



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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BLM Chastised for King Range ORV Plan

by Tim McKay

They wanted to pave paradise and put up a parking lot within a quarter mile of the beach in the King Range wilderness study area, or at least the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is intent on opening gravel roads and parking areas on the fragile coastal bluffs of that range.

And when it came time for the California Coastal Commission to pass judgement on whether or not such a plan was consistent with the purposes of the Coastal Act, a minor miracle occurred. A hoped for victory over off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the fragile King Range turned into a rout when the California Coastal Commission voted unanimously that the controversial BLM transportation plan was *not* consistent with the Coastal Act. Partisan politics apparently were put aside with Duekmejian commission appointee and Eureka City Councilman Tom McMurray leading the ten to zero vote against the BLM. McMurray said, "The commission doesn't want to make a mistake in the King Range. We would rather err — and I don't think it's an error — on the side of safety and protection than to make a mistake."

Considering the poor climate for making much dramatic headway at the policy level these days, it came as a very pleasant and glorious surprise to have the Coastal Commission slap BLM on the wrist for proposing to allow vehicle traffic down to the fragile

coastal slopes and bluffs south of the mouth of the Mattole River in the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA).

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors got so upset about the Coastal Commission vote that they voted a second time to endorse a Reagan-appointed BLM advisory council recommendation that Congress designate only 14,000 acres of more than 50,000 of the King Range as wilderness. Their original vote came in June of 1985. The Board essentially supports a small number of ranchers in the area who fear that too much wilderness will lead to a decrease in predator control. However, one of the area's largest ranchers, Joe Russ IV, chaired BLM's advisory council and was the only person to favor less wilderness than BLM rather than more wilderness at two local hearings in 1985.

To date all the public testimony has run heavily in favor of a large wilderness for the King Range. Comment letters received on the proposed transportation plan likewise overwhelmingly supported exclusion of vehicles from the beaches and other old dirt roads, including the Smith-Etter, Johnny Jack Ridge, Windy Point, and the King Range roads. Many of these roads were formerly private and lead to ranches in the area that have now become part of the KRNCA.

At issue in opening the roads are



The King Range beach stretches south from the Mattole River

Photo by Sam Camp

the congressionally mandated wilderness study, the effects of increased traffic on the fragile coastal bluffs and beaches, wildlife, and sensitive archaeological sites, some of which go back more than 2,000 years.

Katy Roscoe, who has done archaeological research in the KRNCA, told the Coastal Commission that too many vehicles lead to site damage and presented the facts in spite of pressure from commission chair, Michael Wornum, to limit testimony. The

commission, after delaying the hearing on the transportation plan issue from the Los Angeles meeting to the Eureka Meeting and then from Wednesday to Thursday, found little more than 20 minutes to hear from several who had gone to great pains to prepare extensive testimony and displays for the state panel.

The commission received comments from as far away as Washington, D.C. in the form of a

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Court Again Says No G-O

After reconsidering for a year, an appeals court has confirmed its decision to block completion of the controversial Gasquet-Orleans (G-O) Road on environmental and civil rights grounds.

The decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the position of the plaintiffs, including the Northcoast Environmental Center, who argued that Forest Service road building and logging in the headwaters of Blue Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River, was unconstitutional.

Judicial review of the evidence and the briefs submitted by the Forest Service did little to sway the original

opinion, which held that the G-O Road and associated logging near "prayer seats" in the high country of the Siskiyou Mountains would violate the First Amendment religious rights of three Native American tribes.

The court also held that the Forest Service could not show any compelling public interest in completing the final six-mile stretch of road, and that many other multiple uses such as fisheries, wildlife, and protection of water quality were compatible with Indian religious use of the high country.

One judge on the three-member panel did dissent on the First Amend-

ment issue because much of the land in question has been put by Congress into the Siskiyou Wilderness and thus is precluded from logging.

On the environmental issues, however, there was no dissent. All agreed that since 1972, when Six Rivers National Forest began development plans for the Eight-Mile and Blue Creek watersheds, its decision-making process had violated several federal laws.

In effect, the court held that the Forest Service was trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the public and the judges by arguing that increased sediment loads and other impacts to water quality could not be predicted —

and therefore quantified — and so had received adequate discussion.

It also said that a Forest Service promise to adhere to so-called "best management practices" did not automatically guarantee that state water quality standards were being met. The evidence was to the contrary, the court found.

The Forest Service has 90 days to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which may choose to hear the case or let the appellate decision stand.

The 38-page appeals court decision is available for study at the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.

- Tim McKay

ECONEWS, August 1986

COALITION REPORT

by Jim Eaton

I tend to work best under the pressure of impossible deadlines, so I outdid myself by deciding to do this issue of the *Wilderness Record* on the new MacIntosh. There will be better things to come, but this issue is a start.

In order to make things more interesting, I even switched word processing and data base programs four days before heading to the printer. It was a long weekend.

The key to this "desktop publishing" is the handy Laserwriter down the hall that the Coalition can use courtesy of Ag Access, a mail order company selling agricultural books. Both text and headlines are done on their printer, although at present the machine will do anything you want as long as it is in either Times or Helvetica type styles.

Apple did give us a head start by three days of training on the Mac at their headquarters in Cupertino. The other members of the Western Wilderness Network were there: Bob Fulkerson of Nevada's Citizen Alert, Rick Johnson from the Idaho Conservation League, Andy Kerr with the Oregon Natural Resources Council, and Nancy Boulton of the Washington Wilderness Coalition. Those were three days I'll never forget.

This issue also shows the advantages of communicating by computer. Eight of the articles were sent via Econet [see accompanying article], resulting in the very latest information hitting the front page. Steve Evans also tried to send his update on forest planning by electronic mail, but the gremlins blocked the attempt

and ate his files too. Keep trying, Steve.

I had my own moment of panic when I lost a forest plan that I needed for an article. This is akin to losing the Los Angeles telephone directory, including the yellow pages. It even resulted in a partial cleanup of the office before it surfaced at the bottom (of course) of a four-foot stack of this summer's environmental documents and plans.



Sketch by Tom Jopson

Pawing through the mound of papers I discovered that we have been overlooking several of our member groups in the past few issues of the *Record*. Our apologies to the Environmental Protection Information Center of Garberville and the Committee to Save the Kings River. Also a warm welcome to our newest member group, the El Dorado Audubon Society.

UPDATE

Cross Forest ORV Trails Planned by Eldorado & Stanislaus Forests

California National Forests continue to reach for the pot of gold available from the State for off-road vehicle (ORV) trails and facilities. The latest forests to succumb are the Eldorado and Stanislaus.

The funds available are known as "green sticker" money collected by the State from ORV users and from gasoline taxes. Money has been collecting in this fund faster than it can be spent. For federal agencies that have been facing yearly budget reductions, the State's money is quite attractive.

The Stanislaus forest is spending \$65,000 just to look at the feasibility of constructing a route for ORVs that would traverse the forest from north to south. The preliminary route crosses roadless areas, wild river corridors, and

other "protected" lands. This study is being conducted despite the fact that the forest plan does not address this proposal. Public comment on the draft forest plan ended last April.

The Eldorado forest is beginning its study even before releasing its draft forest plan. The forest plan will begin its public review period in late August.

Conservationists are concerned that expanding the use of ORVs will drive away equestrians and hikers. They also are concerned about the impacts vehicles have on bald eagle populations, soil erosion, stream crossings, and archeological sites.

One issue the Forest Service deemed outside the scope of this project was the issue that ORV use should be totally banned from public lands.

Communicating with ECONET

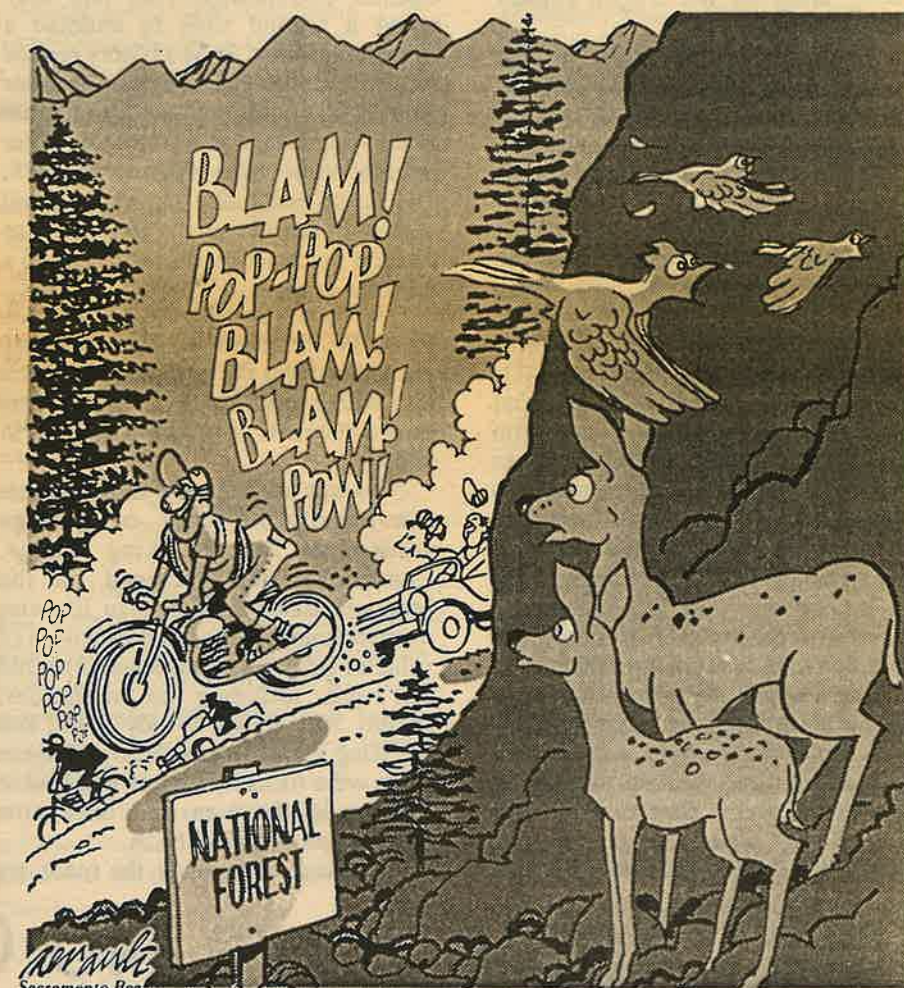
What does the California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Northcoast Environmental Center, the Forest Issues Task Force, and over 30 other environmental groups have in common? In addition to their concern for the wild places they all use ECONET, a data communications network created especially for environmental organizations.

ECONET was launched in 1983 with a grant from the Apple Computer corporation to evaluate microprocessor-based communication technologies and is now an international network with over 200 users in half a dozen countries. This exciting network is used exclusively by non-profit and academic institutions involved with issues of environmental protection, sustainable development, and disaster relief.

Because cost-benefit analyses have not been circulated outside of the corporate information systems management community, its use by the non-profit community is a recent phenomenon. Yet we know data telecommunications are rapid, convenient, and less

expensive than either telex or telephone. Some of the reasons behind the interest in data communications include: elimination of telephone tag; the elimination of the transcription and mailing labor and materials process; improved meeting preparation; immediate distribution of priority decisions; and improved up-to-date status reporting.

The ECONET system consists of multiple bulletin boards covering a diverse range of topics such as a file storage and retrieval utility, conferencing, and mail messaging. The network is reached using any type of personal computer, a modem, a telecommunications software program and conventional telephone circuits. Users dial the closest network access number (there are over 50 scattered throughout California alone) and then enter their individual account name and password. ECONET is very easy to use as all of its commands are automatically displayed to the user in the form of screen menus. Examples of the kinds of information one can expect to find on



'I guess that's evolution. For a long time, humans walked on two feet but then they developed motors and wheels.'

Cartoon by Dennis Renault, courtesy of the *Sacramento Bee*

ECONET include a conference on the issue of nuclear power plant safety, a bulletin announcing an upcoming national conference on environmental education, and a conference where environmentalists in Japan and the U.S. get to know one another. ECONET users can, via a single transaction, send a confidential message to their associates or broadcast an information

request to the entire network.

To establish an account on ECONET costs \$15 per month. If you wish to sample the ECONET service please request a free introductory account. Contact: ECONET, Farallones Institute, 15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental, CA 95465; (707) 874-3060.

- Christian Stalberg

NEWS BRIEFS

RARE IV: Roadless Area Roads and Eradication?

These are hard budget years for national parks, recreation, trails maintenance, fish and wildlife habitat protection, land acquisition and other environmental programs. At the same time all federal land management

agencies are being asked to tighten their belts, there is one very significant and highly environmentally destructive program that is being force-fed extra taxpayers' dollars.

The Reagan administration has

requested \$178 million in fiscal year 1987 to build thousands of miles of new roads and reconstruct existing roads. Many of these roads destroy potential wilderness, obliterate hiking trails, and disturb wildlife habitat. They are unnecessary and expensive. Some are being built specifically to disqualify roadless areas from future wilderness consideration.

The committee, at the behest of Senators McClure (Idaho) and Hatfield (Oregon), upped the road-building ante by \$75 million. This brings the grand total to a whopping \$253 million.

But they didn't stop there. In an alarming move, the Appropriations Committee added language in the committee report directing the Forest Service to "inventory roadless areas nationwide that should be entered and to provide for such entry as is appropriate at this time." The report further states, "As the Committee's recommended timber program does not fully recognize the need to begin accessing currently unroaded areas, the Committee has recommended additional funding for

advance road preparation work, which will *preserve the option* [emphasis added] of continuing the current sales program into future years."

What the Committee doesn't say is that by "preserving the option", they are precluding the option of future wilderness designations — the true motive. In addition, the Committee also directs the Forest Service to "access" released lands. In California, "released" lands are those lands which are roadless, but which failed to be designated as wilderness in the California Wilderness Act. Many of these "released" lands are areas the California Wilderness Coalition is still working to protect.

Conservationists are seeking a \$67 million reduction in the Forest Roads Program as proposed by the Reagan administration (\$178 million). This would eliminate the unnecessary roads for the next fiscal year. If we can achieve this reduction it will result in the protection of thousands of acres of prime wildlife habitat and wild country.

Kern Bill Languishes in Senate

Four of the seven candidates for Wild and Scenic River designation included in legislation approved by the House in April will be the subject of hearings this August by the Senate Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee.

Subcommittee chair Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) has scheduled hearings on individual bills that would protect Louisiana's Saline Bayou, Mississippi's Black Creek, Idaho's Henry Fork River, and New Jersey's Great Egg Harbor River. Markups in July by the full Energy and Natural Resources Committee resulted in the release of two river bills, Colorado's Cache la Poudre and the Farmington River in Connecticut and Massachusetts, so that only California's Kern River awaits any action by the Senate.

Legislation for the Kern, S. 2544, was introduced by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA), but it has been stalled in subcommittee due to the reluctance of fellow California senator Pete Wilson (R) to take a position. While Wilson has not opposed it, his noncommittal stance has prevented movement on the bill. Chairman Wallop may not act on Cranston's request for hearings until

Wilson makes his position clear.

One of the seven rivers included in the wild rivers package passed by the House on April 8, the Kern is located in California's southern Sierra, and 151 miles of its north and south forks have been nominated for protection. It is the closest wild river for many recreationists in the southwest U.S., and although there are no active dam proposals for the Kern, mining and development, as well as increasing recreational use, threaten to overtax the river's resources. Wild and Scenic River status would not only prohibit dams, but mandate development of a management plan to resolve river use conflicts.

Wilson continues to meet with both proponents and opponents of protection for the Kern, but time in the congressional calendar is becoming scarce. Conservationists are concerned that unless Wilson moves to support S. 2544 soon, there simply won't be enough time to move it through committee and the Senate floor. If not, new legislation will have to be introduced in both the House and Senate in the next Congress.

- National News Report
Sierra Club

Are We Not Friends of Monache?

The Forest Service must believe the only people interested in Monache Meadows in the Sequoia National Forest are off-road vehicle (ORV) users. Certainly their management of this area demonstrates this. This month, however, they went one step further. Notice of a proposed plan (euphemistically addressed to "Friends of Monache") to build two new ORV trails in Monache Meadows and reconstruct others was apparently only sent to four-wheel drive and motorcycle clubs. Conservationists with years of attention to and interest in Monache Meadows (and on the Forest Service mailing list) never received the notice.

The Forest Service is proposing:

"(a) Reconstruction of existing four-wheel drive and motorbike trails. . .

(b) Construction of new four-wheel drive roads and motorbike trails to eliminate dead ends created by wilderness boundaries and avoid wet meadows."

The deadline for public comment, according to Jim Arasim, District Ranger for the Inyo National Forest,

was August 21. The Forest Service is seeking thoughts on "modifying, adding or deleting routes." These comments will be used in the preparation of the environmental analysis.

While the ORV plan does have some merit in trying to prevent ORV use in the wilderness, it does not go far enough.

Monache Meadows is surrounded on three sides by the Golden Trout Wilderness. There are no barriers presently erected to keep ORVs from entering the wilderness and all roads lead to the wilderness. There are no rangers present, with any consistency, to prevent illegal ORV use. It is questionable whether the proposal to "reconstruct" existing trails will work. Many trails simply should not be used! The meadow is too fragile.

Your letter is needed to comment on this ORV plan for Monache Meadows. Please ask the Forest Service to include your comments as part of the environmental analysis. Be sure to mention:

Kings River Dam Study

In early August it was discovered that a harmless-looking amendment to the 300-page budget bill was in fact a blank check for federal funding of proposed dam projects on California's Kings River. Engineered by local representative Charles "Chip" Pashayan (R-CA), the amendment was introduced by Rep. Arlan Stangeland (R-MN) and made no specific reference to the Kings River.

Once the move was discovered,

proponents of Rep. Richard Lehman's (D-CA) legislation to protect the Kings by designating it as part of the Wild and Scenic River System moved quickly to stop the amendment in the House Rules Committee. There Rep. Sala Burton (D-CA) will attempt to substitute a budget bill without the amendment; if unsuccessful, the fight will move to the House floor.

- Susan Lefever
Friends of the River



Monache Meadows: ORV Playground or wilderness?

Photo by Tim Sherburn

(1) Prohibit ORVs from crossing the Kern River into the area adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness. The Kern River is an easily identifiable boundary between areas open and closed to ORV use.

(2) Oppose the new trail proposed around Monache Mountain.

(3) Oppose the new trail proposed below Kingfisher Ridge.

(4) Ask the Forest Service to repair ORV damage in the Golden Trout wilderness. The Forest Service must

not just rehabilitate lands in the non-wilderness of Monache Meadows. How about rehabilitation in the areas where ORVs don't even belong — the Golden Trout Wilderness?

(5) Request the Forest Service to have adequate ranger enforcement in Monache Meadows to prevent illegal use by ORVs.

Please write today to: Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer, Mt. Whitney Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Plan

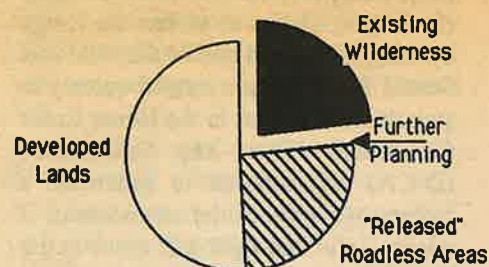
Roadless Areas Will Disappear as Trees Fall

Many people visit the Shasta-Trinity National Forests to hike in the wilderness found there: the Trinity Alps, Mt. Shasta, Castle Crags, Chancelulla, and the northern part of the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wilderness area. But if the Forest Service has its way, that's all the wilderness you'll ever see there.

The Shasta-Trinity forest plan is a monument to roadless area destruction. Fifty percent of the de facto wilderness still remaining would be devoted to intensive resource management. More than half the forest would become "significantly modified," primarily influenced by even-aged management of timber. Clearcutting will be used 94 percent of the time, with cuts ranging from five to 60 acres. An average of 8,000 acres per year would be "regenerated" [logged] in the next ten years.

In Forest Service lingo, their preferred alternative "portrays the Forests as capable of supporting a combination of high sustained yields of market and non-market outputs, goods, and services. Resources would be intensively managed within at least the

Shasta-Trinity National Forest



minimum requirements of multiple-use forest management. In addition, some visually sensitive public use areas

would be managed to provide somewhat natural appearing landscapes and some are managed to provide landscapes dominated by management activities."

Sounds sort of like a tree farm, eh?

As a result of the compromises made in the California Wilderness Act of 1984, only one further planning area remained for a wilderness study in this forest plan. The 9,246-acre Mt. Eddy roadless area is located on the main divide between the Sacramento and Trinity river watersheds, just seven miles west of Mt. Shasta City.

According to the Forest Service, "the Mt. Eddy area is the last remaining area of undeveloped subalpine area along the Eddy Range. All other areas have now been logged and are completely roaded." The area is known for its rare plants. The Forest Service proposes to log this de facto wilderness, intensively graze it, allow off-road vehicles, and consider a downhill ski development.

About the only bright spot is a plan to recommend an additional 39.3 miles of wild rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The proposal also would suggest 5.2 miles be classified as scenic and 10.5 miles as recreational. These designations would be for the McCloud, Sacramento, North Fork and South Fork Trinity River, and Virgin Creek.

Needless to say, conservationists are busy developing a Conservation Alternative to the destruction alternatives offered by the Forest Service. This alternative will be mailed to Coalition members this fall in a Wilderness Alert.

Comments on the plan are due November 17th and should be sent to:

Robert R. Tyrrel, Forest Supervisor
Shasta-Trinity National Forests
2400 Washington Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

Wilderness Areas				
	Castle Crags	8961 acres		
	Chanchelulla	8315 acres		
	Mt. Shasta	36615 acres		
	Trinity Alps	398084 acres		
	Yolla Bolly - Middle Eel	36437 acres		
Further Planning Areas				
ROADLESS AREA	1984 ACREAGE	1986 ACREAGE	PROPOSED FOR Acres	DEVELOPMENT Percentage
Mt. Eddy	9600	9246	9246	100
"Released" Roadless Areas				
ROADLESS AREA	1984 ACREAGE	1986 ACREAGE	PROPOSED FOR Acres	DEVELOPMENT Percentage
Backbone	14700	14029	12277	88
Bell-Quimby B	?	13031	11370	87
Bonanza King	20136	20136	17569	87
Castle Crags B	?	2007	1806	90
Chanchelulla	?	3752	3452	92
China Spring B	?	886	842	95
Chinquapin	22454	22454	10663	47
Cow Creek	23963	22525	13575	60
Devils Rock	17516	17516	9089	52
Dog Creek	5899	5899	4190	71
Eagle	7373	7373	5630	76
East Beegum	8600	8019	6817	85
East Fork	6484	6484	3417	53
East Girard	43758	43758	35334	81
Fisher Gulch A	?	411	341	83
Fisher Gulch B	?	4684	4068	87
Kettle Mountain	9300	9079	6944	76
Mt. Shasta B	?	3872	3640	94
Murphy Glade	?	1056	898	85
Panther	12700	11160	9937	89
Pattison	29866	29866	26117	87
Penney Ridge	5400	5229	3023	58
Salt Gulch	6524	6524	5481	84
Slate Creek	7039	7039	6336	90
South Fork	17783	17783	6488	36
Underwood	?	3391	2882	85
Wells Mountain	9237	6677	5819	87
West Beegum	5300	5188	4410	85
West Girard	42568	42568	16827	40
"Released" totals		342396	239242	70
? = Acreage Unknown				



Logging continues on Mt. Shasta

Photo by Phil Rhodes

Cleveland and Toiyabe Final Plans Under Appeal

As of August, two forest plans affecting California have been released. Both have been appealed by conservationists.

The California Wilderness Coalition has joined the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and the Lahontan Audubon Society in appealing the Toiyabe National Forest plan. Although the plan was better than most for wildlands in California, the roadless areas in Nevada would be devastated. The Coalition joined the appeal to protect

our interests in the Carson-Iceberg, Hoover, Sweetwater, and Excelsior roadless areas.

The Cleveland forest plan has been appealed by the Sierra Club's Southern California Regional Conservation Committee and the San Diego Chapter. Montague D. Griffin also has filed an appeal of this plan. The Sierra Club's appeal seeks protection of the Sill Hill roadless area. Mr. Griffin's appeal is much broader and is on behalf of recreationists and wilderness users.

Los Padres National Forest Plan

Wilderness, ORVs, Oil, and Gas

What a difference timber makes. Only one half of one percent of the Los Padres National Forest is considered suitable timber land. Currently, the only demand for this wood is as firewood, some 3,400 cords per year.

As a result, 87 percent of the forest remains roadless today. More than 423,000 acres currently are preserved as

wilderness, and the Forest Service is proposing to protect an additional 193,000 acres. The Big Sur River, and portions of the Sisquoc River and Sespe Creek are proposed for Wild River status. That's the good news.

The bad news is that 60 percent of the roadless lands in the forest will not be preserved as wilderness. Phosphate

mining could be allowed on 65 percent of the forest, geothermal exploration on 65 percent of the land, oil and gas leasing on 56 percent, and locatable minerals on 50 percent. Firewood cutting would be increased by 82 percent, grazing by 38 percent, and off-road vehicle use also would be encouraged.

The Los Padres National Forest stretches along the California coast from Monterey to Los Angeles. The Mediterranean climate is characterized by wet, cool winters and warm, dry summers, with 95 percent of annual precipitation falling between November and April.

Various types of chaparral cover 68 percent of the forest. Pinyon and juniper woodland dominate another 13 percent. Other vegetation types include mixed evergreen, oak woodland, conifer forest, and grassland.

Despite having 18 roadless areas released from further wilderness study by the California Wilderness Act of 1984, 19 further planning areas survived to be considered for wilderness in the forest plan. The largest de facto wilderness in California, the 330,000-acre Sespe-Frazier roadless area, is the centerpiece of this complex of wild land.

Sespe-Frazier is one of the four new wilderness areas proposed, but only 41 percent is proposed for designation. While 30,107 acres of the 34,216-acre Matilija roadless area is recommended for wilderness, just 52 percent of the 22,120-acre Garcia Mountain roadless area and 27 percent of the 60,241-acre La Brea roadless area are proposed for protection.

None of the other 15 roadless areas is being proposed for wilderness.

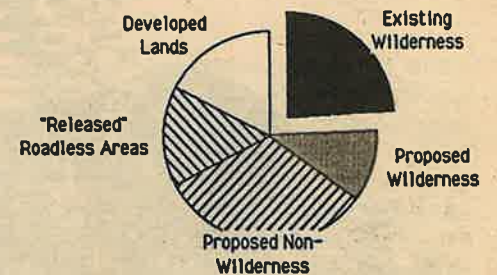
The wild river recommendations include 7.4 miles of the Big Sur River (entirely within the Ventana Wilderness), 31 miles of the Sisquoc River (entirely within the San Rafael Wilderness), and 26 miles of Sespe Creek (within the Sespe-Frazier roadless area and much of this stretch inside the Sespe Condor Sanctuary). None of the Piru River was recommended for designation, and other streams like the Little Sur River were not studied.

Local conservationists are preparing a Conservation Alternative which will incorporate a plan not offered by the Forest Service in any of its alternatives. They do recognize that this plan has some good recommendations, such as proposed research natural areas, botanical areas, and geological areas, and a prescribed burning program. The wilderness and wild river recommendations, although not as good as they should be, are better than most forest plans to date.

Comments should be sent by October 30th to:

Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest
6144 Calle Real
Goleta, California 93117

Los Padres National Forest



Wilderness Areas

Dick Smith	70815 acres
Machesna Mtn.	18871 acres
San Rafael	150920 acres
Santa Lucia	18670 acres
Ventana	164140 acres

Total
423,416

Further Planning Areas

ROADLESS AREA	1986 ACREAGE	PROPOSED WILDERNESS
Antimony	41187	0
Bear Canyon	14691	0
Bear Mountain	20929	0
Big Rocks	12094	0
Black Butte	22042	0
Black Mountain	16825	0
Diablo	19820	0
Dry Lakes	17270	0
Garcia Mountain	22120	11607
Horseshoe Springs	13812	0
La Brea	60241	16516
La Panza	5147	0
Little Pine	875	0
Los Machos Hills	11984	0
Matilija	34216	30107
Quatal	7595	0
Sawmill-Badlands	88980	0
Sespe-Frazier	330073	135346
Stanley Mountain	15522	0
TOTALS	755423	193576

"Released" Roadless Areas

ROADLESS AREA	1986 ACREAGE	PROPOSED WILDERNESS
Camuesa	7200	0
Chalk Peak	7100	0
Condor Point	17200	0
Cuyama	19000	0
De La Guerra	5700	0
Fox Mountain	51300	0
Juncal	11500	0
Machesna Mtn.	12829	0
Malduce-Buck. B	14000	0
Miranda Pine	12800	0
Mono	29200	0
Nordhoff	12000	0
Santa Cruz	21200	0
Silver Peak	15500	0
Spoor Canyon	12300	0
Tepusquet Peak	5400	0
Tequipis	8700	0
White Ledge	18700	0
TOTALS	281629	0

total roadless + wild = 1460468



Lopez Canyon in the Santa Lucia Wilderness Area

Photo by Phil Farrell

Status of National Forest Plans

NATIONAL FOREST	DRAFT EIS	FINAL EIS
Angeles	completed	under preparation
Cleveland	completed	6/86 [under appeal]
Eldorado	8/86	—
Klamath	1/87	—
Lake Tahoe Basin	completed	under preparation
Lassen	deadline 9/8/86	comments under review
Los Padres	deadline 10/30/86	comments under review
Mendocino	9/86	—
Modoc	1/87	—
Plumas	completed	under preparation
San Bernardino	deadline 8/25/86	comments under review
Sequoia	completed	under preparation
Shasta-Trinity	deadline 11/17/86	comments under review
Sierra	8/86	—
Six Rivers	1/87	—
Stanislaus	completed	under preparation
Tahoe	completed	under preparation
Toiyabe	completed	6/86 [under appeal]



Jedediah Smith Historic Trail

What's longer than the Smith River and older than Ronald Reagan, but younger than the hills and doesn't really exist?

If you guessed the Jedediah Smith National Historic Trail you're probably psychic — at least.

But such a trail proposal has been released to the public in a draft form as part of the National Park Service's (NPS) responsibility to comply with a 1983 amendment to the National Trails Act.

The Park Service hasn't exactly given lots of public notice about the draft document, and the comment period on it ends on August 31.

The amendment required the NPS to study the potential for creating a national trail over the routes followed by Jed Smith and his fellow fur trappers when he wandered west from Southern Idaho, through Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and into California on two expeditions

in 1826 and 1828.

During the last loop he came through the watershed on the North Coast of California that bears his name. On the last trip he barely made it to Fort Vancouver with his life, having lost 16 members of his 19-member party.

The Park Service says that the Smith trail is a fairly cold one to follow and as such is recommending against the creation of a national trail over its course, but that is something you might want to decide for yourself.

Requests for copy of the draft or to extend the comment period should go to Mr. Dan Olson, Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, 450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063, San Francisco CA 94102.

—Tim McKay
Northcoast Environmental Center

Coastal Commission Raps BLM

Continued from Page 1

letter and other supporting material on the hazards of rampant ORVs from Katy Miller Johnson, widow of former area Congressman Clem Miller who died in a plane crash in 1962. Miller sponsored the first legislation seeking protection for the King Range in the early 1960s, which finally passed in 1970.

BLM area manager John Lloyd was given the opportunity to rebut the statements against allowing ORVs in the area, which included several comments that the BLM does not have enough staff to keep ORVs out. Lloyd said those who would violate the regulations will do so whether the gate

is four miles or a half mile from the beach, a comment which earned a rebuke from Chairman Wornum.

The BLM approved a controversial transportation plan last fall and it is now under appeal by the Northcoast Environmental Center, California Wilderness Coalition, Environmental Protection Information Center, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. The appeal currently is before the Interior Department's Board of Land Appeals. BLM has requested a second extension of time (until September 5th) to respond to the appellants' arguments.

Tim McKay is the director of the Northcoast Environmental Center and a member of the CWC's Advisory Board.

Hydro Project Moves Along in Pit River WSA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is processing an application to allow right-of-way to a hydroelectric project that would significantly affect the proposed Pit River Canyon Wilderness. This wilderness study area (WSA) is one of the few outside the California Desert that BLM has found suitable for wilderness designation.

Although the construction would be outside the WSA, the project would remove water from the Pit River

upstream of the proposed wilderness and return it downstream. An environmental assessment apparently has been written for the project, but environmentalists have yet to see it.

BLM also is considering land exchanges outside and within the WSA. Although recognizing that public lands within the WSA cannot be exchanged until Congress decides on the wilderness issue, BLM is expressing support for the trade.

State Claims BLM Timberlands

The state has added a new wrinkle to management plans for hundreds of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) scattered tracts in northwestern California by claiming the federal government owes that land to California on behalf of education.

The State Lands Commission (SLC) is citing land law in effect during the westward expansion which provided that one section (one square mile, or 640 acres) be granted to the states for public education for each 36-section township.

The same section — section 16 — was to be granted from each township, though in practice a lot of this acreage was developed as mining claims, homesteads, military bases, and the like.

Now the SLC says the U.S. owes it 52,000 acres, and wants much of the BLM's scattered parcels. In northwestern California, these tracts consist of more than 270 forested parcels, averaging 120 acres each, collectively called "Sustained Yield Unit 13."

The scattered tracts plus timberlands in the King Range equal about 48,000 acres, currently managed by the agency to maintain the land's old-growth forest characteristics.

Some of these forest "islands" represent the only old-growth wildlife

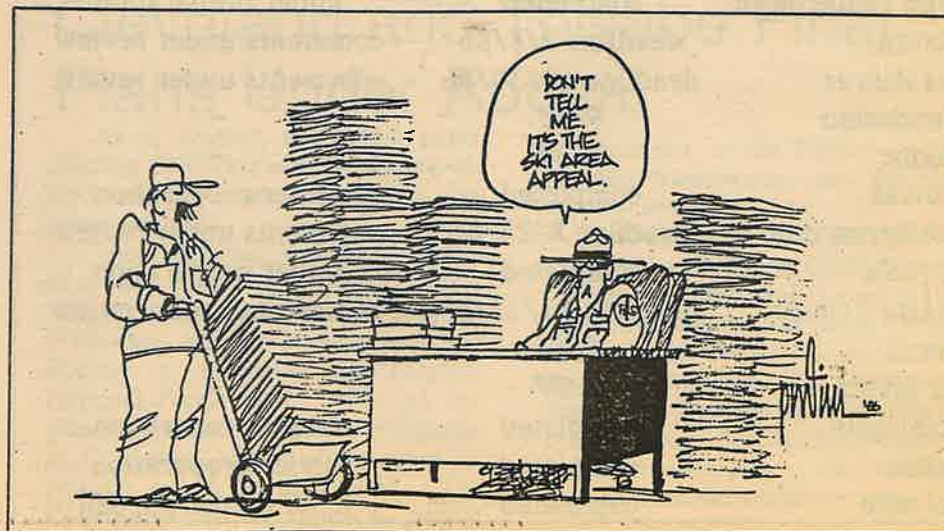
habitat of their kind in their locales. Gilham Butte in southern Humboldt County, for example, is a place which conservationists have worked for years to protect, but if transferred to the State might be logged to provide monies for the State Teachers Retirement Fund.

The rub comes in that the isolated old-growth tracts are on steep, rugged land that in many cases is best suited to wildlife habitat or is in sensitive watershed areas like that of Redwood Creek, upstream from the world's tallest tree in Redwood National Park. They also have become de facto refuges for wildlife dependent upon old-growth forests.

This is the major issue behind the new environmental impact statement (EIS) being prepared by the BLM, ostensibly on the resource management plan for the Arcata Resource Area. The EIS is due out in September; you can get a copy by writing district manager Van Manning, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 940, Ukiah, CA 95482.

You can also write Ed Chatfield, State Lands Commission, 1807 13th St., Sacramento, CA 95814 to share your opinion and ask to be kept informed about its claim.

—Tim McKay
ECONEWS, August 1986



WILDERNESS WILDLIFE

Clearcuts & Wildlife

— The Diversity Deception

by Dennis Coules

In the recent spate of forest plans being prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the agency has again fallen back on its old argument that clearcutting timber is a form of positive "wildlife management," and that in some cases clearcutting is necessary to perpetuate important wildlife species.

The willingness of the USFS to justify clearcutting with such a deliberately deceptive hoax shows a true contempt for conservationists and the public. It is analogous to a claim that urbanization benefits wildlife because rat and english sparrow populations will increase.

Wildlife populations are indeed altered by clearcutting. The problem is that the species that are favored by clearcutting are common, weedy species that are abundant all over the west and in no danger of extinction anywhere. In and varied thrush) and eight at much lower density in the younger stands.

The Diversity Deception

Recently, in what can only be considered a further elaboration of the "clearcutting benefits wildlife" hoax, the USFS has evolved the argument that clearcutting is ecologically justified because it enhances wildlife habitat diversity. Take an old-growth forest, throw in a clearcut or two and some roads, and presto — you have a greater diversity of habitats and wildlife.

An article entitled "Clear Cutting Exonerated" appeared in the March 22, 1983 *New York Times*. This article cited a study in which clearcutting increased species diversity compared to that on uncut forest control plots. However, as forestry professor Larry Harris points out in his book *The Fragmented*

Forest, such results are both misleading and deceptive. Clearcutting simply added very common species including alien and weedy species of both flora and fauna to the list of species present. And a study such as this cannot account for large, area-sensitive species that range over a much wider region than a single study plot. Localized diversity within the study plot may increase with clearcutting but at the expense of regional diversity and rare species.

As Harris puts it, "Species such as english sparrows, domestic pigeons, robins, deer mice, rats, and opossums occur commonly in human-dominated environments and hardly require timber management concessions in their behalf. Carnivores such as cougar, lynx, marten, fisher, and wolverine do not occur commonly in human-dominated landscapes, and therefore require special consideration ... Maintenance of diversity that derives from the substitution of species that are common for those that are rare should not be considered an acceptable alternative."

The Forest Service seems to deliberately misunderstand the concept of regional versus local diversity. An old-contrast, the species that are harmed by clearcutting — spotted owls, martens, wolverines, numerous cavity-nesting birds, and others — are in many cases rare species that have been driven to the brink of extirpation by the USFS's contemptible policy of liquidation of old-growth habitats.

The amount of habitat now

available to those species that benefit from clearcutting and early successional growth is now higher than it has ever been, while the amount available to those species that depend on old-growth or mature forest is at the lowest point since these forests evolved, and is still declining.

For example, in the Douglas fir forests of Washington and Oregon, biologically very similar to the forests of northwestern California, mature and old-growth forests provide primary habitat for 118 species of vertebrates. Over one-third of these cannot find primary habitat outside of old-growth. At least 45 species do not occur in second-generation short-rotation forests of the type the USFS is busy producing. These species need a high percentage of large snags (standing dead trees), broken tree tops, cavities, and fallen logs in their habitat.

A study of habitat types versus rarity of bird species was undertaken by Bowles in the western Cascades in the 1960's. He ranked different bird species into categories of common, fairly common, and rare, and found that twice as many "common" species occurred in a salvage-logged area as in old-growth, while twice as many "rare" species occurred in the old-growth as in the salvage-logged area. In addition, the most frequent species found in cutover areas were summer residents, while permanent resident species were found most frequently in old-growth.

Another Oregon study found that breeding bird species number, evenness,

and overall diversity were greater in 200-year old stands than in recently thinned 85-year old stands. Three species were absent (goshawk, Swainson's thrush, growth plot of a few hundred acres may nominally increase species diversity after a clearcut. But the cumulative effect of fragmentation of the remaining old-growth forests will be to eliminate old-growth-dependent wildlife species, many of which require large territories, and to further decrease species diversity on a regional scale — forest-wide, statewide, continentwide, or worldwide.

Next time you read a Forest Service document that claims that a goal of "species diversity" or "wildlife habitat enhancement" will be served by clearcutting or other forest manipulation, view it with a jaundiced eye. Let the USFS know that the basis of sound forest management should be to maintain the *natural* diversity and full community species and all their interactions that occur on our forests. Otherwise, this craftily devious agency would be pleased to substitute cowbirds for cougars and white-footed mice for wolverines — all in the name of "diversity."

Further Reference

Larry D. Harris, *The Fragmented Forest*, University of Chicago Press, 1984.

Dennis Coules is a former CWC staff member who contributes articles on wildlife and desert issues.

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