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WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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March, 1992



Before: The "narrows" of Dedeckera Canyon in Saline Valley WSA were nearly impassable.

Photos by Jon Harman

Wild & Scenic Trinity plan is a flop

By Steve Evans

Conservationists have until March 24 to submit comments on the draft South Fork Trinity Wild and Scenic River Management Plan recently published by the U.S. Forest Service. The South Fork drains the west side of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northwestern California. Approximately 90 miles of the river were added to the National Wild and Scenic River System in 1981 by Interior Secretary Andrus in the waning hours of the Carter administration.

A federal lawsuit originally filed by conservationists in 1989 prompted the Forest Service to develop a Wild and Scenic River management plan. None of the so-called "Andrus" rivers (including the South Fork Trinity, the main stem Trinity, Smith, Klamath, Eel, and lower American) has such a plan due to the unique method by which the rivers were added to the system (see "The Andrus Decision" on page 4).

The South Fork Trinity was designated as Wild and Scenic in part to protect its outstanding chinook salmon and steelhead trout fishery. But the river's chinook population has declined in the last 30 years from thousands of fish to just seven in 1989. The river's steelhead fishery is in only slightly better shape. The Forest Service claims that the flood of 1964 was responsible for the decline, but many other north coast rivers have since recovered—the South Fork Trinity has not.

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Dedeckera Canyon bulldozed

By Bob Ellis and Lucy Rosenau

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has brought suit against a miner who bulldozed his way through a remote desert canyon in the Saline Valley Wilderness Study Area (WSA) en route to his pumice claim in Saline Valley. The BLM, which has recommended wilderness designation for this portion of the Saline Valley WSA, hopes the court will require the miner to rehabilitate the area damaged, the "narrows" of Dedeckera Canyon.

In late October 1991, a ranger from the BLM's Ridgecrest Resource Area noticed bulldozer tracks leading from Eureka Dunes along the Steele Pass jeep route toward Saline Valley. The ranger followed the tracks and came upon the miner just as he was about to complete construction of a gravel road through the narrows of Dedeckera Canyon, a site known for several endangered plant species (and named for a rare one, *Dedeckera eurekaensis*).

Although the miner was stopped, there are now tons of loose gravel filling more than a hundred yards of the narrows. More seriously, perhaps, what was once a nearly impassable route has been widened, making Dedeckera Canyon, and the desert plateau beyond, more accessible to off-road vehicles.

According to Lee Delaney, Ridgecrest Resource Area Manager, the miner has a valid claim. Because the claim was filed after the 1976 passage of the Federal Land Policy Management Act, however, only existing access routes to the claim may be used. The miner has the right to "maintain" the

continued on page 6



After: The narrows (from a greater distance). The Bureau of Land Management intervened before a miner could finish bulldozing a road through the narrows to his Saline Valley mineral claim.

COALITION PAGE

MONTHLY REPORT

Environmentalists spend far too much time indoors, and many of our weekends are interrupted by meetings. Whenever there is an opportunity to lump several meetings into a single weekend, we do this on the dubious theory that we will have a free weekend to enjoy the outdoors.

Therefore we boldly scheduled three events on the first weekend of February: our Board of Directors meeting, a fundraiser with Gary Snyder and Peter Coyote, and a daylong workshop with wilderness activists working on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues.

All but three members of our Board attended the Coalition's annual meeting; Bob Barnes was sick, Lynn Ryan was in Ashland at a major forest activists meeting, and Sally Miller could not cross the Sierra with her car threatening to catch fire. All valid, if not novel excuses.

We selected a new CWC president, Mary Scoonover, and a new secretary, Alan Carlton. Mary has worked her way up from student intern to president during the past decade. Alan, accustomed to IBM computers, attempted to take minutes on my Macintosh, but he was unnerved when 2001's HAL scolded "human error" whenever he made a mistake.

We covered a number of topics, including our treasurer's report (which always reminds me of a *Peanuts* strip: "we ain't never had no money, we ain't got no money now, and we ain't never gonna have any money"). The question of grazing in wilderness was given considerable thought, and a subcommittee is working on a statement to express a consensus view that evolved.

The weather was nice enough to drive us outdoors for the afternoon. George Sessions, co-author of *Deep Ecology*, dropped by. We spent some time contemplating the Coalition's role in the coming years, especially our need to protect wilderness values by linking designated wilderness areas with biological corridors. We will discuss this further in the *Record* soon.

A number of directors then went down to a book signing by Gary Snyder at The Avid Reader, a local bookstore that is donating the proceeds to the CWC. Then it was off to the Veterans Memorial

BY JIM EATON

Theater to begin setting up for the evening's event.

I did get a chance to escape to the dinner Bob Schneider put together for Gary and Peter along with a number of the sponsors of the benefit.

Then it was back to the theater where fellow staffers Nancy and Lucy had everything under control. Along with several Board members and other volunteers, they handled all the details that made the evening a successful event.

Gary and Peter charmed the audience for hours, and Dale Will entertained with a musical interlude. Peter led off, reading a chapter from a book he is writing about life in the Bay Area in the 1960s, and Gary followed with poetry from several of his works. Afterwards, we feasted on ice cream, cake, pies, cookies, and other goodies that Bill Wald talked Bay Area businesses into donating.

After cleaning up the facility, many of us returned to my house to continue the party (and count the money). The benefit was quite successful; we haven't closed the books yet, but it looks like about ten percent of our annual budget was raised. Many thanks to Gary and Peter for allowing us to drag them from a book signing to a dinner to the reading without complaint.

It was with great reluctance, therefore, that we arose to spend Sunday in yet another meeting. But we trudged down to the Yolo Environmental Resource Center to meet with activists working on BLM wilderness. After all, they had travelled from Reno, Lone Pine, and the Bay Area to join us.

The morning was spent working on strategies and tactics to get the California Desert Protection Act passed this year. The afternoon was devoted to BLM lands not covered by the Act. These are exciting issues; it's not often one can get in on the ground floor of a wilderness proposal. But we are still discovering areas deserving of wilderness protection that need to be adopted by activists.

So what about the weekends we freed up with these busy two days? Well, our unprecedented 16 consecutive days of rain made much of the month quite soggy.

Not that I'm complaining. Do you know how many tasks I've been saving up for a rainy day during these years of drought?

Use "Line 50" To Help California's Endangered Species.



FORM 540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more:

48 Alzheimer's Disease	• 48
49 Senior Citizens	• 49
50 ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 50 <i>15</i>
51 Child Abuse	• 51
52 Olympics	• 52
53 Vietnam Veterans	• 53

There are more than 280 California wildlife species facing the threat of extinction. You can help them survive by filling in "Line 50" on your State Tax Return. Even a little helps a lot, so please do what you can.

Pictured here: San Joaquin Kit Fox

Corrections

The McCabe Flat campground, located in the Merced River Wilderness Study Area, was misidentified in our February issue. We regret the error.

Letters

Dear Editor:

Archie Logsdon said it very well in his letter last month (January 1992). I see this quickness to point fingers and blame in the Sierra Club. In western Colorado, where I grew up, environmentalists are blamed just as quickly and unthinkingly. It seems to have become an issue of "our team" versus "their team," a sort of sport where competition between teams is axiomatic. On the environmental side I see the tendency exacerbated by the currently fashionable taste for political correctness, with its incredible self-assurance and its unwillingness to grant any respect or credence whatsoever to "the opposition." No gray areas, no compromise—just certainty and conviction.

I'm glad to hear that CWC will be taking a fresh look at how we're going, and with whom.

Yours truly,
Cress Kearny
Oakland



The Forest Service is cracking down on sales of t-shirts bearing this copyrighted design on the grounds that the design constitutes an illegal reproduction of the agency logo.

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What California wilderness has the highest (in elevation) hot springs?

Answer on page 7.

BLM wilderness study areas

Cedar Roughs: wild enough for bears, but not for BLM

By Herb Klarer

In a county best-known for its vineyards are 5,875 wild acres where black bears still roam. Few trails penetrate the area, and few people visit. This is Cedar Roughs, protected now by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a wilderness study area (WSA), an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC), and a research natural area. But the BLM considers Cedar Roughs not "special" enough for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Herb Klarer disagrees.

A unique geological and biological site in northeastern Napa County (see map), Cedar Roughs is a fine example of California coastal mountain wilderness. The WSA is composed of a large serpentine mound about five miles long running northwest to southeast; Iron Mountain at the southern extremity rises to an elevation of 2,287 feet. The area is drained on the east by Trout and Smittle creeks and on the west by Hardin and Pope creeks.

Harsh growing conditions imposed by the serpentine soils have caused the development of unusual plant communities. Dense stands of Sargent cypress (*Cupressus sargentii*, the "cedars" for which the area is named) blanket the higher elevations. The spring and early summer bring many wildflowers, smaller here than their counterparts which grow on richer soils. Manzanita, leather oak, and foothill pine appear in the north and on the periphery; valley oak, blue oak, and chemise in the southwest. Scattered in the southern and eastern areas of the WSA are oak woodlands.

The cypress grow to heights of fifty feet or more at the northern end of the mound, but there is much variety in the growth. In some places the ground is covered with close-growing cypress, perhaps only ten feet tall, with a fairly thick canopy overhead. Hikers can make their way

through this pygmy forest, but it is possible to lose one's bearings. Additional variation of cypress growth is seen where fires, pushed by prevailing winds, have made their way over the mound, leaving bands of differently-aged stands of trees.

Cedar Roughs' community of Sargent cypress is botanically significant because it is very large (2,800 acres) and shows no sign of hybridization with McNab cypress as is the case with other stands further north. It was for the benefit of the cypress (and the black bears) that the BLM designated Cedar Roughs as an ACEC.

Black bears breed here. Deer, squirrels, coyote, and other wild-life species flourish. Rainbow trout may be found in Trout Creek, but the habitat is limited.

The WSA may be reached over government land from the county road which follows Pope Creek. While there is no formal trail system in Cedar Roughs, a steep but useful trail does help to get out of the gorge of Pope Creek. Hiking through the rocky, head-high chaparral is very arduous, but sweeping distant vistas of northern Napa County reward the hiker's persistence. Views to the north and west are impressive, and picturesque glimpses of Lake Berryessa to the east are common.

Cedar Roughs is one of many WSAs about which there is little question in the minds of local activists that it deserves wilderness designation. This conclusion is not difficult to reach using the criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act. Cedar Roughs shows little imprint of man's work and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and

primitive recreation. It contains numerous features of ecological, geological, scientific, or educational value. The area is an easy two-hour trip from several large cities, being about forty miles over good roads from the county seat of Napa and another fifty miles from San Francisco.

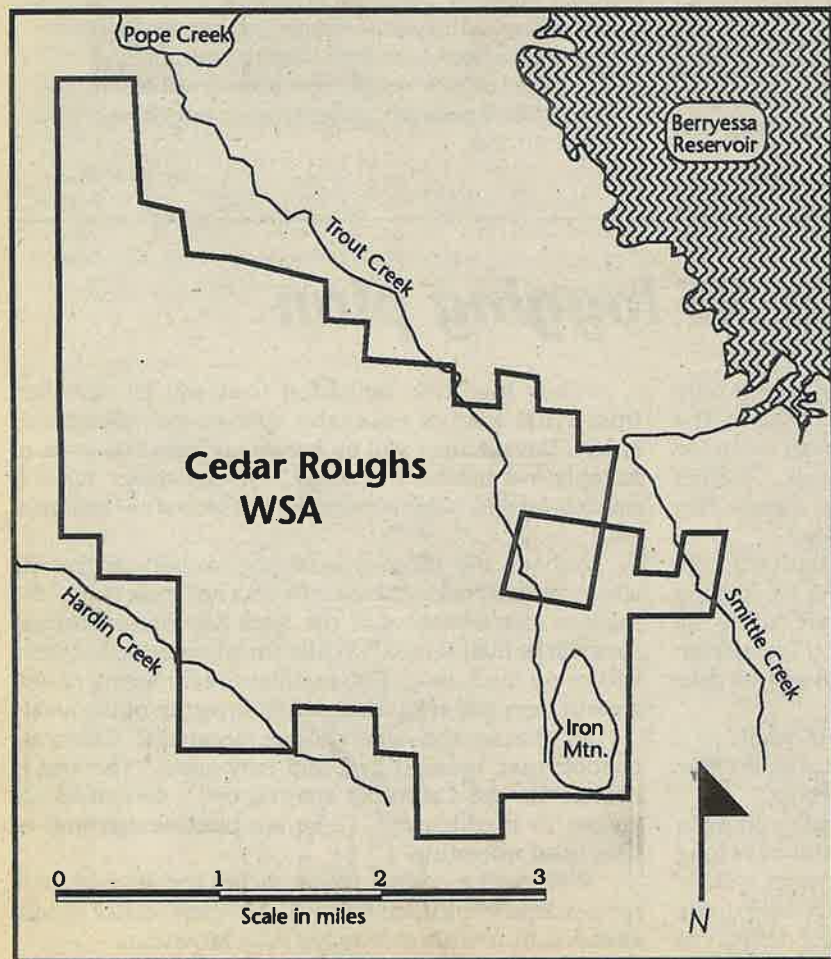
Population increases in the Vallejo-Sacramento corridor already have produced heavy recreational use at nearby Lake Berryessa. Land speculators to the south have large holdings and are nearly certain to become more aggressive regarding development as the population pressures intensify. Because the only really secure land designation is wilderness, Cedar Roughs will be in jeopardy until it is so protected.

Herb Klarer first visited Cedar Roughs in 1982. He is active in the Napa group of the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter and a CWC member.



A hiker in the pine and oak woodlands of southeastern Cedar Roughs WSA.

Photo by Herb Klarer



Map by Jim Eaton

Nevada wilderness study released

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed its study of potential wilderness areas in Nevada and has released a statewide wilderness report which contains the agency's recommendations and rationale. Three of the 110 wilderness study areas (WSAs) addressed by the report overlap the Nevada-California state line and include acreage within California. Four other Nevada WSAs adjoin public lands in the California desert.

The BLM recommends wilderness designation for almost two million acres, less than environmentalists had hoped, and non-wilderness management for three and a quarter million

acres. In general, Nevada environmentalists consider that the BLM did a good job categorizing WSAs.

In the Eagle Lake-Cedarville Resource Area encompassing northwest Nevada and northeast California are three WSAs that cross state lines: Buffalo Hills, Dry Valley Rim, and Twin Peaks. The BLM report recommends that all of the Buffalo Hills WSA be designated non-wilderness because "wilderness qualities, while present, do not distinguish the WSA from much of the surrounding area." For Dry Valley Rim WSA, the BLM recommends 52,000 acres (including 7,000 in California) for wilderness. Another 7,000 acres in California (and 47,000 in Nevada) in Twin Peaks WSA are recommended for wilderness protection.

To receive a copy of the statewide wilderness report, write to: Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 850 Harvard Way, P. O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006.

Ancient forests

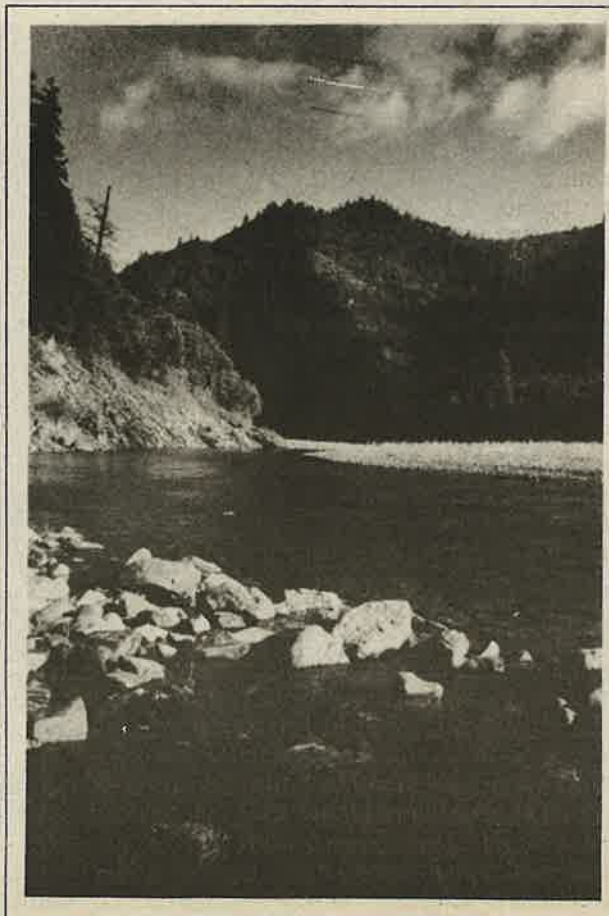
Watershed decline ignored in Trinity plan

continued from page 1

The real culprit in the decline of the river's fishery is the vast acreage in the South Fork watershed that has been roaded and logged by the Forest Service over the last three decades. As a result, erosion and sedimentation have filled in critical salmon spawning areas and changed the hydrology of the river. The level of development in what was once one of the least developed river basins in California has prompted one expert hydrologist to claim that the South Fork is far beyond its reasonable capacity to sustain any further watershed disturbance.

This critical issue is virtually ignored in the draft Wild and Scenic plan for the South Fork. The primary issues addressed by the plan are how wide the Wild and Scenic corridor will be and what kind of development will be allowed adjacent to the corridor. Five alternatives are considered in terms of corridor size, ranging from an alternative which limits the corridor to the river's high water mark (encompassing only 1,248 acres of public land) to one which includes many areas beyond the standard quarter-mile study corridor (encompassing 26,575 acres).

Although the alternative which protects the most land is obviously preferable, none of the alternatives in the plan meets the mandate of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to protect the South Fork's outstandingly remarkable fishery. Only an alternative which encompasses the river's entire



The Trinity River's outstanding salmon runs may become extinct if intensive logging continues in its sensitive watershed. Photo by Tim Palmer

critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. At a minimum, support protection of all existing roadless areas, prohibition of roads and logging in the standard quarter-mile corridor, and restricted road building and logging throughout the watershed.

Steve Evans is a member of the CWC's Board of Directors.

watershed and limits or prohibits all disturbance can accomplish this.

Many other values are also at stake. Under several alternatives, the river's once vast roadless areas would be largely roaded and logged. In addition, the watershed's ancient forests, which provide critical habitat for the threatened northern spotted owl and rare Pacific fisher, would be decimated.

The Forest Service is soliciting public comments on the draft plan until March 24, 1992. Concerned conservationists are urged to write a letter by that date to Karyn Wood, Hayfork District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041. In your letter, oppose the limited corridors outlined in the plan and support expansion of the corridor to protect the entire South Fork Trinity watershed. Note that this is needed to meet the Wild and Scenic Act's mandate to protect the river's anadromous fishery as well as to protect

The Andrus Decision

Most rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by an act of Congress. But in the waning hours of the Carter administration, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus found a new way to protect the South Fork Trinity and five other rivers in California from the ravages of dam builders.

Utilizing a little-known and never-used section of the Wild and Scenic Act, Andrus was able to add all the rivers designated in 1972 as state Wild and Scenic Rivers to the federal system in 1981. Section 2(a)(ii) of the federal act allows state rivers to be added to the federal system simply upon request from the state's governor (then Jerry Brown) and approval by the Interior Secretary.

As a result, the state and federal government's long-standing dreams of building a series of massive dams on north coast rivers and diverting most of the water to Central Valley agribusiness and thirsty southern cities were foiled. The dam builders howled, the timber industry wailed, but to no avail—the rivers were permanently added to the system in 1982 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a lawsuit challenging the Andrus decision.

Since the decision, little has been done to reduce the ravages of intensive logging along the rivers. Nevertheless, conservationists have been trying. The entire Smith River watershed was designated a National Recreation Area in 1990, effectively limiting logging in that watershed. In addition, a federal court judge is about to rule on a conservationist lawsuit which may permanently restrict intensive logging in the South Fork Trinity watershed.

None of this would have been possible without the political audacity and courage of Jerry Brown and Cecil Andrus.

—Steve Evans

Absurdities abound in Sequoia NF logging plan

By Jim Eaton

Timber planners speak a different language. From my jaded perspective, it often seems that the language they use is intended as camouflage. A prime example is Sequoia National Forest's Red Hill Planning Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This is a plan to log 12 million board feet of trees from 2,000 acres of the Slate Mountain Roadless Area.

The statement of purpose for the EIS includes the following: "In response to providing wood fiber, the Sequoia National Forest proposes to harvest timber." (Translation: In order to meet their inflated timber quotas, the Forest Service plans to log a roadless area.)

This is not the only obfuscation in the EIS. As a service to readers, I have selected some sentences from the document and offer my suggestions as to what they really mean.

"Many trees in the sale area exhibit their intolerance to insects, disease, drought stress, and fire. Standing dead and dying trees will eventually fall to the forest floor and add to the existing ground fuel." (Translation: This is a natural forest with trees that grow old and die, replenishing the mulch on the forest floor.)

"The majority of the planning area is accessible only by helicopter and has never been harvested.... Much of the area contains heavy decadence, pockets of dwarf mistletoe infection, and stagnation within the stands.... Timber growing sites are low..." (Translation: This is a really steep area with old trees and is not a good place to log.)

"Logging operations... may impact the trails through disturbance of the trail tread and blocking by logging slash. Use of the trails by visitors will be unsafe during the course of the sale and clean-up operations." (Translation: Even the presence of a National Recreation Trail will not deter us from logging.)

"Openings greater than one acre could result in a Modification Future Visual Condition." (I really don't have a clue to what this means, but it does sound serious.)

"Forest management and associated road building in the steep, rugged terrain of forested mountains have long been recognized as sources of non-point water quality pollution. Non-point pollution is controlled by containing the pollutant at its source, thereby precluding delivery to surface water." (Translation: Logging and road building cause erosion; conversely, leaving the area alone keeps the creeks clear.)

"Only high risk, sanitation trees will be harvested from 1,100 acres of unsuitable spotted owl habitat this entry. Salvage trees will be harvested from 900 acres of suitable owl habitat this entry." (Translation: When it comes to logging, it doesn't matter if it is spotted owl habitat or not.)

Perhaps the most entertaining section of the EIS advances the theory that since this is a helicopter sale, "the roadless characteristics of the Slate Mountain Roadless Area will be maintained." While I must concede that there will be no roads built, I do maintain that logging of old-growth trees will affect the natural integrity of the area.

So what are the values of Slate Mountain? California condors used to roost here and may again. The area is habitat for the California spotted owl. Goshawks are known in the vicinity. There are positive sightings of fisher and wolverine.

With such marginal timber values and so many rare species depending upon the area, the Forest Service should abandon its foolish plan to log Slate Mountain.

To comment or obtain a copy of the EIS, write the Tule River Ranger District, 32588 Hwy. 190, Springville, CA 93265. The deadline for comment is March 30, 1992.

Wilderness management

A place of petroglyphs and pumice spires

By Jon Harman

I first visited this canyon in December 1984 while camping in Saline Valley, a remote desert valley northwest of Death Valley. Fellow campers had told me about a petroglyph site about ten miles from my camp. My Volkswagen had no chance to make it up the very rugged road which led near the site, so I determined to do the 20-mile round trip as a day hike. I was assured that I couldn't miss the canyon as there was a brand new road going almost to its mouth.

I started out very early the next morning in threatening weather. I hiked up a huge wash for what seemed forever. The sequence of canyons slowly progressed as the hours wore on. I was following what is called the motor vehicle corridor between Saline and Eureka valleys. Some years it is more a theoretical route than a road, but this year it was definitely a road, freshly bladed. The weather closed in. A low cloud came within a hundred feet of the ground. A cold rain began. I feared that I would soon be in such dense fog that finding the canyon would be impossible.

But I was wrong. Sure enough there was a brand spanking new road leading off from the main wash up the middle of the fan to a canyon mouth. Beneath the fog I could just make out a white patch on the mountains near the mouth. This was my goal, and after another hour of walking I was there. Waves of relief flowed over me as I saw the first petroglyph site: the exhausting hike had not been in vain!

Relief turned to pure joy as I saw more and more sites. This was a fantastic place with fabulous petroglyphs. I managed to fit in a few hours of frenzied exploration and photography before beginning the long trudge back to camp in the dark.

When I returned to camp I learned more of the recent history of the canyon from others there. The road was illegal. In a theatrical display the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had helicoptered in to stop a miner just as he neared the canyon mouth. The "CAT" used to blade the

road was parked near the camp. It had been sabotaged by persons unknown, threatening the livelihood of its owner who had only leased it to the miner. Miners in the camp were incensed over what had happened. They could not comprehend why there was a fuss over some old graffiti; some local Piutes they had hired to help them with their claim thought nothing of the petroglyphs and in fact made a few of their own just for fun.

The miners subsequently were forced to restore the area damaged by the new road to its natural state, but they later found another way into the canyon along a wash that they claimed was an existing route. They proceeded to dig into a pumice deposit. This damage was isolated and relatively minor but scarred the canyon forever with obvious evidence of modern intrusion.

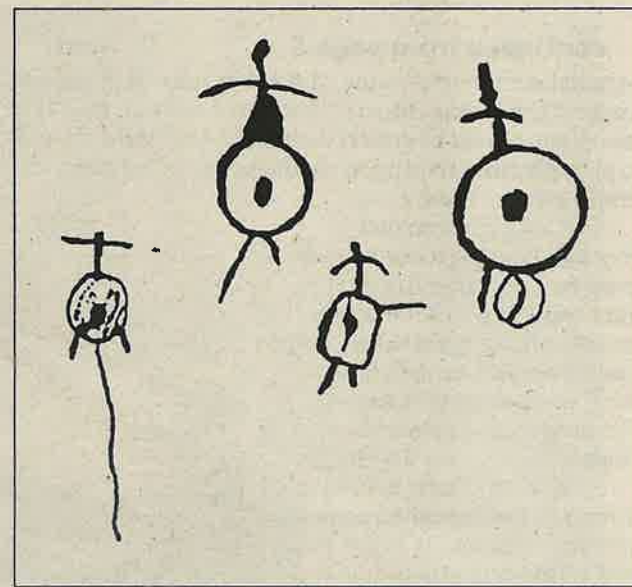
The canyon has no name on any map that I have. I call it "White Cliffs Canyon" since I saw that name scratched on a cliff near the canyon mouth. The canyon cuts through a beautiful white pumice deposit; the petroglyphs are carved in the soft pumice walls. There are five different petroglyph areas and dozens of petroglyphs, many of which are distinctive and unusual. The drawings included with this article will give you some idea of the type of petroglyphs found there. They cannot convey the special beauty of this canyon.

The pumice walls vary in shade from pure white to a delicate pink. Black basalt boulders washed in from above contrast strikingly with the pumice. In some places the pumice has been formed into fantastic shapes. I call one area the alien village. It is reached by climbing up a narrow slot side canyon cut through dazzling white pumice. At the top the pumice has been shaped into baroque turrets riddled with dozens of small shallow caves.

There can be a trickle of water in the canyon in the spring, and there is no other water for miles in any direction. Archaeological sites abound in the vicinity. Inside the canyon are several rock circles perhaps used as hunting blinds. There are habitation sites in rock shelters not far from the canyon mouth and some extremely fragile rock alignments and groups of cairns nearby.

I have visited this canyon many times over the years. For years after my first visit the canyon remained relatively undisturbed. I had hoped that its inclusion in a BLM wilderness study area (Saline Valley WSA) and proposed inclusion in the Death Valley National Park would protect the canyon. So I was shocked to see a new set of location markers in the canyon with new damage when I visited it over the Thanksgiving holiday 1991. There was new damage to the pumice walls of the canyon: a yard-long chunk had been drilled out just yards from a petroglyph site.

When I returned to the Bay Area I called Lee Delaney, the area manager for the BLM at this location (Ridgecrest Resource Area). He knew about the previous history of the canyon but not about the latest claim. He felt that the Antiqui-



The first petroglyph area in the canyon consists of dozens of these figures, associated perhaps with fertility rites.
Drawings by Jon Harman

ties Act would protect the petroglyphs and that WSA status would prevent any new roads, but he told me that valid existing claims would be exempt from wilderness protection. I think, despite the Antiquities Act and despite wilderness study status, there are miners out there who are intent on destroying White Cliffs Canyon. What they are doing is nothing more than vandalism. The extreme remoteness of the canyon makes any pumice deposit of

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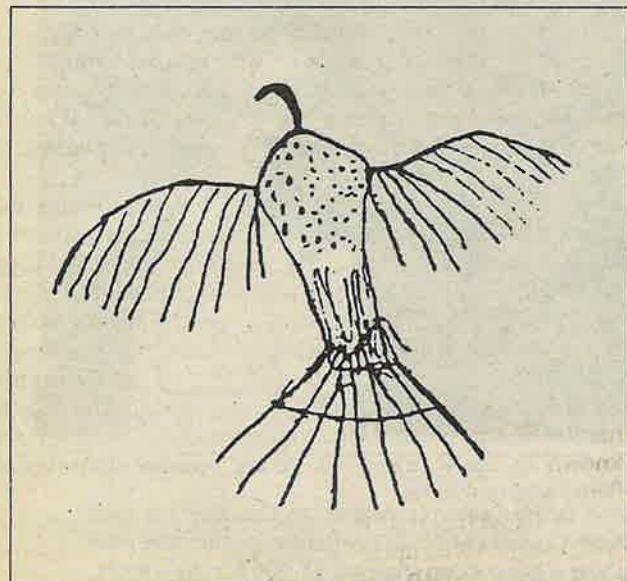
California's legacy of prehistoric art

Despite being protected by the federal Antiquities Act, our national heritage of prehistoric art is being vandalized. Petroglyphs are being defaced and carried off as souvenirs—a developer even used them in fireplace mantels in Southern California. Almost all known intaglio sites have been cross-cut by vehicle tracks, sometimes intentionally. Three kinds of prehistoric art—petroglyphs, pictographs, and intaglios—are at risk in California.

Petroglyphs (from the Greek *petros*, stone, and *glyphe*, carving) are chipped, scratched, or incised figures or designs on boulders, rock outcrops, or rock shelters. Frequently they are found associated with camps or villages. Older petroglyphs are darkened with "desert varnish," a blue-black or chocolate-colored patina that requires at least 1,500 to 2,000 years to form.

Pictographs are painted figures or designs seen most frequently on the walls of sheltered caves, boulders, or outcrops. The most frequent colors are red, black, and white, although other colors such as orange, brown, yellow, and green also were used.

Intaglios are large ground figures, abstract or animal or human in form, that were produced by removing the darker-colored desert pavement to expose the underlying lighter-colored soils. The rarest form of prehistoric art, intaglios are found along the Colorado River and in the Yuha Desert where an effigy figure 489 feet long and a maze two miles in diameter are found.



A beautiful and rare bird figure about four feet high

California desert

Defending a canyon with no name

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marginal commercial value. I think it may be mainly a grudge fight by the miners. I am very worried that the petroglyphs could be greatly damaged. Even if there were no petroglyphs, this canyon should be protected due to its unique natural beauty.

I am trying to find out what can be done to help preserve this canyon. I don't want to wait for the Desert Bill to pass; too much damage could be done in the meantime. This canyon is a national treasure.

Reprinted from the Winter 1991/92 issue of *The Survivor*, journal of the Desert Survivors.

Earlier this year in response to Jon Harman's concerns, the BLM examined the damage to "White Cliffs Canyon." Manager Lee Delaney arranged for the Ridgecrest Resource Area's wilderness specialist, who is familiar with the canyon, to inspect the site. The specialist concluded that the damage spotted by Harman is six or seven years old; no new evidence of damage was found. Delaney asserts that,

despite low staffing and the remoteness of the area, the BLM can protect the canyon's natural and cultural resources.

The valid mineral claim Harman refers to as a pumice claim is in fact a pozzolan claim. Pozzolan, found in volcanic rock, is used as a hardening agent for cement.

White Cliffs Canyon, like Dedeckera Canyon (see article on page 1), lies within the portion of Saline Valley WSA that the BLM has recommended for wilderness protection. The Desert Bill passed by the House also would protect this area, as part of a Death Valley National Park managed not by the BLM but by the National Park Service. —Ed.



The "Alien Village" of White Cliffs Canyon

Photo by Jon Harman

Dedeckera Canyon 'dozed

continued from page 1

existing route, but that maintenance may not alter the width or grade of the route. Delaney previously had notified the miner of the limitations to his right of access.

The Saline Valley pumice claim has long troubled conservationists because of its proximity to an important petroglyph site. Petroglyphs often are found carved in soft rock like pumice (see related articles on page 5) and may be damaged by mining operations. The Antiquities Act was designed by Congress to protect cultural resources like petroglyphs, but the remoteness of desert sites makes oversight and enforcement difficult.

Bob Ellis is Communications Director for Desert Survivors.

CWC celebrates the wild

Fundraiser nets CWC \$5,000

Thanks to the generosity of our members, sponsors, performers, and volunteers, this year's fundraiser was the most successful ever.

Special thanks to Peter Coyote and Gary Snyder, super volunteer Bill Waid, and the sponsors of the event:

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We are grateful also for donations of food from the Davis Food Co-op, Eddie's Liquors, Steve Evans and Jeanette Colbert, Grace Baking, Hudson Bay Beans, Leaven & Earth Bakery, and Mary Scoonover.



Some 200 people came to the California Wilderness Coalition's annual fundraiser to hear actor Peter Coyote (left) and poet Gary Snyder read from their works. The evening was a big success, netting \$5,000 for the CWC's coffers.

Photo by Mark Bullard, courtesy of the Davis Enterprise.

Book review

50-year-old guide to future Death Valley National Park

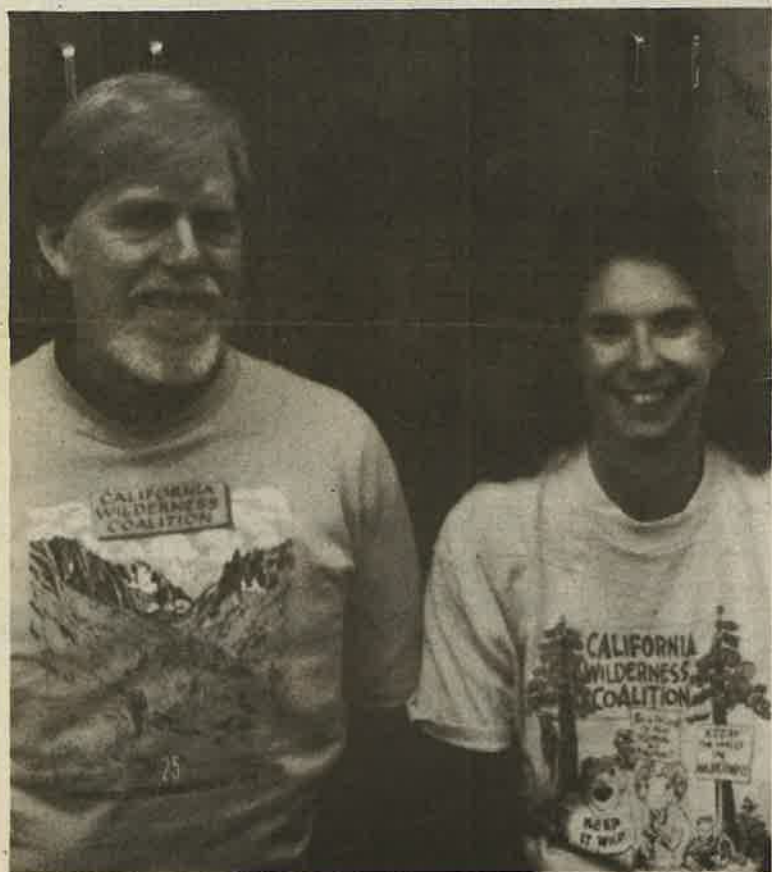
Death Valley: The 1938 WPA Travelers Guide, Updated
By Cheri Rae, ed., Olympus Press, Santa Barbara, 1991, \$10.95.

This pleasant volume is a very handy companion for auto touring in the Death Valley region. The original text, over fifty years old but surprisingly up-to-date, discusses points of interest along the many roads of the Death Valley National Monument (including some no longer accessible since the establishment of the China Lake Naval Weapons Preserve). Not only major tourist routes, but also many four-wheel-drive trips are described; some of the attractions (still there) are not mentioned in present park literature, so this guide offers some unique information to the traveler.

The WPA Guide series was begun almost 60 years ago during the depression as a means of employing writers; some of the major authors of the twentieth century found anonymous employment writing these manuals. The text is enjoyable to read, and the updates provide information about important changes without being intrusive on the original.

If you are planning a trip to the future Death Valley National Park, this slim, 160-page paperbound volume will enhance your enjoyment of this lovely area.

—George Clark



Fit for survivors: CWC t-shirts

Bob models our six-tone anniversary shirt which comes in light blue, yellow, light green, or peach for \$15. The animal design Karen wears is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige or light gray for \$12. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

Sulphur Springs in the
Mt. Shasta Wilderness,
at about 13,950 feet.

from page 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 20-April 15 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS on the future of the Sierra, sponsored by the Sierra Summit Steering Committee. Tentative dates are: March 20 in Quincy; March 21 in Placerville; April 8 in Mariposa; April 9 in Visalia; April 15 in Bishop. For more information, call (916) 653-5656.

March 24 COMMENTS DUE on the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the South Fork of the Trinity Wild & Scenic River. For more information, contact Roger Jaegel, Project Team Leader, at the Hayfork Ranger District, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041 or (916) 628-5227. Address comments to: Karyn Wood, District Ranger, Hayfork Ranger District, ATTN: Wild & Scenic River, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041. (See article on pages 1 and 4.)

March 30 COMMENTS DUE on the Sequoia National Forest's draft Environmental Impact Statement for logging in the Slate Mountain Roadless Area. Send to: Tule River Ranger District, 32588 Highway 190, Springville, CA 93265. (See article on page 4.)



**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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Focus

Eastern Sierra Audubon

Audubon isn't just for the birds any-
more. The Eastern Sierra chapter, 300
strong, is a group of down-to-earth envi-
ronmentalists concerned with issues rang-
ing from pupfish habitat to water wars.
From Mono Lake in the north to the dusty
expanses of Owens Lake, the chapter is
building boardwalks, patrolling public
lands, and sponsoring field trips. And, of
course, they still count birds.

Eastern Sierra Audubon adopted Fish
Slough to help preserve fragile wetlands
impaired by off-road vehicle use and graz-

ing. The chapter's task is complicated by
the multiplicity of agencies involved: the
City of Los Angeles owns the wetlands, the
Bureau of Land Management controls ad-
joining lands, and the state Department of
Fish and Game manages the fish.

Bureaucratic difficulties are nothing
new for the chapter, which has partici-
pated in the sometimes arduous planning
process for the Inyo National Forest and
the long-standing water wars of the Owens
Valley. And still, every Christmas, they
count birds.

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to the following businesses that have recognized the need to
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