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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 10

2655 Portage Bay Ave., Suite 3

Davis, CA 95616

September-October, 1985

No. 5



Senator Alan Cranston

## Cranston Heads Conference Lineup

Senator Alan Cranston, a long-time defender of California's wild places, will give the keynote address at the California Wilderness Conference in Visalia. Senator Cranston will talk just before noon on Saturday of the three-day conference which runs from October 25th through October 27th.

The conference will be the largest ever concentration of California wilderness leaders and supporters. The event will be a mixture of speakers, workshops, slide presentations, and entertainment.

In addition to Senator Cranston, major speakers include Repre-

sentative Richard Lehman, the Sierra Club's Douglas Wheeler and Doug Scott, National Audubon Society Vice-President Brock Evans, David Brower of Friends of the Earth, Dave Foreman from Earth First!, and Martin Litton, owner of Grand Canyon Dories and longtime activist.

Many other conservation leaders will be participating in the various workshops and panels, including a number of staff members from the San Francisco and Washington, D.C. offices of the Wilderness Society.

Among the slide shows will be

Oct. 25-27, 1985  
**CALIFORNIA  
WILDERNESS  
CONFERENCE**  
Convention Center  
**VISALIA**

two multi-projector presentations by Howard Wilshire and John Nakata, "The Wheeled Locusts" about off-road vehicles in the California desert, and "The Scent of Man" illustrating the pressures of human population on the environment.

At least thirty non-profit organizations and retail businesses will have booths at the conference. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn about numerous environmental issues and even do some of your holiday gift shopping.

Complete details of the conference, including a tentative agenda, begin on page 4.

## The Degradation of BLM Wilderness Study Areas Continues Unabated

by Jim Eaton

In 1976, Congress ordered the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to identify and study roadless areas remaining on our public domain. In the next few years, several hundred wilderness study areas (WSAs) were identified in California.

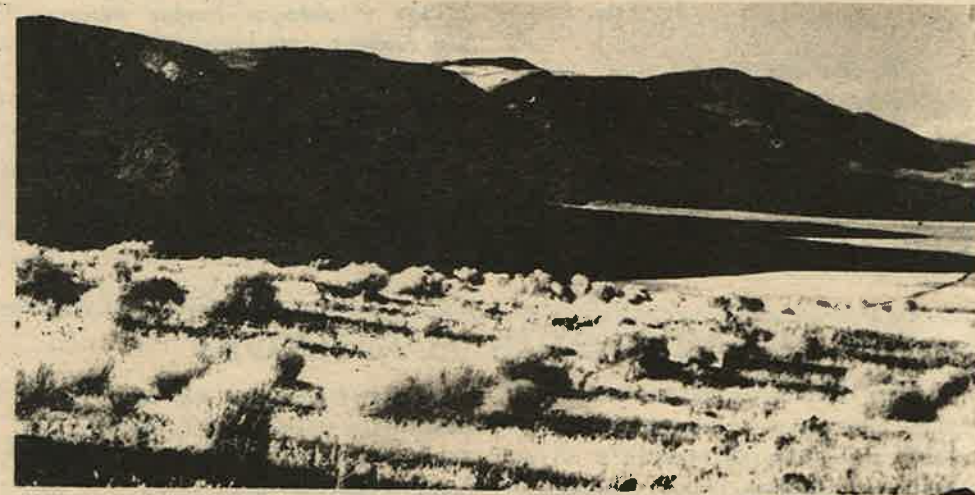
Many of these areas are in the California desert, but outstanding wild areas are found around the Central Valley, the east side of the Sierra, northeast California, and the north coast. Most of the wilderness studies have been completed, but final recommendations from BLM have not been sent to the President and Congress.

Development activities, both legal and illegal, have not stopped during this study period. Mining, grazing, off-road vehicle races,

and other actions are occurring at an alarming pace. The California Wilderness Coalition is monitoring the WSAs, and recent activities and violations are reported on page 3.

In contrast to similar studies conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, BLM is specifically required to continue to manage the WSAs "so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness."

But as is often the case with environmental laws, there are compromises. Congress allowed the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which they were being conducted on the date of approval of the Act. Even so, BLM is required to take any action required "to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford envi-



BLM will allow a motorcycle race in Dry Valley Rim (Eagle Head) WSA

Photo by Northeast Californians for Wilderness

ronmental protection."

As you might expect, BLM officials believe they have a good management record. "California's citizens have cooperated superbly with the federal government to assure wilderness study areas remain unimpaired," says BLM California State Director Ed Hastey. "In the past five years, only 60 violations

occurred on 6.3 million acres of potential wilderness and only half of these violations required rehabilitation for an estimated total of 500 acres."

Violations of law, however, are only part of the problem. In October, BLM is allowing two motorcycle races to track through WSAs.

Cont. on Page 3



## Coalition Report

by Jim Eaton

Putting on a statewide wilderness conference is a lot of work. I'm not complaining; I'm only doing a small part of it. Most of the organizing is being done by CWC Vice-President Bob Barnes and his volunteers in the Visalia-Porterville area.

Bob is a volunteer. He doesn't even have the luxury of being retired or independently wealthy. Bob teaches elementary school by day and transforms himself into a super wilderness activist on evenings and weekends.

The same is true for many of the other folks helping make the conference work. They may be employed full-time, have children, and enjoy other activities. But they all are willing to take time from the busy lives to help the cause of wilderness.

This is the strength of the wilderness movement. The "hired guns" who get paid to organize, lobby, and pursue legal actions

would get little accomplished without the legions of volunteers working with them.

But it is frustrating for many volunteers to realize that they are facing a hoard of well-paid full-time destroyers of wilderness. The timber, mining, and energy industries do not depend upon volunteers. They rely on paid staff to bid on timber sales, file mining plans, route transmission lines, and lobby administrative and elected officials.

But we still win. No, not all the time, but there is an impressive record of environmental victories to our credit. And we do it with our volunteer, grass-roots network that believes wilderness preservation is important enough to devote spare hours working for it.

The California Wilderness Conference is devoted to these volunteers. We hope you can attend, learn, and be revitalized by others like you working for wilderness.

## Readers' Opinions

Dear CWC:

I am very grateful for your work and newsletter and have but one critical comment. Why don't you use a smaller pitch in typesetting so you don't have that ghastly separation between letters. Most programs have an "alternate pitch" that can be entered to be used with an elite size daisywheel.

Esther Wanning  
San Francisco

As you can see by this issue of the Wilderness Record, our layout crew and Board of Directors agreed with you! The problem was not the pitch used; we use a 15 pitch Cubic wheel which is the actual size you see printed. Our

difficulty was with the width translation table used by Allwrite, our word processing program. We found a means of using Allwrite for our typing and editing and then using another program, Superscript, to do the final typing. It's a little more hassle, but if our readers like it we don't mind. Thank you for alerting us to your concern.

The California Wilderness Coalition 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.

## CWC Comments Available

The California Wilderness Coalition attempts to respond to all plans affecting California's wild lands and waters. Our comments, appeals, and wilderness alerts are available to our members. We would greatly appreciate a self-addressed, stamped envelope to speed things along.

Postage is 22¢ for the first ounce and 17¢ for each additional ounce or fraction. Our printed information usually runs about four pages to an ounce. We will copy double-sided on request.

### RECENT COMMENTS AND ALERTS

Susanville Wilderness Comments	12pp
Susanville Wilderness Alert	1p
Dodge Ridge Ski Area Appeal	6pp
King Range Wilderness Comments	6pp
King Range Wilderness Alert	1p
Cleveland Forest Plan Comments	2pp
Cleveland Plan Wilderness Alert	1p
Cleveland Powerline Appeal	3pp
King Range Transportation Plan	5pp
King Range Trans. Plan Alert	1p
Angeles Forest Plan Comments	6pp
Angeles Plan Wilderness Alert	1p
Toiyabe Forest Plan Comments	5pp
Toiyabe Plan Wilderness Alert	1p

## Update Victory Declared in Lassen Geothermal Appeal

After three and a half years of legal wrangling, conservationists have convinced the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to write an environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed geothermal leasing on the boundary of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

The Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and National Parks and Conservation Association filed an appeal when the federal agencies refused to file an EIS for the geothermal leasing plans. The conservation groups were especially

concerned about possible effects on natural features inside adjacent Lassen Park and the development of national forest roadless areas contiguous to the Lassen Volcanic Wilderness.

The draft EIS is slated for release in March 1986 with the final EIS in July of that year. The agencies are requesting the public to identify issues which should be considered in the EIS by November 9th. Write to: Lassen National Forest, 55 South Sacramento Street, Susanville, CA 96130.

## News Briefs

### CWC Appeals Powerline Through Cleveland Forest

The California Wilderness Coalition has filed an administrative appeal of a 500 KV powerline across the Cleveland National Forest. The easement to the Southern California Edison Company for the transmission line from near Hemet to Orange was recently granted by regional forester Zane G. Smith, Jr.

The Coalition was concerned that five of the seven alternatives in the draft Cleveland Forest Plan call for the area to be managed as

"general forest, unroaded." Granting the easement would invalidate portions of these alternatives which currently are before the public.

The Coldwater Roadless Area would be bisected by the transmission line. Although released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984, the Coalition believes that the values of this roadless area must be considered before development is allowed to proceed.



Dam on Kings River proposed by Conservation District

-Fresno Bee



*"Interim Management"*

# Development Activities in Wilderness Study Areas

Cont. from Page 1

Fences and stock ponds are being constructed to expand cattle and sheep grazing. Miners regularly are granted permission to build roads and gouge holes in potential wilderness areas.

BLM's operative phrase for these continuing development activities is "Interim Management Policy (IMP)." This lengthy and complex policy guides the agency in managing the WSAs until Congress makes a

final determination on the future of the areas.

Until recently, it was nearly impossible to find out what proposed actions and violations were occurring in WSAs. BLM now is sending organizations such as the California Wilderness Coalition a "Notice of Proposed IMP Action" for each activity. As you can see from the past few month's mail, our wilderness study areas are far from safe under "interim management."



Mining activities scarred the Providence Mtns. WSA

Photo by Jim Eaton

## Activities in Wilderness Study Areas

### BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT

Southern Inyo  
WSA 010-056

Mining exploration would blast 30'x30' area one-two feet deep with temporary cable and wood tramway constructed.

Independence Creek  
WSA 010-057

Three quarters of a mile of bulldozer lines constructed in fighting wildfire.

Symmes Creek  
WSA 010-064

Five miles of bulldozer lines constructed in fighting wildfire.

Granite Mountain  
WSA 010-090

Motorcycle race with 150 riders (CWC received 4 days notice on the event).

Walford Springs  
WSA 010-092

Motorcycle race with 150 riders (CWC received 4 days notice on the event).

Merced River  
WSA 040-203

Bulldozer lines constructed in fighting wildfire (verbal notice, no written report yet received).

### CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

Wyman Creek  
WSA CDCA-105

Deep Springs College to build water pipeline requiring vehicle access

Saline Dunes  
WSA CDCA-121

Miner to continue to operate an existing gravity mill, including residence, and build a berm of about 600 feet long for flood control

Inyo Mountains  
WSA CDCA-122

Reconsideration of water diversion and 1500'-2000' of surface pipeline for use in exploration drilling activities.

Hunter Mountain  
WSA CDCA-123

Intensive grazing, possible doubling of allocation, construction of range improvement projects.

Hunter Mountain  
WSA CDCA-123

Drilling of eight shallow core holes and removal of talus from existing open cut for testing.

Cerro Gordo Peak  
WSA CDCA-124

Intensive grazing, possible doubling of allocation, construction of range improvement projects.

Panamint Dunes  
WSA CDCA-127

Intensive grazing, possible doubling of allocation, construction of range improvement projects.

Surprise Canyon  
WSA CDCA-136

Proposed new road partially in WSA for removal of existing mining tailings.

Manly Peak  
WSA CDCA-137

Upgrading of existing road to mine site.

Middle Park Canyon  
WSA CDCA-137A

Proposed new road partially in WSA for removal of existing mining tailings.

Middle Park Canyon  
WSA CDCA-137A

Upgrading of existing road to mine site.

Middle Park Canyon  
WSA CDCA-137A

Mining plan in the Panamint Range - exploratory drilling, upgrading road, road open to public.

Slate Range  
WSA CDCA-142

Drilling of five shallow exploratory holes in South Panamint Dry Lakebed.

Owens Peak  
WSA CDCA-158

Install, use, and maintain water system to residence on private property.

South Avawatz Mountains  
WSA CDCA-221A

Mining plan for repair of road and drilling of four exploration holes.

Soda Mountains  
WSA CDCA-242

Drilling of well and installation of windmill that will be painted a subdued color of brown.

North Providence Mountains  
WSA CDCA-263

A miner illegally built a 15-acre stockpile site and constructed/regraded 2.3 miles of road

Fort Piute  
WSA CDCA-267

An illegal 1.1 mile pipeline was constructed as a range improvement by an allotment lessee.

Palo Verde Mountains  
WSA CDCA-352

Placer mining operation would improve jeep trail and about 1,000 cubic yards of wash bottom sediments would be processed.

Indian Pass  
WSA CDCA-355

Mining from a discovery pit and repair of road.

Picacho Peak  
WSA CDCA-355A

Two illegal roads bulldozed by miners.

### SUSANVILLE DISTRICT

Five Springs  
WSA 020-609

Range improvement projects would allow three fences totaling 8.2 miles for grazing management.

Dry Valley Rim  
WSA 020-615

Diamondback Enduro motorcycle race would allow 150-250 riders to enter WSA for 4.5 miles.

Twin Peaks  
WSA 020-619A

Fence crossing Smoke Creek to protect riparian vegetation from cattle grazing.

### UKIAH DISTRICT

King Range  
WSA 050-112

Sandblast and repaint Punta Gorda Lighthouse.

Big Butte portion of Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness  
WSA 050-211

Placement of four range monitoring cages for grazing purposes.



# Welcome to the 1985 California Wilderness

## Tentative Agenda

### Friday

#### A TIME TO WORK Expanding Foundations

- 5:00 Convention Center open for booth and display set-up
- 7:15 Registration begins
- 8:00 1st Workshop sessions
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 2nd Workshop sessions
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30 3rd Workshop sessions
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 4th Workshop sessions
- 6:00 Dinner Break
- 7:00 Slide presentations begin
- 7:45 Welcoming remarks  
Ardis Walker sonnets  
"The Wheeled Locusts"
- 9:00 Music and slide shows

### Saturday

#### A TIME TO CELEBRATE AND INFORM The Past and Present

- 7:00 Convention center opens
- 7:30 Registration begins  
Booths and displays
- 8:30 Welcome and announcements
- 9:00 The Desert
- 9:45 Desert workshops and panels
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Doug Scott
- 11:30 Senator Alan Cranston
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 1:15 Announcements and prizes
- 1:30 The Water
- 2:15 Water workshops and panels
- 2:45 The Forests
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 Ansel Adams - a lecture with slides by Mary Alinder
- 5:15 Congressman Richard Lehman
- 5:30 Kings River Wine & Cheese Tasting until 7:30
- Dinner Break
- 7:45 Ardis Walker - poet
- 8:15 "Conversation with a Tramp"
- 10:00 Informal social hour

### Sunday

#### A TIME ACT The Present and Future

- 7:00 Convention center opens
- 7:30 Registration begins
- 8:15 Welcome and announcements
- 8:30 "The Scent of Man"
- 9:00 Dave Foreman  
Earth First!
- 9:15 1st Workshop sessions
- 10:00 Brock Evans  
National Audubon Society
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Douglas Wheeler  
Sierra Club
- 11:00 2nd Workshop sessions
- 11:45 Martin Litton  
Grand Canyon Dories
- 12:00 David Brower  
Friends of the Earth
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30 3rd Workshop sessions
- 2:20 Break
- 2:30 4th Workshop sessions
- 3:15 Ansel Adams exhibit at the College of the Sequoias
- 5:00 California Wilderness Conference ends



David R. Brower

#### KINGS RIVER WINETASTING

The Committee to Save the Kings River is having a winetasting on Saturday evening with Mark Dubois, founder of Friends of the River, as the honored guest. The tasting will be held in the Kings Room of the convention center. All attending the tasting will be able to wander about the convention center sipping wine and enjoying the exhibits.

The winetasting is scheduled

for Saturday, October 26, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Congressman Richard Lehman will be speaking at the conference just prior to this event. The cost is \$20.00. More than twenty wineries have donated to this fundraising event. All proceeds will go to the Committee to Save the Kings River for their efforts to protect the Kings River in our National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

#### WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS

There are numerous workshops tentatively scheduled for the three-day conference. Two and four hour workshops will be offered on Friday for at least the first eleven topics listed. Other issues will be covered on the weekend.

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Wilderness But Were Afraid to Ask  
Environmental Reports Made Easy  
All About Forest Planning  
Political Strategy  
Triple Strategy: Administrative, Legislative, and Judicial  
River Conflicts and River Protection Strategies  
Tuolumne River Success Story  
Wild and Scenic Rivers: the Kern, Merced, and Kings  
How To Use Radio and Television

Desert Protection Strategies  
How To Make Maps Work  
Deep Ecology  
Wilderness Management Issues  
To Drink or Not To Drink - Giardia is the Question  
Stock Packing in the Wilderness  
Geothermal Issues and Wilderness  
Wilderness Recreation  
Giant Sequoia Management  
Peppermint Ski Area Proposal  
The California Condor  
Mono Lake  
Riparian Forests and the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo  
Mojave National Park  
The Wild Inyo Mountains  
Saving the Spotted Owl  
Adopt-A-Desert-Wilderness  
Off-Road Vehicles  
Interim Management and the Degradation of Wilderness Study Areas

#### RAFFLE PRIZES

Throughout the conference, numerous prizes will be awarded for lucky raffle ticket buyers. This also will be a sneaky way of getting folks back into the main hall after breaks and meals so that we don't get behind schedule.

Forks of the Kern Raft Trip  
American River Raft Trip

King River Raft trip  
REI Mountain Dome Tent  
youth Scholarship to a Camp  
Whale Watch Trip  
\$300 of Video Service  
Sporting Equipment  
Books  
Dinners  
Lunches  
and much more!



# Conference

## Sponsors

*California Wilderness Coalition*

*Recreational Equipment, Inc.*

*The Wilderness Press*

*Tulare County Audubon Society*

*Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club*

Harriet Allen	Evelyn Ashton
Bob Barnes	Ed Berger
Martha Betcher	Eleanor Campbell
Richard Cochran	Come Together
Jim Dodson	Edna Fiore
Earl Giddings	Katherine Gould-Martin
William Hauser	Mary Ann Henry
Ron Henry	Bob Lindsay
Mike McWherter	Caroline Moranda
Jim Sellers	Jo Stallard

Steve Stocking

Bob Schneider, Contractor

Genny Smith, Genny Smith Books

Wilderness Subcommittee, S.F. Bay Chapter, Sierra Club

## Booths

California Wilderness Coalition  
California Native Plant Society -  
Kern County Chapter  
Citizens for Mojave National Park  
Coalition for Ventura Co. Wilderness  
Come Together  
Committee to Save the Kings River  
Desert Protective Council  
Earth First!  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the River  
Genny Smith Books  
Debra Hansen, Craig Hansen -  
Photography, Art  
Keith Hansen - Art  
High Sierra Stock Users Association  
Kaweah Group - Sierra Club  
Kern-Kaweah Chapter - Sierra Club

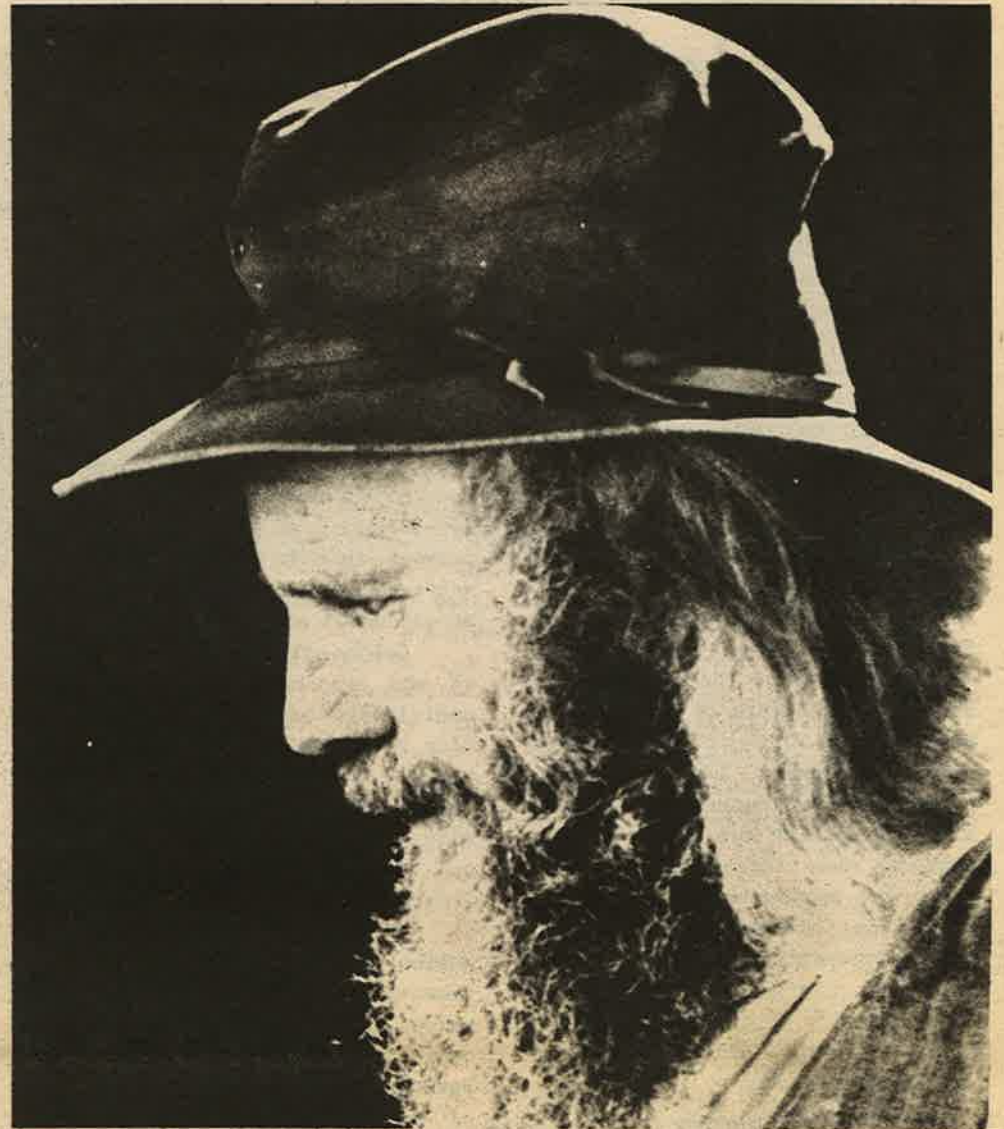
Kern Plateau Association  
Kern Valley Wildlife Association  
Merced Canyon Committee  
Mineral King Group - Sierra Club  
Mono Lake Committee  
The Nature Conservancy  
Peppermint Alert  
Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
Sequoia Natural History Association  
South Sierra Research Foundation  
Tulare County Audubon Society  
Ardis and Gayle Walker  
Wilderness Committee - Angeles  
Chapter, Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Press  
Wilderness Subcommittee - Bay  
Chapter, Sierra Club  
Yosemite Natural History Assn.



Booths at the 1978 Wilderness Conference

Photo by Alan R. Houser

# October 25-27, 1985



*An Evening with John Muir*

## Conversation with a Tramp

Conference visitors will not want to miss meeting John Muir on Saturday evening.

A one-man performance, entitled "Conversation with a Tramp - An Evening with John Muir," is the creation of professional actor/director Lee Stetson and is drawn from Muir's books, articles, and unpublished journals. The production depicts Muir in his Martinez study in 1913 at the climax of his last great environmental battle -- to prevent the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National

Park.

"Before seeing Lee Stetson, I didn't think anyone could successfully impersonate John Muir," said Mary Hallesy of the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter. "Last summer at Yosemite, I attended three performances in a row and all were spellbinding. Each night, men and women were so affected that they wept unashamedly."

"Conversation with a Tramp" is being presented by Lee Stetson on behalf of the Merced Canyon Committee and the California Wilderness Coalition.

## Thankyou

The California Wilderness Coalition distributed information about the conference, Kings River wine and cheese tasting, and Ansel Adams exhibit at the Tulare County Fair. We would like to thank the following for their help with the exhibit at the fair - they did such a good job that CWC won the third prize award!

Justin Bach  
Carrie Bates  
David Collison  
Pam Coz-Hill  
Alan George  
Dan Green  
Mary Meisel  
Brian Newton  
Dick Smith  
Pat Valentine  
Sandy Weldy

Bob Barnes  
Fred Bennett  
Vicki Collison  
Diane Duckworth  
Joanne George  
Donnie Ludekens  
Mary Moy  
Karen Russell  
Teresa Stump  
Pete Vargas  
David Whitney



## Wilderness Wildlife

## The Golden Trout

by Dennis Coules

Perhaps the most brightly colored fish in North America, the golden trout is native only to the upper Kern River in Tulare and Kern counties, California. However, both fishermen and fish and game agencies have introduced this fish to numerous other streams and lakes throughout the western states, especially in the Sierra Nevada.

The taxonomy of the golden trout (*Salmo aguabonita*) is controversial and has been complicated by hybridization with rainbow trout introduced into the Kern River Basin and transfers of golden trout between different populations within the Basin. The golden trout originally was described as three distinct species but is now considered by many taxonomists to comprise two subspecies, *S.a. aguabonita* from Golden Trout Creek and the south fork of the Kern and *S.a. whitei*, the federally-listed "threatened" Little Kern golden trout from the Little Kern River and upper main Kern.

## LIFE HISTORY

Golden trout are high-elevation fish, occurring in cold water above 6800 feet in elevation. Like other salmonids, golden trout begin their existence as eggs laid in clear stream riffles where the water is highly oxygenated. A single female may lay between 200 and 2300 eggs which hatch in approxi-

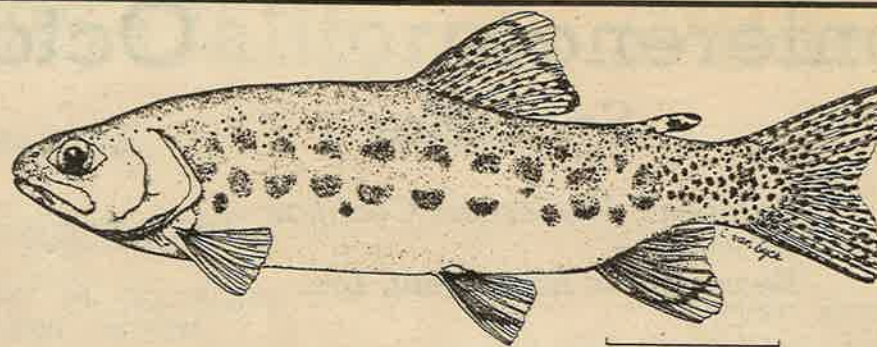
mately 20 days. The fry remain in the stream bed for two to three weeks after hatching; then they emerge and begin foraging for food.

Food for both juveniles and adults consists mostly of any invertebrates small enough to swallow. This includes aquatic insects, such as mayfly nymphs and caddisfly larvae, as well as terrestrial insects that have fallen into the water and aquatic crustaceans, such as ostracods and cladocerans.

Golden trout over five years of age are rare in streams, but individuals living in high-elevation lakes may live to six or seven years. The largest golden trout on record, caught in a lake in Wyoming, weighed over ten pounds and was 28 inches long, in contrast to a normal limit of about ten inches in stream-caught fish. However, golden trout populations cannot be successfully maintained in lakes unless inlet or outlet streams with gravel riffles suitable for spawning are present.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Although the entity popularly known as the "golden trout" will no doubt continue to prosper due to artificial rearing and stocking, the real conservation challenge is to maintain the distinct populations of golden trout found in its native Upper Kern Basin in perpetuity. The dual obstacles to this

Golden Trout, *Salmo aguabonita* Jordan

goal are physical and biological. Habitat degradation reduces the ability of the Basin to support fish life in general. Competition with introduced trout species and hybridization with introduced rainbow trout and possibly between transferred golden trout strains are menaces to the viability of the native populations.

Habitat degradation in the Upper Kern Basin of concern to golden trout management includes overgrazing, logging roads, and off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Cattle grazing, which has occurred in golden trout habitat for many decades, can both reduce the riparian vegetation (which is useful to maintain cool stream temperatures) and increase erosion and sedimentation, smothering eggs and developing fry in the riffle spawning beds. It also has been suggested that overgrazing has caused encroachment of lodgepole pine trees in meadows, lowering the water table (and thus trout habitat) by increased vegetative transpiration.

Poorly designed logging roads and ORVs have equivalent impacts on golden trout habitat in areas outside of designated wilderness — increased erosion and sedimentation, leading to reduced spawning

success. These threats could be reduced easily by responsible management by the U.S. Forest Service, including elimination of recreational ORV use and closure and revegetation of erosion-prone roads.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the survival of the golden trout subspecies and populations comes from past transfers and introductions of fish in the Basin. Before the advent of fish introductions by man, the only fish sharing the Upper Kern River Basin with the golden trout were the native Sacramento sucker and a possible subspecies of rainbow trout, *Salmo gairdneri gilberti*, which is thought by some taxonomists actually to be another subspecies of golden trout. The Sacramento sucker probably invaded the Basin much more recently than the ancestral golden trout (which presumably evolved there), so for thousands of years the trout may have developed in piscine isolation.

Now the golden trout shares its native habitat with the brook trout (introduced from eastern U.S.), brown trout (introduced from Europe), and various strains of rainbow trout (also native to California). Golden trout usually are unable to compete with brook trout and may disappear from areas where brook trout have been introduced.

However, hybridization with rainbow trout probably is the most serious threat to the golden's continued survival as a unique species. Because the golden trout evolved relatively recently, it hybridizes easily with the rainbow and in the process loses its distinct characteristics. Federal and state agencies have given a relatively high priority to maintenance and reestablishment of the distinct populations of golden trout, and we can hope that further introductions of exotic fish into their habitat will not be considered.

## FURTHER READING

Chief source for this article was *Inland Fishes of California*, Peter Moyle, 1976, U.C. Press, 405 pp.

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



Golden trout live in Whitney Meadows, part of the Golden Trout Wilderness Area

Photo by Martin Litton



## Book Review

## Promised Land: Adventures and Encounters in Wild America

Promised Land: Adventures and Encounters in Wild America by Michael Frome. Published by William Morrow & Company, New York. \$18.95 hardbound.

This is a fascinating book that deals less about wilderness and more about the people working to save the land. Each chapter is in a different wild place in with a different conservationist.

Some of the people, such as William O. Douglas and Sigurd Olson, are no longer with us. Others are relatively new to the struggle, such as W. Mitchell and Mark Dubois. Most of the characters are not known nationally, but instead they are representative of the grassroot leaders throughout our Nation fighting to save wild places.

I envy Frome for his extensive

travels. He writes about Alaska's Glacier Bay and Lake Clark. He wanders through the Maine Woods and along the Delaware River. He describes visits to the North Woods, the Yellowstone backcountry, and down the Colorado River. He talks about Saline Valley and other parts of the California desert.

Frome not only describes these wild places, but he brings out the personalities of his companions on these trips. Many interesting ideas come out of conversations he has with these people about protecting and managing wilderness areas. Martin Litton, for example, presents the view that "there will never be wilderness again until humans are gone, all of them gone, even thee and me, and allow the earth to heal itself."

Mark Dubois describes the

dilemma I face when buying new equipment: "When I go to backpack stores I see so much bright new plastic and nylon - we're trying to get away from it all and we're still so much a part of this culture. We still take all our little goodies when we go. A couple of years ago a bunch of my friends got together and they actually bought me a pair of cross-country ski boots...(and) skis. They knew I had never gone out and I was pleased they got me these waxless skis. In

the old days people had to play with waxes to the weather. I recognized that I missed something...Now I don't have to learn the different textures of snow."

Most of all, these conversations express the great love for the land each of these people has. Their knowledge, insights, and common belief that wild places must be preserved is a great inspiration. You will have a warm feeling after meeting Frome's friends.

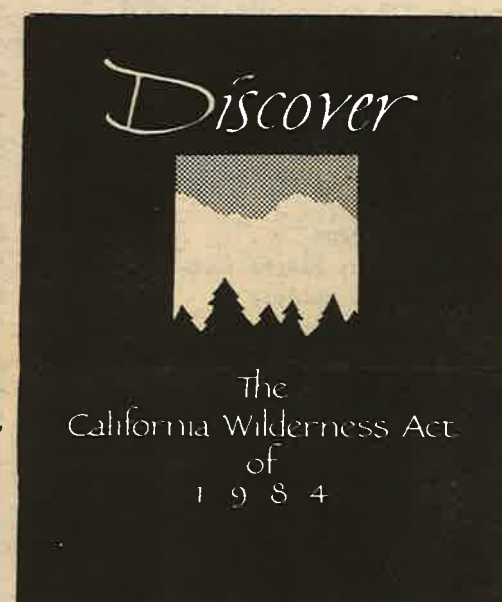
- Jim Eaton

## Discover the California Wilderness Act of 1984

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 is the subject of the California Wilderness Coalition's first book. The 48-page booklet describes the 25 new national forest wilderness areas and 14 additions to existing wilderness areas, the two new national park wildernesses, the wild and scenic Tuolumne River, and the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

It is a source book, not a trail guide. The wilderness areas are briefly described, the needed topographic maps are listed, and if trail guides exist they are mentioned. The address and telephone number of the federal agency managing each area is given, a useful feature with the new complicated wilderness permit system now in effect. The address of a local environmental group working in the region also is listed.

Discover the California Wilderness Act of 1984 was made possible by a grant from the Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) Environmental Committee. The booklet evolved from a search for a community project to commemorate the



tenth anniversary of REI's Berkeley store. The four California REI stores sell the booklet for \$5.95, with all proceeds coming to the Coalition.

If you cannot pick up a copy at REI, you may order directly from the Coalition. Just use the T-Shirt order form on Page 8, and be sure to add \$1.55 for tax, postage, and handling for a grand total of \$7.50.

## CWC T-Shirts

Come to the California Wilderness Conference wearing your T-shirt with the CWC logo of black mountains beneath a blue sky, with



yellow sand dunes in the foreground. KEEP IT WILD rings the top of the logo, with CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION beneath.

T-shirts are 100% double knit cotton. Regular T-shirts are available in white, yellow, tan, and blue in S, M, L, and XL. A limited number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white, pink, and power blue in women's S, M, and L.

T-shirts are \$8.00 to CWC members; \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). There is an order form on Page 8; clearly indicate if you want regular or French-cut, size, color, and a substitute color.

Please add \$1.25 postage; 75¢ for each additional T-shirt. They also are available at the Sierra Club's S.F. Bay Chapter bookstore in Oakland and at Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) stores throughout California.

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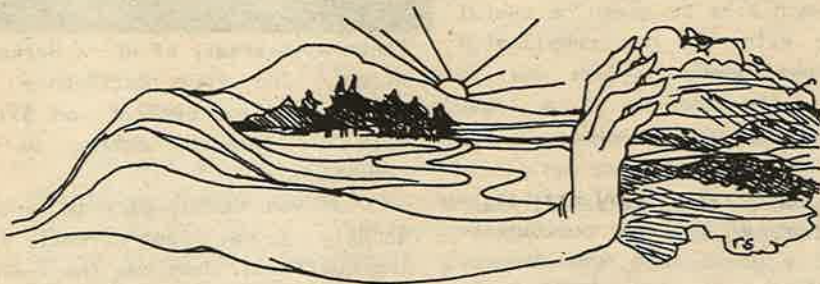
...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies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



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† tax deductible

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