

WILDERNESS RECORD

California Wilderness Coalition

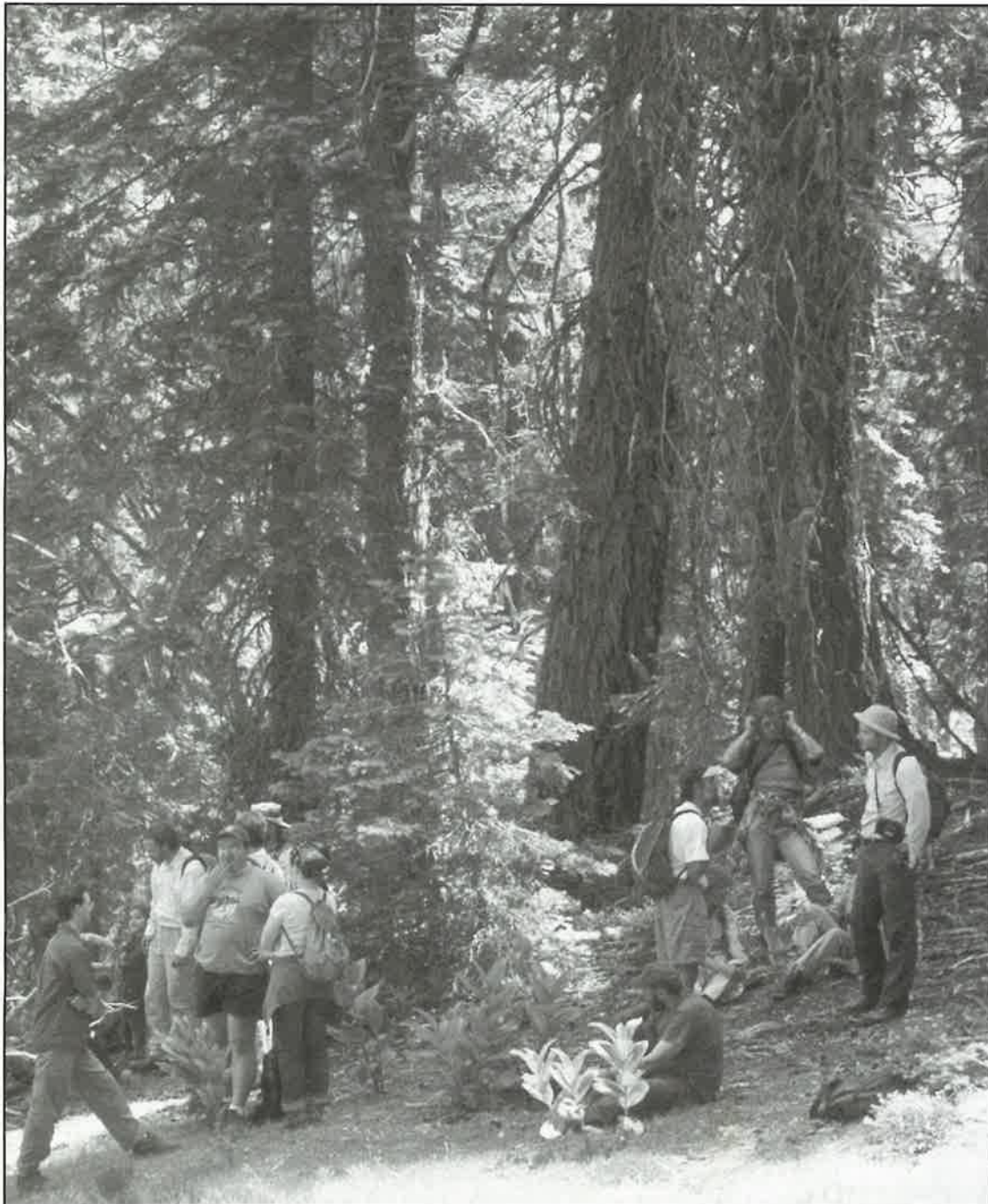
*A Voice
for Wild
California*



Winter 2002

Volume 27

Issue 1



Jim Rose

By November, volunteers trained by CWC staff had led over 70 outings to potential new wilderness areas (like Chinquapin, pictured here) and wild and scenic rivers in the Sierra Nevada and far-northern California. For more about the year's accomplishments, see the CWC annual report inside.

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Our Mission

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

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

History in the Making

The events of September 11 make the conservation gains of 2001 difficult to even contemplate. In light of the tragedy and ensuing human loss and suffering, the protection of additional California wilderness seems small indeed.

And yet, 2001 will be remembered not only for the infamy of September 11, but as a historic year for conservation—and CWC—as well.

The year's highlights include:

- A new federal policy that set close to 60 million acres of American forests (including four million acres in California) off-limits to commercial logging and new roads.
- A historic regional management plan spanning more than ten million acres that gave the ancient forests, streams, and wildlife of John Muir's Range of Light unprecedented new protection.
- The largest citizen wilderness inventory ever completed in the state of California. The inventory, completed through the cumulative efforts of dozens of staff, and hundreds of volunteers, identified over 7.4 million acres of potential wilderness across the state.

These were but a few of the victories in which CWC participated this past year. In addition, we released several landmark studies; recruited, trained, and energized citizen wilderness supporters; and initiated a new program aimed at increasing protection for privately owned wildlands.

More importantly, 2001 marks the Coalition's 25th anniversary. For the past quarter century, we have advocated for California's wilderness, and we hope to do so for another 25 years as well.

Many of you have witnessed CWC's growth through the years. CWC, always renowned for our scrappy, energetic, and passionate defense of California's wildlands, has grown up. We have maintained the focus on recruiting, training, and organizing citizen wilderness advocates that has, for the past 25 years, been the single most effective way to increase protection for California wilderness.

But today, we are also conducting comprehensive scientific studies, forming partnerships with farmers and ranchers, serving on state and federal commissions, and conducting sophisticated public education campaigns. Together, these efforts make CWC one of the most effective grassroots wilderness organizations in the United States. Our record speaks for itself.

While many heroes have helped make the Coalition great over the past 25 years, two in particular, deserve special recognition. Jim Eaton, the organization's founder, Executive Director for 17 years (and current Board member), led CWC for nearly two decades and built the organization's fine reputation. Wendy Cohen served on the Board of Directors for more than two decades, and committed immeasurable time and energy to maintaining the organization. We would not be where we are today without their dedication and commitment.

In retrospect, as 2001 comes to a close, we have much to be thankful for. We should be thankful to be alive, to be blessed enough to live in a nation that can afford to preserve its wilderness heritage. We should be thankful to live in a state with an abundance of natural beauty worth preserving. And we should be thankful to be working for a cause worth investing in—the preservation of American wilderness for the benefit of present and future generations. Thanks for being a part of our team, as we embark on the next chapter of wilderness preservation in California.



California's top threatened places

by **Carrie Sandstedt**

The California Wilderness Coalition, along with our conservation partners, continues to protect and defend wildlands throughout California.

To increase awareness and protection for California's most threatened wild places, the California Wilderness Coalition is producing a report. It identifies unique areas across California that are currently threatened, describes the threats, and gives recommendations for how to reduce these threats and reform policy to ensure greater protection for these areas.

One aim is to give greater attention to areas that deserve increased protection, and discuss in detail why these areas are threatened. Ultimately, the goal is to highlight the ways these threats can be stopped and how more Californians can get involved in protecting the areas in their back yard and across the state.

With the help of environmental activists throughout the state, CWC has identified ten areas, from the Klamath Basin to the California desert, that fall into the category of "California's Ten Most Threatened Places."

Among these most threatened places are: the Klamath Basin, and critical wildlife habitat and potential wilderness lands surrounding the Fort Irwin National Training Center. These areas will be featured in the report, which will be released early in 2002.

Klamath Basin

The Klamath Basin stretches roughly

250 miles from northeast of Crater Lake in southern Oregon to the Pacific coast in northern California. Featuring the Klamath River, high desert, wetlands, lush rainforests, and once rich salmon spawning streams, the region is suffering from a severe drought that puts pressure on farmers, Native Americans, fishermen, and protected species.

The Klamath Basin is one of the nation's great ecological treasures. Perceived by some as the west coast's equivalent to the Everglades, the basin once contained some 350,000 acres of shallow lakes and wetlands (only 75,000 acres of which exist today).

The Klamath River was among the most productive salmon and steelhead rivers.

The upper basin is home to remarkably large native trout, and once contained thriving populations of spring chinook salmon, steelhead, and Kuptu and Tshuam (Lost River and Shortnose suckers). These fish provided a major source of food for Native Americans. In addition, the Klamath Basin attracts nearly 80 percent of the birds migrating in the Pacific Flyway, and supports the largest seasonal concentration of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

Today, much of the water that supplies the basin is diverted from wetlands, lakes, and rivers to farms. These water diversions are further threatening the basin's already listed fish and wildlife species.

Fort Irwin

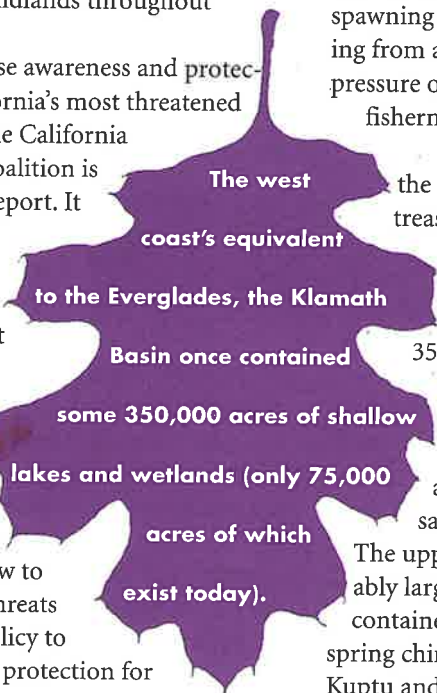
In San Bernardino County,

north of the towns of Barstow and Baker, California's desert wildlife and wilderness are threatened by the expansion of the sprawling Fort Irwin National Training Center, which is the size of Rhode Island, by an additional 131,000 acres. The expansion would jeopardize the survival and recovery of federally protected endangered species.

A recent report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a group of prominent wildlife biologists found that this expansion could jeopardize the continued existence of the federally threatened desert tortoise and endangered Lane Mountain milkvetch. The expansion legislation will give over 110,000 acres of BLM public lands north of Barstow, California to the Army now, without environmental law compliance upfront, and end the conservation of these botanically diverse wildlands in the California desert, including lands Congress has identified as meriting wilderness protection.

To learn more about the ten most threatened places in California, contact Carrie Sandstedt at (530) 758-0380 or send email to carrie@calwild.org.

Carrie Sandstedt is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.



Klamath Forest Alliance



The Orleans Mountain roadless area has been repeatedly threatened by logging, and will be featured in the report on California's most imperiled wildlands.

Loopholes threaten potential wilderness

by Kim Olson

On April 15, 2000, President Clinton proclaimed 327,769 acres of the Sequoia National Forest to be the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The U.S. Forest Service is now drafting a management plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument in the southern Sierra. The agency proposes to amend the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to meet the requirement for developing a plan to protect this area.

The presidential proclamation is supposed to provide management direction and be the basis for writing the new plan. It stipulated that the Secretary of Agriculture must, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, appoint a Scientific Advisory Board to provide guidance during the development of the initial management plan.

The Forest Service asked about 3,000 organizations, individuals and agencies to voice their opinions about the management of the giant sequoias by July 24. In response, they received over 2,000 letters, e-mails and faxes. However, the document to which the public was supposed to respond assumed certain management directions without any review by the public or by the Scientific Advisory Board.

For example, the Forest Service has proposed using the fuels reduction guidelines outlined in the Sierra Nevada Framework, which may not be appropriate for many areas within the Monument. The Forest Service proposed specific actions such as logging trees from the Belknap/Nelson groves in the heart of the Slate Mountain potential wilderness area. Slate Mountain currently contains rare habitat for the imperiled Pacific fisher, a carnivore in the mink family. Further, the document makes no mention of specific manage-



Carla Cleer

This grove in the Black Mountain potential wilderness could be destroyed by logging, depending upon the new monument's management plan.

ment plans for other potential wilderness areas within the Monument, including the Black Mountain area and additions to the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Within the Monument, the Forest Service has begun reclassifying certain trails as roads, under the guise of maintenance, without an environmental assessment of this reclassification. The Sequoia National Forest does not have a forest-wide Trail Plan, even though one is required by their 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan. All major trail projects, and certainly any re-designation of trails to roads, should be put on hold until that Trail Plan is final.

The California Wilderness Coalition and other environmental activists sent comments to the Forest Service imploring the agency to restart the entire scoping process, and thus enable the public to comment on a full range of options for the Monument. However, the Scientific Advisory Board has declared that

re-doing the scoping process is not required.

The Scientific Advisory Board is now analyzing the effects of the proposed action and developing alternatives based on the eight significant issues that they and the Forest Service identified. These issues include: air quality, fire, wildlife, social values, watersheds, visual impacts, recreation, and conditions favorable to giant sequoias. The Forest Service predicts that a draft plan will be available for comment in February.

Kim Olson worked for the conservation of Sierra Nevada forests at the California Wilderness Coalition from June to October of 2001. We greatly appreciate her hard work.

Citizen Wilderness Inventory released

In September of 2001, the California Wilderness Coalition released its Citizen Wilderness Inventory, the result of a four-year survey to determine the true extent of California's remaining wilderness-quality lands. Over 150 volunteers and seven CWC staff surveyed over 300 wild areas and identified 7.4 million acres of land eligible for wilderness designation.

The inventory identified some very interesting facts. First, despite claims to the contrary by federal agencies, many of the wild areas the agencies said

Wilderness campaign takes support to new levels

by Tina Andolina and Ryan Henson

Wilderness organizers and activists have recently taken the support generated during the letter-writing drive and months of outreach and education, and begun the task of meeting with locally elected officials to build even greater support for permanent protection of California's last wild places. From Humboldt to San Diego County, local supervisors, city council members and mayors have lent their voices to a chorus of others supporting wilderness areas in their region.

Wilderness enthusiasts have also reached out to local stakeholders in order to discuss concerns such as mountain biking, dirt biking, grazing and mining, and private property issues.

In a historic vote, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors endorsed wilderness designation for the county's six wilderness candidates in October. By a 3-2 vote, the Mendocino board became the first such body with a Republican majority to endorse wilderness in California, and only the second county in the state to pass a pro-

wilderness resolution this year (Napa was the first). This reverses the board's hostility to wilderness in 1984, when Congress drew the Yolla Bolly Wilderness boundary along the Mendocino-Trinity line to avoid Mendocino County's wrath. Other highlights from far northern California include winning support from two logging businesses and a timber workers' union in Mendocino County.

In the western Sierra Nevada, wilderness supporters have met with supervisors in Plumas, Butte, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Tuolumne, Mariposa and Kern counties. Several elected officials, including Bruce Conklin of Nevada County, Patti Reilly of Mariposa County, Jane Dolan of Butte County, and Penny Humphreys in El Dorado, along with a dozen other elected officials, have endorsed local wilderness areas already. Activists with the Sequoia Wild Heritage Project have developed a web site and other material and are reaching out to educate their community about the potential additions to the Golden Trout Wilderness and others.



the summer meeting with stakeholders to discuss potential wilderness areas including the White Mountains and Owens River Headwaters. They also gave a slide show presentation featuring potential eastside wilderness to Chambers of Commerce, service organizations and local elected officials. In October, organizers and local volunteers held an open house in Bishop, at which nearly 100 people showed up to learn more about the citizens' wilderness proposals for the eastern Sierra.

Along the California coast, thanks to the volunteer work of Carol Kunze, the Napa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution endorsing their county's portion of the Cache Creek potential wilderness. Meanwhile, the Carmel Rotary Club was so impressed with Paul Danielson's slide show on the Ventana Wilderness potential additions that they invited him back to present to the entire Salinas Valley Rotary Club. Volunteer Mike Summers has been busy, signing on three Santa Barbara county supervisors in two weeks time.

Activists will continue steadily building support for new wilderness over the next few months, while continually monitoring new and ongoing threats to potential wilderness. The recently released results of the citizens' wilderness inventory (see box on this and previous page) will be an important asset in these ongoing and ever-increasing efforts to protect California's last wild places.

Tina Andolina and Ryan Henson are Conservation Associates for the California Wilderness Coalition.

were destroyed still in fact exist. In addition, nearly every national forest and BLM region surveyed had both a few new wild areas never identified before, as well as substantial additions to known wild areas.

What is most exciting about the survey is that after years of struggling with anecdotal information, inaccurate maps and other unreliable data, California conservationists finally have real, substantive information about what is wild and what is not in the Golden State's public lands.

For more information on the inventory, see the article on page 8a of this year's annual report (inside this issue). For a full text of the report, go to www.calwild.org/pubs/reports/citizens/index.htm.

Over on the east side of the Sierra Nevada, organizers Sally Miller and Paul McFarland spent

A responsible and conservation-minded farm policy: struggles in Congress, hope at the state level

by Ben Wallace

A massive, expensive and regressive Farm Bill has been hastily shunted through the House of Representatives in an atmosphere of crisis and misinformation. The bill represents a serious setback for a wide coalition of groups representing farmers, environmentalists, rural communities, cities and metropolitan areas, and wildlife conservationists. Even the Bush Administration-

tion issued a critical statement about the bill, which would spend \$170 billion dollars over the next ten years, much of it to subsidize grain and cotton growers.

Nonetheless, the call for a responsible farm policy did not, and will not, go unheeded. Twenty-nine California representatives joined 171 other representatives nationwide in voting for the Boehlert-Kind amendment. This amendment would have taken government subsidies away from the largest 10 percent of farmers, and redirected this funding toward conservation stewardship incentives.

Support for the Boehlert-Kind amendment fell only 18 votes shy of a creating a historic shift in farm policy, which sends a loud message to the Senate that a conservation-centered farm bill has widespread and deep grassroots support. In the Senate, prospects are better for a policy that

rewards farmers for being good stewards of the land. Senator Harkin, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, is a champion of the Conservation Security Act, a conservation policy that provides increasing levels of financial support to farmers as they take steps to protect soil and water quality, improve habitat, and reduce pesticides on their land.

The California Wilderness Coalition is working with state and national environmental and agricultural groups to advocate for measures that will provide direct funding for wildlife habitat enhancement, wetlands preservation, and grasslands improvement to California farmers and ranchers.

Crafting a Working Landscapes Stewardship Act for California

While federal legislators wrangle over a Farm Bill that only rewards large commodity growers in the Midwest, a diverse coalition of environmental and agricultural groups are preparing the ground for a state-level initiative that will reward California farmers for being good stewards of the land.

The Working Landscapes Stewardship Act (AB 1398) will help farmers finance conservation measures that provide valuable habitat benefits. For instance, a rancher may want to use rotational grazing so that rangeland is exposed to intensive periods of browsing, separated by extended periods of rest. Additionally, the rancher may want to build upland water sources for the cattle, protect sensitive riparian areas


with fencing, and restore these areas with native plantings. The rancher could apply to the Working Lands Stewardship Fund and, if these plans and practices are approved, receive \$10-\$20 per acre per year to offset the cost of the added work and maintenance of this new livestock management system.

As envisioned, the rancher benefits in two ways: by receiving a direct financial incentive, and by reaping the long-term benefits in rangeland productivity that would accrue from conservation-minded management practices. The environment benefits as well.

The browse-rest cycle would also create increased forage for wildlife such as tule elk or pronghorn antelope. Healthier grasslands would decrease the rate off rainfall run-off, reducing the incidence of erosion. Consequently, this would decrease flooding and reduce sedimentation in streams and reservoirs. The restoration of riparian areas to native vegetation would provide habitat for a wide array of species.

With the support of the Planning and Conservation League, the California Cattlemen's Association, the Resource Landowners Coalition, and the California Wilderness Coalition, the Working Landscapes Stewardship Act garnered strong support in the Assembly and Senate in 2001. The California Wilderness Coalition will work with our partners and the Davis Administration to seek a source of funding for this bill in the coming year. When the bill's author, Assembly Member Dean Florez, brings this bill forward in 2002, California will be preparing the ground for a habitat stewardship program that benefits wildlife and landowners alike.

Ben Wallace is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.



The Working Landscapes Stewardship Act (AB 1398) will help farmers finance conservation measures that provide valuable habitat benefits.

Artwork: Heron Dance

Fort Irwin expansion is approved

Additional desert wilderness may be created next year, but critical habitat for endangered species is ignored

by Carrie Sandstedt

In San Bernardino County, north of the town of Barstow, lies the Fort Irwin National Training Center (NTC). The training center plans to expand by 131,000 acres, threatening the fragile, adjacent desert lands, many of which are wilderness quality lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Language included in the 2002 Defense Authorization bill gives these lands to the Army before the Army has complied with laws designed to protect our natural resources.

The expansion of the Army's National Training Center and its combat training operations will probably destroy 35,000 acres of potential wilderness areas, including the South Avawatz Mountains and part of the Avawatz Mountains Wilderness Study Areas. These unprotected desert wildlands are home to desert bighorn sheep, sacred Native American sites and part of the historic Old Spanish Emigrant Trail.

The expansion area also includes Superior Valley, an irreplaceable refuge for unique and vulnerable desert plants and animals, including two species threatened with extinction: the desert tortoise and Lane Mountain milkvetch. Nonetheless, legislation did not authorize any funding to mitigate for the damages that the expansion will cause to the fragile desert environment. The cost to compensate for the loss of tortoise habitat alone is estimated at over \$300 million dollars. Compensation measures should have included replacing lost habitat and implementing conservation measures proposed by the federal government.

The Army will also be permitted to open the southernmost strip of Fort Irwin, which has historically been



Janet Barth

Fort Irwin's expansion will probably destroy 35,000 acres of potential wilderness areas, including part of the Avawatz Mountains (depicted here) and all of the South Avawatz Mountains Wilderness Study Areas, home to bighorn sheep and other desert wildlife.

closed to protect one of the few healthy and thriving tortoise populations in the western Mojave desert. Tank training will destroy the invaluable habitat and the tortoise population.

On September 25, the House passed its version of the 2002 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 2586), which includes the "Fort Irwin Military Land Withdrawal Act of 2001." This bill allows the expansion of Ft. Irwin and the destruction of wilderness quality lands. The Senate passed its version of the bill (S. 1438) on October 2; however, the Senate bill did not include the Ft. Irwin expansion language.

A House and Senate Conference Committee met to reconcile the differences between the two bills. Conservation groups, including the California Wilderness Coalition and many others, urged Congress to defend desert wildlife and wildlands. The groups asked that Congress mitigate some of the impacts of the military base

expansion by designating several Wilderness Study Areas in the region as wilderness and giving greater protection to lands that are critical habitat for both the desert tortoise and the milkvetch.

The final version of the Defense Authorization bill allowed Fort Irwin to expand without most of the protections asked for by many members of Congress, including Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, as well as Representatives Susan Davis of San Diego, Barbara Lee of Oakland, and many others. No wilderness was designated in the final legislation and no critical habitat was set aside for the tortoise or the milkvetch. In 2002, conservation groups will continue advocating for wilderness designation for unprotected wilderness areas, and for the greatest protection possible for threatened and endangered species.

Carrie Sandstedt is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

Record number of supporters celebrate CWC's 25th birthday in style

by **Matei Tarail**

Over 150 people gathered on November 8 to celebrate a quarter century of California wilderness preservation. The event was attended by wilderness elders, as well as many new friends, as we celebrated the innumerable special places that have been protected over the last 25 years, and the millions of acres of wild California that CWC organizers are fighting to protect right now.

CWC co-founders gave a presentation on the organization's history and the conservation movement. As Phil Farrell, a co-founder, remarked, "When we started CWC, we conducted an inventory and determined that there were 14 million acres of wilderness, designated and undesignated, across the state. Since 1976, with the hard work of organizations like CWC and the help of new technology, 14 million acres of land



Wendy Cohen

CWC co-founder Jim Eaton with Nobby Riedy (right)

have become *designated wilderness*, and seven million more acres of land still need protection!"

In a special tribute to our 25th anniversary, the Governing Council of The Wilderness Society presented the California Wilderness Coalition with a \$10,000 check to continue our work. Thank you to our friends at The Wilderness Society.

CWC would like to offer great appreciation to Galen and Barbara Rowell and the entire staff of Mountain



Alan Carlton

Justin Black of Mountain Light and Monifa Kelly, of Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office

Light Photography Studios for the use of their breathtaking photo gallery and their event support. Over \$35,000 was raised for the California Wilderness Coalition. Thanks to everyone who helped CWC celebrate its birthday. We hope to see you again next year!

Matei Tarail is Membership and Development Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

We would like to gratefully thank those who donated to the California Wilderness Coalition's 25th anniversary celebration:

Bob Marshall Donor

The Governing Council of The Wilderness Society

Aldo Leopold Donor

Lynn Spitler and Ted Eger

Ansel Adams Donor

Ted and Jennifer Stanley

Wallace Stegner Donor

Don Morrill and Sue Barton
Bob Schneider and Liz Merry
Sorensen's Resort
The Wilderness Society, California/
Nevada Office

Wilderness Defender

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Mary Scoonover

Wilderness Supporter

Diane and Warren Anderson
Joan and Barry Boothe
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Overland Equipment
Patagonia
Sierra Designs

Special thanks to Mountain Light Photography Gallery

Don Rivenes

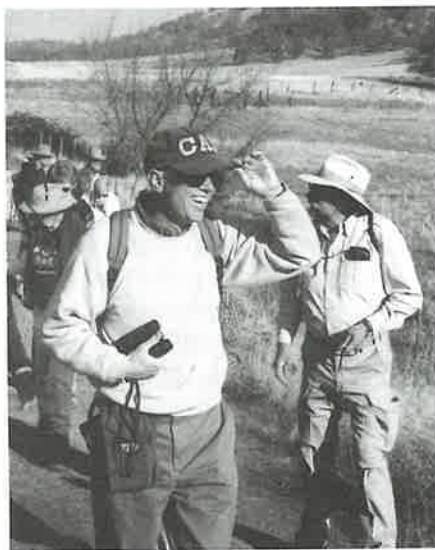
In Nevada City, the mecca of hippie-turned-New Agers looking to get up into the hills, environmentalism is firmly grounded. However, the same mentality that makes a town green-friendly can make living there overwhelming due to the ten thousand issues going on at all times. It is in this atmosphere that Don Rivenes, Nevada City resident, thrives.

Don is not only the chair of the local Audubon Society, which encompasses Sierra, Nevada and Placer Counties, but he is actively involved in a large handful of other organizations, including the South Yuba River Citizen's League and countless local stakeholder groups. But what makes Don indispensable to California wilderness is his undaunted dedication to the potential new wilderness areas in the Tahoe National Forest. First, Don help start up Friends of the Tahoe National Forest to focus on forest issues and promoting new wilderness. Then, he founded the Yuba River Wildlands campaign, whose sole goal is the designation of the potential wilderness and wild rivers in the Yuba River watershed.

Don has worked tirelessly, gathering scores of support letters, meeting with business owners, local elected officials and stakeholders, developing a slide program and taking it on the road, and leading hikes out to the Castle Peak and Grouse Lakes potential wilderness areas to show off their beauty. Don is the glue that holds the wilderness movement in Nevada County together, while juggling the countless other commitments he has to the environment.

Why is wilderness important?

I used to think wilderness meant an area where natural processes would



Don Rivenes enjoying a birdwatching hike

occur without interference from humans. I could picture the area, but I did not need to visit it to know that somewhere, there were places that wildlife could go about their business without our interference. I now understand that this is not exactly true, considering that hunting, fishing, and camping are allowed in wilderness, but the concept still applies. Even if you never go there, it is of value to you.

How did you get involved in conservation/Audubon?

In 1974, my family took a transect trip across California with Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and I got hooked on birds. My wife, Barbara became office manager with Golden Gate Audubon and I assisted with computer work for the office. Since I moved to Nevada City, it has been easy to become involved with various local environmental groups working to protect habitat around the Tahoe National Forest, which is in our backyard.

What inspired you to get involved in the wilderness campaign?

Important habitat for wildlife has

been disappearing at a alarming rate, and the campaign presented a great opportunity to contribute to protecting the little potential wilderness left in the Tahoe National Forest. Attending the last wilderness conference in Sacramento was also inspiring.

What are some of the other environmental campaigns you've been involved in?

I have worked to establish Important Bird Areas for Spenceville Wildlife and Recreation Area and Yuba Pass Research Station as part of Audubon-California's state program. I am involved with Friends of Spenceville to stop Waldo Dam. I am on the Yuba Watershed Council, where its membership of stakeholders is cooperating to protect, restore, and enhance the Yuba and Bear River watershed resources. I also am on Audubon-California state board and am President of Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, working to educate citizens on the importance of the environment, and to protect our forest resources.

What is your proudest moment in your conservation work?

There is no single moment at this point. I just hope that by helping to organize people's efforts that we will end up with truly protected wilderness areas in the Tahoe National Forest.

What is your favorite aspect of working on a wilderness campaign?

It gives me an opportunity to not only see these wonderful areas, but to listen to other people describe why these areas are important to them. To work toward a goal of protecting wild areas for my grandkids and other future generations is awesome.

Back to the future: Parallels between 2002 and 1984

The California Wilderness Act of 1984, signed into law by President Reagan, designated over 1.8 million acres of national forest wilderness. It created 26 new wilderness areas and enlarged 15 others. The Act set aside additional roadless areas, for which the Forest Service was directed to continue examining their wilderness potential. It also “released” some roadless areas to multiple uses such as logging and road-building. Conservationists vowed to continue the fight for protection of these areas on a case-by-case basis, and in most instances the released areas have remained pristine.

Today, faced with again with a Republican Administration that seems determined to exploit wilderness, citizens continue to push for protection of our last wild places. We ask ourselves: what was it like, back in 1984? How did those intrepid activists do it? How did they feel about the Act, and how would they advise us to proceed in the coming months?

In October 1984, shortly after the California Wilderness Act became law, Jim Eaton had the following thoughts. Jim was the CWC Executive Director from 1980 to 1997, and his wisdom is well worth recollection.

“I watched the House debate on C-SPAN and felt elation as the lopsided roll call votes progressed. But our celebration was subdued: it was hard to cheer when memories of special places not in the bill filled my mind.

“Then came the long wait for Mr. Reagan’s signature on the bill.

“The day the bill was signed I was on the road to gatherings of wilderness folks in the Kernville area. The ‘wilderness grapevine,’ via Russ Shay, caught up to me in Porterville. We opened a bottle of champagne that evening.

“Just two days later, Martin Litton flew Bob Barnes, Tim Palmer, and myself over the Kern Plateau to look at our new wilderness areas, but more importantly, to begin our strategies on the areas left out. We looked at the

Scodies, the Little Trout Creek basin left out of the Dome Land Wilderness, and Monache Meadow that was compromised out of the South Sierra Wilderness. We shall return for you!

“But the importance of the California Wilderness Act finally hit when the north wind blew the rice smoke out of the valley, and the new Snow Mountain Wilderness became visible from Davis. It felt good to know that an area I began working on 18 years ago (long after Katherine Petterson and others had begun the task) finally made it. That’s one fewer place to worry about—now we can concentrate on other places, other issues.”

Regarding those next steps, Jim Eaton continued to inspire wilderness activists (then and now). In November of 1984, he wrote:

“There was some concern in the environmental community that with the passage of the California Wilderness Act, many of our volunteers would decide it was about time to move on to other things.

“Well, we shouldn’t worry. The past few months I found people all around the state eagerly awaiting their next challenge.

“In Quincy, Friends of Plumas Wilderness had just dedicated the Bucks Lake Wilderness, but they were in the thick of the Lassen forest plan and working to save the Chips Creek roadless area. Snow Mountain’s supporters are now casting an eye on BLM’s Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area.

“Desert wilderness activists are becoming better organized. At meetings in Bishop and Los Angeles, I was impressed with the optimism of conservationists who know they have a long, long struggle ahead.

“In the Bay Area, the Henry Coe Task Force continues to marshal support for a large state wilderness in our second largest state park. Members of the Wilderness Subcommittee for the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club are

adopting the Hoover Wilderness Additions...”

Shortly after the 1984 bill was passed, Steve Evans, a long-time river and wilderness activist and a CWC board member for many years, offered a clear vision for the future:

“The timber industry and the Forest Service will no doubt be chagrined to hear that wilderness absolutely refuses to disappear from the collective public mind. For environmental reasons as basic as preserving our public land as much as possible in a primitive state, we will insure that ‘wilderness’ will remain an issue. Despite specific areas, dear to our hearts and minds, lost or compromised in the California Wilderness Act, we must accept that the bill is a good first step. But it is not the time for wilderness activists to beat their pens into plowshares. We have a long way to go.”

Today, nearly 18 years later, many of the issues and areas described in these excerpts remain important. Monache Meadow remains unprotected, and the Forest Service is attempting to plan a logging project in it (see page 12). Chips Creek is an area long revered by Plumas forest activists, who have never allowed the Forest Service to log it. The Forest Service has actually recommended additions to the Hoover Wilderness, although activists have recommended areas that are more complete than the agency’s. Henry Coe’s wilderness is a favorite retreat for Bay Area and Sacramento Valley hikers and backpackers, as is Snow Mountain.

We still have a long way to go, and wilderness is very much in the minds of not only wilderness advocates, but the media, politicians, the agencies, and the opposition. In 2002, CWC and its partners will work to see additional wilderness designated, as we expect the first version of our new wilderness bill will be introduced in Congress. Get those pens ready!



Pete and Alison enjoying the ocean

New additions to Wildlands Project

We are very excited to announce the newest additions to the CWC team. We have hired Alison Sterling Nichols and Pete Nichols as Project Coordinator and Conservation Biologist for the California Wildlands Project. They have set up their office near Grass Valley and are a fantastic addition to our team.

Pete is originally from Maine, and he initially moved to California in 1987. After spending a few years in San Diego, he moved to the north coast and attended Humboldt State University, studying ecological botany. He worked on the Headwaters Forest campaign by helping to author the Headwaters Forest Stewardship Plan and serving on the board of directors of the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Garberville. For the next few years, Pete traveled and conducted fieldwork for the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Geological Survey in Hawaii, and an environmental consulting firm in Idaho. Most recently, Pete was Stewardship Director for a land trust in northern Michigan called the Leelanau Conservancy.

Alison is originally from Michigan and moved to California in 1991 to work for an environmental education organization based in Ventura. She moved to Berkeley and worked for the San Francisco Conservation Corps, then moved to northern California to attend Humboldt State's graduate school of natural resources management. She worked for the Trees Foundation, coordinating the Headwaters Forest Stewardship Plan project, and also served on EPIC's board of directors. She then worked for the Nature Conservancy in Chicago and West Virginia, and moved back to Michigan to work as Land Protection Specialist and Outreach Director for the Leelanau Conservancy.

Welcome Alison and Pete! As we happily greet our new conservation associates, we must bid farewell to the great work and personality of Chris Erichson. He was the Wildlands Project Coordinator for two years and we will miss his presence and charisma. We wish him well in his new adventures.

limited so bring everything you need with you. Contact: Mojave National Preserve, 222 East Main Suite 202, Barstow CA 92311; (760) 255-8801 or (760) 733-4040. To apply for a permit, call (760) 255-8863. Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/moja>

Mojave

Party size: Consult rangers during permit process for parties larger than 15.

CWC welcomes two new board members

We are proud to welcome two new members to our board of directors, Julie McDonald and Dana Harmon Charron. Julie practiced law for 21 years, 17 of them with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, now Earthjustice. She worked on many kinds of public land issues, from roads and logging to mining and geothermal leasing. She handled appeals, litigation and mediation, sometimes representing CWC. Her cases included the proposed Gasquet-Orleans Road, which would have bisected the Siskiyou Roadless Area, and the BLM wilderness inventory.

Julie especially enjoys spending time in the Emigrant and Carson-Iceberg Wildernesses. CWC is honored to have Julie's talents and experience added to our board of directors.

Dana has 14 years of experience founding, building, and leading non-profit initiatives in environment, health, and development. She directed the Wood Reduction Clearinghouse for Rainforest Action Network for two years, before founding the WoodWise Program at Co-op America to promote forest friendly products and practices. She has also worked as a project manager and managing editor for Greenpeace. Currently, she is co-director of the Household Energy and Health program for the Center for Entrepreneurship in International Health and Development at UC Berkeley. We are thrilled to have Dana join the CWC team.



Pete Yamagata

A bona fide picture of the Whipple Mountains Wilderness

Corrections

The Fall 2001 incorrectly identified a picture on page 9 as the Whipple Mountains Wilderness. This picture was taken in Bryce Canyon National Park. The editor sincerely apologizes for her error.

Also, a ranger for the Mojave National Preserve requested that we revise the information originally published in the Summer 2001 Wilderness Record/Wilderness Guide for two areas in the preserve, as follows.

Kelso Dunes

Quota: no Permit: required for parties larger than 15. Party size: Consult rangers during permit process for parties larger than 15. Fires: only in fire pans or existing rings; no wood collecting, bring your own firewood. Pets: must be on leash no longer than 6 feet. Closures: no Note: backcountry water sources are limited and unreliable so always carry plenty of water; no target shooting or plinking; area services are

Forest Service protects Sierra Nevada forests ... for now

On November 16, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth upheld the Sierra Nevada Framework plan for managing 11.5 million acres of national forest land across the Sierra Nevada region. The final decision on determining the implementation of the plan now rests with the Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources, Mark Rey, a former timber lobbyist.

The Framework plan was appealed in the early part of this year by over 230 groups and individuals. The appeal period ended on April 17, 2001; through November, the U.S. Forest Service reviewed these appeals. However, Bosworth declared the plan's foundations solid on Nov. 16. The Framework protects ancient forests, water resources, wildlife, and human communities.

Bosworth did ask for additional review of certain aspects of the plan, including those that reduce fire hazards by restricting logging. However, modifying the Framework could lead to additional rare species becoming federally listed as endangered.

Roadless policy still in limbo

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was implemented in January, 2001 to preserve our remaining wild forests by banning road building and conventional logging on 58.5 million acres of national forest land in 39 states—including 4.4 million acres in California. It was the product of the most extensive federal rulemaking in history.

However, the Bush Administration has continually failed to uphold the roadless rule. In May, Federal District Court Judge Lodge of Idaho issued an injunction barring implementation of the policy. The Department of Justice failed to mount a defense, and Judge Lodge even cited the Justice Department's own brief as a basis for prohibiting implementation of the rule.

When environmental groups immediately appealed, the government refused to join them, or to mount their own appeal. The Justice Department's failure to mount a serious defense of the Roadless Rule undermines conservationists' efforts to protect roadless areas and contradicts Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman's promise in May to uphold roadless values.

The conservationists' appeal of the injunction of the Roadless Rule was heard on October 15, 2001 in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Environmental groups argued in support of the Roadless Rule on behalf of the public, who overwhelmingly support protections for our last unroaded National Forest lands. A three-judge panel explored both sides of the numerous legal issues presented in the appeal. The Justice Department was absent.

In December 2001, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to render a decision on the expedited appeal of Judge Lodge's preliminary injunction. It remains to be seen whether the Roadless Area Conservation Rule will yet be implemented. Stay tuned to the *Record* for updates on this front.

Forest Service to log roadless area in Sequoia National Forest?

In one of its first attempts to log in a roadless area after the finalization of the roadless area protection policy, the Forest Service has put together plans to log trees in the Monache Meadows Roadless Area, a potential addition to the South Sierra Wilderness Area in the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests.

The Forest Service has stated that the project is necessary to regenerate aspen trees, improve habitat, and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. However, the logging project would actually worsen the risk of catastrophic fire by reducing the tree canopy and drying out the area. Since the project will harm local habitat rather than improve it, the project should not be allowed in a roadless area.

The logging project, which is about 28 miles north of Kernville, calls for the cutting of conifer trees on 35 acres around Jackass Meadow. The Forest Service has not specified where the logging would actually occur, or how close to Jackass Creek, Fish Creek, or the Jackass National Recreation Trail the trees would be cut. Conservation organizations including the Sequoia Forest Keepers and the California Wilderness Coalition have called on the Forest Service to follow all relevant public laws, by allowing the public to review the project before proceeding.

Bush Administration removes Clinton-era mining limits

A proposed open-pit gold mine on lands sacred to the Quechan tribe will be allowed, following policy revisions announced by the Department of the Interior in October of 2001. Under former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, the mine was blocked in order to prevent irreparable harm to important cultural and religious sites on 1,571 acres of BLM land in the California desert near El Centro.

The reversal came as part of a larger move to eliminate a Clinton-era policy that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to deny mine proposals targeting hard-rock minerals on federal land, if the new mines would cause lasting harm to communities and the environment. Current Interior Secretary Gale Norton claims she will negotiate with Congress to reform the infamous 1872 Mining Act, which has given mineral extraction the highest priority on public lands.

Plan for power plant near Joshua Tree scrapped

Citizen pressure overcame the prevailing energy crisis mood in California, stopping plans to build a large power plant just seven miles from Joshua Tree National Park. Boston-based InterGen withdrew their proposal to build the

900-megawatt Ocotillo Energy Facility in September after public opposition led the Palm Springs City Council to withhold zoning changes that would facilitate development of the plant.

Lying downwind from Los Angeles, Joshua Tree National Park already suffers from poor air quality, and new sources of air pollution—including a smaller InterGen plant—have recently been approved in the area. Park officials and conservationists complained that the four-month review period, shortened from the usual twelve months by a new state law, did not allow enough time to study the impact additional air pollution from the proposed plant might have on vegetation that supports the endangered desert tortoise.

Mining patent in Mojave Preserve protested

The Center for Biological Diversity, National Parks Conservation Association, and Barstow-based Citizens for Mojave National Park filed a protest in September to halt mining claim patenting of 673 acres of public land in the Mojave National Preserve. The conservation groups seek to ensure that the Department of the Interior carefully considers whether the mining claims are valid. If the claims are not valid, then they cannot be patented or mined. If the Department finds some of the claims are valid, then the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 requires that the patent may convey only the sub-surface minerals and not ownership of the surface lands. However, if the Interior Department invokes the 1872 Mining Act and issues a full patent, the mining company can get full title to the public lands for a mere \$2.50 per acre.

The park lands targeted for privatization are associated with the Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark area and are also designated critical habitat for survival and recovery of the desert tortoise. “The desert tortoise is in a steep decline. Its critical habitat needs to be protected, not given away to private interests for mining and future development,” said Daniel

Patterson, Desert Ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity.

Burnt Forest Sale stopped in Plumas National Forest

An administrative appeal filed by Forest Conservation Council and the Plumas Forest Project has stopped the second half of the Storrie Salvage Sale in the northern Sierra Nevada. The deputy Regional Forester for Region 5 reversed the Plumas National Forest’s decision to salvage nearly 5 million board feet (approximately 1250 log trucks) from 1,798 acres of the Storrie Fire Area. The reversal stated very clearly that whether the project is for commodity production or stewardship, it is still bound by the new Sierra Nevada Framework.

The Storrie appeal decision also held that the Plumas had not included “vegetative analysis and resultant cumulative effects analysis to make a determination of species viability” and that the forest should have developed additional alternatives to the log and not log alternatives considered.

Between the recently tabled Storrie Salvage Sale on the Lassen National Forest and this Storrie salvage on the Plumas, the resulting log trucks would have stretched end to end from Sacramento to San Francisco. The John Muir Project filed an additional and successful appeal on the Storrie Salvage Sale as well. *Courtesy of the National Forest Protection Alliance.*

106 cosponsors for ending commercial logging on public lands

The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, which would end commercial logging on public lands, had 106 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives as of November, up from 89 co-sponsors in May.

California plants get critical habitat

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed on November 15 to designate almost 67,000 acres in two California counties as critical habitat for the La Graciosa thistle, Lompoc yerba santa

and Gaviota tarplant. Most of the critical habitat, about 85%, is on private land with 10% on federal land and the remainder on county and state lands. Because the plants have very small populations with limited distribution they are extremely vulnerable to extinction. *Courtesy of the Endangered Species Coalition.*

Scientific report: Western trout need roadless habitat

The newly formed Western Native Trout campaign released a scientific report on November 5 showing the importance of roadless areas to imperiled native western trout. Using GIS technology and biological indicators of trout health, the report shows that the remaining healthy populations of native trout are strongly correlated with roadless areas. If these areas are fragmented with road construction as proposed by the Bush Administration, extinction of unique trout populations and possibly entire species may result.

Stronger populations of native trout are now found in only a tiny fraction of their historic ranges. The report found that stronger populations of seven of the eight species analyzed now occupy less than 6% of their historic range and three species now occupy less than 1% of their historic range. (“Stronger” populations refers to those areas where native trout are most abundant or most genetically pure.) Two species outside of the analysis, the Alvord cutthroat and yellowfin cutthroat, are already extinct. Roads and associated activities are a major cause of habitat degradation that has triggered these declines.

In contrast, most stronger remaining native trout populations are found in roadless areas, with the stronger populations of some species almost exclusively limited to roadless areas.

Together, these findings indicate that the protection of roadless areas is essential to the continued existence of native trout. *Courtesy of the Center for Biological Diversity.*



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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.

M E M B E R S H I P

Thanks for a quarter century of wilderness protection

Since 1976, California Wilderness Coalition has led the charge to defend and permanently protect California's rich wildlands legacy. Without our loyal and supportive members, we would not have achieved many of the lofty goals our founders set for us over 25 years ago.

Of course, much more work remains to be done. Many of the state's most beautiful and ecologically significant areas are currently threatened by off-road vehicles, mining, logging or other forms of resource extraction. Each time you renew your membership or recommend CWC to your friends and associates you strengthen our capacity to protect wild California.

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 150 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.





Shirts: 100% organic cotton. White on a cobalt blue shirt, or in full color on a natural shirt. Warning: Even after washing and drying, these shirts tend to run a size larger than most t-shirts. Sizes S-XL.

Caps: Our full-color logo is embroidered on the front and "A Voice for Wild California" is embroidered on the back. Caps are 100% cotton, navy blue, and adjustable to all sizes.

Order Form

Item	Color	Size	No.	Price	Subtotal
T-shirt(s)				\$10 each	
Hat(s)	blue			\$15 each	

Subtotal _____
 Shipping* _____
 Total _____

* Shipping: \$2.00 for first hat, \$0.75 for each additional hat. \$2.50 for first shirt, \$1.50 for each additional shirt.

Method of payment:

Check enclosed.
 Bill my Visa; MasterCard; American Express.
 Credit card number _____
 Expiration date _____
 Signature _____
 Name _____
 Gift from: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip _____

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

Join the California Wilderness Coalition TODAY!

Your membership includes a subscription to our quarterly journal, the *Wilderness Record*, action alerts to keep you informed, and the opportunity for direct participation in our campaigns.

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

Method of payment:

Check enclosed.
 Bill my Visa; MasterCard; American Express.

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- \$500 Wilderness Defender
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- \$50 Business Sponsor
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$30 Non-profit
- \$30 Individual
- \$10 Low-income

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

w/02/wr



Photos by John Sterling, Alan Carlton and Laura Kindsvater

Celebrating the California Wilderness Coalition's 25th anniversary, a record number of wilderness supporters gathered together on November 8 at Mountain Light Photography Gallery in Emeryville (see page 8).

A Voice for Wild California



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ANNUAL REPORT

*A Voice for
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Anniversary
25
1976-2001

California Wilderness Coalition



This year, the California Wilderness Coalition released the results of its statewide citizen inventory of remaining unprotected wilderness. Here: The Smith River potential wilderness

Welcome to the California Wilderness Coalition's annual report. Inside you'll find stories about our accomplishments in 2001, as well as our plans for 2002.

Despite numerous challenges, 2001 was an excellent year for conservation. In January, the Forest Service designated 58.5 million acres of roadless land (including 4.4 million acres in California) off-limits to commercial logging and road building, and approved a Sierra Nevada-wide plan to protect old-growth forests, wildlife, and water quality.

CWC played an active role in defending these historic policies. We have also worked hard to protect threatened wildlands statewide, from the California desert to the far north of California. In addition, this year we created the Private Lands Stewardship Initiative, a program that will build alliances between conservationists, ranchers and farmers. With this new program, CWC is advocating on behalf of all wildlands in California, regardless of who owns them.

In 2001, we released several ground-breaking studies, including the results of our four-year survey of California's last remaining unprotected wilderness, and an analysis of critical wildlife migration corridors entitled *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape*. Featured on the front page of the Science section of the *New York Times*, this study details 232 wildlife corridors across the state that are a high priority for preservation and restoration.

None of these achievements would have been possible without you. The letters you wrote, phone calls you made, and dollars you sent us were all invaluable to our efforts. We hope you take pride in our joint accomplishments. Enjoy the annual report!

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Looking ahead to 2002

As 2001 comes to a close, it is easy to marvel at our magnificent gains: a new federal policy prohibiting road construction and logging in four million acres of potential wilderness, a new management plan for ten million acres of Sierra Nevada national forests, new gains in off-road vehicle management, and new information on the location and status of California's highest priority wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.

Many of the programs we completed in 2001 laid an excellent foundation for our efforts in 2002. Our citizen wilderness inventory has become the basis for a legislative campaign to protect additional California wilderness. Our assessments of wildlife habitat and corridors form a solid foundation to increase protection for sensitive areas and migration routes. Our public education on the damage caused by off-road vehicles will provide excellent opportunities to reform off-road vehicle management on federal lands. These programs are described in greater detail below.

Wilderness advocacy

In 2001, CWC completed two monumental tasks: we finalized a citizen wilderness inventory of California's last remaining wilderness caliber lands, and we developed broad public support for wilderness among businesses, organizations, civic leaders, and elected officials throughout northern and central California. With maps and support in hand, the stage is set for a comprehensive campaign to protect California's remaining wilderness.

This campaign will move into a new phase in 2002. Early in the year, we expect to convince Congressional champions to introduce comprehensive wilderness legislation. CWC will work in partnership with the California Wild Heritage Campaign to build support for this legislation. We will continue to develop support for wilderness throughout California, and will assist in an extensive public education campaign about the values of wilderness.



John Sterling

California Wilderness Coalition staff are dedicated to wilderness and wildlands advocacy.

California Wildlands Project

In 2001, CWC completed a comprehensive habitat assessment that identified critical wildlife habitat within the Sierra Nevada and central coast regions. In 2002, we will work to translate these assessments into public policy by conducting a targeted public education and advocacy campaign designed to increase protection for critical habitat areas.

We'll work with local leaders and elected officials to assist in incorporating protection for priority habitat into local land use plans. We will also continue to increase our public education campaign about the importance of wildlife, habitat and migration corridors.

In 2001, in partnership with several state, federal, and private organizations, CWC also completed the state's first ever comprehensive assessment on the location and status of wildlife migration corridors. Our study identified over two hundred wildlife corridors throughout the state, many in need of additional protections. In 2002, we will work with partner organizations, as well as state and federal

Selected events in 2001...

President Clinton and Agriculture Secretary Glickman announce the final Roadless Area Conservation Rule prohibiting logging and road building on 58.5 million acres of national forest land.

Regional Forester Brad Powell signs a Record of Decision finalizing the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (or Sierra Nevada Framework).

California Wilderness Coalition releases *Off-Road to Ruin*, a report that contains numerous case studies of areas throughout California damaged by off-road vehicles.

California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission passes resolution to increase off-road vehicle fines from \$50 to \$1000 for trespassing violations into wilderness areas.

U.S. Representative George Miller and 23 other Representatives send Sierra Nevada Framework support letter to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman.

CWC staff complete draft maps and descriptions of the Sierra Nevada and northern California potential wilderness areas.

January 5 January 12 March 8 March 16 March 27 March 31

agencies, to protect and restore these critical wildlife linkages.

Finally, we will continue on our quest to identify the state's most important wildlife habitat, by conducting comprehensive assessments in the Central Valley and California desert regions. Both assessments will be initiated in 2002, to be completed in early 2003.

Defending our Lands

CWC, along with our conservation partners, helped score impressive gains in 2001 with the President's roadless area policy, Sierra Nevada Framework, new off-road vehicle policies, and several successful defensive efforts protecting California's roadless areas. In 2002, we will work to defend these gains, while seeking to secure additional interim protections for special California wildlands.

In 2002, CWC will unveil a comprehensive strategy designed to prevent catastrophic wildfire while ensuring the protection of potential wilderness and other sensitive areas. The strategy will identify actions land managers can take to reduce hazardous fuels without jeopardizing forest ecosystems. The release of the strategy will be accompanied by a comprehensive public education campaign designed to ensure proper implementation.

We will also continue our campaign to ensure proper management of off-road vehicles on public lands. The campaign will continue public education on the damage caused by motorized vehicles, as well as our advocacy for proper off-road vehicle management on federal lands. Further, in 2002, we will pursue legislation at the state level that reforms the state's off-road vehicle program to give more consideration to environmental balance.

Finally, we will continue our active defense of California's wilderness candidates. We will defend threatened areas from logging, mining, off-road vehicles, and other forms of development. We will highlight threatened areas. And we will work with federal agencies to ensure that they develop land management plans that fully protect the values of wilderness caliber lands.

Private Lands Stewardship

In 2001, CWC initiated our first program aimed solely at the conservation of privately owned wildlands. In 2002, we will continue building the program by working to secure additional incentives at the state and federal levels.

Specifically, we will work to ensure passage of the Working Lands Stewardship Act at the state level, and work to double the amount of funding available for wildlife habitat restoration and conservation through the national Farm Bill.

Further, we will release a report on the opportunities for increased private land stewardship in partnership with conservation and agricultural organizations. Finally, we will initiate regional pilot projects designed to demonstrate good land stewardship principles.

The coming year promises to be action-packed for California wilderness enthusiasts. With four active programs, CWC will have many exciting results to report throughout the year. We look forward to sharing it with you.



Wilderness advocacy will move into a new phase in 2002. We expect to convince Congressional champions to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect areas like the Chinquapin potential wilderness.

Potential wilderness areas in the Sierra have over 200 supporters, and in northern California have 260 supporters, with letters from businesses, organizations and citizens to prove it.

California Senator Sheila James Kuehl and 15 other California Senators send Sierra Nevada Framework letter of support to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman.

American River Wildlands and Yuba River Wildlands are formed to protect and generate support for the potential wilderness areas of these two watersheds in the Tahoe National Forest.

The Lake County Group of the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter form in large part to promote wilderness and wild and scenic river protection for special areas in the Mendocino National Forest and local BLM holdings.

Activists in Bakersfield, Kernville, and Tehachapi unite to generate support for the permanent protection of the Lower Kern, its eligible tributaries, and potential wilderness in the Kern River canyon.

Following support by CWC and other private lands conservation groups, the state-level Working Landscapes Stewardship Act (AB 1398) passes the California Assembly.

March 31 April 12 April 30 April 30 May 3 June 4

Protection and restoration of wildlife habitat

The California Wildlands Project is drafting a plan for the preservation of California's biodiversity by identifying key habitat areas and migration corridors for wildlife. The project's current phase is to develop sophisticated habitat analyses for targeted species of wildlife and to use scientific methods to prioritize habitat areas.

Sierra Nevada

In the summer of 2001, CWC reached a significant milestone with the completion of the first draft of our Sierra Nevada wildlands conservation plan. This conservation vision identified the landscapes and linkages necessary to provide for the long-term survival of Sierra biodiversity.

We collaborated with scientists to develop a methodology for identifying conservation priorities. It incorporates the habitat analysis, along with numerous other factors, including representation of natural communities and protection of rare species.

This methodology has been implemented, and the results—a regional conservation plan for the Sierra Nevada bioregion—have been peer reviewed and are undergoing final edits. The final plan will be published by year's end, and in 2002 we will begin developing an implementation strategy.

Central Coast

In fall 2000, CWC began refining our wildlands conservation plan for the central coast. A team of ecologists has developed and implemented a new methodology that identifies critical habitat areas and migration corridors throughout the region.

The report analyzes habitat for selected focal species, as well as target elements such as oak woodlands. The results and management recommendations have been presented in map and report form, and have been reviewed by a panel of scientific experts. The report should be released in early 2002.

South Coast

In winter 2000, CWC published a wildlands vision map that identifies conservation priorities in one of the Earth's most biologically diverse regions, the south coast of California. Over the past year, we worked to review the assessment and determine whether the conservation areas identified would provide habitat for a broad range of species. Our analysis concluded that the network sufficiently protected the region's plants and animals.

Further, we are working with the State of California Resources Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, local land conservancies, and the South Coast

Wildlands Project to complete a conservation plan for the region's priority corridors. We hope that this effort will lead to the conservation of these corridors within two years.

California Legacy Project

In June 1999, CWC helped to secure funding for the State of California Resources Agency to identify California's conservation priorities. Through this project, which is the first of its kind in California, the state will identify important habitat on a state-wide basis and undertake actions to protect those lands.

The program provides an excellent opportunity to further the goals of the California Wildlands Project. In 2000, CWC served on the project's Scoping Committee and Core Working Group to help shape the project's design. In 2001, CWC Executive Director Paul Spitler was appointed by Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols to the project's Citizen Advisory Committee.

Further, CWC helped to secure funding through the state budget to continue the effort, and has worked intensively with staff to shape the project. We are well-positioned to influence the outcome of this important project, and our wildlands conservation visions will be extremely important and helpful in that process.

25 California Assembly-members send Sierra Nevada Framework letter of support to Secretary of Agriculture Veneman.

Chief Judge Marilyn Patel grants a temporary restraining order halting all logging in the Orleans Mountain roadless area, which contains the largest unprotected old-growth forest left in California.

Nevada County Supervisor Bruce Conklin and 24 other local California elected officials send a letter of support for Sierra Nevada Framework to Forest Service Chief Bosworth.

CWC releases federal Farm Bill position paper to California's Congressional delegation, calling for conservation-centered reform.

CWC's lawsuit forces Federal Aviation Administration to admit they did not complete necessary environmental review of the proposal to expand the Mammoth Lakes airport. Approval of the airport expansion is revoked. The area's rural character is preserved for now.

Nearly 100 public interest groups, including CWC, send a letter to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton expressing concerns about the Army's proposal to expand the Fort Irwin National Training Center in the Mojave desert.

June 8 July 12 July 13 July 19 July 24 July 26

Missing Linkages: Restoring connectivity to the landscape

In August of 2001, the California Wilderness Coalition released an invaluable tool for individuals and organizations working for habitat protection in California. It is a report entitled *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape*, the result of an intensive one-day workshop held in November of 2000.

Continued development pressures in California are fragmenting biologically important habitats around the state. Because of this, linking protected areas to each other is increasingly becoming a priority within the biological and conservation communities.

To address these concerns, the Missing Linkages workshop brought together 160 scientists, land managers, planners and conservationists from around the state to work together in identifying critical habitat linkages for California's wildlife. The result: 232 priority habitat linkages throughout California were identified. The ecoregions covered at the workshop included: north coast, Bay Area/central coast, south coast, Central Valley, Modoc Plateau and Cascades, Sierra Nevada, and desert. In addition to identifying linkages within their own ecoregion, participants joined forces with representatives from adjacent ecoregions to provide seamless habitat connectivity throughout the state.

The resulting *Missing Linkages*



Courtesy Bighorn Institute

Bighorn sheep utilize the Iron Mountains potential wilderness to migrate from the Old Woman Mountains to the Sheephole Valley Wilderness. The *Missing Linkages* report identified 232 of these wildlife corridors statewide.

report is the first-ever statewide analysis of migration corridors in California, and is already proving to be a useful and needed tool for conservation strategies within each linkage area. Some ecoregions of the state, such as the south coast, have already conducted a number of follow-up meetings to further refine their regional data, and implement strategies for protecting these critical linkages.

In August, the *New York Times* featured this important work on the front page of their Science section.

Chief of the Natural Resources Division of the California State Parks Department, Richard Rayburn, commented to the *Times* that, "Linkage-type acquisitions are our most important acquisitions—linking preserves is the best way to make preserves bigger." CWC's Executive Director Paul Spitler stated, in an *Associated*

Press article, "Wildlife corridors are an essential component of any conservation strategy on the basis that the natural habitats have been fragmented."

The *Missing Linkages* report has provided an opportunity for stakeholders across the state to realize the importance of habitat connectivity for California's wildlife. It gives land managers, planners, scientists, and the conservation community a solid foundation of information for refining their own ecoregional habitat linkage protection priorities.

CWC releases the results of its statewide analysis of wildlife migration corridors in a report entitled *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape*.

CWC and the Environmental Protection Information Center initiate a major public education campaign to educate policy-makers, land managers, and the general public about the connection between wildfire and forest management. Over 40,000 copies of a special publication are distributed to northwest California residents.

...and CWC's accomplishments

60 Sierra Nevada businesses and community leaders send letters in support of Sierra Nevada Framework to Forest Service Chief Bosworth.

23 of California's federal representatives sign on to the Working Landscapes Stewardship Act, endorsing a conservation-centered Farm Bill.

650,000 Americans (including 35,000 Californians) respond to the request for additional roadless policy comments, resulting in over 2.1 million comments in support of roadless area protection.

August 7

August 9

August 30

September 6

September 10

Local wilderness activists generate support from elected officials

In 2001, the California Wilderness Coalition had three staff people dedicated to the California Wild Heritage Campaign—the statewide effort to permanently protect California’s remaining wild lands and wild rivers. Gordon Johnson’s tasks were to develop descriptions and gather photos of potential wilderness areas, and to coordinate maps of them. Ryan Henson and Tina Andolina worked to generate public support for protecting wilderness in far northern California and the Sierra Nevada respectively.

Ryan and Tina helped establish many local wilderness groups ready to go to bat for their special places. By January of

Potential addition to the Snow Mountain Wilderness in Mendocino County, where county supervisors have voted in support of all six potential wilderness areas.



Jim Rose

CWC releases its Citizen Wilderness Inventory, which outlines all remaining potential wilderness in the state (7.4 million acres). 1.4 million acres were not included in government surveys.

CWC and the Willits Environmental Center win support for wilderness from two logging businesses and a timber workers’ union in Mendocino County.

200 U.S. Representatives, including 29 from California, vote in support of the Boehlert-Kind amendment, 18 votes shy of a historic reform of the Farm Bill for conservation.

After legislation passed in the House to expand the Fort Irwin National Training Center, 14 conservation groups, including CWC, send a letter to members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees urging them to incorporate changes in the Defense Authorization legislation that would protect endangered species and wilderness lands in the Mojave desert.

In a historic vote, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors endorses wilderness designation for the county’s six potential wilderness areas.

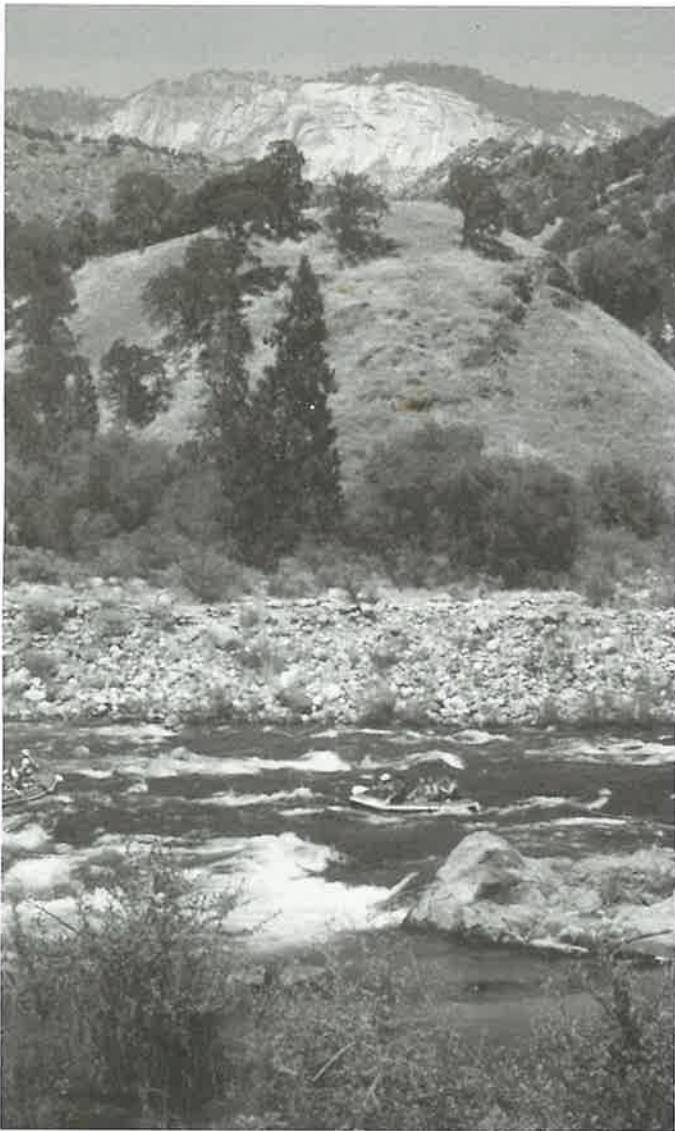
2001, half a dozen new wilderness groups were beginning to form in the Sierra Nevada. By June, the Yuba River Wildlands group in Sierra and Nevada counties, the American River Wildlands group in Placer County, the Committee to Save the Kings River in Fresno County, the Sequoia Wild Heritage Project in Tulare County, and the Kern River Wildlands group in Kern County had already successfully generated hundreds of support letters for new wilderness and wild rivers.

In far northern California, representatives of existing organizations and new wilderness activists came together to form local wilderness organizing committees in Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity and Shasta counties, with smaller satellite groups in Tehama, Modoc, Siskiyou and Lassen counties. Like their friends in the Sierra, these groups have generated hundreds of letters of support for wilderness from businesses and other groups and individuals.

Gathering letters of support as a means of educating local communities and demonstrating the diversity of support for our wilderness proposal was the single most important focus for the first half of the year. Activists met with local businesses, teachers, faith leaders, other professionals, and clubs to solicit support for their areas. This letter-gathering drive was a tremendous success. With over 450 letters generated for areas from Humboldt County to Kern County by the end of March, activists had developed quite an impressive base of support from which to leap into the arena of public debate.

Local wilderness supporters spent the summer setting up meetings with their elected officials, including county supervisors, mayors, city council members and others. Many elected officials have been incredibly positive about new wilderness and wild rivers, including supervisors in Butte, Humboldt, Nevada, Lake, Placer, El Dorado, Tuolumne, Fresno, and Mariposa counties; several rural mayors and city planners;

September 25 September 30 October 6 October 12 October 16



With encouragement from CWC, the Committee to Save the Kings River came together again this year to fight another dam threat on Dinkey Creek in the Kings River watershed. The group began work to see both Dinkey Creek and the Kings River designated as a Wild & Scenic River. Pictured here: the Kings River.

plus a handful of city council members from Chico, Ukiah, Willits, Arcata, Point Arena, and Visalia.

In a historic vote, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors endorsed wilderness designation for the county's six potential wilderness areas in October. By a 3-2 vote, the Mendocino board became the first such body with a Republican majority to endorse wilderness in California in recent memory, and only the second county in the state to pass a pro-wilderness resolution this year (Napa was the first). This reverses the board's hostility to wilderness in 1984, when Congress drew the Yolla Bolly Wilderness boundary along the Mendocino-Trinity line to avoid Mendocino County's wrath.

Tina, Ryan, and local activists also met with stakeholders affected by our wilderness proposals, including private landowners, recreation groups, tribes, loggers, federal land management agencies, outfitters, and others. As a result of these meetings, activists have resolved misconceptions about wilderness, and in some cases we have revised proposals to resolve stakeholder concerns. For example, activists redrew the boundaries around areas like the Hole-In-the-Ground Trail in the Tahoe National Forest so that it would remain open to mountain bikes.

Most stakeholder meetings did not result in an alteration of our proposals. Instead, we answered questions and worked to convince people that wilderness and wild and scenic rivers do not threaten them or their livelihoods. This process resulted in the recruitment of some surprising supporters, including two logging businesses and a timber workers' union in Mendocino County.

Activists have also done extensive outreach to whitewater rafting groups to win their support for both new wild and scenic rivers and wilderness areas. We have met with commercial guide services and non-profit clubs who run Cache Creek, the Kings River, the East Fork Carson River, the Trinity River, the Eel River, the Klamath River, and the Lower Kern River.

In 2002, we expect that legislation including our proposals for wilderness designation will be introduced in Congress. CWC will continue to build support for wilderness throughout the state, and will assist in an extensive public education campaign about the values of wilderness preservation.

Congress decides to exclude wilderness designation and protection for endangered species in Fort Irwin expansion legislation, to the dismay of California's U.S. Senators and many Representatives.

CWC celebrates its 25th birthday at Mountain Light Photography, with speeches from co-founders and other wilderness leaders.

In summer and fall, volunteers recruited and trained by CWC staff lead over 70 hikes, boat trips, and other outings to potential new wilderness areas to educate the public about the importance of protecting these wild places.

Forest Service upholds the Sierra Nevada Framework, a plan that sets preservation of old-growth forests, wildlife, and water quality as top priorities.

CWC finalizes wildlife habitat assessment reports for the central coast and Sierra Nevada.

November 6 November 8 November 15 November 16 December 21

A 2001 milestone: the release of the Citizen Wilderness Inventory

In October, 1997, the California Wilderness Coalition, along with our partner organizations, began what we thought to be a modest project. We wanted to know the true extent of California's remaining unprotected wilderness. Despite great interest among the public and policy-makers in wilderness protection and public land management, no one—not even the federal land management agencies themselves—had known the true extent



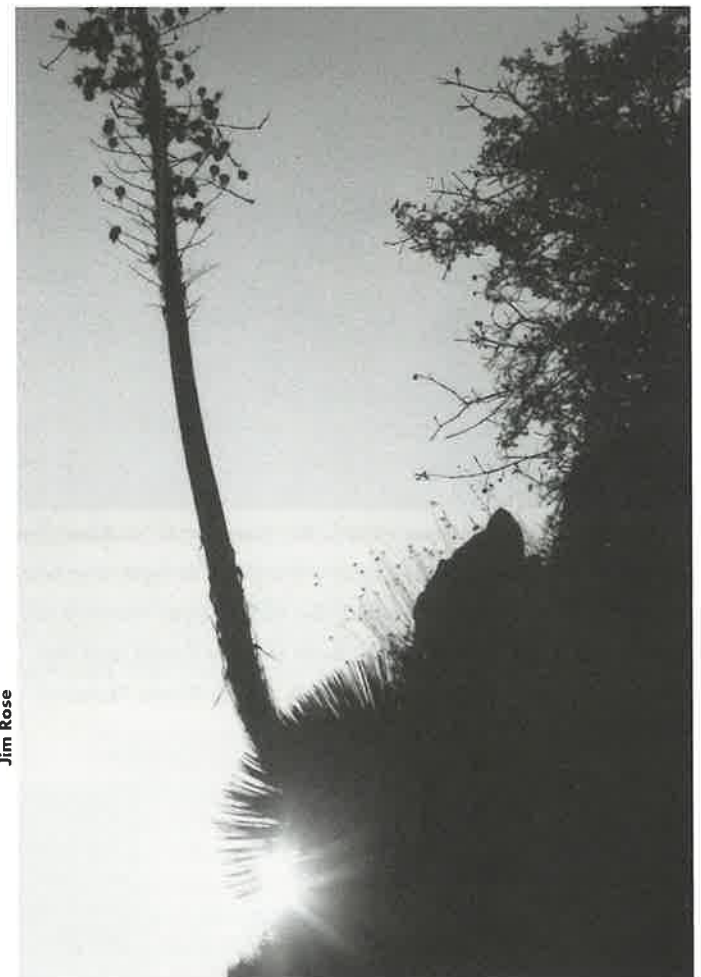
of California's unprotected wilderness lands. The last government survey of wilderness-caliber national forest lands was completed by the U.S. Forest Service in 1979. The fieldwork for the last review of Bureau of Land Management holdings was undertaken in the 1980s. Both reviews were incomplete when they were finalized and are out-of-date today. This year, we were pleased to announce the results of California's largest ever citizen wilderness inventory. These results did not come easily. What started as a modest idea grew into a monumental undertaking that involved literally thousands of hours of fieldwork, dozens of organizations, and hundreds of committed volunteers. The result is that we now know—perhaps for the first time ever, and certainly for the first time in decades—the true extent of California's remaining wilderness lands.

We discovered that California's remaining unprotected wilderness lands are a rare and shrinking resource. Less than eight percent of the state's land qualifies for wilderness designation—and that is all that remains. Despite marvelous advances in technology and science, wilderness remains a non-renewable resource. It is finite in nature, and once lost, is gone forever.

We identified 7.4 million acres of unprotected wilderness on California's federal lands. This total includes:

- * 5,254,228 acres of national forest.
- * 1,856,825 acres of Bureau of Land Management holdings.
- * 253,025 acres of national park.

Some of the areas identified were overlooked in official government surveys. Of the 7.4 million acres identified by the citizen inventory, approximately 1.4 million were not included in government surveys. These areas are not distributed evenly across the state, but every portion of the state contains at least some wilderness-caliber lands.



A higher percentage of the central coast's public lands are undesignated wilderness than any other region of the state. Several of these areas are threatened by oil and gas development, such as the Moon Canyon unprotected wilderness (above) in the Los Padres National Forest.

Completing the picture for habitat preservation

This year, the California Wilderness Coalition created an ambitious new program aimed at enhancing habitat for wildlife on privately owned lands.

Crafting a Strategy

Early in the year, CWC embarked on an ambitious report in partnership with stakeholders from the agricultural community. The report, entitled *Viable Habitat*, outlines opportunities to enhance the ability of private landowners to improve wildlife habitat. Preserving wildlife habitat on California's private lands is particularly important for the survival of imperiled ecosystems such as oak woodlands, coastal grasslands, and riparian areas. These ecosystems often occur in areas that are highly valued for agriculture and development, resulting in a disproportionate impact on the species that rely on these ecosystems for survival.

Too often, endangered species are perceived as a threat by farmers and ranchers. Many fear that the presence of endangered species on their land will result in the loss of management flexibility and land value. At a time when many small and mid-sized farms are being squeezed by low prices and high input costs, the marketplace provides very little incentive for farmers and ranchers to go the extra mile for the benefit of species. However, stewardship of the land is in the common interest of agricultural producers, species, and the public.

In *Viable Habitat*, proposed changes include direct financial incentives to restore habitat, improvements to the delivery of financial incentives, tax reforms, expanded use of conservation easements, consolidation of compli-

cated regulations, and market-based rewards. Look for this report's release in 2002.

Advocating a new policy approach

Even as we began crafting our strategy, debate over the Farm Bill began taking shape in the House of Representatives. The bulk of Farm Bill funding has traditionally been directed to grain and cotton producers in the Midwest. The CWC organizing effort in 2001 joined with sustainable agriculture and environmental organizations such as the California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and Environmental Defense to advocate for a conservation-centered Farm Bill.

In July, CWC produced recommendations that outline initiatives specific to California and would result in a farmer- and wildlife-friendly Farm Bill. Twenty-nine agricultural, environmental and conservation oriented groups joined in the effort to call on California's representatives to support conservation proposals such as the Conservation Security Act (HR 1949) and the federal Working Lands Stewardship Act (HR 2375). CWC members came through with phone calls and letter writing to generate support in California for these bills.

In the House of Representatives, our collaborative organizing efforts generated 200 hundred votes, including 29 from California, in a campaign to pass the Boehlert-Kind amendment (based on HR 2375). This amendment would have provided sharp increases in funding for programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which helps farmers improve water quality, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, which funds wildlife improvement efforts on private land. Although the amendment did not pass, the strong vote in support of

conservation sent a clear message to the Senate that a "business-as-usual" farm bill will soon give way to a farm policy that supports all farmers, and provides benefits to all citizens.

Working Landscapes Stewardship

There are many practices a rancher can employ that improve rangeland for native vegetation and wildlife, while increasing forage for livestock. For example, time-limited, concentrated grazing of livestock improves grass regeneration. Utilizing this management tool requires significant up-front costs (e.g. more fencing), but the returns come only after many years. California can increase stewardship of our rangelands by providing incentives that enable agricultural producers to invest in the long-term health of the land.

California Assembly Bill 1398 would create a stewardship fund through which agricultural producers who manage their land to provide habitat can access per acre payments that offset the costs of stewardship practices. CWC worked with environmental and agricultural partners, including the Planning and Conservation League, California Cattlemen's Association, and the Resource Landowners Coalition, to promote this bill in the California Legislature.

Partnership building

In December, CWC initiated a working group, including a diverse array of agricultural and environmental stakeholders. The working group will examine initiatives recommended in *Viable Habitat* and from other sources, and conduct an in-depth overview of habitat stewardship programs, their strengths and weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement.

Holding the line on multiple fronts in defense of the wild

For 25 years, the California Wilderness Coalition has worked with individuals and organizations to preserve, protect and defend California's remaining wildlands. The year 2001 was no different. In addition to working toward protecting pristine lands as wilderness, CWC has also worked to defend wildlands from threats that would destroy their wilderness character.

Roadless Area Conservation Rule

In efforts to defend the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, California Wilderness Coalition staff worked with individuals and organizations around the state and the nation to protect 58.5 million acres of national forest land—including 4.4 million acres in California—from road building, logging, mining, and drilling.

After the U.S. Forest Service issued the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in January of 2001, it was attacked both in the courts as well as by the Bush Administration. On the day of his inauguration, President Bush halted its implementation, and in May a federal judge blocked its adoption. Then, on July 10, the Bush Administration opened a new 60-day comment period to gather further comments on the Rule. All totaled, 2.1 million Americans commented on the Roadless Rule, including 650,000 comments generated between July and September. In California, over 35,000 comments were gathered during the second comment period, with the majority in favor of strong roadless area protection.

In September, just before the close of the comment period, the California Wilderness Coalition, along with The Wilderness Society, Earthjustice, Sierra Club and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, held a rally in San Francisco as a part of a nationwide, week-long series of regional events



Tim Sherburn

CWC and its partners gathered support for the Sierra Nevada Framework from 60 Sierra Nevada businesses and community leaders, 25 county supervisors, both California Senators, 25 U.S. Representatives, and many others. On November 16, the Forest Service upheld the Framework.

across the U.S. to demonstrate Americans' continuing support for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Fort Irwin

For nearly 15 years, the Army has been trying to expand its Fort Irwin National Training Center in California's Mojave desert. The training center is surrounded by hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine Wilderness Study Area lands, as well as the Superior Valley, which is an irreplaceable refuge for a wide variety of unique and vulnerable desert plants and animals.

In September of 2001, the House of Representatives passed the 2002 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 2586), which includes the "Fort Irwin Military Land Withdrawal Act of 2001." This legislation allows for the expansion of Ft. Irwin into critical habitat lands for threatened and endangered species and wilderness quality lands in southern

California.

Earlier this year, 29 scientists and nearly 100 public interest groups wrote to the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton. Their letters expressed concerns about the Army's proposal to expand Fort Irwin, especially regarding the impacts the expansion would have on potential wilderness lands as well as habitat critical to the survival of threatened and endangered species such as the desert tortoise.

A coalition of conservation groups, including the California Wilderness Coalition, has been working since early this year to monitor the Army's expansion plans. The coalition has been urging Congress to incorporate changes in the Defense Authorization legislation that would protect threatened and endangered species and wilderness lands in the Mojave desert, and ensure mitigation measures for the loss of wildlife and wildlands.

Both of California's Senators,

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, have supported greater conservation measures for the lands adjacent to Fort Irwin. Furthermore, Congresswoman Susan Davis (CA-49) along with eleven other members of Congress, sent a letter to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees expressing concerns over environmental protection for wildlife and wildlands in the Mojave desert in the wake of the expansion of the Army's Fort Irwin National Training Center.

Off-Road Vehicles

The year 2001 has brought many increased protections for federal lands that are used by off-road vehicles. In March of this year, CWC released *Off-Road to Ruin*, a report that contains numerous on-the-ground case studies of areas throughout California that have been damaged by off-road vehicles. A week after the release of the report, the California State Off-Highway Vehicle Commission passed a resolution to increase off-road vehicle fines from \$50 to \$1000 for trespassing violations into wilderness areas. The resolution was introduced by Commissioner and CWC Executive Director Paul Spitler.

In May, a settlement hearing was held in Federal District Court in Sacramento over a suit filed by off-road vehicle groups against the Bureau of Land Management. The suit challenged the closure of Black Sands Beach in the King Range National Conservation Area to off-road vehicle use. No settlement was reached, and the suit was scheduled to go to court in early winter.

This year the California State Off-Highway Vehicle Commission turned their focus from acquiring and developing new off-road recreation areas to increasing protections for existing areas. They accomplished this by funding more conservation work and law enforcement activities, including developing a monitoring system for wildlife and soil quality. As a result of this change in focus, federal land management agencies were able to pay

much greater attention to problem areas by restoring damaged trails and closing severely impacted areas. Furthermore, the commission mandated that the U.S. Forest Service initiate a survey of all routes in California's national forests. The Bureau of Land Management, meanwhile, is also working to complete a first-time inventory of routes.

Medicine Lake Highlands

The CWC has continued its strong opposition to proposed geothermal development in the fragile Medicine Lake Highlands region of northeastern California's Modoc National Forest. Energy companies are seeking to drill wells, build roads, erect high-tension



Jim Rose

The Commission passed a resolution to increase off-road vehicle fines from \$50 to \$1000 for trespassing violations into wilderness areas.

power lines, and construct power plants and other facilities in this remote Cascade location. The region is sacred to traditional members of four tribes, and at one time the proposed developments would have damaged three roadless areas that, if saved from development, could one day become designated as wilderness. The fight against the leasing and development proposals is being led by the Medicine Lake Citizens for a Quality Environment.

Orleans Mountain Roadless Area

The CWC also assisted the Environmental Protection and Information Center and other groups in the fight

against the Forest Service's proposed logging of the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area in northwestern California's Six Rivers National Forest. In 2000, activists tried to negotiate a settlement with the Forest Service, but the agency decided to try its luck in a full-on fight.

The Bush Administration even tried to bypass standard procedures by declaring the logging effort an "emergency." On July 12, a federal judge halted the agency's logging plans temporarily, and, with winter approaching, it looks like the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area will be spared the chainsaw for the time being. In 1996, even before the current round of logging proposals, the CWC declared Orleans Mountain "the most frequently threatened roadless area in the state." These threats will most likely continue until we can add the roadless area to the adjacent Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Sierra Nevada Framework

In order to demonstrate support for the Framework as it currently exists, this year the Coalition worked hard, with the help of several other environmental organizations, to secure support for the Sierra Nevada Framework. The Framework, as published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2001, protects old-growth forests, water resources and wildlife habitat, while also reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire to Sierran towns. However, the timber industry, livestock interests, and anti-environmental politicians have attempted to overturn the plan.

As of November, the California Wilderness Coalition and its partners had gathered support for the Framework from 60 Sierra Nevada businesses and community leaders, 25 county supervisors, seven city and county councils, both California Senators, 25 U.S. Representatives, 16 California State Senators, and 25 California Assemblymembers. On November 16, Forest Service Chief Bosworth decided to uphold the Framework (see page 10 of the Winter 2002 *Wilderness Record*).

Addressing catastrophic wildfire without jeopardizing potential wilderness

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to the designation of additional California wilderness is the threat posed by catastrophic wildfire. Throughout the state, private landowners, land managers, and community members cite wildfire—and needed wildfire prevention measures—as a primary reason for opposing the designation of new California wilderness.

Wildfires, and fire risk reduction activities, threaten wilderness designation in two ways. First, land managers often propose logging within potential wilderness areas; the logging is designed either to remove trees that are at high risk of fire or to remove trees that have burned. Both types of projects degrade the wilderness qualities of the landscape. Second, land managers often argue that fire risk reduction projects are needed in potential wilderness, and that wilderness designation will prevent adequate fuel reduction work.

It is within this context that CWC initiated the Wildfire and Wilderness program. Through this program, CWC seeks to develop and implement strategies that will prevent catastrophic wildfires, yet will not jeopardize the ecological integrity of wilderness candidates. We will also build public support for the implementation of these strategies, and conduct a public education campaign about the importance of wildfires in forest ecosystems.

The program was initiated this summer. In August, CWC, along with the Environmental Protection Information Center in Garberville, pro-

duced a four-page publication that discusses wildfire and wildfire management. The document contains information on the role of wildfires, benefits of “light touch” fuel reduction, hazards of post-fire logging, and strategies for ecologically sound fire risk reduction.

We distributed over 40,000 copies of the publication to homes in forest communities in northwest California. For delivery, we inserted the document into community-based newspapers including the *Mendocino Beacon*, *Trinity Journal*, and *Eureka Times-Standard*. The publication had tremendous impacts, and initiated new discussions on wildfire management.

CWC also worked with our conservation partners to challenge an ecologically harmful post-fire logging project within the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area. The project would have devastated an area that, if it remains intact, could one day be added to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Along with the Environmental Protection Information Center and other local organizations, CWC helped to challenge the process in court and through administrative appeals. After several successful decisions, the project was put on hold for the remainder of 2001.

Finally, CWC began work on a comprehensive fire risk reduction strategy. Working with the Ecosystems Institute, a northwest California consulting firm, CWC is developing a scientifically sound strategy to address the threats posed by catastrophic wildfire without jeopardizing potential wilderness and other sensitive lands. The strategy should be released in early 2002, and will help lead to a new way of approaching wildfire management.



The California Legacy Project

In 1999, CWC worked with legislators and leaders of the Davis Administration to initiate a project designed to identify and protect the state's most important plant and animal habitat. State of California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols immediately embraced the project and has worked tirelessly to ensure its continued funding and implementation. Three years and several name changes later, the program has been dubbed the California Legacy Project.

A California Resources Agency project under the leadership of Director Madelyn Glickfeld, the California Legacy Project seeks to use science-based planning to identify California's most important natural resources, and to focus state efforts on conserving those resources. Areas of high biological diversity will be identified, and the state will direct funding and conservation programs towards the preservation of those areas.

Over the past year, much progress has been made towards fulfilling the project's objectives. A scientific methodology for identifying priority habitat areas was developed, and stakeholder outreach has been conducted throughout the state. In 2002, the first draft of conservation priorities will be unveiled. This could well be the first State of California conservation blueprint. It represents a huge step forward in resource planning and conservation.

The project will further the goals of the California Wildlands Project by focusing state resources on priority habitat and wildlife corridors. CWC has been involved with the program since its inception, and become a leading voice for the project's continued funding and implementation. Earlier this year, CWC Executive Director Paul Spitzer was appointed to the project's steering committee. Spitzer continues to serve as a key project advisor and supporter.

The year 2001 according to California's media...

The New York Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2001

California Maps Network of Open Space as Animal Lifeline

San Francisco Chronicle

Linking habitat areas called vital for survival of state's wildlife

OUTDOORS

A valuable Cache of wildlife

The Sacramento Bee

Clinton to ban roads,

most logging on 60 million forest acres

NATIONAL EDITION

Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2001

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Survey Finds 300 Paths for Wildlife

Environment: Mapping the corridors, which are crucial to survival of species, is a key step in preserving them.

Off-roaders/Report sees damage locally

The Sacramento Bee

Off-road abuses detailed in report

The Record

Stockton San Joaquin Mother Lode
Lode land pitched for protected status

Environmental coalition wants to set aside millions of acres as wilderness

Environmental group lobbies for wilderness, rivers

"Were John Muir alive today, he would be dancing a jig," said Paul Spitzer, executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Tortoises vs. tanks no truce: Environmentalists oppose a deal aimed at letting the Army and an endangered reptile coexist

San Jose Mercury News

Sierra Nevada protection OK'd

PLAN WILL DRAMATICALLY SCALE BACK LOGGING ON 11 MILLION ACRES OF FOREST

A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

The Press

DEMOCRAT

Santa Rosa, California

Nature's path

New study identifies critical North Bay wildlife corridors

■ *The issue is one of a cumulative effect of the use of all these vehicles.*

Paul Spitzer, California Wilderness Coalition

Trying to help coyotes compete with freeways.

Group seeks more wilderness land

Valley Press

Off-roaders could face harsher trespass fines

San Francisco Chronicle

New push for designating wilderness land

Plan would protect 7.4 million acres in the state

Times-Standard

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

Six Rivers salvage logging plan nixed

ENTERPRISE RECORD

Local scenic spots may win wilderness protection

Income*

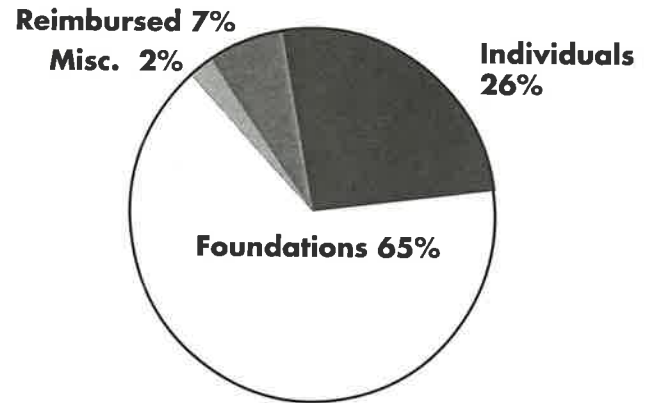
Individuals	\$180,000
Foundation support	450,000
Miscellaneous	15,000
Reimbursed expenses	<u>45,000</u>
Total income	\$690,000

Expenses*

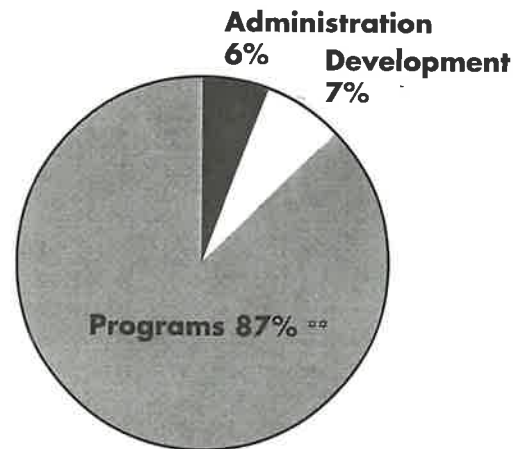
Benefits	\$14,000
Conferences	1,000
Equipment	12,000
Mini-grants	9,000
Operations	31,000
Postage and delivery	40,000
Printing and reproduction	75,000
Professional fees	108,000
Salary	300,000
Supplies	17,000
Telephone	19,000
Travel	<u>34,000</u>
Total expenses	\$660,000

Net income \$30,000

2001 Income

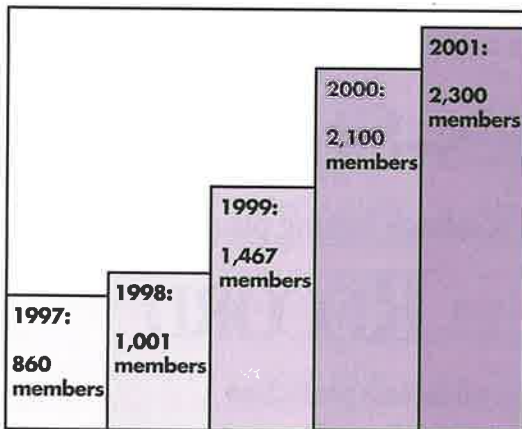


2001 Expenses



** Includes Wild Heritage Campaign, California Wildlands Project, Defending our Lands, and Private Lands Stewardship Initiative.

* All numbers are estimates.



2001 has been a year of strong, consistent growth for the California Wilderness Coalition. Our members, board of directors, and staff have continued to introduce wilderness enthusiasts to CWC's critically important conservation efforts. Activists across the state, and newspapers publicizing our conservation efforts, have also helped us bring in new members.

Every member is important to us. Each of our supporters is a voice for the protection of California's rich biological and ecological diversity. CWC is a member-driven organization, and we plan to stay that way. CWC puts virtually all of our monetary support into our programs (see above).

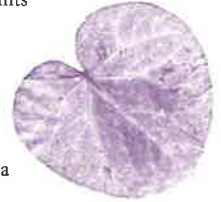
In 2002, CWC will further expand our membership and programs, bringing in more supporters of wild California. We look forward to working with you to protect our state's wild heritage.

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

100Fires Book Company
 Acme Bread
 Acorn Naturalists
 Ascent Technologies
 Mark Bagley
 Knut Barde
 Berry & Associates,
 Marketing Productivity Consulting
 Bogey's Books
 Bonny Doon Vineyards
 Bonterra Vineyards
 Bored Feet Publications
 Camp Lotus
 Chaco Sandals
 Columbia Sportswear
 Conservation Land Group, Inc.
 H. Coturri & Sons Vineyards
 Davis Food Co-op
 Eagle Creek Travel Gear
 Echo: The Wilderness Company, Inc.
 Ellison & Schneider
 Environmental Photography
 Frey Vineyards
 Genny Smith Books
 Giselle's Travel

Greg Fox, Fox Print Specialists
 Gregory Mountain Products
 William Gustafson
 Hadsell and Stormer
 Instant Replay Communications
 Verna Jigour Associates, Conserv. Ecology Services
 Juniper Ridge
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