



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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No. 6

Barstow to Vegas Race Rips Desert

A thousand motorcycles roared across the California Desert on Thanksgiving weekend, reinaugurating the infamous Barstow-to-Vegas race. The event had been banned after 3,000 riders severely damaged the desert in 1974, but the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lifted the ban this year.

An attempt by the Sierra Club to stop the race was turned down U.S. District Judge A. Wallace Tashima who concluded that BLM was planning adequate safeguards to protect the arid land.

The 140-mile racecourse crossed wilderness study areas in the Soda and Mesquite mountains.

"We now have a controlled experiment what the impact is of 1,000 motorcycles passing in sequence across previously undisturbed land," said Jim Dodson, chairman of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter.



Start of the Barstow-to-Vegas race banned a decade ago Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

"It creates a path six to eight feet wide, well-compacted, and to-

tally denuded of vegetation."

Near the start of the race about three hundred riders strayed as much as twelve miles off route following mining claim markers they took to be the racecourse.

Environmentalists monitoring the race included Howard Wilshire, a scientist long-concerned about the impact of off-road vehicles on the land. Wilshire measured the width of the course in 59 locations, including 26 places in the Soda Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA). He found that in the WSA the motorcycles stayed within their 100 foot corridor in only five of the sites.

"They were completely out of compliance with the terms in the environmental impact statement," Wilshire stated. "It is certainly a level of damage that will be very long-lasting," he added.

In a segment west of the WSA, Wilshire found 724 seriously damaged plants per mile. The biggest wash had 113 scrub varieties squashed flat or with big limbs or branches snapped off per mile.

Wilshire's average of all 59 monitoring stations showed a 58-foot corridor of severe damage. This was fourteen percent wider than anticipated by BLM. Motorcycles strayed 85 percent wider than

the 100-foot race corridor. The continuously-flagged corridor within the WSA was wiped out.

As bad as the damage was, rain on Thursday evening kept the dust down on the Saturday race, allowing riders to see the racecourse markers. "It is a big reason why they didn't spread more than they did," Wilshire said.

Environmentalists hope the evidence gathered will cause the BLM to reinstate the ban on the Barstow-to-Vegas race. Failing that, the documentation of damage should convince a judge to halt another race.

Designation of the Soda Mountains Wilderness by Congress will force the race to be rerouted, but might not stop the race altogether.

Earlier this fall, another competitive event damaged a wilderness study area. The Johnson Valley to Parker race crossed part of the Amboy Crater WSA. Rains should have forced cancellation of the event as required by the environmental impact statement. BLM allowed the race to proceed, even though heavy rains had turned part of the desert to mud.

"They went through standing water in the WSA," Wilshire reported. "They just shredded it."

Southern Pacific Plans Mt. Shasta Logging

By the Mount Shasta Resource Council

Southern Pacific Land Co. is planning to log within the proposed Mt. Shasta Wilderness. The Red Fir Ridge timber sale will result in the logging of seven million board feet of Shasta red fir and mountain hemlock on 700 acres of Southern Pacific land inside the boundaries of the proposed Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year.

The Red Fir Ridge area was added to the proposed Mt. Shasta Wilderness in 1981 by the late Representative Phillip Burton as a compromise for hotly-contested pristine lands elsewhere on Mt. Shasta that were withdrawn from the proposal to allow for a potential downhill ski resort.

Red Fir Ridge was overlooked by the U.S. Forest Service and Southern Pacific during a recent land

exchange that resulted in the Forest Service acquiring about 10,000 acres of Southern Pacific land in the rock and ice zone on Mt. Shasta. The area to be logged lies just below timberline at 7,000 feet, between the popular scenic areas of Squaw and Mud creeks. The proposed round-the-mountain trail passes through this area.

The Mount Shasta Resource Council, a local conservation group and member of the California Wilderness Coalition, and the Sierra Club are working to prevent the logging. Southern Pacific has been asked to postpone their scheduled summer 1984 harvest date to allow time for the Forest Service to purchase or exchange for the endangered land. So far, neither Southern Pacific or the Forest Service has shown a willingness to solve the problem.

Coalition Report

By Jim Eaton

Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

-The Wilderness Act of 1964

As ominous as Orwellian 1984 may seem to be, the new year is started off with a most reassuring sign. The twenty-year-long loophole in the Wilderness Act allowing mining and oil and gas development is closing. Starting next year no patents within a national forest wilderness area will be issued except for valid claims existing before January 1.

Former Interior Secretary James Watt made a cunning attempt to stop wilderness mining nearly two years ago in trade for reopening mining after the year 2000. By being persistent, we now are rid of both

Watt and mining. Forever?

So let's drink a toast to the wild lands of California that are another step closer to being truly protected.

A toast also to John and Molly Hooper for putting on a great benefit holiday party for the California Wilderness Coalition in the Sierra Club Library. The Good 'Ol Persons entertained us with great music and led a Virginia reel while we greeted old acquaintances and made new friends. CWC intern Pat O'Brien took charge of the financial details, making sure our well-wishers left negotiable evidence of their presence.

The CWC's Board of Directors also is grateful to the many members who responded to our special appeal for funds. You made it our most successful fund raiser ever, getting us through some hard times.

We welcome the Camp Unalaye Association of Palo Alto as our newest group member.

Update

McCloud Timber Sale Stopped

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) and the Sierra Club have stopped a timber sale planned in the proposed McCloud Wilderness.

Russ Shay, a regional representative of the Sierra Club and CWC Board member, appealed a decision by the Shasta-Trinity Forest Supervisor to conduct the Beetle Dee Timber Sale in the East Girard

roadless area north of Redding. Although not currently a part of the California Wilderness Bill before Congress, the Nature Conservancy is among the groups working to have these wild lands along the McCloud River protected.

The Regional Forester responded in less than three weeks, stopping the sale for an undetermined time.

Carper: No Friend of Wilderness

A coalition of environmental groups is opposing the nomination of Howard Carper as the director of California Fish and Game and is asking Governor Deukmejian to withdraw the nomination.

Carper recently directed Fish and Game staff to oppose wilderness designation in many instances, saying "I am personally concerned that

wilderness status has the effect of excluding much of the public from using the federal lands."

At a recent press conference, Executive Director Jim Eaton expressed the California Wilderness Coalition's concerns about Carper. "We fear the spirit of James Watt is alive and well and living in Sacramento," he said.

Plumas Extends RARE III Deadline

The Plumas National Forest has announced an extension of the comment period on their reevaluation of roadless areas. The new deadline is January 6, 1984. They also set a

public meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the Plumas County Library in Quincy. The restudy of roadless areas is a nationwide program known as RARE III by environmentalists.

Spotlight

Northeast Californians for Wilderness

Northeast Californians for Wilderness has a membership base in the Lassen County seat of Susanville.

This small rural-based organization has been a primary motivator behind conservationist participation in the massive wilderness study efforts of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Susanville District. The district currently is studying over 362,000 acres of roadless land in six Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on the California-Nevada border.

Because of the remoteness of this high desert region, it has been difficult for the public to participate in the BLM's planning efforts, resulting in biased decisions made by BLM catering to local ranchers and development interests. Northeast Californians for Wilderness has played a crucial role in promoting and coordinating conservationist participation from throughout northern California in the wilderness studies, resulting in a more balanced public communicated to the BLM.

Recent actions have included testifying at BLM public hearings on preliminary wilderness decisions affecting the Lava, Timbered Crater, Pit River, Tule Mountain, and

South Warner Contiguous WSAs. The group is opposing the BLM's intention to allocate most of these areas to non-wilderness uses.

The organization also is very active in the formation of a technical review team being implemented by the Susanville BLM District. The team will assist in providing public response in the current study of the six remaining roadless areas on the District that are completely or partially located in California. Group members will be coordinating vital conservationist involvement when the technical review team visits the WSAs in the spring of 1984.

In cooperation with the Sierra Club, Northeast Californians for Wilderness has sponsored a series of informal meetings and outings in the Susanville District WSAs. This program is intended to introduce this region to active conservationists so they can provide knowledgeable, area-specific comments to the BLM during the study process. These outings will be continued through 1984.

Northeast Californians
for Wilderness
P.O. Box 391
Susanville, CA 96130

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO IN THE FOREST AGAIN . . .

WATT II

STARRING...WILLIAM P. CLARK

DIRECTED BY RONALD REAGAN

WRITTEN BY RONALD REAGAN

PRODUCED BY RONALD REAGAN

Haley
1983



Cartoon by Pat Rigley

Reader's Opinion

Editor:

You, your co-workers, and the Wilderness Record are invaluable! The information is essential. Thanks for the 20 copies of the July-October Wilderness Record. I have sent one to each of our chapters nearest each of the U.S. Forest Service units in California.

Also, I have been urging Patti Hedge of the Wilderness Society to hold Citizen Forester workshops in California next spring -- one in Chico for the north or perhaps Redding if we could find a convenient weekend center.

Many thanks again -- I am so grateful for all your good work.

Sue Smith
California Native Plant Society
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Notice to Readers

The Wilderness Record encourages reader response and comment. We hope you will feel free to express yourself concerning wilderness issues of interest to you or in response to articles and opinions appearing in the Record. The Editor reserves the right to condense or edit any letter received.

Lassen/Modoc Wilderness Review Underway

By Steve Evans

The Susanville District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada is initiating the preparation of preliminary wilderness recommendations for thirteen Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Six of the study areas are located partially or entirely with the California portion of the Susanville District. The California WSAs account for 362,605 acres of roadless land.

The District is taking a unique approach to their wilderness study efforts. A "technical review team" consisting of interested members of the public and representatives from the existing Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee and the Susanville District Advisory Council is being formed to determine and explore the specific issues involved with the wilderness study effort. The team will visit each study area during the spring of 1984 and assist the BLM in the formulation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement and Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations soon thereafter. The BLM expects to finish its recommendations by July, 1985.

It is hoped that this new approach will provide a more balanced perspective to the BLM's study efforts. Previous District recommendations for WSAs in California have been extremely disappointing to conservationists. Of the 63,177

acres of roadless land in five WSAs which have completed BLM's "preliminary recommendation" process, only 6,640 acres (or about 10 percent) in the Pit River Canyon have been recommended for wilderness designation. Additions to the South Warner Wilderness, Tule Mountain, Timbered Crater, Lava WSAs, and about half of the Pit River study area have been allocated to non-wilderness. Conservationists fear that the remaining five study areas in the District will be reviewed under the same anti-wilderness bias.

One of the greatest problems with the Susanville District's wilderness review is the vastness of the high desert country and the region's remoteness from population centers. Starkly beautiful but virtually unknown, the region is little used except by cattle ranchers and local hunters who generally oppose wilderness designation. Conservationists throughout the state, as well as locals, need to exercise their right to determine the management of these remote public lands.

The five WSAs currently under review by the District are surprisingly diverse in their geography and vegetation. Deep canyons and precipitous cliffs, expansive sagebrush-covered hills, perennial streams (some with trout), high peaks, aspen groves, and juniper forests are just a few examples of

Cont. on Page 4



Eagle Head Wilderness Study Area

Northeast Californians for Wilderness

BLM Proposes Little Wilderness for East Side

By Mary Scoonover

In a recently released environmental impact statement (EIS) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommended portions of only three out of nineteen wilderness study areas (WSA), located in Inyo, Alpine, Mono, and Tulare counties, as suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This is less than 20 percent of the roadless acreage under study.

The three areas recommended as suitable for wilderness include portions of Sacatar Meadows, Cerro Gordo, and the Southern Inyo WSAs. These areas total 53,089 acres of the 290,216 acres studied. The Bureau recommended the remaining areas (245,637 acres) as non-suitable for wilderness designation. BLM based its recommendations on management problems and resource conflicts, listing such difficulties as a lack of natural barriers to off-road vehicle use, boundaries not easily defined, transmission line rights-of-way, and low-to-moderate potential for metallic mineral, geothermal, and uranium resource development.

One of the areas recommended as suitable is 11,447 acres of the Sacatar Meadows WSA. This area is adjacent to a 25,000-acre California desert study area and contains deer, upland game, and two rare plant species. The remaining 6,728 acres were designated as unsuitable and are planned for vegetative ma-

nipulation to increase grazing use.

The second area recommended as suitable is 14,222 acres of the Cerro Gordo WSA. Portions of the Saline Valley Salt Tram, a National Register Historic Site, are located in this area and also in the third recommended area, Southern Inyo WSA.

Two WSAs, Cerro Gordo and Southern Inyo, are separated by a dirt road and are adjacent to both a California desert proposed wilderness (500,000 acres) and the U.S. Forest Service-managed Paiute roadless area (140,000 acres). The area provides panoramic views of the Sierra Nevada, the Panamint Range, the Saline Valley, and the Owens Valley. It supports mule deer and bighorn sheep, prairie falcon nesting sites, and sensitive plant species including the Bristlecone pine.

Adjacent through Forest Service roadless lands to the John Muir Wilderness, Independence Creek and Symmes Creek WSAs were not recommended for wilderness. Both areas contain trout streams and provide winter habitat for the Whitney Tule Elk herd. Independence Creek and Crater Mountain WSAs also provide a crucial habitat for the Goodale deer herd. Crater Mountain is located south of Big Pine and is adjacent to 500 acres of uninventoried Forest Service roadless land.

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Tunnison Mountain WSA

Northeast Californians for Wilderness

Lassen/Modoc Review

Cont. from Page 3

the diversity found in the study areas.

Following are brief descriptions of each study area (parentheses indicate a different BLM name than the one utilized by conservationists).

Willow Creek (Tunnison Mountain)

This 21,450-acre study area includes the scenic Willow Creek Canyon which is known for its brown trout fishery and has often been described as an "oasis in the desert." BLM recognizes the area as providing "outstanding" opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. Rich wildlife populations and abundant cultural values such as Indian petroglyphs provide supplemental wilderness values. This area is a short 15-minute drive north of Susanville and is there-

fore the most accessible of the WSAs.

Skedaddle Mountain

Dominated by rugged vertical cliffs and rocky peaks, this 63,130-acre area includes major portions of the Skedaddle and Amadee mountain ranges. Streamside vegetation, many springs, small grassy meadows, and dwarf aspen groves provide invaluable habitat for raptors, big game, and other wildlife. BLM considers the Skeddaddles to have "exceptional" opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. This area is contiguous to the Eagle Head study area.

Eagle Head (Dry Valley Rim)

With 93,205 acres, this area is the single largest WSA on the Su-

sanville District, astride the California/Nevada border. Elevations range from 6,200 feet to 3,800, providing diverse geography in the form of deep rimrock canyons and sagebrush covered slopes. A sheer 600-foot cliff on the eastern boundary provides important habitat for raptors. The area is contiguous to the Five Springs study area to the northwest.

Five Springs

This 47,160-acre area has relatively abundant water resources with numerous springs and the perennial streams of Rush Creek and Stoney Creek. An appeal by the California Wilderness Coalition in the inventory stage of the wilderness review resulted in the area being designated for study. Five Springs is contiguous to the Twin Peaks study area to the northeast.

Twin Peaks

According to the BLM, this 90,345-acre area provides "outstanding" opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. About one-third of the area is in California. The extremely rugged topography includes such outstanding features as the Buffalo Creek and Chimney Rock Creek canyons. Shinn and Smoke creeks are perennial and provide important riparian habitat. Diverse vegetation in the area includes juniper, sagebrush, willows, aspen, and grassy meadows.

Buffalo Hills

Less than 10 percent of this 47,315-acre study area is in Cali-

fornia. An upland volcanic plateau cut by the perennial forks of Buffalo Creek, the region has striking geologic features such as the Hole-in-the-Ground caldera and the 1,000-foot-deep North Fork canyon. Extensive riparian vegetation along the creeks and four vernal lakes provide valuable wildlife habitat. BLM considers the area to have "outstanding" opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

Although separated by primitive roads, Skeddaddle Mountain, Eagle Head, Five Springs, and Twin Peaks make up a 293,840-acre "wilderness complex" supported by conservationists. But it is doubtful that the BLM will agree with the concept.

The Susanville District is currently preparing the "scoping" phase of the wilderness review to delineate specific issues. We recommend that interested conservationists immediately contact the District and request to be placed on the District mailing list. Their address is:

Susanville District
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

The Sierra Club, in cooperation with a number of other groups, will be sponsoring several outings into these areas during 1984. People interested in attending should contact Stan Weidert, Inwood Rt. 2, Box 175, Shingletown, CA 96088, (916) 474-3679.

Steve Evans is a Chico activist and is president of the California Wilderness Coalition.

East Side WSAs

Cont. from Page 3

Four areas found unsuitable for wilderness, Chidago Canyon, Fish Slough, Volcanic Tablelands, and Casa Diablo, are located north of Bishop in the Benton Range. These areas provide raptor and eagle nesting habitat as well as mule deer winter habitat. Petroglyphs and many camps with rock rings and lithic scatters are located throughout these WSAs.

The BLM found three areas east of Mono Lake unsuitable for wilderness. The three, Excelsior, Granite Mountain, and Walford Springs, are covered in low, dense shrubs and scattered junipers and provide deer migration corridors, wild horse winter habitat, year-long habitat for sage grouse, raptor nesting areas, and fall pronghorn habitat.

None of the Mormon Meadows, Mt. Biedeman, Bodie Mountain, Bodie, and Masonic Mountain WSAs were found suitable for wilderness. These areas of the Bodie Hills a-

bound in archeological sites and support five rare plant species. Deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, and waterfowl find habitat in these areas.

Slinkard WSA, adjacent to the Carson-Iceberg roadless area, was found unsuitable by the BLM. The Slinkard area contains raptor nesting habitat, including that of the peregrine falcon. It is also spring, summer, and fall habitat for deer.

The BLM will be accepting comments on this environmental impact statement through December 20, 1983. Send your comments to:

Robert D. Rheiner, Jr.
District Manager
Bakersfield District
800 Truxtun Avenue, Room 302
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Mary Scoover is the California Wilderness Coalition's intern for Bureau of Land Management issues.



Skeddaddle Mountain WSA

Northeast Californians for Wilderness

Low Turnout at Hearings

Nobody spoke at an October wilderness hearing in Markleeville and only a dozen people did so in Bishop. The hearings were held to gather comment on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) recommendations for nineteen wilderness study areas totaling more than 290,000 acres in Inyo, Alpine, Mono, and Tulare counties. BLM is recommending portions of only three areas for wilderness, less than twenty percent of the land under study.

Michael Prather, representing the Eastern Sierra Nevada Committee of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, spoke in favor of wilderness at the Bishop hearing. The California Native Plant Society was represented by Mary De Decker who

also defended the wild lands. The other ten speakers opposed wilderness.

While asking that BLM find more of the roadless lands suitable for wilderness designation, Prather did credit BLM for their proposal for portions of three areas. "The areas they recommended are fabulous," he told the California Wilderness Coalition, "it's really outrageous country." Despite the ten people testifying against wilderness, Prather adds, "we definitely do have local support for the areas."

BLM is accepting written comments until December 21; the California Wilderness Coalition sent a Wilderness Alert to members with an interest in the region.

Status of Non-Desert Wilderness Study Areas

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required by law to identify and review Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Although this process does not have to be complete until 1991, BLM is moving rapidly with their studies and recommendations.

This chart summarizes the status of our State's WSAs outside the

California Desert Conservation Area. Only two major BLM wilderness reviews remain, lands in northeast California described elsewhere in this issue of the Wilderness Record and the King Range. The draft recommendations for these areas are expected in 1984.

-Mary Scoonover

NAME	BLM #	ACREAGE	SUITABLE	NON-SUITABLE	DEIS	RARE II	WATT DROP
Tepusquet Peak	010-007	1024				yes	
Santa Lucia	010-011	1847					yes
Garcia Mtn.	010-012	494				yes	yes
Black Mtn.	010-020	150				yes	yes
Sheep Ridge	010-022	4905	0	4905	6-82		yes
Milk Rnch Case Mtn.	010-023	6382	0	6382	6-82	yes	yes
Moses	010-025	558				yes	yes
Owens Peak	010-026	22560	14430	8130	6-82		
Sacatar Meadows	010-027	8938	11447	6728	10-83	yes	no
Rockhouse	010-029	34795				yes	yes-140
Scodie	010-030	5847				yes	yes
Domeland	010-032	2209				yes	yes
Spoor Canyon	010-036	240				yes	yes
Cuyama	010-037	1014				yes	yes
Caliente Mtn.	010-042	19018	0	19018	6-82		
Kelso Creek Valley	010-045	2244				yes	yes
Piute-Cypress	010-046	3578	0	3578	6-82		
Cerro Gordo	010-055	16102	14222	1880	10-83		
Southern Inyo	010-056	23568	27420	9180	10-83	yes	
Independence Creek	010-057	9760	0	6250	10-83	yes	yes-3510
Wonoga Peak	010-058	3530				yes	yes
Tinemaha	010-059	3280				yes	yes
Paiute	010-060	7600				yes	yes
Crater Mtn.	010-062	6760					
Coyote Southeast	010-063	3211	0	7260	10-83	yes	yes
Symms Creek	010-064	10160					
Black Canyon	010-065	6518	0	8130	10-83	yes	yes
Wheeler Ridge	010-068	3197				yes	yes
Rock Creek West	010-070	414				yes	yes
Laurel-McGee	010-072	110				yes	yes
Benton Range	010-077	4052				yes	s202
Chidago Canyon	010-079	20246	0	20246	10-83		
Fish Slough	010-080	19730	0	14450	10-83		
Volcanic Tableland	010-081	11840	0	11840	10-83		
Casa Diablo	010-082	5547	0	9167	10-83		
Excelsior	010-088	12400	0	9100	10-83		yes-3300
Granite Mtns	010-090	52781	0	56741	10-83		
Log Cabin Saddlebag	010-091A	520				yes	yes
Walford Springs	010-092	13200	0	13200	10-83		
Morman Meadow	010-094	7280	0	7280	10-83		
Mt Biedeman	010-095	12420	0	12420	10-83		
Bodie Mtns	010-099	23360	0	23360	10-83		
Bodie	010-100	15455	0	15455	10-83		
Masonic Mtns	010-102	6600	0	6600	10-83		
Sweetwater	010-103	960				yes	yes
Slinkard	010-105	5795	0	5795	10-83		yes
Carson-Iceberg	010-105B	1040				yes	yes
Machesna Mtn.	010-108	720				yes	yes
Pit River Canyon	020-103	11575	6640	4935	6-83		
Tunnison Mtn.	020-311	20650					
Skedaddle Mtn.	020-612	60800					
Dry Valley Rim	020-615	17140					
Buffalo Hills	020-619	880					
Twin Peaks	020-619A	23060					
South Warner	020-708	4330		4330	6-83		yes
Timbered Crater	030-201	18690	0	18690	6-83		
Lava	030-203	11632	0	11632	6-83		
Tunnel Ridge	030-402	2397					s202 4623
Ishi	030-503	200				yes	yes
North Fork American	040-102	50				yes	yes
Tuolumne River	040-201	3005				yes	yes
Merced River	040-203	12835	0	12835	6-83		
Panoche Hills North	040-301A	6677	0	6677	6-82		
Panoche Hills South	040-301B	11267	0	11267	6-82		
Pinnacles	040-303	5838	2200	3638	6-82		s202
Black Butte	040-305A	40				yes	yes
Bear Mtn.	040-305B	3198				yes	yes
Bear Canyon	040-305C	318				yes	yes
Ventana	040-308	640	0	640	6-82		yes-680
Chemise Mtn.	050-111	4021				ISA	
King Range	050-112	32342					yes-5152
Red Mtn.	050-132	6173	0	6173	9-83		
Big Butte	050-211	9548				yes	
Thatcher Ridge	050-212	17187				yes	
Eden Vly Mid Fk Eel	050-214-6	6674				yes	
Rocky Ck Cache Ck	050-317	33582	0	33582	7-82		
Cedar Roughs	050-331	7183	0	183	7-82		
Agua Tibia	060-002	360	360	0	6-82	yes	s202
Beauty Mtn.	060-020G	11342	6190	5152	6-82		

NAME	BLM #	ACREAGE	SUITABLE	NON-SUITABLE	DEIS	RARE II	WATT DROP
San Ysidro Mtn.	060-022	2131	0	2131	6-80		yes
San Felipe Hills	060-023	5265	0	5265	6-80		
Sawtooth Mtns A	060-024A	3892	0	3892	6-80		yes
Sawtooth Mtns B	060-024B	24696	2306	1690	6-80		
Sawtooth Mtns C	060-024C	2509	2509	0	6-80		yes
E McCain Valley A	060-025	14573	14571	2	6-80	yes	
Table Mtn.	060-026	958	0	958	6-80		yes-958
Hauser Mtn.	060-027C	5489	0	5489	6-80		
West Otay Mtn.	060-028	5750	5615	136	6-80		
South Otay Mtn.	060-029	7940	5609	2332	6-80		
840796							
-APPEALED-							
South Sierra	010-031	68	denied				
Mill Creek	010-033	35580	denied				
Cannell Creek	010-047	33580	denied				
Soldier Canyon	010-069	1800	denied				
White Mtns	010-075	1260					yes
Petroglyphs	010-084	5280	denied				
Glass Mtns	010-087	16160	denied				
Paoha Island	010-091B	760	denied				
Devils Gate	010-101	740	denied				
Massacre Rim	020-10131	10000	denied				
Tule Mtn.	020-211	16950	0	16950	6-83		
East Snowstream	020-305	8970	denied				
Pacific West	020-307	10200	denied				
Five Springs	020-609	47160					
Hat Mtn.	020-701	29230	denied				
Soldier	020-901	87805	denied				
Mt. Bidwell	020-1001	45780	denied				
Deep Cut	020-610	11000	denied				
East Beegum	030-300	75800	denied				
Fisher Gulch	030-400	30400	denied				
Deer Mtn.	030-500	65500	denied				
Yolla Bolly	030-501	640					yes
TOTALS		2142145	113519	445674			

Legend

Name	name assigned by the BLM - conservationists may have a different name for the area
BLM #	number assigned by the BLM during the initial inventory stage of the wilderness review process
Acreage	total acres included in the Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
Suitable	number of acres recommended by the BLM as suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System
Non-Suitable	number of acres recommended by the BLM as non-suitable for wilderness designation
DEIS	date that the draft environmental impact statement was issued with the BLM's recommendations for wilderness
RARE II	WSAs adjacent to roadless areas in National Forests that were identified during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process
Watt Drop	number of acres removed from wilderness review by former Secretary of the Interior James Watt; if no acreage given the entire area was dropped s202 indicates an area dropped by Watt but reinstated in the review process to be studied under section 202 of the Federal Land Planning and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
No final environmental impact statements (EIS) have been filed to date. This is likely to remain the case for some time as the BLM's wilderness review process is different from most other planning procedures. Usually a final EIS will follow on the heels of a draft EIS unless the issue is quite complex or controversial. With the BLM's wilderness review, a final EIS will be forthcoming only after the draft recommendations have been reviewed all the way to the Secretary of the Interior. Conservationists speculate that the Secretary may try to lump numerous draft documents into one final EIS for a state or region.	

Wilderness and the Black Bear in California

By Mike McWherter

The black bear population in California has been estimated to comprise between 10,000 and 12,000 individuals. Bear habitat includes the Cascade, Klamath, North and South Coast, Peninsular, Sierra Nevada, and Transverse mountain ranges. These animals live at altitudes from near sea level to over 9,000 feet.

Where wilderness exists in bear habitat we find an environment that is, at least potentially, conducive to healthy bear populations. Of course wilderness alone is not enough. Sound wildlife and land use practices are also vital. Wilderness, however, plays a very important role in that it restricts access and prevents development that would alter important habitat.

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE BLACK BEAR

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) inhabit North American regions from Alaska, through Canada and the continental United States, to northern Mexico. They are smaller than other North American bears, the polar bears and the grizzly-browns. The grizzly bears and huge Alaskan brown bears are considered to be the same species. All North American bears trace their past to Asiatic types which crossed to North America via the Bering Strait land bridge during the Ice Age. The grizzly-browns descended from ancestors which crossed the land bridge about 100,000 years ago and the black bears from ancestors

which crossed about 500,000 years ago. Polar bears are believed to have evolved from brown bears that lived in the North American coastal regions.

Grizzly bears are much more dangerous and aggressive than black bears. It has been suggested that an explanation of the grizzly's aggressive behavior may be that it is a ground animal unable to escape danger by climbing trees. Grizzlies have adapted by being able to defend themselves and their offspring on the ground. Black bears are able to climb trees for safety and thus are more timid. The adult black bear weighs from 100 to 300 pounds; the grizzly from 450 to 800 pounds; and the huge brown bear from 800 to 1200 pounds. When a large brown bear stands erect it towers several feet over a six-foot human.

The color of black bears ranges from black to cinnamon to blond. They are California's largest wild carnivore. Although they will kill young or sick deer and small animals, their diet consists mostly of vegetable matter which includes grasses, clover, fruits, berries, and nuts. They use their powerful arms and claws to tear open rotten logs and find insect larvae. When it is available, they will take food from campers, trash cans, and garbage dumps. They are heaviest in autumn, having spent the late summer and early fall putting on a layer of fat for the winter months ahead.

Black bear females come into



estrus about June or July when they acquire a temporary mate. The male does not stay with the female long after mating as he is basically a solitary animal. He is more interested in getting back to the business of foraging, putting on fat reserves, and finding a suitable den for the winter.

Some seven months after mating - during the winter hibernation - the female gives birth to 1 to 3 cubs of about 8 ounces each. She does not show any sign of pregnancy until shortly before the cubs are born. This is because females do not follow the normal pattern of mammal pregnancy. Normally a fertilized egg attaches itself to the mother's uterus soon after mating. But in the female bear the implantation of the egg is delayed and it floats in fluid within the uterus. This "delayed implantation", as it is called, occurs in November. The cubs take about 1 to 2 months to develop. This type of pregnancy is probably the female bear's way of adapting to her need to build body reserves during summer and fall in preparation for winter.

The cubs are born in January and are nursed in the den until they emerge with their mother and go foraging. The cubs will stay close to her and scramble up the nearest tree if she sounds a danger alarm. Black bear adults and cubs are very good tree climbers and can climb almost as fast as a squirrel. Hiding food from them using trees takes some thought. The food must be suspended high above the ground between two trees or from tree limbs that will not support the weight of a bear.

The cubs spend their first summer under the protection of their mother and learn to eat the same foods she eats. Sometimes she will lead them to areas where people keep food, hoping to find an unguarded picnic table or food cooler. It is unfortunate for the cubs if they find food under such circumstances because they are quick to learn and are likely to become problem bears in the future. They may eventually have to be destroyed.

With the arrival of winter the cubs will follow their mother into

her den and stay with her during hibernation. When the family emerges the following spring the cubs will be yearlings and weigh from 80 to 120 pounds. Although the cubs are now older and much larger the mother is still as protective as ever. One should never get between a mother and her cubs.

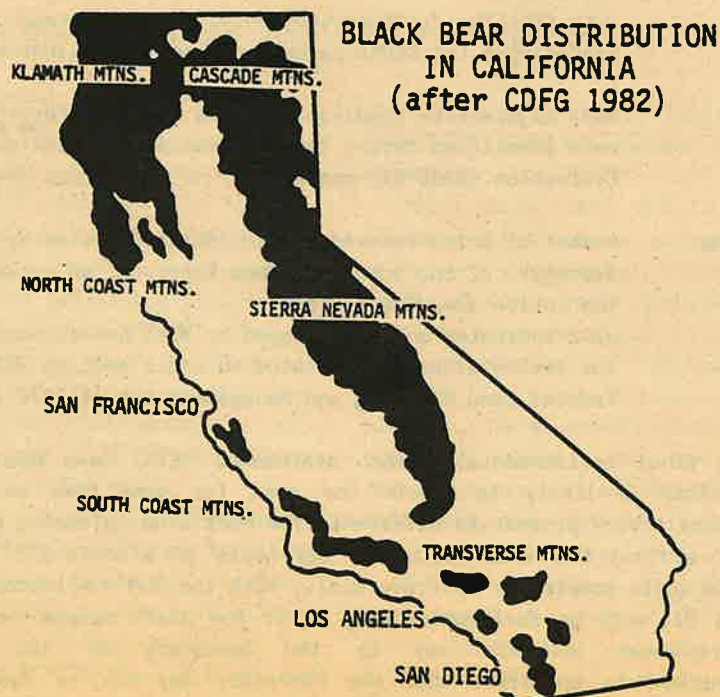
The family usually breaks up by the end of summer, probably because the mother once again comes into estrus. The presence of large dominant males seeking her out no doubt helps to cause the yearlings to leave the area. The yearling males will generally leave their mother's territory and begin a solitary life. Female yearlings will remain closer to the mother's territory.

PRESERVING WILDERNESS AND THE BLACK BEAR

Long after the black bear had established itself in North America, another creature crossed the Bering Straits land bridge - man. American Indians descended from these early immigrants and much of their folklore was associated with animals, particularly the black bear. The Pueblo Indians held the black bear in deep reverence, associating it closely with their goddess of all game creatures - the Mother of Game.

With the arrival of European man in North America, the black bear experienced more human pressure. Wilderness was everywhere and the attitude was to subdue it. The black bear was driven out of much of the eastern United States. As human numbers increased and spread to the West, the conflict continued. It exists today in a world of shrinking resources and competing land uses. The idea of preserving nature for its own sake as wilderness is a relatively new concept. Preserving wilderness in California will continue to play an important part in maintaining a healthy environment for black bears.

Mike McWherter is a professional photographer and author who lives in Oxnard.



Backcountry Preserving: Stalking the Wild Berry

By Wade Van Buskirk

Many times I have stopped along the trailside or streamside to pick and pop a few wild berries into my mouth. I have a passion for wild berries and other wild foods, especially those that can go from bush to mouth without being made to travel more than a few feet.

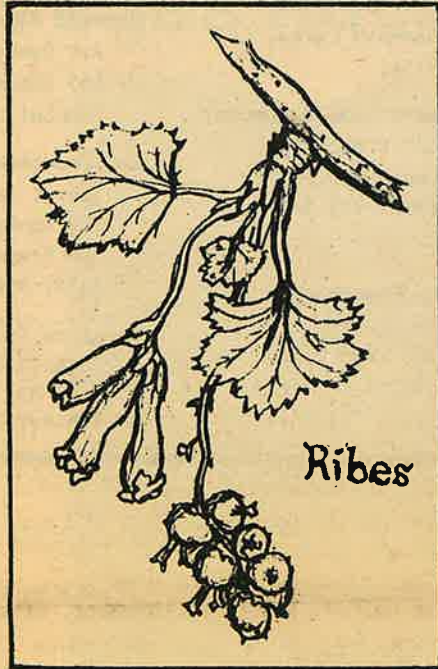
When we're afflicted with the munchies, we may tend to put in our mouths unripe berries, along with those minute berry-eating critters situated out of sight on the far side of the berry, with sour lip-twisting results. But, as you and I know, for every three sour berries there is one sweet berry. One way to overcome this mathematical dilemma is to collect a handful of berries and hope that the few sweet ones will be on top of the pile. This does not always work, especially for those of us who have an acute sweet tooth and can only be satisfied with the full flavor of pure fructose.

These people are the same ones who carry bags of candy into the wilderness; I confess to smuggling bags of chocolate chips in my camera bag.

Fortunately there is a solution to the problem, which I discovered and perfected while traveling westward through the Lost River Mountains in Idaho. One day for lunch I found I had quite enough peanut butter and bread, but no jelly. Luckily, I was surrounded by thousands of ripe berries of all sorts. I also remembered the bag of sugar back in the car.

Since I already had the jar that had held my now vanished supply of preserves, and it was only a short distance to the car for the sugar, I decided to make some then and there. I am glad I did.

Already I sense fear in some readers, but let me reassure you. Making preserves is even easier than pie, because no crust is required. Nothing can beat the satisfaction of handmade berry preserves. Here is all that is required: berries, sugar, resealable container, cooking pot, and fire.



Allow 1/2 to 1 part sugar for each part of berries, mix together and cook until the syrup is thick and jells when cool. This whole process takes 1/2 to 2 hours, depending on the fruit. Heat glass jars in water before pouring in the preserves, or let cool first, to prevent cracking of glass or hard plastic.

Preserves are great with biscuits at breakfast or dinner, or as a snack anytime. They are a quick and delicious source of energy; sugar has more energy per unit weight than any staple other than pure fat or oil. When you begin to

run out, the remainder can be mixed with more berries and sugar. By the time I arrived at Strawberry Mountain in Oregon my jar contained no less than five different types of berries, and had a great wild-berry flavor. Carrying the preserves around for a few days is no problem because they are rapidly used up. Adding berries is also no problem. It's even better because the flavor of one batch may become as boring as macaroni and cheese after a week.

Carrying around bags of sugar in the fall may become a new fad for backpackers, and may afford new opportunities for lakeside feasts and preserve-tasting. A champion may be chosen for making the best preserves in the wilderness.

Here is a list of fruits that can be used for outdoor preserving in the Pacific Northwest. Other types of berries may be found locally with the help of a book of edible plants and berries.



Oregon grape	<u>Berberis aquifolium</u>
Currants and Gooseberry	<u>Ribes spp.</u>
Rose hips	<u>Rosa spp.</u>
Blackberry	<u>Rubus vitifolius</u>
Raspberry	<u>Rubus leucodermis</u>
Thimbleberry	<u>Rubus parviflorus</u>
Salmonberry	<u>Rubus spectabilis</u>
Himalaya berry	<u>Rubus thyranthus</u>
Blueberry and Huckleberry	<u>Vaccinium spp.</u>
Wild grape	<u>Vitis spp.</u>

Wade Van Buskirk is a graduate student at U.C. Davis and a Coalition volunteer.

Wild and Woolly

FALCON UNDER GLASS: An attempt to restore endangered peregrine falcons to Sequoia National Forest turned into a picnic for golden eagles, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The eagles ate the released falcons.

Three fledgling peregrines were turned loose in the forest at a natural nesting site. Two of the birds were caught and eaten by eagles. The third was recaptured before the eagles could get it.

Biologists report that the eagle predation will set the peregrine restoration program back a year.

A full-color poster, designed to help in the identification of the peregrine falcon, has been developed at Cornell University.

The poster can be obtained free from the Publications Unit, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240; or through the Peregrine Fund, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850.

-Oregon Wildlife

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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.

Like any citizen organization, the California Wilderness Coalition depends upon sponsorship and support. The organization is grateful to the following businesses that have recognized the need to preserve the wilderness of California.

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T-shirts are 100% double knit cotton. Mens are available in white, yellow (almost gold), tan, and blue in S, M, L, and XL. French-cut T-shirts are available in white, pink, and powder blue in women's S, M, and L.

We have a complete stock of our T-shirts as we enter this holiday season. Help us out by giving a gift with a wilderness message.

All T-shirts now are \$8.00 to CWC members; \$10.00 for non-members (tax included). Clearly indicate if you want regular or French-cut, size, color, and if a substitute color is acceptable.

Please add \$1.00 postage; 50¢ for each additional T-shirt.

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