



# WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

August 1998

## Coalition collaborates with timber company CWC works to save trees—and beleaguered timber company

By Paul Spitzer

The California Wilderness Coalition found itself in an unusual position last month—going to bat for a small, northern California timber company who is facing bankruptcy.

In the early 1990s, the Yreka-based Hi-Ridge Lumber Company bought six timber sales from national forests in northern California. Since that time, several factors, including huge increases in log imports from Canada, Mexico and the Southern Hemisphere and economic downturns in Asia, have caused drastic declines in the price of American lumber. Hi-Ridge Lumber bid high on the sales in the early 1990s and now finds itself facing 2 to 3 million dollars in losses if the sales are carried out.

The company is requesting that the U.S. Forest Service cancel the logging contracts. Thus far, the agency has refused, arguing that no conditions exist that warrant such cancellations. Looking for help, Hi-Ridge Lumber called on the organizations that it knew could cancel timber sales, namely CWC, Klamath Forest Alliance, and The Wilderness Society.

Hi-Ridge Lumber requested that we support their plea for cancelling the logging contracts for the six sales. Before getting involved, the Coalition did some research on the timber sales to determine how "bad" they really were. The results are shocking.

Most of the sales were planned a decade ago, when environmental policies and values were much different than they are today. Several of the sales predate current forest policies, like the President's Northwest Forest Plan. Five of the six sales include cutting of old-growth forest. All will cut in sensitive species habitat. One sale is within the Bonanza King Roadless area, an area being proposed for wilderness by the Wildlands 2000 campaign.

These projects reflect the old fashioned cut-and-run mentality of the Forest Service and never should have been proposed in the first place. It is not often that we have an opportunity to cancel timber sales that have already been contracted. This is one chance that we could not afford to pass up.

CWC has been working with Hi-Ridge Lumber for the past month to convince the Forest Service to cancel the six timber sales in question. So far, the agency is refusing



The Bonanza King potential wilderness area. One of the timber sales which Hi-Ridge Lumber and the California Wilderness Coalition are working to prevent would occur in the southeast corner of this roadless area. Photo by Ryan Henson.

to budge. Although Forest Service guidelines allow for contract cancellation for projects that will cause "serious environmental degradation," the agency is insisting that logging thousands of acres of old growth forest, critical wildlife habitat, and potential wilderness will not cause serious environmental degradation. So much for agency logic.

This unusual industry-environmental alliance has brought support from all sides. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein sent a letter to the Forest Service requesting that the agency heed our calls for cancellation. Congressman Wally Herger, and ultra-conservative Senator Larry Craig (a prime proponent of the "lawless"

logging rider of 1995) made similar requests.

The media has also taken note our efforts. The *Sacramento Bee* ran a front-page story on the rare conservation-industry alliance. The *Redding Record Searchlight* ran a front-page story as well, and also editorialized on 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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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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## Coalition News

### Director's Report

In the midst of a hot summer here in Davis, and a heated wilderness campaign throughout California, I want to offer you a refreshing break and give an update on the Coalition's first six months of 1998. And what a half year it has been!

CWC's Wildlands 2000 campaign has taken hold like wildfire across the land. This statewide wilderness effort promises to be California's most important public lands initiative for years to come. Through Wildlands 2000, we are working to permanently protect over 400 potential wilderness areas across California, including such gems as the White Mountains, King Range, and Otay Mountains.

We are organizing workshops throughout the state to train citizens how to map, describe, and field check potential wilderness lands. Summer field season is in full swing now and volunteers throughout the state are surveying wild areas for inclusion in a statewide wilderness proposal. CWC has also hired several seasonal field employees (see below) to assist these dedicated volunteers and the Wildlands 2000 mapping effort.

An important complement to the Wildlands 2000 campaign is our Adopt-a-Wilderness program. Through Adopt-a-Wilderness, CWC recruits and trains citizens in the fine art and science of wildland protection. We've hosted dozens of workshops in the first half of 1998, reaching hundreds of volunteers. Many of these volunteers are now taking part in the Wildlands 2000 campaign and are proposing protection for their local wild areas.

CWC is also coordinating the visionary California Wildlands Project, a long-term effort to establish a series of connected wildlife reserves throughout the state. CWC hosted a statewide meeting in February to plan this important effort. Since that time, we have initiated a mapping project in the Sierra foothills. Through this project, we are working with scientists, activists, and other resource professionals to develop a scientifically

informed wildlife reserve network proposal for the Sierra foothills. This network will be combined with other regional networks to form a statewide wildlife preservation vision.

CWC is also in the process of completing a report on the status of California's roadless lands. This report will document impacts to the state's 331 roadless areas that have occurred over the last 20 years. No such inventory has been undertaken since roadless lands were identified by the last comprehensive federal inventory, completed in 1979. Even the federal agencies themselves have no idea how much roadless land has been lost in the past two decades. This information shortfall is critical as we move to protect the state's roadless lands. Much work has already been completed on this monumental project, and the report should be completed by mid-September.

We've had some wildlands defense victories in the past few months as well. Shasta-Trinity Forest Supervisor Sharon Heywood recently recommended termination of the controversial Mount Shasta Ski Area. The Supervisor's recommendation was upheld by the Regional Forester, bringing to a close a 14-year battle to preserve Mount Shasta's pristine alpine slopes. We've also worked with Coalition member organizations to defeat several timber sales proposed for potential wilderness areas, including sales in the Orleans Mountain and Russian Roadless Areas.

As you can see, it is an exciting time here at the Coalition. In the coming months, we'll be initiating a major membership recruitment drive, releasing our California Roadless Area report, and (of course!) continuing to go to bat for California's last wild places. Your continued support has helped keep CWC an effective advocate for California wildlands. Thanks!

**By Paul Spittler**

### Thank you foundation supporters

The San Francisco-based Columbia Foundation granted CWC a two year \$100,000 grant to support our California Wildlands Project. A portion of these funds will be used to support other organizations throughout California who are working to produce Wildlands visions for their regions. The grant will help CWC meet our goal of producing a statewide proposal for wildlife reserves and connecting corridors by the year 2000.

The Foundation for Deep Ecology also recently granted the Coalition \$10,000 for work on the California Wildlands Project. FDE has been a long term supporter of the project and we appreciate their support. Thanks to the Foundation for Deep Ecology and the Columbia Foundation for their support of this important project.

REI recently granted the Coalition \$14,000 to support our Wildlands 2000 effort. The grant is a part of REI's "Great Places" program which aims to support efforts to protect specific areas. Among the great places CWC aims to protect through Wildlands 2000 are the White Mountains, King Range (heart of the Lost Coast), and Grouse Lakes.

### New faces...

CWC recently hired two new summer employees to assist in field checking potential wilderness areas. Nate "I'll map anything, anywhere" Greenberg is currently traveling the dusty roads of the Klamath National Forest mapping boundaries of proposed wilderness. Ceal "Some like it hot" Klingler is braving 100-plus degree heat to map potential wilderness areas in the eastern Sierra. It's a tough job...

Danielle Weintraub has recently taken over as author of the California Roadless Area Report. Danielle is quickly becoming familiar with California's hundreds of roadless areas, including such lesser-known areas as Poison Hole, Devil's Gate and Packsaddle. By the date of the report's release (which should be soon!) Danielle will know more about California's roadless areas than she ever imagined—and more than just about anyone else as well.

### Job Announcement:

#### Wildlands 2000 Field Mapper

The California Wilderness Coalition has several temporary full- and part-time positions available for passionate conservationists who are interested in assisting in the development of a statewide wilderness proposal. The Wildlands 2000 campaign is a far-sighted effort to protect as legally designated wilderness millions of acres of unprotected wildlands in California. Wildlands 2000 Field Mappers are responsible for completing maps and descriptions of the potential wilderness areas identified by Wildlands 2000 campaign coordinators.

Job responsibilities include:

- Drawing the boundaries of potential wilderness areas on topographic maps.
- Field checking the proposed boundaries to assure their accuracy, making revisions to the topo maps as necessary.
- Writing descriptions of the proposed wilderness areas visited, including outstanding natural features, human impacts, and explanations of boundary locations.

Salary is \$1000 per month for full-time work and \$500 per month for half-time work. All work related expenses, including travel, will be reimbursed.

Several temporary (three month) full and part-time positions are available. Positions involve much travel time, and potential relocation. On the other hand, positions also involve traveling to California's beautiful unprotected wilderness areas.

For more information, contact Paul Spittler at (530)758-0380.

## Wilderness News

# Forest Service upholds decision against new ski area on Mount Shasta

By Michelle Berditshevsky

On July 28, 1998 Regional Forester Lynn Sprague issued a decision to terminate the proposed Mount Shasta Ski Area Project. This decision finalizes the recommendation made earlier this year by Shasta-Trinity National Forest Supervisor Sharon Heywood.

Sprague, who heads the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, said that the two areas of Mount Shasta which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places—from 8,000 feet to the summit and Panther Meadows—are prime reasons for his decision. "These are nationally significant historic sites, worthy of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of current and future generations. The mountain is clearly considered sacred to many Indian people and is a very special place for non-Indians as well."

The decision is followed by a 45-day appeal period during which the developer, Carl Martin, can state his case to the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington D.C. At the end of this period, the Chief may uphold or deny the appeal. Martin said: "I don't believe I will appeal. The Forest Service had a right to do what it has done...but that doesn't mean I won't see them later in court." Until the appeal period is over, the issue is not yet absolutely finished.

A major factor in the decision has been the position of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which stated that the Forest Service would have to consider the effects of the proposed ski areas, not only on the two identified historic sites, but also on other surrounding sites that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In March 1994, the mountain in its entirety, from a level of 4,000 feet to its summit, was found to be eligible for the National Register as a Historic District. This determination was the result of a six-year effort by Native Americans and Save Mount Shasta to obtain recognition and protection under the National Historic Preservation Act. Eligibility for the National Register means that any federal projects have to consider cultural values and go through a strict process to determine whether they will impact historic sites. However, in November 1994, the Keeper of the National Register reduced the Historic District as a result of pressure from political and commercial interests. The reduction pushed the boundary to the 8,000 foot elevation at treeline (a reduction of 90 percent, from 150,000 acres to 19,000 acres). We are still working to obtain a hearing on this revision, which was made without consultations with the tribes whose cultural values were thereby affected.

The reduced Historic District omits many important areas of the mountain as well as essential defining characteristics such as ridges, buttes, springs, creeks, trees, animals and their habitats. The District is far from encompassing the dynamic interconnections that make up the mountains unique geography. The struggle for full recognition of Mount Shasta's significance continues beyond the present decision.

For the present, Save Mount Shasta and the Native Coalition are naturally very happy about the public acknowledgment of the sacred value of Mount Shasta, as revealed through the Regional Forester's decision. This long process has largely been an effort in public education, and the Forest Service's turn to a sensitive position toward the mountain's cultural and natural qualities

indicate a change of values at this stage, and we hope for future stages of the Mount Shasta case as well.

Working closely with the Native Coalition for Cultural Restoration of Mount Shasta, Save Mount Shasta has been dedicated to getting the mountain's message across, with the help of our attorney, Charles Miller, who has donated much pro bono time. The Native Coalition includes the Pit River and Shasta tribes, members of the Wintu, Karuk and Modoc tribes, the California Council of Tribal Governments, the Intertribal Council of California, and extends across tribal lines to Native support throughout the country.

Through many levels, from local forums to Washington D.C., from historic preservation to environmental justice, our ten-year involvement has taken us through two appeals, a lawsuit, and a long historic preservation process. Throughout the campaign at critical points, the coalition to protect Mount Shasta has also included the California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society.

It is evident that an important aspect of the Mount Shasta issue has been uniting our efforts as a coalition. The way the Native American cultural aspect worked together with environmental values indicates that the acknowledgment and respect of Native American culture can help bring American society as a whole into a more ethical relationship with the land.

In our experience, the coalition building process is more than simply gathering support, it is a building of human bridges and cultural connections. We found that we cannot expect Native people to come to us. Working with Native Americans has meant finding out what their issues are. Out of a deep respect for their roots, we have

sought to understand how they see things in the context of their history and world view. This commitment has to be capable of withstanding the inevitable tests of our sincerity. Together we have worked to bring these perspectives into the process, so that Native input can have its rightful place in decision making, in keeping with the Federal Trust's responsibility to the tribes and other laws protecting Native rights. As an Australian Aborigine woman put it: "If you have come to help me you can go home again, but if you see my struggle as part of your own survival, then perhaps we can work together." This seems to encapsulate the coalition building process.

While the decision to halt a second ski development is a very important one, much work remains to be done for Mount Shasta. The Historic District as it now stands is an important recognition, but it does not fully translate the meaning of Mount Shasta nor our responsibility to protect its integrity from further misuse and development.

The effort to save Mount Shasta has involved more than just stopping development. It continues to be the affirmation of a special relationship to the land and of a place on earth that symbolizes that relationship. Native culture already incorporates the sacred value of the land, with knowledge that the Creator has left landmarks here on earth that hold qualities we can learn from. Many people the world over learn special aspects of being and nature from this mountain. We feel that the sacred value that the mountain teaches is the value that can untangle the knots our world is in.

*Michelle Berditshevsky is the Coordinator for Save Mount Shasta and the Secretary for the Native Coalition for Cultural Restoration of Mount Shasta.*



The long-standing proposal to construct a new ski area on the slopes of Mount Shasta has been rejected by Regional Forester G. Lynn Sprague, based on Shasta-Trinity National Forest Supervisor Sharon Heywood's recommendation. The developer, Carl Martin, can appeal the decision, but says it is unlikely he will. Photo by Pete Yamagata.

## Wilderness News

### Update:

# Help needed for Medicine Lake Highlands

By Janie Painter

The Medicine Lake Highlands, a uniquely beautiful and environmentally sensitive volcanic region, located 30 miles northeast of Mount Shasta in the Shasta, Klamath and Modoc national forests is in jeopardy. Comment letters are needed concerning CalEnergy's proposed Telephone Flat Geothermal Project.

Currently there are two proposed geothermal projects, while the potential exists for the development of four more in the area. Calpine Corporation, of San Jose, has proposed the Fourmile Hill Project. Now, CalEnergy of Omaha, Nebraska, has just released their draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and are taking comments concerning the proposed project. With government sub-

sidies and leases in hand, these companies want to exploit and develop a deep underground geothermal reservoir. The company claims it is "green energy," but the damage that will occur will devastate and change the environmentally sensitive Medicine Lake Highlands forever.

Negative impacts from the CalEnergy project include:

- The cutting of old-growth forests, which support important wildlife habitat.
- The bisecting of the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area by transmission lines and access roads.
- Jeopardized water quality from toxins, posing a hazard to fish, fish-eating wildlife (including bald eagle and osprey), and humans.

- Hydrogen sulfide and other hazardous chemicals, potentially damaging vegetation and causing acid rain.

- Noise from around-the-clock drilling, construction, and plant operations.

- Increased traffic on roads incapable of sustaining both industrial and recreational traffic, along with transportation of toxic materials and hazardous waste to and from the plant.

- Unsightly power plants, 750,000-gallon sludge ponds, well fields, above-ground pipelines and transmission lines.

- Restrictions on recreation and tourism.

Several other concerns surrounding the proposed geothermal development include the degradation of long-standing Native American traditional and cultural use of the area and the questionable economic feasibility of the projects.



### What you can do

Make your voice heard! Please comment on the draft EIS and help save Medicine Lake for future generations of wildlife and humans alike. Write a letter, using the above points to inform your discussion. The public comment period ends August 24, 1998.

Send your letters concerning CalEnergy's Telephone Flat Project to:

Randall Sharp, USFS/BLM Project Leader, Telephone Flat Geothermal Project, 800 West 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, or call (530) 233-8848.

Please send copies of your comment letters to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer at:

Senator Dianne Feinstein/ Senator Barbara Boxer, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment (MLCQE) has enlisted the aid of Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund in a lawsuit against the projects. Donations are greatly needed, and appreciated, for the legal struggle to follow. MLCQE is an incorporated non-profit and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Donations can be sent to:

Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment, Janie Painter, Chairperson, P.O. Box 34, Mount Shasta, CA, 96067.

For more information contact MLCQE at (530) 926-5514.

*Janie Painter is the Chairperson for Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment.*



Actor and environmentalist Steven Seagal, along with members of Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment. The actor supports the group's efforts to protect Medicine Lake from proposed geothermal development.

## Feinstein backs Doolittle's Emigrant dams bill

By Steve Brougher

Aligning herself with one of the most right-wing, anti-environmental members of Congress, Senator Dianne Feinstein has given her blessing to H.R. 1663, Congressman John Doolittle's (R-CA) legislation to require maintenance of 18 dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. Feinstein chose to support Doolittle's bill prior to a July 29 mark-up by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and, consequently, it passed on a voice vote with

no dissenting votes. In supporting the bill, Feinstein brushed aside significant concerns about the ramifications of the bill to wilderness preservation as well as considerable documentation that refutes misinformation about the value of the dams. Feinstein's apparent rationale for backing this assault on wilderness preservation is her belief that there is widespread support for the bill in the local community (Tuolumne County). Not only is this incorrect, but it also raises concerns over the willingness of Feinstein and other members of Congress to accommodate local Wise-Use interests who wish to

undermine wilderness protections that are widely supported by the American people.

In 1993, a community-based group of diverse interests was organized to work with the Forest Service in developing new Emigrant Wilderness management direction. It was obvious during this process that there was a divided opinion in the local community, and letters sent to the Forest Service about this issue were also divided. Ignoring this fact and despite rhetoric about

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## Wilderness News

# Opinions wanted regarding Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness management

## Workbook available on upcoming draft plan

By Tom Suk

The National Park Service has released a "Wilderness Planning Workbook" for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the workbook is to solicit public comments before the agency drafts a wilderness management plan for the rugged and spectacular 736,980-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness. All CWC members are encouraged to request a copy of the workbook and return the response form by August 31.

The workbook presents nine key issues, summarizes the concerns and scientific knowledge related to those issues, and asks respondents to select from several choices for addressing each issue. The nine issues are: 1. campfires, 2. bears & food storage, 3. party size, 4. camping and campsites, 5. toilets and sanitation, 6. trails, 7. the "minimum requirement," 8. stock animal use & meadow management, and 9. commercial use and wilderness permits.

The Park Service will use the responses to the workbook as it develops a draft wilderness plan that, when adopted, will guide the management of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness for decades to come. It is important that the agency hear from wilderness supporters at this time. Request a copy of the workbook today by contacting:

Ralph Moore, Wilderness Coordinator  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
Phone: (209) 565-3137  
Fax: (209) 565-3497  
e-mail: [Ralph\\_Moore@nps.gov](mailto:Ralph_Moore@nps.gov)

*Tom Suk is an activist on High Sierra issues.*



Redwood Canyon, Kings Canyon National Park. The Park Service is offering a chance to submit comments on their forthcoming draft plan for the parks. Photo by Tim Palmer.

# Letters needed to support appeal of Northcoast logging

By Anthony Ambrose

Five grassroots conservation groups, including the California Wilderness Coalition, have recently appealed a proposed salvage timber sale in the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area on the Six Rivers National Forest. Comments are urgently needed to oppose this proposal to salvage log 242 acres in this critical roadless area adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The environmental assessment outlines plans to salvage log 5.5 million board feet of timber, implement "fuel treatments" (a form of logging) on 331 acres, and construct new temporary roads in one of the largest and densest concentrations of late-successional and old-growth habitat in northern California. The sale is located in Horse Linto Creek, one of the most important watersheds as recognized under the Northwest Forest Plan and critical for the maintenance and recovery of native anadromous fisheries.

In the winter of 1995/96, severe windstorms resulted in numerous windthrown trees in the mid-elevation Douglas-fir and white fir forests throughout the area, which the Forest Service was quick to claim as an "extreme fire threat", and in need of salvage logging. Since that time, they have implemented several phases of salvage logging along the road system, are now proposing to continue operations within the roadless area. Earlier phases of the project resulted in the removal of numerous large live trees, snags, and downed logs, as well as extensive soil disturbance near the creek.

Please write a letter to:

Forest Supervisor Lou Woltering  
Six Rivers National Forest  
1330 Bayshore Way  
Eureka CA, 95501

You can also fax him at (707)442-9242. Tell him that you support the appeal by the Northcoast Environmental Center and other environmental groups, and demand that the Six Rivers National Forest stay out of the Orleans Mountain "C" Roadless Area. Also state that the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area should be permanently protected as a part of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Please send a copy of your letter to Regional Forester Lynn Sprague, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons, and California Senators Boxer and Feinstein. For more information, contact Anthony Ambrose at (707) 822-6918 or [druid@humboldt1.com](mailto:druid@humboldt1.com)

*Anthony Ambrose works for the Northcoast Environmental Center and Citizens for Better Forestry.*

### The Coalition's Wish List

CWC is in dire need of the following. If you or someone you know can help, please give us a call to discuss a possible donation. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for your support!

- A 17" monitor, either Mac or PC compatible.
- Mountain bikes capable of safely traversing unpaved Forest Service roads for our field work in potential wilderness areas. They need not be state-of-the-art. If you've upgraded your bike recently, this is a great use for your older models.
- Filing cabinets, three or four-drawer.

Thank you!

## The Wildlands Project

# Mojave Desert, Klamath Basin on list of most endangered wildlands

## Regions recognized for global, national significance are critical core reserves for biodiversity

By Rich Hunter

The Klamath Basin and Mojave Desert may seem worlds apart, but threats to these areas have landed them both on The Wilderness Society's (TWS) list of the nation's most endangered wild lands. Other wild places making the top fifteen list include the Cascade Crest (Washington), Badger-Two Medicine (Montana), Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska), and Utah's redrock canyonlands. All fifteen are obvious locations for core reserves in The Wildlands Project's (TWP) continental vision.

In California, the Klamath Basin and Mojave Desert have natural significance and imminent threats serious enough to rank among the top fifteen. Both of these areas are wildlands with incredibly unique natural features. Both exhibit ecosystem types that are underrepresented in wilderness areas.

Here's a broad update on threats and conservation efforts in the two California areas included in the report. As we work toward completing the long-term vision for a statewide reserve network, primary core areas are under attack. But, we can use these opportunities to raise awareness about the significance of these areas to ecological integrity at a regional scale.

### Klamath Watershed Issues

Several organizations have recognized the significance of the Klamath Region as a "global center of biodiversity." With over 280 plant species endemic to the region and seventeen conifer species within one square-mile area of the Russian Wilderness, the World Conservation Union designated it as an area of Global Botanical Significance, one of only seven in North America. World Wildlife Fund also found the Klamath region, with its rugged mountains, wild rivers, ancient forests, and freshwater marshes, as highly significant in a global study of biodiversity hotspots.

The Klamath Basin, near the headwaters, is but one component to this complex ecological system. In what has become a tiresome theme for the plight of California's wetlands, incompatible farming and problems with water quality and supply at the six national wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin result in hard times for waterfowl, amphibians, fish, and other wildlife species. High concentrations of chemical runoff, extreme pH levels, and low levels of dissolved oxygen have threatened existing wildlife populations with disease and even death.

Maintaining viable populations for many migratory bird species depends upon a system of protected areas across entire continents, and the Klamath Basin is a primary core area in any such scheme. "Up to 80 percent of the birds using the Pacific Flyway rely on the Klamath Basin," said Bob Freimark, Associate Northwest Regional Director for TWS. Because at least 90 percent of California's Central Valley wetlands and riparian forests have been lost to agricultural and urban development, remaining wetlands in the Klamath Basin are some of the last big refuges for millions of ducks, geese, shorebirds, salmon, bald eagles and other wildlife that use this intercontinental corridor.

Although The Wilderness Society report highlighted the threats imminent in the basin, the remarkable natural features of the entire region are highly threatened. Frag-

mentation in forest ecosystems is a great threat to biodiversity and wilderness values of the area. Forest Service logging proposals continue to target roadless areas, key strongholds for endangered salmon and forest carnivores. Conservation efforts have taken various fronts, and these examples demonstrate the full spectrum from defensive battles to long-term planning.

### Conservation Update

Responding to water problems in the Basin, The Wilderness Society, Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC), and ten other conservation groups sued the U.S. Department of Interior for mismanaging the refuges. The



The Mojave Desert was found to be one of the fifteen most endangered wildlands in the country. Castle Peaks in the east Mojave Desert. Photo by Jim Eaton.

goal of the litigation is to obtain guaranteed, adequate clean water supplies and eliminate incompatible commercial agriculture from the refuges. "The laws of the land are clear— these are wildlife refuges, not potato refuges," said Wendell Wood, of ONRC Action.

Scientific work towards assembling The Wildlands Project vision in the Klamath region is becoming available. The scientific team of the Klamath-Siskiyou Alliance, Reed Noss, Jim Strittholt, Ken Vance-Borland, Carlos Carrol, and Rich Nawa, is four years along in an assessment of ecological representation, special elements, and focal species. A socio-economic assessment will accompany these studies to further inform the visioning process.

LEGACY-The Landscape Connection is launching a new program to compile available ecological information in a GIS map database for the entire Klamath region, including the North Coastal Basin. Important data on sensitive species, ecosystem types, critical watersheds, and other environmental conditions have been researched but not compiled for wide availability to conservation organizations. In order to make everyone from local watershed groups to land agencies more effective at protecting species and wilderness, LEGACY will provide access to the database through training and map distribution. This database will be invaluable in creating a long-term Wildlands Project vision for a nature reserve network in the Klamath and North Coast regions.

CWC's Wildlands 2000 campaign is active in the Klamath region this summer, mapping potential new

wilderness areas on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands. This campaign aims to protect all of the remaining roadless areas on federal lands in California. In the meantime, CWC, Klamath Forest Alliance, Citizens for Better Forestry, and several other groups have been effective at staving off destructive projects in potential wilderness.

While this is by no means a complete account of conservation efforts in the Klamath region, many are imperative to protect these endangered wildlands en route to realizing a TWP vision.

### Mojave Desert

Much of the Mojave Desert was well safeguarded by the passage of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) of 1994. But while the Department of Defense already controls over 3 million acres of California desert, the U.S. Army wants to annex another 331,000 acres of pristine desert for tank training grounds. The initial proposal called for expansion from Fort Irwin to the east into several wilderness study areas and proposed additions to Death Valley National Park. Since the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was released last year, the BLM and the army have focused on a possible southern expansion. Unfortunately, any expansion of military lands in this area would harm important habitat for desert tortoise, golden eagles, and bighorn sheep.

Not only is the West Mojave crucial habitat for many wildlife, but these lands have long been treasured by Native Americans, evidenced by hundreds of cultural sites including rock art, occupation sites, rock shelters, and tools. At the interface of our nation's three major desert ecosystems, home to rugged mountains, intricate canyons, and vast open space, the Mojave is a truly unique resource for biodiversity. Furthermore, one of the proposed expansion areas would forever destroy a wilderness corridor from the southern boundary of Death Valley to the Mojave National Preserve.

### Conservation update

Defensive battles have swamped activist energy in the Mojave since the passage of the CDPA. While the army and BLM prepare the final EIS for the Fort Irwin expansion, several major planning efforts are underway that affect the Mojave. Most germane to the TWP vision process is implementation of the CDPA. Although this legislation protected over 7 million acres of wilderness core areas across the entire desert, many in the Mojave are still at risk to mining claims and several active operations within the Preserve which qualify for continuation. While The Wilderness Society's report focused on the threats of the Fort Irwin expansion, activists are also concerned with large subdivisions for golf courses, hotels, airports, and other facilities within close proximity.

CWC's Wildlands 2000 campaign is including new potential wilderness areas in the desert. To complete a TWP vision, CWC will be organizing new mapping efforts in the desert over the next two years. Our wilderness counterparts in Nevada are working toward a statewide proposal to add wilderness areas on the east side of the stateline, an effort that is sorely needed for improving representation of Great Basin ecosystem types in the Wilderness Preservation System.

Rich Hunter is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.



## Wilderness News

### Feinstein backs Emigrant dams bill

Continued from page 4

greater community involvement in federal land management decisions, Doolittle and dam proponents decided to override that process and the diversity of opinion, portraying themselves as the spokespersons for community sentiment. When first introduced, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors did unanimously support H.R. 1663, but one supervisor recently had a change of heart when the Board recently voted to appeal the recent Forest Service decision on a new Emigrant Wilderness management plan. The Board's appeal was directed at the decision to provide no further maintenance of ten dams, but Supervisor Jesse Rountree voted against the appeal, citing the incompatibility of dams in wilderness. H.R. 1663 is also supported by organizations such as the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce, Tuolumne County Farm Bureau, Tuolumne County Sportsmen's Association and the Backcountry Horsemen of California, which have a constituency and membership base that is socially, culturally and politically very closely interrelated, but they do not represent a broad cross-section of the community.

All of this, of course, begs the question of how much influence local interests should have in determining the management of land and resources of national significance. Certainly local opinion and concerns must be considered, but to what extent should they influence or modify the broader national interest of wilderness preservation? Senator Feinstein's position seems to be that if the local Wise-Users can aggressively promote an agenda through political manipulation, their interests should prevail, even in the face of compelling arguments about damage to the National Wilderness Preservation System and despite evidence that the dams do not possess the values ascribed to them. Although Feinstein was instrumental in passage of the California Desert Protection Act, more recent actions regarding the Quincy Library Group bill, Headwaters Forest and now H.R. 1663, demonstrate a fundamental lack of commitment to sound resource conservation and wilderness protection. This should give pause to anyone looking to the Senator to adequately defend environmental concerns.

Meanwhile, Senator Barbara Boxer officially remains neutral on H.R. 1663. Boxer has indicated displeasure with the bill, but the political situation has prevented her from firmly opposing it. In addition to Feinstein's capitulation to the local Wise-Users and the Senate committee vote, the House of Representatives last year voted almost unanimously for H.R. 1663, including members such as George Miller who usually would be very supportive of

wilderness protection. This vote can be attributed to the shrewd maneuvering by Doolittle and Representative Helen Chenoweth (R-ID) that allowed little time to communicate concerns about the bill, thus giving the impression of little or no opposition. This circumstance is very similar to that of the Quincy Library Group bill, which Boxer has courageously opposed despite the overwhelming support for that bill. To do so again with H.R. 1663 would be politically difficult, but is the right thing to do for wilderness.

Boxer's office recently presented to dam opponents a potential compromise proposed by the Republicans to drop five of the 18 dams from H.R. 1663. Since the supporters of the bill seem to hold all the cards, it is curious that they would now choose to offer such a compromise. Despite the rhetoric that all the dams are important, the five being offered are of little interest to the dam proponents, so they would forgo nothing. In essence, the compromise would help take the pressure off Boxer and make the Republican position look more moderate, but wilderness still loses. Agreeing to such a compromise would invalidate the very principles that opponents are defending. H.R. 1663 now awaits further action in the full Senate, either as a stand-alone bill or as a rider attached to other legislation. This will likely occur sometime after Congress returns from recess at the beginning of September. Although it looks bleak, opponents will continue to voice their concerns to Boxer and other senators who might be sympathetic in the hope that H.R. 1663 can still be stopped.



#### What you can do

Although Senator Boxer has been very resistant to take any position other than neutrality, it is important that she continue to hear from California citizens about the need to defeat H.R. 1663. Ask her to firmly oppose the bill and to put a hold on it from further Senate action. Let Senator Feinstein also know that her support of H.R. 1663 is unacceptable and contributes to the anti-wilderness agenda of the Wise-Use movement. Write to the Senators at:

Honorable Barbara Boxer/Diane Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
You can also e-mail them at: senator@boxer.senate.gov  
or senator@feinstein.senate.gov.

Steve Brougher, a former manager of the Emigrant Wilderness, works for Central Sierra Wilderness Watch.



#### What you can do

Write to:  
Mike Dombeck, Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th St. and Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Ask Chief Dombeck to immediately cancel the six Hi-Ridge Lumber Company timber sales. Remind him that cancelling these sales will not only help Hi-Ridge Lumber, but will spare thousands of acres of old-growth forest, sensitive species habitat, and potential wilderness. Thank you.

### CWC's aids Hi-Ridge Lumber Co.

Continued from page 1

issue, stating "Any time loggers and environmentalists find common ground, that overlap should be encouraged...We think the Forest Service should cancel the contracts." The conservative *Times Standard*, based in the timber town of Eureka, called Coalition staff "heroes."

The Forest Service has a unique opportunity to protect the forests that American's care about, while assisting a small timber company in dire straights. Yet, the agency refuses to compromise. With Hi-Ridge Lumber facing bankruptcy, and thousands of acres of old-growth forest at stake, the Forest Service is tenaciously holding its claim that the logging should proceed. This casts a poor light on an agency that is desperately trying to redefine its image.

## Reminder!

### California Wildlands Photo Contest

Submit your prints of California's wild places and critters by September 15 for a chance to win the Grand Prize of \$100!

For a complete list of rules and categories please call, write, or e-mail the Coalition.  
Happy shooting!

## Member Survey

Please help guide the Coalition into the future by filling out and returning the member survey. Your input is extremely valuable to us. If you did not receive your survey, please call (530) 758-0380 or email us at [info@calwild.org](mailto:info@calwild.org). Thanks for helping to shape the course of wildlands conservation in California.

## California Wilderness Coalition Annual Fundraiser

Please join:

Barbara Boyle	Jerry Mander
Mayor Jerry Brown	Buck Parker
David Brower	Carl Pope
Senator Alan Cranston	Johanna Wald
Jim Eaton	David Rains Wallace
Representative Anna Eshoo	Jay Thomas Watson
Randy Hayes	Ed Wayburn
	Representative Lynn Woolsey

in honoring the California Wilderness Coalition.

Thursday, October 1, 1998  
Patagonia, 770 North Point, San Francisco

Reception

7:00-9:00 PM

◇ Wine. Hors d'oeuvres.

◇ Featuring food from Zuni Cafe and other fine Bay Area restaurants and wineries

◇ Silent Auction

Featuring a special slideshow and presentation by world-class climber Rick Ridgeway.

Admission \$75

All proceeds benefit the California Wilderness Coalition

## Coalition Member Groups

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  
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 Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno  
 Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland  
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 Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis

High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee  
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 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  
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**"We need to do a better job talking about, and managing for, the values that are so important to so many people. Values such as wilderness and roadless areas, clean water, protection of rare species, old-growth forests, naturalness—these are the reasons most Americans cherish their public lands."**

—Mike Dombeck, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, in a July letter to all Forest Service employees.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Annual Dues: †

Individual	\$ 25
Low-income Individual	\$ 10
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Patron	\$ 500
Non-profit Organization	\$ 30
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† 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

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

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