

WILDERNESS RECORD

California Wilderness Coalition

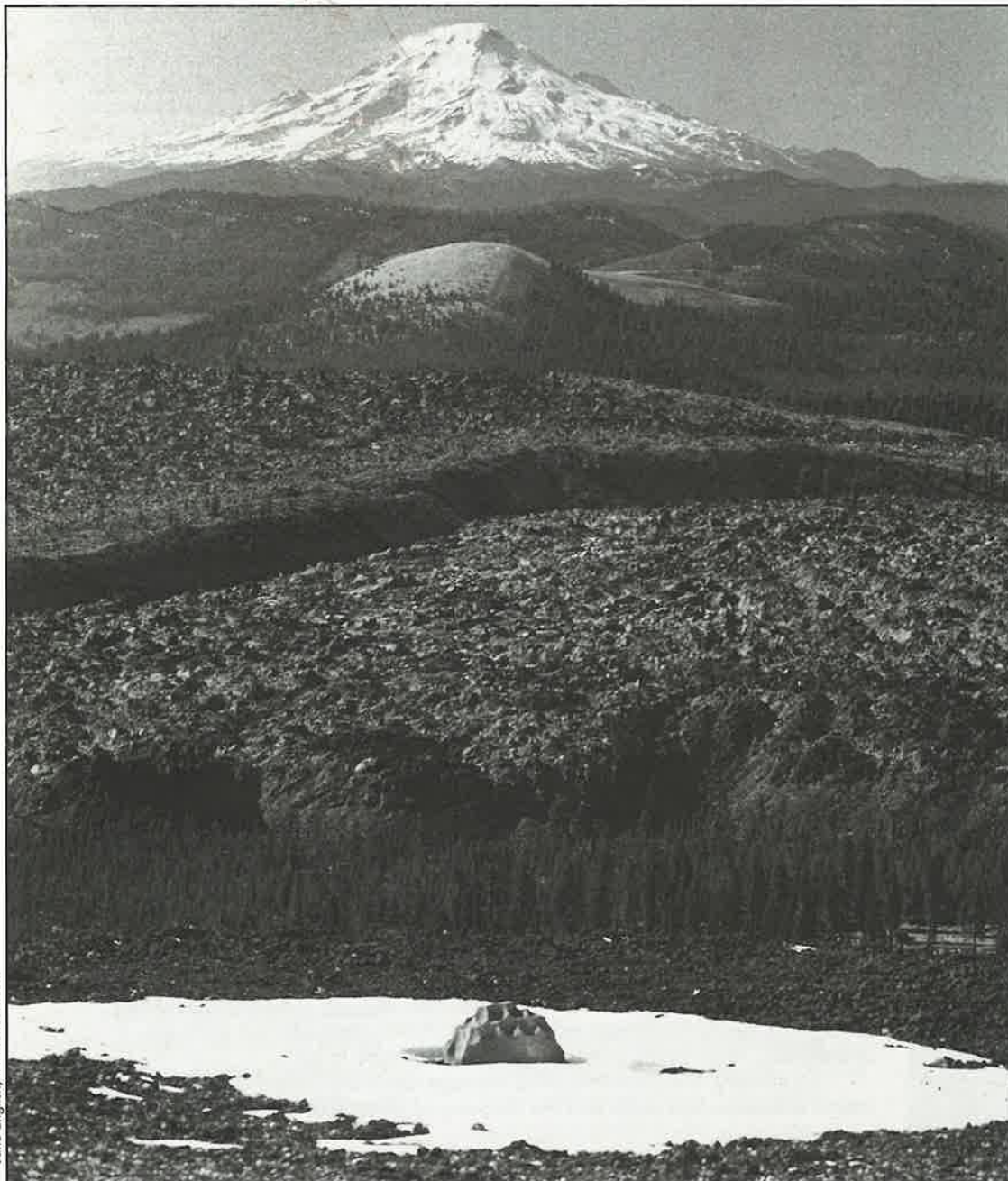
*A Voice
for Wild
California*



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Jane English, www.eheart.com

View of the Medicine Lake Highlands, with Mt. Shasta in the distance. Two potential wilderness areas are threatened, by the construction of geothermal plants (in the Mt. Hoffman Roadless Area) as well as roads and power lines (in the Lavas and Dobie Flats roadless areas). Will President Bush uphold the roadless policy? See p. 8. If not, will wilderness designation save the day? See p. 5.

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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

The growing tide of wilderness support

In October 16, 2001, the air in the board chambers was heavy with anticipation as the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors considered a proposal to designate five new wilderness areas, and expand a sixth, within the county. Dozens of wilderness enthusiasts had come to plead their case to the board. It was not the first time conservationists had approached the Mendocino board.

In 1984, portions of federal lands within the county were also proposed for wilderness. The supervisors voiced their vehement opposition. The ultimate result was that, while some areas within the county were designated wilderness, other areas were left out. The boundary for the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness was drawn along the Mendocino County border. Critical areas were excluded from the wilderness.

While not the only factor, support from the local board of supervisors is extremely helpful in convincing Congress to designate an area as wilderness. It was with this history in mind that local conservationists headed to Ukiah last October to plead their case to the supervisors.

Many locals spoke in favor of wilderness before the board. A former fire lookout told about her years spent identifying every plant on Sanhedrin Mountain. Finally, in a historic vote, the board endorsed the citizen wilderness proposal in its entirety.

According to local citizens, it was the first time that Mendocino County supported wilderness. One supervisor who voted against the resolution has even expressed his support for expanding the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness.

The vote of the Mendocino County supervisors is historic in its own right, but they are not alone in their position. They join other local elected officials, including the cities of Ukiah and Point Arena, and several Willits City Council members, in endorsing local wilderness.

Prominent local residents have voiced their support as well, including many local businesses, a woodworkers union, the CEO of one of the region's largest independent sawmills, numerous conservation organizations and two Native American tribes.

Elsewhere throughout California, the tide of support for wilderness is growing as well. Close to 100 locally elected officials have given their endorsement to local wilderness candidates. Hundreds of businesses, civic organizations, and other local leaders have expressed support.

Further, a recent poll showed that three-quarters of the state's residents—including a solid majority in rural regions—believe we need additional wilderness designated. Californians like wilderness. They want more of it. And they want to see the state's natural heritage preserved.

Perhaps the strongest endorsement comes from one of the most unlikely supporters. The following testimony from Gordon Wagonet, President of One-O-One Redwood, Inc. explains, far better than most, why so many Californians feel so strongly about our wilderness legacy:

"When I was discharged from the army in 1946, I moved to Willits to work in the lumber industry...Early on, I began exploring my new surroundings...The river was teeming with summer run steelhead, so many that every hole the size of a bathtub had at least one fish and the fingerlings were beyond counting...It was a wild and beautiful country indeed.

"In the 1950s the Forest Service constructed the road to Indian Dick and also numerous spurs...We have fished and hunted that area for 53 years. The changes have not just been dramatic; they have been devastating. The logging that was allowed by the Forest Service was atrocious. Areas were clear-cut and trails obliterated...Huge incense cedars were felled and left to rot...

"Fortunately, the California Wild Heritage Campaign offers hope for the protection of still untouched areas and the recovery of others that have been logged and grazed."

We are proud to offer hope to the residents of California, and are thankful for the opportunity to be working to preserve the state's natural heritage for the enjoyment of future generations.



California's 10 most threatened wild places

by Keith Hammond

Many of California's last unprotected wilderness areas are in imminent danger of being despoiled—in some cases irreparably—by urban sprawl, desert development, logging and energy exploration in roadless forests, and unfortunately, environmental rollbacks by the Bush Administration.

These are the findings of the California Wilderness Coalition's first annual report on *California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places*, released in February. In the first report of its kind, CWC used the Citizen's Inventory of unprotected wilderness, and also surveyed conservation groups statewide, to select the 10 most imperiled wildlands in the state. Widely reported by California newspapers and radio, the final list includes potential wilderness areas on public lands in our National Forests and the Mojave Desert, and also rare coastal habitats on private and state lands in jeopardy from urban sprawl in southern California and the central coast. The ten imperiled areas are:

- **Mojave Desert (Fort Irwin)**—Base expansion threatens potential wilderness and the threatened desert tortoise
- **Los Padres National Forest**—Oil and gas drilling threatens potential wilderness and 20 imperiled species for at most a 10-day supply of oil
- **Mojave Desert (Cadiz project)**—Water-mining of aquifer threatens five designated wilderness areas, a national park, and endangered species
- **South Orange County**—Urban sprawl and toll road project threaten rare coastal habitat, endangered species, and a California state park
- **Trinity Alps Wilderness additions**—Logging old-growth forests would destroy potential wilderness
- **Owens River Headwaters**—Off-road vehicle damage and potential ski area expansion threaten a forest jewel
- **Gaviota Coast**—Urban sprawl threatens a last remnant of southern



Numerous areas are threatened by oil and gas development, including the Dick Smith potential wilderness additions.



California's undeveloped coastline

- **Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains**—Urban development in key habitat linkage could cause local extinction of mountain lions
- **Medicine Lake Highlands**—Previously rejected power plant projects threaten unique wilderness
- **Klamath River Basin**—Interior Department's water proposal threatens endangered salmon and the "Everglades of the West"

To get the full report online, and learn how you can help save these ten areas, go to <http://www.calwild.org/pubs/reports/tenmost/index.htm>.

Parks, wilderness, and species in danger

In these ten wildlands, development threatens one national park (the Mojave National Preserve), one California state park (San Onofre State Beach), six national wildlife refuges (in the Klamath River Basin), five designated wilderness areas (in the Mojave Desert),

18 potential wilderness areas totalling about 800,000 acres, and habitat for at least 45 threatened and endangered species—including the California condor, desert tortoise, coho salmon, and several species unique to California.

The ten areas were chosen based on the immediacy and severity of the threats, nature of the impacts, ecological and cultural significance of the lands, and the threat of fragmentation of habitat.

Environmental rollbacks by the Bush Administration threaten half the areas; four are roadless areas in national forests where proposed logging, oil and gas drilling, geothermal development, and ski area expansion would require extensive road-building and other development. Road-building in these places is specifically prohibited by the Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Rule, but the Administration has yet to implement the roadless rule, and may attempt to overturn it (see article on page 8). In addition, Interior Secretary Gale Norton has lifted a five-year moratorium on geothermal development in the Medicine Lake Highlands area, and has proposed to reduce water levels for endangered fish in the Klamath River Basin.

Wilderness designation needed

Many of these places can be saved by Congressional wilderness designation—we urge Congress to designate these lands as wilderness and preserve them for future generations. Other areas on private or state lands will need smart, ecologically informed planning by local officials, perhaps assisted by land trusts or conservancies. But in each of these ten places, California's tremendous natural heritage will be lost if Californians do not act now.

To learn more about the ten most threatened wild places in California, contact Keith Hammond at (530) 758-0380, keith@calwild.org.

California Wild Heritage Campaign on the move

by Ryan Henson and Tina Andolina

The CWC and other organizations around the state have banded together to launch the California Wild Heritage Campaign.

The primary focus is to win local support for our wilderness and wild and scenic river proposals. The campaign now has over 175 member groups including businesses, religious groups, and outdoor groups. Nearly 2,000 local officials, community opinion leaders, and businesses have pledged to support the proposed wilderness areas and wild rivers in their regions.

Volunteers and campaign staff have also led over 150 hikes in these special areas over the last few months, and have given nearly 300 presentations. While those numbers are impressive, even more inspiring work has been done at the local level where activists have secured support from the most unlikely allies.

A few highlights

San Diego: Activists have met with Native American tribes, supervisors and council members, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. Rev. Peter Moore-Kochlacs has signed on nearly 300 religious leaders across the state in support of the campaign.

Santa Barbara: Michael Summers from Conception Coast Project has joined with Gordon Johnson of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance to build support in the southern Los Padres National Forest. They have had several meetings and have led tours of the proposed wilderness areas.

Tuolumne County: The Berkeley Tuolumne Camp has gathered hundreds of letters supporting wild and scenic protection for the South Fork Tuolumne River.

Yolo and Lake counties: Yolo County activists have hosted tours of the Cache Creek potential wilderness and the proposed Cache Creek Wild and Scenic River for local opinion leaders. Lake



A butterfly in the Juncal potential addition to the Matilija Wilderness

County activists share the Cache Creek area with their friends in Yolo County, but also have the Snow Mountain potential wilderness additions and the Yuki potential wilderness as well. Activists with the Sierra Club Lake County Group have convened weekly meetings of pro-wilderness equestrian groups, hikers, anglers, and other interested groups to demonstrate the broad support for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers in the community. Rep. Mike Thompson is scheduled to hold a hearing on the California Wild Heritage Campaign's proposals in Lake County on April 5.

Next steps: get involved!

Over the next several months, local wilderness advocates will need to kick efforts into overdrive to express the need to win permanent protection for these wild places. We expect to see wilderness legislation sometime this year—hopefully soon. That means more than ever, we need to raise community awareness of these places. We need to show members of Congress and our local leaders that support for these places runs deep.

You can help

One great way to mix a little business with pleasure is to organize and lead

hikes to your favorite potential new wilderness. Folks from all across the state are now planning springtime and summer outings. This is a great way to show off these wonderful places and get out into the wild.

To get information on upcoming hikes, check out our website regularly at <http://www.calwild.org>.

Since this campaign got off the ground two years ago, local organizers and activists have developed working groups to focus on generating local support for each area and river. State-wide, these groups are making a huge impact on getting and keeping wilderness on the agenda in their communities. Getting involved with these ad-hoc wilderness groups is another great way to get engaged at this very critical time.

This year promises to be a very big year for California's wilderness. With the help of every wilderness advocate, be it writing a letter, leading a hike or making a phone call, we can move forward toward the goal of permanent protection for each area.

If you would like to get involved, contact Traci Van Thull at 916-442-3155, extension 222 to find out what is happening in your area.

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

How Congress designates wilderness

Looking at the months ahead for California wilderness

by **Tina Andolina**

Wilderness designation is the most powerful form of protection we have to ensure our public lands remain pristine. One reason this tool is so effective and potent is because only Congress can establish new wilderness areas by passing a law; therefore, areas designated are permanently protected.

As we saw with President Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation Rule, good environmental policies established by an Administration can be overturned or severely weakened. Wilderness is enduring—but it is also a tough fight to win this level of protection.

That said, how does Congress go about reviewing a proposed wilderness, and what can California's wilderness advocates expect to see when a California wilderness bill is finally introduced?

Step 1

Any member of Congress can introduce a wilderness bill. Most often, a congressperson from the state pushing for more wilderness is the lead champion. Wilderness legislation can start in either house of Congress: the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives. Once introduced, the bill is referred to the committee assigned to review legislation dealing with public lands and natural resources. In the Senate, this committee is the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. One of California's Senators, Dianne Feinstein, sits on this committee. In the House, wilderness bills are referred to the House Resources Committee. There are

several California members of Congress currently on this committee, including Representatives Elton Gallegly, Ken Calvert, Cal Dooley, George Miller, George Radanovich, Grace Napolitano, Hilda Solis, and Richard Pombo.

Step 2

Once the bill is referred to the appropriate committee, the committee can send



The Carson-Iceberg Wilderness was designated in 1984 under President Reagan.

it to a subcommittee or review it as a whole. It is in the committee stage that most bills are changed, fine-tuned, amended, or simply squashed. The committee often calls upon experts to testify. In this case, the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management could be asked to comment on the legislation. This is also a critical phase for wilderness advocates to organize support for their areas and rivers. Members of Congress can change boundaries, add areas, or remove areas from the bill, and the committee is where this mostly takes place. The committee can choose to vote on the legislation, which then sends it to the whole house for discussion, or not act on it, which effectively kills it.

Step 3

After the committee has examined the legislation and sent it to the whole house for discussion, usually more debate and more fine tuning occurs before the entire Senate or House votes on the bill. The House and Senate have different rules that govern how the debate can take place and how amendments can be added. Finally, the Senators or Representatives vote on the bill.

Step 4

If both houses pass a bill, but the two bills passed are different (due to the tinkering done while the bill was in committee or being debated by the whole house), the two bills then go to a conference committee made up of members of both houses. The conference committee's job is to mesh the bills into one. Again, during this stage, areas can be added or dropped, bad provisions can be tacked on, etc. This is another critical phase. Once the legislation passes through this process, the revised version is sent back to both houses for approval.

Step 5

If both houses agree to the new version, it is sent to the President for final approval or veto. It should be noted that of all the wilderness bills passed since 1964, only one was vetoed—by President Reagan. However, President Reagan also signed the California Wilderness Act of 1984, which designated over 1.8 million acres of national forest wilderness in California.

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

Keeping the Sierra Nevada wild

Coalition identifies core habitats and linkages in new report

by Alison Sterling Nichols

The California Wilderness Coalition has recently released a visionary conservation plan for the Sierra Nevada. *A Guide to Wildlands Conservation in the Greater Sierra Nevada Bioregion* is the result of an analysis conducted by biologists who studied wildlife habitat in the Sierra with respect to the needs of ten focal species, including the California spotted owl, Pacific fisher, American marten, acorn woodpecker, mule deer, gray wolf, wolverine, pronghorn, sage grouse, and bighorn sheep. They then compared the habitat needs of these species with different Sierran plant community types, as well as with the locations of rare or unusual species, to make sure that these would be also be adequately protected.

Since 1960, the Sierra has lost 16 percent of its westside foothill habitats, and the number of human residents in the foothill region is expected to triple within the next 40 years. Soon, 40 to 80 people will inhabit every square mile of the north-central and southern foothills. Today, less than 20 percent of the Sierra's ancient forests remain and four wildlife species have been pushed to local extinction. Additionally, many species are at risk or declining. Natural barometers of healthy, mature forests, such as the California spotted owl and Pacific fisher (see article on page 7), have experienced dramatic population declines in the past few decades. Much of their forest habitat along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada lies in a patchwork of disconnected and simplified forest stands. In addition, critical wildlife migration routes are being severed or threatened throughout the region by the development of roads.

Now is the time to look at these trends and act with foresight. Unless

ecologically informed planning occurs, these changes will undoubtedly lead to a landscape of fragmented park-like woodlands unable to sustain wildlife. By partnering with organizations, planners, and interested citizens throughout the Sierra, CWC is working toward a Sierra with a fabric of connected habitat.

Wildlands planning is based on the concepts of conservation biology. Accordingly, the *guide* identifies three functionally unique land classes:

1. Wildland Conservation Areas

Wildland Conservation Areas are core habitats that will maintain the viability of species over time. These areas are large, contiguous, relatively undisturbed expanses of habitat that act as nodes within a Wildlands Network.

2. Wildland Linkages

Wildland linkages are bands of habitat that facilitate movement of animals, genetic material, seeds, wildfires and pollen between Wildlands Conservation Areas. These linkages prove to be vital because they prevent the isolation of habitat remnants, which can result in the loss of species.

3. Stewardship Zones

Stewardship Zones surround Wildland



Jim Rose

How can the Duncan Canyon potential wilderness, home to California spotted owl, northern goshawk, Sierra Nevada red fox, Pacific fisher, and American marten, be best connected with other Sierran refuges for these species? A new report looks at wildlife habitat across the Sierra Nevada.

Conservation Areas and are intended to buffer them from activities that are not consistent with the maintenance of biodiversity. They are also designed to encourage compatible economic activities so that local landowners and resource users can continue their livelihoods while contributing to the long-term preservation of their region's natural heritage.

For generations, people have escaped to the Sierra Nevada to explore, climb peaks, stroll through meadows, and hopefully experience a wildlife sighting. It is a place where many have sought inspiration and a chance to reconnect with the wild. By recognizing the importance of maintaining its health, we can strengthen local economies and continue to promote the Sierra as a place that is still wild and will stay wild.

Alison Sterling Nichols is the Project Coordinator for the California Wildlands Project, a program of the California Wilderness Coalition.

The Pacific fisher: one of the Sierra Nevada's most elusive and sensitive animals

by Andrew McCall

Once, when I was working at Yosemite, I glimpsed a dark, cat-like form underneath the lodgepoles that was too large to be a marmot and too small to be a coyote. The creature was gone in a second, and I was left puzzling over its identity. After mentioning the encounter with my supervisor, she suggested that I may have seen a Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti pacifica*). A fisher? I had never heard of such an animal, and, as it turned out, neither had many of my colleagues. This was not surprising, since the fisher is one of the Sierra Nevada's most elusive and sensitive animals.

The fisher is a close relative of the pine marten (*Martes americana*), although the fisher is much larger, sometimes reaching a length of three feet and weighing up to 18 pounds. The name "fisher" is inaccurate; fishers seldom fish and prefer to hunt on the forest floor. The fisher is also able to travel through the forest canopy, sometimes using its flexible feet to ascend and descend trees headfirst. Despite astonishing stories of fisher agility in the canopy reported by such naturalists as Joseph Grinnell, fisher experts think that such acrobatics are quite rare.

Most of the fisher's time is actually spent on the ground, in pursuit of some of its favorite prey items, snowshoe hares and porcupines. When hunting hares, the fisher will zig-zag across the forest floor, investigating likely hare hiding spots. Fishers usually kill hares and squirrels by biting the back of the prey's head, but this is impossible in the case of the porcupine. A popular myth is that the fisher kills a porcupine by flipping the porcupine on its back and then attacking the soft underbelly. In fact, the short stature of the fisher



Artwork: George T. McCall

The fisher prefers continuous forest stands, and thus its recovery in the Sierra Nevada remains uncertain.

allows it to make quick and repeated bites to the face of the porcupine, which usually kills or disorients the prey so that it can be flipped over. This method is so effective that in some areas of the Midwest, fishers can partially control porcupine populations.

Intense logging and trapping for fur nearly destroyed many fisher populations throughout the United States during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Although some fisher populations in the East have rebounded from these pressures, populations in the Pacific Northwest and parts of California are still recovering. Recovery is especially difficult because fishers prefer continuous forest stands with a healthy complement of herbage and underbrush. Unfortunately, with the increasing pressure from developers in the Sierra and the persistent efforts by the

Bush Administration to loosen logging restrictions in California's National Forests, the fisher's future remains in peril. We can only increase our chances of seeing this charismatic animal through adequate protection of our remaining healthy forests.

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Andrew McCall is a graduate student in the Ecology Graduate Group at the University of California at Davis.

Bush Administration continues to roll back protections for our national forests

by **Carrie Sandstedt**

More than one year after the final Roadless Area Conservation Rule was announced, the Bush Administration continues to delay protections for 58.5 million acres of our most pristine National Forest lands. Despite promises to uphold the rule, the Administration continues to chip away at a conservation policy that has received overwhelming support from the American public.

After an initial 600 public meetings were held and a record-breaking 1.6 million comments generated on the rule, the Administration stated that public input had been lacking and opened another comment period. All totaled, more than two million comments have been made on the roadless rule, the vast majority in favor of the strongest protection possible for our remaining wild forests. Nonetheless, the Bush Administration has yet to offer its own version of the roadless rule, and has proposed a series of changes to the Forest Service Manual. These changes eliminate roadless area protections and allow new logging, mining, and drilling in our National Forests.

As it was written, the rule protects the last remaining 30 percent of our nation's wild forests by prohibiting road building and logging in National Forest roadless areas, with some exceptions, such as logging to reduce the risk of unnaturally intense fires. The rule does not close any roads or trails, and does not restrict off-road vehicle use or access to private land within roadless areas.

Implementation of the rule would protect clean drinking water for 60 million Americans as well as recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. The rule fully and

fairly addresses wildlife, forest health, and safety issues, yet the Bush Administration has initiated a series of rollbacks to roadless area protection.

These rollbacks include eliminating protections for more than a dozen National Forests—where the Forest Service is planning timber sales in areas that would have been protected under the rule. A moratorium that prevented new road-building in undeveloped National Forests has been lifted.

Ironically many of these rollbacks came after Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth announced that the Bush Administration would uphold the roadless rule and propose its own “minor” changes. Similarly, Attorney General John Ashcroft pledged to defend the roadless rule in court, but has yet to offer any serious defense of the rule. The Bush Administration even refused to appeal a judge's decision blocking implementation of the rule.

Because the rule has not been

enacted, Californians are fighting attempts by the Forest Service to salvage log in roadless areas in the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. Implementation of the rule would also prevent development of a ski area in the Inyo National Forest's pristine San Joaquin Roadless Area.

Protection for 58.5 million acres of National Forest land in the U.S., including 4.4 million acres in California, has received widespread support ranging from religious groups, to the scientific community, to hunting and fishing groups. President Bush should honor the wishes of the American people and protect our last wild forest lands by implementing the Roadless Area Conservation Rule as it was written.

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

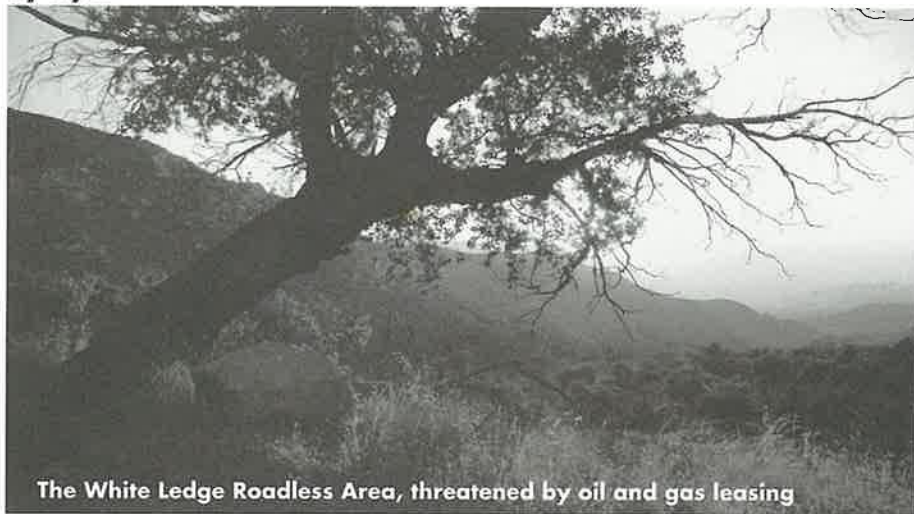
In the absence of full implementation of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the San Joaquin Roadless Area is threatened by ski area development. The San Joaquin Roadless Area contains Glass Creek Meadow, the largest subalpine meadow in the eastern Sierra. Seen here awash with buttercups, the meadow is also home to over 40 species of butterflies.



Stephen Ingram

Los Padres National Forest eyes condor country for oil development

by Ryan Henson



Jim Rose

The Los Padres National Forest has released a draft plan detailing where oil exploration and development will be allowed in the forest. The plan asserts that twelve Los Padres roadless areas are potentially appropriate sites for development. In fact, to the dismay of conservationists, the Forest Service estimates that 75 percent of the lands with “high” potential for oil and gas development are in roadless areas.

The roadless areas that may be opened to drilling by the Los Padres oil development plan are the Spoor (also known as Moon) Canyon, Sawmill-Badlands, Sespe-Frazier, Nordhoff, White Ledge, Madulce-Buckhorn, Fox Mountain, Tapusquet Peak, La Brea, Horseshoe Springs, De La Guerra, and Cuyama roadless areas. The twelve roadless areas are characterized by rolling grasslands, oak woodlands, chaparral, and extremely rugged slopes rising steeply from the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The endangered California condor, San Joaquin kit fox, California jewel flower, and other rare species call the areas home—in fact, out of only three eggs laid by wild condors since their re-introduction, two of the eggs were laid in the Fox Mountain Roadless Area (a potential addition to the San Rafael Wilderness).

The Los Padres National Forest’s oil plan has been released at a time when the fate of former President Clinton’s roadless conservation policy is still being decided in the courts. If the policy remains in effect, the only way to drill for oil under roadless areas is to use slant-drilling technology. This may make drilling in the roadless areas too costly for oil companies.

Yet, even if the courts eventually uphold the roadless policy, the Bush Administration has announced its intention to allow local National Forests to amend it. This may result in more roadless area development than was originally intended under the policy.

In January, activists held a demonstration in Santa Barbara against further oil and gas development in the Los Padres National Forest. The theme of the rally was that “Oil and Wilderness Don’t Mix.”

The deadline for the public to comment on the Los Padres draft plan for oil and gas development has been extended to **April 19, 2002**. Please write a letter in support of protecting Los Padres roadless areas, if you haven’t already! For more information, see <http://www.calwild.org/alerts/020128lospadresoil.htm>.

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

Forest Service to log up to Monache Meadows potential wilderness boundary?

by Tina Andolina

Thanks to everyone who sent in a letter to the Sequoia National Forest asking them *not* to log in the Monache Meadows potential wilderness around Jackass Creek.

After reviewing the comments sent in, the Sequoia National Forest decided there were not significant issues and they could log in the Jackass watershed under a “categorical exclusion.”

However, as of press time, they had not formally decided to do this. If they do decide to log under a categorical exclusion, the public will be locked out of the planning process. The Forest Service would not have to take further comments on the actual project plan, including what the size limit of the trees will be, how many trees they will cut, etc. Instead, this spring, Forest Service personnel would visit the area and decide the specifics of the actual logging plan. Once a decision is made, they can then log—even that very day—without giving any notice.

Our efforts were fruitful in that the Forest Service did keep the project area out of the Monache Meadows potential wilderness. The boundary of the proposed logging project does, however, go right up to Jackass Creek and the potential wilderness. The Forest Service feels they are far enough away from the Monache Meadows Roadless Area to warrant logging without public input, but CWC staff disagree. This is because the Forest Service’s inventoried roadless area is smaller than what CWC field checkers found eligible for wilderness designation.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the plan, and again, many thanks to all who wrote letters!

Horseshoe Wildlife Area: a monumental opportunity

by Dave Willis

The best deer winter range in southern Oregon is northern California's Horseshoe Wildlife Area. This prime habitat is a lower-elevation, south-slope refuge for mule and black-tailed deer, which migrate here each winter from a large portion of southern Oregon's Cascade Range. The deer are a crucial link in a food chain topped by cougar, bear, and bobcat. Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife calls this cross-border deer winter range "the best of the last" in the region.

Horseshoe Wildlife Area public lands are cooperatively managed by the Redding Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and California's Department of Fish and Game. Over two years ago, California's Senator Barbara Boxer asked then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to include California BLM lands here as part of what became an Oregon-only Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument—that stopped mid-watershed at the ecologically illogical state line. Now, because of a request by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors prompted by local ranchers, BLM may be forced politically to sell off all our federal public land in this crucial wildlife habitat area.

The BLM asked the public to comment by February 14 on how it should manage the Horseshoe Wildlife Area. BLM staff considered the following alternatives:

Alternative 1: Siskiyou County's request shrinks the size of the core wildlife area and all BLM land is sold to private parties or transferred to the state of California.

Alternative 2: BLM's "preferred alternative" enlarges the core wildlife area and also enlarges the area in which BLM may acquire private land from willing sellers.

Alternative 3: The "no action" alternative leaves the size of both the core wildlife area and potential public acquisition area unchanged from the

1993 Redding BLM management plan.

The specific occasion for Siskiyou County's request that BLM sell off our land is bit odd. A private landowner wanted to sell 1,200 acres of his own Horseshoe area land to BLM. An adjacent public lands rancher—who had for years been grazing the landowner's 1,200 acres without permission for free—feared the implications of BLM ownership of these private 1,200 acres.

The rancher, his friends, and Siskiyou County obstructed the landowner's deal with BLM to the point where the landowner found it easier to sell to another private party instead of selling to BLM. Then Siskiyou County began pressuring BLM to sell off all BLM land in the area.

All this in the best deer winter range in the region—where roads, houses, and other developments further encroach "the best of the last" each year. And where—despite a previous agreement to equalize public acres sold and private acres bought—BLM has already disposed of ten times more public land in Siskiyou County than they have acquired since the equalization agreement was made.

Though BLM received vastly more written public input—from all over the country—favoring a stronger version of their preferred Horseshoe alternative to increase public holdings in the area, the political jury is still out on whether BLM public lands in the BLM Horseshoe Wildlife Area will remain. No decision is expected before April.

Even if BLM selects their own preferred alternative in order to increase the acreage of public lands in the Horseshoe Wildlife Area, existing public lands here are still in jeopardy from abusive livestock grazing, off-road vehicle damage, and continued pressure to sell off our public lands.

What you can do

Please ask Senator Boxer to support adding the Horseshoe Wildlife Area,



Dave Willis

Old-growth ponderosa, Oregon white oak, and columnar basalt in the Horseshoe Wildlife Area of the potential California addition to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Jenny Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and other scattered borderland parcels of public land in California to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The Cascade-Siskiyou Monument's proclamation language calls it an "ecological wonder" and "biological crossroads." It makes no sense for this national monument to be cut off mid-watershed at the state line. These public lands need the support of citizens all over California to keep a few Siskiyou County locals from abusing or absconding with land that belongs to all of us.

Write to:

Senator Barbara Boxer
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 403-0100
Fax: (415) 956-6701
Email: see form at www.senate.gov/~boxer

A native Californian, Dave Willis coordinates the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council from near Ashland, OR and migrates south at least once each winter. Contact him via sodamtn@mind.net or (541) 482-8660.

Desert wilderness awaits protection

by **Carrie Sandstedt**

In 1994, Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), protecting over seven million acres of pristine desert lands as wilderness. The CDPA turned Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments into National Parks, and established the 1.4 million-acre Mojave National Preserve.

The CDPA also retained several areas as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Congress thought they warranted further study due to specific on-the-ground issues such as the expansion of the Fort Irwin National Training Center. These landscapes range from gentle slopes to jagged ridges, from washes containing wind-deposited sand to creosote-covered valleys. These rugged and wild areas are home to a variety of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. They should be protected in their natural state, as wilderness, from activities such as road building, utility projects, and off-road mayhem that jeopardize so much of California's Mojave Desert.

Today, the conflicts which previously prevented these WSAs and other pristine lands from being declared wilderness have been resolved. It is now time for Congress to re-address these outdated reasons and designate the following places as wilderness: *Avawatz Mountains WSA, Cady Mountains WSA, Death Valley National Park Addition, Great Falls Basin WSA, Iron Mountains, Kingston Range WSA, Slate Range, Soda Mountains WSA, and additions to Joshua Tree National Park.*

Why not wilderness...now?

• The Avawatz Mountains, Death Valley National Park Wilderness Addition, part of the Kingston Range, and Soda Mountains, were not designated wilderness in the CDPA because of a proposal to expand the Fort Irwin National Training Center. In December



Mike McWhorter

2001, Congress approved the expansion of Fort Irwin. The expansion does not include these WSAs, clearing the way for these lands to be designated as wilderness. Furthermore, the House Resources Committee also stated it would reconsider wilderness designation for the areas when presented with proposals.

• The Cady Mountains were retained as a Wilderness Study Area in 1994 to address the concerns of a waste disposal company (Hidden Valley Resources) who sought to build a hazardous waste dump within the area. After the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared a preliminary environmental analysis of the project, the sponsoring company dropped its request and has since gone out of business. The proposal is now dead and the issue resolved, clearing the way for the Cady Mountains to be designated as wilderness.

• Great Falls Basin was retained as a Wilderness Study Area in the CDPA to address concerns of the operators of an adjacent industrial facility, who feared that wilderness designation would impose further restrictions due to higher air quality standards. However, wilderness designation would not have interfered with the continuation of activities at that facility. Therefore, Great Falls Basin WSA is ready for wilderness designation.

The remainder of the Kingston Range, including this riparian area, should be designated wilderness now that Fort Irwin's plans for expansion have been finalized.

• The Iron Mountains were originally excluded from Bureau of Land Management wilderness surveys due to extensive private land holdings in the area. However, due to the recent acquisition by the BLM of lands owned by the Catellus Development Corporation, the area is now an ideal wilderness candidate.

• The Slate Range was dropped from the California Desert Protection Act due to concerns from the U.S. Navy. Those concerns have since been addressed, and the area is worthy of reconsideration.

• The 1994 additions to Joshua Tree National Park were not designated as wilderness due to location, ownership, and water development issues, as well as roads that were in use. Today all of those issues have been resolved and the roads have become primitive trails. These portions of the National Park are ready for wilderness designation.

Wilderness designation of these deserving areas would enhance the protection of California's spectacular Mojave Desert and guarantee the conservation of wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations. It is time for Congress to add these pristine lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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

Nipomo Dunes: a home to the threatened snowy plover

by Bill Denneen

People mentioned some dunes to the west when I first came to the Santa Maria Valley. One store clerk called the dunes “wasteland.” I am not sure why—maybe because houses couldn’t be built on them or he thought there was nothing living there.

My first visit to the dunes was with a group of students from my Santa Maria High School biology classes. It was to Oso Flaco Lake. We stopped at Oso Flaco Creek. What a fine riparian habitat. Horsetails on the banks, huge willows teeming with happy songbirds, black-shouldered kites hovering overhead with marsh hawks gliding nearby. A great place to point out the importance of biodiversity and riparian corridors (streamside habitats). One sharp student pointed out a western pond turtle on a log in the creek—what a great observation.

We hiked to a high dune near the ocean. We had great fun jumping off, rolling down, and climbing back up. Worn out, we finally sat and talked about what was around us: five major habitats with rich ecotones (transition zones) in between:

#1. The marine habitat, the ocean, which deposits interesting things on the shore (leatherback turtles, dolphins, whales, giant kelp).

#2. The willow-wax myrtle plant community that we had tramped through. It had huge packrat nests. This was where people built cabins during the Depression.

#3. The riparian corridors, going into and out of the lake.

#4. Oso Flaco Lake: This aquatic, eutrophic lake habitat was full of all sorts of organisms. I would scoop up some lake water in a glass jar and we’d look at all the microscopic creatures, from paramecia to flatworms. Many migratory birds stop to refuel and rest at this wetland, so important because 90 percent of wetlands has been destroyed in California alone.

Finally #5. The dunes themselves, such a rich, exciting wild place. I never tire of going there. It is abundant with

Lorraine Elrod, California Academy of Sciences



The snowy plover’s nests, which are found on sandy beaches, are difficult to see and often accidentally destroyed by humans.

life and certainly NOT a “wasteland.”

One of the students came running up with a treasure cupped in his hands. A peek indicated a dune cricket with its long antennae and sandy color. This fine animal used its special feet to vanish below the surface right before our eyes. “Goodbye, Mr. Cricket,” said the student who had found him, “this is your home, this is where you belong.”

Later as we hiked into the area where off-road vehicles (ORVs) were active, a female student yelled out, “A SNAKE!” It seems that vehicles running over the sand had chased the animal out of its hole. Snakes in the dunes usually do not come out during the day because birds can see and eat them. I had read about and seen pictures of this animal, but this was the first live one I had ever seen. It was a silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pluchra*) about six inches long; nothing like the rattlers I have subsequently seen.

“Worm lizard” might be a better name than snake, as its smooth, silvery-shiny and seemingly scale-less skin and blunt ends are a lot more worm-like than snake-like. I explained to the students that snakes do not have eyelids, while this lizard did. I tried to explain it was legless but had internal structures indicating it still had hip and shoulder bones. We moved the lizard away from where the off-road vehicles were and watched it swim in the sand. Thanks to tiny scales and a super smooth surface, our legless lizard swam and slowly vanished. “Bye, Mrs. Lizard, this is where you belong.”

We sat on a high dune, watched the

beautiful Pacific and the deep blue of the sky while we ate lunch. We could see Oso Flaco Lake in the distance. The sun so nice and air so fresh. I read some lines from a few of my heroes:

“Some of the unmarked face of America’s wilderness must be left as a refuge for man—as a place where he can escape the roar of machines and once more get on understanding terms with the universe.”—Justice William O. Douglas

“Mankind has gone very far into an artificial world of his own creation. He has sought to insulate himself, in cities of steel and concrete, from the realities of earth and water and the growing seed. Intoxicated with a sense of his own power, he seems to be going farther into more experiments for the destruction of himself and his world.”—Rachel Carson

In the long, contemplative, quiet that followed, with sun, air, and a feeling of belonging to the earth (but sound of ORVs getting louder), one usually quiet girl made a simple, clear observation: “ORVs don’t belong here—this is the home of Mr. Cricket and Mrs. Lizard.”

If you feel as I do that the beach is NOT a “road,” that vehicle “recreation” on it should not be promoted, and that snowy plover critical habitat at the mouth of Arroyo Grande Creek should be protected, write to: Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street #300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Bill Denneen lives near Nipomo Dunes, located in San Luis Obispo County on California’s central coast.

Private lands working group launched; Farm bill holds promise

by Ben Wallace

CWC initiates working group

As its first project of the new year, the Private Land Stewardship Initiative brought together a working group made up of stakeholders in the environmental, conservation and agricultural communities. The purpose of the group is to create an ongoing partnership that can advocate for policies that make the presence of viable habitat on private land a net benefit for landowners and agricultural producers. By addressing specific policies and programs in a collaborative setting, we hope to build trust and a broader understanding of how the needs of agricultural producers and imperiled species both can be met.

Many people who make a living off the land express concern that providing habitat on farmland or rangeland, especially habitat for threatened and endangered species, will result in costly permitting processes, crop losses, or decreased management flexibility that will ultimately hamper the operation of a profitable business. Yet, there is increasing recognition in the farm community that the integration of natural ecological functions within a diversified agricultural landscape can contribute to the long-term profitability of the farm.

On the afternoon of January 8th, representatives of diverse organizations including Defenders of Wildlife, the California Rice Commission, and the Resource Landowners Coalition, gathered at the office of the California Cattlemen's Association to address issues of common concern for agricultural producers and wildlife advocates. The initial meeting yielded a number of potential initiatives for the group to address. One project may involve building a collaborative strategy to pass Assembly Bill 1398, a proposed program that would enhance stewardship on lands protected by Williamson Act contracts. (The Williamson Act estab-

lished a program run by the California Department of Conservation. Currently, landowners can make a contract with the state agreeing not to develop their land for a ten-year period. In exchange, they are taxed on the agricultural value of the land rather than the potential development value. Without the act, farmers who would rather continue farming might have to put their land on the market just to cover the taxes.)

Other ideas include examining rules that define habitat benefits for agricultural easements in California, and proposing habitat stewardship practices for new programs enacted in the federal farm bill or state legislature.

A significant outcome of the first gathering of this working group was a new awareness of the considerable potential for partnerships between once-adversarial organizations and enthusiasm for continuing with the group in the future.

Senate farm bill furthers conservation

The California Wilderness Coalition continues to give strong voice to California's conservation priorities in the federal farm bill. On Wednesday, February 13, the U.S. Senate voted 58-40 in support of a compromise farm bill that balances ongoing crop subsidies with increased funding for conservation programs. The new commitment to conservation will reward farmers who preserve farmland and adopt environmentally beneficial land stewardship practices.

The bill passed by the U.S. Senate takes bold steps to help farmers and wildlife. It includes the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, which would give farmers essential resources to practice wildlife-friendly farming while maintaining a profitable business. The Senate

farm bill also includes a voluntary, state-controlled water conservation program that would ensure the financial security of agricultural producers while protecting endangered fish.

A new grasslands protection program sponsored by Senator Feinstein would greatly advance open space preservation in California. It would enable California's ranchers to use permanent and long-term easements to prevent the conversion of rangeland to subdivisions, while maintaining wildlife corridors and preserving critical grassland ecosystems.

The Senate made a similarly strong commitment to farmland protection, providing \$350-million annually for easements to preserve prime farmland, such as row crops or orchards, in the path of urban sprawl.

The Senate also approved important new program rules that would enable more California farmers to access conservation funding, and boost California's watershed-based conservation efforts.

The commitment to conservation in the Senate farm bill contrasts starkly with the farm bill passed by the House of Representatives in October of 2001. A House-Senate conference committee will convene shortly to work out differences between the two bills, and then the resulting bill goes to President Bush. If California's leaders stand firm behind the conservation gains in the Senate, the farm bill will finally help local producers while improving environmental benefits for all Californians.

Ben Wallace is the coordinator for the California Private Land Stewardship Initiative.



Wilderness in the 107th Congress could outpace successes of the 106th

The 106th Congress approved a total of eight wilderness bills and added more than one million acres of public land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, bringing the total amount of designated wilderness in the U.S. to over 105 million acres. New wilderness areas designated by the 106th Congress are in Alabama, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Virginia.

Efforts are brewing in a number of states that are likely to result in a series of new wilderness bills being introduced in the second session of the 107th Congress, many of which could pass this year. States where there is potential for new wilderness legislation to be introduced in the coming weeks and months include (but may not be limited to) California, Nevada, North Carolina, Washington, Vermont, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Courtesy of the Wilderness Support Center.

Forest Service to study impacts on John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses

Last year, the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for mismanagement of the John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses. In their suit, the HSHA argued that the Forest Service had allowed excessive packstock use in the two eastside Sierra wildernesses, leading to damage to meadows, trails, and camp areas. On November 1, 2001, the Court found “disturbing evidence of environmental degradation from stock usage” and concluded that damage “will be compounded with each successive season” unless use is better regulated.

A federal judge ordered the Forest Service to analyze cumulative impacts caused by stock animals used by commercial outfits throughout the two wildernesses, and to consider limits on the number of stock animals, limits on

individual group size, and trail suitability for various use types. The Forest Service has until 2005 to complete the studies. Meanwhile, until the studies are completed, overnight use by commercial packstock outfits will be reduced by 20 percent, the size of individual groups supported by commercial packstock shall be limited to 12 people and 20 stock, and the Forest Service must discontinue the practice of allowing commercial packers to write their own wilderness permits.

Eldorado National Forest sued regarding off-road-vehicle damage

On February 8, three environmental groups sued the Eldorado National Forest for failing to obey laws regarding managing off-road vehicles. The suit charges that off-road vehicle use off designated roads and trails is uncontrolled and causing widespread damage to soils, wildlife, and vegetation.

The Eldorado National Forest was ordered by higher Forest Service officials to conduct a complete analysis of its trail plan by May 1997, including an analysis of the impacts of off-road vehicle route designations upon soils, fish, wildlife, and other recreationists. The Eldorado National Forest has not initiated these studies, nor indicated that it intends to do so.

The suit was filed by the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the California Wilderness Coalition. It also challenges the Rock Creek off-road vehicle area decision, adopted in 1999, because it did not adequately address impacts to soils and wildlife, including the declining Pacific deer herd and the California spotted owl.

Endangered milk vetch rebounds

Peirson’s milk vetch, a purple-flowered perennial in the pea family, appears to be doing well in the Imperial Sand Dunes after the Bureau of Land Management temporarily closed off

portions of the dunes last year. The milk vetch, which is a listed endangered species, has increased from zero live plants to 15 healthy, blooming plants. Although not all off-road vehicle riders have honored the closure boundaries, environmentalists praised BLM rangers for being responsive when called about infractions.

Conservation groups seek to protect old-growth forest species

Several conservation groups filed suit on February 15 to protect dozens of rare and sensitive forest species that were stripped of legal protection early last year in an effort to increase logging of mature and old-growth forests on public land. The lawsuit alleges that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management violated the law when they removed 72 species from survey requirements under the Northwest Forest Plan. The Northwest Forest Plan uses wildlife surveys and habitat buffers to ensure that species do not continue to slide toward extinction.

The lawsuit also alleges that the government failed to adequately consider alternatives that would protect old forests and ensure the survival of these species. Dave Werntz, Science Director for the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, stated, “The Northwest Forest Plan simply required the agencies to look before they log, and to use that information to avoid killing wildlife. Now, the government wants to ramp up logging levels without protecting some of the most ecologically important wildlife in the forest, and that’s wrong.”

“The species at issue here – lichens, mosses, mollusks, and fungi – may not be as well known as the spotted owl or bald eagle, but they are critical to the function of the forest ecosystem,” said Francis Eatherington of Umpqua Watersheds.

Seven more condors fly free

Northern Arizona’s Vermillion Cliffs

were the latest California condor release site in ongoing efforts to restore the endangered bird in the wild. The seven birds released included five captive-bred juveniles, a condor that had been recaptured, and a 5-year-old "mentor." As of February 1, there were 58 condors flying free in California and Arizona. 2002 is expected to be a landmark year in biological terms, as the first of the re-introduced birds reach sexual maturity, hopefully laying many eggs and successfully rearing the first wild born condors since 1982. (In 1982, the last 22 condors were placed in a captive breeding program.)

Courtesy Endangered Species Coalition.

Court orders action for Sierra Nevada amphibians

On December 12, 2001, a federal judge ordered the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to issue a decision as to whether the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog should be protected as endangered species. The mountain yellow-legged frog was historically the most abundant frog in the Sierra Nevada, distributed widely in high-elevation lakes and streams, and has now disappeared from 70-90% of its former habitat. Remaining populations are widely scattered and consist of few breeding adults. What was thought to be one of the largest remaining populations, containing 2000 adult frogs as recently as 1996, had collapsed to only two frogs in a 1999 survey.

The Yosemite toad, once common in the high country of the central Sierra Nevada, has disappeared from most of its historic breeding sites. Declines are especially alarming in Yosemite National Park, the species' most pristine and protected stronghold. Both species have been adversely impacted by introduced fish, which prey on larval and juvenile frogs and toads, while their habitat has been degraded by pesticide pollution, cattle grazing, pathogens, and ozone depletion.

Courtesy of the Center for Biological Diversity.

BLM begins massive 16-state vegetation treatment plan

Acknowledging the poor condition of much of the agency's lands, the Bureau of Land Management is writing a plan to address the spread of noxious weeds as well as restoration of native vegetation, wildlife habitat, and watersheds. The plan will consider treatments such as prescribed fire, riparian restoration, restoration of native plant communities, control of invasive species, fuels reduction, and other prescriptions.

The BLM accepted initial comments from the public up until March 29, and will write a draft plan based on these comments, after which the public can again submit input. Conservationists asked that the BLM consider limiting the major factors that cause the spread of invasive species, including motorized vehicles and livestock grazing. Conservationists also advocated for the use of weed-free seed for restoration and hay for livestock, that the BLM consider all invasive species and not only those officially designated as "noxious," that the BLM reduce the use of herbicides, that the BLM consider fire a natural process that should be restored to many of its lands, and that road obliteration should be a major component of any restoration plan.

Courtesy of the American Lands Alliance.

Forest Service waffles on protection of Sierra

Days after the Bush Administration approved the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan, the Forest Service announced that it might amend the plan to accommodate more logging.

On New Year's Eve, Jack Blackwell, Regional Forester for California's National Forests, said he would review and possibly revise the plan. The Framework had just been approved by the USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources, Mark Rey, on December 27.

The Forest Service spent nine years in finalizing the Sierra plan; it is the result of hundreds of public hearings.

As originally written, the plan would have cut logging in half to sustain California spotted owls, fisher, pine marten and other rare animals. It covers the management of 11.5 million acres of National Forest land across the Sierra Nevada region, and in its original form, would have significantly increased protection of old-growth forests and water resources. Sixty percent of California's water comes from the Sierra Nevada.

Sage grouse threatened by airport expansion

The Institute for Wildlife Protection has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately extend Endangered Species Act protection to a small population of sage grouse found along the Nevada-California line in the eastern Sierra. The Institute's emergency listing petition states that this distinct population is threatened with extinction due to "dwindling habitat, its isolation and a planned airport expansion in the winter resort town of Mammoth, California." Overall sage grouse numbers have declined by as much as 80% over the past 20 years in their western states sagebrush habitat.

Sequoia plan expected soon

On April 15, 2001, the Giant Sequoia National Monument was created. The Monument is located within California's Sequoia National Forest, encompasses approximately 328,000 acres, and protects 34 groves of ancient sequoias as well as the forest lands surrounding them. The U.S. Forest Service is expected to release a management plan for the National Monument in May of this year. The release of the draft plan will be accompanied by a series of public meetings, in which the public will have a chance to comment. Please stay tuned, and be ready in May 2002 to send in your comments in support of a management plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument that will protect the forest in its natural state where wildlife can survive and thrive.

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

100Fires Book Company
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C O A L I T I O N M E M B E R G R O U P S

Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant Society; Springville
American Lands Alliance; Washington, D.C.
Animal Protection Institute; Sacramento
Ancient Forest International; Redway
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles
Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland
Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S.F.
Big Bear Group, Sierra Club; Big Bear Lake
California Alpine Club; San Francisco
California League of Conservation Voters; Oakland
California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln
California Native Plant Society; Sacramento
California Oak Foundation; Oakland
Calif. Technology Enabling Group; Santa Cruz
Californians for Utah Wilderness; San Francisco
Center for Biological Diversity; Tucson, AZ
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation; Georgetown
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center; Twain Harte
Citizens for Better Forestry; Arcata
Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes
Coast Range Ecosystem Alliance; Santa Clara
Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno
Communication Works; San Francisco
Desert Protective Council; San Diego
Desert Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego
Desert Survivors; Oakland
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; San Francisco
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop
Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; Los Angeles
El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach
Forests Forever; San Francisco
Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
Friends of China Camp; San Rafael
Friends of Chinquapin; Oakland
Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy
Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena
Friends of the Inyo; Lee Vining
Friends of Kirkwood; Santa Rosa
Friends of the River; Sacramento
Fund for Animals; San Francisco

Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley
Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Cedar City, UT
High Sierra Hikers Association; South Lake Tahoe
Idylwild Earth Fair; Idylwild
International Center for Earth Concerns; Ojai
Jackson Forest Restoration Campaign; Fort Bragg
John Muir Project; Pasadena
Jumping Frog Research Institute; Angels Camp
Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia
Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai
Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield
Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna
Laguna Hills Audubon Society; Laguna Hills
League to Save Lake Tahoe; South Lake Tahoe
LEGACY-The Landscape Connection; Arcata
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto
Los Angeles Audubon Society; West Hollywood
Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Barbara
Maidu Group, Sierra Club; Placerville
Marin Conservation League; San Rafael
Mariposa Democratic Club; Mariposa
Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah
Mendocino-Lake Group, Sierra Club; Fort Bragg
Mojave Group, Sierra Club; Victorville
Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining
Monterey Bay Chapter, Calif. Native Plant Society
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society; Monterey
Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club; Sacramento
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mount Shasta
Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento
National Wildlife Federation; San Diego
Native Habitats; Woodside
Natural Heritage Institute; San Francisco
Natural Resources Defense Council; San Francisco
NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa
Nordic Voice; Livermore
North Coast Chapter, CNPS; Arcata
Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata
People for Nipomo Dunes Nat'l Seashore; Nipomo
Pew Wilderness Center; Boulder, CO
Placer County Conservation Task Force; Newcastle
Planning & Conservation League; Sacramento

Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club; Mammoth Lakes
Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa
The Red Mountain Association; Leggett
Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco
Sacramento Audubon Society; Sacramento
Sacramento Valley Chapter, California Native Plant Society; Woodland
San Bernadino Mountains Group, Sierra Club; Blue Jay
San Diego Audubon Society; San Diego
San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego
San Fernando Valley Audubon; Van Nuys
San Geronio Chapter, Sierra Club; Riverside
Santa Clara Valley Audubon; Cupertino
Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology; Modesto
Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville
Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley
Seventh Generation Fund; Arcata
Sierra Club California; San Francisco
Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe
Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR
Siskiyou Project; Cave Junction, OR
Smith River Alliance; Trinidad
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR
South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville
South Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City
Southern California Forests Committee; Barstow
Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club; Fresno
Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia
Tule River Conservancy; Porterville
UC Davis Environmental Law Society; Davis
Ventana Wilderness Alliance; Santa Cruz
Ventana Wildlands Project; Santa Clara
Western States Endurance Run; San Francisco
Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO
The Wilderness Society; San Francisco
The Wildlands Project; Tucson, AZ
Willits Environmental Center; Willits
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding
Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis
Yolo Audubon Society; Davis
Yosemite Regional Conservation Trust; Oakland



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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

A Humble Act

Protecting wilderness for future generations is a truly unselfish act. We do it for the planet and the wonderful variety of plants and animals that make it their home.

We also do it for ourselves. It is comforting to know as we deal with traffic, dirty beaches and polluted lands, that some of our most treasured lands remain pristine.

Stocks

One effective way to help protect wilderness is through a donation of appreciated stock to the California Wilderness Coalition. You receive a tax deduction for the entire value of the stocks, though you may have purchased them for a small part of that value. (Please check with your tax advisor to clarify your exact tax benefits.) Let us know and we will work with you to do an electronic transfer of securities.

Planned Giving

Remember wilderness in your will. Many of us cannot make day-to-day contributions to the causes we love; yet in our will, we can make a bequest to leave a wilderness legacy. 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 current address of 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616, for its general purposes."

Wildland Advocates

Make this commitment and join the 164 members of our major donor program. We are entering the 21st century with a re-energized effort to protect California wilderness! This committed group empowers the staff and volunteers at CWC to be effective in our efforts to protect these lands. Our staff works hard with passion and modest pay, and appreciates knowing you care. You can give through our fund appeals, or sign up for a monthly credit charge. Your help is greatly appreciated. Giving levels for Wildland Advocates start at \$250 per year.

Please contact Bob Schneider at (530) 304-6215 if you have questions or suggestions about giving to protect our wilderness heritage.



Beauty Mountain

Southern California's Beauty Mountain area encompasses a series of steep mountains, dominated by Iron Spring Mountain and Beauty Mountain itself. This untrammled wildland provides incomparable opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.

With elevations ranging from 3,300 to 5,548 feet, chaparral dominates the area, divided evenly between the California chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities. On a warm spring day, the visitor is greeted with the heady scents of sage, manzanita, and California lilac. Hill after misty hill rise in the distance, presenting an unbroken view of wild country. Because of the rocky outcroppings and dense vegetation, the visitor is quickly out of sight and sound of other seekers of the wilderness experience.

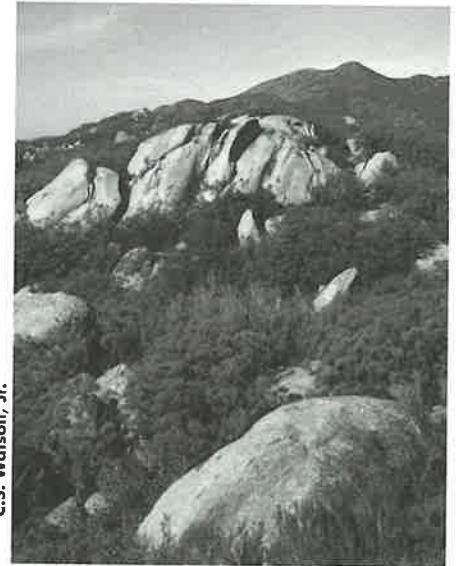
Rugged cross-country adventurers can find connections to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Pacific Crest Trail to the east, while the California Riding and Hiking Trail (open to vehicle traffic) provides access to the wilderness area.

East of Beauty Mountain, Iron Spring and Cooper canyons carve deep gorges through the landscape, with a myriad of rocky side canyons waiting to be explored.

These streamside habitats provide homes for numerous sensitive or endangered species, including the Quino checkerspot butterfly and native bunch grasses, as well as the more common mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote.

Managing agency: Bureau of Land Management

Size: Approximately 14,270 acres



C.S. Watson, Jr.

Location: Several miles to the east of the Palomar Mountain range, south of the Cahuilla Indian Reservation, and west of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Riverside County.

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



Kim with her husband Chris in Yosemite

CWC welcomes Kim Welborn

In January, Kim joined our staff as Executive Assistant to Director Paul Spitler. A 1992 managerial economics graduate of UC Davis, Kim has experience in marketing and management. Kim's excellent problem-solving skills, as well as her strong background in small company operations, make her an invaluable asset to CWC. Says Kim, "As a person who deeply cares for the environment and loves the outdoors, I want to help contribute to protecting wilderness and remaining wildlands." We are thrilled to welcome her!



Keith Hammond

Keith Hammond joins CWC team

CWC is proud to welcome our first Communications Director, Keith Hammond. Keith has worked as an editor and writer for *Mother Jones*. Most recently, he has managed the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's Washington, D.C. office, working as a lobbyist and grassroots organizer for SUWA. In the last three years, he led successful efforts to build record Congressional cosponsorship of America's Redrock Wilderness Act in the House and Senate, and to defeat harmful legislation on the House floor, working with members of Congress, their staff, and national environmental organizations to develop legislative strategy. Keith graduated

from Yale University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, and has lived half his life in California. We are very glad he's here.

And now, CWC needs you!

The California Wilderness Coalition is currently recruiting interns to assist our Conservation Associates with a wilderness campaign dealing with the Sierra area. Internship tasks may include outreach to various groups and elected officials, meeting with local groups to generate support for CWC and our programs, and assisting with map coordination.

Other internship or volunteer positions include helping our staff with website work, publishing of newsletters, membership maintenance, and general office tasks.

If you or someone you know is enthusiastic, ready to work, and wants to help at the California Wilderness Coalition, please contact Kim Welborn via email at KimW@calwild.org or by phone at (530) 758-0380 extension 107.



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.

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.

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.

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Gift from: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Wilderness Defender | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Wilderness Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Business Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Low-income |

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

sp/02/wr



Morgan Ball

The southern sea otter inhabits Santa Barbara County's Gaviota coast, where development pressures imperil one of the last remnants of California's unprotected and undeveloped coastline. The Gaviota coast was featured in CWC's recent report, *Our Natural Heritage at Risk: California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places*. For the story, see page 3.

A Voice for Wild California



California Wilderness Coalition
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Mr. Phil Farrell