



Wilderness Record

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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October, 1988



The Plumas National Forest's Middle Fork of the Feather River, near Bald Rock Canyon. Photo by J. Fisher

Forest Service Suggests Keeping Water in Mono Lake

The Forest Service put its two cents into the Mono Lake controversy this month when it issued its draft plan for managing the area. Defying Los Angeles water interests, the Forest Service (FS) suggested that the city cut its use of water from streams flowing into the lake by 50-75 percent a year.

Dennis Martin, supervisor of the Inyo National Forest, was quoted in the *Sacramento Bee* as saying that "a new water diversion plan was needed to prevent an 'ecological disaster' at Mono Lake." The *Bee* also said that "Los Angeles officials said they have no intention of complying for now and said the matter may be tied up in the courts for years."

Conservationists were jubilant over the Forest Service's support of preserving water levels in Mono Lake but are still con-

cerned about some of the plan's recommendations for managing the land in the Mono Basin. The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area encompasses 73,953 acres of land surrounding the lake, most of which is undeveloped.

Mono Craters Roadless Area

One area of concern is the Mono Craters roadless area, south of the lake. The proposed plan recommends that much of the land surrounding Crater Mountain be used for "limited development," which means that new facilities that benefit wildlife management would be allowed. A strip of land all around the lake, about half a mile from the shores, would also be open for such development. Snowmobiles would be allowed on most (approximately eight square

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Wild River Watershed On Chopping Block In Plumas Forest Plan

By Steve Evans



tributaries of the Middle Fork Feather Wild and Scenic River.

On the chopping block are the canyons of Nelson Creek, Dogwood Creek, Onion Valley Creek, Bear Creek, and the Little North Fork of the Middle Fork. The proposed logging would reduce the 33,500-acre Middle Fork roadless area by 6,500 acres through the construction of logging roads and the cutting of timber.

An analysis of public comments in response to the draft Plumas plan indicates (see chart, page 4) that 2,351 people supported protection of all roadless areas on the Plumas National Forest (NF) while only 258 people opposed protection. Specifically in regards to the Middle Fork, public

comments in support of protection outnumbered the timber industry 751 to 5.

Middle Fork Roadless Area

The Middle Fork roadless area encompasses the rugged and remote canyon of the Middle Fork Feather Wild and Scenic River and portions of several tributaries. The steep canyon topography has protected the main canyon from development, but the final plan calls for the logging of most of the tributaries. Approximately 20 percent of the roadless land in the Little North Fork drainage will be developed, 10 percent of the Willow Creek drainage,

50 percent of the Bear Creek canyon, 30 percent of Onion Valley Creek, 100 percent of the Dogwood Creek canyon and 80 percent of the Nelson Creek watershed.

Conservationists fear that extensive logging of the steep and erosion-prone tributary canyons of the Middle Fork will impact the outstandingly remarkable values of California's first Wild and Scenic River (designated with the passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968).

Nelson Creek

Nelson Creek is an state-designated Wild Trout Stream and a important cold water contributor to the Middle Fork. The final plan calls for a reduction in protection

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Report

By Jim Eaton

Hayduke is alive and well and living near Mono Lake.

I must say this is the first time I have been attending a meeting of activists when a sheriff arrived to interview several of the participants.

All this occurred several weeks ago when I joined Friends of the Inyo to discuss our impending appeal of the Inyo National Forest Plan. It seems that during a previous evening person or persons unknown made a prescribed burn of some condominiums under construction near the proposed (and controversial) Sherwin Bowl Ski Area.

"Where were you on the night of ..."

The local Earth Firster attending the meeting was atop 14,042-foot Mt. Langley with witnesses and even a wilderness permit (Earth First! members get permits?). Others were at home spending a quiet evening with their respective families. The constable also asked if anyone knew where Dave Foreman was on the night of the conflagration (Tucson the last I heard).

It seems this was the latest in a series of monkey wrenching events in the Mammoth-Mono area. Buildings at a motocross site on Forest Service land near Sherwin

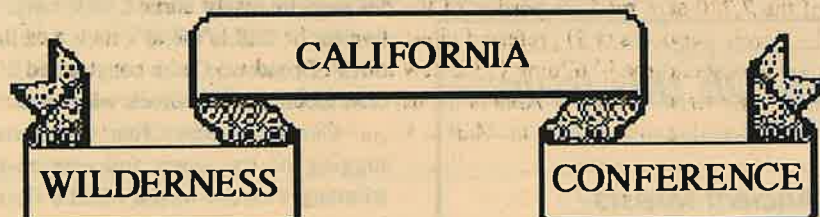
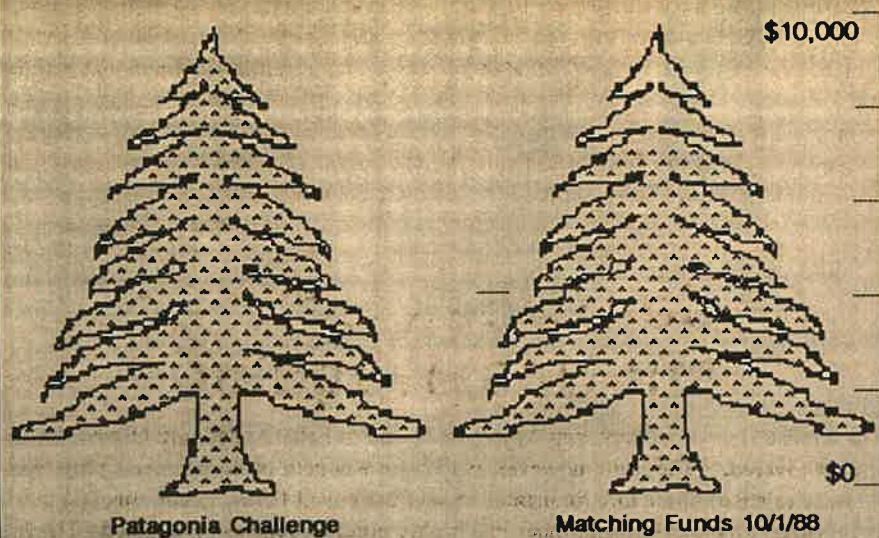
Bowl (who authorized *that* abomination!) previously lit up the night sky. Signs in the world's largest pure stand of Jeffrey pine near Glass Mountain proclaimed the forest had been "vaccinated" to prevent it from being logged. And a half-dozen large powerlines north of Mono Lake bit the dust.

"I suppose the sheriff took down the license plates of everyone here at the meeting." Great. My planned itinerary was camping out in the Jeffrey pine forest near Glass Mountain, going to Sherwin Bowl to take photos for the *Record*, and driving north of Mono Lake to visit the site of a huge open pit gold mine planned next to Bodie State Historic Park. The dossier on my travels must be getting thick. I wonder if the powers that be will accept testimony from Inyo the Wonder Dog for my alibi.

So if you are out and about this fall, especially on the east side of the Sierra, you might plan in advance your defense should you be interrogated by the authorities. That can of gasoline for your Svea or Coleman stove and the matches to light it may be examined with a jaundiced eye.

So who is that guy, anyway?

Matching the Patagonia Challenge Grant



October 19-22, 1989 — Visalia, California

We're very interested in your suggestions for workshop subjects, speakers, entertainment, or any other element of this long awaited conference. We estimate that the \$15.00 fee will pay for less than 25% of the conference costs, and are depending on the goodwill of those of you who have the resources to donate more. Please send your suggestions or donation to: Bob Barnes, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258. Make checks payable to: California Wilderness Coalition [or: CWC]

June Mtn. Ski Plan Goes Downhill

The expansion of the June Mountain Ski Area is on hold—for now. An appeal filed against the ski area project by environmentalists was partially upheld by the Regional Office of the Forest Service. Appellants are the California Wilderness Coalition, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Friends of the Inyo, Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Sally Miller.

The appeal was submitted last April after Inyo National Forest Supervisor Dennis W. Martin signed a Record of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for this project that would increase the capacity of the resort from 2,250 to 5,000 skiers, add 89 additional acres of ski runs, and construct two new ski lifts. Part of the San Joaquin Roadless Area would have been developed. The appellants argued that the development requires a site-specific, comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Forest Service is trying to avoid an environmental review by arguing that this expansion is covered by a 1979 EIS for the Mammoth-Mono Planning Area. The appellants contend that the 1979 EIS does not consider the impacts of the June Mountain project and that the proposed expansion is only the tip of the iceberg of a massive ski area complex that would join the June Mountain and Mammoth Mountain ski resorts.

Appellants argued that in 1986 the Forest Service attempted similar subterfuge for a proposed ski resort at Mount Shasta, refusing to prepare an EIS for the first phase of a seven-phase development. The Coalition and other groups appealed, and the Regional Forester ordered the preparation of a full EIS for the ski resort. Other ski area expansions, including Dodge Ridge and Iron Mountain, have been the subjects of full EISs.

The question of cumulative impacts on the San Joaquin Roadless Area also was raised by the appellants, as well as issues pertaining to transportation, visual quality, wildlife, water quality, community facilities, Hartley Springs, Rodeo Grounds, and parking.

Richard O. Benjamin, ruling on behalf of Regional Forester Paul Barker, ruled that expansion of the ski area out of the existing

ski permit area (into such places as Hartley Springs, White Wing, or San Joaquin Ridge) will require an EIS before a decision is made to actually develop any of these areas.

Benjamin did not agree with the appellants' demand for the preparation of an EIS for expansion within the existing permit area. He did rule, however, that the Inyo Forest Supervisor did not respond to the issues of "comparison with other ski areas" and "cumulative impacts."

But instead of requiring an EIS, Benjamin is remanding the decision to expand the ski area while a new environmental assessment (EA—usually much less detailed than an EIS) is prepared. The EA must include:

- Expansion of the "No Action" alternative.
- Expansion of the EA in the areas of visual quality, wildlife, water quality, community facilities, and parking expansion.
- Supporting documentation including county and community plans which address impacts associated with the development of the June Mountain Ski Area to approved capacity.
- Further analysis on both primary and secondary impacts.

Appellants believe the correct decision would be the preparation of an EIS, rather than a resuscitated EA, and are taking this appeal to the Chief Forester in Washington, D.C.



Uncle Jim's

Wilderness
Trivia
Quiz
Question:

What are the westernmost, northernmost, easternmost, and southernmost federal wilderness areas in California?



Jim Shimson

Mono plan continued from page 1

miles) of the eastern crater area.

A development zone designation is recommended for a strip along the entire southwest shore of the lake, near the town of Lee Vining, extending south to North and Panum Craters, two of the oldest places in the basin. The Mono Craters are a young chain of symmetrical cones and jagged lava flows that are considered "the classic exposure of rhyolitic volcanism in the U.S." Panum Dome and Crater are well preserved examples of rhyolitic eruption.

The Forest Service plan also recommends designating the Aeolian Buttes area for "general use," which may include grazing, off-road vehicles, and roads. The Aeolian Buttes, between U.S. 395 and the Mono Craters, are a series of low rolling hills reported to be the oldest volcanic formation in

Mono Basin. The quartz monzonite underlying a layer of Bishop Tuff is 85-88 million years old. The Bishop Tuff is approximately 700,000 years old.

Public information meetings on the proposed plan will be held in Oakland, and Monrovia (there was also one held in Lee Vining on September 27) on October 4 and 6 (see Calendar, page 7) and a public hearing will be held in Lee Vining on December 3, 2:00 pm, at the American Legion Hall.

Written comments on the plan will be accepted until December 20, 1988. Send to: Inyo National Forest, Attn: Recreation Staff Officer (Mono), 873 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514.

New Campaign For Ancient Forests

"Dead trees are the life of a forest."
—forester Jerry Franklin

In late September 130 activists gathered in Portland, Oregon to launch a national campaign to protect the nation's old-growth forests.

Sponsored by national groups including The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation, the conference brought together environmental activists from Oregon, Washington, California, and British Columbia.

Participants learned about biological diversity, inventory and mapping of old-growth, congressional appropriations, litigation, and forest plans and appeals. Workshops covered forest biology, economics, public education, mediation and negotiation, and transition to the second-growth economy. In a moving presentation about the

threatened rain forests of British Columbia, the audience learned that Canadian activists remain in jail as a result of attempts to save their primeval forests.

"Ancient trees are the whales of the forests," said forester Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington. He explained that contrary to timber industry propaganda, old-growth forests are not sterile wastelands, bereft of wildlife and plants. They support diverse populations of flora and fauna, in contrast to clearcut areas. "If there is a biological desert in a forest, it is found in the young tree plantations," he added.

Franklin showed slides to illustrate how much of the wildlife in the ancient forests requires down wood and snags. "Dead trees are the life of a forest," he said.

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UPDATES

Stanislaus Forest to Redo Draft Plan

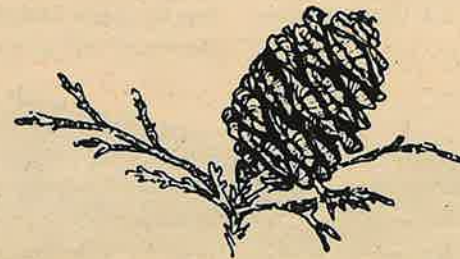
The Stanislaus National Forest has withdrawn its 1985 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and forest plan in order to develop a more up-to-date version.

Conditions in the forest changed radically last fall when over 144,000 acres were burned by wildfires. Until recently, Stanislaus planners had intended to write a supplement to the draft EIS. A recent press release, however, said "now that we are further along in the process, it has become apparent that just supplementing the DEIS with fire-related changes would not adequately reflect the current situation."

Other elements of the plan were found to need updating, including socio-economic data and the spotted owl habitat boundaries.

The Stanislaus' final EIS and final forest plan had been only a few months from publication when the unusually severe fires that hit last September forced a delay, according to the Forest Service. They anticipate that the new draft EIS will be issued in the spring of 1989.

Located on the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, the Stanislaus National Forest manages many popular recreation areas, including the Emigrant Wilderness, portions of the Mokelumne and Carson-Iceberg wildernesses, and the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River.



BLM Transfers Hardly Monumental

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to transfer about 206,000 acres of land to Death Valley and 4,480 acres to Joshua Tree national monuments (NM).

Conservationists have contrasted the bureau's proposal with the California Desert Protection Act, which would transfer over 217,000 acres to Joshua Tree NM, add about 1.3 million acres to Death Valley NM, and create a new 1.5 million-acre national park in the East Mojave.

Comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement are due on October 27, 1988. Send comments to: California Desert District, Bureau of Land Management, Attn.: Monuments DEIS, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507.

Grider Creek Salvage Plan Unsalvagable

The name Grider Fire Recovery Project leads one to believe that only burned timber is being "recovered." The truth, however, is that the Klamath National Forest proposes, in a recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to cut almost 4,000 acres of charred as well as green timber in a highly erodible roadless watershed. The fire damage from last fall's fires in the area was not severe—the FS estimates that about 1,000 acres of the 7,280-acre roadless portion of the drainage intensely burned.

The Forest Service's (FS) preferred alternative in the EIS is the alternative calling for the most logging and road-building (13.2 new miles of road would be constructed).

The Grider Creek Roadless Area is in Siskiyou County, north of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Flowing out of the Marble Mountain high country, the creek is prized for its outstanding wild salmon and steelhead fisheries. The EIS calls fisheries production the "primary beneficial water use in the Grider drainage." Numerous spotted owl sightings have been made in the area.

The draft EIS concedes that about half of the watershed is fragile and that in some locations the creek is already not in good condition due to nearby logging.

An all-day hiking field trip to the project area will be conducted by the FS on Wednesday, October 5, starting at the Oak Knoll Ranger District. For more information, call Special Project Assistant Mark Chaney at (916) 842-1651.

Also, an open house will be held on Wednesday, October 26 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm at project headquarters, 1215 S. Main in Yreka. Staff will answer questions on the DEIS, on the process of public comments, and on the preparation of the final EIS.

Comments on the EIS may be submitted until Monday, October 31. Mail comments to: Mark Chaney, Grider Fire Recovery Project, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, 96097.

Inyo Forest Plan Needs More Wilderness, Groups Say

By Jim Eaton

If you were in charge of managing an area with the highest peak in the 48 contiguous states, the highest summit in the Great Basin, the world's oldest tree, the largest bristlecone tree, one of the deepest valleys on the planet, the largest pure stand of Jeffrey pine, and the southernmost glacier in the northern hemisphere, what would you do?

Not what the U.S. Forest Service (FS) proposes, conservationists contend. Nine organizations have filed an appeal of the final Inyo National Forest Plan.

The appellants are the Friends of the Inyo, California Wilderness Coalition, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, Eastern Sierra Earth First!, the Desert Protective Council, and the San Francisco Bay, Toiyabe, and San Geronio chapters of the Sierra Club.

than 19 percent of the roadless lands remaining in the forest.

Downhill skiing continues to be a major emphasis in the Inyo National Forest. Even though this forest plan is just being issued in final form, earlier this summer the FS released a draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Sherwin Bowl Ski Area and attempted to allow expansion of the June Mtn. Ski Area, a move that resulted in the filing of an appeal by environmentalists [see article on page 2].

Between the draft and final plans, the FS did reduce the annual sustained yield of timber to be cut from the forest to 14.5 million board feet, a 22 percent reduction. Environmentalists question why the Inyo cuts its unique forests at all, especially since the annual sale quantity is so tiny and there

the Tioga Lake Roadless Area be added to the Ansel Adams Wilderness and all 4,138 acres of the Table Mtn. Roadless Area be added to the John Muir Wilderness. The Paiute Roadless Area [Inyo Mountains] recommendation for wilderness was *reduced* to 47,500 acres (36 percent of the total area) between the draft and final plans. Only the White Mountain proposal increased, from 53,200 acres to 120,000 acres, but again, that is little

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of the Nelson Creek watershed. Proposed clearcutting along the forks of Nelson Creek and in the upper canyons will almost certainly degrade water quality, raise water temperatures critical for the survival of wild trout, and destroy scenic views important to the "backcountry" experience required along a Wild Trout Stream.

Wilderness

The final plan also refuses to enlarge the existing Bucks Lake Wilderness even though a majority of public comments supported the set of additions that were proposed by Friends of Plumas Wilderness and the Sierra Club. Road building and logging are proposed in the Cape Lake area adjacent to the Bucks Lake Wilderness which former Sierra Club Executive Director Dave Brower proposed for protection in 1958.

Other Roadless Areas

Roadless areas protected in the final plan under an administrative designation of "semi-primitive" include Bald Rock, Chips Creek, Dixon Creek, the main portion of the Middle Fork, Beartrap, Lakes Basin, Grizzly Peak, Keddie Ridge, and Thompson Peak. The Adams Peak roadless area is left unprotected. The "semi-primitive" designation allows vehicular access for Forest Service management purposes (including fighting wildfires), snowmobile use, salvage of timber, and continued grazing and mining.

Although the popular Lakes Basin Recreation Area is enlarged in the final plan, some adjacent roadless land is slated for logging. Several small "special interest" areas are protected, and the plan calls for the "study" of potential National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Fall River in order to protect Feather Falls (the sixth highest waterfall in the U.S.) from hydroelectric development.

Groups Will Appeal the Plan

Lawyers for the Natural Resources Defense Council are preparing an appeal of the final Plumas plan for several organizations, including Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, and Friends of the River. A key aspect of the appeal will be the Regional Forester's decision to implement the identified "preferred" alternative instead of the "amenity" alternative which was largely developed by conservation groups.

In his record of decision, the Regional Forester found the Amenity alternative to be "environmentally preferable" over all the other alternatives considered. While nearly meeting national timber harvest goals for the Plumas National Forest, the Amenity alternative, according to the Forest Service's own environmental impact statement (EIS), best preserves community stability, roadless areas, recreation resources, wildlife habitat, water quality, fisheries, and scenery.



The Watterson Roadless Area in the Inyo National Forest.

Photo by Jim Eaton

Issues the appellants are addressing include further planning and released roadless areas, timber cutting, alpine ski development, grazing, wildlife protection and diversity, riparian area management, energy development, and the analysis of public comments.

Even though there were some improvements made by the FS in the final plan, the proposed alternative would:

- Double the capacity of downhill ski areas in the Mammoth Lakes—June Mountain region [Mammoth Mountain Ski Area currently receives more skier-days than any other ski area in the United States].
- Allow continued clearcutting of the world's largest stand of Jeffrey pine and begin logging high elevation red fir forests.
- Maintain grazing at current levels, even though in most areas the range is considered to be in "poor" or "fair" condition.
- Recommend for wilderness designation less

are no local sawmills. Trees logged in Inyo National Forest are hauled to Gardnerville, Nevada and Loyalton, California.

Also between the draft and final plans, the proposal to increase grazing was dropped in favor of allowing cows and sheep to continue browsing at the current level. Since in most areas the range is considered to be in poor or fair condition, environmentalists oppose allowing grazing as usual.

Wilderness—More than three-quarters of the Inyo National Forest remains wild today. Under the FS plan, only half of that total would be preserved as wilderness.

There are five existing wilderness areas in the forest: Ansel Adams, Golden Trout, Hoover, John Muir, and South Sierra. Sixteen further planning areas were considered for wilderness in the forest plan; only parts of four are recommended for wilderness designation.

The FS recommends that all 920 acres of

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING ROADLESS AREAS

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

| Name | Support | Oppose |
|----------------------|---------|--------|
| Dixon Creek | 6 | 0 |
| Keddie Ridge | 6 | 0 |
| Thompson Peak | 4 | 0 |
| Bucks Lake Additions | 21 | 7 |
| Nelson Creek Area | 16 | 1 |
| Lakes Basin | 126 | 0 |
| All Areas | 2351 | 258 |
| Middle Fork | 751 | 5 |
| Adams Peak | 13 | 0 |
| Chips Creek | 20 | 2 |
| Grizzly Peak | 11 | 2 |

Source: Wilderness, Fisheries & Roadless sections of final Environmental Impact Statement Appendix W: Public Comments.

A Joint Citizen-Forest Service Effort

Plans Underfoot for 50-mile Mount Shasta Trail

By Lisa K. Miller

The beautiful Mount Shasta: some think it is the most majestic mountain in California. Many have climbed to its icy summit, and many have chosen to live in its shadow.

Now it appears that those who like to hike on Mount Shasta will have a new route to follow. The Forest Service (FS) plans to build a hiking trail that circles the mountain. The trail will run mainly between 6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation and will be about 50 miles long. Approximately 90 percent of the trail will lie within the Mount Shasta Wilderness Area. The trail will take 5-10 years to complete.

According to Garry Oye, a recreation specialist for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, the estimated project cost is \$1.5 million. The FS is talking about supplying approximately one-third of the money, at most—it may choose not to supply any funding at all, a decision that will be made in December. Donations from the private sector will have to make up the difference.

Because of the need for donations, as well as for volunteers to help out in all areas of the project, the trail will be a joint venture between the FS and a new citizen's group called the Mount Shasta Trail Association (MSTA). Trail planning, construction, and maintenance will be administered primarily by the MSTA's volunteer Board of Directors, which has not yet been selected. Oye is the FS representative to MSTA.

Oye hopes the project will have a healing effect on the local community. He mentioned that the conflict over a potential new

ski area on the mountain has split the community and that the trail project has already "brought a big cross-section of people together."

The trail project has generated some conflict, however. Some people, like local environmentalist Rich Renous, are worried that the FS will get carried away with its latest "adventure."

Renous does not want the FS to control the project. "If it's going to happen, let the people do it and not the Forest Service," he said.

The MSTA hopes to be influential in all phases of the project, including the environmental assessment (EA) process. However, the FS is not obligated to abide by MSTA's wishes. "There is a fine line about their (MSTA's) influence" in the EA process, Oye said. "The FS will retain the final say from an environmental standpoint," he added.

The trail project has generated a lot of talk in the local community, but that talk is not yet concerned with trail specifics. What people like Renous and resident Gary Zukav worry about has to do with the mountain

itself. Zukav sums it up best: "Mount Shasta is a great mountain and those who live around it are in a position of privilege, and also of responsibility."

Only time will tell if the result of this joint effort between local community and government agency will be worthy of a mountain such as Shasta.

Lisa K. Miller is a student at the University of California, Davis.



Mount Shasta's east side; Ash Creek Canyon and Falls.

Photo by Steve Johnson

Inyo National Forest plan continued from page 4

more than half of the potential wilderness there.

In addition, 23 roadless areas totaling 338,319 acres that were "released" by the California Wilderness Act of 1984, were not considered at all for wilderness. Among these are areas once proposed by the FS for wilderness (Excelsior, Deep Wells, and several additions to the John Muir Wilderness) and threatened roadless areas such as South Sierra (Monache Meadows), Glass Mountain, Mono Craters, Sherwin, and San Joaquin.

Environmentalists are upset that so little wilderness is recommended considering the lack of conflicts between preservation and commodity use for most of the areas. They also feel the White Mountain and Paiute wilderness proposals are totally inadequate for that massive range. Over three-quarters of a million acres of potential wilderness remain in the White-Inyo Wilderness Complex, none of which currently is protected as wilderness.



Peripheral Visions Managing Wilderness Boundaries

By Stephanie Mandel

We had heard that the Russian Wilderness has 17 species of conifers. The Horse Creek watershed in northern California's Klamath National Forest has been described as one of the most biologically diverse areas in the state.

On the road to the trailhead, however, our enthusiasm for the adventure sagged as we passed acres and acres of clearcut-destroyed scenery. Now, I don't think that massive clearcuts should always be masked behind 20-foot cosmetic strips of forest. The public should know the reality, I think. After all, timber cutting is the big business of most of California's national forests.

Still, butchering forests directly adjacent to wilderness areas seems like adding insult to injury. Upon returning to Davis, I called the Forest Service to find out more about their policy on wilderness boundaries.

A "buffer zone" around wilderness areas, it seems, has been a subject of much philosophical debate over the years. For-

mer Forest Service Chief Max Peterson was adamantly against the idea of buffer zones around wilderness boundaries, arguing that Congressional intent was that land inside the wilderness boundary may be considered a buffer zone, but not that outside of it. Otherwise, the logic runs, more wilderness is being created (so what's wrong with that?).

There have been a few cases in which buffer zone management was prescribed in the original law. For example, the 1976 law that created the Alpine Lakes Wilderness (Washington state) ordered a comprehensive plan for the multiple use of surrounding lands in such a way as to insulate the core wilderness.

Buffer zones around wilderness were envisioned by Clarence A. Schoenfeld and John C. Hendee in their book *Wildlife Management in Wilderness* (1978). They wrote that "comprehensive management to provide some form of buffering, to lessen the impact of adjacent activities, is essential if we are to preserve official wilderness and its wildlife under conditions of naturalness and soli-

tude."

Immigration and/or emigration of plant life, changes in the natural fire regime, alterations in the quality of water, and air pollution are all ways in which adjacent areas influence each other.

Schoenfeld and Hendee outline a simple example of a "concentric circle" approach to managing grizzly bears:

"(1) designate a core wilderness area of prime habitat with sufficient natural or introduced fire to maintain the pioneer and shrub vegetational stages of plant succession often preferred by grizzlies and (2) establish a protective zone or natural fence surrounding the core area, managed to encourage densely closed-canopy forest types unattractive as grizzly habitat."





Wilderness boundaries continued from page 5

In spite of such ecological ideas (even by Forest Service insiders—Hendee was a Legislative Affairs officer for the Forest Service), the buffer zone concept has not taken root. "The term buffer zone has been rejected by the Forest Service," emphasizes Dick Benjamin, California's Assistant Regional Forester for Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources.

One complication with buffer zones that Benjamin points out is that the habitat ranges for different animal species overlap in numerous configurations. Add soil type and vegetation habitat boundaries on top, and finding a "natural wilderness boundary" is an impossibility, he concludes (a good point, and a good reason for making wide wilderness boundaries).

Does the Forest Service provide any protection at all for fragile boundaries? Only through each national forest's planning process. Planners are sensitive to the adjacent wilderness as they decide on management prescriptions, Benjamin believes. "We do, in a practical sense, recognize that you can't draw a line," he says.

Flexible management makes sense, since ecological situations are different for each mile of wilderness boundary. However, there are several places in California where the agency has opted for roads and clearcuts to define the wilderness boundary.

For example, the Plumas National Forest's final plan proposes road-building and logging in the Cape Lake area adjacent to the Bucks Lake Wilderness. In light of the Cape Lake logging prescription and other forest plans he has read, long-time activist Steve Evans believes that the forest planning process does not result in careful examination of wilderness boundary impacts. "When they impact values within wilderness, they need a policy to address that," he said.

Other cases are the northern side of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness, which is bounded by miles of road and clearcuts, timber sales pending right next to the Siskiyou Wilderness, and numerous cuts around the Russian Wilderness, where this article began.

The Russian Wilderness is only 12,000 acres in size, a small chunk of a greater ecosystem. Wildlife habitat ranges, pollen exchange, and numerous other ecological interactions in this area undoubtedly go on with the surrounding national forest and are affected by surrounding deforestation. The Klamath doesn't yet have a forest plan, and a draft isn't expected to be issued until late 1990.

The wilderness forest there, I hope, is not as fragile as the Forest Service's system of wilderness protection may be.

In the next issue—"Private Land Holdings in Wilderness Areas."

Book Review

Ex-Director's Memoirs of Park Service Politics

Battling for the National Parks



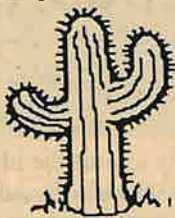
George B. Hartzog Jr., Moyer Bill Limited, Colonial Hill, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. 1988. 284 pages. \$19.95.

Review by
Michael J. Robinson

George B. Hartzog Jr., the widely respected director of the National Park Service from 1964-72, called for formation of a national register of natural places to preserve national parks threatened by development outside their boundaries.

Hartzog, who worked his way up from a ranger in the Park Service, made his remarks in a recent telephone interview coinciding with the publication of his memoirs, *Battling for the National Parks*.

Transferring national forest land surrounding parks to the Park Service is not a politically feasible way to protect park wildlife, Hartzog said. One area often mentioned for such park additions is Yellowstone. Hartzog said there is room in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem for "sensibly managed multiple use," but not for "cheek to jowl" resource exploitation on the park boundary. He said



a natural areas register could protect crucial grizzly bear habitat outside Yellowstone National Park without additions to the park.

Such a register, Hartzog explained, would be similar in structure and purpose to the National Register of Historic Places. Administered by the Park Service, this register was created to preserve areas of cultural and historic importance. A council advises the President and Congress on additions to the National Register and successfully serves, Hartzog said, as a mediation and arbitration body when conflicts over use occur. Its members are presidentially-appointed but have staggered terms to protect the council's mission from political interference.

In an increasingly familiar refrain, Hartzog joined the chorus of critics accusing the Reagan administration appointees of damaging the parks for political and ideological ends. He said the Department of Interior has tried to "micro-manage the resource" at the cost of professional park management. "The whole political ideology of this administration in the Department of the Interior has been commercial exploita-

said commercial concessions in the parks have a mandate only to provide services "necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment."

He recounts unsuccessfully trying to remove concession facilities from Zion National Park in Utah. That attempt was blocked by Utah business interests and their political supporters, who said travellers would avoid Zion if

"The Park Service's traditional independence was first undermined by the Nixon administration, he says, which appointed to a prestigious Park Service advisory board someone (unidentified) who drunkenly boasted of having paid \$125,000 for his seat."

tion." He praised current Park Service Director William Penn Mott, who he said would be a distinguished leader if not for political interference.

Hartzog's book recounts a career spent carefully balancing political imperatives from Congress with his own judgement of what was best for the parks. In those conflicts he generally had the support of his various bosses, Interior Secretaries Stewart Udall, Wally Hickel, and Rogers Morton.

Political interference did not start with Reagan, Hartzog recounts in his memoirs. The Park Service's traditional independence was first undermined by the Nixon admini-

the facilities were removed. Hartzog writes, "Remarkably illuminating: the throngs of visitors to American's national parks do not come to see the parks but to stay in the concession accommodations!" But the Park Service's dichotomous mandate to preserve the parks unimpaired for human enjoyment, said Hartzog, is not inherently irreconcilable.

Hartzog predicts a groundswell of concern for the national parks in coming years, heralded by continuing revelations and reports of park deterioration, to which his memoirs add grist. He says the public spotlight on environmental issues will accompany scrutiny of social and "quality of life" issues, because "preservation of wildlife lies with the urban population."

Battling for the National Parks is a reminder that the National Park Service used to operate relatively free of partisan meddling. Though it has always faced political threats to its operational integrity, and consequently to the parks' ecological integrity, the agency usually prevailed. Visionary leadership combined with the autonomy granted to respected professionals enabled the Park Service to protect millions of acres of threatened land while fostering public appreciation of the natural world. Hartzog points out that not only are the parks now endangered, but so is the agency. This is a timely book.

Reprinted with permission from High Country News, August 15, 1988. Michael J. Robinson was an intern with HCN and is studying at the University of Colorado.



stration, he says, which appointed to a prestigious Park Service advisory board someone (unidentified) who drunkenly boasted of having paid \$125,000 for his seat.

Hartzog says that appointment was outdone by Interior Secretary James Watt when he appointed, "in a matchless gesture of contempt," Charles Cushman, head of the National Inholders Association. Cushman opposes acquiring private land nestled inside the parks (*High Country News*, 6/20/88). Hartzog says scuttling the Land and Water Conservation Fund, used to buy up private inholdings in the parks, is the most damaging legacy of Reagan's Park Service policy.

Hartzog also criticized the traditional Park Service encouragement of visitation. "The Park Service needs to re-examine the purposes of these national parks. Is it to preserve them unimpaired for future generations? Or is it to manage them as the largest travel promotion agency in the world?" He

Ancient forests continued from page 3

In his opening address on Saturday morning, Jay Hair, president of the National Wildlife Federation, spoke of global changes such as ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect. Referring to the drought and heat records that occurred nationwide, he said "this past year will be remembered as the year the environment began fighting back."

National Audubon's Brock Evans gave a history of the preservation of old-growth forests. While acknowledging the impending loss of the ancient forests and the difficulty of persuading Congress to protect these trees, Evans still was optimistic: "The time has come... we're going to win this one, and we're going to win it big."

Doug Scott, conservation director of the Sierra Club, also was encouraging, and warned that "pessimism succeeds; pessimism can become a self-fulfilling prophecy." He outlined the massive grassroots

campaign needed to convince the public that the old-growth forests must be preserved. "When we pass that wilderness bill or ancient forests bill or what have you, that piece of paper is filed away in the National Archives. We save wilderness, wild rivers, and ancient forests not by that piece of paper but by building a degree of social consensus," Scott concluded.

A major part of the conference was devoted to strategy and coordination among the national, state, and local organizations working to protect old-growth forests. In discussion groups, activists offered new ideas and tactics that could be used in this campaign.

Although conceived as an initiative to preserve the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest and northwestern California, activists from the Sierra and eastern Cascades convinced the gathering that ancient forests exist elsewhere in the nation. California

participants arguing this point included Michael Jackson (Plumas Forest), John Rasmussen (Sierra Forest), and Charlene Little (Sequoia Forest). North Coast activists urged the gathering not to forget that ancient forests can be found on Bureau of Land Management and private lands as well as in national forests.

In a state caucus Californians agreed to meet in January to plan the next stage of the campaign.

Good natured bantering about the use of war terms instead of sports euphemisms when describing environmental issues led to a comment by Andy Kerr of the Oregon Natural Resources Council that "it's not the bottom of the ninth or the two-minute warning." Kerr argued that the struggle to save the ancient forests is a war that will either be won or lost, "not a game that we can lose, shake hands with our opponents, and play again tomorrow."

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Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

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Red Buttes Wilderness

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December 20 COMMENTS DUE on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan*. Send to: Inyo National Forest, Attn.: Recreation Staff Officer (Mono), 873 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514.

CALENDAR

October 4 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft EIS/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan* (article on page 1); in Oakland at the Oakland Convention Center, 550 Tenth Street, 7:30 pm.

October 4 FOREST PLANNING SEMINAR—the preparation and analysis of alternative land and resource management plans; given by the Forest Service at Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters in Redding, 2400 Washington Avenue, 7-9:00 pm. Call Royal Mannion (916) 246-5443 for more information.

October 5 FOREST PLANNING SEMINAR, same as above, in Weaverville at Lowden Park Recreation Hall, 7-9:00 pm.

October 6 FOREST PLANNING SEMINAR, same as above, in Mt. Shasta City at Mt. Shasta City Park, Recreation Building, 1315 Nixon Road, 7-9:00 pm.

October 6 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft EIS/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan*; in Monrovia at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 700 West Huntington Drive, 7:30 pm.

October 10 DEADLINE for appeals of the *Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*. Send to: Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco CA 94111.

October 27 COMMENTS DUE on *The Monuments: Draft EIS for boundary adjustments for Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments*. Send comments to: California Desert District, Bureau of Land Management, Attn.: Monuments EIS, 1695 Spruce St., Riverside, CA 92507.

October 31 COMMENTS DUE on the *Grider Fire Recovery Project Draft EIS*, send to: Mark Chaney, Grider Fire Recovery Project, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, 96097.

December 3 PUBLIC HEARING on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft EIS/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan*; in Lee Vining at the American Legion Hall at 2:00 pm; presentations limited to no more than five minutes per speaker.

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:

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

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Editor

Stephanie Mandel

Contributors

Jim Eaton
Steve Evans
High Country News
Lisa Miller
Michael J. Robinson

Photos & Graphics

Jim Eaton
J. Fisher
Steve Johnson
Jim Stimson
Production
Wendy Cohen
Jim Eaton
Lisa Miller

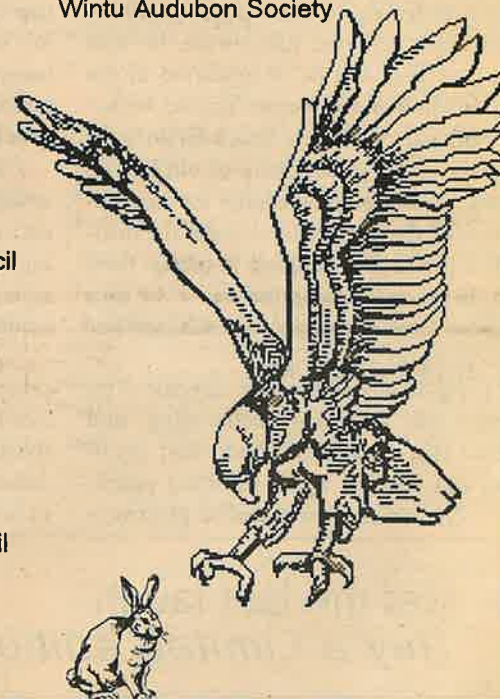
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