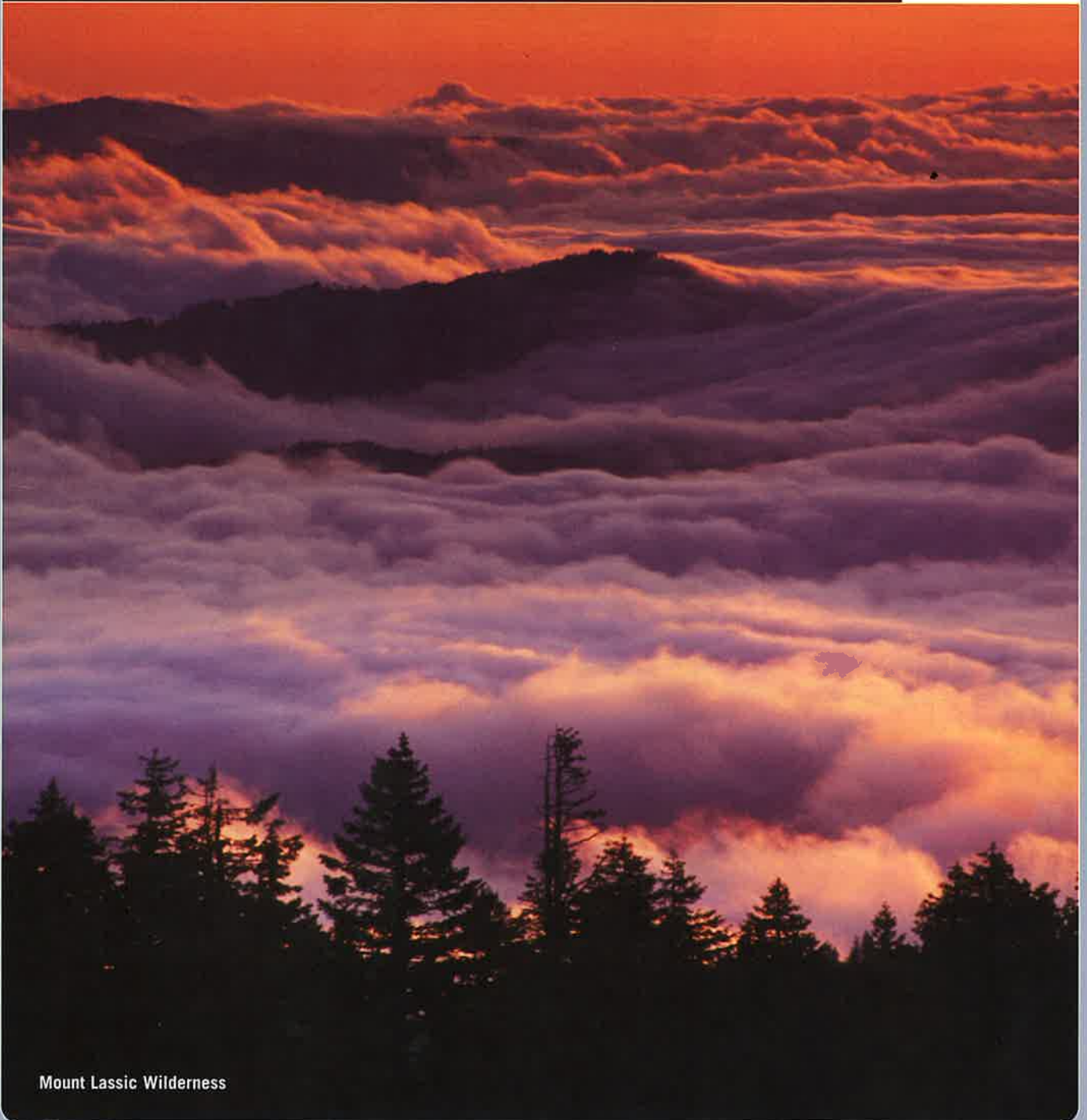


WILDERNESS RECORD

News Journal of the California Wilderness Coalition

FALL 2006



Mount Lassic Wilderness

The Northern California Coastal
Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2006



**CALIFORNIA
WILDERNESS
COALITION**

The Voice for Wild California

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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 recreation and 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.



JIM ROSE

Wild Iris, Yuki Wilderness

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COVER PHOTO: SAM CAMP / campphoto.com

DESIGN: MAIA WILKINSON / maia@maiawilkinson.com

Victory!

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 233,
the “Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act.”
The Act strengthens protection of certain lands in California.

GEORGE W. BUSH / THE WHITE HOUSE / OCTOBER 17, 2006

This was President Bush’s press statement upon signing the largest wilderness bill in California since 1994’s California Desert Protection Act and the first wild and scenic river bill since 1992. The brevity of his statement does not diminish the lasting impact that the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act will have on generations to come. Another 275,000 acres of wild California are permanently protected. Now, old growth forest in the Trinity Alps, oak woodlands on Snow Mountain, and the King Range’s singular coast line will forever be enjoyed. Also, 21 miles of the Black Butte River are now congressionally designated as wild and scenic, providing permanent habitat for California’s historic salmon runs.

While the win for the environment must be savored, the political victory for conservation should also be acknowledged. This bill was enacted by a Republican Congress and signed into law by a Republican President. The environment should be a bi-partisan issue because it’s a part of all of us—from the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to the land we walk. At CWC, our mission is to protect the landscapes that make California unique. If political adversaries can find common ground in protecting those special places, there is hope for a coming together on other environmental issues too. California is often a leader in changing the political attitudes. Hopefully, we have just set another great example!

Mary Wells is the Executive Director of CWC



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

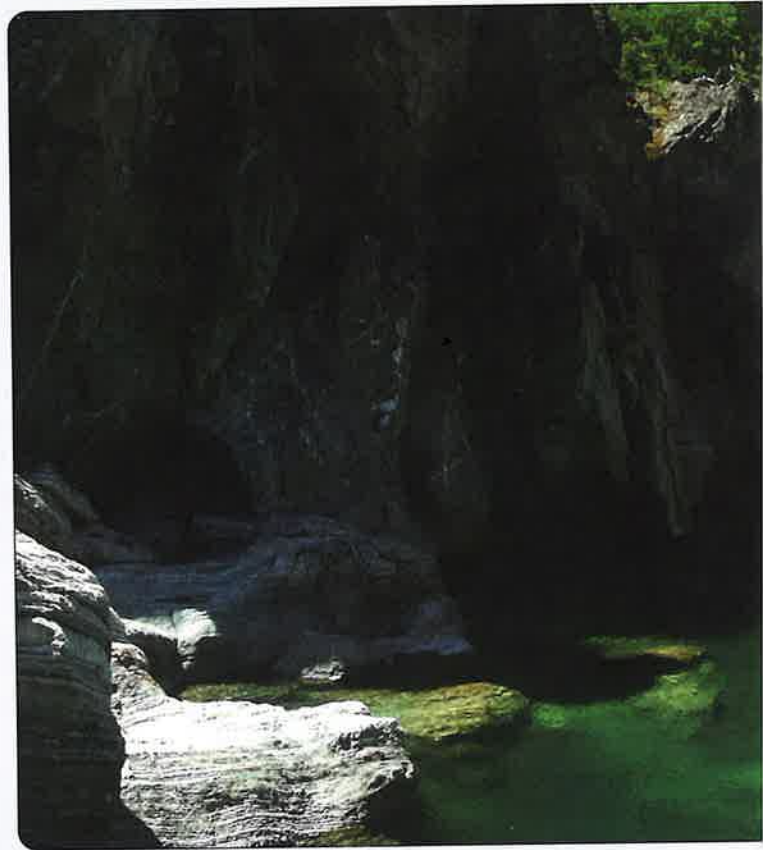


JIM ROSE

Siskiyou Wilderness

The passage of H.R. 233, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act marks the culmination of many years of hard work by countless people.

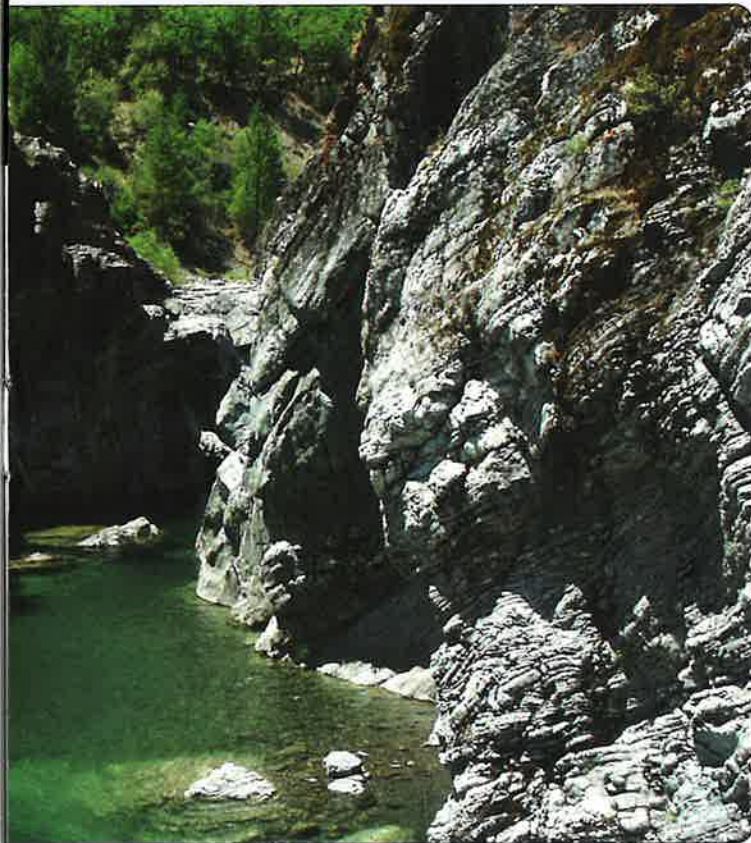
First mapped by volunteers and staff of CWC and other groups during the Citizens' Wilderness Inventory (CWI) between 1997 and 2001, the areas included in this bill represent the incredible diversity to be found on California's North Coast. Inspired by the beauty of these areas, conservationists hoped to include these lands in Senator Barbara Boxer's statewide wilderness bill. Local activists began collecting evidence of support for wilderness and attempting to resolve potential conflicts among ranchers, loggers, private landowners and other stakeholders. Their admirable work caught the attention of Representative Mike Thompson, who agreed to introduce a House version of Senator Boxer's bill in 2002.



BOB WICK



The struggle to pass the bill through Congress was monumental. The House Resources Committee, under the leadership of Representative Richard Pombo, was notoriously anti-environmental, with a particular disdain for wilderness. Waves of North Coast activists volunteered to lobby for the bill in Washington, D.C. while paid staff fended off repeated attacks from the International Mountain Biking Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition and other interests. Senator Dianne Feinstein became a co-sponsor of the bill in early 2004, and she, along with Senator Boxer and Representative Thompson did an absolutely masterful job of navigating through the rocky shoals of D.C. politics. By the time it was signed into law on October 17, 2006, the bill designated 275,830 acres (roughly 431 square miles) of land as wilderness and protected 21 miles of the Black Butte River as a wild and scenic river. H.R. 233 would not have passed if it were not for the deft political skills of Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Representative Thompson, and the outstanding passion and commitment of the many North Coast activists who struggled to advance the measure over the years.



CWC ARCHIVES



JIM ROSE

From the wind-swept beaches of the Lost Coast, to the startling peaks of the Trinity Alps, to the salmon and trout-filled waters of the Black Butte River and the dry heat of Cache Creek Wilderness chaparral, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act leaves a legacy of beauty that will inspire and enrich the lives of North Coast residents and visitors for generations to come.



(LEFT)
King Range Wilderness

(TOP)
**Middle Fork Eel River, Yolla Bolly Middle-Eel
Wilderness Addition**

(TOP RIGHT)
Siskiyou Wilderness

(BOTTOM RIGHT)
Cache Creek Wilderness



JIM ROSE

Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2006

New Wilderness

1. Siskiyou Wilderness Addition
2. Siskiyou Wilderness Addition
3. Trinity Alps Wilderness Addition
4. Trinity Alps Wilderness Addition
5. Mt. Lassic Wilderness
6. King Range Wilderness
7. King Range Wilderness
8. South Fork Eel Wilderness
9. Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness
10. South Fork Eel Wilderness
11. Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness Addition
12. Yuki Wilderness (BLM)
13. Sanhedrin Wilderness
14. Snow Mountain Wilderness Addition
15. Cache Creek Wilderness
16. Cedar Roughs Wilderness

New Wild & Scenic River

12. Black Butte River

Map Legend

Political Boundaries

State Boundary

Conservation Areas

New Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Ownership

U.S. Forest Service

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

For more information about these areas, please visit www.calwild.org

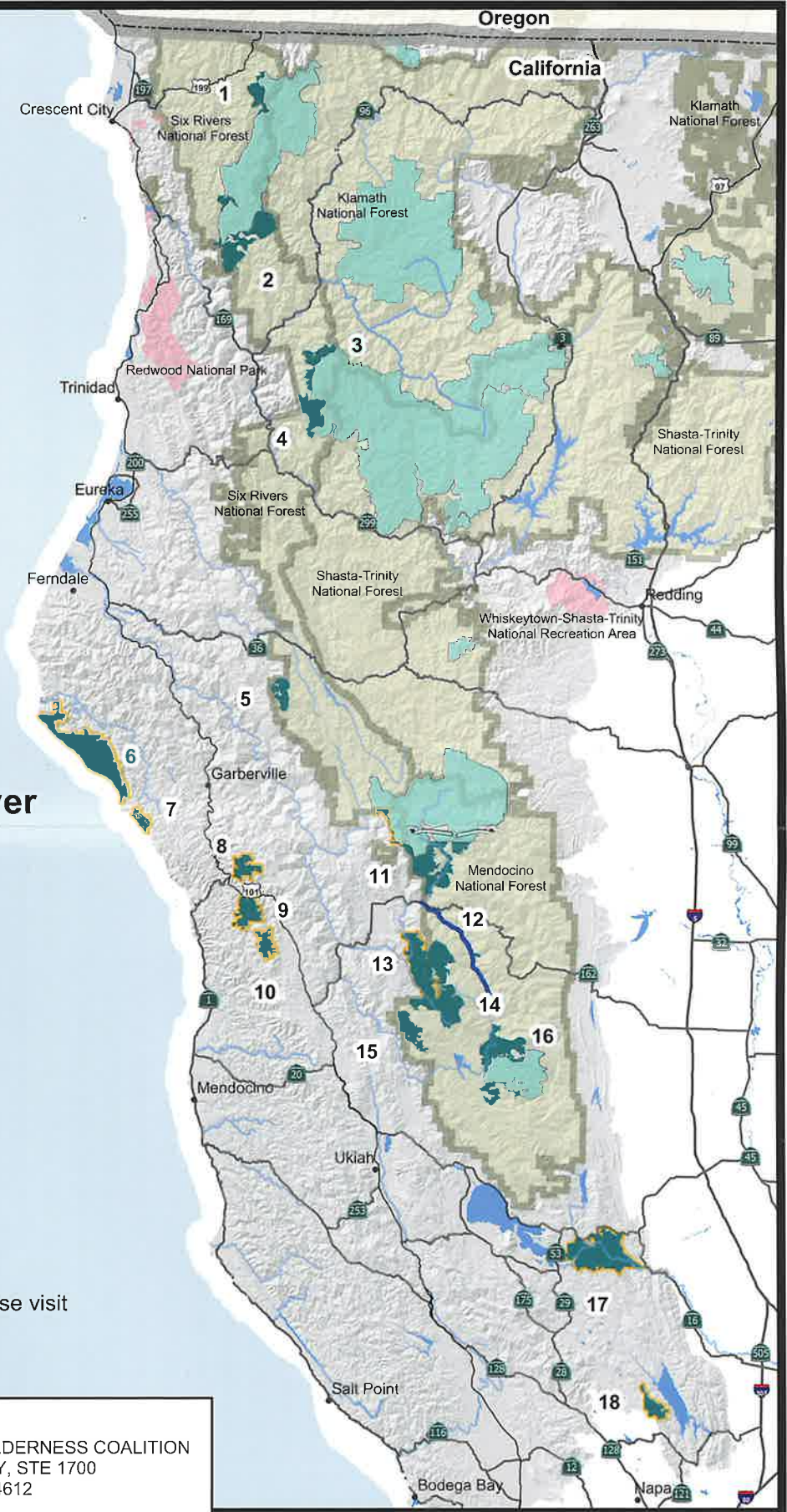


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Miles





Interview With Lynn Ryan: North Coast Activist

After moving to Humboldt County in 1981, Lynn Ryan became a tireless advocate for the lands along the Lost Coast. She has led over 200 hikes and

worked with the BLM and Forest Service on the area's management plans. Her work for wilderness also includes being a Registered Nurse in Labor and Delivery at Mad River Hospital, bringing into the world the next generation of wilderness advocates.

How does it feel now that the North Coast bill is signed into law after so many years of hard work?

This is such a wonderful feeling. When I started working to protect some of these areas, I never thought that it would all lead to a Congressional wilderness bill. Initially I was just getting involved with BLM Management Plans, making comments, and attending meetings. I was always working from one fight to the next, hoping that doing the right thing one time would translate into greater protections the next time. But I always thought we would constantly be doing this, over and over again as the agencies updated their management plans. To have these roadless areas actually permanently protected by Congress is beyond belief. And it's way more than I ever expected to happen.

What inspired you to start working to protect wild areas?

It just feels good to be in wilderness. I don't have any distractions. I can just be with the place and blend in. When an area is protected, you see the birds, smell the grasses, and find deer tracks in the dirt. The wildlife is all around you. It's exciting and it's comforting. Wilderness has been the only constant in my life. So it just makes sense to work to protect these areas.

Also, I really enjoy the people. I found out that I liked the people who were involved in this kind of work and that I wanted to spend time with them. Wilderness advocates are interesting. They're creative, and they're incredibly diverse. There is a great human connection that comes from working to protect the land.

Of all the areas protected by this bill, do you have one particular spot that is your favorite?

Anywhere in the King Range. The King Range has so much diversity just within those 42,000 acres. From the grasslands at Spanish Flat to the forests around Gitchell Creek, from the beaches to King Crest to the Chinquapin on Chemise Mountain, it's so easy to be in vastly different ecosystems in just a short amount of time. It's sort of a snapshot of the whole wilderness bill—it really embodies the North Coast.



H.R. 233 a Personal Cause for One CWC Staffer

Ryan Henson, CWC's Policy Director, was born and raised in Mendocino County. While growing up, Ryan fell in love with many of the areas that

would eventually be protected by H.R. 233. He and his family spent every hunting season on Sanhedrin Mountain, an area that is now wilderness. In 1990, when Ryan was a 22 year-old college student, he submitted a wilderness proposal to the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. He wanted to protect an area that he had loved for as long as he could remember and christened it the "Yuki Proposed Wilderness" in honor of a local tribe. Sixteen years later it would become a 53,887-acre portion of H.R. 233.

For Ryan, these aren't just great places to visit; they are indispensable refuges from civilization. In fact, he simply can't conceive of living without them. When the Forest Service proposed to log these and other areas over the years, he found it hard to not see such projects as profoundly personal attacks.

"H.R. 233's passage proves that determined people, even those who lack money and political experience, can make a real difference if they fight hard and long enough for the places they love," Ryan noted.

In Memorial...

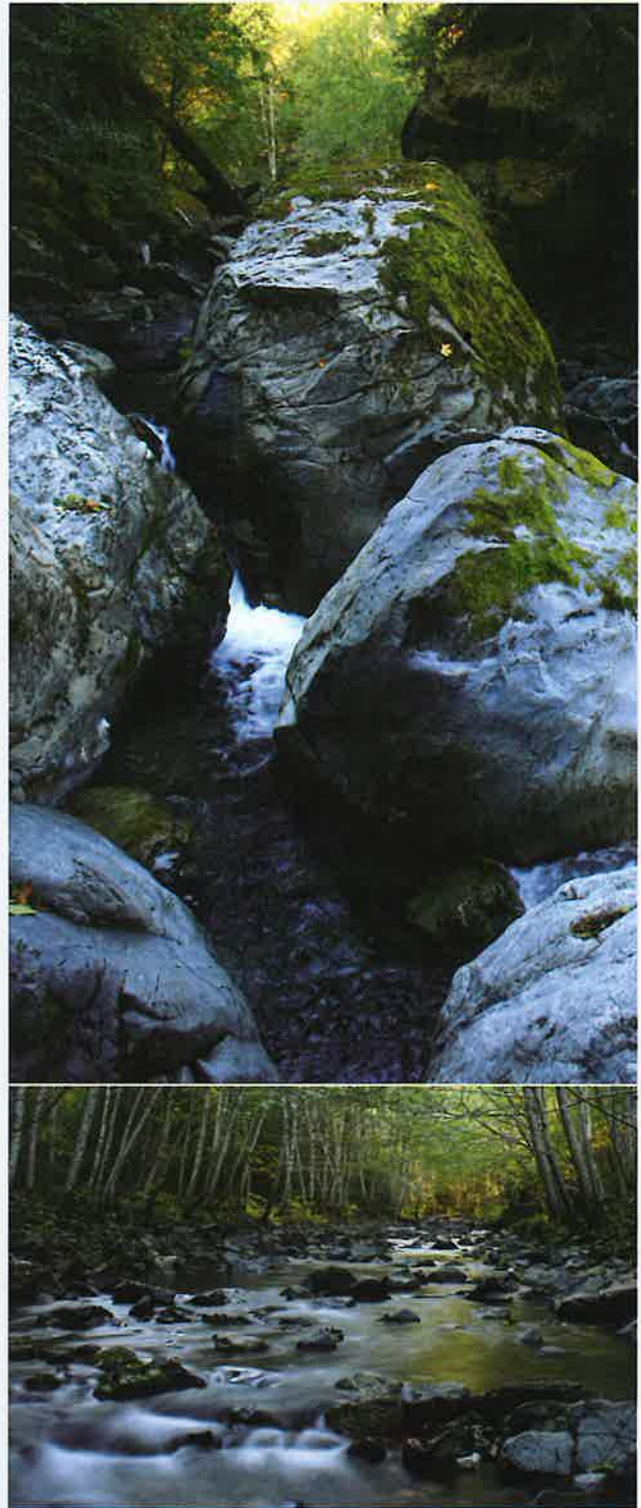


Tim McKay, the long-time Executive Director of Humboldt County's Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) passed away on Sunday, July 30 while birdwatching in the land he loved.

McKay, 59, was a North Coast conservation legend. He campaigned against offshore oil drilling, destructive logging practices on both public and private lands, urban sprawl, industrial pollution and water diversions from the Klamath River and other important streams. Tim was intimately involved in the effort to designate the Siskiyou Wilderness in 1984, and was relentless in his successful campaign against a proposed road that would have bisected the Siskiyou high country and despoiled outstanding wildlife habitat and many Native American sacred sites.

As Executive Director of the NEC, Tim mentored literally hundreds of people, including CWC staff. Two days before his death, Tim called CWC to express his happiness with the progress of the North Coast wilderness bill, which had recently been passed by the House of Representatives. He was particularly pleased to see the Blue Creek watershed, an important tributary of the Klamath River, as an addition to the Siskiyou Wilderness. Characteristically, he admonished us to remember that there are still many important North Coast wild places in need of protection.

The protected lands and the people he inspired will be some of Tim's most important legacies. Over 400 people attended Tim's memorial service in August. His family asks that donations be sent to the NEC in Tim's memory. You can learn more about Tim and make a donation to the NEC by visiting <http://necandeconews.to>



JOE GILLESPIE

Blue Creek, whose watershed is now almost entirely protected as wilderness, was very dear to Tim McKay

Take a Hike in the Expanded Snow Mountain Wilderness!

Trail name: Bloody Rock/Cold Creek

Distance: 3.2 miles round-trip; or 12.8 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Moderate; Moderately Strenuous

Features: This region is a wonderful mix of open meadows, oak woodlands, old-growth pine and fir forests, and 10 miles of the Eel River canyon. The wildflower displays in spring are truly outstanding, and wildlife is abundant. The Eel River can be accessed via a moderate 3.2-mile round-trip hike. The stream offers great swimming holes and many flat, shaded areas for picnicking. Most hikers turn around at the river, but the trail continues east from the stream for another 4.8 miles up the wild, beautiful and seldom visited Cold Creek canyon.

The trail is an ancient Native American trade route between the Central Valley and the Eel River watershed. Impressive Bloody Rock, a mere 0.75 miles from the trailhead and accessible via a vague spur trail, is the site of a Nineteenth Century battle between members of the Yuki Tribe and local settlers. The story goes that instead of surrendering, about 30 Yuki warriors sang their death song, joined hands, and leaped to their deaths from Bloody Rock. Today, however, the rock is an extremely peaceful place. From the top, visitors can see much of the Snow Mountain region.

The area is accessible year-round, but it is best to visit in April or May to see the wildflower displays. As with any wild forest in California, watch for poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes. Use bear-safe food storage methods. Use caution while crossing the Eel River during high flows.

For more information: Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, (707) 275-2361. The official Mendocino National Forest map is essential. This hike description was written with the assistance of Bob Lorentzen's outstanding *The Hiker's Hip Pocket Guide to the Mendocino Highlands* (Bored Feet Press, www.boredfeet.com).

Directions to trailhead: From the intersection of Highways 101 and 20 in Mendocino County 4.5 miles north of Ukiah, head east on Highway 20 for 5 miles. Turn left on Potter Valley Road. Continue for 6.5 miles to Eel River Road and turn right. Follow Eel River Road for 17 miles to Mendocino National Forest Road M1, turn left. Follow M1 for 6.3 miles to Road M6, turn right. Follow M6 for 2.7 miles to the signed Bloody Rock Trailhead on right. Approximate driving time from Ukiah is 1 hour.



JIM ROSE

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