

February 10: Written comments due on the proposed Headwaters Forest land swap. Call Ryan Henson at the CWC for details.

February 14-16: Headwaters Forest Conference in Ashland, Oregon (not to be confused with the Headwaters Forest!). This conference is the largest gathering of forest activists on the west coast and is guaranteed to stimulate both mind and body with presentations on everything from forest defense to water quality. If that doesn't get you going, sharing beer and wine with other activists at the Ed Abbey Memorial Rest Stop should. Call Headwaters at (541) 482-4459 for more information on the conference, or Ryan Henson at the CWC for carpool information from California.

BLM rules

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additional specific authority for the administration of wilderness seems too expansive.

Comments may be submitted in writing by February 18, 1997. Write to:

Bureau of Land Management
Administrative Record, 401 LS
1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

or submit electronically to:

WOCComment@WO.blm.gov

(include "attn: AB69" and your name and address)



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 Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S. F. 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 Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego
 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; Sacramento
 Fund for Animals; San Francisco

Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee International Center for Earth Concerns; Ojai 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; South Lake Tahoe Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto

Los Angeles Audubon Society, West Hollywood Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club
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 Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento Native Habitat; Woodside
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 Peppermint Alert; Porterville
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 Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club; Mammoth Lakes
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"Our preference is to allow nature to take its course. But we're responding to the concerns of the the State of Montana"

— Spokesperson for Yellowstone National Park, on the decision to kill bison who wander out of the park

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

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