



# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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April, 1988

## No More Wilderness, Sequoia Forest Says

By Jim Eaton

Conservationists are gearing up to appeal the final Land and Resource Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest.

The final plan, released in March, would increase logging levels, spraying of herbicides, livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use, and downhill ski development. As a result of these increased consumptive uses, roadless areas will be developed, old-growth timber will be reduced, and spotted owl and goshawk populations will decline.

The 1,119,045-acre national forest is located at the southernmost end of the Sierra Nevada in Tulare, Kern, and Fresno counties. About a quarter of the forest is protected as designated wilderness. Another forty percent still is wild and roadless, but none of this *de facto* wilderness is proposed for wilderness classification.

In fact, the only wilderness being proposed in this forest plan is a 12,500-acre portion of the Bureau of Land Management's Rockhouse Wilderness Study Area. Six further planning areas totaling 117,308 acres were studied and rejected for wilderness designation. Another fifteen areas with 324,000 acres are roadless but were "released" from wilderness consideration by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

Under the proposed plan, the Moses Further Planning Area will lose its wilderness characteristics in the first decade due to road building and timber harvesting. The Dennison Further Planning Area will have some timber harvest undertaken. The Scodices roadless area is zoned for "semi-primitive motorized" use despite nearly becoming wilderness in the 1984 Act [the area was dropped to meet Senator Pete Wilson's demand for reduced acreage] and currently is being proposed for wilderness in the California Desert Protection Act.

There were a few changes made from the draft plan. About 8,000 acres in the Sirretta Peak area adjacent to the Dome Land Wilderness will be closed to off-road

vehicles but may still be logged. And instead of looking south from Monache Meadows at clearcuts, the "viewshed" will be selectively logged.

Timber will be the management emphasis on 36 percent of the "forested land" in the national forest [defined as having tree cover on at least ten percent of the area]. Grazing will be emphasized in 21 percent of the forest, although it also is occurring in wilderness areas and the lands managed for timber production, with 10,000 cows producing 1,766,000 pounds of red meat.

Off-road vehicles are allowed on 62 percent of the trails. There are 1,485 miles of maintained roads and 1,033 miles of continued on p. 5

## Klamath Fires & Logging Set Destructive Cycle

By Eric Beckwitt

Concerned inhabitants of the Salmon River watershed, loggers, tree planters, representatives from environmental groups, and the press assembled at Otter Bar Lodge on the Salmon River for a conference on forest management in the Klamath National Forest. The February 23-25 conference focused on the effects of wildfire on the forest and included two field trips to burned, logged, and roadless areas.

Contrary to direction issued by Regional Forester Paul Barker to salvage the less controversial roaded areas first, some of the first salvage sales in the Salmon River Ranger District of the Klamath are being prepared in roadless areas and in areas where foresters know reforestation is not possible. In addition, timber salvage is planned on soils that are incapable of sustaining intensive timber management. Some of the worst examples of logging-induced forest soil degradation in the state are visible on the steep sandy granite soils of the Klamath National Forest.



This south-facing slope of the Olson Creek watershed in the Klamath National Forest looks bare, but is actually a forest of stumps. The steep, granite-based soils are rapidly losing productivity, due to a cycle of fire and clearcutting.  
Photo by Eric Beckwitt

At the February conference Scott Downie, Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisheries Associations, spoke extensively on the high economic value of the native salmon fisheries. Their values may easily exceed the value of timber in the Salmon River watershed. He also stressed the precarious condition of the existing salmon stocks, in that lethal summer stream temperatures, resulting from the destruction of streamside vegetation by fire and logging—could devastate the already dangerously small summering salmon population.

Biologically, the Klamath is the most important national forest in California. The Klamath Mountains are one of the two major centers of plant endemism in the state, and the forest contains an unusual diversity of tree species. The Klamath mountains are characterized by extremely complex geology, steep slopes and knife edged ridges. Until the advent of modern tractor logging and its destructive impacts after World War II, salmon spawning runs were so large that people could literally

cross the streams on the backs of fish.

The major concern of Salmon River residents at the conference was the potential for more devastating wildfires—and salvage logging—in the coming years. They noted the dangerous tendency for wildfire continued on p. 4

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## Report

By Jim Eaton

You read a lot in this newspaper about environmentalists complaining about this plan, appealing that decision, and occasionally going to court to stop some dastardly project. But sometimes we actually work with an agency. Or we try.

Last month's lead story told of our victory over the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in appealing their opening the King Range Wilderness Study Area to off-road vehicles. The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) agreed with us that BLM erred in their decision, and they told BLM to close those roads to the public.

About the same time, BLM announced that they were about to do their annual maintenance of these routes. The Wilderness Society protested this decision. BLM denied their protest, saying that despite the IBLA ruling they had to maintain the roads for access to private property and for grazing leasees.

In order to protect our rights, we filed a notice of appeal with IBLA, but then we suggested to BLM that we get together to see if we could reach an agreement on what road maintenance is necessary. They

agreed to go out with us and see if there could be a meeting of the minds.

So the last week in March I joined representatives of The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, BLM, and a soil scientist retained by the environmental groups to look at the roads. We drove over the dusty ways, walked over problem stretches, looked at landslides and culverts, and discussed options and alternatives. We thought we were close to working this problem out.

Then just before the last stop of the day, the BLM folks dropped their bombshell: they have asked IBLA to reconsider their decision so that off-road vehicles can again whiz through the proposed wilderness area [see article on page 4].

Now it was nice to get out and see some more of the King Range. But if I knew BLM was spending their time trying to have the IBLA ruling overturned, I think maybe I could have found something more constructive to do with my time.

Yes, we can be reasonable at times. But without trust and candor by the other parties, it's not going to happen very often.

## Mt. Eddy Road Request Dropped

A request for a timber harvest right-of-way to private lands within the Mt. Eddy Further Planning Area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest was dropped by Sierra Pacific Industries, who recently acquired the timber rights from Santa Fe Pacific Timber Company. Santa Fe originally submitted the request in August of 1987.

An appeal of the environmental assessment (EA) for the right-of-way was filed on February 18, 1988 by the Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society, California Wilderness Coalition, Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society.

Phil Rhodes of the Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society, speculated that Sierra Pacific Ind. may have dropped the easement request because the Forest Service (FS) asked them to. "The FS may want to avoid dealing directly with the concerns raised in the appeal, such as the question of why the FS has not taken steps to acquire land in the Mt. Eddy Further Planning Area (FPA)," Rhodes said.

The environmental groups had encouraged the FS to attempt to acquire land within the FPA due to its wilderness potential. Of

numerous roadless areas in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, only Mt. Eddy has been granted further planning status by Congress, which means only Mt. Eddy retained further planning status with the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

The Forest Service's own management direction for the area was expressed in the Shasta-Trinity NF Draft Land Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement, which reads in part:

"The Mt. Eddy area is the last remaining area of undeveloped subalpine area along the Eddy Range. Natural integrity is high... Timber and forage values are insignificant in the area and are not a factor in consideration for wilderness availability."

Southern Pacific Land Company, owners of the approximately 2,300 acres of private inholdings in the Mt. Eddy FPA, has indicated—in public testimony—a willingness to trade their lands. Given good reason and landowner cooperation, Rhodes and others wonder why land acquisition has not been pursued.

## MEMBERS SAY:

## Tell Us Who to Write

Editor,

I guess it's a good sign that I'm following the evolution and style of the *Record* such that I now have some compliments and constructive (I hope) criticism for you all. But alas, I do want to comment. So here it goes:

1) Praise Brian Spence's views (*WR*, March 1988), and long live the monthly *Record*. I still find that one shortcoming of the publication is that a "What You Can Do" type conclusion is not given to more articles. Take your March issue. How about such information to end, in particular, the Mt. Lion Hunt Proposal (address & dates of San Diego & Long Beach hearings, address of Fish & Game Commission), address of Senator Wilson for late letters on the Desert Bill, King Range Wilderness—oops is it too late—you get the idea. It wouldn't take but an extra sentence or three per article and it would be mighty empowering.

2) I found it quite frustrating that the article on Cache Creek didn't mention where Cache Creek is until the last paragraph—and then only sort of! I realize that you have followed the issue in previous *Records*, but the newcomer or absent-minded could use a reminder.

3) Why was the Yosemite Draft Wilderness plan not covered in the February *Rec-*

*ord*? I'm biased, I accept that. I assume you all got a copy of it. There was some real quality B.S. in it, and readers should have/could have known, and written to the park. The *Record*, in my opinion, could do much more needed and appropriate stuff with its space. And just as a point of information regarding the Yosemite wilderness, the big-horn sheep reintroduction gave cause to kill a mt. lion, the great gray owls are probably over-monitored, bears are still being killed each summer, and the only program I know of to enhance deer populations is the visitor with a handfull of junk food happily purchased at a Curry Company store! Help us all!

I look forward to the next *Record*. I do hope some addresses start appearing!

In Peace & Wilderness,  
Tom Skeeel  
Yosemite, CA

*Editor's note: Cache Creek, the sole outlet from Clear Lake, runs from Lake County (northeast of the Bay Area) southwest through Yolo County, ending in the Sacramento River.*

*We welcome submissions of articles on wilderness issues, including more on the Yosemite Draft Wilderness Plan.*

Member Group Spotlight:  
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

By Bob Barnes

Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, 3550 W. Sixth St., #321, Los Angeles, CA 90020, (213) 387-4287, M-F, 10 am -6 pm.  
Chapter Administrator — Ellen Greif  
Geographical Area — Los Angeles and Orange Counties  
Membership — 50,000 (largest Sierra Club Chapter)  
14 Groups, 15 Activities Sections, 26 Conservation Subcommittees  
Newsletter — Southern Sierran  
Chapter Chair — Bob Kanne  
Conservation Coordinator — Bonnie Holmes  
Angeles National Forest — Fred Hoepfner  
Desert — Barbara Reber  
Forest Planning — Bob Kanne  
Forest & Wilderness — Sally Reid  
Rivers — Elden Hughes  
Mono Lake — David Czamanske  
Santa Monica Mountains — Dave Brown  
State Parks — Murray Rosenthal

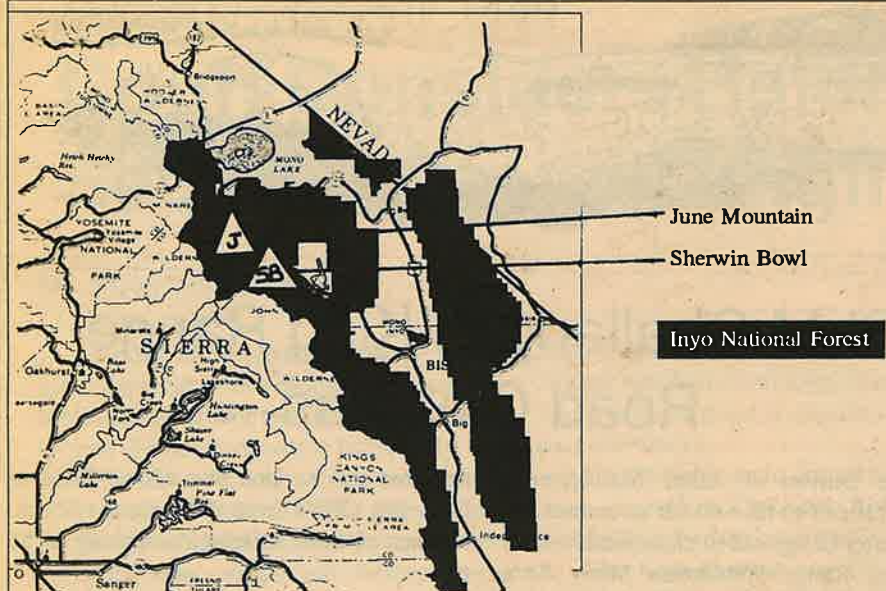
The Angeles Chapter has actively worked on the Cleveland, Angeles, Los Padres, and Sequoia national forests. The Chapter has taken the lead on the Angeles Forest and has appealed the Final Forest Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement.

The Chapter has taken a very active role in working toward passage of the California Desert Protection Act (Cranston/Levine), a national priority of the Sierra Club.

For more information on the conservation areas listed above, the extensive outings program covering the southern Sierra and southern California, or any other facet of the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, write or phone at the address listed above.

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





## Ski Area Expansions Studied

Inyo National Forest is pushing ahead with two major ski area projects in the Mammoth Lakes area on the east side of the Sierra Nevada. An expansion of the June Mountain ski area would triple the capacity of that resort while a new development at Sherwin Bowl would be even larger than the enlarged June Mountain resort.

Part of the June Mountain expansion is in the San Joaquin Roadless Area. Almost all of the Sherwin Bowl development is in the Sherwin Roadless Area. The Forest Service, however, does not acknowledge the existence of these roadless areas in their environmental reviews.

Both of these projects are being pushed ahead before the release of the final forest plan for the Inyo National Forest. Besides these two developments, the forest plan addresses a proposal to build a massive ski development linking the June and Mammoth mountain resorts.

Inyo National Forest is refusing to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the June Mountain development plan. Instead, they have prepared a 33-page Environmental Assessment which refers to a 1979 Mammoth-Mono Planning Unit EIS, which did not analyze the impacts of a ski area expansion.

An EIS has been prepared for the Sherwin Bowl Ski Area proposal. Public comment on this plan is being accepted until June 13th.

### June Mountain

The plan at June Mountain would increase the capacity of the resort from 2,250 to 7,000 skiers at one time. The existing 248 acres of ski runs would nearly be doubled and five new lifts would be built.

The justification for this expansion is a projected two to five percent annual increase in downhill skiing. The Forest Service does not explain why more than 200 percent expansion at June Mountain is needed to satisfy this increased "demand."

Tracks of the red fox, a species considered threatened by the State of California, have been found in the expansion area. Tracks of the pine martin were also found; this species is listed as "sensitive" by the U.S. Forest Service.

Other wildlife in the area include black bear, coyote, bobcat, and raccoon. Birds seen include: Williamson's and red-breasted sapsuckers, hairy woodpecker, pygmy nuthatch, brown creeper, blue grouse, Cooper's and red-tailed hawks, and prairie falcon. A Cooper's hawk nest was found in the expansion area.

Environmental groups are preparing to appeal the Forest Service decision to allow this expansion.

### Sherwin Bowl

The preferred alternative in the Sherwin Bowl EIS would be a downhill ski area supporting 8,000 skiers at one time with nine lifts.

Sensitive species at Sherwin Bowl include the pine martin and goshawk. Other species include the flammulated owl, prairie falcon, golden eagle, and mountain lion. The Forest Service lists the number of acres of habitat that will be disturbed but avoids drawing conclusions (except that the mountain lion probably will abandon the area).

Three public workshops will be held: April 16, 1 p.m. Mammoth Lakes High School multi-purpose room;

April 19, 7:30 p.m. Howard Johnson's Inn, 700 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia; and

April 21, 7:30 p.m. Oakland Convention Center, Room 210, 10th and Broadway.

The California Wilderness Coalition will be sending a Wilderness Alert to its members who have indicated an interest in the southern Sierra on their wilderness questionnaire. Comments must be received by June 13, 1988. Contact:

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

## UPDATES

### Timber Swap Saves Golden Trout Wilderness From Road

Logging of private land within the Golden Trout Wilderness, managed by the Inyo National Forest, has been averted by a trade of the land for timber from another national forest.

Louisiana Pacific Corporation, owners of the 40 acres within the 303,287-acre wilderness, made an offer to trade that was accepted by the Forest Service. Louisiana Pacific's local mill, which was located east of the national forest on highway 395, was closed and sold in the past few months. (See *WR*, February, 1988)

### Citizens Continue to Watch Shasta-Trinity Salvage Sales

Forest activists told the Forest Service (FS) their concerns about proposed fire salvage timber sales in the South Fork roadless area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The FS received comments at four public meetings held in March. The vast majority of people at the meetings in Hyampom and Hayfork were in favor of not logging the sensitive areas.

The FS has begun developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for salvage sales in the South Fork and Pattison roadless areas. In a rare cooperative venture, the FS and citizens groups agreed that the FS would write the EIS and the citizens would not appeal the Rays Peak timber sale in the Pattison roadless area. (See *WR*, March 1988). The FS has said that the draft EIS will be completed by May 1 and the final version by July 1988.

The Wilderness Society has filed an appeal of the Gulch Sale Environmental Assessment (EA) because of concerns regarding necessary watershed protection, and that clearcuts are planned on unsuitable timber ground. Three separate sales, totalling 18 million board feet, 2,000 acres, are included.

Hayfork activist Joseph Bower points out that 3,000 feet of 22% grade road will have to be built to bring out the Gulch Sale timber. "They have to drag trucks out with a bulldozer," he said; "I've never heard of a road on that much of a grade before."





## "Electrifying" Hearing Sheds Light on Hydro Control Transfer

Described as "fairly electrifying" by Friends of the River's Ron Stork, a March 29 hearing illuminated legislation that may transfer control over the nation's hydroelectric projects from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to federal land agencies.

The concept of HR 3693 was supported by the Forest Service (FS) in testimony before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. According to Stork, FS Deputy Chief George Leonard was "forthright" and stated a desire to work with the subcommittee on changes.

The FS position on the bill, sponsored by Richard Lehman, surprised some observers, who expected the FS, like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to defer to their fellow agency (FERC).

Stork testified in favor of the bill, along with representatives from American Rivers, the Western River Guides Association, and The Wilderness Society. "We were able to make a very powerful case," Stork said — "the hearings were very substantive and interesting." Stork expressed "reasonable expectation" that the legislation will be passed by Congress either this year or the next.

Testifying against the bill were Southern California Edison (SCE), the Kings River Conservation District (KRCDD), and the National Hydropower Association. Conspicuous in its absence was the FERC itself. The KRCDD's position was that they would rather deal with FERC in getting their projects

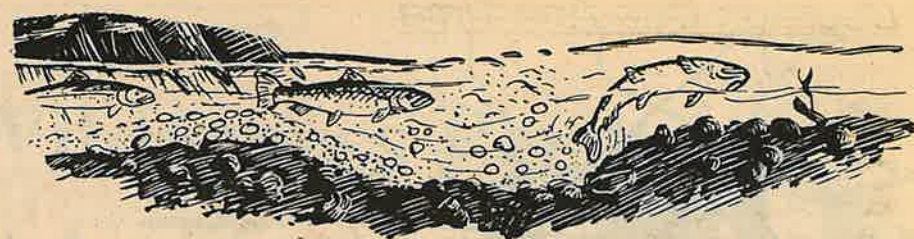
approved than with the land agencies. SCE was opposed to the hassle involved with the dispersed authority; as Ron Stork put it, "they want one stop shopping."

According to sponsor Congressman Richard Lehman, HR 3593 will increase the authority and independence of the USFS and the BLM over the licensing of hydropower projects on federal land. In addition, the bill mandates increased public participation in the licensing process and prohibits agencies from delegating environmental reports to project developers.

"Federal land management agencies and the public must have more input when it comes to hydro projects in our communities. Without this authority, the federal agencies responsible for public lands become nothing more than rubber stamps for FERC hydro licenses," said Lehman, who is a member of the Public Land Subcommittee.

According to Lehman, there was a dramatic increase in the number of hydropower projects, particularly small hydro projects, following the energy crisis of the late 1970s. The proliferation of these FERC license applications, especially in the West, have had a tremendous impact on the development and management of public lands.

The March 29 hearing was the bill's first; a final version must now be written up, and the bill heard by another House subcommittee. A principal co-sponsor of HR 3593 is Tony Coehlo.



## BLM Challenges King Range Road Closures

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) refuses to take no for an answer. A month after being told to close roads within the King Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA), BLM is asking the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) to reconsider their decision.

IBLA upheld portions of the appeal of the California Wilderness Coalition, *et. al.*, ruling that "BLM's decision to permit ORV [off-road vehicle] 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."

The King Range, part of the "Lost Coast" of Humboldt and Mendocino counties, is the wildest stretch of California's coastline. In the fall of 1985, BLM introduced a transportation plan which allowed visitors to drive inside the WSA. The California Wilderness Coalition and four other environmental groups appealed this plan.

In their request for reconsideration, BLM states that the roads were open to the public at the time of the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. They also state that they now have

acquired private land that allows BLM to barricade ORVs from reaching the beach. Neither of these statements appears to be true.

BLM also points out that they now plan to hire a ranger at the King Range, and that they also are helping to fund a deputy sheriff for the community of Shelter Cove.

In an interesting interpretation of the law, the agency states that "BLM is clearly under no legal constraint to prevent the use of roads within the King Range WSA, which existed prior to the passage of FLPMA. The Board [IBLA] in this decision is purporting to substitute its judgement for that of the decision-maker when the record herein contains no evidence that the public lands would be injured by the opening of established roads within the WSA."

They also accuse IBLA of "usurping such decision-making authority when, in fact, the Board is not equipped with sufficient technical expertise to properly evaluate the management concerns in the Region."

The environmental groups are working on their response to set the record straight.

## WILDERNESS BUREAUCRACY QUIZ

- 1) Which federal agency handles mineral resources on all federal public lands?
- 2) Which federal agency(s) can recommend land that they manage for wilderness?
- 3) How many acronyms are used in the Sequoia forest plan?
- 4) How many Congressionally-designated federal Wilderness Areas are there in the state of California?



## Klamath Mountains, cont. from p. 1

to burn extremely hot through logged areas and expressed concern that a destructive pattern is being established, wherein logging in a watershed is followed by hot fire, salvage logging, and hot fire again.

In the late summer of 1987 261,000 acres of the 1,750,000-acre Klamath Forest burned in over 15 major wildfires. The fires burned in complex and variable patterns; in several places a continuum from beneficial underburning to complete forest destruction can be observed over just a few acres.

Peter Brucker from the Salmon River Concerned Citizens, a coalition of whitewater rafters, small-scale miners, and other residents, led a field trip to the 1,500-acre Negro Creek watershed. Fifteen years ago, Negro Creek supported largely unlogged, old-growth forest from its headwaters to the Salmon River. Now the watershed is almost completely deforested; the Hog Fire of 1977 dealt the first blow, salvage logging dealt the second, and then the area burned intensely again this summer. With the best of conditions it will take 200-300 years for the forest to rebuild what has been lost in last fifteen years. If fires return at regular intervals, forest recovery will be prevented and soil degradation will continue. Negro Creek is a disaster area that will need intensive ecological restoration and care for the next several hundred years.

A local timber faller summed up the Klamath situation in this way: "We (the taxpayers) are buying the timber for the timber companies, paying for the roads, and paying for the clearcuts." He also noted with concern the uncaring attitude of the majority of the loggers he works with, and that when the trees run out, the loggers will just look for work elsewhere.

Salmon River Concerned Citizens are closely monitoring the upcoming salvage sales in the Klamath, and they will be appealing those sales that threaten critical roadless areas, old-growth, visual corridors, and sensitive soils.

*Eric Beckwith works with the Forest Issues Task Force in Nevada City.*

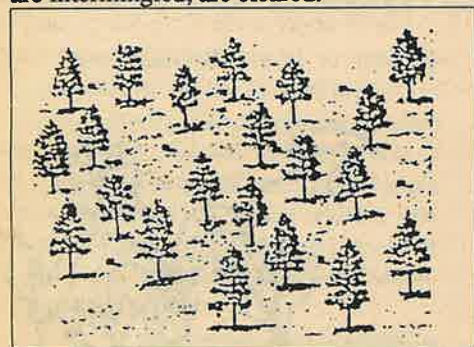


## Decision Due Any Time

# Court Considers Halting What's Left Of Sequoia Grove Logging

By Stephanie Mandel

Among the awesome presence of the giant sequoias, trees a thousand years old or more, quiet is broken by screaming chainsaw motors. Snows have melted sufficiently, and harvesting is underway in the sequoia groves of the Sequoia National Forest (NF). While the giants themselves are not harvested now, the ponderosa, sugar, and Jeffrey pines, white fir, and incense cedar, with which they are intermingled, are cleared.



In an attempt to stop this harvest, a lawsuit was filed in April 1987. The FS stopped the sale of timber within sequoia groves in the Sequoia NF winter of 1986, but allowed logging to continue for timber that was sold before the ban.

The suit did not stop these sales; three of the sale units have already been cleared, and logging is almost finished in others. On March 9, 1988, a plea to temporarily halt logging of old growth sequoia groves until a trial is held was made before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland, Oregon. A decision to halt sales would reverse U.S.

District Court decisions made last June and August which allowed logging to continue. The court's decision is expected within the next few weeks.

"We'll continue the suit until the last tree is cut," said Carla Cloer, an activist with the Sierra Club; "we do have a point to make."

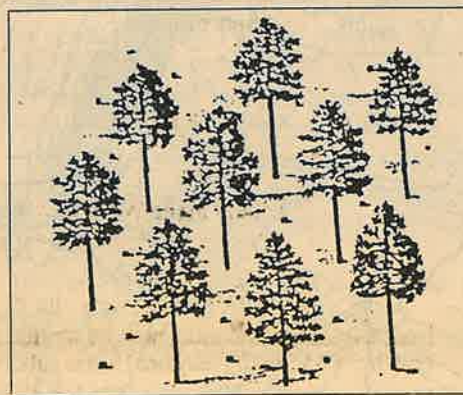
The Kern-Kaweah and Tehipite chapters of the Sierra Club filed the suit against the Sequoia National Forest (See *WR* May-June, 1987) over nine timber sales, whose ecological soundness the groups questioned.

The Sequoia NF released its final forest plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in February of this year. This final plan EIS, however, does not apply to the timber sales identified in the suit, according to Buck Parker, an attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. All the timber sales mentioned in the suit were begun *before* the plan was released, he explained, and at that time the Sequoia NF had not written an EIS for any of its timber management activities.

The grounds on which the suit seeks to halt the logging are that the Sequoia NF has failed to study the full range of logging impacts in an EIS. The cumulative impacts of the many individual sales, except for some analysis of watershed impacts, have not been disclosed. Timber sales have been planned as small units, one at a time, and the separate actions have each been approved with a finding of "no significant impact." This violates the federal National Environmental Policy Act, the plaintiffs argue.

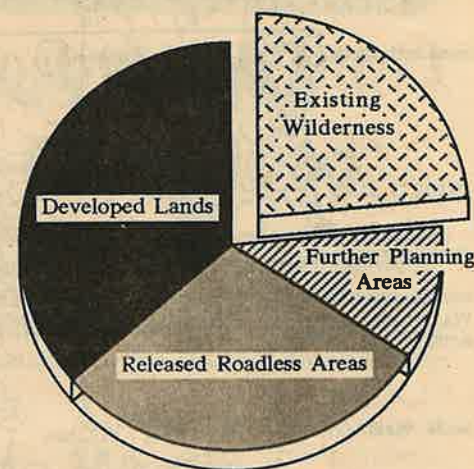
The Forest Service practice of cutting whitewoods (defined by the FS as "anything except a giant sequoia") within the mixed conifer forests where sequoia groves thrive is a major issue. Environmental groups say that the ecological effects on the sequoias are not understood. Andy Stahl, a forester who testified on behalf of the Sierra Club, says that "nobody knows if it's bad or good," explaining that a blanket of even-aged trees, a plantation, is not the natural replacement.

Bob Rogers, a silviculturist with the Sequoia NF, admits that FS management in the groves is based on "little hard scientific



research and a lot of practical observation." From 1880 to the 1920s there was a lot of logging of sequoia groves, and the results of this are "a lot of what we base our conclusions on," Rogers said. There is no evidence that the trees will die, but leaving them open to winds, and logging process itself, could

## Sequoia National Forest



**Although forty percent of the Sequoia National Forest is unprotected roadless land, none is proposed to be designated as wilderness.**

have negative effects.

The recently-released Sequoia NF final forest plan recognizes the importance of giant sequoias as "specimens." However, the plan also sets a priority for "producing a sustained yield of sawtimber." Sequoia groves are targeted for timber production because they thrive in areas with adequate rainfall and subsurface waterflow. Such regions of high productivity are also ideal for whitewoods.

Cloer and others feel that not just the specimen trees, but their ecosystem, are worth saving. Historical and aesthetic values have been ignored, she said.

There are 36 giant sequoia groves, constituting 13,200 acres, within the 1.1 million-acre Sequoia NF. The future management of the groves is established in the FS final plan. The allocation of acres to management categories in the plan include: 3,900 acres for "preservation," 9,300 for "non-intensive management," and 0 acres for "intensive management."

Cloer objects to the setting of management categories without specifically seeking public input first. "They've already decided which groves will be managed for which emphasis," she explained. "Our input is limited to finalizing the grove boundaries and allocation—a very limited role."



## Sequoia plan

continued from p. 1

abandoned roads; about fifty miles of road will be built or reconstructed each year.

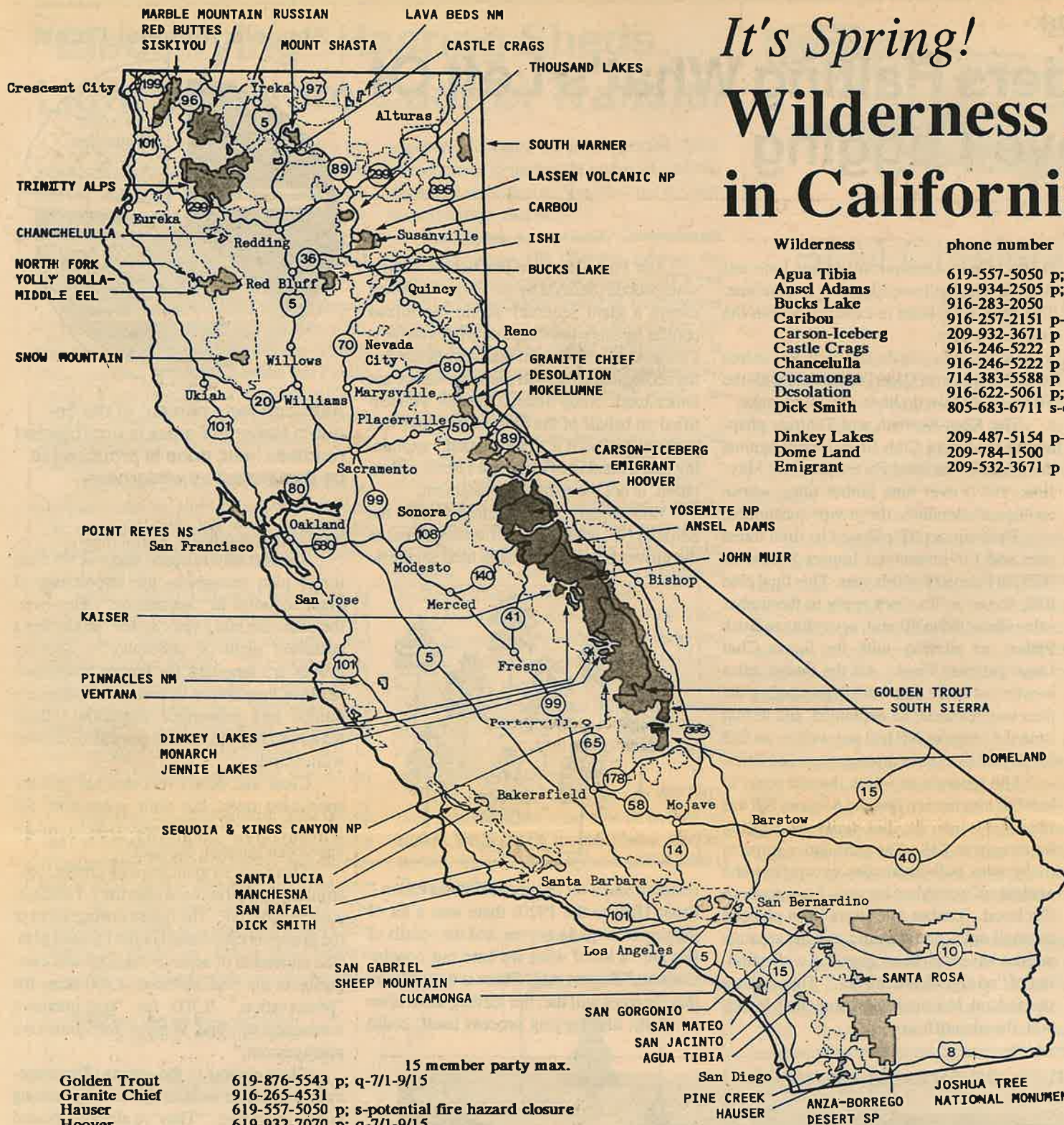
A number of organizations, including the California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Tulare County Audubon Society, and Friends of the River, plan to appeal this plan to the Chief Forester. In addition, there is an on-going lawsuit against a number of timber sales [see other article on this page].



Despite poor reforestation results nearby, clearcutting is planned in timber sales adjacent to this site in the Tule River District of the Sequoia National Forest, which was planted in 1973. Photo by Charlene Little



# It's Spring! Wilderness Permits in California



Wilderness	phone number	p=permit required; s=season; q=quota
Agua Tibia	619-557-5050	p; s-for fire closure
Ansel Adams	619-934-2505	p; q-7/1-9/5 for overnight
Bucks Lake	916-283-2050	
Caribou	916-257-2151	p-for 25+ group
Carson-Iceberg	209-932-3671	p
Castle Crags	916-246-5222	p
Chancelulla	916-246-5222	p
Cucamonga	714-383-5588	p
Desolation	916-622-5061	p; q-6/15-9/5
Dick Smith	805-683-6711	s-occasional summer fire closure; 20 member party max
Dinkey Lakes	209-487-5154	p-overnight
Dome Land	209-784-1500	
Emigrant	209-532-3671	p



Shooting Star

Golden Trout	619-876-5543	p; q-7/1-9/15
Granite Chief	916-265-4531	
Hauser	619-557-5050	p; s-potential fire hazard closure
Hoover	619-932-7070	p; q-7/1-9/15
Ishi	916-257-2151	p for 25+ group
Jennie Lakes	209-784-1500	
John Muir	209-487-5154	p-overnight; q-7/1-9/5
Joshua Tree	714-367-7511	p; q
Kaiser	209-487-5154	p-overnight; q-7/1-9/5
Manchesna	805-683-6711	s-occasional summer fire closure; 20 member party max
Lassen Volcanic	916-595-4444	p-overnight
Lava Beds	916-667-2282	p
Marble Mt.	916-468-5351	
Mokelumne	916-622-5061	p-5/25-9/15, overnight only
Monarch	209-487-5154	p
Mount Shasta	916-246-5222	p
North Fork	707-442-1721	
Pine Creek	619-557-5050	p; s-for fire closure
Pinnacles	408-389-4485	no overnight use
Point Reyes	415-663-1092	p; q

Red Buttes	503-776-3600	
Russian	916-468-5351	
San Gabriel	818-574-5200	
San Geronio	714-383-5588	p
San Jacinto	714-383-5588	p
San Mateo	619-557-5050	p-overnight
San Rafael	805-683-6711	s-occasional summer fire closure; 20 member party max.
Santa Lucia	805-683-6711	s-occasional summer fire closure; 20 member party max.
Santa Rosa	714-383-5588	p
Sequoia/Kings	209-565-3341	p; q
Sheep Mountain	818-574-5200	
Siskiyou	707-442-1721	
Snow Mountain	916-934-3316	14-member party max.
South Sierra	209-784-1500	
South Warner	916-233-5811	
Thousand Lakes	916-257-2151	p-for 25+ group
Trinity Alps	916-246-5222	p
Ventana	805-683-6711	s-occasional fire closure; 20 member party max.
Yolla Bolly-Middle Ecl	916-937-3316	14-member party max.
Yosemite	209-382-0307	p-for overnight; q

## Notes:

Specific wilderness regulations vary widely from national forest to national forest, between individual wildernesses within each national forest, and even between different trail heads leading into the same wilderness.

We recommend that you contact the national forest or other agency for more information.

In California, campfire permits are required year around.

Most areas have a maximum party size of 25; exceptions are noted.

Information compiled by Joe Bogaard. Joe is an Intern with the CWC and is studying wildlife biology at the University of California, Davis.



## Tahoe Foresters Speak To 350 Locals

# Book Sparks Talk of Forest Service Reform

By Stephanie Mandel

Top Forest Service officials at a public forum on reforming the Forest Service may seem an unlikely (if refreshingly open) exchange, but that's what happened in Nevada City on February 21, 1988.



Bill Knispek, Tahoe National Forest Timber Manager, at the forest forum.

Tahoe National Forest Supervisor Geri Larson and Timber Manager Bill Knispek joined poet Gary Snyder and forest economist Randal O'Toole in a discussion that centered around concepts in O'Toole's newly released book, titled *Reforming the Forest Service*.

Thanks to the local Forest Issues Task Force, over 300 people in attendance were treated to an exchange of ideas on timber sale economics and incentives to motivate Forest Service (FS) officials to do "what's best for the land."

O'Toole's book has proposed that the

FS charge fees at fair market values for all resources, including recreation. Currently the FS is not allowed to keep recreation earnings, but can keep those from timber and grazing. Since grazing is notoriously undervalued, timber becomes the primary income for individual national forests. The system for distribution of this money, O'Toole argues, provides incentives that lead many national forests to sell timber below cost sales.

Tension between the panelists was generated over the issue of below-cost timber sales. Larson said that although national forests have not been set aside for economic return, the Tahoe National Forest has a net dollar gain from timber. Although Knispek prefaced his remarks with a refusal to talk about economics ("too hot"), he discussed the various FS timber reports, compiled for congressional review, that account for their activities. O'Toole maintained that, on the whole, "the public cost of preparing federally owned and managed timber for logging by private concerns is greater than fees the timber industry pays the government for the trees it cuts." This happens due to what O'Toole refers to as "budget-maximizing behavior." The Forest Service is "simply an institution which is governed by its own set of incentives," he says, and the current incentives to keep budgets big lead to below cost sales.

An integral part of O'Toole's proposed reform is recreation fees. The FS itself estimates that national forest recreation is worth

twice as much as national forest timber, and O'Toole points out that funding from the U.S. Treasury would not be needed, saving taxpayers over \$2 billion per year.



Poet Gary Snyder, who lives adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest, joined the panel. (Anonymous artist.)

Panelist Snyder expressed concern that introducing the profit incentive might lead national forests to allow too many people in to recreate, posing an ecological threat. O'Toole responded that his proposal does not solve all environmental problems, such as endangered species protection, and that good judgement on the part of FS professionals will still be necessary for some kinds of protection.

Eric Beckwitt of the Forest Issues Task Force questioned O'Toole about how his market scheme would provide for reforestation, and about strong market pressure to cut old growth forest and other areas in many west coast forest which have high timber value but also are important ecologies to preserve.

O'Toole replied that reforestation could be accomplished through stewardship contracts. To the old growth question he again stressed the need for professional judgement and protective legislation, such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

*Reforming the Forest Service* is available from Island Press for \$16.95 + \$2.75 shipping and handling; P.O. Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428, (707) 983-6432 or 1 (800) 628-2828, ext. 416.



## CALENDAR

**April 10 DEADLINE** for appeals, Sequoia National Forest Final Plan. Send to: Paul F. Barker, Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

**April 15-16** Back Country Horsemen of California: First Annual State Convention, Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA, contact Charlie Morgan 209-539-3394.

**April 16** Birthday party/conference for John Muir, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. Displays, lectures, workshops, panel discussion with David Brower, John Berger, Steve Rauh, and Lee Stetson.

**April 16, 19, 21** Public workshops sponsored by the Inyo National Forest to discuss the Sherwin Bowl Ski Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement. 4/16, 1:00 pm, Mammoth Lakes High School Multipurpose room; 4/19, 7:30 pm, Howard Johnson's Inn, 700 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia; 4/21, 7:30 pm, Oakland Convention Center, Rm. 210, 10th & Broadway. Call the Inyo N.F. at (619) 873-5841 for more information.

**May 16 DEADLINE** for comments on Mt. Shasta Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Send to Supervisor Robert Arturo, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001.

**June 13** Comments due on the Sherwin Bowl Ski Area Draft EIS. Send to: Attn. Recreation, USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514.

## Wilderness Bureaucracy Quiz Answers

- 1) the Bureau of Land Management
- 2) Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service
- 3) 161 (examples: WFUD-Wildlife and Fish User Days; MIZ-Meadows Influence Zone)
- 4) not enough! (54)

## 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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