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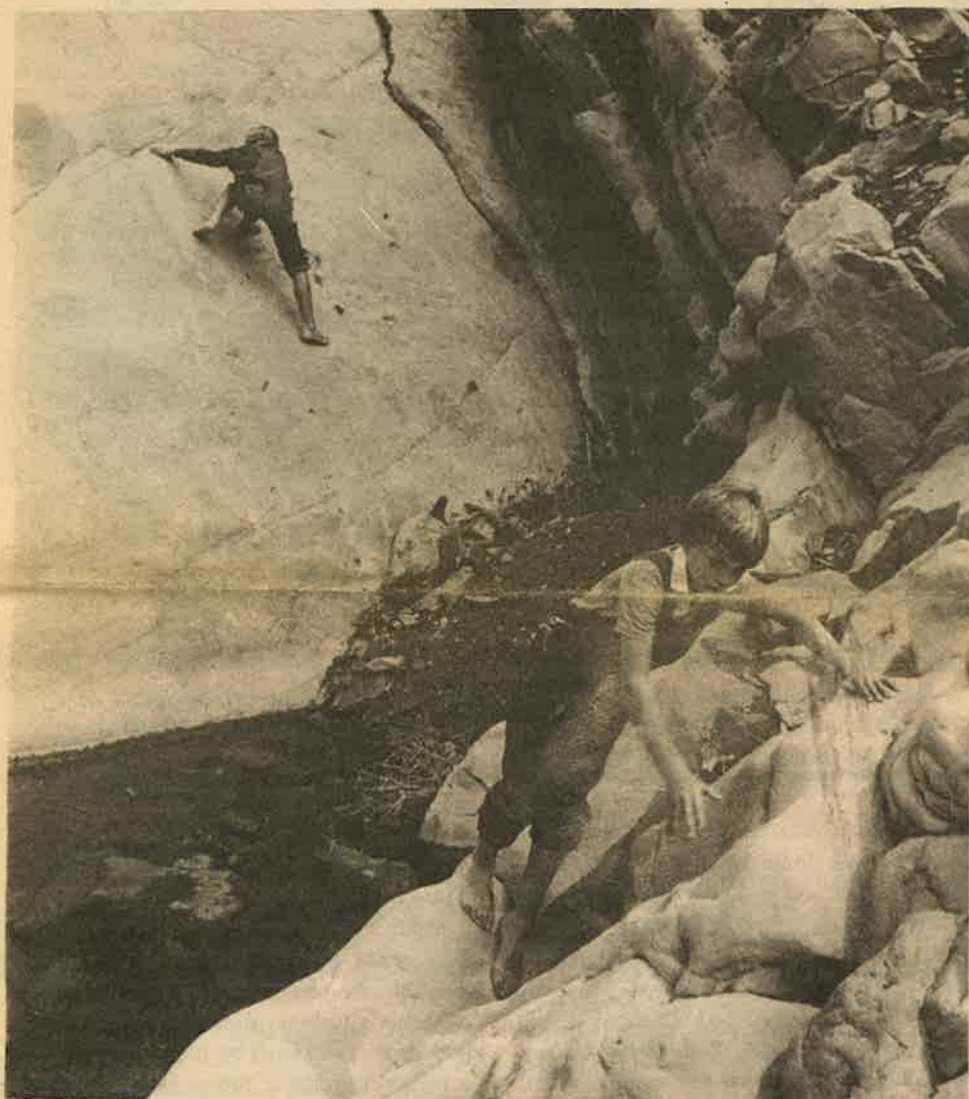
WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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August, 1988



Brian and Kevin (back). Pidduck of Camarillo, California climb rocks in Matilija Canyon, near one of the several waterfalls of the Middle Fork of Matilija Creek in the Los Padres National Forest. The area is part of a wilderness proposal now before Congress.
Photo by Timothy Teague

Los Padres Wilderness Bill Slights Sespe Area

Qualified enthusiasm is what some local environmental activists feel toward Representative Robert Lagomarsino's (R-Santa Barbara) bill for wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest, HR 4747. "We're glad it has been introduced, and look forward to expanding the boundaries when the bill has hearings," said Sierra Club activist Sally Reid.

The expansion Reid speaks of is of the Sespe wilderness, one of three separate areas in the bill that would add a total of 243,500 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposed Sespe Wilderness was formerly referred to as the Sespe-Frazier Further Planning Area (FPA), but its boundaries have been whittled down in the bill by over 133,000 acres, including Frazier Mountain. The acres proposed in the bill are less than the RARE II FPA acreage in order to reduce conflicts with private landholdings and mineral extraction areas, and to "increase manageability," according to the Los Padres final forest plan. The Sierra Club would like to see at least 53,000 additional acres in the bill.

The Sierra Club is satisfied with HR 4747's boundaries for the La Brea and Matilija wildernesses.

Besides the inadequate acreage in the Sespe area, Reid finds that HR 4747's allowance for the Johnston Ridge Trail, an off-road vehicle trail that smashes three-

Sespe wilderness, is "outrageous."

"As far as I'm concerned it should be closed immediately; it violates the whole interior of the wilderness," she said. The "cherry stem" trail runs from the northern corridor of the wilderness to Sespe Hot Springs.

The Los Padres final forest plan leaves the trail open until Congress takes some action on the area's wilderness status, but Lagomarsino's bill would leave the trail open for two years while it is studied. The Johnston Ridge Trail was specifically mentioned in the appeal of the Los Padres final forest plan that was submitted in June by a coalition of four local Sierra Club chapters (Angeles, Los Padres, Santa Lucia, Ventana). The appeal demanded that the trail be closed because of the Forest Service's obligation to retain wilderness values until Congress takes some action on the area.

The Garcia Further Planning Area, also recommended for wilderness in the forest plan, is not included in Lagomarsino's bill because it is not in his district but that of Representative Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield). Congressional hearings on HR 4747 are not expected until March 1989.

The Los Padres wilderness areas are mostly rugged mountain terrain located in

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Protecting the Desert: SF Says Go, Senate Says No

By Vicky Hoover

Nothing more than a desert mirage—thus came the final fizzle in early July of the long awaited "markup" for S.7, the California Desert Protection Act. "Dead for this year" was the undisputed diagnosis on the bill that Senator Alan Cranston and environmentalists have worked on so hard for two years.

But at virtually the same time, the City and County of San Francisco calmly showed the extent of citizen support for the

vital desert bill by passing unanimously Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver's strong resolution endorsing the passage of Senator Cranston's bill.

Senator Cranston pledged to reintroduce the California Desert Protection Act in 1989 and to try again to win passage of this landmark bill that would establish 4.3 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness, and a 1.5 million-acre Mojave National Park, and would enlarge both

Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and upgrade them to national parks.

Had California's junior senator, Pete Wilson, shown any enthusiasm for protecting endangered pristine desert areas, S.7 would surely have had easy passage through the Senate. In late June the Sierra Club, giving up at last on obtaining Senator Wilson's support, officially endorsed his

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Report

By Jim Eaton

After a short backpack in the Marble Mountain Wilderness in the days following the Fourth of July, I returned to the office to find the letter reprinted below ("Cows Stomp Marbles").

I understand what the writer means. On my only other trip into the Marbles, there were cows *everywhere*. The meadows were quagmires, there were labyrinth bovine trail systems, and at night the bells reminded me more of the buoys on San Francisco Bay than the Klamath Mountains.

So I came prepared to battle the herds. There were herds this time, too, but of another animal. *Homo sapiens*.

Maybe it was too early in the season for cows, but their numbers were made up for by the backpackers and stock animals. The Marble Mountain Wilderness does not have an entry quota; heck, a wilderness permit is not even required.

Now I know I should not be expecting lots of solitude when choosing the popular Sky High Lakes area to visit. But it was not the numbers of visitors that disturbed me, it was their wilderness ethics, or rather their lack of morals:

• A large stock party camped right on the lakeshore, tying their horses within

twenty feet of the water and their mules not much further away (see photo).

• Despite a dearth of deadwood, a group of Boy Scouts used ropes to pull down limbs of trees forty feet above the ground. In fact, all the parties in the scoured basin had wood fires blazing.

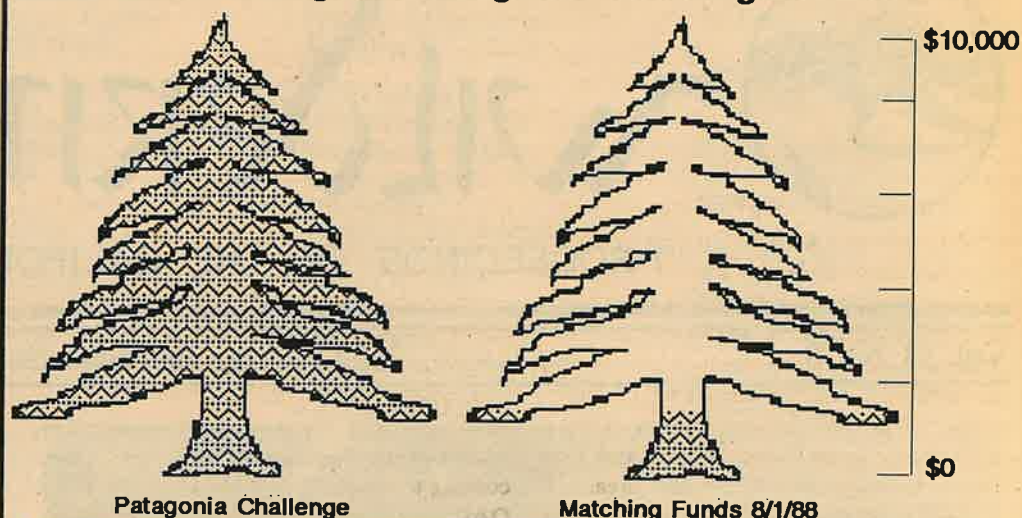
• There was trash along the trail, aluminum foil in the firepits, and toilet paper lurking under rocks. Most sleeping areas first had to be cleared of residual horse droppings.

I know I should have said something to these folks, but I just didn't feel like playing policeman at the time. I kept hoping that a Wilderness Ranger would show up to set them straight. Little did I know that the Marbles no longer has any rangers. Millions for timber; zilch for wilderness.

This led to the wilderness ethics article on page 7 of this issue. These may be new ideas for tyro backpackers; even experienced hikers may benefit from reviewing the guidelines. Similar brochures often are found in outdoor equipment stores and Forest Service offices—two excellent ones are printed by Wilderness Press and Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI).

Take only pictures; leave only footprints. It's a good motto to follow.

Matching the Patagonia Challenge Grant



For two nights a party of stock users ties their horses to trees on the shore of Lower Frying Pan Lake in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Nearby, Boy Scouts are breaking limbs from trees for firewood. Photo by Jim Eaton

What Do You Say?

Off Track

Note: This letter refers to an article on wilderness management in Yosemite that was printed in the July Wilderness Record.

CWC:

Having hiked several thousand miles in the Sierra over the past 15 years I think I can speak with some accuracy on the issue. The fact is that when travelling off trail, or even on the high Sierra route or its laterals, the evidence of human passage is minimal. And so what if a few stones are kicked around? Speaking of Yosemite, they get about three million visitors a year there, a lot of people. Of these, about 20,000 go backpacking and of these perhaps as many as a few thousand leave the trail system at some point. Well bully for them, and I hope they enjoyed it. Granite domes and dry forest understory don't damage easily. Deer tracks, people tracks, who cares? Control the people, control the deer, control the "environmental consultants" first of all.

Yours very truly,
Cresson Kearny
Oakland, CA

Cows Stomp Marbles

Note: This letter appeared in the Pioneer Press, Fort Jones, California, on July 6, 1988.

Each spring I pack up my gear and, with my burro, head for the trails. We've seen several national forests and wilderness areas, mostly at their pristine best. But occasionally we encounter an abused area. I'd like to tell folks about some abuses I saw while visiting our spectacular, but polluted, Marble Mountain Wilderness.

I had chosen the Salmon River trailhead because a meadow area at its headwaters was marked "sensitive" on the map, and sensitive meadows usually offer great wildflower photography.

The map's legend showed that pasturing my animal while visiting these sensitive meadows "might cause permanent damage," so we carried feed. But upon arriving I found the meadows and surrounding forest permeated with cow dung. This was in June, after winter's storms had cleansed the area. Still, cow dung was abundant in the water. In some creeks, and in the shadiest camps, the paddies

were stacked two deep. Every water source for miles was contaminated by the cows, which defecate and urinate as they wallow in the water through the heat of day.

There were but a few wildflowers in this area—mostly poisonous species—yet wildflowers were abundant and luxurious on the ungrazed ridge I found. Perhaps the gallons-per-day excreta per cow has made the soil less suitable for native flora...perhaps years of trampling by herds of 1500-pound bovines is a problem.

The environmental degradation I saw in the Marble Mountains extends beyond wildflowers, polluted land, and polluted water. In Shelly Fork of Kidder Creek it is gross. Nothing—not trees, grasses, or even brush—can grow in the hundreds of eroded channels the cows have created in this steep and fragile drainage. The trail is seriously eroded also, but it would be absurd to repair it; the cows would just trammel it again.

We receive little value by grazing such areas. The government does charge ranchers a token fee for using our lands, but the net profit is small, if any. The tradition of ranging beef on public lands saves consumers

only a few cents per pound.

The costs are high and the degradation to natural resources is extreme. Grazing cows on sensitive wilderness meadows and in steep, easily-eroded canyons is everyone's loss but the rancher's. It's a loss to California's tourism industry because visitors like me, sickened by the pollution, will be inclined to spend future vacations elsewhere.

Traditions that pollute and destroy natural resources are being changed, one by one. It's time to start working on this one because in today's shrinking, more populated world, our resource is becoming more valuable to more and more people. To me, it's just common sense: thousands of people each year revitalize their bodies and spirits in the Marble Mountain Wilderness... no one should have rights to pollute the water sources.

Bill Lewinson
Hyampom Valley, CA

Note: Following up on Bill's letter, there is an article on cattle grazing in the Marble Mountain Wilderness on page 6.

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

UPDATES

BLM Clinging to Limited View of Soda Mountain Wilderness

By Lisa Miller

The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council (SMWC) is working hard to protect the beautiful Pilot Rock-Soda Mountain region. The Council has proposed that 31,528 acres of land be designated as wilderness, but the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is only in favor of a smaller wilderness of 5,640 acres. This smaller parcel is an official Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and lies within the larger SMWC proposal area.

The BLM plans to allow logging in parts of the SMWC proposal area, which would severely compromise the area's wilderness values. The Hobart Peak Timber Sale Environmental Assessment (EA) is now available for public comment. The SMWC and the Rogue Group Sierra Club (RGSC) have filed a joint response with the BLM in which they point out several problems and inadequacies in the EA.

One problem cited is the EA's failure to "disclose important information which is necessary for the public, other government agencies, and the BLM District Manager to make an informed decision on whether an EIS is necessary."

Other points of concern include site-specific and cumulative impacts on big game habitat, water quality, critical wildlife habitat, and five different areas nominated for status as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, which are either near, or part of, the sale units.

The SMWC and RGSC also maintain that the BLM should not log the roadless areas within the SMWC proposal area. "The public reserves the right for Congress to have the opportunity to consider this area for wilderness protection," reads their official response.

Oregon State Representative Nancy Peterson, in a letter to Oregon BLM Director Bill Luscher, expresses a similar sentiment. She urges that the lands in the SMWC proposal area be managed to protect their wilderness values, so that these lands will be available for Congress to decide on wilderness designation in the early 1990s. "It is my impression," she writes, "that Congress, not the BLM, properly makes final wilderness decisions."

As reported in the *WR* in February 1988, the BLM does not believe that the local group's proposal area is eligible for wilderness status. Mark Prevost, a SMWC Executive Committee Member, believes that the BLM objections are without merit.

One BLM objection is that a road runs through the area. Prevost says that it is more properly called a "way" or jeep trail. The jeep trail does not meet the BLM's definition of a road, Prevost says, as it is difficult for even a jeep to use. In any case, the trail can hardly be a factor against wilderness status

since several established wilderness areas have jeep trails in them.

Another BLM objection to establishing a larger wilderness is that some of the lands in the SMWC proposal area must be managed for commercial timber—the land that was formerly owned by the Oregon & California Railroad and the Coos Bay Wagon Road Revested Lands (O & C lands). According to Prevost, the BLM claims that the O&C parcel of land does not have to be considered for wilderness because it is commercially valuable.

This interpretation of the legal uses of O & C land, however, runs counter to the opinion of the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior (trustee of the O & C lands). The Solicitor feels that, although forest production is to have a dominant role in O & C management, this role is not exclusive. In a memo to the BLM Director, the Solicitor notes that the O & C Act of 1937 requires that other values, such as recreation, habitat, and threatened and endangered species, be considered along with commercial forest values. Therefore, the BLM must consider the wilderness values of O & C land, even if the land is commercially valuable.

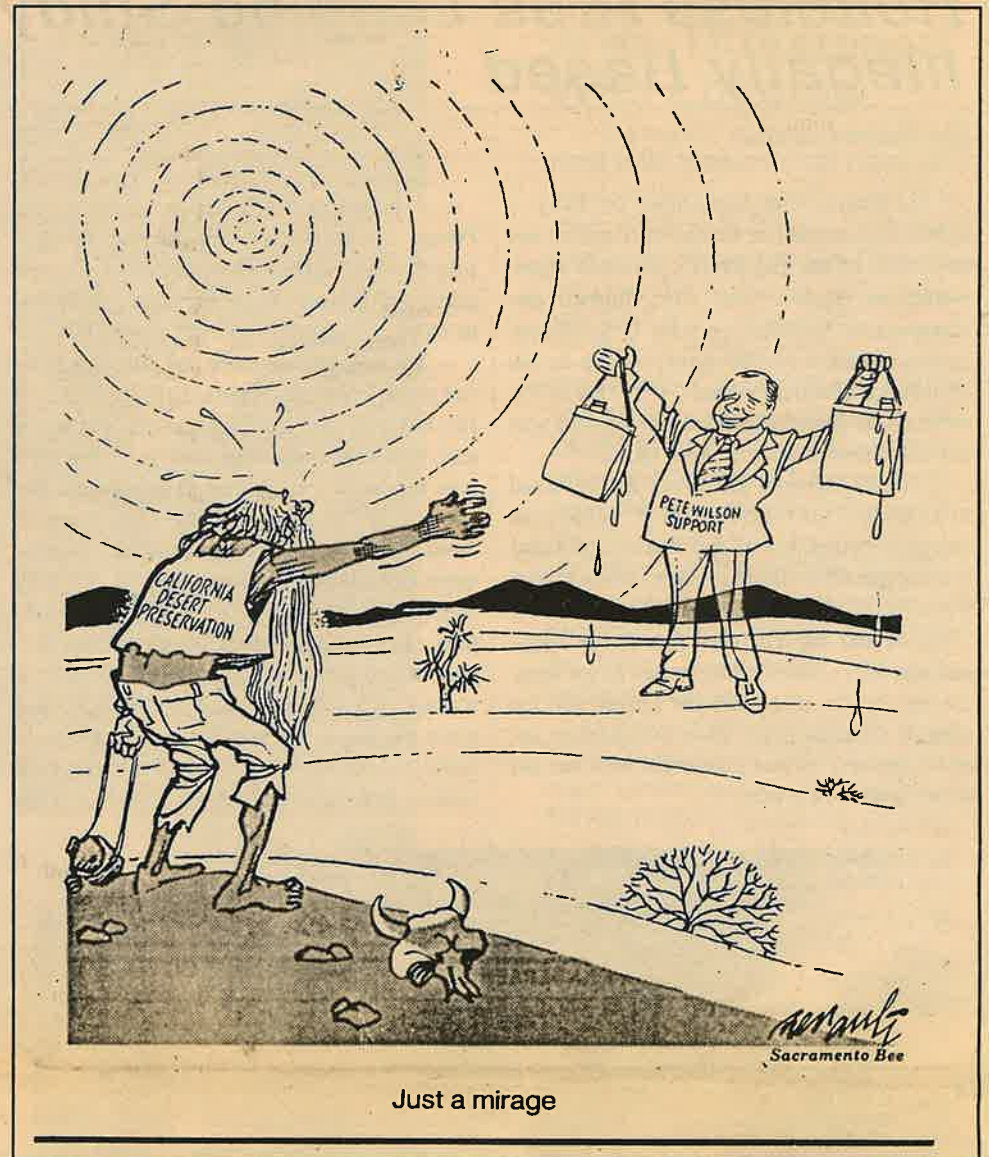
Most of the land in the SMWC proposal area is public, managed by the BLM. However, a 322-acre section is connected to the BLM's Wilderness Study Area by the parcel of commercially valuable O & C land. By denying the O & C land wilderness consideration, the BLM separates the section of public land from the rest of SMWC's proposal lands, thereby excluding it from wilderness consideration.

It is unfortunately true, however, that the BLM can make wilderness decisions through their management of land (that isn't a designated WSA). The SMWC proposal has more

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CORRECTION

Apologies to Antelope Press in Cupertino, California, publishers of the *Wilderness Digest*, for not requesting their permission to reprint the map of California's Wilderness Areas that appeared on page 6 of the April, 1988 *Wilderness Record*. The map is the work and property of the Antelope Press. The information on quotas, permits, and seasons that accompanied the map was compiled by CWC intern Joe Bogaard.



Just a mirage

Desert

continued from page 1

opponent for the U.S. Senate, Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy—an avowed friend of desert protection.

Senator Cranston, who is endorsing McCarthy's effort to unseat Wilson, said S.7 had no further hope of consideration this season because of the deadlines of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which was preparing to act on the measure.

The Energy Committee found the two senators insufficiently agreed on key provisions of the bill: Cranston said that his staff's efforts to compromise with Wilson had gotten nowhere; while Wilson accused Cranston of preventing adequate access to the desert.

"S.7 proposes to save the desert from the people of California," Wilson claimed. "I propose to save the desert for the people of California." He did not indicate how the continued scarcely-restricted flagrant exploitation of fragile desert resources by minority groups such as off-road vehicle users and miners would save the desert for people in the future.

A false impression one could draw from Senator Wilson's remark is that S.7 proposes

to close large areas of the desert to vehicular access by those special groups about whose convenience Wilson agonized in a June 30 letter to Cranston: "the elderly, the disabled and very young children." Actually, the rugged, pristine, remote desert areas being considered for wilderness designation have no roads; that is precisely why they are eligible for wilderness status. Furthermore, the modest size and complex boundary conditions of the 81 BLM wilderness areas proposed in S.7 assures that about 85 percent of the protected desert areas are now and will remain within three miles of a road.

How you can help: San Franciscans, why not write a letter of thanks to Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver. For activists elsewhere, if you would like a copy of San Francisco's full resolution to present to your local County Supervisors, write Vicky Hoover, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, 94109, or call at (415)776-2211.



Four Groups Appeal Sale Roadless Area Logging Study Illegally Based

By Ryan Henson

In August and September of 1987 a lightning-sparked fire burned throughout the main fork of the Eel River's forested upper watershed lands. This fire, dubbed the Mendenhall Wildfire by the U.S. Forest Service, burned 60,700 acres, mostly in the Mendocino National Forest (NF). One of the areas in the Mendocino that was burned was the Elk Creek Roadless Area (RA).

The 17,400-acre Elk Creek RA is linked to a nearly 55,000-acre *de facto* wilderness complex composed of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eden Valley and Thatcher Ridge Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and the Thatcher RA in the Mendocino NF. These four areas have been studied by the BLM and the Forest Service only as separate units, even though they are all connected, so that this larger area has yet to be studied as a unit.

A recent decision notice signed by the Forest Supervisor of the Mendocino NF might result in the elimination of a large portion of this area from any future study due to salvage logging in the Elk Creek RA.

The troubles in store for Elk Creek do not stem from the Mendenhall Wildfire, as fire has played a continual role in the forest and meadow ecosystems of this complex area for centuries. Rather, they are from fire salvage timber sales. The Crocker Analysis Area Fire Salvage Environmental Assessment (EA) was signed on June 20, 1988 by Mendocino NF Supervisor Daniel K. Chisholm, who declared that "no significant impact on the human environment will occur as a result of this federal action." This decision gave the go-ahead to begin preparations to build 6.4 miles of roads and salvage 14.3 million board feet (mmbf) of timber (this has



An unburned part of the Elk Creek roadless area in the Mendocino National Forest, viewed from the Eden Valley Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Ryan Henson

since been amended to 21.32 mmbf), thereby eliminating the wilderness character of 6,440 acres of the Elk Creek RA.

This decision resulted in appeals from the Sierra Club/Mendocino Environmental Center, Citizens Committee to Save Our Public Lands, the Rural Institute, and the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC). All of these appeals contend that the Crocker EA violates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because of its rather unorthodox basis. The Mendocino NF is using its draft timber management plan and its draft forest plan as the basis for the EA, but the forest plan emphasizes timber harvesting rather than wilderness preservation. Thus, even though the Forest Service has received hundreds of letters supporting preservation of these roadless lands, they plan to exploit the resource anyway. Using the draft timber plan to guide the Mendocino NF timber sale program is also of questionable legality, according to the appellants, since it was never

released in final form. In addition, the timber program is operating under timber plans prepared in the early 1960s, thus predating the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act, and the Clean Water Act.

In the Crocker EA, the Forest Service ignores the concern of cumulative impacts of the salvage sale on the health of the Elk Creek watershed. Massive salvage logging being carried on upstream, outside the RA, by Louisiana-Pacific Corp. and Eel River Sawmills is justified by saying that "cumulative effects are considered by the California Division of Forestry in acting upon timber harvest plans. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the effects of road-building on watersheds generated by private land activities will be at least comparable to that which would be expected as a result of similar activities on national forest lands." Don Morris, coordinator for the Rural Institute, states in that group's appeal: "of specific concern are salvage logging plans by Louisiana-Pacific Corp. and Eel River Sawmills which would log almost 5,000 acres in the Elk Creek drainage...as recent lawsuits and demonstrations on the North Coast will attest, the California Division of Forestry makes no attempt whatsoever to consider the cumulative impacts in their timber harvest plan approvals."

The conservationists' appeals point out that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), not merely an EA, should be prepared because the project is highly controversial (one of the criteria NEPA gives for having to draft an EIS) and because this timber sale amounts to nearly 20 percent of the Mendocino NF's annual timber harvest.

The appeals also cite the fact that the Crocker EA's preparation team failed to describe site-specific, detailed mitigation measures of resource development in the Elk

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Mendocino National Forest activists David Drell, Greg Byers, and Don Morris unwind outside Forest Service headquarters in Willows after meeting with agency staff over their appeals of the Elk Creek roadless area salvage sale.

Photo by Jim Eaton

Soda Mountain

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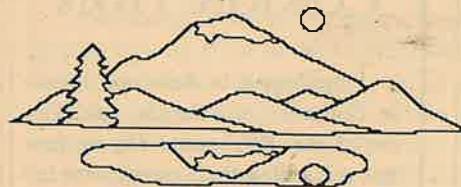
support than any other area under BLM review in Oregon. Over 90 percent of the testimony at BLM wilderness hearings in Medford was in favor of the proposal. The City of Ashland and the *Medford Mail Tribune* also support the proposal. However, if the Hobart Peak Sale takes place, the wilderness qualities of the area will certainly be destroyed. The wishes of the people will be ignored, and yet another wild place will disappear before Congress has a chance to consider its merits as wilderness.

Prevost says that the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has decided to take the BLM to court if the agency continues with the Hobart Peak timber sale. Prevost cites entry into a roadless area without first preparing an EIS and failure to consider the area's wilderness values as two issues which interest Sierra

Club lawyers.

The period for public comment has ended (Prevost said that the BLM received so many comments that they had to hire a new person to analyze them) but the SMWC asks that people continue to send letters in support of SMWC's wilderness proposal to David Jones, District Manager of the Medford District Office of the BLM, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504.

Prevost feels that the time is now to rally still more people to the cause. He extends an open invitation to wilderness lovers in California to come and see this unique area which straddles the border between California and Oregon. SMWC is willing to make arrangements to show people around, as well as provide them with places to stay, if necessary. Hiking maps are also available from the



SMWC for \$1. Write the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 521, Ashland, Oregon 97520, and please include your phone number as well as your address when you write.

Lisa Miller is an intern with the CWC who is studying at the University of California, Davis.

Los Padres Wilderness

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mostly rugged mountain terrain located in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties.

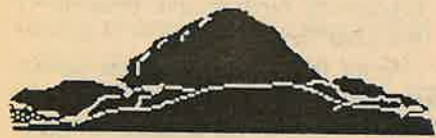
A companion bill, HR 4746, was introduced to designate portions of Sespe Creek and the Sisquoc River as Wild & Scenic Rivers (see the June 1988 issue of the *WR* for a longer article on HR 4746).

•**La Brea Wilderness**—Wilderness proposal is for 51,573 acres of steep terrain in the Sierra Madre Mountains, ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 feet in elevation. The existing San Rafael Wilderness Area is adjacent to the southeast. The vegetation is mostly chaparral and contains some spotted owl habitat. The canyon bottoms along South Fork, La Brea, and Horse Canyon creeks have challenging hikes along little-used trails that lead to several campsites. The majority of the recreation use occurs in the lower Manzanita School House area.

•**Matilija Wilderness**—30,007 acres are proposed for wilderness, about ten miles northwest of Ventura, adjacent to the Dick Smith Wilderness. The natural integrity of the interior of the Matilija FPA is undisturbed. The topography is broken with many steep drainages; elevations range from 1,700 to 6,000 feet (Monte Arido) above sea level. Winter snows melt to full-running streams in the spring.

The area contains ten archaeological sites and is rich in wildlife, including deer, bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, fox, gray squirrel, rabbit, and mountain and valley quail. There is also potential habitat for spotted owl, golden eagle, and prairie falcon. Large meadows north of Old Man Mountain contrast with the more typical steep brushy slopes. Spectacular rock outcroppings challenge rock climbers.

Most of the FPA is under application for



oil and gas leasing, and an Atlantic-Richfield pipeline is nearby. Some private parcels would need to be acquired for the wilderness proposal.

•**Sespe Wilderness**—The acreage of the HR 4747 wilderness proposal consists of about half of the vast and diverse Sespe-Frazier FPA. The Sespe-Frazier includes hundreds of miles of hiking trails and many campsites, as well as active oil and gas leases, designated ORV areas, and geothermal resource areas. These latter features, along with numerous oil well roads and several active placer gold mines, are the reason that the area proposed for wilderness in HR 4747 is much smaller than the FPA boundary.

The terrain ranges from steep, rugged mountains to plateau topography featuring wide valleys and meadowlands. Elevations range from 3,750 feet to 6,730 feet (Cobblestone Mountain) above sea level. Mixed



David Fisher of Ojai, California, is backpacking in the proposed Sespe Wilderness. The view is toward Topatopa Mountain near Lady Bug Camp.

Photo by Timothy Teague

conifer forests at the higher elevations are more evident in this FPA than in the Matilija or La Brea. A region known as the Cuyama Badlands is one of stark scenic beauty but sparse vegetation.

Boulder hopping along Sespe Creek (Wild & Scenic River candidate) is one way to the Sespe Hot Springs.

The entire Sespe-Frazier FPA contains 52 known archaeological sites, as well as critical habitat for several sensitive species

including Mt. Pinos blue grouse, Mt. Pinos chipmunk, rubber boa, spotted owl, prairie falcon, and peregrine falcon.

Each of the three proposed areas has historically been home to the California condor; 247 square miles of the Sespe-Frazier FPA is "critical condor habitat," intended for reintroduction of the species should the captive breeding program be successful.

Castle Peak Area Threatened With Logging

Easements to build new logging roads in the Tahoe National Forest have been requested. So what's new? The roads would be built in the Castle Peak area in the Truckee Ranger District, a very popular recreation and roadless area just off of Interstate 80.

Indeed, the Forest Service recently constructed a large trailhead for the area and improved the trail system. The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the region and the Sierra Club's popular Peter Grubb Hut welcomes those venturing a few miles into the back country. In the Tahoe's draft forest plan the Castle Peak area was allocated to "dispersed recreation" (cross-country skiing, hiking, fishing, bird-watching, etc.) in the preferred alternative.

Blocks of private lands are mixed with national forest land in a checkerboard pattern in this area. The Forest Service has been considering acquiring some of these valuable parcels through sale or trade, and to this end has met with the owner, Pendola Timber Operations, and the Trust for Public Land.

The Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club is recommending that a total of 3,400 acres be acquired by the Forest Service, including 400 acres for which logging has been proposed. They hope that this possibility will be fully explored before any easements for unsightly logging roads are granted.

To express your opinion on the future of this area, write to Joanne Roubique, District Ranger, Truckee Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 399, Truckee, CA 95734.

recycle

Elk Creek Roadless Area continued from page 4

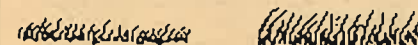
Creek RA, simply saying that "mitigation measures will be an inherent part of each alternative." This clearly violates the precedent established in the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association vs. Peterson (the "G-O Road") case. In this case the Ninth Circuit Court ruled that the Forest Service must consider specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness to minimize a project's impacts on an area's wilderness character.

But in the end, while the legal arguments rage back and forth, the forest has already begun its recovery. Through the ash, new growth springs forth and woodpeckers feast on grubs that finally have a way to enter the old growth trees through the burned exterior. Deer graze on the new sprouts, and the devastated soil is held in place by the presence of

numerous stands of old growth timber, some dead, some dying, some that will remain alive.

A burned forest is exposed like an open wound, but the processes that have worked in the past will certainly work again over time, providing that bulldozers, helicopters, cables, and other machinery do not charge through it in the name of emergency salvage logging. This burn is merely business as usual for an old growth forest in the upper Eel River watershed, not a call to arms for the proponents of industrial forestry.


Ryan Henson is an intern with the CWC who is studying political science at American River College in Sacramento.



Wilderness Trivia Question:

What California wilderness area is named for a U.S. President?

—Answer on page 6—



COWS in the Marbles

Some things are stable in this world. Nine families who graze cattle in the Marble Mountain Wilderness have been doing so for decades and will probably continue, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The grazing predates the wilderness, said Ron Keil, one of two range conservationists at the Klamath National Forest. "We don't increase allotments up there, but our hands are tied on reducing."

Keil has read the letter by Bill Lewison (see page 2) which appeared in the Fort Jones *Pioneer Press* in July. He gets letters like this every year. He admits that the trail Lewison was on is a bad one and expressed regret that he is not asked where to go in the wilderness to avoid cattle-grazed land. Keil also admits that "water quality is a tough one," with the main problems being fecal coliform and *Giardia*, a microorganism that lives in the intestines of many mammals and is spread by water that has come in contact with fecal material.

Despite these admitted problems with cattle in wilderness, Keil finds from monitoring the condition of grazed areas that "overall, things have been getting better since the 1950s. (In the 1950s the number of animals was reduced by 40 percent and the length of the grazing season was cut by 50 percent. The season in the Marbles is now three months long: mid-July to mid-October.) Wildflowers, however, Keil points out, have become rarer because they are found in less pristine meadows.

Keil believes that cattle have a role in the Marble Mountain ecosystems. "This country evolved with heavy elk grazing in the Scott Valley," he explained. The elk moved into the Marble Mountains for the warmer months of the year. "We can only guess at their role in the ecosystem," but Keil theorizes that the Marble Mountain meadows need some kind of grazing to keep from being dominated by willows and swamp alders, to

maintain a grass-forb complex.

Keil believes that the problem is not the number of cows allowed in the wilderness, but rather how the herds are controlled—especially in wilderness, where fences are not an option. For each grazing allotment there is a management plan that those holding permits must follow. These are now being rewritten.

Enforcement of the permits, however, is limited because there is no one to patrol the Marble Mountain Wilderness.

Grazing may predate the Wilderness



Michael S. Quick



Editor's Editorial

Population: Don't forget the Root of the Matter

By Stephanie Mandel

Intelligent, altruistic, and hard-working as we sometimes are, humans are also the biggest destructive force on the earth's environment since the ice age.

At a Forest Service-sponsored symposium titled *Conservation of Diversity in Forest Ecosystems* held at the University of California at Davis on July 25, Paul Erlich told the scientific-looking crowd that "the real problem is human population—when the choice is human subsistence vs. resources, resources will lose." The author of *The Population Bomb* made a titillating, challenging speech that, for me, paled all that followed.

Despite the clear connection between environmental degradation and the human population, I haven't seen much about population control in environmental journals in California, even though I look through quite a few of them. Have environmentalists forgotten this, the ultimate environmental issue?

The issue may be ignored by many eco-freaks for a reason suggested by Barbara Alexander, Executive Director of Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS), formed in 1986. Alexander suggests that "psychic numbing" has hit the population issue. She explains that this term "refers, in part to a psychological response to an unacceptable situation which a person feels powerless to do anything about."

In California, the number of people is soaring far faster than in any other state—in 1987 over 650,000 people moved here from other states and countries. This has meant that California's national forests are being used by more and more people and that less and less wildlife habitat is preserved.

But to look at the overpopulation and

natural resource problem from the standpoint of one state or one country is a mistake. It is truly a global concern because the problem is not just numbers of people, but how those numbers live. It is estimated that the American consumer society uses 40 percent of the resources extracted from the earth, while we

"The real problem is human population—when the choice is human subsistence vs. resources, resources will lose."

comprise only five percent of the world's population. Therefore even though the U.S. is growing at a slower rate than many other countries, we are still one of the major contributors to the earth's resource woes.



From "RE:SOURCE"

Avoidance of the overpopulation issue shouldn't go on if we in the environmentalism business want to get at the root of the problems we deal with every day. There are ways that small groups and individuals can do something to help slow the proliferation and its impacts.

Americans can reduce use of resources by simplifying our lives in a variety of ways, starting with less energy use and waste. We need to be creative and flexible in choosing where we live in relation to where we work, how we recycle things, and in the use of energy in our homes.

Conceiving a moderate number of children and encouraging others to do the same is




another step we can take. Paul and Anne Erlich, in their 1970 book *Population, Resources, Environment: Issues in Human Ecology*, wrote:

"No form of population control, even the most coercive and repressive, will succeed for long unless individuals understand the need for it and accept the idea that humanity must limit its numbers. Therefore, the ultimate key to population control lies in changing human attitudes concerning reproductive behavior and goals in all societies."

As the Erlich's suggest, while we can have some direct control over our own personal impact on the problem, we need to act globally as well. It will become increasingly difficult to keep overpopulation in Mexico and Central America from affecting California, and hunger in India and Africa leads to trade and military conflicts throughout the world. We can help by supporting U.S. funding of family planning programs.

Such a large, global issue as population control is hard to grasp, but ignoring it is senseless—it's part of taking care of the planet. As Erlich expounds, we need to work toward changing public attitudes in more fundamental ways. For example, new priorities might mean buying out all the 35,000 cattle ranchers whose business is ruining the west, he suggests.

Keep people apprised of the big picture, Erlich urges; to do otherwise is like "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic." Let's reinvigorate a dialogue.



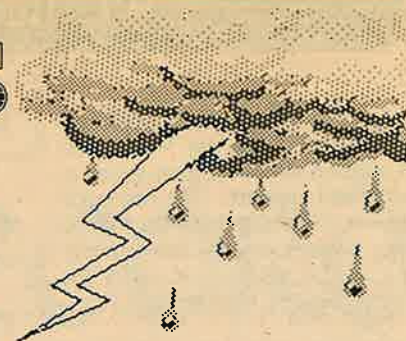
Wilderness Trivia Answer:

—from page 5—

The Hoover Wilderness in the Toiyabe and Inyo national forests was named in honor of President Herbert Hoover.

WILDERNESS

ETHICS



The CWC staff (both of us) have observed on recent wilderness hikes that a code of wilderness ethics is not universally observed. Thus we reprint a few basic rules of conduct, not because we suspect CWC members of being prime offenders, but to refresh your memories and perhaps strengthen your confidence in tactfully educating others about these ethics.

The points below are chiefly from *The Care and Enjoyment of the Mountains*, a brochure distributed by Wilderness Press, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. REI's (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) *Minimum Impact Camping* brochure was also helpful.

First and foremost, the solution to the problem depends on each of us. You and I must change our habits so as to have as little effect on the terrain as possible, trying to leave no traces of our passing. Saving the wilderness is at stake.

•**Pick "Hard" Campsites.** The choice of a campsite is the most important decision you make in the wilderness. Find sandy places or bare forest floor that can stand the use. The fragile sod of meadows, lakeshores, and streamsides is rapidly disappearing from the High Sierra; camp at least 100 feet away from these areas. They simply cannot take the wear and tear of campers—their development depends on very special conditions and once destroyed, the vegetation can take years

to grow back in these areas.

•**Be Easy With the Trees.** In the timberline country, wood is being burned up faster than it is produced. The big campfires of the past must give way to small fires or no fires at all. Wood is a precious resource as it decomposes and replenishes the soil with nutrients; use it sparingly. Where it is scarce, use a gas stove. Trees, both live and dead, are part of the scenery. They should never be cut. The exquisite golden trunks left standing after lightning strikes should be left completely alone. Sadly, in some popular areas they have already been destroyed for firewood, and one would never know they had been there.

•**Fires should only be built in established, regularly-used campsites,** and one small fireplace should serve for both cooking and warming. If kept scrupulously clean it should last for many years. Unfortunately, fireplaces (and campsites) tend to become increasingly dirty and to multiply. There are now, by actual survey, a hundred times as many fireplaces as are needed in the High Sierra. The countless dirty fireplaces should be eradicated. Campsites situated at the edge of the water should be entirely restored to nature and not used again. It is a noble service to use and clean up established campsites where they are present, and to restore them to nature where called for.

Where an established campsite is not

available, build a small fireplace and always eradicate it and restore your campsite to a natural condition before you leave. Build the fireplace with restoration in mind: use two to four medium-sized stones along the sides of a shallow trench in a sandy place. When camp is broken, scatter the stones. Thoroughly burn down coals and pulverize them until nothing is left but powder. Then fill the trench with clean sand. Fires should never be built against cliffs or large boulders.

•**Protect the water from soap** (even that labeled as biodegradable) and other sources of pollution. Soaps and other wastes add nutrients to water which upset the chemical and biological balance of delicate water systems. When washing dishes, try a soapless cleanup with hot water when possible. Wash at least 100 feet away from natural water sources and pour water into highly absorbent ground. The same goes for washing your body and teeth!

•**Latrines** should be located at least 150 feet from any camping area, stream, or dry stream course and 100 feet from trails. After carefully removing the surface duff, dig a hole several inches into the dirt, put all of your human wastes and toilet paper into the hole, then replace dirt and duff. In winter, select a flat area away from drainages—this prevents the waste from entering a water source as the snow melts. Assuming the area is safe from fire hazard, carefully burn your toilet paper during the wet winter months. Again, a little extra trouble will alleviate one of the most annoying wilderness problems. Please be willing to walk a little farther and cover a little more carefully.

•**Pack out litter**—take along some extra plastic bags (ones recycled from some other use) to bring out all cans, aluminum foil wrappers, cigarette butts, and any other trash you might generate.

•**What's underfoot?** When in fragile vegetation, walk on rocks and down trees, not flowers and young, tender plants. Be particularly careful in damp areas.

Report Calls Forest Plans Bad News

According to The Wilderness Society (TWS), the U.S. Forest Service's draft long-term management plans for 12 Pacific Northwest forests are "nothing less than a prescription for disaster." TWS's newly published 57-page report, *End of the Ancient Forests*, contrasts the results of independent TWS studies on old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest with data presented by the Forest Service (FS) in their management plans, which are required by the 1976 National Forest Management Act. TWS concludes that the FS has grossly inflated its inventory of old growth stands in the forest by an average of 62 percent. TWS points to discrepancies and inadequacies in the definition of "old growth" used in the draft plans and to the use of outdated old growth inventory information. The reduction in old growth forest habitat as planned by the FS would have devastating impacts on various wildlife species, including the northern spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, and Roosevelt elk. "End of the Ancient Forests" is available from The Wilderness Society, 1400 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 842-3400.

Reprinted from the Sierra Club's National News Report, July 18, 1988.

CWC T-Shirts—Rare & Threatened

With only a few individuals left, the California Wilderness Coalition's "Keep It Wild" T-shirts are destined to be collector's items—don't delay in ordering yours!

This design of black mountains beneath a blue sky with yellow sand dunes in the foreground comes in white, tan, blue, and yellow in small, medium, and extra-large (no larges). French-cut style shirts are available in white, pink, and light blue in sizes small, medium and large (except no large in powder blue).

The shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton, and cost \$8.00 for CWC members and \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). Use the order form on page 8, and clearly indicate if you want regular or French-cut, and a substitute color. Please add \$1.50 postage and 75 cents for each additional shirt.

California Wilderness Coalition



Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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