



Wilderness Record

Spring 1999

A VOICE FOR WILD CALIFORNIA

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A new policy prohibiting road construction in roadless forest areas is an important step in protecting California's potential wilderness areas. The problem is that the Forest Service's policy excludes the forests that need protection the most and does not prohibit logging and construction of off-road vehicle routes, some of which can be more damaging than roads themselves. For the story, turn to page 9.

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Our Mission



...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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Wilderness Record

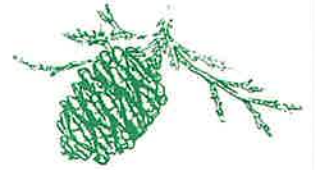
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Articles, photographs and artwork on California wilderness, wildlife and related subjects are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

Director's Report



Welcome to the first issue of the new and improved *Wilderness Record*.

After much deliberation, we decided to switch to the new quarterly format to better provide you with the best information available on the threats and opportunities affecting California's wildlands.

The *Wilderness Record* will still be full of the informative and educational articles, policy analysis, and great photographs that you have come to expect over the past 23 years. Also, the new format will provide more space per issue to highlight CWC's efforts to protect California's last wild places, as well the latest threats to these special places, and ways that you can help work to protect them.

Because you will be receiving the new *Wilderness Record* four times a year, (instead of once a month) CWC staff will have more flexibility to respond quickly to California wildland issues that require citizen action. Thus, you'll be receiving more frequent action alerts from us at critical times when your letter could mean the difference between the preservation and destruction of a critical wild area.

We are proud of the changes at the Coalition, and hope you are too. Please feel free to drop us a line and let us know what you think.

One of the campaigns that has been developed under CWC's leadership is Wildlands 2000, an effort to protect millions of acres of additional California wilderness. As this campaign gains momentum, I am increasingly asked the question: Why have you launched a wilderness campaign when Congress is adamantly opposed to designating more wilderness?

This question is not without merit. The 1980s saw tens of millions of acres of public land designated as wilderness (and under Republican administrations no less). Many regional and statewide wilderness bills were enacted, and the wilderness movement flourished. But if the 1980s were the wilderness heydays, the 1990s must be considered the drought years. Wilderness designations have slowed to a trickle, and with a few notable exceptions (such as the California Desert Protection Act), no significant wilderness bills have been signed into law. Since the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, wilderness designations have virtually come to a halt.

I believe that the political climate will soon shift (and in fact there is evidence that the change has already begun) to one that is more favorable for new wilderness. We're working to make this change a reality, and when it happens we must be ready. One of the signs that the political winds are shifting is the Clinton Administration's recent ban on road construction in 33 million acres of roadless land, a significant change in Forest Service policy. In Congress, the House of Representatives defeated an amendment to a logging bill that would have overturned the ban on road construction—an indication that there is growing support among Congressional Representatives for the Administration's effort to protect roadless areas.

In the coming year, we'll be travelling the state with a wilderness slide show, continuing to recruit and train new citizen wilderness advocates through our Adopt-a-Wilderness program, and providing citizens and organizations the tools to develop support for wilderness in their regions.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without your continued and dedicated support. Thanks for being a part of the Coalition. We look forward to continuing to work together to protect California's wildlands and to designating more wilderness. Onward!

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Damage on wheels: Off-road vehicles in potential wilderness

For many years, Big Timber was the primary threat to California's publicly owned wildlands. With millions of acres of healthy old-growth forests to be had and lucrative government subsidies available to help cut them down, timber companies, and the U.S. Forest Service cleared millions of acres of wild forests.

Today however, logging no longer poses the same level of threat to California's forests. Decades of effort by conservationists have led to a reduction in logging levels, and many of California's wildest forests have been placed off-limits to chainsaws.

Still, all is not well for our wildlands. While much attention has been placed on the negative impacts associated with logging, far less attention has gone to the damage caused by the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs). With off-road vehicle use on the rise and "recreational development" quickly becoming the new buzzword of the Forest Service, off-road vehicles pose a grave threat to California's wildlands.

A case in point. The Sequoia National Forest, which contains an array of scenic and biologically diverse lands in the southern Sierra Nevada, recently released a new Forest-wide "Trails Plan." The plan calls for, among other things, the construction of 27 miles of new off-road vehicle routes within six separate roadless areas. Many of these routes will impact some of the most important unprotected wildlands in the region, including several areas currently under consideration for wilderness by the Wildlands 2000 campaign.

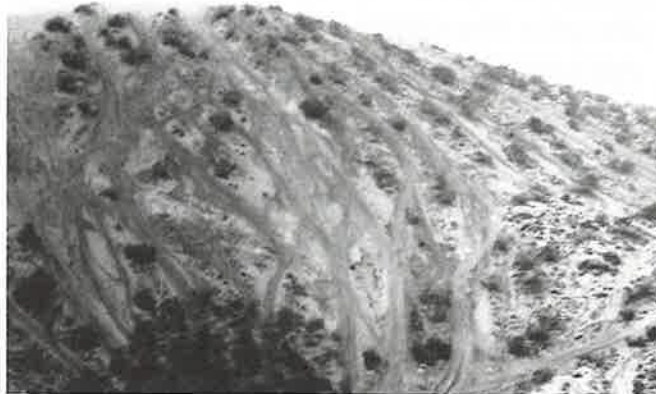
Last year, the Inyo National Forest proposed a new off-road vehicle route through the heart of the White Mountains proposed wilderness area. And it was only heavy pressure from conservationists that stymied a proposal by a private outfitter to shuttle skiers by snowmobile and snow-cats into several Humboldt-Toiyabe roadless areas.

According to our report *California's Vanishing Forests*, off-road vehicles caused the loss of more roadless land than any other activity outside of logging over the past 20 years. More and more, the areas we care about are being threatened by new vehicle routes, as well as the noise, dust, erosion, and environmental damage of off-road vehicles.

While the impacts of off-road vehicles may not always be as dramatic as those from logging—no one can mistake a clearcut for a healthy forest—they can be quite severe. Off-road vehicles cause sedimentation, erosion, vegetation trampling, damage to wildlife habitat, and an array of air and water quality problems.

Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck recently called forest roads the "number one" threat to water quality in national forests. Often, these are the same roads called for and used by off-road vehicles. In his powerful treatise entitled "Environmental Effects of Off-Road Vehicles," scientist Howard Wilshire states that ORVs cause potentially irreversible damage to desert soils, and can halt evolutionary processes millions of years in the making. These threats cannot be taken lightly.

Off-road vehicle enthusiasts have shown dedicated opposition to wilderness, fighting hard to obtain or maintain access to California's wildest regions. The American Motorcyclists Association was granted key concessions prior to the passage of the California Desert Protection Act allowing continued motorized use on a variety of trails. Future efforts to designate more California wilderness will surely have to contend with a vocal, often hostile, and organized movement of ORV advocates seeking to



Pete Yamagata

An extreme example of off-road vehicle damage on a hillside in Jawbone Canyon in the southern Sierra.

maximize motorized uses of our state's wildlands.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management add to the problem by allowing off-road vehicle use in areas that are under consideration for wilderness. CWC, along with numerous other organizations, is working to address this threat by urging an end to off-road vehicle use in all of California's potential wilderness areas.

With so little wilderness remaining, it is imperative that we keep our last wild places free from the scars caused by off-road vehicles. And with California's population expected to double in the next fifty years, the need for just a few places where serenity and quiet still reign could not be greater.

What you can do !

Please join us in this vital campaign by writing to:

Acting Regional Forester Brad Powell
U.S. Forest Service
636 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Ask Mr. Powell to prohibit the use of off-road vehicles in designated roadless areas. Remind Mr. Powell that off-road vehicles cause tremendous environmental damage, threaten the wilderness integrity of pristine wild areas, and destroy the peace and quiet of the great outdoors. Protecting these areas from off-road vehicle use is the best way to assure that their wilderness character remains intact for future generations.

Coming soon to Sequoia National Forest roadless areas: 27 miles of off-road routes

Due to budget cuts and misplaced priorities, it is widely acknowledged both within and without the Forest Service that the agency is unable to properly manage its existing transportation network. In response, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck is developing a comprehensive road management policy that will focus on closing unneeded roads, and managing the remaining roads properly. New road construction will be curtailed for both ecological and fiscal reasons. Recently, Chief Dombeck also took the first tentative step towards protecting roadless areas from vehicle route construction.

While this policy does not go far enough, it is in keeping with both public opinion and ecological and fiscal necessity (see article on page 9).

Despite the Clinton administration's enlightened rhetoric regarding the need to manage roadless areas with the best available science and to protect their ecological values, the Sequoia National Forest has launched an aggressive off-road vehicle (ORV) route construction program which includes construction in many streamside areas and other sensitive habitats.

The Sequoia National Forest's "Trail" Plan has approved the construction of 290 miles of new off-road vehicle routes, and the continued maintenance and upgrading of 390 miles of existing routes. This will increase the current number of roads and other vehicle routes open for recreation use by 21 percent (1,570 miles), not to mention the hundreds of additional miles of logging roads and secondary routes. To make matters worse, the Forest Service plans to construct ten miles of new off-road vehicle routes in the Dennison Peak, Chico, Rincon, Staff, Domeland Additions, and Oat Mountain roadless areas (CWC estimates that nearly three times as many miles will actually be built). The plan also changes the management status of 5,500 acres of the Staff Roadless Area from a non-motorized vehicle zone, to a motorized recreation area. All five of these roadless areas have been included in Wildlands 2000, California's next statewide wilderness protection bill. At the very least, the "Trail" Plan violates the spirit of Chief Dombeck's roadless area directive as well as his upcoming comprehensive roads policy.

Two grassroots Sierra Club organizations and CWC have appealed the plan. This means that the plan cannot be implemented until higher Forest Service officials decide whether our arguments against the plan are valid. If our appeal is rejected, then we can seek a review by Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck. If he rejects our appeal as well, federal court is the only remaining option.

Despite the Clinton administration's enlightened rhetoric regarding the need to manage roadless areas with the best available science and to protect their ecological values, the Sequoia National Forest has launched an aggressive off-road vehicle (ORV) route construction program which includes construction in many streamside areas and other sensitive habitats.

One of the major reasons CWC appealed the plan is that it completely failed to thoroughly analyze the impacts of the proposed new routes on wildlife, water quality, roadless areas, and other concerns. For example, under the plan, many watersheds currently riddled with logging roads will have even more vehicle routes constructed in them. The plan approves the construction of 260 miles of new routes along streams, but fails to analyze the water quality impact of the new route construction in conjunction with existing roads,

clearcuts, and other disturbances. The plan also assumes that hikers, motorcyclists, and jeeps all have the same impact on water quality, and therefore fails to differentiate between them when analyzing the impacts of the 260 miles of streamside construction.

Despite the plans crude level of analysis, federal law and Forest Service policy require a far more substantial analysis consisting of assertions supported by evidence, as well as a thorough discussion of potential impacts to roadless areas, streams, ancient forest, and other areas of immense public and ecological concern.

In late February, twenty-five members of Congress wrote Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck and asked him to "immediately review the trail plan, and insist that the Sequoia National Forest come up with a plan that is more consistent with your national policy and good forest stewardship." Both through the appeal process and by working with Congress and the Clinton administration, CWC will continue to force the withdrawal of the "Trail" Plan. You can help.

What you can do !

Please send letters by fax or standard mail to the following officials and ask them to call upon the Forest Service to withdraw the Sequoia Trail Plan. Follow-up calls are also very effective once you have sent a letter.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3841
Fax: 202-228-3954

Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3553
Fax: 415-956-6701

James R. Lyons
Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Ave, SW, Room 217-E
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone: 202-720-3076
Fax: 202-720-4732

Wilderness Act or wilderness axe?

Doolittle takes a mortar and stone approach to wildlands preservation

When Congressman John Doolittle says he is "preserving" wilderness one should immediately ask "What's wrong with this picture?" Such is the case with H.R. 359, Doolittle's latest bill to require the restoration and maintenance of 18 dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. Attempting to conceal its true nature Doolittle has titled H.R. 359 the "Emigrant Wilderness Act of 1999," but a better name would be the "Wilderness Preservation Axe," as this onerous bill actually compromises the wilderness values of the Emigrant Wilderness and undermines the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The rugged, glaciated 112,000-acre Emigrant Wilderness is located within the Stanislaus National Forest north of Yosemite National Park. The area's old-growth forests, lush streams and rocky slopes are home to numerous threatened or endangered wildlife species. With over one hundred natural lakes and many alpine meadows, the area is visited by thousands of backpackers each year.

Earlier this century, 18 dams were constructed in what is now the Emigrant Wilderness. The purpose was to manipulate lake levels and water flows to benefit non-native trout introduced to the area at the turn of the century. However, a recent study of the dams by the Forest Service concluded that they are not necessary for sustaining fish or supporting recreation. Nonetheless, Doolittle introduced legislation in 1997 on behalf of local wise-use interests who want the dams maintained. Swift political maneuvering by Doolittle allowed opponents little opportunity to communicate concerns about the bill, thus giving the impression of little or no opposition. Lacking information opposing the bill, even members such as Representative George Miller, who is very supportive of wilderness protection, voted for the bill and it quickly passed the House of Representatives in 1997 with only two dissenting votes. It appeared these circumstances would compel the Senate to follow suit, but in a dramatic last-minute development, several Senators agreed to block the bill and it died with the adjournment of the 105th Congress.

Wilderness defenders now have a good opportunity to expose the anti-wilderness nature of H.R. 359 and get a different result in the House when it comes up for a vote in the coming months.

California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein are also important to the outcome of H.R. 359. Senator Boxer may be inclined to oppose it, but has so far made no commitment to do so. Feinstein, on the other hand, stubbornly continues to support the bill, ignoring considerable documentation that refutes misinformation about the value of the dams and dismissing significant concerns about the implications for wilderness preservation. 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 inaccurate, 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.

It is important to note, though, that a significant change has occurred within the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors. Previous Boards had passed resolutions supporting Doolittle's efforts on 5-0 votes, but in February a resolution on H.R. 359 passed by only 3-1, with one abstention. The opposing vote came from new Supervisor Laurie Sylwester,

who replaced the primary dam proponent on the Board and whose district includes the Emigrant Wilderness. Laurie recognized the divided opinion in the community and, after extensive research, concluded that Doolittle's

approach unfairly favors a narrow interest group by overriding five years of active citizen participation in a Forest Service effort to resolve the issue.

Wilderness advocates must continue to inform our representatives and senators about the terrible implications of Doolittle's "Wilderness Preservation Axe" for both the Emigrant Wilderness and the entire National Wilderness Preservation System.

What you can do !

Write to your Representative asking that they strongly oppose H.R. 359. Point out the grossly misleading name ("Emigrant Wilderness Preservation Act of 1999") and let them know that this bill violates the intent of The Wilderness Act. It degrades the Emigrant Wilderness and sets a terrible precedent that will lead to the erosion of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Also please send letters to California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein asking that they too oppose H.R. 359.

Send letters to:

Your Representative
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senators Boxer and Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Steve Brougher is a retired wilderness ranger and supervisor for the Emigrant Wilderness. He is now with the Central Sierra chapter of Wilderness Watch. He can be reached at (209) 928-1890 or steve@sundoor.com.

Support grows for California Conservation Blueprint

CWC proposes \$1 million in state funding for habitat protection



During the next few months, the Davis administration will shepherd its first state budget through the legislature. By determining where funding is directed, the budget will decide the priorities of state agencies in programs from arts to wildlife. Despite Davis' promise of a "moderate" administration, many organizations are pushing the first Democratic Governor in 16 years for improvements in the state's conservation budget. Davis' election provides an exciting opportunity for new policies and programs designed to protect wildlife habitat and open space statewide.

Buoyed by new optimism in Sacramento, CWC is seeking to create a visionary conservation program for California. Working with Assemblymember Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz), the Department of Fish & Game, and conservation groups, CWC has proposed a \$1 million appropriation to the Resources Agency to launch a statewide conservation planning effort. The conservation blueprint will conduct a scientific assessment of conservation needs and identify priorities for habitat protection. In short, we are asking the state to prepare a wildlands vision for California.

Under the proposed program, the Resources Agency would coordinate the statewide assessment with private, public, and academic partners. The agency will produce a report with maps that depict a system of strategic habitat conservation areas. The maps will be used as an additional layer of information to guide land-use planning, land acquisition, ecological restoration, and cooperative easement programs.

CWC has been working hard to build support for this program within the conservation community, and the response has been very positive. The proposal is now supported by a coalition of twenty environmental groups,

including the Sierra Club, Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. Many groups have noted that the blueprint has potential to influence land-use decisions at various levels because it will provide much needed information in a clear format. The California Environmental Dialogue, a roundtable of businesses and environmental groups, has also recently agreed to support programs that identify conservation priorities.

Conservation biologists argue that a science-based strategy is required to handle the growing challenges of conservation, so it is no surprise that the blueprint is widely supported in the scientific community as well. Over twenty scientists from across California wrote a letter urging the Resources Secretary to take leadership in this effort. The scientists called for "a strategy to maintain the ecological infrastructure which sustains biodiversity and ecosystem services."

California's ecosystems have been hailed as some of the most unique in the world. Despite international recognition, our spectacular natural heritage is at risk because we have not adequately planned to protect the most important habitat areas from development. The blueprint will take the first step by identifying these areas at the statewide level.

The state legislature will soon decide whether to fund this visionary effort. CWC staff will meet with Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, testify in budget subcommittee hearings, and build support for the blueprint as widely as possible.

With a bit of luck and our usual dogged determination, we may soon secure the necessary funding to launch this exciting effort. If we succeed, the State of California will be on its way to implementing a statewide wildlands vision.

A vision for a wild California...

California, 2049...

Fifty years into the implementation of the California Wildlands Project, conservationists are celebrating a resurgence of ecological health and integrity in the Golden State. Habitat areas have been protected, expanded, and restoration programs begun. Grizzly bears and wolves have returned, but their full recovery will depend upon hundreds of years of continued restoration. Over 20 million acres of public land are now protected as legally-designated wilderness areas. Over 15 million other acres in the state have already been

protected by acquisition from willing sellers, cooperative management agreements, and conservation easements. Urban growth boundaries are in place and enforced, sparing agricultural lands from conversion. In short, the human population has found the humility and respect to plan for and restore the diversity of life in California. Although the population and economy have expanded, we have evolved innovative ways of healing the land at the same time. Our vision is more real now than ever before, as the rewinding of North America is underway.

Continued on next page

Davis, CA 1999...

The California Wilderness Coalition is coordinating the California Wildlands Project, an audacious effort to articulate, plan for, and reach this magical future. Thinking big, we can imagine a California landscape where all indigenous wildlife have a healthy home and all human systems are designed to facilitate restoration of ecological processes. The California Wildlands Project envisions such a landscape using conservation biology to design and map a network of reserves for wilderness and biodiversity in each region of the state. Through this effort, we will identify conservation priorities and restoration opportunities, while communicating the need for an ecological infrastructure to maintain species and ecosystems.

Wildlands 2000, CWC's campaign for more wilderness areas, will protect millions of acres of public land as natural habitat. Although these places are critical to secure the integrity of some ecosystems, California has many habitats that do not exist on public lands. Clearly, protecting the full

spectrum of natural diversity requires the need to identify conservation opportunities for private lands. The network of habitat reserves we identify will reach across each ecosystem type and elevation zone, and will allow all of California's wildlife to freely roam.

Networks of land need networks of people to protect them, and there are many organizations and individuals identifying priority areas for conservation. In our coordinator role, CWC has organized cooperating groups by bioregion. We will combine the conservation analyses and vision maps generated by our bioregional cooperators into a statewide proposal. During the summer of 2000, the proposal will be released in a report that depicts our long-term vision for land protection. The report will set a high benchmark for biodiversity restoration and wilderness recovery.

The *Wilderness Record* will continue to bring updates of the bioregional group's progress and news about CWC's efforts for the California Conservation Blueprint. For more information on how to be involved with The Wildlands Project, contact Rich Hunter at CWC's Davis office.

Road reconstruction threatens Arroyo Seco River, thwarts joining of Ventana Wilderness

By GORDON JOHNSON

From its headwaters deep within the Ventana Wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest, the Arroyo Seco River passes through groves of rare Santa Lucia Fir before turning northward and falling away into a steep and scenic canyon. This exceptionally attractive river then flows downstream some ten miles, over waterfalls and through deep and nearly inaccessible gorges before emerging from the confines of the canyon and continuing on to its confluence with the Salinas River. Remnant runs of endangered steelhead trout spawn in the river and the red legged frog, also an endangered species, is known to inhabit its waters. These remarkable characteristics have all served to make it a candidate for Wild and Scenic River status.

This unique watershed is threatened by the reconstruction of the storm-damaged Indians Road located on national forest land just outside the wilderness and high above the river. The road, constructed on steep and highly erosive slopes, parallels the river as it winds for 18 miles across the mountainside to connect the Indians Guard Station with the Arroyo Seco Campground.

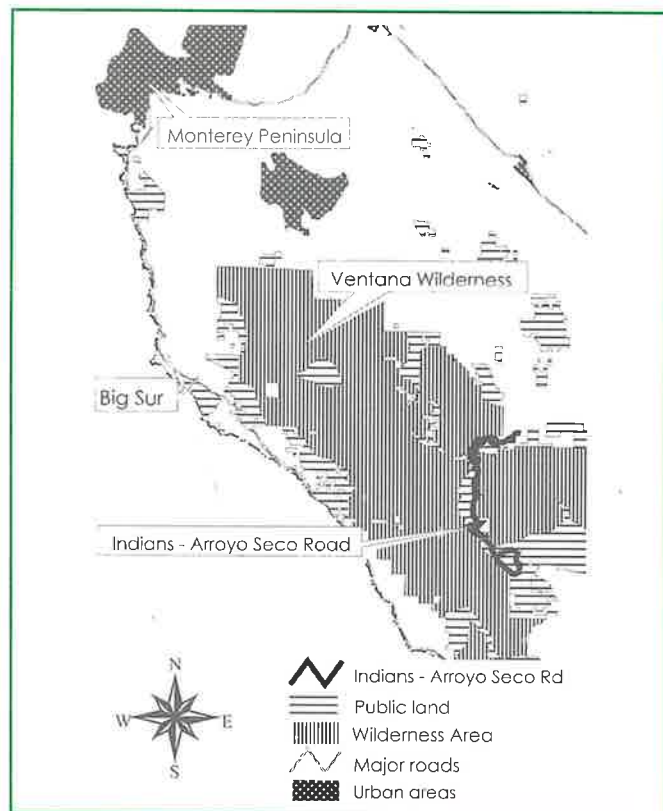
The winter storms of the past four years have left the road impassable to vehicular traffic and efforts to reopen it are planned in spite of serious environmental concerns. Major slides and washouts now block the road and are a source of sedimentation for the Arroyo Seco River below. Extensive use of heavy equipment in or around the riparian habitat of tributary creeks would be required to reconstruct the road, and these activities threaten further damage through increased sedimentation and erosion. Additionally, plans call for depositing soil excavated from damaged areas in a region along the road known to contain sensitive plant species. Reopening the road would also lead to a return of illegal off road vehicle activity, poaching, trash dumping, the illegal discharge of firearms and a continuation of the silting problems affecting the Arroyo Seco River.

A number of groups, including the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, and the California Wilderness Coalition, have requested that the Forest Service prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

before proceeding with any road reconstruction activities. One option that should be considered in the EIS is the closing and decommissioning the road. Permanent road closure would allow the joining of the two components of the Ventana Wilderness now separated by only the Indians Road and a narrow strip of roadless land.

For further information, contact Steve Chambers at (805) 426-5771 or send an e-mail to ventana@bigfoot.com

Gordon Johnson serves on the Executive Committee of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.



Bay-Delta solution bodes ill for potential wilderness in the San Joaquin Valley

By GREG LOVE

Recognizing the rapidly declining health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta ecosystems, the federal and state governments began a joint program in 1996 known as the



C.S. Watson, Jr.

The Panoche Hills South potential wilderness area, one of the last examples of a California grassland ecosystem, is one of the losers in CALFED's proposal for improving the health of the Bay-Delta system.

CALFED Bay Delta Program. Although the overriding goals of CALFED are environmentally beneficial and address water management issues which have affected California for years, unfortunately some of its project proposals are not. Examples of CALFED's lost ways are the 14 proposed new water storage sites, one of which is the exceptionally destructive Panoche Reservoir project.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the proposed Panoche Reservoir

could have serious negative impacts on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Panoche Hills South Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Panoche/Coalinga Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Both areas contain critical habitat for several rare, threatened, or endangered species. The BLM manages WSAs to protect their wilderness character until they are either designated as wilderness or "released" from further consideration.

According to studies conducted by the California Department of Water Resources, the Panoche Reservoir site could store 160,000 to 3.1 million acre-feet of water (an acre-foot is enough water to fill one square acre of land one foot deep), depending on the configuration and location of the dam. Most proposed configurations would threaten the WSA and the ACEC with some level of flooding, road construction, restriction of wildlife migration, and other negative impacts that occur with the construction of a reservoir.

Not only would the Panoche Reservoir destroy a rare area of undeveloped and roadless California grassland, but the WSA and the ACEC serve as critical habitat for such threatened and endangered species as the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, giant kangaroo rat, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel. As more and more areas of wildlife habitat in the San Joaquin Valley are destroyed for development and agriculture, protecting the wilderness character of the Panoche Hills becomes vital for the survival of these species. The WSA is also a potential wilderness under consideration by CWC for inclusion in our Wildlands 2000 proposal.

Greg Love is an intern for Friends of the River and a former CWC intern.

Future Wilderness Profile

Heart Lake proposed wilderness

The Heart Lake region is a natural extension of the peaks and meadows in the adjacent Lassen Volcanic National Park. The proposed wilderness offers a variety of key wildlife habitats including old-growth forest, lush meadows, chaparral, clear streams, and natural lakes. The University of California at Davis identified the entire area as a potential ancient forest reserve. The Heart Lake area contains habitat for the Sierra Nevada red fox, great gray owl, California spotted owl, wolverine, pileated woodpecker, and other sensitive species. Beautiful, lush Brokeoff Meadow is one of its most outstanding features. The proposed wilderness is increasingly popular with recreationists. The Heart Lake National Recreation Trail traverses the central portion of the region.



Ryan Henson

Heart Lake proposed wilderness

Approximate acreage: 9,700

Managing agency: Lassen National Forest

Location: Adjacent to the western boundary of Lassen Volcanic National Park, approximately 50 miles southeast of Redding.

Temporary road-building policy falls short

In early February, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck announced, at long last, a new national policy prohibiting road construction in 33 million acres of roadless forest areas across America. For conservationists who had waited for over a year for the policy to be finalized, the announcement came not with a bang, but a whimper.

The temporary policy will prohibit road construction in certain areas identified by the U.S. Forest Service as roadless, and will be in effect for 18 months or until the agency completes a long-term road management policy.

Many of the areas set off-limits to new roads are the wildest, most pristine lands remaining anywhere in the national forest system. CWC, along with numerous organizations, is proposing millions of acres of these wild roadless areas in California for wilderness designation. Unfortunately, vast tracts of imperiled wild forests were excluded from the policy, as were activities such as logging, off-road vehicle use, and other forms of development.

The road building moratorium was set in motion in 1997 when President Clinton committed his administration to developing a science-based policy for managing roadless

forest areas. Such a policy could be a huge step forward and this type of unilateral protection has never before been offered to roadless areas across America. For a sitting President to acknowledge the importance of protecting these special places is a move in the right direction.

Unfortunately, the president missed a golden opportunity with the announcement of a policy that is so riddled with loopholes that its impact in California will be negligible. For example, all national forests in Washington, Oregon, and northwestern California are exempted from the road building ban. Thus the proposal to build a road through the heart of the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area in the Modoc National Forest can continue unaffected.

The policy also does not prohibit logging, off-road vehicle route construction, or other types of development. These activities pose far greater threats to California's wild forests than new roads.

For example, just over one month before the road construction ban was announced, the Sequoia National Forest in the southern Sierra Nevada announced the release of a new plan to guide future off-road vehicle route construction throughout the entire forest. The plan called for the construction of 27 miles of off-road vehicle routes in roadless areas—many of which are being proposed for wilderness by the Wildlands 2000 campaign. These routes will not be affected by the roadless area policy.

In a way, this temporary road construction ban is just a warm up for the real battle, which is yet to come. In just over a year, the Clinton Administration will announce a long-term policy for how best to manage both the national forest road system and our last pristine roadless areas.

Unfortunately, early signs are not positive. Administration officials have stated that the policy will be geared more towards roads, rather than roadless areas. In fact, some roadless areas may even be afforded less protection than they receive under the current, temporary policy!

In November, 1997, President Clinton stated that roadless areas should be managed by "science, not politics." It is our job to hold the President to his word. The Clinton Administration must develop a long-term policy that fully protects roadless areas from logging, road construction, off-road vehicles, and other forms of development. Such a policy is the only way to ensure that America's dwindling natural legacy is preserved for future generations.

What you can do !

Write a letter to Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, and urge him to implement a policy protecting all roadless areas from logging, road construction, off-road vehicles. Remind him that these areas are America's last wild places, and contain the best of our natural heritage.

Chief Mike Dombeck
U.S. Forest Service
210 14th & Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Send copies of your letter to:
Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



The North Fork of the Middle Fork Tule River in the Moses Roadless Area, Sequoia National Forest. Chief Dombeck's interim road policy protects areas like this throughout the state, with the notable exception of northwestern forests. However, ORV routes are not prohibited, such as those planned elsewhere for the Sequoia National Forest. See related article on page 4.

Sizing-up potential wilderness is no small task: Wanted: volunteers who can help make history

California is endowed with a wealth of wildlands. Many of these areas, from stunning desert vistas to fog-shrouded northwestern forests and the radiant splendor of the Sierra Nevada are protected as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some receive countless visitors who hike, climb, fish, bird-watch or just simply stop and think. Many receive few guests: they may be remote, inaccessible or simply not well-known. Protected by wilderness status or not, these areas hold one thing in common: wildness. This wildness provides irreplaceable habitat for species facing one of the greatest waves of extinctions ever. This wildness ensures clean water for humans and wildlife. This wildness gives us a place to "get away from it all."

This wildness is disappearing fast. In national forests alone, 675,000 acres of wild, unroaded land have been logged, roaded or otherwise tamed in just the last twenty years. The best estimate says only five million acres of wildlands are still healthy enough to be potentially protected as wilderness in California. Now is the time to save this wildness.

Wildlands 2000 is the California conservation community's campaign to protect as many of the Golden State's remaining pristine wild areas as possible. To protect these wild areas, we are working to have them legally protected as wilderness.

Wilderness, as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, is an area of federal land 5,000 acres or larger in size (or less if a smaller area has wilderness qualities and could be effectively managed as such) and primarily pristine in nature. Only Congress can declare an area wilderness. With only a few exceptions, once it achieves wilderness status, a wild area is heavily protected by federal law and can only be developed in extraordinary circumstances. These "extraordinary circumstances" have been very rare indeed.

Our initial inventory, or "paper search" is now complete, and we have identified hundreds of potential new wilderness areas in California. Now we need volunteers to "field check" each one of these areas.

Field-checking is the process we use to determine whether the wild areas identified in the aerial photo surveys are truly wild and meet the legal definition of wilderness developed by Congress. Essentially, field checking consists of following the draft wilderness boundaries and carefully documenting all human-caused intrusions with notes and photographs. In addition to documenting damage, volunteers should also try to note and photograph positive wilderness attributes such as wildlife, scenery, pristine streams, etc. When the field checking is completed for an area, volunteers have the responsibility to draw the semifinal wilderness boundaries for it. Once the Wildlands 2000 proposal passes, you may leave a permanent mark on California's conservation history by drawing the lines used by Congress to define new wilderness areas.

Activists all over the state have been helping with this effort, most of whom were trained through CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness program. Our goal for this year is to field check all potential new wilderness areas or wilderness additions in California. It is a tremendous undertaking, but your help, we can complete this important fieldwork and move forward with the campaign for more California wilderness.

For more information on volunteering for the Wildlands 2000 effort, see the Adopt-a-Wilderness training schedule below.

To get involved, please contact Ryan Henson, California Wilderness Coalition, North State Field Office, P.O. Box 2346, Burney, CA 96013. You can also call him at (530) 335-3183 or e-mail him at ryan@calwild.org.

Adopt-a-Wilderness training schedule for May and June, 1999

Please note that most of these trainings involve the wilderness survey effort included in the Wildlands 2000 campaign (see above). If you would like to help protect pristine wildlands as wilderness in California, these trainings are for you. Unless otherwise noted, the trainings run from 10am to 4pm. More detailed announcements will be e-mailed or mailed to interested activists one month before each training. Additional training sessions will also be scheduled as needed. In addition people who have already been trained in every part of the state will be happy to train you as well (call CWC for details). Lastly, if at any time you can gather five or more activists together, contact Ryan Henson at (530) 335-3183 or e-mail him at ryan@calwild.org and he will be happy to offer an impromptu training for your group.

May 15, 1999: Bakersfield

May 16, 1999: Kernville

May 22, 1999: Mount Shasta

June 12 1999: North central Sierra (the location has not established, but this training is designed for activists from the local area and the Bay Area and Sacramento as well)

June 13, 1999: Northern Coast Range (same as North central Sierra)

The following activists should be contacted regarding training sessions for the regions listed before their names:

Angeles National Forest: Jim Schoedler at (626) 398-6787 or at jschoedler@earthlink.net

Cleveland National Forest: Geoffrey Smith at (619) 576-9027 or at gsmith@thecomputersmith.com

Los Padres National Forest: See contact information in the Ventan Wilderness Alliance and Patagonia articles on page 12.

San Bernardino National Forest: Joyce Burk at (760) 256-9561 or at joyce.burke@sierraclub.org

Sierra Nevada bighorn on a precipice

Alliance files petition to save endangered sheep

Alarmed at the rapidly plummeting numbers of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, four conservation organizations petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February to immediately list the species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Identified as "one of the most endangered mammals in North America," the Sierra Nevada bighorn faces severe threats to its future existence. "If current trends continue and this animal is not immediately protected, populations of the Sierra bighorn could begin to disappear in the next few years," said Dr. John Wehausen, recognized as the leading expert on the species, after more than 20 years studying the Sierra Nevada bighorn.

An alliance composed of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation, Friends of the Inyo, National Parks and Conservation Association and The Wilderness Society filed the emergency petition on behalf of the species.

The entire population of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, a unique race of bighorn found only in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, has declined to approximately 100 animals. The five remaining herds inhabit steep, precipitous terrain.



The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep has the tragic distinction of being "one of the most endangered mammals in North America."

They live almost exclusively on public land, inhabiting the Inyo National Forest and the wilderness areas of Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks.

"Domestic sheep carry a respiratory disease that is deadly to wild bighorn. A single contact between the two animals could wipe out an entire herd— and it's just a matter of time

before that happens," states Dr. Wehausen. Domestic sheep have been allowed to illegally trespass into bighorn habitat, yet the Forest Service has failed in preventing a deadly contact between the two kinds of sheep. The group notes that efforts by the Forest Service to make grazing alterations for these bighorns have failed and endangered status is necessary to force needed changes.

"This listing will give the responsible state and federal agencies and the scientific community the necessary tools to bring these animals back from the brink of extinction— and that needs to happen now," — Johanna Wald, NRDC.

Several domestic sheep grazing allotments on national forest lands border the wild sheep's habitat.

Mountain lion predation increased dramatically last decade and has been a major factor

pushing these sheep to the edge of extinction. Although mountain lions and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep historically co-existed, the low numbers of bighorn sheep today make the herds unusually vulnerable to the lions. Dr. Wehausen has also discovered that the high numbers of mountain lions in the last 15 years have caused the bighorn to abandon their traditional lower elevation winter range. By retreating to higher elevations, many Sierra Nevada bighorns have died due to deep snow and avalanches, poor nutrition, and lamb mortality.

The alliance of environmental organizations is seeking federal listing, since immediate action is needed to prevent the animal's extinction. "This listing will give the responsible state and federal agencies and the scientific community the necessary tools to bring these animals back from the brink of extinction— and that needs to happen now," states Johanna Wald, senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Given the fact that they are nearly extinct, we find it hard to imagine why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not provide immediate protection for this animal."

According to Sally Miller of Friends of the Inyo, recovery of the species involves a multi-part approach. First, mountain lions that have been shown to prey on bighorn need to be removed, either through killing or relocation. Secondly, domestic sheep must be removed from bighorn habitat.

Dr. Wehausen adds that a captive breeding program is also necessary for survival, reproduction and the maintenance of the species' genetic diversity.

For more information, contact Sally Miller (Friends of the Inyo) at (760) 647-6411, Jay Watson (The Wilderness Society) at (415) 990-4670 or Helen Wagenvoord, National Parks and Conservation Association at (510) 839-9922.

Patagonia adopts the Los Padres National Forest

Patagonia, Inc. of Ventura, California is no newcomer to supporting the conservation movement. What makes them unique amongst corporate supporters, however, is that Patagonia sometimes rolls up its collective sleeves and gets its hands dirty doing work for the programs it supports financially.

We are pleased to report that several Patagonia staff have adopted many potential wilderness areas through CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness program. In late January, CWC staff trained a large group of Patagonia employees and other volunteers on the secrets of "field checking." Field checking is the process used to determine whether currently undeveloped areas meet the criteria for wilderness established by Congress in 1964. If these areas meet the criteria, they may be proposed for wilderness designation in Wildlands 2000, California's next wilderness protection bill.

After the training in the nearby Los Padres National Forest, Patagonia staff agreed to continue working in that forest, with the eventual goal of field checking at least 20 potential new wilderness areas within it.

All of this good wilderness news is the brainchild of Patagonia staff member John Sterling. In addition to facilitating employee field checking, John has also agreed to be the contact person for anyone else interested in field checking the central and southern portions of the Los Padres National Forest (the far north is being handled by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, see below). If you live between San Luis Obispo and Thousand Oaks (or anywhere else for that matter) and are interested in field checking one of this forests' many potential new wilderness areas, please call John at (805) 667-4567.

Orphan no more:

Ventana Wilderness Alliance watching the northern Los Padres National Forest

Unique in many ways, the Los Padres National Forest extends, although not continuously, from below Monterey to as far south as Santa Barbara. The area is home to some of the last struggling California condors and hosts the southernmost groves of ancient redwoods in the state. Along with the Inyo National Forest, it has the highest percentage of roadless land in California's national forests. Interestingly, it is also the only national forest in California which extends from mountains directly to the coastline.

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) formed late last year to monitor, protect, and restore the immense social

and ecological values of the far-northern Los Padres National Forest in and around the Ventana Wilderness. Soon thereafter, VWA activists met with Coalition staff for two Adopt-a-Wilderness training sessions covering wilderness surveying and the laws and policies affecting public land management.

Since then, VWA has become the fastest growing public land conservation group in California. In a mere five months, the group has grown to include over 40 members, and has already begun to change the way the Los Padres National Forest is managed by the Forest Service. All this in an area that just two years ago was on the CWC's "orphan forest" list and considered in need of a serious activist recruitment effort. Despite this gloomy assessment, VWA member Boon Hughey of Big Sur said "We've always suspected a strong, silent, underground constituency for this part of the forest, and it looks like our suspicions were correct. I guess it goes to show that wild and beautiful places like the Ventana Wilderness and

surrounding areas invariably have a strong if not apparent following. In our case a little effort toward organization has had a catalytic effect, with very encouraging results for both our group and the future of the forest."

"We've always suspected a strong, silent, underground constituency for this part of the forest, and it looks like our suspicions were correct. I guess it goes to show that wild and beautiful places... invariably have a strong if not apparent following."

So far, wilderness, grazing, and road management (see Indians-Arroyo Seco Road article, page 7) are at the top of VWA's agenda. Like their friends to the south checking other portions of the Los Padres National Forest (see above), VWA is spearheading the effort to survey potential new wilderness areas (as well as additions to existing wilderness) in the far-

northern regions of the forest so these areas can also be included in our Wildlands 2000 proposal.

In addition, VWA is becoming increasingly concerned about overgrazing in the forest, especially since the practice is damaging the habitat of many sensitive plant and wildlife species; including the steelhead trout, red-legged frog, and others that live in the forest. Through CWC's Adopt-a-Wilderness program, VWA members were recently trained to assess the impacts of livestock grazing on streams and other sensitive areas at a March workshop. The Alliance now plans to review grazing plans and will attempt to stop overgrazing on the sensitive Big Sur coast. Afterwards, VWA will extend its grazing reform campaign to other parts of the Los Padres National Forest.

For more information about VWA, visit its website at www.ventanawild.org, or call Steve Chambers at (831) 426-5771.

Board of Directors sees changes

Celia Barotz, CWC's unofficial Jill-of-all-trades, has been appointed to our Board of Directors. Celia's past incarnations with the Coalition include serving as development director and coordinator for the Wildlands 2000 campaign. Her knowledge of the organization, fundraising expertise, and commitment to conservation will make Celia an excellent Board member. Now, if we could only find a talented campaign coordinator to fill her Wildlands 2000 shoes...

Long-time Director **Bob Barnes** has resigned from CWC's Board after years of service. Bob has been an integral part of the Coalition for two decades, and was instrumental in organizing CWC's two wilderness conferences in the 1980s. Unfortunately for us, his work with the Audubon Society is taking up the majority of his time. We welcome Bob as the newest member of CWC's Advisory Board and look forward to many more years of working together.

At our annual meeting this February in Davis, the CWC Board elected a new President. **Joan Reiss** was elected to fill the position left vacant by outgoing President **Mary Scoonover**. Joan has been a member of the Board for a year and a half and has brought a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to the organization. Her boundless energy, abundant conservation experience, and high level of dedication will make her an excellent President.

"This organization has so much potential," said Joan after her election to the Presidency. "Despite our relatively small size, we are one of the most effective public lands conservation organizations in the state. I am proud to play a leadership role at the Coalition and look forward to continuing to do so in the years to come."

Trent Orr will continue to serve as Vice-President, a role that involves many fundraising responsibilities. Trent has proven himself up to the task over the past year as he, once again, played a huge role in organizing CWC's annual fundraiser in San Francisco in October.

Don Morrill will remain Treasurer, where he has served for the past year. Don's business background and attention to detail have been a tremendous asset and he has worked long hours to assure that CWC's bookkeeping procedures are up to snuff. Past President Mary Scoonover will round out the Board leadership team, by filling the post of Secretary.

Foundation gifts

The **Peradam Foundation** granted CWC \$10,000 to support our ongoing efforts to protect California's last wild places. Much of the grant will be earmarked towards use in upgrading our communications, including our new and improved newsletter, up to date web page, and increased action alerts. Thanks Peradam!

The **Weeden Foundation** granted CWC \$20,000 to support our Adopt-a-Wilderness and Wildlands 2000 campaigns. The grant will provide a great boost to our efforts to identify, survey, and describe California's last wild places. It will also help CWC to recruit and train a citizen's army of wilderness advocates across the Golden State. Thank you Weeden Foundation!

Good-bye to Jane King

After a year and a half as Membership and Development Associate, **Jane King** has decided it is time to move on from CWC. In her time here, Jane helped increase the Coalition membership by over 20 percent—no small feat considering she was responsible for membership, office management, and bookkeeping. Jane was CWC's first ever paid bookkeeper, and managed to successfully handle CWC's books as our budget grew from \$135,000 in 1997 to more than \$270,000 in 1999. And she did it all on a part-time schedule.

Jane will be taking a trip to the Amazon and continuing to pursue her career in teaching and women's studies. She says she looks forward to her new endeavors but will miss working with the Coalition. "CWC has been a great organization to work with. Everyone who works here is so dedicated to the organization and to the protection of California wilderness. The environment has always been close to my heart, and it was a pleasure to be surrounded by so many passionate conservationists."

Jane's wit and smile will be sorely missed at the CWC headquarters. We wish her the best in her new endeavors.

Ventana Wilderness Alliance joins Coalition

CWC welcomes our newest member, the **Ventana Wilderness Alliance**. The VWA was formed by wilderness advocates in the Santa Cruz region with an interest in protecting the tens of thousands of acres of potential wilderness in the adjacent Los Padres National Forest.

CWC endorses forest protection bill

At its February meeting, the CWC Board of Directors voted unanimously to endorse a bill by Representatives Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and James Leach (R-IA) that would prohibit commercial logging in national forests.

The bill, and CWC's vote of endorsement, comes after decades of a federally subsidized logging program that has pushed many national forests to the brink of ecological ruin. It is time to return the national forests to their original purpose—protecting watershed to provide clean drinking water for America's citizens. Our national forests are far too valuable in providing recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and clean water, to allow the continued abuse of commercial logging.

Further, many beautiful and pristine forest areas remain vulnerable to logging and other abuses simply because the timber industry fought against their protection. Time and time again, an effective and well funded timber lobby has blocked wilderness designations for roadless areas containing stands of healthy and valuable old-growth forests. Removing the prospect of commercial logging within these areas will remove the timber industry from the wilderness equation.

The McKinney/Leach bill is endorsed by over a hundred conservation organizations, as well as businesses, religious groups, and two dozen Congressional co-sponsors. Further, public opinion polls continually show that a majority of the American people support protection of their national forests, and an end to commercial logging on public lands. CWC is proud to endorse this effort to protect California's treasured wildlands.

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Coalition Member Groups

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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 a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes;
Nipomo
Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno
Davis Audubon Society; Davis
Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs
Desert Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego
Desert Survivors; Oakland
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund; S. F.
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop
Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; L.A.
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Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland
Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy
Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena
Friends of the Inyo; Lee Vining
Friends of the River; Sacramento
Fund for Animals; San Francisco

Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley
Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Boulder, CO
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Kern River Valley Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield
Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna
League to Save Lake Tahoe; South Lake Tahoe
LEGACY-The Landscape Connection; Arcata
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto
Los Angeles Audubon Society, West Hollywood
Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club
Marble Mountain Audubon Society; Etna
Marin Conservation League; San Rafael
Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah
Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining
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Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta
Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento
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Nipomo

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Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra
Club; Mammoth Lakes
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Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE);
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Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley
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Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe
Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR
Smith River Alliance; Trinidad
Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR
South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville
South Yuba River Citizens League;
Nevada City
Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia
Tule River Conservancy; Porterville
U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society; Davis
Ventana Wildlands Group; Santa Cruz
Western States Endurance Run; S. F.
The Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO
The Wilderness Society; San Francisco
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding
Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis

New faces join the Coalition...

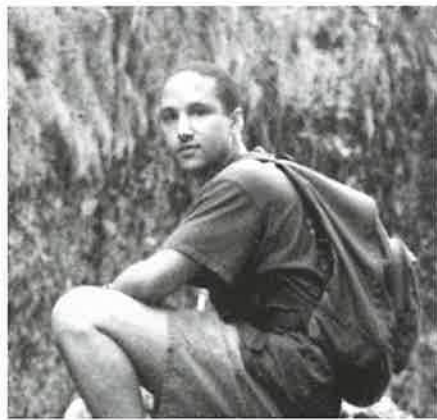
Bill Ritter

Bill Ritter has joined CWC as a Conservation Associate and Coordinator of the Wildlands 2000 Campaign. Ritter recently served two years as an aide to Congressman Vic Fazio working in Fazio's district office.

Prior to working for Congressman Fazio, Ritter spent 15 years in a sales and marketing career before pursuing a political consulting business, in which he helped several Yolo County and legislative candidates win office.

A native of Utah, but raised and educated in California, Ritter spent his summers and weekends with his family and the Boy Scouts: hiking, camping, and visiting national as well as state parks and forests in California and the western United States.

Ritter says: "Three of my heroes are Ansel Adams, Wallace Stegner, and Hubert Humphrey. Ansel Adams and Wallace Stegner captured the beauty of the west in photos and literature. Senator Hubert Humphrey introduced the first wilderness bill in Congress, which eventually led to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Joining CWC in its efforts to preserve the last wilderness areas of California is of great importance to me. It is an honor to be a part of the Wildlands 2000 Campaign and join my colleagues at CWC in this worthy effort."



Matei Tarail

Matei Tarail was recently brought on board to take over the position of Membership and Development Associate.

He recently returned from over two years of service in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps Volunteer. As a volunteer, Matei worked to promote sustainable community agriculture. He organized projects for soil conservation, crop diversification, and reforestation of the mountainous community near the Haitian border to which he was assigned.

Prior to entering the Peace Corps, Matei studied at Reed College, in Portland, Oregon, where he was a political science major. He hopes to build on the successes accomplished by the California Wilderness Coalition so far. Feel free to contact him for assistance with any membership or development questions.

Yes, I want to join the California Wilderness Coalition and help protect the last of wild California from logging, mining, ORVs and other short-sighted developments.

- Enroll me as a new member of CWC. Enclosed is \$ _____ for my first-year membership dues.
 I am already a member. Here is a special contribution of \$ _____ to help the Coalition's work.
 Contact me about volunteer opportunities.

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

- Membership benefits include a subscription to our quarterly journal, the *Wilderness Record*.
- Periodic Action Alerts to keep you informed and involved.
- The opportunity for direct participation in our campaigns.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

**Please mail to:
California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616**

A road ran through it...



Charlie Schneider

Nature, when given a chance, is highly effective at “rewilding” itself, as this former road near Hot Creek on the east side of the southern Sierra shows. For more information about roads, the vehicles that traverse them, and their impacts to wildlands, see the stories on pages 3, 4, 7 and 9.

Action Corner

- X **Keep off-road vehicles out of roadless areas**
Page 3.
- X **Protect Sequoia National Forest from roads and off-road vehicles.** Page 4.
- X **Stop Doolittle from forcing dams in wilderness.**
Page 5.
- X **Protect roadless areas from logging and road-building.**
Page 9.



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