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Monache Mountain from Brown Mountain, looking south.

Photo by Tim Sherburn

The Sierra wilderness

"Say 'wilderness' and most people will think of John Muir's 'Range of Light'—the High Sierra." — D. Foreman and H. Wolke

By Stephanie Mandel

To many, "wilderness" means the Sierra Nevada. This is not surprising—conservation battles in the Sierra were some of the country's first, as with John Muir's turn of the century attempt to save Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley from flooding.

Today's Sierra, with the longest continuous stretch of protected wilderness in the lower 48 states, might have looked very different had it not been for conservation pioneers like Muir. Urban development, logging, mining, and recreation have all brought roads, people, and sometimes damage to these mountains and their natural ecological systems.

In the Sierra today, three national parks cover 1.6 million acres and eight national forests include 8.1 million acres. There are 3,330,878 acres of wilderness, mostly in the "High Sierra," the southern part of the range. A good bit of this wilderness is rocks and ice—terrain that was not hotly contested for wilderness status because of its inaccessibility.

Many early battles to protect these areas involved limiting the number of roads bisecting the wilderness. Highways now cross several mountain passes, yet other roads were stopped. In 1935 Norman "Ike" Livermore, Jr. organized the High Sierra Packers Association, which distributed anti-road placards throughout the Sierra. A leader in many mid-century efforts to keep the Sierra wild, Ike tells of automobile maps showing dotted line roads crossing several High Sierra passes.

Ike, a former President of the Sierra Club, sees the High Sierra as one area, saying that "although the several wilderness areas in the High Sierra have understandable origins, the whole unit should be treated as one wilderness, with perhaps a few remnant names."

Today's struggles

Yet with so much wilderness preserved, many battles remain as people try to preserve more Sierra lands, mostly those at lower elevations. A bitter struggle is taking place in Sequoia National Forest to slow an overblown timber sale program that even threatens giant sequoia trees. Drought and tree-killing insects in Eldorado, Tahoe, Stanislaus, and other national forests have spurred a massive Forest Service salvage logging program that critics warn will threaten long-term health of these forests. And the management of crowd-ridden Yosemite continues to pose

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Wrong choice for Shasta-Trinity

By Margaret Draper

Over two years ago, when the timber industry requested a higher timber cut, the draft Shasta-Trinity Forest Plan was redone. Now it is critical that people write letters because this plan will be the legal basis for manage-

ment of 2.1 million acres of northern California's national forest land for the next 10-15 years. Comments encouraging adoption of the alternative drafted by Citizens for Better Forestry may help restore responsible management to the Shasta-Trinity.

Forest plan denies wilderness to Mt. Eddy

Mount Eddy is the only "Further Planning" area in six million acres of national forest land in Northern California. Its lakes, diverse plant life, trails, atmosphere, and incredible panoramas have delighted hikers and packers for many years—and for over a decade people have been pleading with the Forest Service to make it a wilderness area. Nevertheless, in the draft plan the agency is planning timber cutting, motorized recreation, and possible ski development for Mount Eddy. Mount Eddy was not designated a wilderness area in 1984 because ski and real estate interests wanted it studied for ski development.

Now Mount Eddy has been considered for skiing and passed over. In its recent ski study supplementing the Mt. Shasta Ski Area Environmental Impact Statement, the Forest Service found Mount Eddy's ski attributes so insignificant that it is handled in a few sentences under the heading, "Alternative Sites Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Study": "The combination

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— **Pit River Wilderness Study Area to sport view of reservoir...p. 3**

— **Wilderness maps—where to find them...p. 6**

COALITION PAGE

Monthly Report

At the end of a long day recently, I was chatting with a local Earth Firster about the Sahara Club and their new program of intimidating environmental activists.

The Sahara Club was formed by some hoodlum motorcyclists upset with regulations controlling the use of off-road vehicles. They tell their supporters that the Sierra Club's goal is the elimination of all off-road vehicles—including bicycles, campers, and wheelchairs. "What's more important...a kid sharing fun off-road with his family, or closing off millions of acres so we don't disturb a tortoise."

Since the Barstow-to-Vegas motorcycle race was stopped this year to protect the threatened desert tortoise, they have announced plans to run the race illegally. They claimed to have formed a special division of "big, ugly desert racers called the Sahara Clubbers" to keep anyone from stopping them. They have published the names, phone numbers, addresses, and license plates of Earth First! members. Intimidation is the name of their game.

We were discussing the vicious hate mail an activist had been receiving (no doubt courtesy of the Sahara Club) when she called to tell us that Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney had been injured by a bomb in their car. The "Wilderness Grapevine" then went into action to confirm this report and gather details.

As most of you may know, Judi and Darryl were arrested the following day for suspicion of transporting the explosive device that destroyed their vehicle

(and at the time of this writing Judi remains in the hospital with a fractured pelvis and internal injuries). The police have released few details, other than that the two activists are suspect because a search of their homes revealed "finishing nails, duct tape, wire, and other materials" that could be used to make a pipe bomb like the one which demolished Judi's car (I have been told that in addition to being a musician, she does carpentry work). I'm hoping the authorities don't search my garage; I have lots of the above, and probably even some odd pieces of pipe left over from the construction of my house.

What stinks about the whole matter is that Judi and Darryl are ringleaders of the "Redwood Summer" campaign to carry on a massive non-violent protest in the North Coast this summer. They had renounced tree-spiking and other such forms of monkey wrenching and were stressing non-violent civil disobedience in defense of the forest.

Considering the attempted entrapment of Earth First! organizer Dave Foreman by the FBI last year, the hatred expressed by loggers towards those trying to save the spotted owl, and the harassment of individuals campaign of the Sahara Club, it's easy to get a little paranoid. But if we really care about saving our planet, every time an activist is intimidated, arrested, or injured, we must step forward to take his or her place in line. Times are getting tougher and rougher, but we must not hesitate to stand up for the causes in which we believe.

By Jim Eaton

Wilderness primer, part III:

Who manages Wilderness?

There are 54 federally-designated and seven state-designated wilderness areas in California.

Of the areas in the National Wilderness Preserve System, 46 are wholly or jointly managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Eight are under the supervision of the National Park Service (NPS), five are partly on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and one is in the care of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All of the state lands are managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

National Park Service managed:

Ansel Adams (Devils Postpile Nat. Mon. portion)
Joshua Tree National Monument
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Lava Beds National Monument
Pinnacles National Monument
Point Reyes National Seashore (Phillip Burton)
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park
Yosemite National Park

Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service:

Ishi Wilderness
Machensna Mountain Wilderness
Santa Lucia
Trinity Alps
Yolla Bolly/Middle Eel

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

Farallon Wilderness

All these agencies are beholden to the 1964 Wilderness Act and its provisions for how wilderness shall be managed. However, in practice management has differed some from agency to agency.

The NPS does not allow hunting or dogs in national park backcountry, and these restrictions encompass their wilderness areas. The NPS has also tended to use helicopters and chain saws in the wilderness more than the other agencies. Tools for building trails, supplies for workers, etc. are brought in by helicopters, and trails routinely are cleared using chain saws. The USFS' policy on helicopters and chain saws has been to use them only when the Regional Forester gives special permission.

The Farallon Island wilderness is a whole different case, as it is off-limits to visitors. Only approved researchers are allowed to dock here.

On the whole, the USFS tends to take the "purist" approach to wilderness management while other agencies believe they follow the spirit of the Wilderness Act with less strict management policies.

Letters

Keep mountain bikes out of wilderness

Dear Editor:

Since mountain bikes first appeared on the scene, I have been dreading the inevitable conflict regarding the use of these bikes in wilderness. As one who both mountain-bikes and backpacks, I am strongly opposed to the use of bikes in wilderness. The issues usually discussed with regards to bike use in wilderness generally revolve around direct impacts on trails, soils, and vegetation. Yet I think there is an even more important reason for prohibiting their use in wilderness. Namely, mountain bikes shrink wilderness. I don't know about most folks, but I generally find (at least in California's mountains) I must hike 12-15 miles or more into the backcountry to escape the crowds of weekend and day hikers. Mountain bikes will increase this distance, effectively reducing the area available for a truly remote experience. No doubt, day-long trans-Sierra bike races would become a popular activity were mountain bikes allowed into wilderness. And I don't buy the argument that "most wilderness area trails...are too rugged for mountain bikes." I have fellow mountain-biking friends who admit to having ventured into the heart of the Sierra during off-peak times. I encourage other bikers to write their Congressional Representatives to oppose H.R. 3172. There are plenty of roads and trails outside of wilderness areas to handle our sport. We need not infringe on an already overburdened wilderness system.

Sincerely,
Brian Spence
Monroe, Oregon



A tough old volcano and campfire contentment

Dear Editor:

Mt. Shasta remains the last big peak in California untrammeled by the permit system. It's a tough old volcano and will survive if it doesn't blow up. Let's not turn it into a city park. We need a big mountain to journey on at will, despite what some people say.

And if Scott Kruse (*Wilderness Record*, May 1990) doesn't like campfires he's free to avoid them. As for his 18 references to the chemical dangers of woodfire smoke, I say let's live dangerously. It was held not so long ago that campfire smoke contained a mysterious gas which, when inhaled, produced the feelings of contentment, good cheer, and camaraderie. Experience lends cadence to this old theory, and I have no reason to doubt it.

Yours truly,
Cresson Kearny
Oakland, California

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What wilderness area contains such colorful names as Balm of Gilead Creek, Vinegar Peak, and Dead Puppy, Opium Glade, and Foot of Bull ridges?

(Answer on page 7.)

Wilderness management

Forest Service flips Emigrant appeal decision

After "further consideration," Deputy Regional Forester Joyce Murakoa made an abrupt about face and changed her decision on the dams in the Emigrant Wilderness.

In April, Murakoa agreed with an appeal filed by the California Wilderness Coalition objecting to the Forest Supervisor's decision to retain twelve small dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. The Coalition had asked that the dams not be maintained and be allowed to deteriorate; Murakoa went even further and ordered that the dams be removed within five years.



Two weeks later, after a storm of local protest (especially from the Stanislaus National Forest), Murakoa wrote the Coalition to state that her decision letter "miscommunicated my original intent." The decision that the twelve dams should be removed was replaced by a new decision:

"Based on the foregoing, I find that the record does not fully support the Forest Supervisor's decision. I am therefore reversing the Forest Supervisor's decision and directing that the EA [Environmental Analysis] be reviewed (and rewritten, if necessary) and a new decision notice be issued. I am also directing that there be public notice of (1) this reversal decision and (2) the Forest Supervisor's intent to issue a new decision notice which would be appealable under 36 CFR 217."

Murakoa went further in her letter to the Coalition, stating "I would like to say clearly that my 4/13/90 statement that 'the record indicated that all dams should be removed' should not be interpreted as my predisposition affecting the new decision."

"Someone strong-armed the Regional Office," said the Coalition's Jim Eaton. "In her first decision, Ms. Murakoa wrote eight pages attacking the Forest Supervisor's original decision to maintain the dams. Now in a single paragraph, she has swept all that under the rug."

Eaton wonders how a rewritten EA will change the outcome. "To justify the Forest Supervisor's plan to retain the dams will require changing all the facts stated in the original EA. Let's see them do that with a straight face."

The Coalition and a local Wilderness Watch group will be monitoring the Emigrant Wilderness this summer to assure that the dams are not improved while this new EA is being written.



Now you see it, now you don't Reservoir view in store for Pit River Wilderness Study Area

Visitors to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Pit River Wilderness Study Area (WSA) last spring were treated to an unusual sight—a BLM helicopter darting about from location to location.

The BLM crew had an interesting task—it was their job to see if they could see any of the helium-filled balloons outlining the proposed reservoir just outside of the WSA.

According to the investigators: "The actual visual impact area determined in the study included 313 acres of wilderness study area (WSA). Forty-nine impacted acres were within the recommended suitable portion of the WSA."

In a report to Malacha Hydroelectric, the company seeking to build the reservoir, BLM Alturas Resource Area Manager Lynda Roush concluded that the visual impacts of the reservoir to the WSA "were considered minor and will not require modification of the project as proposed at this time."

Just one year after the helicopter work, things are again looking up for Malacha, the developers of the Muck Valley hydroelectric project. The State of California issued a water right for the reservoir—"phase II" of the Muck Valley hydroproject—on the Pit River. Also, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released an environmental assessment concluding that the proj-

ect should be licensed, and an agreement was reached in principle with PG&E to purchase power from water from the new reservoir.

But all has not gone perfectly for Malacha Hydroelectric. Their request to divert an additional 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the recently completed facility (above the 700 cfs that they currently are authorized to divert) was withdrawn, apparently because of conflicts with downstream water users and a low cost benefit ratio, and—just maybe—because of protests from the California Wilderness Coalition and Friends of the River filed with FERC and the State Water Resources Control Board.

It looks like "phase III" will just have to wait a while longer.

History: The Muck Valley Hydroelectric Project diverts up to 700 cfs from the entire course of the Pit River through the WSA effectively turning the Pit River into Pit Creek for most of the high flow season. In 1986, permits from state and federal regulators were issued for the project. In 1987, over the objections of the California Wilderness Coalition, the BLM granted Malacha Hydroelectric the authority to use BLM land to construct and operate the project. The majority of the WSA, 6,640 acres, was found by the BLM to be suitable for permanent wilderness status.

Plan affecting King Range expected soon

The King Range National Conservation Area is one of the most likely areas to be included in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) upcoming wilderness recommendations.

Yet a King Range visitors' service plan, expected to be made public in early June, will shape future King Range development and may stint on wilderness protection. The "grass-roots" committee working with the BLM on the environmental assessment (EA) is dominated by off-road vehicle, surfing, and equestrian interests, who all want to drive right to the doorstep of their activity.

Proposals include opening the Smith-Etter Road to within a quarter-mile of the beach, establishing an off-road vehicle parking lot at the mouth of Gitchell Creek and expanding horse and motorized access to the Honeydew Creek watershed.

Weekly meetings in Arcata and Garberville are open to all. To request a copy of the draft EA or for more information on meetings, contact BLM planner Joe Williams at (916) 826-1425.

The Sierra wilderness

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difficult problems.

Throughout the Sierra there are biological justifications for preserving more lands. Steve and Eric Beckwitt, a father and son who live near the Tahoe National Forest, have charted a bold path to prove this need. The Beckwitts are currently assembling information to undertake what biologists call "gap analysis." Computerized maps of natural plant and animal communities and soil-plant associations are overlaid with maps of protected areas—parks and wilderness. Although the Beckwitts' completed data is months—perhaps years—away, Eric has seen that there are "enormous gaps in ranges of species on federal lands." He feels that the data he has seen so far is "immediate justification for adding hundreds of thousands of acres" to those preserved.

Among the areas advocates would like to add to wilderness at the southern end of the Sierra is Monache Meadows. Surrounded on three sides by the Golden Trout and South Sierra wilderness areas, Monache is one of the largest meadows in the Sierra—10,000 acres. The meadow was excluded from wilderness boundaries because of an off-road vehicle trail and ranchers' opposition. Another important area borders the western boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness—the Moses Roadless Area.

Martin Litton, long-time wilderness guardian, would have the High Sierra wilderness made even wilder by getting rid of reservoirs such as Edison and Florence and closing some invading roads.

Using bold strokes, in their book titled *The Big Outside*, Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke (of Earth First! fame) map out 975,213 acres of national forest, national park, Bureau of Land Management, and private land roadless areas they



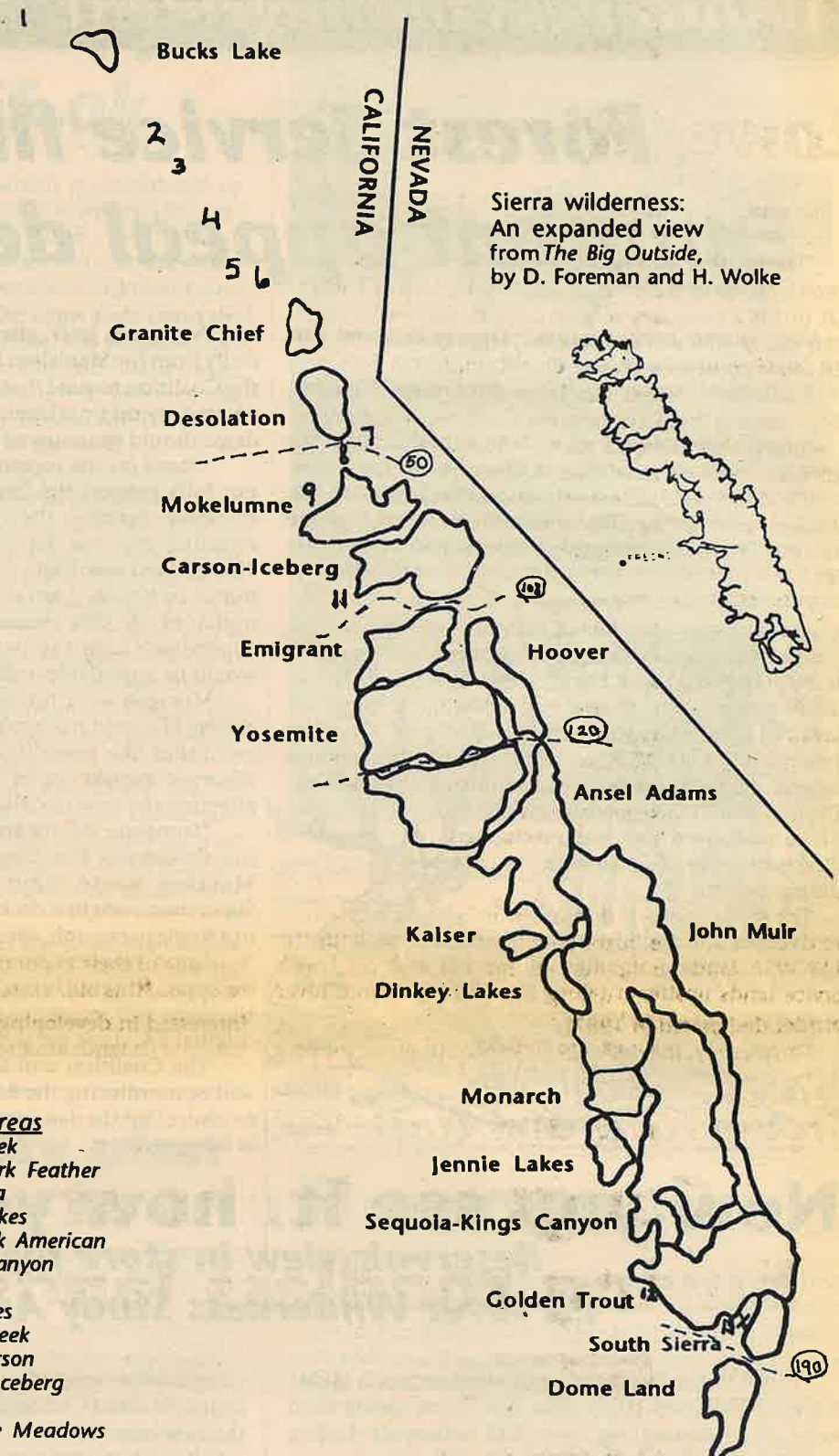
View from Mt. Ericsson south toward the Kern headwaters; Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness.

Photo by Pete Yamagata

The Sierra Nevada is:

1. America's longest unbroken mountain range, 400 miles from Lake Almanor in the north to the Kern Plateau at the southern end.
2. Home to the U.S.'s highest peak and deepest canyon (outside Alaska).
3. The country's longest unbroken protected wilderness.
4. Home to Sequoia trees, the largest living things on Earth.
5. Within a day's drive of the entire population of California.
6. 76 percent federal land.
7. The only place in the U.S. where a 150-mile straight line (across land) doesn't hit any roads. (Bald Mountain to Tioga Pass)

From *The Sierra Nevada*, by Tim Palmer



Sierra wilderness: An expanded view from *The Big Outside*, by D. Foreman and H. Wolke

Roadless Areas

- 1 Chips Creek
- 2 Middle Fork Feather
- 3 West Yuba
- 4 Grouse Lakes
- 5 North Fork American
- 6 Duncan Canyon
- 7 Freel
- 8 Dardanelles
- 9 Caples Creek
- 10 Echo Carson
- 11 Carson Iceberg
- 12 Moses
- 13 Monache Meadows

recommend adding to the Sierra wilderness. Their big roadless areas, 100,000 acres or larger, are all south of Carson Pass, where there are currently 3,231,403 acres of wilderness preserved.

Others would like to see neglected northern Sierra wilderness protected. The chain of Sierra wilderness is broken between the Carson Iceberg and Emigrant wilderness areas and more so between the Desolation and Mokelumne wilderness areas. Lower in elevation and more easily developed, populated, and logged, there is no designated Sierra wilderness for miles, from Granite Chief just northeast of Lake Tahoe to the Bucks Lake Wilderness in the Plumas National Forest. The national forests up here—Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, El-

dorado, and Stanislaus—have a number of roadless areas. Some of these areas were "released" from mandatory wilderness consideration by the 1984 California Wilderness Act, but conservationists still work to keep their ecosystems intact until the next national forest planning cycle, when they must again be considered for wilderness...if they are still roadless.

The Beckwitts consider the Duncan Canyon and West and East Yuba roadless areas to be among the most important in the Tahoe, and the Chips Creek and Middle Fork Feather roadless areas important in the Plumas and Lassen.

The appeal of the "backbone of California," as Foreman and Wolke call these mountains, is part of the challenge wilderness lovers face as they work to expand and protect the Sierra wilderness. Conservation groups working for their favorite part of this great range dot its length. As the mountains welcomed John Muir and today's visitors, these groups welcome your help.

Legislation

Lower Merced River on the wild & scenic path

by Ron Stork

"The pristine quality of the lower Merced River makes it worthy to be included in this protective status. I believe that this is a necessary step to protect the beauty we all enjoy today, so it will be there for future generations." So said Modesto Representative Gary Condit.

Public lands issues can be politically difficult on a Congressional Rep. Consensus in the district can be tough to achieve and taking a stand often means offending significant political or economic constituent interests.

It is therefore a pleasure to report that freshman Rep. Condit is carrying a significant and positive piece of public lands legislation involving important lands within his district.

H.R. 4687, and the companion measure S. 2555—introduced by Senator Alan Cranston—would place the Merced River from Briceburg to Lake McClure Reservoir in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The bills classify the portion of the river flowing through the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Merced River Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as "wild" (wild, scenic, and recreational are the possible classifications). The "wild" classification would make permanent the closure of the river trail to motorized (but not mechanized, e.g. mountain bikes) vehicles and institute a 1/2-mile wide freeze on new mining claims.

The measure also prohibits new mining claims within the riverbed and the historic railroad grade on both the BLM WSA lands designated in the bill and on Forest Service lands upstream (along the Wild & Scenic River corridor designated in 1987).

Fortunately, this measure enjoys widespread support

from the politically conservative Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, the USFS, and the BLM. The Merced Canyon Committee, Wilderness Society, Friends of the River, California Wilderness Coalition, and local equestrian and hiking trail organizations are also in favor of the Wild & Scenic Merced bills.

Even the Merced Irrigation District, which stands to

BLM land upstream.

Opponents of the measure appear to be mainly off-road vehicle enthusiasts, some small scale miners, and train enthusiasts—all of whom hope to gain access to the river corridor if the WSA is released from interim wilderness management protection (the BLM is not recommending the WSA for wilderness designation).

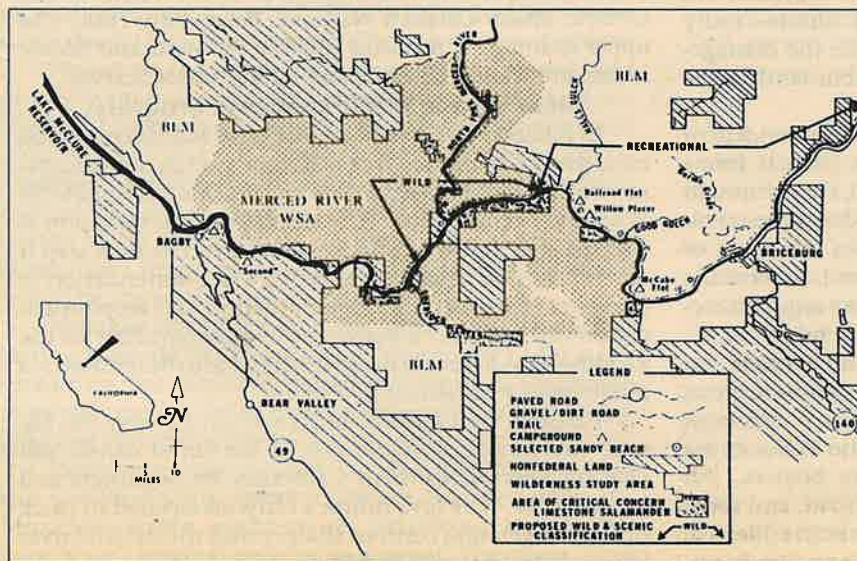
Much of the consensus surrounding this bill is the result of hard work by the Chair of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Art Baggett, and the Folsom Resource Area of the BLM. Hearings on the bill are expected this summer.

The BLM recently published a Wild & Scenic River management plan that, if implemented, generally preserves the primitive and rustic character of much of the Forest Service and BLM lands along the Merced. At the same time the plan calls for better visitor facilities and fewer user conflicts along the developed portions of the river.

For more information about the Merced W&S River Management Plan, contact: Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Resource Area, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630,

(916) 985-4474. The deadline for comments is July 15, 1990.

Ron Stork is Secretary of the California Wilderness Coalition. He formerly was the executive director of the Merced Canyon Committee, and presently is the Associate Conservation Director of Friends of the River (916) 442-3155.



lose one of their major dam sites, does not seem inclined to oppose this bill. Instead the District appears to be very interested in developing a coherent hiking trail network between its lands around Lake McClure Reservoir and the

Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak

Congress looks at buying roadless lands

By John Moore

Many thousands of wilderness and nature lovers enjoy the beauty and wildness of the Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak areas near Donner Summit every year. Few of them realize that every other square mile of these two beautiful wild areas was granted to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in the 19th century and that these lands are still privately owned. They cannot possibly remain wild unless they are added to Tahoe National Forest.

The present owners of most of the private land at Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak want to sell them. Fortunately, they have negotiated options with the Trust for Public Lands that are keeping the lands off the open market for a short time. Congress must appropriate funds this year to pay off these options—\$6.4 million for Grouse Lakes and \$5.125 million for Castle Peak.

Both Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak are great places for wilderness recreation. Grouse Lakes has more than 100 sparkling lakes and ponds—dozens of them with good trout fishing—set in rugged granite basins. Many can be reached by easy trails through old-growth forest; some are reached by cross-country hikes away from crowds.

Castle Peak, just north of Donner Summit, is a favorite

area for both summer hiking and cross-country skiing. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses the area, and the Warren Lake trail leads to lakes in remote granite basins. Forests along these trails will be logged if the lands are not purchased promptly. Last year's appropriations purchased three square miles north of Castle Peak.

The House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations has been holding hearings on Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations for land purchases and will make its decision very soon, after which the Senate will consider funding the projects.

John Moore is a member of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club's Conservation Committee.



Penner Lake, one of the 125 lakes and ponds in the Grouse Lakes area.

Wild & Scenic status for the upper Sacramento River gets FS ok

By Steve Evans

The U.S. Forest Service has made a draft recommendation to Congress that 37 miles of the upper Sacramento River upstream of Shasta Reservoir be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Wild and Scenic status, if approved by Congress, would essentially prohibit the construction of new dams and diversions on the protected segment. The recommendation was included in a draft land management plan for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest which is intended to guide the management of more than two million acres of public land for the next 10 to 15 years.

The stretch of the Sacramento River recommended for protection begins at Box Canyon Dam (which forms Siskiyou Reservoir, just west of Mt. Shasta), flows through the town of Dunsmuir, and then on to Shasta Reservoir through a rugged canyon which provides the route of Interstate 5 and the Southern Pacific Railroad. Most of the stretch is private land—only six miles of the segment recommended by the Forest Service are public lands.

Outstandingly remarkable values which made the upper Sacramento River eligible for Wild and Scenic status include a nationally significant trout fishery and high scenic values. This stretch of the river also is becoming popular as a seasonal whitewater run for boaters. Although the proximity of the freeway, railroad, and some urban developments resulted in a less protective "Recreational" sub-classification under the Wild and Scenic system, the Forest Service feels that the developments are not obtrusive.

The dramatic canyon of the Sacramento provides spectacular views to travelers on I-5 and Amtrak, as well as to boaters and anglers. Once you find a way to the river (there are few access points) fishing can be a delight. The Forest Service manages two campgrounds near the river and nearby Castle Crags State Park offers even more amenities.

Designation of the upper Sacramento below Box Canyon Dam as a Wild and Scenic River would preclude

expansion of Shasta Reservoir, which is considered by some water engineers as one solution to increased irrigation and urban water needs further south.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service did not assess the upper forks of the Sacramento River above Siskiyou Reservoir for Wild and Scenic status. The upper forks drain the biologically rich Shasta-Trinity divide, the proposed Mt. Eddy Wilderness, and the northern slopes of Castle Crags. The North Fork Sacramento River is the route of the historic Sisson-Calahan National Recreation Trail. The upper drainage is probably eligible for Wild and Scenic status and should be evaluated by the Forest Service.

BLM Wild & Scenic studies in progress

In related news, the Bureau of Land Management has tentatively determined that a 38-mile stretch of the Sacramento River between Anderson and Red Bluff is eligible for Wild and Scenic status. The eligibility determination is the first step in a Wild and Scenic study. The next step is determining suitability and making a recommendation to Congress. The suitability determination and recommendation will be part of a Resource Management Plan for the Redding BLM Resource Area which is due to be released for public review sometime in 1990.

Probably best known for its salmon fishery, the 38-mile stretch also provides one of the finest canoe and floating runs in Northern California for beginners and experts alike. The lava rimrock canyons clothed in thick riparian vegetation contrast sharply with the flatland river found downstream of Red Bluff.

In addition to the Sacramento River, the BLM found segments of several tributaries tentatively eligible for Wild and Scenic status including portions of Battle Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Beegum Creek, Clear Creek, Paynes Creek, Mill Creek, Deer Creek, and Butte Creek.

Shasta-Trinity plan

continued from page 1

of...(various) factors makes the development of alpine skiing to the levels historically considered...highly unlikely."

This damning assessment of ski potential on Mount Eddy appears to have had no effect on the forest planning process. The EIS admits: "Although a majority was pro-wilderness, a vocal minority was in favor of non-wilderness...motivated by the then-active proposal for a downhill skiing development...Mount Eddy is the last remaining undeveloped subalpine area along the Eddy range; others have been logged and roaded." There does not seem to be a rationale for planning ski development on Mount Eddy.

Timber mining in roadless areas

The draft plan generally indicates that parts of significant roadless areas will remain roadless—but there is a hitch. While the draft plan makes much of putting parts of RARE II "released" roadless areas in the protective "semi-primitive non-motorized recreation" category. However, it is the acreages of brush fields, and not the old-growth timbered sections that are so zoned. Chinquapin, South Fork, East Fork, and West Girard roadless areas are important timbered areas that are not protectively zoned.

Support the CBF alternative

The Citizens for Better Forestry (CBF) alternative focuses on promoting sound ecological practices for the Shasta-Trinity while keeping political/economic considerations in mind. (See ACTION for what you can do.)

Margaret Draper is coordinator of the Shasta side of Citizens for Better Forestry.



Mt. Eddy from Deadfall Lakes, proposed Mt. Eddy wilderness. Photo by Pete Yamagata

ACTION for the upper Sacramento River and Shasta-Trinity plan:

Write a letter to Supervisor Robert Tyrell, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. In your letter:

- * Support Wild and Scenic status for 37 miles of the Sacramento River from Box Canyon Dam to Shasta Reservoir.

- * Request that the Forest Service study the forks of the Sacramento River upstream of Siskiyou Reservoir for Wild and Scenic status.

- * Support wilderness designation of the Mt. Eddy roadless area and semi-primitive, non-motorized management for the Shasta-Trinity divide and Castle Crags roadless area addition. These designations will protect the sensitive upper watershed of the Sacramento River.

- * Support the Citizens for Better Forestry alternative, which incorporates all of the protective measures mentioned above. (See adjacent article.)

Make three copies of your letter and mail them to your Representative in Congress (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and to Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson (separate letters to Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515).

The deadline for letters to the Forest Service is July 7. The Forest Service is also holding public hearings in June. Please attend these hearings and voice your support for Wild and Scenic designation of the Sacramento River. The hearings begin at 7 p.m. and are scheduled for June 19 in Redding (Holiday Inn, 1900 Hilltop Drive), June 20 in Weaverville (Civil Defense Hall) and June 21 in Mt. Shasta (Mt. Shasta City Park Recreation Center, 1315 Nixon Road).

In regard to the BLM Wild and Scenic studies of the Sacramento River and its tributaries, send a short letter to Mark T. Morse, Redding BLM Area Manager, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002. Express your support for the Wild and Scenic studies of the Sacramento River and its tributaries. Ask to be put on the mailing list to receive the draft Redding Resource Management Plan and be notified of public meetings.

Wilderness topo map sources

Where can you go for the best wilderness topographic maps? Wilderness Press, based in Berkeley, publishes indexed topo maps printed on durable plastic paper. New maps for 1990 are available for Emigrant Wilderness and Yosemite National Park and Vicinity. Other maps available include Devils Postpile, Lassen Volcanic National Park and Vicinity (on regular paper), Mineral King, Mount Shasta, Tuolumne Meadows, Mount Goddard, and Triple Divide Peak. Maps cost \$3-\$5; to order call Wilderness Press at (800) 443-7227.

The Forest Service publishes topo maps of many wilderness areas. New this year are maps of Desolation and Mount Shasta-Castle Crags. Maps cost \$2 each (except for the combination John Muir and Sequoia-Kings Canyon map for \$4) and can be bought at ranger stations and forestry offices, some outdoor shops, or ordered by mail. Write to: U.S. Forest Service, Public Affairs Office, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco 94111. Postage is free, and there is no sales tax; make your check payable to: USDA Forest Service.

Book reviews

Roaming the Range of Light

The Sierra Nevada: A Mountain Journey
by Tim Palmer, Island Press: Wash. D.C., 1988, 339 pp.

The Sierra Nevada: A Mountain Journey, is a detailed account of Tim Palmer's nine-month exploration of the Range of Light (as John Muir called it). From Lake Almanor to the Kern Plateau, Palmer describes the mountains, rivers, lakes, plants, and animals of the 400-mile long cordillera.

But the book is far more than a natural history account. It is about people: those who work in these mountains, those who play there, and those who have dedicated their lives to protecting them. Many of the

stories in the book are told by hundreds of people that Palmer spoke to during his travels. Merchants, forest and park employees, environmentalists, researchers, politicians, and outfitters all talk of their perspectives on the Sierra.

There even is a mini Sierra Nevada Almanac in the back of the book, replete with statistics, historical events, environmental issues, wilderness areas, rivers, government agencies, and conservation organizations. While Palmer relied on interviews for much of his research, an incredibly complete bibliography is included for each chapter. —Jim Eaton

"Killing Roads: A Citizens' Primer on the Effects and Removal of Roads"

by the Earth First! Biodiversity Project, 1990, 8 pages

By David Orr

Here's another tool for every wilderness activist's bag: a tabloid from those Merry Pranksters of the environmental movement, Earth First!, titled "Killing Roads: A Citizens' Primer on the Effects & Removal of Roads." Packed with useful information, valuable research references, shocking facts, and uncompromising "paper monkeywrenching" form letters, this eight-page package of newsprint dynamite should have Forest Service transportation planners checking the want ads.

Jasper Carlton and the friendly folks at the Earth First! Biodiversity Project have gone to great lengths to produce what is arguably the most comprehensive activist's guide to understanding the ecological effects of roads and practical suggestions for their removal, especially from U.S. Forest Service lands.

Among the disturbing facts about roads in this publication is a conservative estimate that one million animals are killed each day on U.S. highways. For certain species of wildlife, including some endangered species such as the Florida panther, roadkill is the leading cause of mortality.



Roads are responsible in part for changes in animal behavior, e.g. migration patterns, which can have serious adverse effects on reproductive success over time.

Construction and continued use of roads, paved or not, can result in significant impacts on the quality of surface and ground water and on the hydrology of watersheds. Humans use roads for access to hitherto undeveloped areas; their waste and refuse invariably follow. Sadly, the area of investigation that is least understood in this enquiry is the matter of cumulative impacts. Is the sum of the various impacts of road-building greater than all its component parts? Evidence suggests there may be synergistic effects involved. Research, however, is lacking.

Perhaps the most important section in the tabloid is the "Road Ripper's Guide to the National Forest," a how-to article detailing precisely the methods to employ in working to reduce the road miles on your neighborhood national forest. The author provides a documented, step-by-step approach to recreating wilderness—legally—where substandard roads currently exist by forcing the Forest Service to close those not in conformance with federal regulations.

The sad fact of the continuing high appropriations for new road construction on national forests nationwide is cause for alarm. Mr. Carlton *et al* make the case effectively for entirely eliminating the Forest Service road-building budget and reallocating the funds to road-closing.

But let it suffice to say that this little jewel of a monkey wrench belongs in your hands. Write for a copy today—and close a road tomorrow. Earth First! Biodiversity Project, 2365 Willard Road, Parkersburg, WV 26101-9269.

CWC T-Shirts!

Not one, but two CWC t-shirts! The animal design is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige and light gray for \$12. Our official conference shirt 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

June 7 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.

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.

June 19, 20, 21 PUBLIC HEARINGS on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest proposed forest plan and draft EIS, 1-4:00 pm and 7-10:00 pm in Redding, Weaverville, and Mt. Shasta, respectively. Speakers may be limited to five minutes each, and may pre-register by calling the Forest Supervisor in Redding at (916) 246-5313. See article on pages 1 & 5 for hearing locations.

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

**Uncle Jim's
Wilderness
Trivia
Quiz
Answer:**

Those interesting names are found in the Yolla-Bolly—Middle Eel Wilderness Area

from page 2



**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

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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Coalition Member Groups

Focus: Sierra Treks

When Dave Willis leads a group into the wilderness, he doesn't want to lead the same people back out. Willis, founder of Sierra Treks, a non-profit wilderness outfitter, wants people to learn to see wilderness in a new light before they come back to civilization.

Sierra Treks trips have a program of activities which Willis describes as "a combination of Sierra Club and Outward Bound trips." Instruction is given in the use of maps and compass and in basic rock climbing. An overnight solo time is encouraged.

Sierra Treks most often takes church groups of all ages. Willis says "the creation rap is pretty heavy." The conservation rap is also strong, as the guides stress minimum impact camping, minimum impact lifestyles, political involvement, and prayer for the Earth's special places.

The company also leads free trips for conservation purposes, showing media people, politicians, and conservation leaders special places awaiting protection.

While their conservation efforts have focused on the proposed Siskiyou National Park and Soda Mountain wilderness area near their Ashland, Oregon base, many of their trips are into other areas, including the Hoover Wilderness, Joshua Tree, and Yosemite.

Contact Sierra Treks at 15187 Greensprings Hwy., Ashland, OR 97520, (503) 482-2307 or (503) 482-0526.

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