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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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## Grazing, timber dominate

### Modoc Forest Plan Out

By Steve Evans

The future of some of the most remote wildlands in California is at stake in the Modoc National Forest land management plan, which is now available for public review. In the far northeastern corner of the state, the Modoc NF encompasses almost 2 million acres, mainly in Modoc County.

At stake are some of the most productive and pristine wildlands and wildlife habitat to be found in California. Roadless areas that very few have ever visited, wetlands full of waterfowl, bald eagles soaring over precipitous rimrock, and herds of pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and deer are common in the Modoc NF. The diverse landscape ranges from the sub-alpine lakes, lush meadows, and popular hiking trails of the Warner Mountains to the seemingly barren lava flows of the Modoc Plateau and the forested highlands of Medicine Lake, a massive shield volcano and caldera lake.

Unfortunately, many areas in the Modoc NF have been overgrazed, logged, or abused. The pristine areas that remain need to be preserved, and degraded areas need to be restored.

The type of logging practiced in the Modoc has been "high grading," which means taking out all of the valuable trees in a stand and leaving poorly stocked stands throughout the forest. The draft plan proposes to clearcut 3,400 acres of forest land every year in a belated attempt to "start over." The clearcut lands will then be replanted and treated with toxic herbicides to prevent natural vegetation from "competing" with the Forest Service's conifer plantations. The results of these practices are not predictable, however, because reforestation of clearcut land on the Modoc is hampered by rocky soil and the semi-arid environment.

The harvesting method preferred by conservationists is selection cutting, in which trees are cut in small groups or individually, leaving good growing stock. This is a more difficult style of timber harvesting, but it is justified by the benefits to wildlife, soils, water and visual quality.

The Modoc NF has the most extensive grazing program of any national forest in California, and the range and riparian areas continued on p. 6



Snow Mountain Wilderness

Photo by Phillip Kay

**Inside** — Court okays huge grazing fee subsidies  
— Special on the South Warner Wilderness — Desert mineral "lock-up" grossly exaggerated

## Peppermint Appeal Decided — But Who Won?

By Jim Eaton

Back in the days of the Vietnam War, it was suggested that the U.S. could save face and get out of a sticky situation just by declaring victory and then withdrawing our troops. The Forest Service seems to have taken this advice to heart by ruling against conservationists fighting the proposed Peppermint ski area.

But did they *really* rule against us?

The Bad News: Chief Forester F. Dale Robertson has upheld Regional Forester Zane G. Smith's denial of our appeal.

The Good News: The Chief "recharacterized" and "modified" the Regional Forester's decision, bringing the proposed project back to square one.

"We have what we feel protects the environment in writing, and we'll hold them

to it," said Carla Cloer, spokesperson for the appellants. "We are really happy."

Two years ago the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Peppermint Alert, Tulare County Audubon Society, Kern Valley Wildlife Association, Porterville Area Environmental Council, Kaweah Flyfishers, Defenders of Wildlife, and Ronald J. Wermuth appealed a decision to build a new downhill ski area in the Slate Mountain roadless area of Sequoia National Forest.

The appellants' appeal was based on numerous points of concern, including failure to consider adequately wildlife habitat (especially that of the California condor), sensitive plants, air quality, road problems, sewage treatment, economic issues, and housing. Appellants felt the proposal violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the American Indian Religious

Freedom Act.

Regional Forester Smith disagreed with all the issues raised in objection to the ski development proposal. In his decision, however, he constantly referred to the environmental impact statement (EIS) as being for "determination of the suitability and feasibility" of the Peppermint area for downhill skiing. This is not what the Sequoia National Forest had explained as the purpose of the EIS; they insisted this was for the entire project, not just the siting of the resort.

Chief Robertson agreed with Smith's modification, stating that the Regional Forester's ruling "recharacterized the original decision of the Forest Supervisor as one which only designates the site as having potential for ski area development."

Robertson then argued that the ski development proposal is "totally concep-

tual." "We are not aware of a developer waiting to begin construction on Slate Mountain," he wrote. "Should no suitable bids be received, no further action would be called for regarding possible use of this land for ski area development."

Most of the appellant's arguments against the proposed ski area were over environmental issues ignored in the EIS. By limiting the scope of the original decision, Robertson ruled that these impacts were yet to be studied, and that should the Forest Service decide to develop the area a supplemental or new EIS would be written.

"If they want to use the face-saving method of saying this is what we always wanted to do, that's fine," Cloer said. She added that further legal action by the appellants is not anticipated at this time.

## COALITION REPORT

By Jim Eaton

This is the first issue of the new monthly *Wilderness Record*. Now in its thirteenth year, the California Wilderness Coalition has published the newsletter bimonthly since 1976.

Well, usually bimonthly. Twice we got so far behind that we combined four months into one issue. And under my tenure as editor, the *Record* nearly always was late—the November-December issue would be mailed around Christmas, for example.

Stephanie Mandel, our new editor, has changed all that. This edition is being mailed just before Christmas, but it is the *January* issue! In her three months here she has caught us up eight weeks and begun our change to a monthly publication. I'm impressed!

She isn't perfect, of course. Those of you that tried to follow the continued articles around last issue know that newsletter wasn't without error. Just look at the long errata list on the next page. Picky, picky, picky. In the past dozen years we have produced more memorable mistakes than that: there is the infamous "March-April March-April" issue [how could a proof-reader miss a double headline?] and numerous examples of scrambled articles, caption errors, and wrong credits.

There is one big unanswered question: how do we keep Steph on when the grant money runs out in September. One way is to increase our membership. We are starting to mail lots of new member solicitations now. If you have a list of people who might like to see a sample copy of the *Record*, let

us know.

Another possibility is advertising. The CWC Board will consider this option at their February meeting. We have mixed feelings about advertising, but if it could bring in substantial revenue to allow us to continue to improve the newsletter we may decide to do so. You have any opinions on this?

The annual meeting of the California Wilderness Coalition will be held on February 6th in Davis. Members are welcome to attend, although they will see the Board of Directors address such exciting topics as membership renewals, new T-shirt design, and advertising in the *Record*. But if you are interested in seeing how our Board works, call for details.

The Coalition's recent fund appeal is doing quite well. Donations have ranged from \$3.00 to \$500.00 (thanks, Bob and Anne Schneider!). Money is still coming in, and I am sending our thank you notes and copies of Discover the California Wilderness Act of 1984 to those who requested it with their donation of \$25 or more. This generally is a good time of year financially for the CWC. It has to be, since in past years income has nearly dried up during the summer months.

A warm welcome for Citizens for Better Forestry, our new member group. These folks are guarding the forests of northwestern California and have their hands full working on the timber sales proposed to salvage the lands burned last fall.

## Senator Wilson Tries to Open Wilderness for Dam Project

While touting his environmental voting record in fundraising appeals, Senator Pete Wilson has been pushing to free potential wilderness land from its current protected status in an area that has been targeted for a dam. The land is within what is now the Caples Creek Further Planning Area (FPA) in the Eldorado National Forest—a designation that protects it from certain encroachments, including dam-building, until a wilderness determination has been made.

Wilson is proposing a boundary change that would exclude approximately 250 acres of land from the FPA—land that developer Joseph Keating has planned to use for his Foottrail Hydroelectric Project.

As of press time Wilson was waiting to add the boundary change amendment to unrelated legislation on the House floor. According to Jim Burroughs of Wilson's office, the amendment may be added to HR 990, Wilson's Ocotillo Land Exchange Bill. Wilson had tried to amend Wild & Scenic River legislation in the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Energy, and Natural Resources, but it was not accepted by Subcommittee Chair Dale Bumpers.

According to Jim Burroughs of Senator Wilson's office the Senator will continue to press the issue. Although it is not certain which bill it will be, the Senator plans to try to attach the boundary change provision to any unanimous consent bill (a bill that can pass the Senate only if there are no votes against it). Burroughs expressed confidence that once the change has cleared the authorizing committee, it would have no trouble gaining Senate approval.

Environmental champion Senator Alan Cranston is not opposing the boundary change. Kathy Lacey of Senator Cranston's office explained that the boundary change "was part of the agreement" for the 1984 California Wilderness Act, but that the boundary change bit was left out of the act itself. Lacey added that Cranston is not supporting the hydroelectric project.

Opposing the boundary change are the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC), Sierra Club, and Friends of the River. "The wilderness review should not be subverted by damming part of the roadless area," said Jim Eaton of the CWC. The Eldorado National Forest Final Plan is due to be released in April or May, 1988.

"I think it's fair to say the boundary change is an amendment to the California Wilderness Act," said Sally Kabisch, Northern California-Nevada Representative for the Sierra Club. The California Wilderness Act of 1984, landmark legislation that protected six million acres of land, has not yet been changed.

Caples Creek, west of Silver Lake and Kirkwood, flows into the Silver Fork of the American River. Foottrail was first proposed in 1983, when a permit to construct a dam was denied by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) because the U.S. Forest Service had not yet made recommendations regarding the wilderness status of the pristine region.

### Activism Limited?

## Appeal Regulation Changes Considered

By Jay Watson

Following revisions to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 C.F.R. 211.18) in June 1987, the agency again is considering extensive changes to the regulations.

The Forest Service is conducting the review to comply with Executive Order 12291, which requires each federal agency to review its operating regulations every five years. Draft revisions to the Forest Service appeal regulations could be published in the Federal Register as early as January. Following public review of the proposed changes, the agency plans to publish final revisions by the summer of 1988.

Unfortunately, this review cycle coincides with particularly vocal opposition to the appeals process from the timber industry, local government, and other developmental interests. About 28 percent of all appeals involve project level timber management deci-

sions, and 21 percent address land management or "forest planning" related decisions.

The more prominent revisions would do the following:

- establish two categories of appeals, those dealing with contractual "rights" such as a grazing lease or timber contract, and those dealing with "differences of opinion over matters of judgement or professional opinion" (such as a forest plan or timber sale appeal);
- require appellants to make an effort to negotiate a resolution of the conflict prior to a filing an appeal;
- eliminate intervenor status (which allows other affected parties to join either side of an appeal); and
- abolish "two-level" review of appeals. Currently an appeal may be continued to a

second level (such as to the Chief) after an adverse ruling by a subordinate (such as the Regional Forester).

It is difficult to understand why developmental interests are pushing so hard for full-scale revisions to the appeals process at this time. Only 15 percent of all appeals are eventually upheld by the Forest Service headquarters in Washington D.C.

The Wilderness Society and other environmental groups have been closely following the review of the Forest Service appeal rule. They have strongly opposed changes that would limit, hinder, or burden citizen participation in the appeals process. Look for further information on the proposed changes and opportunity to comment in future editions of the *Wilderness Record*.

Jay Watson is Regional Associate for California and Nevada for The Wilderness Society and a CWC Board member.

### The First Ever

## Jim Eaton Roast

*He's been in the conservation movement for over 20 years...*

*Longtime colleagues and friends tell all!*

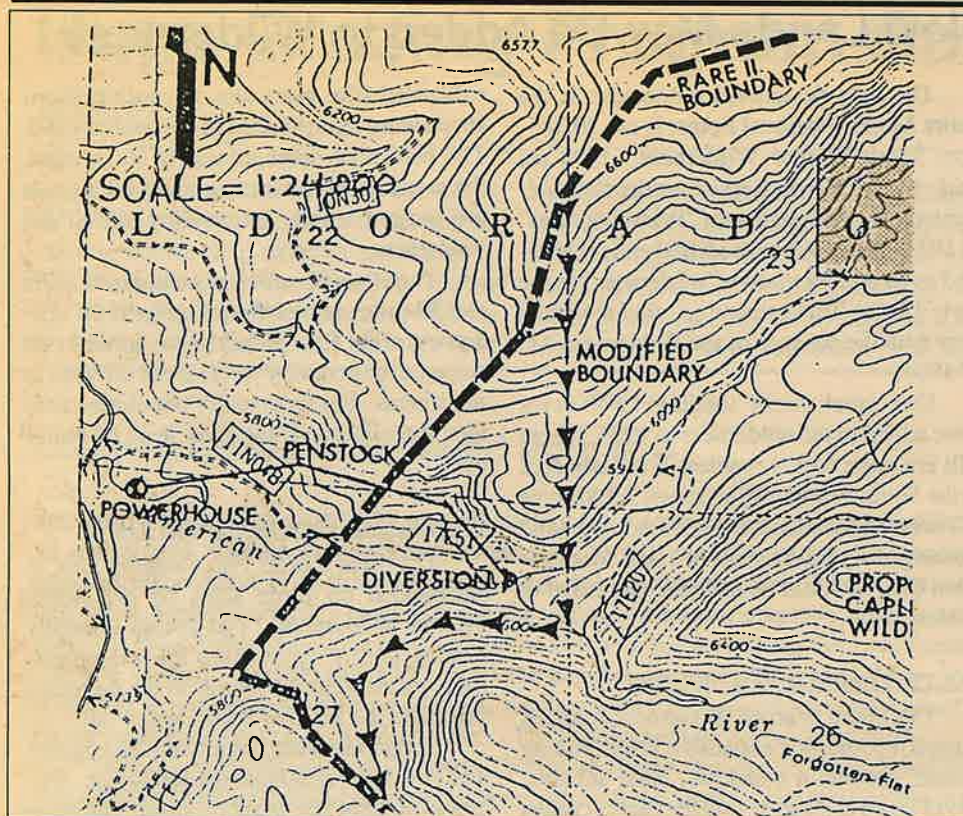
**February 6, 1988  
7:30 pm**

**wine, finger food**

**Village Homes Community Center, Davis**

**A California Wilderness Coalition fundraiser**

*Save this date: October 19 – 22, 1989 is the California Wilderness Conference!*



The Caples Creek Further Planning Area, east of the line (- - -), would be modified to accommodate the proposed Foottrail Hydroelectric Project.

## Desert Mining Misinformation Disproved by Studies

The mining industry and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have been circulating considerable misinformation about the impact of the California Desert Protection Act on mining. In every public forum they can find, they claim the act will "lock up" strategic and valuable minerals inside national parks and wilderness areas.

Actually, very little mining occurs within the park and wilderness areas proposed in the act. Wherever possible, valid existing mineral claims were excluded from the proposed boundaries. All mining on valid claims inside the proposed boundaries will be allowed to continue, but there is not much of it there, despite the hue and cry from the industry and the BLM.

Recent studies by The Wilderness Society and Citizens for a Mojave National Park refute opponents' misstatements. The Wilderness Society study, conducted by W. Thomas Goerold and issued last July, deals with known reserves of strategic and valuable minerals in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA).

Goerold uses data from the BLM, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to show that only a few of the 124 minerals identified as strategic by the Government are being produced or have reserves in the entire proposed park and wilderness boundaries, nor in the entire 25 million acres of the CDCA.

Goerold notes that small amounts of tin and manganese have been produced in the CDCA, but not in the proposed park or wilderness areas. The Bureau of Mines recom-

mends that in an emergency manganese be produced from the two best deposits, located in Minnesota and Maine.

Opponents have made much of the presence of rare earths in the East Mojave and their possible role in creating superconductors. Goerold points that all of the known deposits of rare earths are in the Mountain Pass area and are excluded from proposed park and wilderness boundaries. These deposits will meet U.S. needs for at least 140 years at current levels of consumption.

The big mineral deposits in the California deserts are borates and sodium compounds. Goerold cites BLM data indicating that deposits of those minerals sufficient for the foreseeable future are being mined at Searles Lake and Boron.

The study by Citizens for a National Mojave Park, issued in April, 1987, also documents the scarcity of commercially viable minerals in EMNSA. Further, it notes there are only two full-time, active commercial mines in the East Mojave National Scenic Area (EMNSA), the area proposed for the Mojave National Park — the Morningstar gold mine and the Aiken cinder operation. One part-timer, the Hart Clay Mine, is also in operation. There were 10,341 mining claims in EMNSA in 1986.

*Reprinted with permission from the CDPL (California Desert Protection League) News, November, 1987.*

## "Sliding to Extinction" Report Documents Species' Peril

By Denise S. Groncki

According to a study commissioned by the California Nature Conservancy study entitled "Sliding Toward Extinction," nearly 40 percent of the state's freshwater fish, a third of its mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and one quarter of its birds are approaching extinction. California's environmental health, it seems, may be balancing between stability and catastrophe.

The report by the Sacramento consulting firm of Jones and Stokes Associates indicates that the most critical threats to habitats and species are concentrated in areas which have been heavily farmed and developed, that is, 55 percent of all California land.

California is home to an abundance of species that exist nowhere else on earth — 5,200 different plants and 748 vertebrate animals — of which 600 plants and 220 animal species have been placed on endangered or threatened lists. Many more await similar classification.

California stands to lose more than wildlife if this downward trend in environmental health continues, the report warns. Medicines from natural plant compounds, pest control by natural predator species, and pollination of agricultural crops are all at risk if species and habitats are not protected.

Some expect "Sliding Toward Extinction" to play a major role in attempts to gain legislative approval for the \$85 million species and critical habitat protection bond issue that may go to the voters in June, 1988.

Recommendations in the report include buying and setting aside critical habitats to be used as refuges, expanding the ability of state agencies to conduct predevelopment environmental impact reviews, and extending the protection of endangered species on public lands to include those on private lands.

The report also asks for re-evaluation of

existing laws and regulations protecting biological diversity and broadening the endangered species listing process.

The California Nature Conservancy is part of the national non-profit Nature Conservancy and works closely with government agencies in the identification and protection of rare and endangered native plants, animals, and natural communities in California.

*Denise S. Groncki has worked as a lobbyist for the CA State Student Assoc. and as an instructor with Hurricane Island Outward Bound in Maine.*

## Record ERRATA

1. Some of our more puzzle-oriented readers may have enjoyed searching for the continuations of four articles in the November/December *Record*. For those who still haven't found the rest of these articles, "Rivers Go Wild" goes from page 1 to page 3 (not to page 2), "Wild Lands" goes from page 1 to page 6 (not to page 5), "Fire Suppression" goes from page 3 to page 5 (not to page 7), and "State's Right to Regulate" goes from page 4 to page 7 (not to page 5).

2. The front page photo of the Merced River at El Portal was taken by Pat Carr.

3. On the Kings River map (page 3) the Special Management Area boundary is slightly off—5 miles of the Main Fork of the Kings, from Yucca Point downriver to Garlic Falls, is designated as Wild and Scenic.

4. Apologies to Lora Moerwald for chopping a paragraph or so out of her story on the Granite Rock state vs. federal regulation Supreme Court decision. Here's the mystery portion:

Early in March of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court had to settle such a matter.

Granite Rock Company, a limestone mining firm operated on federally owned lands on and around Mount Pico Blanco in the Big Sur region of the Los Padres National Forest between 1959 and 1980. Over this 21 year period the company removed small samples of limestone for mineral analysis in accordance with the Mining Act of 1872. Under this Act, a private citizen (or company, like Granite Rock) may explore federal lands for mineral deposits. If valuable minerals are found, that person can "have the exclusive right of possession and enjoyment of all the surface included within the lines of their locations," if he or she complies with the requirements of the Mining Act and other related regulations.

## Wilderness Quiz Question by Jim Eaton

What California wilderness area has been enlarged twice since first being designated wilderness by Congress?

(Answer on page 7.)

# Ghost of Wilderness Logging Lives

By Lisa K. Miller

*Thinking about the South Warner Mountains, the specter of a frightening incident that occurred in this wilderness area over 15 years ago came up. Few ever knew of the logging on this protected, paradisaical land, so we asked Lisa Miller to resurrect the story.*

The South Warner Wilderness began in 1931 as a Primitive Area, and after several changes in status was designated wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. In the spring of 1972, Luis Ireland, then Chairman of the Sierra Club's Northern California-Nevada Wilderness Committee, discovered that a portion of the South Warner Wilderness had been logged.

The logged area, which Ireland came across while hiking, is in the southern section of the wilderness and is part of the 1970 Patterson Mill Sale. It is not known exactly how many acres of wilderness were logged in that sale, but correspondence between Ireland and then-Regional Forester Doug Leisz suggests that about 150 acres of wilderness were affected.

According to Bill Britton of the Modoc National Forest, five different timber sales were made between 1958 and 1970 that included portions of the South Warner Wilderness area. A total of 262 acres were logged within the wilderness. However, some of these sales occurred prior to the 1964 Wilderness Act. It is not known what portion of the total acreage was logged after 1964. One and one quarter miles of logging roads also were constructed.

Ireland recalls that when he pointed out the problem to Ken Wiesenborne, the Modoc Forest Supervisor at that time, the man was quite confused by the situation. "He (Wiesenborne) kept saying that the maps didn't match," Ireland remembers. He was right. The maps in use at the Modoc National Forest office had a different boundary drawn for the wilderness than Ireland's visitors' map.

Apparently, when the area was being studied to determine its eligibility for wilderness status, a new, wider boundary was drawn by the Forest Service Regional Office. The Modoc Forest Service wanted the original boundary, but the Regional Office boundary became the official one when the South Warner was designated wilderness. However, the Modoc Forest used the old boundary when preparing its timber sales. A map of the Patterson Mill Sale clearly shows that the wilderness boundary used was the old one.

The official explanation, according to a Sierra Club document dated January 1973,

continued on p.5

## S O U T H W A R N E R W I L D E R N E S S

## New Lands May Be Added to Wilderness

The only designated wilderness in the entire Modoc National Forest is the 70,385-acre South Warner Wilderness. First set aside by the Forest Service under their administrative designation of "Primitive Area" in 1931, the area was modified and reclassified as an administrative "wilderness" in the early 1960s. This became an official wilderness with the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Five small areas totaling 1,940-acres were added to the wilderness in 1984. There still are unprotected roadless areas adjacent to the South Warner Wilderness; 2,300 acres of Forest Service land and 4,500 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) could be added to the existing wilderness.

### SOUTH WARNER WILDERNESS

The South Warner Wilderness contains rugged topography, expansive vistas, rolling forests, mountain meadows, clear streams, lots of cows and sheep, and the highest peaks in northeastern California. Conspicuous landmarks within the wilderness include 9,892-foot Eagle Peak, 9,710-foot Warren Peak, and 8,646-foot Squaw Peak. Mount Shasta dominates the view to the west while the alkali lakes of Surprise Valley shimmer to the east.

The Warner Mountains are a fault block that rises 5,500 feet above the surrounding plains and lake beds. The eastern slope is precipitous with sparse vegetation while the more gentle western slope has rolling lands. Jeffrey, ponderosa, western white, white-bark, and lodgepole pine trees are found here. Other vegetation includes white fir, western juniper, aspen, bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and grasses.

Wildlife species include California bighorn sheep, pronghorn [antelope], mule deer, goshawk, and golden eagle. After being

extirpated fifty years ago, fourteen bighorn sheep were reintroduced to the area in 1980. The herd now numbers nearly 60 animals. Six cattle and three sheep grazing allotments are located wholly or partially within the wilderness.

There are 81 miles of maintained trails and 23 miles of abandoned trails in the wilderness area. Except for the precipitous east slopes, cross-country travel is not difficult in most areas. Far from major population centers, the wilderness has a low level of visitor use.

### FOREST SERVICE ROADLESS LAND

The Bear Camp Flat roadless area is surrounded on three sides by the South Warner Wilderness. The terrain is gently sloping until it approaches the wilderness, from where it climbs sharply to the ridgetops that form the sides of Bear Camp Flat.

Lodgepole pine, mountain mahogany, and meadows dominate the landscape. Potential habitat for bighorn sheep has been identified in part of the area. Other habitat include mule deer summer range and fawning areas and goshawk habitat.

The primary uses of the 2,300-acre roadless area are cattle grazing and hunting. The Forest Service proposes to manage the area for grazing and timber production.

### BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The South Warner Contiguous Wilderness Study Area (WSA) consists of nine separate parcels totaling 4,500 acres located along 18 miles of the east face of the South Warner Wilderness. The pieces range in size from 40 to 2,399 acres. BLM is recommending five of the areas, totaling 1,187 acres, for addition to the existing wilderness area.

These parcels consist mostly of steep slopes and exposed rock faces; the barren slopes support scattered brush and timber. The combination of eroded topography and sparse vegetation gives the impression of "badlands." Many of the canyons contain live streams with associated riparian zones of aspen, conifers, and dense shrubs, which provide contrast to the adjacent barren hillsides.

Year-long mule deer habitat is found here, as well as areas used by pronghorn [antelope] and bighorn sheep. Hawks, eagles, and falcons nest in the rocky cliffs. Other animals found include California quail, blue grouse, dark-eared junco, Clark's nutcracker, deer mouse, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, porcupine, and trout.

Due to the steep slopes and lack of access, recreational use of the WSA is low. Most of it occurs in the southern parcels not recommended by BLM for wilderness. Although only about one quarter of the use involves off-road vehicles, this apparently is the reason BLM is not recommending these pieces for wilderness designation.



The backbone of the S. Warner Mountains culminates at distant 9,892-foot Eagle Peak.  
Photo by Jim Eaton



# Huge Grazing Program Subsidy Okayed By US Court

By Kevin McCarthy

Disappointing conservation groups, a U.S. District Court has ruled that fair market value is not the sole criterion to be used in selecting a grazing fee formula. The October 13, 1987 ruling by Judge Edward J. Garcia rendered a mixed decision on a lawsuit filed

by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Sierra Club, and seven other environmental groups. NRDC and others were challenging the merits of a grazing fee formula established by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service.

Judge Garcia ruled that the BLM and Forest Service were in violation of the 1976 Administrative Procedures Act by not allowing proper public comment on adoption of a new grazing fee formula. Further, Garcia held that a BLM environmental assessment was inadequate and ordered further action taken on the matter.

As early as 1905, with the creation of the Forest Service, grazing fees have been charged for the use of animal unit months (AUMs) by grazers. An AUM is measured as the amount of feed needed per month for a mature cow. BLM has been administering grazing fees since its creation by an executive reorganization plan in 1946. The Grazing Service and the old General Land Office (GLO) were combined to form the BLM. These grazing fees are administered solely in 16 western states.

Although historically grazing fees have remained below their true market value on both public and private land, only recently has this difference become significant. Presently, the BLM and Forest Service are charging only \$1.35 per AUM. A 1985 fee study, sponsored by both agencies, revealed a true market value ranging from \$6.40 to \$9.50 per AUM.

Such a dramatic difference has resulted in taxpayers subsidizing BLM and Forest Service grazing programs. In 1987, Congress appropriated \$66 million for grazing programs but the BLM and Forest Service were expected to collect only \$20 million in grazing fee receipts. Thus, taxpayers are paying a \$46 million subsidy. It is bad enough that taxpayers are providing this amount but worse, this subsidy perpetuates the degradation of public rangelands.

A not-so-surprising result of low grazing fees has been severe overgrazing. Overgrazing leads to destroyed range vegetation, massive soil erosion, reduced fish and wildlife populations, and other serious impacts. BLM acknowledges that 60 percent of its rangelands are in poor condition.

An issue left unresolved by the court involves incorporating costs of rangeland improvement, estimated at \$180 million by the General Accounting Office, into grazing fees. Ironically, the current grazing fee formula was first established in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA). Far from improving rangelands, PRIA "hasn't settled public lands management problems" but "did further damage," according to Sierra Club activist Rose Strickland. PRIA-appropriated funding has been spent primarily on improving cattle ranges, which does nothing for improving the overall productivity of our rangelands.

After expiring on December 31, 1985, the PRIA grazing fee formula was readopted on February 14, 1986, by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. The formula uses a base value of \$1.35 per AUM and takes into consideration average meat prices and

stockmen's operating costs. This was the formula challenged in court by NRDC and others. Based on the October 13 decision, the BLM and Forest Service were ordered to accept public comments on adoption of this formula until November 23.

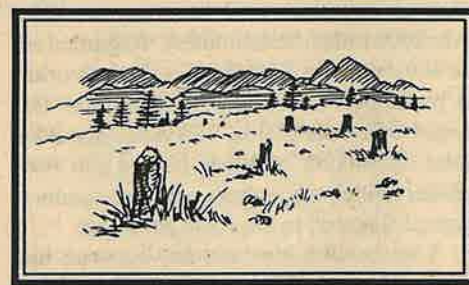
Johanna Wald, Senior Attorney for NRDC, states, "it is my understanding that



public comments were 60 percent to 40 percent in favor of the current fee formula." It seems western ranchers were mobilized on a large scale to send in written comments. The BLM and Forest Service have until January 27, 1988, to decide whether or not to keep the present formula. According to Wald, any change seems unlikely.

Another avenue to change the fee formula lies in the legislative arena. Currently two bills, HR 2621 by Rep. Mike Synar (D-OK) and HR 1481 by Rep. George Darden intense opposition from western ranching interests.

If both administrative and legislative approaches to changing the fee formula fail, what future options exist? According to Wald, legal challenges may be possible based on the Administrative Procedures Act or National Environmental Policy Act provisions. However, both Strickland and Wald agree that "budget pressures" could force re-examination of the subsidized grazing programs administered by the BLM and Forest Service. Hopefully, future deficit-reduction packages will include elimination of this subsidy through raising the current grazing



fee to its true market value. This would be a positive first step towards improving the condition of our ever-deteriorating public rangelands.

Kevin McCarthy is studying Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning at the University of California at Davis. After graduating in June, he plans to work on environmental policy issues at the state capitol or with a non-profit organization.

## Logging Ghost, continued from p. 4

was that "the logging resulted from a combination of faulty timber sale map preparation and an unsurveyed, unmarked wilderness boundary..." The confusion over the boundary explains the problem with the timber sale maps, but no one seems sure why there was confusion. Britton said that it can take 3-4 years to transcribe a new map boundary, meaning that the Modoc Forest may not have received the new map before making the timber sale(s). The law, however, requires that a map and legal description be filed within one year. And, according to records in the Regional Office, the map with the new boundary was signed off by the Regional Forester on April 15, 1965. The last timber sale occurred in 1970.

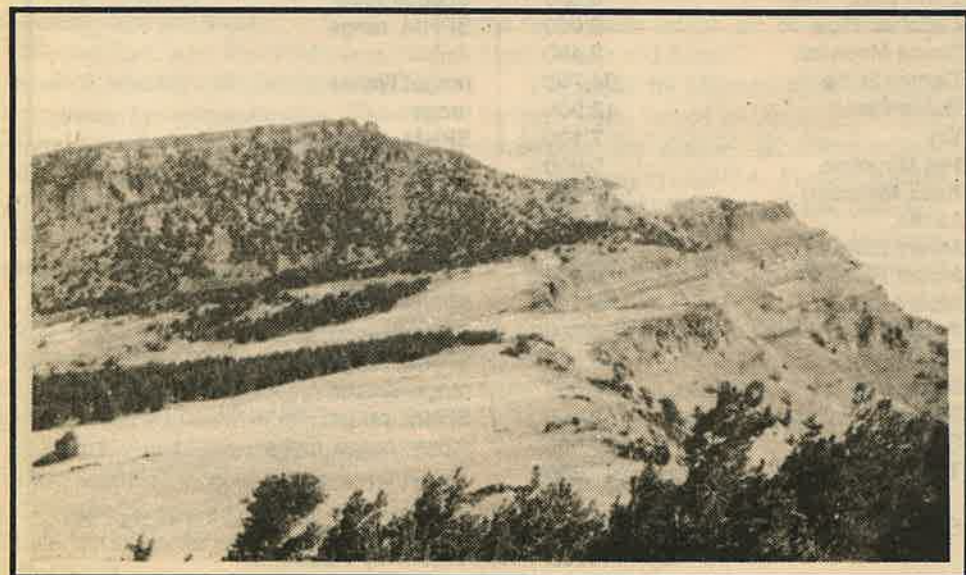
There are, of course, rumors. A Sierra Club memo dated October 25, 1972, refers to an anonymous contact, a Forest Service employee, who felt the logging was done deliberately. The contact believed that "the Forest Service knew about it all along, since the road and landing are clearly shown on all their maps."

Luis Ireland has his own ideas about the confusion over the boundary. He feels that it is possible that Wiesenborne's predecessor either never noticed the change in boundary, or chose to ignore it. Then, when Wiesenborne became supervisor, he just used the maps left by his predecessor—followed in his footsteps, as it were.

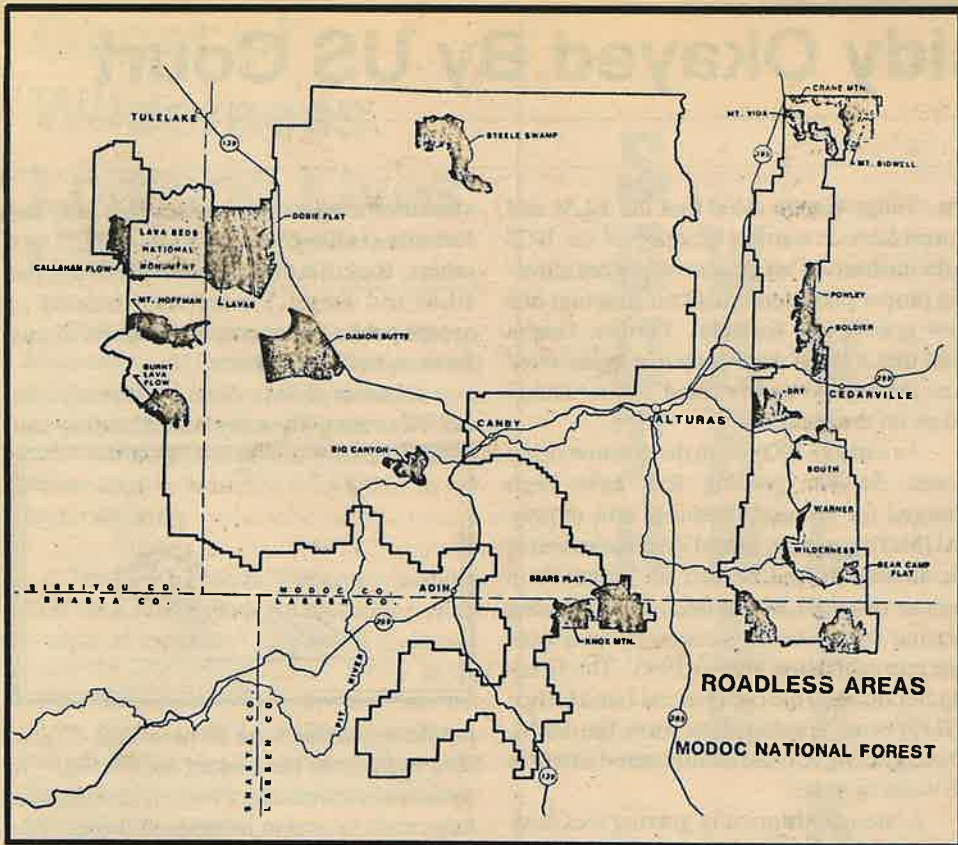
The legal boundary has since been posted. The roads are now impassable. (Ireland believes that horses and plows were used to take out the logging roads.) The forest itself, however, cannot be repaired. Some yellow pines do remain, which Ireland believes would also be gone if the mistake had never been discovered. He estimated that it will take 80 years before the area returns to the condition it was in prior to the logging.

A mistake such as this cannot be treated lightly, nor should it be forgotten. To be hiking in a wilderness area and suddenly come upon a sea of tree stumps is hardly a peaceful experience. Wilderness areas are so named because they are natural and unspoiled. They are designated as wilderness so that they may be protected. Obviously, such designation is not always treated with the seriousness it deserves. Because of this, wilderness lovers need to become wilderness watchers, as well. We can blame supervisors and forestry offices when something goes wrong, but that won't heal the scars on the land. Prevention is the only cure. Go to it!

Lisa Miller is a sophomore at the University of California at Davis studying Literature and Environmental Studies.



At Warner Peak the gentle west slope contrasts with the precipitous east face of the range. Photo by Jim Eaton



# Modoc plan

continued from p. 1

suffer as a result. Over 85 percent of the range is in "fair" or "poor" condition. Although the draft plan calls for reducing grazing slightly, it does not require the better management that is needed to prevent grazing animals competing for forage with wildlife, degrading water quality, and use conflicts with hikers and campers.

Environmental groups are developing a conservationist alternative to the draft land management plan proposed by the Forest Service. The conservationist alternative will emphasize the protection of roadless resources, critical wildlife habitat, riparian and wetland areas and visual resources, while allowing for logging and grazing on a sustained yield basis without damage to the environment. A major aspect of the conservationist alternative will require the Forest Service to switch from even-aged timber management, a euphemism for clearcutting, to single tree and group selection.

Comments from concerned citizens are vital to balance the constant pressure being brought to bear on the Forest Service by timber and grazing interests. Your personal letter can make a difference! Written comments should:

- Clearly support the conservationist alternative.
- Support Wilderness designation of the following roadless areas: Mill Creek, Bear Camp Flat, Crane Mountain, Dry Creek, Mount Bidwell, Mount Vida, Parsnip, Soldier, Powley, Steele Swamp, Mount Hoffman, Lavas, Callahan Flow, Big Canyon, and unnamed areas identified in the pre-

ferred alternative.

- Oppose clearcutting and the use of herbicides. Support single tree and group selection as the preferred harvesting method. Support protection of streams, lakeshores, and mountain meadows from logging. Support the retention of existing stands of old-growth trees, which are rapidly disappearing from the forest.

- Support sufficient reductions in grazing that will bring all riparian and range areas into good condition and protect wetlands to reduce conflicts with nesting waterfowl. Support reduction of grazing in the South Warner Wilderness to reduce conflicts with recreational use and provide for the increase of the bighorn sheep herd.

- Support increased protection of critical wildlife habitat for antelope, bighorn sheep, deer, raptors, the endangered Modoc sucker (a fish), and other old-growth dependent wildlife species.

- Support the designation of the Medicine Lake Highlands Recreation Area emphasizing the preservation of recreational and visual resources.

- Support the inventory and protection of all cultural/archaeological sites such as Willow Creek and Boles Creek canyons.

Written comments concerning the draft Modoc plan are being accepted until March 7, 1988. Your letter should be addressed to Douglas G. Smith, Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest, 441 Main Street, Alturas, CA. 96101.

Steve Evans is an activist living in Chico and is President of the California Wilderness Coalition.

## Interview— Jeff Schaffer Prolific Wilderness Writer Talks

By Roslyn Bullas

Jeff Schaffer's list of accomplishments is impressive. Although he considers himself a "mountaineering naturalist," most readers know him as the author of 11 trail guides published by Wilderness Press. Jeff is one of the most prolific outdoor guidebook writers in the world, and he has mapped more miles of mountain trail than anyone else (over 8000 miles, he estimates). Regarded as one of the premier field mappers in the world, his remapped topographic quadrangles far exceed USGS standards. Jeff holds an additional distinction of being one of the few popular guidebook authors who also conduct original research in the earth sciences.

I spoke with him one day between his trips to Ventana Wilderness and the mountains around Lake Tahoe and asked him a few questions.

**How did you develop your naturalist bent?**

I was always fascinated by animals. When I was a youngster I loved to read nature books—I constantly checked out one book called Reptiles of the World from the local library. In a way, I think I developed my interest in nature because it was something my brothers and sister weren't so interested in. They were all valedictorians in high school, straight A students, and I was sort of the black sheep of the family. I wasn't

### Modoc National Forest



interested in competing with them.

When I was high school I became infatuated with boats, and started working on some of my own designs. I enrolled in M.I.T. with a major in Naval Architecture. At M.I.T. I found out they were designing warships and supertankers, which I had absolutely no interest in. So I transferred to Berkeley and earned a B.A. in zoology. I got my teacher's credential, figuring I could teach and spend my summers in the mountains. But I found I didn't really like teaching, so I went back for my M.A. in geography.

**How did you become associated with Wilderness Press and start writing guidebooks?**

In 1972 I proposed to Tom Winnett (founder and president of the Wilderness Press) that I write a field guide on the geomorphology of the east side of the Sierra Nevada. Tom didn't think there was much of a market for that, but he made me a counter-proposal. He was interested in publishing a guide to the Pacific Crest Trail and asked if I could help with the mapping and writing. That summer I walked and mapped a 400-mile stretch of the PCT from Velma Lakes to Castle Crag, working on weekends and holidays. In January 1973, I was hired full-time to work on the Washington-Oregon

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### The "Preferred Alternative" Prescriptions for Roadless Areas in the Draft Modoc National Forest Plan

Area	Acreage	Uses Recommended
Bear Camp Flat	2,300	range, timber
Big Canyon	6,400	SPNM, raptor, range, timber
Burnt Lava Flow	8,800	Special Area
Callahan Flow	8,000	SPNM, range
Crane Mountain	2,400	timber
Damon Butte	24,700	range, timber
Dobie Flat	12,900	range
Dry	7,100	SPNM, range, timber
Hat Mountain	9,900	range, timber
Knox Mountain	5,900	range, timber
Lavas	25,400	SPNM, range, timber
Mount Bidwell	11,600	range, timber
Mount Hoffman	10,800	SPNM, Spec. Area, range, timber
Mount Vida	9,100	SPNM, raptor, range, timber
Parsonip	8,200	SPNM, range, timber
Powley	6,200	SPNM, range, timber
Sears Flat	12,500	range, timber
Soldier	9,400	SPNM, range, timber
Steele Swamp	20,000	raptor, range, timber
<b>Total</b>	<b>201,600</b>	

SPNM — Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation  
(no permanent roads, public access by vehicle, or off-road vehicles)

Special Areas — Areas of special interest due to unusual scenic, historic, prehistoric, cultural, scientific, natural, or other values; managed to maintain a "generally unmodified condition."

## CALENDAR

**Jan. 13-16** "Restoring the Earth" conference, University of California, Berkeley.

**Jan. 30-31** "Preserving California's Environment: Setting priorities for environmental legislation in 1988," Planning & Conservation League's Fifth Annual Symposium, Sacramento, call Anne Hedges at (916) 444-8726.

**Feb. 6** CWC Annual Meeting, Davis, 10:00am. "Roast Jim Eaton" reception at 6:00pm, call (916) 758-0380.

**Feb. 15** DEADLINE—BLM Section 202 Wilderness Study Area comments.

**Feb. 27** "Parks and Wildlife: Preserving & Enriching our Inheritance," Conference by Environmental Law Society of UC Davis, 8:30-5:00pm, call (916) 758-5221.

**March 7** DEADLINE—Modoc Draft Forest Plan comments.

## Jeff Schaffer, continued from p. 6

section of the PCT, among other things. Then in the summer of 1974 I wrote my first guidebook, *The Tahoe Sierra*.

**Jeff, you must have some thoughts on trail-guide writing...**

I was basically anti-trail guides when I started. Most authors are so unqualified, their books tend to state the obvious, and they're usually fraught with errors and omissions. I believe that trail guides shouldn't just tell people where to go—they must also educate the public in wilderness ethics and help them understand nature. People are more likely to preserve the wilderness and act more responsibly in it if they understand it. My philosophy is quite different from, say, Ansel Adams. Adams photographed the beauty of the wilderness, but didn't make much of an effort to understand it. I strongly believe that we shouldn't just work to save lands that are beautiful, spectacular, awe-inspiring—just lands that you'd want to backpack in. A lot of "ugly" areas need to be protected too. I'm particularly thinking of the Sierra foothills, which are being rapidly overdeveloped into retirement and vacation communities.

**Can you tell us a little bit about a "typical" day in the field for you?**

First, I try to dayhike rather than backpack, because a heavy pack can give me knee problems and the load also makes it harder for me to map accurately. I get up before sunrise, sometimes in the dark, have a hearty breakfast, then try to reach the trailhead as soon as it's light enough for me to discern the contours in the topo map (at age 44, I now need bifocals to do this). I try to hike about 20 or more miles, taking short breaks every hour or two to rest my knees and grab a quick snack (never enough). I don't stick to trails and schedules. I go off by myself, which you should never do. Eighty percent of my hiking is solo. Most people aren't interested in trying to keep up with me, although I do have a friend who has dropped me off and picked me up at the trailheads. After 10-12 hours of hiking, I end my day, and drive to a campground, reaching it—hopefully—about 1 1/2 hours before the stars come out, since it takes me that long to take a sponge bath, eat dinner, and re-pack my equipment for the next grueling day.

**What's the most rewarding aspect of writing a guidebook for you?**

I'm satisfied if I make one or more discoveries per book. For example, in researching Crater Lake I found that the volcano ages which were cited in geologic articles were wrong. Because the formations appear so glaciated and dissected, they were assumed to be very old. Actually, they're considerably younger than they appear to be. In Yosemite National Park my discovery was on migratory routes of the giant

## Wilderness Trivia Answer:

from page 3

In 1969 President Nixon signed into law a 98,000-acre Ventana Wilderness in Monterey County. Another 61,000 acres was added in 1977, and a 2,750-acre parcel was designated with the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. The Ventana Wilderness now totals 161,815 acres.

All of which proves that "if at first you don't succeed..."



sequoias, and in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness (his most recent book, published in August), I did some work on asymmetric uplift of the Sierra Nevada. What I feel is most significant is my theory of the evolution of Yosemite Valley, which explains why Yosemite Valley, the largest canyon in the Sierra, was apparently formed by a miniscule river, the Merced. My theory encompasses the effects of intense glaciation and a major river—the Tenaya River—which I hypothesize existed as recently as half a million years ago. That's what I plan to do my thesis on.

**Thesis?**

After 18 years out of school, I'm planning on going back to U.C. Berkeley and getting my doctorate in Geography, hopefully starting next fall. I find you're really not taken seriously without a Ph.D. from the "right" institution—you're considered an "outsider." That was John Muir's problem—he was viewed as an ignorant sheepherder by a lot of people.

**After school...then what?**

I'll probably concentrate on research and teaching. My book on Ventana Wilderness (*Hiking the Big Sur Country*, to be published next spring by Wilderness Press) will probably be my last guidebook. I don't consider myself primarily a writer—I'm a naturalist. I like to look at everything in the universe and all of its parts—the earth, life, anthropology. I take so many field notes, I could easily double the length of any of my guidebooks. When I'm out in the field, I see so much going on. Basically I just want to know the answers. I like working on "unsolvable" problems. If someone says it can't be done, then I want to do it.

*Reprinted with permission from the Ram's Head, October/November 1987, Wilderness Press.*

## The Contest is On — Enter a T-Shirt Design for the CWC and You May Win Fabulous Prizes!!

The California Wilderness Coalition is seeking a new T-shirt design. Send in your original artwork by January 30, 1988.

In the meantime, you can order our old design 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, medium, large, and extra-large. A limited number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white and pink.

T-shirts are \$8.00 for 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, and a substitute color. Please add \$1.25 postage and 75 cents for each additional T-shirt.

## California Wilderness Coalition



### 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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The *Record* welcomes letters-to-the-editor, articles, black & white photos, drawings, book reviews, poetry, etc. on California wilderness and related subjects. We reserve the right to edit all work. Please address all correspondence to:

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