



Wilderness Record

A VOICE FOR WILD CALIFORNIA

Volume 24

Number 4



Camille Armstrong

The San Ysidro Mountain Wilderness Study Area provides magnificent views of the desert and the mountains beyond. These and other forgotten gems are being discovered by the dozens of Wildlands 2000 mappers who are working across the state (see story inside).

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Our Mission

The California Wilderness Coalition defends the pristine landscapes that make California unique, provide a home to our wildlife, and preserve a place for spiritual renewal. We protect wilderness for its own sake, for ourselves, and for generations yet to come. We identify and protect the habitat necessary for the long-term survival of California's plants and animals. Since 1976, through advocacy and public education, we have enlisted the support of citizens and policy-makers in our efforts to preserve California's wildlands.



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Wilderness Record

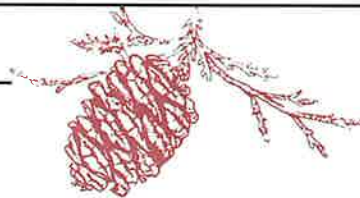
Fall 1999 - Volume 24, Number 4
ISSN 0194-3030

The *Wilderness Record* is published quarterly by the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted with permission from the editor. Articles, photographs and artwork on California wilderness, wildlife and related subjects are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

Printed by Fox Print Specialists
Designed by Jenni Haas

Director's Report

Sharing the Wilderness



The battle over wilderness management currently underway in the high Sierra offers important lessons for those interested in the history and future of California wilderness.

The Forest Service is currently completing a management plan that will establish party size limits, camping and trail use restrictions, and quotas on overnight use, for four high Sierra wilderness areas. This plan will affect all visitors who travel to these special areas.

The plan is bringing to a head a dispute that has been simmering for years between those who visit the wilderness on foot, and those who visit on horseback. Environmentalists are concerned about the impacts caused by stock use in wilderness. Horse packers, on the other hand, are concerned that increasing regulations are squeezing them out of wilderness areas.

Pitting traditional wilderness allies against one another is a recipe for disaster for California wilderness. If we are to succeed in protecting and defending our last wilderness areas, we will need to build as broad a base of support as possible. We cannot succeed if we alienate natural wilderness allies.

Many of the most celebrated conservationists of this century visited wilderness areas on horseback. When John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt took their historic voyage into Yosemite in 1903, they did so on horseback. David Brower led legendary trips into the high Sierra wilderness areas. Aldo Leopold was a regular horse packer, and rhapsodized about the times when "man has an opportunity to flee the city, throw a diamond hitch upon a pack mule and disappear into the wilderness..."

Horse packers also have a long history of conservation activities. When a highway was proposed through the heart of the high Sierra, packers worked hard to defeat the project. Leading the charge was Governor Reagan's Resources Secretary Ike Livermore, himself a long-time horse packer.

In 1984, the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) joined the California Wilderness Coalition, and for 15 years, we've worked side by side to protect California's last wilderness areas. BCHC has fought for new wilderness, and helped to oppose shortsighted development of unprotected wilderness areas. Through the years, they have been staunch supporters, and could be counted on in each critical battle over California's treasured wilderness.

In 1999, however, many horse packers are turning away from their traditional support for wilderness preservation. Citing restrictions on stock use, and over-regulation, many horse packers are feeling the pinch. Many packers believe that the ultimate goal of conservation groups is to eliminate stock use entirely in wilderness areas.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We understand the long history between horse packers and wilderness. We believe that packers enjoy wilderness areas the same way hikers and backpackers do. We appreciate that packers provide opportunities for a wilderness experience for a wide array of citizens. And, we look forward to working with packers in our effort to designate additional California wilderness.

Of course, there are numerous management issues posed by both horse packers and backpackers. Some areas are literally being "loved to death" and this high level of use can cause serious environmental impacts as well as affecting the experience of wilderness visitors. These issues need to be addressed with the understanding that horse packing is a legitimate use of wilderness, and should continue into the future.

Not everyone likes to step over horse droppings on a trail or be caught behind a 25-mule train. But it takes a hardy soul to strap on a 50-pound pack and saunter for miles into the wilderness. Horse packing provides access for countless people who would not otherwise have experienced the wilderness. This connection to the land is critically important as we battle to protect and defend our wilderness areas.

As the millennium approaches, wilderness advocates are facing an uphill battle. Congress is decidedly anti-wilderness, and wilderness opponents are well financed and organized. Yet, with an additional 20 million more people expected in California, the threats continue to mount. Wilderness needs all the friends it can get, and we cannot continue to alienate our allies while asking for their support.



A False Choice: Schools or Forests

BY CAROL WRIGHT

While the public clamors for better schools and greater accountability in student achievement, small rural school districts and students are being used as political pawns in a high stakes tug-of-war over the management of our national forests. It is a struggle that will directly impact funding for the future education of millions of American children.

Through a system initiated almost a hundred years ago, these rural schools have been made dependent on logging in national forests for a portion of their funding. This dependency, however, is hurting schools and students, the very ones it was intended to help.

The concept of linking rural school budgets with timber receipts originated as a noble plan whereby the impact caused to county roads and schools by logging in a national forest would be mitigated. The solution, Congress declared in 1908, was to give counties 25 percent of the income generated from any logging of national forests conducted within county boundaries. This money was to be split between schools and county roads.



Delbert Williams

Logging in the Plumas National Forest.

The money only amounted to a small percentage of overall school budgets, but to small, individual school districts, it has meant a lot. Several hundred thousand dollars to a cash-strapped school district can pay for teachers, support staff, and supplies. This can have a large impact on the students.

Perhaps funding the education of America's youth by cutting down trees in our national forests made sense in 1908. It certainly does not in 1999. Our schools should be funded based on the needs of our children, not by the level of logging activity in national forests.

The dependency on national forest logging has wrought havoc on our schools. In the 1980s, when logging levels peaked, funding flowed into counties at unprecedented rates. But when logging dropped to more sustainable levels in the 1990s, the ensuing drop in funding left school budgets short of

badly needed funds. Even when logging levels were kept steady, receipts to schools have fluctuated due to market-driven changes in the price of wood.

Schools have continually faced the task of attempting to plan annual budgets without knowing how much money to expect from the logging receipts they have come to depend upon. These boom and bust cycles have led to chronic shortfalls in many school districts.

President Clinton has proposed to address this problem by separating logging levels from county funding, a process known as "decoupling" of school payments from actual gross forest receipts. Instead, counties would receive a flat payment based on historic payments, county population and the amount of public land within the county. If successful, this initiative would free counties from their dependency on national forest logging by guaranteeing annual payments to counties, regardless of logging levels.

Similar payments are currently given to counties to make up for lost property tax revenue due to the presence of federal lands within county boundaries. These payments could easily be increased to cover the revenue that was historically generated from the sale of timber.

Thus far, many rural counties have stonewalled the effort to separate funding from national forest logging, instead continuing to hold out for increased logging levels. They believe that only a return to the days of maximum cutting will give them what was promised in 1908. They refuse to acknowledge that those days are gone. Neither Congress, the courts, the general public, nor the forests will support such logging any longer. Rural counties also fail to acknowledge that over-cutting now will inevitably result in less logging—and lower school receipts—in the future.

Environmentalists were once accused of caring more for forests than people.

Time has changed that accusation. Now it is timber industry allies, including some misguided school and county

leaders, who are holding school children hostage simply to advance the objective of increased cutting in national forests.

Counties and schools need funding stability. They cannot be whipped around by the political winds of Washington, D.C., or hobbled by debates over national forest management. They need stable funding now and into the future.

Funding the education of America's youth by cutting down trees is not only shortsighted, it is shortchanging our future. Our children deserve better.

Carol Wright was superintendent of the Butteville Union Elementary School District in Siskiyou County, California, for eight years and is currently executive director of the Klamath Forest Alliance in Etna, California.

WR

35 Years after The Wilderness Act

BY JIM EATON

Early in August, my faithful (but aging) canine companion Inyo and I hiked into the Granite Chief Wilderness for a day. We stopped at Five Lakes long enough for Inyo to cool off with a swim, admired the abundant and spectacular floral display, and explored some of Whiskey Creek before retracing our route and returning home.

Back in Davis I had a message from *Wilderness Record* editor Herb Walker: would I be willing to do a retrospective piece on the 35th anniversary of The Wilderness Act this September 3rd?

Thirty-five years? Whoa. It can't have been that long. Where has the time gone?

I vividly remember President Lyndon Johnson signing The Wilderness Act into law at the beginning of my junior year in high school, back in 1964. I had become an avid backpacker, lugging my heavy Navy surplus sleeping bag, shelter halves, and steel canteen up Mt. Tamalpais, into the Sierra, and to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. I had followed the progress of the legislation in the newspaper, and I was pleased to see the bill become law.

In California, the 1964 Act placed into the National Wilderness Preservation System 13 national forest areas, totaling 1,265,874 acres, and set up a study process for eight national forest primitive areas, nine national park units, and three national wildlife refuges.

Over the past 35 years Congress has added new wilderness areas and expanded most of the original 13 so that there currently are 138 California wilderness areas totaling nearly 14 million acres. The Forest Service manages 51 areas (4.4 million acres), the National Park Service 10 areas (6 million acres), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 74 areas (3.6 million acres), and the Fish and Wildlife Service 3 areas (9,172 acres). [Note: counting wilderness areas is like adding apples and oranges together—some areas are represented by three different federal agencies, while other areas (like Death Valley National Park) get counted as one area when in reality there are 24 separate wilderness units there].

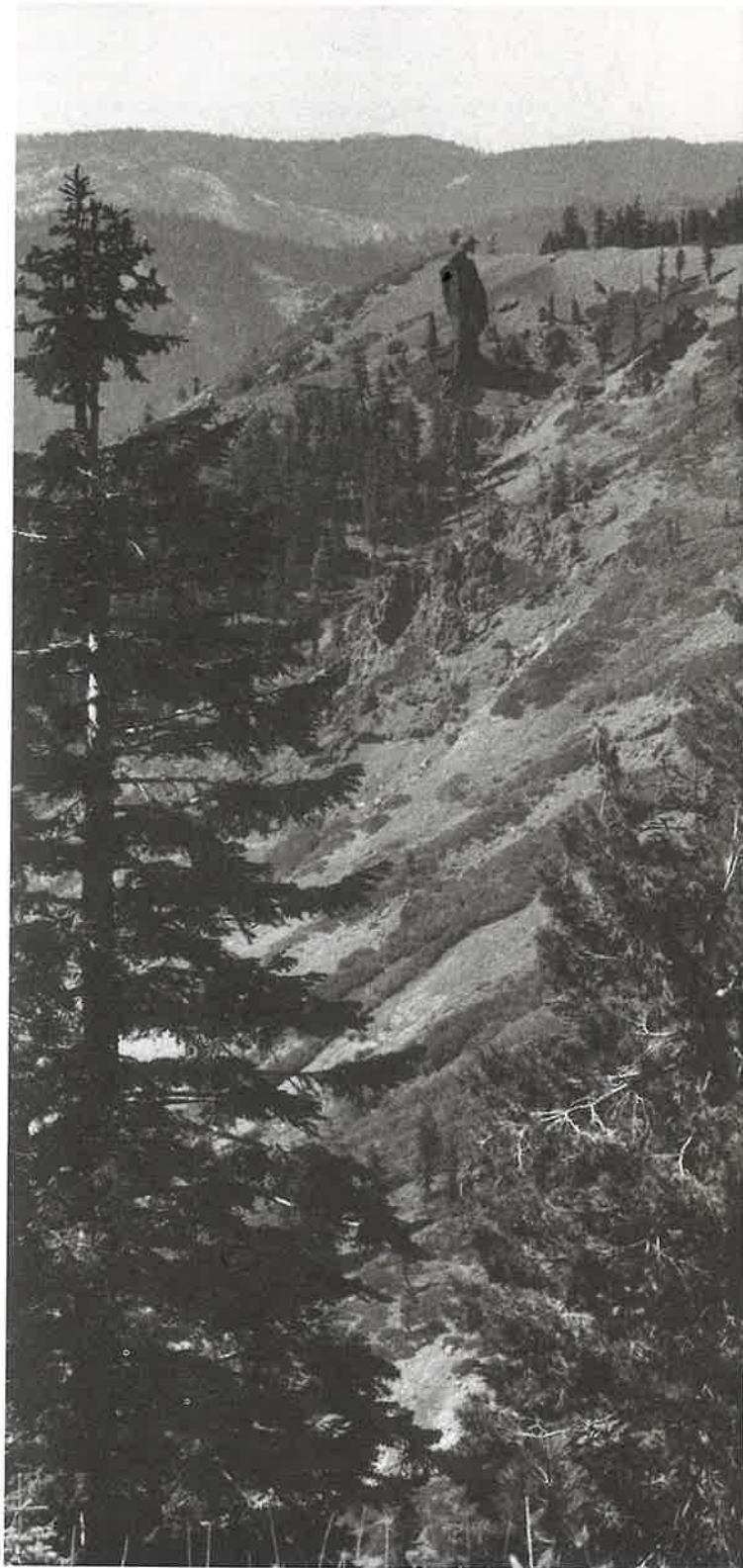
To top it off, the California Wilderness Coalition's Wildlands 2000 campaign has identified another 5 to 6 million acres of potential wilderness in our Golden State.

Did the framers of the Wilderness Act really foresee a national wilderness system in excess of 104 million acres (and climbing) with 14 million acres (and soon more) in California?

Of course they did. They were visionaries. They were young radicals. Their disappointment would be that there are so many smaller, fragmented areas rather than fewer large, intact wildlands.

Let's travel back 45 years before the Wilderness Act to see how this began.

As I sat with Inyo looking into the still waters, I recalled that in 1953 a wolverine was seen near here. When the wildlands are restored, I plan to return to see that elusive critter.



Jeff Schaffer

While field checking a proposed addition to the existing Granite Chief wilderness last autumn, a Wildlands 2000 field mapper encountered a very young black bear cub. Pictured here: the existing Granite Chief Wilderness.



Snow Mountain became protected by wilderness designation in 1984, due largely to the efforts of Jim Eaton and the CWC. This photo shows St. John Mountain from Snow Mountain, in the Snow Mountain Wilderness (Mendocino National Forest).

At Dave Foreman's suggestion, Wendy, Inyo, and I backpacked in the "Cradle of Wilderness," Colorado's Flat Tops Wilderness earlier this summer. Here in 1919, the Forest Service sent its first landscape architect, Arthur H. Carhart, to survey Trappers Lake to plot several hundred home sites on the lakeshore and plan a "thorough" road around the lake. Carhart completed his duties, but he let his supervisor know that he opposed further "improvement where natural landscape would suffer."

He was the first Forest Service employee to just say no. Today Trappers Lake is inside the 235,230-acre Flat Tops Wilderness. It's a beautiful place, clear water stirred only by paddles and the wind, thanks to Carhart.

Other early wilderness advocates were looking at huge expanses of land for preservation as wilderness, and earlier in this century very large areas still remained. Robert Marshall suggested that wilderness areas be "sufficiently spacious for a person to spend at least a week of active travel in them without crossing his own tracks."

Aldo Leopold identified six roadless areas in Arizona and New Mexico, each larger than a half million acres. As Michael Frome reports in the *Battle for the Wilderness*:

"Leopold outlined a concept of wild areas for the Southwest to fulfill four objectives: (1) prevent annihilation of rare plants and animals, like the grizzly; (2) guard against biotic disruption of areas still wild; (3) secure recognition, as wilderness, of low-altitude desert generally regarded as valueless for recreation because it offered no pines, lakes, or other conventional scenery; and (4) induce Mexico to cooperate in wilderness protection."

In 1926 the Forest Service surveyed roadless areas 230,400 acres or greater. They found 74 areas totaling 55 million acres. The largest area was seven million acres.

By 1961 the seven million-acre area had been reduced to two million acres. Only 19 areas were still greater than 230,400 acres, and the 55 million-acre total had been reduced to 17 million acres. By looking at national park and forest areas only 100,000 acres or greater, there were now only 64 areas containing 28 million acres.

When the California Wilderness Coalition was organized in 1976, Phil Farrell and others did the first inventory of areas 5,000 and greater and determined that there were nearly 14 million acres of roadless lands in the state—an imperfect first attempt that missed more than a dozen areas that later became wilderness.

Today the concept of large wilderness core reserves connected by wildlife linkages is embodied by The Wildlands Project. Although bold, the idea is not new.

At the 1965 Wilderness Conference, Will Siri's keynote address was written as if he were reporting a century into the future, in 2065:

"Today great bands of natural lands and forests stretch across the country from coast to coast and from Mexico

northward beyond the Arctic Circle. Large expanses of prairie, desert, and the hardwood forest of the midwest and east are restoring themselves."

Marshall, Leopold, Siri, and others had bold visions. We have yet to implement them.

Thirty-five years ago The Wilderness Act gave us the prime tool to protect our wild places. In the intervening years, we have made a good start. But we have much more to do.

When Inyo and I ascended the trail to Five Lakes, I recalled the first time I had done so, 31 years ago. A number of motorcyclists roared past our group of student activists, forcing us to step aside as we were bombarded with their noise, dust, and exhaust. At Five Lakes we were told that the Forest Service planned to run ski lifts through the area to link the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski areas.

But last month all was tranquil. Other hikers exchanged smiles and pleasant greetings. At Five Lakes, several people fished while others basked in the sun. Closed to camping, the area is looking better than ever.

All this because of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the citizens who used it to have Granite Chief protected as wilderness.

Of course, the story is not finished. The next generation of wilderness activists need to enlarge the Granite Chief Wilderness, perhaps linking it to the Desolation Wilderness. The nearby North Fork American and Duncan Canyon roadless areas need to be preserved, and disturbed lands allowed to recover. The extirpated wildlife needs to return.

As I sat with Inyo looking into the still waters, I recalled that in 1953 a wolverine was seen near here. When the wildlands are restored, I plan to return to see that elusive critter. WR

The California Off-Highway Vehicle Program



George Barnes

Off-road vehicle tracks in the desert.

BY GEORGE BARNES

Since 1972, the State of California has had an off-highway vehicle (OHV) program to provide opportunities and management for off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, dune buggies, and four-wheel drive vehicles. The program is managed by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The OHMVR Division operates seven State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) around the state and provides funding grants and cooperative agreements to local and federal agencies for OHV areas and trails under their jurisdictions. Much of this funding is used to build new OHV routes through California's unprotected wilderness areas.

The SVRAs tend to be moderately sized areas of a few hundred to a few thousand acres and often used by most types of OHVs. However, OHV areas on federal lands can range from small trails to large areas open to unrestricted use of all OHV types. OHVs are currently used in many ecologically sensitive areas, including unprotected wilderness.

Funding for the program comes from OHV registration fees, motor vehicle fuel taxes attributed to off-highway recreation, and a few minor sources. By far the largest income source for the OHV Trust Fund—about 90%—comes from a portion of the state gas tax from gas used by off-road vehicles. The funding amounts to \$25 to 30 million each year.

The OHMVR is fraught with internal inconsistencies and environmental problems,

and major shortcomings continue to plague the program. For example:

- Even though all projects supported by the program are explicitly required to be compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act or equivalent, this requirement has been very widely ignored.
- Strict environmental protection measures required of the state-operated OHV areas are not required of local or federal government grant-recipients for lands impacted by OHVs.
- Over half of the money given to the program comes from illegal, unregistered OHVs.
- More than 6% of the initial fuel tax transfer was from regular passenger vehicles and station wagons — vehicles for which the OHMVR program is specifically not intended.

Meanwhile, new OHV routes funded by the state grant program continue to be proposed for unprotected wilderness and other environmentally sensitive areas. Until the OHMVR Division cleans up its act, these problems will continue to plague the program, and California's most sensitive wildlands will continue to be jeopardized.

George Barnes is a Sierra Club volunteer who has monitored off-road vehicle use in California for over two decades.

Off-road vehicles trample native vegetation, such as these junipers in Ballinger Canyon.



WR

Oregon Biodiversity Project: A Model for California

A diverse team drafts a plan and incentives

BY RICH HUNTER

Despite a 75% funding cut by Governor Davis's last minute budget line vetoes, the California Conservation Blueprint was born. The final 1999 budget appropriated \$250,000 for the Resources Agency to initiate a multi-year statewide conservation planning effort. Conservationists, scientists, and the California Biodiversity Council have been discussing a process for identifying the locations of priority conservation sites and creating innovative strategies to protect these areas.

While the agency and proponents of the project have been optimistic that a conservation vision can greatly improve habitat conservation strategies for California's biodiversity, the governor is approaching the project with caution. In remarks accompanying the budget cut, Davis supported the goals of the resources assessment project. But by slicing the budget for the program, he signaled that the effort must gain wider public support before it will be fully funded by the state coffers.

Perhaps the main challenge to the project's organizers — in both the agency and conservation organizations — is to make pro-active habitat planning palatable for the people who own some of the most important habitat lands in the state. While biological reserves managed strictly for biodiversity play a critical role in conservation strategy, the so-called "working landscape" offers many opportunities to complement a reserve strategy. Not only are farms and ranches appropriate "buffer" or "stewardship" zones for a nature reserve network, but many species depend primarily or exclusively on lands that are not well represented in public conservation ownership. Farmers, ranchers, and other private land stewards are key allies in the implementation of conservation strategies.

Despite harboring an impressive collection of species and ecosystems, California lags behind many other states in creating a statewide conservation plan. For example, Florida finished its first maps in 1994, at the same time that Oregon launched its Biodiversity Project. In Oregon, the project was initiated and managed by Defenders of Wildlife. The original steering committee—which included representatives of Defenders, The Nature Conservancy, and an executive with the CH2M Hill Engineering firm—decided early on to seek involvement of a much broader range of interests. Leaders from the business world and Oregon's timber and cattle industries were recruited for the steering committee. Another committee was formed to gather input from private land managers, local government and federal agencies.

With wide public involvement and a solid background of information from gap analysis, ecological, economic, and social research, the Oregon Biodiversity Project became a successful collaborative public/private partnership. Not only did the steering committee involve dozens of organizations, but

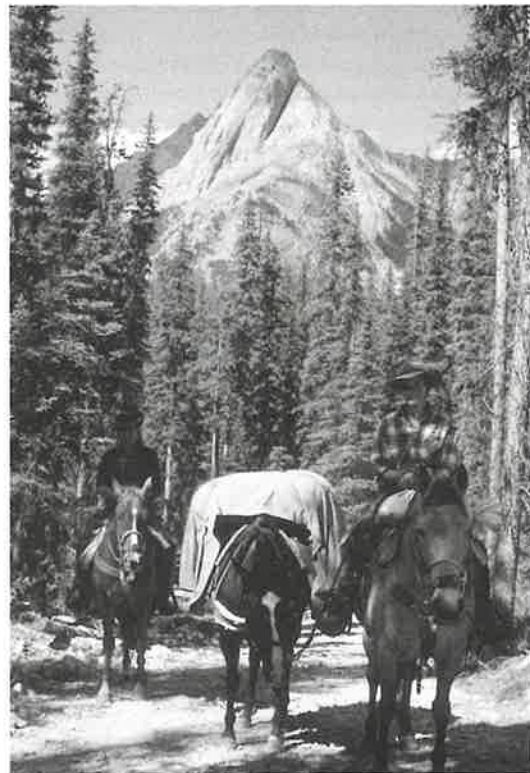
funding support also came from a variety of sources. The program created two main documents, one featuring an ecological assessment of conservation opportunities, and the other a book of pragmatic stewardship incentives to encourage and assist people protect habitat on private lands. By drawing from existing research, the program made the most of its resources in the ecological assessment. This process undoubtedly helped to identify research needs for the future. Most importantly, the program fostered a discussion about how to best protect Oregon's scenic and biologically diverse landscapes.

In California, initial steps have been made to broaden the discussion about these same issues. California Wilderness Coalition continues to play a key role by recruiting other important organizations and individuals to become involved in the process. In its first year, the program will concentrate on scoping the issues and individuals that need to be included in the discussion and planning efforts. The success of this process will greatly influence funding opportunities in next year's state budget and other sources. The first goal of the program will be a diverse steering committee committed to strong conservation goals.

Second, the committee must find ways to draw information and resources from existing conservation programs. For instance, if Resources Secretary Mary Nichols is able to quickly establish her leadership of the California Biodiversity Council, the blueprint program will benefit from wider agency participation, including funding sources and ecological data. In addition, the steering committee must be bold and creative enough to envision a realistic implementation strategy. California's size and ecological complexity holds many challenges for the blueprint program.

Rich Hunter is a wildlife biologist and the former coordinator of the California Wildlands Project. He is an independent consultant in Sebastopol, CA.

WR



Forgotten Jewels:

Future Wilderness Areas Overlooked by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in California

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) launched surveys of lands eligible for wilderness protection in the 1970s and 1980s respectively. Crudely speaking, the agencies were looking for fairly undisturbed regions 5,000 acres or larger in size or smaller undisturbed areas adjacent to existing wilderness areas. A potential new wilderness area found by the Forest Service was called a "roadless area," while the BLM called it a "wilderness study area" (WSA).

In California, the Forest Service found 372 areas, totaling 6.3 million acres of roadless national forest land. In turn, the BLM found 209 WSAs, totaling 7.1 million acres in the Golden State.

From the beginning, conservationists objected that potential roadless areas and WSAs were being overlooked by the agencies, were arbitrarily drawn so as to make them artificially small, or were dismissed as lacking wilderness qualities without any real evidence of destruction in them. As the California Wilderness Coalition and other conservation groups work on Wildlands 2000, California's next federal wilderness protection bill, many of these forgotten jewels are being rediscovered and mapped by activists. Five of these areas are described below.

Cutca Valley Potential Wilderness

Approximate acreage: 14,800

Managing agency: Cleveland National Forest

Location: Approximately 12 air-miles east of Temecula in San Diego and Riverside counties.

The Cutca Valley Proposed Wilderness was included in initial Forest Service surveys but was inexplicably dropped from wilderness consideration prior to the release of the Forest Service's final roadless area inventory.

A single road separates this region from the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness to the west. Its ridges are cloaked in chaparral except on north-facing slopes where scattered, fire-scarred old-growth pines grow amidst the brush. Along its many seasonal stream courses, hardwood forests of cottonwood, live oak, bay laurel and willow provide shelter for throngs of birds and other wildlife seeking a refuge from the intense summer heat.

This spectacular wild area contains a live oak seven feet in diameter, and several rare and unique plants including creeping sage and bush poppies. Wildlife abounds, including golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, coyotes, mountain lions, roadrunners, acorn woodpeckers, and many others.

The Cutca Valley Trail links the proposed wilderness with the Agua Tibia Wilderness to the west. Many hikers and equestrians enjoy both areas in a single hike or ride and do not know that one area is protected and the other is not.

English Ridge Potential Wilderness

Approximate acreage: 6,000

Managing agency: BLM, Arcata Field Office

Location: Northwest of Willits in Mendocino County, 8 air-miles west of Highway 101 along the main fork of the Eel River.

The English Ridge Proposed Wilderness is indeed a "forgotten jewel," a gleaming emerald to be exact. The reason for this is



Ryan Henson

California Conservation Corps members work hard to maintain the Blue Ridge Trail, adjacent to Cache Creek.

that the proposed wilderness is covered with an ancient forest of Douglas fir, live and black oak, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, tan oak, and other species standing in sharp, defiant contrast to heavily logged adjacent private lands.

The BLM's real reasons for failing to identify this area as a WSA are unclear, though at the time it was common for the BLM to deny heavily forested areas WSA status because of supposed "resource conflicts." In this case, the conflict was between the need to cut trees and the need to protect wilderness. At that time, development usually trumped protection in such situations. The BLM in California has improved a great deal since then.

The main fork of the Eel River bisects the western portion of the English Ridge Proposed Wilderness from north to south. The Eel is designated a wild and scenic river by the State of California because of its outstanding natural and recreational values. The BLM has also found Fish Creek and Indian Creek (two tributaries of the Eel) in the proposed wilderness to be eligible for protection under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The BLM made this determination because of the two creeks' threatened salmon and steelhead populations and the many other sensitive species living in or near these streams (such as the northern spotted owl, which nests along Fish Creek).

The forested slopes in the area are nearly trackless, so most recreational use consists of kayaking, canoeing, and rafting the Eel River. The concentration of use in only one portion of the region makes English Ridge an even better refuge for numerous sensitive species like the goshawk, pine marten, Pacific fisher, northern spotted owl, Pacific giant salamander, mink, and others.

Blue Ridge Potential Wilderness

Approximate acreage: 10,750

Managing agency: BLM, Ukiah Field Office

Location: In Yolo and Napa counties approximately 50 miles west of Davis.

The BLM failed to identify the Blue Ridge region as a potential wilderness in the 1980s not because the area was damaged by development (which it was not), but because of arbitrary aesthetic criteria about the area's chaparral being too thick in some places and not thick enough in others. According to the agency, thick brush in the lower portion of the area prohibited "unconfined recreation" on the one hand, while Blue Ridge's open, rocky upper slopes allowed visitors to see the decidedly un-wilderness Central Valley. Thus, the "sights and sounds" of civilization would ruin their visit, or so the argument went.

Since then the agency has substantially changed its opinion of the area's ecological and social values. Today, the BLM praises the outstanding views of the Sierra Nevada, northern Coast Range, Central Valley, Cascades, Sacramento River Delta, and other areas one can gain from atop the ridge. With substantial community assistance, the BLM built the Blue Ridge Trail in the mid-1990s (listed as one of the "best hikes in the Golden State" by Tom Stienstra in his book *California Hiking*), and acquired a large ranch to the west which is now part of the proposed wilderness. Visitors to the proposed wilderness are impressed by the tremendous variety of birds and spring wildflowers, and by the fact that Blue Ridge offers perfect winter, spring, and fall hiking experiences when higher elevations are under snow.

Though on the rim of the Central Valley, bears, mountain lions, and bobcats prowl the ridge routinely. Blue Ridge is also one of the easiest places in the Coast Range to see golden eagles and prairie falcons, as well as an occasional bald eagle. Fiske Creek in the western portion of the area has abundant turtle and newt populations, as well as an occasional trout in winter. While most of the area is chaparral interspersed with gray pines, oak woodlands and streamside hardwood forests of bay, buckeye, and willow (among others) may also be found. Botanists flock to the area since it has never been thoroughly surveyed and may host plants unknown to science (the Blue Ridge Trail offered the first legal access into the heart of the area).

Today, it is a mystery to both the Forest Service and conservationists why the Mowitz Butte proposed wilderness was never identified in the agency's inventories. Recently, one longtime employee of the Modoc theorized that it was because the area had a few fences and troughs for cattle (as do many already protected wilderness areas). Other, unconfirmed rumors from

local residents speak of anti-conservationist pressure on the Forest Service to do a poor survey.

As a semi-arid region, the Mowitz Butte Proposed Wilderness holds many surprises for visitors because of its startling abundance of life. Rocky Mountain elk, driven out of the region decades ago, have recently recolonized the area in large numbers and joined the already ample deer and pronghorn antelope populations. These ungulates are attracted by the 11 species of grasses and 40 types of herbs found amidst the region's dominant pinyon-juniper woodland habitat. Hundreds of vernal pools of all sizes are scattered throughout the area, sheltering many plants endemic to these seasonal wetlands. In early summer, flowers garland the receding shores of these pools, frequently taking on a bullseye pattern as the flowers form bathtub rings of several different colors. These pools are filled with nesting waterfowl populations in spring. Here and there in the proposed wilderness, scattered groves of ancient conifer forest rise above the sage. This large, diverse prairie region also shelters sandhill cranes, goshawk, Swainson's hawk, prairie falcon, sage grouse, golden eagles, pinyon jays, and other interesting species.

Lost River and shortnose sucker fish, both protected under the Endangered Species Act, ply the waters of Boles Creek. Boles is only one of two streams in the Modoc National Forest found eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

because of its outstanding Native American cultural history and sensitive fish habitat.



Gordon Johnson

Willow Creek Potential Wilderness

Willow Creek Potential Wilderness


Approximate acreage: 8,500

Managing agency: Los Padres National Forest

Location: In Monterey County, 65 miles south of Monterey on Highway One, between the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness Areas.

The Willow Creek Proposed Wilderness encompasses nearly the entire drainage of the North Fork of Willow Creek, the largest creek or river on the Big Sur Coast that does not originate in an area protected as Wilderness. From an elevation of 3200 feet along the Coast Ridge, the North Fork and its tributaries wind through steep canyons of dense old growth forest on their way to the sea, some 8 miles below. The Willow Creek watershed is notable for what may be the largest forest of Douglas fir on California's central coast. Spruce Creek, a tributary of Willow Creek, contains the most extensive stands. The canyons also distinguish themselves with groves of towering redwoods that follow the creeks up the hillsides and meander through the grassy meadows found on the upper slopes.

Few trails penetrate this wild and rugged land. The Willow Creek Trail, one of the oldest in the Santa Lucia Mountains, traverses the area from east to west. From its beginning on the Coast Ridge, it provides sweeping views of the watershed and the ocean beyond. Falling away into the forest below, it winds along the main stem of Willow Creek before emerging a short distance from the ocean. Along its route, it passes near a well-preserved miner's cabin built in 1915 as well as the historic Kinder Mine.

A mosaic of vegetation types affords the area excellent wildlife habitat. The California Condor, recently re-introduced into Big Sur, may be seen gliding over the ridgetops, and endangered steelhead trout still spawn in the reaches of Willow Creek. Black bear have been observed and appear to be expanding from their southern range into the Northern Santa Lucia Mountains. 

Inventory of unprotected wilderness on schedule for completion

The spring and summer months have provided the Wildlands 2000 Campaign with an opportunity to finish conducting the citizens' inventory of the last remaining unprotected wilderness areas on federal lands in California. Under the leadership of CWC Conservation Associate Ryan Henson, Wildlands 2000 field mappers have made excellent progress toward the completion of that inventory. Ryan has continued to conduct numerous training sessions. He and his volunteers are leading many forays into the wild to map the potential wilderness areas within our national forests and BLM lands. The surveys are on schedule for completion by December of 1999.

Additionally, the education and outreach efforts of Wildlands 2000 have picked up some steam. Bill Ritter, the Wildlands 2000 Campaign Coordinator, is being ably assisted by Ryan Henson and CWC Executive Director Paul Spitler in reaching out to people and organizations interested in additional

wilderness protection for our wild lands. These efforts to date include: working with local environmentalists in rural areas where wilderness is found, and presenting the Wildlands 2000 slide show to interested groups such as local Audubon, California Native Plants Society, and Sierra Club chapters. The slide show is continually updated and improved, and now features stunning photographs submitted from all over the state.

Road trips by Bill, Paul, and Ryan are focused on getting the word out about the need for additional wilderness, and the campaign's focus of building local grassroots support. Local and regional newspapers and magazines have published numerous articles recently about the CWC's efforts and the Wildlands 2000 Campaign in particular. All of these efforts are focused on establishing a solid foundation for the Wildlands 2000 campaign in the new millennium.

WR



The CWC Attends Activist Boot Camp

In July 1999, CWC Conservation Associates Ryan Henson and Bill Ritter attended a week of organizational training by the famed Midwest Academy from Chicago, Illinois. The Midwest Academy was founded in 1973 by activists "inspired by years of organizing in the student, labor, women's, and civil right movements" wishing "to pass on lessons learned in these movements." Focused on social, economic, and political justice groups as well as environmental organizations, the academy trains groups nation-wide to be more effective in their public advocacy.

The academy hosted the training at Mills College in Oakland, California where students resided in the beautiful Julia Morgan-designed building known as the Alderwood Conference Center. The intensive five-day training was constructed as a "boot camp" for political organizers and activists wanting to improve their organizational skills. Students lived and ate together; attended day classes, evening classes and workshops together; and shared the mission of each non-profit organization that had sent them. Role-playing was key: it was impressive to see the 50 to 60 participants learn to take chaotic situations and turn them into a disciplined and therefore powerful force on behalf of the cause at hand.

Learning the methods of activist organizing will be invaluable to the Wildlands 2000 campaign's grassroots efforts throughout California and the nation.

WR



Stream and meadows in the Golden Trout Wilderness, Sequoia National Forest

sively by this company have grazed, trampled, and compacted the wet and moist meadow areas of the Whitney and Templeton grazing allotments.

The Inyo National Forest (NF) is currently seeking public scoping comments concerning a proposed action to authorize the continued grazing of these two allotments by Anheuser-Busch. Members of the public have until September 30, 1999 to express their opinions to the Inyo NF about this proposal. I strongly encourage you to participate in this process. The stakes involved in this one are very high!

The Inyo NF has developed a proposal that neither reduces nor increases the number of cows allowed to graze these allotments. To mitigate the negative effects of cattle grazing, the Inyo NF is planning to expand the use of fences and brush barricades to protect vulnerable streambanks, seeps, and springs. For a number of areas, the Inyo NF is also proposing a reduction in the amount of vegetation that the cows will be allowed to consume. While this proposal has some positive features, it is probably inadequate to promote the ecological recovery that is truly needed for this area.

What you can do!

- Write a letter to the Inyo NF and request alternatives that reduce or eliminate grazing. For example, you might request an alternative that combines mandatory rest-rotation (e.g., rest each meadow from grazing every other year) with a major cattle reduction (by 1/3 to 1/2 of the original allotment).
- Request that the proposed utilization rates for late season Templeton Meadow (non-riparian), Movie Stringer Unit, and the Freckles Unit be reduced substantially.
- Please request a detailed cost-benefit analysis. Ask for a full disclosure of the economic impacts of the different proposals on the local and regional economies. This analysis must include the economic effects of grazing-related habitat degradation on the regional fishing and

hunting economy.

- Note in your letter that the current proposal does not appear to meet the intent of the recently signed Conserva-

tion Strategy for the Volcano Creek Golden Trout: the proposed action does very little to promote recovery of fish habitat, as it aims to promote a gradual improvement of the range. Allowing any use on already damaged stream banks is unacceptable.

Please send your scoping comments to the following address by no later than September 30, 1999:

Inyo National Forest; Mt Whitney Ranger Station
ATTN: Range Management
P.O. Box 8
Lone Pine, CA 93545

For more information, contact Todd Stuart Shuman at 818-956-0207 or by email at ssstuart@lausd.k12.ca.us

Todd Stuart Shuman is a Sierra Club volunteer who has monitored grazing activities on the Inyo National Forest for the past five years.

WR

Golden Trout Wilderness Trampled by Cattle

Inyo National Forest Proposes to Authorize Continued Grazing

By TODD STUART SHUMAN

The Golden Trout Wilderness (GTW) is a very special place in the southern Sierra Nevada. Located just southeast of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (SKCNP), this designated wilderness of over 300,000 acres contains scenic river gorges, old-growth alpine forests, and some of the largest meadows in the whole Sierra Nevada.

The 193,000 acres of the GTW that lie within the Inyo National Forest contain the northern reaches of the "Wild and Scenic" South Fork of the Kern River, Mulkey Creek, and the Golden Trout Creek watershed — the last remaining habitat areas for pure strain Volcano Creek golden trout, the California State Fish.

The GTW also provides summer grazing pastures for one of the largest and most influential multinational corporations in the world: Anheuser-Busch, the brewer of Budweiser, Busch, and Michelob beers. For the last decade, cattle owned exclu-



California Wilderness Conference 2000

May 5-7, 2000

California State University Sacramento

"THESE LANDS ARE THE LAST OF THE BEST THAT WE INHERITED-ALL THERE EVER WILL BE. WE MUST ACT SOON TO PRESERVE THIS WEALTH OF WILDERNESS."

-Los Angeles Times editorial, July 19, 1999

On May 5 through 7, 2000, wilderness advocates from across California will come together in Sacramento to learn, celebrate, and take action on behalf of the last wild places in the Golden State.

The California Wilderness Coalition, along with Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Friends of the River and numerous state and local organizations, is sponsoring a California Wilderness Conference to build support for the effort to designate additional wilderness throughout California.

"This is a monumental event," said conference organizer Bob Schneider. "CWC's last wilderness conference was in 1989 — ten years ago. As we approach the new millennium, it is time for Californians to come together in support of protecting the natural legacy of the Golden State."

The California Wilderness Coalition held statewide wilderness conferences in 1985 and 1989. At the 1985 conference, Senator Alan Cranston announced his intention to introduce the California Desert Protection Act. In May, 2000, CWC will unveil plans to gain permanent protection for millions of acres of additional California wilderness.

Conference highlights will include:

- Presentations by Wildlands Project founder David Foreman, one of America's leading spokespersons for wilderness protection, and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder.
- Honoring wilderness elders, such as David Brower, Martin Litton, Norman "Ike" Livermore, Ed and Peggy Wayburn, Harriet Allen and others.
- Discussions with members of the faith community, Native American leaders, scientists, horse packers, and urban parks advocates about the importance of wilderness and open spaces.

The gathering will include activists, scientists, artists and policy-makers. Panelists and workshops will assess the current state of California's publicly owned wildlands and discuss strategies for land conservation. We will discuss grassroots organizing, learn about current land management issues, hear from scientific experts, and develop strategies for building the base of support for wilderness. The importance of Wild and Scenic rivers will also be a key theme throughout the conference.

The conference is co-sponsored and supported by a myriad of organizations including the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the River, Mt. Lion Foundation, Planning and Conservation League, Ventana Wilderness Alliance, Trust for Public Lands, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Natural Heritage Institute, Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, California Oak Foundation, Hidden Lakes Sierra Education Center, Environmental Defense Fund, and Ecology Center of Southern California.

Get Involved!

Coalition member groups will showcase their successes and everyone will be able to learn new strategies to protect your favorite wilderness areas.

Set the date, May 5-7, 2000. You want to be there! Be sure that your organization is represented.

Registration will begin in January 2000. To give feedback and get involved now, please contact conference coordinator:

Bob Schneider
Verve Enterprises/CWC
530-304-6215
verve@dcn.davis.ca.us

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BLM weakens wilderness study area protection

The Washington office of the BLM has changed its policy governing the management of wilderness study areas (WSA). WSAs are regions given some degree of protection while Congress decides whether or not to designate them as wilderness. Some fairly well known examples in California include the King Range, Otay Mountain, and Bodie WSAs.

The changes are primarily a response to the requests of various state fish and wildlife agencies to increase populations of huntable species — native and non-native alike. Since these agencies derive much of their income from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and other permits, they often manipulate habitat, artificially increase populations, and transplant native and non-native species to new areas to expand hunting opportunities and agency funding. This has led to ecological harm in many instances, such as in the introduction of non-native fish to naturally fishless lakes. The worst of these activities have been condemned as "game farming" by state wildlife agency critics. However, in some cases these activities have helped promote the recovery of native species like California's endemic tule elk, and have also helped to provide food, water, and other essential habitat elements in places where humans have destroyed natural sources of sustenance.

Much of the controversy stems from the fact that under federal law, the Forest Service and BLM manage wildlife habitat, but state fish and wildlife departments manage the physical bodies of animals and fish. In other words,

The Activist Files: Gordon Johnson

CWC staff have the pleasure of working with lots of grassroots activists from around the state. This feature is an ongoing effort to highlight these activists and their accomplishments so that they get some of the recognition they deserve. This issue, we focus on computer consultant Gordon Johnson of Redding, California. Though he lives in California's far north, his heart is in the Big Sur Coast region, especially the northern Los Padres National Forest.

How did you get involved in the conservation movement?

I've been involved on the periphery for years, kind of like a lone wolf. I really made the plunge when I attended the CWC's Adopt a Wilderness training in Redding. After that, I helped form the Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) along with Boon Hughey and Steve Chambers. The VWA's mission is to protect and expand wilderness in the northern Santa Lucia Mountains.

Why is wilderness important to you?

I've always been around wild places. My dad was a logger and we lived way out in the Oregon woods. We had salmon in the local streams and bear tracks in the driveway every morning. I got hooked on to this kind of wildness early on. I couldn't imagine a world without it.

After I graduated from high school I moved to California's

fish and wildlife are legally the "property" of the state governments. This has led to many conflicts between the federal and state governments over animal cruelty issues and other concerns. For example, tensions flared when the Forest Service tried to ban "bear baiting," the hunting tactic of leaving buckets of food out in the woods, getting bears used to coming to the buckets, and then ambushing and killing the unsuspecting bears. This practice remains legal in many states, but the Forest Service was able to prohibit it in our national forests by arguing that the food buckets were rotting, noxious sources of litter and that the hunters rarely cleaned up after themselves.

In order to facilitate the work of state fish and wildlife agencies, the WSA management policy changes allow for the introduction of native and non-native species and for the construction of artificial water sources, fences, and other structures. State agencies now also have increased motorized access to WSAs in order to help manage wildlife and fish populations. These activities are now allowed because the new regulations define anything that is good for wildlife as inherently good for wilderness, even in the case of introducing non-native species and using off-road vehicles. Already, the Nevada Division of Wildlife plans to introduce wild turkeys (a non-native species in the west) into southern Nevada's Clover Mountains WSA.

Stay tuned to the *Wilderness Record* for occasional updates on how this policy is affecting WSAs.



Big Sur Coast. There, I fell in love with the Ventana Primitive Area, now called the Ventana Wilderness. I hiked almost all of the trails in the area. It's a "four season" wilderness you can visit any time of the year. It's got everything from redwoods to sunbaked brushfields. I loved its diversity from the first time I visited it.

I loved the idea of having such a wild place 20 minutes from my house. If people are exposed to wilderness, they usually grow to appreciate it. Wilderness is

important because these areas are remnants of primeval nature. We must have an opportunity to see how things once were. Such lands are a benchmark by which we can judge society's progress—or lack thereof.

What areas would you especially like to see protected as wilderness in California?

Trinity Alps Proposed Wilderness Additions [Editor's note: In the Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, and Six Rivers national forests], Willow Creek Proposed Wilderness [in the Los Padres National Forest], and Carson-Iceberg Proposed Wilderness Additions [in the Humboldt-Toiyabe and Stanislaus national forests].

Since you became more active, what type of conservation work do you feel has had the most impact?

Working with Boon Hughey, the webmaster of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance web site, we have used the Internet, including mail lists and the online Ventana Wilderness Watch newsletter, to keep our membership informed on Wilderness issues. We have gained at least 60 dues-paying members from all over the state due to the web site! We're astounded by the results. Now I think every wilderness area should have a website and I'm interested in working on that at some point. The VWA's web site is at <http://www.ventanawild.org>.

I'm currently coordinating the Wildlands 2000 surveys for the northern Los Padres National Forest and nearby BLM holdings. Discovering some of the hidden gems that are out there, such as Willow Creek [see proposed wilderness profile in this issue] has been a really rewarding experience.

What are your future activist goals?

Once we get more wilderness, I'd like to get more involved in wilderness management issues so that we can protect and preserve what we have. As more people discover wilderness, maintaining its pristine qualities will be more important than ever.

If you would like to volunteer for the Wildlands 2000 campaign, please call Ryan Henson at 530-474-4808, or e-mail him at ryan@calwild.org.

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CWC in the news

The *Los Angeles Times* recently editorialized on the importance of CWC's work, and the need to protect California's last wild places. The editorial, entitled "Value of 'Plain' Wilderness," praises our Wildlands 2000 campaign, "a mammoth effort to catalog the best of the state's unprotected wildlands." The *Times* concludes: "These lands are the last of the best that we inherited—all there ever will be. We must act soon to preserve this wealth of wildness." We couldn't agree more.

The *San Bernardino County Sun* published a front page story on CWC's Wildlands 2000 campaign. The article states that "wilderness areas in the San Bernardino National Forest could expand by up to a quarter million acres" under CWC's proposal. With millions of new residents expected in southern California in the years to come, the designation of additional SoCal wilderness could not come soon enough.

Farewell to a hero

Wendy Cohen, CWC's longest serving Board member, resigned in July, after over 21 years of service. Wendy's guidance and management skills have helped keep the Coalition in business for the past two decades. As well as serving on the Board, Wendy was also CWC's treasurer and volunteer bookkeeper. After her retirement, the Board gave Wendy an honorary certificate, naming her "Treasurer for Life." Her wisdom, commitment, and passion for wilderness preservation will be sorely missed.

Coalition loses two star employees

CWC is losing two important employees. Both Rich Hunter, coordinator for the California Wildlands Project, and Herb Walker, *Wilderness Record* editor, have decided to leave the Davis area and move on from the CWC.

Rich Hunter has coordinated the California Wildlands



CWC welcomes Chris Erichsen

CWC recently hired Chris Erichsen as our new California Wildlands Project coordinator. Chris comes to us after working as a preserve steward for the Nature Conservancy's Forked River Mountain Preserve in the New Jersey Pinelands. Chris has also studied population dynamics of the American kestrel with Raptors Unlimited in Davis, and has extensive field experience. He has a BA in Biological Conservation from Prescott College.

Chris's science background and experience in completing the Prescott GreenMap provide him with excellent qualifications for the California Wildlands Project. His first project will be to organize a scientific workshop to identify priority wildlife habitat and critical migration corridors in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Welcome aboard, Chris!

Welcome Laura Kindsvater

CWC welcomes our newest employee, Laura Kindsvater. Laura is the new editor of the *Wilderness Record*. Laura is no stranger to CWC. She started volunteering for the Coalition in



1997. In 1998, after spending several volunteer weekends in the field surveying potential wilderness areas in the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, we hired Laura to continue her field surveys in the Eldorado National Forest. Finally, this summer, we again hired Laura to complete field surveys of potential wilderness areas in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests.

While working here half time, she'll also be completing a Masters degree in plant biogeography. "There is nothing more important to me than the preservation of California's plants, animals, and wildlands, and it will be great to work for a group that is so passionately committed to preserving our last remaining wilderness areas," Laura said. Laura's passion, dedication, and creativity will be welcome additions to the CWC team.

Project (CWP) since January, 1998, and has taken the program to new heights. Rich oversaw several statewide meetings for CWP participants, acquired important data that is essential to the success of the program, helped found the Ventana Wildlands Project, and hosted the successful science workshop in southern California. In an effort to live closer to the mountains and forests he has worked so passionately to protect, Rich is moving to the Sonoma hills.

Herb Walker has been editor of the *Wilderness Record* since April, 1996. He has not only successfully produced dozens of *Wilderness Records*, but also designed the new, quarterly format of the *Record*. Herb also produced the lengthy *California's Vanishing Forests* report, as well as countless action alerts, fact sheets, maps and graphics. His artistic skill will be sorely missed. Herb too is seeking a break after 14 years of surviving the Central Valley heat, and is moving to the scenic Santa Cruz mountains.

Grazing and wilderness

At its August 4 meeting, the CWC Board of Directors issued a new policy on grazing within wilderness areas. The policy reads: "The California Wilderness Coalition opposes grazing within wilderness areas where grazing is causing adverse environmental or social impacts."

We believe that this policy is consistent with the spirit of the Wilderness Act, which directs land management agencies to manage each wilderness area "to preserve its wilderness character" and states that wilderness areas "shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, or historic use."

Help for the needy

The CWC staff would like to thank Christy Tronoff for her volunteer work. For much of July and August, Christy has graciously donated her time to help out in our office. We really appreciate her assistance and positive attitude.

Otay Mountain Wilderness?

The Otay Mountain Wilderness Act passed the House of Representatives, and awaits action in the Senate. The bill, H.R. 15, would create an 18,000-acre wilderness area along the U.S.-Mexico border fifteen miles east of San Diego.

Otay Mountain is one of the last undeveloped parcels in San Diego County. The region is renowned for its unique assemblages of rare and endemic plants, and is home to an outstanding stand of rare Tecate cypress. Otay also provides excellent opportunities for hiking and hunting and is a popular weekend destination.

Wilderness Loses a Champion

Congressman George Brown Jr., an eighteen term veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives, died from complications following heart surgery in late July.

Congressman Brown was a strong champion of environmental protection, and was a proponent of the 1984 California Wilderness Act and 1994 California Desert Protection Act. Most recently, Congressman Brown was championing H.R. 2077, the Sequoia Preservation Act, which would reverse decades of mismanagement within the Sequoia National Forest, and create hundreds of thousands of additional acres of wilderness.

Congressman Brown is survived by his wife, Marta, who has announced her intention to run for his open congressional seat. We will miss the Congressman's charisma, passion, and dedication, and wish Marta the best in carrying out his legacy.

Utah Wilderness Gains a Friend

Senator Dianne Feinstein became the latest supporter of Utah wilderness this July, when she agreed to co-sponsor the Utah Wilderness Coalition's Redrock Wilderness Act, S. 861. Senator Feinstein joins Senator Barbara Boxer and a dozen other co-sponsors as supporters of the effort to protect nine million acres of pristine Utah wilderness.

Mono County Delays Vote on Wilderness

The Mono County Board of Supervisors is poised to adopt a resolution to "release" eighteen potential wilderness areas in the eastern Sierra, including such jewels as the Bodie Hills, Granite Mountain, and the Volcanic Tablelands. The Supervisors debated the issue at their August 10 meeting in Bridgeport, and decided to table the resolution until a hearing could be held in Mammoth Lakes.

Each of the areas was identified by the Bureau of Land Management as potential wilderness, and thus each one must be managed to retain its natural character until Congress can make a final determination as to its wilderness status. Congress can choose to either designate the areas as wilderness, or "release" them to multiple uses, including increased off-road vehicle use.

The vote of the Supervisors is advisory only, since Congress alone can decide the fate of these lands. However, a vote adopting the resolution would send the wrong message to Congressional leaders, who will eventually decide how California's last remaining unprotected wildlands will be managed.

In nearly deciding to oppose wilderness for these areas, the Board disregarded the pro-wilderness sentiments expressed by Mono County residents who packed the Supervisor's meeting. Pro-wilderness speakers at the meeting outnumbered anti-

wilderness speakers by a three to one margin.

The Board also chose to ignore the huge positive social, environmental, and economic impacts that wilderness designation would have for the areas within Mono County. Instead the Board aligned itself with a small but vocal band of wilderness opponents, led by the pro-resource extraction group, People for the West.

Mining in Bodie potential wilderness?

Several months ago, the Bureau of Land Management decided that the Paramount Mining Corporation did not have "grandfathered rights" to conduct mining operations within the Bodie potential wilderness area (see Summer, 1999 *Wilderness Record*). If approved, the mining could seriously impact the wilderness character of the Bodie area. Under the BLM's ruling, Paramount could still conduct exploratory mining within the proposed wilderness, but would have to do so without degrading the wilderness values of the area.

In an effort to conduct more widespread mining, Paramount recently appealed the BLM's decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. A group of organizations, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Inyo, Wilderness Society and CWC, is petitioning to intervene in the appeal on behalf of the BLM. No decision has been made on the appeal or request to intervene.

Judge rules against Forest Service and BLM

In 1998, a coalition of 14 environmental organizations (including CWC) from California, Oregon, and Washington, sued the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for their failure to adequately implement the President's Northwest Forest Plan. A preliminary ruling in the suit supports our claim that the plan is being routinely ignored by the federal agencies charged with its implementation.

The suit alleges that the Forest Service and BLM failed to conduct surveys for 77 rare and sensitive species prior to logging, as required by the President's plan. The surveys are an important safeguard for imperiled species about which little information is known. Many of the species depend on old growth forests for their survival, and thus the suit indirectly challenges the continued cutting of our last ancient forests.

The ruling, by Judge William Dwyer, halts nine timber sales in Oregon, Washington, and northern California. One California sale was halted, the Beegum project, which would have logged healthy old growth forest adjacent to a potential wilderness area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forests. The nine sales were widely viewed as test cases, and over 150 other, similar projects—including many that would cut within ancient forests and unprotected wilderness areas—could also be halted.

Conservation blueprint funded

At the urging of the California Wilderness Coalition and others, the State of California will soon begin work on a statewide conservation blueprint. The purpose of the blueprint is to identify priority wildlife habitat areas throughout California, and develop a set of policy and funding recommendations for protecting those important areas.

Through this important project, the State will work with conservation organizations, farming and ranching interests, local governments, and others to develop policy and funding recommendations for protecting California's natural and working landscapes. As this project closely mirrors our California Wildlands Project, and provides an excellent opportunity to protect critical California habitat, CWC will continue to play a leadership role in the effort.

WR

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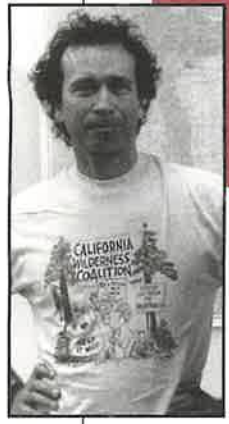


Coalition Member Groups

American Lands Alliance; Washington, D.C.
Animal Protection Institute; Sacramento
Ancient Forest International; Redway
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles
Backcountry Horsemen of CA; Springville
Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland
Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; San Francisco
Big Bear Group, Sierra Club; Big Bear Lake
California Alpine Club; San Francisco
California League of Conservation Voters; Oakland
California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln
California Native Plant Society; Sacramento
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation; Georgetown
Citizens for Better Forestry; Hayfork
Citizens for Mojave National Park; Barstow
Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes; Nipomo
Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno
Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs
Desert Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego
Desert Survivors; Oakland
Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund; San Francisco
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop
Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; L.A.
El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach
Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland
Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy
Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena
Friends of the Inyo; Lee Vining
Friends of the River; Sacramento
Fund for Animals; San Francisco
Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley

Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Salt Lake City, UT
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Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia
Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai
Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern River Valley Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield
Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna
League to Save Lake Tahoe; South Lake Tahoe
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Nordic Voice; Livermore
Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata
People for Nipomo Dunes Nat'l. Seashore; Nipomo
Placer County Cons. Task Force; Newcastle
Planning & Conservation League; Sacramento

Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club;
Mammoth Lakes
Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa
The Red Mountain Association; Leggett
Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco
Sacramento Audubon Society; Sacramento
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San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; Van Nuys
Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE); Modesto
Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville
Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley
Seventh Generation Fund; Arcata
Sierra Club California; San Francisco
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
Southwest Center for Biological Diversity; Tucson, AZ
Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia
Tule River Conservancy; Porterville
U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society; Davis
Ventana Wilderness Alliance; Santa Cruz
Western States Endurance Run; San Francisco
The Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO
The Wilderness Society; San Francisco
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding
Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis
Yolo Audubon Society; Davis



T-shirts For Sale
Support and advertise your cause

1. (Left) Animal design in beige or gray: \$12.00
2. (Center) Logo design in jade, ivory or gray: \$15.00
Children's sizes come in yellow, light pick or white.
3. (Right) Landscape design in jade, (small only), fuchsia, light blue (small only), or pale green: \$15.00

ORDER FORM

1. Animal design
2. Logo design
3. Landscape design

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

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____
Total _____

Shipping: (\$2.00 + .75 for each additional shirt)

Correction

The Summer *Wilderness Record* contained an excellent article on the efforts to protect the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. The article was written by Sally Miller, and was printed without attribution. CWC regrets the error.
Due to a computer error, the photo on page 15 of the Summer *Wilderness Record* is incorrectly identified. This photograph is not of the Snow Mountain Wilderness.



**California Wilderness Coalition
Autumn Fundraiser**

Join
Senator Alan Cranston
Jim Eaton
Dave Foreman
Michael Soule
Dr. Ed Wayburn
Terry Tempest Williams

IN HONORING THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Thursday, September 30, 1999
at the art gallery, 3220 Sacramento, San Francisco

Reception
7:00-9:00 p.m.

WILDLANDS 2000:
NEW WILDERNESS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY DAVID ROBERTSON
NOTED AUTHOR, PHOTOGRAPHER AND PROFESSOR OF
LITERATURE OF THE WILDERNESS.

**Upcoming Wildlands 2000
presentations and field tours**

The CWC will be hosting a series of slideshows and wilderness tours around the state to generate support for Wildlands 2000. For specific dates, locations, and times, please contact Ryan Henson at 530-474-4808 or by e-mail at ryan@calwild.org.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| September: | October: |
| Garberville | Susanville |
| Mount Shasta | Ukiah/Willits |
| Eureka/Arcata | Trinity County |
| Chico | Alturas |
| Redding | Willows/Corning |
| Lake County | |

Membership



Wildland Advocates is the most significant opportunity to participate in the protection of California wildlands since the California Wilderness Act of 1984 and the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. As we enter the next century, we must undertake a stronger, smarter, renewed effort to protect those wild places that are still threatened by logging, mining and road building. Wildland Advocates giving levels begin at \$250 annually. A contribution of \$21 dollars a month on your credit card will get you started!

We appreciate your renewed commitment to California wildlands. For additional information on how you can help, please contact Bob Schneider at (530) 758-0380.

Help protect wilderness with a gift membership to the California Wilderness Coalition

Gifts to friends are treasures that bring joy to our lives. We can multiply that joy knowing we are also helping to protect California wilderness.

Each new membership adds to the grassroots strength that CWC needs to protect the last wild places in California. Gift memberships are a great idea for every occasion including: baby showers, birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, housewarming, retirement and promotions, graduation, and just as a surprise "Thank You."

Use this membership form and add "Gift from" with your name and the occasion you're celebrating with the new member. We'll send you a confirmation of the membership and a gift acknowledgment to your friend.

Introduce people you know to wilderness by giving them a membership in the CWC. As with the Bristlecone Pines, your wilderness gift will last 4,000 years and more!

Board of Directors

Joan Reinhardt Reiss, *President*

Trent Orr, *Vice President*

Don Morrill, *Treasurer*

Mary Scoonover, *Secretary*

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Photograph courtesy of Galen Rowell, Mountain Light Photography.

This Bristlecone Pine forest in the White Mountains potential wilderness area has existed for over 4000 years. With care and stewardship our children and their children will continue to enjoy their company.

Your Bequest will protect our **Wilderness Heritage**. You make a lasting contribution to our wildlands with a bequest to the California Wilderness Coalition in your will. Here's an example of language you might use in making a bequest:

"... to the California Wilderness Coalition, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State California with current address of 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA for its general purposes."

For further information on giving please call (530) 758-0380 and ask for Bob Schneider.

Wildland Advocates

Thank you to our donors for your generous support for wilderness

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 Anne Schneider
 Ted and Jennifer Stanley

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Yes, I want to join the California Wilderness Coalition and help protect the last of wild California from logging, mining, ORVs and other destructive uses.

- 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.
 I would like to pledge \$ _____ per month.

Method of payment:

- Check enclosed
 Bill my VISA; MC; AMEX

Credit card number _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Gift from: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- \$500 Wilderness Defender \$50 Sustaining
 \$250 Wilderness Supporter \$25 Individual
 \$100 Benefactor \$10 Low-income

Membership includes:

- 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.

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

f/99/wr



The Wildlands 2000 campaign has a special focus on lower elevation areas. This is an opportunity to broaden the diversity of plant community types protected as wilderness.

Susan Nolan photographed these plants growing in the Beegum Potential Wilderness (Shasta-Trinity National Forests).

Top left: mock orange, top right: fir forest; bottom right: bracken fern; bottom left: bear grass.



California Wilderness Coalition
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