

WILDERNESS RECORD

California Wilderness Coalition

*A Voice
for Wild
California*



Anniversary
25
1976-2001

Winter 2001

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Issue 1



Jim Rose

Will the Grouse Lakes potential wilderness be logged? Or, will President Clinton's roadless area policy be enough to protect this area? For related stories, see pages 3 and 7.

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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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D I R E C T O R ' S R E P O R T

The silver lining

Don't Mourn. Organize.

—Pro-labor bumper sticker



The results of this year's election will certainly offer conservationists a reason to pause. On the surface, we appear to be heading into dire times. As we go to press, George Bush appears to be headed for the White House, where he will, for the first time in 50 years, head a Republican administration joined by a Republican Congress.

Will the wheels come off for conservationists? Will our pro-active wilderness advocacy efforts grind to a halt as we are forced to respond to the sure-to-come attacks of an anti-environmental Congress?

With much of our hope for wild California resting on the passage of a federal wilderness bill, the new anti-environmental Congress and administration are poised to send our efforts into a tailspin.

The silver lining behind this otherwise dark cloud is the fact that, despite the adversity in front of us, we will succeed in preserving California's heritage. We have been provided a golden opportunity to take our message directly to the American people. In short, we have to organize.

Many of you remember the years 1995 and 1996—in many ways, those were dire times as well. Congress had just temporarily suspended all laws in our national forests related to "salvage" logging. All of our usual tools to prevent harmful logging projects were eliminated. No more appeals. No more lawsuits. Our forests were defenseless.

We were forced to take our appeals to the court of public opinion. And what an awakening for the environmental movement! Conservationists that once walked timber sales were forced to go public and reach out to fellow citizens. We began working with the media, elected officials, and other opinion leaders, on an unprecedented level.

What was the result of this phenomenal effort? In California, despite an aggressive effort by the U.S. Forest Service, fewer trees were actually cut under the "salvage logging rider" than in ensuing years. The court of public opinion gave a friendly verdict, and we won hands down. And we learned even better the power of organizing.

In many ways, it was a blessing in disguise for the environmental movement.

Wilderness advocates have long known the power of organizing. Many an unprotected wilderness area has been saved due to the dogged efforts of local citizens acting solely out of their love for the land. Legislative protection can become a formality for areas where the level of support is so overwhelming that land managers don't dare threaten the integrity of a locally favorite place.

So whether we are organizing local wilderness supporters to attend a hearing on a wilderness bill, or turn out letters to defeat another shortsighted land management proposal (How many times will the Forest Service attempt to log within the Trinity Alps additions?), the level of support we can generate will be the difference between success and failure.

Yes, the new Congress and administration may well attack our favorite places. We will succeed in saving those places, not because we have the sharpest attorneys, or the most well-funded campaigns, but because we have tapped into the love that individuals feel for their backyard wilderness. And as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and David Brower have shown, love is a very powerful thing.

We will prevail, as we have in the past, because we will have captured the imagination of the American people. But we cannot succeed, unless we organize.

Clinton's roadless area policy: too good to last?

by Ryan Henson

On November 13, 2000, the Forest Service finalized a proposal to provide a significant level of protection for roadless areas in our national forests. This historic step is the culmination of thirteen months of work by an agency that has all too often occupied itself with destroying roadless wild lands. What accounts for this change of heart?

President Clinton proposed in 1999 to "protect priceless, back-country lands" in our national forests. Specifically, the President directed Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck to prepare a plan to protect our remaining national forest roadless areas. The extent of this protection was left up to the Forest Service to decide after the agency sought input from the public and completed an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The Forest Service's draft EIS failed to live up to President Clinton's vision of protecting priceless wild lands. The draft plan proposed to prohibit new road construction in roadless areas, but to allow logging, mining, off-road vehicle use, and a long list of other activities that could destroy roadless areas over time.

The draft plan also exempted Alaska's vast Tongass National Forest from the policy, ostensibly because the forest had just completed a local management plan that adequately dealt with roadless concerns.

Nationwide, 23,000 people attended 445 public meetings hosted by the Forest Service, and citizens wrote over 1.5 million letters and postcards in response to the draft plan. The vast majority of people contacting the agency demanded that the draft EIS be changed to provide stronger protection for all of our nation's roadless areas.

Secretary of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who oversees the Forest Service, praised both the public and the agency: "Never before have the Ameri-



Ryan Henson

The Skeleton Glade roadless area in the Mendocino National Forest, which is a potential addition to the Snow Mountain Wilderness.

can people so actively participated in helping to decide how their public lands should be managed. The fact that more than 1.5 million comments were received from Americans shows that these truly are all of the people's lands, not just a few, and they care deeply about how they are cared for."

The Forest Service responded to the unprecedented public outcry by proposing in its next draft of the plan to prohibit conventional logging and road construction in roadless areas. This next draft is termed a "final environmental impact statement" (FEIS), but it is still subject to an additional public comment period and review by the Forest Service. The FEIS also broadened the roadless area policy by planning to apply it to the Tongass National Forest, though not until 2004.

Unfortunately, the FEIS contains some loopholes that will almost certainly threaten roadless areas with development in the future. Off-road vehicle use, mining, and "salvage" logging (the cutting of supposedly dead, dying, or diseased trees) will still be

allowed in roadless areas not already protected by more stringent, local rules.

Despite these compromises (which the conservation community is still working to change), the FEIS is a truly historic document that will make it harder than ever before to destroy these wild areas.

The question in the short-term is whether the Forest Service will close some or all of the development loopholes noted above. However, the long-term question is what will the next president do? The two major-party candidates have expressed radically different views of the draft policy, with Gore promising to strengthen it, and Bush promising to eliminate it entirely. This uncertainty, coupled with the loopholes in the FEIS, make the conservation movement's efforts to protect national forest roadless areas as legally designated Wilderness more important than ever.

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

Off-road vehicles: On the road to reform?

by Karen Schambach

For almost 30 years, California's Off-Highway Vehicle Division has been under the control of off-road interests. They made certain that the millions of dollars in state gas taxes transferred each year to the Division were spent to expand off-road opportunities. The needs of traditional recreationists, rural residents, fish and wildlife, and watersheds were sacrificed to the insatiable appetite of motorized recreationists for more and more areas and trails on which to operate their damaging machines. Now there are hopeful signs of a philosophical shift at the OHV Division, and a more balanced approach towards managing the state's dirt bikes, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and other vehicles used off-road on California's public lands.

Most off-road vehicle (ORV) use

in California takes place on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. These federal agencies have historically relied heavily on funding from the state of California, specifically the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division. In the past, the state's Off-Highway Vehicle Division has granted money to the federal government mainly for development of more off-road vehicle "opportunities," ignoring the need for conservation projects, law enforcement and resource protection or repair.

Hikers, equestrians, and cross-country skiers, as well as wildlife protection organizations and rural residents, have argued for years that the OHV Division's funding program did not carry out the original intent of the enabling legislation, the Chappie Z'berg Act of 1971, which was intended to address conflicts



Jim Rose

and the potential for resource damage from ORV use.

There are hopeful signs of change in Sacramento. In August of 1999, a coalition of conservation organizations, including the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation (CSNC), California Wilderness Coalition (CWC), Friends of the River (FOR), Sierra Club California, Friends of Hope Valley, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), published a highly critical report on the state's OHV Division. The report, "California Off-Highway Vehicles: In the Money and Out of Control," challenged the program's gas tax funding allocations, the lack of environmental review, and the millions of dollars of state funding that were being allocated to resource-damaging projects on federal land.

In 1998, the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation asked the state of California's Office of Administration (OAL) to review the OHV



Jim Rose

Thousands of off-road vehicles annually traverse the Sierra crest by way of the Rubicon Trail, which has become up to 80 feet wide and is impacting the water quality of Lake Tahoe.



Off-road vehicle riders trespassed in the North Algodones Wilderness over the Thanksgiving holiday. The trespassing is a recurring problem that overwhelms BLM's law enforcement capabilities and threatens the health of wildlife and plants living in the Wilderness.

Division's procedures for allocating state funds to off-road vehicle projects. OAL found that the OHV Division was illegally closed to public scrutiny, and ordered the Division to adopt legal regulations allowing public participation.

The Division continued to process grants without any moves to comply with OAL's order, and conservationists threatened to sue. The Division then adopted "emergency regulations," again dodging public scrutiny or comment on their funding allocations.

So CSNC, CWC, FOR and PEER sued the Department of Parks and Recreation and its OHV Division. The subsequent settlement agree-

ment prohibited—until lawful regulations were adopted—further grants for OHV acquisition or development projects, encouraged law enforcement and conservation projects, and required the inclusion of soil protection and wildlife standards for all operation and maintenance grants.

This past September, the state adopted regulations that had been subject to extensive public review and comment. As a result, the OHV Division's grant program now requires the BLM and Forest Service to seek public comment on their grants, to protect soils from erosion, and to develop habitat protection plans. This has those federal agencies in turmoil. The Forest Service, in particular, insists it can not comply and claims that it is exempt from the regulations.

The Forest Service's own regulations have mandated, since the early 1970s, that the agency designate ORV routes and areas only where they do not impact wildlife, watersheds, other recreationists or rural residents. Still, the Forest Service insists it is neither able to analyze its existing routes, nor to monitor impacts of those routes. However, Forest Service staff insist that they must have the state money, or the environmental impacts will be unspeakable.

So far, the state is holding firm, despite the resistance of federal land managers, and the anger of the off-road community. This is due in part to fear of additional lawsuits from conservationists. But there are also intelligent new faces on the OHV Commission (including CWC Executive Director Paul Spitler and conservationist Judy Anderson), and a new Director at the OHV Division.

Dave Widell was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to head the OHV Division last year. While

Widell is sympathetic to off-road interests, he appears determined that under his watch the Division will comply with the law.

The legislation that created the OHV Division will sunset in 2003. The stinging report produced by the conservation community has many people hoping a re-authorized program will bring additional reform. Widell has created an OHV stakeholders group, a large collection of people who represent the various groups with an interest in the management of off-road recreation.

Widell's goal is to come up with new legislation that will allow the state to continue to fund off-road recreation, while protecting resources and the rights of other recreationists. It's an ambitious plan and has about as much chance of success as the Mideast peace talks. But people are talking with one another, and realizing that the faces behind conflicting interests are fellow human beings, even if the off-roaders and the conservationists still view each other as pitifully misinformed.

The population of California is expected to double in the next 40 years, and sales of off-road machines are booming. Until Californians experience the inevitable realization that soil conservation, air quality, clean water, healthy fish and wildlife populations, and our own physical health, all require less damaging forms of recreation, we're probably stuck with dirt bikes and ATVs. The challenge is to figure out how and where to contain them.

Karen Schambach is an environmental consultant who lives in the Sierra Nevada foothills and has 15 years of experience in off-road issues. She is the founder and President of the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and California Coordinator for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

Missing Linkages Conference successfully maps habitat linkages throughout state

by Chris Erichsen

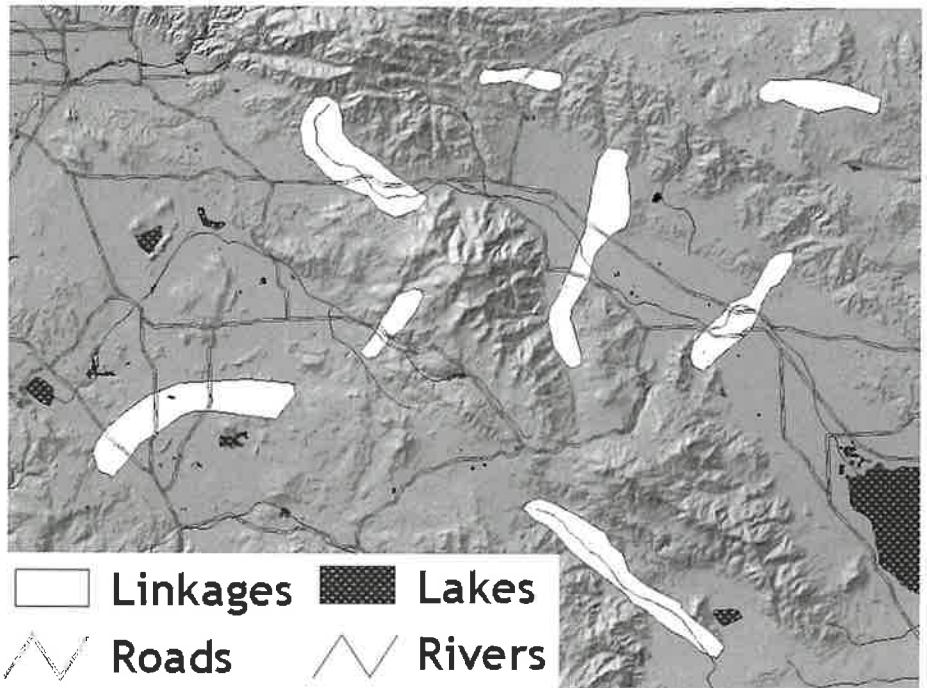
More than 160 leading scientists from across the state attended the Missing Linkages conference November 2nd at the San Diego Zoo. The purpose of the conference was to bring together experts who had extensive, on-the-ground familiarity with habitat corridors and capture their localized knowledge. The event was initiated by the California Wilderness Coalition, co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, and hosted by the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo.

A phenomenal mixture of agency staff, conservationists, and university researchers attended the conference. Staff from Caltrans, the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resource Division, the California Wilderness Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy joined researchers from the University of California in contributing their unique perspectives.

The most significant statewide event on habitat linkages in California in the past decade, the event has heightened public awareness of the need for protecting and restoring wildlife corridors and connectivity.

Coal Canyon: a habitat linkage is preserved

Staff of California's Resource Management Division have coordinated the purchase of 649 acres of land that links the Cleveland National Forest and Chino Hills State Park in southern California. The land will be restored to provide a migration corridor for mountain lion, mule deer, coyote, bobcat, badgers and other animals. It is the first acquisition the state has made solely for purposes of habitat connectivity.



Scientists drew important linkages similar to these on the conference maps

Recognizing the abundant, but disjointed knowledge on corridors and habitat linkages in California, the one-day event was instrumental in coalescing this knowledge onto standardized maps.

The gathering began with speeches by conservation biologist Michael Soulé, mountain lion biologist Paul Beier, and UC San Diego researcher Kevin Crooks. Two mapping sessions followed. The mapping sessions were divided by ecological region. For example, San Joaquin kit fox biologists contributed information on linkages in the Central Valley region. In many cases though, participants discovered linkages between

these ecological regions, especially for large populations of mobile wildlife such as antelope or mountain lion. Scientists provided thorough annotation for every linkage drawn, including the author, target wildlife species, threats to the linkage, and a confidence score. This information will be very valuable in interpreting the maps.

In the coming weeks, the hand-drawn results of the mapping workshops will be computerized and distributed to workshop participants. Further mapping may be necessary for some regions, especially those for which there was low representation at the workshop.

The California Wilderness Coalition would like to thank Kristeen Penrod and Juliet Christian-Smith for coordinating the conference, and all the participants, who made the event a huge success.

Chris Erichsen is Coordinator of the California Wildlands Project.

Forest Service tries to protect the high Sierra

by Ryan Henson

The Forest Service has issued a proposed plan describing how it will prevent the high Sierra wilderness areas in the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia national forests from being "loved to death." Though this 841,000-acre region is already set aside as wilderness, the Forest Service and many members of the public fear that the high Sierra may be damaged by too much recreation unless steps are taken now to properly manage the region.

The "Management Direction for the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes, and Monarch Wildernesses" plan addresses use quotas for trails, where to allow new trail construction, where campfires should be allowed, and other mitigations designed to prevent hikers and equestrians from scarring the land.

The Forest Service's management plan is also meant to strike a balance between the needs of commercial backcountry outfitters who take people into the wilderness areas for a fee, and those of non-commercial hikers and equestrians. These parties have fought at times over how quotas are filled and other camping regulations.

The Forest Service has worked hard to please many types of wilderness visitors without compromising the ecological integrity of the areas. While pleasing everyone and protecting the land is an almost impossible task, the proposed plan has many outstanding elements that should significantly improve the way these wilderness areas are managed. Conservationists have requested that the Forest Service combine the best elements of each of the alternatives presented in the plan into a new, improved version.

One improvement suggested was that the Forest Service should drop any zoning schemes for the wilderness areas and replace them with measurable standards it can apply to prevent overuse. Under some of the alternatives, the Forest Service had proposed that the areas be divided into zones based on current and expected use. This proposal could lead to damage in some areas if they are currently pristine but are put in a zone that allows heavy use.

Some conservationists asked that existing quotas be maintained at their current levels, and that new quotas be

established for trails that do not currently have quotas if monitoring indicates they are necessary. Also, some people requested that these quotas be adjusted over time if necessary based on monitoring. Lastly, some requested that no year-round quotas be established.

To reduce the impacts of recreation on wilderness, many asked the Forest Service to ban campfires above 10,000 feet where wood is scarce, to set group limits for off-trail travel at a maximum of 8 people and 8 stock animals per group, and to prohibit camping within 100 feet of streams and lakes.

Another improvement that hopefully will be included in the final version of the plan involves fire policy in high Sierra wilderness. It is important that fire be re-introduced into the wilderness using both lightning-caused and agency-ignited fires, because nearly all ecosystems in these areas need occasional fires to remain healthy.

The Forest Service is expected to render a final decision on the high Sierra wilderness plan early in 2001. Stay tuned for details.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the CWC.

Grouse Lakes potential wilderness area to be logged?

by Tina Andolina

The Forest Service has planned a logging project in portions of the Grouse Lakes potential wilderness area in the Tahoe National Forest. The Grouse Lakes area is a popular recreation destination for local and Central Valley residents and contains a very popular whitewater kayaking run. The proposed project would log seven million board feet (enough to fill 1,400 logging trucks) on 2,064 acres of National Forest lands. Conservationists with the Forest Issues Group (FIG) of Nevada City filed paperwork detailing their concerns about this proposal. According to federal law, the Forest Service must now consider the FIG's concerns and decide whether to continue the project or cancel it.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) owns land adjacent to the Grouse Lakes potential wilderness area and plans to log it. Conservationists are concerned about the cumulative impacts of both logging projects on forests, including erosion and impacts to the watershed, soils, wildlife, water quality and recreation.

The SPI project calls for cutting 921 acres in the Fall Creek and Lake Spaulding watersheds, which are part of the South Yuba River watershed. The plan includes 78 acres of clearcutting.

The Forest Service says it was not aware of SPI's intention to log when it planned the logging of the Grouse Lakes area. The agency claims that its project is still environmentally sound, despite the fact that it did not consider cumulative impacts. Agency staff also claim that the project is necessary to reduce fuels and thin the forest. Yet, when activists visited the area, they did not find the forest to be overly crowded with trees.

Local activists met with the Forest Service in an attempt to at least spare the areas within the potential wilderness area. The Forest Service has not yet responded to the conservationists' challenge of the proposed logging project.

Tina Andolina is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

Key parcels of private property in wilderness are acquired

by Ryan Henson

The Forest Service and a non-profit organization have been working on acquiring several parcels of private land that are threatened with intensive logging in the Trinity Alps, Marble Mountain, and Snow Mountain Wilderness areas.

The Wilderness Land Trust, an organization dedicated to acquiring private land in wilderness and passing it on to public agencies, will purchase two popular lakes in the Trinity Alps Wilderness in the Klamath National Forest. The organization has signed an agreement to buy 640 acres in the West Boulder Creek drainage, which includes Middle Boulder Lake and Telephone Lake. A trail crosses the property and connects the lakes to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to the south.

The Wilderness Land Trust will purchase another 640 acres of private land in the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area, also in the Klamath National

Forest, later this year. The tract of heavily forested land is south of Marble Valley and adjoins the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The private landowner had the legal right to log the property, a decision that could have resulted in the construction of six miles of road through the Wilderness.

The Mendocino National Forest recently acquired title to 160 acres of private land in the Deafy Glade area in the Snow Mountain Wilderness. Deafy Glade is a meadow resting on a bluff above the South Fork Stony Creek. The popular Bathhouse Trail passes through the glade. The private landowner had won approval from the state of California to clearcut around the meadow and the creek, and to reopen an old road into the area that had not been driven on for many years. The sight of trees marked with blue spray paint deeply concerned conservationists, who implored the Forest Service to negotiate with the landowner. Surprisingly,

Solano County—which is located far from the national forest—ended up acquiring the property and donating it to the Forest Service. The deal was intended to mitigate the impact of a nearby county facility for juvenile criminals that the Forest Service had permitted to operate on federal land.

According to the Wilderness Land Trust, national forest wilderness areas in California contain approximately 27,000 acres of private property, more than any other state. These inholdings are scattered among more than 200 parcels in 35 wilderness areas. Private property owners are guaranteed the right to develop their land as they see fit whether it is surrounded by federally owned wilderness or not. Thus, each of these parcels represents a threat to wilderness unless the government can negotiate the purchase of the property on a willing-seller basis.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the CWC.

In memory of Katie Petterson

We are sad to announce the death on September 23, 2000 of Katherine (Katie) Petterson, pear farmer, conservationist, and wise and gentle spirit of Kelseyville, in Lake County. Katie was known for her strong commitment to Lake County conservation and for her love of the Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest.

Never heard of her before? That is because she typified the grassroots stalwart who never sought the limelight and worked quietly, but effectively, behind the scenes. On hearing of her passing, Jim Eaton, former CWC Executive Director and veteran of many wilderness battles, shared the following story about Katie:

“In the beginning, all of Snow Mountain was in the 4th Congressional District. But in the first round of re-apportionment, Lake County was given to the 1st District (Don Clausen). We managed a meeting with Clausen. He looked quite bored as we came in, but when I introduced Katie as a pear farmer from Lake County, Clausen jumped up, came around his desk, and was the charmer (a live constituent from his new county!). He called for a photographer and, after taking us to lunch, had his photo taken with Katie with the Capitol in the background. With her urging (and the Lake County Board of Supervisors’ endorsement), Clausen (not at all an environmentalist) became a co-sponsor of the Snow Mountain Wilderness bill. This quiet, unassuming, handsome, gray-haired woman spoke from the heart. She had a lot of influence in Lake County, and along with Kirk and Lisa Thompson, is high on the list of those who made a Snow Mountain Wilderness a reality. I’m sorry she won’t be around to help make Cache Creek a wilderness.”

Though she was too ill to attend, Katie was honored at the California Wilderness Conference in May for her contributions to the cause. Up until late 1999, she continued to meet with CWC staff to plan the next local wilderness campaign. Today, there are over 38,000 acres of unprotected wild land that could be added to the Snow Mountain Wilderness. Lake County wilderness activists and CWC staff have agreed to fight to permanently preserve these wild areas in Katie’s memory, and to lobby the Forest Service to name a trail at Snow Mountain in her honor.



Artwork: Heron Dance

Victory! Two Shasta-Trinity roadless areas are spared the axe

by Ryan Henson

In October, staff of the Shasta-Trinity National Forests abandoned their plans to log large portions of the Cow Creek and Bell-Quimby roadless areas on the southern boundary of the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Conservationists consider the two roadless areas a potential 44,000-acre addition to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Last year, after leading a survey team into the roadless areas to assess their wilderness character, I realized that these two areas were the least disturbed roadless areas I had ever seen. A mere two months after this survey, the two roadless areas were burned in the Big Bar fire, which lasted for several weeks and involved firefighters from all over the United

States, including units of the Army.

While the fire did little, if any, long-term damage to the roadless areas, conservationists feared that the Forest Service would attempt to log them by arguing that vast swaths of old-growth were dead or dying. These fears were exacerbated by the Forest Service's previous attempts to log portions of the roadless areas. For example, in 1995 the agency proposed the notorious Misery timber sale in a part of the Cow Creek roadless area sacred to local Native Americans. Fortunately, conservationists and indigenous activists were able to defeat the Misery project in 1996. In July of 2000, the Forest Service began planning "salvage" logging (the cutting of supposedly dead, dying,

or diseased trees) operations in the two roadless areas in the wake of the Big Bar fire.

In canceling the current logging proposal, one that would have been much larger than all previous cutting plans, staff of the Shasta-Trinity National Forests mentioned that, "roadless area politics are just too hot right now," and that, "national trends in roadless area policy go against what we think ought to be done out there." The Forest Service still plans to conduct potentially extensive logging operations outside of the two roadless areas. Activists will carefully monitor, and oppose if necessary, these cutting plans.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the CWC.

P O T E N T I A L W I L D E R N E S S P R O F I L E

Trinity Alps Potential Additions

The proposed new additions to the Trinity Alps Wilderness can be roughly lumped into two categories: first, low-elevation lands on the southern side of the Wilderness, and second, richly forested regions on the northern and western sides of the Wilderness.

Most of the low-elevation additions are in the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, clustered between the existing Wilderness on the north and the main fork of the Wild and Scenic Trinity River on the south. They are characterized by classic California foothill woodland habitat composed of chaparral, grey pine groves, and clusters of stately oaks, with ancient conifer forest clustered around streams. Most of these southern additions are extremely steep, but some areas are flat enough to support dry meadows and small,



Laura Kindsvater

Approximate acreage: 138,000

Managing agencies: Six Rivers, Klamath, & Shasta-Trinity national forests

seasonal ponds. These wildlands provide critical winter deer habitat (a severely threatened ecosystem in California) since snow is often light in winter, and also offer winter hiking opportunities for growing communities in Shasta, Trinity, and Humboldt counties. In addition to deer, these areas support the California thrasher, acorn, pileated, downy, and hairy woodpeckers, osprey, prairie falcon, black bear, badger, California newts, and other

animals and plants that thrive in the mixed foothill woodland, chaparral, grassland, streamside, and occasional ancient forest habitats.

Adding these lands to the existing Trinity Alps Wilderness would create an uninterrupted ecological staircase of plant and wildlife habitat covering entire watersheds from their headwaters to the Trinity River. There are few such areas in our National Wilderness Preservation System.

Annual celebration a smashing success!

by **Matei Tarail**

On November 15, 2000, the California Wilderness Coalition held its most well-attended fundraiser in recent years. Over 100 people, from long-time wilderness advocates to new friends, came to the event in Emeryville to support CWC's efforts to protect wild California.

The theme of the event was "Turning Point 2000: the Growing California Wilderness Movement." CWC supporters gathered to celebrate the conservation victories of 2000, including the creation of three new national



Bob Schneider

CWC board member Sarah Davies, Executive Director Paul Spitler, and his proud mother, Lynn



Bob Schneider

Guests enjoyed looking at Galen Rowell's gorgeous photographs

monuments and three new wilderness areas in California, the expansion of an existing national monument, and the ban of road-building and conventional logging on four million acres of roadless land.

Famed mountain climber Steve Schneider gave a presentation on his work with the cutting-edge dance/mountaineering troupe, Project Bandeloo, and described for the audience a recent pioneering mountain climb in the Trango Towers of Pakistan. Photographers Galen and Barbara

Rowell were the gracious hosts of the event. Held in their amazing gallery, Mountain Light Photography Studios, the wilderness celebration offered guests a look at many of their stunning images.

Drawing an impressive turnout, this dynamic event raised over \$21,000 for the California Wilderness Coalition. Thanks to all who participated!

Matei Tarail is the Membership and Development Associate for the CWC.



Jim Rose

Campaign organizer Tina Andolina chatting with Anna Lee Schneider, Liz Merry, and rock climber Steve Schneider

We would like to gratefully thank those who donated to this year's fundraiser:

(\$1,000+)

Anonymous
Foundation for Deep Ecology
Ben & Ruth Hammett
Joe Scalmanini
Anne Schneider
Bob Schneider & Liz Merry
Sorensen's Resort
Lynn Spitler & Ted Eger

(\$500)

Bob Johnston
Jordan Lang
Mark & Joan Reinhardt Reiss
Mary Scoonover

(\$250)

Harriet & Howard Allen
Lewis Ames
Juliette Anthony
Ed & Mildred Bennett
Alan Carlton, Paula Ray, & Elizabeth Carlton
Kathryn Burkett Dickson & John Geesman
Tom Hopkins
Julie McDonald
Bob McLaughlin & Theresa Rumjahn
Don Morrill & Sue Barton
Trent Orr
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger

(Food and wine)

Acme Bread, Berkeley
Bonny Doon Vineyards, Santa Cruz
H. Coturri and Sons, Glen Ellen
Lolonis Winery, Redwood Valley
Sudwerk Brewery, Davis
Whole Foods Market, Berkeley

(Silent auction merchandise)

Gregory Mountain Products
Mountain Hardwear
Patagonia
Sierra Designs

Happy birthday to a wilderness legend: Bob Marshall

by Mike Williams

When you arrive at a wilderness trailhead in California or any other state, do you ever wonder: How did this happen? How did this special place receive protected status, forever? One man, in a short lifetime, did more than anyone to bring about the Wilderness Preservation System.

On January 2, 1901, Bob Marshall was born in New York City. His father was a successful constitutional lawyer who was involved in the protection of the Adirondacks. Bob became the first known individual to climb all of the 46 peaks in the Adirondacks above 4,000 feet. He attended the fledgling forestry school at Syracuse University, then went on to receive a master's degree at Harvard, and a Ph.D. in plant physiology from Johns Hopkins University in 1930.

Despite the academic credentials, Bob Marshall was not a stuffy professorial type. He had a personality that could be described as downright goofy. He would somersault across a doorway saying, "I just rolled in!" He kept statistics on topics from the swear words of lumberjacks to the best months of his life to the number of letters he received.

Bob Marshall conducted roadless area surveys of the United States in 1927 and 1936. As a Forest Service researcher in the late 1920s and early 1930s, he spent most of his free time hiking the remaining roadless areas in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and other western states. Later, as Director of Recreation for the Forest Service, Bob continued to do field studies on the remaining roadless areas of the West. He sent the results of the roadless area surveys to L. F.

Kneipp, an obscure but important figure in the Forest Service, who sent the surveys on to regional foresters. Kneipp asked the foresters to consider these areas for primitive designation. By the end of 1936, sixty-six areas or a total of over 10 million acres had been designated "primitive," a precursor to official wilderness status.

Bob Marshall personally hiked through most of the great wilderness of the West. He took at least 200 hikes of 30 miles in a single day. He once hiked over 70 miles in one day, and vowed to do a 30-mile hike in every state. Once, when his train was delayed in Iowa, he used the opportunity to add that state to his list of 30-milers. In California, Marshall took many trips into the Sierra, including a 5-day trip on the Kings River in 1937 and a 40-mile hike across what he called "the Sacramento Trinity Divide." While doing these hikes, Marshall drew tentative maps of vast watersheds for future reference, when wilderness designation would become a consideration.

In 1935, Bob formed The Wilderness Society (along with Benton MacKaye, who helped found the Appalachian Trail, and Aldo Leopold, wilderness theorist and author of *Sand County Almanac*). "We want no straddlers, for in the past they have surrendered too much good wilderness," Bob wrote.

"The most important passion of life is the overpowering desire to escape periodically from the strangling clutch of mechanistic civilization. To us the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas, is absolutely essential to happiness."



Heron Dance

In November of 1939, Bob Marshall boarded a train to New York to visit his brothers. When the train pulled into the station he did not get off. A porter found him dead in his berth. He was 38 years old. During the previous years, he had been ill more than once, but his death remains a mystery. As the son of a prominent attorney, Marshall had been left a substantial inheritance, much of which he left to the trustees of The Wilderness Society. In 1954, they gave the Society \$28,000 and in 1959, a \$150,000 three-year grant, which led to the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964.

Richard McArdle, Forest Service Chief from 1952 to 1962, stated that when wilderness areas were being established, "If even a small acreage was eliminated, the wilderness folks protested loud and long over every small adjustment of these tentatively recorded boundaries. Whenever I'd try to explain why the boundaries as recorded originally were not intended to be final, the response was 'No such thing; the way they are recorded is the way Marshall drew them and wanted them to be.' Marshall's effect was felt long after he passed away. We have millions of acres of undeveloped wild lands due to his consuming passion for the freedom of the wilderness.

Mike Williams lives in northern California, works for a winery, and loves to visit the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness.

"To us the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas, is absolutely essential to happiness."

Finally, an end to "Clearcuts for Kids"

by Paul Spitler

In October, President Clinton signed into law the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, a measure that will revamp the relationship between rural school funding and national forest management. While still containing some questionable provisions, the bill will create numerous positive changes that will ultimately benefit rural school kids and public forests.

Since 1908, rural schools have been funded by the receipts from national forest logging. As logging levels declined in the 1990s, school funding declined as well, calling increased attention to the inequity of linking school funding to forest management.

The California Wilderness Coalition has long argued that schools funding should be completely separated from logging receipts. We believe that schools should be funded based on the educational needs of the students, not the number of trees cut in the national forests, and do not think it is fair to hold school children hostage in an effort to increase logging levels.

Unfortunately, since 1908 children *have* been held hostage to the forest management debate. On numerous occasions, efforts to restrict national forest logging (i.e. prohibiting tree cutting in unprotected wilderness, sensitive species habitat, or other sensitive areas) were opposed by school administrators who argued that the logging cutbacks would hurt school kids by reducing funding levels. This, of course, made national forest management reform even more difficult.

In 2000, however, all of that changed. The law signed by President Clinton will provide steady, guaranteed

annual payments to counties for schools, payments which are independent of timber receipts. While the measure is temporary (it currently expires after six years), there is a good possibility that it will be permanently extended.

The California Wilderness Coalition fought hard to gain key environmental concessions in the measure. As originally written, the bill would have created hundreds of timber-dominated local advisory councils who would "recommend" forest management projects on local national forests. These councils would receive 25% of the funding that should go to rural schools.

These councils and their funding structure were a significant concern: timber-dominated

councils would likely recommend environmentally harmful logging projects, thus jeopardizing our public wildlands. Conservationists also opposed redirecting school funds to logging projects, favoring instead an option that would allow counties to decide for themselves how

The legislation as finally passed will still establish the local councils, but in a vastly different form. The law now requires balanced environmental representation on the committees, and requires support of the conservation representatives before a proposal can go forward. Further, numerous sections were added to the legislation, which encourage an emphasis on watershed restoration rather than

commercial logging. While we would have liked additional safeguards that would have protected ancient forests, sensitive habitat, and unprotected wilderness, the final version poses only a minimal threat to forests.

More important, however, is the fact that California's schools will no longer rely on logging revenue to fund our students' education. This is a historic transition that ends a nearly century-old tradition. It is certainly a welcome transition into the 21st century, and will help to free the debate over proper forest management from the constraints of worrying about our kids. At last, after 92 years, we no longer have to choose between healthy forests and well-funded schools.

A final note of thanks to all of you who wrote letters, signed petitions, and made phone calls. Your efforts were extremely timely, and helped to eliminate many anti-environmental provisions from the measure. You also helped to convince Senator Barbara Boxer to demand that the bill be modified to address environmental concerns. She was an active and dedicated champion to the end, and deserves our thanks.

What you can do

Write Senator Barbara Boxer and thank her for her courageous efforts to modify S. 1608/H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Tell her that you appreciate her efforts to ensure that school funding be separated from logging revenue, and are grateful for her commitment to safeguarding the nation's forests.

Write to: Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Paul Spitler is the Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition.



California's schools will no longer rely on logging revenue to fund our students' education. At last, after 92 years, we no longer have to choose between healthy forests and well-funded schools.

Rock climbers and wilderness: a grand tradition

by **Bob Schneider**

The history of the wilderness movement is closely tied to climbers. John Muir trekked the Sierra, ascending many of its peaks, and later David Brower made first ascents in Yosemite Valley and on Sierra peaks. Other climbers who were also wilderness advocates include Ansel Adams, Walter Starr, Jr. and Margaret Farquer, who was the first president of the Sierra Nevada Section of the American Alpine Club. More recently Yvon Chouinard, Doug Tomkins, Royal Robbins and Galen Rowell have acted to protect our remaining wilderness heritage.

Climbing demands and develops focus, drive and determination. It imbues a love and deep understanding of our wild places. It is precisely these attributes that have contributed to the success of the wilderness movement.

Recently, conflicts have developed over climbing and the management of wilderness with respect to "bolting" and issues of "solitude." It is important to remember that despite these issues, climbers remain committed to wilderness protection.

For instance, the Access Fund was founded by members of the American Alpine Club to protect access to climbing areas throughout the United States. Its mission also states:

"Support for Wilderness preservation and wildlife habitat is crucial to the future of American climbing. The Access Fund collaborates with some of the country's foremost environmental organizations, including the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy and the National Parks and Conservation Association."

The term "bolting" refers to the fact that when climbing new routes, bolts, which are metal anchors drilled into



John Dittli

Climber at the top of Benton Crags in the White Mountains potential wilderness

rock, are sometimes placed to protect leaders from falls and ensure safe descents. With the advent of Bosch battery drill guns, there has been a surge in bolt placement, creating controversy in more heavily used areas. In Joshua Tree National Park, these problems are being worked out.

The Forest Service reacted in 2000 to the increase of bolt placement with a blanket attempt to ban all bolting in wilderness. Clearly, the use of mechanical devices such as a bolt gun should be prohibited, except in very special cases with a permit. However, the hand-drilling of bolts is a traditional wilderness activity.

In putting this in perspective, David Brower said last year, "The Forest Service is destroying tens of thousands of acres of wilderness every year, and they are worried about bolts?"

Another issue is the Forest Service's restrictive interpretation of the Wilderness Act's mention of "opportunities for solitude." First on Mt. Shasta, and now on Mt. Hood, the Forest Service attempted

to severely limit the number of climbers on the mountain.

The Forest Service has dramatically modified their attempt to limit climbing on Mt. Shasta. The popular southern approach to the mountain gets 100 to 300 climbers a weekend during the summer. Instead of limiting the number of climbers on this approach, the Forest Service has creatively and aggressively developed a waste management program. Now, many can undertake this strenuous, yet greatly rewarding adventure with a minimum of impact. The other 20 plus routes to the summit still provide opportunities for solitude (except for at the summit, of course).

As more people use our limited wilderness areas, conflicts arise and we must work to find solutions. Clearly, the best solution is to partner with climbers and other wilderness users to protect our remaining wilderness heritage.

Bob Schneider is a rock climber and the Director of the California Wild Heritage Campaign. He has climbed El Capitan twice. He also earned his bachelor's degree in geology at UC Davis.

New Congress does not bode well for forests

After the November 2000 election, Republican majorities in both the House and Senate narrowed, with Democratic candidates picking up 2 seats in the House and 4 seats in the Senate. As of press time, recounts were occurring in one Senate and two House races.

Republican control of both houses means that it is very likely anti-environmental lawmakers will still be in control of key committees affecting forest issues. For example, conservative James Hansen (R-UT) says he is "99 percent certain" he will replace the equally conservative Don Young (R-AK) as chair of the Resources Committee. This problem of committee leadership will be compounded significantly if George Bush is elected and we have an all-Republican government.

In the House, the Republican majority is thinner now, 220 to 211, with two independents (one who usually votes with Republicans and the other with Democrats) and two undecided races. As a result, moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats will hold even greater sway and often determine the balance of power.

Several anti-environmental Senators were defeated, including Rod Grams (R-MN) and John Ashcroft (R-MO). As of press time, it appeared that Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA) had lost his seat as well, to Maria Cantwell (D-WA), giving us a 50-50 tie between Republicans and Democrats in the Senate.

Courtesy of American Lands Alliance.

A new national monument for the desert

Conservationists were thrilled when California got its third national monument for the year 2000, this time in California's desert. President Clinton signed legislation on October 24, 2000 that protects the Santa Rosa and San

Jacinto Mountains as a National Monument. Located within the California Desert Conservation Area in Riverside County, the new National Monument encompasses more than 272,000 acres. The lands will be cooperatively administered by BLM, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish & Game, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, California Department of Parks & Recreation, county-city government, private landowners, and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

More than 500 plant and animal species, including the federally listed Peninsular bighorn sheep, make their home in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Off-road vehicle use rolled back at Algodones

As a settlement agreement of a recent lawsuit, the Bureau of Land Management has closed 49,130 acres of land in Algodones Dunes, the most popular off-road vehicle destination in the United States, to motorized vehicles. The closure was needed to protect the Peirson's milkvetch, a threatened plant species.

Algodones Dunes is located in the southeastern desert of California, and draws close to one million dirt bike, jeep, monster truck, and dune buggy enthusiasts every year. Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend alone, over 100,000 people were estimated to have visited the region.

BLM's closure, in combination with the 32,240-acre North Algodones Dunes Wilderness area, means that 54% of the Algodones Dunes will now be closed to off-road vehicle use.

Farewell David

David R. Brower, recognized around the globe for his pioneering leadership in protecting wild places of the Earth, died on November 5, 2000 from complications related to cancer. Brower's career ranged from success-

fully fighting to stop dams in Dinosaur National Monument and in Grand Canyon National Park, to leading environmentalists to re-think support of nuclear power, to being the first Executive Director of the Sierra Club and founding Friends of the Earth and Earth Island Institute. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times, he led campaigns to establish nine new national parks and seashores including Point Reyes, Kings Canyon, and Redwood, and helped gain passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Brower dropped out of UC Berkeley and never finished his bachelor's degree—always a sore point with him, even though he later received 10 honorary degrees. Later, he occasionally told people he was a graduate of the University of the Colorado River. To keep a dam out of Dinosaur National Monument, Brower had looked the other way when the Bureau of Reclamation planned the Glen Canyon Dam. Then he floated down the Colorado and realized what would be lost. "Don't trade a place you know for one you don't," he said. In 2000, he stood above the dam in support of an initiative to remove it. "Never let them beat you down as being doomsters or naysayers," he stated. "Because if you are against a dam, you're for a river. It's time to let this river run free."

Beer-maker agrees to remove grazing cattle

Facing boycotts, rising costs and a public relations mess, the world's biggest beer-maker, Anheuser-Busch, has decided to remove hundreds of its cattle from fragile Sierra Nevada meadows. Under permits from the U.S. Forest Service, cowboys working for Busch drive as many as 900 cows every summer from the Owens Valley into the Golden Trout Wilderness.

The grazed areas contain the last habitat for California's state fish, the Volcano Creek golden trout, in the

South Fork of the Kern River. In October of 2000, the company quietly decided to remove its cattle and will not return any cattle in 2001 to the Inyo National Forest or to lands it rents from the Bureau of Land Management.

Condensed from an article in the San Jose Mercury News.

Sierran species inch towards federal protection

On October 12, 2000, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service published an initial positive finding on petitions by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign to list the California spotted owl, Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada population of mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered species.

The California spotted owl lives in old growth throughout the Sierra Nevada and Transverse ranges of southern California. The owl is declining by 7-10% annually as logging, urban sprawl, grazing and road construction encroach on its habitat.

Both the Yosemite toad and the yellow-legged frog have declined because of habitat loss, pesticides and other pollutants, and predation due to stocking of non-native fish. A recent survey found that the Yosemite toad has disappeared from 47% of historic locations throughout the high Sierra. The mountain yellow-legged frog has declined by up to 90%, with only a few dozen large populations remaining.

Courtesy of the Center for Biological Diversity.

Congressmen Bruce Vento and Sid Yates pass away

Congressman Vento died at his home in St. Paul on October 10. From the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in his home state of Minnesota to the great wilderness of Alaska, he stood up—often against heavy odds—to protect these special places. He served as Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands for ten years. During that time he oversaw the

passage of legislation to protect 5 million acres of wild lands and the designation of 76 Wild and Scenic rivers. He was the lead sponsor of legislation to designate as Wilderness the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Congressman Yates died on October 5 at the age of 91. Yates spent 48 years as a member of Congress from Illinois. When he stepped down, he was the oldest and longest-serving member of the House, and was known as a champion of conservation and of the arts. Yates chaired the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee from 1975 to 1995. The Washington Post wrote, "In that area, he used the appropriations mechanism to create national parks and to preserve and protect wilderness, seashores and lakeshores, as well as some of the last pristine rivers in the United States."

Courtesy of the Wilderness Support Center.

President signs Interior bill

President Clinton signed the Interior Appropriations bill in October after it passed both the House and Senate by overwhelming margins. Many harmful riders were removed and a huge increase in funding for land acquisition was secured. However, public forests are at greater risk due to hazardous fuels treatments that lack environmental safeguards, funding increases for logging, and the stewardship contracting rider that proposes to allow the Forest Service to give away unlimited amounts of National Forest trees.

Over 75 environmental organizations sent a letter to the President stating their concern about these issues. Stay tuned.

Bill to ban clearcutting in California stalls

California Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley of Boulder Creek authored AB 717, which would have imposed a 2-year moratorium on clearcutting on industrial forestlands in California. In

the meantime, a team of seven independent scientists were to evaluate the effects of clearcutting on drinking water, fish and wildlife, as well as impacts to human health and safety from fire risk and flooding. The bill did not pass before the California Legislature adjourned on August 31, 2000.

CARA languishes in Senate

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) was approved overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives and passed in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Despite strong support, Senate leadership refused to move the bill to the floor for a final vote and the bill was not passed.

Congress has diverted more than \$11 billion from the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the last 15 years. CARA would have corrected that, creating a permanent \$900 million revenue stream for conservation and recreation projects, and designating billions more for new environmental programs, including urban parks and recreation, historic preservation, and landowner conservation incentives.

Although CARA was not passed, Congress and the Administration cut a deal and allocated funding in this year's Interior Appropriations bill for conservation. This funding is half of what CARA would have allocated and is for a limited amount of time, but it offers hope that more monies will be allocated for conservation in the future.

Trespassing snowmobiles are in for a surprise

Snowmobile tracks and public reports indicate that several hundred riders trespass into the Tahoe basin's wilderness areas every winter. For the first time, this winter forest officials will fly by plane over areas such as Desolation Wilderness, Granite Chief, Meiss Meadows, Page Meadows and Freel Peak to make sure these areas remain free of motorized vehicles.

Farewell to John Davis

After several years of serving on the California Wilderness Coalition's board of directors, John Davis has decided to return to the East Coast. He will be working with Wild Earth, a nonprofit organization in Vermont that is dedicated to the restoration and protection of wilderness and biodiversity. We will miss him and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Thanks to our diligent interns

Were it not for the help of a small but dedicated group of volunteers, much of the California Wilderness Coalition's work would simply not get done. Our staff would like to thank these individuals, who have been kind enough to donate their time to our cause.

Linda Leu began working with the California Wilderness Coalition in September. She is an environmental science and policy major in her fourth year of studies at UC Davis. She has assisted us greatly with her research and outreach efforts.

Andrew McMullin began working with us in October. Andrew is a sophomore, majoring in environmental



CWC welcomes Gordon Johnson

In September of 2000, Gordon Johnson joined the CWC team. An accomplished wilderness activist and computer guru,

Gordon's ability to sort through details quickly, get to the crux of the matter, and solve difficult problems is helping CWC to make enormous headway. Gordon has been putting together a database for the California Wild Heritage Campaign that includes all potential wilderness areas, wild rivers, and activists who have adopted them. He is also producing materials such as maps and flyers that both paid campaign organizers and volunteers need to build support. Gordon and his wife Carol live in Redding because they enjoy living simply and being close to the outdoors. They have a 17-year-old daughter who attends Shasta College. Gordon helped to found the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and has worked for many years to preserve wild areas on California's central coast.



Welcome Eve Ladwig-Scott

In December, 2000, CWC hired its first Associate Director, Eve Ladwig-Scott. Eve will assist Executive Director Paul Spitler

with development, office management, administration and program coordination. Eve comes to CWC after several years of working for Friends of the River. She is interested in affecting policy at the local and state government level, and has studied environmental biology and management and English at UC Davis, taking a break part way to have two sons, Zakari (currently age 7) and Shandi (age 5). She will be finishing her last year of school while working at CWC. Eve is a white water rafting guide and also likes running, backpacking, and spending time with her husband, Brad, and her kids. Her favorite wilderness areas are in the Trinity, Toiyabe and Lassen national forests. Welcome Eve!

biology and management, and is an avid rock climber. He has helped CWC's outreach efforts immensely.

Barbara Wynroth has also been indispensable in her efforts to assist California Wilderness Coalition. Barbara, who recently moved to California from the East Coast, has made innumerable phone calls to make citizens aware of wilderness meetings in their towns. She also donated an entire night to assist us in managing our recent fundraiser.

Blake Meneken is a senior at the University of California, Davis. She spent last summer doing restoration work in the Sierra National National Forest, including studying fire and fuels treatment. This fall and winter, as an intern for CWC, she is working with Jim Eaton to organize students on campus and other Davis residents in support of the Cache Creek potential wilderness area and has continued her study of California's fires and fuels issues in our national forests.

Correction

The fall, 2000 issue of the *Wilderness Record* featured an interview with Bob Schneider on page 17, and incorrectly listed an award given to him as the John Dierold Award. The correct title of the award is the John Zierold Award. It is a Sierra Club California award given to volunteer lobbyists. We apologize for our error.

B U S I N E S S S P O N S O R S

100fires
Acorn Naturalists
Agate Land & Water
Ascent Technologies
Mark Bagley
Knut Barde
Berry & Associates,
Marketing Productivity Consulting
Bored Feet Publications
Camp Lotus
Echo: The Wilderness Company, Inc.
Ellison & Schneider
Gregory Mountain Products
Genny Smith Books
Giselle's Travel
William Gustafson
Instant Replay Communications

David B. Kelley
KiaTech, Inc.
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Raven Maps

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Psychological Corporation
Shasta Mountain Guides
Siskiyou Forestry Consultants
Solano Press Books
Sorensen's Resort
Richard Strohl
TDC Environmental
Christopher P. Valle-Riestra
Water Wise
Weidert Biological
Wild Iris Studio
Wilderness Press
Wilson's Eastside Sports
Zoo-Ink Screen Print



C O A L I T I O N M E M B E R G R O U P S

American Lands Alliance; Washington, D.C.
Animal Protection Institute; Sacramento
Ancient Forest International; Redway
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles
Backcountry Horsemen of California;
Springville
Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland
Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S.F.
Big Bear Group, Sierra Club; Big Bear Lake
California Alpine Club; San Francisco
Calif. League of Conservation Voters;
Oakland
California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln
California Native Plant Society; Sacramento
Californians for Utah Wilderness; S.F.
Center for Biological Diversity; Tucson, AZ
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation;
Georgetown
Central Sierra Environmental Resource
Center; Twain Harte
Citizens for Better Forestry; Arcata
Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes
Coast Range Ecosystem Alliance; Santa
Clara
Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno
Communication Works; San Francisco
Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs
Desert Subcomm., Sierra Club; San Diego
Desert Survivors; Oakland
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; S.F.
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop
Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; L.A.
El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach
Forests Forever; San Francisco
Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
Friends of China Camp; San Rafael
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; Cedar
City, UT
High Sierra Hikers Assoc.; S. Lake Tahoe
Idylwild Earth Fair; Idylwild
International Ctr for Earth Concerns; Ojai
John Muir Project; Pasadena
Jumping Frog Research Inst.; Angels Camp
Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia
Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai
Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern-Kaweah Chp., Sierra Club; Bakersfield
Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna
Laguna Hills Audubon Society; Laguna
Hills
League to Save Lake Tahoe; S. Lake Tahoe
LEGACY-The Landscape Connection;
Arcata
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto
Los Angeles Audubon Society; W. Hollywd.
Los Padres Chp., Sierra Club; Santa Barbara
Marin Conservation League; San Rafael
Mariposa Democratic Club; Mariposa
Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah
Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining
Mother Lode Chp., Sierra Club; Sacramento
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Soc.; Mt. Shasta
Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento
Native Habitats; Woodside
Natural Heritage Institute; San Francisco
Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F.
NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa
Nordic Voice; Livermore
Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata
People for Nipomo Dunes National
Seashore; Nipomo
Pew Wilderness Center; Boulder, CO

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
San Bruno Mtns Group, Sierra Club;
Blue Jay
San Diego Audubon Society; San Diego
San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego
San Fernando Valley Audubon; Van Nuys
Santa Clara Valley Audubon; Cupertino
Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology; 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
S. Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City
Southern Calif. Forests Committee; Barstow
Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia
Tule River Conservancy; Porterville
U.C. Davis Envir. Law Society; Davis
Ventana Wilderness Alliance; Santa Cruz
Western States Endurance Run; S.F.
Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO
The Wilderness Society; San Francisco
The Wildlands Project; Tucson, AZ
Willits Environmental Center; Willits
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding
Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis
Yolo Audubon Society; Davis



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Make our shared vision a reality

Half of California's land is publicly owned. One-third of California's native plants and animals are currently considered at-risk, threatened, or endangered. If we are to preserve these irreplaceable wonders of nature we *must* protect our publicly owned land.

We envision a day of inter-connected wild areas in which the wild legacy of the Golden State is *permanently* protected. Your membership in the California Wilderness Coalition gives us the strength to continue our work.

You can also help us realize our vision of protecting pristine wild areas by:

Donating stocks

Many members have chosen to help protect wilderness by donating appreciated stocks. Donors receive a tax deduction for the entire value of the stocks, even if they were purchased for a small part of that value. (Please check with your tax advisor to clarify your exact tax benefits.) We will work with you if you wish to electronically transfer securities.

Planned giving

Protect wild California in your will. Many of us cannot make day-to-day contributions to the causes that we love, yet in our will we can make a bequest that will leave a lasting legacy of wilderness. Here's an example of language you might use in making a bequest:

"to the California Wilderness Coalition, a non-profit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of California with the current address of 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616, for its general purposes."

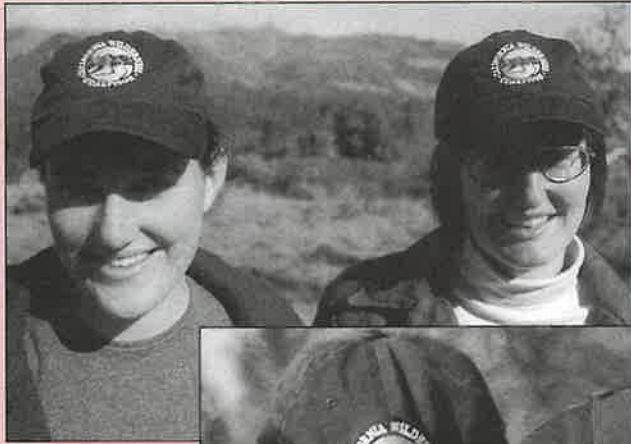
Wildland Advocates

Show your commitment to the protection of wild California by joining the over 120 members of our major donor program. This committed group of individuals empowers the staff and volunteers at CWC to keep up their efforts to protect California's special wild places. Wildland Advocate members receive press releases and letters keeping them up-to-speed on our day-to-day efforts to build support for wild California. You can join Wildland Advocates by increasing your membership renewal or fund appeal donation, or by signing up for a monthly credit card deduction. Giving levels for Wildland Advocates start at \$250 per year.

Please contact Matei Tarail at (530) 758-0380 if you have questions or suggestions about giving to protect our wilderness heritage.



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. Photograph courtesy of Galen Rowell, Mountain Light Photography.



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I would like to pledge \$ _____ per month.

Method of payment:

Check enclosed.

Bill my Visa; MasterCard; American Express.

Name _____

Gift from: _____

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\$10 Low-income

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

w/01/wc



**We couldn't do it
without you. . .**



Photos by Bob Schneider and Jim Rose

Hosted by Galen and Barbara Rowell at their magnificent Mountain Light Photography Studios, the California Wilderness Coalition's November celebration brought together over 100 wilderness supporters to commemorate the year's conservation victories (see page 10).

A Voice for Wild California



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Annual Report

A VOICE
for WILD
CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION



Carla Cloer

The year 2000 marked the creation of three new monuments in California, including the Sequoia National Monument

Welcome to the California Wilderness Coalition's annual report. Inside you will find stories of the Coalition's numerous efforts in 2000 to protect California's remaining wildlands and wilderness.

The year 2000 has been a phenomenal year for California conservation. Our years of hard work and dedication have paid off at last: President Clinton, with the help of Congress, has designated three new National Monuments and the expansion of an existing Monument in the state, four million acres of de facto forest wilderness have been set off-limits to road building, and wilderness advocates have been energized and invigorated to a new high.

In each of these efforts, the California Wilderness Coalition, along with our partner organizations, played a vital role. Whether it was turning out supporters to hearings, recruiting and training new wilderness advocates, or campaigning for stronger protections for our last wild forests, the California Wilderness Coalition was there.

Enclosed are the stories of how much we have accomplished over the past year. Of course, none of this work is possible without the commitment of our loyal supporters. Your letters, phone calls, volunteer hours, and financial support are what makes this organization run. We can't do it without you. It is a pleasure to share the year's successes with you—the people who helped to make it happen. Thanks for your support. We hope you enjoy the report.

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Looking ahead to 2001: Onward for California's wilderness

The many gains achieved by conservationists for California's wildlands last year has set the bar particularly high for 2001. How can we match a Presidential policy protecting potential wilderness areas, hundreds of thousands of acres protected in new national monuments, the most well-attended wilderness conference in a decade, and the outpouring of support for wilderness from all corners of the state?

We made numerous gains in 2000, and we have created tremendous momentum to carry us forward into the new year. Our 2001 program will build on the gains of the previous year, and lead us in new directions as well. The core elements of our programs are described below.

Wilderness advocacy

In early 2001, we will wrap up and announce the results of California's largest ever citizen wilderness inventory. Through this effort, in the past three years, California Wilderness Coalition staff and volunteers have spent thousands of hours traveling and mapping the bound-

aries of over 5 million acres of unprotected wilderness. The survey is essentially complete: all that is needed is a final analysis of the areas and acreage. We will present these results this spring.

We will also continue to build support for wilderness throughout California's rural regions. Through

state to develop a broad base of support for wilderness preservation in each and every region.

Assessing California's habitat

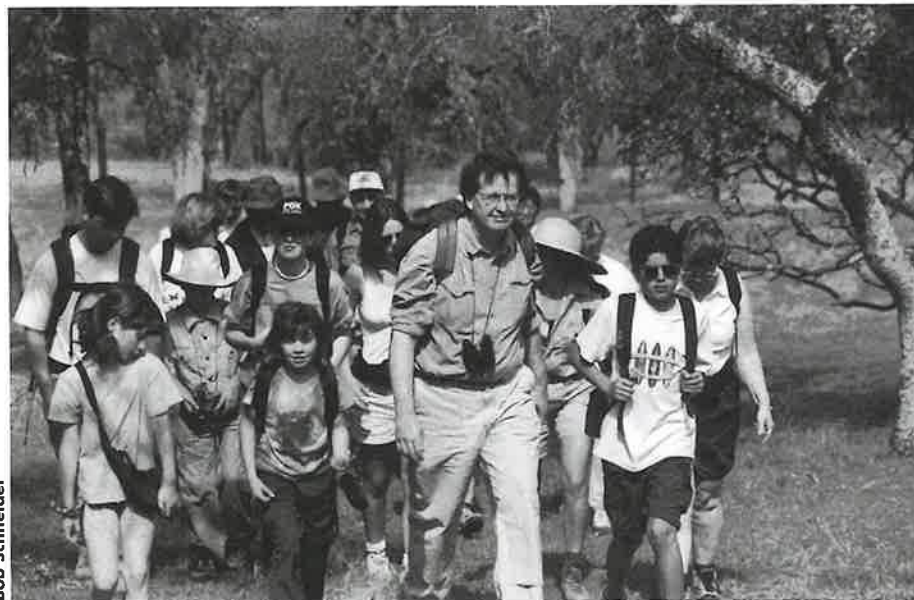
Through the California Wildlands Project, the California Wilderness Coalition will continue to identify

the state's most important wildlife habitat and migration corridors. We will build upon our previous efforts to focus our habitat mapping on several key regions: the central and south coast, Sierra Nevada, and Central Valley.

Our regional analysis in the south coast is nearly

complete. After two years of hard work, CWC has identified a potential network of wildlife reserves and migration linkages throughout the region. In 2001, we will refine this analysis and present our wildlands vision for the south coast region.

In the Sierra Nevada and central coast region, habitat mapping is well underway—focal species have been selected and their habitat assessed, and a preliminary vision of habitat areas and migration linkages has been identified. In 2001, we will



Field tours of potential wilderness areas give the public a chance to enjoy special places like Cache Creek, and help build support for wilderness

our successful partnership with the California Wild Heritage Campaign, the California Wilderness Coalition has taken the lead in recruiting, training, and organizing wilderness supporters throughout northern California, the Central Valley, and the Sierra Nevada.

We will continue to host slide shows, house parties, field tours, workshops and training sessions, in an all-out push to build the wilderness movement. We will be working with our partners throughout the

work with conservation biologists and land managers to finalize these visions. They will be presented to policy-makers and land planners throughout the region.

In the Central Valley, we will begin the process of identifying key habitat and conservation partners who can work with us.

Forming new partnerships

As the habitat analyses of the California Wildlands Project are developed, our efforts shift towards project implementation. In 2001, we will develop a comprehensive implementation and communications plan for the California Wildlands Project. This plan will be the guiding document for the project's implementation in years to come.

We will also form new partnerships with the owners and managers of California's most important habitat. We will initiate a new program designed to assist private landowners in preserving, maintaining, and restoring key wildlife habitat. This program will focus on providing private landowners positive incentives for maintaining and improving the habitat values of their lands.



The Bodie Hills are a little-known but wild and unusual region. Education efforts in 2001 will focus on publicizing the threats to such fragile and imperiled places.



Jim Rose

The California Wildlands Project has drafted a vision map for the Sierra Nevada, which will be refined and finalized in year 2001. Pictured here: South Yuba watershed

By forming partnerships with farmers, ranchers, and other land managers, we are creating new opportunities to preserve and restore California habitat. These partnerships will also help to implement the California Wildlands Project by increasing protection of key wildlife areas and migration corridors.

Preserving special places

In 2001, the California Wilderness Coalition will continue to defend the ecological integrity of California's publicly owned wildlands. We will hold the line on threatened wildlands by using targeted appeals, public pressure,

and, where necessary, litigation, to halt environmentally harmful projects.

We will continue and expand our efforts to protect wildlands from the threats posed by aggressive all-terrain vehicles. By participating

in the state of California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, educating policy-makers, and applying pressure to federal land management agencies, we will aim to ensure that California's wildlands are not degraded by motorized vehicles. A specific push will be made to ensure that motor vehicles are limited to pre-existing routes and that federal agencies are adequately monitoring the effects of these vehicles.

We will also continue our public education campaign, designed to highlight to policy-makers, media, and the general public, the importance of, and threats to, California's wildlands. We will highlight particularly fragile and imperiled areas such as the Bodie Hills in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Through this education, we will also be building broad public support for the preservation of California's wildlands.

The net result of these efforts is a refined blend of short-term defense and long-term planning. Even as we continue to defend areas that are immediately threatened, we will be planning for the long-term preservation of special places throughout the state. The coming year promises to be another exciting one, and we look forward to sharing our work with you. Onward for wilderness.

Citizen's inventory explodes into full-fledged wilderness organizing

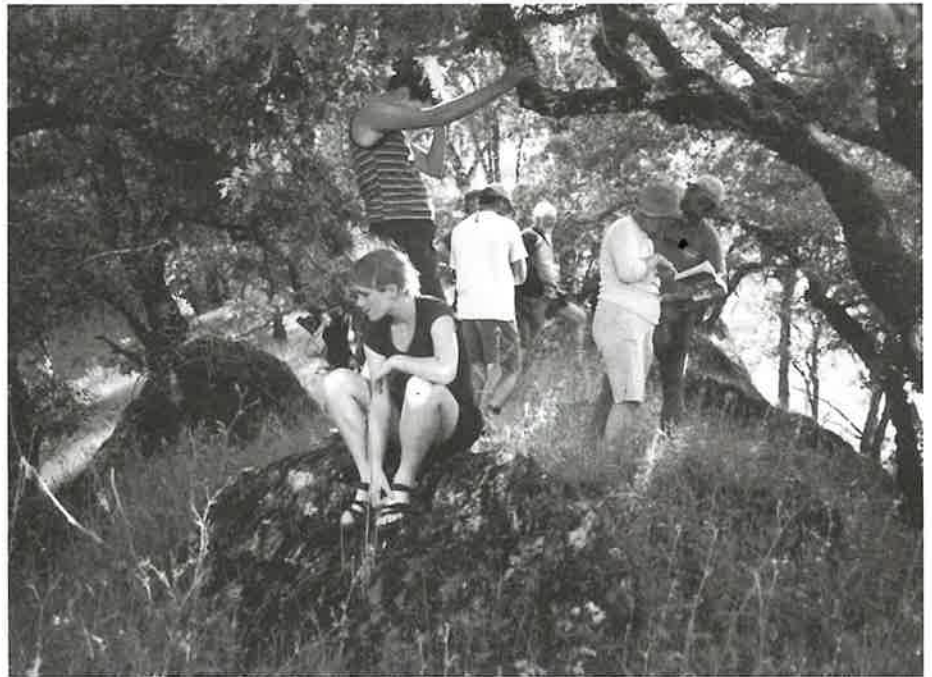
In 1997, the California Wilderness Coalition initiated the biggest citizen's inventory of California wildlands ever undertaken. Staff and volunteers reviewed aerial photographs, Forest Service maps, and topographic maps to determine what land in California still qualifies for Wilderness designation.

Beginning in 1998, over a hundred volunteers took the draft maps of eligible wilderness areas out into the field to find where roads intruded into pristine wild areas, where clearcuts had scarred the landscape and most importantly, where lands had been left untouched. That task was finally finished this past autumn. We are still tabulating the results, and will be publishing a report in spring of 2001.

Over the past year, the citizen's inventory has exploded into a full-fledged wilderness campaign. CWC combined forces with the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the River, and numerous smaller organizations to form the California Wild Heritage Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to permanently protect California's remaining wilderness and free-flowing rivers.

In 2000, CWC hired and trained additional staff, and developed materials for a massive outreach effort that is building support for wilderness and wild rivers. Ryan Henson, CWC veteran, and Tina Andolina, newly hired in February, took on the task of organizing regions of California and building public support for wilderness and wild rivers. Also, Gordon Johnson came on board to help coordinate all the maps that streamed in from the field and to assist local activists with preparing written reports of their wild areas and rivers.

To pass the legislation that will protect our last wild places, we must have the support of local wilderness



The California Wilderness Coalition finished its citizen's inventory of potential wilderness areas in 2000. Over five million acres were field-checked during the three year survey, combining the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and staff.

enthusiasts and voters throughout the state. Only Congress can designate Wilderness or Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Congress looks to local citizens to determine whether or not an area or river merits such permanent protection. Because of this, the main focus of our efforts this past year has been to work with local communities to garner the needed support. Our field staffers, Ryan and Tina, spent the year traveling the state and meeting with local stakeholders and activists to determine which areas and rivers deserve protection and how to advocate for them.

We have worked closely with local organizations to schedule slide show presentations and educate folks about the need for more wilderness, highlight potential wilderness in their area, and let them know how they can help. We have met with countless Sierra Club groups, Audubon chapters, and other groups from Arcata to Bakersfield. Some of the communities we visited in 2000 include Nevada City, Auburn,

Twain Harte, Sonora, Bakersfield, Visalia, Fresno, Amador, Oakhurst, Davis, Stockton, Modesto, Sacramento, Chico, Woodland, Quincy, Downieville, South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Markleeville, Ukiah, Garberville, Petrolia, Eureka, Arcata, Crescent City, Mt. Shasta, Weaverville, Redding, Covelo, Susanville, and Willits.

At these presentations we have asked local activists to do two things: adopt a wilderness area or wild river that is near and dear to their heart and form a local group to protect and build support for local areas. Members of these wilderness organizing committees work together to build local support for the areas they have adopted.

The "Adopt-a-Wilderness" program has helped us find supporters for nearly 200 different potential wilderness areas and wild rivers in Northern California forests from the Klamath to the Sequoia. In "adopting" a potential wilderness or wild river, a group or individual agrees to work to ensure this

specific area or river is designated Wilderness or as a Wild and Scenic River. An adoptive parent agrees to build support for his or her area or river and work to heighten awareness for their special places by leading hikes to their areas, collecting supportive letters, giving slide shows, writing letters, tabling, and organizing river trips, whatever it takes to ensure their area has the support to get through Congress.

To assist the new parents, we have held trainings to help folks lead hikes into potential areas and advertise the areas' pristine qualities, and to teach other tools and skills necessary to be an effective wilderness advocate. These highly trained activists then go out into their community and pass on their skills and love for wilderness.

Our May 2000 wilderness conference, held in Sacramento, helped launch the effort to form local wilderness organizing committees into overdrive. Nearly a thousand wilderness advocates and adopters, young and old, came together to celebrate our past wilderness successes and look forward to the coming years of our campaign for wilderness.

Regional meetings were held throughout the conference, bringing activists from the same areas together to begin outlining plans of how to build support for wilderness in their commu-

nities (see page 12A of this annual report). After the conference, some of these groups met regularly to begin implementing their plans. Additional groups of adoptive parents and activists have also formed to advocate for their favorite wild river or area.

So far, we have nearly 30 wilderness committees in California, all working to protect the rivers and lands they love. Two of our best success stories have occurred in the Tahoe National Forest and Humboldt County.

In the Tahoe, we met with a group of local activists and helped form Friends of the Tahoe National Forest. This group has met every month to discuss seven potential wilderness areas. We have finalized the boundaries for these areas and begun the process of building local support. The group has formed two local campaigns: the Yuba River and the American River Wildlands Campaigns. Activists in both of these communities have produced locally oriented slide shows, handouts, flyers, and reports for each area and river, and have led hikes to these places.

In Humboldt County, a highly effective local organizing committee has formed and has met at least monthly the whole year. They led several show-me tours throughout the summer and have produced and presented a slide show focused on local wild areas. They are currently busy collecting letters of

support for each of the areas they have adopted.

Across the state, there are similar communities of dedicated wilderness activists coming together to ensure permanent protection for their areas.

When it comes time to push for a wilderness and wild rivers bill, only the rivers and areas that have significant support will be included. Therefore "adopters" are desperately needed to advocate for each area and river.

In 2001, we will continue our efforts to reach out to wilderness and wild river enthusiasts throughout the state and meet with all the groups that have a stake in California's wild heritage. We will continue to build a strong foundation for the permanent protection of our wildlands and rivers. We hope to have groups set up in every community and plan to have a solid understanding of which areas and rivers we can truly, successfully advocate for.

Wilderness committees and advocacy groups are popping up all over the state, from the desert to Humboldt County, from Twaine Hart to San Diego. You can join one of these groups working to promote wilderness. If there isn't a wilderness group in your community, we can help you start one! Or, if your group wants to lend its support to this effort, let us know. Call Tina at (530) 758-0380, or send email to tina@calwild.org.

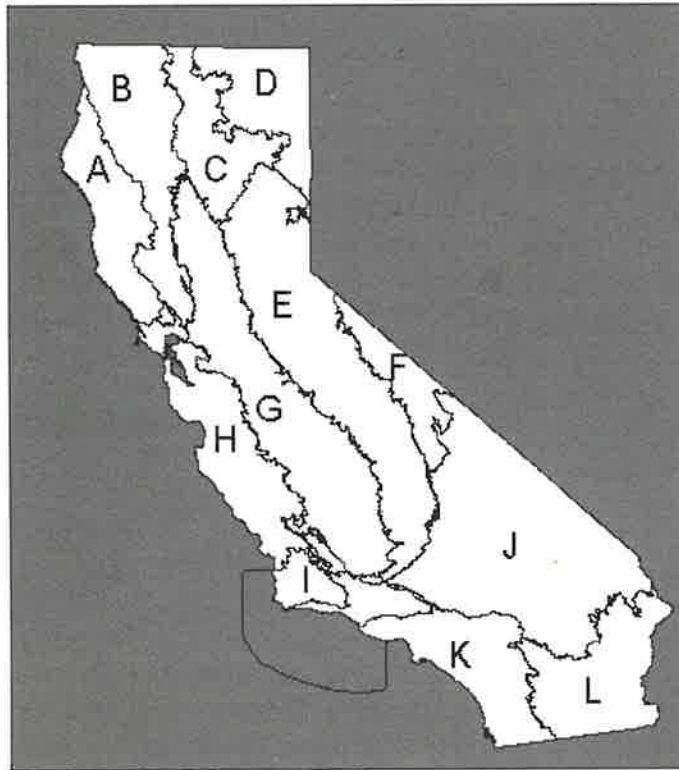


Jim Rose

"Adopters" are leading tours of their potential wilderness areas (here: Caples Creek potential wilderness, Eldorado National Forest) to help build support for them.

Preserving the wild heart of California in the 21st century

Californians have an opportunity to be part of an effort to stop the extinction of wildlife. In past decades, biologists have monitored declines of wildlife such as the steelhead trout, spotted owl, black bear and kit fox. These declines coincide with the conversion of California's forests, marshes and grasslands to tree plantations, urban areas and intensive agriculture, and the degradation of lakes and rivers. Wildlands planning provides a science-informed vision to protect and restore native habitats. As the coordinating organization for wildlands planning groups in California, the California Wildlands Project has made great progress in 2000.



Regional maps developed for California's bioregions have been synthesized into a statewide map that shows areas of critical habitat and linkages between them

North coast (A)

Legacy—The Landscape Connection has recently mapped the biodiversity hotspots in this region of redwood forests and lost coasts. The hotspots are of special interest for their value as roadless areas, botanical refuges, and habitats for the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and aquatic species. In 2001, Legacy will focus on mapping wildlife networks for forest carnivores and the Roosevelt elk. Legacy also hosts wildlife tracking workshops, and supports coalitions of conservation organizations with mapping and analysis. This small but effective group continues to provide leadership in regional conservation planning on the north coast. Learn more about Legacy's mission and projects at www.legacy-tlc.org/home.html.

Klamath-Siskiyou (B)

In 1999, biologists in the Klamath-Siskiyou region developed a wildlands map and conservation plan for the area. Building on that vision, in the year 2000 the Siskiyou Project championed the establishment of a new national monument, the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument, in southern Oregon. The Siskiyou Project believes such a monument will protect much of the Siskiyou region's biological and physical diversity and beauty. By visiting the Siskiyou Project's web page, you can download their regional conservation plan, which is for both California and Oregon, and help support the proposed national monument. For more information, see www.siskiyou.org.

Sierra Nevada bio-region (C, D, E, F)

CWC completed a rough draft of a regional wildlands map for the Sierra bioregion in July 2000. The map identifies additional, larger, and connected wildlife areas in the Cascades, Modoc Plateau, and northern Sierra to facilitate the natural restoration of gray wolf and wolverine populations in these areas. Large oak and chaparral woodlands are also identified that will maintain populations of California spotted owl, Pacific fisher, wolverine, marten, gray wolf, and mule deer. CWC is now presenting the first draft of the map to interested parties and agencies. Meanwhile, we are also improving this map by making a more accurate and comprehensive conserva-

tion plan for the Sierra. A report and maps will be available by February 2001.

Central coast (H)

CWC helped coordinate a team of conservation biologists that assembled a map for this coastal region, which is threatened by urban development and vineyard expansion. The map illustrates a network of wildlife habitat for the mountain lion, kit fox, tule elk, and steelhead trout. Several prime locations for restoring tule elk populations were identified. Also, major rivers and their watersheds were classified by the condition of steelhead habitat and the continued existence of steelhead there. CWC is now working with the members of the Ventana Wildlands Project to refine the map into a conservation tool, available March 2001.

Conception coast (I)

The talented Conception Coast Project has developed a wildlands map for the Conception Coast region, which is an area near Santa Barbara. The new map incorporates the Transverse mountain range, a critical connection to the Tehachapi mountains of the southern Sierra Nevada, and includes marine reserves of the Channel Islands. For more information on the numerous conservation and education programs of the Conception Coast Project, visit www.conceptioncoast.org.

South coast (K)

In April 2000, CWC published the South Coast Wildlands Project report. CWC is moving quickly to refine the south coast wildlands map by addressing the life-history needs of additional wildlife species such as the California spotted owl

and aquatic species. The revised plan, called a Conservation Area Design (CAD), will include specific management guidelines for those areas identified as having unique conservation value. A new edition of the South Coast Wildlands Project report and CAD will be published in March 2001. Visit CWC's website at www.calwild.org/cwp/scwp.htm to view the types of analysis utilized in the south coast wildlands map.

Mojave and Sonoran deserts (J, L)

Critical plant communities in the Mojave and Sonoran desert regions of California have recently been mapped by conservation organizations. CWC will begin baseline research for wildlands planning in these regions in the coming year.

Central Valley (G)

Although there are very few opportunities for protecting large wildlands in the Central Valley, many intact wildlife habitats are in need of immediate protection. Connecting the Sierra Nevada to the coast ranges will be a challenging goal in this region. CWC will initiate wildlands planning in the Central Valley in either late 2001 or early 2002.

The California Wildlands Project provides a vision for people as much as it does for wildlife, ecosystems, and natural processes. When achieved, a wildlands network will connect and preserve California's diverse landscapes.

This statewide effort needs your support in the coming year. Please contact the Wildlands Project coordinator, Chris Erichsen, at (530) 758-0380 for more information.

Conference brings together connectivity experts

California Wilderness Coalition is increasing our efforts to connect wildlife habitat throughout the state. Connectivity is critically important to wildlife because it allows them to migrate to new areas. Without connectivity, certain wildlife populations will become isolated, which will lead to weakening of the populations.

In 2000, CWC asked other environmental organizations, government agencies, and university scientists to join us in our effort to protect connectivity. CWC, along with The Nature Conservancy, the Biological Research Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species, put together a connectivity conference. In November, 160 leading scientists and agency personnel met to pool their knowledge of wildlife corridors, also dubbed "linkages."

Conference participants contributed their personal familiarity with specific regions of the state by drawing the areas they knew were critical onto maps. In this way, on-the-ground expertise about linkages in many areas of the state was collected and united.

The conference proceedings will highlight the importance of wildlife corridors and will be useful in a public education campaign that CWC will launch to educate state policy-makers, local land-use planners, and media about making connectivity a high priority in statewide conservation and local land-use plans.

From the Modoc Plateau to the California desert, CWC combats the foes of wilderness and wildness

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) fights numerous battles each year to preserve our state's wild places. Here are a few highlights of some of our efforts in 2000.

Eastern Sierra Nevada

In August, the CWC voiced strong opposition to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's proposal to radically reduce protection for the Carson-Iceberg, Cottonwood, Dardanelles, and Raymond Peak roadless areas. Currently, these roadless areas are closed to off-road vehicles. If the Forest Service's proposal is officially approved early in 2001, approximately 15,000 acres of these roadless areas may be vulnerable to road-building and other forms of "development." The

agency is currently reviewing public comments on their proposal.

Klamath Mountains

In late 1999, a fire burned in northern California's Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. The Forest Service announced plans to log the burned region, including large portions of the 90,000-acre Orleans Mountain roadless area in the Six Rivers National Forest, as well as scorched areas in the Bell-Quimby (13,700 acres) and Cow Creek (21,300 acres) roadless areas in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. All three of these roadless areas are considered potential additions to the adjacent Trinity Alps Wilderness by conservationists, so the CWC and other groups fought hard this year to defend these threatened wild lands.

Trinity County-based Citizens for Better Forestry, the CWC, and other groups filed an "administrative appeal" of the Forest Service's plans in August. An administrative appeal is a non-judicial way citizens can challenge projects they oppose on public lands. In September, the appellants met with the Forest Service at the Six Rivers National Forest headquarters in Eureka to see if they could negotiate a compromise agreement. The parties were unable to settle their differences, and the administrative appeal was sent to higher Forest Service officials for review. In October of 2000, these officials rendered a compromise decision that ruled against activists on some issues and against the Six Rivers National Forest on others. As a result, instead of several hundred acres, the Forest Service is now proposing to log 15 acres of the Orleans Mountain roadless area. As of this writing, activists are deciding whether or not to pursue the matter in federal court. Meanwhile, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, perhaps as a result of the protracted struggle over Orleans Mountain, announced in October that it would not log the Bell-Quimby and Cow Creek roadless areas.



Jim Eaton

The California Wilderness Coalition and other groups have worked to stop the U.S. Forest Service from any further logging in the Orleans Mountain roadless area (pictured here, with a clearcut delineating its boundary).

Soda Mountain

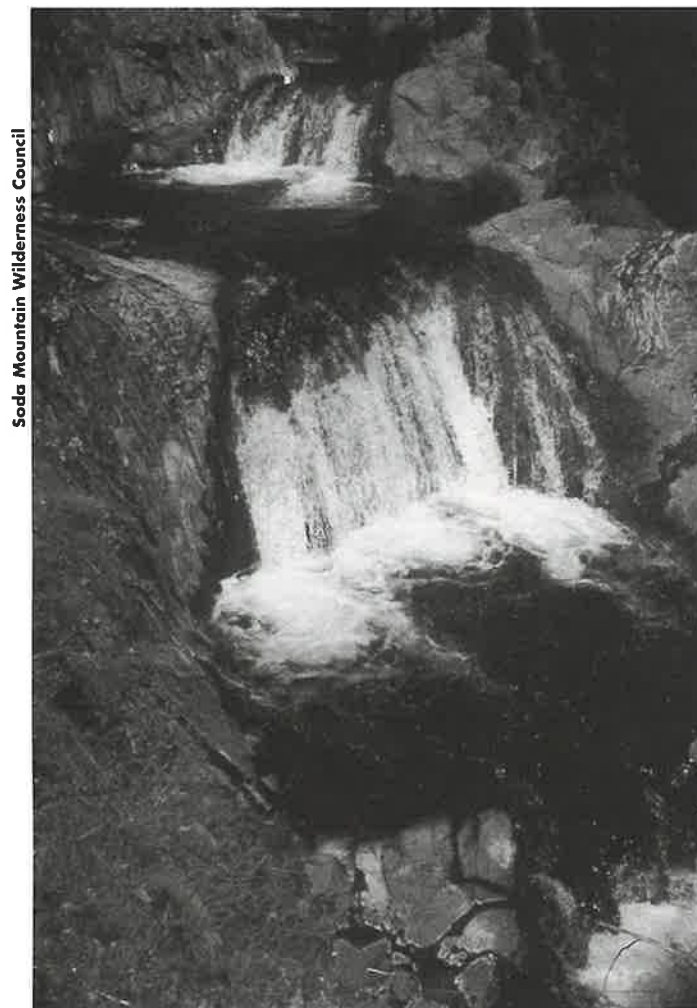
The 38,000-acre Soda Mountain potential wilderness, which straddles the California-Oregon border, is a fascinating region where the Cascades, Siskiyou Mountains, and Great Basin come together. President Clinton proclaimed the Oregon portion of the area the Cascade-

Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, but the CWC, Klamath Forest Alliance (KFA), and other groups continue to push to have the California side protected as well.

The California portion of the region is known as the "Horseshoe Ranch." The Horseshoe Ranch is managed to protect and restore critical winter habitat for deer. Cattle and sheep grazing is banned, as are off-road vehicle use and other destructive activities. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had planned to purchase ecologically important private lands in the Horseshoe Ranch area from willing sellers. In 1999, ranchers in the Horseshoe Ranch area offered to sell their land to the BLM. However, a small but vocal band of anti-government activists were able to convince the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors to demand that the BLM not purchase any more land in the county. Unfortunately, in 2000 the BLM agreed to cancel its land acquisition plans. The CWC and KFA have worked hard this year to convince the BLM to adhere to its original plan of acquiring important private lands inside the Horseshoe Ranch area from willing sellers.

Roadless areas

President Clinton announced in 1999 that he intended to protect roadless areas and directed the Forest Service to develop a plan. In early 2000, the CWC and other groups worked hard to encourage citizens around the country to send letters to the Forest Service supporting comprehensive protection for these critical de facto wilderness areas. In May, the Forest Service released a draft plan, but proposed that only new road construction be banned in these wild places, and that logging, mining, off-road vehicle use, and other activities be allowed



Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

to continue degrading them.

The CWC gathered support for strengthening of the Forest Service's proposal. Even in small towns where anti-wilderness forces typically outnumber conservationists at public hearings, roadless area supporters attended in large numbers and dominated many of the hearings. Nationwide, 23,000 people attended 445 hearings, and citizens wrote over 1.5 million letters in response to the draft plan. The great majority of people contacting the agency demanded more protection for roadless areas. The Forest Service issued a final version of the roadless policy in November (see page 3 of the winter 2001 *Wilderness Record*), and the policy is supposed to be approved by the Clinton administration in December of 2000.

BLM lands on the California side of the border were left out of the new Soda Mountain National Monument. Conservationists continue to push to have the California side protected as well, and to have the BLM keep its promise to acquire private lands located inside the Horseshoe Ranch region.

Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau

The Forest Service's management plan for the national forests of the Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau was released in May 2000. The CWC and other groups contend that the proposed plan does not offer enough protection for sensitive wildlife such as the California spotted owl, mountain yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, and Pacific fisher, especially since the owl is proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Conservation groups contend that the California spotted owl is at greater risk today than the northern and Mexican spotted owls were before they were listed as endangered.

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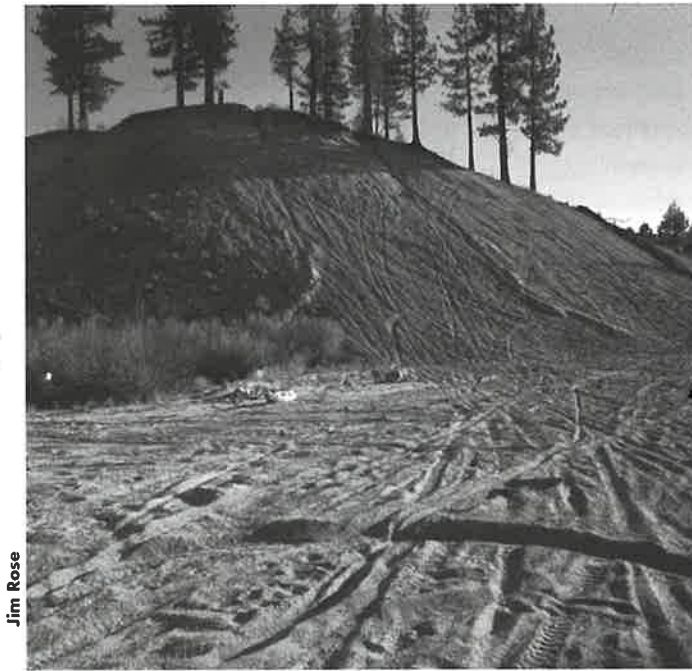
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In 1998, the Forest Service facilitated the logging of 337 million board feet of trees in the Sierra Nevada's national forests; the Forest Service's proposed plan would increase logging to 351 million board feet annually for the next four years. The CWC and the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign (SNFPC) worked hard in 2000 to win support for an alternative Sierra Nevada future that would decrease logging and protect wild areas. The highlight of this work was a hearing in Sacramento in July when the CWC and SNFPC presented 30,000 postcards from around the U.S. and from 51 countries supporting the conservationists' vision for the Range of Light. The final decision for the Sierra Nevada will be released by the end of the year.

Medicine Lake

The year 2000 finally yielded some progress in our battle to stop two proposed geothermal power plants in the Modoc National Forest's Medicine Lake Highlands region.

First, the Forest Service changed its mind and decided not to allow the geothermal companies to log, build roads, or construct high-tension powerlines in three roadless areas. The agency also decided that the developers would not be allowed to clearcut ancient forest. The developers had presented the agency with a stark choice: to allow them to either slice through roadless areas with roads, or to clearcut ancient forest elsewhere. Startlingly, the Forest Service said that neither option was acceptable. Second, the Forest Service and BLM denied one of the developers permission to build on public land. This company then filed an administrative appeal of the agencies' decision, but was



Jim Rose

not successful in getting them to change their minds. Lastly, the CWC, Native American groups, Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment, and other interests filed suit in state court to stop the remaining proposed power plant. While the production of green energy is a worthy goal, even the most worthwhile development projects do not belong in our nation's few remaining roadless areas, wild forests, and Native American sacred sites.

Off-road vehicles

In January of 2000, CWC's Executive Director Paul Spitler was appointed to California's Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. This Commission creates policies for the state's Off-Highway Vehicle Division, and approves funding for the management of off-road vehicles on federal lands throughout California.

As a Commissioner, Spitler has helped to turn around California's off-road vehicle program. In the past, the program has emphasized providing new opportunities for off-road vehicle enthusiasts. This

The state of California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission shifted its emphasis dramatically after environmentalists came on board, and federal agencies must now address the trespass of off-road vehicles into closed areas like this one.

includes building new vehicle routes into unprotected wilderness areas, constructing new parking lots, and acquiring land for off-road vehicle use. This year, all of those activities came to a halt.

The primary emphasis of the state's program is now on conservation of resources, and law enforcement. For the first time ever, federal agencies are required to develop law enforcement plans that will address problems such as trespass into wilderness areas and private property, violation of closed areas, vandalism, and resource damage.

Further, the federal agencies are now required to monitor the effects of off-road vehicles, and to close and rehabilitate areas that show extensive damage. This is a historic first. Despite federal requirements that date as far back as 1972, California is the first state in the nation to develop and implement comprehensive off-road vehicle monitoring. This monitoring, along with increased law enforcement, will help to address many of the environmental and social conflicts caused by off-road vehicles throughout California.

An end to a crippling dependency

CWC helps break the link between rural school funding and national forest logging

Since 1908, rural schools have been partially funded by payments from the federal government based upon logging receipts from the national forests. In November of 1999, the House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 2389) that would maintain this antiquated and destructive system. In late January of 2000, the California Wilderness Coalition joined with the Klamath Forest Alliance and American Lands Alliance to propel the effort to stop the companion bill, Senate bill 1608, or as we called it, "Clearcuts for Kids."

The California Wilderness Coalition hired Jessica Rios, a talented grassroots organizer, to work on the timber/schools issue. Her first priority was raise awareness and inspire action on Senate bill 1608 among teachers, beginning in California and quickly moving beyond, into other states. In an inexplicable and undemocratic move, the National Education Association (NEA) had lent its endorsement to this destructive bill, stating that it was indeed in the best interest of rural schools.

In early February of 2000, Rios contacted NEA-D.C. leaders Bob Chase (President) and Randy Moody (Chief Lobbyist), who re-affirmed NEA's support of S. 1608 and their belief that it was good for schools. Hundreds of letters were sent by teachers to NEA leaders as well as to local newspapers, teachers' associations and NEA affiliate publications, including the CTA's (California Teachers Association) *California Educator*. The California Wilderness Coalition wrote to the CTA asking them to address the issue at their next board meeting. After the meeting,

CTA stated that their "agreement" was not to take a position on the issue. Yet an article in the *California Educator* clearly stated their support for S. 1608.

CWC contacted teachers statewide through activist networks. Connie Hanson of "Caring for Creation Christian Prayer Network"



In such a wealthy country, why should the education of our school children be dependent on the logging industry—and thus continue the destruction of our national forests?

generated support from southern California teachers, while Jessica Rios focused on northern and central California. The Davis Unified Teachers Association (DUTA) jumped on board, and active DUTA spokesperson and Davis High School teacher Don Winters became well-informed and actively involved.

Mr. Winters and three other teachers went to Washington, D.C. for CWC's first lobbying week. Between February and June, CWC sent two rounds of teachers to D.C., the second time accompanied by County Council member Dan McShane of Whatcom

County, Washington. Other county officials were instrumental in the effort, and met with Senators on our behalf while in D.C. for other business. CWC worked with Peg Reagan of the Conservation Leaders Network to drum up support from county commissioners nationwide.

CWC worked with county officials nationwide to build support for a "choice amendment" on S. 1608. The amendment would allow counties to keep all of the monies paid to them by the federal government. As originally written, the bill would have created hundreds of timber-dominated local advisory councils who would "recommend" forest management projects on local national forests. These councils would receive 25% of the funding that should go to rural schools.

S. 1608 was signed into law by President Clinton in October of 2000. The legislation as finally passed will still establish the local advisory councils, but in a vastly different form. The law now requires balanced environmental representation on the councils, and requires support of the conservation representatives before a proposal can go forward.

Further, numerous sections were added to the legislation, which encourage an emphasis on watershed restoration rather than commercial logging. While CWC would have liked additional safeguards that would have protected ancient forests, sensitive habitat, and unprotected wilderness, the final version of the bill poses only a minimal threat to forests, and ends the crippling, 92-year dependence of rural school funding on logging receipts.

California Wilderness Conference enlightens, invigorates, galvanizes!

The largest wilderness event held in 11 years, the California Wilderness Conference brought together seasoned activists and new allies to celebrate wilderness victories and prepare for future campaigns. Two words appeared in most of the comments made by participants—ENERGY and INSPIRATION. Over 700 people attended this phenomenal, once-in-a-decade gathering, learning the skills and making the alliances that will make the California Wild Heritage Campaign for new wilderness successful.

A significant innovation of this conference beyond those of the past was the outreach to bring students, Native Americans and other minority groups, and organized religious groups. Bob Coates of the Student Conservation Association and Jane Elder of the Biodiversity Project emphasized well the importance for the future of including in our outreach all these communities not previously involved in wilderness.

In his keynote address, Chris Arthur, former environmental staff person for Congressman Maurice



Over 700 people attended the May, 2000 California Wilderness Conference in Sacramento. Teams of wilderness advocates came together to learn new skills and find allies.

Hinchey of Utah wilderness fame, electrified the audience with his eloquent statement of the urgent need to bring the concept of wilderness to the lives of those people with whom we don't have much in common, who don't share our passion:

“Remember, we are not trying to save

wilderness for ourselves. We're trying to do it for others, even for those who don't yet know they care about it. Most Americans, after all, will never have a wilderness experience: some wouldn't want it, some couldn't afford it, some simply couldn't endure it. But those strangers to wilderness can be our best advocates; many of our most reliable supporters in Congress represent people for



Regional panels brought people together to strategize about protection of their favorite local potential wilderness and wild and scenic rivers.



Wilderness heroes Harriet Allen, Jim Eaton, Wendy Cohen, and Vicky Hoover brought their wisdom and experience to the conference to inspire and enlighten new wilderness advocates.



Conferees learned how to grab the media's attention, and the nuts and bolts of grassroots organizing.

whom wilderness is only a dream, but a dream that matters to them. We need to remind those people that they do care about wilderness somewhere in their heart. It's hard work, but we can't do it without them."

Former Sierra Club Conservation Director Doug Scott and Jim Eaton, former Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition, gave spirited wilderness history on both the national and California scene. Dave Foreman closed the proceedings Sunday noon with his passionate exhortation to go out and do the work to garner support for wilderness. Dave extolled the value of truly wild land—unmanaged and untrammelled.

Numerous panels offered conference attendees a broad spectrum of wilderness-related topics to discuss and learn more about, such as "Women in Wilderness," "California Desert Protection Act implementa-

tion," and "Cultural Values and the Wilderness Movement." Through intensive workshops, presentations, and lectures, conferees learned first-hand the nuts and bolts elements of wilderness organizing. Conferees



Wilderness supporters Dana Papke, Jessica Rios and Allie Klein made new friends and celebrated conservation victories at Saturday night's banquet.

were provided the tools they will need—brochures, fact sheets, and how-to guides—to promote wilderness protection in their local communities. Armed with these tools and the know-how provided by conference presentations, conferees will be well-equipped to become effective wilderness advocates.

Saturday evening's banquet program honored esteemed "elders" of the wilderness movement, such as Ike Livermore, Ed and Peggy Wayburn, Marge Sill, Lucille Vinyard, Harriet Allen, Dave Brower, Martin

Litton, and Elden Hughes. Banquet speaker Izzy Martin described the recent triumphant campaign to designate the South Yuba as a Wild and Scenic River.

California Wild Heritage Campaign organizers were present in force directing organizing workshops that will inspire and empower citizen activists to work for wilderness protection in their own local areas in coordination with a statewide effort.

The California Wilderness Conference 2000 has played a huge part in boosting the visibility, credibility, and energy level of the California Wild Heritage Campaign. The California Wilderness Coalition has recruited new allies, and invigorated seasoned wilderness veterans. Through inspiring and educational presentations, conferees left the conference with a new level of excitement and energy—the energy that will help carry the California Wild Heritage Campaign to victory.



Connie Stewart led a panel on Cultural Values and the Wilderness Movement.



David Brower, Arch-Druid



Floyd Buckskin (left) and Javier Kinney (right) enjoying the festivities.

Conservation Blueprint: project design completed

For the past five years, the California Wilderness Coalition has led a statewide effort to identify high priority habitat and migration corridors for California wildlife. While our efforts have yielded much success (see summary on pages 6A and 7A of this annual report), we realized several years ago that we could use a little help. In July, 1999, CWC and other organizations helped to include funding in the state budget for the completion of a "conservation blueprint." Through this project, the state would initiate and lead an effort to identify priority habitat—a goal very similar to that of the California Wildlands Project.

In 2000, the state legislature provided \$2 million for the effort, and the state's conservation blueprint was renamed the "California Continuing Resource Investment Strategy Project"—CCRISP, for short. The mission of the project was broadened significantly as well. Current goals include identifying the state's most important natural resources, assessing the tools currently available to protect those resources, and identifying steps that the state can take to preserve high priority habitat.

Early in 2000, Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols convened a stakeholder panel made up of conservation, agricultural and business interests, as well as local, state and federal agencies, to make recommendations on the program's design. CWC executive director Paul Spitler served on a core working group that met weekly to assist in project design. CWC also provided key support at critical junctions in the legislative process to ensure that the project was fully funded.

After months of hard work, the project design has been completed and implementation will soon begin. The ultimate result of this effort will be increased protection for thousands of special places throughout California. CWC will stay involved as the project progresses and will continue to actively support the effort.

The year 2000 according to California's media...

The Sacramento Bee

Clinton shields 34 sequoia groves

Conference to focus on state's wilderness

San Francisco Chronicle
California's Wild Lands
Swing in the Balance

Group Aims for Linked Wilderness

Forest draft unveiled for Sierra land
Critics call it 'insufficient,' 'dangerous'



Davis environmentalists spearhead efforts to protect wildlands in state

Logging wasn't a factor in preventing Trinity fire

By Paul Spitler

In a recent column, Rep. Walt Heger's aide, Dave Mauer, argued that additional logging would have prevented the August fire from burning through the Trinity. Mauer's claim is supported by the fact that the fire was contained by the state's fire department.

Record Searchlight

The fire department's success in containing the fire was a major factor in preventing the fire from spreading to the surrounding area.

California leads in logging of national forests

By John Ortico
The Times-Beacon

Despite continually falling on the nation in logging on U.S. last year, and questions remain the forests to remain viable in the future.

Los Angeles Times

Clinton Pushes to Limit New Roads in National Forests

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Dirt bike riders face uphill battle

Paul Spitler is executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

2 0 0 0 F I N A N C I A L R E P O R T

Income†

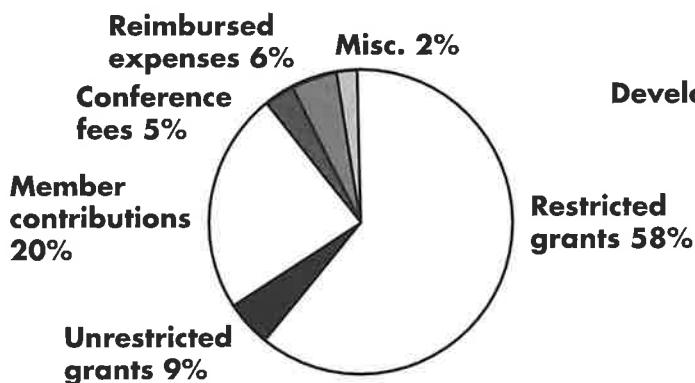
Grants, restricted	\$386,000
Grants, unrestricted	60,000
Member contributions	130,000
Conference fees	34,000
Reimbursed expenses	39,000
Miscellaneous	<u>14,000</u>
Total	\$663,000

Expenses†

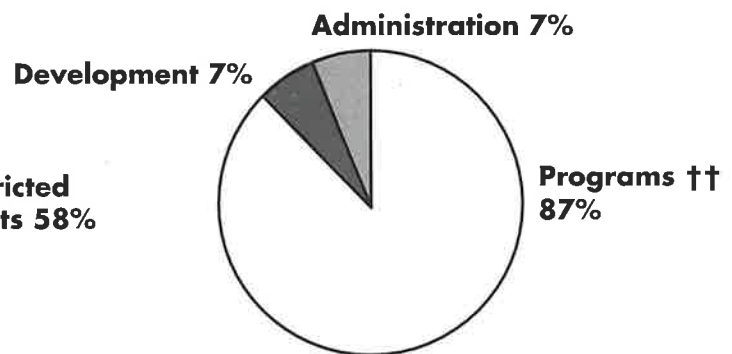
Programs††	\$458,000
Administration	35,000
Development	<u>36,000</u>
Total	\$529,000

† All numbers are estimates.

†† Includes Wild Heritage Campaign, California Wildlands Project, California Wilderness Conference and Defending Our Lands.

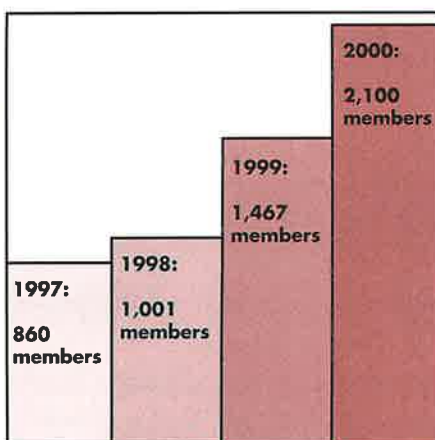


2000 Income



2000 Expenses

M E M B E R S H I P R E P O R T



In the year 2000, CWC met and surpassed its goal of 2,000 members.

Two years ago, California Wilderness Coalition staff sat down at an annual retreat and agreed: "2,000 members by the end of 2000... Wouldn't that be great?" Thanks to the hard work of CWC members, staff, board members, and our conservation allies, we have made it happen!

What does 2,000 members mean? It means more people aware of critical issues on our federally owned wildlands. It means more letters and phone calls to decision-

makers when public comments on issues are most valuable. It means stronger local-level support for wild California, statewide.

To our long-term members: thank you for your many years of support. With your help we will make our shared vision of wild California a reality. And to our new members: thanks for making the commitment to protect and defend the natural heritage of the Golden State. We look forward to working with you.

W I L D L A N D A D V O C A T E S

We would like to thank our Wildland Advocate members for their generous support

Bob Marshall Donor

\$10,000 and Above

Ben and Ruth Hammett
Anne Schneider
Ted and Jennifer Stanley

Aldo Leopold Donor

\$5,000 to \$9,999

James Compton
Lynn Spitler and Ted Eger
Mary Tappel

Ansel Adams Donor

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Sorensen's Resort
Alexander Gaguine and Jane Yett
Nick and Sloane Morgan

Wallace Stegner Donor

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Norman B. Livermore
Don Morrill and Sue Barton
Norman C. Roberts
Mountain Light Photography
Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers
Bob Schneider and Liz Merry
William J. Seiler
Paul Spitler
Norm and Cathy Weeden

Wilderness Defender

\$500 to \$999

Carlton Appleby
Holly Beattie
Allan and Marilyn Brown
Peter and Mimi Buckley
John Davis
Ned Drummond and Lillith Anderson

Barry and Irena Gernstein
Ed Grumbine, Ph.D.
Jordan Lang
Richard R. Lucas and Ana Holub
Mark and Joan Reinhardt Reiss
Roger and Claudia Salquist
Evert and Marion Schlinger
Mary Scoonover
Marsha M. Zelus

Wilderness Supporter

\$250 to \$499

100 Fires Books
Harriet and Howard Allen
Lewis Ames
Wally and Helga Anker
Anonymous
Juliette Anthony
George Barnes
Philip Batchelder
Alvin H. Baum, Jr.
John Beardsley
Roger and Sam Beers
Mary Belkin
Ed and Mildred Bennett
Susan and Joseph Bower
Florian G. Boyd
Dan Brimm
Catherine Brooker
Alan Carlton and Paula Ray
Elizabeth Carlton
Mark and Marcia Cary
Reese and Joy Clark
Edythe Cohen
Brian Cox
Joe and Patricia Currie
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Joel D. Despain
Kathryn Burkett Dickson and John Geesman
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Lynn Epstein
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Erika Fisk
Joe and Leah Fontaine
Susana C. Fousekis
Barbara Gaal
Jim Garrett
Joseph R. Garrett
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Charles D. Goodman
Paul Grant
Fern Grumbine
Dan Gusfield
Claire Hemingway
Howard and June Kambach
Joanne and Dennis Keith
Christopher Kelley and Liane Randolph
Chuck and Lori Krouse
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Thomas and Carol Lumbrazo
Julie E. McDonald
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Rocky Moss
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Patagonia, Inc. * Peradam Foundation * Recreation Equipment, Inc. * Seventh Generation Fund
Town Creek Foundation * Weeden Foundation * WildSpaces * Wyss Foundation