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Kings River Bill Floats Through House

By Jennifer Wachter

On the 149th anniversary of John Muir's birth, the House of Representatives passed legislation which would protect much of the Kings River. The April 21 action by Congress occurred three weeks after a compromise plan was announced by Representatives Richard Lehman [D-Fresno] and Charles "Chip" Pashayan [R-Fresno].

California Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson also have agreed to support the Kings River bill.

As a result of the compromise legislation, the Kings River Conservation District directors canceled their studies of the proposed Rodgers Crossing Dam. Conservationists had been fighting the dam plan for decades.

"The awareness of the values in Kings Canyon, which I experienced as a young man, will have the effect of enhancing the environmental consciousness of all its visitors, just as it did for me," Lehman said. "This will spill over into future struggles for other streams, canyons, and mountains in areas far from Garlic Creek and Rough Canyon."

On April 1, the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs amended H.R. 799, the bill that Lehman introduced in the beginning of this year's session. Initially, the bill sought wild and scenic river status for most of the Kings River, a long awaited goal for many conservationists of the past and present.

Instead, only eighty-one miles of the Kings will be placed in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System when the compromise is made final. This includes the Middle and South forks, as well as five miles of the river near Garlic Falls, stretches entirely within the existing Monarch and Sequoia-Kings Canyon wilderness areas. Thus the river will be fully protected from the headwaters in Kings Canyon National Park to elevation 1595 feet on the main stem.

From elevation 1595 to 990 feet, including the Rodgers Crossing dam site, the Kings will not be designated wild and scenic, but it is to be protected "in the same manner as if it were so designated." Instead, a new 48,000-acre Kings River Special Management Area will be established here and managed as a separate unit of the Sierra National Forest. It will include lands north and south of the main stem of the river that currently are part of the Kings River roadless area. The lands south of the river, currently managed by Sequoia National Forest, will be transferred to the Sierra.

"The Forest Service said I was hindering their flexibility," Lehman told the audience at a recent Friends of the River conference. "I said yes. They surrendered their flexibility when they abrogated their responsibility to manage the land in the public interest."

See KINGS RIVER, page 7



Rough Creek Falls in the Special Management Area

Photo by Gerard Gendron

Mountain Lion No Longer Protected

By Joe Bogaard

The Fish and Game Commission, on a narrow decision in Sacramento, approved the reinstatement of California mountain lion hunting. The April 10 ruling, which overturned a fifteen year moratorium, was made despite written opposition from over 65,000 people as well as pleas from a dozen elementary school children and over 80 emotional protestors.

This third and final public hearing conducted by the Commission entailed nearly six hours of testimony. The Sierra Club, The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, The Mountain Lion Coalition, and Earth First! were among the environmental organizations voicing their opposition to the hunt, while several ranching groups expressed their support. More than 115 independent speakers addressed the Commission, nearly 3 to 1 in support of a continued moratorium.

The ranchers, claiming that the lion population is excessive, blame the cougar for the declining deer numbers as well as profit losses due to livestock depredation. The opposition countered the complaint of livestock losses, reminding all of the existence of a predator clause in the moratorium allowing ranchers to kill lions preying on their properties. Neither can the lion be held wholly responsible for the decreasing deer population in light of the severe habitat encroachment as

See MOUNTAIN LION HUNT, page 6



COALITION REPORT

By Jim Eaton

The hearing room was filling up quickly with both opponents and supporters of hunting mountain lions. Armed Fish and Game wardens were eying the crowd suspiciously, obviously uneasy in this unusual role.

I had arrived early, since one of the Fish and Game Commission's early agenda items was BLM's State Director Ed Hasteley explaining the California Desert Protection Act. Thought I'd best be there in case Ed said anything outrageous about Senator Cranston's bill.

Accompanying me was Joe Bogaard, CWC's intern who wrote the article on hunting mountain lions in this issue of the *Wilderness Record*. Mild-mannered Joe simply was going to observe the hearing.

So it was with great surprise that I noticed not one but three wardens accosting Joe in his seat. They were gesticulating at his daypack and ordering him to follow them outside the hearing room. There a thorough search began.

I walked up to one of the wardens and respectfully said, "excuse me, sir, but that gentleman came in with me. Is there some problem?"

In a rather embarrassed tone he replied, "we think he may have a weapon."

I suppose it was Joe's long hair, daypack, and age, but he was searched no fewer than six times that morning. I

wore a suit, so despite having a large bulge under the coat where a handgun in a holster would be [but actually a notebook and bank deposit] I came and went with impunity.

In fairness to the wardens, it was a very emotional hearing, and they finally began searching the belongings of everyone entering the meeting room. But still I reflected on why the opponents to hunting lions were regarded with so much suspicion. I mean most of these folks don't even own a firearm.

I guess it is because Fish and Game just isn't accustomed to people who are non-consumptive users of wildlife. Activists who come in such large numbers from so far away. Folks dressed up in mountain lion suits. Citizens ringing the high-rise office building with petitions from tens of thousands of others who think chasing large animals with dogs so that a head can be mounted on a wall is an archaic aberration in the 20th century.

So now for the first time in ten years mountain lions will be hunted in California. And for the first time in 104 years, with relatively little opposition, the Commission approved shooting bighorn sheep.

But somehow I think the issue is far from resolved.

A warm welcome to the Coalition's newest member group, Sea and Sage Audubon Society.

UPDATE

Coalition Appeals Pit River Water Project Right-of-Way

The California Wilderness Coalition and three other groups have appealed the Bureau of Land Management's [BLM] granting of a right-of-way for a hydroelectric project which will lower water flows through the proposed Pit River Canyon Wilderness. The Coalition was joined by Friends of the River, Sierra Club California, and the Wilderness Society in asking the Interior Board of Land Appeals [IBLA] to overturn BLM's decision.

Ironically, the BLM is recommending a portion of the Pit River Canyon Wilderness Study Area [WSA] as suitable for designation as wilderness [see page 4].

The Coalition asked IBLA for sixty additional days in which to submit their statement of reasons in this complex case. Attorneys for the Malacha Power Project, Inc., developers of the hydroelectric project, asked that no delay be given. IBLA responded by granting a 30-day extension.

The developer's attorney's then petitioned Secretary of the Interior

Donald Hodel to take the case away from IBLA and rule on it himself. They even argued that a right-of-way permit is not needed by the developer to build this project. The attorneys also stated that the \$10 million committed to this project will be exhausted by early summer, and that the cloud of this appeal is a significant obstacle to financing.

The Muck Valley Hydroelectric Project would take between 600 to 700 cubic feet per second of water from the Pit River upstream of the WSA and return it below the proposed wilderness. The BLM claims this will have no negative impacts on the fishery, recreation, or wilderness qualities, or on riparian, botanical, wildlife, and raptor resources.

The agency refuses to prepare an environmental impact statement [EIS] for the project but instead states that the action will have "no significant impact" on the environment.

The appellants plan to submit their statement of reasons for opposing the granting of the right-of-way by the May 19th deadline established by IBLA.

Howard Chapman Quits As Park Service Regional Director

Howard Chapman, the western regional director of the National Park Service for the past 16 years, has resigned in protest of the Reagan administration's policies on the parks.

"The policies of Secretary Watt are still in effect today, and they may not be as vociferously put forth but they're still in existence," said Chapman. "When your superiors ... are bent on things that are contrary to the mission of the organization, you simply have to stand up for what is right."

Chapman had opposed policies of Assistant Interior Secretary William B. Horn who attempted to impose a permanent ban on any future land acquisitions at Yosemite National Park, turn over control of the parks to political appointees, and allow tourist flights in the Grand Canyon.

In a recent editorial, the *Sacramento Bee* defended the views of Chapman against the administration:

"The Park Service exists precisely because Congress recognized the need to balance the demand for public recreation against the necessity for long-term preservation. Where the two come into conflict, wise public policy demands that government should err on the side of protection; otherwise, there would be no resources for the public to enjoy in years to come. Chapman understood that. One has to hope that his resignation will draw attention to the folly of the Interior Department's myopic policy of degradation and overuse."

agAccess Bookstore Opens in Davis

When in Davis, drop by our newest bookstore run by agAccess, the friendly business sponsor of the Coalition that lets us use their LaserWriter for producing the *Wilderness Record*. Their bookstore is a unique source for all horticultural and agricultural books, and they have an amazing selection of natural

history publications.

The store is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 to 5:30 at 603 Fourth Street, the corner of Fourth and E streets. They also supply books by mail order; a free catalog will be sent on request. The phone number for the good folks at agAccess is (916) 756-7177.

Park Service Wants to Replace Sewage System at Vogelsang

The National Park Service is proposing to replace an inadequate sewage system at the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp in the Yosemite Wilderness.

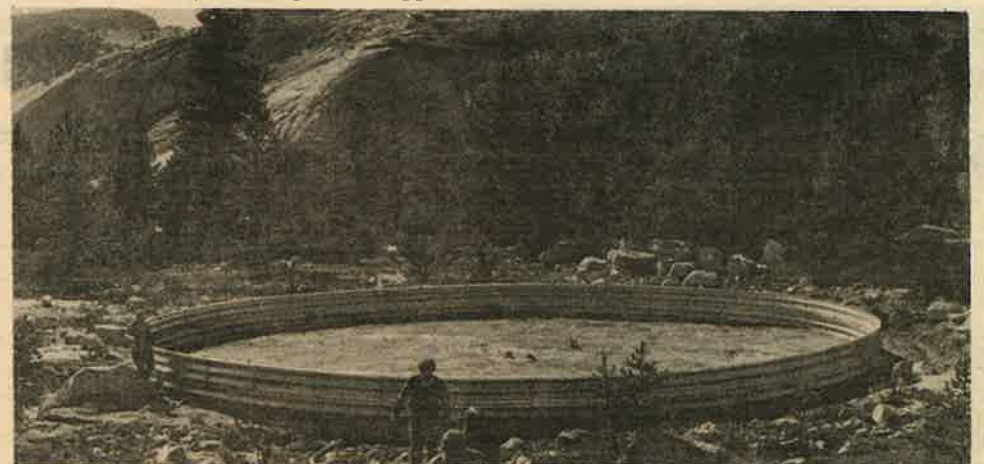
The existing system consists of collection lines, a septic tank, and a leach field to accommodate showers and grey water. Four Jet-O-Matic toilets were installed as a temporary solution to the failed septic system and are significantly overused and unable to withstand winter conditions.

The Park Service is proposing to construct a combination evapotranspiration and mound system with grey water flush toilets to alleviate the problem. In this system, a septic tank

captures the solids, and the effluent gravity-flows to a dosing chamber and then to leachlines installed within a raised mound. Installation of a 5000-gallon septic tank, construction of a dosing chamber, and building of a mound from four hundred cubic yards of crushed rock, gravel, and soil will be necessary.

An alternative to carry out human wastes was dismissed because of the problems of carrying out wastes by humans or mules, and because "showers will probably be severely limited."

The review period on this project ends May 20th. To comment or receive information, contact: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.



Vogelsang Sewage Plant in the Yosemite Wilderness

Photo by Phillip Farrell

FOREST PLANNING



How to Make FORPLAN Protect the Forests

By Steve Evans

My twelve years of dealing with the Forest Service advocating the protection of wilderness areas and wild rivers, fighting timber sales, appealing mining operations, and cursing the cows, keeps telling me it's impossible. You cannot protect roadless areas, streams, water quality, viewsheds, wildlife habitat, and other so-called "amenity" resources and meet the Forest Service's timber quotas, too. But that is the result of using FORPLAN, the complicated land management planning computer program, to model the Conservationist Alternative for the Plumas National Forest.

It all started in 1983. Forest planning, that juggernaut of top-down direction provided by a divided and sometimes mindless Congress, was just beginning. "Issues" raised by the public were being collected by the Forest Service and itemized, categorized, and generally run through the planning blender (the predictable results being mush). All good conservationists were encouraged to develop so-called "Conservationist Alternatives" by the national environmental groups so that we could compete with the Forest Service in its own planning game.

So one night, I sat down with a six-pack of beer and put

together the Conservationist Alternative for the Plumas National Forest. I had spent considerable time beforehand discussing what conservationists would like to see in a forest-wide plan for the Plumas with representatives from four local environmental groups and numerous individuals. First of all, we protected all roadless areas, inventoried and *de facto*, in the forest. The next priority was locking up large streamside corridors from logging. Rare plants and critical wildlife habitat, including old-growth timber, were to be protected. Viewsheds along major highways and around recreational reservoirs were to remain visually untouched. Cows were to stay out of the streams, riparian habitat, and wet meadows. The Forest Service could log trees from everywhere in between, but the use of herbicides was prohibited.

Predictably, the Conservationist Alternative was not embraced by the

Plumas Forest planners, although they did use some aspects of our alternative in the draft Plumas National Forest Land Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in the Spring of 1986.

FORPLAN is a computer program that predicts timber production in a national forest, based on the acreage available for timber management and the constraints that are provided by the planners. FORPLAN provides outputs for other commodities and uses, but the core of FORPLAN is a timber production program called RAM PREP (I have now gone beyond whatever knowledge I have about computers other than how to

areas taken out of the timber base and the prohibition against herbicides, it was assumed that the Conservationist Alternative would have a lower allowable sale quantity.

The conservationists sent out their mailers urging letters. The timber industry whipped their workers into a hysterical frenzy with logging truck parades complete with spotted owl soup served at local greasy spoons. The deadline for comments passed. Lots of people said "protect roadless areas, water quality, and spotted owls!" and lots of people said "protect our timber jobs; cut more timber!" The Forest Service is still analyzing this "input."

roadless areas and 200-foot riparian zones on each side of every perennial stream from the timber base. The third run told FORPLAN to allow clearcutting on slopes less than 30 percent, selective harvesting on slopes greater than 30 percent, and only helicopter logging on slopes greater than 60 percent. Then Mike arbitrarily doubled the amount of old-growth for each timber type preserved for old-growth dependent species from five percent to ten percent. He played with the timber yields by forcing thinning, which increases the rotation, and by dropping visual quality objectives but restricting harvesting to group or single tree selection.

The timber yield figures became very interesting. What Mike basically discovered is that FORPLAN produces more timber under group selection harvesting than it does under "even aged management," a Forest Service euphemism for clearcutting. The average forest "opening" under group selection is usually less than an acre and never over five acres. Group selection is much preferable to the average five to ten acre clear-cut maximum of 40 acres allowed under even aged management. Furthermore, group selection needs no herbicides and less manual replanting of



Roadless Lands in the Feather River Area of Plumas National Forest

Photo by Phillip Farrell

type articles on one).

"Constraints" that reduce timber production include protecting roadless areas, prohibiting logging on slide-prone slopes, restricting logging so that highway tourists aren't shocked by 40-acre clearcuts, controlling logging near streams so that trout aren't choked by sediment, and protecting old-growth habitat to prevent the extinction of such old-growth dependent wildlife species as the spotted owl.

Forest planning pretty much boils down to how much timber the Forest Service intends to cut. The draft Plumas plan proposed to cut 254.8 million board feet [mmbf] of timber in the first decade. The other five alternatives ranged from a low of 188.9 mmbf to a high of 348.4 mmbf. Predictably, the timber industry supported the high alternative. The Forest Service's amenity alternative cut 222.5 mmbf. Since their amenity alternative was not as restrictive as the Conservationist Alternative in terms of

Enter Michael Jackson and Klaus Barber. Mike is a lawyer and conservationist from Plumas County. Klaus is the Forest Service guru of FORPLAN for Region 5. He is the guy the local planners call when they have questions about FORPLAN so that we could tell how much timber could be produced by the conservationist wish list for the Plumas Forest. Klaus wants FORPLAN and forest planning to work, and it is assumed that the Forest Service would like their plans to stay out of court.

So Mike and Klaus got together over beer at one of Plumas County's better pizza joints. They proceeded with what has since been labeled a "subtraction analysis." Mike said, "do a FORPLAN run using the Preferred Alternative timber base but subtract all the roadless areas."

"No problem," Klaus replied.

Then Mike began "tiering" his constraints. The next run subtracted

trees to replace those that are harvested.

The Conservationist Alternative was modeled. All roadless areas protected. Group selection only and no herbicides. All existing spotted owl pairs and their nesting habitat preserved. Two hundred foot riparian corridors on each side of all streams restricted from logging. FORPLAN says that this alternative provides an allowable sale quantity of 247 mmbf. Only 8 mmbf less than the Forest Service's original preferred alternative, 1.5 mmbf more than the Plumas' regional timber quota set by the Resources Planning Act, and considerably more than the so-called amenity alternative that was displayed in the draft EIS.

There are problems with FORPLAN. A major one has been identified by Randal O'Toole of the Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants. Randal is the

See FORPLAN, page 7

PUBLIC LANDS

Cahto Peak: Mendocino's Unrecognized Wilderness

by Lora Moerwald

In a frustrating eight-year battle with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), conservation groups await the agency's next move affecting the fate of three parcels of public land located in the North Coast Range of Mendocino County.

During BLM's initial inventory of its public lands in 1979, BLM did not grant Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status to the Cahto Peak, Brush Mountain, and Elkhorn Ridge units, which would have brought the lands one step closer to permanent wilderness protection. The three units, when consolidated with contiguous land owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, could provide an important addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Cahto Peak unit comprises 5,871 acres of public land, including the upper reaches of the Elder Creek Watershed. Cahto Peak reaches 4,233 feet, while the surrounding area within the unit ranges in elevation between 2,200 and 4,200 feet. The two other BLM units, Brush Mountain and Elkhorn Ridge, saddle the headwaters of the South Fork of the Eel River, which has been designated a federal and state Wild and Scenic River. The Brush Mountain unit lies east of the South Fork and consists of 2,880 acres of public land. The unit is steep and rugged, ranging in elevation from 1,200 feet in the southwest to 3,761 feet at the top of Brush Mountain. The Elkhorn Ridge unit comprises 2,360 acres and lies on the west side of the river. Elevations range from 1,200 feet to 2,975 feet at the top of the ridge.

At the heart of the system at the headwaters of the South Fork, are 3,000 acres of land owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, which also cooperatively manages 3,600 acres of the Cahto unit. Together, these public and private lands comprise the Northern California Coast Range Preserve (NCCRP).

The NCCRP is one of only two areas in the United States to be designated by the United Nations as a "Man in the Biosphere Reserve". It is a designated Natural History Landmark, a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and a Research Natural Area. Additionally, the Elder Creek Watershed within the Cahto unit is considered the most pristine of three United States Hydrological Benchmarks in the state. Morris Udall, former Secretary of the Interior, has stated that the area provides a "unique opportunity [where] you can study an entire wilderness stream, from its headwaters to its mouth."

Extensive research in natural biotic systems, including plant and animal inventories and ecological and hydrological studies, regularly occurs within the NCCRP. The area also is the site of

other natural subjects studied regularly by government agencies and private institutions. Additionally, the preserve has significant socio-cultural values, since it is a traditional hunting and gathering site for local Native Americans, especially the Kato Indians. Conservationists argue that the NCCRP is highly significant in preserving habitat and the attendant wildlife species in Northern California.

Areas surrounding NCCRP are extremely critical to the area's natural system. All three BLM units, including the area owned by The Nature Conservancy, contain large tracts of old-growth Douglas fir, which provide habitat for spotted owls, goshawks, pileated woodpeckers, flying squirrels, and possibly pine martens and fishers. The South Fork corridor, which also is managed by BLM, is the most isolated and inaccessible region of the river, and provides critical habitat to peregrine falcons.

Conservation groups maintain that consolidating the entire area and granting it wilderness protection—including the three BLM units, the NCCRP, the South Fork of the Eel River Corridor, and a few small parcels of private land within the area—would result in a preserve of meaningful size, which would help assure retention of numerous wildlife species. They also state that large integrated ecosystems, such as entire watersheds, are needed to preserve old-growth Douglas fir ecosystems.

But the possibility for a consolidated wilderness system was thrown out when BLM denied WSA status to the units in 1979, claiming that the areas did not meet the statutory requirements



Brush Mountain, part of the unprotected Cahto wilderness

Photo by Michael Huddleston

for WSA designation, (areas usually should be over 5,000 acres in size and have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation). This denial now leaves the areas vulnerable to BLM's own management designs.

Several conservation groups, including the California Wilderness Coalition, the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, and the Cahto Coalition, a grassroots organization formed to preserve wilderness in Mendocino County, appealed BLM's decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in 1980, contending that BLM erroneously based its decision on an incomplete inventory of the areas' values. Three years later, the Board finally ruled on the appeal—in BLM's favor.

Before 1979, BLM had stated in an Environmental Impact Report on the exchange of private lands near the South Fork for other public land, that it would exchange the lands in order to protect the Wild and Scenic River. Michael Huddleston, chairman of the Cahto Coalition, argues that that BLM had wanted to consolidate the areas between Elkhorn Ridge and Brush Mountain units since 1976, but owners of private land along the South Fork could not get BLM to strike up a deal. Huddleston maintains that BLM did not consolidate the areas which would form more than 9,000 acres before the WSA decision, so it could more easily disregard the land for wilderness study since the areas were separately under 5,000 acres. According to Huddleston, "BLM waited until [conservation] groups exhausted all administrative appeals to exchange land for consolidation."

BLM has now consolidated its holdings in the headwaters of the South Fork, and even though the area surrounding the preserve now totals over 14,000 acres, BLM has refused to consider any of these lands for wilderness and has plans for roads and logging around the preserve.

Additionally, prior to the 1979

decision, BLM had designated public land within the NCCRP for preservation in its Master Framework Plan, but they still did not grant the Cahto unit WSA status. According to Huddleston, "many people take for granted that The Nature Conservancy is protecting the preserve, yet the upper reaches of the preserve are federal land as well as surrounding lands, and their future will always be uncertain if BLM is allowed to ignore their value as wilderness."

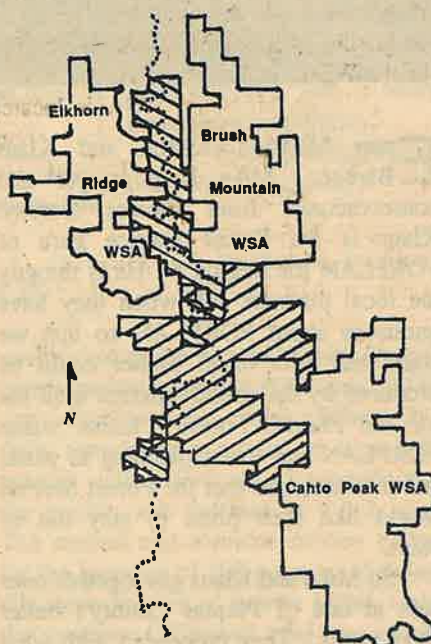
Currently, BLM is revising its management plans for the area. Conservation groups want BLM to consider wilderness and "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" designation for Brush Mountain and Elkhorn Ridge units, as well as the South Fork of the Eel River corridor. Cahto Coalition has been active in following BLM's actions and explains that their main focus is to delay any actions that may degrade the area's wilderness suitability and to insure that the units are included in any future Congressional wilderness bill.

The NCCRP is open to the public for day use only, with the entrance in Branscomb. Access to Elkhorn Ridge and Brush Mountain can be accomplished by following the South Fork of the Eel River or by entering from 10-mile Creek, as is the common practice of many kayakers. The area is very rugged and only experienced kayakers should attempt boating through the area. There are no trails outside of the Preserve area.

Cahto Coalition believes that strong public support as well as an endorsement by The Nature Conservancy will bring the areas to Congress' attention. You can write The Nature Conservancy, urging them to support wilderness designation of these areas, insuring the NCCRP and the surrounding areas receive permanent protection. The Nature Conservancy may be reached at 156 Second Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

Lora Moerwald is an intern with the CWC who majors in Environmental Policy Analysis & Planning at U.C. Davis.

CAHTO PEAK AREA



-  The Nature Conservancy [NCCRP]
-  Wild & Scenic River Immediate Environment [1/2 mile corridor]

PUBLIC LANDS

Final Recommendations Released for Twelve More WSAs

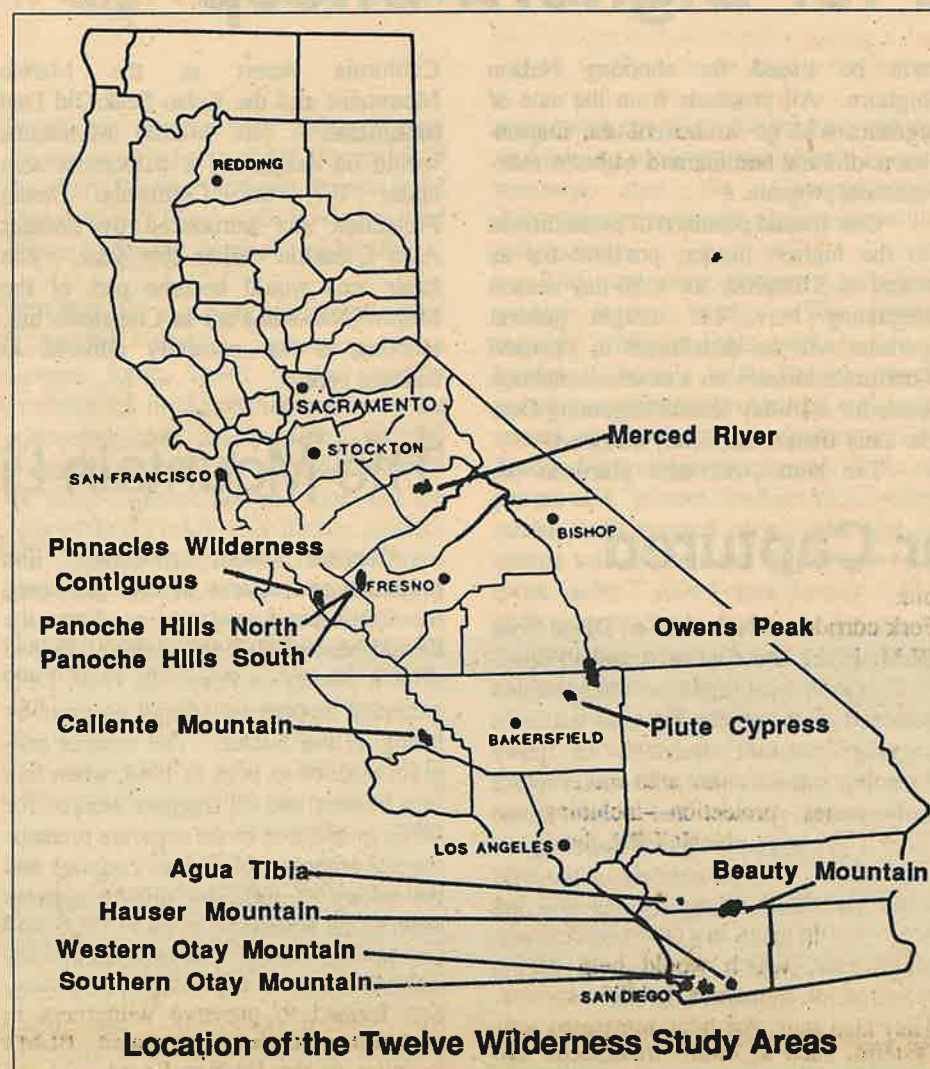
by Lora Moerwald

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] recently issued more final environmental impact statements [EISs], regarding wilderness recommendations for twelve Wilderness Study Areas [WSAs] in Central and Southwest California. Final EISs are now complete for Merced River, Panoche Hills North, Panoche Hills South, Pinnacles Wilderness Contiguous, Caliente Mountain, Owens Peak, Piute Cypress WSAs in the the Bakersfield District, and for Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western Otay Mountain and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs in Indio Resource Area of the California Desert District. Of the 114,603 acres comprising the eleven WSAs, BLM has recommended only 28,610 acres for wilderness designation. Descriptions of the areas are as follows:

Central California

Merced River WSA is located within Mariposa County about 45 miles southeast of Modesto. The proposed action for this area is No Wilderness/No Action, where none of the 12,835 acres will be designated wilderness but will be managed instead for multiple uses other than wilderness. Under this proposal, the entire area, with the exception of Limestone Salamander Area of Critical Environmental Concern, will remain open to off-road vehicle use. Lands will also be open for mining and grazing.

Panoche Hills North WSA is located within Fresno County about 50 miles west of Fresno. Under this proposal, none of the WSA's 6,677 acres will be designated wilderness but will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Vehicle use will be limited to four-wheel vehicles on designated routes and will be restricted between May and September due to the area's high fire hazard during this period. The area also will be opened to oil and gas exploration and development.



Panoche Hills South WSA also is located within Fresno county about 50 miles west of Fresno. Under this proposal, none of the 11,267 acres will be designated wilderness, but will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Lands within this area will be managed similarly to the Panoche Hills North WSA. Additionally, both WSAs will be open to non-motorized recreational activities, although no trails exist in either WSA.

Pinnacles Wilderness Contiguous is located within San Benito and Monterey Counties about thirty miles southeast of Salinas. The proposed action for this WSA is partial wilderness, where 2,200 of 5,838 acres will be designated wilder-

ness. The unit contains five separate parcels which adjoin the Pinnacles National Monument Wilderness Area. Under this proposal, motorized recreational use will remain limited to four and one-half miles of designated primitive routes in the area not designated for wilderness. The remainder of the area will be managed to enhance non-motorized recreational use, although existing levels of grazing will continue in both portions of the WSA.

Caliente Mountain WSA is located within San Luis Obispo County about fifty miles southwest of Bakersfield. The proposed action for this WSA is no action, where none of the 19,018 acres will be designated for wilderness but rather will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Under this proposal, recreational management will be directed toward enhancing non-motorized use, while vehicle use will be restricted to five one-half mile stretches designated for off-road vehicle [ORV] use. Grazing will continue, and mineral location and entry as well as oil exploration will be open.

Owens Peak WSA is located within Tulare and Kern Counties about sixty miles northeast of Bakersfield. Under this proposal, 14,960 of 22,560 acres will be designated wilderness. The remaining acres will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Under this proposal, designated wilderness lands will be managed to enhance

non-motorized recreation opportunities on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail which runs the length of the WSA [and is closed by law to ORV use]. The remaining portion of the WSA will be open to ORV use and mineral exploration, development, and mining.

Piute Cypress WSA is located within Kern County about 35 miles northeast of Bakersfield. Under this proposal, none of the 5,527 acres will be designated wilderness, but rather will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. The area will be open to mineral entry and location, and small scale mining development is anticipated. ORV use will continue. The WSA encompasses 1,949 acres of Forest Service's Cypress roadless area in the Sequoia National Forest.

Southwest California

Hauser Mountain WSA is located within San Diego County. The proposed action is no wilderness for the 5,489-acre WSA. Lands in the area will be designated "limited" for ORV use, and vehicles are banned by law from the Pacific Crest Trail which traverses the area. Livestock grazing will be increased when prescribed burns are initiated.

Western Otay Mountain WSA is located within San Diego County. Under this proposal, 4,110 of 5,750 acres will be designated wilderness. The remaining acres will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness, including ORV use. In 1982 BLM recommended 5,615 acres for wilderness, but in 1984 they recommended no wilderness and planned to transfer the land to the Forest Service.

Southern Otay Mountain WSA also is located within San Diego County. Under this proposal, 6,980 of 7,940 acres will be recommended for wilderness. In 1982 BLM recommended 5,609 acres for wilderness, but in 1984 they recommended no wilderness and planned to transfer the land to the Forest Service. The area is separated from the Western Otay Mountain WSA by an unimproved road / firebreak.

Beauty Mountain WSA is located within San Diego and Riverside counties. Under this proposal, none of the 11,342 acres will be designated for wilderness. Instead, the area will remain open to ORV use, mining, and grazing. In 1982 BLM recommended 6,190 acres for wilderness, but in 1984 they recommended no wilderness and planned to transfer the land to the Forest Service.

Agua Tibia WSA is located within Riverside County. Under this proposal, all 360 acres will be recommended for wilderness. The WSA is contiguous with the 14,934-acre Agua Tibia Wilderness in the Cleveland National Forest.

Lora Moerwald is an intern with the CWC who majors in Environmental Policy Analysis & Planning at U.C. Davis.



BLM is proposing lands adjoining the Pinnacles Wilderness

Photo by Archie Douglas

Protected Since 1873

Hunt Planned for Bighorn Sheep

The first hunt of bighorn sheep in over a century recently was authorized by the state Fish and Game Commission. Bighorn became fully protected in California in 1873, but the state Legislature authorized hunting the rare animal last year. The sheep will be killed in two areas in San Bernardino County where their populations are thought to have made a strong enough comeback to sustain a limited hunt. All bighorn sheep in other areas of the state remain fully protected.

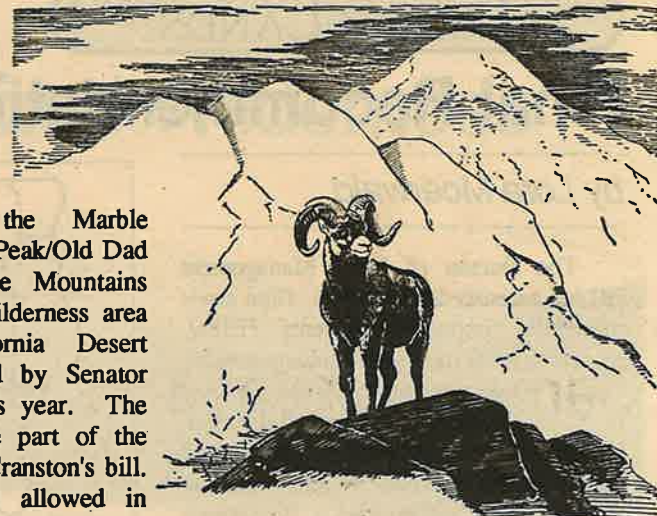
Under the hunt rules, nine permits

will be issued for shooting Nelson bighorn. All proceeds from the sale of permits will go to benefit the Department of Fish and Game's bighorn management program.

One special permit will be auctioned to the highest bidder, possible for as much as \$100,000, for a 30-day season beginning Nov. 21. Eight general permits will be distributed to licensed California hunters on a random selection basis for a 16-day season beginning Dec. 5. Only mature rams may be killed.

The hunts will take place in the

California desert at the Marble Mountains and the Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains. The Marble Mountains would be designated a wilderness area under S.7, the California Desert Protection Act introduced by Senator Alan Cranston earlier this year. The latter area would become part of the Mojave National Park in Cranston's bill. Hunting is not normally allowed in national parks.



Sketch by Olaus Murie

Last Wild Condor Captured

For the first time in 15,000 years, the California condor no longer flies in the skies of the state. The last condor was captured and put behind bars on April 19th.

The 7-year-old male known as AC-9 was taken from the wild to join the 26

remaining condors in the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Los Angeles Zoo.

AC-9 was captured, radio-tagged, and released in December 1984, as part of a tagging program intended to leave breeding pairs in the wild and capture only young condors and obtain fertile eggs for captive breeding.

But after six of the wild birds died—leaving one one known breeding pair—it was decided to bring in all the remaining condors.

"You look over the area of their last stronghold and feel awfully hollow in a way," said National Audubon Society's Greg Sanders.

"It's a very strange moment," said Bill Toone, curator of birds for the Wild Animal Park.

"Though it's sad to accept the last of any species from the wild, we are confident that in a few years we will be releasing captive-bred offspring into a better protected environment."

To date, no condors have been bred in captivity.



Cartoon by Dennis Renault

The Sacramento Bee

Mountain Lion Hunt

Continued from page 1

well as poaching. Fish and Game officials estimate that at least as many deer are poached as are killed legally.

Many anti-hunt speakers also questioned the accuracy of the lion population estimates that are officially listed at 5,100 but may be low as 1,000. The population study was conducted in a small area of habitat, and these results were simply extrapolated to include all potential cougar habitat. At the same time, many cited the trophy hunt as inappropriate, unwarranted, and cruel.

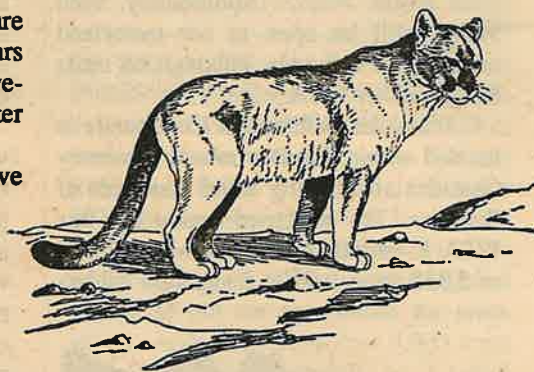
The Commission purported to consider all options, from a continued

moratorium to the Fish and Game Department's recommendation for a hunt of 210 cats. Commissioner Abel Galletti initially introduced a motion to issue 140 permits with a limit of 45 cougars, but the motion was defeated in a 3-2 vote. The second and ultimate motion called for the issuance of 190 permits, allowing this same number of cats be killed. Only the southern California zone was eliminated from the Department's proposal. The vote, 3-2, transformed the standing-room only crowd into a chaotic mass of screaming and stomping protesters. The two dissenting votes, by commissioners Galletti and McCracken, did not oppose the hunt in itself, but simply the

Concern about mountain lion predation on livestock in 1907 prompted the California Legislature to direct the Department of Fish and Game [DFG] to offer a bounty on lions. In 1919, DFG extended its predator control program by hiring a lion hunter. The control program reached its peak in 1948, when five lion hunters and 40 trappers worked for DFG, in addition to the separate predator control programs of various counties and the taking of lions by private citizens seeking the bounty.

In the 1950s lion predation was deemed not to be the problem to deer or stock that it once was. The DFG's predator control program was ended in 1959, and the Legislature voted to end the bounty in 1963.

Between 1907 and 1963 more than 12,400 mountain lions were killed for bounty payments. Fewer than 600 cats survived in the state when the bounty was lifted.



Sketch by Olaus Murie

numbers of cats allowed to be killed.

Hunt opponents at the hearing threatened to retaliate against a hunt approval with meat-eating boycotts, an international campaign against tourism in California, hunger strikes, and other unspecified actions. On another level, Sierra Club and the Mountain Lion Coalition are considering legal action to block the hunt, revolving around the Department's lack of sufficient data on the lion to conduct the hunt.

Joe Bogaard is an intern with the Coalition and is majoring in zoology at the University of California at Davis.

In 1969, upon the recommendation of the DFG, the Legislature reclassified the mountain lion as a game mammal. During the first regulated hunting season in 1970-71, the DFG issued more than 4,900 tags, and 118 lions were killed.

In 1972, a coalition of people concerned about the lion convinced the Legislature to reclassify the lion as a protected non-game animal and to place a four-year moratorium on sport hunting of lions, the first and only such protective measure in the West. A state-wide estimate made by DFG at the time indicated a total population of about 2,400 lions.

Since 1972 the moratorium was extended several times, and lions have been legally taken only under specific conditions to alleviate damage to livestock and other property.

In 1985, with the lion hunting moratorium set to expire on January 1, 1986, lion management legislation authored by Senator Robert Presley was introduced making the lion a game mammal and permitting hunting under specified conditions. The bill ultimately was vetoed by Governor George Deukmejian, who said he felt it "unnecessary to statutorily treat the mountain lion differently from other game animals." With the ending of the moratorium, the lion reverted to game mammal status designated in statutes before the moratorium.

Early in 1986 after the moratorium ended, the state Fish and Game Commission moved quickly to retain the regulations governing the taking of lions causing damage to livestock that were in effect during the moratorium. This was done to keep the regulations from reverting to the much less restrictive, pre-1972 depredation procedures.

Additionally, the commission deferred sport hunting for the mountain lion and called for one more year of study and research.

Hunting of mountain lion currently is allowed in all the western states except California. The Fish and Game Department, based on their studies, claim that lions currently occupy all suitable habitat, approximately 80,000 square miles, and lion populations may be as high as 5,100 animals.



Peaks 10181' and 9961' in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

Photo by Jeff Schaffer

Carson-Iceberg & Mokelumne Wilderness Plans Underway

The Forest Service has begun the preparation of management plans for the Carson-Iceberg and Mokelumne wilderness areas. The plans are expected to be final by the spring of 1989.

Three national forests, the Eldorado, Stanislaus, and Toiyabe, are working together to develop plans for these Sierra wilderness areas. The first phase of this process, the identification of public

issues and concerns, ends May 1. Next year a draft environmental analysis and plan will be distributed for public review and comment.

If you wish to be involved in this process, contact:

Stanislaus National Forest
ATTN: WILDERNESS
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

T (for Toad?) -Shirts to Fit All

Now that it is springtime and your thoughts turn to the outdoors, you will want 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 and pink in women's small, medium, and large. [Sorry, we are out of tan in large size at present.]

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.

FORPLAN

Continued from page 3

premiere forestry consultant on forest planning in the U.S. He is both a forester and an economist. Randal says that the RAM PREP heart of FORPLAN used in the California Region (Region 5) inflates timber production. Furthermore, and specifically concerning the Plumas Forest, Randal says that not only is the Plumas overestimating timber production, but their existing timber inventory is inflated as well. No written reply has ever been provided concerning Randal's comment on the Plumas plan, but the planners assure us that his concerns are not valid.

The final Plumas National Forest Land Management Plan should be released for public review by the end of this year. Naturally, we would like the Forest Service to choose the Conservationist Alternative so that roadless areas, spotted owls, and the local timber based economy can be provided for, at least according to FORPLAN. If FORPLAN works, then our alternative is the best choice. If it doesn't work, then the Forest Service has problems.

Steve Evans is the general manager of the Butte Environmental Council and president of the California Wilderness Coalition.



Kings River

Continued from page 1

Off-road vehicle use will be restricted to current levels, and commercial timber harvesting and new mining claims will be prohibited in this special management area.

The proposed special management area preserves much more of the canyon than would have been protected by wild and scenic designation alone, if managed consistently with the Act.

The Rodgers Crossing Dam had been proposed with the hope that it stored water could offset the large drain on groundwater pumped for irrigation by local farmers. The project proved to be uneconomical, however, as it would yield water only in above average runoff conditions occurring one year out of three. As a result of this and the likelihood that the legislation will be enacted into law, the Kings River Conservation District [KRCD] has dropped the project.

An alternative plan seems likely, however. KRCD directors are looking into raising the existing Pine Flat Dam twenty feet to increase its water storing capacity. This compromise is allowed for in H.R. 799.

John Muir initiated the battle to save the Kings watershed in the late 19th

century. He wrote, "all of this wonderful Kings River region along with the sequoia groves to the south, should be comprehended in one grand national park. Let our law-givers then make haste before it is too late...and all the world will rise up and call them blessed."

There is reason for Muir's admiration of this area. Of all the rivers in the U.S. outside Alaska, the Kings has the greatest undammed vertical drop and is located partially in the deepest canyon in North America.

The area is known for its breathtaking beauty. Colorful rocks adorn canyon walls and snow capped Sierra peaks loom above on both sides. Cedar Grove on the South Fork and Tehipite Valley on the Middle Fork are examples of beautiful backcountry. Fishing and rafting in the Kings is some of the finest in California.

The Committee to Save the Kings River does not perceive the compromise legislation as the end of the fight for the Kings. They will continue to work for national recognition, protection, and preservation management of the Kings River watershed.

Jennifer Wachter is a volunteer with the CWC and is an Arts/English major at the University of California at Davis.

California Wilderness Coalition

Editor

Jim Eaton

Graphics

Archie Douglas
Jim Eaton
Phillip Farrell
Gerard Gendron
Michael Huddleston
Olaus Murie
Dennis Renault
Jeff Schaffer
Jennifer Wachter

Contributors

Joe Bogaard
Jim Eaton
Steve Evans
Lora Morewald
Jennifer Wachter

Production

Joe Bogaard
Wendy Cohen
Lora Moerwald
Jennifer Wachter

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California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616
(916) 758-0380
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Enterprise

Advisory Committee

Harriet Allen
David R. Brower
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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.

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