



Phil Farrell
883 Loma Verde Avenue
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The main fork of the Kern River is protected as a wild-and-scenic river, but the golden trout that live there are in trouble. Photo by Bob Barnes

DFG plans to protect anglers instead of golden trout

By Archie Logsdon

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), in cooperation with Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest, has released a draft management plan for the upper Kern River intended to prevent the Kern River rainbow trout from becoming listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The Kern River rainbow, *Oncorhynchus mykiss gilberti*, is a member of the golden trout complex which includes the Little Kern golden trout (*O. m. whitei*) and Volcano Creek golden trout (*O. m. aguabonita*). The golden trout is the state fish of California and was originally found only in the Kern River drainage. These are extremely beautiful fish, especially when found at higher elevations. They are identified by the distinctive parr markings on their sides and their red-orange bellies. They are esteemed by High Sierra anglers for their readiness to take an artificial fly and their explosive fighting ability when hooked.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has classified the Kern River rainbow as a C-2 candidate for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. One of the stated goals for the draft management plan is to "restore and protect the native Kern River rainbow trout to ensure that it does not become listed as threatened or endangered."

The Kern River rainbow is endangered primarily by over-fishing and by the stocking of its waters with non-native trout which can compete and interbreed with the natives. Logging, road building, and poor grazing practices also are factors in the species' decline. The upper portion of the Kern flows through Sequoia National Park and the Golden Trout Wilderness and is not accessible by road. Here the trout is holding its own, although increased backcountry use by anglers has caused the population to shrink in both numbers and average size.

The draft plan addresses this decline with stricter angling regulations which were recently adopted by the

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Oversized bridges blight Caples Creek Roadless Area

Bridges were built without public notice

By Jim Eaton

This fall environmentalists were stunned to discover two large new bridges spanning streams in the Caples Creek Roadless Area—an area recommended for wilderness designation by the U. S. Forest Service. The 17,900-acre wild area is located near the Sierra crest between highways 50 and 88.

Local conservationists were immediately suspicious of the real purpose for the bridges, which were constructed near the proposed site of a controversial hydroelectric project. Proponents of the Foottrail Hydroelectric project, which would dam the confluence of Caples Creek and the Silver Fork of the American River, have been working to have the site removed from the proposed wilderness.

Although an environmental review for the bridge construction was conducted by the Eldorado National Forest, it was done in-house, with no public notice—violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the National Environmental Policy Act which mandates public review of most projects in roadless areas. After being flooded with complaints from environmentalists, the Forest Service agreed to meet with representatives from the Georgetown-based Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs (FAWN) and the California Wilderness Coalition.

District Ranger Bob Smart opened the meeting by apologizing for the size of the bridges, saying that the design specifications were changed by his engineering staff without his knowledge. He added that he would never have approved construction had he known the size of the structures.

That, of course, is precisely why public review is so important, responded Craig Thomas of FAWN. Proper environmental review would have allowed the public to question the need for such huge spans in the proposed

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Coalition news

Monthly Report

The new year brings change to the Coalition in the person of Lora Leerskov, who is filling our newly expanded post of membership and development associate. Lora is assuming the membership duties formerly handled by Nancy Kang. She also will be undertaking desperately needed fundraising activities.

Lora hails from across the causeway in Sacramento where she recently graduated from Sacramento State University with a degree in environmental studies and a minor in conservation biology. Her experience in the environmental community has been with Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS), where she worked on public outreach, new member development, and special events.

Although an avid outdoor recreationist who enjoys everything from kayaking to rollerblading, Lora only recently took up backpacking. Her first trip was an all-women's backpack this summer starting at Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. She had a wonderful time and is looking forward to many more backcountry experiences.

Welcome aboard, Lora.

The holiday season is usually filled with unexpected treats. In addition to the edible variety of treats, we received holiday cards from members and interns, and old friends dropped by.

The biggest surprise came Christmas eve when I apprehensively opened an envelope from the law offices of Miles, Sears, and Eanni. Mail from a law firm always sets my heart to pounding as visions of lawsuits dance in my head, but the \$1000 donation generated by CWC member William J. Seiler brought smiles to all in the office.

Canyon Fred dropped by to deliver some holiday cheer and good conversation. The December *Wilderness Record* featured an article he wrote about a Labor Day hike into the Meiss Meadows country. Wendy and I plied Fred with toasted almonds and chocolate while showing him the video Jane Baxter produced for the Coalition's appeal in support of the Forest Service's efforts to rest the area from commercial grazing. He was impressed with the production, and we discussed other videos we might do to help save the wilds.

Another holiday visitor was Dave Foreman, who took me out to lunch to discuss the next phase of the Wildlands Project. We hope to schedule a meeting within a few months to begin mapping our vision of wilderness core areas and wildlife corridors for California.

Former intern Joe Bogaard surprised me with a phone call from Pasadena. Joe is finishing his master's degree at the University of Michigan and is exploring employment possibilities.

Finally, Santa Claus caught up with me at my parents' house in Vallejo. Recognizing my predilections, Santa gave me a nail gun (such a manly gift!), weather channel daily calendar, and sweatshirt reading "Compost: because a rind is a terrible thing to waste." Now I have no excuse not to finish the joint phonograph record-recycling cabinet and install the new baseboard in the house. Unless, of course, I'm too busy reading my calendar and composting.

We wish you all a happy and productive 1994.

By Jim Eaton

Some Grimm visitations

Frankenstein met Goldilocks at the office this month—a fractured fairy tale with a happy ending.

The Frankenstein motif appeared when Jenny Fire-Halvorsen donated an assortment of Macintosh equipment in various states of repair. Jim happily started tinkering, and soon he had another Mac Plus stitched together and working fine. The parts left over (duplicates, he says, not mistakes) will be held in reserve until the next time something breaks or fails or otherwise goes wacko.

Goldilocks cropped up later in the month, when a CWC member wheeled a donation of five handsome but obsolete office chairs out of her employer and sent them our way. The day they arrived, we took turns sitting in each one before deciding which were just right where. Our cumbersome old chairs will be relegated to storage or donated to an organization more indigent than ours (if we can find one).

Now we just need Rumpelstiltskin to show us how to spin dog hair into gold.

and some fabulous friends

The California Wilderness Coalition depends on the kindness not of strangers but of friends. Over the last six months, the generosity of some very special friends has bolstered our spirits and our pocketbook. We thank them.

Harriet Allen; Mrs. Virginia R. Bacher; Mary Belkin; Peter & Rosalind Bonerz; Susan and Joseph Bower; California Alpine Club; Edythe & Samuel Cohen; Brian Cox; Kimball J. Cranney; Richard H. Crawford; Stan Dawson; Ellison, Schneider, & Lennihan; Mr. & Mrs. John L. Frankel; Paul Friedman; Bob Havlan; Fred and Judy Hoeptner; Art Kulakow; Norman B. Livermore; Ursula Mayer; Dale R. McDannel; Robert J. McLaughlin & Theresa G. Rumjahn; Marion Miller; Philip G. Mullen; Trent W. Orr; William Patterson; Bob Randolph; William Sattler; William J. Seiler; Skip Smith; Susan M. Smith; James D. Stokes; Mary Tappel; Martin & Laura Towbin; Linda Turnquist & Paul Tarczy; Jon and Peggy Watterson; Francis M. Wheat; Clyde & Martha Wise; David Worley; and Michael Zanger.

Another way to help (and it costs only 29¢)

Use this handy form to send us the name and address of anyone you know who might like a complimentary copy of the *Wilderness Record*. It's easy and a great way to introduce someone to the CWC. We will not send a solicitation, just a single copy of the *Record*.

Please send a complimentary copy of the *Wilderness Record* to:

Name _____

Address _____

Area of interest (if known) _____

California Wilderness Coalition,
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616

Wilderness management scholarship offered

The Society of American Foresters's Wilderness Management Working Group is accepting applications for the first Arnold Bolle Scholarship in wilderness management. Applications are due January 31, 1994.

Full-time students specializing in wilderness management in fields such as ecology, recreation, social sciences, wildlife, fisheries, soils, range, or forestry are eligible for the \$500 scholarship.

For an application, write to: Arnold Bolle Scholarship, Department of Science and Education, Society of American Foresters, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question (courtesy of Jeff Jarvis):

Name a state that has no wilderness areas.

Answer on page 7

News from

NATIVE CALIFORNIA

"An inside view of the California Indian world"

News from Native California, a 56-page quarterly magazine, focuses on Indian people of California and many of the articles are written by Native Californians. As a special service to readers of *Wilderness Record*, the editors of *News from Native California* would like to offer a special rate on new subscriptions! You can get the magazine for one year (four issues) for \$12.50, a savings of \$5.00.

To take advantage of this offer, send your name, mailing address, phone number and a check for \$12.50 to: *News from Native California*, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA, 94709. For more information, call (510) 849-0177.

Wilderness proposal

Wilderness in the San Joaquin Valley? We've got (Joaquin) Rocks in our head!

By Bob Ellis

The western San Joaquin Valley and the central Interior Coast Ranges are ignored by most Californians, who think of the area west of I-5 from Tracy south to the Tehachapis as a tedium of hot, dry hills with little relief or variety.

Most Californians are wrong.

Pictographs, junipers, cliffs, caves, hot springs, serpentine, fossils, bigcone pines, flowers, raptors, condor habitat. That's just some of what you don't see as you speed past on I-5.

The area is arid, certainly; with less than ten inches of rain a year, it qualifies as a desert. And human habitation has taken a toll. In the southern San Joaquin Valley itself, only 3 percent of the valley floor habitat is in native condition. In the mountains, vast areas have been sacrificed to off-road motorcycles. But since most of the area is private ranches and very rugged, there is quite a bit of land which owners have preserved in relatively good condition.

For the most part, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has only scattered parcels here, but the agency is trying to consolidate larger areas through land swaps, concentrating on contiguous sections with specific natural or recreational values.

Recently a very special opportunity has arisen to identify, promote, and protect a striking area of the southern Diablo Range known as Joaquin Rocks. Three Rocks, Tres Picos, and Las

Tres Piedras are other names for these prominent sandstone outcrops at the crest of the range just north of Coalinga (see map). As you head south on I-5, just past the Derrick Avenue exit south of Panoche, the Rocks come into view. For the next few miles the Rocks are on display.

These rocks are only the most dramatic capstones of the rugged wild area. Great ledges of upper Cretaceous sandstone of the Panoche formation underlie these ridges and canyons that drop over 3,000 feet into the San Joaquin Valley. The northeast canyons are covered with dense chaparral which has limited the traces of 150 years of human activity. Domingue, Salt, Urruttia, Twentyfive, Arroyo Leona, Arroyo Venado, Cantua, East Fork of San Carlos, and Arroyo Hondo creeks (most of them dry in summer) have carved the face of Joaquin Ridge. The crest of the ridge is a mixture of grass, shrubs, and pines. At its

base 3,000 feet below, dry, bare western San Joaquin grassland is habitat for the endangered kit fox, kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard.

This area's history is as dramatic as its scenery. Native Americans were the first people here, leaving as evidence lithic scatters and occasional pictographs. Next came the Californios, led for a time by Joaquin Murrieta. His horse gangs used the Cantua Creek rancho as a staging area for running horses to Mexico and used the Rocks as a rest spot and lookout. Murrieta's band was attacked by California

Rangers in 1853 at the Cantua Ranch and dispersed. A memorial ride honoring the heritage of Mexican horsemen gathers in Cantua Creek each year. From 1855 and on into the 1980s sheep grazing was the dominant activity on these ridges, and cattle grazing persists today. The most exotic inhabitant of the Rocks was Mariana LaLoca, the Prophetess of the Cantua, who camped there in the 1880s. Her evangelistic preaching about the coming end of the world and the ascension to heaven from Joaquin Rocks depopulated some surrounding villages and kept a faithful band of followers enthralled.

A wilderness on the Rocks

The only public access now is to hike in either three miles from Black Mountain (accessed by a private road) to the south or five miles from Wright Mountain to the north. The hike from Black Mountain is the more dramatic. You leave your car near the communications towers and walk along an old stock trail undulating along the ridge at just under 4,000 feet and overlooking the vast San Joaquin Valley. To the northeast, canyons plunge steeply to the valley flatlands, dense chaparral covers the slopes, and scattered pine trees populate the upper

ridges. To the southwest the slopes are just as steep, but covered as they are with grasses and chaparral, they are much more open and more typical of a mountain ranch. At the halfway point the trail crosses "Jose," a high point of convoluted sandstone boulders and ledges. Numerous small caves and hollows make this an interesting rest stop.

At Joaquin Rocks, the three huge monoliths rise up to front a lovely meadow of oak, pine, and chaparral. Each rock has a broad sheer face of 75 to 100 feet bordering the meadow, and barn owls roost in high crannies. After walking through the cool, shaded narrows between the rocks (avoiding the poison oak), you reach

the back sides where lichen-covered 45 degree slopes allow a gingerly climb to the top of each rock. Each summit has a different view. The northwestern one highlights the valley to the north and the strangely folded and eroded bare yellow-white Ciervo Hills and Urrutta Canyon dropping swiftly below. The center rock, "La Centinella," provides a high point of reference for the surrounding area and has several small tanks or tinajas which provide winter and springtime homes to several kinds of aquatic life. The southeastern rock combines dramatic relief in its sheer drop down Domingue Canyon and broad view toward Coalinga to the south.

The series of steep canyons on the northeast wall of the ridge between Black Mountain and the Fresno County line are mostly untrammeled. They offer rugged, interesting hiking, some with trails, some without. All have dramatic outcrops, geology, and views. All offer "opportunities for solitude,"

one of the hallmarks of wilderness. The upper Cantua Creek watershed arises in an area composed primarily of serpentine, a habitat known for its rare endemic and adapted species,

Her evangelistic preaching about the coming end of the world depopulated surrounding villages and kept a faithful band of followers enthralled.

a type of habitat not now protected as wilderness. On the saddles bordering the old New Idria mercury mining area lies the San Carlos Bolsa, a unique "purse" of grass and oak woodland well worth permanent protection.

All in all, Joaquin Rocks is a very special area which fortunately has been preserved. Now that it is in the public domain, the next step in protecting the area is nominating it for wilderness status.

Stumbling blocks to wilderness

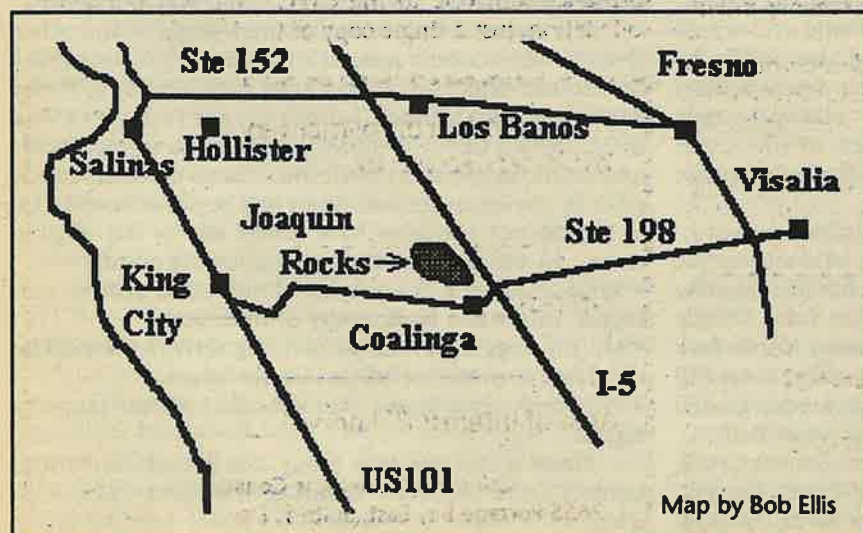
When you ignore the political boundaries and look at what is roadless, there is more than 20,000 acres of rugged canyon country spread across the northern watershed of Joaquin Ridge and into upper San Carlos Creek. Unfortunately, these wildlands straddle three BLM management areas, each with a separate planning process, and two counties, each with a separate political climate. The Environmental Protection Agency's identification of a portion of the nearby serpentine areas as high in hazard-

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Joaquin Rocks Photo by Rose Certini, courtesy of the Los Banos Enterprise

The most exotic inhabitant of the Rocks was Mariana LaLoca, the Prophetess of the Cantua...



Wilderness waters

DFG is hooked on angling instead of golden trout

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Fish and Game Commission—barbless flies and lures only, two trout limit, ten-inch maximum size—until “historical size distribution is re-established.” In the four-mile section north of the Johnsondale Bridge, where conditions have been improving since catch-and-release regulations were implemented in 1990, the plan calls for opening the river to year-round fishing “to provide additional angling opportunities.”

The twenty-odd miles of river from Johnsondale Bridge to Lake Isabella, which is accessible by road and heavily fished during the summer months, is now managed as a “put-and-take” fishery with weekly stocking of catchable-size domestic rainbows. There are very few, if any, wild or native trout left in this part of the river, though it is a beautiful stretch and is part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It is open to year-round fishing, with a daily limit of five trout and a possession limit of ten. There is a lot of pressure on the DFG from local business owners and politicians to maintain the status quo here. The draft management plan proposes no immediate changes except to begin raising Kern River rainbows in hatcheries to use in the stocking program. This program will take at least ten years to implement, if funding can be found.

Reduced river flows and the resulting increases in water temperature below the Fairview Diversion Dam, combined with heavy trout stocking, have caused a proliferation of predatory squawfish in the river, and the DFG plans to restore the natural balance and increase the number of stocked trout available for anglers by killing squawfish at selected sites with poison (rotenone) and explosives. The native squawfish prey heavily on hatchery-raised trout which are less able than wild trout to elude predators.

The draft management plan largely ignores the tributaries of the Kern, although DFG biologist Stan Stephens says the final plan will better address tributary streams. Only seven streams along the Lloyd Meadows road and along the Western Divide Highway are proposed in the draft plan to be managed as put-and-take fisheries. There are several very fine little trout streams along the Kern with self-sustaining populations of wild or native trout that are slowly becoming fished out as more and more people

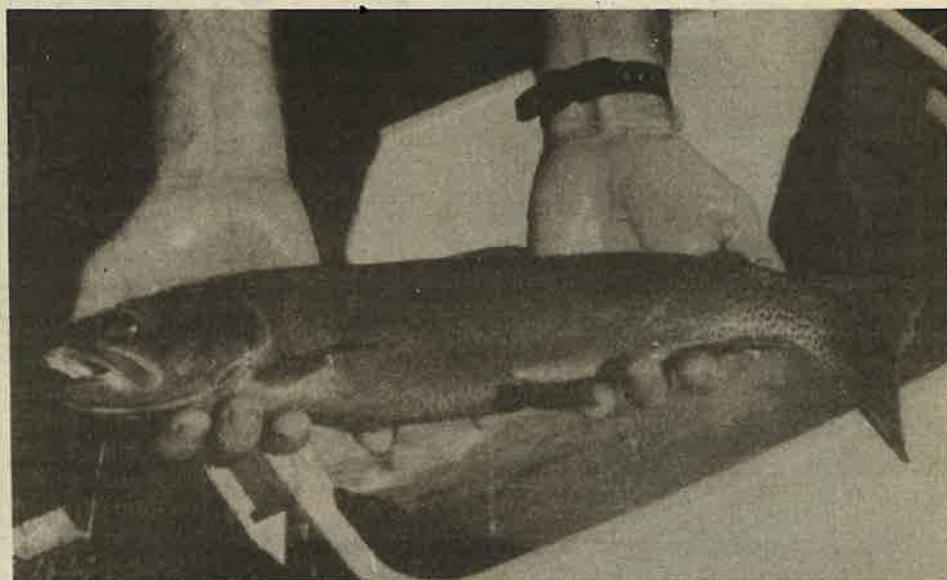
discover them. There is nothing in the plan that addresses this problem. The DFG wants the tributaries to have the same regulations as the main river “to avoid confusion” and considers four miles of catch-and-release water enough for now.

Another glaring omission is that there is no plan for dealing with overuse of the Kern Plateau, a primitive-use area that is accessible by logging roads and contains two high-meadow spring creeks, Salmon and Taylor creeks. These creeks hold good populations of incredibly beautiful native golden trout. This area once was used mostly by local anglers, but now the masses

have discovered it, and it is turning into a free-for-all. Trout populations have declined noticeably in just the past year. Last year, someone “planted” non-native brown trout in Salmon Creek. Both streams desperately need catch-and-release regulation or truly special populations will disappear before our very eyes.

An even more serious problem, perhaps, is that brown trout have gained entry into golden trout habitat in the South Fork Kern River above the fish barrier above Monache Meadows. The barrier is deteriorating and must be rebuilt.

The DFG held two public scoping meetings before compiling this draft plan, and another when the plan was released in mid-September. Although the comment dead-



The Kern River rainbow trout

Photo by Eric Gerstung

line on the draft plan has ended, the DFG has not yet formally adopted the approach described in the plan. Readers concerned about the Kern River rainbow should send their thoughts to: Boyd Gibbons, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Urge the DFG to reduce trout possession limits and to stop planting hatchery fish in the river and its tributaries upstream of Fairview Dam. Ask also that brown trout be removed from golden trout habitat in the South Fork Kern River and that failing fish barriers be reconstructed to prevent reentry by non-native fish.

Archie Logsdon is a trout fisherman from Kernville and a longtime member of the California Wilderness Coalition.

You can make it a watershed year for Tahoe roadless areas

By Steve Evans

The Forest Service is soliciting public comments about the possibility of adding 30 rivers and streams in the Tahoe National Forest to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. At stake are some of the last remaining free-flowing segments of the Yuba, American, and Truckee rivers and many of their tributaries.

Public response so far has been dominated by miners, loggers, and developers—people who wish to exploit rivers for commodities. Opponents of wild-and-scenic designation are attempting to mislead the public by claiming that wild-and-scenic protection means federal control of private property. In fact, wild-and-scenic protection prohibits new dams regardless of who owns the riverside, but federal management is limited to public lands.

Many of the streams considered eligible for protection pass through roadless areas. Since wild-and-scenic designation applies to the river corridor, not just the river itself, riparian lands in the East Yuba, West Yuba, Middle Yuba, Grouse Lakes, North Fork American, North Fork Middle Fork American, and Castle Peak roadless areas will be protected from logging if all the streams are designated as wild. The eligible streams include (by watershed):

Yuba Watershed North Yuba River, Empire Creek, Downie River, Lavezzola Creek, Pauley Creek, Canyon Creek, New York Ravine, Middle Yuba River, Macklin

Creek, East Fork Creek, Oregon Creek, South Yuba River, Fordyce Creek, and Humbug Creek.

American Watershed North Fork of the North Fork American River, Big Granite Creek, Little Granite Creek, New York Canyon, Grouse Creek, Screwauger Canyon, North Fork of the Middle Fork American River, and the Rubicon River.

Truckee Watershed Upper Truckee River, Truckee River, Martis Creek, Alder Creek, Sagehen Creek, Independence Creek, Little Truckee River, and Perazzo Canyon.

It is essential that hikers, boaters, anglers, and other river conservationists rebut the negative input submitted by resource exploiters. Please write a letter today to Forest Supervisor John Skinner, Tahoe National Forest, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959. Tell him you support wild-and-scenic designation of all the streams determined eligible by the Forest Service. Share any personal knowledge or experience you may have about any of the eligible rivers. In addition, mention the following points:

- Wild-and-scenic designation is needed to protect ecological values and biodiversity of watersheds.
- Mining, logging, and road building activities should be regulated to protect wild-and-scenic values.
- Wild-and-scenic status does not affect private property rights.

Please write your letter today. For more information, contact Steve Evans at Friends of the River, (916) 442-3155.

The trusty trout teapot transit technique

In 1873 a sawmill was built along the upper reaches of Cottonwood Creek to supply wood for smelters at the Cerro Gordo mine on the east side of Owens Valley. Like many higher elevation Sierra streams, the creek had no trout.

Three years later Colonel Sherman Stevens, a Civil War veteran, sought to correct this “oversight” of nature by hauling a dozen golden trout in a teapot from Mulkey Creek (a tributary to the South Fork Kern River) to the south. The fish quickly multiplied and were used for food by sawmill workers.

The subsequent diversion of Cottonwood Creek in 1891 for a sawmill expansion stranded many golden trout in the drying stream channel. The stranded fish were taken upstream to Cottonwood Lakes, where they thrived. Transplanting the trout to unpopulated lakes—the history books don’t record if a teapot was again pressed into service—had the happy effect of preserving what is now the purest strain of golden trout remaining.

Wilderness management

The bridges of Caples Creek

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wilderness. The bridges could have been scaled down or not built at all.

The bridges were built to guard public safety and protect archaeological sites. Two people have drowned in the river in recent years, and motorcyclists have been destroying archaeological sites when they ford the stream. Smart said the accessibility of this roadless area to people who lack wilderness skills led him to believe safe crossings were required.

Though sympathetic to the need for public safety, Thomas pointed out that the best way to protect archaeological sites is to prohibit motor vehicles, a step that will be required anyway when Caples Creek is declared a wilderness area. At the same time the bridges steer motorcyclists away from archaeological sites, they also allow motorized recreation in the roadless area when high water otherwise would exclude it. A field trip in late spring was proposed so environmentalists and agency staff together can examine the impacts of motorized recreation.

But however accommodating the Forest Service, the fact remains that two large bridges have been built in a proposed wilderness. Though the structures could be removed, the waste of taxpayers' money first building and then destroying bridges may not sit well with the public.

The presence of the bridges will not preclude the designation of Caples Creek as a wilderness area. Larger



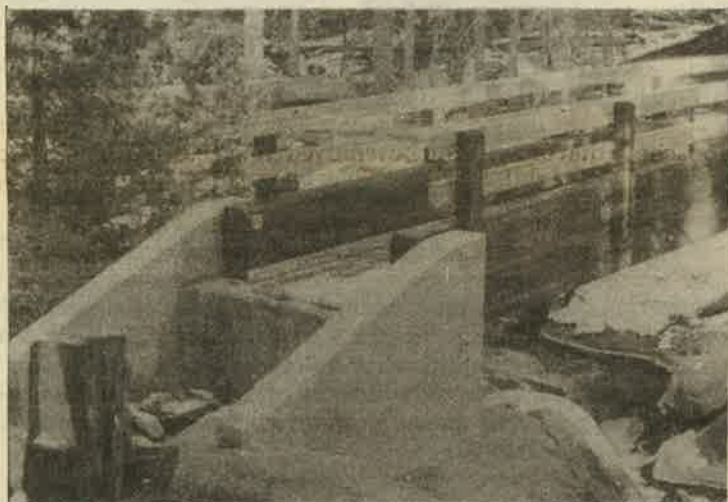
One of the bridges built in Caples Creek Roadless Area. Detail (below) shows that it was over-engineered. Photos by Craig Thomas

bridges span rivers in other wilderness areas. It is just that the massive structures over the smaller streams at Caples Creek seem so inappropriate. And an environmental review that bypasses the public seems even more inappropriate.

It was reassuring to find Forest Service officials willing to admit their mistake even before Chief Jack Ward Thomas issued his famous dictum "obey the law and tell the truth." They were genuinely interested in working to protect the wilderness values of the Caples Creek area. We trust that the Forest Service's vaunted "new direction" will result in closer cooperation among environmentalists and agency employees so that such errors and misunderstandings are a thing of the past.

But while we await this bridge building, wilderness activists should remain ever vigilant.

Jim Eaton is executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition.



Lassen map rapped

Eternal vigilance is the price of wilderness. Or so Steve Evans concluded in September when he opened the Forest Service's new map for the Lassen National Forest. Evans knows the Lassen well; he has hiked its trails, rafted its rivers, and defended its wildlands for years as a director of the California Wilderness Coalition and conservation director of Friends of the River.

No surprise, then, that he is acquainted with the various management plans that determine how the forest's trails, rivers, and wildlands may be used. And no surprise that he noticed that the official Lassen map opens trails in roadless areas to off-road vehicles (ORVs), trails that are supposed to be closed to motorized use.

In a letter to the supervisor of the Lassen National Forest, Evans delineated the six trails he contends are mistakenly redesignated on the official map. Four

trails in the Chips Creek Roadless Area—Mud Lake, Murphy Lake, Chambers Creek, and Indian Springs—appear as ORV trails on the map, along with Indian Ridge Trail in the Ishi "B" Roadless Area and Devil's Parade Ground Trail in Polk Springs Roadless Area. In addition, Evans found two roads that are slated for closure in connection with the Forest Service's wilderness recommendation for Wild Cattle Mountain Roadless Area but nonetheless still appear on the map.

Elizabeth Norton, director of recreation for the Lassen National Forest, says the small scale of the forest map makes it difficult to read. Norton concedes that portions of the Chambers Creek, Devil's Parade Ground, Mud Lake, and Indian Ridge trails are misidentified on the map; the other trails are open to ORVs, she says.

In any case, hikers need not fear encountering ORVs on what should be hiking trails, Norton says, because trailheads are accurately posted and specialized maps distributed to ORV users do not include the misidentified trails.

As for the roads, Norton says they will not be closed *continued on page 6*

Roadless areas that aren't and other stories

Please explain the difference between roadless areas and wilderness study areas. J. P., Irvine

Roadless areas and wilderness study areas have two important things in common: they are potential wilderness areas and they are roadless. Nearly roadless, anyway. In truth, roadless areas, wilderness study areas, and even wilderness areas may contain roads. "Roadless," then, is shorthand to describe an area that is almost roadless, or free of roads.

So why don't we use the terms interchangeably? Because there are important differences, as well.

In the years after the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Forest Service reviewed the lands under its control to identify which ones were potential wilderness areas. The Forest Service called its potential wilderness areas "roadless areas." (The Forest Service did such a poor job of identifying potential wilderness areas that a federal court made the agency scrap its first review. The second review was also invalidated by the court, but that's another and much longer story.) Many of the roadless areas have since been

Wilderness Inquirer

designated wilderness, most notably by the 1984 California Wilderness Act. In addition to designating wilderness, that bill "released" many roadless areas from wilderness consideration until the next round of forest planning (which was supposed to take place in the early 1990s but hasn't), leaving it to the Forest Service to decide whether, and how, to preserve their wilderness character.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) calls most of its potential wilderness areas "wilderness study areas." The distinction is more than semantic, however. Because there has not yet been a statewide BLM wilderness bill analogous to the California Wilderness Act, none of the wilderness study areas has been released from Congressional oversight. Wilderness study areas enjoy more protection than roadless areas because the BLM must treat them as potential wilderness areas until Congress directs otherwise.

Motorcyclists can tear through Caples Creek Roadless Area. Motorcyclists tear through wilderness study areas, too, but sometimes it's illegal.

Practically speaking, then, the difference between roadless areas and wilderness study areas is how they are managed. Motorcyclists can tear through Caples Creek Roadless Area, for instance, even though it's one of the roadless areas the Forest Service wants to see protected as wilderness (see article beginning on page 1). Motorcyclists

tear through wilderness study areas, too, but sometimes it's illegal. Hmmm. Maybe we need a better example. Logging and road-building are allowed in released roadless areas (though many timber sales proposed for roadless areas are thwarted by

alert conservationists) but not in wilderness study areas. We'll spare you all the other categories the agencies have dreamed up: FPAs and 202s and instant study areas and the like. If you want a generic term to describe potential wilderness areas, try "wildlands" or "wilderness additions" if you want to annoy the Forest Service.

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

Wilderness news

(Deskbound) wilderness adventures

The big white blob in the Chemehuevi

By Lucy Rosenau

What you have to understand is that NOPAs—Notifications of Proposed Actions in wilderness study areas issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—are usually dry, factual documents. Here at the California Wilderness Coalition office, we get lots of them. We dutifully read or at least skim each one (did I mention that NOPAs are usually really boring?) and file it away. I've probably read more than 50 in the time I've worked here, and not one was memorable.

Until the big white blob descended on Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness Study Area, that is.

Now, I've never set foot in the Chemehuevi Mountains, and probably I never will. But they will forever be my favorite desert wilderness, thanks to the big white blob that took up temporary residence there this fall.

Here's what happened, as the BLM might have recorded it:

- August 30 Routine aerial monitoring of wilderness study areas by the BLM's Needles office revealed nothing out of the ordinary.
- September 27 Routine aerial monitoring by the BLM's Arizona office revealed "a large white pile of something" in Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness Study Area. The discovery was duly reported to the Needles office.
- October 15 BLM staff from both offices approached the blob site from the Colorado River and hiked in to inspect the blob. After examining the foundling, the scouts decided it was "a balloon much like a weather balloon" and returned to their offices to type up their reports.
- October 16-27 Many phone calls were made.
- October 28 Having failed to locate anyone who had lost a big white balloon, Needles staff returned to the site and removed parts bearing manufacturers' names.
- October 29 More phone calls were made. Staff tracked the sale of the parts to a NASA contractor, which had already recovered the telescope the balloon carried and had ascertained the location of the balloon itself. But, displaying considerably less initiative than the BLM, which had been able to determine who owned a blob, the contractor had been unable to determine who owned the Chemehuevi Mountains. With the question of ownership cleared up, both parties began to discuss "technically feasible and acceptable methods of removal."

Routine aerial monitoring revealed "a large white pile of something" in Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness Study Area.

It must have been quite a discussion. The balloon weighed 6,000 pounds and, when inflated, was the size of 200 Goodyear blimps.

According to the NOPA, somebody actually floated the idea of dragging the three-ton balloon out of the wilderness study area using a helicopter or land vehicles, but that plan was shot down as inconsistent with appropriate wilderness management. Instead, the contractor will be required to cut the balloon into pieces that can be boxed and carried out by helicopter.

Once the balloon is removed, this NOPA will be relegated to a file cabinet, clearing our desks for the next batch of NOPAs that's sure to arrive. Some other document will capture our

attention, if not our imaginations.

In talking about wilderness with BLM staff, we often encounter the attitude that the desert lands the agency oversees are not wild enough to qualify as wilderness. Usually, we try to counter this attitude—without much success—by quoting the Wilderness Act. Now we have a new and, I would think, unassailable rejoinder: If a big white blob can arrive undetected and remain undetected until it's spotted from the air, that's wilderness. The Big White Blob Wilderness of southeastern California.

Do you have a wilderness adventure to relate? Send us a short account of your best or worst or funniest wilderness adventure: Wilderness Record, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616.

Lassen map dispute

continued from page 5
until the area is designated wilderness.

Evans agrees that the map is difficult to read, but says Norton is mistaken about the Indian Springs and Murphy Lake trails. Murphy Lake Trail "is clearly in a non-motorized area," Evans says, and Indian Springs Trail enters Indian Creek Research Natural Area.

Evans has requested that the Forest Service correct the errors in future printings and that the agency prepare a supplement to the faulty map alerting forest visitors to the mistakes.

Lassen National Forest officials concur with Evans' proposed solution, if not with his characterization of the trails. The map is due for reprinting next year, and in the meantime, errata sheets will be prepared for the approximately 8,000 maps already printed.

Joaquin Rocks Wilderness

continued from page 3
ous asbestos is another impediment.

Since grazing and motorized recreation are the dominant uses of the area, the BLM's management plans are likely to focus on these activities at the expense of the area's wilderness potential—unless wilderness advocates get involved. Draft management plans are being prepared for the Joaquin Rocks and Clear Creek management areas, and planning for the third management area, Ciervo Hills/Cantua Creek, will begin later this year. To get on the

mailing list to receive these plans, contact the BLM's Hollister Resource Area Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023; (408) 637-8183.

This area is so little known outside the Coalinga area that any publicity you can give it will help. By all means find time to visit the area. Muddy roads make winter visits problematic, so dry periods and spring are the best times to explore. You can get information from the Hollister office, and BLM staff stationed there will be interested in hearing your reaction to the area.



The back side of Half Dome, as seen from the John Muir Trail above Vernal Fall. Photo by Jim Eaton

On-again, off-again Yosemite plan is on, again

The perennially stalled plan to protect the seasonally stalled Yosemite Valley is moving again. The National Park Service announced in December that it will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) and site plans preparatory to implementing the 1980 master plan for the valley.

The 1980 master plan directed that traffic and development in the valley be reduced to protect the park's natural environment and scenery, but many of the plan's recommendations have not been implemented. The new documents will consider different ways to accomplish the master plan goals.

The Park Service hopes to issue a draft SEIS this summer. The draft plan will analyze issues brought out by the public scoping process now underway. To submit issues for consideration or to have your name added to the mailing list for the draft SEIS, write to Superintendent Michael V. Finley, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389. The deadline for scoping comments is February 14. For more information about the planning process, call Lisa Dapprich at Yosemite National Park, (209) 372-0248.

Bob Ellis discovered Joaquin Rocks last winter, when he was looking for interesting things to see on his way back to the Bay Area from the Carrizo Plain. He's been back several times since then, and he has joined the BLM's planning team for the area. He invites anyone interested in Joaquin Rocks to contact him at (510) 526-3788 or at 798 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley, CA 94707.



Book review

Fun but flawed history of Earth First

Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First! and the Environmental Movement

By Susan Zakin, Viking, New York, 1993, 483 pp., \$23.50.

A chronicle of the rise (and fall) of America's home-grown radical environmental dis-organization, *Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First! and the Environmental Movement* is a quasi-historical, often hilarious treatment of the unlikely conservation trendsetters. Though it makes for very interesting reading, *Coyotes and Town Dogs* is less the story of Earth First than the story of a few iconic founding father-figures. Women especially may find the book's focus hard to stomach.

Despite its faults (and it has many), *Coyotes* is still a must-read for anyone who wants an intimate peek at a group of hard-core, rabble-rouser rejects from the Wilderness Society who made their own separate history in the conservation movement. Their story deserves to be told.

And I do mean "peek." The author, Susan Zakin, adopts a voyeuristic viewpoint throughout much of the story. That's probably why many people will want to read the book; there's lots of juicy gossip to titillate and amuse. But do we really want to know what Dave Foreman and the guys did in Mexico with those underage girls?

I must admit I'm of two minds about *Coyotes*. I love it and I hate it. First the good side:

The book is highly entertaining. If you've wondered all these years just who the drunk was who piloted a houseboat into James Watt's Glen Canyon Dam party, you'll find the answer here. You'll read about the California Wilderness Coalition's very own Jim Eaton wolfing raw meat with Foreman and other tall tales. There are good stories to interest even the jaded among us.

For students of Earth First history, there's plenty of vital information to fill in the knowledge gaps. *Coyotes*

gives a fuller picture of Earth First, especially the formative years. I found this the best part of the book; informative and enlightening.

Of broader interest, Zakin analyzes some of the important sources of conflict and tension between Earth First and mainstream groups. This is an important topic, and Zakin highlights it well. Along the way, she offers interesting insights into the Sierra Club and other groups.

Coyotes is also an in-depth look at Dave Foreman. Zakin's profile of the Earth First founder affords a window into the complex psyche of the "dangerous" man the FBI spent two million dollars to jail and harass.

And now, the bad news:

In striving to be funny, Zakin can be carelessly biting at times, pretentious and pompous at others. If she's trying to be the John McPhee of the nineties, Zakin comes up way short. Working overtime to make the story cute and lively, she wears out her thesaurus. This is not *Encounters with the Archdruid*.

Then there are the maddeningly-amateurish psychological analyses of her subjects, especially of Foreman. Her revelations of Bart Koehler's medical and emotional condition, though sometimes humorous in the images evoked, are insensitive to the ideals of psychiatric confidentiality and ethics.

Zakin's story of Earth First is shot through a lens focused on Dave Foreman. With no documentation for all sorts of claims of fact, she would have us believe she is writing a history, but her book has all the elements of a pop biography.

Not only is *Coyotes* not a reliable history of Earth First, it distorts or omits facts and characters. Zakin makes it seem that Earth First died and went to hell after the FBI raids. Earth First may have gone to hell, but it's not dead.

My final criticism is with Zakin's analysis of Earth First and the environmental movement (the book's subtitle). Though Zakin correctly portrays the radicals as a force that influenced the mainstream groups' conservation policies, she avoids altogether the important question of how monkeywrenching affects the attitudes of mainstream organizations toward Earth First and everything it stands for. Missing also is a discussion of the forces driving environmental organizations away from purity and toward compromise. This, after all, was the genesis of Earth First. Without the Sierra Club's compromises, Earth First might never have arisen.

Alas, it will fall to other writers to delve into this important area. Zakin missed her chance. And she missed her chance to address what may be the most important question about Earth First today: whether radical environmentalism? If Earth First is dead, what's left?

—David Orr

Mecca visit to the desert this winter in a CWC t-shirt

Ellen likes our six-tone landscape shirt now available in jade and fuchsia as well as the ever-popular light blue and pale green for \$15. Jon 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.



**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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Wilderness Trivia

Answer (courtesy of Jeff Jarvis):

Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, and Rhode Island.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January 24 COMMENTS DUE on a draft environmental impact statement for motor vehicle use on the Sierra's Eastside. Send comments to Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 873 North Main St., Bishop, CA 93514, Attn: ORV Plan. (See article in December 1993 WR.)

January 31 APPLICATIONS DUE for a scholarship in wilderness management offered by the Society of American Foresters. For details, see announcement on page 2.

February 6 ANNUAL MEETING of the California Wilderness Coalition in Davis. For details, call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 14 COMMENT DEADLINE for people who want to have input into a supplemental environmental impact statement that will analyze ways of implementing the general management plan for Yosemite National Park. Send comments to: Superintendent Michael V. Finley, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

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.

California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616
(916) 758-0380
jeaton@igc.apc.org

Editor

Lucy Rosenau

Contributors

Jim Eaton
Bob Ellis
Steve Evans
Eric Gerstung
Archie Logsdon
David Orr
Photos & Graphics
Bob Barnes
Rose Certini
Jim Eaton
Bob Ellis
Eric Gerstung
Craig Thomas

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"Obey the law and tell the truth"

—Jack Ward Thomas's directive to Forest Service staff on assuming control of the agency.

It shouldn't have been news,
but it was.

It shouldn't have needed saying,
but it did.

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