

1994 Guide to
California Wilderness

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883 Loma Verde Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

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Davis, CA
Permit No. 34

WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

ISSN 0194-3030

Vol. 19, No. 4

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, CA 95616

April, 1994



The ancient forests around Glass Creek Meadow in the San Joaquin Roadless Area are safe, for the time being, from salvage logging. Photo by Sally Miller

Salvation for San Joaquin!

But threat of salvage logging still looms over rest of Inyo NF

By Sally Miller

In response to overwhelming public opposition, the Inyo National Forest announced in February that it has dropped its plans to salvage log the San Joaquin Roadless Area adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness on the east side of the Sierra (see article in December 1993 WR). The Forest Service received more than 300 letters from concerned citizens in California and throughout the country who opposed the agency's plans, plans which would have destroyed the integrity of the unique red fir and mixed conifer ancient forest found within the roadless area's boundaries. "The credit for this victory clearly goes to the public," said east side activist James Wilson. "The Forest Service proffered a bad plan, the public told them loud and clear that it was unacceptable, and they dropped it."

Though activists are thankful that the roadless area is, at least temporarily, spared the saw, the threat of salvage logging remains. The Forest Service is proceeding with plans to reduce fuels build-up and address the "health" of forested lands adjacent to and near the roadless area. Activists strongly oppose any salvage logging in the Inyo and ask instead that the agency consider a program of prescribed fire to remedy the impacts of fire suppression and intensive logging.

What course the agency takes will depend on the outcome of an environmental review. California Wilderness Coalition executive director Jim Eaton says conservationists will insist on a full environmental impact statement instead of the less thorough environmental assessment. And any analysis will have to consider not just the project itself but the cumulative effects on the region and any indirect impacts to the roadless area.

Sally Miller is a Friends of the Inyo activist and a director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

What's in store for the forests?

Clinton plan heralds big changes, but much remains in doubt

By Ryan Henson

With little fanfare, President Clinton's recovery strategy for the threatened northern spotted owl (more commonly known as Option 9) was released in its final form in March. There was little surprise in the final provisions since the more controversial changes in the plan had been leaked to the press and public weeks in advance. Just as the president predicted, the plan was not received warmly by either side of the old-growth debate.

Despite conservationists' general dissatisfaction with the plan, Option 9 is undoubtedly one of the most important public-land reform measures since the passage of the National Forest Management Act in 1976. Under Option 9, millions of acres of federal land in the Pacific Northwest would be removed from the suitable timber base, resulting in an estimated 60 to 70 percent decrease in logging in the national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings in the region. And perhaps most importantly, federal land management in large parts of the Pacific Northwest would begin to shift from a narrow focus on commodities in the direction of ecosystem protection and rehabilitation.

The Clinton administration expects Option 9 to be approved by the secretaries of Agriculture and Interior on April 14. The plan then goes to Judge William Dwyer, who

must approve Option 9 before logging can resume in areas covered by his injunction (see chronology on page 5).

First, the good news

The plan's biggest departure from past practices is the creation of late-successional reserves where the protection and rehabilitation of old-growth habitat are paramount. In California, over 1.5 million acres of these reserves, containing approximately 43 percent of the old-growth remaining on federal lands within the owl's range, would be established. Within the reserves, stands of trees that are less than 80 years old could be thinned, but old-growth groves could not be logged except as part of a salvage sale (see chart on page 4).

Equally important is Option 9's creation of riparian reserves along every federally managed streamcourse within the range of the northern spotted owl. These reserves, ranging in size from 200 feet across for ephemeral and intermittent streams to 600 feet across for permanently flowing fish-bearing streams, would protect another 798,900 acres in northwestern California alone and would contain nearly 8 percent of its old-growth forest. Though ordinary timber sales could not take place within the reserves, roadside "hazard tree" felling and salvage logging would be allowed, as would the attendant road construction if "no feasible alternative" exists.

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Coalition news

Monthly Report

I have been feeling sorry for myself of late, bemoaning a lack of nights spent under the stars. My last backpacking trip was with my neighbors in August; my last car camp was in October.

Life just seems to be getting busier. We have been trying for months to set a date to launch the Wildlands Project in California. Every time we pick a weekend, half of the necessary participants have prior commitments. We finally abandoned plans for a spring gathering and are looking for a time in September.

Even when there aren't meetings, there are many other projects filling our lives. My last two weekends have been devoted to repainting the house, a long-neglected enterprise that is sure to please the neighbors. Those neighbors were off bicycling to Callstoga, camping at Joshua Tree, or hot-spring hopping down the east side of the Sierra, but then they had already painted their houses.

Understanding the unavailability of weekends, Wendy made me commit months ago to taking off in March to spend time in the snow. Three days were marked on the sacred calendar that schedules our lives and declared inviolate to other meetings, events, or activities. We had enjoyed staying at Sorenson's in Hope Valley last year, so we planned a repeat performance.

Actually, I couldn't avoid a meeting that weekend, since Bill Worf of Wilderness Watch was out from Montana and wanted to get together to discuss wilderness management. But I arranged for Canyon Fred and a friend to bring Bill up for an evening meeting at our cabin.

Normally I prefer camping out to staying in a cabin, but the owners of Sorenson's are strong environmentalists, the cabin is rustic (and allows dogs), and snow camping can be rather cold. It was great to get away and wander about on snowshoes, but the experience hammered home the severity of the drought we are facing again this year.

In Davis we've had about 60 percent of normal rainfall. I suppose I was expecting something similar in the Sierra. I was not prepared for bare

areas above 7,000 feet that last year were buried in deep snow. Last week's survey pegged the water content of the snow pack at just 28 percent of normal.

All this leads me to believe that California's "normal" rainfall is not a typical bell curve with most years coming close to the average and occasional years at the limits. I suspect the extremes of sodden wet or bone dry years are the norm, with average rainfall fairly rare.

I don't know what proof I have for this hypothesis, except that last week former CWC employee Nancy Kang related to me the flood and drought reproductive strategies of meadowfoam, a rare plant found in vernal pools. Meadowfoam employs different means of multiplying depending on the capricious California winters. It appears to have adapted to the vagaries of Mother Nature.

Nevertheless, I expect we will hear more clamor for new dams (which are supposed to magically create more water by their very presence), see less water for endangered wildlife, and face concern about summer wildfires. As I drove back from Sorenson's through the area burned by the Cleveland fire, I thought about how fire is a natural and important part of California and how futile our efforts to avoid it are.

I then amused myself puzzling over personalized licence plates of passing cars, trying to decipher their messages. The game continued when Steve Evans drove over this weekend with KPITWLD plates on his truck. Wendy has ANCTFOR on her Honda, having failed to get any abbreviation for "environmental engineer." I still have the plates I was assigned when I bought my truck; I think they may be the catalog number for a star in the Andromeda Galaxy.

For many years Ike Livermore has had SESPE and Bob Barnes SF KERN for places near and dear to them. Who else has license plates with an environmental message?

By Jim Eaton

A ranged match

The Range of Light Group, an association of the Mono and Inyo County members of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, has joined the California Wilderness Coalition. As the group's name suggests, its focus is the Sierra—in particular, the wildernesses and roadless areas of the Inyo National Forest.

The group currently is working to protect the Sherwin and San Joaquin roadless areas from development (ski resorts have been proposed for both areas). Development of another kind threatens the ghost town of Bodie; the group is fighting a proposal to reopen the Galactic mine at Bodie for commercial gold mining.

Monitoring logging plans and protecting Mono Lake round out the group's activities.

For more information about the Range of Light Group, call Bette Goodrich, conservation chair, at (619) 935-4568.

An alliance

An alliance of conservation groups working to preserve California's biological diversity has formed, and the California Wilderness Coalition is taking part.

The California Biodiversity Alliance will coordinate a statewide effort to preserve California's native diversity of plants and animals.

The CWC's decision to join the new alliance reflects our realization that biodiversity and wilderness are inextricably linked.

A mystery



Who is this man? Why is he wearing shades? And what is he doing in the *Wilderness Record*? See page 7 for answers.

Letters

In the "Spots on our Record" item on page 2 of the March Issue, 1893 is given as the correct date of the founding of the Sierra Club. It doesn't give me any pleasure to point out that you now have a blotch on top of the spot—the correct date is actually 1892.

I have enclosed part of an article on the founding of the Sierra Club from a 1917 issue of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. As you will see on page 139, June 4, 1892 should be considered the day the club was founded. And just for the record, if you have the space, it would be interesting to note that although John Muir was the first president and most prominent member of the Sierra Club, it was actually Prof. J. H. Senger who originated the idea of such a club.

Peter Browning
Lafayette

"Film stunt in Inyos has conservationists seeing red" [February 1994 WR] is a very misleading story. Bottom line, not all conservationists are seeing red, and in spite of the almost overwhelming temptation to trash the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I do not believe that in this case the BLM deserves condemnation.

What is not in the story is that, very early in the permitting process, local conservationists in Ridgecrest (the event was permitted out of the Ridgecrest Resource Area office) were made aware of the request for the permit. We commented, both in person and in writing, on what we thought appropriate action would be. We personally know that the BLM was very concerned about the permit and did consider not issuing it. However, filming is a very important economic activity in Ridgecrest. The BLM had already been very heavily criticized in the local press and by local business for delaying or denying film permits. We, as what we hope are reasonable conservationists, ultimately supported issuing the permit because we believed that the conditions were in place to prevent damage to the wilderness study areas (WSAs) and the land in general, and because we don't want to be tarred as unreasonable obstructionists over an issue that is not worth fighting. It is also worth repeating, as stated in your article, that the Interior Board of Land Appeals agreed with our, and the BLM's, position that the permit conditions were adequate.

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And thanks

California has lost a wilderness supporter, but thanks to the generosity of Jack Francis' friends, the California Wilderness Coalition will continue to protect the state's wildlands. We received donations in Jack's honor from Mary Bavaro, Irene and Ed Case, Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Dempsey and family, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Luke, and Ray and Joëtte Stick.

We are grateful also to Bill McGuire, who donated a slide projector, screen, and carousels.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

Four national monuments in California contain designated wilderness. Can you name them?

Answer on page 7

Wilderness proposal

It's wild, it's remote, and we bet you've never heard of it It's the Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness

By Jim Eaton

In days past, bison roamed here. Remnant bands of pronghorn still do. Gray wolves once stalked through the mountains. Today, coyotes are the largest predator.

This is not a description of the Great Plains or the Rocky Mountains. This is the Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness of northeastern California and northwestern Nevada, but few residents of either state know its wild beauty.

The inhospitable volcanic uplands guarding the western flank of the Smoke Creek Desert have seen a lot of history. Explorers John Charles Frémont and Kit Carson, searching for an easy route across the Sierra, passed this way in the winter of 1843. Emigrants avoided its rugged terrain by trekking to the east and south. And James and Jennifer Stolpa found the lands to the north a formidable barrier in the winter of 1992-93.

On October 13, 1843, Frémont introduced the term that is now used to characterize much of this region:

"The Great Basin—a term which I apply to the intermediate region between the Rocky mountains and the next range [the Sierra Nevada], containing many lakes, with their own system of rivers and creeks, (of which the Great Salt Lake is the principal) and which have no connection with the ocean, or the great rivers which flow into it."

The Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness lies at the junction of three major geologic provinces—the Cascades, the Sierra Nevada, and the Great Basin. The higher mountains to the west wring the moisture from the prevailing storms, leaving this region in a rain shadow. The few streams flow into the Smoke Creek Desert, Honey Lake, or the Madeline Plains.

The desert is not without vegetation, however. On the contrary, Frémont's expedition "entered a region where the sagebrush resembled small trees. The trunks were a foot in diameter, and the highest limbs were as much as eight feet above the ground."¹ One biologist has calculated that the standing biomass of Great Basin sagebrush

actually exceeds that of coastal redwoods.

This is volcanic country, and most of the rocks were extruded during the past 10 million years when the earth's crust was breaking along faults into the large blocks that form today's basin valleys and mountain ranges. Many of the mountains exhibit horizontal black stripes of basalt overlaid by deposits of white volcanic ash.

Some 14,000 years ago Honey Lake was part of colossal Lake Lahontan, the Great Basin's second-largest Ice Age lake. At its maximum, Lake Lahontan was 900 feet deep and covered 8,665 square miles, an area that includes the modern Pyramid and Walker lakes, the Humboldt-Carson Sink, and the Black Rock and Smoke Creek deserts. Evidence of this enormous lake persists in terraces etched into the slopes of the mountains by ancient waves.

More recently, Northern Paiutes inhabited this land and left behind numerous petroglyph panels, habitation caves, and hunting blinds.

Today the Smoke Creek Desert is home to mule deer, wild horses, feral burros, and the ubiquitous cattle. They share the range with the fastest land mammal in North America, a species second only to the cheetah in swiftness—the pronghorn. Though once misidentified as an antelope, the pronghorn is in a family, *Antilocapridae*, unique to the North American continent. Pronghorn have been clocked at speeds over 55 miles an hour, and these remarkable animals can maintain a speed of 45 miles an hour for over four miles.

The desert also supports sage grouse, a characteristic Great Basin species. The grouse gather in communal strutting grounds on the sagebrush flats of Smoke Creek Desert, while prairie falcons, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and long-eared and great horned owls soar overhead.

The Wilderness Proposal

Wild as it is, Smoke Creek Desert is not yet wilderness. Indeed, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which oversees these lands, cannot see the wilderness for the roads. In *The Big Outside*, Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke call for the establishment of a million-acre Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness in Nevada and California. The BLM broke this country up into numerous wilderness study areas (WSAs) separated only by seldom-traveled dirt roads. Five of the WSAs, which cover 350,000 acres, are within or partly in California (see map).

The names of the WSAs are alluring: Skedaddle Mountain, Dry Valley Rim, Five Springs, Twin Peaks, and Buffalo Hills. And wouldn't you like to visit Antelope Basin, Buffalo Creek, Shinn Canyon, Chimney Rock, Eagle Head, and Hole-in-the-Ground?

From the 7,680-foot summit of the Skedaddle Mountains to the 200-foot deep volcanic caldera known as Hole-in-the-Ground, there are expansive vistas of the Smoke Creek Desert. Dry Valley Rim is a 17-mile fault block that steeply rises to 1,500 feet above adjacent terrain. Throughout the region, black and brown layered rimrock is high-



A hiker enjoys the view from Hot Springs Peak, Skedaddle WSA. Photo by Pete Yamagata

lighted by colorful green-yellow and orange lichens.

The BLM seems less than enamored with these "uninteresting landscapes," however. The agency described Five Springs WSA as "typical of rock-strewn, low, mountainous sagebrush grassland found throughout the Great Basin... [It] is best characterized as common and uninteresting without any particularly interesting or unique features that would make it a good addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System."

To its credit, the BLM recommended portions of three WSAs, about forty percent of the total WSA acreage, for wilderness designation. The agency fails to see the potential for a truly significant wilderness, however, and instead chooses to avoid the possibility of conflicts with ranchers, hunters, and off-road vehicle users by recommending non-contiguous islands of wilderness.

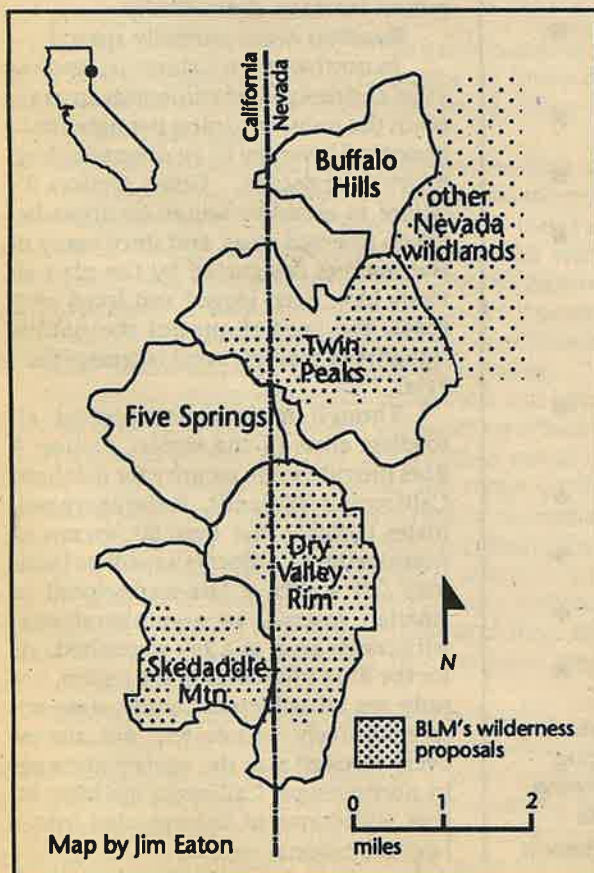
The BLM recommendation was developed by a "technical review team" of local ranchers, hunters, off-road vehicle users, and a few conservationists. To reach consensus, the team chose the higher, more inaccessible lands for their wilderness proposal, leaving the lower slopes open to vehicular traffic. Although they failed to propose a visionary wilderness, it is significant that this group of local residents did recommend more wilderness than was expected to be proposed by the BLM.

But the justifications for not recommending wilderness were ludicrous. Some lands were left out to accommodate a particularly recalcitrant inholder. The Five Springs WSA was rejected because the group already had supported a "wilderness suitability recommendation in four of the six other WSAs under study." And many lower slopes were eliminated from consideration for lacking solitude, despite the fact that few people visit the region.

On the whole, the recommendations of the technical review team and the BLM reflect an antiquated view that values wilderness primarily for its recreation potential. The team saw the WSAs as a large pie to be divided among competing interests. What emerged from the process was a top-of-the-mountain proposal of wilderness islands, akin to the rock and ice wilderness in the Sierra.

Just like the fragmented wilderness elsewhere in the state, these isolated areas must be connected if the needs

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Ancient forests

Option 9: new hope . . .

continued from page 1

Also included in Option 9 are administratively-withdrawn lands that would be designated by individual national forests and BLM districts to protect areas of scientific, ecological, or recreational value. Though the four national forests of northwestern California have yet to complete their list of proposed withdrawals, more than 495,000 acres of federal land (over 7 percent of the state's old-growth) already have been withdrawn by the BLM, Forest Service, and National Park Service. No logging of any kind is allowed in most of these areas.

The last of Option 9's large-scale land allocations, adaptive management areas, are an experiment in local involvement in forest management and in the development of innovative techniques for logging and watershed rehabilitation. These lands would comprise over 565,000 acres of northwestern California in the Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, and Klamath national forests. How these areas will be managed is a matter of great concern to conservationists, especially since several roadless areas (and nearly 6 percent of northwestern California's old-growth forest) lie within adaptive management units. Fortunately, the watershed protection reforms included in Option 9 would apply to adaptive management areas, as they do to all the lands affected by the plan.

Together, the late-successional reserves, riparian reserves, and administratively-withdrawn lands protect to varying degrees almost 2.9 million of the 4.5 million acres of now-unprotected federal land in northwestern California—the land not included in wilderness areas and national parks. When the Option 9 designations are added, between 75 and 85 percent of northwestern California's federally managed old-growth forest will be protected.

A less protective but still important provision of Option 9 would designate certain rivers and streams that contain threatened fish or high quality water as key watersheds. No net increase in road mileage would be allowed, and an extensive watershed analysis would have to be conducted before any logging or other development could take place. Though logging would not be prohibited, rehabilitation of these watersheds through road closures and roadbed restoration is given a high priority. Implementation of this program would be left to individual land management agencies, however.

For the nearly 15 percent of northwestern California's ancient forests left open to logging, Option 9 requires that at least some patches of old-growth be retained. Hundred-acre circles would be preserved around spotted owl nesting areas, and other old-growth fragments would be left for mollusks, bats, arthropods, lichens, fungi, and sensitive plant populations. In addition, all old-growth groves in watersheds that contain less than 15 percent old-growth would have to be preserved. Though this provision sounds paltry, it would effectively protect nearly half of the isolated groves of ancient forest left outside of reserves in the Mendocino National Forest alone.

Option 9 also includes an aquatic conservation strategy that prohibits activities that degrade watersheds. Activities to be regulated and possibly eliminated include logging, road construction, road maintenance, off-road vehicle (ORV) use, and grazing. If aquatic conservation is taken seriously by the agencies, even the most established grazing allotments, ORV routes, and roads may be subject to closure if they undermine the health of riparian and aquatic ecosystems.

Now for the bad news

Despite the many reforms in Option 9, the final version of the plan is not without serious flaws. Option 9 projects that 224 million board feet can be logged annually from northwestern California's four national forests. This projection strikes conservationists and even many

Forest Service employees as inconsistent with the plan's land allocations, which seem to require a smaller annual cut.

Another problem is that none of the reserves established by Option 9 would be completely off-limits to eco-

nomic development, including logging, road construction, reservoir construction, and other activities at odds with the purpose of the reserve system. Even old-growth groves within late-successional reserves would be subject to salvage logging if they are "damaged" extensively and over a large area by fire, windstorms, drought, and other natural occurrences. The danger posed by this provision is obvious. Given that road construction, mining, ORV

use, grazing, reservoir construction, and ski resort development also would be allowed within late-successional reserves if approved by an interagency oversight committee, the future ecological health of the reserves remains in doubt.

Equally disturbing is Option 9's failure to adequately protect the health of watersheds, especially those watersheds containing threatened fish. For example, though minimum buffers for fish-bearing and other permanently flowing streams are assured, agencies have leeway, pending the completion of watershed analyses, in deciding how much of a buffer is needed for ephemeral and intermittent streams. In the absence of a mandate, federal land managers may depart considerably from the recommended 200-foot buffer width for these streams.

Even worse, not all streams and rivers containing threatened fish were identified as key watersheds. Indeed, of the 94 federally managed watersheds in California containing threatened fish, only 25 are identified in Option 9 as key watersheds, and even those 25 are not protected adequately. Following watershed analysis, federal land managers are free to allow development in key watersheds if the analysis shows that the development will not cause undue harm. Permissible activities in key watersheds could include logging, mining, grazing, resort development, and all the other forms of "multiple use" that degraded these watersheds in the first place. Roadbuilding can continue also: the plan not only permits roads to remain open "where necessary" for recreation and administration but also allows federal land managers to construct one mile of new road for every mile they close and rehabilitate.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment in Option 9 is its failure to create habitat corridors between reserves, wilderness areas, and other founts of biodiversity. Although the plan addresses connectivity by requiring that small patches of old-growth and riparian forest be left generally untouched, the small size and limited distribution of the patches make them inadequate. If species are unable to travel safely between protected enclaves, the risk of their extinction increases dramatically.

Roadless areas partially spared

In northwestern California, roadless areas and designated wilderness areas are often the only remaining strongholds of biological diversity in an otherwise fragmented landscape. Given Option 9's failure to establish secure corridors between reserved areas, and since many of the reserves designated by the plan already have been logged and laced with roads, the need to protect the natural integrity of roadless areas is greater than ever.

Though it does not protect all roadless areas in the region, Option 9 does provide some security for northern California's wildlands. Preliminary estimates indicate that over 80 percent of northwestern California's roadless lands may fall within a late-successional or riparian reserve, an administratively-withdrawn area, or a key watershed. As for the BLM's holdings in the region, not only are all wilderness study areas administratively withdrawn, but almost every forested acre the agency manages in northwestern California has been either withdrawn or incorporated into a late-successional reserve.

continued on page 5

When the Option 9 designations are added, between 75 and 85 percent of northwestern California's federally managed old-growth forest will be protected.

What Option 9 allows

	GL	HL	SL	RL	CT	RC	M	G	ORV
Key watershed (KW) before watershed analysis (WA)								*	*
KW after WA*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Late-successional reserve (LSR), young stands			*	*	*		*	*	*
LSR, old-growth			*					*	*
Riparian reserve			*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Administratively withdrawn (AW) for recreation, science, or sensitive species								*	
Other AW			*	*				*	◆
Roadless area (RA) in KW before WA								*	◆
RA in KW after WA*		*		*				*	◆
RA outside of KW before WA								*	◆
RA outside of KW after WA*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* Watershed analyses may dictate that certain harmful activities be prohibited.

* allowed ◆ discretionary GL green tree logging HL helicopter logging
SL salvage logging RL roadside "hazard tree" logging CT commercial thinning
RC road construction M mining G grazing ORV off-road vehicle use

Chart by Ryan Henson

Ancient forests

and new challenges



Thatcher Roadless Area in the Mendocino National Forest is bordered by clearcuts. Thatcher will receive three overlapping designations under Option 9: key watershed, late-successional reserve, and administrative withdrawal. Photo by Ryan Henson

continued from page 4

No roads may be built in "inventoried" (officially recognized) roadless areas within key watersheds, but logging by helicopter, balloon, or other alternative methods may be allowed. This loophole is especially serious because most of the old-growth within roadless areas in key watersheds could be logged economically by helicopter, according to Option 9. Since watershed restoration is supposed to take precedence over commodity extraction in key watersheds, however, logging within these sensitive areas will be harder than ever for land management agencies to justify.

Northwestern California's roadless lands within late-successional reserves (310,000 acres in all) also may receive some protection under Option 9. Thinning in reserves is confined to young stands of trees, so old-growth and other fragile habitats may be spared the chainsaw. If, however, a large portion of a reserved roadless area burns, it may be subject to salvage logging.

California's administratively-withdrawn roadless areas (163,000 acres) would be closed to both green tree and salvage logging. In the past, withdrawn lands could be exploited at will since the continuation of their withdrawn status was discretionary. Now that withdrawn lands have been incorporated into Option 9's recovery strategy for the northern spotted owl, they are not likely to be opened to development again in the near future.

The roadless wildlands outside of reserved and withdrawn areas (over 256,000 acres in California) are afforded a small degree of protection. No development would be allowed in any roadless area within the range of the northern spotted owl until a comprehensive watershed analysis is completed. These expensive and labor-intensive analyses typically take a year or more to complete and from six months to a year to interpret, so some national forests and BLM districts may choose to delay or forgo the process. In the interim, they will have to leave their roadless lands alone.

Wilderness areas, at long last, receive buffers

The gradual encroachment of roads and clearcuts around designated wilderness areas is a grave concern among conservationists. Over time, wilderness has become ecologically isolated, threatening the well-being of species dependant on large, undisturbed areas for their survival.

Option 9's designation of reserved and withdrawn areas, many of which cluster around designated wilderness areas, means that not only will the ecological strangulation of wilderness areas be slowed, it may even be reversed. Though northwestern California's wilderness areas are not completely surrounded by these de facto buffers, many of them will benefit. The Trinity Alps, Marble Mountains, Siskiyou, and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wilderness areas are in an excellent position to serve as regional wilderness recovery areas given the amount of reserved and withdrawn lands proposed around them. If nothing else, many potential additions to these wilderness areas will be more protected than ever, and the opportunity for Congress to enlarge northwestern California's

wilderness areas will be preserved.

At present, Option 9 is simply a collection of complex documents containing a bewildering assortment of measures, rules, and guidelines ranging in intent from visionary to regressive. If the day-to-day decisions of federal land managers reflect the visionary side of Option 9, the ecological health of northwestern California may improve dramatically. If, however, Option 9's loopholes are fully and consistently exploited, then the fragmentation of our remaining wildlands will continue apace. The conservation community will have to monitor Option 9's implementation in the years to come to safeguard northwestern California's precious wildlands.

Ryan Henson is assistant conservation director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

New plan should have been called LACKFISH

The Clinton administration released in March its interim plan to protect the anadromous fish of California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington by enhancing habitat for salmon, steelhead, and some cutthroat trout. Dubbed PACFISH, the plan and its accompanying environmental assessment were issued in response to a precipitous decline in anadromous fish populations. Public comments on the PACFISH strategy will be accepted until May 9.

The new plan applies only to federally owned watersheds outside the range of the northern spotted owl; watersheds in owl territory are covered by provisions of Option 9, the administration's owl recovery plan (see article beginning on page 1). The PACFISH plan will be replaced when more specific plans for each region are developed.

According to an analysis by the Western Ancient Forest Campaign, the administration's preferred alternative would designate some key watersheds and establish temporary riparian habitat conservation areas—variously sized corridors or buffer zones around streams, ponds,

continued on page 6

Early 1970s Link between ancient forest destruction and the decline of the northern spotted owl first noticed by activists and agency officials.

1982 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejects first petition to list the spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

August 1986 Forest Service releases a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on spotted owl management. It is appealed.

1986 Draft land and resource management plans for the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, and Klamath national forests establish guidelines that would allow at least 50 percent of spotted owl habitat in the forests to be destroyed. All four plans are appealed.

1988 The 1986 spotted owl EIS is released in its final form and is appealed.

1989 An interagency scientific committee chaired by Jack Ward Thomas is established to study the spotted owl and its habitat needs.

April 1990 The committee releases what becomes known as the Thomas Report, calling for additional protection for the spotted owl and old-growth ecosystems.

June 1990 Under compulsion, the Fish and Wildlife Service lists the northern spotted owl as threatened.

May 1991 The Fish and Wildlife Service identifies "critical habitat" for the northern spotted owl but fails to specify how this habitat should be managed. In response, Judge William Dwyer of the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Washington orders the Forest Service to prepare a management plan and EIS for the northern spotted owl by March 1992.

March 1992 The Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management for the Northern Spotted Owl in National Forests is released. The plan is challenged in court by the Audubon Society and other groups.

May 1992 The Endangered Species Committee (or "God Squad") exempts 13 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales from the provisions of the ESA. Subsequently, Judge Dwyer orders the Forest Service to adopt a new spotted owl management strategy because the March 1992 EIS is flawed.

July 1992 Judge Dwyer enjoins the Forest Service and BLM from logging in suitable spotted owl habitat.

April 1993 President Clinton hosts a one-day conference in Portland to break the "gridlock" over federal land management in the Pacific Northwest. The president directs the departments of Agriculture and Interior to create a management plan for the northern spotted owl based on sound scientific and economic principles.

July 1993 President Clinton releases the draft version of his management plan—Option 9. The administration receives 109,000 letters in response.

February 1994 Final version of Option 9 released. The document will be officially approved by the departments of Interior and Agriculture on April 14. Judge Dwyer has yet to approve the plan. —RH

Wilderness news

Another road bites the dust

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to "decommission" 3.5 miles of road in the King Range National Conservation Area (see map). The dirt road is inside the King Range Wilderness Study Area.

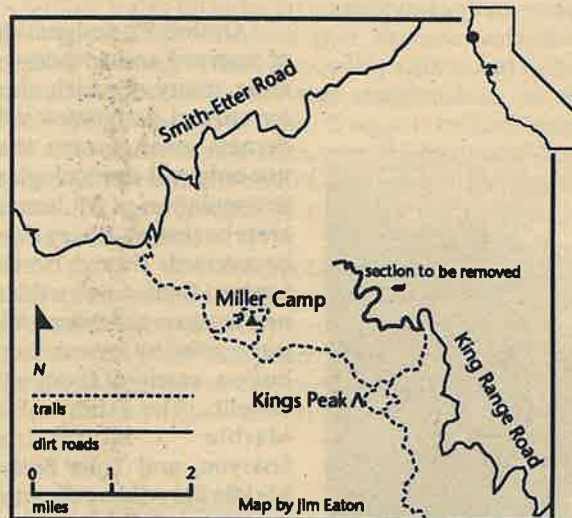
Heavy equipment will be used to put the road to bed by removing drainage structures, excavating fills at stream crossings, and reshaping hillsides to their former contours. The old roadbed will be converted into a three-foot wide trail for hiking and horseback riding. Two wide areas will be left for possible use as helicopter landing sites.

The California Wilderness Coalition and other groups have argued for decades that the BLM should close roads in the King Range. The agency has stood by its decades-old plans for the area, despite protests, appeals, and public opposition. In addition to allowing vehicles into the proposed wilderness, the original plan called for cutting 35 million board feet of trees annually.

The decision to close the King Range Road and other recent actions indicate that BLM officials now understand that wilderness preservation and biodiversity protection are more important than off-road vehicle use and commodity extraction in the King Range.

The King Range Road will be closed at the Lightning Trailhead. Wilderness activists believe an additional four miles of road could be rehabilitated by bringing the trailhead farther out of the proposed wilderness, but this is a good start.

The King Range Road has been known as The Road to Nowhere and as the Hastey Highway, a mocking reference to BLM State Director Ed Hastey who authorized construction of the road in the 1970s with little public notice.



Soda Mountain land swap—a small step toward wilderness

By Dave Willis

The Medford (Oregon) District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking to negotiate a land swap with the Boise Cascade Company to obtain 160 acres of private forest land that lies just north and east of Pilot Rock in the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area, a 31,000-acre wildland that straddles the California-Oregon border. The property is part of a critical land bridge, the only remaining natural link between the eastern edge of the Siskiyou Mountains and the southern stretch of the Cascade Range. The forest provides necessary habitat for wildlife migrating between these two ancient mountain ecosystems. A section of the Pacific Crest Trail also crosses the property.

Boise Cascade plans to cut this forest when the snow melts this spring, but the company is willing to trade the property for BLM forest land of equal value elsewhere. Local BLM officials are prepared to move ahead with the trade, but the Oregon state director of the agency has yet to grant authorization.

Letters needed now

Letters from activists urging the BLM to proceed swiftly on the trade can help. Please write a brief letter to Rich Drehobl, Ashland Area Resource Manager, BLM Medford District, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. Send a copy of your letter to Dean Bibbes, BLM Oregon State Director, P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208.

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Lawsuit to protect steelhead is an upstream battle

By Ryan Henson

Few species of fish appear more resilient, determined, and just plain tough than *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, the steelhead trout. These fierce-looking fish have survived for millennia despite droughts, predators, landslides, storms, and a constant flux in streamcourse conditions. Like salmon, steelhead once crowded hundreds of Pacific Coast streams as they fought their way upstream to spawn.

Despite the steelhead's tenacity and adaptability, the species is threatened across its entire range, from Washington to southern California, as a result of decades of habitat loss and degradation. Indeed, as a result of logging, overfishing, and dam construction, more than 75 percent of all steelhead runs are now extinct. If habitat loss continues, the remaining 178 runs may soon meet the same fate as their kin.

To halt and perhaps even reverse the sharp decline in steelhead, the Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC) recently petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to list all steelhead runs from Washington to southern California under the Endangered Species Act. Each run is a distinct population of fish that return to the same stream each year.

The ONRC decided to petition for the listing of all steelhead rather than individual runs since the agency has rejected narrower petitions in the past by arguing that not all individual runs qualify as "evolutionarily significant units" (ESUs), or, to put it another way, that not all runs are distinct subspecies requiring specialized protection. By submitting a comprehensive petition, the ONRC hopes to avoid the ESU issue entirely and force the agency to address the substance of the petition.

If the petition is approved and the steelhead trout is listed as either threatened, sensitive, or endangered, many of the activities currently destroying the riparian habitat of Pacific Coast streams will have to be curtailed. This could have a profound effect on California: of the 178 steelhead runs remaining, 82 are in California, and they occupy some of the state's most important rivers and streams, including the Sacramento, the Eel, and the Klamath.

How bad is the steelhead's decline? Data gathered by the California Department of Fish and Game show that the number of adult steelhead returning to the Klamath and its tributaries shrank from 1,677 in 1989 to 207 in 1992. The Middle Fork Eel River's summer steelhead fishery—the largest in the state—has shrunk by 25 percent just since 1991.

According to the ONRC petition, the NMFS may choose to list summer and winter steelhead runs separately, list all 178 runs individually, or list all runs collectively as a single species. The agency would then prepare a recovery plan for the species, or for individual runs, to address long-term habitat needs. As with Option 9, President Clinton's recovery plan for the northern spotted owl, the details of a steelhead recovery plan are sure to be controversial.

The NMFS has announced that it will decide sometime in May whether to list the steelhead stocks of northern California and southern Oregon. The agency wants more time to study steelhead populations elsewhere. As ONRC conservation director Andy Kerr and staff ecologist Joy Belsky acknowledge, "The process of listing endangered species is both biological and political," so saving the beleaguered steelhead will not be a simple task.

Sierra NF sued over Dinkey Lakes grazing

Conservation groups have sued the Forest Service over grazing allotments in the Sierra National Forest that have been reauthorized for decades without a single environmental analysis. The suit, filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on behalf of American Wildlands, the California Native Plant Society, and California Trout, contends that by not preparing environmental analyses, the Forest Service has violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the 1970 law that mandated environmental review of all activities on federal lands that have the potential to cause environmental degradation.

Though none of the forest's 35 grazing allotments is in compliance with the NEPA mandate, the lawsuit requests an immediate injunction against grazing in only one, the Dinkey Creek allotment. About one-quarter of that allotment lies within the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness or the adjacent Dinkey Lakes Roadless Area. The allotment also contains critical habitat for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, a species native to the east side of the Sierra that has been transplanted to the Dinkey Lakes area. If granted by the U. S. District Court, the injunction would remain in effect until the Forest Service complies with the law by writing either an environmental analysis or an environmental impact statement.

By ignoring its NEPA responsibilities for all these years, the Forest Service has denied the public its opportunity to participate in the planning for these Sierra National Forest lands. As part of an environmental review, the agency must consider alternative uses of the allotments and solicit public input. The agency did initiate scoping, the preliminary stage of the NEPA process, in 1992, but the effort was dropped.

PACFISH

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reservoirs, and wetlands. The plan would not impose new restrictions on logging, however, and it provides no new protection for roadless areas or old-growth forests.

To obtain a copy of the plan and environmental assessment, call (202) 205-0957. For more information, call the Forest Service's San Francisco office at (415) 705-1158 or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Sacramento at (916) 978-4720. National forests and BLM districts also should have information. For a copy of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign's analysis, write to them at 1400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 or call (202) 939-3324.

Comments should be mailed by May 9 to: PACFISH EA, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Coalition news

CWC Fundraiser set for May 6

Join the California Wilderness Coalition May 6 when we roast—and honor—Bob Schneider. A founder and former president of the Coalition, Bob is the first builder/developer ever invited to serve on our advisory board. His long history with the CWC and his ability to campaign for native oak protection even as he builds houses in oak habitat make him eminently suited for the roasting spit. The fun starts at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 6, at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 East 14th Street, in Davis. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance from the CWC at 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616.

(Why the shades? It was the seventies, after all.)



Photo by Alan R. Houser

Smoke Creek

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of wildlife are to be served. There is no need for separate wildlife corridors here, however, because the WSAs are contiguous. All that is needed is the will to close some dirt roads.

This part of the Great Basin needs an ambitious plan like the million-acre wilderness suggested by Foreman and Wolke. The first step to this goal can be taken by combining the five WSAs California shares with Nevada into a 350,000-acre Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness. That is what the California Wilderness Coalition will propose.

¹Ferol Egan, *Frémont, Explorer for a Restless Nation*, University of Nevada Press, 1985, p. 189.

Jim Eaton is executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Soda Mountain

continued from page 6

In your letter, stress that this is an excellent opportunity for amiable cooperation among citizens, industry, and government to protect part of the critical, forested land bridge that provides a much-needed wildlife corridor between the Siskiyou and Cascade ranges. The legal description of the parcel is: T41S, R2E, Sec. 2, including the NW, NE, and SE quarters of the NW quarter, and the NE quarter of the SW quarter.

Dave Willis is a member of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council.

Letters

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The stunt went bad, as has been amply documented. The reason was that the film company did not measure wind speed as required in the permit. As also stated in the article, the site (and the impact sites outside the WSA) have been restored, and there was little actual damage anyway. The film company has been cited. And, as a result of this incident and another filming incident near the Trona Pinnacles which received practically no notice, the permit requirements are being updated to prevent damage to public lands in the future. As for the use fee, it is low, but the fee for taking gold out of our public land is lower (i.e. zero), and the fee for grazing is also somewhat low.

There is no "mess" left to clean up. This whole incident is a tempest in a teapot. The BLM was not wrong to issue the permit, as we on the ground see it. As we look at it, the hullabaloo is a result of a personal conflict between the film company location person, who was very abrasive, and Desert Survivor representative Doug Kari, and because the Disney company was involved. We, conservationists and Desert Survivor members who deal with this stuff, would really like to be consulted before you go off half-cocked on insignificant issues, and we also wish you could devote paper and ink to issues, such as the Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan, mining law reform, grazing reform, or many others, that deserve serious attention.

Stan Hays
Independence

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 ACTIVISTS' MEETING of the California Ancient Forest Alliance in Davis. For details, call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

May 6 FUNDRAISER for the California Wilderness Coalition. See description at left.

May 7 MEETING of the California Wilderness Coalition's Board of Directors in Davis. Call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380 for details.

May 9 COMMENTS DUE on the administration's plan to improve habitat for anadromous fish in the Pacific Northwest. Send comments to: PACFISH EA, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090. (See article on page 5.)

May 11 APPLICATION DEADLINE for the Art of the Wild writers workshop in Squaw Valley in July. For more information, contact the Department of English at U.C. Davis, Davis, CA 95616; (916) 752-1658.

Wilderness Trivia

Answer:

Joshua Tree (Joshua Tree Wilderness), Lava Beds (Lava Beds Wilderness), Pinnacles (Pinnacles Wilderness), and Devils Postpile (a small piece of Ansel Adams Wilderness).

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**California
Wilderness
Coalition**

Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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The Wilderness Record

The *Wilderness Record* is the monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit would be appreciated. Subscription is free with membership.

The *Record* welcomes letters-to-the-editor, articles, black & white photos, drawings, book reviews, poetry, etc. on California wilderness and related subjects. We reserve the right to edit all work.

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Printed by the Davis Enterprise
on recycled paper.

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Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland Butte Environmental Council; Chico California Alpine Club; San Francisco California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln California Native Plant Society; Sacramento Citizens for Better Forestry; Hayfork Citizens for Mojave National Park; Barstow Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes; Nipomo

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"We generally prefer our national parks to be 'infested' with animals, plants, and large trees."

—CWC executive director Jim Eaton, in response to a Lassen National Park proposal to remove "infestations" of vegetation and burrowing animals from the site of Manzanita dam.

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

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- landscape design in light blue, pale green, jade, or fuchsia: \$15
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Design Size(s, m, l, xl) Color Amount

Subtotal \$ _____

Shipping \$ _____

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

Total \$ _____

1
9
9
4

Wilderness Guide



California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, California 95616

How to use this guide

California has a wealth of wilderness areas—so many that sometimes the most difficult part of planning a trip is narrowing down the possibilities. Whether you want to take a three-week trek or a weekend hike, planning your trip starts with the basics, and among other things, that means knowing what is and isn't allowed. To get you started, we surveyed the managers of the 64 state and federal wilderness areas you can visit in California about the regulations in effect for 1994.

Some regulations are universal and well-known. Bicycles and off-road vehicles (except wheelchairs) are prohibited from all wilderness areas, so you won't find that information listed for each entry.

What you will find is:

- Whether there's a quota on the number of people allowed into the wilderness each day. Usually, the quota is in effect only during the peak summer recreation season, but some wilderness areas have quotas year-round. The quota may be on overnight use only, or on day and overnight use. The quota may apply to the entire wilderness or to just the most popular trails.

- Whether you need a permit to enter the wilderness. Some of the most popular areas require permits for both day and overnight use. Permits are free, but there may be a charge to reserve a permit in areas that have quotas. If you are found without a permit in an area where permits are required, you can be cited.

- If there's a party size limit on how many people and pack or saddle stock can travel and camp together.

- If fires are allowed. You must have a state campfire permit, obtainable at any ranger station or park office, to have a fire on public land. Note that possession of a campfire permit does not authorize you to have a fire in an area where fires are restricted. Where the risk of wildfire is

high, you may be required to have a campfire permit to use a camp stove. Campfire permits are available at ranger stations and are valid anywhere in the state.

- If pets are allowed. Pets are prohibited from wilderness areas in state and national parks. Where pets are allowed, they must be under control, and in many wilderness areas dogs must be leashed.

- Whether any portion of the wilderness is closed to recreational use. Closures may be needed to protect sensitive species or fragile ecosystems.

- The office to contact for more information. Because regulations can change suddenly in response to local conditions, contact the ranger district (RD), national forest (NF) or park office before you leave for your trip. This is especially important during fire season.

- A symbol indicating which bioregion the wilderness is in (see map).

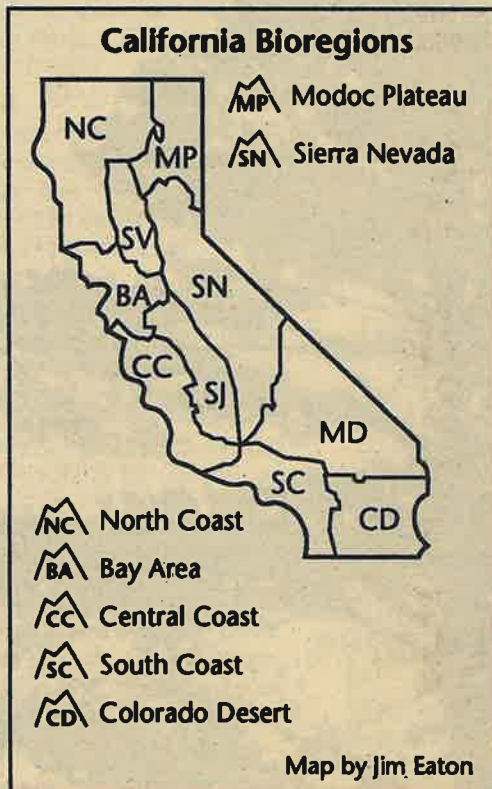
All wilderness managers now recommend or require "leave no trace" recreation. Among other things, that means camping away from water sources and trails, carrying weed-free feed for stock, packing out all litter, not shortcutting switchbacks, and building campfires only in existing rings or pits or, better still, not at all.

In bear country, you may want to carry your food in a bear-proof canister. Canisters can be rented at

Sequoia-Kings and Yosemite national parks or purchased from Garcia Machine, at (209) 732-3785.

You should assume that all water sources are contaminated with giardia or other microorganisms. Either boil water for five minutes or use an approved filter. Filters, as well as guidebooks and maps, are widely available at stores specializing in outdoor recreation.

Wilderness maps can be purchased from the Forest Service and Park Service. Both agencies also have free handouts that will help you plan, and enjoy, your trip. Call, write, or visit one of the offices listed as contacts.



Map by Jim Eaton

Agua Tibia

Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 8 stock Fires: no Pets: leashed Closures: no Notes: carry water; no overnight stock use; no target shooting or plinking Contact: Palomar RD, Cleveland NF, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065; (619) 788-0250.

Ansel Adams

Quota: overnight, late June–September 15 Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: below 9,600 feet Pets: yes Closures: some areas closed to camping or campfires Note: no target shooting or plinking Contact: Mono Lake RD, Inyo NF, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-3000 or Minarets RD, Sierra NF, P.O. Box 10, North Fork, CA 93643; (209) 877-2218.

Anza-Borrego

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: no limit Fires: only in enclosed container Pets: no Closures: no Notes: no stock; backpackers should register at office before entering wilderness Contact: Anza-Borrego State Park, P.O. Box 299, Borrego Springs, CA 92004; (619) 767-5311.

Boney Mountain

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: no limit Fires: only at designated sites Pets: no Closures: no Note: no overnight or stock use Contact: Point Mugu State Park at (818) 880-0350 or call (800) 533-PARK.

Bucks Lake

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Quincy RD, Plumas NF, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA 95971; (916) 283-0555.

Caribou

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Almanor RD, Lassen NF, P.O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020; (916) 258-2141.

Carson-Iceberg

Quota: no Permit: overnight, April 1–November 30 Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Note: no target shooting or plinking Contact: Calaveras RD, Stanislaus NF, P.O. Box 500, Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; (209) 795-1381 or Summit RD, Stanislaus NF, #1 Pinecrest Lake Rd., Pinecrest, CA 95364; (209) 965-3434 or Carson RD, Toiyabe NF, 1536 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; (702) 882-2766.

Castle Crag

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but not recommended Pets: yes Closures: no Notes: climbers prohibited from placing new bolts; pets not allowed in Castle Crag State Park Contact: Mount Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, 204 West Alma Street, Mount Shasta, CA 96067; (916) 926-4511.

Chanchelulla

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: permit required April–October Pets: leashed Closures: no Notes: few trails; scarce water Contact: Yolla Bolly RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, HC01 Box 400, Platina, CA 96076; (916) 352-4211.

Chumash

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: camping restricted to designated sites Contact: Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, HC1 Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93225; (805) 245-3731.

Cucamonga

Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 12 people, 25 stock Fires: no Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: stock use not advised because terrain is very steep Contact: Cajon RD, San Bernardino NF, 1209 Lytle Creek, Lytle Creek, CA 92358; (909) 887-2576 or Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Wabash Ave., Glendora, CA 91764; (818) 335-1251.

Cuyamaca Rancho

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: depends on campsite Fires: no Pets: no Closures: no Contact: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, 12551 Highway 79, Descanso, CA 91916; (619) 765-0755.

Desolation

Quota: overnight, June 15–Labor Day Permit: day and overnight, year-round Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: no Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Eldorado Visitor Center, Eldorado NF, 3070 Camino Heights Dr., Camino, CA 95709; (916) 644-6048 or Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; (916) 573-2600.

Dick Smith

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: yes, in fire season Note: camping restricted to designated sites Contact: Santa Barbara RD, Los Padres NF, Star Route, Santa Barbara, CA 93105; (805) 967-3481 or Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, HC1 Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93225; (805) 245-3731.

Dinkey Lakes

Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Note: no target shooting or plinking Contact: Pineridge RD, Sierra NF, P.O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664; (209) 841-3311 or Kings River RD, Sierra NF, 34849 Maxon Road, Sanger, CA 93657; (209) 855-8321.

Dome Land

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 15 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, P.O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238; (619) 376-3781.



Bitterroot

Emigrant

Quota: no Permit: overnight, April 1–November 30
Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: below 9,000 feet; no
fires at Emigrant Lake Pets: yes Closures: some lakes closed
to stock Notes: no target shooting or plinking; new
wilderness plan being developed Contact: Summit RD,
Stanislaus NF, #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 95364;
(209) 965-3434.

Garcia

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Santa Lucia RD,
Los Padres NF, 1616 North Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA
93454; (805) 925-9538.

Golden Trout

Quota: overnight, for some trails Permit: overnight,
for some trails Party size: 15 people, 15–25 stock Fires:
seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact:
Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA
93545; (619) 876-6200 or Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia
NF, P. O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238; (619) 376-3781.

Granite Chief

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 12 people, 8 stock
(overnight) or 12 stock (day use) Fires: yes Pets: yes, but
restricted from fawning habitat May 15–July 15 Closures:
Five Lakes Basin closed to camping, fires, and stock; Little
Needle and Mildred lakes closed to stock Contact: Truckee
RD, Tahoe NF, 10342 Highway 89 North, Truckee, CA
96161; (916) 587-3558 or Foresthill RD, Tahoe NF, 22830
Auburn Foresthill Rd., Foresthill, CA 95631; (916) 367-
2224.

Hauser

Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 15
people, 15 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note:
carry water Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, 3348
Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA 91901; (619) 445-6235.

Henry Coe

Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 8 people, no
limit on stock Fires: no Pets: no Closures: no Note: one
weekend a year (April 23–24, this year) there is access to the
wilderness from Highway 152 at Bell Station Contact:
Henry Coe State Park, P. O. Box 846, Morgan Hill, CA
95038; (408) 779-2728.

Hoover

Quota: late June–September 15 Permit: overnight
Party size: 15 people, 25 stock except in Sawtooth Zone
Fires: yes, except in Sawtooth Zone and Twenty Lakes
Basin Pets: yes Closures: Red and Blue lakes closed to
camping Note: no target shooting or plinking Contact:
Bridgeport RD, Toiyabe NF, P. O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA
93517; (619) 932-7070 or Mono Lake RD, Inyo NF, P. O.
Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-3000.

Ishi

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact:
Almanor RD, Lassen NF, P.O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020;
(916) 258-2141.

Jennie Lakes

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Hume Lake
RD, Sequoia NF, 35860 E. Kings Canyon Rd., Dunlap, CA
93621; (209) 338-2251.

John Muir

Quota: overnight Permit: overnight Party size: de-
pends on location Fires: depends on location Pets: yes,
except in bighorn habitat Closures: stock excluded from
Mt. Whitney; no camping at Golden Trout Lake Note: no
target shooting or plinking Contact: Pineridge RD, Sierra
NF, P. O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664; (209) 841-3311
or Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA
93545; (619) 876-6200.

Joshua Tree

Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: no limit Fires:
no Pets: no Closures: water sites closed to camping Note:
stock allowed only on Black Rock Canyon–Ryan trail
Contact: Visitor Center, Joshua Tree National Monument,
74485 National Monument Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA
92277; (619) 367-7511.

Kaiser

Quota: overnight Permit: overnight Party size: 15
people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Note: no
target shooting or plinking Contact: Pineridge RD, Sierra
NF, P. O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664; (209) 841-3311.

Lassen

Quota: no Permit: overnight and stock use Party size:
10 people, 15 stock Fires: no Pets: no Closures: some areas
closed to camping or stock Notes: no overnight stock use;
regulations may change in 1994 Contact: Lassen Volcanic
National Park, P. O. Box 100, Mineral, CA 96063; (916)
595-4444.

Lava Beds

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 12 people and stock
combined Fires: no Pets: no Closures: caves closed to
camping Note: carry water Contact: Lava Beds National
Monument, P. O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134; (916) 667-
2282.



Sedum rosea

Machesna Mountain

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Note: access from
American Canyon is limited, so call ahead Contact: Santa
Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, 1616 Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria,
CA 93454; (805) 925-9538.

Marble Mountain

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes, but not recom-
mended Closures: no Note: large bear population Con-
tact: Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, P. O. Box 377, Happy
Camp, CA 96039; (916) 493-2243 or Salmon River RD,
Klamath NF, P.O. Box 280, Etna, CA 96027; (916) 467-
5757 or Scott River RD, Klamath NF, 11263 Hwy 3, Fort
Jones, CA 96032; (916) 468-5351 or Ukonom RD, Klamath
NF, P. O. Drawer 410, Orleans, CA 95556; (916) 627-3291.

Matillija

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed; 2 dogs per party
Closures: no Contact: Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, 1190 East
Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023; (805) 646-4348.

Mokelumne

Quota: no Permit: overnight, April 1–November 30
Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, except in Carson
Pass Restricted Area Pets: leashed Closures: lower
Mokelumne Canyon Contact: Amador RD, Eldorado NF,
26820 Silver Drive & Hwy. 88, Pioneer, CA 95666; (209)
295-4251 or Eldorado Visitor Center, 3070 Camino Heights
Dr., Camino, CA 95709; (916) 644-6048 or Calaveras RD,
Stanislaus NF, P. O. Box 500, Hathaway Pines, CA 95233;
(209) 795-1381.

Monarch

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Hume Lake RD,
Sequoia NF, 35860 E. Kings Canyon Rd., Dunlap, CA
93621; (209) 338-2251.

Mount San Jacinto

Quota: overnight Permit: day and overnight Party
size: 15 people, no limit on stock Fires: no Pets: no
Closures: use of Hidden Lake discouraged Notes: carry
water; no smoking on trails Contact: Mt. San Jacinto State
Park, P. O. Box 308, Idyllwild, CA 92549; (714) 659-2607.

Mount Shasta

Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 10
people, 10 stock Fires: no Pets: no Closures: no Notes: no
overnight stock use; regs for Lake Helen may change this
year; no target shooting or plinking Contact: Mount
Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, 204 West Alma Street, Mount
Shasta, CA 96067; (916) 926-4511.

North Fork

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact:
Mad River RD, Six Rivers NF, Star Route, Box 300, Bridgeville,
CA 95526; (707) 574-6233.

Phillip Burton

Quota: overnight Permit: overnight Party size: de-
pends on campsite Fires: only below tide line with drift-
wood Pets: no Closures: no Note: camping allowed only
in designated sites Contact: Point Reyes National Sea-
shore, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956; (415) 663-1092.

Pine Creek

Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 15
people, 15 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note:
carry water Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, 3348
Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA 91901; (619) 445-6235.

Pinnacles

Quota: no Permit: yes Party size: no limit Fires: no
Pets: no Closures: climbing banned February–June near
raptor nesting sites Notes: no camping or stock use; no
smoking on trails during fire season Contact: Pinnacles
National Monument, Palmdale, CA 95043; (408) 389-4485.

Red Buttes

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 8 people, 12 stock
Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Notes: carry water;
Azalea Lake has segregated campsites for hikers and stock
users Contact: Rogue River NF, P.O. Box 520, Medford, OR
97501; (503) 776-3600.

Russian

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 20–25 people, 25
stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no
Note: Taylor Lake is wheelchair-accessible with an able
partner Contact: Salmon River RD, Klamath NF, P.O. Box
280, Etna, CA 96027; (916) 467-5757 or Scott River RD,
Klamath NF, 11263 South Highway 3, Fort Jones, CA
96032; (916) 468-5351.

San Gabriel

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no
Contact: Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Wabash
Ave., Glendora, CA 91764; (818) 335-1251.

San Geronio

Quota: day and overnight Permit: day and overnight
Party size: 15 people, 15 stock Fires: depends on location
Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: Regs may change in 1994
Contact: San Geronio RD, San Bernardino NF, 34701 Mill
Creek Road, Mentone, CA 92359; (714) 794-1123.

San Jacinto

Quota: day use, Devil's Slide Trail Permit: day and
overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: only at
designated sites Pets: leashed and only in NF portion of
wilderness Closures: no Notes: no grazing of stock; regs
may change in 1994 Contact: Idyllwild Ranger Station,
San Bernardino NF, P. O. Box 518, Idyllwild, CA 92549;
(909) 659-2117.

San Mateo Canyon

Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25
stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note: some trails
damaged by fire Contact: Trabuco RD, Cleveland NF, 1147
E. Sixth St., Corona, CA 91719; (909) 736-1811.

San Rafael

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: condor sanctuary and some
archaeological sites Note: campers encouraged to use
designated campsites Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres
NF, 1616 Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805) 925-
9538.

Santa Lucia

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Note: campers encouraged
to use designated campsites Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los
Padres NF, 1616 Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805)
925-9538.

Santa Rosa

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 15 stock
Fires: only at designated sites Pets: leashed Closures: no
Notes: no grazing of stock; regs may change in 1994
Contact: Idyllwild Ranger Station, San Bernardino NF, P.
O. Box 518, Idyllwild, CA 92549; (909) 659-2117.

Sequoia-Kings Canyon

Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25
stock Fires: depends on location Pets: no Closures: some
lakes closed to camping Note: park publishes Backcountry
Basics, a free trip-planning guide Contact: Sequoia &
Kings Canyon National Parks, Wilderness Permit Office,
Three Rivers, CA 93271; (209) 565-3708 for permits or
(209) 565-3761.

Sespe

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed; 2 dogs per party
Closures: Sespe Condor Sanctuary Note: Wild & Scenic
River program may entail additional restrictions Contact:
Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, 1190 East Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA
93023; (805) 646-4348 or Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF,
HC1 Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93225; (805) 245-3731.

Sheep Mountain

Quota: no Permit: only for East Fork Trailhead Party
size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets:
leashed Closures: no Note: regs likely to change in 1994
Contact: Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Wabash
Ave., Glendora, CA 91764; (818) 335-1251.

Silver Peak


Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact:
Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, 406 South Mildred, King
City, CA 93930; (408) 385-5434.

Siskiyou

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonal restrictions possible Pets: yes Closures: no
Note: terrain not amenable to stock use Contact: Happy
Camp RD, Klamath NF, P. O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA
96039; (916) 493-2243 or Gasquet RD, Six Rivers NF, P. O.
Box 228, Gasquet, CA 95543; (707) 457-3131 or Orleans
RD, Six Rivers NF, Drawer B, Orleans, CA 95556; (916) 627-
3291.

Photos by George M. Clark

Compiled by the CWC and Pat Johnson

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Snow Mountain

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Note: no
camping on private lands within wilderness Contact:
Stonyford RD, Mendocino NF, 5080 Ladoga Road,
Stonyford, CA 95979; (916) 963-3128 or Upper Lake RD,
Mendocino NF, P. O. Box 96, Upper Lake, CA 95485; (707)
275-2361.

South Sierra

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: depends on location Pets: yes Closures: no Contact:
Mt. Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA
93545; (619) 876-6200 or Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia
NF, P. O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238; (619) 376-3781.

South Warner

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Warner Moun-
tain RD, Modoc NF, P. O. Box 220, Cedarville, CA 96104;
(916) 279-6116.

Thousand Lakes

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Hat Creek RD,
Lassen NF, P.O. Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028; (916)
336-5521.

Trinity Alps

Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 25
people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes
Closures: Stoddard Lake closed to overnight stock use
Contact: Big Bar RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Route 1, Box 10,
Big Bar, CA 96010; (916) 623-6106 or Weaverville RD,
Shasta-Trinity NF, P. O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093;
(916) 623-2121.

Ventana

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: seasonal closures possible
Contact: Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, 406 South Mildred,
King City, CA 93930; (408) 385-5434.

West Waddell

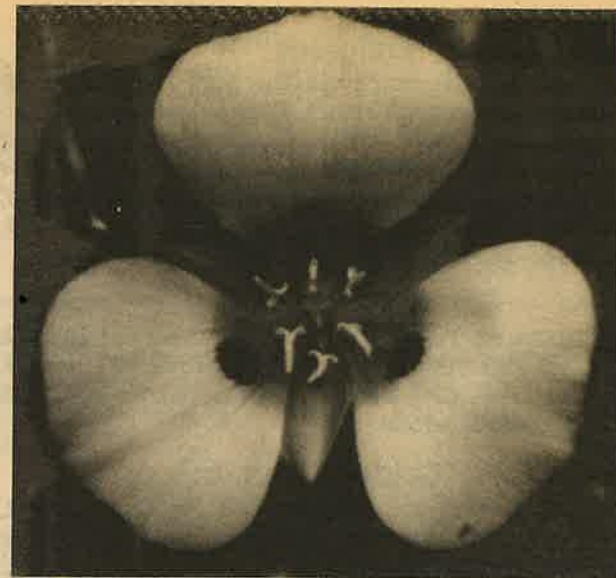
Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 6 people per
campsite Fires: no Pets: no Closures: no Note: no stock
Contact: Big Basin State Park, 21600 Big Basin Way,
Boulder Creek, CA 95006; (408) 338-6132.

Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel

Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 15 stock
Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Note:
carry water Contact: Covelo RD, Mendocino NF, 78150
Covelo Road, Covelo, CA 95428; (707) 983-6118 or Corn-
ing RD, Mendocino NF, 1120 Solano St., Corning, CA
96021; (916) 824-5196 or Yolla Bolly RD, Shasta-Trinity
NF, Platina, CA 96076; (916) 352-4211 or Mad River RD,
Six Rivers NF, Star Route, Box 300, Bridgeville, CA 95526;
(707) 574-6233.

Yosemite

Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25
stock on trails; 8 people, no stock cross-country Fires: only
in established sites below 9,600 feet Pets: no Closures:
some areas closed to camping Note: park publishes Keep
it Wild, a free trip-planning guide Contact: Wilderness
Office, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, Yosemite,
CA 95389; (209) 372-0285 or (209) 372-0310 for permits.



Leichtlin's mariposa

What is the California Wilderness Coalition?

The California Wilderness Coalition is an alliance of
individuals, businesses, and more than 70 environmental
groups committed to wilderness preservation. By joining
together in a coalition, small groups like Friends of Plumas
Wilderness can call on wilderness lovers around the state
when local wildlands are threatened, and national organi-
zations like The Wilderness Society can call on the perspec-
tive and experience of grassroots activists. For 18 years,
the Coalition has been a unified voice on behalf of the
state's wildlands.

What do we do?

The California Wilderness Coalition protects wilderness
by campaigning for new wilderness areas, monitoring how
existing wilderness is managed, and defending threatened
wildlands until they too can be designated wilderness.
Though California presently has 65 wilderness areas, most
of the state's wildlands are still at risk of being developed,
logged, or polluted. And California needs all the wilder-
ness it can get: the state's biological diversity is fast
disappearing as habitat is destroyed.

So we support new laws, like the California Desert
Protection Act that would designate large tracts of our
fragile desert as national parks and wilderness areas. And
we defend good laws, like the Endangered Species Act,
from being compromised.

We also work to persuade the agencies that manage
wilderness and wildlands in California—the Forest Service,
Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service—
to better protect the areas in their care. We do that by
participating in the development of wilderness manage-
ment plans and by monitoring their implementation.
When all else fails, we go to court.

None of these goals is possible without the support of
Californians. So we also publish a monthly newspaper
about California's rich heritage of wilderness and the many
threats that will diminish that heritage if our vigilance
falters. The Wilderness Record and other CWC publications
are designed to help Californians help wilderness.

Join the California Wilderness Coalition

☐ Yes! I wish to become a member of the California
Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$ _____ for first-
year membership dues.

☐ Here is a special contribution of \$ _____ to
help the Coalition's work.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Annual Dues: †

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Non-profit Organization	\$ 30.00
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† tax deductible

Mail to:

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

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☐ Send me a free copy of the Wilderness
Record to sample.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to:

California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
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