

WILDERNESS RECORD

News Journal of the California Wilderness Coalition

SUMMER 2005



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**CALIFORNIA
WILDERNESS
COALITION**

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The California Wilderness Coalition protects the natural landscapes that make California unique, providing clean air and water, a home to wildlife, and a place for spiritual renewal.

CWC is the only organization dedicated to protecting and restoring California's wild places and native biodiversity on a statewide level.

Since 1976, we have empowered local communities and conservationists to be the voice for wild California.



Kings River proposed Wild and Scenic River corridor

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SUMMER 2005/VOLUME 31/ISSUE 3/ISSN 0194-3030

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Design by Maia Wilkinson/maia@maiawilkinson.com

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The Congressional Wilderness

If you just read the front page of the Wilderness Record and thought “didn’t the Senate pass that north coast wilderness bill last year?” you’re right. But there is truth to the old adage that the wheels of Congress turn slowly. Despite the Senate’s passage of the bill in December, Congress adjourned before the House of Representatives acted on the bill so now the legislative process starts anew.

Our wilderness champions in the Senate, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, worked doggedly to pass the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act (S. 128/H.R. 233) out of the Senate in July—just 6 months since the start of the new Congress. This is quite a feat when one considers that thousands of bills just languish in Congress. The challenge is now the House where Congressman Mike Thompson champions the bill. You can read about the bill’s July House hearing in the next few pages. In the words of Congressman Thompson

himself, if the bill doesn’t pass the House, “it won’t be because of policy—it will be because of politics.” Of course, it’s the job of CWC to amass support for wild lands to change those politics.

Sadly also in July, California lost a great environmental advocate, Mark Weinberger, to a long struggle with leukemia. A preeminent public interest attorney, Mark made protecting the environment his life’s work. It’s people like him who inspire the next generation of advocates. In the last year, three wonderful young staff, Amanda Dranginis, Michael Gelardi, and Byron Kahr, left CWC for law school. We miss them, but are happy that their time at CWC paved the way to the next step of their career path. We know that they will carry on Mark’s work for the greater good.

Mary Wells is the Executive Director of CWC



CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION



The King Range, one of many proposed wilderness areas in the Northern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act

North Coast Wilderness Bill Passes US Senate, Hearing in the House

The Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act (H.R. 233/ S. 128) is steadily making its way through Congress. The legislation would permanently protect more than 300,000 acres of wild lands from the Oregon border to Napa County. Sponsored by Congressman Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, the bill passed the U.S. Senate on July 26th and received a hearing in the House of Representatives Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee of the Resources Committee earlier in the month.



Cache Creek

JIM ROSE

The bill also successfully passed the Senate in the last Congress, but the hearing was the first significant step on the House side since it was first introduced in 2002. In addition to Congressman Thompson, the subcommittee heard testimony from the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), wilderness supporters Mendocino County Supervisor Jim Wattenburger and Del Norte County Supervisor Martha McClure, and wilderness opponents Don Amador (Blue Ribbon Coalition), Jim Hasenauer (International Mountain Biking Association), Chuck Blackburn (Supervisor, Del Norte County) and Sam Aanestad (State Senator, Grass Valley).

Congressman Thompson spoke at length about the crafting the bill. He described the thorough, inclusive effort to ensure that all interests were considered in writing the legislation. These included: concerns of inholders and adjacent landowners need for guaranteed access to their property, boundary adjustments for fire suppression needs, and the exclusion of all authorized roads and ATV routes.

Regarding the King Range's 26 miles of pristine and undeveloped coastline known as the "Lost Coast," Chad Calvert, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior, said "this area would truly be a crown jewel of the wilderness system." The BLM was supportive of the other lands under their jurisdiction. The Forest Service continues to oppose wilderness designation for a few areas, but they no longer oppose wilderness protections for Mount Sanhedrin and Mount Lassic. When asked by Representative Tom Udall (D-New Mexico), both agencies agreed that the bill would not hamper their ability to fight fire and would not close any authorized roads.

Both Supervisors who testified in support of the bill did an outstanding job. Supervisor Jim Wattenburger spoke from his previous experience as a Battalion Chief of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Having commanded a crew that stopped a fire in the Snow Mountain wilderness in 2001, Supervisor Wattenburger made it clear that fires can be fought in wilderness areas with the necessary tools. He also said that as a pro-business Republican and member of the Ukiah Chamber of Commerce, he sees economic benefits for his community in preserving the county's most wild public lands.

Supervisor Martha McClure spoke to the process Congressman Thompson went through to address concerns in her county. Supervisor McClure coordinated a working group of representatives from the timber industry, local ORV users, and members of the local Fish and Game Advisory Council to thoroughly examine all the areas in the proposal. She explained how Congressman Thompson then met with this working group and made a number of alterations as a result of the group's discussions.

While those in opposition of the bill were given more opportunities for testimony than those in support, many of their issues were addressed by Congressman Thompson. Both Supervisor Blackburn and State Senator Aanestad spoke about the number of acres already in federal ownership in Del Norte County. Congressman Thompson clarified that the bill concerned only public lands, and therefore would not take any money off the tax rolls. When Don Amador spoke about threats to ATV use, Congressman Thompson explained that both the Forest Service and the BLM have confirmed that no authorized ATV routes or roads would be closed by his legislation. And when the International Mountain Biking Association spoke about lost mountain biking trails, Congressman Thompson described how almost 10,000 acres were excluded from this bill in consideration of mountain bikers. Only three small trails would be closed by the legislation.

Now that the bill has passed the Senate and a hearing has occurred in the House, the bill sits in the hands of House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Tracy), a vocal critic of wilderness protection. We will need to redouble our efforts to continue to demonstrate the broad, bi-partisan, and local support for protecting these last wild places of northwestern California.



Jason

Dave

COALITION news

CWC wishes all the best to Tina, Mike, Byron & Josh!

After over five years of outstanding work, Senior Field Organizer, **Tina Andolina** left CWC in June for a position with the Coalition for Clean Air in Sacramento as their Senior Campaign Associate.

Tina was a grassroots organizing dynamo. From the Tahoe National Forest in the north to the Sequoia National Forest in the south, she recruited, trained and coordinated a large network of wilderness and river advocates who helped shape and politically advance the California Wild Heritage Act. Her enthusiasm, humor, and dedication will be missed here at the CWC, but we are excited for her advancement in her career.

Mike Gelardi came to us fresh out of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Having grown up in Oregon, he was quick to move back West to his beloved mountains and coast. As CWC's Development Manager for three years, Mike more than doubled our membership and contributed to the growth of CWC. However, the call of his native Pacific Northwest was strong, and he departed CWC this summer to begin law school at the University of Washington where he will no doubt also be a success.

After nearly two years in the desert, **Byron Kahr** returns to his native east coast to attend Georgetown University Law Center this fall. Byron has done an outstanding job activating the Alliance for Responsible Recreation to prevent further ORV abuse in the desert. He will be missed, but we look forward to hearing about his future endeavors.

Josh Buswell-Charkow also left CWC this summer after two years in Eureka organizing for the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. Josh has joined his partner, Emily Rusch, an advocate for CalPIRG, in San Francisco and has started a new organizing position with ForestEthics. We wish Josh the best in his next chapter.

Welcome Jason and Dave!

Jason Fried is our new Desert Field Organizer.

Jason has previously worked on many congressional and presidential campaigns and served in the Clinton Administration at the Department of Interior and Vice President Gore's office.

No stranger to California, Jason began his career working for Congressman George Brown both on his campaigns and in his DC office until the Congressman's passing in 1999.

As a UC Riverside alum, Jason is pleased to return to southern California.

Dave Reckess is our new North Coast Organizer.

After earning a B.A. from Amherst College in Massachusetts, Dave headed westward for bigger mountains and wilder places.

Most recently, Dave worked as an organizer for the Nevada State Democratic Party, and later for environmental non-profit organizations in Reno. When he is not at work, Dave can be found backpacking, skiing, or sitting on a porch sipping lemonade and listening to John Prine.

We are excited to have Jason and Dave on board!

New Membership Renewal System

Beginning this fall, CWC will implement a new membership renewal process that will make it easier for members to support our work. Traditionally, CWC's membership program has operated on an annual basis where memberships ended a year after your first gift. CWC will now shift to a calendar-based membership renewal program, asking you to renew your support every fall for the year ahead.

We want to make it easy for members to keep their CWC support active. A familiar calendar-based system will allow members to renew their support at a time when they're naturally reflecting about the year ahead.



JOHN KINDSYATER

Joshua Tree National Park

It's easier and more efficient for CWC to ask all members to renew their annual support at the same time, in one big annual campaign, instead of spreading the job out over the course of an entire year. This saves time, money, and paper. More of your donations will go to conservation work.

Please look out for your renewal package in the mail this fall, and join us again in protecting California's wild places!

Ending ORV Abuse in the Desert

The California Wilderness Coalition, in partnership with members of the Alliance for Responsible Recreation (ARR), is working to pass ordinances addressing irresponsible Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) use in both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

In Riverside County, after several attempts over the last year to pass an ordinance, the Planning Commission has again decided to postpone action until late August. The Riverside ordinance has gone through several changes with the latest version focusing primarily on the definition of an ORV track, noise levels at the property line, and the number of vehicles permitted to operate on a piece of property at one time. However, at the last Planning Commission hearing, some Commissioners seemed interested in weakening the proposal to a basic noise ordinance. CWC will continue to monitor and influence revisions to the draft ordinance.

The San Bernardino County ordinance is still in a public comment phase and will not be taken to the San Bernardino Planning Commission until late August or early September. The stronger San Bernardino ordinance addresses trespass on private lands and establishes larger fines for riding in unauthorized locations. This ordinance is a direct result of work done by CWC and ARR organizing concerned citizens across San Bernardino County. CWC is pleased to see such a strong draft ordinance and will push the County to keep it in its current form.

To find out more about the Alliance for Responsible Recreation and what local groups are doing in your area to combat ORV abuse please contact Jason Fried at (951) 781-1336.

CWC PLANS SECOND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE CONFERENCE

CWC and the Alliance for Responsible Recreation are organizing a second Desert Communities under Siege Conference. We will continue the efforts of the successful conference to reach out to new people who are concerned with ORV abuse in the desert. This event is still in the planning stages.

Please stay tuned for more information.

In Memorial . . .



COURTESY OF TAMARA GALANTER

Mark Weinberger, a great advocate for California's wild landscapes, died peacefully Thursday, July 14, 2005, in San Francisco, after a four-year struggle with leukemia.

Mark was born in Oakland in 1948 and spent his early years in Palo Alto. He graduated from Stanford University in 1970, where he was Editor in Chief of the Stanford Daily. He went on to earn his law degree from Harvard University in 1974 and thereafter played a pivotal role in the emerging field of California environmental law.

For thirty years, Mark practiced environmental and land use law, initially as an attorney in the California Attorney General's environmental unit where he focused on coastal protection and logging regulation. In 1980, Mark joined with two other attorneys from the Attorney General's office to found Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, a law firm that represents community groups and government agencies in land use and environmental matters. Mark and the firm were longtime supporters of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Mark was devoted to his law firm and continued his law practice throughout the course of his illness. He was a brilliant litigator, winning many groundbreaking environmental cases. In later years, he skillfully negotiated a number of complex land use disputes, and developed innovative strategies for preserving open space and protecting environmental values. The conservation community mourns the loss of a dedicated champion of wild California.

CWC RECEIVED GENEROUS DONATIONS
IN MEMORY OF MARK WEINBERGER
FROM THESE INDIVIDUALS:

Jim Angell
Kevin Bundy, Sheridan Pauker & Andrea Ruiz-Esquide (2005–2006 Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger Fellows)
Hal Candee
Taffy Castro
Ralph Cavanagh
Environmental Science Associates
Ellison Folk <i>Every time I have a complicated litigation issue, I ask myself "What would Mark do?" I wish you were here to answer the question.</i>
Ellen Garber
Alan Gould & Diana Tokugawa
Rhoda Haberman
Joseph Jaramillo
Barbara Kautz
Seela Lewis & Jan Werner, GHI, L.P.
Trent Orr & Brian Mikulak
Ann Nottoff
Cecilia Quick, Kathryn Farbstein & Marilyn de Souza
Dennis Perluss
Frank Silver
The Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger Fellows <i>We are honored to share in his life's work.</i>
Richard Taylor & Tracy Grubbs <i>We will always be inspired by Mark's wit, dedication, and clear sight.</i>
Katherine Trisolini
Osa & Greg Wolff
Johanna & Michael Wald

Come out for a Hike in Mad River Buttes

Trail name: Bug Creek Trail (Route 4E26)

Distance: 5.5-mile loop.

Difficulty: Moderate

Features: This small yet ecologically diverse area encompasses the headwaters of Redwood Creek, a critical salmon and steelhead trout stream that eventually flows into Redwood National Park. Composed of a series of east-west ridges, the region is topped by several scenic prominences, including Mad River Buttes, Chaparral Mountain, Bug Creek Butte, Board Camp Mountain, and Board Camp Butte. Redwood Creek and Bug Creek flow through the area. Large meadows grace the upper slopes of the ridge, offering breathtaking wildflower displays in early summer. Ancient forests of pine and fir cover much of the area, as do outstanding groves of black oak. These diverse habitats provide homes for a large number of wildlife species, including the northern spotted owl, goshawk, Pacific fisher, pine marten, Pacific giant salamander, prairie falcon, pileated woodpecker, and Roosevelt elk among others. Unique plant communities are also formed by "serpentine barrens," places where soil conditions are so poor that only highly specialized plants can survive.



NORMAN HERTERICH

Bug Creek Trail, Mad River Buttes Proposed Wilderness Area

Directions to trailhead: From Highway 101 in Arcata, drive east on Highway 299 to Berry Summit. Turn right (south) on Titlow Road (Forest Highway 1) and park at trailhead approximately one mile south of Brays Opening (a Six Rivers National Forest recreation map is essential to find this trailhead).

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