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March, 1991

Duncan Canyon: Forest Service passes up a rare preservation opportunity

By David Orr

Wilderness advocates, take note: it's a bad day for our national forest roadless areas. The Forest Service (FS) recently published the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Duncan and Sunflower Timber Sales," a plan for logging the heart out of one of the northern Sierra's last unprotected ancient forests. By committing this pristine area to even-aged management, the FS is missing a great opportunity to preserve an increasingly rare and valuable element of California's natural history.

The draft EIS provides forest activists an opportunity to observe, firsthand, the FS' confused implementation of its own policies on old-growth forest protection. The planned timber sales appear to violate FS guidelines for old-growth. The Duncan Canyon preferred alternative ("E") would bisect the large complex of old-growth forest in Duncan Canyon and its neighboring drainage to the north, Sailor Canyon.

Duncan Canyon, a *de facto* wilderness area near the headwaters of the Middle Fork American River, is called a "former Roadless Area" by the Forest Service, despite the fact that it is essentially unroaded. This appellation amounts to a death sentence for this magnificent wilderness. The area was relegated to "soft release Death Row" with passage of the 1984 California Wilderness Act.

The FS assumes Duncan Canyon's suitability as
continued on page 3



Duncan Canyon

Photo by U.S. Forest Service

Castle Crags Wilderness inholding faces logging plans

Logging on a private land inholding within the Castle Crags Wilderness Area southwest of Mt. Shasta is being planned by Crane Mills, a timber company that owns two-thirds interest in the 640-acre inholding.

According to the *Mt. Shasta Herald*, the company is ready to file a formal timber harvest plan with the California Department of Forestry in Redding and has already ap-

proached the Mt. Shasta Ranger District about gaining road access across U.S. Forest Service land to reach the area.

Logging on private land inholdings, even those within wilderness areas, cannot be forbidden by the Forest Service because the state regulates forest practices.
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Desert ORV policy under revision

If you have an opinion about off-road vehicles (ORVs) on public lands, especially in the California Desert, now is your chance to let the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) know about it.

The agency is rewriting the "organized competitive" and "noncompetitive" vehicle events sections of its California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) plan, and will accept "scoping" comments until March 15 to assist them in identifying issues and concerns on the subject.

In 1990 BLM California Desert District Manager Gerald E. Hillier announced that the BLM would be considering the prohibition of ORV competitive events in desert tortoise habitat categories I and II and the deletion of four competitive routes—Johnson Valley to Parker, Parker "400," Stoddard Valley to Johnson Valley, and Barstow to Vegas. After receiving strong and mixed

public reaction, the BLM has decided that a broader plan amendment regarding organized vehicle events is warranted in order to:

- define under what conditions competitive or non-competitive events can be permitted on public lands in the California Desert;
- clarify the application in the CDCA of existing regulations regarding ORV events; and
- streamline the BLM's permitting process for ORV events.

The BLM also hopes to develop a set of criteria to evaluate permit applications.

The BLM asks that comments identify and rank issues and concerns. Send comments to: California Desert District, Attn.: Recreation Amendment, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507-2497.

Inside this issue:

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COALITION PAGE

MONTHLY REPORT

As you can see from the adjoining article, the *Wilderness Record* is looking for a new editor. Already finding it difficult to juggle this job with life in Nevada City, Stephanie has decided it would be impossible as a mommy.

This is a difficult fact for me to accept. We have been so pleased with Stephanie's work that if we were a rich corporation, we would be tempted to make her an offer she couldn't refuse. She transformed the *Record* from a sporadic, bimonthly newsletter into the monthly publication it is today.

She has set high standards for our new editor to follow. But if you live in the Davis area, don't mind a low salary, and are looking for a challenge, please consider applying for the position. It's a lot of fun, and you get to meet really great people.

Speaking of really great people, the Coalition's 15th anniversary party was a blast. David Brower, an inspiration to many of the CWC's founders two decades ago, again motivated the crowd. Martin Litton, another role model who has spent a lifetime saving our country's wilderness, talked about the forests of the Kern Plateau. Both of these men were most generous to come to Davis to celebrate with us.

It was wonderful to see again those who started the organization: Phil Farrell, Don Morrill, Bob Schneider, Tom Jopson, Sari Sommarstrom, Jim Trumbly, and Mary Tappel. For many at the party, it was like a college reunion.

[For some reason, the U.S. Postal Service decided to deliver our party invitations destined for San Francisco and one zip code in Palo Alto after the party, and nearly a month after everyone else received their invitation. If you were among those getting the late notice, our apologies. Of course, if you read the *Wilderness Record*, you already knew about it!]

We did come to one conclusion from the weekend: it is not a good idea to combine a *Wilderness Record* mailing party, board of directors meeting, and 15th

BY JIM EATON

anniversary party in the same 24-hour period.

Somehow this month doesn't feel much different. On Friday I discovered I forgot about the deadline for a grant I wanted to write. The deadline was—Friday. I did get it finished. As Edward Abbey wrote:

"I have found through trial and error that I work best under duress. In fact I work only under duress."

Saturday night found Steve Evans, Jeanette Colbert, and me stuffing and sticking labels onto thousands of Duncan Canyon wilderness alerts while watching *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. I was not terribly impressed with the movie (maybe because I didn't know the words to chant along); it was suggested that I needed to be back in the '70s and on drugs to enjoy it.

Tonight the Forest Service came to town to talk about Duncan Canyon—I appreciate them coming down, but I still don't think they should log that magnificent ancient forest (there even have been wolverine and fisher sighted there!).

Now, under duress in the wee hours, I am finishing my obligations to Steph for this issue of the *Record*.

Tomorrow, while the final touches are put on the *Record*, I'll be competing for the use of the LaserWriter to finish my comments on the Stanislaus Forest Plan. (Deadline? Tomorrow, of course.)

Wednesday is the potluck and mailing party for the *Record*. Thursday I'll run into Sacramento to hear the new deputy director of the Office of Planning and Research, John Amodio, give a talk. Then it will be time to race home to interview (for a television production Nancy Kang and I are doing) and have dinner with Catherine Robertson, the BLM's area manager for the Clear Lake Resource Area.

To end the week, we plan to lug the camera, tripod, tape deck, and assorted paraphernalia out to Cache Creek with the hope of videotaping some bald eagles (and maybe break the drought).

Sure beats an ordinary job!

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The CWC is in search of a new editor for the *Wilderness Record*. Stephanie Mandel, editor of the past three and a half years, will vacate her position at the end of May due to the baby she and partner Vince Haughey expect to welcome into their lives in early July.

Title: Editor of the *Wilderness Record*

Location: Davis, California

Job Description: The editor is responsible for most aspects of producing the *Wilderness Record* (Jim's in charge of computer trouble-shooting). Duties include: 1) recruiting articles, photos, and graphics; 2) researching and writing articles; 3) designing and laying-out pages using Macintosh PageMaker software; 4) editing all articles; 5) working with volunteers.

Qualifications: Fairly speedy typing is a must, while other Macintosh skills are in a candidate's favor but can be learned in a short time. Experience with journalistic writing, graphic design, and the environmental movement are desirable.

Terms: Half-time salary is \$700/month. Benefits include flexible hours, vacation and sick leave, and paid holidays.

Starting date: Early May, 1991

Send resume and references by March 31 to:

California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5

Davis, California 95616

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What Wilderness Study
Areas are closest to
Bagdad (California, that is)?

Answer on page 7.



In One Pocket and Out the Other

Always working with a lean budget, the California Wilderness Coalition operated last year with just over \$54,000. As in the past, the bulk of our income came from our faithful members' renewals and donations. A large number of new members also helped. Most of the income from grants came from a generous donation from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The conference category is for October 1989 California Wilderness Conference funds not received until last year.

About a third of our budget goes into our publications program, mostly for the *Wilderness Record*. Although we use volunteer writers, copy editors, and mailing parties, the cost of producing and distributing 60,000 copies of 12 issues each year is expensive (and the postage rates just jumped 50 percent!).

Issues and wilderness alerts take another 25 percent of the pie. The use of bulk rate envelopes for mailing alerts (when time permits) has saved us a lot of money, and by

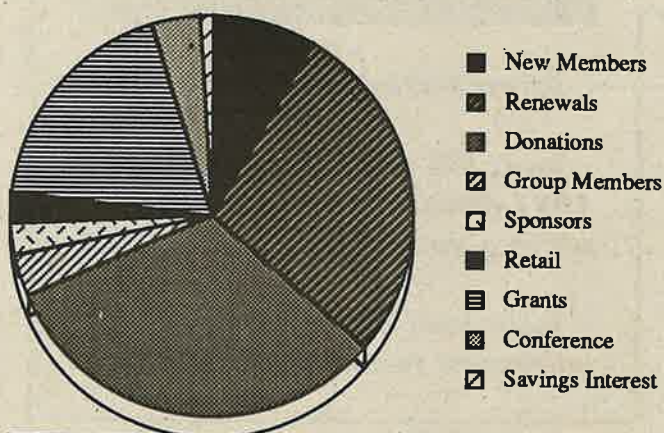
going to bar coded envelopes this year we should keep this cost low.

Membership services are the domain of Nancy Kang. This includes the costs of getting, maintaining, and helping our members. Renewals, new member mailings, and requests for information all fall into this category.

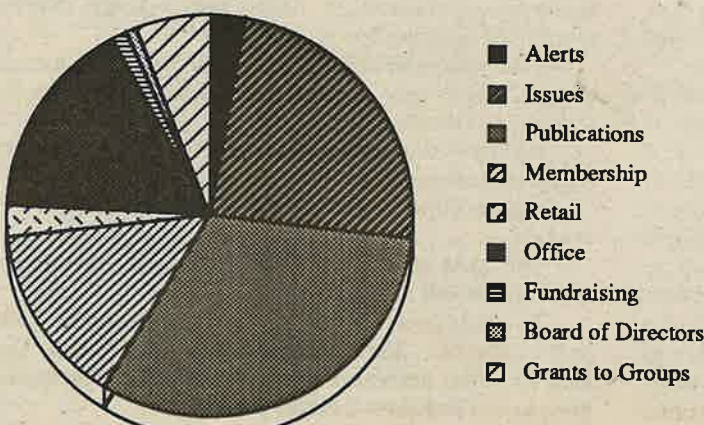
It takes more than \$8,000 per year just to pay for rent, utilities, telephone, copy machine maintenance, recycled paper, mailing permits, and the other basic costs of running a business. We do our best to be frugal; we greatly appreciate the membership dues and donations of our members. Even with a 50 percent postal hike, we plan to do our best to keep our expenses down in 1991.



1990 Income



1990 Disbursements



Roadless Areas

Duncan Canyon: An opportunity too good to pass by



The Pacific Crest Trail in the Duncan Canyon roadless area.

Photo by U.S. Forest Service

continued from page 1

wilderness to be a "settled" matter, since the Tahoe National Forest Land & Resources Management Plan (LRMP) allocates the area to intensive timber production. Contrary to the wishes of conservationists, preservation of Duncan Canyon's roadless natural character for the next forest plan's wilderness study is not considered.

The closest the draft EIS comes to discussing possible wilderness-style management is Alternative "A," the no-action alternative required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The effect of a "no-harvest prescription" on roadless character is expressed as "continu(ing) to provide visitors with a predominantly natural environment...consistent with a semi-primitive nonmotorized setting."

Preferred Alternative "E" is a prescription for disaster. Throughout the document, in content and in process, serious problems abound. Here are some of the problems conservationists have identified:

- The FS policy on old-growth protection directs that "...attention (be) given to minimizing the fragmentation of old-growth into small isolated areas." The Duncan & Sailor canyon complex, a block of more than 10,000 acres of old-growth forest, would be bisected under the plan.

- Logging of 12.8 million board feet of timber on 644 acres bisecting an important wildlife corridor.

- Logging in suitable furbearer habitat areas using "special wildlife prescription" techniques, including "three or more high stumps (6-9 feet) per acre...for perches...for pine marten or fisher."

- Strip clearcuts, seedstep shelterwood cuts, and "special visual prescription" cuts along the Tevis Cup Equestrian Trail are to be topped off with broadcast burning.

- Construction of approximately 11.5 miles of road, at a cost of more than \$400,000. Who pays the bill?

- FS official policy states "where goals for providing old-growth values are not compatible with timber harvesting, lands would be classified as unsuitable for timber production." Neither the draft EIS nor the LRMP address the issue of classifying the Duncan & Sailor canyon old-growth complex unsuitable for timber production.

- The sales are proposed while the LRMP—including the Duncan Canyon logging "prescription"—is under appeal. The EIS defers to the LRMP for "management direction." How will the EIS respond to changes in "management direction" if the appeals are upheld?

- The FS admits that Duncan Canyon's fir trees carry little value. These timber sales may barely break even. Does the FS believe cost is no object in "getting the cut out?"

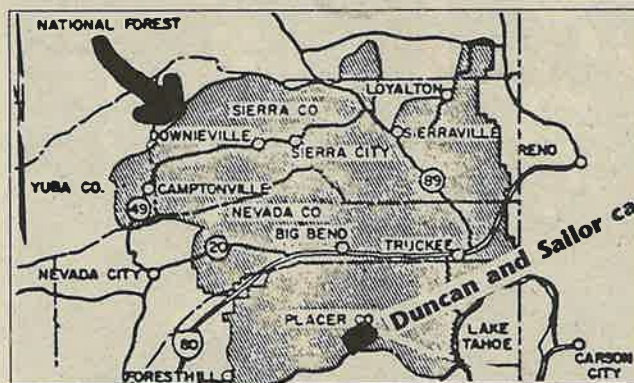
- Timber harvests would irreversibly damage potential habitat and travel/migration corridors for threatened and endangered species, listed or not. Several old-growth dependent species are currently threatened with extinction from fragmentation and loss of critical

habitat. Why log when the FS admits "very little is known about the exact needs of these animals?"

- Recreation demands are increasing constantly. The EIS states that, in the near future, demand will exceed supply for semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation. Yet there is no discussion of possible replacements for this irreversible loss.

- The Western States and Tevis Cup trails run through the roadless area. Popular with hikers, runners, flyfishers, equestrians and (unfortunately) ORV users, these trails provide easy access to the old-growth forest environment for many. The impacts of logging and related activity will be evident in the forest, around trailheads, and at access points along existing roads and trails.

The Duncan/Sailor Canyon ecosystem is fast becoming a biological "island" as surrounding watersheds



continue to be heavily logged. If this plan is implemented, further habitat fragmentation will occur, thereby greatly reducing the chances for preserving viable populations of native wildlife species.

The bottom line message to the agency is: go back to the drawing board. Do more wildlife studies, do recreation plans, respond to the public's concern over loss of old-growth, reread your own policies. Then, when science

Agency biologist blows whistle on Mt. Shasta ranger

Knowingly allowing logging in spotted owl nesting areas and falsifying biologists' reports are among the charges that have been brought against U.S. Forest Service (FS) Mt. Shasta District Ranger Ken Showalter by FS biologist Francis Mangels. Following Mangels' complaint, the FS law enforcement branch has requested a formal investigation.

Mangels compiled a five-page list of Showalter's alleged practices, which includes entries reading as reported in the *Siskiyou Daily News*, "Ranger deleted instances on my bald eagle report of 6/24/89 where I document that against my...directive, the foresters responsible for the Scott timber sale walked in to the base of the (eagle) nest tree and harassed the birds, which had a fledgling in the nest."

"This is consistent with previous activity by Showalter, where he put a timber sale in every area where we had spotted owls. Thus all the nest groves were logged out except one, where a mistake delayed the process and one pair of owls survived."

Mangels also alleged that Showalter violated his First Amendment right to free speech by intimidating him into quitting his involvement in conservation groups and the Mt. Shasta Rod and Gun Club.

The allegations were no surprise to retired FS engineer Tom Jackson, who told the *Siskiyou Daily News* that, "Showalter has problems with the wildlife side of forestry, whether it's because he doesn't know or doesn't want to know or doesn't want it to interfere with what he's going to do."

Jeff DeBonis, a former FS forester who organized the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE), said "...biologists are often the ones in conflict with the bottom line of getting the cut out." DeBonis called Mangels' list of Showalter's actions "a very good documentation of something that happens a lot, although this is a little more extreme than most."

Jim DePree, Northern California Co-ordinator for the National Audubon Society's Adopt-A-Forest mapping project, said that in his view and that of other environmentalists the district has mismanaged old-growth forests in the past. "We knew the owl was declining on the district," DePree said. "We want to see the truth out."

Most of the information and quotes in this article are from a February 15 Siskiyou Daily News article by staff writer Linda Webb.



ACTION

catches up with your planning, recommend designation of the Duncan Canyon Wilderness Area!

Concerned readers should generate as many letters as possible during the comment period to demonstrate public concern and interest in Duncan Canyon.

Here's what you can do to help save our forest: Write a letter in support of Alternative A, the no logging alternative.

In your own words, tell why you feel it is important to save the old-growth forests of Duncan Canyon. [Please send a copy of your letter to your Congressional Representative, and explain your concern over management of the national forests. House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.]

Ancient forests

Same Jontz bill reintroduced into new political climate

On February 6, 1991, Rep. Jim Jontz of Indiana and 72 original co-sponsors reintroduced the Ancient Forest Protection Act. The new number for the 1991 bill is H.R. 842. Included in the list of original co-sponsors were the following California members of the House: Bielensohn, Boxer, Brown, Campbell, Dellums, Edwards, Levine, Mineta, Panetta, Pelosi, Roybal, Stark, Torres, and Waxman.

Such a strong showing of support for the bill at its introduction is an important first step toward passage of the legislation in this Congress. The 1991 Jontz bill is a duplicate of last year's version. It would establish a National Ancient Forest Reserve System, free of logging and road-building, whose boundaries would be based on an ecological study.

Another ancient forest protection bill, authored by Rep. Bruce Vento, is expected to be reintroduced soon. California ancient forest activists considered the bill that Rep. Vento introduced last year to be less protective than H.R. 842. It would have placed about half of the Pacific Northwest's unprotected old-growth off-limits to logging, but did not address the habitat needs of species other than the spotted owl into account. Some modifications from last year's bill are expected.

Several new Congressional committee assignments change the political climate that will frame this session's ancient forests debate. Rep. George Miller has been named

the Acting Chair of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee while Chairman Mo Udall recovers from health problems. Rep. Miller now has the authority to schedule legislation that goes through the Committee, including ancient forest legislation, and his new role increases his prominence in the debate on the bill as it passes through the committee. Miller has not taken a position on Rep. Jontz's bill.

New members of the Interior Committee include Rep. Jontz, whose ability to urge passage of strong legislation will be enhanced through his new relationship with Committee members. He will now be a part of the team working with the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee and full Committee Chairs on ancient forest legislation.

Rep. Cal Dooley, a newly-elected California Democrat from the 17th District, has been named to the Agriculture Committee. Nancy Pelosi (D), co-sponsor of H.R. 842, is now a member of the Appropriations Committee, which sets "allowable sale quantities" (ASQ) and funding for the national forests.

In the Senate, newly appointed Senator John Seymour has been named to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This committee is the major focus of action on ancient forests (as well as on the California Desert Protection Act) and Senator Seymour's appointment will give California an enhanced role in the Committee debate in the Senate.

When is something likely to

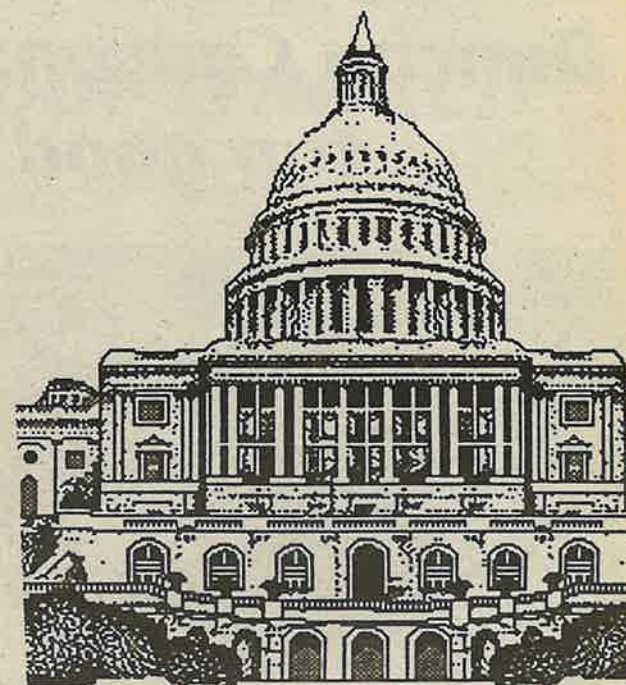
start happening in Congress? The war in the Persian Gulf is occupying much of Congress' time, slowing down all legislation. No hearings or mark-up for ancient forest legislation have yet been scheduled. Obviously, the longer it takes, the more trees will fall and the further the ecosystem will degrade.

Bush names owl recovery team

The Bush Administration has announced its team to develop the recovery plan for the northern spotted owl. Most of the 18 members of the committee have no background in, or knowledge of, spotted owl biology. Not a single member of the Jack Ward Thomas Inter-Agency Scientific Committee was named to the recovery team.

The committee members include one representative each from the Governor's offices in Washington, Oregon, and California, as well as foresters, silviculturists, biologists, and an economist. The specialists are drawn from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and two state universities. The news release accompanying the list from the Department of Interior stressed that economics would be reviewed as well as scientific evidence.

Reprinted from the California Ancient Forest Alliance newsletter.



Northwest activists to gain D.C. office

The grassroots Pacific Northwest ancient forests campaign will be increasing its presence in our nation's capitol, thanks to a generous offer by several foundations and private donors.

The funders have offered to support the opening of a Washington, D.C. office for grassroots activists from California, Oregon, and Washington state. The offer includes hiring staff and money for activists' cross-country travel and housing while they are in D.C. The intent is "to enhance public knowledge about old-growth forests in order to protect and sustain forest ecosystems and linkages that enhance biological diversity."

The office director, formally titled "Northwest Representative," will serve as a primary spokesperson for northwest activists.

Tim McKay, a member of the steering committee for the new project, said, "We appreciate this unique opportunity and what it will mean for our precious and endangered forest ecosystems."

Tim also acknowledged the challenges in accountability—in ensuring that the Washington, D.C. staff serves "the voice of the grassroots" in a unified way. "We recognize the difficulty in arriving at a unified position on specific tactics, especially in regard to legislation, so we will need a method for resolving issues which minimizes long-term conflicts."

Advice from California ancient forest activists is welcome, and may be sent to: Tim McKay, c/o Northcoast Environmental Center, 879 Ninth Street, Arcata, CA 95521.

Wilderness management



Mineral King in Sequoia National Park

Photo by U.S. Forest Service

CORRECTION

The January 1991 WR mistakenly reported that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was considering selling a lease for oil and gas development on lands within the Caliente Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

The lands in the leasing proposal, however, are not actually in the WSA boundary, but are a "cherry stem" of adjacent land reaching into the WSA. These lands were privately-owned until December 1988, when they were acquired by the BLM.

Money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund was appropriated by Congress for the purchase of 13,000 acres in the Carrizo Plains for the preservation of endangered species. The higher elevation cherry stem of lands near the WSA were included in this purchase.

These newly-purchased lands have not been studied for addition to the WSA, and project coordinator Jack Mills told the WR "we probably need to do that."

These lands qualify as WSAs under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands are required to be studied for their wilderness potential if they are contiguous with lands which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values (such as, in this case, the 19,018-acre Caliente Mtn. WSA).

The BLM's failure to study the new lands for inclusion in the WSA is not surprising, however. The agency has already indicated its preference that no part of the Caliente Mtn. WSA be designated as wilderness and that the entire area be opened for oil and gas exploration and development. Currently 46 percent of the WSA is covered by oil and gas leases, and all of the WSA has been leased at some time.

Castle Crags logging

continued from page 1

However, the 1984 Wilderness Act directed the FS to acquire inholdings from willing sellers and many ranger districts have managed to do so, either by purchase or by trading for other agency lands. In California, few wilderness inholdings, if any, have ever been logged.

The Trust for Public Land, a private, non-profit organization that often facilitates acquisitions of sensitive lands, has been talking with Crane Mills about working out such a deal for the Castle Crags inholding.

However, an exchange or purchase agreement has not been reached. According to the *Mount Shasta Herald*, Frank Barron of Crane Mills said the Trust and Forest Service have failed to propose an equitable value or exchange for his company's land, even though the company admits that the land does not have high timber value. Barron admitted to the *Herald* that there's "always a possibility" that a resort development could be built in the area, which includes about one-third of the shoreline of Castle Lake. Local environmentalists feel the possibility of a developed recreation area is a real one.

In a late February meeting, District Ranger Ken Showalter told a Crane Mills forester that if the company applies for a permit to construct new roads on Forest Service land, environmental and public review processes will be involved. Showalter said he also told the company representative that he had no doubt that environmental groups would appeal any decision to allow a road.

However, the company has the option to avoid this scrutiny by using an existing county road to the site. If Crane Mills decides to use the existing road, the Forest Service will not be as involved.

"The football is in their court," Showalter said.

As for the possibility of acquiring the land, Showalter claimed that the Forest Service has identified the area as a high priority for acquisition. "I don't know that the land exchange is dead," he said, adding that "We'd rather see (the area) wilderness than logged."

The Castle Crags Wilderness, 7,300 acres designated in 1984, is named for its spectacular granite cliffs and spires.

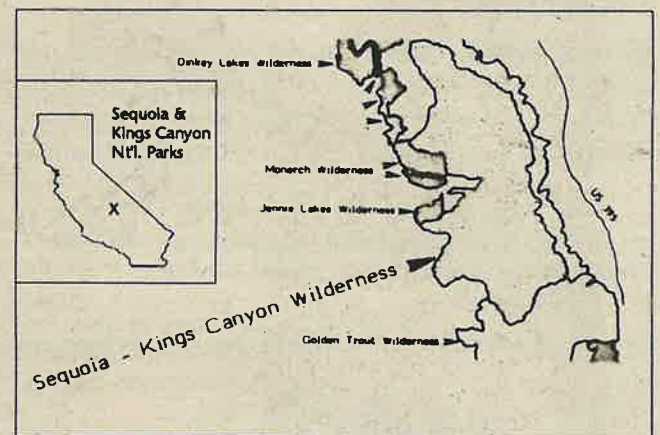
Sequoia and Kings Canyon parks to revise management plans

A new wilderness management plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks is now being prepared. The National Park Service (NPS) is revising and combining its 1986 "Backcountry Management Plan" and 1986 "Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan" for the parks.

Three meetings were held in February to hear the public's views on the issues to be addressed in the new management plan. Written comments will be accepted until March 15.

Among the issues to be covered in the new plan is the maximum size of groups of people and stock to be allowed in the wilderness. The recommendation for stock use levels is being developed by an interagency group with representatives of all the NPS and Forest Service central and southern Sierra wilderness areas. The group will recommend a level of stock use that is to be consistent throughout these Sierra wilderness areas. The draft recommendation will appear in the Federal Register within the next few months, and public comment on the draft will be incorporated into the final decision. Comments on this subject sent to the NPS as part of the Sequoia/Kings Canyon management plan will be forwarded to the interagency group.

Other issues that are addressed in the existing plans for Sequoia and Kings Canyon are listed below, but comments on other relevant topics also are welcomed: human waste disposal; water quality concerns; bears and proper food storage techniques, including use of metal food storage boxes; wilderness information and education; use of helicopters and chain saws in wilderness;



commercial operations, such as outfitters and guide services; aesthetic values in wilderness; stock use restrictions, such as grazing, carrying feed, stock free areas, off-trail travel, campsite management, etc.; backpacker restrictions, such as crowding, campsite management, off-trail travel, campsite management, etc.; campfires, firewood use, and fire closures; and designation of special management areas or zones, such as trail-free areas, stock-free areas, cross-country zones, etc.

A draft wilderness management plan will be compiled after the initial public comment period, and additional review and comments will then be solicited. The NPS anticipates having a revised plan approved and in effect by the summer of 1992.

Send your comments to: Superintendent J. Thomas Ritter, National Park Service, Three Rivers, California, 93271-9700.

Interview: wilderness psychology

Wilderness: A place to find your true self

At the entrance to a favorite Grass Valley restaurant, a flyer caught my eye with the words "Workshops on Wilderness and the Sacred." Since Nevada County is the home of wilderness poet and essayist Gary Snyder, I was surprised to see the workshop's leader was a woman named Marge Kaiser. I jotted down the phone number and after procrastinating for several weeks, called Marge and introduced myself. We met at a coffee shop and afterwards I felt delighted to have stumbled upon, in my own town, an educated advocate of the wilderness as a shaper of the human psyche. Marge received her M.A. in psychology from Sonoma State University, where she studied with renowned wilderness psychology authority



Marge Kaiser

Robert Greenway. Marge shares her message of the importance of wilderness to humankind through workshops and wilderness quests for women. For more information, call (916) 265-0912. —Stephanie Mandel

WR: What is wilderness psychology?

Marge: Wilderness psychology is the study of people's relationship to nature or to "wildness," both externally and within ourselves.

WR: Different cultures relate to nature in different ways—Native Americans, for instance, versus Europeans. What is the basis of the relationship between current American society and nature/wilderness?

Marge: Out of myths handed down through fairy tales and stories from European ancestors came a great deal of fear and superstition regarding "wildness"—concepts such as the werewolf, and stories of wolves and demons roaming the woods that would eat or possess anyone who ventured far from the village.

Another factor that has created the gulf between humankind and nature is the scientific approach of the last century. Due to the theories and methods introduced by Rene Descartes, often referred to as the Cartesian split or subject-object split, a consciousness developed that there is such a thing as subject and object—that separation is a fact of science and that things can be studied objectively. This led to the wholesale slaughter of many plants and animals through large collections of specimens. This idea of scientific study is still being used today. However, current research in quantum physics and some of the work done by David Bohm and others suggests that everything is connected to everything else. Bohm used the example

of the hologram, in which no one piece can be separated out. Scientists are now finding out that in studying an object, the object changes its behavior to meet the expectations of the student. Even inanimate objects seem to "read the researchers' mind" and behave differently than they would normally.

WR: Has the disappearance of wilderness and the fact that so many of us have never really experienced wilderness contributed to today's societal ills?

Marge: Violence and the things people fear within themselves are primarily a function of the culture—of being split off from one's inner nature.

Civilization breeds violence because civilization, due to its laws, value systems, and "shoulds," also breeds frustration and represses aspects of the personality; and that which is repressed is that which can burst out and become violent.

"It is awareness of the unity of all things that wilderness psychology is all about—a need to be aware of the whole in order to feel whole within one's self."

Nature doesn't operate that way—nature doesn't have anything repressed. There are no morals in nature—it's totally amoral—there is only respect for the life and death process and learning how to survive.

The real inner self is non-violent. The real inner self is survival-oriented, that's for sure, but it's not outraged and frustrated and violent.

Now at first people may experience those feelings (in the wilderness). When they first come out in the wild, they may unleash and begin to feel their feelings; indeed that's one of the fears—people are afraid of their own feelings and when they go into the wilderness they begin to feel them, and that's scary sometimes.

That is the layer that's repressed, the fierce place.

"That kind of awareness can take place only in the real thing—the forest and wilds of the Earth. We need wilderness in order to feel not only the planet but our own psyches."

That's why people often imagine that's what happens when they "go wild." But the next layer under that is all of a piece. There's nothing to repress out there. Then there's the integration of the personality.

The process is facilitated by the wilderness by removing the person from the culture.

Inherent in the fear of the "wild" is a belief that human beings, given the opportunity, would go "wild" if they didn't have laws, civilization, and the values of the culture to restrain them. Well, what does it mean to go "wild?" There is a fear of violence and lust and immorality with the concept of "wild." In actuality, the opposite appears to be the case when one approaches wilderness/nature with respect and a willingness to listen to what it has to teach us. There is silence, beauty, and balance in the ecosystem.

It is awareness of the unity of all things that wilderness psychology is all about—a need to be aware of the whole in order to feel whole within one's self. There is no place for violence in that order of things. To destroy needlessly a plant or animal without seeing its life force, without

Books on wilderness psychology and spirituality

The Practice of Wild, essays by Gary Snyder, 1990.

Wilderness and the American Mind, Roderick Nash, 1982.

Of Wolves and Men, Barry Lopez.

Deep Ecology, Michael Tobias, ed.

Woman and Nature, Susan Griffin.

Nature, Man, and Woman, Alan Watts.

Nature and Madness, Paul Shepard.

honoring it and using it in the natural order of things—such as food, shelter, etc.—doesn't happen. That kind of awareness can take place only in the real thing—the forest and wilds of the Earth. We need wilderness in order to feel not only the planet but our own psyches.

Understanding this process in the truest sense of understanding can only come through experiencing it by getting out into wilderness areas. Unfortunately, as the timber lands are being depleted and the human population growing there is less and less opportunity for people to do that.



A great deal of fear and superstition regarding "wildness," and the myth of the werewolf, were handed down from European ancestors.

More CWC news

Coalition anniversary party a huge success!

It was standing room only in the Village Homes Community Center as supporters celebrated the 15th anniversary of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Dedicated to the memory of Ardis Walker and Katherine Miller Johnson, the event was a reunion of the Coalition's founding mothers and fathers, volunteers, and staff. Jim Eaton provided embarrassing slides of many of these activists in their younger years (when the women had long hair and the men *had* hair), and former directors Sari Sommarstrom and Phil Farrell added some more photos of their own.

David Brower and Martin Litton inspired the gathering with their remarks. Brower was cheered when he declared, "we shouldn't be placing boundaries around wilderness, but boundaries around civilization."

Music was provided by Dale Will and friends, with an ample supply of wine supplied by Tom Smith at Hess Winery and a keg of beer donated by Sudwerk Privatbrauerei Hubsch, a local microbrewery. An excellent variety of food was prepared by Coalition volunteers, many of whom bring their wares to the monthly CWC potluck and *Wilderness Record* mailing party.

The key organizer was former director Bob Schneider, who twisted arms for party sponsors, arranged the donations of wine and beer, and talked the Davis City Council into honoring the Coalition (in one of its rare unanimous votes). Directors Mary Scoonover and Trent Orr also helped greatly.

In addition to a celebration, the event was a fund raiser. In fact, it was the most successful event the Coalition has ever organized. Special thanks are due to the sponsors of the event:

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CWC founders Bob Schneider and Don Morrill and activists John Graham and Mary Tappel enjoy the program at the anniversary party. Photo by Wendy Cohen

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8-10 FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL, "Making Waves," at Dominican College in San Rafael. For more information, call (415) 771-0400.

March 11 COMMENTS DUE on the Duncan and Sunflower timber sales (Tahoe National Forest) draft EIS. (Article on pages 1 & 3.)

March 15 COMMENTS DUE on wilderness management in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. (Article on page 5.)

March 15 SCOPING COMMENTS DUE on organized competitive and noncompetitive off-road vehicle events in the California Desert Conservation Area. (Article on page 1.)

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 in the Feb. 1991 WR.)

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

from page 2

Amboy Crater,
Lava Hills, &
South Bristol
Mountains



**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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The animal design that Lynn is wearing is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige and light gray for \$12. Alan 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.



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