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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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## Off Road Vehicles Shut Out of King Range Lands

By Jim Eaton

In a major victory for conservationists, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision to allow off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the wildlands of the King Range National Conservation Area has been reversed. The agency must now close roads inside the King Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The lands are part of California's

"Lost Coast" in Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

In 1986 the California Wilderness Coalition, Environmental Protection Information Center, Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, Northcoast Environmental Center, and the Wilderness Society filed an appeal contesting the legality of opening

roads within the WSA.

Last month the Interior Board of Land Appeals agreed with the appellants, ruling that "BLM's decision to permit ORV use within the WSA does not conform to the management objectives of the King Range and will result in significant environmental impacts to natural and cultural resources."

"We are not convinced that BLM's monitoring system would afford the necessary protection," the judges wrote. "Of particular concern is BLM's designation of the Smith-Etter Road between Telegraph Ridge Road and its terminus at the beach... Accordingly, BLM's decision to open roads within the WSA must be reversed."

For years, the use of ORVs has been controversial in the King Range. ORVs, such as jeeps, dune buggies, and motorcycles are permitted on only two miles of the the King Range beach, although many stray beyond the closed area, disturbing wildlife,

hikers, and archaeological sites. Many conservationists contend that BLM, because of a lack of staff, can not control ORV use along the shoreline.

In the fall of 1985, BLM introduced a transportation plan for the King Range, allowing visitors to drive *inside* the WSA—a move considered blatantly illegal by conservationists. Their plan would open four roads within the WSA to ORVs. The plan would result in bringing more vehicles into the heart of the proposed King Range Wilderness, leading to an increase in ORV trespass into wild lands. The consequences of implementing this plan were very briefly considered in an "environmental analysis," a document much less comprehensive than an environmental impact statement (EIS).

After the end of the public comment period on the transportation plan, the BLM Area Manager quietly approved the plan, ignoring prior public requests for notification. BLM retroactively published notice of the decision in the Federal Register.

Outraged over the decision, the California Wilderness Coalition and four other conservation groups filed appeals of the decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in Washington, D.C., contesting the legality of opening roads within the King Range WSA.

The conservation groups requested that IBLA declare the transportation plan invalid, order that all roads within the WSA be closed to vehicle use, and compel prepa-

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Looking east from Kings Peak, the King Range Wilderness Study Area can be seen in the foreground.  
Photo by Carl A. Zichella

## Forest Service & Citizens May Negotiate Over Timber Sales in Shasta-Trinity Roadless Areas

By Stephanie Mandel

In a county with a history of controversy over forest resources, the Forest Service, citizens' groups, and the local timber industry may negotiate an agreement over timber sales in sensitive roadless areas in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Hayfork

Ranger District. To avoid an appeal of the Raise Peak Sale, in the extreme western end of the Pattison Roadless Area, the Forest Supervisor has offered to 1) withdraw the disputed Bear Creek timber sale proposal, 2) develop Environmental Impact State-

ments (EISs) for two sensitive roadless areas, Pattison and South Fork, and 3) refrain from activity in those areas until the EISs are released.

Members of Citizens for Better Forestry, the South Fork Trinity Watershed Association, and South Fork Mountain Defense Committee agreed at a February 14 continued on p. 3

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## COALITION PAGE

### Report

By Jim Eaton

I never thought that improving the *Wilderness Record* and publishing monthly would be controversial. But from the letters and phone calls we have received, I guess it is.

It's my turn for comment. First, let me state that your feelings are taken seriously by the Board of Directors and the staff. Ultimately, you are the folks that make this organization successful.

Yes, more resources are going into the publication than in the past. On the other hand, a bimonthly *Record* used to consume about 25 percent of my efforts. That has been reduced to about five percent of my time. Most of the time gained has let me work more on the issues we care about. I have been able to attend more meetings, comment on more documents, and communicate with more activists than in the past.

The *Wilderness Record* no longer is eternally two months late. Articles are much more timely. And by being monthly, we tell you about issues before the comment deadline is long past. I consider these positive steps.

Yes, we will have to do a better job of raising funds to continue the editor position and monthly production. But as we gain new members (which I believe will be easier with such a good newsletter), the additional money will go to issues as well as our publications. And we find new activists to work on wilder-

ness. Looks like a win-win situation to me. And believe me, Stephanie is not getting rich on her salary of \$500 per month (before taxes).

I must admit that I used to dread the long week that preceeded an issue of the *Record*. All other activity ceased. Phone calls went unanswered. Something unexpected *always* happened to cause delay (making the unexpected the expected?) And timeliness (or lack thereof) meant that we never considered adding something like advertising.

So what about advertising? Well, our feedback so far has not been terribly positive on that front. So the Board is going to try an experiment. We will solicit limited ads, and they will all be crammed on the back page. You don't have to be assaulted by them on every page. That's our compromise; give us a few issues to work this out and let us know what you think.

We will still list our member groups and sponsors. And our loyal sponsors will be given first shot at placing larger ads on our back page.

We have a new business sponsor, the Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) store in Cupertino. They join REI's stores in Berkeley and Orange as sponsors. Now if anyone wants to bug the Sacramento (Citrus Heights) and Los Angeles (Carson) REI stores to join, I won't complain.

## Managing the Weeds

The California Wilderness Coalition recently commented on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their California Vegetation Management program.

Of the three alternatives studied in the EIS, BLM's proposed alternative would allow them to use sixteen herbicides (including 2,4-D) to control vegetation in the state. They would about 5,200 acres from the air each year and apply herbicides by vehicle or by hand on approximately 1,000 acres annually. They also would use mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to control noxious and poisonous plants, maintain rights-of-way, reduce fuel load, and improve forest and range, wildlife habitat, and recreation sites.

The CWC supported alternative 3, the "no change/no use of herbicides" alternative. This option would not result in the adverse environmental impacts that can be expected from the other two alternatives.

The following are some excerpts from the Coalition's comments:

"We cannot think of another EIS we have seen that covers so much of California with so little detail. Within the program area,

BLM says there are 500 groundwater basins, 148 sensitive plant species, and over 600 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians [including fifteen federally listed threatened or endangered species and who knows how many state listed species]. The EIS reads more like a California geography primer which gives the reader a vague overview of the state's environment. The EIS clearly is inadequate to consider the vegetation management program.

"This EIS is nothing more than a thinly disguised justification for the use of herbicides on the public lands. Adverse impacts of the use of such chemicals are either not reported, ignored, or rationalized with little or no documentation.

"For example, there is no mention of Proposition 65, the California state law which may ban some of the herbicides being proposed for use by BLM. Such blatant disregard for state law is inexcusable and renders the EIS incomplete (to say the least).

"We are completely opposed to the use of herbicides in designated wilderness areas or wilderness study areas. We consider such use in violation of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976."

## MEMBERS SAY:

### More Records Okay

Dear CWC,

Ester Wanning's eulogy of the old bimonthly *Wilderness Record* was touching, but perhaps a bit premature. Quite frankly, I (and others, I hope) do not treat the *Record* as a pleasant reminder that somebody is working hard for wilderness. Nor do I see it as a publicity gadget. Rather, I like to think of it as a cattle prod—something to "goose" me out of apathy and into an active environmental role. For me, there is nothing more frustrating than receiving a newsletter containing articles which tell me that the period for public comment ended two days ago! I want the *Record* to be a starting point for active participation, not just a chronicle of environmental woes or achievements. I say, the more often I am "goosed," the better.

To be sure, we environmental types receive mailings from every conceivable "Save the Something" organization, and yes,

it can be annoying. But what sets the *Record* apart from other newsletters is that it asks for my time more than my money. I do not have the funds to send twenty bucks to every group I would like to. But with that same \$20, and info from the *Record*, I can mail off about 90 letters or 140 postcards. This gives me far more satisfaction and probably has a greater impact than blindly sending money for someone else to spend (particularly when the addresses are in the high-rent district of New York City).

Ms. Wanning's concern for increased operating costs is a valid one. However, knowing the attitude of those within the CWC, I do not share her concern that the *Record* will become filled with fluff and/or less than efficient. Let's have a look at next year's "pie diagram" (see p. 2, Jan. issue) and then decide if a eulogy is necessary.

Happy Trails,

Brian Spence



When and where were the first Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in California designated as wilderness?



CWC Board member Trent Orr (left) and Executive Director Jim Eaton (right) laugh as Doug Scott, Director of the Sierra Club Conservation Department, tells the audience of the first time Jim visited Washington D.C. The February "Jim Roast" fundraiser raised a pleasing amount of money for the Coalition.

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





## Salvage, cont. from p. 1

Association, and South Fork Mountain Defense Committee agreed at a February 14 meeting that they will negotiate with the Forest Service if the timber industry also agrees to be a part of the agreement.

The groups want the timber industry involved because they fear that once an agreement is signed between environmentalists and the Forest Supervisor (head of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest), the timber industry might file an appeal of the agreement. Since appeal decisions are made by the Forest Service Chief in Washington, the local agreement could be circumvented in this way.

The Forest Supervisor's offer came in the wake of controversy over proposed timber sales in roadless area watersheds that are particularly sensitive to erosion damage since being severely burned by last September's fires. At the same time, they are now targets for logging for the salvageable timber they contain.

## While logging green and burned timber in the Philpot watershed the contractor cut streamside trees and undamaged trees that were designated in the contract to be saved.

The South Fork and Pattison Roadless Areas have long been of particular concern to local citizen groups. The South Fork Roadless Area was extensively burned by the recent fires, and an environmental analysis for timber sale(s) in the area is now being developed. The Pattison Roadless Area, less than 10% burned, almost received wilderness designation by Congress in 1984. The Bear Creek sale, in the northeast corner of the Pattison, has been appealed by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and by Joseph Bower, on behalf of the local groups, on grounds that it would adversely affect watersheds and would have significant negative impacts on the Pattison Roadless Area. The land's soils are "highly erosive," according to FS officials.

### Ignored Contracts, Streamside Trees Cut

A timber sale already finished has fueled citizens' fears of forest damage. "Everything I feared with this thing is coming true, unfortunately," said Joseph Bower, referring in part to the Philpot timber sale. The Philpot sale contract was made before the September fires hit, and so has proceeded before other sales, for which Environmental Assessments are being drafted.

While logging green and burned timber in the Philpot watershed the contractor has cut streamside trees and undamaged trees that were designated in the contract to be saved. The slash and the logs from the logging crews' work have been left in the creek for months, also violating the methods outlined in the contract.

The Philpot sale logging damage also includes blocked culverts and blocked road drainages for a month in the winter, according to Bower. This negligence would have meant excessive erosion if a big storm had hit.

Mary Smelzer, Assistant District Ranger in the Hayfork Ranger District, said that the problems with the Philpot sale have been exaggerated. The FS did recognize a problem with trees cut in the stream management zones and left in the creek, she said, but has dealt with the scene by consulting a hydrologist last November. The recommended course of action was leaving the slash and logs where they were for the time being—there wasn't a need to take immediate action, she said.

Smelzer said that the logs will be removed from the stream and that the company will be required to pay for necessary mitigation of damage to the riparian ecology. She also said that water quality was not affected by the damage, judging from sedimentation in downstream check dams.

The damage has been videotaped by activists with Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (SAFE).

A severe erosion problem exists in the Philpot watershed, according to the Forest Service. Another proposed sale partially in the Philpot



## UPDATES

### Wilson's Desert Decision Expected Soon

While the California Desert Bill awaits action by Congress, it has been endorsed by the state AFL-CIO. The labor union is considered to be an important ally.

Senator Pete Wilson, who has not yet taken a position on the bill, is expected to announce where he stands by late March, when he will attend the spring meeting of the Sierra Club. Wilson's staff has said that he is not using Senator Alan Cranston's bill, S. 7, as a starting point but will define his own position.

The bill would designate 4.5 million acres for wilderness and transfer 3.1 million acres

### Yes, Again—1988 Mountain Lion Hunt Proposed by CA Fish & Game

The Fish and Game Commission held the first of three 1988 public hearings addressing the reinstatement of the mountain lion hunt in California. The Commission's hunt proposal, like last year's thwarted plan, calls for the issuance of 190 permits to hunt in selected regions in the state.

The February meeting in Sacramento, in contrast to its lengthy and emotion-filled predecessor, heard public recommendations for approximately thirty minutes. The majority of comments opposed the lifting of the moratorium, though a number of pro-hunt citizens spoke to the Commission as well.

The 1987 hearings ended with a decision to lift a 15-year moratorium. The 3-2 vote, following over six hours of public testimony by environmentalists, animal rights activists, ranchers, and hunters sent the crowd into an uproar. In that raucous meeting nearly 75% of the speakers supported a continued moratorium.

Following the decision, the Mountain Lion Protection Foundation (MLPF) filed a lawsuit, charging that the Fish and Game lion studies upon which the commissioners based their decision were insufficient and "haphazardly put together." The San Francisco Superior Court placed an injunction on the hunt until its "cumulative impacts" were properly assessed.

The Commission's 1988 proposal is for a 79-day season, one adult lion per hunter, and issuance of 190 permits distributed among four zones in the northwest, central coast, and the east and west slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

Over 60% of the public speakers at the hearing opposed the hunt and included representatives from Defenders of Wildlife, MLPF, and Earth First! One man felt, in an effort to improve the lion's chances of survival and create fair odds, hunters should be required to fire altered guns that have a 50% chance of backfiring every time the trigger is pulled. Proponents of the hunt, including Shasta County Cattlewomen and hunting club representatives, said that depredation and low deer herd populations are sufficient evidence of a need for removing the moratorium.

The Fish and Game Commission will accept written and oral comments from the public through March 28.



watershed, the Peanut Sale, is considering clearcuts on steep slopes. No mitigation measures to lessen the erosion are included. "They're willing to sacrifice watershed protection in order to get the timber out," Bower concluded.

He and other citizens suspect that the apparent disregard of environmentally sound logging practices in the Philpot sale is happening at other sites as well.

Regional Forester Paul Barker, California's head Forest Service honcho, has said that post-fire timber sales should concentrate on dead and dying trees. However, of a total of 250 million board feet (mmbf) to be cut this year, 75 mmbf are "green sales" in

the northern part of the national forest. The northeastern forest was less hit by the fires than the southernly Hayfork Ranger District. Six to eight green sales will proceed in the Hayfork area, however, because the contracts were signed before the fire season.

The Shasta-Trinity is one of the last national forests in California to complete a draft forest plan because the draft released in 1986 was withdrawn due to the criticism it generated. A citizens' alternative submitted to the Forest Service by Citizens for Better Forestry is currently being translated into FORPLAN, the computer model used by the Forest Service. A second draft is estimated to be available in "early summer" of this year.



# Chemise Mt. Favored, King Range Wilderness Study Area Slighted

The final wilderness recommendation for the King Range and Chemise Mountain Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is now available. The good news is that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had a change of heart and now is recommending Chemise Mountain as suitable for wilderness designation. The bad news is that BLM is recommending even less acreage for their already woefully inadequate proposal for the King Range WSA.

Fortunately, it is not BLM but Congress that will make the final wilderness determination for these areas.

Despite overwhelming public support for more wilderness, BLM's recommendation for the King Range WSA actually shrunk from 21,200 acres to 20,620 acres. The lands no longer deemed suitable for wilderness are at the north end of BLM's proposal between Willow Creek and Sea Lion Gulch. Also, this plan would open the Smith-Etter Road to within a third mile of the beach where a 1,600-square-foot parking area would be bladed. The road corridor would nearly bisect the wilderness proposal.

BLM intends to designate 2,980 acres within the Honeydew drainage as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). They also plan to log 2,430 acres of the WSA as well as build three to four miles of logging roads. Seven 100-foot diameter helispots are proposed, with four or five of them to be built inside BLM's wilderness recommendation.

BLM would continue to allow off-road vehicles along the two miles of beach at the southern end of the King Range WSA.

In contrast, the all wilderness alternative

would recommend a 33,635-acre King Range Wilderness. Some environmentalists have recommended that the entire King Range National Conservation Area, the air above it, and 200 miles offshore be preserved as wilderness.

The 4,340-acre Chemise Mountain WSA is the only BLM Primitive Area in California. Originally, BLM recommended that the area retain that status. Now they are recommending wilderness designation for the entire area.

A total of 515 oral and written comments with 2,340 signatures were received on the draft wilderness proposals. BLM does not break down the comments into support for more or less wilderness but instead provides a sample of twelve letters from organizations and individuals.

In the King Range, mountains seem to rise directly out of the sea. Kings Peak, only three miles from the beach, towers 4,087 feet. Further south, a steep, abandoned trail descends Chemise Mountain to the cobblestone beach below, dropping 2,600 feet in about one-half mile.

Besides the magnificent vistas, the WSAs possess many other values. Among the 258 bird species reported within the area are rare species such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, and spotted owl. Steelhead, silver salmon, and king salmon spawn in the area's rivers and streams. Additionally, Roosevelt elk, recently introduced to the area, roam. Besides natural values, King Range contains many archaeological treasures, some which date back 2,000 years.



A southern view from Kings Peak.

Photo by Sam Camp

## King appeal victory, cont. from page 1

portation plan is likely to result in significant impacts on erosion, wildlife, archaeological values, opportunities for primitive wilderness recreation, and suitability for wilderness designation. BLM's analysis recognized *no* negative impacts resulting from implementation of the plan in spite of—and in direct contradiction to—earlier BLM documents outlining potential negative con-

*BLM's analysis recognized no negative impacts ...in direct contradiction to earlier BLM documents*

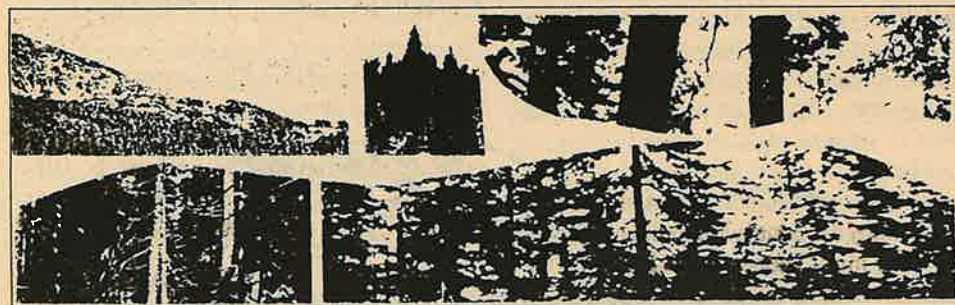
sequences.

In a rather flippant brief, BLM responded to the appellants arguments by referring to "several organized groups purporting to represent persons concerned about the environmental effects, if any, which the adoption of the King Range Transportation Plan would have upon the land and other natural resources..."

The IBLA judges decided that a full EIS is not necessary for the transportation plan. Also, vehicular use outside the WSA is still allowed. Inside the WSA, however, the IBLA ruled that BLM violated the Federal

Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and Executive Order 11989. FLPMA requires BLM to manage WSAs in a manner "so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness and to take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources." The executive order provides that where ORV use "will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on cultural or historic resources, the land in question should be immediately closed."

Meanwhile, BLM has released their final wilderness recommendation for the King Range in which they again propose opening the Smith-Etter and other routes to ORVs. Although BLM is stymied in allowing ORVs into the wildlands for now, it will take an act of Congress to permanently protect the King Range Wilderness from both ORVs and the BLM.



## Wilderness, Spotted Owl, Old Growth Get Short End of BLM Stick

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released a draft plan and environmental impact statement for lands in northwestern California outside the King Range National Conservation Area. The lands, mostly in Humboldt and Mendocino counties, include proposed wilderness areas at Red Mountain, Cahto Peak, and Gilham Butte.

Four alternatives are considered: no action, administrative adjustments (land disposal and consolidation), enhancement of natural

values, and emphasize consumptive resources.

Of particular concern to conservationists are plans to log old-growth timber. BLM is only setting aside 300 acres for each spotted owl pair. They even admit that "remaining spotted owl habitat may not only be threatened by BLM-initiated timber management, but also by disposal to other entities which may not have a multiple-use mandate."

Areas proposed for wilderness by envi-

ronmentalists will suffer under BLM's proposed alternative. The Red Mountain Wilderness Study Area, deemed "non-suitable" for wilderness by BLM, would have portions of it logged even though it is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Gilham Butte would be sold to private landowners, even though there is a pair of spotted owls living there.

Near Eureka, the Samoa and Manila dunes will continue to hear the road of off-road vehicles (ORVs). BLM will double

ORV use at Samoa Dunes by building a 125-acre ORV park but fence 175 acres of wetlands and habitat for the sensitive Menzie's wallflower. ORVs would be limited to a corridor at the Manila Dunes. According to BLM, at Manila Dunes "signs have been posted by local ORV clubs and BLM to prevent riders from traveling through these fragile areas. Most of the use occurs on long holiday weekends but light to moderate use occurs daily." So much for signs.



## Buyback Appeals Allowed

# Timber Sale Loophole Closed

By Mary Scoonover

In what environmentalists are calling a major shift in policy, the U.S. Forest Service (FS) has issued an interim rule allowing appeals of both default and buyback timber sales. The new rule, which provides procedures for individuals and organizations to appeal Forest Service officials' decisions to reoffer sales, came in response to a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision against the government.

The old FS rule began in the late 1970s and early 1980s when timber companies bid unusually high prices for timber sale contracts on national forests. The demand for timber, and thus the price, did not reach the expected high levels and many of the sales went uncut as the bid prices were higher than the market price of the timber.

In response, Congress passed a law to give purchasers of these high-priced timber sale contracts some relief. The law provided a procedure for purchasers to buy out of some of the timber in qualifying sales contracts, and the FS would then reoffer the sale. The government took the position that a decision to reoffer a returned or defaulted sale was a reaffirmation of the original decision. This second sale was not, the FS argued, an appealable decision.

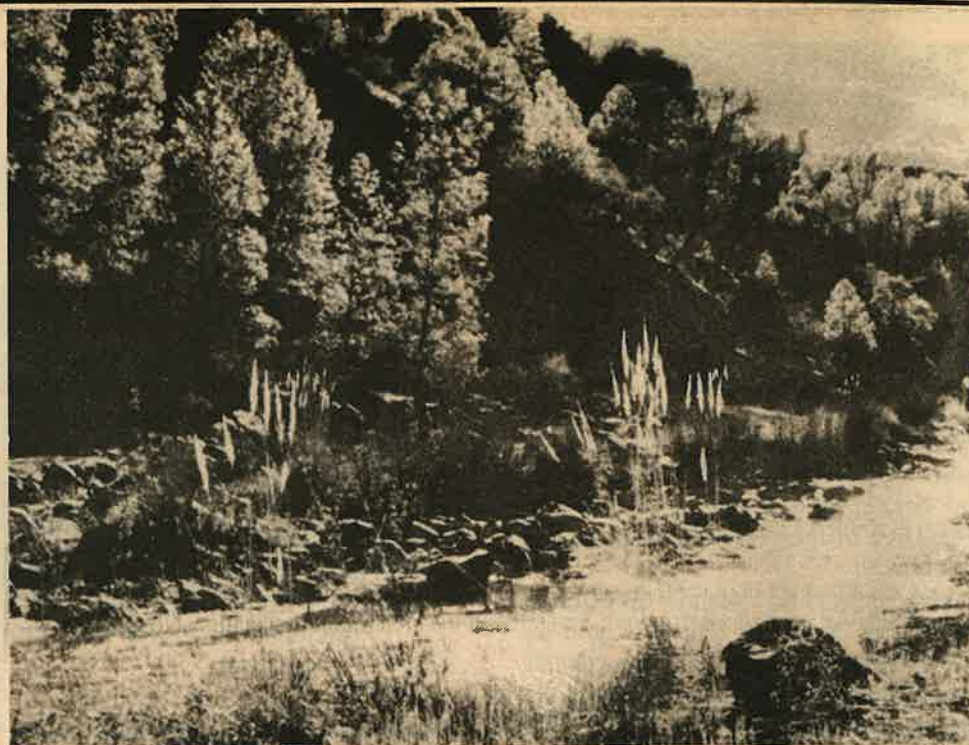
Environmentalists were disturbed by the impacts of this policy. In effect, timber sale contracts were being sold under old environmental regulations that governed the original timber sales made several years before. New regulations that would have applied to any new timber sale contracts did not apply to reoffers.

In a national forest in Washington a 166-acre clearcut, the Olo Too, was originally studied and sold in 1979 and 1980. After the

original sale the FS adopted region-wide standards limiting clearcuts to 40 acres. When the purchaser of the timber contract on Olo Too defaulted, the sale returned to the FS, who resold the timber contract with no new environmental study or analysis. The new purchaser was thus entitled to clearcut 166 acres even though any new timber contract sales sold at that time would have been limited to 40 acres.

In a similar situation in a national forest in Oregon, a sale was made in 1980 and then returned to the FS, which reoffered the timber sale in 1985 without further environmental study. The Oregon Natural Resources Council and other environmental organizations appealed the reoffer decision. The FS dis-

continued on p. 6



*Pinus sabiniana* lining the canyon of Cache Creek, upstream of the Bear Creek confluence.  
Photo by Susan Donahue

## Cache Creek's Eagles, Elk, Flora Preserved

By Rusty Malchow

The final draft of the management plan for the Cache Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) has been released by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Cache Creek ACEC is a corridor of land one-half mile wide along either side of Cache Creek, extending 35 miles, from Clear Lake downstream to the Capay Valley. It overlaps the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA), a designation which protects the area from development which would lower its wilderness quality before Congress takes action on wilderness designation.

Over 57% of this corridor land is pri-

vately-owned, and not protected as part of the designated ACEC. About 34% is designated ACEC, managed by the BLM, while 6% is Department of Fish and Game land, which isn't designated but will be managed cooperatively between the two agencies.

Four special resource values to be protected within the ACEC are identified in the BLM management plan: the wintering bald eagle population, the tule elk herd, cultural resources, and riparian/primitive recreation values.

The major actions proposed by the BLM plan include closing the area to motorized vehicles, removing non-native vegetation, introducing test plantings of other riparian vegetation, doing a cultural resource inventory, removing approximately five miles of barbed wire fence, and prohibiting new road construction. The area has already been closed to vehicles, as of August 1987.

The Cache Creek wintering bald eagle population is the second largest in the state, with as many as 55 individuals occupying the area from mid-October to mid-April. The sensitivity of the area has been recognized by the California Department of Fish and Game, which designated part of the Wilson Valley an Area of Special Biological Importance. According to the BLM, there is evidence that some eagles may remain in the area all year. If a permanent population begins to nest, special measures may be taken to minimize disturbance of the birds, such as closing some areas to the public during nesting periods. The BLM plans to monitor the eagle population by helicopter.

Cache Creek's tule elk herd is the second largest in the state, consisting of about 250 individuals. The elk were reintroduced into the area in the 1920s. Off-road vehicles in the

area have had a negative impact on the herd, particularly during the calving season (late spring) and the rutting season (late summer). The tule elk is currently a fully-protected species in California, but the Fish and Game Commission is proposing to hunt this herd later this year.

As part of its management plan, BLM plans on removing non-native star thistle and replacing it with perennial grasses and clovers for the benefit of the elk. The planted crops may need to be irrigated by a temporary system, which could be removed in the event of the area being designated wilderness.

Another exotic plant which will be removed is pampas grass. The management plan calls for grubbing (uprooting by hand), but herbicides will be considered if the Bureauwide Vegetation Management EIS authorizes their use.

There is evidence of Native American village and burial sites near the creek. Off-road vehicle use is cited in the management report as having a detrimental effect on these sites.

The Corps of Engineers is currently studying the feasibility of constructing a dam on Cache Creek about two miles upstream of Rumsey. The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District requested the study to determine the effect of the dam on flood control and its economic feasibility. If built, the dam would contain up to one million acre-feet of water and flood the Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park and portions of highways 16 and 20 as well as part of the ACEC and WSA.

*Rusty Malchow is a physics graduate student at the University of California, Davis.*



Hikers enjoy the banks of Cache Creek canyon, where a meadow supports valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) and blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) grow on the steep canyon wall.  
Photo by Susan Donahue



## Getting Into the Yosemite Wilderness

By Joe Bogaard

Yosemite National Park released its Draft Wilderness Management Plan last December. The document explained the philosophy and policy that will guide park officials' management activities in the 677,600-acre Yosemite Wilderness. The following article highlights what to expect and consider when planning day hikes, overnight trips, or horse or mule pack trips in Yosemite.

Managing the Yosemite Wilderness necessitates limits and zoning. Within the wilderness is a variety of settings, ranging from heavily-used campsites near the trailheads to remote canyons with no trails. In a wilderness, all these areas must be managed to maintain or enhance the current state of the natural conditions. Since an area can sustain only so much use before unacceptable degradation occurs, use limits have been established.

The 1970's saw a huge increase in wilderness visits, and the National Park Service (NPS) responded with a quota system that requires wilderness permits for all overnight



Fletcher Lake in the Yosemite Wilderness, site of the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp.  
Photo by Phillip Farrell

Crest trails, permits may be obtained from the issuing station nearest the start of the trip.

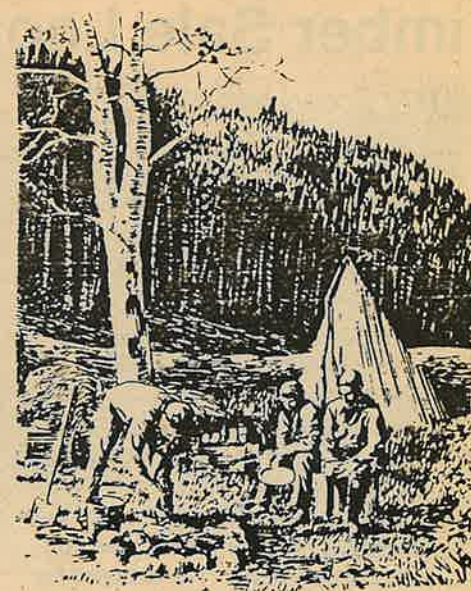
Reservations for wilderness permits are accepted between February 1 and May 31 by mail only. A brief itinerary must be mailed to the Wilderness Office with the reservation request. Up to 50% of the trailhead quota is available by advance reservation, with the remainder filled on a first come-first served basis, issued within 24 hours of the trailhead departure. If applying for popular trailheads,

and brochures. Hikers are encouraged to learn these simple travel methods.

Winter nordic use has greatly increased in Yosemite in the past 15 years. Winter permits are issued under the park permit system, with no winter use quotas. Approximately 50 miles of ski trails are marked in the Badger Pass area, 15 miles at Crane Flat, and 11 miles at Mariposa Grove. Ranger cabins are not available for public use, though the Ostrander Lake ski hut, operated by the Yosemite Association, is available for overnight use by the public. No snow machines are permitted except for emergency and administrative uses.

For those interested in wildlife, the NPS has special programs to maintain and enhance the various populations of peregrine falcons, bighorn sheep, great grey owl, deer, and bear.

Wilderness food storage devices such as food lockers, bear poles, bear cables, and portable food storage cannisters help eliminate artificial food sources introduced by wilderness travellers. Food storage devices



are available in designated wilderness campgrounds. All other storage devices are to be removed from wilderness by 1989 and replaced with portable bear-proof containers carried by wilderness visitors.

For further information and reservations contact: Wilderness Office, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, or telephone: 209-372-0285, or -0310; Yosemite Valley, May to Oct.: 209-372-0307; Tuolumne Meadows, June to Sept.: 209-372-0309.

Joe Bogaard is an intern with the CWC



### Wilderness Trivia Answer: from page 2

The 21,250-acre Santa Lucia Wilderness in San Luis Obispo County, which became wilderness in 1978, contains 1,733 acres of BLM lands adjacent to Forest Service lands.

trips. The NPS also prohibited camping within one mile of public access roads and within four trail miles of Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, Wawona, and Hetch Hetchy. These rules were established to eliminate the impact of camping on wilderness resources in the heavily-used areas closer to the roads.

A no fire zone is located throughout the wilderness above 9,600 feet in elevation in order to protect the whitebark pine, which is generally distributed near that elevation. A small, no wood fire zone exists on top of Half Dome because of the heavy use and lack of fuel wood.

Day use of the Yosemite Wilderness will be limited on a policy rather than a permit basis, recognizing that eventually heavy impacts may require day use permits. Day use travel on maintained trails is limited to groups of 35 and less with a few specific exceptions. Cross-country travel is officially discouraged by the NPS and is limited to parties of eight or fewer persons, due to actual and potential off-trail environmental degradation such as erosion.

Permits are required for all overnight trips in the wilderness. They are free and can be obtained from the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Tuolumne Meadows permit kiosk, Wawona Ranger Station, and the Big Oak Flat Information Station. For long distance hikes such as the John Muir and Pacific

send alternative routes in case the spaces are already filled.

The maximum overnight group number is 25 on the established trails. Groups of fifteen or more should write for permits during the reservation period. The best chances for large group permits will be met with early applications, alternative routes, and mid-week start dates. Off-trail overnight groups are limited to eight persons.

Rock climbers are required to carry out all wastes. No quotas are established for the climbing routes in Yosemite Valley.

Of course, minimum impact camping is strongly encouraged and, in some regards, required. Rangers will make hikers aware of these techniques through personal contacts



### Timber buybacks, cont. from page 5

missed the appeal, ruling that the decision to reoffer was merely a reaffirmation of the original decision sell the timber. The reoffer decision, therefore, was not appealable. The FS timber sale was awarded to a timber company in 1986.

Environmentalists took their concerns to federal courts. Both the Western District Court of Washington and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal agreed with the environmentalists and ruled that a decision required discretionary judgement—a new decision. A reoffer by the FS of a returned or defaulted timber sale is a decision and thus is subject to administrative appeal.

To comply with the courts' decisions, the FS issued an interim rule allowing appeal of decisions to reoffered timber sales. Decisions made before October 30, 1986 are entitled to a two-level, while those made after that date get a one-level appeal.

Although the interim rule was effective as of January 28, 1988, the FS will consider public comments before a final rule is promulgated. Although the new policy allows environmentalists to appeal reoffer decisions, there is no guarantee that such appeals will be successful. Comments on the interim rule should be sent to:

F. Dale Robertson, Chief (1570)  
Forest Service, USDA  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Written comments must be received by March 28, 1988.

Thanks to Corrie J. Yackulic of Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Seattle for help in preparing this article.

Mary Scoonover is an environmental attorney in Sacramento.



# Earth First! Style Wilderness Preserves

Earth First! (EF!) has developed a two-stage approach to establishing large ecological wilderness preserves in the United States. The first stage consists of preparing alternatives to Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and Congressional programs to establish wilderness areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

EF! groups have proposed detailed alternatives to national forest plans which call for protecting all remaining roadless areas, establishing wilderness recovery areas to reclaim roaded, logged, and otherwise damaged landscapes back to a wilderness condition, and reintroducing extirpated wildlife. EF! groups have also developed state-wide wilderness proposals for FS or BLM lands in

several states. An example of one of these proposals is the California Desert BLM and NPS Wilderness—17 million acres (8.8 million acres have been proposed by mainstream environmental groups).

Although these proposals include large areas, they are still interim measures essentially bound to existing laws and procedures. Several years ago EF! developed a far more visionary plan for a wilderness preserve system that would encompass 716 million acres (about one third of the land area of the United States outside of Alaska). This proposed system, unprecedented anywhere in the world, uses the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem map to identify examples of all USA ecological communities that have the best potential for recovery to at least a quasi-

wilderness condition.

Although re-creation of such meaningful wilderness will, in some areas, require the relocation of several thousand people or the removal of major installations, this draft proposal strives to exclude significant population centers, agricultural and industrial zones, important highways, railroads, powerlines. Nonetheless, its first priority is protection of intact ecosystems.

The general guidelines for these preserves include:

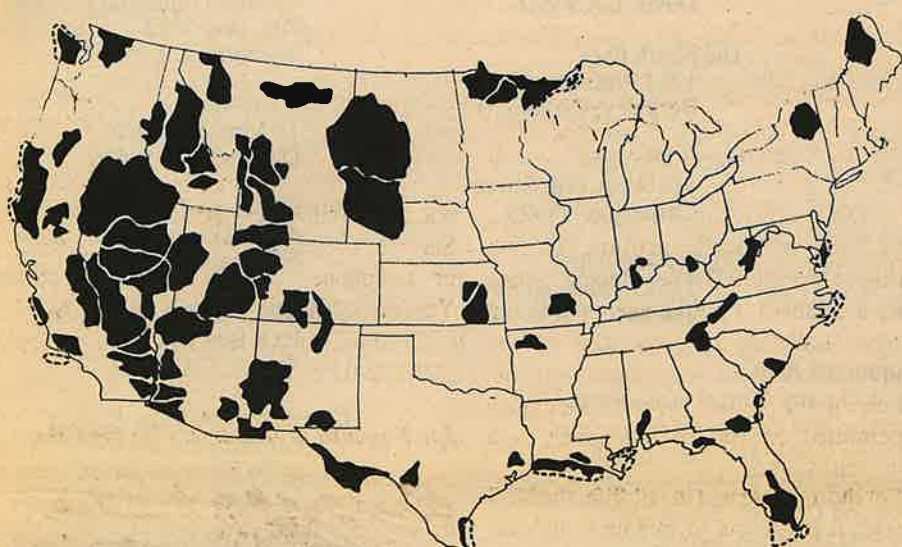
- No permanent human habitation except, in some cases, indigenous peoples living traditional (Pre-1500) lifestyles
- No use of mechanized equipment or vehicles; no roads.
- No logging, mining, water diversion, industrial activity, agriculture, or grazing of domestic livestock.
- No use of artificial chemical substances, including pesticides and herbicides.
- No control of wildfire.
- Reintroduction of extirpated species including grizzly bear, wolf, jaguar, ocelot, elk, bison, moose, mountain caribou, mountain lion, fisher, wolverine, and river otter.
- Removal of exotic species where possible (tamarisk, burros, etc.).
- No overflights or landings by aircraft.
- Elimination of outside adverse influences such as acid rain.

•Priority given to preservation of the ecosystem and native species over the safety and convenience of the human visitor.

Some of the larger preserves have been divided into several units by major transportation corridors. These corridors should be as narrow as possible and highways, railroads, power lines, pipelines, population centers, and visitor facilities should be tightly confined.

This wilderness preserve system will allow true wilderness to coexist with human civilization on the North American continent. Of course it is ambitious. Yet it is impractical and outrageous only in the context of the bizarre utilitarian philosophy which separates one species (*Homo sapiens*) from its place in the biosphere and from its relationship with the land community and the life cycles of the entire planet.

*Excerpted from an Earth First! brochure.*



Striving to preserve examples of all ecological communities that have the potential for recovery to at least a quasi-wilderness condition, Earth First!'s plan for a wilderness system for the USA would encompass 716 million acres. EF! graphic

## 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 March 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.

## CALENDAR

**March, late or early April** Public Information Meeting discussing alternatives for fire salvage in the South Fork Roadless Area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. For exact date contact: Hayfork Ranger District, (916)628-5227.

**March 5** Public Information Meeting on San Mateo Wilderness Plan/EA, 10 am, El Cariso Forest Service Station, 32-449 Ortega Hwy. RSVP Trabuco Ranger Dist. at (714)736-1811.

**March 7 DEADLINE** for comments on the Modoc Draft Forest Plan. Send to: Douglas G. Smith, Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest, 441 Main St., Alturas, 96101.

**March 9 DEADLINE** for comments for the Kangaroo Fire Recovery Sale (in the Kangaroo roadless area) environmental impact statement; send to Forest Supervisor Bob Rice, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, 96097.

**March 11-13** "In Celebration of Rivers" conference/festival by Friends of the River: preservation, recreation, & natural history workshops; equipment swap & entertainment; Dominican College, San Rafael, call (415)771-0400 or (916)442-3155 for more information.

**March 18 DEADLINE** for comments for the San Mateo Wilderness Management Plan Environmental Assessment; send to San Mateo Wilderness Planning Team, Cleveland National Forest, 880 Front St., Rm. 5-N-14, San Diego, 92188.



## 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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