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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 14, No. 4

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April, 1989

## Treeless Roadless Areas?

In the March 1 *Federal Register*, the Forest Service published a notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statements (EIS) for two timber sales in the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest in north-central California, the Polk and Alder timber sales.

The Polk sale is located in the vicinity of Deer and Middle creeks, both proposed by the Forest Service for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. (The area was the ancestral home of the Yahi Tribe. Ishi, the last member of the Yahi, is the subject of a well-known book by anthropologist Theodore Kroeber.)

Approximately one-fourth of the sale area is within the Polk Springs Roadless Area, which was released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. The area supports the East Tehama deer herd and an anadromous and resident coldwater fishery.

The Alder timber sale is located in the Cub Creek Roadless Area, also released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. This area supports deer, black bear, an anadromous and coldwater fishery, and several old-growth-dependent species. The area is characterized by steep slopes, shallow soils, rock outcrops, and landslide-prone soils.

The draft EIS for each of the roadless areas is scheduled for publication in April 1989, with the final EIS tentatively scheduled for June 1989.

Both of these sales are on an extremely fast track, as can be seen from the short interval between scoping (the deadline for scoping comments was March 31) and completion of the draft EISs. When questioned about this, the Forest Service stated that environmental assessments had already been completed for the two sales and that a proposed policy is being tested which directs the agency to prepare EISs for timber sales in released roadless areas.

*Reprinted from Bi-Weekly Update, the publication of The Wilderness Society's National Forest Action Center.*



Sword Lake in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, where 4,065 acres of private land may be bought—if Congress appropriates the funds. Photo by Jeff Schaffer

## Turned Down

*The administration's proposal to transfer essentially all of the Forest Service's 1989 land acquisition funds to pay for 1988 firefighting costs was speedily rejected by Congress' Office of Management and Budget...but the question of the under-utilization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund remains.*

By Stephanie Mandel

When the Ventana Wilderness was designated in 1969, nine private interests held land within the boundaries. Congress realized that inholdings could create management problems, but most of the 98,000 acres were beautifully wild. They wrote into the 1964 Wilderness Act that private inholdings within national forest and Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas may be acquired, subject to the concurrence of the owner and approval of funds by Congress.

From 1973 to 1981 a total of 1,892 acres was purchased in the Ventana and other Los Padres National Forest Wilderness Areas. The source of funds? The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

In the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, an

inholding that includes sensitive meadow, creekside, and riverside parcels that are critical to protecting the water quality of the Carson River and its tributaries is up for sale. These 4,065 acres can be purchased for \$21.1 million. The only reasonable source of funds? The LWCF.

Congress' Office of Management and Budget turned down the Secretary of Agriculture's proposal to transfer essentially all of the Forest Service's 1989 LWCF land acquisition funds (\$54 million) to pay for 1988 firefighting costs. The Forest Service justified the transfer on the basis that "land purchase is a postponable activity," but bipartisan opposition was voiced in a letter signed by 27 Senators, including powerful natural resources committee leaders.

According to Jay Watson of The Wilderness Society, the transfer would have continued on page 6

## Desert Disaster

By Nobby Riedy

"A New Kind of Mining Disaster." That's how the *New York Times* described the recently developed mining process that allows microscopic bits of gold to be collected from enormous piles of crushed ore. Heap leach gold mining is leading the newest gold rush and leaving behind waste piles, unreclaimed pits, and dead wildlife.

The Castle Mountain Project, proposed for the heart of the East Mojave National Scenic Area (and proposed Mojave National Park), would cover more than four square miles. Its pits would be deeper than the Washington Monument is tall. Enough overburden (rock containing no gold) and ore would be dug out of the ground to pile crushed rock over two football fields as high as the Empire State building. And 4,500 tons of cyanide would be used every year.

### CYANIDE AND OPEN PITS

Heap leach mining operations strip open large pits in the earth, crush the rock, and then spray the ore with a cyanide solution that washes through the ore and bonds with tiny particles of gold. The solution is transported to ponds, some holding millions

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## Monthly Report

In addition to her job as editor, Stephanie has taken on the role of getting us out of the office and into the wilds. Thus has started the infamous CWC staff and volunteer hikes.

Infamous, since our overnight last Memorial Day into the Granite Chief Wilderness turned into a snow trip (although the editor who organized that trip somehow wasn't with us as the flakes were falling). So when we planned a weekend in the Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area, our friends and neighbors were overjoyed—they knew the drought of 1989 was about to end.

On the only day of the year that is a command (March fourth), fifteen CWC volunteers and friends headed up the road to the new BLM trailhead into Cache Creek. As we arrived at the parking area, hail began to fall.

At this point a debate ensued. CWC Director Ron Stork suggested we go home and wait a few months. In the end, a dozen folks opted for a wet day hike. Only our newest employee, Bill, and student intern Shelley, were bold (foolish?) enough to take my lead and shoulder our packs for the whole weekend.

Part of my reasoning for sticking it out was that this is the season the bald eagles winter in the Cache Creek canyon. On a previous hike last spring, there was a consensus that the black speck in the binoculars was, indeed, an eagle. I wanted a little more intimate contact with this wonderful bird.

As it turned out, the wildlife apparently felt it was foolish to spend time out in the rain. A great blue heron, an ouzel, some

ducks, lots of huge carp, and fresh bear tracks were the extent of our wildlife viewing.

But it was nice to get out, rain or shine. I guess we'll just have to go back again to look for the eagles.

Meanwhile, back in the office, our trusty Macintosh finally had a mental breakdown. Actually, the flyback transformer in the video died, while the computer still worked. But unlike Tommy, the deaf, dumb, and blind kid who played the pinball machines by intuition, we weren't able to use the Mac without a screen. A friend replaced the damaged part for us, but the replacement burned out as well. So if you were expecting some correspondence from us, be patient. We don't even have a typewriter here, so when the Mac is down we are down.

Fortunately, a number of other offices in the building have Macs, along with members, friends, and relatives. Unfortunately, the first machine loaned to us died that very night. Our copy machine failed the following morning, leading us to believe that a hardware virus was loose in the office (it even followed me home, knocking out my water heater the following day).

But we are getting back to normal now.

Now, regarding that photo on page 4. Like most woolly bears, I tend to gather fur and fat to get through the cold winters. But when the spring comes, at least the fur thins out. So by the time of the Backcountry Horsemen's convention in early April, I'll shed so much hair that I will look less like Karl Marx and more like Groucho.

By Jim Eaton

## Celebrate & Confer!

The Wilderness Act, enacted by Congress in September of 1964, celebrates its 25th anniversary this fall! You can join the joyous celebration of this epoch-making legislation, which opened a new era for preservation of valuable public lands, by coming to the 1989 California Wilderness Conference in October.

Four years ago, Visalia, California, was the scene of one of the most dynamic gatherings in the history of California's Wilderness movement—the California Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the California Wilderness Coalition. For three days more than 700 wilderness activists met, listened to inspiring speeches, learned new skills, shared experiences, sparked new ideas, made new friends, and gained a renewed spirit of commitment to preserving California's magnificent wildlands.

It's happening again!! Expanded to four days, the 1989 California Wilderness Conference is scheduled for October 19-22 at the Visalia Convention Center.

Representative Mel Levine, sponsor of the California Desert Protection Act, will be one of the speakers at the conference. The theme of the conference is "Celebrate 25 Years of California Wilderness," honoring the 1964 enactment of The Wilderness Act. In addition, environmental and political leaders and experienced activists will share their expertise in speeches and workshops covering wilderness management, desert protection, ancient forests, the nuts and bolts of passing legislation, appeals, media, and much, much more.

The excitement won't end with the workshops and speeches; there will also be fine arts, entertainment, music, slide shows, and, most importantly, comradeship. Suggestions for speakers, workshops, and entertainment are welcome. Please send your ideas to the address below.

The conference registration fee is a modest \$15 (the same price as 1985). This registration fee will pay for less than 25 percent of the conference costs. The conference depends on the good will of those able to donate more. Please consider becoming a Conference Mentor for \$50 or more, for which you will receive a free conference t-shirt. A \$30 registration will include membership in the California Wilderness Coalition.

*Four years ago, Visalia, California, was the scene of one of the most dynamic gatherings in the history of California's Wilderness movement...and it's happening again!*

Organizations are being asked to co-sponsor the conference for \$500 or more. To date, the California Wilderness Conference is cosponsored by the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Tulare County Audubon, Yosemite Association, and The Wilderness Society. If your organization or chapter is not listed, please consider cosponsorship.

Volunteers are needed to help spread the word about the conference and ensure its success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bob Barnes at the address and phone listed below.

For information or questions on the 1989 California Wilderness Conference, please call or write: Bob Barnes, Conference Coordinator, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258, (209) 784-4477.

## California Wilderness Conference

### California Wilderness Conference Registration

- ☐ I will be a local conference coordinator.  
☐ Here is my \$15 registration fee.  
☐ Here is \$30 for registration + CWC membership.  
☐ Here is my Conference Mentor contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send to:

California Wilderness Coalition, 2655  
 Portage Bay East, Ste. 5, Davis, CA 95616  
**Make checks payable to:**  
 California Wilderness Coalition or CWC

*"Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act"*  
**October 19-22, 1989**  
**Visalia, California**

**Conference Co-sponsors to date:** Sierra Club Kern-Kaweah Chapter, The Wilderness Society, Tulare County Audubon, Yosemite Association.

**Conference Mentors:** Harriet Allen, Bob Barnes, Liz Caldwell, Alan Carlton, Jim Clark, Ron & Mary Ann Henry, Vicky Hoover, Sarah & John Konior, Norman B. Livermore, Jr., Julie McDonald, Brian Newton, Bob & Anne Schneider, Stan Weidert, Carl Weidert.



*Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:*

*See page 4 for Uncle Jim's special April match-'em quiz!*



The headwaters of the West Walker River in the Hoover Wilderness of the Toiyabe National Forest. Photo by Dave Willis

## San Bernardino Forest plan: Appeal for Wilderness

By Bill Burrows

On March 10 the San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club filed an appeal against the Forest Service's latest California forest plan. The plan for the San Bernardino National Forest, the Sierra Club claims, would significantly affect their local members' use of the forest.

The Sierra Club is requesting a partial stay of the plan's prescriptions for the management of Sugarloaf roadless area, the Granite Peak roadless area, and the Deep Creek roadless area. Also at issue is the plan's finding that the North and South Forks of the San Jacinto River do not qualify as eligible for wild and scenic status.

The Sierra Club is specifically requesting a non-motorized dispersed recreation management prescription for the Sugarloaf, Granite Peak, and Deep Creek roadless areas. This prescription would allow road construction for vegetation and wildlife management, for temporary access roads into the given areas. In the plan's management prescription, permanent road construction would be allowed. The Sierra Club's appeal claims that construction of permanent roads would destroy the current recreation opportunities available in these roadless areas.

The appeal also requests that segments of the North and South Forks of the San Jacinto River be considered eligible for wild and scenic status. On the North Fork, the desired segments are the headwaters section that originates and traverses the west side of San Jacinto Wilderness State Park and the section of river that cuts a deep canyon down the west slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains. On the South Fork, the segment of concern runs from Lake Hemet to the private land (in Sec. 28).

## Grazing Fees Go Up, But Not Much

Grazing fees for national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands (including Wilderness Areas) were raised to \$1.86 per head per month, a 32 cent increase.

Effective March 1, 1989, the increase (for 16 western states only) brings the fees to roughly 20 to 29 percent of the appraised market value of federal grazing privileges, according to expert real estate appraisers.

## A Chance for Wild Rivers

By Steve Evans

Assemblymember Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto) has recently introduced AB 1200, a bill to add the East Carson and West Walker rivers to the California Wild and Scenic rivers System. The bill would also prohibit hydroelectric development on the McCloud River, without designating it Wild and Scenic. AB 1200 is the first real opportunity to add rivers to the state system since it was established in 1972.

The East Carson and West Walker are unique rivers that drain the east side of the Sierra Nevada and flow into the Great Basin desert. The East Carson offers a popular whitewater run complete with hot springs

and the opportunity to catch large trout. The West Walker drains the Hoover Wilderness just northeast of Yosemite Park and is a popular river for backpacking, camping, and fishing.

The McCloud River is not being designated in AB 1200 because of the opposition of riverside landowners and the timber industry. Instead, the bill prohibits hydroelectric development in order to preserve the river's free-flowing values. Rising from springs fed by glacial melt from Mt. Shasta, the McCloud is one of the premier trophy trout streams in California, offering a magnificent setting for anglers, boaters, and all people of the state.



## Managing Ishi

Important direction is set forth for the Ishi Wilderness in the recently-released proposed implementation plan. The Lassen National Forest will be accepting comments on the proposed plan and environmental assessment until April 27.

The plan explores four alternatives for managing the wilderness—the "current situation," "intermediate," "nature-oriented," and "human-oriented" alternatives. The Forest Service proposes the "intermediate" alternative, which would continue livestock grazing in the wilderness at present levels.

Steve Evans, a long-time Ishi Wilderness explorer and preservationist, believes that the present level of grazing in the Ishi area is causing great damage to the area. "The grazing has been, and continues to deteriorate and alter the natural vegetation in the Ishi," he claims.

On another aspect of the proposed alternative, acquisition of wilderness private inholdings, Evans praises the implementation plan, calling it "an effective way to manage wilderness."

To receive a copy of the proposed plan or to comment on it, write to Richard A. Henry, Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest, 55 So. Sacramento Street, Susanville, CA 96130; or call Jane Sylvester or Keith Crummer at (916) 258-2141.

## Sespe Bill Allows Dams

The legislative flow has begun for a Wild & Scenic bill for the Sespe and Sisquoc rivers in the central coast's Los Padres National Forest, and it promises to be a rocky run.

The bill, introduced on February 16 by Representative Robert Lagomarsino (HR 1473) and Senator Pete Wilson (S 637), includes all 31 miles of the Sisquoc, but only 27.5 miles of the 55-mile Sespe. The bill does not protect the Sespe from two proposed dams, Oat Mountain and Coldsprings. Conservationists want to see the entire 55 miles of the Sespe protected from development.

Lori Stillman of Lagomarsino's office defended the Representative's decision to eliminate the dam sites from the bill, saying "we feel like our bill is a compromise on this whole water rights issue." Stillman points out that the "bill incorporates the recommendations of the Forest Service plan."

Alasdair Coyne of Keep the Sespe Wild Committee, however, points out that the agency's plan did not find the Sespe *unsuitable* for Wild & Scenic status, but rather deferred a decision on the 14.5-mile segment from Morro Grande to Trout Creek until the next planning period (at least ten years

hence). Coyne and other citizens have researched the economics of both proposed dams and conclude that they are "just not cost-effective." They also are concerned about the fact that the proposed Coldsprings Dam's foundation would be built on micaceous shale, a soft material.

Keep the Sespe Wild Committee, based in Ojai, is campaigning for business endorsements of legislation to protect all 55 miles of the Sespe. Congressional hearings may be held on the Sespe legislation within the next two months.

## Uncle Jim's Match-'Em Quiz

### Forest Service Term:

Access  
Big Game  
Created Opening  
Decadent Trees  
Dust Event  
Clearcutting  
Decision Space  
Discounted Benefit  
Even-Aged Management  
Final Cut  
Hard Snag  
Harvest Species  
Issue Dispensation Process  
Large Woody Material  
Non-Vegetative  
Overmature Timber  
Overstory Removal  
Regeneration Cutting  
Seed Tree Cutting  
Shelterwood Cutting  
Stumpage  
Unplanned Ignition  
Unregulated Timber  
Unsuitable Lands  
Water Influence Zone  
Wilderness

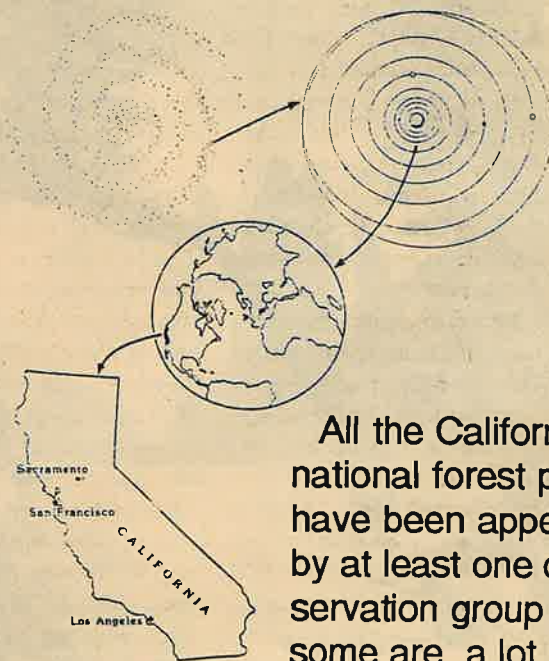
### What they really mean:

Aerial Wolves  
Animals Hunted  
Animals Hunted or Fished  
Clearcut  
Clearcutting  
Dead Tree  
Dust Storm  
Excellent Forestry  
Forest Fire  
Forest Planning Process  
George Bush  
Lakes and Streams  
Large, Slimy Things  
Limits to Forest Planning  
Los Angeles  
Marine Mammals  
Old-Growth Forest  
Present Value of Future Benefits  
Review of Public Comments  
Rocks  
Small, Slimy Things  
Spotted Owls  
To Build Roads  
Trees  
Trees Not Available to Log  
Uneven-Aged Management

(answers on page 7.)

## FS Releases New Vicinity Map of California

Vicinity Map

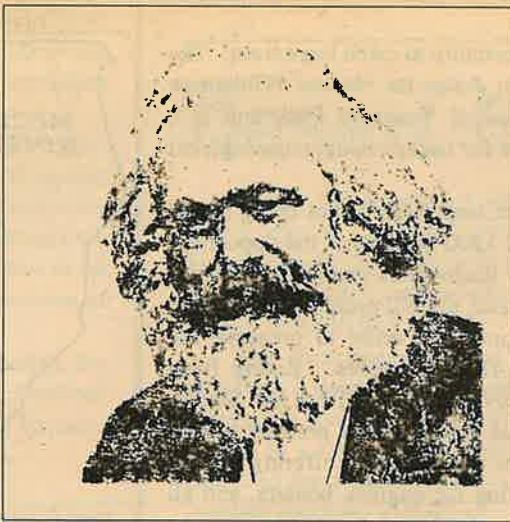


All the California national forest plans have been appealed by at least one conservation group. But some are a lot more fun than others...this map is from the El-dorado National Forest's Final EIS.)

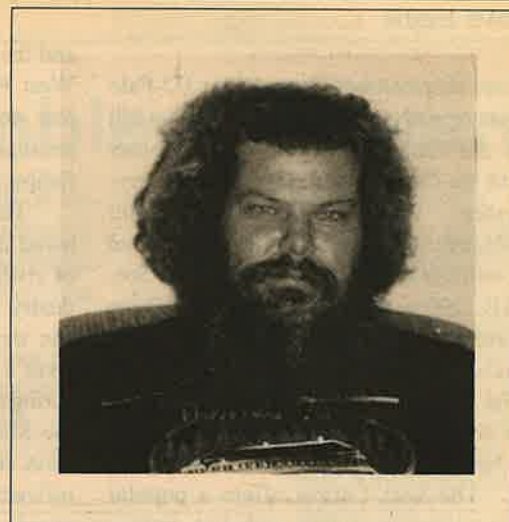
## Wilderness Leaders Trivia Quiz:

Which of these two people inspires fear and loathing in the hearts of conservative segments of the population?

Who is the real Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition?



a.



b.

(answers on page 7.)

## Castle Mtn. Mine

continued from page 1

of gallons, and then passed through a carbon filter that strips the gold away.

In Nevada alone, it is estimated that 5,000 to 10,000 birds have died in the solution ponds of heap leach mines over the last couple of years. Owls, egrets, mallards, songbirds, and many other species have died from ingesting the cyanide solution. Thousands of acres of open pits have been dug, mostly on public lands, and thousands more will be dug in coming years. Reclamation

requirements don't normally include filling in the pits. The impacted lands may never recover their original vigor.

### CASTLE MOUNTAIN

In the fall of 1987, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorized the Castle Mountain Project without an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The agency accepted the mining company's own environmental assessment, which claimed that there was no potential for significant impacts to the environment. Conservationists, including The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Desert Survivors, and Citi-

zens for Mojave National Park, protested the decision.

In the appeal of the decision, the conservation community noted the project's potential to destroy the East Mojave's largest riparian woodland, Piute Spring within the BLM Piute Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The cyanide leaching process uses enormous amounts of water, which at Castle Mountain would come out of the same ground water basin that feeds Piute Spring. Deer, bighorn sheep, and a variety of bird species depend on that fragile habitat for survival.

The appeal was successful in having the

authorization withdrawn and preparation of an EIS required. The draft EIS was released on March 8, 1989.

### IMPACTS

The Canadian Viceroy Corporation plans to cover more than 330 acres of desert ecosystem with leaching pads piled with 40 million tons of crushed ore. The cyanide solution ponds would hold nine million gallons and cover five acres. The presence of cyanide ponds would have significant effects on birds and other wildlife attracted to the water source. In just one instance a year ago,

go to next page

# Great Mountain, Boom Town Hopes

By Lois Kent

In 1984 a promotional video was produced showing "Lemuria Village," the brainchild of developer Carl Martin, who wanted to build a combined ski area/golf course/motel/condos/shops/multi-village complex on Mt. Shasta's west slope at about the 6,000 to 8,000 foot elevation. The urbanized portion of this scheme would be on several hundred acres of what is now Roseburg Resource Company land, which Martin retains an option to buy. The ski area would be on national forest land.

In a region starved for economic excitement, many local politicians, real estate interests, and chambers of commerce support Martin. They have hired professional lobbyists to pressure public officials into supporting the Mt. Shasta Ski Area, potentially able to accommodate up to 4,800 skiers per day. Meanwhile, developer Martin has, at least publicly, backed away from the full-blown "Lemuria" package and thus avoided having to address the total environmental and economic impacts.

The ski area's promoters have launched a major campaign. Tactics to date have included rallies, interviews with the media, fundraising dinners, dances, a "roast" of the developer, and a series of publicity gimmicks. Even Santa Claus came out in support of the project at a rally in Redding last year. The ultimate media attraction was the hauling of two dump trucks full of snow along with a small army of developers, realtors, and related pro-growth types from Mt. Shasta to the State Capitol.

Those opposing the ski area plan raise the fact that it would be on public land, including old growth red fir in potential wilderness adjacent to existing wilderness. As reported in the November 1988 *Wilderness Record*, the Forest Service's Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) was released in September. It was appealed by the California Wilderness Coalition, the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society, represented by attorney Roger Beers. The appeal was denied at the regional level, but a stay request was granted, prohibiting any construction while the Forest Service Chief in Washington, D.C. considers the appeal.

Many local residents fear the adverse impacts of urbanizing what is now one of the most rural (3 stop lights in the whole county) parts of California. But these fears are almost overwhelmed by the boom town euphoria surrounding development proposals. The utility, Pacific Power and Light, was the producer of the 1984 video, and the County of Siskiyou has also supported Carl Martin's plans by lending him funds.

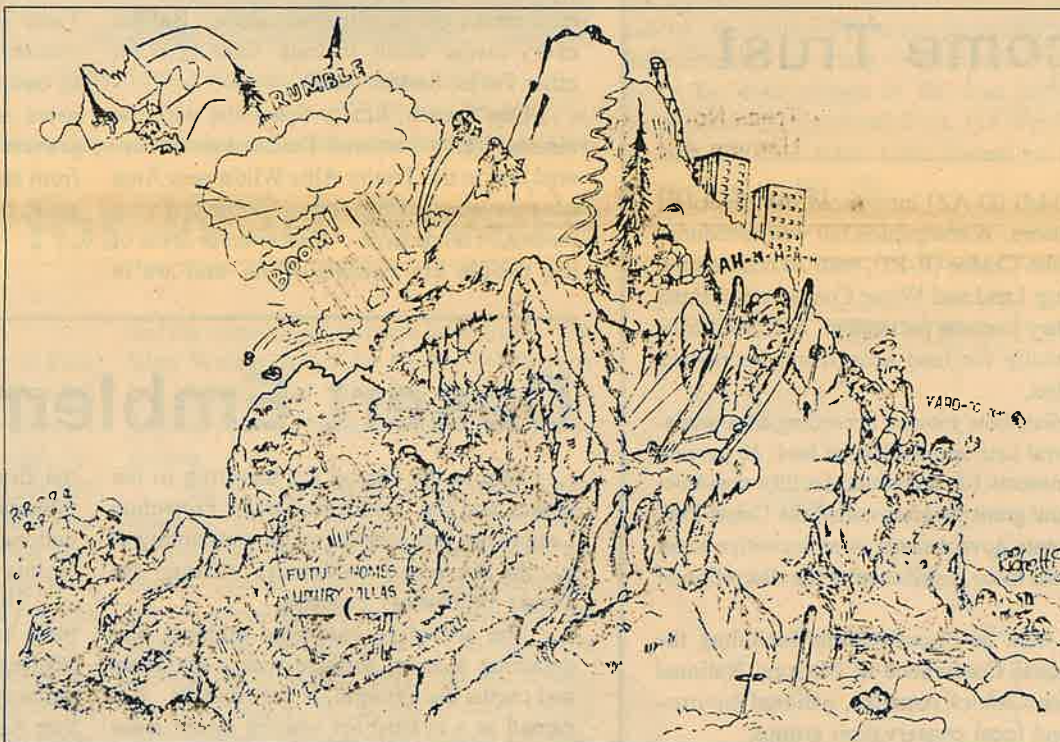
Just a few of the issues glossed over by the Forest Service in the EIS are alternative sites, project segmentation (ignoring potential future development), cumulative impacts, adequate sewage treatment, economic feasibility, and Native American concerns.

A few of the things concerned people can do to help save Mt. Shasta are:

1) Send a tax-deductible donation to the California Wilderness Coalition, Mt. Shasta Fund, P. O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95617, to support legal and research efforts. Some much-appreciated donations have come in, but more are needed. Tell your friends.

2) Write letters of support to the State Attorney General's office to offset the developers' campaign against his appeal of the ski plan. Mail to: Attorney General John Van de Kamp, P. O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550. Van de Kamp has stuck his neck out to support environmental values and to question the developer's economic analysis.

3) IMPORTANT: Write letters to Dale Robertson, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090. Let him know that he needs a complete environmental document, one that speaks to all of the vital issues before irretrievable resources are put in jeopardy.



## Goodbye To Abbey

*"A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins." —Edward Abbey*

Described as "a voice crying in the wilderness, for the wilderness," author Edward Abbey's live voice was stilled with his death on March 14 at the age of 62. Abbey's echo, however, will certainly ring in American lore as the creator of a manifesto for the radical environmentalist movement.

*The Monkey Wrench Gang* is probably the best-known of Abbey's dozen fiction and non-fiction books, and it spawned an underground movement of eco-warriors who take the law into their own hands. Most recently published was *The Fool's Progress*.

In recent years Abbey, whose career included a stint as a forest ranger, taught at the creative writing program at the University of Arizona.

Abbey died of a circulatory disorder at his home in Oracle, AZ.

## Castle Mtn. Mine

continued from page 4

more than 300 migratory birds, mostly green winged teal, died in ponds at a similar mine in western Arizona.

While netting over the ponds can reduce bird mortality, deaths would still occur from entanglement and exposure to the cyanide solution on the leach piles. Additionally, if the project is approved by BLM, more than 300 acres of a unique desert grassland in the Lanfair Valley will be destroyed. Desert tortoise habitat would be impacted, as would thousands of Joshua trees.

At another cyanide-leaching gold mine in the desert, California Fish and Game Department officials found dead wildlife, leak-

ing cyanide ponds, and open dumps containing cyanide drums. Further investigations uncovered a cyanide solution spill of 24,000 gallons. A ruptured pipe at the Dee Gold Mining project in Nevada contaminated surface water three miles down Boulder Creek. In Lander County, Nevada, leaks from a tailings pond threaten to contaminate the local ground water supplies. Monitoring wells have been installed to assess the extent of the contamination.

### CA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

The Castle Mountain Project illustrates the importance of the California Desert Protection Act, which was recently reintroduced in the U.S. Congress by Senator Alan Cranston and Representative Mel Levine with the support of 60 cosponsors. BLM policies for sensitive resources embraced by the 1980

Desert Management Plan and the East Mojave National Scenic Area management plan have failed to protect them from mining. Clearly, if the BLM's National Scenic Area designation allows open pit mines and motorcycle races (like the infamous Barstow-to-Vegas) within its borders, it is failing to adequately protect the area's values.

The California Desert Protection Act would designate the Scenic Area as Mojave National Park and provide strong legislated protection for its resources. The proposed legislation would also designate as wild 4.5 million acres of BLM desert land and expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and change them to national parks.

### APRIL 18 HEARINGS

Administrative hearings for the pro-

ject's EIS are scheduled for San Bernardino and Barstow, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Attendance at the San Bernardino hearing at 7:00 pm Tuesday April 18 will help demonstrate the public's support for the Desert Protection Act and opposition to the open pit mine and cyanide ponds.

For more information about the Castle Mountain project, the hearing on April 18, or the California Desert Protection Act, contact Nobby Riedy of the Wilderness Society at (415) 541-9144 or 116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 526, San Francisco, CA 94105, or Bill Havert of the Sierra Club in San Bernardino at (714) 381-5015.

*Nobby Riedy works for The Wilderness Society in San Francisco.*

## Land & Water Conservation Fund

continued from page 1

According to Jay Watson of The Wilderness Society, considering land acquisition to be deferrable "doesn't make economic or environmental sense" since prices go up every year and development threats are often imminent. The transfer proposal, Watson says, "shows an apparent disregard on the part of the Forest Service of the importance of land acquisition."

Created in 1965, over the years the LWCF has received consistent approval from Congress. However, even with the recent transfer proposal stopped, the question of better utilizing the LWCF for its intended purpose—buying land—still exists. For the past eight years the fund has been underspent due to the discouragement of the administration. Requests for appropriations have been very limited (see graph), and no money has been appropriated specifically for wilderness inholdings since 1986.

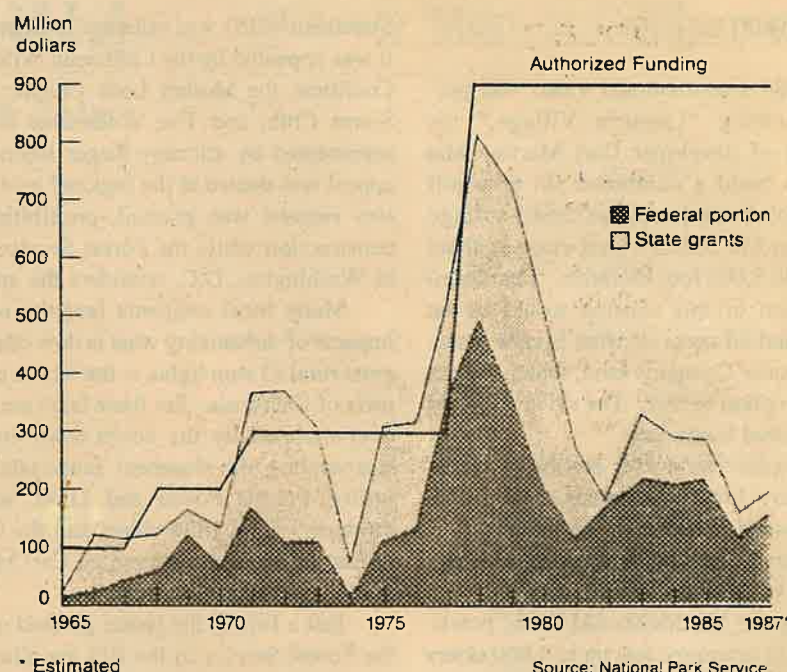
The LWCF has been, one might say,

Congress' "karma fund." It was originally financed from the sale of federal property, the motorboat fuel tax, and user fees from federal recreation lands; now approximately 90 percent of LWCF revenues come from oil and gas leases and royalties from the Outer Continental Shelf. The Conservation Foundation writes that this funding is "supporting the principle that some of the returns from liquidation of the nation's nonrenewable natural resources should be reinvested into land and other assets with long-term recreational benefits."

The Fund is the primary source of funds for acquiring wilderness inholdings, islands of private land within designated wilderness areas. Also, potential wilderness lands could be purchased, such as those in the Grouse Lakes Roadless Area in the Tahoe National Forest, where ownership is a checkerboard of private and public land.

Land exchanges provide another avenue

Figure 1  
LWCF Appropriations: 1965-1987



## Fund May Become Trust

Reprinted from Biweekly Update

On February 6, Congressman Morris Udall (D-AZ) introduced the American Heritage Trust Act (HR 876) with 135 cosponsors. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate the following day by Senator John Chafee (R-RI), with 20 cosponsors.

The legislation would modify the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund so that they become permanent, dedicated trust funds eventually yielding \$1.0 billion annually for land acquisition, recreation facility construction, and historic preservation.

Under the legislation, Congress would distribute monies according to a predetermined formula: at least 30 percent to federal land acquisition, at least 30 percent for matching grants to state and local governments for recreation facility construction and land acquisition, 10 percent to a federal grant program called the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, 10 percent to state governments as an incentive to set up parallel trusts, and the remaining 20 percent to be distributed at the discretion of Congress.

The legislation is supported by more than 50 organizations, including the National Governor's Association, the National Conference of Mayors, National Conference of State Legislatures, the Garden Club of America, national environmental organizations, and numerous state and local conservation groups.

Biweekly Update is published by The Wilderness Society's National Forest Action Center.

## Emigrant Dam Dilemma

Rock and mortar dams were built in what is now the Emigrant Wilderness between the 1930s and 1950s, and the Forest Service is evaluating their future.

Most of the small lake dams were originally built in order to increase the low flows of streams in the summer for fish migrations. Now, however, fish are artificially stocked in the wilderness lakes, rendering insignificant this purpose.

Mostly less than 10 feet high and generally considered to be visually unobtrusive,

the Forest Service has drafted several alternative ways to manage the deteriorating dams. The options include repairing and reconstructing the dams, phasing them all out, and taking no action.

The Stanislaus National Forest is accepting issues or comments on the dam question in writing until April 10, 1989. Write to Herb Hahn, District Ranger, Summit Ranger District, Star Route, Box 1295, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 965-3434.

for acquisition, and in the 1980s the word within the Forest Service has been to seek land exchanges in wilderness areas. But not every owner wants to trade their land for other Forest Service land.

Dan French, Realty Specialist with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, has discovered that in the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area not everyone wants to trade. "Some just want money," French says. "That's where some of the people are coming from, and we're

stuck."

Working toward better utilization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, lawmakers are considering restructuring the law to create a trust fund (see side story). Congress is searching for a solution that may prevent future and present administrations from subverting the fund away from its purpose, preservation of land.

## Desert Emblem Rewards

This is the season for traveling in the desert, and the California Desert Protection League has just announced the availability of a pin for desert wilderness visitors: the Desert Wilderness Emblem.

The attractive enameled emblem pin, depicting a desert tortoise with a mountain and cactus background, is not for sale. It is earned as a reward for visiting desert areas proposed for wilderness designation and then writing letters to legislators to help achieve wilderness protection.

The emblem will be awarded to activists who visit ten of the proposed desert wilderness areas and who write a letter recommending wilderness designation for each area. The letters of support may be sent to either the activist's representative, the representative for the area visited, or Senator Pete Wilson. For activists who visit 50 wilderness areas or more and write a letter on each there is a special version of the pin.

The California Desert Protection Act would designate a total of 121 wilderness areas. Of these, 81 would be administered by

the Bureau of Land Management, with the remaining wilderness within the three new national parks—Mojave, Death Valley, and Joshua Tree.

The California Desert Wilderness Emblem has been established by the California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Audubon Society, and 100 other environmental organizations that have joined together as the California Desert Protection League in order to support the California Desert Protection Act.

The California Desert Protection League will administer the awarding of the emblem. For a listing of the proposed wilderness areas, the member of Congress representing the area, the rules of the game, and a

"color your own wilderness" map, send a contribution of \$3 for postage and handling (checks should be payable to CDPL) to:

Keeper of the Desert Wilderness

Emblem

140 Healy

Chatsworth, CA 91311



## Book Review: A Fresh Perspective on the Desert

By Sarah Julian

*Sarah Julian is 8 years old and attend West Davis Elementary School in Davis.*

The name of this book is *California Deserts*. The authors are Robert D. Shangle and Paul M. Lewis. This book is about deserts. The pictures are photographs.

Long ago the desert was a dangerous place because there was no water, and people didn't have enough supplies to cross the desert. We need to help keep the desert wilderness.

Death Valley is in the desert and I have visited Death Valley. Death Valley is the lowest place in America—282 feet below sea level. It is also the hottest place in America—134.6 degrees.



## Appealing Handbook Available

**How To Appeal Forest Service Decisions: A Citizen Handbook on the 1989 Appeals Regulations**, by The Wilderness Society, 1400 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 842-3400.

The Forest Service's new administrative appeals regulations went into effect on February 22, 1989; decisions made after this date by the agency on appeals such as forest plans and timber sales are subject to the new rules. The purpose of the handbook is to provide citizens with a basic understanding of the new appeals process.

## A Model Appeal

A model forest plan appeal that can be used to help write appeals of future forest plans and timber sales is available for the cost of copying.

This 200-page statement of reasons in support of the appeal of the Plumas National Forest Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement was filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), working with the Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter, Friends of the River, and other conservation groups.

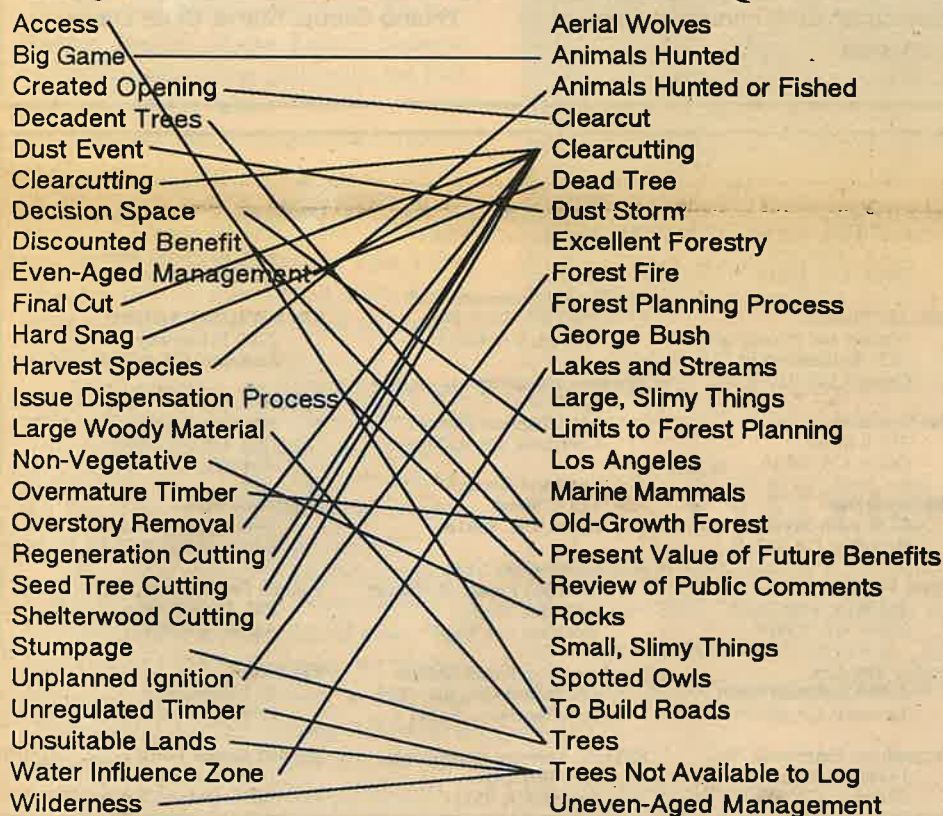
The brief contains detailed coverage of legal, policy, and factual issues of importance to forestry activists in California and elsewhere. It is supported by a 460-page appendix containing expert statements, agency documents, and scientific studies.

The issues raised in the appeal include: (1) overemphasis on clearcutting; (2) timber modeling assumptions and FORPLAN errors; (3) inadequate management, data, and analysis on water quality and fisheries; (4) inadequate management, data, and analysis on old growth and spotted owls; (5) failure to withdraw all physically unsuited lands from the timber base; (6) failure to protect roadless areas; (7) inadequate management and analysis of livestock grazing; (8) inadequate river management, including wild and scenic rivers; and (9) important NEPA violations.

The NRDC will be happy to make additional copies of the appeal, provided (if at all possible) that their copying costs be covered—\$13 for the statement of reasons, \$28.50 for the exhibits, and \$41.50 for both documents (\$5 extra if you want the documents sent by first class mail). Checks should be made out to "NRDC." The NRDC can be reached at (415) 777-0220, 90 New Montgomery, San Francisco, CA 94105



## Key to Uncle Jim's Match-'Em Quiz



## CALENDAR

**April 8** BENEFIT DANCE & BANQUET for the Ancient Forest Defense Fund, with Guest Speaker Chris Maser; Willits Community Center, 7pm to midnight. For more information contact the Mendocino Environmental Center at (916) 468-1660.

**April 10** PUBLIC MEETING for the ISHI WILDERNESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, in Red Bluff, CA Department of Forestry Station, 604 Antelope Boulevard, 7pm.

**April 13** PUBLIC MEETING for the ISHI WILDERNESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, in Chico, CARD Center, 545 Vallombrosa, 7pm.

**April 18, 19, 20** PROPOSED CASTLE MOUNTAIN MINE HEARINGS in San Bernardino, Barstow, & Las Vegas, respectively, at 7:00 pm. For more information, call Citizens for Mojave National Park at (619) 256-9561.

**April 27** DEADLINE for comments on the proposed ISHI WILDERNESS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, send to Richard A. Henry, Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest, 55 So. Sacramento Street, Susanville, CA 96130 or contact Jane Sylvester or Keith Crummer at (916) 258-2141.

**May 28** DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of the Forest Service's *Vegetation Management for Reforestation Final E.I.S.* Send to: F. Dale Robertson, Chief, USDA Forest Service, 12th and Independence Avenue, S.W. South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250 and to Paul F. Barker, Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.



**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 *Wilderness Record* is the monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit would be appreciated. Subscription is free with membership.

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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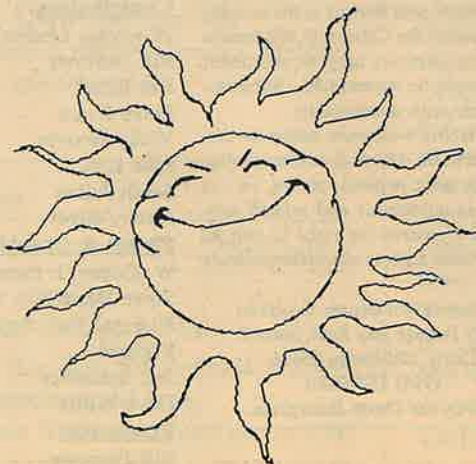
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