



WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

November 1998

Emigrant dams bill washes out

By Steve Brougher

In a dramatic last-minute development, Congressman John Doolittle's bill to require reconstruction and maintenance of dams in the Emigrant Wilderness was blocked in the Senate and died with the adjournment of the 105th Congress. While this was a tremendous relief for all those who had opposed this terrible anti-wilderness legislation, the battle is far from over. Furious over this turn of events, Doolittle has vowed to make this issue his top priority in the next Congress.

Doolittle has indicated that he intends to make this issue his top legislative priority in the next Congressional session. "And next time," said Martini in the Union Democrat, "he won't compromise. He wants all 18 dams to remain intact."

Last year the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 1663, due in large part to swift political maneuvering by Doolittle that allowed little opportunity to fully inform Representatives of the true nature of this bill. This past July Senator Dianne Feinstein, disappointingly, backed the bill, ap-

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The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area, a land of oak woodlands and stunning vistas, is home to the bald eagle, black bear, and tule elk. Land acquisition efforts will augment this potential wilderness by up to 22,000 acres. Photo by Tom Jopson.

Exciting land acquisition efforts underway in the Coast Range

By Ryan Henson

California's northern interior Coast Range shelters some of the most fascinating and diverse wildlands in the Golden State. Unfortunately, there are very few protected areas in the region save for the Snow Mountain and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Areas in the Mendocino National Forest, and the little-known North Fork Wilderness in the Six Rivers National Forest.

Despite this, Wildlands 2000, California's next public lands wilderness protection bill, will propose many new wilderness areas in the region, as well as substantial additions to the existing wilderness areas mentioned above. If current land acquisition plans proposed by the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) go forward, there may be even more federal potential wilderness lands in the interior Coast Range than there are today.

New public lands for Lake and Colusa counties

One of the most popular wild areas Wildlands 2000 will protect is the BLM's 35,019-acre Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Lake and Colusa counties. A WSA is a region that receives moderate protection from the BLM while Congress decides whether to designate it an official wilderness. The Cache Creek WSA is a land of oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, riparian forest, foothill woodlands, and other critically important low-elevation habitats. These rich ecosystems host the

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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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Wilderness Record

Volume 23, Number 11
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 with permission from the editor.

Submissions on California wilderness and related subjects are welcome. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. We reserve the right to edit all work.

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Printed by the Davis Enterprise
on recycled paper.

Coalition News

Director's Report

Ruling from behind closed doors

As congress heads home, a great piece of political wisdom rings true: laws are like sausages—you don't want to see how they're made. The departing congress was one of the most unproductive in history, leaving much important business unfinished. And in the blur of the final few days, bill after bill was ground up like hamburger and spit out in the form of a single, giant spending bill that will have wide-reaching impacts.

One of the most important jobs of our congress is to dole out money to keep the American government running. This money is allocated in a series of bills called appropriations bills. These appropriations bills are known as "must pass" bills—without them, the government grinds to a halt, as it did for a few days in 1996 after several spending bills were not enacted prior to the October 1 deadline.

A favorite tactic of anti-environmental Republicans has been to attach unrelated provisions—also known as "riders" since they "ride" the tails of other bills—to spending bills. In 1995, Republicans attached the so-called "salvage logging rider" to a spending bill, thus effectively eliminating environmental protections for millions of acres of our national forests. The results were disastrous, and thousands of acres of pristine forest lands were sacrificed. Riders have been attached to spending bills each year since then—and alarmingly—with increasing frequency.

What makes riders so insidious and pernicious is that the majority never come up for votes in the full House or Senate. Rather, they are attached in committee meetings, conference meetings, or simply at the whim of powerful members of congress. This undemocratic process challenges Americans' faith in their political system. Worse yet, it leads to poor public policy that continually harms our natural environment.

This year was the worst year for riders in recent history. Republicans sought to take advantage of a weakened President by attaching their favorite pet projects to unrelated spending bills. In the waning days of congress, dozens of anti-environmental riders were tacked on to spending bills as Republicans (and some Democrats)

aimed to sneak through measures that would be roundly defeated if voted on individually.

A typical underhanded attack was the Quincy Logging Bill, a bill that would dramatically increase logging in three Sierra Nevada national forests. The Quincy measure was attached to the Interior Appropriations bill (the bill that funds the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies) without ever being voted on in the Senate. Proponents of the measure were worried about the opposition by several key senators, including Barbara Boxer, and chances for passage this year in the Senate looked slim. But with the aid of Congressman Wally Herger and Senator Dianne Feinstein, the measure was attached in the darkness of night to a must-pass spending bill. Soon after, the spending bill, with the Quincy measure riding its tails, was signed into law.

The Quincy bill is just one example among many. Other riders signed into law this year will increase logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, delay the implementation of new mining regulations, and increase grazing in certain national forests. The riders that were stripped after a threatened Presidential veto were even worse. For a partial list of riders enacted into law see page 4.

With no end to Republican control of the House and Senate in sight, the environmental movement may have to deal with these anti-environmental riders far into the future. We need a stronger response. President Clinton will not veto a multi-billion dollar spending bill over one or two anti-environmental riders. The issues simply aren't as important to the President as education, the census, crime, etc.

Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) has authored a bill that would require a vote in the full House and Senate before any measure affecting the natural environment becomes law. That would be a good start. A better step would be to prohibit altogether the practice of attaching policy measures to unrelated spending bills. Maybe then the American people wouldn't turn away from the sight of laws being made.

By Paul Spitler

California's Vanishing Forests makes headlines

The Coalition's *California's Vanishing Forests: Two Decades of Destruction* report made headlines across California. The report was released on Wednesday, October 14, and showed that California has lost 675,000 acres of potential wilderness to logging, road construction, and other forms of development in the past two decades. The report was featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee* and numerous other newspapers. Also, countless radio and television stations (including CNN) featured the report and our pleas for the protection of California's last roadless areas.

Greetings new members!

Welcome aboard new members! Over fifty of you joined the Coalition in October, and are helping to make CWC California's most effective wilderness advocacy organization. Together we'll protect California's last wild places. Thanks again for the support, and welcome to the Coalition!

Ahhh, technology

Macintosh users fear the day when the computer starts up with a question mark—and nothing else. Shortly before going to print with this issue, an editor's worst nightmare became reality. The hard-drive housing the *Wilderness Record* and sundry other computer files fell victim to what appears to be a computer virus. Thanks to Larry Dietrich, our always-helpful volunteer computer consultant, we were able to recover some of the files and get to the work of rebuilding our computer system from the ground up. As a result the *Record* went to press considerably behind schedule. We apologize for any inconvenience. In a related development, Rich Hunter's computer, home to many documents of the California Wildlands Project, short circuited and also erased (and destroyed) that hard drive. Most of his lost files have been re-typed on a newer computer generously donated by Misha Rauschwerger.

Lesson learned: never trust technology, but do trust friends to help out in a time of crisis. Thank you, Larry and Misha!

Wilderness Management

Planning for the future of California's desert parks Mojave, Death Valley national parks blueprint released

By Helen Wagenvoord

In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act recognized that the California desert's uniquely adapted plants and animals and expansive landscapes merited the highest federal protection. Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments were upgraded to national parks and Mojave National Preserve was established. Now, Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve have drafted management plans that will govern their management for the next fifteen years and they are turning to the public for their input. What you say is important—the National Park Service is legally obligated to consider what you have to say when they finalize these management plans.

There are several challenges facing the management of the desert parks. Grazing and mining is still legally permitted in both parks, and hunting is authorized in Mojave National Preserve. However, the National Park Service has the authority and obligation to regulate these incompatible activities to minimize and prevent degradation to the park's resources.

These park plans need our support and constructive criticism to improve the weaknesses in these drafts. To ensure the protection of these parks into the 21st century, we need to support:

- Both parks' commitment to removing destructive feral burros from the parks, placing a priority on the use of live capture.

- Mojave's draft plan calls for limits on hunting in the park in a clear effort to minimize harm to park wildlife and provide for public safety.

We need to call into question:

- The fact that both parks' preferred management alternatives do not consistently prioritize resource protection and weakly regulate grazing, camping and inappropriate developments.

- The failure of both plans to fully evaluate environmental impacts of management actions on park resources, including critical desert tortoise habitat and clearly prioritize inventory and research of park resources.

- NPS' negligence in making the critical distinction between management of park wilderness and other park lands, and identifying legal boundaries and appropriate restrictions.

You can read both plans on-line by visiting the parks' web sites at:

Mojave National Preserve: www.nps.gov/moja

Death Valley National Park: www.nps.gov/deva

You can also call the parks and have them send you a copy:

Mojave National Preserve: (760) 255-8801

Death Valley National Park: (760) 786-2331

For more information, contact the National Parks and Conservation Association at (510) 839-9922 or e-mail hwagenvoord@npca.org.

In the next issue of the Wilderness Record, look for an article examining the details of both the Mojave and Death Valley management plans. You will then have an opportunity to comment on the long-term direction the National Park Service takes in the management of these magnificent lands.

Helen Wagenvoord is Associate Regional Director for the National Parks and Conservation Association.



Saline Dunes, Death Valley National Park. The plans for Death Valley and Mojave national parks miss the mark on key issues as mining, grazing and wilderness protection. Photo by Rose Certini.

Emigrant Wilderness dams bill collapses

Continued from page 1

parently because of the House vote and a belief that the local community supported it. Shortly thereafter, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed the bill in a mark-up and sent it on for consideration by the full Senate. Although Senator Barbara Boxer seemed to disagree with the bill, these political circumstances made her reluctant to oppose it. In August, Boxer's office encouraged opponents of the bill to endorse a "compromise" that offered to drop five of the 18 dams from the bill. The rationale was that it appeared to be inevitable that the bill would pass the Senate and here was an opportunity to lessen the impact.

Boxer's staff argued that 13 dams was a better deal than 18, but opponents of the bill didn't buy it. Had we agreed to this proposal, we would have conceded that this was an acceptable action. The whole point of opposing the bill is that special legislation to undermine the Wilderness Act is simply not appropriate. Consider this analogy: an area of the desert previously had 18 off-road vehicle routes before wilderness designation. Over twenty years later, legislation is introduced to re-open these routes to vehicle use. After much political battle, a "compromise" is offered to reduce the proposal to 13 routes. Would it be advisable for wilderness advocates to agree to such a proposal? So it is with the Emigrant dams. The issue was never a numbers game. Whether it was 18 dams or 13 dams, it's still the same. The outcome of agreeing to

this would have been compromised principles and degraded wilderness in capitulation to the interests of the Wise (Ab)Use movement.

Undaunted, Wilderness Watch and The Wilderness Society continued to illuminate the problems with the bill and asked a number of legislators to intervene. In response to our appeals, several anonymous Senators placed holds on the bill in the last days of the Congressional session, preventing it from coming to a vote. Thus, when the Senate adjourned on October 21, H.R. 1663 was dead in the water.

Doolittle was livid, expressing hypocritical outrage that his bill fell victim to political maneuvering, missing the irony that that is how he advanced it originally. According to the *Sonora Union Democrat*, Doolittle aide John Martini stated, "If Wilderness Watch thinks they've killed this bill, they've got another thing coming." Doolittle has indicated that he intends to make this issue his top legislative priority in the next Congressional session. "And next time," said Martini in the *Union Democrat*, "he won't compromise. He wants all 18 dams to remain intact." Since Doolittle apparently has nothing better to do than make his assault on wilderness more important than addressing the many critical problems facing our country, wilderness defenders will need to respond to this issue again in the coming year. The good news is that he will have to start from scratch, re-introducing the bill and requiring new votes in both the House

and Senate. This time we will be better prepared to inform the members of the threat this legislation poses, without the uphill defensive battle resulting from the lopsided House vote that Doolittle shrewdly orchestrated last time.

Congressman Doolittle's actions not only bode ill for the Emigrant Wilderness, but also undermine the foundations of the Wilderness Act. This important conservation law will cease to be effective, if we allow legislation to pass every time someone disagrees with the requirements of it.

What you can do

It will be critical that wilderness lovers speak out strongly against Congressman Doolittle's next bill, but we need to plan our strategy carefully. In the next issue of the *Wilderness Record*, we will inform you of how and when you can make your voices heard. With your help, we will hopefully sink this issue into the murky depths where it belongs and maintain the integrity of wilderness.

Steve Brougiar, the former wilderness manager for the Emigrant Wilderness, works for Central Sierra Wilderness Watch.

Wilderness News

Riders 'r' us: Record number of anti-wildlands riders set new low

By Joshua DeWolf

The 105th Congress ended their session on October 21 on an infamous note. Legislators attached—and passed—more anti-environmental riders than ever before. The full-scale assault on the nation's laws protecting wildlife, wilderness, and natural resources was unprecedented. In the final days of Congress, lawmakers passed 49 of 69 riders attached to crucial spending bills. Most legislators did not know what they were voting for. Some of the worst riders enacted by Congress will:

- Double logging in 2.5 million acres of national forest lands in the Sierra Nevada. Commonly known as the "Quincy Library Group" bill, this measure gives Sierra Pacific Industries a bounty of taxpayer-subsidized trees. The experimental program will cost the U.S. Treasury \$70 million dollars to implement. The Quincy Logging bill mandates 60,000 acres of fuel-break logging, 9,000 acres of clear-cuts, and the construction of 100 miles of new roads.

Legislators attached—and passed—more anti-environmental riders than ever before. The full-scale assault on the nation's laws protecting wildlife, wilderness, and natural resources was unprecedented.

- Delay Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hard-rock mining reform. This rider requires a National Academy of Sciences review of the effects of the BLM's proposed mining reform. The study puts off necessary mining law reform instead of accomplishing any real change.

- Allow the BLM to reauthorize grazing permits on BLM land without the completion of any environmental review documents currently required by law.

- Shift the Forest Service's emphasis in administering the Wilderness Act from the quality of solitude to a focus on human activity and recreational use. The rider will attempt to remove regulations that limit the number of visitors to a designated wilderness area, when those limits are based upon achieving solitude. The final language allows the Forest Service to manage as wilderness only remote or core areas of the wilderness.

- Interfere with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to reduce air pollution in national parks and wilderness areas. The measure calls for the creation of regional commissions that would look at regional approaches at reducing air pollution clouding our national parks. This could delay an already overdue EPA rule, mandated by the Clean Air Act, to clear the air in smoggy parks and wilderness areas.

Joshua DeWolf interns at the California Wilderness Coalition.

Defense fund established for Medicine Lake

By Ryan Henson

The Medicine Lake Highlands in the Modoc National Forest is one of the most scenic and isolated regions in northern California. At the center of this large volcanic depression is a popular blue jewel, Medicine Lake. At the lake's northern shore rises Mount Hoffman, the heart of the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area. This roadless area is currently a proposed wilderness under the California Wilderness Coalition's Wildlands 2000 Campaign. Because of its extensive groves of ancient forest, the Highlands are the only place in the Modoc National Forest hosting northern spotted owls.

Various geothermal companies are seeking to cash-in on the new "green energy" credits extended to them under California's new deregulation scheme. To produce "green energy," the companies plan to drill several wells, build high-standard roads, construct miles of high-tension powerline, and clearcut ancient forest. One of the roads and powerlines will cut the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area in half, turn northeast, and then cut through the Lavas and Dobie Flat roadless areas—also proposed for wilderness—near Lava Beds National Monument.

Members of four Native American tribes, the Pit,

Modoc, Shasta, and Klamath nations, oppose the project because of Medicine Lake's immense spiritual value. Theodore Martinez of the Pit River Nation has declared Medicine Lake "our Jerusalem." Private landowners, hunting and fishing groups, some local government entities, two native rights groups, and three conservation organizations have been actively opposing the drilling projects.

This is not a typical conservation battle against the U.S. Forest Service—this will be a fight against slick, highly-paid attorneys, the best scientists and other experts money can buy. This time, the Forest Service has a determined cabal of developers to do most of the work for them.

This is not a typical conservation battle against the U.S. Forest Service—this will be a fight against slick, highly-paid attorneys, the best scientists and other experts money can buy. This time, the Forest Service has a determined cabal of developers to do most of the work for them.

The friends of Medicine Lake have retained attorney Stephen C. Volker of EarthJustice Environmental Defense Fund to defend the imperiled region. Steve has been hailed as the "Michael Jordan of environmental law." He has an outstanding reputation for successfully defending some of our nation's most threatened wild places. It will take a major grassroots campaign to assist Steve and save the highlands from development. For

more information contact Ryan Henson at (530) 335-3183 or e-mail him at ryan@calwild.org.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

Eureka Dunes in Death Valley being loved to death

By Steve Tabor

The Eureka Dunes are a special area of Death Valley National Park. At 700 feet high, they are the second tallest sand dunes in the United States and home to two federally endangered plant species and one candidate species: the shining milkvetch. The Eureka Dunes evening primrose and the Eureka Dune grass were declared endangered in the 1970s due to extensive off-road vehicle use. When the National Park Service (NPS) took over, the dunes were advertised in a variety of books, magazines and newspapers, making them more popular than ever. The sensitive ecosystem of the dunes has not been under this much pressure since the days when ORVs were permitted. People are camping, riding horses, skiing and sandboarding down the dunes. Sandboarding is becoming a popular activity on desert sand dunes. Impacts from this new sport include crushing sensitive flora and fauna, erosion and cutting the roots of plants. Tourism communities in the Owens Valley and *Sandboarding Magazine* among other sources promote this activity.

In spite of the efforts of some NPS employees and a concerned public, the top management of Death Valley National Park has taken little action to protect the dunes. The California Desert Protection Act does not prohibit sandboarding on dunes in national parks and wilderness

areas, but does allow a superintendent to prohibit activities that adversely impact the ecosystem. Mr. Martin can do this right away under the authority of the Endangered Species Act alone. What is he waiting for? Your letters are needed. Please write Superintendent Martin and mention:

1. That camping should be prohibited on the dunes and the parking area should be moved back from the dunes.
2. Sandboarding, skiing and sledding should be prohibited on all of the dunes in Death Valley National Park.
3. Horseback riding should be prohibited on the dunes.
5. The NPS should oppose the proposal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to downgrade the two plants from endangered to threatened. There is not enough empirical data to support this decision.

What you can do

Send comments to:
Superintendent Richard H. Martin
Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, CA 92328
E-mail: richard_martin@nps.gov

Steve Tabor is an activist with Desert Survivors. For more information contact Steve at StevTabor@aol.com.

The Wildlands Project

A hazy future for Santa Cruz mountain lions

Central coast habitat threatened by fragmentation

By Rich Hunter

The initial results of a study on the status of cougar habitat raise serious concerns about the long-term viability of populations in the central coast region. By examining current distribution of lions and habitat suitability, the study found that urban and agricultural development has greatly fragmented habitat areas. En-

tire subpopulations that depend on large, connected areas for survival are threatened with (1) isolation from other subpopulations; and (2) habitat fragmentation within the existing core areas. The lack of regional planning that addresses connectivity requirements of mountain lion has allowed key linkages to be lost.

The study is part of a regional conservation plan called the Ventana Wildlands Project, a cooperative research program of the California Wilderness Coali-

tion, Ventana Wildlands Group, University of California at Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz Mountains Wildlands Recovery Project. We are organizing this study to identify what lands are needed to provide for viable populations of mountain lions in the central coast.

Our research shows that the historically continuous distribution of lions and their habitat has been divided into smaller areas, or isolated blocks of habitat. Even within the larger blocks of higher suitability habitat, designated as core areas in our study, unchecked development threatens to eliminate the connectivity and wildlands character that lions require for survival. On the basis of a theory called island biogeography, conservation biologists have frequently warned against creating "islands of habitat in a sea of disturbance." Scientists have demonstrated that islands and small, isolated habitat areas that function as islands, have a higher extinction risk for local fauna than large, connected habitat areas.

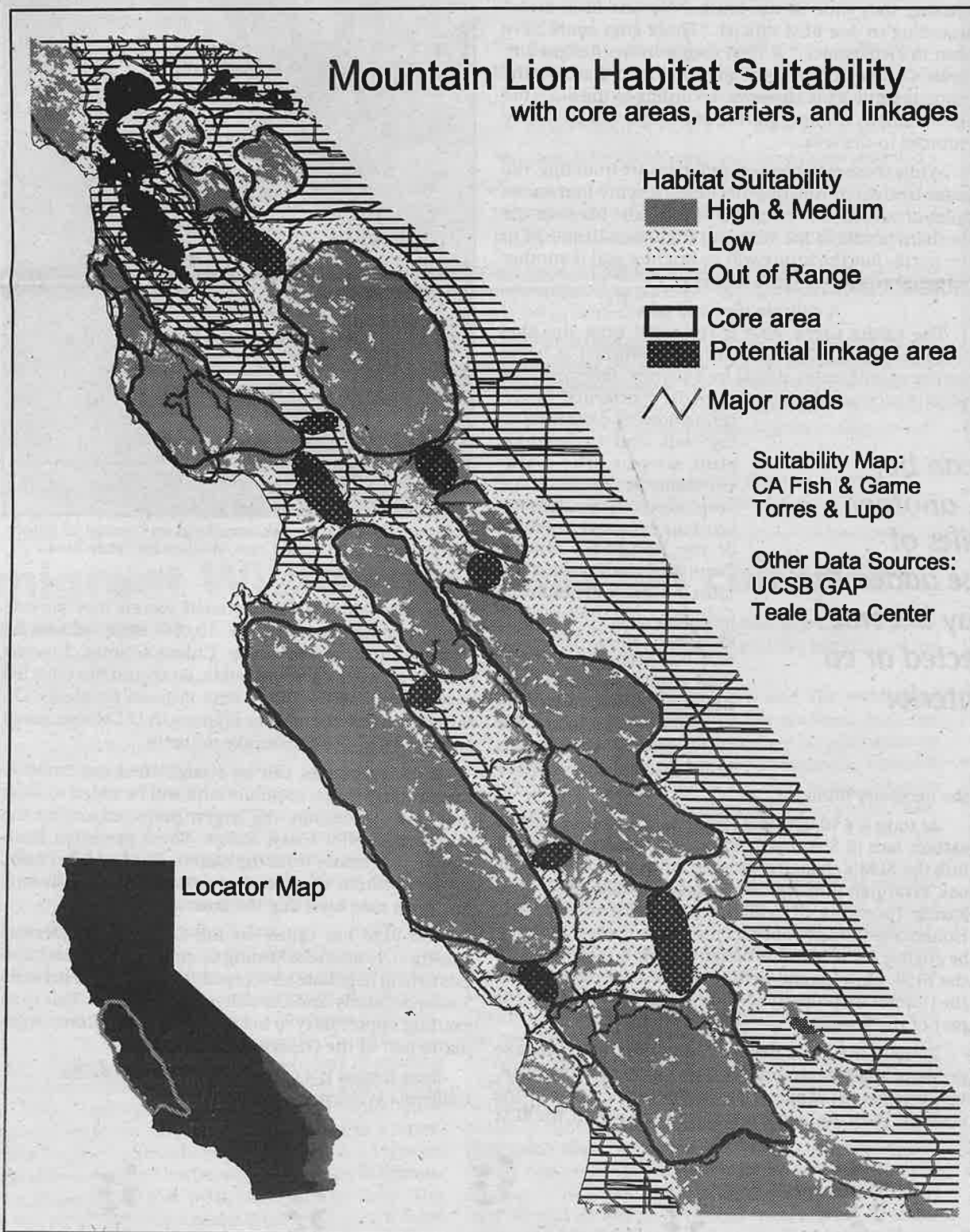
Mountain lions illustrate this principle extremely well. Their large home range size excludes them from suitable habitat that is not large enough or lacks connectivity with other suitable habitat. As top predators, they are few, so populations rely on immigration to offset local mortality and to add genetic diversity. If an isolated population goes extinct from a random natural disaster or genetic inbreeding, there will be no chance for immigration to recolonize the habitat area.

Our study reveals the mountain lion habitat of the Santa Cruz Mountains as the most endangered in the central coast. This core area for mountain lion conservation is almost completely isolated from neighboring populations. Development in the Santa Clara Valley blocks linkages to the Diablo Range in the east. A strip of lower suitability habitat five miles wide and 20 miles long marginally links the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Gabilan in the south, but development pressures all sides of it. Ongoing research of the Ventana Wildlands Project is examining what it would take to reconnect the Santa Cruz Mountains with these habitat areas.

The integrity of the core area of suitable habitat within the Santa Cruz Mountains is also in jeopardy. Although mountain lions are protected from sport hunting, their habitat is at risk. Dispersed residential development that adds more roads, traffic, pets, and habitat destruction, further pressures mountain lion populations. Substantial reserves already exist, and future research will determine the minimum habitat areas needed for mountain lion viability. Perhaps some key purchases or easements could help secure large enough areas by linking existing reserves.

The Ventana Wildlands Project is researching habitat needs of many other indicator and/or umbrella species for reserve design, including raptors, songbirds, rare plants, and native grazing animals. If you're interested in volunteering or for more information, contact Rich Hunter by calling (530) 758-0380 or e-mailing him at rich@calwild.org.

Rich Hunter is the California Wildlands Project Coordinator.



Wilderness News

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek potential wilderness to gain thousands of acres from acquisitions

Continued from page 1

second largest wintering bald eagle population in California, as well as substantial black bear and tule elk populations. In spring, the area offers a profuse and stunning wildflower display. The WSA also contains three increasingly popular hiking trails. Cache Creek itself is renowned among whitewater recreationists.

The 12,000-acre Payne Ranch occupies most of the WSA's northern border. The ranch is slightly different from the WSA in that it has less chaparral and far more grassland and oak savannah. The ranch has been heavily grazed for years, and recently the ranch owner has allowed slow-growing oaks to be cut and sold for firewood (a tragic and largely unregulated phenomenon occurring on private lands statewide). To add insult to injury, a motley collection of rock gatherers have been scouring the banks of Cache Creek for years with heavy equipment to find boulders to sell to Bay Area landscape firms.

Despite these impacts, the Payne Ranch has enormous restoration potential and offers thousands of acres of prime elk habitat. Some portions of the ranch are strikingly beautiful and even host native grasses and other healthy habitats. As a result, the BLM has been trying to acquire the ranch for many years. CWC staff pestered the BLM with the question, "How are the Payne negotiations going?" so many times it became reminiscent of a small child asking, "Are we there yet?"

Though Mr. Payne wanted to sell the ranch to the BLM, the purchase was held up by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors which felt uncomfortable with the idea of the federal government purchasing land in their county. Under the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution, the federal government is not required to respect Colusa County's wishes, but good form and agency policy required the BLM to try and seek the county's blessing. Ironically, the county claimed that "private property rights" would be diminished if the BLM acquired the Payne Ranch, thereby thwarting Mr. Payne's desire to sell his private property.

The 12,000-acre acquisition will occur over the next fourteen months in three phases: (1) a 4,000-acre block along the intersection of Highway 20 and Highway 16, (2) a 4000-acre strip south of that, and (3) Cache Creek Ridge and Cache Creek itself. The Payne family wants to hold on to Cache Creek proper as an enticement to the BLM to go through with the rest of the deal ("saving the best for last" according to one BLM official). Sadly, the oak loggers will still be allowed to cut until the title for the first 4,000 acres is actually transferred to the BLM in January,

1999. Many old-growth oaks have been cut down, as well as all snags (dead trees providing critical wildlife habitat) in some areas. Though it has no legal right to stop this activity as yet, the BLM has won an informal agreement from Mr. Payne to protect large oaks and snags from cutting, and to confine the logging to a few small areas. The rock haulers continue to operate; though they are currently trespassing since even Mr. Payne asked them to leave some time ago. When the rock haulers see the BLM coming, they hide in the brush. "No one likes them" according to one BLM official, "Those guys could have been in Deliverance." A final compromise (designed to please Colusa County) will allow cattle to graze on the property until 2000. However, according to the BLM, the agency's new, stronger grazing guidelines will be strictly enforced in the area.

While these management problems are troubling, the future is bright considering that nearly seventy-four square miles of vehicle-free public land will exist between the southern border of the WSA and Highways 20 and 16 to the north. But the future will be brighter still if another potential acquisition goes forward.

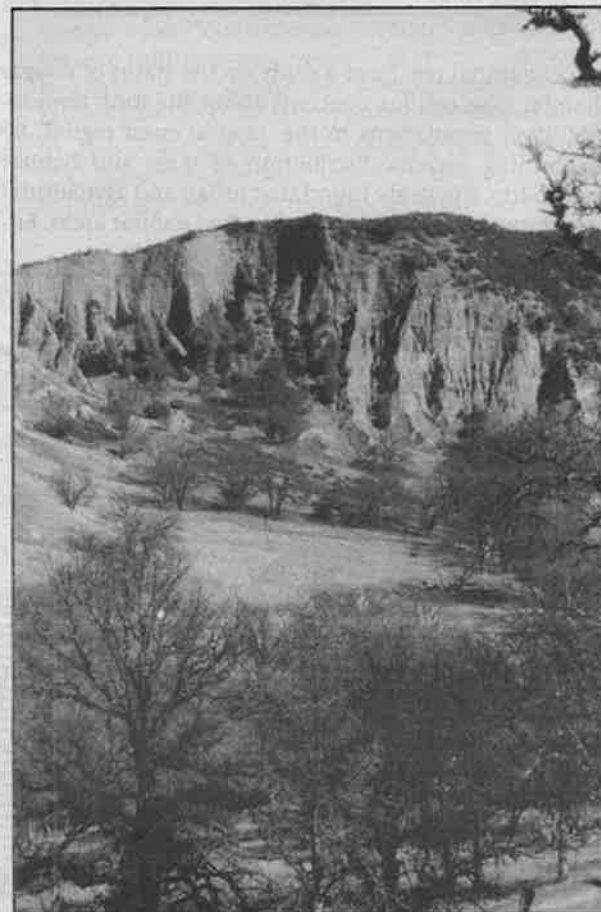
A delicate give and take

The Cache Creek WSA is separated from the Blue Ridge proposed wilderness (an area identified as being worthy of wilderness status) by a narrow, dirt road. The ridge is increasingly popular for its spectacular views, spring flowers, pleasant hiking trail, and tremendous plant diversity. The southern border of the Blue Ridge proposed wilderness is made up of the extensive holdings of the Homestake Mining Company. Homestake is the most profitable goldmine in California, but the mine will close soon and the corporation has proposed that the BLM acquire a portion of its holdings (another large portion will be acquired by the University of California). Sadly, the BLM does not have

the necessary money.

At stake is a 10,000-acre former ranch on Blue Ridge's eastern face in Sonoma County. The acquisition would link the BLM's chaparral-cloaked lands with spectacular oak savannah and riparian habitat. Unlike the Payne Ranch (portions of which are heavily roaded) the Homestake Property appears mostly unroaded and may be eligible for wilderness designation if it is acquired by the BLM. Only careful field-surveys can verify whether the Homestake property is wild enough to be protected as part of the Blue Ridge proposed wilderness.

To raise the funds needed to acquire the Homestake property, the BLM has proposed to dispose of many small, scattered parcels of public land in Sonoma County's wine country. With the high land values in the region, the BLM



Eroding cliffs and blue oak woodland on the trail to Baton Flat, Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Lucy Rosenau.

hopes that selling a few scattered parcels may provide enough money to buy the 10,000 acres offered by Homestake. However, unlike Colusa County, Sonoma County strongly values its public lands and has objected very strongly to the BLM's land disposal proposals. On the other hand, the county supports the BLM's proposed acquisition of the Homestake property.

If these wrinkles can be straightened out, another fifteen square miles of public land will be added to what may one day become the largest protected area in the northern interior Coast Range. These protected lands may stretch nearly from the eastern shore of Clear Lake, to the northern shore of Berryessa Reservoir with only one open road bisecting the area.

The BLM has called on the California Wilderness Coalition, Homestake Mining Company, and other interests to help negotiate an acceptable compromise between Sonoma County and the federal government. This is an exciting opportunity to help preserve and restore a wonderful part of the Golden State. Stay tuned.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

If these wrinkles can be straightened out, another fifteen square miles of public land will be added to what may one day become the largest protected area in the northern interior Coast Range.



THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1998

[ROAD BUILDING & THE END OF WILDERNESS IN CALIFORNIA]

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood."

—Robert Frost

The Question is Should There be a Road at All?

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION has proposed an 18-month moratorium on road construction in parts of our National Forests, so that a panel of scientists can perform a long overdue evaluation of the 400,000 miles of logging roads and other routes bulldozed through America's public lands in the last century.

These roads do have far-reaching effects. It is already well-documented that erosion from road construction silts up streams. Noise and dust disturb fragile ecosystems. And where the roads go, ruin follows: clearcutting, mining, ski slopes, and other "development" mean the end of wilderness.

California alone loses about 100 acres of wildlands each day to the road-building crews.

In the last systematic survey of California's 24 million acres of National Forests, in 1979, over two-thirds had already been plowed with roads, logged over, degraded to the point where it no longer qualified as "wild" by anyone's definition.

Two million acres (a little bit over 8% of the National Forest in the state) were protected as wilderness. That left only 6.3 million acres of roadless forest eligible for wilderness protection 20 years ago.

You might suppose, given the rising tide of environmental awareness, that this land would still be safe and sound. But our own

study of this precious remainder finds that some 675,000 acres—an area about the size of Yosemite National Park—has been lost to the road-builders since that survey two decades ago.

So. We have finally come to the proverbial fork in the woods.

We can destroy our state's legacy of undisturbed wilderness. Or we can preserve it once and for all.

Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration seems to have reached its own conclusion. Its proposed national moratorium on road building leaves out one-third of the last remaining roadless areas in California's National Forests.

This means that, no matter what the road review panel recommends for the rest of the country, California will lose a third of its last natural forest—the forest primeval—to bulldozers, chainsaws, mining giants, and hell-for-leather 4WD racers in the foreseeable future.

Unless you act now.

We've prepared a coupon for you to mail to Vice President Gore.



Even a \$40,000 sport utility vehicle can't take you to this spot. Nor should it.

Which road will you choose?
The road clogged with logging trucks and behemoth RV's?
Or the path less traveled: one we can walk along with our children, and they with theirs, forever?
Thank you.



CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT TILL IT'S GONE:
[Roadless acres lost in California since 1979 by National Forest Region]

NORTHWEST REGION
Klamath, Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity, Rogue River, Siskiyou, Six Rivers
248,921 acres lost (17%)

SIERRA NORTH
Modoc, Plumas, Lassen
95,603 acres lost (22%)

SIERRA CENTRAL
Eldorado, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Study Area, Tahoe
70,457 acres lost (8%)

SIERRA SOUTH
Sequoia, Sierra, Inyo
97,833 acres lost (5%)

SOUTHERN
Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, San Bernardino
162,635 acres lost (10%)

VICE PRESIDENT ALBERT GORE
The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500

The proposed nationwide moratorium on road-building in parts of our National Forests sacrifices millions of acres in California that are still undisturbed and should be protected. I urge you to revise your plan and safeguard the last remaining wildlands in one of America's most overdeveloped states.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, California 95616

I've mailed the coupon to Vice President Gore; just wanted you to know.
 I want to stay involved in the struggle to keep natural places natural in California. Keep me updated. I'm enclosing my contribution of \$25 \$50 \$100 or \$ _____ to help defray the costs of this urgent campaign to keep California wild.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Coalition Member Groups

American Lands Alliance; Washington, D.C
Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Leggett
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
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation;
Georgetown
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.
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Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; L.A.
El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach
Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
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

Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Boulder, CO
Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis
High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee
International Center for Earth Concerns; Ojai
John Muir Project/Earth Island Institute; Pasa-
dena
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; Arcata
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
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Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining
Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club; Sacramento
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Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE);
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Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville
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Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis

CWC's report, *California's Vanishing Forests: Two Decades of Destruction* somehow managed to elicit two quite different responses from various offices of the Forest Service.

"We in the U.S. Forest Service are in agreement with a lot of what the California Wilderness Coalition said."

—Matt Mathes, Forest Service
spokesperson, as quoted in the *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 15, 1998.

"She (Forest Service spokesperson Janice Gauthier) ascribed the agency's differences with the wilderness coalition as 'philosophical differences.'"

"There's nothing illegal and there's no scandal. I'm not sure they're telling the whole story," Gauthier said."

—Los Angeles Times, October 15, 1998.

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Join the Coalition

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Annual Dues : †

Individual	\$ 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

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

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

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____

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

Total _____