



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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RARE II Lawsuit Upheld

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a major lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service affecting millions of acres of roadless lands.

The lawsuit, now known as California v. Block, was filed by the State of California to stop development of 47 areas designated as "non-wilderness" in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) conducted by the Forest Service. The district court ruled in favor of the State in 1980, agreeing that the environmental impact statement (EIS) for RARE II did not contain site-specific data to support the non-wilderness designations, it did not consider an adequate range of alternatives, and the Forest Service did not give the public an

adequate opportunity to comment on the RARE II program.

The Forest Service appealed this decision, arguing that the degree of detail required by the district court is unwarranted. The circuit judges did not agree, and upheld the district court ruling.

The district court ruled that the Forest Service improperly changed its announced method of evaluating public comment. The appeals court overturned this one part of the earlier opinion. The other major parts of the decision all were upheld.

One argument against the RARE II EIS was that the Forest Service did not have a reasonable range of alternatives. The alternatives ranged from all roadless areas as wilderness to no

wilderness, but those with mixes of wilderness all had less than one-third of the areas protected. The appeals court agreed that there should have been alternatives with more wilderness recommended.

The prime blow to the Forest Service, though, was the ruling that the EIS did not adequately examine the site-specific impacts of the proposed action. In their opinion, the appeals judges stated:

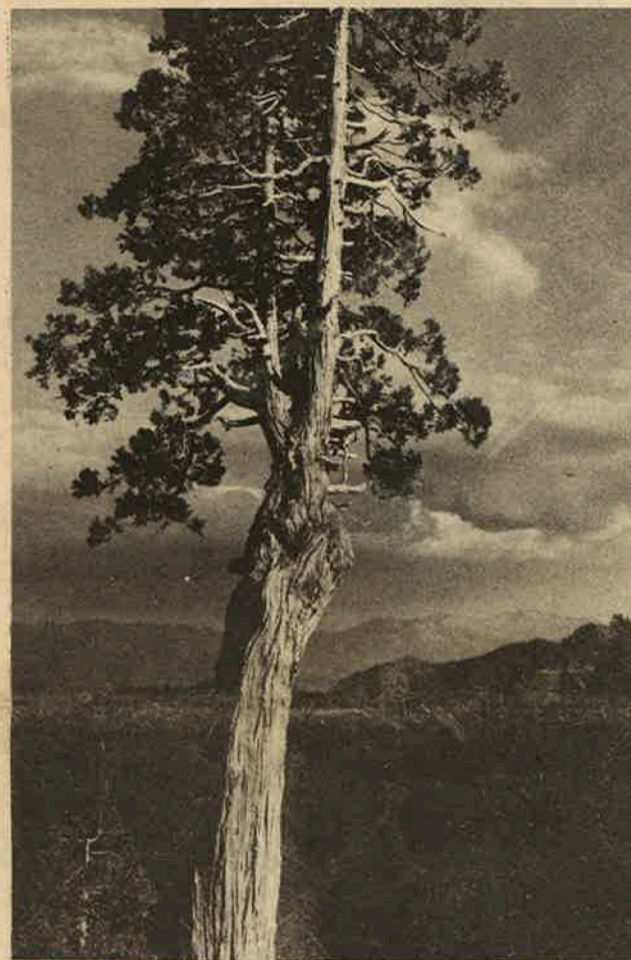
"We concede that conducting a detailed site-specific analysis of the RARE II decision will be no simple task and will be laden with empirical uncertainty. The scope of the undertaking here, however, was the Forest Service's choice and not the court's. NEPA contains no exceptions for projects of national

scope. Having decided to allocate simultaneously millions of acres of land to nonwilderness use, the Forest Service may not rely upon forecasting difficulties or the task's magnitude to excuse the absence of a reasonably thorough site-specific analysis of the decision's environmental consequences."

The Forest Service now must decide whether to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. A defeat there could overturn the RARE II program nationwide.

In the meantime, both the Forest Service and the timber industry are increasing their efforts to have Congress declare the RARE II process adequate and "release" tens of millions of acres of roadless lands to development.

Conservationists continue to oppose release bills and are working to have statewide wilderness bills passed by Congress.



Devil's Hole - Non-Wilderness in the Trinity Alps
Photo by Dave Van de Mark

Senate Hearings on Mt. Shasta Wilderness

A Senate hearing on the proposed Mt. Shasta Wilderness had a strange lineup of witnesses - downhill skiing interests favored the bill, while environmentalists and the U.S. Forest Service opposed it, but for different reasons.

Senator Cranston, sponsor of the 37,000-acre wilderness proposal, reportedly was surprised at conservationist opposition to his measure. The Shasta acreage is the same as that included in the "Burton bill" which deals with forest service roadless lands throughout California.

Explaining why the Sierra Club is fighting the separate Shasta bill, Northern California Representative Russ Shay said, "this is a bad part of a bad compromise that we accepted as a portion

of a statewide package." In taking the Shasta wilderness proposal out of the larger Burton measure, "we would have nothing to gain and everything to lose."

Other California witnesses supporting a larger Mt. Shasta Wilderness were Marilee Jordan of the Mt. Shasta Resources Council, Chris Stromness representing the National and Mt. Shasta Audubon Societies, and Stan Weidert of Shingle Springs.

These witnesses expressed their strong desire for the addition of Giddy Giddy Gulch and Sand Flat to the wilderness. These areas have been coveted by downhill skiers hoping to revive the now defunct Ski Shasta resort.

One important change in the controversy is that

a new ski area at Coyote Butte is scheduled to begin construction next year. This area is just south of Sand Flat on logged and roaded private land.

Senator Cranston acknowledged that if the new ski area meets the regional need for downhill skiing, he would approve of Sand Flat and Giddy Giddy Gulch being added to the wilderness proposal.

Nevertheless, two representatives of Save Our Skiing testified in favor of the current bill that would allow their dream of development of the Sand Flat area for downhill skiing.

The Forest Service representative argued against the Cranston bill because it is twice as large as his agency's proposal. Deputy Chief

J. Lamar Beasley said, "consideration of wilderness proposals on a one-by-one basis does not enable adequate evaluation of the cumulative impacts." He held a similar view to that of the Sierra Club that wilderness should be considered as a statewide issue.

Forest Service officials believe that too much timber is being included in the Shasta bill. They also have been processing geothermal leases within the proposed wilderness.

Although Senator Cranston has stated that his bill has a good chance of passing Congress this year, conservationists feel that all California wilderness legislation is dead until next year.

The November 30 hearing was before the Subcommittee on Public Lands. Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) was the only member of the committee present.

Bad News for Wild Rivers

A federal judge has issued a "memorandum of intended decision" to remove sections of five Northern California rivers from the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers that would lose their protection would be the Klamath, Eel, Trinity, Smith, and lower American.

The rivers were added to the federal system by Cecil Andrus shortly before the Carter administration left Washington, D.C. Governor Jerry Brown had asked Andrus to designate the wild rivers in 1980.

The lawsuit was filed by the Association of California Water Agencies, Del Norte County, and timber interests. Among the groups defending the wild rivers are the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Friends of

the River, and the State of California.

Judge William A. Ingram announced his intended decision on October 15. He is not preparing to rule against the environmental impact statement (EIS) filed for the action but rather on whether the document was available to the public for an adequate time.

"Unless a miracle happens, we're going to lose on the timing issue," said Patty Wells, EDF attorney. "We're about to lose on a technicality, and it's just absurd."

Wells says that the document actually was available for three days longer than the required period, but that the judge is combining different administrative procedures in his determination that the time was too short.

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Coalition Report

By Jim Eaton

Uncertainty seems to be the feeling this fall. The elections had both good and bad news for wilderness, and it will take a few months for us to see just how good or how bad.

By and large, friends of wilderness in Congress are returning. In perhaps the most crucial race, in which environmentalists heavily contributed both time and money, Rep. Phil Burton won a solid victory over Milton Marks. Burton has been the tactical genius who has guided the California Wilderness Act through the House the past few years.

The Senate is still the bottleneck for wilderness legislation. The big unknown is Senator-elect Pete Wilson. With Senator Cranston's strong support of the California Wilderness Act, Wilson becomes the fulcrum on which the bill balances. Wilson can make passage easy or hard; it is incumbent upon environmentalists to solicit his support for wilderness.

Another unknown is reappointment. The districts used in 1982 are probably not those for 1984. Constituents meeting with Rep. Norm Shumway on the Mt. Shasta wilderness proposal found Shumway to be

rather noncommittal on the issue as he's not sure it will remain in his district. But until reapportionment is settled, we must begin to work in these new districts.

The other big question is what the new state administration will be like. Huey Johnson and other wilderness supporters will be leaving; will their replacements be favorable, neutral, or openly hostile towards wilderness?

We also are anticipating a major offensive against the environment from James Watt and clones. One thing the mid-term elections did prove was that there never was a mandate for dismantling the environment. Recognizing that their days are numbered, Watt, Crowell, and others may well try to institute major changes before they are thrown out.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service will continue to churn out forest plans, BLM will keep studying Wilderness Study Areas, and the usual environmental brush fires will continue.

One thing you can say about the wilderness biz - win, lose, or draw, it's never quiet or boring.

We have a whole host of thank yous due this

issue. Director Bob Schneider has been busy on several fronts. Bob enticed Rick Sylvester (the man who skied off El Capitan, among other exploits) down to Davis for a fascinating slide/film talk, and Bob hosted a highly successful wine tasting in his home. Thank you, too, to Tom Smith for conducting the formal tasting.

Director John Hooper has scheduled a holiday party in the Sierra Club Library in San Francisco as a CWC benefit. The 'Good Ol' Persons, a blue grass band, will provide live entertainment. This event should be successful just from the sheer numbers of Sierra Club employees who are intrigued by the thought of live music emanating from the staid library.

I also want to express my personal thanks to Beth Newman and Marcia Cary for getting the Wilderness Record out by working long hours under adverse conditions with an editor who is constantly changing the content of the articles.

Our newest group member is the Davis Audubon Society. We also welcome two new business sponsors, Renewed Resources of Campbell and Kathy Blankenship Photography of Davis.

An Environmental Strategy for the 80's

By Dave Foreman

The environmental movement has unquestionably developed a high degree of political sophistication and effectiveness during the last decade. Conservation lobbyists know their way around Washington, D.C. We are capable of wielding a sledgehammer of constituent pressure on many members of Congress. We have developed expertise in tossing around the facts, figures, and details which engulf many of our issues. Yet I wonder if our effectiveness could not be markedly increased by a more sophisticated understanding of the political decision-making process?

Conservation organizations have always

operated under one basic premise: That to be effective they had to be part of the establishment. This is, of course, one of the favorite half-truths the establishment perpetuates to safeguard itself. In following that premise we have ignored what is an even more fundamental truth: The American political system works on a compromise process throughout the spectrum of views advanced. There is also a corollary: The squeaking wheel gets the grease. The American system does not like controversy. If you're loud enough you get a sop. This is the philosophy which works on the Georgia coon hunter who tosses hush puppies to his noisy hounds around the campfire.

Our weakness is that the entire Earth protection movement lines up behind the eminently reasonable, moderate positions of the Sierra Club and Audubon Society. As a result, already highly compromised viewpoints become the extreme positions on one end of the spectrum in the marketplace of ideas. The political process then takes those middle-of-the-road positions and compromises them with the extreme anti-environmental stands on the other side, and we end up with the pabulum of the Alaska Lands Act, the current revision of the Clean Air Act, or RARE II release language.

Martin Luther King was a great man, a

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Update

By Sam Camp

Forest Service Given Red Light on GO-Road

A temporary restraining order was issued in October blocking the letting of bids for the last section of the Gasquet-Orleans (G-O) Road. The road cuts across the Siskiyou Mountains in the Klamath and Six Rivers national forests.

Federal Judge Stanley Weigal handed down the order after a two-hour hearing on October 28 which ended with all parties agreeing that there be no further developments on the road until December 2.

On that date there will be another hearing on a preliminary

injunction being sought by a number of environmental and Native American groups to stop the road construction and logging in Blue Creek, a major tributary of the Klamath River.

Blue Creek includes lands on Six Rivers National Forest that have been held sacred for centuries by indigenous Yurok, Karok, and Tolowa people.

Blue Creek also is highly valued for its wilderness character, natural beauty, the diversity and rarity of its wildlife and plants, and for its exceptional salmon and steelhead spawning

habitat.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs argue that Forest Service development of the G-O Road and more than 200 miles of logging access roads - and the logging of more than 700 million board feet of timber - would unlawfully degrade and destroy Blue Creek's ability to be a religious place.

The Forest Service has now rescheduled the opening of the G-O Road construction bids for January 14 - although December's hearing might derail the development plans for several years.

-Econews

Golden Trout Wilderness Management Plan Issued

A management plan has been selected from several alternatives in an environmental assessment covering the Golden Trout Wilderness, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Zane G. Smith announced recently.

The 305,000-acre Wilderness, located in the southern Sierra Nevada in the Inyo and Sequoia national forests, was established by Congress in 1978. Since that time, the area has been managed according to the Wilderness Act and interim guidelines.

"I believe the selected alternative combines the best mix of activities to restore the wilderness character of the area while still making it available for public use and enjoyment," Smith said.

In 1980 the public

participated in identifying issues, concerns, and opportunities. More than 200 people provided nearly 1,500 specific comments on their management preferences or facts about the area. After public comments were analyzed and land resource data were gathered, wilderness planners on the two forests and the regional office developed management plan alternatives that fit the unique Golden Trout area.

The alternative selected will assure protection and habitat improvement for the golden trout, California's state fish. It also will allow the continuation of efforts by Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Game specialists to restore the watershed and fisheries resources. A considerable amount of damage occurred in the meadows and along streamcourses by unrestricted grazing during the 1800's, before the area was placed in the national forest system. Emphasis also will be placed on recreation, including the use of pack and saddle stock.

Other decisions in the plan will continue the closure of the Tunnel and Templeton airstrips to general aviation for public safety reasons and to be consistent with wilderness management values. The special use permit for Tunnel aircamp and packstation will be continued only until December 31, 1982. Further operation of the

outfitter/guide service will be considered from a point outside the Wilderness. The special use permit for the Jordan Hot Springs resort, which terminates on November 5, 1990, will not be renewed. Some of the services now included in the operation may be allowed under the permit after that date, where such uses are consistent with the plan. These decisions were made in part because commercial use with improvements on national forest land inside a wilderness unnecessarily degrades the resource and experience.

According to the Forest Service, the plan will not significantly affect the environment, and therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

A summary of the management plan for the Golden Trout Wilderness is available upon request from the Inyo or Sequoia national forests. Copies of the management plan and the environmental assessment are available in all offices on the two forests and in many of the public libraries near the wilderness area.

In a related matter, the Department of Fish and Game is proposing to change the 1983 fishing regulations for the Golden Trout Wilderness. Currently the "Kern Plateau" area is open to fly fishing only; the new changes will alter the former area to that of the wilderness area and will allow only artificial lures with a single hook.



Earth First

Henry Coe, Nisene Marks Nixed

Big Basin Wilderness Designated

The first state wilderness in Northern California was established in November, but the 5,700 acres designated was just a fraction of the 80,000 acres under consideration.

The State Parks and Recreation Commission turned thumbs down on wilderness proposals for Henry Coe and The Forest of Nisene Marks state parks. The commission acted only on wilderness for Big Basin State Park, and even there they allowed a long "cherry stem" corridor into the heart of the area.

Opposition to the proposed 65,214-acre wilderness at Henry Coe came from State Senator Ken Maddy, local landowners, and equestrian recreationists. Local citizens from Aptos led the fight against wilderness at Nisene Marks.

HENRY COE

Senator Maddy put enough pressure of the Department of Parks and Recreation that Director Pete Dangermond asked that the Henry Coe wilderness proposal be removed from the agenda. Noting a packed hearing room, the commissioners decided to hear the public anyway, although representatives of local politicians asked that testimony not be taken.

A little more than half of the twenty-two people speaking on Henry Coe favored wilderness designation. In addition, 146 letters supporting wilderness were received versus one letter in opposition.

Among those backing wilderness were Leonore Bravo of the Tamalpais Conservation Club, Patrick McSweeney from People for the Preservation of Open Space, Winslow Briggs for

the Pine Ridge Association, Bob Reid representing the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, Ann Briggs with the ad hoc Committee for Wilderness, and Jim Eaton of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Opposition came from a fire protection district, horsemen's association, 4-H club, trail clubs, and local landowners. The horsepeople use vehicles in support of their endurance races.

Several commissioners expressed support for some wilderness at Henry Coe. They asked the Director to form a citizen's committee to look into a management plan and wilderness proposal for Henry Coe, and asked that public meetings in the local counties be held.

It will be at least a year before the commission again considers wilderness for Henry Coe State Park.

NISENE MARKS

Opposition to wilderness at The Forest of Nisene Marks appeared to have been generated by the local park ranger. Local residents feared that wilderness would allow lawlessness to abound in the park. Witness after witness told the commissioners that if the ranger could not drive a vehicle through the park, teenagers would be drinking, off-road vehicle users would race up the trails, redwood burl cutters would have a field day, and marijuana farms would flourish.

"I didn't realize the Aptos area was such a hotbed of urban crime," CWC Executive Director Jim Eaton chided the partisan audience. Eaton testified that other urban wildernesses are able to be managed, including federal wilderness areas at Point Reyes National

Seashore and in the Los Angeles Basin.

The commission received 59 letters supporting wilderness at Nisene Marks with 15 letters against. Nevertheless, they decided wilderness was not necessary at the park.

BIG BASIN

With 71,000 acres out of the way, the commission then turned to Big Basin State Park. Opposition to wilderness was token, but several local landowners spoke of their concern of fire escaping the park and ravaging their tree farms.

Impressions of the South Sierra III Conference

By Pat and Dan Lomax

enjoyment; beautiful moments, all of them.

Joe Fontaine of Tehachapi, past president of the Sierra Club, gave a rousing account of how and why the Club has moved into the political arena nationwide. The Club is working for and supporting candidates and public office holders who are committed to preserving and protecting the environment. It also is working to defeat those public officials who would destroy the environmental gains so many have worked so hard to secure. He used the example of the Watt petition with over one million signatures which greatly strengthened the position of environmentalists.

Doug Scott, Director of Federal Affairs for the Sierra Club, talked with enthusiasm and good humor about the "nitty gritty" of working for environmental issues and for candidates who are committed to supporting environmental causes. As a concrete example of how the Sierra Club supports candidates who have strong environmental records, Scott presented a check for \$500.00 for the Gene Tackett campaign for Congress. During the

course of the conference, that amount was matched by other donations and sent along to buy last minute television and radio ads.

Michael Frome, a well-known environmental author and professor at the University of Idaho, gave an inspiring speech titled "Reflections on the Importance of Watershed Protection." In his low-keyed and soft-spoken way, he reminded us of the urgency and importance of keeping up the environmental battle on all fronts.

Martin Litton, a famous, long-time environmental activist, wild river runner, and a member of the advisory committee of the California Wilderness Coalition, showed the second reel of his classic film on running the Colorado River in dories. Litton gave a lively narration accompanying the film. The film very graphically showed the thrills and spills of the Grand Canyon.

The auctions and raffles scheduled throughout the conference helped to break up the intensity and seriousness of the presentations into digestible segments. Mike Henstra auctioned off

several donated works of art, and the amount of money he raised proved him to be a great auctioneer. The raffle prizes included, among others, a five-day float trip on the Salmon River donated by Martin Litton and won by Bob DeNike of Porterville, and a three-day float trip on the Forks of the Kern donated by Chuck Richards' Whitewater won by Jim Eaton of Davis.

The conference concluded on Sunday morning with two hikes scheduled in the riparian area of the South Fork of the Kern, providing an opportunity to view first hand the largest riparian area left in California, an area being restored and protected by The Nature Conservancy and the Lake Isabella section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One newcomer to environmental issues who attended the conference was heard to remark after Saturday's activities that this experience had been a "real eye-opener" for her, and she was going to "get involved." That is what South Sierra III was all about.

Pat and Dan Lomax are members of the Kern Valley Wildlife Association.

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Miners Illegally Drill in Wilderness

In defiance of federal law, Yates Petroleum Company bulldozed a road across Bureau of Land Management land and illegally entered the Salt Creek Wilderness in New Mexico. National television showed the Yates bulldozers crashing through a campsite set up by local environmentalists attempting to block the miners.

After building a road and drilling several thousand feet of gas well, Yates was stopped from further destruction by a federal court order.

A blockade of the

wilderness also was done by members of EARTH FIRST!, a radical environmental group, but this group was not the one run over. "We didn't get bulldozed out of the way," said EARTH FIRST!'s Dave Foreman. "We wouldn't have let them bulldoze us out of the way."

Foreman's group did achieve a later standoff with the mining crew and local sheriff's deputies. Their blockade of the access road to the drilling site resulted in a local judge's order for them to leave. This

order was ignored.

After a four-hour confrontation, the backpackers left when they heard that the federal judge had ordered the drilling stopped and closed the wildlife refuge to human entry. Although the latter part of the report proved to be false (the refuge was closed by refuge officials who earlier failed to stop the miners), no further development has occurred to date.

The issue is now before the courts and Congress. "Of course if it doesn't go our way,

we're gonna go back down there," Foreman added.

In an emergency session of the House Public Lands Subcommittee on November 10, it was determined that the Fish and Wildlife Service had the authority to remove Yates from the refuge. In spite of that authority, refuge officials merely issued a trespass citation and later went into federal court.

"The Salt Creek invasion is the first test of the Interior Department's willingness

and ability to carry out the congressional ban of the issuance of drilling permits and leases in wilderness areas," said Tim Mahoney, a Sierra Club representative in Washington, D.C. "Public attention and congressional scrutiny aroused by this case will likely influence continued debate of S. 2801, the Wilderness Protection Act." Mahoney added that the incident will also affect future provisions to continue to ban on Interior Department funding of oil and gas leases in wilderness areas.

WILD RIVERS

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EDF and other groups will definitely appeal an adverse ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We're hoping that the Ninth Circuit will overturn the timing issue so that we'll go to trial on the adequacy of the EIS," said Wells, adding that she is confident that environmentalists will win on that issue as well.

Ironically, should the lawsuit go against the wild rivers, the application will still be pending - and the man making the decision will be Interior Secretary James Watt.

SINKYONE

Saving the Lost Coast

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park stretches along the coast of northern Mendocino County just south of the King Range National Conservation Area. The existing park is about 8,000 acres - a far cry from the acreage envisioned by those fighting for Sinkyone.

The lands discussed on this page are directly south of the existing park. Some of the most spectacular coastal lands in California remain owned by lumber companies here. The purchase of these lands is crucial to the completion of a Sinkyone

Wilderness State Park.

State Park Director Pete Dangermond just phoned to let us know an agreement has been reached with Georgia-Pacific for an exchange, purchase, and easement in these threatened lands. This proposal would add Duffy Gulch to the park, but to the south the State would have only a trail easement on 1,300 acres. This is just barely a start to a solution at Sinkyone. It must be remembered that much, much more land must be protected if we are to save the Lost Coast.

Sinkyone Walk

We left Usal at 9:30 Tuesday morning and started climbing right away. It is very steep.

Higher up we got an excellent view of the Usal basin. Joining me on this equinox walk are three friends from the Mateel and two friends from Santa Rosa. Our purpose is to see the great Lost Coast, which is daily dying. And to see the important possible additions to the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

How is it dying? The old growth redwoods are being taken out, from very steep slopes. Many three-log loads are coming out of Anderson Gulch this year. Georgia-Pacific (G-P) is killing the Sinkyone. People and wilderness cut down.

We walked along a trail for awhile until it disappeared, then after looking at our map we decided to follow a steep ridge which leads to Timber Ridge.

On Timber Ridge we find a G-P haul road. We follow it to Dark Gulch where we have lunch. And contemplate the fate of the large redwoods as we rest. Some logging has been done here and a huge landslide has resulted.

Passing Dark Gulch we walk around another point into horror. Anderson Gulch lies before us, mutilated and bleeding. There are horrendous clearcuts throughout the gulch. Too steep, too steep!

You can see the old cuts too where much or

all of the soil has slid downhill. We are speechless. It is a terrible mess!

Walking a bit farther we find a logging truck being loaded. So we wait for about thirty minutes while some of us talk to a G-P employee. He explains: "Clearcutting is the best way to log, just go in once and cut them all out, that way you don't have to go in twice." "We won't log in here again," he says, "but our great-grandchildren might."

We wonder in what soil any trees would now grow. Surely not what has slid down and clogged Anderson Creek. It may take Nature a thousand years to make one inch of soil, but it now takes one winter for the same



The Sinkyone Coast

Photo by Sam Camp

and more to wash down the slopes of Anderson Gulch.

It is clear to me that G-P's view into the future does not penetrate beyond its profits. They will never again be able to cut large redwoods in Anderson Gulch.

Unstable slopes held in place by forest roots. The roots will rot now, and let go their grip. Rain, one hundred inches and more, will wash away. Tens of thousands of years gone to "clearcutting" and "overstory removal." Wash away even our memory of this, Sinkyone People and Wilderness cut down.

Out of Anderson Gulch we hiked around another point, then through Northport Gulch, still following the G-P haul road. Leaving the road at the headwaters of Little Jackass Creek, we descended a steep rocky slope going down into old growth redwood in a beautiful level area along Little Jackass Creek. The spot is perfect for a campsite. There is a circle of rocks where campfires have been.

Before making camp we spotted some sea lions down the beach. Getting closer, I realized I had never seen this many before. We estimated 150 or more, all barking at us in beautiful harmony. We stood in awe for some time listening to the higher and lower octaves of individual voices. The sea lions all bobbed up and down, twisting and

diving in the surf. Here was Nature's glory.

As we ate dinner that night we concluded that the Little Jackass Creek watershed must be saved. The upper part has already been logged, mostly clearcut.

LITTLE JACKASS TO JACKSON POINT

Next morning we tried to get an early start, but we had to see the sea lions again. Once packed, we went straight up a steep hill, crawling on all fours at times.

High up on the ridge we found an old road. This leads us to Jackass South, then along a ridge to another old road which leads gently down to Wheeler Site and Jackass Creek. The descent is a nice walk through redwood and douglas fir forest.

As Wheeler Site we took a long break and made soup for lunch. But we didn't stay too long because we wanted to camp up on the ridge somewhere.

So we walked up the north fork of Jackass Creek, and took the left fork of the road, which crosses the creek and then fizzles out into a forest of massive old-growth redwoods.

Walking into the redwoods I noticed the thick topsoil, so thick that it feels like a great cushion underfoot, yet the slope is very steep. This is an important part of the Sinkyone, and I hope by some miracle it will be added to the State Park.

These old growth forests are holding these oversteep slopes together. We cannot let them be cut.

After some steep climbing and crawling we made our way to the point, where we rested still in the fog. Then we followed the ridge north and within minutes found the blue, white, and red tape marking the trail.

The walking was not too hard after we found the trail. It follows the narrow ridge for a mile or so and goes right up to Jackson Point. We were quite exhausted so we made camp in the fog with blue sky not far above.

JACKSON TO BEAR HARBOR

When we awoke on Jackson Point the next morning we had very little water, so we decide to hit the trail early. The fog was so thick that the grass and trees were dripping.

There is a choice of two ways out. One way follows a jeep trail along the ridge, the other an old logging cut down into Duffy Gulch. We took the Duffy Gulch route and found an outstanding grove of ancient redwoods.

Not far from there we found the trail that switchbacks down into Bear Harbor Creek. And on to our daily lives.

Sam Camp is the president of the Environmental Protection Information Center.



Duffy Gulch

Photo by Sam Camp

The Sinkyone is Heard in Garberville

By Julie Verran

A public hearing was held in Garberville on October 8 about proposed additions to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park in northwestern Mendocino County. An estimated 150 people, including many school children, attended this meeting of the California Park and Recreation Commission. About fifty of them, mostly residents of the Mateel, spoke to the Commissioners. They told eloquently of their personal experience in the proposed additions, the steep, forested Duffy Gulch and the lovely and rugged eight-mile stretch of coastline from Jackson Point to Usal.

After hearing several hours of testimony the Commissioners framed and unanimously approved a resolution. It asks the Department of Parks and Recreation to continue negotiations with Georgia-Pacific Corporation (G-P), the landowner, and to work for a better deal than G-P offered. Environmental activists and Parks Department staff expressed guarded optimism after the hearing.

The Park and Recreation Commission is made up of citizens who hear the public's concerns about State Parks and then advise the Director of Parks and Recreation. Several speakers, including Bob Mark from the Sierra Club and the man who walks in the woods, encouraged the Commissioners to take a more active role in their relationship with the Department. Over the past few years the Commission has been

strongly supportive of enlarging Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the size it was originally planned - about 14,000 acres. But the Department has been reluctant to proceed and to allocate money or to use funding that has been allocated.

The funding that is now available for extending the park to the south was obtained by Assemblyman Bosco and Senator Keene from 1980 State Park Bond Act funds while the 1981 State budget was passing through the Legislature. Our legislators added the money after the Department had dropped the ball. But will this \$3.2 million be used? We still don't know.

A LEASE WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

The proposal which came under heavy fire from the public at the hearing was G-P's counter-offer after they had turned down a Parks Department proposal in June. G-P offered to lease, for \$1 a year, a coastal trail corridor and campsites between Jackson Point (the high point 1000 feet above the sea, that you can see when you look south from Bear Harbor) and Usal. The lease would run for ten years during which the trails and campsites would be developed, then twenty years with a possibility of renewal at the end of the thirty-year period. The State would pay all the costs of development and assume all liability and maintenance costs and patrol the lease area. If

at any time the Department didn't maintain the trail for two years the whole corridor would revert to G-P. And G-P would continue to log in the corridor except west of the trail.

Commission Chairman Robert Trent Jones, Jr. conducted the hearing in a humane and even-handed manner. One person after another told the Commissioners what severe damage the current logging does to the steep coastal slopes. The company seeks to show that logging and public recreation are compatible. There are perhaps times and places where this concept could work, but in the Sinkyone it is just a cruel joke.

Sam Camp made the presentation for the Environmental Protection Information Center, telling about a backpacking trip he made along the proposed trail corridor. He was able to show slides of ongoing logging, soil damage from recent logging, and remaining forests and wildlife he saw along the way. More than one former logger told the Commissioners that the Sinkyone Coast should be left for everyone to enjoy, including people in the timber business. Lon Mulvaney told how G-P's operations are squeezing the living elements of the land into a narrow strip along the ocean. "The animals can't run and the plants never could."

Ernestine Smith from Madrone Audubon (the chapter centered in Santa Rosa) told how the efforts of her organization resulted in

the original purchase of Bear Harbor Ranch by the State. The ranch became Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Audubon wants to see the park completed as originally planned. The present lease proposal led her to say, "I smell a rat."

Many people spoke of problems with the lease proposal. The use areas (campsites) shown on the map at the front of the hall were the only ones usable in this rugged area and all were shown near the edge of the lease corridor, placing them close to logging. With all the headwaters subject to timber harvest, there is likely to be a problem for hikers who need to find drinking water in the coastal streams.

The concept of the leased trail itself raised serious questions. What would happen to it if G-P sold the land? What degree of inaction by the Department would result in a reversion of the corridor to G-P? How would the decision be made whether to renew the lease? Educator and author Ray Raphael pointed out some of these problems and said, "a lease agreement puts you permanently in the political arena." Claude A. Look, a member of the State Recreational Trails Committee, presented a resolution his Committee passed last year about a Sinkyone Coastal Trail and told the Commissioners there is now no leased trail in California.

THE DUFFY GULCH EXCHANGE

One of the Commissioners, newly appointed Steve Markstein, who failed to attend the Commission's field trip to the coast the previous day, kept putting speakers on the spot by asking them if they wanted the Reynolds for Duffy Gulch exchange or not and if they wanted the trail-corridor lease or not. Most people answered that they wanted Duffy Gulch added to the park and were willing to see the Reynolds property traded for it, with some reservations about the relative value of the Reynolds and Duffy parcels. The part of the park that was once included in the exchange has been dropped from the deal. This is largely thanks to a fine turnout of local people at a Parks Department hearing in September of 1981. They told the Department that the area around Jackson Point was too special to go to G-P.

Most people at the October 8 hearing said they wanted a trail corridor, but not a narrow, leased one. Near the end of the hearing Senator Keene's staffer Greg de Giere said that the interpretation of the law setting up the exchange holds that the Duffy/Reynolds trade and the trail corridor are legally tied and cannot be considered separately. This law was called Senate Bill 1328 Keene until it was passed and now is Chapter 1234 of the Statutes of 1980.

The lower part of Duffy Gulch is already in the park. The upper part is owned by G-P, and the trail routes from Bear Harbor to the lovely overlook at Jackson Point goes through this land. That is why it is important to add Duffy Gulch to the park. It is a beautiful place.

LEGAL ISSUES RAISE THEIR HEADS

Many speakers raised the issue of condemnation of the trail corridor - the State taking the land using its power of eminent domain. This illuminates a level of public impatience with the situation that has been heard before. Condemnation would require special legislation and G-P would be paid at current market values for any lands condemned. The Parks and Recreation Commission is most reluctant to go through this complex and unpopular process.

The last speaker at the hearing was Redway attorney, Michael Soloman. He felt the lease was probably illegal. He showed the pitfalls, like political pressure and the lack of money, that could cause the trail corridor to revert to G-P under the proposed lease. He said this was the rat that Ms. Smith of the Audubon Society smelled. As a solution he suggested a conservation easement to protect the watersheds and a hiking and camping easement for the trail corridor.

THE COMMISSIONERS RESPOND

After the public hearing was closed, the Commissioners called back some individuals for closer questioning. They first interviewed Jere Melo, G-P's Fort Bragg forester. Commissioner Gibson, an attorney from the Monterey area, stated that under Chapter 1234 of the Statutes of 1980, the trail corridor was to be an addition to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, not part of the Recreational Trails System as G-P offered in their lease proposal. Then she asked Mr. Melo what benefit G-P could get from a lease rather than an easement that the State would pay for. Melo replied that a lease was quite legal. Mrs.

Gibson asked, "Why a series of possibly illegal leases?" Melo replied that the company was unwilling to subdivide its holdings and that a lease would be an incentive to the Parks Department to develop the trail. Chairman Jones asked for the assurance from the Department that an easement would be developed would be good enough. The answer was no. Mrs. Gibson asked, if a lease agreement were found to violate the Constitution of California would G-P consider the easement? Mr. Melo said, "Ma'am, we're not going to shut the door on any kind of negotiations."

A wave of relief swept through the room. The frequent caution brought up by the Parks Department has been the threat that G-P might break off negotiations. The interview of Melo proceeded under greatly reduced tension. He was asked why the company would not add the 200 acres of seaward-facing forested slope above Anderson Cliff as requested by the Department, and why they could not grant a buffer zone on the east side of the trail. Melo indicated reluctance, since timber is the company's lifeblood. He added that timber has been cut in the area since Robert Dollar ran the United States of America Lumber Co. at Usal.

Chairman Jones asked Richard Grieger if an easement would be a new idea that would be acceptable to environmentalists. Richard answered that it was not a new idea but a good idea.

Going around the panel with each Commissioner speaking, a consensus emerged that negotiations should continue for an easement instead of a lease. They worked out a resolution and passed it unanimously. Then Chairman Jones closed by hoping that this would be a new beginning rather than a last chance for the Sinkyone Coast. The resolution follows:

Whereas the State Park and Recreation Commission has conducted a hearing pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 1234 of the Statutes of 1980 with respect to the proposed Sinkyone land exchange;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that it is the desire of the commission that negotiations between the owner and the state should work toward these ends: the exchange of a portion of Reynolds Wayside Campground and \$420,000 for: 1) Duffy Gulch; and 2) a trail conveyed by permanent easement (or greater interest) consisting of 1,500 acres and shall have a buffer zone to protect the east side of the trail and the

cont. on page 7



Anderson Gulch

Photo by Sam Camp

Wilderness Wildlife

California Grizzly

By Dennis Coules



Just a short time ago the California grizzly (*Ursus horribilis californicus*) was a dominant feature of the fauna of California. The grizzly was common to abundant throughout the state in lowlands, foothills and the western Sierra, being absent only in the deserts. As late as 1850 grizzlies still wandered on the outskirts of San Francisco. With the Gold Rush of 1849 intensive hunting and persecution of this bear began in earnest, and the animals survived only in remote areas by 1880.

In the 1920's the grizzly became extinct in California. Its range throughout the rest of the lower 48 states has been reduced to a tiny fragment of its original territory; and even there it is declining alarmingly.

SEPARATE CALIFORNIA SPECIES?

There is little agreement as to the number of species contained in the genus *Ursus*. Everyone agrees that the common black bear is a distinct species - *Ursus americanus*. Some place it in a distinct genus. Most taxonomists also split the grizzly and Alaskan brown bear into separate species, but some go so far as to

recognize as many as 74 species of grizzlies and 9 species of Alaskan browns. The extreme lumpers consider all the forms of grizzly, Alaskan brown and Asian/European brown bears to be a single species - *Ursus arctos*.

Since all modern bears entered North America via a Bering land bridge during the Pleistocene, they are separated from their Eurasian counterparts by at most a few hundred thousand years and possibly much less.

The question of the genetic uniqueness of California grizzlies would be of concern to anyone considering the reintroduction of this beast to its former habitat. If the California form basically represented a geographic sub-population of a single wide-ranging species, reintroduction from other North American stock may be justified on ecological grounds. Given human attitudes towards potentially dangerous wildlife, such a proposal may never prove politically feasible, however.

RANGE AND HABITATS

The California grizzly ranged continuously from Oregon to San Diego

County and slightly into Baja (Sierra Juarez). The coast ranges, valleys and foothills were well populated, with sparser populations in the densely forested portions of northwest California. In the Sierra the grizzly was abundant at lower elevations, but a few ranged to the crest and beyond. It was more a bear of the chaparral, grassland and oak woodland than the closed-canopy forest.

Although grizzly and black bear distributions in California overlapped to a large degree, it was reported that black bears were usually scarce or absent where grizzlies were abundant. Besides possibly being superior competitors in more open habitats, grizzlies are known to pursue and kill their smaller relatives. Black bears increased in both numbers and territory after the extermination of the grizzly.

GRIZZLY BIOLOGY

The grizzly is distinguished from the common black bear by the grizzly's longer muzzle, shaggy fur, long, curved front claws, conspicuous shoulder hump and larger size. Unlike black bears, adult grizzlies rarely climb trees.

The natural food of the grizzly probably consisted chiefly of nuts (especially acorns), berries, herbs and small animals. Larger wild mammals were not frequently killed but may have been caught occasionally, especially if young or debilitated. Carcasses and carrion were probably often expropriated from other carnivores such as the mountain lion or human hunters. Soaring California condors may have alerted grizzlies to the presence of large carcasses. Salmon were feasted on during runs and beaches provided many washed-up seals and whales.

With the establishment of Spanish mission herds, some bears came to prefer eating cattle, sheep and other livestock, which were often easier to obtain than natural foods. Pigs were particularly relished. In the early 1800's bear depredation on the semi-

wild herds was very common. Grizzlies apparently learned to lure curious cattle within grasping range by rolling in the grass or turning somersaults.

Even more important, the range was often strewn with the carcasses of livestock that had been slaughtered for hides or from which only the choicest cuts of meat had been removed. Periodic roundups and mass killings of wild horses to alleviate overgrazing contributed even more grizzly food. Even during droughts grizzlies remained well fed due to the deaths of tremendous numbers of cattle.

Many early records noted the gregarious habits of these bears, with reports of ten or more bears foraging together on a beach or during acorn season. They could be active day or night, and generally did not hibernate for prolonged periods in California.

RELATIONS WITH MAN

Although there was frequent antagonism between grizzlies and native Californians, the human population was too sparse and lacked sufficient technology to threaten the grizzly population before the invasion of whites. One estimate puts the pre-Columbian human population of California at only 133,000.

The grizzly was the most formidable animal that the native Californian had to deal with and was "the most evil and odious being of which they could conceive," according to one source. The black bear, which by contrast could be hunted or approached with relatively little fear, was considered sacred and lucky. The grizzly was only rarely hunted and favorite grizzly habitats were often avoided. Grizzlies and people sometimes competed for food, especially acorns, which were important to the diets of both. During the early Spanish settlement of California, it was reported that "a sure way to earn the gratitude of the natives was to destroy grizzlies."

After the establish-

ment of mission livestock herds in the 1770's to 1780's, grizzly numbers actually increased due to the new food supply, especially near the coasts. The greatest economic use to which the Spanish put grizzlies was the relatively small-scale sale of pelts to foreign merchants. Bear meat was rarely eaten. The Spaniards also found great sport in pitting grizzly bears against wild bulls. Often these contests ended in the death of both beasts.

Military expeditions were occasionally launched by the Spaniards against the bears that were eating mission cattle in local areas, but these seemed to have little effect on the total population. Grizzlies continued to increase until the more hunting-oriented and better-armed forty-niners entered the scene.

Grizzlies were extremely abundant when the first Yankee pioneers arrived in California. George C. Yount wrote of grizzlies in Napa Valley in 1831: "they were everywhere - upon the plains, in the valleys, and on the mountains...so that I have often killed as many as five or six in one day, and it was not unusual to see fifty or sixty within 24 hours."

Although grizzly hunting by early pioneers from the East was common, the acute reduction began with the Gold Rush of 1849 and continued into the 1870's. Grizzlies were hunted intensively for meat, robes, sport, and to prevent hazards to miners, ranchers and their livestock. The population declined rapidly as a result of this large-scale assault with improved weapons.

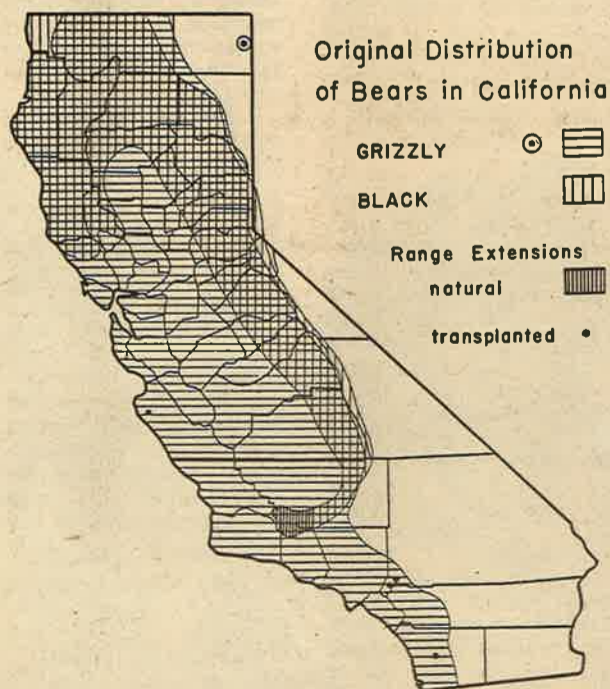
By 1860 very few grizzlies remained near any communities; by 1880 they were extirpated from

the lowlands. The last strongholds of the bears were such places as the Santa Ana Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains and the southern Sierra Nevada where heavy chaparral kept out the sheepherders. In Yosemite the last reported grizzlies were wounded by guards of the Park in 1891. Grizzlies continued to be killed whenever they were found until the last sighting took place in 1924.

Storer and Tevis, in the book *California Grizzly*, sum up their inference of the history of the California grizzly population: "...a long plateau through the centuries with minor ups and downs, then a rise in numbers - particularly in the coastal regions adjacent to the missions where cattle were abundant - that reached a peak about the time of the American occupation. This was followed by a quick descent - a half-century or less of small numbers and spotty occurrence - to the base line, extinction."

What a superlative legacy we would have in California if our predecessors had the foresight to set aside an inviolate sanctuary for wilderness and wildlife - say a wide strip of about five million acres (twice the size of Death Valley National Monument) centered on the Tehachapi Mountains and stretching from the coast to the southern Sierra. Not only would the California grizzly still be with us, but the jaguar, tule elk, pronghorn and California condor may well have maintained viable populations in such a protected area, not to mention the native California grassland communities. Accessible to naturalists and tourists even during the winter

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Original distribution of grizzly and black bears in California, together with range extension and transplants of black bear.

Strategy for the 80's

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visionary. But I wonder how effective he would have been had his reasonableness been the extreme voice crying in the wilderness? No, it was "Burn, baby burn," and the volcanic rhetoric of Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown that allowed the other moderate black leaders to be effective.

We hear the story that it was the fear of increasingly violent demonstrations against the war that kept Nixon from using The Bomb in Vietnam (and I'm sure it is the memory of that militancy that has cooled Reagan's adventurism in Central America).

What would have happened if the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society had demanded all 65 million acres for wilderness in RARE II and if the Oregon Wilderness Coalition and New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee had been yelling for even more that what was inventoried as roadless? During the breezy days of the Sagebrush Rebellion, I wonder whether Cecil Andrus and the BLM would have had the guts to face off the Rebels if conservation groups had

been calling for the phasing out of commercial grazing on arid public lands and clamoring for the return of mismanaged state trust lands to the federal government? Do you think we might have gotten a more complete, less gerrymandered system of parks and refuges in Alaska if some of us had said, "Make it a Territory again and lock it up!"?

Quite simply, we have gotten less because we have asked for less. Jim Watt is right: The Sierra Club and Wilderness Society are environmental extremists. They are extremists because no one in the entire environmental movement publicly goes beyond their middle-ground positions (even though many, including some leaders of moderate groups, are privately much more radical).

Past is past. The Seventies are behind us. The Eighties are another world, a more difficult world for the environment. We have done little to divert ecocatastrophe. The rapaciousness of the industrial giant has not slackened. Our enemies have learned our tricks and have gone beyond us (don't you think that

Jerry Falwell and the rest of the New Right bozos play their extremist role in order to moderate Reagan's image?). What are we going to do about it? Quite clearly we need and Environmental Strategy for the Eighties.

The foundation is to recognize the spectrum principle of political decision-making in this country and realize that is to our advantage to let a wide range of opinions and positions be publicly heard within our ranks. (Let a hundred flowers bloom?) Truly conservative groups like Audubon and The Nature Conservancy should continue to butter up the corporations and dip their fingers into their fat wallets, but they should also edge a step or two over to greater militancy. The Sierra Club and Wilderness Society lobbyists should keep on wearing their three-piece suits or high heels while playing the game, but they should ask for a little more, be a little less ready to compromise, yell a tad louder about how the game is skewed to favor Exxon and Louisiana-Pacific (i.e., they should play rougher within the system and begin to question the system itself). Friends of the Earth should eagerly jump back into its old

Wilderness Record

role of being the radical in the environmental establishment.

The Oregon Wilderness Coalition, Wyoming Wilderness Association, New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, California Wilderness Coalition and similar groups should be asking for more wilderness from BLM and in RARE II bills than the Club and Wilderness Society are asking for. These local groups should even begin to suggest that roads be closed and lands rehabilitated to recreate larger wilderness units (for example, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee should seriously propose that the North Star Road be closed and the Gila and Aldo Leopold wilderness areas be rejoined into a million-acre wilderness). The state-wide groups in the west should form the Western Wilderness Coalition, run by them (their respective chairpersons forming the board of directors), with their own lobbyist in Washington, D.C., working for them and taking stronger positions than those of the big organizations on public land issues. On other matters such as clean air, local groups or national coalitions of local groups should be calling for

stricter legislative measures than those advocated by the conservation establishment.

Further out should be the real extremists: EARTH FIRST! and her cooperating local and state groups calling for the creation of vast wilderness preserves, pioneering a revolution in our housekeeping habits on the planet, questioning the very philosophical tenets of Western Civilization, and engaging in non-violent direct action to stop the industrial beast whenever necessary (this is extremism only in contrast to the industrial beast). And in the shadowy mist on the fringes beyond EARTH FIRST! should be the individuals, and tightly-knit little groups of wilderness defenders spiking trees, closing roads, trashing bulldozers, pulling stakes, and what-have-you when the methods of the rest of us fail.

There is a spectrum.

WILDLIFE

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months, such an area would have been a tremendous boon to California's economy through the years (why go to Africa?).

It is a sad commentary on our society that even incomplete protection for the small remnants of wilderness and wildlife habitat that still exist - the Siskiyou, South Sierra, and East Mojave, to name a few - entails such a tremendous battle

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And in reality it is the spectrum that already exists. We merely have to let it be instead of artificially grouping everyone into one middle-of-the-road stance on every environmental issue for solidarity's sake. (I might add that this spectrum is needed whether Reagan or Pinochet is reelected or a Carter clone takes the helm in '85). We've been nice for too long. We aren't in the boxing ring of some Victorian gentlemen's club playing for sport. We're in the back alleys of Soho struggling for life. I don't know about you, but I don't plan to fight with one hand tied behind my back. I might even have a shiv or some brass knucks in my boot.

Dave Foreman is a former regional representative of the Wilderness Society & founder of a radical new wilderness group EARTH FIRST! Annual subscription is \$10 per year - P. O. Box 235, Ely, NV 89301.

against short-term exploiters. The realization of what we have lost should serve as provocation to redouble our efforts to save what still remains.

FURTHER READING

California Grizzly by Tracy I. Storer and Lloyd Tevis, Jr. (University of Nebraska Press 1955) is the authoritative source on the subject.

Dennis Coules is the Coalition's consultant for wildlife and desert issues.

SINKYONE

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guarantee of no harvesting of timber on the west side of the trail.

Any such exchange agreement shall be submitted to the Commission for review and approval.

WHAT ABOUT THE \$3.2 MILLION?

The big question is, why no mention of the \$3.2 million in 1980 Park Bond Act funds which our legislators worked to make available?

Environmentalists are worried that these funds may be diverted to other projects, probably in urban areas. We need to keep track of the progress of negotiations. The people of the Mateel would do well to send a delegation to each of the next few meetings of the Park and Recreation Commission. We need to keep pressing for the effective use of the \$3.2 million to preserve this rare and beautiful coast.

Julie Verran serves on the Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter, Executive Committee.



'YOU THINK IT'S CREEPY NOW, WAIT TILL WE COME BACK AFTER DARK.'

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PURPOSES OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

