



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 11 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, CA 95616 November—December, 1986 No. 6

Sinkyone Wilderness Park Expansion

Public Gets 2,900 acres of coastline; Sally Bell Grove saved

The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park has been nearly doubled in size, and the threatened Sally Bell Grove of old-growth redwoods has been saved.

For a decade conservationists have been working to protect the ancient trees along the coast south of the existing state park. Most of this land was owned by the Georgia-Pacific Corporation [G-P] that was continuing to log the redwoods.

But the Trust for Public Lands negotiated to buy 7,100 acres of G-P's land. As part of the complex deal, the San Francisco-based Trust gave 2,900 acres to the state Department of Parks and Recreation to add to the existing Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The State now owns 17 miles of the "Lost Coast" adjacent to the 54,000-acre King Range National Conservation Area.

Although the sale price was not disclosed, the land had been appraised at \$10.2 million. The State of California contributed \$2.8 million towards the purchase, and the Save-the-Redwoods League added \$1 million. The League took ownership of 400 acres of old-growth redwoods, including the 75-acre Sally Bell Grove. The grove has been the site of demonstrations and civil disobedience in the past few years and the subject of legal actions.

The remaining 3,800 acres of land will be retained by the Trust for Public Lands for timber production. A loan of \$1.1 million from the California Coastal Conservancy has been given for a management plan to develop and market the timber on the land.

"The 10-year struggle to save these



Sinkyone Coast Purchased from Georgia-Pacific

Photo by David Cross

virgin redwoods has finally been won," said Assemblyperson Dan Hauser (D-Arcata). "Now we must act responsibly to ensure that there is no erosion in the job base or in county revenues."

Hauser, with state Senator Barry Keene [D-Benecia], helped to obtain 1980 Parklands Bond Act funds for the park expansion.

Spokesperson Beth Zoffman of G-P said the sale was "the best solution for the company, the community, and the environmental groups."

Members of the Sinkyone Council, Environmental Protection Information Center, and the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club have worked hard for years to protect this part of the Lost Coast.

Look Out for the 100th Congress

by Sally Kabisch

Running hard on his environmental record, Senator Alan Cranston was re-elected to the U.S. Senate. Cranston's victory, combined with the Democrats regaining control of the Senate and returning leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, means more progress on the environmental agenda in the 100th Congress. But how much more progress?

Shifting leadership in key committees in the U.S. Senate may not result in a strong ideological change. Incoming chairman of the Energy Committee (the committee responsible for public lands issues), Bennett Johnston [D-LA], is expected to be generally supportive of conservationists' positions if they do not conflict with oil and gas interests.

For the past six years, the committee has worked in a consensus fashion. No legislation affecting a single

state would move without agreement among the state's two senators. During the last session of Congress, several pieces of legislation important to California fell victim to this process. For example, Sen. Wilson's failure to support Sen. Cranston's wild and scenic Kern River bill led to its demise.

Under Sen. Johnston's leadership, this consensus approach to legislation is expected to continue. Conservationists anticipate that both senators must agree to move legislation before the committee will act. This makes it imperative that Sen. Wilson agree to support such initiatives as the Kings, Kern, and Merced Rivers wild and scenic legislation and the California Desert Protection Act sponsored by Sen. Cranston.

In the House of Representatives, the retirement of Rep. John Seiberling (Chair, Public Lands Subcommittee) has

left a large vacuum in public lands leadership. Politics abhors a vacuum and, fortunately, there are several pro-environmental members of Congress ready to jump into the void.

Rep. Rick Lehman (D-Fresno) will stay on the Interior Committee and is expected to play a major role on bills that would protect the California Desert, preserve wild rivers, and stop the City of San Francisco from raising O'Shaughnessy Dam [Hetch Hetchy Reservoir] in the wilderness of Yosemite National Park.

From the Bay Area, Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez) will, once again, sponsor legislation to reform the onshore oil and gas leasing program. If successful, this legislation will prevent some of the leasing abuses occurring in some of our California national forests

like Lassen and Los Padres.

The chairman of the National Park Subcommittee, Bruce Vento (D-Minnesota) may assume responsibility for wilderness issues. Vento has years of public lands experience from Alaska to California to the east coast. In the last session, Vento was a prime mover on wild and scenic rivers legislation including the Kern.

At press time, the final committee assignments in the House of Representatives and Subcommittee chairmen had not yet been assigned. For up-to-date information, please call Jim Eaton at the California Wilderness Coalition.

Sally Kabisch is the Sierra Club's representative for Northern California and Nevada and serves on the California Wilderness Coalition's Board of Directors.

COALITION REPORT

By Jim Eaton

The California Wilderness Coalition moved its office recently. It wasn't a long move (about 30 feet), from Suite 3 to Suite 5. But our space is more than doubled, with a greenhouse to boot. No longer will we have to stagger the hours of our interns and volunteers so that nobody's shift overlapped.

This fall our street changed from Portage Bay Avenue to Portage Bay East, and we have moved from Suite 3 to Suite 5. But never fear, the Postal Service says if the address 2655 Portage Bay is on the envelope, the mail will find its way to our office.

I spent part of a weekend adding over 100 feet of bookshelves to our new quarters. Finally there is room for all the forest plans, final wilderness studies, magazines, and miscellaneous documents. We still could use another desk or two, some more filing cabinets, and, of course, a spare Laserwriter.

Elsewhere, our Bay Area directors, John Hooper, Catherine Fox, Sally Kabisch, and Julie McDonald pulled off a great party featuring the music of the Good Ol' Persons. A great time was had by all, and the contributions helped fill the coffers of the Coalition.

Also, our fund appeal is proving to be our most successful ever. I know how I'll spend New Year's weekend with over a hundred thank you notes to write. But that is not a complaint; I don't mind acknowledging the generosity of our members.

I also am keeping busy learning Pagemaker, the program producing this issue of the Wilderness Record. I do appreciate the helpful hints and encouragement from Jon Wright of Compuworld, Nancy Boulton of the Washington Wilderness Coalition, and David Katz of Ag Access.

The Macintosh computer sure is a fun toy - I mean tool. If there are any volunteers in the greater Davis area who would like to help us with word processing, drawing spiffy charts and graphs, using spreadsheets to keep track of our numerous roadless areas, or laying out this newsletter with this new technology, give us a shout.

The Coalition has a new member group, the Cahto Coalition working on BLM wildlands in Mendocino County. Also thank you to new business sponsors Ouzel Voyages of Chico and Jacobs Construction of Ridgecrest.

UPDATE

Shasta Ski Area Study Begins

The Forest Service will be preparing an environmental impact statement [EIS] for the proposed Mt. Shasta Ski Area development. The EIS is being done as a result of an administrative appeal filed by four organizations, including the California Wilderness Coalition. The groups contended that a seven-phase development project required an EIS, especially

considering the public controversy over downhill skiing at that site.

Persons wishing to be notified of the public participation opportunities dueing 1987 should contact:

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

SMUD Line Draws Opponents

Opposition to a proposed 115-mile transmission line across the Sierra Nevada is increasing. The power line, proposed by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District [SMUD], roughly would parallel Interstate 80.

SMUD chose the northern corridor after intense controversy erupted over their plan to string the lines along Highway 50 and through either the Lake Tahoe Basin or into Hope Valley. Much of the I-80 route could parallel existing utility lines, but SMUD's preferred route would cross much undeveloped land.

Many of the opponents to the northern route live in the Sierra foothills.

The city of Lincoln, once an enthusiastic supporter of the project, now is concerned that property values will drop on lands slated for commercial and residential development.

It appears that the preferred route may affect the southern portions of the Grouse Lakes and Mt. Lola [Castle Peak] roadless areas. A draft environmental impact statement is expected early in 1987. Persons wishing to remain on the mailing list for this project must contact:

Project Office
SMUD Sierra Intertie
1725 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

READER'S OPINION

Giardia and Grazing in the Wilderness

I read with relief and then outrage Tim Palmer's pointed reference to cattle spreading *Giardia* in the back country ["A Month in the Mountains: California's Newest Wilderness Areas," *Sierra* magazine, May/June 1986, page 47].

I had always accepted the idea that people were the agent responsible for the spread of *Giardia*, and that this was a form of "divine punishment" for our past sloppy bathroom habits and increased numbers in the back country. I was immediately relieved to learn that people may not be so responsible for this "curse" after all.

Relief soon turned to outrage upon the possibility that man's livestock may, indeed, be the primary factor that had caused *Giardia* to infect nearly every pristine water source in the entire western United States.

If true, then conservation leaders who compromised on wilderness livestock grazing have made a major error and must bear real shame for permitting possibly romantic ideas about the innocence of pastoral grazing to interfere with what should have been common sense about livestock in intended natural areas, from the days of the framing of the 1964 Wilderness Act (the infamous "grazing clause") to the language being permitted in the recent state-wide wilderness bills (the truly horrible "Colorado grazing language," House Report 96-17).

Besides *Giardia*, Tim Palmer mentions that cattle also disperse the undigested seeds of exotic weeds and increase cowbirds (harmful to other birds) in designated wilderness areas.

Elliott Bernshaw
Salt Lake City

Backcountry Water Contamination with *Giardia*

People concerned about *Giardia* may want to read "Water Contamination with *Giardia* in Back-country Areas" by Thomas J. Suk, John L. Riggs, and Bernard C. Nelson. The paper was presented at the National Wilderness Research Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado in July 1985. Copies of the four-page paper are available from the California Wilderness Coalition; a self-addressed, stamped envelope will speed

our reply.

The abstract is as follows: Cysts of *Giardia* spp. were detected in 27 of 78 water samples collected at remote streams in California's Sierra Nevada range. The data suggest that intensity of human recreational use may play a significant role and/or be a useful indicator in the contamination of surface water with *Giardia*. Cysts of *Giardia* spp. were detected in 26 of 309 fecal samples



Skedaddle Mountains Wilderness Study Area

Photo by Eagle Lake Audubon

Final EIS for Northeastern Wilderness Study Areas

In early January, the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] will be mailing out the final environmental impact

statement for the Eagle Lake—Cedarville Wilderness Study Areas [WSAs].

The 13 WSAs in California and Nevada total nearly 700,000 acres. In their draft study, BLM recommended as suitable for wilderness portions of 9 WSAs totaling 240,000 acres. California areas partially proposed for preservation are the Tunnison Mountain, Skedaddle, Dry Valley Rim, and Twin Peaks WSAs.

Citizens desiring a copy of the final study document should contact:

C. Rex Cleary, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District Office
705 Hall Street
Susanville, CA 96130

collected from cattle grazing in backcountry areas in the Sierra Nevada. The use of monoclonal antibodies allowed the detection of human-infective *Giardia* in cattle stools. Cysts of *Giardia* spp. were detected in 79 of 731 fecal samples collected from wild mammals throughout California. Since only 4 of the samples reacted with monoclonal antibodies, the role of wild mammals in the transmission of human giardiasis remains unclear.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dinkey is Dead — Is Rodgers Crossing Next?

The controversial Dinkey Creek dam and hydroelectric project is dead—and the Rodgers Crossing dam on the Kings River may be the next to bite the dust.

Directors of the Kings River Conservation District voted to cancel the Dinkey Creek project because they could not find a buyer for the energy that would have been generated. The project would have included a 340-high dam in the Sierra northeast of Fresno.

The decision was a victory for the Sierra Association for Environment (SAFE). Opponents spent nearly a decade filing appeals and lawsuits to stop the project because it would damage fish and wildlife habitat and flood Camp Fresno, Girl Scouts, and YMCA campgrounds and other popular recreational areas.

"We are extremely happy that Dinkey Creek will be flowing for now and maybe for generations to come," said Glenn Kottcamp of the SAFE.

The Rodgers Crossing dam may suffer the same fate as the Dinkey Creek project. The lack of cost-effectiveness may force the conservation district to put the feasibility study aside for Rodgers Crossing until the turn of the century. The Kings River will continue to run

free in the near future.

Meanwhile, on December 9 the 27 member delegation of California Demo-



—courtesy of The Fresno Bee

crats to the House of Representatives held a news conference with Senator Alan Cranston to outline their legislative goals for the 100th Congress. Environmental issues ranked high, including passage of the Clean Water Act and Wild and Scenic River protection for the Kings, Kern and Merced Rivers.

Auburn Dam or Real Flood Protection for Sacramento?

No sooner did the American River recede to its usual channel and the sun began to shine again in February, 1986, than the dam-building Army Corps of Engineers sharpened their pencils and began to calculate the justification for building Auburn Dam.

New predictions of the potential of the American River to flood Sacramento have been released which place this year's storm in the neighborhood of a 65-year event. Determining that the existing Folsom Reservoir and levees fall short of providing protection from the 100-year flood, the Corps has been offering its advice, "Build Auburn Dam" (cities and counties must provide 100-year protection in order to qualify for federal disaster monies and for federally-backed mortgages and flood insurance for structures in the flood plain).

Their advice would have us all buying Lincoln Continentals to drive to the corner store. It is probably true that Sacramento needs additional protection, but we can get it by instituting a number of measures including upgrading the levees, increasing the flood reservation in Folsom Reservoir, buying space in existing upstream reservoirs, and so on, not by drowning the American River canyons under a reservoir which was authorized to provide two percent of its

benefits as flood control and the rest as water and power—water no one wants to pay for and power we already have enough of.

No solution to the problem of protecting Sacramento can be found until the debate is limited to the question at hand. Until all alternatives for providing appropriate protection for Sacramento are given full consideration, there can be no concession on the part of the protectors of the canyons above Auburn.

—Bea Cooley

PCL Conference Coming Soon

The Planning and Conservation League [PCL] is sponsoring the fourth annual California Environmental Legislative Symposium on January 31 and February 1, 1987, at California State University, Sacramento.

The purpose of the conference is to inform environmental activists from throughout California of the major environmental issues to be considered by the legislature in 1987 and to develop priorities and strategies for action.

Speaking at the conference will be Assemblymembers Richard Katz, Burt Margolin, and Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown.

Saturday will include a variety of workshops on the most urgent

Sierra Ski Ranch to Expand?

There may be no snow in the Sierra this year, but that had not deterred Sierra Ski Ranch owner Vern Sprock from proposing a major expansion of his ski area. The site, near Echo Summit on Highway 50, would develop a portion of the proposed Echo-Carson Wilderness.

Eight years ago, the California Wilderness Coalition lost their appeal of a moderate expansion of this resort into the roadless area. This time the proposal is far from modest:

- Fourteen new ski lifts each with a capacity ranging from 1,200 to 2,400 skiers per hour.
- Accommodating 6,000 to 7,000 new skiers each day (the existing Sierra Ski Ranch handles 5,500 to 6,000 when there is snow on the ground).
- Twenty acres of land paved to provide 2,200 parking spaces.
- Two hotels, one with 200 to 300 rooms, restaurant, and perhaps a lounge/bar. The other would be a 180-unit lodge and commercial buildings on 21 acres.
- Seventy to eighty condominiums for purchase or rental.
- A 20,000-square foot day lodge (a second day lodge may be developed on the ridge top).
- Groundwater wells and a sewage treatment facility (possibly septic tanks).

Needless to say, there are a number

of problems with this proposal. Aside from the roadless area destruction, transportation is a major issue. With Highway 50 already at capacity, a facility designed to bring in 6,000 to 7,000 new skiers is bound to cause major traffic tie-ups. Air, water, and noise pollution also are concerns.

Public meetings were held in December on the project. A draft environmental impact statement will be available by the end of 1987. If interested in this proposal, contact:

Robert A. Smart, District Ranger
Placerville Ranger Station
Eldorado National Forest
3491 Carson Court
Placerville, CA 95657



Final WSA Review Beginning

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] is preparing an environmental impact statement to determine the suitability of eight Wilderness Study Areas [WSAs] in California. The areas had been dropped from review by former Interior Secretary James Watt but later reinstated by court order.

The study is expected to be released for public review by July 1987. A 60-day comment period will begin then, and at least five public hearings will be held.

The WSAs to be studied are Garcia Mtn., Machensa, Rockhouse, Domeland, South Warner Contiguous, Yolla-Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson-Iceberg.

Although only 494 acres, the Garcia Mtn. WSA is adjacent to the 11,607-acre Garcia Mtn. roadless area proposed for wilderness designation by the Forest Service in the draft Los Padres National Forest Plan. The 80-acre Machensa WSA is adjacent to the Machensa Mountain Wilderness in the same national forest.

The 130-acre Rockhouse and the 2,209-acre Domeland WSAs are adjacent to the existing Domeland Wilderness.

The South Warner Contiguous WSA is 4,500 acres of land along the east side of the South Warner Wilderness in Modoc County.

Both the 640-acre Yolla Bolly and 2,391-acre Big Butte WSAs are contiguous with the Yolla Bolly—Middle Eel Wilderness. Much of the Big Butte WSA was added to the wilderness area in 1984, but Congress did not release the remaining part of the WSA from study.

The Carson-Iceberg WSA is 550 acres of wild land adjacent to the wilderness of the same name.

Persons wishing to offer their comments on the study or who want to receive the environmental documents when they are released in July should contact:

Jonathon S. Foster, Env. Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2841
Sacramento, CA 95825

For more information, contact the PCL at 909 12th Street, #203, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call (916) 444-8726.

Inyo National Forest Plan

Looking for Wild Land? The Inyo has Lots

Those seeking superlative wild lands need search no farther than the Inyo National Forest. Want to climb the highest peak in the 48 contiguous states or the Great Basin's highest summit? Have a yen to hike past the oldest trees in the world and the largest known bristlecone pine? Interested in one of the deepest valleys on the planet or the largest stand of pure Jeffrey pine? How about the southernmost glacier in the northern hemisphere?

You'll find them all in the Inyo.

Is granite your kind of scenery? Come to the Sierra Nevada. Prefer older rocks? Some of metamorphic sediments of the White and Inyo mountains are more than 600 million years old. Rather explore young landscapes? Try the Mono Craters or Glass Mountain; you can find volcanics here less than 500 years old.

The majority of the diverse Inyo National Forest remains roadless today. Of course, that does not mean that the Forest Service intends for it to stay that way. What exactly do they propose for the Inyo?

- Double the capacity of downhill ski areas [Mammoth Mountain Ski Area currently receives more skier-days than any other ski area in the United States].

- Continue to clearcut the world's largest stand of Jeffrey pine and begin logging high elevation red fir forests.

- Increase grazing, even though in most areas the range is considered to be in "poor or fair condition."

- Recommend for wilderness designation less than 13 percent of the roadless lands remaining in the forest. This proposal includes all of the 920-acre Tioga Lake roadless area (adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness), all of the

4,158-acre Table Mtn. roadless area (adjacent to the John Muir Wilderness, 53,200 acres of the White Mountain roadless area, and 54,400 acres of the Paiute roadless area [see article on Page 5].

The Conservation Alternative

Friends of the Inyo, a coalition formed to protect the Inyo National Forest's unique qualities, has a better idea. They are proposing an alternative which would preserve the Inyo's scenic beauty, clean air, abundant water, varied wildlife and plant populations, and still offer opportunities for low-impact recreation.

Their plan would protect all of the wild lands in the White and Inyo mountains as wilderness. Also added to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be Glass Mountain, the San Joaquin roadless area north of Mammoth, the Benton Range, and areas adjacent to the John Muir and Hoover wilderness areas. Other "released" roadless areas would be managed to maintain their wild characteristics so that a future generation could determine their fate. Monache Meadows would be protected from the ravages caused by off-road vehicles.

This alternative would limit timber harvesting, use of herbicides, downhill ski expansion, off-road vehicle use, and grazing.

The current deadline for comments is January 29, 1987; that date is expected to be extended by at least 30 days. A public hearing is scheduled in Bishop for January 26th. Send your views to:

Dennis W. Martin, Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
873 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514



Bristlecone Pine, *Pinus aristata*, the oldest living tree

Photo by Jim Eaton



Rising to over 14,000 feet, the White Mountains are home to the world's oldest trees

Photo by Jim Eaton

The Benton Range— A Forgotten Wilderness

Hidden away in the Inyo Plan is the study of the roadless lands of the Benton Range, 10,451 acres of land managed by the Forest Service and a 4,052-acre Wilderness Study Area [WSA] administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Although dropped from review by former Interior Secretary James Watt, the WSA was reinstated at the request of the Forest Service which became the lead agency of the study.

The study? It consists of two pages in Appendix C of the Inyo Forest Plan with four pages justifying their recommendation against wilderness designation. There is no mention of the abundant archeological resources of the roadless area (although there is an admission that their preferred alternative will allow cultural resources to "be exposed to continuing vandalism and theft").

Congress requires complete reviews to be made of WSAs, including a public hearing. By being the lead agency of this study, the Forest Service is compelled to comply with the law.

Inyo National Forest

WILDERNESS AREAS

Ansel Adams	90,000 acres
Golden Trout	197,000 acres
Hoover	9,000 acres
John Muir	235,000 acres
South Sierra	34,000 acres

Total Wilderness: 565,000 acres

FURTHER PLANNING AREAS

Roadless Area	1986 Acreage	Proposed Wilderness
Andrews Mtn.	13,619	0
Benton Range	10,451	0
Birch Creek	32,705	0
Black Canyon	34,804	0
Blanco Mtn.	16,348	0
Buttermilk	854	0
Coyote S.E.	56,148	0
Hall Natural Area	5,209	0
Horse Meadow	5,580	0
Laurel-McGee	9,090	0
Log Cabin Saddlebag	17,093	0
Paiute / Mazourka	130,563	54,400
Table Mountain	4,138	4,138
Tioga Lake	920	920
Wheeler Ridge	16,229	0
White Mountains	222,000	53,200
Total Further Plan.:	575,751	112,658

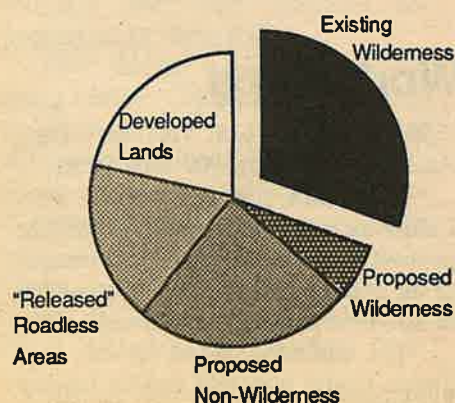
"RELEASED" ROADLESS AREAS

Roadless Area	1986 Acreage	Proposed Wilderness
Coyote North	15,293	0
Deep Wells	7,433	0
Dexter Canyon	17,725	0
Excelsior	45,893	0
Glass Mountain	53,975	0
Horton Creek	6,414	0
Independence Creek	14,024	0
Mono Craters	6,900	0
Mt. Olsen	2,395	0
Nessie	1,243	0
Nevahbe	519	0
North Lake	2,584	0
Rock Creek West	2,854	0
San Joaquin	21,214	0
Sherwin	3,968	0
Soldier Canyon	44,774	0
South Sierra	43,203	0
Tinemaha	28,002	0
Watterson	7,465	0
Whiskey Creek	1,152	0
Wonoga Peak	11,279	0
Total "Released":	338,309	0

Total Roadless Acreage: 914,060

Total Proposed Wilderness: 112,658

Inyo National Forest



The White—Inyo Wilderness Complex

From the Tioga Pass Highway in Yosemite National Park south for 150 miles lies 2.24 million acres of contiguous designated wilderness. Most people are familiar with parts of this High Sierra wilderness complex.

Yet to the east of this popular wild country, just across the Owens Valley, is three quarters of a million acres of roadless land, none of which is preserved as wilderness.

This massive range is known in the north as the White Mountains and in the south as the Inyo Mountains. It contains the highest peak in Nevada [13,140-foot Boundary Peak] and the highest summit in the Basin and Range [White Mountain Peak at 14,242 feet].

Only two main roads cross this range, both of them connecting near the town of Big Pine. The northern route crosses Westgard Pass on the way to Deep Springs. The southern road goes through Devil's Gate before descending to Eureka Valley and on to Death Valley. Between the two roads is more than 100,000 acres of wild land (Soldier Canyon roadless area and Piper Mountain Wilderness Study Area [WSA]).

To the north lies the White Mountain roadless area and three areas set apart by jeep routes: Blanco Mountain, Birch Creek, and Black Canyon. Nine small WSAs join these areas, for a total wilderness complex exceeding 350,000 acres.

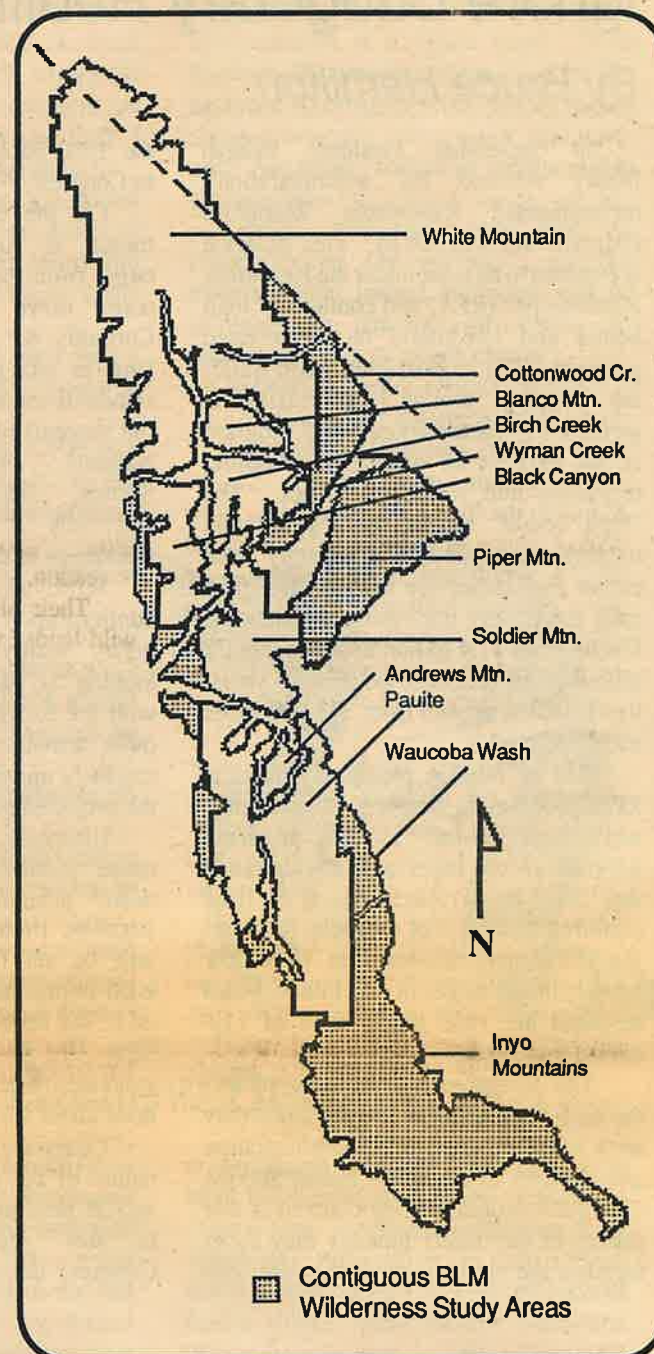
To the south are the Inyo Mountains. The primary wild areas here are the Paiute and Andrews Mountain roadless areas and the Inyo Mountain, Southern Inyo, and Waucoba Wash WSAs. These areas total about 300,000 acres.

Head south or east from the Inyo Mountains and you are in the wildest part of the California desert. Cross a dirt road and you are in the half million-acre Saline-Eureka area. Hop some jeep roads and you are in other vast desert roadless areas.

The White Mountains are famous for the bristlecone pines, the world's oldest living trees. The range also supports other vegetation types, including pine-juniper woodlands, alpine scrub, big sagebrush, mountain mahogany, subalpine fir, saltbrush-greasewood, and shadscale scrub. A number of sensitive plant species may be found.

Wildlife includes bighorn sheep and wild horses.

Although this magnificent wilderness mountain range is subdivided into more than a score of roadless areas and wilderness study areas by the federal land



managing agencies, conservationists are seeking to preserve the whole: the 750,000-acre White—Inyo Wilderness Complex.

The Ancient Trees of the White Mountains

The Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*) is one of the most amazing creations of nature.

Many authorities consider the bristlecone pine to be the oldest known living thing in the world today. Several specimens have been found which approach 5,000 years in age. A bristlecone pine six feet tall may contain as many as 900 annual growth rings.

Found on the high, barren, wind-swept slopes in the Southwest, these twisted and gnarled veterans have been sculptured by time, weather, and the other elements into dramatic shapes and draped in picturesque colors. The key to their great age and beauty partially lies in the ability of the species to adjust to the adverse and continually changing environmental conditions found in their

limited domain. Many of them contain considerable amounts of dead wood with only a thin line of bark to sustain the green living portion of the tree.

The bristlecone pine can be identified by its location, form, foliage, and cones. It is a short, bushy tree, often multi-stemmed and malformed. Its most common associates are limber pine, spruce, and fir. The needles are deep green in color and occur in clusters of five. They are 1" to 1 1/2" in length, stout, and slightly curved. The needles

completely surround the twigs and small branches giving them an appearance of a long bushy tail. Because of this the bristlecone is often confused with its close cousin, the foxtail pine (*Pinus balfouriana*) which is found exclusively in California and southern Oregon.

The cones are 3" to 3 1/2" in length and are a deep chocolate brown at maturity. The cone scales are stout, thick, and armed with a long, fragile, curved (bristle-like) pickle from which the bristlecone pine receives its common name.



Resource Planning Act Goals Ignore Budgetary Reality

By Bruce Hamilton

In September President Reagan finally released his administration's recommended Renewable Resources Program for 1985-2030. This program is required to be done under the Resources Planning Act [RPA] and contains a "high bound" and "low bound" on the preferred program. The emphasis on road building, logging, mining and grazing is increased in the newly-released program at the expense of wilderness, wildlife, recreation and watershed values. The "high bound" targets for logging and roading are increased significantly from earlier Forest Service drafts. The plan calls for upping the cut on the national forests from 11.4 billion board feet to 20 billion board feet over the next 45 years. Roads would expand from 343,000 miles to 580,000 miles.

One of the big problems with this RPA program is that the "low bound" and "high bound" to the preferred program encompasses such a wide range that there is no indication of the true preferred agenda. For example, there is a big difference between the 1990 low bound timber target of 9.0 billion board feet and the 1990 high bound of 11.6 billion board feet.

The Reagan Administration prefers the high bound timber targets, since they were added by upper level administration amendments to the earlier Forest Service draft RPA program. One concern is that friends of the timber industry may try to legislate the high bound, as they did with

the 1980 RPA when it was transmitted to Congress.

On the other hand, the administration is lowering their wilderness target from the 1980 goal of 42 million acres down to 40 million acres. Currently 85 million acres of roadless land in our national forests meet the standards for wilderness, 32 million acres (38 percent) of which is protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The new RPA program would add only 8 million acres of new wilderness to the system.

With the new RPA goals, the administration refuses to recognize budgetary reality. This is evident by looking at past annual reports where, with the exception of road building, all other activities and areas of interest are routinely underfunded and never achieve the projected goal.

Ultimately, this RPA program will cause problems because in the "top down" planning of the Reagan administration, timber and wilderness targets will be set in Washington, D.C., for each region and each forest which will drive the forest planning process. Since RPA is an administrative planning exercise, there is very little that can be done about the contents of the document.

Congress has recognized the fuzzy nature of the linkage between the RPA and the present generation of forest plans. In this year's appropriations bill, Congress directed the Forest Service to

Status of National Forest Plans

NATIONAL FOREST	DRAFT EIS	FINAL EIS
Angeles	completed	2/87
Cleveland	completed	6/86 [under appeal]
Eldorado	• deadline 1/10/87	—
Inyo	• deadline 1/29/87*	—
Klamath	1/87	—
Lake Tahoe Basin	completed	2/87
Lassen	completed	6/87
Los Padres	completed	6/87
Mendocino	• deadline 2/2/87	—
Modoc	4/87	—
Plumas	completed	2/87
San Bernardino	completed	5/87
Sequoia	completed	5/87
Shasta-Trinity	• deadline 1/16/87**	—
Sierra	• deadline 1/12/87	—
Six Rivers	1/87	—
Stanislaus	completed	4/87
Tahoe	completed	4/87
Toiyabe	completed	6/86 [under appeal]

* 30 day extension expected

** 2nd draft EIS in 1989

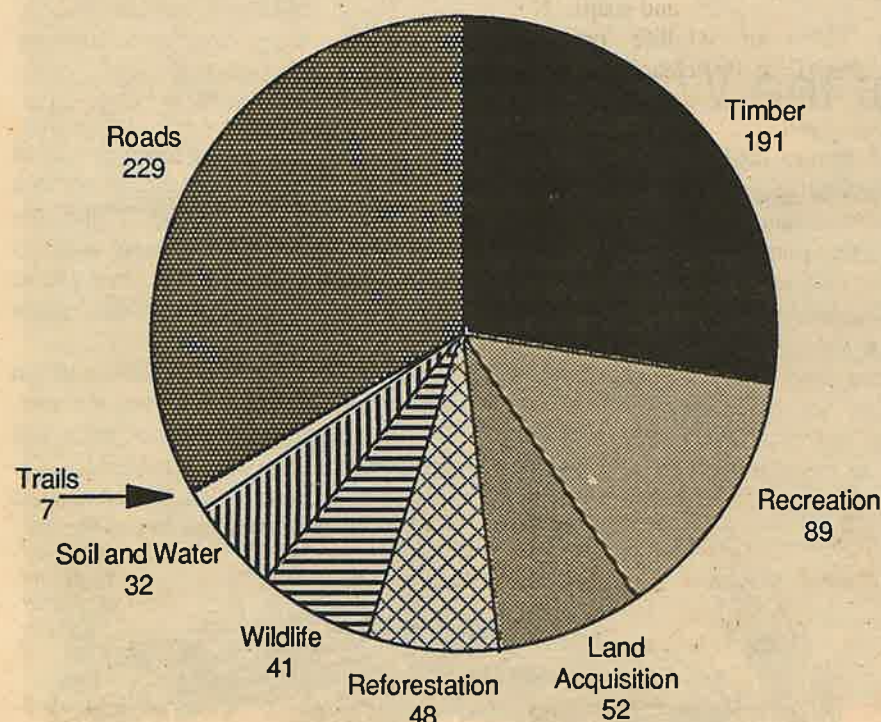
report back by March 1, 1987 on the role RPA targets should play in individual forest plans. This opens the door for major hearings and tighter congressional

direction next year.

Bruce Hamilton is the Sierra Club's Director of Conservation Field Services in San Francisco.



Budgets Speak Louder than Rhetoric



The chart above shows the U.S. Forest Service budget for the 1987 fiscal year. Numbers are in millions of dollars.

Shasta and Trinity Lakes Plan Update

Early in 1987, the Forest Service will be reviewing and updating the Operation and Development plan for two units in the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Planning decisions will be made for the Shasta and Clair Engle [Trinity] / Lewiston units. Several released roadless areas are partly

in the recreation area.

Persons wishing to participate in the planning process should contact:

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

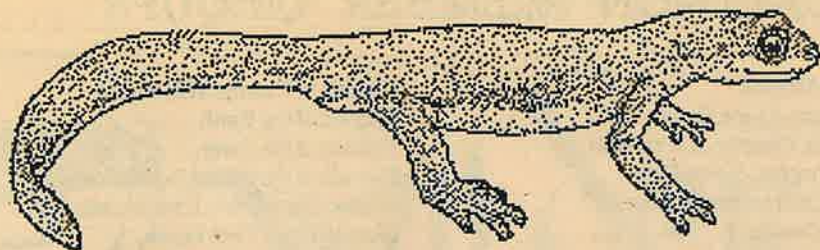
Shasta-Trinity Public Workshops

The Wilderness Society will sponsor free public workshops on the draft Forest Plan for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The workshops will be in San Francisco on Jan. 8, 1987, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Fort Mason—Marina entrance [Gatehouse]; in Weaverville on Jan. 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity Congregational Church [Parish Hall]; and in Sacramento on Jan. 12 from

7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Lung Association Building, 909 12th. Street.

Wilderness Society staff from California and Washington D.C. will be on hand to discuss the plan, their critique of the plan's inadequacies, and a number of recommendations to improve the plan.

The comment period for the draft Shasta-Trinity plan will end on January 16, 1987.



Ishi Wilderness Management

So after a wilderness area is designated by Congress (over the Forest Service's strenuous objections), what happens? A management plan is developed by the Forest Service to guide their actions in the area. Such a plan is being done now for the Ishi Wilderness.

The "Ishi Wilderness Implementation Plan" will be considering a number of topics, including cultural resources, facilities [signs, trails, and trailheads], fire management, fish, lands and access, law enforcement, motorized and mechanical equipment, grazing, recreation, wild horses, and wildlife.

The Ishi Wilderness, homeland of

the extinct Yahi Indians, is an important archeological area. Unfortunately, for decades collectors have illegally removed artifacts (often using off-road vehicles). The plan will consider methods of allowing wilderness visitors to experience and enjoy the unique, fragile cultural resources without risking their disturbance, collection, or destruction.

Interested in wilderness management? Contact:

D. Keith Crummer, District Ranger
Almanor Ranger District
Lassen National Forest
P.O. Box 767
Chester, CA 96020

Bear Your Chest!

It's still not too late to order your CWC T-shirt sporting the Coalition's 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 percent double knit cotton. Regular T-shirts are available in white, tan, blue, and yellow in small [S], medium [M], large [L], and extra-large [EX]. A limited number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white, pink, and powder blue in women's small, medium, and large.

T-shirts are \$8.00 to CWC members and \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). Use the 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 and 75¢ for each additional T-shirt.



GUEST OPINION

In The Trenches

by Tom Suk

For at least the last decade, wilderness advocates have spent most of their efforts trying to obtain congressional wilderness designation for wildlands threatened by development. But what happens to wilderness after all the lobbying is done and it is finally "designated" wilderness by Congress? Answer: A federal agency prepares and shelves a management plan, signs are constructed and inserted, and visitors begin to arrive to explore the "new" wilderness.

As development proceeds on non-designated wildlands, recreational use of wilderness areas can only be expected to increase. The main problem is that wilderness management budgets have been slashed, resulting in deteriorating trails and uncontrolled use.

Now you may think that there is nothing wrong with uncontrolled use in wilderness. Freedom to roam is what the "wilderness experience" is all about, right? I have to agree. But over the years, trail crews and wilderness rangers have proven to be effective at preserving wilderness values by reducing the magnitude of human-caused damage. We construct trails less likely to erode. We route trails around sensitive areas and clear them of fallen trees to prevent erosion-causing detours. We educate visitors in minimum-impact camping techniques and, on occasion, cite flagrant violators. To keep human diseases out of wildlife and streams, we are down there "in the trenches" burying human waste left exposed by careless visitors. We are lugging 80-pound packs full of trash others packed in. Rusty cans, broken glass, ungraded plastics, tattered clothing, forgotten fishing gear, cooking utensils, lotions, creams, and soaps. Not healthy stuff for wildlife or wild ecosystems. (We also clean up a lot of that backcountry disease ... aluminum foil. Disguised by a thin paper coating, it finds its way into firepits by the ton.

Thanks to our soup packages, cocoa packages, and meal packages, some future civilization will be able to mine our backcountry firepits for aluminum.) I have been out there, armed with only a badge as a shovel, staring down the wrong side of a .357 and trying to explain why my drunken pardner "shouldn't be grazin' his dozen head in this here partikler meadow until July 15."

But I didn't come all this way to moan about what a tough job rangerin' is ... I came to remind you what an *important* job it is. Being a wilderness ranger was a great job. I said was because they do not hire many these days. The summer of 1986 was the first time in five years that I was not offered a seasonal backcountry ranger job. The sad part of it is that rangers with twice my experience were turned away, too. There is almost nobody left out there to "manage" the quarter-million-or-so California wilderness visitors.

By now you are probably wondering what an ex-ranger does for a living. Well, I do various odds and ends. It leaves me plenty of time to roam the wilderness, work on trails, bury TP, and pick up litter. All I can hope is that if you are not willing to join me, you will at least spend 14 cents to send a postcard to: Zane Smith, U.S. Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111. Tell him that Forest Service wilderness budget cuts are unreasonable and make it impossible to protect wilderness resources adequately. Tell him to allocate more funds for trail crews and wilderness rangers. And if you *really* care about wilderness, invest another 42 cents and send cards to Alan Cranston, Pete Wilson (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and your congressperson.

Tom Suk has worked as wilderness ranger, researcher, and hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, and U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

California Wilderness Coalition

Editor	Graphics	The Wilderness Record is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit would be appreciated. Please address all correspondence to: California Wilderness Coalition 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, California 95616 (916) 758-0380 Typesetting courtesy of Ag Access for use of the Laser-writer; printing by the Davis Enterprise
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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.

