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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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June, 1993

## Endangered salmon spawn appeal of Lassen plan

By Steve Evans

Five local, statewide, and national conservation groups have appealed the Forest Service's approval of the Lassen National Forest plan. The plan will guide the management of more than 1.1 million acres of public land in the northern Sierra Nevada for the next 10 to 15 years. The conservation groups appealing the plan are American Rivers, California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

The focus of the appeal is the plan's inadequate protection of the Sacramento River's spring run chinook salmon, which migrates up Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks as they flow through the forest's west side from the slopes of Mount Lassen. These creeks represent some of the best and most pristine habitat remaining for the spring run, which is considered by fishery biologists to be eligible for listing as an endangered species.

Although the plan recommends portions of the creeks for national

wild-and-scenic river status, other segments are left unprotected. In addition, the plan calls for road building and logging of as much as 28 percent of the currently unroaded areas of the Deer and Mill creek watersheds—a move which could lead to erosion, sedimentation, and loss of critical holding and spawning habitat for the salmon.

The spring run formerly was the largest run of salmon in the state. But the Sacramento River's spring run has declined from about 100,000 fish to about 400, most of which spawn in the high quality waters of Deer and Mill creeks. The salmon are called "spring run" because they migrate into the Sacramento River and its tributaries during springtime high water flows. The salmon then spend the long summers holding in deep, cold pools before spawning in early fall.

Conservationists are deeply concerned about the extent of proposed development of roadless areas which make up a significant portion of the Deer and Mill creek watersheds. The plan proposes road building and logging for several key roadless areas, including Cub Creek, Butt Mountain, Polk Springs, Mill Creek, and Wild Cattle Mountain.

In addition, the plan fails to recommend all of Deer Creek for wild-and-scenic status—status that is particularly needed in the area of Deer Creek Meadows, a likely future dam site. The plan also recommends the weaker "recreational" classification (instead of the stronger "scenic" or "wild" classifications) for portions of Deer and Mill creeks to allow for future recreational development, in-

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Mill Creek in Lassen National Forest.

Photo by Dave Izzo

## How accessible is wilderness? People with disabilities are finding out

By Lucy Rosenau

Somewhere between the Tucson airport and the hotel where the fifth National Interagency Wilderness Conference was soon to start, a family of quail began to cross the street. Traffic slowed, we in the shuttle bus oohed and aahed, and the quail safely reached the other side, whereupon the adult quail hopped up over the curb and disappeared into the brush. As we drove off, we watched with deepening dismay the baby quail vainly trying to follow, hopping up again and again only to fall short of the curb that blocked their way.

Anyone concerned about biodiversity will draw an obvious lesson from this story: We need to address the

absence of corridors for wildlife migration. Anyone who attended the Tucson conference last month, where wilderness access by the disabled was a featured topic, will find a second obvious lesson: We need to address the issue of wilderness accessibility.

To what extent wilderness should be accessible to recreation is a fractious issue among nondisabled wilderness advocates. Stock users and hikers frequently are at odds. It is not surprising, therefore, that the issue should be equally contentious among disabled users. Though everybody seems to agree that it is invidious for wilderness

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## Coalition news

### Monthly Report

It seems to be all too rare that I am able to explore a part of California that is new to me. Though there still are big chunks of the state that I don't know well, most of them are in the central Coast Range or in southern California.

So it was with great pleasure that I joined Don Morris and Ryan Henson in the proposed Yuki Wilderness, better known by place names such as Thatcher Ridge, Eden Valley, and Elk Creek. This little-known wild area overlooks the eastern Mendocino County town of Covelo, and it takes a long drive on dirt roads to reach it.

Our excursion followed a workshop at the Willits Environmental Center for activists seeking to protect Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wildlands. Volunteer Sybil Ackerman did all the preliminary tasks for the workshop: finding a meeting room, inviting the participants, and procuring the materials. CWC President Mary Scoonover and I simply had to leave in the early morning darkness to get to Willits on time.

It was great to see the seasoned activists of the North Coast at the meeting, along with some new faces. We learned about the BLM wild areas, shared information, assigned tasks, and set deadlines.

Feeling guilty about an unfinished legal brief, Mary opted to catch a ride home with Sybil. Free of such compunctions (other than having left Inyo home alone on guard dog duty), I was happy to follow Don and Ryan on the long drive to Thatcher Ridge.

Having read the BLM's bland assessment of the area ("relatively flat ridge tops with westerly-facing, brush-covered slopes"), I was not prepared for the beauty and richness of the area. Ancient forests cloak the higher roadless ridges in the Mendocino National Forest, and huge, elongated meadows break up the chamise-covered slopes. From near our campsite, we could look all the way down to a wide bend in the Middle Fork of the Eel River.

We took several hikes that gave us fantastic views of the future Yuki Wilderness, the name Ryan has proposed to honor the original inhabitants of the area. A wide variety of flowers were blooming in wondrous profusion. Vultures soared with the

afternoon thermals, and hawks eyed the meadows for their prey.

Skunk Lake was a pleasant surprise, a small lake surrounded by old-growth trees and populated by bullheads. We walked past Barnes Ranch, now in public ownership, to a large meadow above Hanson Creek to eat our lunch. I quickly fell asleep in the warm spring sunshine.

We talked about the future of the area and how we are going to go about protecting it. Forest Service clearcuts and the decimated lands of Louisiana-Pacific in the distance made the alternative to wilderness painfully apparent. Reluctantly we left our sunny spot, hiked back to our vehicles, and made our way down to civilization.

I know very few people who have visited this area. One of them is Lynn Ryan, whose map notations I was reading on the hike. Lynn has decided to follow her love, Wayne, to Massachusetts, so at the Willits workshop she was giving away cartons of maps, books, and documents to new activists.

Lynn was the CWC's only board member living north of Sacramento. She bridged what is jokingly known as the "redwood curtain," serving as our link to many North Coast activists. She put thousands of miles on her station wagon driving to meetings, legislative hearings, and conferences. As she points out, it will take less time to travel from her new home to Washington, D.C. than it did to drive from the North Coast to Sacramento, so we may be gaining a voice in the nation's capital.

Inyo and I took some great hikes with Lynn over the years, especially in the King Range. Lynn is one of Inyo's special humans; she brought popcorn to the office (and shared it with him) and took him for runs.

We'll miss Lynn's compassionate spirit and infectious cheerfulness. But then again, we now have a great excuse to visit New England. Best wishes, Lynn and Wayne.

**By Jim Eaton**

### CWC adopts policy opposing wilderness grazing

By Jim Eaton

Since the purpose of the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) is to promote the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas, our Board of Directors usually makes decisions by consensus. The bulk of our meetings are devoted to the mechanics of running an organization, not the issues.

Grazing, however, has proven to be a contentious topic. Since Director Lynn Ryan first suggested that the CWC take a stand against commercial grazing in California's wilderness, the Board has spent a year and a half debating the issue, asking our members for advice, and refining the manifesto. At its May meeting, a majority of the Board voted to endorse the policy.

The policy, as published in the April 1993 *Wilderness Record*, states that grazing should be restricted or eliminated if it negatively impacts existing wilderness areas, until it is phased out altogether. Grazing should not be allowed in newly-designated wilderness areas.

The debate revolved less around the appropriateness of grazing in wilderness than the potential political repercussions of stating our opposition to cows and sheep in the wilds. Some felt that by declaring our opposition to

*continued on page 5*

### CWC welcomes:

A new business sponsor has joined the Coalition (and the back page), Bob Havlan's Business Acquisitions and Sales in Walnut Creek.

### Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What potentially wild-and-scenic river originally was named Arroyo de las Berrendos?

**Answer on page 7**

### Hail...

Few Directors have been welcomed to the CWC Board with as much relief and amazement as Bill Waid engendered when he was elected in October 1992. Bill, you see, likes fundraising.

Bill already has lent his considerable talents and energies to making our last two annual fundraisers a howling success, and now he's at work gently but insistently re-educating our backward and somewhat reluctant staff. His real job, as Development Director for the Save San Francisco Bay Association, must be a breeze in comparison.

Bill also comes to the Board with full wilderness credentials, having worked with the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and other groups for years. He also serves on the Board of the Fund for Wild Nature, a foundation that grants funds to grassroots activist groups. What's more, he's married to Frannie.



Lynn Ryan and Bill Waid say goodbye at the May Board meeting. Photo by L. Rosenau

### ...and Farewell

After three years as a CWC Board member and still more years as a wilderness activist in Arcata, Lynn Ryan has left the Board and the North Coast for the best of all possible reasons—love. With her trusty blue station wagon packed to the brim, Lynn is heading east to a new nursing job and a new life in Gardner, Massachusetts.

Lynn has fought long and hard to protect the wildlands of California, with a particular emphasis on ancient forests threatened by logging. Always, she reserved some of her energies and most of her affections for the Lost Coast, the local name for the King Range and Sinkyone south of Arcata.

Lynn's tenure as a CWC Director ended last month with a personal triumph, when the Board adopted a policy she submitted opposing commercial livestock grazing in California's wilderness areas (see article above).

Neither Arcata nor Gardner will ever be the same.



# Wilderness proposals

## Yuki wilderness: subtle splendor and riotous life

By Ryan Henson

One of the largest unprotected wildland areas in northern California is the Eden-Thatcher wilderness complex in northeastern Mendocino County. Composed of two wilderness study areas (WSAs), two roadless areas (RAs), and additional public lands (see map), the Eden-Thatcher region comprises over 70,000 acres of critical habitat along the wild and scenic Middle Fork Eel River and several of its largest tributaries. A land of great diversity in both plant and animal life, the Eden-Thatcher region is splendidly isolated from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the Golden State.

If you have heard of this *de facto* wilderness before, then you certainly are in the minority. While those of us who hike, camp, and backpack in the Eden-Thatcher area would like to see it kept in obscurity forever, we know that working to increase public awareness is the first step conservationists can take toward protecting wild areas. For this reason, wilderness advocates currently are developing a proposal to protect Eden-Thatcher in its entirety as the Yuki wilderness, in honor of the people who dwelt there for millennia prior to white settlement. Without this protection, the proposed Yuki wilderness faces gradual ecological destruction at the hands of the government agencies and livestock interests who currently treat it as their private domain.

The Yuki wilderness is composed of a series of northerly flowing creeks delayed in their journey toward the Middle Fork Eel by several ridges that bisect the area from east to west. The highcountry from which these streams originate is part of the Mendocino National Forest; the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the lower elevations where these watercourses eventually meet the Middle Eel. The Yuki is not a land of high peaks, glaciated rock formations, and dramatic vistas. Instead, as is typical of the Coast Range, the Yuki is a more subtle and unobtrusive land, characterized by long ridges cloaked in cool forests above and hot thickets of chaparral below. Here and there, like gray gods squatting on their haunches, rocky outcrops of monumental proportions loom against the sky. These rocks are the only signs of geologic violence in a landscape that otherwise is a graceful transition from old growth forest to grassland, from oak woodland to chaparral, from riparian forest to the depths of the Middle Fork Eel and its tributaries.

A rather surprising feature of the Yuki, even more surprising than the vast assortment of wildflowers that graces this land in spring, are the occasional stands of Sargent cypress, with some individuals growing to be over 100-feet tall along the banks of Deep Hole Creek. Since this species usually grows to be only a

small shrub at best, the vigor it shows on the rocky soils of the Deep Hole drainage is very unusual. These unique trees, coupled with several sensitive plant species, illustrate well the remarkable botanical variety found within the Yuki wilderness.

This great vegetative diversity is mirrored by the profusion of animal life the Yuki supports: spotted owls, goshawks, tule elk, black bear, blue grouse, mountain and valley quail, bobcats, mountain lions, gray fox, coyotes, bald and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, black-shouldered kites, purple martins, Cooper's hawks, roadrunners, ospreys, river otters, beaver, native trout, king salmon, martens, and, of course, plenty of mule deer, wild turkeys,

Middle Fork Eel and its tributaries host the last remaining summer steelhead run in all of California. In addition, the only confirmed wolverine sighting in the Mendocino National Forest was within the proposed wilderness. Accounts left by explorers and settlers confirm that the isolated northern interior Coast Range was one of the last havens for wolves and grizzlies in California, encouraging news to those who hope to see large predators eventually returned to their rightful place in the Coast Range ecosystem.

Despite the great biological diversity of the Yuki, as well as its potential for "scenic and unconfined recreation," both the BLM and the Forest Service have refused

to recommend that it be protected as wilderness. One way the agencies have avoided seeking wilderness designation for the Yuki is by treating the four parcels that compose the bulk of it as separate units. Despite the fact that these lands are connected, the BLM studied the wilderness potential of its Eden Valley and Thatcher Ridge WSAs separately, and the Forest Service studied its Elk Creek and Thatcher RAs in equally piecemeal fashion. To date, the agencies have not conducted a joint study of the wilderness potential of the area as a whole.

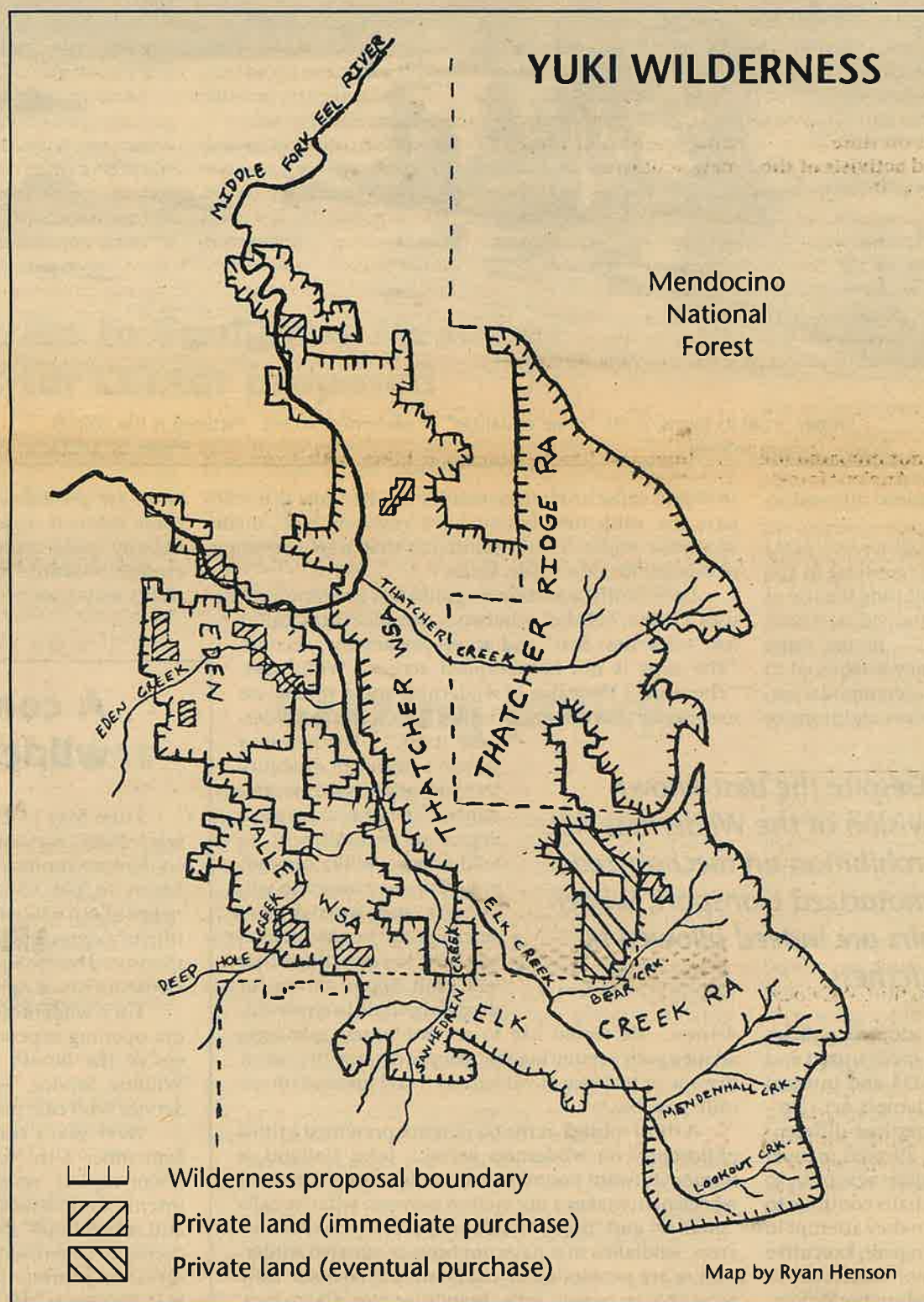
Considering that the agencies behave as though ecosystems begin and end with jurisdictional lines on a map, it is not surprising that they have used this strategy to deny the Yuki wilderness the protection it needs. Bureaucratic stubbornness, coupled with a lack of public scrutiny, has led to a situation in which logging and livestock interests have begun slowly to undermine the Yuki's ecological integrity.

Logging, along with the road building that generally accompanies it, is slated for much of the Forest Service land of the Yuki area. In just the last few years, thousands of acres of forest along the Elk Creek drainage have been lost to the salvage logging that followed the Mendenhall fire of 1987. To make matters worse, extensive cut-and-run logging by Louisiana-Pacific Corporation on its lands adjacent to the Yuki threatens eventually to ruin Elk Creek's fishery through erosion and siltation. Though much of the old growth is temporarily protected as spotted owl habitat, only wilderness designation can permanently protect these forests from logging.

Surprisingly perhaps, it is grazing, rather than logging, that is the most serious long-term threat to the Yuki wilderness. Not only have local ranchers punched roads and fire-breaks through the region, but they routinely use jeeps and motorcycles—sometimes traveling cross-country—to tend their cattle. In addition, ranchers have installed

stock tanks, water pipelines, salt licks, and other "improvements" that over time will serve to ruin the area's wilder-

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and other more common species.

Exciting as this list is in an age when biological diversity is on the decline, it is only the beginning. The



## Wilderness management

# Confusion and ignorance impede wilderness access

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opponents to co-opt the issue of access by the disabled—to argue against wilderness designation, to justify the continued use of stock by the nondisabled, or to allow inappropriate uses of wilderness, like off-road vehicles or paved trails—that is where consensus ends and confusion begins.

Until recently, the debate about access by the disabled has been largely restricted to the disabled users themselves and the managers of the most accessible areas, like the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Minnesota. But with the passage of new legislation and with increasing demand, a demand that is likely to grow as the population of wilderness users ages, the legal, philosophical, and practical questions surrounding access must be confronted and, if possible, resolved.

Any discussion of the legal questions must begin with the 1964 Wilderness Act, the legislation that established the National Wilderness Preservation System with a mandate that now is understood to be inherently contradictory: Wilderness was to be set aside for preservation and recreation. The difficulties of achieving both these ends may be magnified when the recreationists are in wheelchairs. For, despite the best-known provision of the Wilderness Act, a prohibition on mechanized or motorized transport, wheelchairs are indeed allowed in wilderness.

It was the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that effected the change, by stating that "nothing in the Wilderness Act is to be construed as prohibiting the use of a wheelchair in a wilderness area by an individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair." In the same passage, the law also states that "no agency is required to provide any form of special treatment or accommodation, or to construct any facilities or modify any conditions of lands within a wilderness area to facilitate such use." Consequently, the agencies that manage wilderness have considerable discretion in deciding how accessible wilderness trails, signs, and other facilities should be to disabled people in or out of wheelchairs.

Even before the passage of the ADA, some agencies had adopted policies exempting wheelchairs from the ban on mechanized and motorized transport. But because the ADA and internal policy are less well-known than the Wilderness Act's prohibition and because the various agencies had different policies (the Forest Service, for instance, allowed manual wheelchairs but not motorized ones in wilderness prior to the passage of the ADA), people in wheelchairs continue to face misinformation and opposition when they attempt to use wilderness. For this reason, Phyllis Cangemi, Executive Director of Whole Access, an organization dedicated to ensuring access to nature, supports amending the Wilderness Act.

Whether or not to amend the Wilderness Act is just one of the myriad philosophical questions faced by disabled wilderness advocates. To Cangemi, who uses an

electric wheelchair, equal access by the disabled is a simple matter of civil rights; not only does she believe the disabled have a right to go anywhere pedestrians may go, she also believes that managing agencies should make the wilderness accessible to the disabled except where doing

now to improve accessibility without endangering wilderness. Trailheads, ranger stations, maps and brochures, phone lines, interpretive displays, meeting sites, and bathrooms—all facilities and programs outside the wilderness that promote or serve wilderness recreation—should be accessible to all.

As for the wilderness interior, what is needed first is an inventory of what trail segments already are accessible and to what degree. Only then can managers and users make informed decisions about what, if anything, is needed next.

If there are practical problems for disabled wilderness visitors, there also are practical solutions. Galland believes that there are numerous non-motorized and non-mechanized ways for the disabled to use wilderness. Rather than a reliance on new, often expensive technologies, Galland promotes interdependence and low-tech solutions. Water, in all its forms, is "the great equalizer," he says, allowing disabled people access to the wilderness with kayaks, canoes, rafts, sleds, and specially-adapted skis.

Like Galland and Willis, we need to ask not just what kinds of access are possible, but what

kinds are preferable. How accessible can wilderness become before it ceases to be wilderness? Can we simultaneously build trails that are wheelchair-accessible and erosion-resistant? New technologies like all-terrain wheelchairs may answer some of these questions, though since

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Water, in all its forms, is the "great equalizer" of wilderness access. Pictured is the Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River. Photo by Jim Eaton

so would cause environmental harm. Her goal is not to pave the wilderness but to have any new trails made accessible under federal standards that now are being developed for non-urban areas.

Dave Willis, a wilderness guide and an amputee who uses a horse, believes otherwise. His biocentric call is for "wilderness first" and access (by anyone) second. "The issue is not handicapped access," Willis says. "The issue is the value of wilderness and a wilderness experience that does not further handicap the wilderness itself."

Neither is a person's degree of disability an appropriate issue, he contends, but rather a person's degree of commitment to wilderness. Willis opposes any motorized access to wilderness and worries that stock use by the able-bodied will lead to restrictions that will limit opportunities for disabled people to enjoy wilderness.

He would like to see wilderness managers adopt a policy requiring that people employ the "most historic or traditional wilderness travel method physically possible."

A third speaker at the conference presented a third philosophy on wilderness access. John Galland, a former Outward Bound instructor who uses a manual wheelchair, makes a distinction between what he calls "small w" and "big W" wilderness areas. The small 'w' areas, wildlands that have not been designated wilderness or are penetrated by roads, should be made fully accessible to people with disabilities, but designated, big 'W' wilderness should be protected from motorized use.

Even in absence of consensus on these philosophical questions, there are obvious steps agencies can take

## A conference for wilderness lovers

From May 17-21, some 250 wilderness managers, researchers, and rangers met in the air-conditioned conference rooms of Tucson's plush Westward Look Resort to talk about wilderness. Specifically, they talked about wilderness management, for this was the fifth in a series of wilderness management conferences sponsored by the Society of American Foresters and the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.

For a wilderness advocate, it was a refreshing and eye-opening experience to be among so many employees of the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service who care passionately for wilderness.

Next year's conference will be held August 28-September 3 in New Mexico and will address four major topics: research and resources management; international issues; managing for special provisions; and recreational, spiritual, and heritage values of wilderness. Organizers hope representatives of the conservation community will participate. For more information about the 1994 conference, contact Alan Schmierer at the National Park Service in San Francisco, (415) 744-3932, or watch for announcements in the *Wilderness Record*.

**Despite the best-known provision of the Wilderness Act, a prohibition on mechanized or motorized transport, wheelchairs are indeed allowed in wilderness.**



## Wilderness news

### Desert bill making slow-but-steady progress

Passage of the California Desert Protection Act inched closer when the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held hearings on the proposed legislation in late April. The hearings were noteworthy not so much for what they accomplished but for what was said. For the first time in its seven-year history, the desert bill has the support of a presidential administration. What a difference an election makes!

Activists who long have struggled with hostile administrations sat bemused and grateful as a spokesperson for the Department of Defense stated that passage of the legislation is critical to the nation's environmental security. Under previous administrations, the Defense Department had opposed the desert bill on the grounds that creating parks would weaken national security by limiting where the military can train personnel and test tanks.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt also testified, quoting Mary Austin, an early admirer of the desert, and supporting national park designation for the eastern Mojave, which is a source of continuing contention. Babbitt countered concerns that the Mojave is too developed to warrant park status, reminding the committee that "if

roads, a railroad, operating mines, and private inholdings were an absolute disqualification for park status, we might not have a Grand Canyon National Park in our system." He went on to say, "The question is not the presence of roads and inholdings, but rather the overall quality of the land, including its scenic, biological, geological, and historic significance. And by those standards, the Mojave easily qualifies."

The committee is expected to "mark up" the legislation later this month, a necessary preliminary to the bill's consideration by the full Senate.



The New York Mountains in the proposed Mojave N. P. Photo by Pete Yamagata

### Better access to Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center proposed

Comments are due June 30 on a draft environmental assessment (EA) of proposed improvements to the parking area and restroom serving the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center in Yosemite National Park. The National Park Service wants to add more parking spaces and replace a portable "trailer restroom" with a permanent facility.

Tuolumne Meadows is popular both as a destination and as a staging point for wilderness trips. Demand for parking, restrooms, and other facilities outstrips the sup-

ply throughout the summer recreation season. The visitor center itself, on the south side of Tioga Pass Road, attracts more than a thousand visitors each day during summer. The parking area presently holds 25 cars.

Send comments on the draft EA to: Superintendent Michael V. Finley, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389; Attn: Environmental Compliance Officer.

### Grazing policy

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commercial grazing, we would make it more difficult to gain new protection for undesignated areas. Board members questioned whether we should take a position on this issue alone rather than comprehensively consider the many impacts on wilderness, including weather modification, exotic species, and recreation.

The majority of the Board felt that expressing our opposition to commercial grazing was the correct thing to do and that further debate was not going to change anybody's position.

Strong feelings on both sides of the issue made the final vote a painful one. Ultimately, six Directors voted for the new policy and two opposed it. There was one abstention, and three Directors were absent.

No one expects that this decision will have earth-shaking consequences. The Coalition is not asking for amendments to the Wilderness Act, nor will it oppose wilderness legislation that allows continued grazing. This is primarily a statement of philosophy.

The long debate did force the Board to consider what the role of the CWC should be and if it should take positions on other such issues. These subjects will be considered at length in the Phillip Burton Wilderness at the Board's September meeting.

Jim Eaton is Executive Director of the CWC.

### Wilderness access

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the ADA's definition of a wheelchair is something designed for indoor use, new questions are likely to arise. "Attitudes," people with disabilities like to remind us, "are more important than architecture," and certainly attitudes are one part of the wilderness that need not remain impassable.

#### Resources

The Spring 1992 issue of *Spinal Network Extra* addresses wilderness use by people with disabilities. Contact New Mobility, 1911 11th Street, Suite 301, Boulder, CO 80302.

Wilderness Inquiry leads "integrated" wilderness trips, trips for participants of all abilities. Contact them at 1313 Fifth Street SE, Box 84, Minneapolis, MN 55141.

Whole Access can be reached at 517 Lincoln Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061.

Dave Willis leads trips through Wild Hope, 15187 Greensprings Hwy., Ashland, OR 97520.

### Lassen appeal

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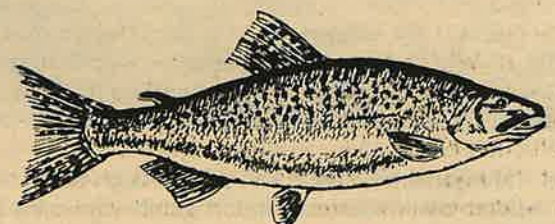
cluding road access and campgrounds. Biologists fear that easier access to the creeks could result in increased poaching and harassment of salmon as they hold in pools.

The appeal also challenges the Forest Service's decision not to recommend wilderness designation for the portion of the Ishi Roadless Area that was not added to the wilderness system in 1984. Approximately 20,000 acres of the roadless area in the Antelope Creek watershed was allocated to semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation. Conservationists believe that motorized access to Antelope Creek could lead to poaching of the creek's remnant spring salmon run, as well as vandalism and looting of Native American cultural sites (see article in the September 1992 *WR*). The appellants are recommending that the entire remaining roadless area be added to the Ishi Wilderness.

Other issues raised in the appeal include inadequate protection of streamside riparian zones, road building and logging threats to the roadless portion of the Yellow Creek watershed (a state-designated "wild trout stream"), and the need for wild-and-scenic river studies for several other unprotected streams flowing through the Lassen National Forest, including Hat Creek, the Susan River, Rock Creek, and Chips Creek.

The appeal requests that the Chief of the Forest Service recommend wild-and-scenic status for all of Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks; protect all roadless areas in these watersheds; defer development plans near the creeks until a basin-wide recovery plan for the spring run salmon is developed; establish extra-wide protective riparian zones; and study other streams on the forest for wild-and-scenic status. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is considering representing the appellants in the lengthy appeals process.

Steve Evans is Conservation Director of Friends of the River and Secretary of the California Wilderness Coalition's Board of Directors.





## Wilderness news

# The Wilderness Inquirer—your chance to ask the experts

Last summer, we published a wilderness contest, 50 questions we challenged our readers to answer. Starting this summer, you get to ask the questions, any questions; we'll answer them as best we can or, whenever possible, find an expert to do it for us.

If there are things about California's wilderness system that puzzle, confound, or otherwise interest you, let us know. As one of our college professors liked to say, the only stupid questions are the ones that no one bothers to ask.

Send your questions to: Wilderness Inquirer, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616.

### Why is cattle grazing allowed in some places but not in others? E. R., Berkeley

Whether or not livestock grazing is allowed in wilderness depends, first, on how it was designated. Grazing is not allowed in most national parks, so grazing generally is prohibited in wilderness areas managed by the National Park Service.

For all other wilderness areas, designation in itself is not reason enough to disallow existing grazing allotments, but it does preclude the establishment of new allotments. In theory, if grazing proves injurious to the wilderness, managers may restrict or curtail it. In practice, livestock are rarely evicted outright; at best, they are restricted seasonally or permanently from the most sensitive areas.

### What waste products should be packed out, and what should be buried? M. C., Davis

According to the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), in most environments it is appropriate to bury feces in catholes—small holes dug several inches into the organic layer of the soil—far (at least 200 feet) from water, trails, and campsites. If you are traveling on heavily-used rock faces or inland waterways, it is preferable to pack out your feces.

Catholes are not appropriate for urine, since animals will seek it out, digging up the soil. Try to urinate on rock or bare ground well away from water.

If you are having a fire anyway, toilet paper may be burned. Other hygiene products and food scraps should be packed out, since they will not burn completely without extreme, prolonged heat. Unless you used an existing fire ring, cold ashes from your fire should be scattered to obliterate evidence of your campsite.

If you fish, scatter the remains broadly, well away from campsites. Never toss fish remains into alpine lakes or streams.

Everything else, including "biodegradable" matter, should be packed out because it is alien to the local ecosystem.

More comprehensive information can be found in up-to-date reference books like the NOLS's *Soft Paths*, which we recommend for experienced wilderness users. Contact the school at (800) 332-4100.

### What should I do if I come face-to-face with a bear? N. K., Davis

The answer depends on where you are. The only bears in California are black bears, so we'll restrict our answer to them. In grizzly country, you will need different advice.

Even within California, however, the answer again depends on where you are. The bears of Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks have learned that people carry food. Park officials recommend that you "be aggressive from a safe distance" if a bear approaches your camp: bang pots, yell, throw stones.

To minimize the likelihood of losing your food to bears, park officials recommend you carry your food in a bear-resistant cannister. These are available for rent or sale in Yosemite and for sale from the manufacturer, Garcia Machine, at (209) 732-3785.

Park bears sometimes engage in "bluff charging" to try to get people to drop their packs. Bob Stafford of the Department of Fish and Game says there are two reasons you should never drop your pack when a bear charges. First, you don't want to reward this behavior, and second, if a bear does attack you (and this is *very* unlikely in California), you should lie face down on the ground so your pack will bear the brunt of the bruin's attack.

Outside these parks, bears tend to avoid people. Stafford says if you see a bear in the backcountry, don't run because you cannot outrun it and your running may incite the bear. Move away slowly. If you unexpectedly encounter a bear up close, Stafford says stop, then move off without turning your back and without making direct eye contact, which may be interpreted by the bear as a challenge.

It is safe to observe bears from a respectful distance, but never get between a sow and her cubs.

Stafford estimates there are 17,000-24,000 bears in California. Ordinary sightings do not need to be reported, but any incidents of aggression by bears should be reported to an authority.

For more information, Stafford recommends Steven Herrero's book, *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*.

## Yuki's biodiversity at risk from grazers, loggers, and managers

continued from page 3

ness character unless they are removed.

One of the most scandalous results of cattle grazing in the area are the "type conversions" carried out by the Mendocino National Forest. In this destructive and wasteful operation, Forest Service employees kill hundreds of acres of native chaparral with fire, sometimes dropping it from a helicopter in flaming globs similar to napalm. Afterwards, the Forest Service plants non-native grasses to improve forage, reduce fire danger, and increase water yield for the benefit of local ranchers. If brush returns to a converted area, pesticides often are used to suppress it. Considering the pollution of streams, erosion, and the killing of predators that already have resulted from livestock grazing in the Coast Range, type conversions are simply a further insult to an already grievous injury. Given that the 1986 forest plan for the Mendocino National Forest finds "in excess of 100,000 acres of lower elevation chaparral which may be suitable for conversion" to grass pasturage, the threat of even more type conversions in the Yuki wilderness and other nearby wildlands is very real.

Threats such as these make it more important than ever that conservationists fight both to preserve and rehabilitate these fragile ecosystems. In recognition of this, the California Wilderness Coalition and

other groups are working to develop a comprehensive wilderness proposal for BLM wildlands like the Yuki throughout the state.

Conservationists currently are calling for the protection of over 70,000 acres of roadless public land in the Eden-Thatcher area as a single wilderness unit. Though the Forest Service and BLM identified only 53,892 acres of potentially suitable wildlands in the area in the 1980s, public-lands activists have been careful to include additional federal lands that are undisturbed and help the wilderness boundary conform to topographic features. In addition, there are some areas within the proposed wilderness that have been affected by

road building, ranching, and small-scale logging, but the inclusion of these areas in the wilderness is essential if the critical habitats within the core of the Yuki are to be protected.

However critical the Yuki area is in its own right, it is im-

portant to remember that it is only one part of the interior Coast Range ecosystem. For this reason, congressional approval of the Yuki wilderness should be accompanied by comprehensive national forest reform legislation, a move that would go a long way toward sparing the inner Coast Range, and especially the Mendocino National Forest, from the abuses that now afflict this land.

Ryan Henson works on the Northern Coast Range Biodiversity Project in Davis.



The numerous creeks that flow through the proposed Yuki wilderness support a stunning variety of wildlife. Photo by Jim Eaton

**Black bear, blue grouse, gray fox, golden eagles, black-shouldered kites, and purple martins.**



## Book review

### Too thick to carry, too good to leave home

#### *A Natural History of California*

By Alan A. Schoenherr, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1992, 772 pp., \$38.00.

Consider just three of the seemingly-infinite variety of choice nuggets in Alan Schoenherr's *Natural History of California*: a description of the punishment inflicted on adulterous female mountain bluebirds; the fact that some southwestern whiptail lizards have carried women's liberation to its logical extreme and evolved into all-female populations reproducing by parthenogenesis; and an explanation of the hazards posed to humans as a result of burgeoning populations of carpenter ants in Sequoia National Park. You want to own this book.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about this book is the number of illustrations, most of them photographs taken by the author. This guy knows of what he speaks! He has been to all kinds of neat places in California, some familiar, many unfamiliar. Along the way, he has collected good photographs of the state's plants, animals, insects, geology, and darn near everything else. The book

also contains many useful drawings illustrating natural cycles and successions and provides a good background on the interactions of living things and their environment.

The organization of the book is somewhat obscure; for example, to find out about wood ducks, it would not have occurred to me to turn to the chapter on native vegetation, but that is where I found them. Except for two introductory paragraphs, the whole chapter on mountaintops appears under the subheading "Biotic Zonation." This 60-page chapter alone is worth the price of admission, however, with all sorts of information ranging from the problems afflicting bighorn sheep to speculation about the unusual distribution of the Mount Lyell salamander and its relatives. This is not to say that the book is just a repository of obscure data; an excellent discussion of the habitat types found in alpine and subalpine environments and their interrelatedness is given in this chapter.

The book, one of a set of Centennial Books being published by U. C. Press in celebration of its 100 years of publishing, is of atypical size for the natural history series of which it is a member. At almost two inches thick, the book will not find its way into many backpacks, although it surely would be an excellent companion while relaxing at a mountain tarn. The wise backpacker will read this book before setting out and have a much more interesting trip.

—George M. Clark



#### Wilderness Trivia Answer:

Antelope Creek, Lassen N. F.

from page 2

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Lynn models our six-tone landscape shirt now available in jade and fuchsia as well as the ever-popular light blue and pale green for \$15. Wayne wears a design by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige or light gray for \$12. All shirts are 100 percent double-knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 9 & 16** SCOPING MEETINGS on the development of a new management plan for the Mokelumne Wilderness. Meetings are scheduled June 9 at KVIE studios in Sacramento and June 16 at City Offices in Jackson. Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call Jim Micheals, the project coordinator, at (916) 621-5293.

**June 26** ACTIVISTS' MEETING of the California Ancient Forest Alliance in Davis. For more information, call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

**June 30** COMMENTS DUE in response to scoping on the development of a new management plan for the Mokelumne Wilderness. Send to: Mokelumne Wilderness Project Coordinator, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

**June 30** COMMENTS DUE on a draft environmental assessment of proposed improvements to the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Send to: Superintendent Michael V. Finley, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389; Attn: Environmental Compliance Officer. (See article on page 5.)

**July 30** COMMENTS DUE on a trail system planned for the San Luis Obispo County portion of the Los Padres National Forest. None of the proposed hiking, equestrian, or vehicle trails penetrates the three wilderness areas (Garcia, Machesna, and Santa Lucia) in this part of the Los Padres, but some trails would follow wilderness boundaries. For more information, call the Forest Service's K. J. Silverman at (805) 925-9538.



**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

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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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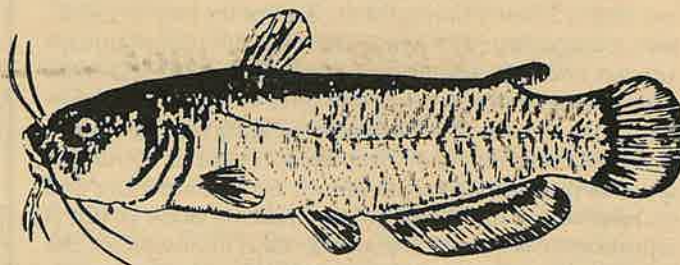
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