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# WILDERNESS RECORD

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Glass Creek Meadow and White Wing Mountain from the San Joaquin Ridge in the San Joaquin roadless area.

Photo by James Wilson

## Massive ski area planned

# Assault on San Joaquin RA begins

By Sally Miller and Frank Stewart

On January 22 the Inyo National Forest kicked off the planning process for potentially massive development within the San Joaquin Roadless Area (SJRA) in the eastern Sierra. In what was billed as an "informal meeting," Forest Supervisor Dennis Martin and his staff unveiled their scenario for preparing a "development plan" and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the area between the towns of Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Over 50 individuals were present, including representatives from the ski, geothermal, and timber industries, local developers, county officials, and environmental groups.

### The Roadless Area

The 21,214-acre roadless area shares its western boundary with the Ansel Adams Wilderness, and inclusion of the SJRA in the National Wilderness Preservation System has long been a priority of conservationists. The original Yosemite national Park boundary encompassed a portion of the SJRA. In 1984, the eastern Sierra portion of the SJRA was dropped from inclusion in the California Wilderness bill in negotiations between politicians, ski area developers, and some environmentalists. The rest of the area was included in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Congressional "release language" stated that the portions of the SJRA not designated as

*continued on page 6*

# Desert bill reintroduced

By Vicky Hoover

It's a new year and a new Congress, but important environmental bills that did not pass the 101st Congress will be with us again. A big one for California public lands activists is the California Desert Protection Act. In the Senate, this bill has just been reintroduced with a new number—S. 21.

### Background

The legislative campaign to preserve the desert began in 1986, when Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) first introduced this visionary legislation.

The California Desert Protection Act is the largest land preservation measure ever proposed in this country outside of Alaska. It would protect from development about 7.5 million acres in the California Desert by establishing three new national parks and 81 separate wilderness areas. Two of the national parks, Death Valley and Joshua Tree,

*continued on page 4*

## Inside this issue:

**California wilderness loses two of its long-time friends.....2**

**Background on California's key new wilderness decision-makers..4**

**Paper from trees—a bad habit that can be broken.....5**

# Forest Service: wild for S. Fk. Kern

By Ron Stork

"The area is obviously not pristine, pure or untouched by man. It is part of a natural power site."

— Letter from aspiring dam developer to the Sequoia National Forest South Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River study team.

"Because of the undisturbed nature of the study area, it provides excellent habitat for several wildlife species that are endangered, sensitive, or of special concern."

— Sequoia National Forest draft Wild & Scenic River study

The squiggle of a line on a wilderness boundary map often marks the site of a past wilderness skirmish. Jutting into the southwest side of the Southern Sierra's Dome Land Wilderness there lies a very pronounced mile-long squiggle.

Fortunately, the magic place where the steeply tumbling South Fork Kern meets the Kern River Valley changes little when it reaches this little finger of non-wilderness at the end of its journey from its headwaters in the Golden Trout Wilderness through Monache Meadows, and then the Sierra South and Dome Land wilderness areas.

*continued on page 3*



# COALITION PAGE

## MONTHLY REPORT

It is hectic this week before the Coalition's fifteenth birthday party. Not only do we have the party, but we are finishing this issue of the *Record* and preparing for a Board of Director's meeting.

In the midst of this chaos, Nancy and I scheduled an afternoon at Davis Community Television to begin editing our videotapes of environmental songwriters Bill Oliver and Glenn Waldeck. Our project had been delayed by my call to jury duty.

Nancy had mentioned a letter from Bill Duddleson addressed to Wendy and me, but I forgot about it during the rush of the day. After our editing session, I returned to the office that evening to listen to phone messages and close the office. As I was going out the door, I remembered the letter.

When I opened the letter, the phrase "we lost Katy the week before last" jumped out at me. With a heavy heart, I finished the letter and the accompanying obituary from the *Point Reyes Light*.

With tears streaming from my eyes, I walked home. I thought of what a gentle, considerate woman Katy was, and how unfortunate it is that so few know of her role in preserving California's wilderness.

Katy and Bill "discovered" me while I was a student at U.C. Davis. Our local student environmental group's newsletter announced a slide show

that I was giving on the "Road to Nowhere" being bulldozed into Pt. Reyes National Seashore. What I did not know was that a member of our group was a stringer to a Davis newspaper, and that she wrote a short article on the program in the paper.

As guardian angels of the seashore from our nation's capitol, Katy and Bill had a subscription service deliver them every article with the words "Pt. Reyes" that appeared in any newspaper. They tracked me down, and we began working together on finishing the acquisition of private lands in the seashore and the designation of the Pt. Reyes Wilderness.

During my frequent trips to Washington, D.C. in the 1970s, I often stayed at Katy's house. It always was alive with one or more of her daughters and an amazing array of house guests. I'll always remember my wonderful talks with Katy; her warm generosity, her continual encouragement, and her eternal humor made a difference in my life.

The next time you go whale watching at Pt. Reyes, admire the tule elk and the amazing variety of birds, walk along the beaches, or backpack into the wilderness, take time to thank Clem Miller for his vision and Katy Miller Johnson for her determination to protect this unique part of Wild California.

## BY JIMEATON

## Letters

### BLM defends its response to PVC pipe mining claim stake deaths

Dear Editor,

In your September edition, you ran an article by Larry LePre of the Audubon Society concerning plastic claim stakes. I would like to clarify a few points that might not have been understood by your readers.

1. BLM-California's reaction to this problem has been swift and decisive. We were notified of Dr. LePre's discoveries by a third source on January 12, 1990, and we issued instructions to our field offices that day to initiate an investigation immediately to determine the extent of the problem. In the desert, BLM rangers began that review over the following holiday weekend. Other BLM states, at the BLM Director's instructions, initiated similar investigations.

2. By late January, we had adequate evidence in hand to determine that we had a significant problem in certain parts of California (primarily the central desert region) to require immediate policy changes to avoid wildlife deaths in uncapped, perforated pipes used for claim markers.

3. After completing an environmental assessment and exploring several alternatives, I issued a statewide policy on February 17, 1990 requiring all miners in California using open plastic or PVC pipes on public lands as mining claim stakes to wrap and cap the pipes by July 1, 1990 to prevent wildlife deaths. Because of communication delays with our 80,000-plus claimants, we extended that deadline to September 30. So far, our initial checks indicate a positive compliance response. We are continuing to check claims to ensure compliance and will issue notices of noncompliance if miners refuse to cooperate.

4. In our public policy announcement, we credited the Audubon Society with bringing this problem to our attention and commended several large mining companies for rapid cooperation, even before our official deadline.

5. We also stated clearly in that announcement that we considered our policy to be a temporary solution. We also recognize that not only do the pipes, if not wrapped and capped, cause wildlife deaths, but they also are visually obtrusive and non-biodegradable. We announced our intention to find a long-term solution to these problems.

6. In pursuit of this goal, we held briefings and meetings with state officials and mining representatives and others over several months to discuss a potential solution.

7. In course of these discussions, we identified that a state law change was needed. Under federal law, each state has the option of specifying the type of marker acceptable for mining claims. The California statute cites wood, stone, or metal, but does not prohibit plastic PVC pipes.

8. In late August 1990, State Sen. Robert Presley also recognized the need for state legislation on this issue. Working with BLM and the mining industry, he introduced an initial bill at the end of the session (SB 2882).

9. Sen. Presley, with BLM's input, is still working on interim legislation that will probably be introduced in the new legislative session to start in December 1990. BLM's view at this time is that we would prefer to return to the more traditional stone or wood markers and limit the number of markers per claim.

In summary, to characterize all this activity by saying "BLM has acted too slowly and too casually" in this matter is not supported by the facts. We encourage your readers, and the groups they belong to, to work with us and the mining industry toward an equitable solution to an unforeseen problem. Pointing fingers rarely accomplishes such objectives.

Sincerely,

Ed Hastey, State Director, BLM

A response from the author of the article Mr. Hastey refers to is on page 3.

## Katherine Miller Johnson

Katherine Miller Johnson, 64, died of cancer at her Washington, D.C. home on January 9.

Katy's first husband, Clem Miller, was elected to Congress as representative of California's first district in 1958. He worked hard for the establishment of Pt. Reyes National Seashore and was killed in a plane crash shortly after the legislation was signed into law.

Katy continued the dream of completing the national seashore, organizing Save Our Seashore (SOS) with Senator Peter Behr when President Nixon proposed selling for development 9,200 acres on Inverness Ridge. She worked hard with SOS to obtain the necessary funding to purchase private lands within the Pt. Reyes National Seashore boundary. She also worked on the Pt. Reyes Wilderness legislation and the Clem Miller Environmental Education Center. The Pt. Reyes National Seashore enjoyed by millions of Californians each year would not exist had it not been for the years of effort by Katy Miller Johnson.

Katy's second husband, Washington attorney Stuart H. Johnson, died in 1982. She is survived by a sister, six daughters (three who live in California), three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

The family requests that any memorial donations be sent to the California Wilderness Coalition or the American Civil Liberties Union.

## Ardis Manly Walker

Wilderness lost another friend in January with the death of environmentalist and poet Ardis Walker, 89.

Ardis and his wife Gayle worked for decades on Golden Trout Wilderness legislation, which finally was signed into law in 1977. He was a tireless campaigner for the protection of the Kern Plateau, and much of his poetry was about the area.

The third-generation of Walkers to live along the Kern River, Ardis was a descendent of both William Manly—savior of the first party to cross the Sierra Nevada in 1849—and Captain Joseph Walker, the first white man to cross the Sierra Nevada from the east. Walker Pass was found by Joe Walker on his return journey back across the Sierra in



Katy Miller Johnson with former Senator Peter Behr

the spring of 1834.

From 1938-48 Ardis served as a justice court judge in Lake Isabella and later as a Kern County supervisor. After being defeated for a Congressional seat, he and Gayle turned their attention back to the Kern River Valley, where they ran the Kernville Inn for eleven years. They "retired" in 1964 but spent much of their time defending the local environment.

Ardis's wife Gayle died in 1988. Among the suggested recipients of memorial contributions is the Sequoia Litigation Fund.





## Wilderness law

# Lawsuits stop logging in owl habitat

By Tim McKay

The Forest Service, having a hard time adapting its timber sale program to respect the threatened status of the northern spotted owl, was forced to cancel more than 100 million board feet in 1990 timber sales in two lawsuits affecting Washington, Oregon, and California within the past month.

A suit brought by the Northcoast Environmental Center and the Klamath Forest Alliance against about 20 sales in the Klamath, Mendocino, and Six Rivers national forests was settled out of court just before Christmas.

Under the agreement, 15 sales totaling more than 22 million board feet will be dropped, three sales involving 2.7 million board feet will proceed, and the King Helicopter sales of 7.6 million board feet will go to binding arbitration by a panel of three wildlife biologists by January 31.

The disputed sales were all slated inside of spotted owl Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs).

### 12 Oregon and Washington Sales Halted

Meanwhile, an extension of a suit brought by the Seattle Audubon Society and other plaintiffs against Forest Service Region 6 (Pacific Northwest) halted 12 sales in the Willamette, Siuslaw, and Siskiyou national forests.

U.S. District Judge William Dwyer, enjoining the sales of 80.7 million board feet on December 20, said they would have violated the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A full hearing could result in blocking any further timber sales in owl-suitable habitat in national forests in California, Oregon, or Washington.

Todd True, attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Seattle, said of the injunction, "This decision is a significant milestone, for the court has now confirmed that the Forest Service's old-growth liquidation program is illegal, as we have asserted for the last six years."

In addition, the Siskiyou National Forest backed out of two disputed (non-owl) timber sales on January 11, when Pacific Northwest Regional Forester John Butruille said documentation of the effects of the timber sales was inadequate. A suit against the sales was brought by the Friends of Elk River, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Oregon

Rivers Council, Oregon Natural Resources Council, and Association of Northwest Steelheaders.

At issue in the proposed sales of 8.2 million board feet was their potential impact on the salmon and steelhead fisheries of the Elk River watershed just north of Port Orford, Oregon.

*Reprinted from the January/February 1991 issue of Econews, publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.*

## Letter response:

### Biologist responds to BLM

I was indeed pleased to receive a call from Mr. Haste shortly after he was notified of the wildlife deaths in PVC claim markers. His actions, and actions at the national BLM office, could be fairly termed "swift and decisive." However, directives and policies do not always result in changes in the field. Although the words "Too slowly and casually" were from the editor of *Clementine* at the Mineral Policy Center, where the article originally appeared, I did not object to their use, and I still do not. The fact is that the longer the claim markers stay up, the more birds will be killed. Evidence from Nevada now shows that not only cavity-nesting birds are affected, nor just breeding birds seeking nest sites. Other wintering species apparently also seek shelter in the pipes and become trapped. Any delay in the removal of the markers is too slow for wildlife biologists.

My point is that establishment of policy, issuance of directives, and determination of responsibility are paperwork tasks that make it appear that the problem is nearing resolution. However, these statements and directives are very slow to translate into remedies in the field. I have no idea how the BLM will notify the 80,000 claimholders in California. My check during the past year of several areas has revealed that two major mining corporations have removed or replaced their markers, but that there has been no change on many claims held by individuals. I inspected the claims of one large corporation, which called to tell me that their plastic markers were removed, and I found that they were still in place. In addition, I have observed new PVC pipes marking claims in San Bernardino and Inyo counties, showing that the notice to miners is not completely effective.

I have also seen some claim markers in the eastern Mojave desert that were capped with tape. The tape was completely worn through, so that the open top of the pipe still presents an entrapment hazard to birds.

Many mining claims are present on Forest Service lands, particularly in the San Bernardino Mountains. To my knowledge, no policies or directives have been issued by the Forest Service, so that mountain birds are also exposed to this threat.

I have no dispute with the actions of the California State Director, who has been very helpful in defining the problem and attempting to fix it. However, the fact that the states are responsible for the type of markers that are used on mining claims makes the BLM and Forest Service somewhat powerless in taking remedial action. Although Senator Presley's proposed legislation may correct the situation in California, similar legislation would be needed in other states with mining claims on public lands. A better solution would be to enact new federal mining laws which mandate a markerless system or a different method of marking claims in the field.

Lawrence F. LaPre  
Riverside

*Dr. LaPre is continuing to pursue studies of the number and types of wildlife deaths in these markers and hopes to publish a scientific report on this topic after the spring 1991 bird nesting season.*

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

# So. Fk. Kern gets wild recommendation

continued from page 1

But this seldom-visited site is the subject of a battle of conflicting visions between the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The Commission would like to license a small hydroelectric dam on U.S. Forest Service land to a nearby landowner. The Forest Service, other nearby landowners, and many Kern River Valley residents would like to preserve this little piece of the Kern, which the agency has found to

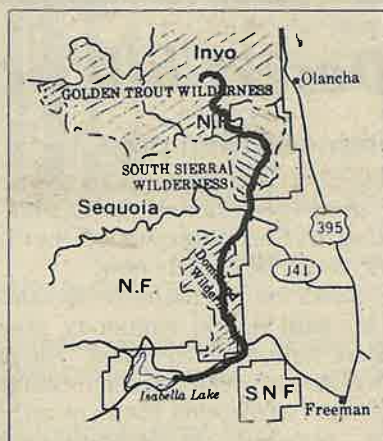
of taking a third look at preserving this slice of the Kern.

At the urging of local conservationists and some forest plan appeals, the Forest Service initiated a Wild and Scenic River study of the Kern, held public meetings, and took the public, academics, and agency researchers to the mouth of the river canyon during the last year. And now the result is in—the Forest Service recommends that the last mile of the South Fork Kern on public land be designated a "wild"



South Fork Kern River

Photo by U.S. Forest Service



(the sub-category that provides the most protection) Wild and Scenic River.

To add your voice to help the South Fork Kern, write Dale K. Dague, Cannell Meadow Ranger

District, P.O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238. Support the river study's preferred alternative and thank the Forest Service for their care and attention to this beautiful little river. Comments should be received by March 28, 1991.

**Ron Stork is a Conservation Director for Friends of the River and a Director of the California Wilderness Coalition.**

be "rich in prehistoric and historic archaeological sites," and a place where "suckerfish and trout make extensive spawning migrations each spring from Lake Isabella."

Anxious to avoid controversy when so many "larger" issues were at stake in the 1984 California Wilderness Act and the 1987 North and South Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River legislation, Congress left the little dam site out of those bills. Fortunately, they did not foreclose the option



## Wilderness decision-makers

# Meet a new cast of characters who will influence California wilderness

### Regional Forester Ronald E. Stewart

California's 18 national forests have a new top administrator. Having taken his new post on December 17, 1990, Stewart has not yet made any major decisions that might reveal his support for protecting wild lands. His background is as a forestry researcher, and Stewart has said he would like to establish better communication between Forest Service resource managers and researchers. Representatives of the California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, and other conservation groups will be meeting with Stewart in mid-February.

### Governor Pete Wilson

The new governor has a mixed record on environmental issues. He has not been supportive of public lands issues, except Wild and Scenic River designations, and his opposition and refusal to negotiate over Senator Alan Cranston's desert protection legislation has stalled the bill for years. Wilson also opposed the November 1990 Forests Forever initiative.

However, he has been a supporter of clean air legislation and during his campaign Wilson promised to create a Cabinet-level California Environmental Protection Agency, bringing together a number of environmental functions. He has also promised to preserve additional old-growth redwoods on the north coast. Wilson's choice of Douglas Wheeler as Resources Secretary is also a positive sign, and environmentalists are hopeful that relations with him will improve.

### California Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler

This appointment has environmentalists very excited. As former Executive Director of the Sierra Club and most recently executive vice-president of the Conservation Foundation, Wheeler has a long proven track record as an environmental administrator. The Resources Secretary oversees, among others, the California Coastal Commission and Department of Fish and Game, and one environmental leader believes Wheeler brings "a real possibility for significant change from the [environmental policies of the] Deukmejian administration." Wheeler has said that a major focus of his will be water issues.

### U.S. Senator John Seymour

California's new Senator has not focused on environmental issues in his career as a State Senator representing a Southern California district, and while in this post his voting record on the environment was mediocre. In 1985 he voted against the establishment of a state wild and scenic river system and he has voted to support a multi-purpose Auburn Dam.

However, in 1989 Seymour voted to designate the East Fork Carson and West Walker rivers as state Wild & Scenic rivers. One observer characterized him as more open-minded on environmental issues than most of his Republican colleagues in the state legislature, and environmentalists hope that he will take more interest in desert protection legislation than his predecessor, Pete Wilson.

### U.S. Representative John Doolittle

A true blow to environmental concerns was dealt when new Rep. Doolittle was appointed to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. As of this printing it was not known whether the Republican representative would be on the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, which deals with most water, power, timber,

Bureau of Land Management, and other natural resource issues.

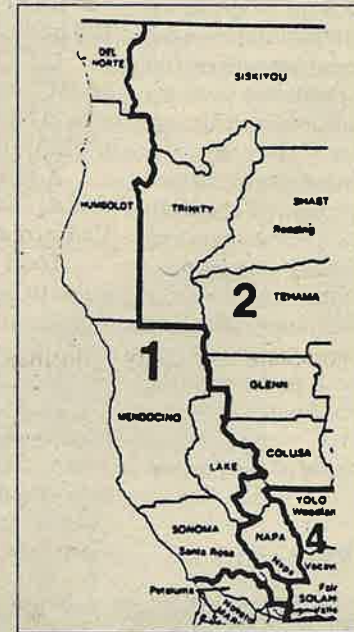
Doolittle's reputation as a State Senator was that of a relentless opponent of most environmental issues. He has said that his top priority in Congress is construction of a multi-purpose Auburn Dam. The 14th District, formerly represented by Norman Shumway, has many important wild lands, including six national forests and some major BLM wilderness areas (see map).

### U.S. Representative Frank Riggs

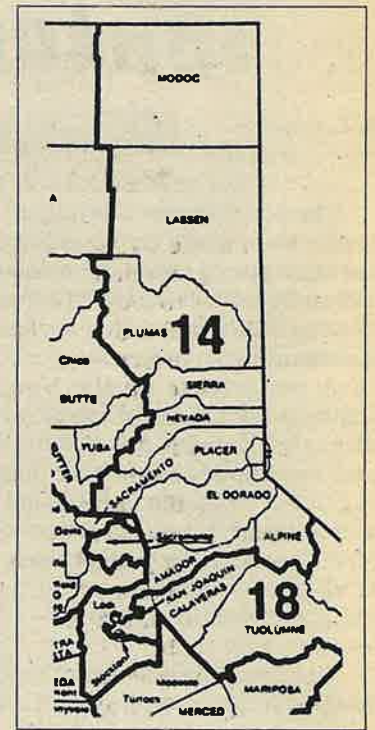
California's northwest coast, District 1, exchanged Democrat Doug Bosco for Republican Frank Riggs, and environmentalists are hopeful that the former policeman and land developer will be open-minded on conservation issues. Riggs has promised to give a high priority to environmental concerns, is not tied to big timber industry interests, and has proposed mediation between the timber industry and environmentalists.

### U.S. Representative Cal Dooley

Having defeated Republican Chip Pashayan, whose 12-year term was marked by his unwavering opposition to environmental initiatives, cotton farmer Cal Dooley is bound to be a breath of fresh air to 17th District environmentalists. Although the Democrat has made no promises, local environmentalists have met with Dooley since his election and are convinced that he "believes in the protection of public lands" and is willing to work for consensus on environmental issues. Dooley has been asked to support legislation protecting the California desert, ancient forests, and Sequoia groves, the transfer of



Counties in Congressional District 1, represented by Frank Riggs



Counties in Congressional District 14, represented by John Doolittle



Counties in Congressional District 17, represented by Cal Dooley

Sequoia National Park lands to national monument status, guaranteed water appropriations for wildlife, and private land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## Desert bill's chances look better than ever

continued from page 1

are presently national monuments that would be upgraded in status and expanded; the third, Mojave National Park, would be entirely new.

Now administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with minor, temporary protection as the "East Mojave National Scenic Area," the proposed Mojave National Park is situated at the meeting place of three separate desert ecosystems. For many activists Mojave National Park—perhaps more scenically spectacular than Death Valley—is the central focus of the desert bill.

Occupying fully one quarter of the area of the state of California, or 25 million acres, the desert is a succession of rugged mountain ranges lined with intricate, deep canyons. The desert bill proposes that the most mountainous areas—still largely undeveloped, unsettled, and unroaded—be designated as wilderness areas. The 81 separate areas are relatively small, as wilderness goes, ranging mostly from five to 100,000 acres. There are so many separate areas because the basins between the desert mountain ranges are extensively crisscrossed by roads.

California's desert urgently needs special protective legislation because of its proximity to America's largest metropolitan area. Modern vehicles, highways, and air-conditioning make the desert, once remote and grimly

undesirable, easily accessible to millions. The combination of too many vehicle tracks, dried up springs, encroaching housing developments, mines, livestock grazing, and other pressures is taxing the fragile desert ecosystem to its limits. Senator Cranston's ambitious bill has been joined by an identical bill in the House, introduced by Rep. Mel Levine (D-Santa Monica). Both bills have had hearings in the responsible committees, but chiefly because of opposition from California's former Senator Pete Wilson, neither bill was passed to the floor of Senate or House.

Opposition to the desert bill has come mainly from special-interest user groups, including off-road vehicle users, miners, and grazing interests, who see it as an end to their ability to continue unrestricted, and too often damaging, use of the desert.

This year bodes well for Congressional action to help California's desert:

- Senator Cranston is serving his last term in Congress, having announced his retirement, and the Senate may by tradition be more inclined to pass his bill as a parting gift.

- As the 101st Congress adjourned, it passed the first statewide BLM wilderness bill (for Arizona), setting a promising precedent for BLM wilderness legislation.

continued on page 6



## The broad vista

# Paper doesn't have to mean cutting trees

By Gar Smith

If there is one argument guaranteed to squelch critics of Big Timber's rapacious clearcutting practices, it is that forests must fall to provide houses for American families. This may be a well-crafted argument, but it no longer has any foundation in fact. With housing starts in July slower than at any time since the Great Depression, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has now declared the U.S. is in a "housing recession."

But timber continues to be chopped at a record pace. So where are all the logs going?

Contrary to popular belief, "most of old-growth timber is either burned or pulped," says Oregon State University professor Mark Harmon. "While 90 percent of the logs are used," Harmon explains, "only half winds up as construction timber. The rest goes for fuel, mulch, or paper." Approximately 40 percent of the wood that is pulped becomes packaging and another six percent is turned into tissue products.

### The Paper Connection

"The timber industry's time-honored recipe for boosting production—rapidly logging old forests to make way for young, fast-growing stands—has apparently backfired," reports the Sacramento Bee. "After four decades of heavy cutting in California forests, the timber industry now faces a severe shortage of trees that may last 60 years." Even Louisiana-Pacific officials now admit that their tree farms are not sustainable—they need to increase logging in public forests to supply their markets.

A survey sent to 410 lumber mills by the Western Wood Products Association this summer disclosed that many mills "indicated a dwindling supply of logs." During the decade of the '80s, Big Timber cut 18 billion board feet of wood but grew only ten billion board feet of new timber. As one industry observer put it, "California loggers are going to have to find some other work or pack up and move to Georgia."

The coming timber drought will be felt in the super-market as well as the housing market. Because every paper product from grocery bags to *People* magazine traces its roots back to the forests, the timber crunch is going to influence what we read as well as what we buy.

### Tree-Free Paper

It appears that civilization is as fundamentally addicted to wood pulp as industry is held hostage to oil. Fortunately, there are alternatives. Some alternatives have merely been forgotten, others remain unexplored.

The building block of papermaking is cellulose, and there are many other sources for cellulose besides forests. Cotton, jute, flax, rice, and hemp have provided "tree-free" paper for centuries. In Oregon's Willamette Valley, wheat stubble and grass is no longer burned; it is exported to Japan for paper production. In Fresno, California, some entrepreneurs are reportedly hoping to produce "tree-free" paper made from a plant called kenaf.

"Kenaf produces nine times as much biomass per acre as trees," says Minnesota businessman John Birrenbach. "While that's nearly double the biomass of hemp, it is mostly realized in height. Kenaf will grow 18 feet tall in a single season. Hemp grows to ten or twelve feet and is usually harvested for fiber at eight to nine feet."

Kenaf is not as versatile as hemp, Birrenbach argues, because "it requires soil temperatures of above 50 degrees for 180 days of the year, which means it can only be grown in the southwestern states. Hemp can be grown anywhere. Kenaf also requires fertilizers. Hemp doesn't."

The only chemical needed to process hemp pulp into paper is hydrogen peroxide. "Hemp pulp can be used in any standard, existing papermill. All that is required is a

minor adjustment for temperature."

A surprising fact becomes quite clear: it is no longer necessary to pulp forests to satisfy our extravagantly wasteful paper needs. The paper-from-trees syndrome needs to be challenged vigorously. There is a radical new paradigm confronting the world of paper products. Once the shift has engaged the social gears of this nation, the idea of cutting trees to make paper will seem as ludicrous as melting down a stained glass window to make jam jars.

"While loggers will need to learn a new trade, the paper mills can continue," said Chris Conrad of the Business Alliance for Commerce in Hemp (BACH). Conrad is one of a growing number of entrepreneurs who want to legalize commercial hemp cultivation for non-drug uses. In its literature, BACH contends that laws preventing the

use of hemp for paper, clothing, fuel oil, and medicine constitute an illegal restraint of trade. "Just as the stage coach became obsolete and its drivers had to change jobs, so it will be with loggers," says Conrad. "We speak to the bottom line issue: economic prosperity with ecological sustainability."

The only "undesirable" byproduct of hemp is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive substance that many pot users find enjoyable. But this substance resides in the leaves and buds while commercial hemp is harvested while green, before the budmature. Grown



close together to maximize fiber production, hemp produces few leaves.

French scientists may now have circumvented the problem entirely with the creation of a strain of hemp that contains no THC.

### The Industry Responds

The solutions to the trees-to-paper problem are not to be found inside the pro-timber American Paper Institute. API's 175 members represent most of the 600 paper mills in the U.S. and, according to API director of public relations Thomas Kraner, they control "90 percent of all the pulp produced in the U.S."

Kraner admitted the API has little interest in "tree-free" paper since its stock in trade is "basically from trees." Kraner dismissed paper made from kenaf, rice, and bagasse (sugar cane) as "not trendy" and claimed to have no knowledge of hemp-based papers.

There was one big exception to API's "trees-only" recipe, Kraner noted: "We have a big promotional program for cotton fibers" for quality rag-bond paper.

Kraner described API as "the statistical arm of the

paper industry" but claimed API had no printed information to distribute on its history, membership, or operations. Public records reveal that the API is a member of the Forest Industries Council, publishes a variety of monthly and annual reports, and has a budget of more than \$5 million. Since it was founded in 1878, the present-day API has absorbed ten other paper industry associations, including, in 1935, the Vegetable Parchment Manufacturers Association.

If there is to be a paper revolution, it is going to have to start from below. Once the word gets out that vegetable paper can be grown from the ground up, it may no longer be necessary to watch our forests being ground down.

*Reprinted from the Fall 1990 issue of Earth Island Journal, published quarterly by Earth Island Institute in San Francisco. Gar Smith is editor of EIJ.*

## South Fork Trinity plan in the works

The South Fork of the Trinity River may get some long-deserved special attention in the form of a Wild and Scenic River management plan.

The Forest Service announced on December 27 that it finally has begun preparing the plan, almost 10 years after the tributary was added to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The watershed contains what is believed to be the largest single remaining stand of ancient Douglas fir forest in California, as well as races of salmon and steelhead that may be on the brink of extinction.

Damage from logging on private lands in the watershed, combined with the force of the 1964 flood, destroyed much of the lower river's in-stream spawning and rearing habitat. The cutting of streamside trees on its tributaries has allowed summer water temperatures to soar to levels that are lethal for young



fish.

Along with a new management plan for the river, the Forest Service will publish a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to discuss the possible environmental effects of alternative management plans for the wild river.

The current phase of the process is called "scoping," wherein the Forest Service asks the public and environmental groups what issues should be addressed in the draft EIS.

The Forest Service plans to release the draft EIS by October and the final by March 1992.

The public has until the end of February to participate in the scoping process, and comments or requests to get on the EIS mailing list should be sent to Karyn Wood, District Ranger, Hayfork Ranger District, POB 159, Hayfork, CA 96041.

Call Bob Hawkins or Gail Tanaka at the Forest Service for details, (916) 628-5227.

*Reprinted from the January/February 1991 issue of Eonews, publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.*



## Roadless areas

# Big plans afoot for eastern Sierra wildlands

continued from page 1

wilderness were not required to be considered for designation in this forest planning cycle.

In this beautiful and largely pristine area, volcanic landforms, such as White Wing Mountain, are interspersed with large tracts of old-growth forest. The ancient forest includes stands of red fir, Jeffrey pine, mountain hemlock, and mixed coniferous forest, and provides known refuge for furbearers and other old-growth dependent species. Glass Creek Meadow, one of the largest subalpine meadows east of the Sierra crest, is a wildflower-lover's paradise throughout the summer. Several streams drain the area, including Glass Creek, which is the headwaters of the Owens River and a candidate for Wild and Scenic River status. The roadless area also contains an abundance of diminutive springs which are home to sensitive species, including the Yosemite toad and mountain beaver.

Overlooking this beautiful picture is the snakelike San Joaquin Ridge, which forms the Sierra Nevada crest and also the boundary between the roadless area and the Ansel Adams Wilderness (the ridge top is technically in the roadless area). The high point of the ridge is 11,600-foot San Joaquin Mountain. Several low gaps along the ridge provide critical biological corridors for migration of animal and plant species, according to a study published in 1979.

### The Forest Plan

In 1988 the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) allocated the bulk of the SJRA for potential alpine ski development. Friends of the Inyo *et al* appealed this decision and the 144-page appeal is still unresolved. In fact, of thirteen appeals filed on the LRMP, only Friends of the Inyo has not received a responsive statement from the Forest Service Regional Office. As member Frank Stewart says, "It's like we said hello...and that's all that's occurred."

### The Mammoth-June Development Plan

At the start of January's informational meeting, Supervisor Martin made it clear that the plan and EIS for the SJRA will constitute a "development plan." Environmentalists questioned such a title, claiming that it would prejudice the range of alternatives to be studied in favor of some level of development, thereby precluding any future consideration of the SJRA as wilderness. Martin responded, "We're trying to be up front about what it is...if it looks like a duck and walks like a duck..."

The plan will consider a "matrix of uses," Martin said, including geothermal development, developer Dave McCoy's proposal to link the Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain ski areas (thereby creating one of the largest ski areas in the world), and proposals to pump massive amounts of ground water to support the burgeoning town of Mammoth Lakes and future urban growth associated with ski area development. The plan will not address ongoing activities such as timber sales, however, despite the fact that it is supposed to be a cumulative impacts report. At one point, Martin even referred to the public lands he manages as "real estate."

Activist Marge Sill asked if, when, and how possible wilderness designation would be addressed in the document. District Ranger Bill Bramlette stated that "roadless character" would have to be considered throughout the plan and EIS, but Martin disagreed, saying that the "No Action" alternative would consider maintenance of the current roadless qualities of the area. Consideration of roadless character, Martin stated, is "too close to the allocation issue" that was accomplished in the LRMP. Martin said that the plan and EIS only need look at impacts on specific resources, not at impacts to roadless character.

Martin then outlined the process by which the plan and EIS will be developed. The Forest Service will first

collect baseline data. Martin admitted, however, that funding is not now available for the contract studies which, as Stewart pointed out, are the most critical studies and make up two-thirds of the projected budget for the plan. These include a hydrogeological study (to determine ground water pumping potential), deer studies, surveys for furbearers, sensitive plants, cultural resources, and amphibians, and air quality analyses. One of the planners

Formal public scoping will then be initiated for "development plan opportunities" and to hear the concerns of the general public. Martin stated that "we have had no formal development proposals yet." A range of alternatives will be developed after scoping is completed, and a draft plan and EIS will be issued in June 1995 if all goes according to plan. The final plan and EIS are scheduled for release in June 1996.

The meeting raised many more questions than it answered. While the Forest Service was open to hearing the concerns of those present, there was no attempt to fully involve the public in this stage of the process. The in-house identification of "thresholds of concern" to critical resources is particularly troublesome. The question of who will pay is unanswered. Will developers such as Dave McCoy end up paying for completion of all the critical studies, and will that bias the end results? Does the public really want to see the Forest Service pour their limited financial resources into preparation of this development plan before any formal proposals have been received? Is the process as proposed in compliance with NEPA law? Will this blanket EIS be able to adequately address the specific environmental impacts of geothermal, ski area, and water development plans?

While not exactly thrilled at the prospect of what is guaranteed to be a long, costly, and emotional battle, Friends of the Inyo and other environmental groups are fully committed to seeing that the crown jewel of the eastern Sierra remains forever wild, and that the rural character of the eastern Sierra remains intact.

How to help: Friends of the Inyo is a core group of citizen activists who greatly needs your expertise (legal, biological, etc.) and your financial contributions. If you can help now or in the future, please contact Sally Miller at Box 22, Lee Vining, CA 93541, (619) 647-6411 or Frank Stewart at Rt. 1, Box 37, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, (619) 935-4974. Send donations to Friends of the Inyo c/o Mike Prather, Drawer D, Lone Pine, CA 93545.

*Sally Miller and Frank Stewart are members of Friends of the Inyo.*



Glass Creek Meadow in the San Joaquin Roadless Area. Photo by James Wilson

present cost estimates studies were When asked be obtained for Martin studies be funded by terest in the It was even



pointed out that the for the various dramatically low. how funding would the critical studies, gested that the cooperatively those with an in-development plan. suggested that the environmental community fund or volunteer to help with the resource-related studies. The Forest Service will then determine, internally, "thresholds of concern" for each of the resources. As loosely defined by the Forest Service, a "threshold of concern" is a point past which degradation of a particular resource would be unacceptable (in the eyes of the Forest Service). Concerns were expressed that this process would not be in keeping with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to involve the public in decision-making. Martin replied that identification of "thresholds of concern" is a "resource issue," using "professional judgement," and not an issue subject to public involvement and the NEPA process.

Martin expressed general disdain for "overuse" of the NEPA process. At one point he said, "NEPA doesn't say you can't wipe out half the deer herd, it says you have to disclose the fact that you're going to do so." He was reminded by Sally Miller that in preparing this development plan the agency must comply not only with NEPA but also with other statutes such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act.

## Desert bill

continued from page 4

- Senator Wilson is no longer in the Congress; environmentalists may find it easier to work with the new senator, John Seymour, thus opening interesting new possibilities for advancing the legislation.

- There are several new Representatives in the California delegation whose announced concern for the environment offers possibilities for additional cosponsors for the House bill.

Write to your Representative and our Senators to urge the need to preserve the scenic, historic, and biological splendors of the California Desert by passing the California Desert Protection Act. For more information on the desert campaign, call Vicky Hoover at (415) 923-5527.



## Book review

### The ultimate guide to natural California

#### California: An Environmental Atlas & Guide

By Bern Kreissman, Bear Klaw Press, Davis, 255 pp., \$19.95.

I was next door in soil scientist David Kelley's office while he and Nancy Kang spent 15 minutes poring over maps and documents trying to determine what tract of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta their project was in. A few hours later Bern Kreissman walked in with his new book. Nancy flipped to the page on the Delta and the clear map gave her the answer in seconds.

As an information freak, *California: An Environmental Atlas & Guide* has a treasured spot on my desk. But anyone who travels in California, writes about its features, or wants information on some particular topic will find this to be an indispensable book.

You are in Bishop on a winter's day and want to know the road conditions. Flip to page 200 for the local Caltrans road conditions phone number (39 cities have listings).

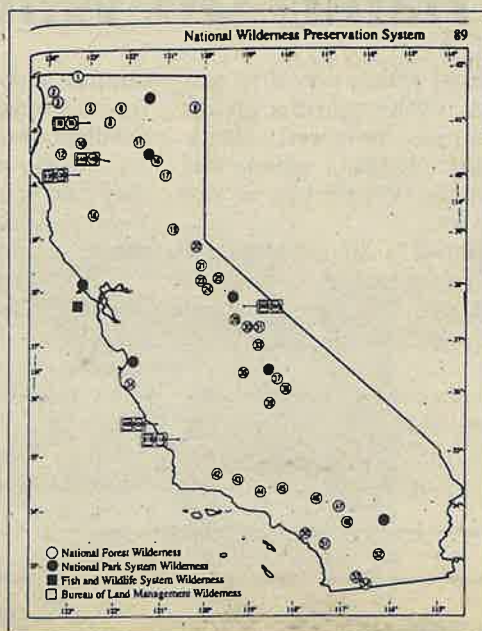
Interested in the U.C. Natural Reserve System? A full-page map shows the location of the 30 reserves (also cross-referenced alphabetically), while the facing page lists addresses and telephone numbers for each reserve.

Doing research of artificial reefs? Not only can you find them on a map, but the text lets you know the year they were constructed, their size, and the material used.

This book is amazing!

But wait, there's more! Wilderness areas, wild & scenic rivers, various natural areas of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, sno-park sites, hot springs and polls, giant kelp forests—I'm not sure what *isn't* in here.

Sierra Club activists already know Bern from his local activism and involvement with the Regional Conservation Committee. In Bern's other life he was chief university library administrator and UNESCO consultant to the



A sample of the useful information in the California-Atlas.

Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela. His two main talents have melded together perfectly in developing this guide.

If you have a business, *California: An Environmental Atlas & Guide* will pay for itself the first time you need to find some obscure information. But almost everyone will find this book useful in some manner.

You can order a copy of the guide from Bear Klaw Press, 1100 Industrial Rd., #9, San Carlos, CA 94070. Cost is \$19.95 plus \$1.35 sales tax; postage is \$2.50 for the first book, add \$1.50 for the second book, and add 50¢ for each additional book.

—Jim Eaton

### CWC T-Shirts!

The animal design that Fred (right) is wearing is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige and light gray for \$12. Bill is wearing our anniversary shirt; it has no less than six colors and comes in light blue, yellow, light green, and peach for \$15. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on page 8.



**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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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 28** SCOPING COMMENTS DUE on the South Fork of the Trinity Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and EIS. Send to: Karyn L. Wood, District Ranger, Hayfork Ranger District, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041. For more information contact Bob Hawkins or Gail Tanaka at (916) 628-5227. (Article on page 5.)

**March 8-10** FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL, "Making Waves," at Dominican College in San Rafael. Non-profit organizations wishing to set up a booth should contact Frank Coppel, Exhibitor Chair, at F.O.R., Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C, San Francisco, CA 94123.

**March 11** COMMENTS DUE on the Duncan/Sunflower timber sale (for the Duncan Canyon roadless area, Tahoe National Forest) draft EIS. For a copy, call the Foresthill Ranger District at (916) 367-2224.

**March 28** COMMENTS DUE on the South Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River study. Send to: Dale K. Dague, Cannell Meadow Ranger District, P.O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238. (Article on pages 1 & 3.)



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Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Ukiah  
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles  
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Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland  
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The Wilderness Society; San Francisco  
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding  
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis

## Focus: Hands Off Wild Lands!

Environmental activism is alive and well at U.C. Davis. Of the eight or so groups now active on campus, the newest is Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL!), which was formed in September 1990 by students and other local activists.

Many of HOWL!'s 50 members are interested in direct action in addition to writing lots of letters. "It's a group a lot of students identify with," says member Eric Knapp.

Knapp describes the group's scope as simply "whatever issues members have the energy to work on." Last fall HOWL! sponsored an ancient forest week on

campus, supporting the campaign for the Forests Forever initiative, Proposition 130. Roadless areas in the Tahoe National Forest are another of the group's interests, and they have taken groups of students to these areas to generate interest in protecting them.

HOWL! provides a hotline recorded phone message to co-ordinate relevant local activities, and recently sponsored a local performance by singers/songwriters Bill Oliver and Glen Waldeck (which the CWC videotaped). The group meets weekly, on campus. For more information, call the HOWL! line at (916) 756-9540.

# CWC Business Sponsors

Like many citizen organizations, the California Wilderness Coalition depends upon sponsorship and support. The organization is grateful to the following businesses that have recognized the need to preserve the wilderness of California.

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Design	Size (s, m, l, xl)	Color	Amount
1. landscape design	comes in light blue, pale green, yellow, or peach:		\$15.00
2. animal design	comes in beige or gray:		\$12.00

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$1.50 + .75 for each additional shirt)

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