



# WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

June/July 1998

## Wildlands 2000: New wilderness for the new millennium

*"In wildness is the  
preservation of the world"*

—Henry David Thoreau

Any backpacker who has visited (or attempted to visit) a Sierra Nevada wilderness in the past several years can tell you that the Golden State's wilderness areas are becoming increasingly crowded. Despite California's large extent of existing wilderness, increased use of these areas illustrates the demand for new wilderness. As California's population increases, so too does its pressure on wilderness. Popular hiking areas and key habitat are thus put at risk. Species continue to slide towards extinction. Development chips away at our last wild places. And the problem will only get worse in coming years. The only solution is to protect remaining wilderness.

Beyond providing spectacular places to enjoy nature, wilderness areas are invaluable strongholds for wildlife like salmon and the desert tortoise, sources of high-quality drinking water for millions of Californians, and places of personal challenge and spiritual reflection. But most of all, protecting all remaining wilderness is a first step toward leaving a legacy for future generations of the human race. Wilderness is important to the human spirit; it is valuable for its existence.

In this special edition of the *Wilderness Record* (which will return to its monthly schedule in August), we present Wildlands 2000—a campaign to protect more California wilderness. Inside you'll find an overview of the campaign, photographs and descriptions of potential wilderness areas, a map of California's unprotected wilderness, and information on how to get involved in the campaign. This is a long-term effort that will eventually lead to the protection of millions of acres of wild areas. We hope you enjoy this special issue, and hope you'll join us as we work to protect California's last great places.



The Skedaddle Wilderness Study Area in Lassen County. Spectacular rock formations and vast fields of native grasslands characterize this area. Photo courtesy of the Eagle Lake Chapter of the Audubon Society.

## A showcase of potential wilderness in the Golden State

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The goal of Wildlands 2000 is ambitious. We are working to protect, through wilderness designation, as many pristine, wild lands as possible. Not surprisingly then, our proposal will include literally hundreds of areas around the state, containing millions of acres of public land.

You may not have heard of many of the places proposed for wilderness under the Wildlands 2000 campaign. These obscure roadless wild lands include places like the No Name Roadless Area in the Cleveland National Forest, the Reister Canyon Roadless Area in the Mendocino National Forest, and the Timbered Crater Wilder-

continued on page 3



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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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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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## Campaign Overview

# Does California have enough wilderness?

California's unprotected wilderness is under attack. Each year, wild areas across the state are threatened by logging, mining, off-road vehicles and other forms of development. Current proposals include:

- A plan to clearcut and run power lines through the heart of the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area in the Modoc National Forest. The power lines are part of a massive energy development project that is proposed for the region.

- An attempt by the U.S. Army to expand its base at Fort Irwin to provide additional practice grounds for tank warfare. The proposal would eliminate thousands of acres of potential wilderness in the California desert, including the Owshead, Kingston Range, Avawatz, South Avawatz Mountains, and Soda Mountains potential wilderness areas.

- An effort by the Klamath National Forest to clearcut ancient forests within the Russian Roadless Area. The area could be added to the Russian Wilderness if it remained intact.

The threats go on. In the White Mountains, an off-road vehicle route is proposed in the Soldier Canyon Roadless Area. Potential additions to the Picacho Peak Wilderness Area could be ravaged by a massive gold mine. Without permanent protection, our last unprotected wildlands will continue to be jeopardized—and there is still much at stake.

### What we've protected...

In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." The Act defined wilderness with an emphasis on an area's pristine nature and lack of human influence. The Act started a National Wilderness Preservation System, protecting critical wilderness areas, while allowing Congress to add to the system in the future.

Since 1964, nearly a dozen separate bills have added to the Wilderness Preservation System in California. The California Wilderness Act of 1984 designated 1.8 million acres of new California wilderness. A decade later, the California Desert Protection Act designated 69 new wilderness areas and protected over seven million acres of public land—nearly doubling the acreage of California's wilderness. Today, California contains about fourteen million acres of wilderness.

### ...and what we haven't

Still, much remains unprotected. Both the United States Forest Service and the BLM, who together manage over a third of California's land base, have completed comprehensive inventories of potential wilderness in their jurisdiction. Together, the agencies identified nearly 600 potential wilderness areas, totaling almost 13.5 mil-

lion acres. While some of these areas identified as potential wilderness have already been protected, many others remain at risk.

Currently, California still contains over 400 potential wilderness areas, covering at least five million acres of public land (see map inside for locations). Most are areas you've never heard of: the Duncan Canyon potential wilderness in the Tahoe National Forest, or the Eden Valley potential wilderness in the Ukiah BLM District, for example. Other areas are better known: the King Range National Conservation Area, in the heart of the Lost Coast, and the beautiful White Mountains, east of the Sierra Nevada. What these areas all have in common is that they contain much of the most pristine remaining wildlands to be found anywhere in California.

## Wildlands 2000: Continuing the legacy of wilderness

The Wildlands 2000 campaign was initiated to protect as wilderness California's last remaining wild places. We are working to build on California's rich history of protecting its wildlands by adding to

our state's share of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In short, we want to protect as wilderness each of the state's remaining potential wilderness areas. We also aim to protect other small but significant tracts of roadless lands and larger tracts of degraded wildlands.

The first step in this multi-year campaign is to undertake an extensive inventory of the state's remaining wildlands. This inventory is now underway. Conservation organizations and citizens from across the state are working to identify, survey, describe, and photograph local wild areas. With over 400 potential wilderness areas and thousands of smaller parcels scattered throughout the state, this is a huge undertaking.

Citizens from around the state are currently writing descriptions of local wild areas. Many of these people were recruited and trained through CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness program. Others may live far away from potential wilderness lands, but have an interest in assuring that our last wild areas are protected for future generations.

Once the inventory is complete, we will draft a proposal to protect the state's last potential wilderness. This proposal will form the basis of a long term campaign to pass legislation that will protect California's last wild places.

We have been fighting defensive battles for too long. Each timber sale, mine, or new road that threatens a potential wilderness area underscores the need to permanently protect remaining wildlands for the Earth's—and our own—future. The Wildlands 2000 campaign will do just that.

*"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

—1964 Wilderness Act

By Paul Spitler

## Proposed Wilderness

# A sampling of California's wilderness yet-to-be

Continued from page 1

ness Study Area in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Susanville District. But there are also many "flagship" areas, places that wilderness wanderers have discovered and devoted themselves to protect. Ten of these wild areas, both known and unknown, are described below.

The Golden State is a paradise of biological diversity. An important thing to notice as you read the following descriptions is that the word "wilderness," at least as far as the Wildlands 2000 campaign is concerned, should no longer conjure up images of alpine peaks and glacial lakes alone. Today, it is widely accepted that oak woodlands, chaparral, grasslands, wetlands, ancient forest, and sagebrush deserve wilderness protection just as much as high peaks. While many of the areas we work to protect as part of the Wildlands 2000 campaign are indeed alpine, most are not. The rich abundance of life that characterizes California's wildlands depends on a diversity of habitats to thrive. Wilderness areas representing the full array of those diverse habitats offer the best chance for maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems, bountiful wildlife, clean water, and recreation opportunities.

Since trees tend to attract loggers and open terrain attracts off-road vehicle enthusiasts, in many cases the wild lands listed below are highly imperiled. Through the Wildlands 2000 campaign, we ensure the long-term health and survival of our last unprotected wild areas.

For each entry below, please note that the final acreage figures have not been established.



Caliente Mountain, Caliente WSA. This area, rich with wildlife and plants, may someday see the California condor again. Photo by Pete Yamagata.

### Carrizo Plain/Caliente Mountain

Managing agency: BLM, Caliente Resource Area

Location: 45 miles southwest of Bakersfield in San Luis Obispo County. Size: 200,000+ acres

Potential threats: Oil and gas development, and livestock grazing.

Features: The Carrizo Plain is one of California's most spectacular and unique strongholds of biodiversity. First, as the name implies, a large portion of the region is a broad valley with rare low-elevation ecosystems, including vernal pools and vast fields of native bunchgrass and wildflowers. These fertile lands host a plethora of wildlife,

including tule elk, pronghorn, sandhill cranes, golden eagles, burrowing owls, and abundant migrating waterfowl. The area also hosts many threatened and endangered species such as the giant kangaroo rat, vernal pool fairy shrimp, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, San Joaquin kit fox, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, and California jewel flower. The California condor was once common in the area, and may become so again some day if restoration efforts in the adjacent Los Padres National Forest are successful. Native American rock art and other cultural sites also dot the area. Short trails exist at Soda Lake, an enormous vernal pool, and Painted Rock, while cross-country hiking opportunities abound across broad plains and gentle ridges.

### Devil's Gulch Roadless Area

Managing agency: Sierra National Forest

Location: South of El Portal on Highway 140 in Mariposa County (west of Yosemite National Park).

Size: 30,000+ acres

Potential threats: Logging, mining, off-road vehicle use, and road construction.

Features: The South Fork Merced River flows through the heart of this wild land. Recognizing the river's outstanding social and ecological value, Congress has protected the river and a surrounding buffer under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Bordering Yosemite National Park, this roadless area offers a tremendous variety of habitats given its low elevation and abundant water. Ancient forests lie along north-facing slopes, while majestic oak woodlands and riparian forests cover the canyons. California chaparral covers many of the south-facing slopes. The South Fork Merced Trail is famous for its spectacular wildflower displays and fascinating nineteenth-century mining camps. The Devil's Gulch Roadless Area is one of the few places in the Sierra Nevada where one can embark on a hike from the low-country to the crest on an uninterrupted network of east-west trails. In most locations, east-west routes stop in a maze of logging roads or other disturbances.

### Chips Creek Roadless Area

Managing agency: Lassen and Plumas national forests

Location: West of Oroville on Highway 70.

Size: 45,000+ acres

Potential threats: Logging, livestock grazing, mining, off-road vehicle use, and road construction.

Features: Yellow, Chips, Soda, and Grizzly creeks provide great swimming, excellent fishing, and outstanding habitat for a variety of species. Many lakes, and even a few sensitive peat bogs such as Green Island Lake, are com-

mon in the area. Ancient forest also graces much of the region, especially groves of red fir. The Forest Service believes wolverine may still live in the area. Near water sources, abundant archeological sites can be found. Over sixteen miles of the Pacific Crest Trail pass through the Chips Creek region.

### Echo-Carson Roadless Area (Dardanelles)

Managing agencies: Eldorado National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, and the Toiyabe National Forest.

Location: Between Carson Pass on Highway 88 and Big Meadow on Highway 89.

Size: 24,000+ acres

Potential threats: Logging, livestock grazing, mining, and off-road vehicle use.

Features: Ancient forest, lush meadows, clean water, and scenic vistas characterize this area. The region is also noted for its volcanic rock formations, aspen groves, and jewel-like lakes. A popular segment of the Pacific Crest Trail passes through the region, as does a portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

### Skedaddle Wilderness Study Area

Managing agency: BLM, Eagle Lake Resource Area

Location: 30 miles northeast of Susanville in Lassen County.

Size: 63,000+ acres

Potential threats: Off-road vehicle use, livestock grazing, and mining.

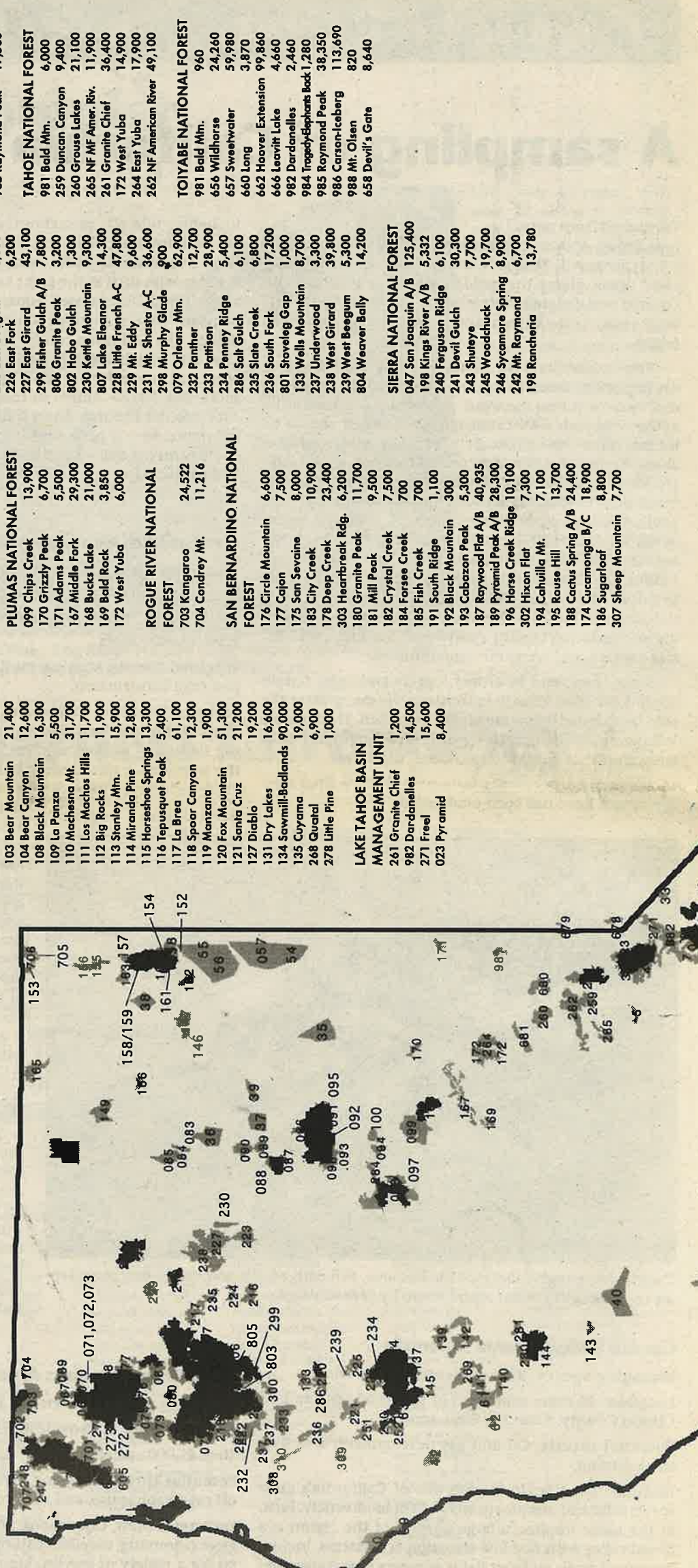
*continued on page 6*



A hiker enjoys a rest in the Chip's Creek Roadless Area. Photo by N. Morton.

# U.S. Forest Service Potential Wilderness Areas (Name, Acreage)

- |                                    |                              |                                   |                                   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST</b>     | <b>INYO NATIONAL FOREST</b>  | <b>LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST</b> | <b>LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST</b> |
| 003 Salt Creek 11,700              | 029 South Sierra 3,880       | 038 Buttermilk 1,000              | 136 Antrimony 39,500              |
| 004 Fish Canyon 2 6,400            | 030 Wagona Peak 9,700        | 040 Wheeler Ridge 16,300          | 105 Chall Peak 7,100              |
| 005 Tule 10,300                    | 031 Independence Crk. 14,700 | 045 Laurel-McGee 5,700            | 122 Candor Point 17,200           |
| 006 Magic Mountain 15,500          | 032 Tinemaha 25,600          | 050 Tioga Lake 800                | 123 Carmuesa 6,400                |
| 007 Red Mountain 8,600             | 034 Coyote North 11,500      | 051 Hall Natural Ar. 5,700        | 125 Mono 25,600                   |
| 009 Strawberry Peak 7,900          | 036 North Lake 3,100         | 052 Log Cabin Saddlelog 14,700    | 128 Juncal 10,200                 |
| 009 Sheep Mountain 16,600          | 039 Horton Creek 7,800       | 056 Benton Range 11,400           | 130 White Ledge 18,400            |
| 012 Arroyo Seco 5,000              | 041 Neesie 500               | 059 Blanca Mtn. 17,400            | 132 Northhoff 12,000              |
| 002 Sespe-Frazier 15,200           | 042 Rock Creek West 3,000    | 060 Birch Creek 28,500            | 279 De La Guerra 5,700            |
| 008 Pleasant View 26,700           | 043 Whiskey Creek 1,100      | 061 Black Canyon 30,700           | 277 Church Creek 2,500            |
| 608 San Dimas 6,100                | 044 Nevadha Ridge 500        | 063 Andrews Mtn. 11,800           | 263 Tequippis 8,700               |
| <b>CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST</b>   |                              | <b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b>    | <b>LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST</b> |
| 019 Eagle Peak 6,800               |                              | 077 Snoazer 30,500                | 103 Bear Mountain 21,400          |
| 020 No Name 5,200                  |                              | 079 Orleans Mountain 100,700      | 104 Bear Canyon 12,600            |
| 017 Caliente 5,900                 |                              | 067 Grider 11,000                 | 108 Black Mountain 16,300         |
| 021 Hauser Canyon 8,000            |                              | 074 Portuguese 39,100             | 109 La Panza 5,500                |
| <b>ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST</b>    |                              | 076 Crapo 1,500                   | 111 Los Machos Hills 11,700       |
| 025 Poison Hole 1,700              |                              | 078 Shackelford 4,500             | 112 Big Rocks 11,900              |
| 025 Fawn Lake 1,100                |                              | 071 Box Camp 900                  | 113 Stanley Mtn. 15,900           |
| 023 Pyramid 24,300                 |                              | 072 Muse 200                      | 114 Miranda Pine 12,800           |
| 026 Rubicon 5,100                  |                              | 073 Boulder 500                   | 115 Horseshoe Springs 13,300      |
| 027 Caples Creek 17,900            |                              | 080 Black 8,200                   | 116 Tepusquet Peak 5,400          |
| 982 Dardanelles 8,000              |                              | 081 Russian 34,400                | 117 La Brea 61,100                |
| 984 Tragedy-Elephant's Back 28,800 |                              | 068 Johnson 9,300                 | 118 Spoor Canyon 12,300           |
| 985 Raymond Peak 14,500            |                              | 272 Cub 200                       | 119 Manzana 1,900                 |
|                                    |                              | 273 Flew 200                      | 120 Fox Mountain 51,300           |
|                                    |                              | 274 Jacobs 500                    | 121 Santa Cruz 21,200             |
|                                    |                              | 701 Siskiyou A/B 128,400          | 127 Diablo 19,200                 |
|                                    |                              | 703 Kangaroo 40,500               | 134 Sawmill-Badlands 90,000       |
|                                    |                              | 070 Kelsey 4,400                  | 135 Cuyama 19,000                 |
|                                    |                              | 702 Indian Creek 6,200            | 268 Quatal 6,900                  |
|                                    |                              | 704 Condrey Mtn. 3,100            | 278 Little Pine 1,000             |



## LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST

- 091 Black Cinder 1,400
- 090 Cinder Butte 16,000
- 094 Cub Creek 9,100
- 088 Cypress 3,400
- 087 Devil's Garden 3,500
- 098 Ishi 51,500
- 084 Lava 7,500
- 085 Mayfield 14,700
- 092 Mt. Harkness 300
- 086 Prospect 4,200
- 083 Timbered Crater 4,400
- 095 Trail Lake 2,100
- 089 Lost Creek 8,300
- 096 Heart Lake 9,900
- 093 Wild Cattle Mtn. 5,093
- 284 Mill Creek 12,500
- 100 But Mountain 8,600
- 097 Polk Springs 9,400
- 099 Chips Creek 31,100

## MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

- 139 Thomas Creek 17,100
- 141 Thatcher 12,900
- 142 Grindstone 26,200
- 138 Deer Mountain 11,900
- 280 Skeleton Glade 9,700
- 281 Briscoe 6,700
- 143 Reister Canyon 6,100
- 137 Wilderness Cargous 10,700
- 140 Elk Creek 18,900
- 269 Black Butte 17,800
- 145 Big Butte-Shirbone 22,900

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

- 204 Black Mountain 15,800
- 205 Slate Mountain 13,100
- 209 Cannell 47,300
- 208 Rincon 59,700
- 207 Deland Add. 3,100
- 305 Deland Add II 1,100
- 210 Chico 43,700
- 214 Mill Creek 29,900
- 309 Mt. Lassic 6,800
- 250 North Fork 8,100
- 079 Orleans B/C 28,700
- 708 Packaddle 3,630
- 310 Pilot Creek 9,500
- 252 Salt Creek 8,800
- 701 Siskiyou A/B 41,100
- 251 Soldier 200
- 709 S. Kalimopsis 200
- 237 Underwood 7,300
- 253 Yalla Bally Ext. 100
- 145 Big Butte-Shirbone 12,400
- 707 North Fork Smith 39,400

## SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

- 701 Siskiyou 8,294

## SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST

- 308 Beard Camp 5,000
- 222 Cow Creek 1,300
- 227 Kelly 5,500
- 248 Monkey 8,900
- 309 Mt. Lassic 6,800
- 250 North Fork 8,100
- 079 Orleans B/C 28,700
- 708 Packaddle 3,630
- 310 Pilot Creek 9,500
- 252 Salt Creek 8,800
- 701 Siskiyou A/B 41,100
- 251 Soldier 200
- 709 S. Kalimopsis 200
- 237 Underwood 7,300
- 253 Yalla Bally Ext. 100
- 145 Big Butte-Shirbone 12,400
- 707 North Fork Smith 39,400

## SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST

- 216 Backbone 14,700
- 800 Bake-Oven A/B 1,600
- 218 Bell-Quimby A/B 13,700
- 217 Bonanza King 19,600
- 219 Castle Cregs A/B 13,000
- 220 Chanchelulla 11,900
- 805 Cherry Flat 100
- 803 China Spr. A/B 1,300
- 221 Chinquapin 21,500
- 222 Cow Creek 21,300
- 223 Devils Rock 17,300
- 224 Dog Creek 5,500
- 300 Eagle 6,900
- 225 East Beegum 8,600
- 226 East Fork 6,200
- 227 East Girard 43,100
- 299 Fisher Gulch A/B 7,800
- 806 Granite Peak 3,200
- 802 Hobo Gulch 1,300
- 230 Kettle Mountain 9,300
- 807 Lake Eleanor 14,300
- 228 Little French A-C 47,800
- 229 Mt. Eddy 9,600
- 231 Mt. Shasta A-C 36,600
- 298 Murphy Glade 900
- 079 Orleans Mtn. 62,900
- 232 Panther 12,700
- 233 Patton 28,900
- 234 Penney Ridge 5,400
- 286 Salt Gulch 6,100
- 235 Slate Creek 6,800
- 236 South Fork 17,200
- 801 Staveleg Gap 1,000
- 133 Wells Mountain 8,700
- 237 Underwood 3,300
- 238 West Girard 39,800
- 239 West Beegum 5,300
- 804 Weaver Bally 14,200

## PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

- 099 Chips Creek 13,900
- 170 Grizzly Peak 6,700
- 171 Adams Peak 5,500
- 167 Middle Fork 29,300
- 168 Bucks Lake 21,000
- 169 Bald Rock 3,850
- 172 West Yuba 6,000

## TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

- 981 Bald Mtn. 6,000
- 259 Duncan Canyon 9,400
- 260 Grouse Lakes 21,100
- 265 NF MF Amer. Riv. 11,900
- 261 Granite Chief 36,400
- 172 West Yuba 14,900
- 264 East Yuba 17,900
- 262 NF American River 49,100

## TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

- 981 Bald Mtn. 960
- 656 Wildhorse 24,260
- 657 Sweetwater 59,980
- 660 Long 3,870
- 662 Hoover Extension 99,860
- 666 Leavitt Lake 4,660
- 982 Dardanelles 2,460
- 984 Tragedy-Elephant's Back 1,280
- 985 Raymond Peak 38,350
- 986 Carson-Iceberg 113,690
- 988 Mt. Olsen 820
- 658 Devil's Gate 8,640

## SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

- 047 San Joaquin A/B 125,400
- 198 Kings River A/B 5,332
- 240 Ferguson Ridge 6,100
- 241 Devil Gulch 30,300
- 243 Shuteley 7,700
- 245 Woodchuck 19,700
- 246 Sycamore Spring 8,900
- 242 Mt. Raymond 6,700
- 198 Rancheria 13,780

## ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

- 703 Kangaroo 24,522
- 704 Condrey Mt. 11,216

## SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

- 176 Circle Mountain 6,600
- 177 Cajon 7,500
- 175 San Sevaine 8,000
- 183 City Creek 10,900
- 178 Deep Creek 23,400
- 303 Hearbreak Rdg. 6,200
- 180 Granite Peak 11,700
- 181 Mill Peak 9,500
- 182 Crystal Creek 7,500
- 184 Forsee Creek 700
- 185 Fish Creek 1,100
- 191 South Ridge 300
- 192 Black Mountain 300
- 193 Cabazon Peak 5,300
- 187 Raywood Flat A/B 40,935
- 189 Pyramid Peak A/B 28,300
- 196 Horse Creek Ridge 10,100
- 302 Hixon Flat 7,300
- 194 Cahulla Mt. 7,100
- 195 Rouse Hill 13,700
- 188 Cactus Spring A/B 24,400
- 174 Cucamonga B/C 16,900
- 186 Sugarloaf 8,800
- 307 Sheep Mountain 7,700

## LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT

- 261 Granite Chief 1,200
- 982 Dardanelles 14,500
- 271 Free 15,600
- 023 Pyramid 8,400

### BLM Potential Wilderness Areas

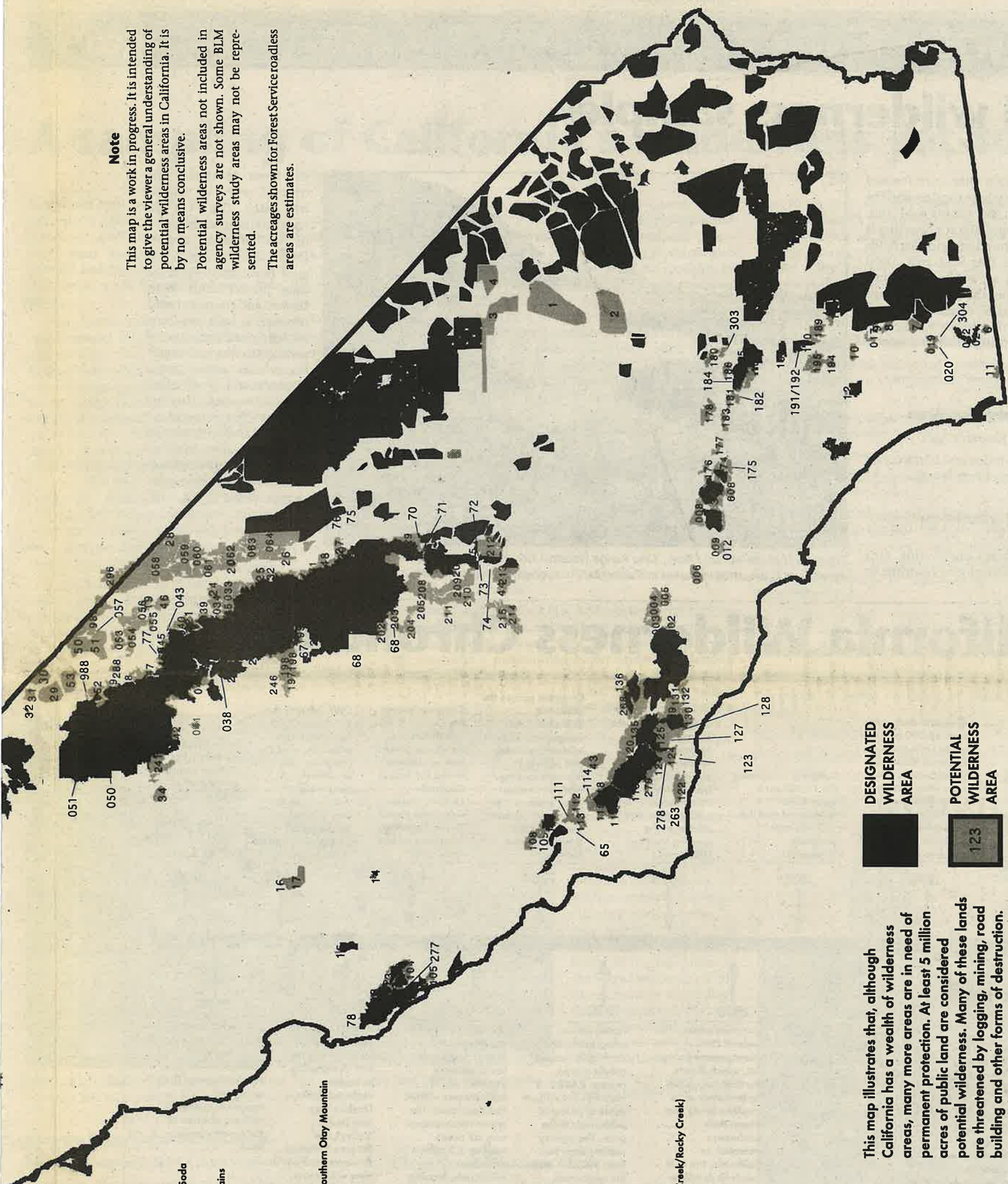
- 1 South Avawatz Mountains/Soda Mountains
- 2 Cady Mountains
- 3 Owlishead/Avawatz Mountains
- 4 Kingston Range
- 5 Great Falls Basin
- 6 Hauser Mountain C
- 7 Sawtooth Mountains A
- 8 San Felipe Hills
- 9 San Ysidro Mountain
- 10 Beauty Mountain G
- 11 Western Otay Mountain/Southern Otay Mountain
- 12 Agua Tibia
- 13 Bear Mt
- 14 San Benito
- 15 Pinnacles
- 16 Panoche Hills North
- 17 Panoche Hills South
- 18 Black Butte
- 19 Benton Range
- 20 Black Canyon
- 21 Wheeler Ridge
- 22 Coyote
- 24 Coyote Southeast
- 25 Crater Mountain
- 26 Paiute
- 27 Independence Creek
- 28 White Mountain
- 29 Bodie Mountain
- 30 Bodie
- 31 Masonic Mountain
- 32 Sweetwater
- 33 Slinkard
- 34 Merced River
- 35 Tunison Mountain
- 36 Timbered Crater
- 37 Lava
- 38 Tule Mountain
- 39 Ph River Canyon
- 40 Cache Creek (aka. Cache Creek/Rocky Creek)
- 41 Cedar Roughs
- 42 Red Mountain
- 43 Caliente
- 44 Piute Cypress ISA
- 45 Casa Diablo
- 46 Fish Slough
- 47 Volcanic Tablelands
- 48 Symmes Creek
- 49 Excelsior
- 50 Wellford Springs
- 51 Granite Mountain
- 52 Morman Meadow
- 53 Mount Biedeman
- 54 Skeddaddle
- 55 Twin Peaks
- 56 Five Springs
- 57 Dry Valley Rim
- 58 South Warner Contiguous
- 59 Chemise Mountain ISA
- 60 King Range
- 61 Thatcher Ridge
- 62 Eden Valley
- 63 Big Butte
- 64 Yolla Bolly Contiguous
- 65 Garcia Mountain
- 66 Black Mountain
- 67 Sheep Ridge
- 68 Milk Ranch/Case Mountain
- 69 Moses
- 70 Sacatar Meadows
- 71 Rockhouse
- 72 Scodie
- 73 Domeland
- 74 Kalso Creek Valley
- 75 Carro Gordo
- 76 Southern Inyo
- 77 Laurel-McGee
- 78 Ventana Wilderness Contiguous

**Note**

This map is a work in progress. It is intended to give the viewer a general understanding of potential wilderness areas in California. It is by no means conclusive.

Potential wilderness areas not included in agency surveys are not shown. Some BLM wilderness study areas may not be represented.

The acreages shown for Forest Service roadless areas are estimates.



**DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREA**



**POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA**



This map illustrates that, although California has a wealth of wilderness areas, many more areas are in need of permanent protection. At least 5 million acres of public land are considered potential wilderness. Many of these lands are threatened by logging, mining, road building and other forms of destruction. The Wildlands 2000 campaign is working to protect these last remnants of California's heritage of pristine wildlands.

Map by Catriona Black

# California's Proposed Wilderness Areas

## Proposed Wilderness

# Potential wilderness sampler

Continued from page 3

**Features:** Though the Modoc bison that once roamed here are extinct, this is still a place where the deer and the antelope play. For those who visit this remote wild land, seldom is heard a discouraging word about protecting it as wilderness. Spectacular rock formations and vast fields of native grasslands characterize this wild area. Deep canyons afford excellent habitat for wild rose, willow, and cottonwood. Golden eagles ply the winds, and sage grouse perform their complex mating dances before the first rays of dawn strike their strutting grounds. Excellent cross-country hikes include Hot Springs Peak and Big and Little Spencer Basins.

### King Range National Conservation Area

**Managing agency:** BLM, Arcata Resource Area

**Location:** Southwestern Humboldt County, 10 miles east of Garberville and 45 miles north of Fort Bragg.

**Size:** 40,000+ acres

**Potential threats:** Livestock grazing and off-road vehicle use.

**Features:** The King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) is the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in



The mouth of the Mattole River, King Range National Conservation Area. One of the most remote—and breathtaking areas in California. Photographer unknown.

the lower 48 states, with over 22 miles of vehicle-free beach. The NCA also contains thousands of acres of low-elevation ancient forest—a true rarity in a region dominated by deforested private lands. Wildflowers and abundant wildlife such as seals, sea lions, osprey, northern spotted owls, goshawks, and migrating whales attract many amateur and professional naturalists alike. The area also has many excellent trails, including a 22-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail and the King's Crest Trail, offering spectacular views in all directions.

*continued on next page*

## A California Wilderness Chronology

Congress passes the Wilderness Act. The Act designates well over one million acres of wilderness in California, including the John Muir, Marble Mountain, and Minarets (now part of the Ansel Adams) wilderness areas.

In separate acts, Congress creates the 98,000-acre Ventana Wilderness, and the 63,500-acre Desolation Wilderness.

Congress designates over 28,000 acres of the Lava Beds National Monument as wilderness. Six days later, Congress designated nearly 79,000 acres of Lassen Volcanic National Park as wilderness.

Congress designates the 15,933-acre Agua Tibia Wilderness and the 112,191-acre Emigrant Wilderness.

Congress passes the Endangered American Wilderness Act, designating the Golden Trout and Santa Lucia wildernesses and adding to the existing Ventana Wilderness.

Congress passes the California Wilderness Act, designating 25 new wilderness areas, and adding to fourteen existing wilderness areas. New wildernesses include Mt. Shasta, Granite Chief, Trinity-Alps and Siskiyou.

Congress passes the Condor Range and Rivers Act, designating five new wilderness areas: the Sespe, Chumash, Matilija, Garcia, and Silver Peak. Several existing areas are added to as well.

CWC initiates the Wildlands 2000 campaign. The initial phase of the campaign will inventory remaining roadless areas, and draft a wilderness proposal to protect those areas.

Congress passes the Wildlands 2000 proposal, designating hundreds of new California wilderness areas, covering millions of acres.

1964

1969

1972

1975

1978

1984

1992

1997

200?

1968

In March, Congress designates the 143,000-acre San Rafael Wilderness Area. In May, the 36,000-acre San Gabriel Wilderness is designated.

1971

Forest Service initiates its first roadless area inventory. RARE I (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation), identifies only 3.3 million acres of roadless lands in California. The survey is later ruled inadequate after a successful lawsuit.

1974

Congress designates the 141-acre Farallon Wilderness.

1976

Congress passes the Federal Land Management Policy Act, which directs the BLM to conduct an inventory of its roadless lands and assess their wilderness potential. In California, the BLM meets its deadline and completes the inventory in fifteen years. Joshua Tree, Kaiser, Phillip Burton (Point Reyes), and Pinnacles Wilderness Areas designated by Congress.

1979

Forest Service releases the final draft of its second roadless area review: RARE II. It identifies 5.6 million acres of potential wilderness in the state. The agency recommends less than 800,000 acres for wilderness, while recommending over 2.4 million acres as non-wilderness. Another 2.4 million acres are recommended for "further planning."

1991

The BLM releases its Wilderness Study Report analyzing the wilderness potential of 7.1 million acres of BLM roadless lands. The report recommends only 62 areas totaling 2.3 million acres for wilderness, leaving 147 areas totaling 4.8 million acres vulnerable to other uses.

1994

Congress passes the California Desert Protection Act, designating two new National Parks (Joshua Tree and Death Valley), the Mojave National Preserve, and 69 new wilderness areas. The new wildernesses total 7.2 million acres, nearly doubling the size of California's share of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1998

The Forest Service proposes a policy that bans road construction in many roadless areas. The policy will temporarily protect millions of acres of California roadless land.

## Proposed Wilderness

Continued from previous page

### Mount Eddy Roadless Area

**Managing agency:** Shasta-Trinity National Forest

**Location:** West of Mount Shasta City off of Interstate 5.

**Size:** 9,600+ acres

**Potential threats:** Salvage logging, road construction, private land development, and mining.

**Features:** Mount Eddy is famous for its many rare plant species. It is not uncommon to see lines of Jepson Manual-lugging botanists trooping from meadow to meadow in search of Trinity buckwheat and other species endemic to serpentine soils. Ancient forests, bogs laden with carnivorous California pitcher plants, meadows, wildflowers, and rushing creeks all grace the slopes of Mount Eddy. From atop Mount Eddy, the views take in much of northwestern California and provide panoramic vistas of nearby Mount Shasta. Deadfall Lakes offer fishing and swimming, while very scenic portions of the Pacific Crest and Sisson-Callahan trails pass through the area.



Little Crater Lake in the Mount Eddy potential wilderness. Photo by Phil Rhodes.

### Mount Hoffman Roadless Area

**Managing agency:** Modoc and Klamath national forests

**Location:** Adjacent to Medicine Lake, approximately 50 air-miles northeast of Mount Shasta City.

**Size:** 10,800+ acres

**Potential threats:** Impending threats include several proposed geothermal power facilities and associated clearcutting, powerline and road construction, and pollution.

**Features:** The Medicine Lake Highlands region is considered the most seismically active area in California. Thermal vents spout steam, gasses emerge from fissures in the earth, and extensive lava flows and other evidence of volcanic activity abound. Mount Hoffman and the sur-

rounding region have been described by a member of the Pit River Tribe as "our Jerusalem." For thousands of years, Native Americans in the region have visited the Medicine Lake and Mount Hoffman area for spiritual and cultural purposes. Non-native people also visit the area to enjoy ice caves, lava tubes, ancient forests, verdant meadows, late-season snow, fascinating rock formations, and scenic vistas that take in much of northeastern California. Popular cross-country routes include the Glass Mountain Lava Flow (nearly solid obsidian) and the summit of Mount Hoffman. The area is rich with archeological sites.

### Otay Mountain

**Managing agency:** BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

**Location:** 15 miles southeast of San Diego on the border between the United States and Mexico

**Size:** 14,500+ acres

**Potential threats:** Border Patrol activities (patrol and pursuit with motorized vehicles) and livestock grazing.

**Features:** Otay Mountain is a paradise of rare plants, including the Tecate cypress which grows only in the western border region. Other sensitive plant species grow on Otay Mountain and nowhere else. The region also shelters a portion of imperiled coastal sage scrub, an ecosystem quickly being destroyed elsewhere in San Diego County. This valuable habitat provides a haven for the California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and other imperiled species.

### White Mountains

**Managing agency:** Inyo National Forest

**Location:** East of Bishop in Mono and Inyo counties

**Size:** 300,000+ acres in several roadless areas

**Potential threats:** Livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use, and mining.

**Features:** The White Mountains are California's largest unprotected roadless area. The rare bristlecone pine, the oldest living tree, grows in the region, and rare desert bighorn sheep survive here, having been driven out of most other areas. Many high peaks, including several over 13,000 feet and one over 14,000 feet, also characterize the roadless area. Most of the area is trackless and remarkably wild. While there are few trails, deep canyons afford fishing, swimming, and cross-country hiking. The White Mountain crest offers unparalleled views for the off-trail hiker.

## How can I get involved?

California still contains over 400 potential wilderness areas. For each area, we need a detailed map, written description, and, if possible, photographs. This is a monumental task that will require thousands of hours of mapping, writing, and field work. Whether you can commit to spending days in the field reviewing proposed wildernesses, or to only a few hours a month writing letters on key issues, we need your help!

Most importantly, we need people who can spend time in the field reviewing potential wilderness areas. Whether you know of a potential wilderness that you'd like to adopt, or just want to help out wherever you can, your involvement is critical. Never fear if you haven't done this type of work before, we'll provide you with all the resources and training you need. If you're interested in spending a few hours or days field reviewing potential wilderness, contact Celia Barotz, Wildlands 2000 Campaign Coordinator, at (415) 221-5229 or by e-mail at [celia@calwild.org](mailto:celia@calwild.org).

CWC also needs help assembling potential wilderness packets, drafting maps, compiling information and writing wilderness proposals. Some of this work needs to take place in a Coalition office (Davis, San Francisco, or Burney), but much can be done from home. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to help out, contact Celia at the above number.

### Resources Available

The Coalition has developed a set of tools to help volunteer activists draft wilderness proposals. Among the materials we have available are:

#### Guide to writing wilderness proposals

This is a simple, step-by-step guide that details how to write a description of a potential wilderness area. The guide outlines what should be included in written descriptions and explains where to find information.

#### Guide to Mapping

CWC's mapping guide is a detailed introduction to drafting maps of potential wilderness. Included in the guide are instructions on: what makes a good wilderness boundary, where to place boundaries, what to include (and what to exclude) from potential wilderness, what is and isn't a road, what scale maps to use, and how to draft and label maps. If you are interested in drawing maps for the Wildlands 2000 campaign, this guide is an indispensable resource.

#### Guide to field review

Once you've identified potential wilderness and drawn a rough map, you're ready to get out on the ground and conduct a field review. Where do you go? What do you look for? This guide walks through the process of field checking potential wilderness areas and includes information on refining wilderness boundaries, using photographs for documentation, and what to look for in the field.

#### Potential Wilderness Packets

CWC is in the process of developing a packet for each potential wilderness that includes a map and the guides outlined above. The packets will be sent to each area's "adoptive parents."

CWC is also available to give presentations, workshops and slideshows on the Wildlands 2000 campaign. If you have a group of people who are interested in hearing more about the Wildlands 2000 campaign, or need more information on how to get involved, give us a call. We'd be happy to come out and give a workshop or presentation to your group.



Otay Mountain, home to many rare and endangered plants. Photo by C.S. Watson, Jr.

*Wilderness is a state of mind. We infuse it with our own meaning. But the essence of wilderness is places, creatures, and forces that civilization does not control.*

—Roderick Nash, from *Wilderness Reconsidered*.

## California Wilderness: a magnificent variety

California has more wilderness, nearly fourteen million acres, than any other state outside Alaska. Wilderness areas lie on all four borders of California, including the Red Buttes Wilderness which touches the Oregon border, Phillip Burton Wilderness along the California coast (and Farallon Wilderness off shore), Jacumba Wilderness along the Mexican border, and numerous areas that border Nevada.

### Highlights of California's protected wilderness areas

- Wilderness Areas are found within six national parks (Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, and Lassen Volcanic), two national monuments (Pinnacles and Lava Beds), and Mojave National Preserve and Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Wilderness is also found within three national wildlife refuges: the Farallon, Havasu, and Imperial refuges.
- The state's largest single wilderness (outside of a national park) is

the John Muir Wilderness Area, which totals more than 580,000 acres. The smallest is the Farallon Wilderness, an island wilderness 26 miles west of San Francisco, totaling just 141 acres.

- Mt. Whitney, on the border of the John Muir and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wildernesses, is the highest point in the continental United States, towering to 14,494 feet. Not too far away in the Death Valley Wilderness is Badwater. At 282 feet below sea level, it is the lowest point in the United States.

- Each of the 21 national forests that lie entirely or partly in California contain one or more wilderness areas. Each also contain unprotected wilderness. In addition to desert wilderness in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) California Desert and Bakersfield districts, five wilderness areas elsewhere in the state contain BLM lands: Santa Lucia, Ishi, Machesna Mountain, Trinity Alps, and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel.

## CWC's First Ever Wildlands Photography Contest

We invite all photographers, CWC members, their friends and families to enter our first Wildlands Photography Contest by submitting black and white or color prints (no larger than 8"x10") in the following categories:

- Wild, Beautiful California**
- California Native Plants**
- California Wildlife**
- Children and Nature**
- Weird and Wild Sightings**

You may submit the same photo in more than one category, but please supply a print for each category to which you submit a photo. By submitting a photo you agree to donate that print to CWC, along with any future reprinting rights (with credit to the photographer.) Winning photos may also become part of a photo display depicting California wildlands.

**For each photo entered:** please write your home phone number and the category in which you are entering the photo on the back of the print. (If you wish to suggest captions for the photo, or date it, you may do so here also). Please **do not** write your name on the print, but enclose a letter giving us your name, address and day and night phone numbers.

All entries must be received by September 15. We will publish the winners and the names of runners-up in the November issue of the *Wilderness Record*.

Photos will be judged by local photographers, environmentalists and CWC staff on the basis of artistic merit, composition and technique, and interest/appeal of subject matter, including (but not limited to) depiction of California's biodiversity and wilderness values. The judge's decisions will be final.

### Prizes:

#### Grand Prize

\$100

#### Best in Category and Runners Up

Special gift to be announced

Send your photography to:  
CWC/Wildlands Photo Contest  
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5  
Davis, CA 95616

We look forward to seeing your work, and good luck!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_