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WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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February, 1989

Back to the drawing board Eldorado Plan Not Very Wild

By Steve Evans



The final Land Management Plan for the Eldorado National Forest has taken a giant step backwards in its treatment of rivers assessed for possible Wild and Scenic status. The original draft plan released 18 months ago recommended the North and Middle Forks of the Cosumnes River, the upper North Fork of the Mokelumne River, and the Rubicon River for designation as Wild and Scenic. The revisionist final plan dropped the draft version's recommendation for the Cosumnes River and transferred the final decision on the upper Mokelumne to the Stanislaus National Forest.

According to the final plan, the North and Middle Forks of the Cosumnes were found unsuitable for Wild and Scenic status because of a moribund

hydroelectric power project proposed by the Cosumnes River Authority. It is unlikely that the project will ever be built because of extremely poor economics, but the Forest Service chose to backpedal on a rare opportunity to protect one of the few undammed rivers in California.

Although the plan recommends Wild and Scenic status for the Rubicon River, conservationists are disappointed with the proposed classification. Much of the Rubicon flows through the rugged and nearly inaccessible Rubicon roadless area, but the Forest Service failed to recommend "wild"

continued on page 7



Old-growth Douglas-fir trees in the Nature Conservancy's Northern California Coast Range Preserve may be surrounded by clearcuts, if the BLM has its way.

Photo courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

INSIDE this issue:

— **New regulations for Forest Service appeals...page 3**

— **A few problems with the Lake Tahoe Basin plan...page 4**

— **Wilderness land for sale?...page 5**

— **and more!**

Ten-Year Battle for Cahto Wilderness Continues

For ten years a small group of citizens in Leggett, California calling themselves the Cahto Coalition has been following a maze of bureaucracy, trying to save a wilderness in Mendocino County. Their story is long and complex, but an understanding of it may help any forest activist embarking on a similarly worthy journey.

The Cahto Coalition is now called the Ancient Forest Defense Fund, and has been joined in their effort by another local citizen's group, the Jackson Valley Watershed Coalition in Branscomb. The groups are now planning to sue the Bureau of Land Management to force them to consider the Brush Mountain/Elkhorn Ridge/Cahto Peak area for wilderness.

By the Ancient Forest Defense Fund

The BLM currently owns approximately 16,000 acres of pristine land in the area of Cahto Peak, Brush Mountain, and Elkhorn Ridge. These holdings surround the Nature Conservancy's 7,500-acre Northern California Coast Range Preserve and include several miles of federally-designated Wild River just downstream of the preserve. These lands include many magnificent stands of old-growth Douglas fir, an increasingly rare and valuable commodity.

While some portions were logged in the 1950s (as were some portions of present

preserve holdings), this block of land meets all the federal requirements for a wilderness area. Indeed, the Cahto Coalition has argued for the past ten years that the area should be protected by wilderness designation. Instead, the BLM has slated 10,646 acres to be "intensively managed for timber production." The BLM plans to log or dispose of most of the valuable lands adjoining the preserve, leaving it an island surrounded by residual hardwoods, brush, and a few large snags.

continued on page 6

COALITION PAGE COALITION PAGE COALITION PAGE

Monthly Report

By Jim Eaton

The good news is that the Coalition's income increased from 1987's \$28,866 to 1988's \$44,995—a whopping 56 percent increase in a single year.

Once again, about a third of our income came from grants. This past year, most of this was a \$10,000 matching grant from Patagonia, Inc. In the past six months we have nearly met that challenge, giving us much needed operating capital to run the Coalition's programs and keep our indispensable *Wilderness Record* editor, Stephanie.

Over half of our income came from donations from members. A large part of that total is a special fund earmarked for the defense of Mt. Shasta from a downhill skiing development scheme.

Our other sources of income include individual renewals (12 percent), new members (3 percent), and the items in the "other" category: group members (2 percent), sponsors, subscriptions, and retail sales (each less than 1 percent). A small pot of money also was started for this year's statewide conference.

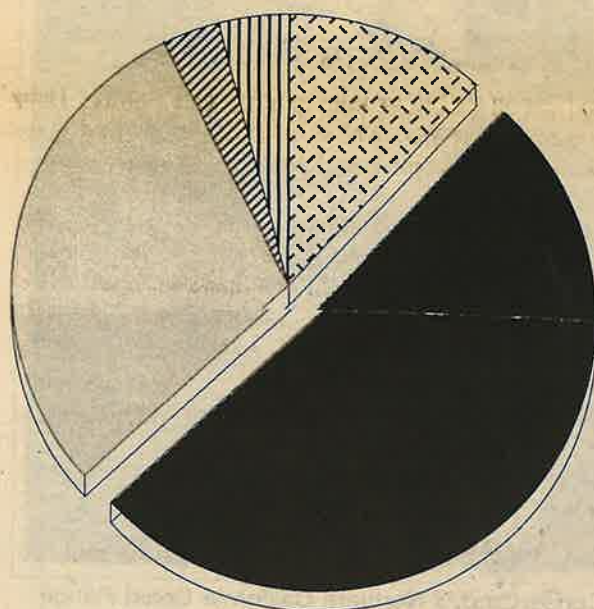
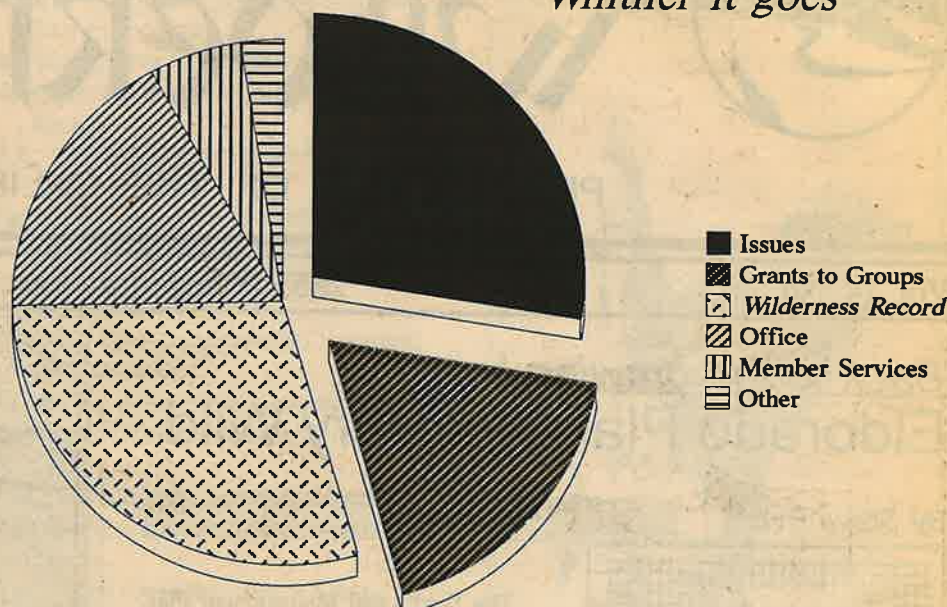
How did we manage to spend this pot of gold? As compared to 1987, expenses on producing the *Wilderness Record* went from 25 to 29 percent (and from 6 to 12 issues a year). Money spent on issues went from 33 to 46 percent, with a big portion of that fund granted directly to our member groups (especially for the appeal at Mt. Shasta; also for appeals in the Inyo and Klamath forest areas).

Our office expenses declined from 25 percent to 17 percent, mainly because the costs of rent, basic telephone service, copy machine maintenance, and postal permits did not increase much.

Services to our members accounted for 6 percent (mostly renewal and new member mailings). Less than 2 percent was spent on fundraising, media, board of director's expenses, and retail costs.

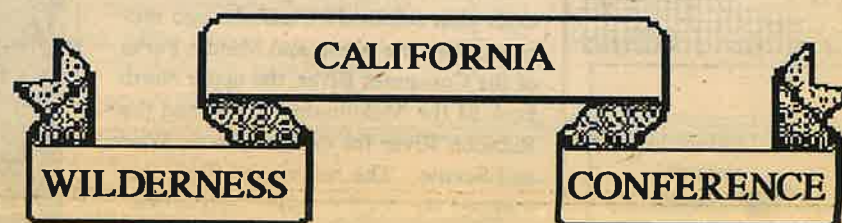
The Coalition's growth is dependent upon new members joining our cause. So a warm welcome is given to the Madrone Audubon Society from Santa Rosa, our newest group member!

1988 Expenditures Whither it goes



1988 Income Whence it came

- ☒ Renewals
- ☒ Donations
- ☒ Grants
- ☒ New Members
- ☒ Other



"Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act"

October 19-22, 1989
Visalia, California

Planning for the 1989 California Wilderness Conference is underway! The Visalia Convention Center has been reserved, the conference has been expanded from 3 to 4 days, and the fee has been set for \$15, the same cost as the 1985 California Wilderness Conference!

We estimate that this \$15.00 grassroots fee will pay for less than 25% of the conference costs and are depending on the goodwill of those of you who have the resources to donate more. Please consider being a Conference Mentor by contributing \$50 or more, for which you will receive a free conference t-shirt.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED — volunteers from all over California can help to make the conference a success by helping to publicize the conference in their region and by gathering suggestions for conference activities.

We're very interested in your suggestions for workshop subjects, speakers, entertainment, or any other element of this long-awaited conference.

Please send your suggestions, questions about being a local coordinator, fee, and/or goodwill Conference Mentor contribution to:
Bob Barnes, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258.

Make checks payable to: California Wilderness Coalition [or: CWC]

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What proposed and existing wilderness areas have lands over 14,000 feet in elevation?

(Answer on page 6.)

LETTER TO US

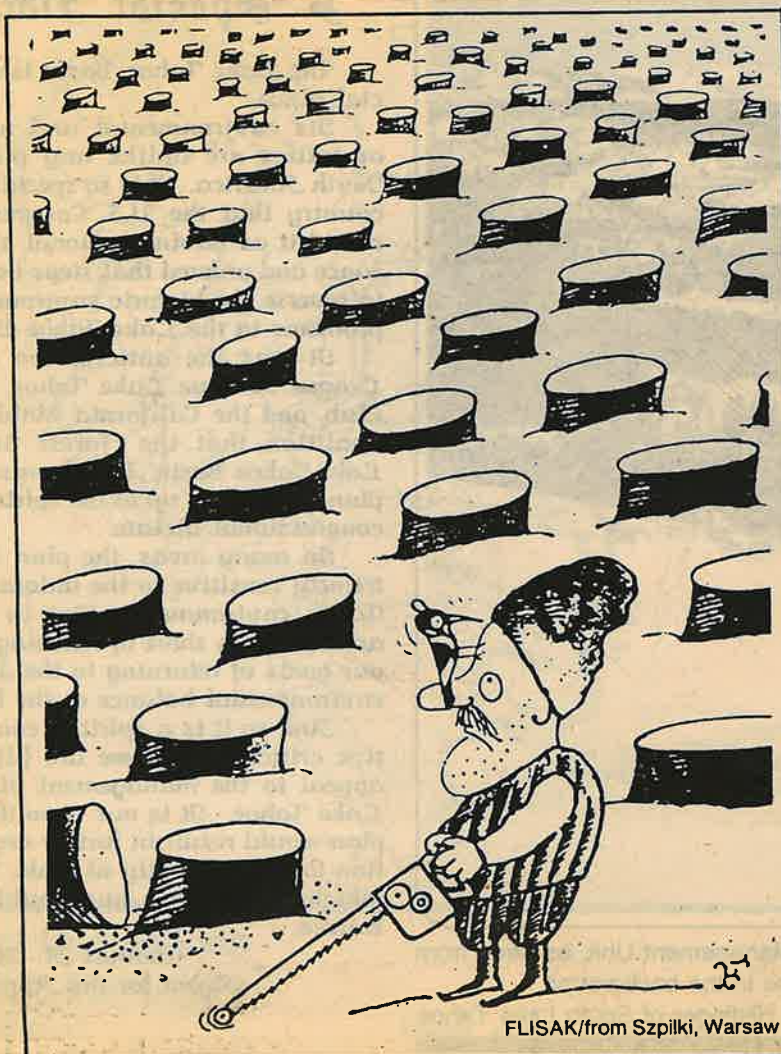
Wilderness Horseperson

Dear CWC,

I was very pleased to learn last year that Backcountry Horsemen's Association is one of your members. My way of getting out in the wilderness is on horseback, not backpacking. It makes me continue my interest in your work to know that you are helping preserve wilderness not just for backpackers and hikers, but for the likes of me as well. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Dierdre Rand

FOREIGN VIEW

from the *Sacramento Bee*

Forest Service's New Final Appeal Regs: Good News, Bad News

The Forest Service's new administrative appeal regulations are out, and the news is both good and bad. Published in the Federal Register on Monday, January 23, the final regulations will go into effect on February 23, 1989. Forest plans released after this latter date will be governed by the new rules.

The draft rule was published on May 16, 1988, and nearly 6,000 individual comments were received from more than 1,000 respondents.

The good news is that the Forest Service has backed off from some of the more draconian measures originally proposed in the draft regulation, such as the proposal for a \$1,000 filing fee to be submitted with appeals.

The bad news is that the final rule will result in the curtailment of public involvement and arguably is designed to insulate the agency from public concern about management abuses on the national forests. For example, listed below are rules regarding catastrophic decisions, levels of appeal, and oral presentations.

- **Catastrophic Events:** The Chief or Regional Forester may declare, in the case of catastrophic events (such as fires), that the public appeal process is suspended. Such a decision must be published in the Federal Register.

- **Levels of Appeal:** There will be two levels of appeal for District Ranger decisions and one level for decisions initiated by Forest Supervisors and Regional Foresters, with discretionary review at the second level.

(The draft rule only provided a single level of appeal and discretionary review at second level for both types of decisions.)

- **Oral Presentations, Responsive Statements, and Replies:** Orals are eliminated and no responsive statement is required. The deciding officer (the one who okayed the document in the first place) will describe where existing environmental review documents respond to the appellant's issues, but specifically cannot evaluate and respond to issues raised in the appeal—reviewing officers do that. Apparently, appellants can comment on this new form of "responsive statement" within 20 days, and time extensions for commenting may be granted.

(The draft rule prohibited orals for National Environmental Policy Act appeals. The draft also eliminated formal responsive statements and allowed the agency to respond to issues while describing where environmental review documents respond to appellant's issues. Any opportunities to comment on this "responsive statement"

continued on page 5

UPDATES

Appeals Say Plumas Forestless Plan Sets Bad Precedent

By *Stephanie Mandel*

Strong preservationist opposition to the Plumas National Forest's Final Land and Resource Management Plan was registered in seven appeals filed by the January 10 deadline. The plan for the 1.2 million-acre national forest will guide management for at least ten years.

A 286-page appeal was filed by a coalition of groups: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Friends of the Plumas Wilderness, Friends of the River, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and California Trout. Other conservationist appeals were filed by the California Department of Fish & Game, State Attorney General, American Rivers Inc., Scenic Shorelines of Santa Barbara, and the California Native Plant Society.

The coalition objected to the fact that the plan allows logging and road-building in over 37,000 acres of roadless lands. The impacts of logging on the Middle Fork Feather Wild & Scenic River and Nelson Creek, a Wild Trout Stream, were also major concerns raised.

Data to back up the logging plans, which call for an increase in timber cutting from 200 to 265 million board feet a year, was found incomplete. David Edelson of the National Resources Defense Council [NRDC] said "We feel this plan established a disastrous precedent for forest management throughout California. Foremost is its failure to protect any old-growth preserves on the Plumas Forest." The groups are also seeking to reduce the logging level and eliminate the clear-cutting logging method.

Plumas planner Court Bennett agreed that the appellants "have some valid concerns," and said that he's sorry that these couldn't be worked out earlier.

Appeals requesting more timber cutting were submitted by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, Citizens for Multiple Use, and the Timber Association of California, according to Bennett. The Milford Range Association filed an appeal supporting cattle grazing interests.

The Forest Service says it will respond to the appeals in the next few months.

More North State Salvage Appeals

Six additional appeals have been filed on six timber sales in north state forests. Three of the sales are near the northwestern corner of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area, in the vicinity of the four sales that the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) took to federal court in November.

Thirty million board feet of timber and three miles of new roads are involved. The appeals were filed collectively by the NEC, Concerned Earth Science Researchers, the North Group of the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter, and the Women's Ecology Encounter.

Settlement talks for the Klamath lawsuit are proceeding and the issue may be settled out of court in the next few weeks. If not, additional timber sales will probably be included in the suit.

Bulletin...Bulletin...Bulletin...Bulletin...Bulletin...

East Carson and West Walker Proposed for State Wild and Scenic Rivers

California Resources Secretary Gordon Van Vleck just announced his recommendation for three potential wild rivers in the state. Van Vleck is recommending to the State Legislature that portions of the East Carson and West Walker be designated as wild and scenic, but he opposes such designation for the McCloud River.

A private consultant's report found that all three rivers possess "extraordinary" values and recommended portions of the rivers for state Wild and Scenic River status. Such designation prohibits the construction of major dams and diversions and is intended to preserve a river's free-flowing character.

Van Vleck's proposal would preserve 33 miles of the West Walker and ten miles of the East Carson. A provision for the East Carson, however, would require a study for a dam project to be completed within 12 years. Nevada water development interests have targeted the East Carson for a large dam and reservoir project. Van Vleck recommended protective legislation despite opposition from the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

Vociferous but misguided opposition from the timber industry and the Hearst Corporation about private property rights persuaded Van Vleck to rule against the McCloud River. The Secretary wants a means of prohibiting dams on the river short of wild and scenic status. The consultant had recommended that 33 of the 43 miles of the McCloud studied be preserved, as well as ten miles of Squaw Creek, a major tributary.



Meiss Meadows in the Dardanelles Roadless Area (foreground) of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, as seen from 10,000 feet in elevation near Red Lake Peak. Pyramid Peak (left) and Mount Tallac (right) rise in the background.

Photo by Jim Hildinger of South Lake Tahoe

A Special Place

The Lake Tahoe Basin is a special place.

Its environmental and natural amenities are unlike any place in North America. It is so special to the country that the U.S. Congress declared it as having national significance and ordered that steps be taken to reverse the historic environmental problems in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

It was the anticipation of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, Sierra Club, and the California Wilderness Coalition that the Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit plan would live up to the spirit of the congressional dictate.

In many areas, the plan is extremely sensitive to the unique Lake Tahoe environment. But in many areas, it falls short of reaching all of our goals of returning to the days of environmental balance at the lake.

And so it is a spirit of constructive criticism that we are filing an appeal to the management plan for Lake Tahoe. It is our view that the plan would result in further degradation to water quality at Lake Tahoe, which threatens a huge public resource.

Thomas A. Martens
Agent for the Appellants

What about Wilderness?

Objections to Lake Tahoe Basin Plan go on and on

By Jim Eaton

A trio of conservation groups has appealed the forest plan of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The League to Save Lake Tahoe, Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the California Wilderness Coalition joined forces to attack six parts of the plan that fail to meet minimum legal requirements.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is a special management entity formed from portions of the Tahoe, Eldorado, and

Toiyabe national forests that are within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The portions of the forest plan objected to by the appellants are the Forest Service's treatment of roadless areas and wilderness management prescriptions, wilderness areas, riparian and stream environment zones, off-road vehicles (ORVs), air quality, and livestock and grazing.

The groups are concerned that no new wilderness was recommended in the plan, despite public support for the Freer Peak Further Planning Area, the proposed Echo-

Carson Wilderness (also known as the Dardanelles Roadless Area, Meiss Management Area, and Upper Truckee), and the Lincoln Creek Further Planning Area (on the Nevada side of the lake). They also contend that the Forest Service illegally ignored the roadless lands adjacent to the Desolation and Granite Chief wilderness areas.

In their appeal the organizations demonstrate that the forest plan fails to analyze adequately the wilderness value of the further planning areas and also fragments the Freer Peak Area. More than half of the Freer Peak Roadless Area is found outside the Tahoe Basin in the Toiyabe National Forest, yet only that portion found in the Tahoe Basin was studied—a violation of wilderness study procedures.

The appeal also points out that the Forest Service fails to consider adequately the unique resource values of the Dardanelles, Pyramid (adjacent to the Desolation Wilderness), and Granite Chief roadless areas. The plan also fails to consider the full range of alternative uses and environmental impacts for each roadless area and fails to consider site-specific mitigation measures for resource development in the roadless areas.

The appellants are unhappy with the Forest Service's plans to log in riparian and streamside zones. They also question sacrificing old-growth aspen stands to increase mule deer habitat.

Although more than one-third of the uncontrolled erosion on forest lands is directly attributable to dirt roads and jeep trails, the Forest Service continues to allow vehicles to use much of the public's land. The groups are concerned about inadequate monitoring of ORVs, inadequate environmental documentation of vehicle impacts, creation of new trails rather than closure and enforcement, and the lack of buffers around especially sensitive areas.

Air pollution is a major problem in the Tahoe Basin. But although carbon monoxide levels were in violation of the state standards 188 times in 1985, the Forest Service proposes major expansions of downhill ski resorts and campgrounds. The appellants want a commitment to mass transit and limits on the growth of ski areas.

The conservation organizations also objected to the impacts of livestock grazing being ignored. They argue that the forest plan must include specific information on range condition, trend, livestock grazing capacity, and wildlife capacity. They want site-specific analyses of the impacts of grazing on wildlife, fisheries, and water quality.

This is the fourth forest plan to which the California Wilderness Coalition has been a party. The Coalition is defending *de facto* wilderness in the Sequoia, Inyo, and Toiyabe national forests and currently is preparing to appeal the Eldorado National Forest's plan for its failure to protect the public's wild lands there.

Roadless Reviews in Klamath National Forest

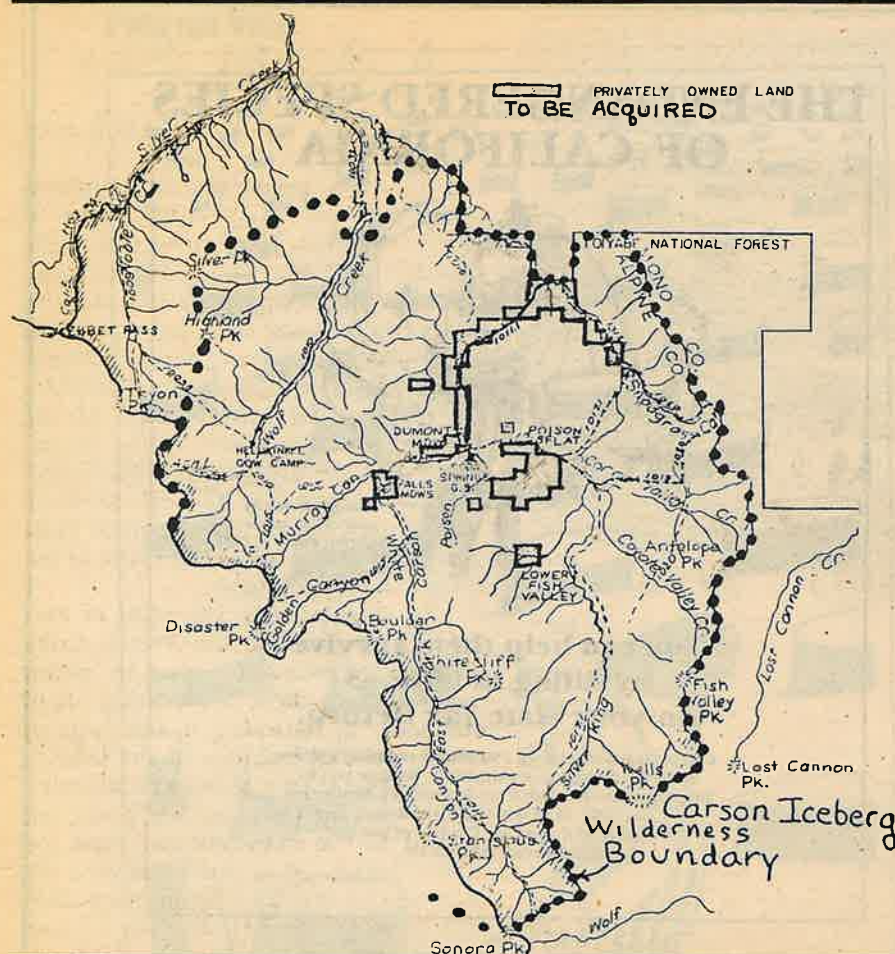
The Klamath National Forest has decided to prepare environmental impact statements before attempting to log in the Baldy and Dillon Creek roadless areas adjacent to the Siskiyou Wilderness Area.

Meetings will be held 1) at the Forest Service office in Yreka on Saturday, February 4 at 1 p.m. and 2) at the Orleans Ranger District office on Monday, February 6 at 7 p.m. to receive comments on what the scope of the environmental inquiry should be—what issues and alternatives should be addressed in the analysis. Written comments will be accepted

until March 1.

This is the earliest opportunity to be involved in the EIS process for these important roadless areas. To provide scoping comments or to request a copy of the drafts when they become available, contact Robert Rice, Forest Supervisor, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka CA 96097; or call (916) 842-6131.

Reprinted from the January/February 1989 Eonews, publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.



Appeal Regulations continued from page 3

were prohibited.)

- **Filing Fee:** No filing fees will be required of appellants.

- **Dual Process:** Two sets of regulations are proposed. One would govern appeals dealing with agency administration of written instruments, such as special use permits. A second set of regulations would apply to appeals of NEPA-related decisions.

(This is no change from the draft rule.)

- **Notice of Decision:** Publication in a newspaper or the Federal Register is optional. Written notice will be mailed to those who request notice in writing and to those known to have participated in the decision-making process.

(The draft required newspaper notice and did not specifically require written notice to interested parties.)

- **Filing Deadlines and Time Extensions:** Notice of appeal must be filed within an unextendable 45-day period from the date of decision for project-level decisions, and within an unextendable 90 days for decisions involving forest plans and other "programmatic" actions.

(The draft required all submissions within 45 days regardless of the type of decision being appealed.)

- **Statement of Reasons:** All supporting information must be combined with the Notice of Appeal in a single document. No separate statement of reasons will be allowed.

(No change from the draft rule.)

- **Intervention:** Interested or potentially affected individuals or organizations may intervene within 20 days of the filing of a Notice of Appeal and may submit comments or other documentation within 30 days fol-

lowing agency acknowledgement of the request to intervene. Intervenor may not continue the appeal if it is withdrawn and cannot request stays.

(The draft rule prohibited intervention but provided an opportunity for third party comment.)

- **Stays:** Similar to the current rule except the agency must rule on the request within ten days. Stay denials are not appealable.

(The draft rule required a stay if the action under appeal was imminent. If the project was not imminent, a stay would have been prohibited.)

- **Opportunity for Negotiation:** The deciding officer is authorized to resolve disputes while review of the appeal is in progress. Time extensions may be granted to allow negotiation. Any party can request negotiation meetings.

(The draft rule authorized the deciding officer to resolve disputes during the review period. The draft rule was silent on time extensions to continue negotiation, but extensions were presumed to be prohibited.)

- **Appeal Decisions:** An agency decision is due within 100 days for project level appeals and 160 days for appeals of forest plans and other programmatic actions.

(The draft rule had shorter deadlines for agency action: 30 days for project level appeals and 90 days for final plan appeals.)

Information for this article was provided by Jay Watson, Director of The Wilderness Society's National Forest Action Center and a Director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Inholding In Peril

By Eric Gerstung

In the heart of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness 2,700 acres of land are for sale. Nine miles along the meandering East Fork Carson River and tributary Silver King Creek within the wilderness may be acquired by the Forest Service this year, or the land may be lost permanently to private development interests.

The private inholding is owned by Lands of Sierra, a subsidiary of Westpac, formerly Sierra Pacific Power Company. The Trust for Public Land, a non-profit land preservation organization, acquired an option on the property several years ago in order to buy enough time to allow Congress to consider appropriating acquisition funds.

Castle Peak roadless area

Popular Private Lands Purchase Possible

The Castle Peak roadless area north of Donner Summit is a great place for recreation every month of the year.

Just one and one-half hours northeast of Sacramento and a few miles north of I-80, you can be hiking or skiing through attractive forests and meadows with Castle Peak looming impressively to the north.

The Pacific Crest Trail is only one of the many popular routes through the area. Trails to the north lead to Warren and Devils Oven lakes in their rugged granite basins. Castle Peak, Basin Peak, and Mount Lola offer sweeping vistas of the Sierra.

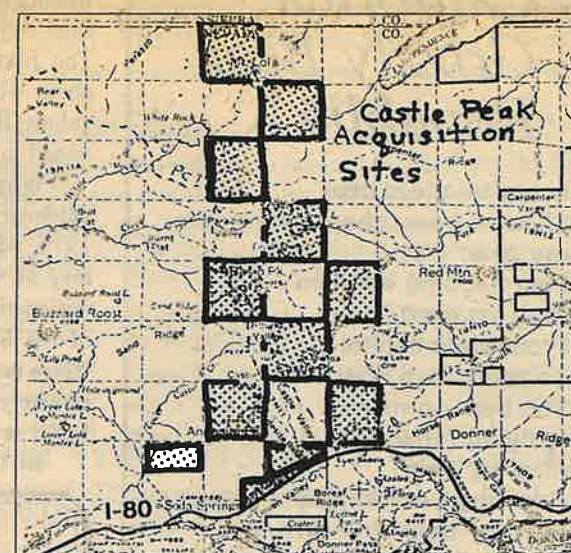
Visitors do not realize that they are travelling across a checkerboard of private and public land; every other square mile of this popular recreation area is privately owned and now threatened with logging or subdivision.

Congress has the opportunity this year to appropriate funds to purchase about 6,800 acres of this private land, some of the finest forest

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the probable source of the funds, but no money was appropriated last year. The option, which expires this winter has been extended for one more year.

The reach of the East Fork Carson River flowing through the option property has been in the State Wild Trout Program since 1972. The river supports an unusually diverse self-sustained gamefish population: rainbow, brown, brook, and cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish are all present. Despite the fact that a good trail parallels this wilderness stream, the adventurous angler can enjoy unspooked trout, lots of solitude, and magnificent scenery.

A \$2 million appropriation is needed to buy the land.



Pass the Bucks for Carson Pass

Condominiums or a subdivision could be built at Carson Pass, one of the highest passes in the northern Sierra. It could happen if Congress fails to appropriate money to acquire a critical 600-acre private inholding strategically located between the pass and Woods Lake, partly in and partly outside the Mokelumne Wilderness. The property borders the scenic Carson Pass Highway, the Pacific Crest Trail, and trails leading to the Mokelumne Wilderness.

Part of the property is situated within the proposed Roundtop Botanical and Geological Area. The area has lush meadows splashed with wildflowers in summer, aspen groves noted for splendid autumn colors, and nice places to camp, hike, and crosscountry

ski.

The property is owned by a ranching family that wants to sell. The Trust for Public Land, a non-profit conservation organization, has signed an agreement with the owners to hold the land off the market during 1989 in order to allow Congress to consider appropriations for Forest Service acquisition—thus action might be taken this winter. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the probable source for an appropriation; \$1 million is needed for the purchase.

Eric Gerstung is member of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club and lives in Sacramento.

Cahto Wilderness

continued from page 1

The first phase of BLM's liquidation is a 346-acre timber sale on Elkhorn Ridge adjacent to the preserve boundary. Approximately 300 acres of this sale lie in a steep valley known locally as One Reach Canyon. One Reach Canyon is a well-documented spotted owl habitat, with magnificent old-growth firs reaching up to six feet in diameter. The four million board feet of timber it contains were sold to Eel River Sawmills for the bargain basement price of \$39 per thousand board feet.

Cutting is scheduled to begin in April 1989. Construction of spur roads into the sale area began in November 1988. Portions of the spur roads are inside the preserve boundary in an area previously designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Within days of its start, the road construction work became the subject of active protest with as many as 35 demonstrators blocking access to the site. Road work was temporarily halted when the Cahto Indians,

who still consider Elkhorn Ridge part of their sacred lands, expressed concern over the inadequate archaeological survey which BLM had conducted in the area. BLM, accompanied by tribal leaders, is presently resurveying the sale area. The new survey is not expected to delay the logging.

At this point, litigation seems to be the most effective way to stop the sale. Numerous points of legal attack are available, including destruction of known spotted owl habitat, failure to consider effects on the adjacent wild river corridor, failure to receive fair market value for the timber sold, Native American issues, and numerous other violations of federal law and policy. Blocking this sale could effectively set a precedent to stop all other old-growth sales in the area.

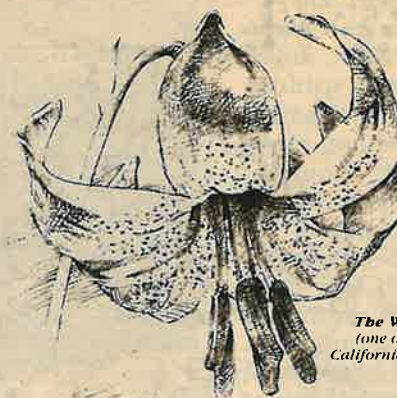
HISTORY

Since the 1930s, the efforts of individuals and organizations to preserve natural values in the proposed Cahto wilderness area have been extensive. Historic Native American use is still linked with the present-day Cahto Tribe. Retention of natural values in the area is due, in large part, to the actions of Heath Angelo, the founder of the North Coast Preserve, and due to the fact that this difficult terrain is simply one of the last places in which the timber industry is interested for the final cutting of all old-growth in the region. The Elkhorn Ridge timber sale has come about without any resolution of conflicting values, the documentation of which is contained in BLM records.

Why was the area never part of the wilderness inventory in the first place? In 1976, when Congress mandated the inventory of wild lands suitable for wilderness designation, Brush Mountain on the east side of the South Fork Eel River and Elkhorn Ridge on the west side were separated by the privately-owned river. Each area was under 5,000 acres.

In 1983, however, this separation was

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA



The Western Lily
(one of 252 native
California species at risk)

**You can help them survive
by filling in LINE 45
on your State Tax Return.**

California has more than 250 animal and plant species that face the threat of extinction. We urge you to help them survive with a tax-deductible contribution on LINE 45 of your State Tax Return. Please help if you can. The loss of just one living species hurts us all...

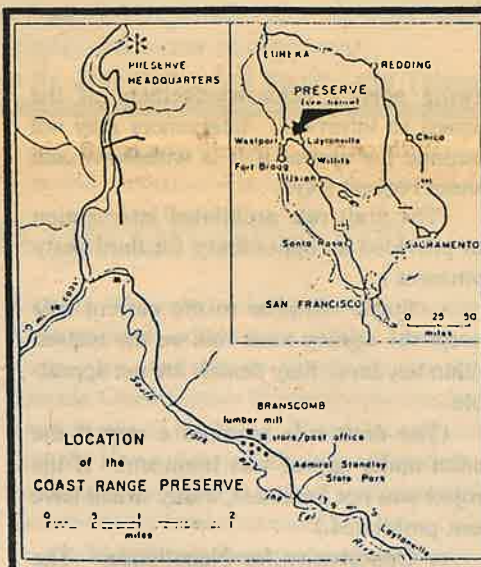


California Grizzly Bear Republic

Immortal great bear
Shadow bear, ghost bear, memory bear
Flag flapping emblem
High on mast
From state capitol
To truck stop station
The bear no more
Is flying forever
Memory bear
Roaming your kingdom
Memory bear ain't driving
Big trucks
Memory bear ain't the
Politician
Memory bear don't
Swear allegiance
Roaming man-beast
Atop crystal peaks
Sierra-song
California-song
Memory dream
Lives in my heart
Walks on four paws
Paws with claws

—Carlos Purple Bear
Emeryville

Reprinted from the November 1, 1988
Earth First! Journal's "Armed with
Visions" section.



removed when the river corridor was acquired by the BLM. A total of 10,600 contiguous acres between Elkhorn Ridge and Brush Mountain were created.

The acquisition, however, was too late. Just two weeks before the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), had ruled that the separate areas were not big enough to be considered for wilderness study area status or a wilderness recommendation. The ruling substantiated that all criteria for a wilderness study area were present, but that they could not consider the total Brush Mtn.-Elkhorn Ridge area because the federal purchase of the river had not yet taken place. Acquisition of the river corridor strengthened wilderness suitability, but it came two weeks after the IBLA answer was given.

The only opportunity for public review of the influence of the acquisition upon wilderness values is in the Arcata Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now in progress. The draft

plan (a final has not been released) attempts to disallow such public review. An earlier planning document, the Red Mountain Management Final Plan, has not been on file in BLM offices either for public review or for the use of the BLM manager(s).

Awareness of the Cahto Coalition effort has increased because there are few opportunities left in this nation and the world to preserve the research and natural values that exist in this large forest of meaningful size.

FUNDS NEEDED

Large sums of money will be needed to pursue and resolve this case. Tax deductible contributions may be made to AFDF/Rural Institute. All contributors of \$50 or more will receive regular informative newsletters as the case progresses. Any excess funds received as well as those funds remaining after resolution of the Cahto litigation will be used to save other ancient forests. Mail your check to the Mendocino Environmental Center, 106 West Standley Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.



Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer: (from page 2)

White Mountains, Mount
Shasta Wilderness,
Sequoia-Kings
Canyon Wilderness,
and John Muir
Wilderness

Eldorado National Forest Plan continued from page 1

status. Instead, the final plan proposes the less protective "scenic" status, which allows destructive activities such as logging.

In one positive note, the final plan did respond to public concerns expressed in response to the draft plan by assessing the lower North Fork Mokelumne for possible Wild and Scenic status. Having found this segment of the Mokelumne eligible, the Forest Service is now studying the river's suitability in conjunction with the environmental review process for the proposed Devil's Nose hydroelectric project. A decision concerning the upper segment of the North Fork Mokelumne will be made in the Stanislaus National Forest plan. Since most of this segment is within the Mokelumne Wilderness, there is little threat to this portion of the river.

Conservationists were hoping that other rivers would be assessed in the final plan, not just the lower North Fork Mokelumne. In particular, the South Fork and Silver Fork of the American River possess remarkable qualities deserving of Wild and Scenic protection. Although the plan contains a long list of waterways found ineligible for Wild

and Scenic status, the South and Silver Forks are not mentioned, prompting the question of whether an assessment was performed on these unique rivers.

ROADLESS AREAS

Roadless areas are given equally short shrift in the final plan. Although Wilderness status is recommended for about 78 percent of the Caples Creek roadless area, over 3,600 acres are allocated to logging and off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Fortunately, the portion of the area recommended for wilderness includes the upper Silver Fork of the American River. The Silver Fork has been threatened by a small hydroelectric project proposal, and its inclusion in a wilderness area would make construction impossible without special Presidential approval.

Of the 26,000 acres in the Pyramid, Poison Hole, and Fawn Lake roadless areas that could be added to the Desolation Wilderness, the final plan allocates little more than 5,000 acres to "semi-primitive non motorized" uses (the most protective management prescription used in forest plans, short of wilderness) while allowing logging, ORV

use, and recreational development on the remaining acreage.

Similarly, only 23 percent of the Tragedy-Elephants Back roadless addition to the Mokelumne Wilderness is allocated to semi-primitive non-motorized use, while the remaining 21,256 acres are left to ORV use and developed recreation. A small portion of the Raymond Peak Roadless Area which was not added to the Mokelumne Wilderness in 1984 will also be managed for motorized recreation.

The Eldorado National Forest manages much of the Dardanelles Roadless Area, which has been proposed for protection as the Echo-Carson Wilderness by conservationists (the other portions are located in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Toiyabe National Forest). Only a quarter of this 8,000-acre area would be managed for semi-primitive non-motorized uses, while the remaining acreage is allocated to motorized and developed recreation.

The entire Rubicon Roadless Area is encompassed in the proposed "scenic" classification for the Rubicon River. Given the wide latitude for management for scenic rivers described in the plan, it is uncertain whether the roadless qualities of this area will be preserved by Wild and Scenic status.

Another major disappointment in the plan is virtually unrestricted ORV use allowed in the sensitive high country areas of the Crystal Range, Echo Summit, and Carson Pass. The proposed high country management also permits salvage logging which may degrade the scenic beauty of these popular recreation areas.

The final Eldorado plan is being reviewed by a coalition of environmental groups considering an administrative appeal, including the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, and two Eldorado Country groups, Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs and Environmental Planning Information Council of Western El Dorado County. A decision to appeal will be based on an early February meeting with the Forest Service. If an appeal is filed, conservationists will focus on the need for increased Wild and Scenic River recommendations and expanded protection for roadless areas.

Steve Evans is President of the CWC and a Conservation Director for Friends of the River.

CALENDAR

February 4 CWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ANNUAL MEETING; Davis, CA; for more information, call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 18 NON-DESERT BLM (Bureau of Land Management) WORKSHOP, by invitation; Davis, CA; for more information call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 19 ANCIENT FORESTS MEETING, by invitation; for more information call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 20 DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of the Eldorado National Forest's *Final Land and Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*; send to: Paul Barker, Regional Forester, Pacific SW Region, USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

March 3-4 "THE CALIFORNIA DESERT MINERAL SYMPOSIUM ...PLANNING FOR TOMORROW," co-sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management & South Coast Geological Society in Irvine. For more information call Sean Hagerty or Bob Anderson at (916) 978-4735.

March 10-12 5th ANNUAL RIVERS FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE, "In Celebration of Rivers"; sponsored by Friends of the River, at Dominican College in San Rafael. Workshops, speakers, river equipment swap, dance; for more information and/or a registration form, contact Ethan Winston at (415) 771-0400 or write to FORF, 5th Annual Rivers Conference, Building C, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123.



Sheila Kenward, CWC office neighbor and supporter

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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!

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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
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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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