

WILDERNESS RECORD

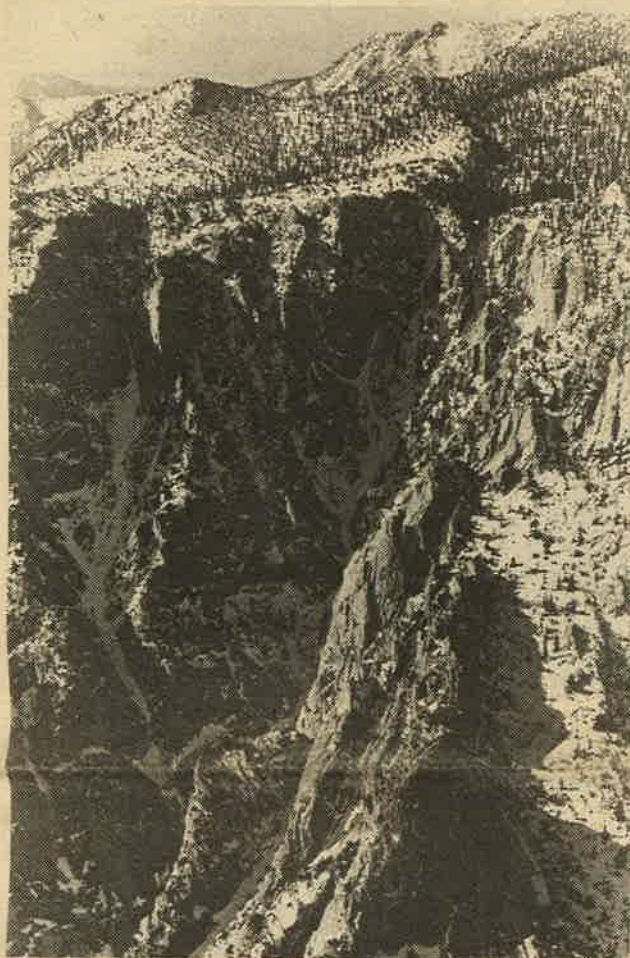
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. I

Davis, March-April, 1976

No. 1

COALITION FORMS



Golden Trout-Sierra Es carpment 'defacto' wilderness proposal near Olanch Pass.
(Photo by Phil Farrell)

Task Force

Big Butte

**Granite
Chief**

**Road
Halted**

Residents of the Lake Tahoe Basin have organized an **ad hoc** committee to work for the permanent protection of the long-proposed Granite Chief Wilderness.

At a meeting in Tahoe City on February 11th, the group decided on the name Granite Chief Wilderness Task Force. Task force members also decided to begin a number of projects aimed at assuring that the Granite Chief area will remain in its wild state.

Letters are being written to Congressman Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson to inform him of the widespread public interest in saving the proposed wilderness. A local speakers bureau has been suggested, with task force members available to

(Continued on back page)

The Citizens Committee to Save Our Public Lands scored a major court victory, stopping road construction into the proposed Big Butte primitive area. The Big Butte area and contiguous roadless lands are being considered by citizens as possible additions to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, in Southern Trinity County.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was planning to grant a road construction permit to Louisiana Pacific Corporation. The timber firm wanted the access across public land to reach a logging site on private land. The Citizens Committee had objected to this and sought to appeal the BLM's plans to allow the construction. BLM refused to recognize that the Citizens Committee

(Continued on back page)

California Wilderness has just gained a new friend. The California Wilderness Coalition has been formed by a group of wilderness conservationists concerned with the need for a stepped-up level of activity on behalf of wilderness in the state. Before now, no state-wide group has focused solely on wilderness preservation.

The California Wilderness Coalition has as its single goal the preservation of all remaining wilderness lands in California. It estimates that nearly 14 million acres of wild land still exist (14 percent of the state's total area) under the jurisdiction of federal and state agencies. However, only 1.9 million acres of this wild land has legal protection against road-building, motorized vehicles, logging, and other wilderness-destroying activities; protection on which is given units of the National or California (state) Wilderness Preservation Systems.

The remaining 12 million acres - lands which are just as valuable and also widely used for recreation, inspiration, scientific study, wildlife habitat, and other wilderness uses - are open to and threatened by development. Wilderness lovers will need to be well-organized to save any or all of these unprotected wild lands.

The Coalition will pull together not only individuals and environmental groups, but any scientific, educational, or civic organization that is interested in wilderness or a particular wilderness area. In addition, the Coalition will include those who have an economic interest in undeveloped land: manufacturers and retailers of backpacking and skiing equipment, publishers of mountaineering and trail guides, photographers, packers, and guides.

The main activities of the CWC can be grouped into four general categories: organization, communication, education, and research. Actual projects may overlap these groupings.

A prime function of the Coalition is to organize a statewide effort for wilderness preservation. As funds become available, coordinators will be hired to travel to all corners of the state to meet with members, groups, and businesses about

cooperating in the wilderness effort. These organizers can then assist local individuals in forming an **ad hoc** group for their particular threatened area.

A bimonthly newspaper, the **Wilderness Record**, will be the major vehicle for communication. All members will be informed on the latest events affecting wilderness or proposed areas, information about specific areas and which groups are concerned with them, and problems of wilderness management.

Special alerts will also be sent out as needed to inform interested persons about hearings, bills, and threats to wild lands.

Education will be accomplished through special publications and workshops. The Coalition will see that background materials on various aspects of wilderness preservation are prepared and distributed to those who need and want this information. Evening and weekend workshops will also be held in communities throughout the state so that wilderness supporters can meet each other and plan specific programs to protect their favorite areas.

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Wild Lands Threatened

Wilderness in California is seriously threatened by long-term land use decisions currently being made by public agencies. Most Californians are aware of the magnificent wild lands remaining in the state. However, most people do not realize that only a small percentage of our undeveloped areas are protected in our National Wilderness Preservation System. Most of the lands still unprotected are in imminent danger of being roaded, logged, mined, snowmobiled, trail-biked, or all of the above.

Most threatened are the roadless areas in our National Forests (see map inside). Of the roadless areas already considered by the Forest Service to date, none has yet been recommended for a wilderness study. Consideration of potential use is scheduled or underway for 76 of about 105 roadless areas in California. In 1976, the Forest Service will be seeking suggestions and comments from the public for 46 of these areas.

The situation is not much better on the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. So little is known about much of this land that no one really knows how much potential wilderness exists. But the roadless areas that do exist are rapidly being torn up by uncontrolled use of offroad vehicles, miners, and other wilderness destroyers.

(Continued on back page)

CWC Member Groups

AMERICAN LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL (ALCC)

NORTHCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

ACTIVE CONSERVATION TACTICS (ACT)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB SIERRA-NEVADA CHAP

SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL

SAVE KAISER RIDGE COMMITTEE

Forum

Wilderness Use

by Bob Schneider

Wilderness recreation is growing fast. The sheer increase in numbers together with unacceptable wilderness use practices is resulting in a large detrimental impact to the wilderness environment. Although this impact has been centered in the most popular areas, the problems are now cropping up in many of the less travelled places.

In the 1960s, Bullfrog Lake in the Sierra was so heavily impacted that it was closed to camping to allow the area to recover. Rock shelters and campfire pits on Snow Mountain in the California Coast Range have been discovered which have been built within the last year. Many argue that wilderness "management" should be no management. This may be acceptable in some of Alaska's large contiguous wilderness areas, but in California it is unrealistic. The large number of wilderness users and the small size of California's wilderness areas mandates management. The Wilderness Act of 1964 recognized this need.

The Forest Service's and Park Service's Wilderness Permit System has been a major step in wilderness management. Not everyone has been happy with the system: many consider obtaining a permit to be a hassle; others resent the structuring the system involves. These are legitimate problems and concerns.

The Wilderness Permit System, though, is an essential management tool. The system has three main functions: it is used to obtain information on the amount of wilderness use; it is used to direct people to less crowded and impacted areas; it provides a way to educate wilderness users.

Wilderness use management has not been advocated only by government. The Sierra Club and many other groups are concerned with wilderness management problems. A manifestation of this interest is the large number of clean-up and trail maintenance projects that various groups sponsor.

But, it is a sad commentary that the Sierra Club is using its energy picking up other people's backcountry garbage. Good wilderness use and management must begin with individuals and the focus must be on prevention rather than endless babysitting. All wilderness users must practice the essentials of minimum impact camping. A backpacker today must travel through an area leaving no trace behind: no fire scars; no manicured campsites; no megalithic shelters;

There are some minimum impact concepts which should be practiced by all of us when we are in the wilderness. These ideas are not new, but they are not being used.

Groups: The larger the group, the heavier their potential impact will be. There are clear problems of crowding and sanitation. Studies have suggested that wilderness users would rather come across 10 groups of 2 or 3 people than 1 group of 25. At least two things should be done:

1) Wilderness travel groups should be limited to 15 people.

2) These larger 15-person groups should take trips to less popular areas. Areas such as Shadow and Ediza Lakes in the Minarets Wilderness, and Little Yosemite Valley and Lyell Canyon in Yosemite should be left to smaller parties.

Shelters: For various reasons, people seem to enjoy digging ditches, building stone walls and cutting tree branches when they go camping. They should save these projects for their backyards. It took six of us half an hour to unbuild one stone structure on the top of Snow Mountain.

Stoves and Campfires: In California wilderness areas, the era of the campfire is drawing to a close. Small, lightweight backpacker stoves make it unnecessary to build campfires, and using stoves will stop the ravaging of down wood which is vital for the replenishment of soil nutrients. A night out without a campfire is as special an experience as our campfires of old. The experience of night sounds and the night sky are magnified when there is no fire.

Campsite locations: All camps should be located at least 100 feet away from lakes and streams to protect riparian habitat and for sanitation purposes. Established campsites along lakeshores and streams should be abandoned and dismantled. Avoid camping in meadows or other fragile areas.

Colors: Wilderness users should begin to buy only neutral-colored equipment - browns, greens, and blues, that blend into the surroundings. One red tent across a lake can make an area seem much more crowded than it actually is.

Sanitation: All latrines should be at least 100 feet from lakes and streams. Dig a small "cat hole" from 6 to 8 inches deep. Excrement will decompose rapidly at this depth. Toilet paper should be covered. Winter poses special problems. When there is snow cover used toilet paper should be burned.

Siskiyou Mountains Group

The Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council (formerly S.O.S.) is a grass roots movement dedicated to the wise and prudent management of the southern Siskiyou mountains.

They seek to maintain the natural integrity and spirit of the Siskiyou, especially those lands described by the Forest Service as the Fox, Siskiyou, Dillon-Clear Creek, Five Mile, Slide, Eight Mile, and Blue Creek planning units and other such lands as may be essential to unaltered, unsimplified ecosystems.

The southern Siskiyou mountains is an almost untouched area of nearly 200,000 acres comprised of portions of Six Rivers, Siskiyou and Klamath National Forests, containing 15 major peaks, 9 rivers, creeks and their tributaries, 12 lakes, 30 smaller ponds, and a unique association of trees and plants, including several species found only in the Siskiyou area. In the words of the Forest Service itself, "The Siskiyou Study Area provides a variety of opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including backpacking, camping, fishing, hunting and nature study. The solitude

afforded by remote portions of the area is an important characteristic."

Senator John Tunney has offered to introduce legislation to study the wilderness potential of the Siskiyou. Write Senator Tunney (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and encourage him to introduce the Siskiyou Mountains Resource Council Wilderness Study Bill. For more information, write S.M.R.C., P.O. Box 4376, Arcata, CA 95521.

"ASSAULT ON THE SISKIYOU" REPRINTED

John Hart's excellent article "Assault on the Siskiyou" which was first published in the Fall, 1975 issue of **Cry California** has been reprinted by the Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council. Copies can be obtained by writing S.M.R.C., P.O. Box 4376, Arcata, CA 95521. A small donation to cover printing costs is appreciated.



Carmel River Valley, Ventura Wilderness (photo by Bob Schneider)

Death Valley Threatened

Congress is now debating the future of Death Valley National Monument, while Tenneco is strip-mining in the monument.

The decision on whether or not to stop the strip-mining of the 2 million acres of potential wilderness in the monument will be made by Congress during the next few months.

Things do not look good right now. The Senate passed S.2371, a strong bill that would stop future park mining and place a moratorium on existing mining. But the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has greatly weakened this measure. The emasculated bill must now be finalized by the full Interior Committee before being considered by the whole House of Representatives.

The crucial portion of this legislation is the four-year moratorium on further surface disturbance within Death Valley. In S.2371 the moratorium would apply to all mining operations that began after Sept. 18, 1975. This cutoff date was selected to prevent any surface disturbance done to circumvent the protection afforded by the moratorium.

Senate Holds Hearings

Since the passage of the Wilderness Act more than eleven years ago, Congress established only four wilderness areas in our national park system. Wilderness proposals for more than 60 other park units have been piling up as bill after bill is introduced, only to wait in vain for a committee hearing. There are hopeful signs, though, that this impasse is about to end.

On March 2nd, the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will hold a hearing on bills to designate wilderness areas in three California park units - Point Reyes National Seashore, Yosemite National Park, and Pinnacles National Monument.

For details on these proposals - see other article in this issue.

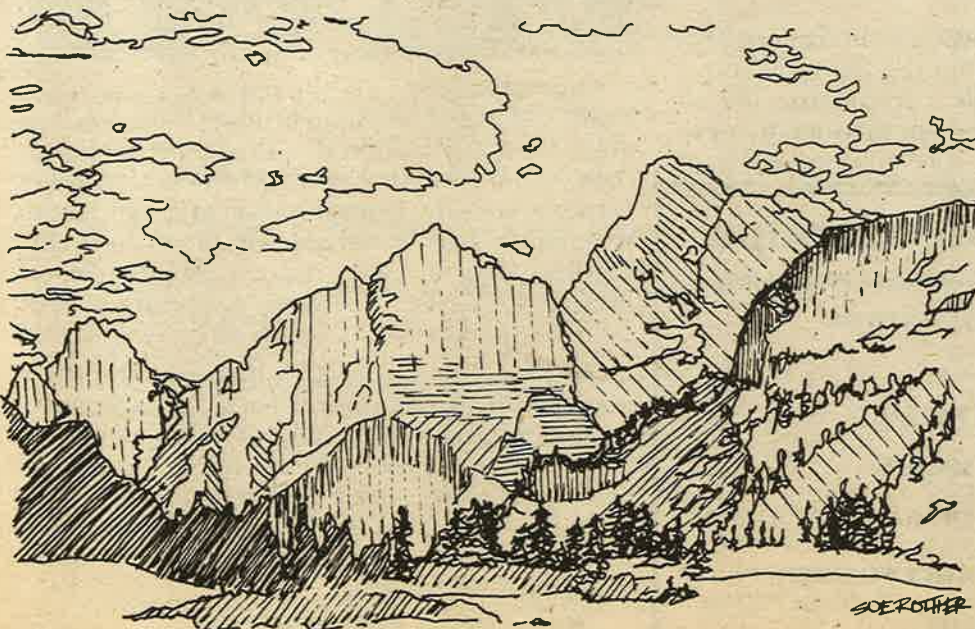
As is too often the case, the wilderness proposals of the National Park Service for Point Reyes and Yosemite are smaller than those desired by conservationists. California Senators Alan Cranston and John V. Tunney, however, are backing the larger proposals

developed by their constituents. It will be up to Congress to make the final decision between the recommendations of the Park Service and those of citizens and their elected representatives.

ACTION NEEDED

By March 16th: Let the Senate Interior Committee know that you support Senators Cranston and Tunney in their efforts to have wilderness areas established at Yosemite, Point Reyes, and Pinnacles. If you have been to any of these parks, explain how their wilderness is important to you, **especially** if you have visited any of the areas the Park Service proposes to develop. Write Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

NOTE: A CWC member attended these hearings. He will report on them in the next issue of the Wilderness Record.



Point Reyes

A bill introduced to Congress by Tunney and Cranston, S. 2472 would establish a three-unit, 38,700 acre wilderness at Point Reyes National Seashore. The latest official Park Service proposal was for 10,400 acres, double their initial 4,150-acre "mini-wilderness" plan. There are indications that the Park Service may increase their proposal to 25,500 acres, and many Park officials favor endorsing the 36,000-plus acre compromise worked out by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Citizens Advisory Committee.

The Tunney-Cranston bill has the endorsements of many members of Congress (John Burton has introduced identical legislation in the House), by members of the California State Legislature, the County of Marin, a broad coalition of citizens' groups, and by many citizens throughout the State.

S.2472 will add three different types of land to the National Wilderness Preservation System. All three units will have in them a portion of the still undeveloped California coast, but each of these units contains different landforms, plant communities, and animal life.

The Miwok Wilderness will honor the original inhabitants of Pt. Reyes by preserving 9,200 acres on the northern and western coasts of the seashore. The

wind-swept peninsula of Tomales Point is included, along with the 12 mile Pt. Reyes Beach, which is pounded constantly by one of the most violent surfs found anywhere in the world. This wilderness unit will assure future generations of a place to wander along the sands and gaze at the refreshing, ever-changing sea without having to look across commercial concessions or dodge dune buggies.

There are two undeveloped estuaries remaining on the West Coast. The Esteros Wilderness will assure the permanent protection of both of them. This unit stretches from the quiet waters of biologically fascinating Drakes and Limantour Esteros to the summit of Pt. Reyes Hill. The rolling hills and secret valleys here harbor a multiplicity of native wildflowers. The protection of this area will also assure that a high speed highway once proposed to cross this unit will never be built, and that this portion of Pt. Reyes will remain a sanctuary from the automobile.

The third unit will include the forested Inverness Ridge, along with a portion of coastline dotted with hidden beaches, sea caves, and sculptured rocks. It should be known as the Clem Miller wilderness in honor of the man most responsible for the preservation of the Point Reyes peninsula. This would be a most fitting tribute to the late Congressman, for without his foresight and dedication, California might today be without the public use of a National Seashore thought by many to be as important as the State's

other natural wonders: Yosemite, the Coastal Redwoods, and the Giant Sequoias. Generations from now citizens will marvel at the vision Clem Miller had when he worked to save this large natural area within sight of the City of San Francisco.

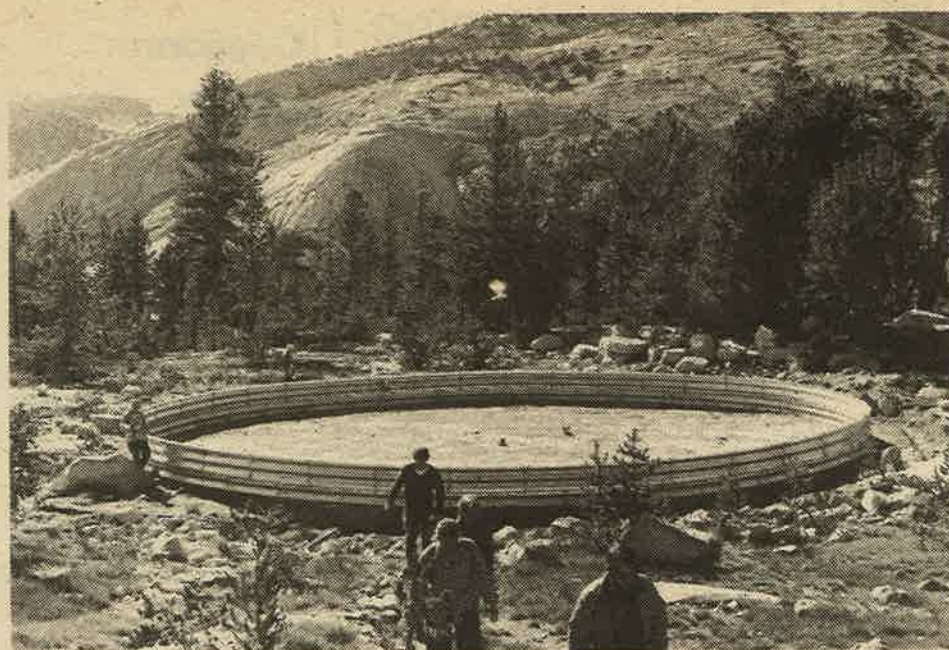
Another important aspect of S.2472 is the provision removing Point Reyes from the "recreational" area category and making it a "natural" area. This would require that Point Reyes be managed as a national park. Under its current recreational status, the seashore could be intensively developed, hunting could be allowed, and protection of the natural features could take a back seat.

Pinnacles

The 13,000 acres of wilderness proposed by Cranston and Tunney in S.72 would add to our wilderness system an outstanding example of the chaparral-digger pine biotic type. This ecotype at Pinnacles National Monument supports such important wildlife species as blacktailed deer, mountain lion, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, and golden eagle.

The National Park Service, however, is proposing 13,662 acres for wilderness! This plan is very recent, replacing an earlier 5,330 acre proposal, and has the backing of conservationists. Senators Cranston and Tunney are expected to amend their bill to support this 13,662 acre wilderness proposal.

The Park Service has found this additional wilderness acreage by expanding the National Monument by 1,435 acres. Congressman Burt Talcott's H.R. 7209 would enact the Park Service's wilderness plan and boundary extension, and it has been approved by the House Interior Committee. With such strong support by both the local congressman and the two Senators, the passage of a Pinnacles Wilderness should not be difficult.



Sewage treatment facility at Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, built by the N.P.S. for \$80,000.

(Photo by Phil Farrell)

Yosemite

Last year Senators Cranston and Tunney introduced S.97, a bill to establish a 692,000 acre Yosemite Wilderness in two units. The National Park Service proposes five separate units totaling 646,700 acres. Although the differences in acreage are not relatively great, the Park Service's fragmentation of Yosemite's backcountry is significant.

In the vast stretch of roadless land north of the Tioga Pass Road the Park Service proposes to repair and use the old Tioga Road as a motor nature trail. Conservationists argue that it makes little sense to develop another route for automobiles while, at the same time, attempting to free other parts of Yosemite from the impacts of motor vehicles. They instead propose that this unpaved route be allowed to revert to nature so that the two Park Service Wilderness units can be consolidated into a single Yosemite North Wilderness Area.

Two major areas of disagreement exist south of the Tioga Pass Road. First is

the decision by the Park Service to delete Little Yosemite Valley from their wilderness proposal. This was done due to the large number of people camping in this valley; the Park Service is proposing campground, sanitary, and water developments along with a high level of maintenance.

Conservationists argue that the number of campers should be limited in Little Yosemite, especially since there is a severe people-bear problem there. Also, citizens are pointing out that many of the management activities the Park Service wants to undertake are allowed within a wilderness area.

The second major area of dissension is over the lands near Glacier Point and Illouette Ridge. Here the Park Service has split the wilderness into two units by leaving a large corridor between Glacier Point and Yosemite Valley, presumably to give itself the flexibility to construct an aerial tramway up the cliffs. Environmental groups (and even the Curry Company) are unanimous in their opposition to this mechanical outrage.

A problem common to both the North and South units of the proposed Yosemite Wilderness is the Park Service's nine 30-acre enclaves. These holes in the wilderness surround the five existing High Sierra

Camps, a ski lodge at Snow Creek (planned to be converted to a High Sierra Camp), the Ostrander Ski Hut, and two totally wild places proposed to be developed into High Sierra Camps. Conservationists instead recommend that these structures be included in the wilderness as non-conforming exceptions so that when the facilities are discontinued the area will

EATON TO WASHINGTON

Jim Eaton, President of the CWC travelled to Washington, D.C. to testify at Senate Hearings on Yosemite, Pinnacles and Point Reyes wilderness proposals. These hearings were originally scheduled for last November, but were cancelled at the last minute. They were rescheduled for March 2.

be truly protected.

There are indications that Park Service officials will ask that Congress delay their decision on wilderness for Yosemite until the present planning process for the park is completed. From the overwhelming public response received by the Park Service for "undevelopment" of Yosemite, the administration's wilderness proposal could only improve.



Proposed Snow Mountain Wilderness Area (Photo by Bob Schneider)

Staff

The *Wilderness Record* is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted. Credit would be appreciated.

Editors note: People familiar with potential wilderness areas in southern and northern California are encouraged to submit articles for publication.

Editor - Thomas Jopson
Maureen Pennisi
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OFFICERS OF CWC

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Secretary - Jeff Barnickol
Fifth Director - Don Morrill

The California Wilderness Coalition brings together individuals and organizations interested in

promoting the preservation of wildlands in California as legally designated wilderness. The Coalition pursues this goal by assisting and encouraging public action toward protecting existing or potential wilderness areas, by carrying on educational programs concerning the value of wilderness, and by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness.

White House Warning

President Ford indicated that he does not look favorably upon wilderness proposals that do not have the blessing of the Forest Service.

Ford's statement, accompanying the approval of the 235,230-acre Flat Tops Wilderness in Colorado, pointed out that Congress had passed a bill that protected 93,000 acres more than that proposed by the Administration. Although he signed the measure into law, the President reiterated the old Forest Service objections to including lands that have small reservoirs, partially constructed roads, or boundaries that do not follow recognizable natural features. Mr. Ford also expressed concern of the lack of a mineral survey of the additional acreage added by Congress to the Flat Tops proposal.

California wilderness supporters are quite concerned over the implications the

President's speech has for wilderness proposals in this state. Since the citizens' wilderness proposals are almost always larger than those proposed by the Forest Service, a first Presidential veto of a wilderness bill is a very real possibility. There is also grave concern over the scores of potential wilderness areas that the Forest Service refuses to even study while citizens hope to seek wilderness classification for these lands. Wilderness proposals for such areas as Snow Mountain, Granite Chief, Lopez Canyon and Sheep Mountain may face a difficult road to final designation unless the President alters his bureaucracy-supporting position.

WANTED: The CWC needs a usable IBM Selectric typewriter. If you can help please contact Jeff Barnickol care of the CWC or at (916) 758-7286 evenings.

Coalition Forms

(cont. from front page)

Debunking the anti-wilderness arguments of industry and agencies will be a major responsibility of the research programs of the CWC. Many statements given in opposition to wilderness proposals are misleading or completely false and need to be exposed. Research is also needed on the scientific values of wilderness, the importance of wild lands to plants and animals (especially endangered species), and the proper management programs of protected areas.

The California Wilderness Coalition is not intended to replace local groups fighting for wilderness. Its purpose is to increase the effectiveness of such groups by providing a state-wide focus on their particular issue. It will take a united effort by citizens throughout the state to add new areas to the National and California State Wilderness Preservation Systems and to insure that the systems remain intact.

Wild Lands

(cont. from front page)

Only four national park wilderness units have been designated in the past eleven years. Fortunately for California, two of these wildernesses are within the state (Lava Beds and Lassen).

But still unprotected as wilderness are the wild lands within the Death Valley, Yosemite, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Point Reyes, Pinnacles, Joshua Tree, Channel Islands, and Redwoods units of the National Park system.

The poor record in wilderness preservation by public agencies has occurred despite the rapid growth in the number of people interested in saving wilderness. Backpacking continues to be one of the fastest growing activities, although the wilderness-related sport of cross-country skiing is growing even faster. Most people are interested in assuring that plants and animals requiring

California Wilderness Legislation

Forest Service

Golden Trout Wilderness	*HR 3656 (Krebs)	*S 344 (Tunney, Cranston)
Kaiser Wilderness Study	*HR 5893 (Udall)	*S 75 (Cranston, Tunney)
Kings River Wilderness	*HR 7210 (Talcott)	*S 73 (Cranston, Tunney)
Lopez Canyon (Santa Lucia) Wilderness		
Monarch Wilderness	HR 3508 (Steiger)	
Sheep Mountain Wilderness	*HR 10618 (Lloyd)	*S 74 (Cranston, Tunney)
Snow Mountain Wilderness	*HR 5568 (Clausen)	
Snow Mountain Wilderness Study	HR 5589 (Johnson, Leggett, Clausen)	S 1391 (Cranston, Tunney)
Trinity Alps Wilderness	*HR 5893 (Udall) HR 3508 (Steiger)	*S 345 (Tunney, Cranston)
Ventana Wilderness Additions		

National Park Service

Death Valley Wilderness	*HR 5823 (Seiberling) HR 7179 (Sebelius)	
Joshua Tree Wilderness	*HR 5823 (Seiberling) HR 7190 (Sebelius)	
Pinnacles Wilderness	*HR 7209 (Talcott) HR 7297 (Sebelius)	*S 72 (Cranston, Tunney)
Point Reyes Wilderness	*HR 8003 (Burton) HR 7198 (Sebelius)	*S 2472 (Tunney, Cranston)
Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness	*HR 5823 (Seiberling) HR 7202 (Sebelius)	
Yosemite Wilderness	*HR 5823 (Seiberling) HR 7205 (Sebelius)	*S 97 (Cranston, Tunney)

Fish & Wildlife Service

Havasu Wilderness	*HR 5893 (Udall) HR 3508 (Steiger)
Imperial Wilderness	*HR 5893 (Udall) HR 3508 (Steiger)

Miscellaneous

Mineral King Protection	*HR 6882 (Miller)	
Redwood Nat. Park extension	*HR 5893 (Burton)	
Ban on Park Mining	*HR 9799 (Seiberling) *HR 11092 (Udall)	*S 2371 (Metcalfe)

* Supported by The California Wilderness Coalition



Kaiser Ridge proposed wilderness area. Forest seen here slated to be logged.

wild land have places to live. Others just want to know that undeveloped land does exist in California and will always stay undeveloped.

What we face is a race against time. Time is needed to organize the thousands of Californians who want to see their wilderness heritage preserved. Until now, efforts to gather the potential political force of wilderness advocates have not been successful. Things are about to change.

Granite Chief

(cont. from front page)

present slide shows of Granite Chief and discuss the need for wilderness designation of the area. The group will also become involved in the Forest Service planning process, with the goal of having the Forest Service undertake a thorough wilderness review of Granite Chief.

Another top priority of the task force is obtaining the backing of the Placer County Board of

Supervisors. Strong local support in favor of the proposed wilderness should help; the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce has twice passed resolutions supporting the preservation of Granite Chief.

Anyone interested in helping the group is invited to contact the Granite Chief Wilderness Task Force, c/o Beatrice Kaukonen, P.O. Box 1215, Tahoe City, CA 95730.

Road Halted

(cont. from front page)

had the right to appeal.

U.S. District Court Judge Samuel Conti ruled that the Citizens Committee did, indeed, have standing to appeal, and ordered the BLM to halt plans to grant the road access while the conservation group filed administrative appeals on the issue.

The court decision was a major victory in the first step of protecting these Mendocino County lands. The battle is far from over, though. The BLM may deny the appeals and conservationists may soon be back in court. Anyone interested in helping, financially or otherwise, should contact the Citizens Committee to Save Our Public Lands, P.O. Box 597, Willits, CA. 95490

WANTED:

Accountant in the Sacramento-Davis area to supervise CWC bookkeeping. Contact Treasurer, Bob Schneider, care of the CWC or at (916) 758-4315 evenings.

Death Valley

(cont. from page 2)

The House Subcommittee, however, destroyed the effect of the moratorium by setting the effective date as the passage of the bill. Since Sept. 18, prospectors have filed claims on thousands of additional acres within the Monument and have begun scarring new areas with bulldozers.

The Subcommittee has made other weakening amendments to S.2371. Conservationists want the House to drop these changes and pass the bill in the same form as that passed by the Senate.

ACTION NEEDED

Members of Congress need to know of the public's concern over the mining of Death Valley. It is especially important to emphasize that S.2371 should be enacted as passed by the Senate, and that the weakening amendments in the Subcommittee bill should be dropped. Write to your member of Congress, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515

We need mountain lions for the same reason that we need more bald eagles, golden eagles, Gila monsters, alligators, red-tailed hawks, coyotes, bobcats, badgers, wild pigs, grizzly bears, wild horses, red racers, diamondbacks, sacred datura, wild grapes and untamed rivers. How to say once more what has been said so often? Who is listening? -Edward Abbey

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION P.O. Box 891, Davis, CA. 95616

I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$_____ for membership.

NAME: _____

Individual \$6

ADDRESS: _____

(low income) \$3

Organization \$25

ZIP _____

Patron \$500

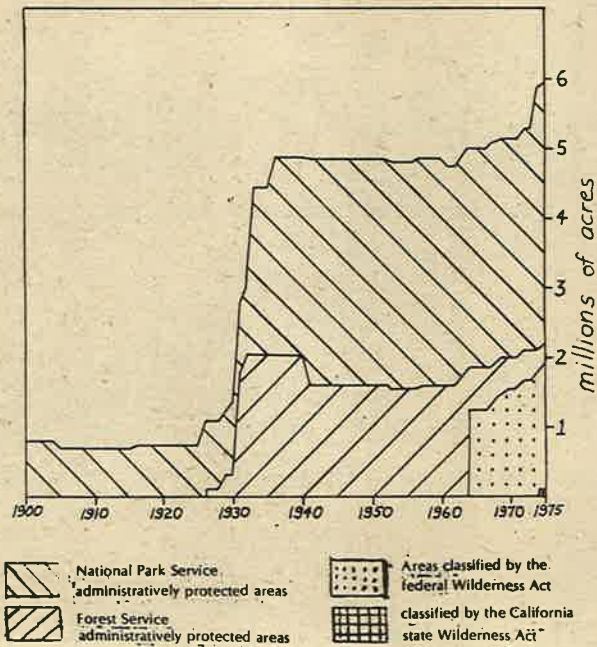
Sponsor memberships (businesses) will be individually negotiated.

The State of the Wilderness

A Supplement to the *Wilderness Record* - March 1976

by Phil Farrell

Wilderness Protection - Little Progress in 40 Years



Wilderness Needs Not Being Met

An examination of the history of wilderness protection efforts on the various classes of public lands shows two conclusions. First, the choice of areas for protection has been basically a haphazard one, full of political compromise. Systematic surveys and examinations of competing uses for the resources of all our wilderness lands have not been undertaken. Secondly, few significant advances in protection have been

made in the last forty years. After a pioneering start in the 1930's, protected wilderness areas have not grown much, while needs for wilderness have grown greatly.

The California of the 1970's is far different from the California of the 1930's. More and more land has been altered to produce the goods that keep our industrial civilization going.

National Parks

National Park Service proposals for wilderness in California National Parks and Monuments have fallen short of expectations. Except in tiny **Pinnacles National Monument**, some potential wilderness lands have been excluded from all Park Service proposals.

To date, only two National Park wilderness areas in California have been protected by Congress: **Lassen Volcanic National Park** and **Lava Beds National Monument**. The sizes of both areas were compromises between smaller Park Service and larger conservationist proposals.

Congress has yet to act on seven remaining National Park wilderness proposals: **Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Pinnacles National Monument, Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Death Valley National Monument, and Joshua Tree National Monument**.

Wilderness values in the National Parks and Monuments were only informally protected until the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. Before the Act, specific zones to be permanently protected as wilderness were never designated by the National Park Service. Instead, they regarded everything beyond the end of the road as the "backcountry". Invasions of this backcountry for various developments were accepted. The

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People have poured into the state by the millions, increasing the demands for all the resources of the land, including those attributes which steadily diminish because of population and industrial growth: solitude and wildness. Technological growth has greatly increased our capacity to permanently alter the land and ecosystems. Because of the radical changes which have taken place in our use of and relationship to the land, the protected wilderness system of the 1930's is not adequate for the 1970's and beyond.

A fair amount of wilderness has survived in addition to that protected by law or administrative agencies. In 1976, approximately six million acres of land, 6% of the state's land area, has some form of legal protection against compromising developments. Another almost eight million acres has survived more by accident than design as the leftovers of industrial development. Now they too are threatened. In an era of increasingly intensive demands for exploitation of the land, we must also intensify the protection we give to our wilderness. Those lands which are not given the highest protection, classification under the federal Wilderness Act or the California state equivalent, will surely lose their wild qualities. They may not disappear all at once, but small nibbles of "compromise" over the years will eventually do them in.

What is the Wilderness Act?

The passage of the Wilderness Act by Congress in 1964 established a national policy for preservation of wilderness and a National Wilderness Preservation System to implement that policy.

The Wilderness Act was conceived and passed because of citizen concern over the stability of agency-sponsored wilderness classifications. Wilderness protection efforts on the National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Forests prior to the Wilderness Act depended upon the good intentions of the managing agency. Protection was gained with the signature of a bureaucrat, and could be just as easily lost. Now wilderness areas can only be officially classified or declassified by an act of Congress, thereby reducing the chance of arbitrary decisions.

Definition of Wilderness

Federally-owned lands which generally possess a "primeval character and influence" and which have been "affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" may be designated as Wilderness Areas within the Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness is not required to be "virgin" or "pristine." Areas of any size may be added to the Wilderness System, as long as preservation in a natural state is practicable. However, the Act recommends 5000 acres as a guideline for minimum size.

Extent of System

The Wilderness Act itself classified existing National Forest "wild" and

"wilderness" areas as the first units of the new National Wilderness Preservation System; these lands had already been administered as wilderness by the Forest Service under its own administrative regulations. The Act further required that remaining "primitive areas" on the national forests (a Forest Service wilderness study category) and roadless areas on the National Park and National Wildlife Refuge Systems be studied as potential additions to the Wilderness System.

Agency field studies and recommendations for these roadless area reviews were completed by the end of 1974. The final step to add a recommended area to the Wilderness System is for Congress to pass an act classifying that area as a

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NF Roadless Areas Up For Grabs

Hundreds of thousands of acres of the last remnants of California wilderness are now on the chopping block.

The United States Forest Service in its planning process is quickly sealing the fate of some of the most outstanding wild country in the state. Without strong citizen response most areas will fall to chainsaws and bulldozers within the next few years.

History

The National Forests were established beginning in 1891 to preserve forest lands from wonton destruction but to keep them available

for controlled exploitation. Some early Forest Service officials realized that portions of these lands should be preserved even from controlled exploitation for their outstanding wilderness values.

Beginning in 1929 the Forest Service set up "primitive areas" to recognize areas with outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. These lands were not however preserved from all forms of commercial

exploitation. They were however the forerunners of a later system of wilderness and wild areas which were established beginning in 1939. The primitive areas became study areas for eventual reclassification as wilderness or wild areas. All commercial exploitation of resources was prohibited in the wild and wilderness areas.

California's system of primitive areas was established in 1931 and 1932. They were reclassified as wilderness or wild areas during the period 1953 to

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Wilderness Act

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Wilderness. Many recommendations still await such action. Congress reserves to itself the final judgment on boundaries and has often modified agency recommendations in response to public input. After an area is established as Wilderness by Congress, it continues to be part of the same national park, national wildlife refuge, or national forest and administered by the same public agency as before.

Use of Wilderness Areas

What may or may not be done in classified Wilderness Areas? The intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act is to ensure that man does not change every acre within the United States; that some places shall be kept where nature is dominant and man comes only as a visitor. In short, Wilderness shall be those designated places where the processes of nature continue without interference or interruption by man.

Within classified Wilderness Areas, the individual remains largely free to come and go and to conduct himself as he finds personally pleasing. The individual retains his previous rights to enter the area, to camp, walk, swim, canoe, horseback, bird watch, climb, hike, study nature, fish, and hunt (the last two activities subject to state and federal laws and regulations as usual). Motorized transportation of any sort is prohibited as being inconsistent with the objectives of wilderness preservation.

Prohibition of Certain Uses

In general, commodity exploitation of Wilderness Areas is prohibited. This means no logging, no resort development, and no mining or drilling for oil. Certain exceptions were made, however, as a political price for passage of the Wilderness Act. In National Forest Wilderness Areas, mining is allowed to continue in perpetuity on claims established before 1984 (no new claims may be established after that time). Where it was established prior to addition of an area to the Wilderness System, grazing of domestic livestock is allowed to continue.

Generally, no structures may be constructed in Wilderness areas, such as roads, buildings, powerlines, or dams. However, another exception gives the President the power to authorize water projects in specific areas if he deems that such use will better serve the public

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interest than denial of the use.

There is a general exception to the prohibitions in the Wilderness Act for the administering agency. This exception allows the administering agency, insofar as is absolutely necessary to administer and protect the area as wilderness, to have patrol and fire roads for official vehicles only; to suppress fire, insect, or disease outbreaks; to have lookout towers and patrol cabins; and to take any measure required in an emergency for the health and safety of people.

Roadless Areas

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1964, when the passage of the Wilderness Act transferred the power to make such reclassifications from the Forest Service to the Congress.

The general history of the Forest Service wilderness program in California up to the time of the Wilderness Act was thus one of rapid initial establishment of primitive areas in 1931 and 1932, followed by a gradual consolidation through reclassification of these areas without dramatic change into wilderness and wild areas. Adjustments in boundaries were made to pick up additional areas on the fringes of the primitive areas or to make a more easily-defined boundary. Changes tended to remove economically valuable areas from protected status and give new protection to additional acreage with little economic value but obvious wilderness value.

Wilderness Act

The Wilderness Act instantly incorporated the existing Forest Service wild and wilderness areas into the National Wilderness Preservation System. It also directed the Forest Service to continue its review program for the remaining primitive areas, but now the Congress would have to okay any boundary changes before these areas could be reclassified.

Eight National Forest primitive areas remained in California at the time of the Wilderness Act. Six have since been reclassified as Wilderness areas by the Congress after study by the Forest Service.

In 1976, two primitive areas still remain: High Sierra (the small remnant west of Kings Canyon National Park) and the Salmon-Trinity Alps. In both cases, conservationists are proposing that Congress classify as Wilderness over twice the acreage recommended by the Forest Service.

Public Domain - California's Neglected Wilderness

created in 1946 to control its use.

The Bureau mostly concerned itself with giving out grazing leases and determining the validity of mining claims, until 1964, when Congress passed the Classification and Multiple Use Act. This act required the Bureau to classify all the remaining public domain into lands which would be retained by the federal government for multiple

No mention of the National Forests was made in the Wilderness Act, but nothing in the Act barred consideration of such areas for Wilderness classification.

Roadless Area Review

In 1967, the Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service sent a directive to his Regional Foresters, asking them to identify and recommend to him additional areas of land, other than the primitive areas, which merited consideration as potential Wilderness areas. These were to be called "new study areas." This directive was generally ignored until 1971, when it was reaffirmed and expanded. The Chief called upon the Regional Foresters to systematically inventory all roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forests in units of 5000 acres or larger and to recommend areas for further study as potential Wilderness Areas after public hearings. He set a deadline of June 30, 1972, for these recommendations.

The Roadless Area Inventory disclosed 1449 areas with 56 million acres nationwide, including about 3.3 million acres in 136 areas in California. Conservationists believe that the inventory was incomplete.

Recommendations for wilderness study were selected from this list of roadless areas. These recommendations originated from local Forest Service officers. They went through an elaborate process of staff analysis and

use management, and lands which could be disposed of to private parties or states. One of the potential uses to be considered for classification is protection of wilderness values.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 did not authorize the study or addition of any Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands (public domain lands) to the National Wilderness Preservation System, but neither did it prohibit such action. After some early interest in presenting wilderness proposals to Congress, the Bureau of Land Management decided not to seek Wilderness classification for any of its lands, but instead set up a program of administrative classifications called "primitive areas." The criteria for qualification and management of these

public comments, but the selection process remained essentially arbitrary. It depended upon the subjective judgement of Forest Service officials.

Finally, in October 1973, 274 study areas containing 12.5 million acres were selected by the Chief of the Forest Service nationwide. This list included many areas for which studies were already ongoing as part of primitive area reviews (i.e., roadless areas contiguous to primitive areas), however. In California, the truly new study areas selected by the Chief totaled 19 areas with 750,000 acres. A moratorium on development of the new study areas exists until the wilderness studies have been completed.

Forest Service intentions for the remaining roadless areas was to proceed without further delay with existing development plans

"primitive areas" is very similar to that of Wilderness areas.

The Bureau of Land Management has designated only eleven primitive areas nationwide, including only one (Chemise Mountain) in California. BLM district offices in California have sixteen additional areas under study as primitive area candidates, but this is only a fraction of the total roadless and undeveloped land remaining on the public domain in the state. Unlike the Forest Service, the BLM has not undertaken any systematic inventory of roadless areas or overall selection of primitive area candidates. The pending Bureau of Land Management Organic Act, if passed by Congress, would require them to do so.

for these areas. This was stymied, however, by a Sierra Club lawsuit which forced the Forest Service to agree to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on any proposed action which would alter the undeveloped characteristics of an inventoried roadless area.

The Forest Service is complying with this requirement by preparing new land use plans, complete with EIS, for all of the National Forests, including the roadless areas. As a result of such a plan, the Forest Service may decide to proceed with development of a roadless area or recommend its selection as another new study area for Wilderness. The time is now ripe for citizens to become actively involved in the development of these land use plans and demand the protection of our remaining wildlands.

State of California Moves

To Protect Wilderness

At the urging of conservationists, a California State Wilderness Preservation System was established in 1974 by the state legislature. The State Wilderness system is modeled after the federal system. Wilderness areas may be added or removed from the system by an act of the legislature. The legislation also empowered the California Parks and Recreation Commission, an appointed body which oversees management of the state parks, to add state park lands to the system.

The California Wilderness Act established the first two state wilderness areas: San Jacinto Mountain and Santa Rosa Mountain. It also requires that the Resources

Agency and the State Lands Commission review roadless areas on lands which they manage, and make recommendations to the state legislature for wilderness classifications by December, 1978. To date, no recommendations have been made, although studies are expected to begin soon.

California Wilderness Coalition research indicates a modest potential for classification of state lands as wilderness, primarily in state park units. Many of these areas represent ecological types not found in present in federal Wilderness areas, such as coast redwoods or oak woodlands.



Photo by Bob Schneider

National Parks

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Wilderness Act forced the Park Service to review all lands within its jurisdiction and recommend specific areas, with firm boundaries, for permanent protection as Wilderness Areas.

In California, as elsewhere throughout the nation, great public interest in preservation of our scenic and natural wonders during the 1920's and 1930's led to the creation of the bulk of our present National Park System. The only significant

additions since then in California have been **Pt. Reyes National Seashore** in 1963 and **Redwood National Park** in 1968. The wilderness in our National Parks and Monuments which has come down to us today, with exception of **Pt. Reyes National Seashore** (a very minor part of the whole in terms of acreage), was all preserved in some way by 1936.

Protection of wilderness values in California can be said to have begun with the congressional establishment of **Yosemite** and **Sequoia National Parks**

in 1890. These two areas were the vanguard in a series of National Parks which would be established in California to preserve scenic and scientific wonders from private exploitation.

The selection of areas for park preservation was haphazard and full of political compromise. No systematic and scientific survey of the nation's natural areas was ever undertaken to judge their merit for Park protection and their value for other uses.

California Wilderness Resources

Once, all of California was wilderness. Our legacy of that time is shown in the map and the attached acreage summary. These wilderness lands are

roadless, undeveloped areas, where the imprint of men's work is substantially unnoticed.

As indicated in the legend, portions of this area have been classified as Wilderness areas under

federal or state Wilderness Acts, thus ensuring, with as much permanency as is possible in our society, that they will always remain wild, free from man's alteration or interference.

Other areas, also delineated on the map and acreage summary, have

been proposed for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System by the agencies which administer them. If Congress acts favorably on these recommendations, these areas will also become protected wilderness areas. Meanwhile, they enjoy what administrative protection the agencies can provide.

Finally, there are the de-facto totally unprotected wilderness lands. This is the bulk of our remaining wilderness resource. Some of these areas are being studied by the federal and state natural resources agencies for possible addition to the wilderness system. Most are neglected by the agencies, and destruction of the wilderness qualities of many is actively being promoted in order to exploit their resources.

These de-facto wilderness lands include many areas which several citizen

organizations have proposed for Wilderness classification, despite agency opposition or indifference. The California Wilderness Coalition believes that all or virtually all of these de-facto wilderness lands, including those which presently have no defenders, should be protected as part of a permanent wilderness resource in California. It is time to stop considering protection of our remaining wilderness in terms of exceptions to a general rule of development, and to consider development proposals only as exceptions to a general rule of preservation.

Nearly fourteen million acres of land, 14% of the state's land area, remain wild for us to cherish and protect. This seems like a large area, but it is a small reservoir of wildness when compared to the ways in which the remainder of the

state's land is utilized. Our houses, stores, factories, highways and parking lots alone occupy nearly four million acres of California's land. Every year, nine million acres of the California landscape is plowed to grow food. Another thirty-six million acres is used less intensively as pasture or rangeland for domestic livestock. Sixteen million acres is commercial timberland where trees are cut for lumber and paper. Land devoted entirely to devising methods of destruction, nearly four million acres of military bases and weapons testing areas, by itself is more than double the acreage presently classified as Wilderness.

All in all, the twenty million inhabitants of the state of California do not tread lightly on the land. What little wild land remains needs to be preserved.

