



WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

January 1998

Yosemite Valley plan comes under fire

By Tom Suk

Few would argue that Yosemite Valley is one of the most magnificent natural features in all of the world. But that may be where the agreement ends. The National Park Service, for example, in its new plan for the valley, calls for the construction of a huge new parking lot in a meadow at the base of Taft Point. That idea, and other aspects of the plan, are receiving criticism from conservationists throughout the country who believe that the valley's non-essential developments and traffic congestion can be eliminated without the construction of new facilities.

The Park Service released its draft Valley Implementation Plan (VIP) last November, and is accepting comments until February 23, 1998. The VIP is an attempt by the Park Service to implement Yosemite's 1980 General Management Plan (GMP), which states: "The essence of wilderness, which so strongly complements the valley, will be preserved."

The draft VIP evaluates four alternatives for reducing development and automobile congestion in Yosemite Valley. The Park Service's "preferred alternative" (Alternative 2) would relocate many of the existing administrative offices, concessionaire facilities, and employee housing units out of the valley. The agency's preferred alternative also favors a public transit system for day users, to be based outside of the park at surrounding gateway communities. However, if a transit system were not operational by the year 2001, the Park Service would construct a new 2,000-vehicle parking lot at Taft Toe or Pohono. While conservationists strongly support the Park Service's goals of reducing development and traffic in the Yosemite Valley, the parking lot proposal has them concerned.

"Building a brand new parking lot at either location would erase a lot of the gains made by getting rid of housing and other unnecessary intrusions," said Brian Huse of the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), a nation-wide group that focuses on national parks. Warren Alford of the Sierra Club used less subtle terms to describe the proposal. He called the new parking lot "monstrous, ugly, bad, and unanimously despised." Both the NPCA and the Sierra Club are urging the Park

continued on page 6



Ancient forest graces the flanks of the Siskiyou high country around Preston Peak (center) in the Siskiyou Wilderness. Just over the crest, the Klamath National Forest plans to clearcut a half-mile of similar old-growth forest outside the wilderness. Photo by Doug Ayers.

Does tenacity pay? Forest Service comes up with yet another logging proposal for the Siskiyou Roadless Area

By Ryan Henson

The Siskiyou Mountains of northwestern California and southwestern Oregon are among the wildest and most ecologically important regions in the United States. Recently, the World Wildlife Fund declared the Siskiyou Mountains a region of global ecological importance,

continued on page 3

California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Ste. 5
Davis, California 95616
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Phil Farrell



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Davis, CA
Permit No. 34

In this issue:

SNEP workshops.....3

Annual Report.....4-5

Book Review: Battle for the Wilderness.....7

Calendar.....7



California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616
(530) 758-0380
Fax (530) 758-0382
info@calwild.org
www.calwild.org

...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.

Board of Directors

Alan Carlton, *President*
Mary Scoonover, *Vice President*
Wendy Cohen, *Treasurer*
Steve Evans, *Secretary*
Bob Barnes
John Davis
Sally Miller
Don Morrill
Trent Orr
Joan Reiss
Norbert Riedy

Staff

Executive Director
Paul Spitler, paul@calwild.org
Conservation Associate
Ryan Henson, ryan@calwild.org
Editor
Herb Walker, hwalker@calwild.org
Membership Associate
Jane King, jking@calwild.org
Wildlands Project Coordinator
Rich Hunter

Advisory Committee

Harriet Allen	Michael McCloskey
David R. Brower	Julie McDonald
Jim Eaton	Tim McKay
Joseph Fontaine	Nancy S. Pearlman
Frannie Hoover	Lynn Ryan
Phillip Hyde	Bob Schneider
Sally Kabisch	Bernard Shanks
Martin Litton	Bill Waid
Norman B.	Jay Watson
Livermore, Jr.	Thomas Winnett

Wilderness Record

Volume 23, Number 1
ISSN 0194-3030

The *Wilderness Record* is published monthly by the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit is appreciated. Subscription is free with membership.

Submissions on California wilderness and related subjects are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

Editor
Herb Walker

Writers
Ryan Henson
Tom Suk
Del Williams

Photos & Graphics
Doug Ayers
Jim Eaton
Mark Gibson

Printed by the Davis Enterprise
on recycled paper.

Coalition News

Director's Report

What a year it has been for the Coalition! A new wilderness campaign, two new Adopt-a-Wilderness wildlands protection groups, a new Wildlands Project mapping group, three new employees and an equal number of new Board members. The level of excitement and energy has built to a boiling point and 1998 promises to be one of the best years in CWC's history.

We've had many successes and a few failures in 1997. You can read about each of these in our annual report, contained on pages 4 and 5. Instead of looking backward, I want to take this space to look ahead and explain some of the exciting work we have planned for the coming year.

A primary focus of the Coalition in 1998 will be the preparation of a new statewide wilderness proposal. Earlier this year, we organized a statewide planning meeting to discuss a future wilderness campaign. It was at this meeting that the campaign for the Omnibus California Wilderness Act was born.

1998 will be a year of planning and preparation for the campaign. The drafting of a statewide proposal, potentially including hundreds of individual wilderness areas, is a long and complex process. The process begins by determining which areas qualify for wilderness or some other designation. Each area must be identified, described, and mapped. The areas must be field checked to assure their suitability as wilderness. This field checking involves thousands of volunteer hours spent wandering through potential wilderness areas, searching out roads, logging units and other signs of disturbance. Once the fieldwork is complete, a final proposal will be written.

We hope to have the wilderness proposal completed by December, 1998. We will have the proposal introduced in Congress when the political climate is right, possibly as early as 1999. In the meanwhile, we will be building support for the proposal throughout California. A critical element to this wilderness constituency building is our Adopt-a-Wilderness program.

Through Adopt-a-Wilderness, we recruit citizens from across the state and train them to become wildlands guardians. We completed workshops in five regions this year. In 1998, we are planning citizen training workshops in twelve different regions. From Alturas to Blythe, CWC will be beating the brush for potential wilderness activists. We'll be teaching citizens how to defend threatened wild areas and work for the permanent protection of those areas. In effect, we are building a statewide constituency for wilderness that can be called on to support our upcoming wilderness proposal.

Welcome to our Wildlands Project Coordinator

CWC is happy to welcome Rich Hunter as our newest staff member. Rich comes to us from the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center in Twain Harte, where he worked for the past year as staff biologist. His scientific background, organizing skills, and enthusiasm will be helpful in his new position with CWC. As Wildlands Project coordinator, Rich will coordinate the effort to create a statewide vision for protecting California's native flora and fauna. Welcome aboard Rich!



Another key element of CWC's program in 1998 will be coordination of the Wildlands Project. As California coordinator for the Wildlands Project, CWC works to assist and coordinate the efforts of organizations working to create a vision to protect California's wildlife into the coming millennium. This vision includes designing (or mapping) a system of wildlife reserves that is capable of assuring the long term survival of all native California species.

In 1998, we'll be organizing mapping efforts in several key regions in California, including the Sierra Nevada, California Desert and Southern California. By the end of the year, we intend to have mapping efforts underway in all parts of the state, with the goal of completing a statewide map of potential wildlife reserves by the year 2000.

Until that vision is realized, however, we will continue to defend threatened wild areas from short-term threats. From mines being proposed within existing wilderness to clearcuts proposed in potential wilderness, CWC will continue to actively defend California's wild areas. We'll also be pushing for administrative protection for wild areas and will continue to encourage the Clinton administration to enact a policy to protect all potential wilderness lands.

A major tool in this effort will be the California Roadless Area Report. This report will be the most comprehensive inventory of California roadless (potential wilderness) areas since the last Forest Service survey in 1979. We'll document what has been lost and what remains and use the information to help guide our new wilderness proposal. The report should be completed in June and will serve as a powerful tool in our efforts to achieve the protection for California's last wild places.

Organizationally, we will continue to grow in 1998 as well. Our Wildlands Project Coordinator position (see below) will increase from half-time to full-time. Staff salaries will also increase. And we'll be able to hire a part-time bookkeeper and administrator for the first time. Our organizational budget continues to grow as we are challenged to meet the demands of leading California's wildland conservation efforts.

1998 promises to be a tremendous year for the Coalition. We have a huge task ahead, but huge opportunities as well. I look forward to continuing to build upon CWC's 22 year history as an effective wildlands conservation organization and hope that you can join us as we work to protect California's wild places in 1998.

By Paul Spitler

Foundation for Deep Ecology awards CWC with grant

The Coalition has received \$15,000 in general operating support for 1998 from the Foundation for Deep Ecology. The support will be used to help carry out our wildlands defense, wilderness planning and Adopt-a-Wilderness programs. We greatly appreciate the Foundation for Deep Ecology's continued support.

A heartfelt "thank you" to the following Foundations for their support:

- Columbia Foundation
- Educational Foundation of America
- Foundation for Deep Ecology
- The Mennen Environmental Foundation
- Patagonia Foundation
- Peradarn Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts, via the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign

Wilderness News

Klamath National Forest: targeting one of the premier ecosystems of the world—again

Continued from page 1

ranking in the top tier with such wild places as the Amazon rainforest.

Sadly, the praise and admiration heaped on the Siskiyou Mountains by scientists, conservationists, hikers, anglers, and others is lost on the Klamath National Forest which has worked diligently to fill this reputed home of the legendary Bigfoot with roads, clearcuts, and mines galore. Though they are among the largest in northern California, the wild, roadless regions of the Siskiyous continue to shrink as the chainsaws whine and the bulldozers roar.

The latest logging plan is the proposed Jefferson timber sale (TS) which involves twenty-seven clearcuts (euphemistically labeled "green tree retention" and "group selection" cutting) and about a half-mile of road construction adjacent to, or near, the protected Siskiyou Wilderness. Four of the proposed clearcuts are on the wilderness boundary itself. In addition, three of the other proposed clearcuts are in the Siskiyou Roadless Area which, if it is protected as wilderness by Congress, could comprise a 55,994-acre addition to the 153,000-acre Siskiyou Wilderness. All together, the Forest Service proposes to clearcut over half a square mile of ancient forest and sell 11.6 million board feet of trees (roughly 2,320 logging truck loads) to the timber industry as part of the Jefferson TS.

Objections to the Jefferson TS include concerns that the proposed clearcutting will ecologically isolate the Siskiyou Wilderness and roadless area from other wilderness and roadless areas. Forest Service maps indicate that over eighty clearcuts already exist within the area slated for logging by the Jefferson TS—one is even two miles long! How can old-growth dependent species migrate through the area if this logging blitzkrieg continues?

Secondly, the region hosts the rare Port Orford cedar which only grows in northwestern California and south-

western Oregon. This attractive tree, resembling an albino redwood, grows mostly along streams or in other moist areas. In recent years the cedar has fallen victim to a root rot disease imported from Asia which spreads through water. Scientists have found that logging is the

Recently, the World Wildlife Fund declared the Siskiyou Mountains a region of global ecological importance, ranking in the top tier with such wild places as the Amazon rainforest.

primary means by which the disease spores are spread from infected to uninfected areas, and many of these scientists have urged the Forest Service to refrain from logging in uninfected watersheds entirely. The watersheds slated for logging as part of the Jefferson TS are currently uninfected. The disease is often spread by spore-bearing mud on logging equipment. The Forest Service claims it can prevent the spread of the disease by washing logging equipment with water and closing the roads in the area during wet months (roadside ditches are known to spread the disease to nearby streams). Given that logging equipment is usually caked to the brim with nearly impenetrable layers of mud, and that the Klamath National Forest almost always logs during the wet seasons of winter, spring, and fall (ironically to avoid disturbing the northern spotted owl and other sensitive species during the summer), the concern is high that the proposed sale will infect the beleaguered cedars.

Lastly, with many miles of road and over eighty clearcuts already marring the area, activists are concerned that water quality will be further degraded in the Indian Creek watershed (a tributary of the Klamath River to the south). Salmon and steelhead in the Klamath basin have already suffered a great deal as dams, clearcuts, roads, and other disturbances block or destroy their spawning areas and raise water temperatures to lethal levels (logging and road construction increases erosion to streams which in turn makes these waterbodies shallower and, as a consequence, hotter). Last year, for example, the Klamath River made the news as scientists marveled as massive amounts of fish died due to high temperatures.

The Jefferson TS is the sixth attempt by the Klamath National Forest to clearcut the Siskiyou Roadless Area since 1996. The agency was stopped in all but one of these cases (the infamous Dillon TS in the southern portion of the roadless area), and the conservation community is gearing up to stop them again. You can help.

What you can do

Please write to:

Michael Condon, District Ranger
Happy Camp Ranger District
P.O. Box 377
Happy Camp, CA 96039-0377

You may also fax him at (530) 493-2212.

Your letter should be postmarked by February 6, 1998. Please request that in the Jefferson TS, the Forest Service refrain from:

- Building roads
- Logging ancient forest
- Cutting along the Siskiyou Wilderness boundary
- Cutting in currently uninfected watersheds hosting Port Orford cedar

Workshops train activists to use SNEP report for real change

By Del Williams

Participants filled a room at Chico State University last November for the fourth in a series of workshops on the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report. The ultimate goal of the workshop organizer, The Wilderness Society (TWS), is to promote the Sierra-wide application of the science-based SNEP findings. Hopefully, public agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service will begin using this congressionally-mandated study more in their policy formulation. So far, SNEP has been under-utilized. With a greater understanding of SNEP, citizens can appeal to managers and lawmakers who should be using this powerful tool.

The workshop was thorough: it included a 91-page citizen's guide to SNEP and culminated late in the afternoon with a demanding hands-on exercise. Hosted by Louis Blumberg of TWS, the workshop began with a brief overview of the voluminous 3,000-plus page SNEP report. Its contents were boiled down to the essentials: protecting Sierran late-successional old-growth, biodiversity, and aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

The keynote speaker was SNEP scientist Nancy Erman, an aquatic invertebrate ecologist. Erman was quick to point out that the real value of SNEP is in its use. This simple concept was perhaps the most important message of the day. Other presenters included Mark Wilbert, who demystified computer mapping technologies, while TWS economist Spencer Philips skewered the popular notion that timber production is "big" when in fact it is, overall, a small economic factor in the Sierra.

After the presentations, participants were treated to hands-on experience with SNEP information and maps, with the intention of putting this information to work in a meaningful way and with local relevance.

Participants first divided into working groups. SNEP-based maps of the Plumas and Lassen National Forests were used. Each map represented conservation strategies, and combinations of different strategies, including old-growth, aquatic biodiversity, terrestrial plant and wildlife diversity, and other areas of exceptional biological, geological, or cultural value. These four "layers" of information were "laid over" watersheds to determine whether or where these areas coexisted, and these were then traced

with colored pencil. When finished, participants could determine management priorities based on the existence or absence of significant geographic information.

Participants discovered that certain areas, such as high quality old-growth, coincided with Biodiversity Management Areas. This may imply that an area is of multiple importance. The benefits of applying such coarse information at a landscape scale are great, even though local, on-the-ground analysis might subsequently be undertaken by scientists and activists.

By any estimation, TWS did an outstanding job of furthering citizen's understanding of the SNEP report and establishing that its value can only be realized in its use. Any future workshops that TWS organizes would be of tremendous value to activists looking to turn the SNEP report's management recommendations into actual management practice.

For more information, or possible dates and locations on future workshops, contact Louis Blumberg at (415) 561-6641.

Del Williams is a full-time volunteer with CWC.

Annual Report

Looking back at 1997,

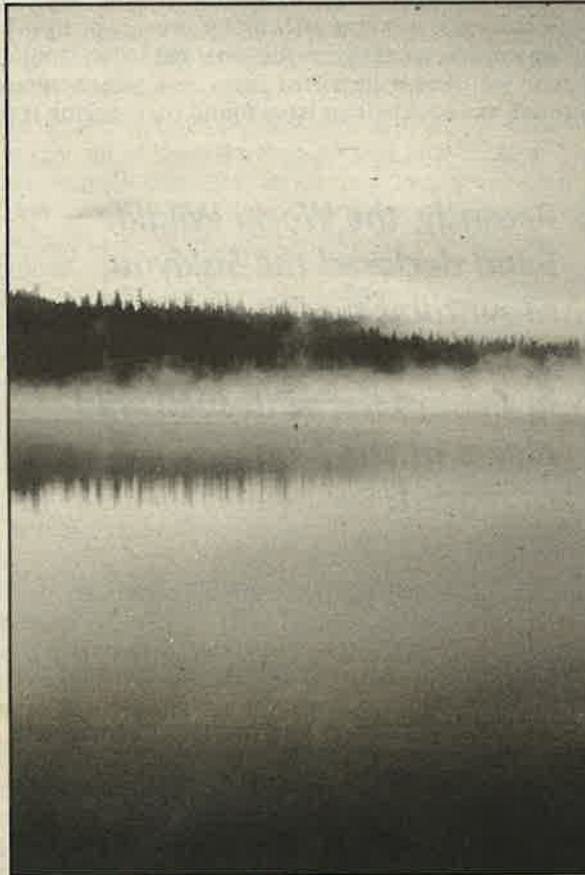
In defense of wild lands

CWC, like many other public land conservation groups, stumbled into 1997 exhausted from sixteen months of fighting the logging projects authorized by the infamous "salvage" (also known as clearcut) rider of 1995-1996. With the culmination of these struggles marking the new year, we entered 1997 hoping for some welcome peace and quiet.

Despite our wishes, CWC staff had very little time for quiet reflection. For example, in 1997 we:

- Opposed destructive development projects in twenty Forest Service roadless areas (unprotected wilderness areas) as well as twenty eight other critical national forest wild areas.
- Opposed the over-grazing of livestock in nine roadless areas, twelve "designated" (already protected) wilderness areas, four of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wilderness study areas (the BLM equivalent of a roadless area), and two other key natural areas.
- Promoted improved management in twenty designated wilderness areas and seven wilderness study areas (WSAs). These areas were mostly threatened by illegal off-road vehicle use, excessive pressure from recreationists, or fire suppression (putting out natural fires often hurts native plant and animal communities).
- Opposed mining projects proposed for thirteen wilderness areas and one national park.
- Promoted burning, road obliteration, or other restoration projects in numerous roadless areas, WSAs, and designated wilderness areas.
- Supported land acquisition projects designed to complement protection for three wilderness areas, one WSA, and five other key wild lands.
- Opposed a variety of amendments and bills in Congress proposing everything from doubling logging in the northern Sierra, to crippling the Endangered Species Act. We also supported several legislative proposals, including a program to purchase private lands in California wilderness areas and another to fund additional controlled burning on public lands.

Some of the highlights of these efforts include our:



Medicine Lake, Modoc National Forest. Stopping the proposed geothermal projects slated for this area is a high priority for the California Wilderness Coalition in 1998. Photo by Mark Gibson.

- Successful year-long struggle to spare the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area in the Six Rivers National Forest, and, (along with our conservation partners) the North Mountain Roadless Area in the Stanislaus National Forest, from destructive logging. This effort included a rally in front of the Forest Service's offices in San Francisco where we attempted to "buy" the North Mountain Roadless Area

for \$7.31 per acre—the amount the timber industry would have paid to log the area.

- Continuing battle to save the Medicine Lake Highlands in the Modoc National Forest from being exploited for geothermal energy development. Defending Medicine Lake has enabled us to form new alliances with Native American tribes, labor unions, private land owners, hunters, anglers, and other folks who want to keep Medicine Lake a wild and wonderful place.
- Extensive work to reform the BLM's grazing regulations and improve protection for ecosystems threatened by commercial livestock grazing.
- Struggle to reform national forest management in the Sierra Nevada and northwestern California through the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign (SNFPC) and the ForestWater Alliance (FWA) respectively. These campaigns are composed of many conservation organizations (including CWC which helped found and direct SNFPC over the last two years) who agreed to pool their resources to improve their collective public outreach, media presence, and legal and administrative reform efforts in these regions.
- Efforts to ensure that the BLM properly implements the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 by developing management plans for new wilderness areas, closing roads, restoring damaged areas, and providing adequate funding for desert ecosystem restoration and protection efforts.
- Work to delay, and, hopefully, to defeat the Quincy Library Group (QLG) bill in Congress. The bill proposes to double logging in the Plumas, Lassen, and portions of the Tahoe national forests.

California wild places have also suffered a number of setbacks, including losing portions of the Damon Butte Roadless Area in the Modoc National Forest and the Siskiyou Roadless Area in the Klamath National Forest to logging (eighteen other roadless areas were spared from logging this year).

Next year, we look forward both to defending key wild lands and to working hard to win them the permanent protection they deserve.

Adopt-a-Wilderness: new faces, new ideas for conservation

In January of 1997 it appeared that the thin green line of activists and conservation organizations defending California's public lands was tattered, worn, and moth-eaten. Some areas of public land had no friends at all, while in other regions activists were overworked and becoming burned-out.

CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness (AW) program is meant to turn the thin green line of conservation activists into an impenetrable jade wall. We accomplish this by recruiting and training citizens to both defend their local wild areas from short-term threats, and to advocate for the permanent protection of these areas over the long-term. These local activists in turn fill the gaps in the conservation community's defense network. To assist them, CWC staff are available at a moment's notice to provide advice and guidance. The days are gone when local public lands activists have to go at it alone.

In 1997 we promoted the goals of the AW program by hosting twenty workshops and presentations, writing

activist guides or primers, and, perhaps most importantly, assisting local activists with extensive advice and guidance on fifty-seven separate occasions. This year we successfully recruited and trained activists (in league with the SNFPC) to adopt the Lassen and Tahoe national forests. We are also in the midst of creating new conservation groups or augmenting existing ones in the Modoc, Sierra, and Plumas national forests. Each one of these recruitment and training campaigns takes several months of intense labor to accomplish, followed by many years of continued advice and support to maintain. In the end, the payoff for wild lands is incalculable.

This year, we are looking forward to completing our initial training and recruitment work in the Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra national forests, and beginning to organize activists to defend other public land management units according to the tentative schedule below (if your favorite area is missing, we have it scheduled for 1999.)

National forest or BLM district	Date of first meeting
Shasta-Trinity NF	March 1998
Mendocino NF	March 1998
Sequoia NF	April 1998
Toiyabe NF	June 1998
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	June 1998
Six Rivers NF	July 1998
Inyo NF	September 1998
California Desert Conservation Area	September 1998
Los Padres NF	October 1998
Susanville District	December 1998
San Bernardino NF	December 1998

For more information on the AW program and our efforts in 1998, please contact Ryan Henson at (530) 758-0380.

Annual Report

with an eye to the future

Wildlands 2000: saving California's last wild places

Since passage of the California Desert Protection Act in 1994, there has been little work done to prepare for California's next wilderness effort. The Republican take-over of Congress in 1994 took the steam out of wilderness planning efforts and turned the focus to wildlands defense. Under Republican leadership, environmental laws were rolled back and wild areas faced unprecedented threats. In California alone, over three dozen roadless areas were threatened with logging in one year.

This lack of visionary wildlands advocacy work is unfortunate. California still contains millions of acres of potential wilderness areas, including jewels like the King Range and the White Mountains as well as lesser known areas such as the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area and Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. These and other pristine wildlands represent the last remnants of wild California—they are the last remaining lands in the state that have not been logged, mined, roaded or developed. Without permanent protection these precious and rare wild areas are continually threatened by logging, mining and road construction. Our defensive efforts can hold off the exploiters for only so long. Eventually, we need to go on the offensive again.



The proposed White Mountains Wilderness. One day, the largest unprotected Forest Service wild area in the state, and home to the oldest living trees in the world—the bristlecone pine—will be protected from the ravages of mining by wilderness designation. Photo by Jim Eaton.

continued on page 7

The Wildlands Project: looking at the big picture

The mission of The Wildlands Project is to help protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity in North America through the establishment of a connected system of wildlife preserves. The California Wilderness Coalition is implementing The Wildlands Project vision in the Golden State by coordinating the efforts of regional groups that are working to prepare maps of potential wildlife reserves for their areas.

Because of California's vast size and tremendous biological diversity, the creation of a statewide map of potential wildlife reserves must be completed in pieces. CWC's role is to support the efforts of existing groups while working to form new wildlands groups in unrepresented areas. With our in-house GIS (geographic information systems) capabilities we are working to produce wildlands vision maps from our office.

Mapping is currently underway in the Klamath-Siskiyou, and north, central and south coast regions. The Coalition coordinates with existing wildlands groups, like the Siskiyou Project, which is developing a reserve proposal for the Klamath-Siskiyou region, and LEGACY on the North Coast.

We also helped organize groups in other regions of the state, such as the Conception Coast Biodiversity Project, working on the Central Coast Range, and the Ventana Wildlands Group, working on the Santa Cruz Mountains region. Both the Conception Coast and Ventana groups were formed in 1996 and 1997 with the assistance of CWC. Last year, both also began the long process of designing scientifically defensible wildlife reserves that are capable of preserving California's plants and wildlife into and beyond the 21st century. CWC works to support these efforts by providing the tools necessary to create wildlife reserve proposals: assistance in mapping, organizing, securing funds, and technical support.

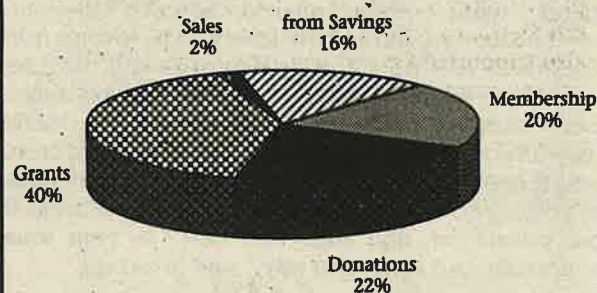
In 1998, we hope to initiate mapping projects in California's Sierra Nevada, southern desert, Central Valley and north east regions. Efforts in the Sierra Nevada are already underway. Earlier this year, we began working with the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign to support their mapping efforts. We also helped conduct a wildlands workshop in Visalia to begin organizing Southern Sierra activists to do wildlands mapping. We will also be sponsoring a statewide Wildlands Project meeting early next year to plan for the next steps of TWP in California.

Rich Hunter, formerly a staff biologist for the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, was recently hired as coordinator for TWP in California. For the first time ever, the position will be full time in 1998—which is important, because much work remains. Our goal is to be the first state in the nation with a completely designed system of wildlife reserves. We hope to have a potential statewide wildlife reserve system designed by the year 2000. It is a huge task, but California's native flora and fauna cannot wait much longer.

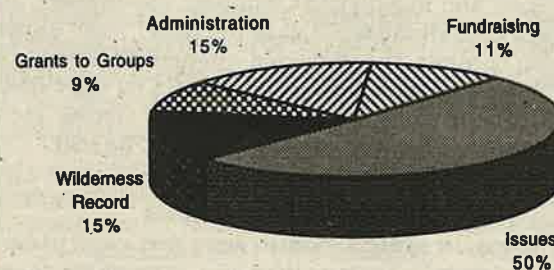
CWC works to support these efforts by providing the tools necessary to create wildlife reserve proposals: assistance in mapping, organizing, securing funds, and technical support.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME



EXPENSES



1997 Income:	\$135,000
1997 Expenses:	\$125,000
Carryover to 1998:	\$10,000

Wilderness Management

Yosemite Valley plan addresses traffic, stock and other issues

continued from page 1

Service to re-think that aspect of the plan.

The Yosemite Restoration Trust (YRT), a nonprofit group that concentrates solely on Yosemite issues, has for years urged the Park Service to drop its plan to build a new parking lot in the valley, and to instead focus its energy on developing a workable regional transportation system. YRT spokesperson Janet Cobb points out that a Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) has been developed, but that it is not adequately staffed or funded.

"The Park Service, although it says it supports regional

"The fallback consequence for not succeeding with regional transit is the construction of a parking lot in a pristine meadow near El Capitan. That's an unacceptable option."

transit, has not invested sufficiently in the YARTS process to make it succeed. The fallback consequence for not succeeding with regional transit is the construction of a parking lot in a pristine meadow near El Capitan. That's an unacceptable option," said Cobb.

Another concern about the proposed parking scheme is that it highly favors certain visitors over others. Peter Browning, a spokesperson for the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) calls the plan "wildly discriminatory." Browning says the plan contains at least two forms of blatant discrimination. First, the plan discriminates against anyone wishing to go to Yosemite Valley in a spontaneous way, and against those who have come from other states and from foreign countries and have not been able to plan for visiting the Park on an exact date. These visitors will be forced to leave their cars and ride the bus, while others drive in. Second, the plan would create socio-economic discrimination. "If you have deep pockets, you can drive to the Ahwahnee or Yosemite Lodge in your private car, and enjoy the valley in your usual comfortable and catered-to way," said Browning.

The solution to the economic discrimination, according to Browning, is to level the playing field. "If the Park Service succeeds in its destructive intent in building a parking facility at Taft Toe, then everyone should ride the bus: hotel and motel guests, campers, day-trippers, and employees of all the facilities in the valley," said Browning. "In contrast, the 'Preferred Alternative' is set up so that those who have the greatest impact on the valley's facilities—the roads, water supply, sewer system, etc.—are the ones with the greatest privileges," he said.

Build it and they will come

While most conservationists agree that a new parking lot in Yosemite Valley is a rotten idea, others have deeper concerns about the draft plan. For example, two broad goals of the 1980 GMP were to "remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley," and to "redirect development to the periphery of the park and beyond." Some critics of the draft VIP contend that neither of these goals will be achieved under any of the alternatives evaluated by the Park Service. For example, the laudable goal of removing

autos from Yosemite Valley appears to have been largely forgotten during the current debate about where to put all the vehicles, and many of the facilities damaged by the 1997 floods would be relocated within the valley rather than removed from the park.

"In order to get cars out of Yosemite Valley, you have to get cars out of Yosemite Valley," said Browning, who believes that the 1980 GMP should be fully implemented and that all park visitors should leave their cars outside of the valley and arrive via a regional transportation system. Browning is also concerned about the Park Service's proposal to build new overnight facilities to replace those lost during the January 1997 flood. He asserts that the "public demand" often used to justify new overnight accommodations is a "smokescreen," because the Park Service could expand overnight facilities indefinitely, and never be able to meet the demand.

"It is literally not possible to fulfill the demand for overnight accommodations in Yosemite Valley—not at any level: luxury, upper-crust, middle-class, super-vehicle, or groveling in the dirt," said Browning. He opines that the only permanent solution to this otherwise insuperable problem is to restore "the essence of wilderness" to Yosemite Valley by removing all overnight accommodations: no more hotels, motels, cabins, or car-campgrounds. In addition to eliminating the need for private autos in the valley, such an action would also eliminate the need for most concession employees, along with their need for housing in the valley, and/or the daily commute of hundreds of employees from El Portal or elsewhere. It would also minimize the use of supply trucks, and would make it possible to vastly reduce the scale and cost of the infrastructure. Browning concludes: "And then the National Park Service could run Yosemite like a national park, rather than like a combination resort, entertainment center, and dude ranch."

The Sierra Club's Yosemite Committee is also concerned about the proposal in the VIP to build new campgrounds to replace those damaged by the January 1997 flood. One of the Sierra Club's primary concerns is that the Park Service is proposing to build new campsites in previously undisturbed areas in order to remove the old campgrounds from flood-prone areas. However, rather than opposing re-construction of the damaged campgrounds, the Sierra Club is urging the Park Service to consider replacing the 1950s era car-camping sites with more "walk-in" type campgrounds, favoring a modern, pedestrian-oriented design with detached parking pads. This would still require access to the valley by private autos, but according to Sierra Club representatives it would provide a more pleasant camping experience and would reduce the area of impact compared to the Park Service's proposal.

Stock-use controversy

Another area of controversy is the use of recreation stock (i.e., horses and mules) on trails in and around the valley. Yosemite Concession Services (YCS), the private company that provides commercial services throughout the park, wants to discontinue commercial horseback rides in the valley. According to YCS spokesperson Keith Walklet, the company has never made much of a profit on the horseback rides, and the slim profit is not worth the liability. (For example, a \$1.19 million settlement was paid out in 1994 to the family of a boy who was killed while riding a concession-owned pony in the valley.) The Park Service's preferred alternative proposes to end the

rides and to permanently remove the concession stables. However, according to a Park Service planner who asked not to be identified, stock interest groups are pressuring the agency to retain the stables and to continue commercial horseback rides in the valley.

While the draft VIP (at least for now) calls for removing the existing concession stables in the valley, it also says that a new concession "stock staging area" will be constructed at Curry Village, in order to service the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp. The Merced Lake camp provides beds, meals, and showers to guests deep in the Yosemite Wilderness. Peter Browning of the HSHA opposes this new stable, pointing out that a "polluting and ugly" facility in the backcountry would have an impact on the valley and on one of the major trails leading from it.

Browning is also concerned that the needs of hikers were ignored when the Park Service developed its trail plan for the valley. The maps accompanying the Park Service's preferred alternative depict many miles of stock trails and paved bicycle paths, but few trails for hikers. "The strong implication is that those on foot will be second-class citizens—required to use trails that are polluted by stock animals or paved for bicycles," Browning said. "Yet walkers and hikers will most certainly constitute the great majority of trail users in the valley."

Another controversial element of the Park Service's preferred alternative is a provision that allows private stock users to drive as far as Curry Village. That is, if you own a horse, and want to ride around Yosemite Valley, you will be allowed to drive past the Taft Toe parking lot

continued on page 6



Nevada Fall, Yosemite National Park. The draft plan for the Yosemite Valley calls for reducing traffic by instituting a public transit system—but if that doesn't work a controversial new parking lot may be built later. Photo by Jim Eaton.

Wilderness Forum

Book Review

Battle for the Wilderness, Revised Edition

Michael Frome. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1997. \$19.95; 256 pages

The problem with self-criticism, especially when we in the environmental movement berate ourselves, is that the opposition so endlessly revels in "I-told-you-so's." Stellar examples of this haunt us from the past. In *Battle for the Wilderness, Revised Edition*, Michael Frome doesn't hesitate to question how environmental organizations have often been dominated by political expedients and dollar sleuths ignorant of, and even unaccustomed to, the land they're obligated to protect. We know it is at least sometimes true that characterizations of our efforts can be less than biocentric.

Easier to swallow is Mr. Frome's critique of the governmental agencies to which our public lands are entrusted. Everyone these days finds public servitude to be a convenient whipping post, often well deserved. Too many public land managers have been remiss in their respect for the land itself.

Yet the author of *Battle* also commends the many individuals who have selflessly used their positions in government or organizations for the betterment of natural places. Highest praise, however, is reserved for the unofficial folks from the grassroots movement who, usually with the support of equally dedicated scientists, have expressed unyielding devotion to special landscapes by doggedly working for their preservation.

With the blessings of The Wilderness Society, *Battle for the Wilderness* was originally published in 1974 as a guide to the concept of wilderness and the Wilderness Act of 1964. The original twelve chapters are still relevant and

remain intact, but in an insightful and new six-part preface the author updates the evolution of wilderness preservation through 1997. The book is comfortable reading, and the three appendices are alone worth the book's cost, providing not only the text of the Wilderness Act itself but a list of wilderness areas by state and agency with exact acreages and dates of creation—a veritable self-contained, must-have manual for wilderness advocates.

More than a reference manual, *Battle* exists as an authoritative historical account as well as an inspirational vehicle for the preservation of wilderness. From our inherent need for wilderness and the protection of Yosemite Valley in 1864, to the Wilderness Act of 1964, to the Wildlands Project and CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness Campaign in 1997, Michael Frome's *Battle for the Wilderness, Revised Edition*, provides a succinct survey of where we have been, and an enticing indication of where we must go. The author ends his new preface with these words:

"There is still plenty of work ahead. Whatever the future may hold, the wilderness ideal and wilderness cause free the spirit, displacing cynicism and despair with promise and hope."

Michael Frome, Ph.D., is a conservationist, author, and educator. His books include: *Chronicling the West, Regreening the National Parks, Strangers in High Places, and Conscience of a Conservationist*.

—Del Williams

Wilderness campaign

Continued from page 5

The expiration of the logging rider at the end of 1996 gave conservationists the breathing room we needed to lay the groundwork for another long-term campaign to protect California's wild areas. CWC organized a statewide meeting in October to plant the seeds for the new statewide campaign. At this meeting people from around the state developed plans, discussed strategies, formed committees and thus the campaign for the Omnibus California Wilderness Act was begun.

The first step of the campaign is to develop the proposal. CWC developed an easy how-to guide for citizen activists to use to develop a proposal for local areas. With the help of our guide, any citizen who loves a local wild area can develop a wilderness proposal for that area. Efforts are currently underway throughout the state to prepare wilderness proposals for local wild areas. In the Sierra Nevada and Klamath regions, activists are busy mapping wild areas as small as 1,000 acres in size for possible inclusion in the statewide proposal. Throughout the entire state, citizens are describing, documenting, photographing, and mapping our state's remaining potential wilderness areas.

The other integral first step to the campaign is the development of a campaign structure. CWC initiated this process in 1997. A steering committee has been formed, and several sub-committees have been created to help carry out the campaign. Wilderness advocates conducted an all-day campaign planning meeting in December and developed a rough campaign plan. This campaign plan will help guide our efforts into the coming years.

CWC has played an instrumental role in each major California wilderness campaign since 1976. Way back in 1977, we were organizing meetings, laying the groundwork and planting seeds for the desert campaign which eventually led to the protection of over seven million

acres of pristine desert lands. Like the desert campaign and the campaign for the California Wilderness Act of 1984, the eventual goal of this campaign is the protection of millions of acres of potential wilderness and other ecologically critical lands.

When the Omnibus California Wilderness Act is eventually signed into law, we can look back and remember that the seeds for the campaign were sown in 1997.

Yosemite Valley plan

Continued from page 6

and on to the new stable to be built at Curry Village. But, if you don't own a horse, and want to tour the valley on foot or by bicycle?

"Once again, you're a second-class citizen," said Browning. His group believes that if private stock users are allowed in the valley, they ought to be made to park at the west end with everyone else, and that stock animals should be limited to a modest network of properly-constructed trails while the majority of trails are designated for foot travel only. The hikers' group also advocates that stock users be charged a substantial fee commensurate with the trail damage caused by stock animals.



What you can do

Write a letter to the National Park Service sharing your comments on the draft VIP. Feel free to inform your discussion by mentioning some of the concerns raised in

Calendar

January 21: Meeting of the Tahoe Forest Issues Group in Nevada City. They will meet at 230 Commercial Street, from 2:30pm-5:30pm, to discuss local national forest protection issues. Call Don Jacobson at (530) 272-1433 for more information.

January 22: Deadline for comments on the Trigo Mountains/Imperial Wildlife Refuge Cooperative Management Plan. See article in *Wilderness Record*, December, 1997.

February 6: Comment deadline on the Jefferson Timber Sale in the Klamath National Forest. See article on page 1.

February 13-15: Western Ancient Forest Activists Conference, Ashland, Oregon. This annual conference, sponsored by Headwaters, draws hundreds of activists from all over the West. Participants will be reviewing the successes and setbacks of 1997 and planning future strategies. Workshops will cover legal, legislative, scientific, organizing, outreach, education and other areas. The Science Seminar will feature Louisa Wilcox, Reed Noss, and Dominick DellaSala discussing approaches to large-scale biodiversity conservation focused on Roadless Areas. For more information contact Chant Thomas at (541) 899-1712 or e-mail him at deep@mind.net.

February 23: Comment deadline on the Yosemite Valley Implementation Project. See article on page 1.

March 14-15: Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene Oregon. Organized by Friends of Land Air Water, the conference will offer a variety of workshops, speakers and panelists. For more information call (541) 346-3828 or e-mail L-A-W@law.uoregon.edu. Register online at www.pielc.uoregon.edu.

this article. Written comments must be postmarked by February 23, 1998, and should be addressed to:

Stanley T. Albright
Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Copies of the VIP can be viewed on the Internet (www.nps.gov/planning) or ordered from the Park Service by calling (209) 372-0261. For more information, contact Brian Huse of the National Parks and Conservation Association (510-839-9922; BrianNPCA@aol.com), Janet Cobb of the Yosemite Restoration Trust (510-763-1403; info@yosemitetrust.org), or Peter Browning of the High Sierra Hikers Association (P.O. Box 8920, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158; HSHAhike@aol.com).

Tom Suk is a member of the High Sierra Hikers Association and is a former National Park Service employee who once lived and worked in Yosemite Valley.

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 Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund; S. F. Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop Ecology Center; Berkeley Ecology Center of Southern California; L. A. El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation; Georgetown Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena Friends of the Inyo; Lee Vining 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 LEGACY-The Landscape Connection; Leggett Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto

Los Angeles Audubon Society, West Hollywood Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club Marble Mountain Audubon Society; Etna Marin Conservation League; San Rafael Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah Mendocino Forest Watch; Willits Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento Native Habitat; Woodside Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F. NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Nordic Voice; Livermore Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata 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 The Red Mountain Association; Leggett Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; Van Nuys Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE); Modesto Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley Seventh Generation Fund; Arcata Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Smith River Alliance; Trinidad Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville South Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia Tule River Conservancy; Porterville U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society; Davis Ventana Wildlands Group; Santa Cruz Western Ancient Forest Campaign; Washington, D.C. Western States Endurance Run; S. F. The Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO The Wilderness Society; San Francisco Wintu Audubon Society; Redding Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis

"They would help the existing clearcuts blend with the natural landscape patterns by increasing the scenery attractiveness... The proposed logging activities may add visual interest by creating minor alterations in the color and texture of the canopy."

— The Klamath National Forest, touting the aesthetic qualities of clearcuts.

CWC Business Sponsors

A. A. Rich & Associates
Fisheries & Ecol. Consultants
150 Woodside Drive
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Acorn Naturalists
Env. Education Resources
17300 E. 17th, J-236
Tustin, CA 92680

Ascent Technologies
Robert J. Rajewski
525 Avis Dr., Suite 15
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Mark Bagley
Consulting Biologist
P. O. Box 1431
Bishop, CA 93514

Bellus Nursery
P. O. Box 1936
Davis, CA 95617

California Native Landscapes
c/o Steve Henson
355 Patton Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128

Come Together
c/o Gary Ball
Box 1415
Ukiah, CA 95482

Echo, The Wilderness Company
6529 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94609

Ellison & Schneider, Attorneys
2311 Capitol Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95816

Genny Smith Books
P.O. Box 1060
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Giselles Travel
508 2nd Street
Davis, CA 95616

William Gustafson,
Attorney at Law
1570 The Alameda, #150
San Jose, CA 95126

Bob Havlan
U.B.I. Business Brokers
362 Freeman Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Hurricane Wind Sculptures
c/o Peter Vincent
Allegheny Star Rt.
N. San Juan, CA 95960

Instant Replay Communications
114 Buccaneer Street
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

David B. Kelley,
Consulting Soil Scientist
2655 Portage Bay East
Davis, CA 95616

William M. Kier Associates
207 Second St., Ste. B
Sausalito, CA 94965

Laughing Bear Press
72025 Hill Road
Covelo, CA 95428

The People's Network
Jay B. Cohen
537 Newport Ctr. Dr., #440
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Mill Valley Plumbing
P. O. Box 1037
Sausalito, CA 94966-1037

Don Morris,
Environmental Design
P. O. Box 1551
Willits, CA 95490

E. Jack Ottosen, O.D.
Optometrist
7601 Sunrise Blvd. #4
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

James P. Pacht
Attorney at Law
80 Grand Ave., Sixth Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Patagonia, Inc.
259 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001

LaVerne Petersen Ireland
The Petervin Press
P.O. Box 1749
Morgan Hill, CA 95038

Pinnacle Fundraising Services
James Engel
P.O. Box 38
Lytle Creek, CA 92358

Recreational Equipment, Inc.
1338 San Pablo Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94702

Recreational Equipment, Inc.
20640 Homestead Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Ridge Builders Group
129 C Street
Davis, CA 95616

Bob Rutemoeller, CFP, EA
Certified Financial Planner
P.O. Box 587
Gualala, CA 95445

Drs. Helene & Rob Schaeffer
Psychological Corporation
225 West Granger
Modesto, CA 95350

Siskiyou Forestry Consultants
P.O. Box 241
Arcata, CA 95521

Solano Press Books
Warren W. Jones, Prop.
P.O. Box 773
Point Arena, CA 95468

Toot Sweets
1277 Gilman St.
Berkeley, CA 94706

Christopher P. Valle-Riestra,
Attorney at Law
725 Washington St., Ste. 200
Oakland, CA 94607

Water Wise
P.O. Box 45
Davis, CA 95616

Wilderness Press
2440 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Wilson's Eastside Sports
James Wilson
206 North Main
Bishop, CA 93514

Zoo-Ink Screen Print
707 Army Street
San Francisco, CA 94124

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	\$ 25
Low-income Individual	\$ 10
Sustaining Individual	\$ 40
Benefactor	\$ 100
Patron	\$ 500
Non-profit Organization	\$ 30
Business Sponsor	\$ 50

† tax deductible

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

T-Shirt Orders

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

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

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Subtotal _____

Shipping _____

(\$1.50 + .75 for each additional shirt)

Total _____