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Finding a future for Sinkyone

Creating a wilderness from an area recently inhabited poses a complex challenge

By Julie Verran

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park is just south of the King Range, on the Lost Coast in southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties. Ninety years ago there were several thriving towns there. Thirty years ago there was only one. Now the State Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has the task of restoring the park so it can meet requirements for inclusion in the State Wilderness System. While they restore land damaged by logging in the southern part of the park, State Parks will delay the General Plan, originally scheduled to be released last year.

Senator Barry Keene's 1980 law provides that the park will become part of the state wilderness system once the General Plan is finalized. The California Wilderness Act stipulates that to qualify, land must be wilderness or be substantially restored. State Parks wants to finish land restoration using heavy equipment, and complete a number of other tasks, before completing the General Plan.

A wide spectrum of the public was disappointed by the delay of the General Plan when it was announced late last year. Environmentalists want wilderness designation now, the National Rifle Association wants hunting in the park, and the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council wants to manage the park themselves. (See sidebar on page 6)

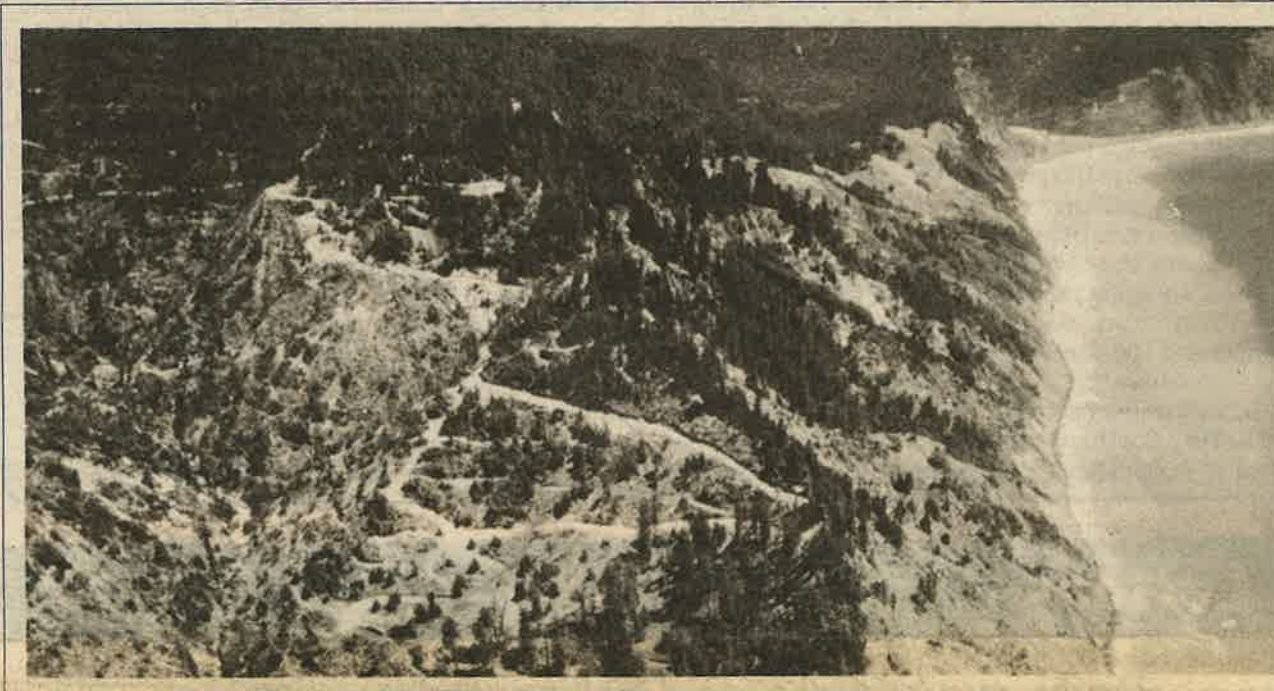
NEW LOGGING THREAT

Just as plans are afoot to restore old logging damage, a new logging threat has emerged in the northeastern part of the park.

In recent weeks timber companies have filed logging plans for over 900 acres of their lands in the headwaters of the Mattole River, around park headquarters near Whitethorn. State Parks or the Wildlife Conservation Board may use Proposition 70 funds for emergency purchase of the Mattole headwaters.

Ironically, Mattole means "crystal clear" in many Native American languages, but the river will not run clear if this logging takes place. Salmon habitat restoration on the lower reaches of the river has been funded year after year, but this work would be negated by the

continued on page 6



Sinkyone Wilderness State Park enjoys strong support for wilderness protection despite the area's many old logging roads.

Photo by David J. Cross

CWC wins Emigrant dam appeal

On April 13th Deputy Regional Forester Joyce Muraoka agreed with the California Wilderness Coalition. Muraoka said that the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's decision to retain twelve of eighteen rock and mortar dams in the Emigrant Wilderness should be reversed. "I am directing the Forest Supervisor to work with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in developing an acceptable approach to record the historic significance of the dam structures while scheduling their removal" over the next five years.

The impoundment structures, ranging from three to twenty-five feet high, were constructed over the period from 1921 to 1951, pre-dating the establishment of the Emigrant Wilderness in 1975. The dams' purpose was to support introduced fisheries, primarily trout.

As reported in the February 1990 *Wilderness Record*, the CWC appealed Forest Supervisor Blaine Cornell's decision to retain and increase maintenance on most of the dams. The appeal cited the dams' minimal contribution to recreation and their incompatibility with wilderness. In particular, maintenance activities associated with the dams have resulted in trash, discarded construction materials, and graffiti.

Muraoka's decision is reversible only by the U.S. Forest Service Chief. It goes beyond the CWC's request to let all eighteen dams deteriorate on their own by requiring the Stanislaus National Forest to remove them. While Forest Service documents did not show whether any of the structures were imminent hazards, any of

them failing on their own could upset the riparian ecosystem downstream.

Fourteen of the dams are on tributaries of Cherry Creek in the Tuolumne River Basin, two are on Lily Creek, which flows into the Clavey and Tuolumne rivers, and two are on the South Fork Stanislaus River headwaters.

Supervisor Cornell's decision had also been appealed by parties interested in maintaining all the dams.

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— **New spotted owl plan demands large habitat conservation areas...p. 4**

— **Desert tortoise makes threatened species list...p. 5**

COALITION PAGE

Monthly Report

Due to the overwhelming response from our members who asked us to use recycled paper (all five of you), we are making changes here at the Coalition.

This issue of the *Wilderness Record* is being printed on recycled newsprint. Our printer now is offering the option of using recycled paper (due to state law) and at no additional cost.

This is not the case with our copying paper for the Sharp and LaserWriter. It was hard for me to pay nearly ten dollars for a ream of paper when I could get one from the Price Club for \$2.50. I am willing to pay a premium for recycled paper, but 300 percent?

But one evening I was talking with my neighbor Bill Leipham who knows a lot about the paper business. When I told him my problem with the economics of recycled paper, he asked if I knew where the pulp from my cheapo Simpson paper came from. He knew. He told me.

Virgin Brazilian fiber.

Great. I'm trying to save California's wilderness by encouraging the destruction of the South American rainforests. Suddenly ten bucks didn't seem so much for 500 sheets of paper.

Fortunately, Bill knew a good source of recycled copying paper (ironically also made by Simpson) at a better price than I had seen. So now everything but our envelopes (and colored paper we sometimes use)

is being printed on recycled paper—and we are looking into these items, too.

There still are some problems. Some manufacturers are using virgin materials formerly wasted or used for other purposes (e.g. mill ends) and calling the product "recycled" paper. Sometimes only a small percentage of the paper contains recycled fibers but it is sold as "recycled." As always, the consumer must beware.

We at the Coalition do our best to minimize our use of natural resources. Draft copies always are printed on the back of scratch paper and ultimately recycled. Orange peels and other remains from lunch end up in the greenhouse compost heap (if not inside Inyo the office dog). And Nancy just made up some telephone pads from some colored scratch paper.

And I am one of the holdouts from the Fax revolution. In this era of computers, I want information sent to me electronically, from computer to computer. I don't need more paper in my life, spewing out of a Fax machine. I consider the Fax backwards technology, although I may be losing this battle as everyone asks us for our Fax number.

Oh, thanks Earth Day volunteers—especially office coordinator Nancy Kang who not only designed and produced the CWC exhibits but also spent hours sitting at our table at three different events.

By Jim Eaton

Wilderness primer, part II:

Who designates Wilderness?

Only Congress can designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Any boundary change or modification also must be approved by an act of Congress (and signed by the President), as must elimination of all or part of an area already included in the System.

Federal land management agencies—primarily the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service—can recommend areas for wilderness status. Citizens also can propose wilderness areas or improve on those suggested by agencies. Frequently, Congress has designated areas that did not enjoy the recommendation of the managing agency or enlarged the agency proposal in response to public outcry. On a few rare occasions, Congress has failed to approve areas that were recommended by agencies.

California's state wilderness system is designated by the state legislature (all state lands) and/or the California Parks and Recreation Commission (for state park lands), a body appointed by the governor. Currently, all of our state wilderness is in state parks. Of the six state parks with wilderness areas, two areas were designated by the legislature and the rest were designated by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Letters

Dogs, wood fires, and other sticky questions

Ms. Mandel:

My gut reaction is to agree with Jim Eaton, but the opening paragraph of his article [*"Mt. Shasta plan goes too far," April 1990 WR*] begs for a response:

...if I leave my dog at home, eschew wood fires, not camp within sight of meadows, pay my reservation fee (or be a lucky first come, first served applicant), and am fortunate enough to meet the trailhead quota.

DOGS—You should leave your dog home. While human fecal contamination remains the primary source of *Giardia* contamination, dogs are also carriers and are not responsive to education and are not easily convinced of careful fecal deposition away from water. A person who takes a dog into backcountry ensures further transmission of *Giardia* and degrades the ecosystem. I cringe whenever I see a dog in the backcountry in winter or summer...We still have horses and cows to contend with, but taking a dog into wilderness ecosystems is hypocritical and foolish.

WOOD FIRES—Several compounds in wood smoke, with adverse health effects, are well documented. These gases include polycyclic organic materials, or POMs. POMs include carcinogenic substances that are known to interact with living cells and change their genetic structure.

Realizing that you don't sit next to the campfire for extended periods of time and inhale concentrated smoke, there are other reasons for not having a fire. Isolated campfires may be restored to show little or no impact, but the cumulative effect of isolated campfires over time may exceed carrying capacity. Higher elevation biotic communities are more resistant to impact than has been expected. Once severely damaged, however, they are extremely slow to recover. Wood smoke and the light from the fire mask the natural smells and sounds of the ecosystem. Why sit next to a television substitute when you made all that effort to go to the wilderness?!

IN SIGHT OF MEADOWS—The cumulative impact of

trampling can adversely impact a site in two to eight weeks. High soil-moisture ecosystems such as snowbeds, marshes, and meadows are easily damaged by only a small amount of walking. We seem to forget that an alpine meadow and an urban residential front lawn are not the same thing. Seemingly innocent "no-trace" trampling may produce severe impacts on dry community sedge meadows. Most people seek a campsite with a good view, including a meadow. Too often I have found campfires built on the fringe of a meadow. The same people who built the fire on the meadow wouldn't bar-b-que on their urban residential front lawn. Innocent trampling may reduce the long-term vigor of plant communities and cause declines in productivity. A knowledgeable wilderness steward keeps back from meadows and takes beautiful photographs.

FEES—I don't like fees or regulations. However, if paying a fee, as Randal O'Toole has suggested, supports the wilderness and helps get knowledgeable wilderness rangers into the backcountry for visitor education and ecosystem maintenance, then so be it.

DISCUSSION—As Garrett Hardin has pointed out (1980), "ethics is the study of ways to allocate scarce resources." The dilemma of scarce wilderness and too plentiful people will continue to haunt us. Because it is unlikely that wilderness will greatly increase and the number of people greatly decrease in the near future, we must continue to seek acceptable ways of "mutual coercion" that somewhat protect wild ecosystems and still allow us to visit.

Respectfully yours,
Scott M. Kruse
Fresno, California

Note: Scott Kruse's letter included a list of 18 references to reports on wood fire emissions and *Giardia*. For a copy of these references, write to the CWC.



Nancy Kang at the CWC's Earth Day information table in Davis.
Photo by Jim Eaton

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

California's state wilderness areas are in six state parks. Can you name them?

(Answer on page 8)

Roadless Areas

Massive salvage logging plan threatens Eldorado RA

By Steve Evans

A massive salvage timber sale equaling 53 times the annual timber volume normally cut in the Pacific Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest threatens more than 6,000 acres of roadless land adjacent to the Desolation Wilderness.

Approximately 6,300 acres of the Poison Hole and Pyramid roadless areas—which are possible additions to Desolation Wilderness—would be logged using helicopters and tractors, with half a mile of roads constructed in this pristine area. Another 610 acres of the Crystal Range—currently allocated to semi-primitive non-motorized uses—also will be salvage logged. The roadless areas and undeveloped portions of the Crystal Range offer several trailheads into the west side of one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in California. The sale decision notice signed by Forest Supervisor Jerry Hutchins claims there is little or no environmental impact associated with the proposed salvage logging.

The proposed 80 million board foot Pacific salvage sale comes on the heels of 35 million board feet of timber salvaged in 1989 in the Pacific District. The logging has

been prompted by a major die-off of trees caused by drought and insect infestations.

Environmental groups question whether the salvage program will have an effect on the ability of the forest to produce timber on a sustained yield basis in the future. They have generally expressed shock at the size and scope of the district-wide salvage sale. Other major environmental concerns include cumulative watershed impacts, loss of visual quality, degradation of ancient forest habitat for the spotted owl, pine marten, and fisher, and impacts on rivers eligible and potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic status.

Letters of dismay are in order to Forest Supervisor Jerald Hutchins, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667. In your letter, encourage Mr. Hutchins to modify the Pacific salvage sale by deleting all logging in roadless areas, proposed Wild and Scenic River corridors, recreation areas (such as trails and campgrounds), and ancient forest habitat. The deadline for appeals challenging the sale is May 24.

Maverick timber sale withdrawn

Plans to log in the proposed Mill Creek Wild & Scenic River corridor in Lassen National Forest have been withdrawn as a result of appeals filed by environmental groups.

In response to an appeal of the Maverick timber sale filed by Friends of the River, CWC, Sierra Club, and other groups, the proposed logging within the Mill Creek corridor was deleted from the plan. Such logging is technically legal because the stretch of Mill Creek downstream of Highways 36 and 89 has been tentatively classified as "Recreational" (as opposed to "Wild" or "Scenic"). However, the appellants criticized the extent of the logging proposed in the river corridor and pointed out that it was not justified under the standards and guidelines in the Lassen National Forest's land management plan.

After the Forest Service backed off of logging in the river corridor, the entire timber sale was withdrawn because the California Native Plant Society claimed in a separate appeal that the agency inadequately addressed impacts on ancient forest habitat, streamside management zones, and travel/visual corridors. But timber sales never seem to die. A supplemental analysis will soon be prepared, and a notice approving a modified Maverick sale is expected to be published before this year has passed.

Forest Service improves Mono plan

By Sally Miller

The Forest Service has completed its Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The 1984 California Wilderness Act directs the Forest Service to "manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources" while providing for other multiple uses.

The draft Scenic Area Plan and EIS were released in fall of 1988 for public comment. The draft's Preferred Alternative placed heavy emphasis on developed recreation and lesser emphasis on wildlife protection. Perhaps most importantly, the draft recommended a preferred lake elevation of between 6,377 and 6,390 feet, with a management level at the midpoint of the range, 6,382 feet above sea level. This recommendation recognized the importance of the buffer level concept, which the Mono Lake Committee maintains is necessary to sustain the health of the lake due to natural fluctuations in the water cycle.

The Forest Service received over 2,500 letters on the draft Scenic Area Plan and EIS. The public overwhelmingly rejected the emphasis placed on developed recreation and called for a new emphasis on wildlife values and ecological restoration of the Mono Basin ecosystems. The public also asked the Forest Service to consider a higher lake level range of 6,380 to 6,390 feet above sea level.

The final plan is a marked improvement on the draft plan. It calls for increased emphasis on ecological restoration to "a healthy ecosystem." It calls for restoration of degraded habitats, reintroduction of pronghorn antelope and sage grouse (once native to the Mono Basin), and restoration of riparian vegetation.

Local environmentalists feel the greatest shortcoming of the final plan is that the Forest Service interprets the enabling legislation as not allowing them to ban grazing from the Scenic Area. Rather, they proposed phasing out grazing as a "long-term goal" (with the consent of the



the Mono Craters Roadless Area

permittee!), and working to "modify" individual allotments as they come up for renewal. Environmentalists will have to be heavily involved in the allotment management process to see that any changes occur.

Also at issue is off-road vehicle and over-snow vehicle (ORV/OSV) use in the Scenic Area. During the planning process, groups comprised of ORV/OSV users, environmentalists, and Forest Service staff met to discuss the road and snowmobile issues to try to achieve some "common ground." The groups reached consensus on closing a number of ORV/OSV routes which posed resource problems. They also agreed to continue meeting as necessary to deal with future ORV/OSV issues. In the end, though, only 10 percent of all the roads in the Scenic Area stand to be closed and snowmobiling will still be allowed in the Mono Craters Roadless Area. Environmentalists are disappointed with the outcome of the ORV/OSV issue but have not yet decided if they will appeal this portion of the plan.

With regards to the lake level, the Forest Service

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Grider RA lawsuit wins one, loses one

There is good news and bad news in the lawsuit over the Forest Service's plans to log in the Grider Creek Roadless Area.

The bad news is that Judge Edward Garcia ruled in March that judicial review of the sale was disallowed by an amendment to a 1989 appropriations bill. (Also known as a "rider" because it is not directly related to funding an agency or program but rides along on the coattails of appropriations legislation.) Even worse, the judge ruled that the agency did a good enough job of looking at the environmental impacts of the Grider timber sales.

The good news is that the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) appealed the lower court's decision and on April 4th the appeals court temporarily stopped the Forest Service from awarding contracts for the sale. Without this temporary injunction, logging and road-building probably would have begun by mid-May.

Before looking at the merits of the case, the appeals court first will review whether to leave the injunction in place for the duration of the appeal. That decision will likely reveal the court's view of how sweeping the appropriations rider is. In a February 1990 decision, Mohla vs. the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the same court denied judicial review of a timber sale challenge based on the ecological significance of old-growth.

The lawsuit is important since it is the first to apply the National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) to the biological diversity impacts of timber sales. The Grider Creek watershed serves as a landscape link between the Marble Mountain and Red Buttes wilderness areas in northern California and southern Oregon.

NRDC and the groups it is representing—Klamath Forest Alliance, Marble Mtn. Audubon, Kern River Concerned Citizens, Salmon River Concerned Citizens, and Defenders of Wildlife—is challenging the Forest Service's failure to review and consider the Grider corridor's contribution to biological diversity in the Klamath Province.

Ancient Forests

Habitat areas key to saving owls, new plan says

By David Orr

Current spotted owl management policy will undergo significant changes if the recommendations of a new Congressionally-mandated scientific committee are adopted. The 450-page report, titled *A Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl*, was issued April 2 by the Interagency Scientific Committee to Address the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl, also known as the "Jack Ward Thomas Committee" for its chair. The proposed changes would mark a major shift in thinking on the part of federal land management agencies in their ongoing efforts to reverse the decline in owl populations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Concluding that the current policy of maintaining "Spotted Owl Habitat Areas" (SOHAs) is a "prescription for the (owls') extinction....," the report suggests establishment of large zones to be known as Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) which would attempt to include as many as 20 breeding pairs per HCA.

Currently, approximately 650,000 acres are protected in the state under the SOHA plan. HCAs would increase that figure to roughly 850,000 acres. Further degradation of habitat, however, be prohibited within the boundary. Many roadless areas for which logging plans are proposed are included in the HCA boundaries.

Although the committee places much emphasis on the need to reduce fragmentation of habitat, the plan

would stop only those timber sales within HCAs that had 1) already been sold by the time of the plan's adoption and 2) which contain known owl sites. Logging would, of course, be allowed to continue outside the HCAs. The report recommends shifting sales to timber stands outside the boundaries.

Under the plan, about 90 HCAs would be established in California, 43 in Washington, and 48 in Oregon. The larger sites, with more than 50,000 acres and approximately 20 breeding pairs per site, are located mostly in Oregon and Washington, while California's sites are smaller and contain between 2-19 pairs per site.

The report represents a new strategy in the long struggle to maintain viable populations of the spotted owl. Under the current SOHA policy, management efforts have been focused largely on protecting relatively small areas (1,000-3,000 acres) around known owl sites. These areas are often separated by unsuitable habitat (intensively-managed timber land). HCAs would change this by circumscribing protected regions around groups of owl sites and prohibiting logging within those boundaries. The authors expect the viability of the populations to be greatly enhanced by protecting large blocks of habitat which would more easily allow for dispersal and recruitment of owls throughout the regions.

Not surprisingly, the timber industry's response to the committee's report was unfavorable. Accusations of losses of as many as 30,000 jobs were made in various published reports. Members of the Northwest's Congressional delegations have called for Congress to exempt the spotted owl from the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed plan leaves a significant number of isolated owl sites (usually those including only one pair) out of any HCA. The authors presume no potential viability for those owls that presently occupy sites in highly fragmented habitat.

Some California conservationists believe that it would be prudent to push for some form of merger of the current SOHA system and the proposed HCAs in order to prevent any further degradation of known owl sites.

David Orr is an activist interested in forest issues.

Forests Forever

The Forests Forever California ballot initiative to reduce clearcutting, require private timber land owners to practice sustained yield management, and strengthen the state's forest practices law is close to qualifying for the November 1990 ballot, with many of the 600,000 necessary signatures already gathered.

With its focus on California's privately-owned forests, the initiative complements Congressman Jim Jontz's "Ancient Forest Protection Act" (see adjacent story), which would protect public forests managed by the federal government.

The Forests Forever initiative is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Garberville, California. It would require the state to issue bonds to buy \$742 million worth of private timber land, possibly including the Headwaters redwood forest.

The initiative would define clearcutting as logging more than 60 percent of the trees on a site and would prohibit logging plans from using more than 20 percent clearcutting.

Ancient forest reserve law proposed

Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz on April 4 introduced "The Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990" (H.R. 4492), declaring that "the ancient forests of the United States are a national treasure which should be saved for future generations."

The bill would establish a National Ancient Forest Reserve System, which would protect significant stands of old-growth forests on federal lands in Washington, Oregon, and California. Logging and road building would be prohibited within the reserved areas. Among the bill's 24 original co-sponsors were seven Californians but no Oregon or Washington representatives.

New Shasta ski area report fails to quiet concerns

By Steve Evans

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has been keeping the Government Printing Office very busy lately. In the period of just a few weeks, the Forest Service published the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's Land Management Plan (reviewed in the April edition of the *Wilderness Record*), the Mt. Shasta Wilderness Management Plan (also in April's *WR*) and a draft supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mt. Shasta Ski Area.

The Mt. Shasta Ski Area supplement is the result of an appeal submitted by the California Wilderness Coalition, Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society challenging the legality of the first EIS, published in 1989 (the California Attorney General also filed a similar appeal). The Chief of the Forest Service agreed with the environmental groups that more study was needed and ordered the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to publish a supplement.

The supplement attempts to analyze various alternatives and assess the cumulative impacts of a large downhill ski area proposed for the southern slope of Mt. Shasta near Panther Meadows. "Attempt" is the operating word here

because it has been clear for several years that the Forest Service intends to build a ski resort at this site despite persistent concerns about impacts on the mountain's sensitive environment. Although the supplement reviews a number of alternatives, the analysis is half-hearted at best and hard data on cumulative impacts is nowhere to be found.

Despite the supplement's findings, the arguments against a ski area near Panther Meadows remain the same. With a capacity of 5,000 skiers at one time, the resort would lead to the destruction of mature Shasta red fir groves, surround and degrade one of the few wet meadow complexes on the mountain, conflict with Native American religious sites, displace some popular cross country ski trails and a popular camping site, and infringe on the Mt. Shasta Wilderness. Predictably, the supplement is little more than paper justification for the decision to build a ski area at the Panther Meadows site.

Of major concern is the probable construction of condominiums, businesses, roads, and other support facilities on private land adjacent to the ski area. Although the ski area proponents claim they have dropped their plans for the massive "Lemuria Village" on private land,

there is nothing to stop them from building it later, and the ski area developer still holds an option to purchase the land. The supplement completely fails to assess the reasonably foreseeable impacts of this probable development.

Interestingly enough, the document's half-hearted attempt at analyzing alternatives reveals that at least one alternative—although not the "preferred" alternative—provides more skiing of quality equal to that of the preferred project, and apparently with less impact on the environment. This "Ski Park Expansion" alternative would provide for a 6,000-skier resort located further down the mountain by expanding the existing Mt. Shasta Ski Park. Panther Meadows would be avoided, fewer trees would be cut, and conflicts with other users greatly reduced. But for some unexplained reason, the expansion alternative was not chosen. The question remains—why does the Forest Service insist on building a new ski area on Mt. Shasta at Panther Meadows when the expansion of the existing ski park appears to make more sense?

Environmental groups, which have proved in two separate legal appeals that the local Forest Service is

continued on next page

Legislation

Desert tortoise listed as threatened

The desert tortoise was listed as a "threatened" species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 2.



The tortoise had been listed as "endangered" in an emergency listing that was in effect from to April 1990. Endangered species are considered to be more at risk than threatened species, and laws for protection of their habitat are more stringent.

Richard Spotts of Defenders of Wildlife said that although the threatened status is a "weakening" from endangered, it still represents "a major accomplishment." "The long overdue federal listing is a positive step and should help protect desert habitats," Spotts said.

The designation invokes permanent Endangered Species Act protection, which means that federal agencies will have to consider the impacts of desert activities on the tortoise. Spotts warned, however, that the tortoise should not yet be considered safe. "Conservationists must remain vigilant," he advised. "The jury is still out as to how listing will help the tortoise."

Only the Mojave population of tortoises—those north or west of the Colorado River—were protected. The Fish & Wildlife Service is still considering the status of the Sonoran population.

Desert campaign endorsements pile up

By Vicky Hoover

California desert activists have a momentary breathing space. The three big Congressional field hearings on the California Desert Protection Act are over and the House Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee is busy studying the testimony received. Congressman Mel Levine, one of the authors of the desert bill (along with Senator Alan Cranston), is urging the Subcommittee to bring the bill to markup as soon as their analyses are complete.

This waiting time brings exciting news of recent endorsements for S. 11 and H.R. 780, the landmark legislation to preserve threatened and fragile desert areas. Noteworthy recent endorsements are:

- Napa County, just north of the Bay Area, voted its support for the bill on January 30.
- Four cities joined the desert campaign during the first two months of 1990. San Diego, the southernmost California metropolis, joined the major urban centers of San Francisco and Los Angeles in favoring the bill. Coronado and Poway, San Diego's neighboring cities, passed resolutions showing the strength of support at the southern end of the state. And the City Council of Visalia was inspired by the California Wilderness Conference held there last October to declare support for the desert bill, following the example of nearby Fresno.

- In February Alpine County, by a Supervisors' vote of 2-2-1, became the first county to move from an anti-desert bill position to a neutral stance. The move is thought to reflect Alpine's change from a "cow county" to a tourism county. Alpine is one of a group of small rural counties that in 1987 expressed opposition to the desert bill on the request of Inyo County.

Endorsement news from late in 1989

- San Joaquin and Placer counties both passed strong resolutions that voiced their desire to protect the fragile desert "from the destructive encroachments of modern civilization, and to preserve its unique flora and fauna, its delicate ecosystems, its fascinating geology and topography, and its spectacular scenic beauty."

- In November 1989, the City of Palm Springs resolved to support the desert bill, joining its Coachella Valley neighbors Palm Desert, Desert Hot Springs, and Rancho Mirage.

As of mid-March, 12 California counties and 23 cities have passed resolutions supporting the California Desert Protection Act.

Congressional Cosponsors for the Bill

Bipartisan Congressional cosponsorship for the House bill, Rep. Levine's H.R. 780, has reached 109 representatives! Of these, 23 representatives, including Levine, are Californians, with the rest from many different states. New York, with 11 cosponsors, is second to California. Illinois and Michigan are next, with seven each.

Want to join the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club's wilderness subcommittee on a desert outing? On the fourth of July they will visit the West's newest national park, Great Basin National Park in Nevada, and backpack to Mt. Moriah. Call Vicky Hoover at (415) 776-2211 for information on this outing and on other ways to help the desert.

Vicky Hoover is Chair of the Sierra Club's Northern California Desert Task Force.



Wilson adds little to Los Padres bill

Senator Pete Wilson announced in March that he will expand by eight miles the area of Sespe Creek to be studied for Wild & Scenic river designation in legislation he plans to introduce later this year. The Forest Service has already agreed to study this stretch for Wild & Scenic status.

Legislation sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston would place the entire Sespe in Wild & Scenic Rivers system.

Mt. Shasta ski area

continued from page 4

incapable of making an unbiased decision concerning the ski area, continue to be attacked by local developers and speculators who stand to profit from a large ski area at Panther Meadows. Contrary to the developers' outrageous propaganda, the environmental groups are not opposed to downhill skiing on Mt. Shasta, but they will continue to fight to ensure that the unique nature of this sacred mountain is preserved for future generations.

The public has until May 29 to submit written comments on the Mt. Shasta Ski Area Draft Supplemental EIS. Developers will undoubtedly be heard from in large numbers. But will those who want to preserve the mountain be represented? Only if you and your friends write a letter today!

In your letter:

- Express your opinion about the need to preserve Mt. Shasta's wilderness qualities, natural resources, cross-country skiing, and spiritual values and oppose any ski area that may degrade or destroy these values.

- State that the supplemental EIS analysis of alternatives and cumulative impacts is inadequate. No hard data is provided concerning private land development, such as Lemuria Village, associated with the ski area.

- Observe that the Ski Park Expansion alternative appears to be more environmentally sound than the preferred project, and should be studied further in this EIS.

Address your letter to Supervisor Robert Tyrrel, Attn: Mt. Shasta Ski EIS, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. Please mail your letter no later than May 29.

Important: Send a copy of your letter to your Representative in Congress (House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515) and to Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson (separate copies to Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510).

Environmental groups have spent a lot of money to make the Forest Service re-analyze its project, and it looks like further legal challenge may be needed. Please donate to the Mt. Shasta Legal Fund. Your \$100, \$50 or \$25 donation is critical to preserving Mt. Shasta! Please make your check payable to California Wilderness Coalition and mail to P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95617. It's tax deductible!

Finding a future for Sinkyone

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The park was formed in 1974 with the state's purchase of Bear Harbor Ranch, while plans to add the coast south of Bear Harbor to Usal fell through. That same year the Sierra Club and other environmental groups began fighting logging south of Bear Harbor.

In 1977 the Park and Recreation Commission held a classification hearing in Fort Bragg, naming the park Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. In so doing, the Commission recognized both a wilderness future for the park and the importance of its Native American heritage. In 1980 Senator Barry Keene wrote a law which set up guidelines for the park's General Plan and allowed a land exchange which later added the J. Smeaton Chase old-growth redwood grove to the park. The Chase grove is the first ancient grove encountered when hiking south of Bear Harbor.

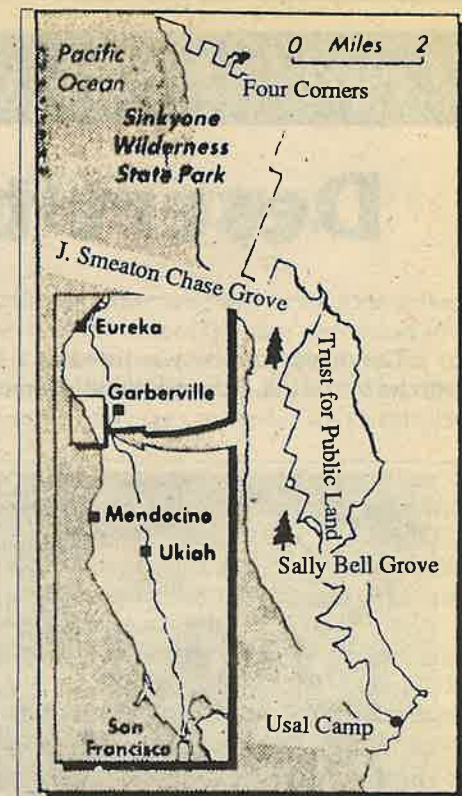
In 1985 Georgia Pacific timber company announced they were willing to sell 7,100 acres between Bear Harbor and Usal as a park addition. At the eleventh hour at the end of 1986, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) bought the 7,100 acres. They immediately resold about half the land to State Parks and Save the Redwoods League. TPL retained about 3,800 acres of uplands west of the coastal ridge, which are currently managed by the California Coastal

Conservancy.

In 1988 and 1989 the Coastal Conservancy tried to sell the land to State Parks but the department was unwilling to buy because they believed intolerable conditions would be placed on the sale, such as logging after it became part of the park. Such conditions could be imposed by the Conservancy because they manage the land with the advice of a committee that includes a wide spectrum of interest groups, including the Woodworkers Union. This committee has not met since 1987. The future uses of this adjacent land could heavily impact the wilderness quality of the park.

While the environmental community worked to stop the logging and add land to the park, logging by Georgia Pacific damaged steep, fragile slopes. Landslides and stream siltation continue, awaiting restoration. State Parks' Chief of Resource Protection, Rick Rayburn, has convinced the Department that Sinkyone is an important park, warranting use of up to a million dollars from park stewardship funds from Proposition 70. Redwood National Park is helping to plan the restoration work, using methods developed there over the past decade. Work will start this summer.

Also seeking to restore the park is the Intertribal



Sinkyone Wilderness Council. The intertribal group has been working with the Coastal Conservancy on a plan for managing the park for several years. The original people who lived in or used the Sinkyone area were either killed or interned in Round Valley when the United States first took over California.

Many people in and around Round Valley today are relatives of the late Sally Bell, a well-known Sinkyone woman who lived near Four Corners and practiced traditional medicine there. In the early 1980s, environmentalists seeking to stop the destructive logging and expand the park named a coastal redwood grove for her. The grove was the scene of civil disobedience to stop logging in 1983, and it is now part of Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Environmentalists are very interested in the intertribal park idea. The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), based in Garberville, supports it in concept, but its Board of Directors has not acted, awaiting a written plan to study. The Sierra Club also is waiting to see a written plan before considering formal support, but in the meantime supports a significant Indian role in park planning, operation, and interpretation.

The creation of a wilderness from a recently inhabited area is a complex challenge surrounded by controversy. Several groups want what one wilderness activist calls "county club access to public wilderness lands." That is, they want key-use vehicle access for their own groups, but not for the general public. This pressure exists in the King Range National Conservation Area as well as in Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Hunting in the park has also been a very controversial issue.

SINKYONE TRAILS

The Lost Coast Trail, which covers a distance of about 35 miles of rugged ups and downs, gives you a chance to see Sinkyone for yourself. State Parks expects to complete the one-mile link through Whale Gulch to the King Range this summer. There are trailheads at Usal and at Hidden Valley in the King Range.

A map showing trails in the King Range on one side and in Sinkyone Wilderness State Park on the other is available by sending \$3.83 to California Parks and Recreation Department, Box 100, Weott, CA 95571. Use the same address to get on the mailing list for notice of public meetings during the restoration process.

To get on the mailing list of the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, write P.O. Box 39, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

Julie Verran has been the Sierra Club's coordinator on Sinkyone since 1978.

Native survivors seek future for Sinkyone

"Sinkyone Wilderness" or "Sinkyone Intertribal Wilderness State Park"—what's the difference?

Although neither the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) nor the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council has completed a plan for managing the area, the proposed designations have different ramifications.

Yet many goals are the same. For example, in preliminary plans both groups want to re-establish native grasses, reducing the exotic plants that took over many areas at Sinkyone after logging. The Intertribal Council's goal is to eradicate the non-native species, on the theory that native grasses must lead the restoration of Sinkyone's native vegetation. Admitting that the task is huge, the tribes are counting on volunteer help.

A fork is reached, however, over the fate of the area's many roads. State Parks plans to use roads within the park to help restore the area to meet state wilderness criteria. Heavy equipment such as tractors is needed, they say, to remove road "fills." Gulleys were filled in to block natural drainages, and heavy erosion results when the culverts diverting the water flow get plugged.

The Intertribal Council plans to put most roads to rest, but would keep a couple open for emergency purposes, strictly controlling their use. The Council also would allow horse and buggy on trails to keep the park accessible to the very young and old. State (and federal) wilderness law prohibits any motor vehicles as well as buggies, along with all forms of "mechanical transport."

The Intertribal group's plan is to re-establish four ancient trail corridors running from ridge to ocean. Trails and other special places would be re-named, bringing back names from Indian language. A "living village" where visitors could learn about the Indian culture from Indians would be built within the park. No permanent living structures would be allowed, as with state wilderness law. Both the state and the Intertribal Council have the objective of managing and caring for the cultural, burial, and archaeological sites

within the park.

The Indians have already been involved in park management. They were part of a 1985 landmark lawsuit which stopped clearcutting near Sinkyone and revamped timber harvesting plans. In March a group of Indians planted 950 redwood seedlings as part of the "Run for the Sinkyone." This relay run over the 90 miles from Covelo to Sinkyone symbolized the return of the Indians to the land they fled or were removed from over 150 years ago, when Europeans wiped out a large part of the native population.

Tapia envisions an Intertribal Park as a tribute to California Indians and a way to "give the Sinkyone a rightful place in history. Our belief is that it is best to charge the Native American community with the protection of the Sinkyone Wilderness."

Ricardo Tapia of the Intertribal Sinkyone Council feels that the Indians' approach to managing the area is more creative and active than what State Parks has done so far. "We're doing it and they're just saying it," he says. Tapia emphasizes that the Intertribal Council is using traditional Indian perspectives as well as modern ecology's lessons in its plan for Sinkyone.

The Intertribal State Park concept is unique—no other such park exists. Tapia explains "we're looking at a wilderness different from any other wilderness."

Tapia envisions an Intertribal Park as a tribute to California Indians and a way to "give the Sinkyone a rightful place in history. Our belief is that it is best to charge the Native American community with the protection of the Sinkyone Wilderness. The original people of this land hold thousands of years of experience and knowledge of this land that we are willing to share in the protection of our Mother Earth."

As the land needs healing, so do the Sinkyone and other California Indian tribes. Perhaps land and people will nurture each other, as in the days before Europeans came.

Extra, extra, read all about it

As of April, appealing a Forest Service timber sale plan may be easier—if you read newspaper legal notices.

The Forest Service has adopted new procedures under which the time period for appealing their decisions begins on the day following publication of a legal notice in a specified newspaper (or in the *Federal Register* for decisions made by the Chief).

Under the old procedures, the appeal period began when the decision was signed by the "deciding officer." In some cases interested people, such as environmentalists, had little time left to put together a response after receiving a notice in the mail.

Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson emphasized that the existing requirement that decision documents be mailed promptly to those who have requested them will remain in effect. "These revisions benefit those who wish to appeal our decisions by providing additional and reliable sources of notice and by maximizing the time available for filing a notice of appeal," Robertson said.

The newspapers to be used for legal notices of appealable decisions have been announced in the *Federal Register* and will be republished there each October and April.

To find out which newspapers in your area will carry Forest Service notices, contact the appeals coordinator at a local Forest Service office or K. J. Silverman in San Francisco at (415) 705-2553.



Mono Basin plan

continued from page 3

remains firm in recommending 6,377 to 6,390 feet above sea level, with a management level at the mid-point of the range. They have reaffirmed their right to take a stand on the lake level issue (which the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has repeatedly contested), stating:

"The Forest Service feels that a discussion of the lake level(s) is necessary in view of the legislative direction to manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural values and for the comprehensive management plan to provide measures for the preservation of the natural and cultural resources."

Generally speaking, local environmentalists are quite happy with the final plan. It is evident that the Forest Service listened to the concerns of the public, especially with regards to developed recreation and the restoration and maintenance of a "healthy ecosystem." Given the constraints under which the Forest Service operates (i.e. multiple use), local environmentalists are willing to give the plan a chance. The challenge will be to help the Forest Service implement the plan—now the real work begins.

The appeal period closes on June 14.

Sally Miller is Mail and Membership Coordinator of the Mono Lake Committee in Lee Vining, California.

Attn. Great Basin Hikers:

If you've used the Sierra Club guidebook *Hiking the Great Basin: The High Desert Country of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah*, author John Hart needs your help. A second edition is in preparation. Have you spotted errors? Want to suggest improvements? Now's the time to kibbutz. Correspondents will be noted in the Acknowledgements. Comments welcome any time, but especially useful if received by June 15. Contact Hart at Box 4262, San Rafael, CA 94913; phone (707) 431-7830.

CWC T-Shirts!

Not one, but two CWC t-shirts! The animal design that Mary (right) is wearing is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige and light gray for \$12. John (left) is wearing our official conference shirt; it has no less than six colors and comes in yellow, light green (small only), and peach (xlarge, large, & small only) for \$15. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on page 8. Please add \$1.50 postage and 75 cents for each additional shirt.



CALENDAR

May 7 (may have been extended—contact Mt. Shasta Ranger District at phone number below) **DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS** on Mt. Shasta Wilderness Plan Draft EIS. Send to: Forest Supervisor, ATTN.: Mt. Shasta Wilderness DEIS, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001. For further information, contact: Garry Oye, Project Coordinator, Mt. Shasta Ranger District, 204 W. Alma St., Mt. Shasta, CA 96067, (916) 926-4511.

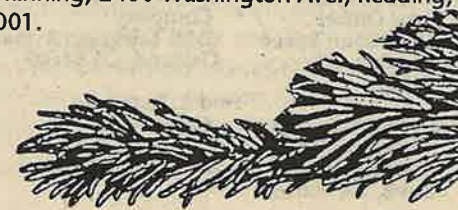
May 24 DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of the Pacific salvage sale in the Eldorado National Forest. Send to: Forest Supervisor Jerald Hutchins, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667. (Article on page 3)

May 29 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the draft supplement to the final EIS for the proposed Mt. Shasta Ski Area. Send to: Forest Supervisor, ATTN.: Mt. Shasta Ski Area SEIS, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001. For more information, call Duane Lyon at (916) 246-5222. (Article on pages 4 & 5)

June 14 DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Final EIS & Comprehensive Management Plan. Send appeals to: Regional Forester, ATTN.: Appeals, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111. Send written notice of appeals to: Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 873 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514. (Article on pages 3 & 7)

June 19, 20, 21 PUBLIC HEARINGS on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest proposed forest plan and draft EIS, 1-4 pm and 7-10 pm in Redding, Weaver-ville, and Mt. Shasta, respectively. Speakers may be limited to five minutes each. To pre-register or for information on hearing locations, call the Forest Supervisor in Redding at (916) 246-5313.

July 7 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest draft EIS and Land Management Plan. Send to: Forest Supervisor, ATTN.: Forest Planning, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001.



**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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Stephanie Mandel

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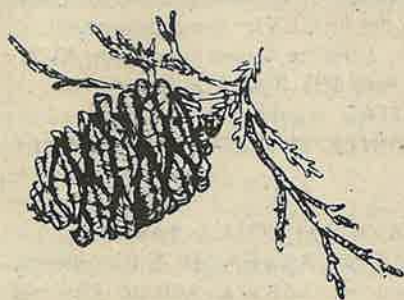
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Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

from page 2

The state parks are Anza-Borrego, Big Basin (West Waddell Creek), Cuyamaca Rancho, Henry Coe, Point Mugu (Boney Mountain), and San Jacinto.



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*Is your favorite organization a member of the CWC?
If not, ask them why not.*

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