

# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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## ENDANGERED AMERICAN WILDERNESS ACT

Preservation of de facto wilderness on western national forests has been given a tremendous boost by the introduction of a major omnibus bill, the "Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1976." Senator Frank Church and Congressman Morris Udall have jointly sponsored the bill that includes six California areas (bill numbers not available at press time).

Conservationists called the new bill one of the most important initiatives for wilderness since the historic 1964 Wilderness Act. "We have sought protection for these areas of 'de facto wilderness' on the national forests in the west," said Friends of the Earth President Dave Brower. "These areas are wilderness in fact, but they have no special protection at this moment. By my favorite definition, these are wilderness areas that have been set aside by God, but not yet created by the U.S. Forest Service," Brower said.

The new bill sponsored by Church and Udall will designate eleven wilderness

areas in seven western states. In addition, it will mandate wilderness study for six other areas in the states.

The California areas to be established by the new bill are the 240,000 acre Golden Trout Wilderness, 21,250 acre Santa Lucia-Lopez Canyon Wilderness, and 60,080 Ventana Wilderness Additions. The House version of the bill includes three areas already passed by the Senate, 37,000 acre Snow Mountain Wilderness, 52,000 acre Sheep Mountain Wilderness, and 28,000 acre Kaiser Wilderness Study Area.

Udall and Church, both long identified as leaders on wilderness and conservation issues in Congress have indicated that they intend their new bill to be "the center-piece", in a major nationwide campaign for de facto wilderness. Citizen discontent with Forest Service planning procedures and decisions was cited by both as a key factor leading to their development of the joint proposal. In answer to their request for reaction to

the proposal, Church and Udall received a joint telegram from environmental groups, saying the new bill "will give the fate of de facto wilderness the focus needed for serious congressional attention. Your leadership and com-

mitment give great hope and momentum to a cause many people believe in and are working for. You can count on the enthusiastic support of citizens in every state." The wire was signed by leaders of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, National Audubon Society, and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

While action on the bill is not likely in this Congress, nationwide support and letters from citizens will encourage members of Congress from every state to join as co-sponsors. Here is an opportunity for every member of Congress to give active and concrete support to wilderness, as a co-sponsor of this legislation, helping to build momentum for the de facto wilderness issue, both now and in the next Congress.



Slip Peak and Lake George in Kaiser Area

## KAISER BILL NEEDS HELP

Article from Kaiser Ridge Committee

The bill to designate the proposed Kaiser Wilderness area as wilderness must pass its next hurdle, the House Interior Committee.

Your letters to Congress have made the difference! The Senate has passed our bill, and the House Interior Subcommittee has held hearings on H.R. 3656. We now have a good chance of winning if your letters keep going in. Your letter is particularly important if you reside in the district of an Interior Committee member. Please write soon as the bill must get out of the Interior Committee before Congress adjourns for the summer. The forest service has the area on its timber sales list, and we have reason to believe they will start logging immediately if our bill does not make it through Congress.

The proposed Kaiser Wilderness area is a small and very beautiful area located near Huntington Lake and south of Yosemite National Park in the Calif. Sierras.

Interest focuses on the wide variety of natural features observable in the

relatively small Kaiser area. These include an area of mixed pines, Douglas fir, and black oak. Continuing up the slopes is a white and red fir forest, studded here and there with occasional stands of pine. For this true-fir climax forest still to exist in a virgin condition is a rarity in this region.

Of special interest is the widespread evidence of former occupation of the area by the Mono and Paiute Indians, and in consideration of this the entire Huntington Lake Basin has been nominated as an Historic Site by Dr. Michael Moratto of San Francisco State University, and others.

Aside from its unique and appealing qualities as wilderness, the area is easily accessible to a large urban area in the San Joaquin Valley. It serves thousands of campers, hikers, horseback riders, fishermen, and hunters. For more information, contact

California Wilderness Coalition P.O. Box 891 Davis Ca. 95616.

## Desert Use Survey

A recent survey shows that a substantial number of Californians use the desert for non-motorized activities. The following article, reprinted from **BLM Newsbeat** of June 1976, describes the survey and details some of the result. Persons desiring more information about the study, or wanting specific figures, may contact the California Wilderness Coalition.

The survey done by Field Research Corporation last November indicates nearly one-third of all California adults aged 18 and over visited the southern California Desert last year. There are a total of 13.3 million people in this age group.

FRC's survey was made under contract from the Bureau of Land Management to help learn how Californians feel about and relate to the desert. Data was obtained on use, recreation demand and attitudes. About one-half of the 24 million acre desert is administered by BLM.

A random sampling which included interview of 1,124 persons showed some close parallels in thinking among those who had actually visited the California Desert and those who had not.

Twenty-three per cent of the desert visitors were from northern California. They and southern Californians both spent an average of a little more than 7½ days per visit.

Individual visitors often engaged in more than one activity. Uses made of the desert by visitors (percentages): sightseeing, 67.6; camping, 66.8; picnicking, 48.0; hiking, 45.9; photography, 45.5; fishing, 42.5; backpacking, 34.8; pleasure driving, 32.8; horseback riding, 34.5.

Attitudes among all respondents, when asked to select the three most important issues affecting the desert (percentages): provide more protection of

## Forest Chief Delays Timber Sales In Roadless Areas

In a letter to the Senate Interior Committee Chairman, John McGuire, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service has agreed to delay timber sales and other activities in roadless areas which were not selected for further wilderness study. The McGuire letter came in response to a request from Senate Interior Committee members Lee Metcalf (D.-Mont.), Dale Bumpers (D.-Ark.) and James McClure (R.-Id.) for a method of allowing Congressional review of Forest Service decisions to destroy the wilderness character of inventoried roadless areas.

McGuire stated in the letter that the Forest Service

would delay for 90 calendar days implementation of any plan which would commit an inventoried roadless area to development. Within this period, the Chairman of the House or Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees could request additional delays for hearings. According to McGuire a delay would normally be "no more than six months". Conservationists welcome the procedure which would allow some public and Congressional review of Forest Service decisions that would destroy potential wilderness areas.

In addition, McGuire agreed to protect the wilderness characteristics of areas between the passage of a protection bill by one house of Congress and action by the other House during the same Congress. This is a great step forward for backers of wilderness legislation.



Wallflower



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## Forum

### Protect the Siskiyou with Endangered Wilderness Act

Editor's note: This column is reserved for discussion of wilderness management or other wilderness related concerns. The opinions presented here do not necessarily represent the opinions of the CWC or the staff of the Wilderness Record. We invite all people to send their opinions.

by Bill Devall

The Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council is urging all friends of the Siskiyou to write Congressman Don Clausen, Congressman "Bizz" Johnson, Senators Tunney and Cranston and Senator Frank Church and Congressman Morris Udall urging them to include the Siskiyou Wilderness Study as proposed by SMRC in the Endangered Wilderness Act of 1976.

There are many reasons for including the Siskiyou in this bill and ten of them are listed below.

1) The Siskiyou proposal includes lands which fulfill all the criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964. There area is more than 5000 acres, substantially untrampled, where man comes as a visitor. The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, has historical, cultural, scientific and scenic values.

2) At the present time the Siskiyou wildlands have no statutory protection and their integrity is threatened by roads, massive logging on unstable soils and fragmentation into various Forest Service ad-

ministrative "planning units."

3) The Siskiyou proposal includes lands sacred to three northcoast tribes of native Americans.

4) Much of the land in the proposal has low timber potential with geological hazards from logging and road-building making sustained yield using models advocated by the Forest Service extremely doubtful.

5) The wilderness proposal includes headwaters of the Smith river which is one of the rivers being studied for its outstanding scenic, recreation and wildlands potential by the state of California. Water quality and fisheries would be protected through wilderness designation.

6) The Siskiyou are prime habitat for rare and endangered animals including the wolverine.

7) The Siskiyou present outstanding botanical values for esthetic enjoyment and scientific study. This unique range is a major transition zone between northern and southern type forests.

Scientific study of the Siskiyou can provide base data to compare with environmental damage and changes in intensively managed areas of national forests of northwestern California.

8) Wilderness is compatible with multiple-use management providing hunting, fishing, recreation, soils and watershed protection.

9) With many of the designated wilderness areas in California going on a reservation system during the next few years because of the great demand for this type of recreation, there is a great need for more designated wilderness areas.

10) Wilderness is part of the natural history of America and during this year when we are all concerned with the great history of this country, setting aside a few small pieces, including the Siskiyou, of that natural history for the enjoyment, study and enlightenment of future generations is the best gift we can give our children.

## MYTH OF THE BI-MONTH

### Wilderness for the Few?



Editors note: Those people who oppose wilderness preservation have promoted and gained wide acceptance for certain ill-founded or untrue contentions that disparage wilderness and its uses. In this column, we will attempt to expose and refute these myths about wilderness. We welcome suggestions from our readers for topics to investigate.

This issue's column deals with a wilderness myth that is widely reported at hearings and other public forums, especially by advocates of motorized recreational activities. It is the claim that wilderness preservation represents a lock-up of public resources for the benefit of a very tiny minority of the country's population, usually considered to be only one-half of one percent.

The implication of this myth, if it is true, is that too much wilderness is preserved when compared to total use.

However, this claim is false for two reasons. First, all society benefits from the preservation of wilderness, not just those who visit and recreate in the area. Second, the number of people who engage in wilderness-type recreation

is a substantial percentage of the population and comparable to the number who engage in other outdoor recreations incompatible with wilderness.

Wilderness Benefits All Society

Wilderness is not preserved solely nor even primarily just to provide areas for certain types of recreation, such as backpacking. Wilderness is preserved because it offers multiple benefits to all of society.

Undisturbed ecosystems found in the wilderness are the "control" sites needed to determine the effects of environmental modifications. These areas also preserve the results of thousands and millions of

years of nature's own experiments in ecology. Study of these experiments and their results can help us to better manage our world.

Wilderness also preserves "gene pools". No one knows what use science may find in the future for what may seem to us to be useless organisms, if these creatures are still around to study. For example, who would have thought one hundred years ago that a lowly mold could give rise to one of modern medicine's most effective tools - penicillin? The wilderness preserves those many varieties of plants and animals which might become extinct in man's world.

Wilderness is part of our

cont. on pg. 3, col. 1



Snow Mountain

### BIZZ ACTS FOR SNOW MT.

Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson has proposed an amendment to his Snow Mountain wilderness study bill, H.R. 5589, which would give the area protection until Congress can act on wilderness legislation which may result from the study. The amendment was discussed during Washington, D.C. hearings on the 37,000 acre proposed Snow Mountain wilderness area which is on Mendocino National Forest in the Coast Range west of Willows. The original legislation, which would require a two year Forest Service wilderness study, had no provisions for protection of the Snow Mountain area until after the study was completed.

Congressman Don Clausen, who along with Johnson, testified before the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee, also indicated his support for the amendment.

Don Morrill, Sierra Club wilderness coordinator and California Wilderness Coalition Board member, was invited to testify and spoke in favor of legislation to designate a Snow Mountain wilderness immediately, without further study. Morrill indicated, however, that the Johnson amendment, if carefully written, would go

far towards calming conservationists fears of Forest Service condoned destruction of the area after the two year study was completed.

"Congressmen Johnson and Clausen showed commendable sensitivity towards local citizen concerns," Morrill said.

A second Californian, Mrs. Katherine Petersen of Kelesville, also gave testimony. Her excellent statement on behalf of the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area Committee was commended by the Congressmen present.

Conservationists hope for action on the legislation this year.

The Senate has already passed a bill which would require a two year Forest Service study.

The Senate bill gives protection to the area for four years after the study is completed.

Conservationists believe that four years has proven too little time for Congress to act on a wilderness issue, noting that it has now been 5 years since the original Snow Mountain Wilderness legislation was introduced. It is hoped that the Senate will concur with the Johnson amendment, which, if passed, provides protection until Congress acts.



The Granite Chief

### Logging Begins

The Southern Pacific Land Company has begun logging 540 acres in the Southwest corner of the proposed Granite Chief wilderness area. Southern Pacific claims it was forced to log because of delays in the US Forest Service planning process.

The Foresthill-Hell hole Planning unit, which contains Granite Chief, has been deferred for two years due to lack of funds, and a desire of the USFS to complete a forestwide plan first, according to Dennis Holcombe, team leader of the project. Holcombe told the *Tahoe World* that A

Granite Chief-Desolation Valley wilderness link up is a real possibility", but he notes that the decision to delay the planning unit study will have an impact upon future deliberations over Granite Chief.

S.P.'s logging is the first of these impacts. The section being logged is southwest of Diamond Crossing near Steamboat Mtn. S.P. owns about 10,000 acres in and around the Granite Chief Area. S.P. has indicated that it is interested in negotiating land exchanges with the Forest Service, but thus far, few exchanges have been made.

## Roading in the Siskiyou

On June 8, U.S. District Court Judge Lloyd Burke turned down a Sierra Club and Indian groups attorneys' request for a preliminary injunction to halt construction of a seven mile section of the Gasquet-Orleans (GO) road on Six Rivers National Forest.

The so-called Dillon Flint section of the GO road would intrude into the proposed Siskiyou Wilderness Study Area and lands considered sacred by local Native American people.

Attorneys for conservation and Indian groups have appealed Burke's to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The plaintiffs contend that building the road would violate the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960.

The Dillon-Flint Section is the next-to-last segment of the planned GO road which would provide access to timber within the 270,000 acre proposed Siskiyou Wilderness Study Area.

As attorneys work on the

appeal, construction on the road is proceeding. Approximately one half of the Dillon Flint section was built last summer. More work must be done to relocate a significant portion which was built across extremely hazardous land-slide prone lands.

#### What you can do to help:

The Forest Service has proven that they are incapable of making an objective evaluation of the wilderness value of the Siskiyou. Congress can mandate such an evaluation by passing a Wilderness Study Bill, and can reserve for itself the final decision on the fate of the Siskiyou.

Write: Senator John Tunney and Senator Alan Cranston (U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510) and your Congressperson (U.S. House of Representatives, Wash. D.C. 20515) and ask them to introduce and push for passage of a bill to require a detailed wilderness study of the Siskiyou. Its not much to ask that at long last the Siskiyou get a fair chance.



## Richer Per Annum

## RPA-NATIONAL FOREST PLANS

"In the same period (1975-2020) per capita income is expected to triple in terms of constant 1967 dollars. Thus, more people with more money at their disposal will place greater demands upon all resources of the Nation's forest land."

Guess where that quote came from. BusinessWeek?

Reddy Kilowatt?, the Mad Hatter? Wrong. Its our own U.S. Forest Service in their proposed plan and report to Congress under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (better known as "RPA").

While debate rages in Congress over the crucial National Forest Management Reform Act, the Forest Service has quietly formalized plans for the future of public (and to a certain extent private) forests. The plan once again illustrates the production bias of the Forest Service and reflects the close ties between the Ford administration and the timber industry.

Under the premise that we will all have plenty of money to burn by the year 2020, the Forest Service plan proposes:

1) a 2-50% increase in timber cutting from National Forests which are already suffering from massive overcuts.

2) An increase in developed recreation (ski and summer resorts) on public forests of 40-65%.

3) Some 10-15 million acres of wilderness out of a potential of more than 56 million acres.

Along with these proposals are more commendable goals such as increases in funding for protection of endangered species, soil protection, and air and water quality.

The plan commits the U.S. to an all out program of intensive management of public land. "Intensive management" means a concerted and capital intensive effort with money, machines and manpower to get the most products (included in the definition of products are timber, recreation, and wildlife) out of the nation's forests while supposedly preserving the environment.

Inevitably, a program of timber production is funded by Congress at the highest level with wildlife, wilderness and environment somewhat forgotten.

Intensive management is a dangerous program for our public forests. For instance, if timber production is funded at an intensive level but soil and water quality is cut back even for one year, the forest environment

would suffer perhaps irreparably.

The most sound approach would be a careful one, in which all 56 million plus acres of roadless land are thoroughly studied for their wilderness value, and in which timber harvest on National Forests is reduced until problems such as soil nutrient loss from timber harvesting can be thoroughly studied. Unfortunately, the present administration in Washington D.C. is promising that we can all live like Kings in fifty years, making ourselves

increasingly wealthy from public resources.

Fortunately, the RPA proposal is so far only a plan, which must receive yearly funding from Congress. So, for those of you who are hoping folks can get a square meal in the year 2020, and perhaps some wilderness for your grandchildren, too, write your Congressman and Senators, and let them know how you feel about the future of the National Forests. Congress will be reviewing the proposed plan this year, and in years to come.

For a copy of the Resources Planning Act plan and report, write Hon. John McGuire, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



## Wilderness Workshop a Success

Forty-eight people gathered at Norden on May 21-23 for the first California Wilderness Activists Workshop. The workshop, sponsored by the California Wilderness Coalition, gave wilderness supporters throughout the State an opportunity to meet each other and learn methods of protecting wild lands.

Topics at the gathering were chosen to provide a thorough understanding of the planning of future wilderness strategy. Group discussions were held on the Forest Service planning process, organizing local groups, filing appeals, communications, and legislation. Ideas were shared on how the Coalition could become most effective,

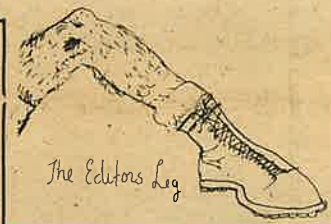
how to encourage more individuals, groups, and business to join, and how activists can help out Coalition programs. The need for contributions of articles and photographs to the **Wilderness Record** was stressed.

Coalition Directors Don Morrill and Jim Eaton did much of the advance planning for the workshop. They were assisted by a number of other resource people, especially Phil Farrell, Tom Jopson, and Jeff Barnickol.

Two special guests helped to make the workshop a great success. Doug Scott, Pacific Northwest Representative of the Sierra Club, encouraged the participants with his ideas

and knowledge on wilderness legislation and strategy. Joe Walicki, The Wilderness Society's regional representative for Oregon and Washington, shared experiences and thoughts on organizing for wilderness preservation.

Comments received at the conclusion of the workshop were quite favorable. Doug Scott was quite highly thought of by the participants, and most of the negative feeling were towards the quality and quantity of the food. Joe Walicki added that of the many workshops he had participated, this California group was among the most enthusiastic.



## Wilderness for the Few?

cont. from pg. 2

history and cultural heritage. Wilderness was one of the forces that molded us as a nation, and is still molding the character of our people. Preserving it helps to retain the roots of our society, just as much as preserving our literature, science, and art. And having wilderness makes our entire culture richer, regardless of how many or how few directly experience it, just as the Mona Lisa enriches our culture though few have been to the Louvre to see it.

Wilderness offers direct economic benefits to

society. It preserves watersheds and regulates stream flow to maintain high quality water for downstream use. Its use by individuals for recreation gives rise to considerable economic activity.

A portion of society find the existence of wild nature reassuring, even though they themselves may never visit or otherwise directly interact with the wilderness.

It is important to these people, and indeed to our national spirit, to know that man's mark has not been heavy upon the entire land, that wild creatures yet live

free, and that a frontier of adventure and knowledge yet exists in this land.

Finally, there are millions who get inspiration and recreations directly from their experiences in wilderness areas.

Wilderness Used by Substantial Numbers

Wilderness benefits society regardless of who or how many actually visit it. But the visitors comprise the most visible and most direct beneficiaries of wilderness preservation. And despite what the promoters of the "wilderness is for 1/2 of 1%" myth may believe, these direct users comprise a significant portion of the population.

First, we must admit that wilderness recreation is engaged in by a minority of the population. But the

same can be said for virtually ever other form of outdoor recreation.

The important question is how substantial is this minority of the population who engage in wilderness recreation pursuits and how does it compare with the minorities who engage in other outdoor activities which compete with wilderness recreation for the same land base?

The most recent national recreation survey was conducted by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1972. This survey measured the participation by people 12 years and older in various outdoor recreation activities during the summer months of 1972.

The survey did not ask where recreation activities took place. But it is possible to indicate which activities common to rural and backcountry areas are undertaken predominantly or often in wilderness areas, and which are incompatible with wilderness.

The results of this 1972 survey for selected activities grouped according to compatibility with wilderness are given here:

% of population who participated

Activity

A. Activities which predominantly occur in wilderness

Wilderness camping 4.8  
Hiking with a pack, mountaineering, and rock climbing 5.4

B. Activities which often occur in wilderness

Horseback riding 5.4  
Canoeing 2.8  
Nature walks 16.7  
Hunting 2.5  
Fishing 23.8  
Wildlife and bird photography 2.0

C. Activities incompatible with wilderness

Driving for pleasure 34.1  
Driving 4WD vehicles off-road 1.8  
Motorcycle riding off-road 4.6  
Camping in developed campgrounds 10.9

It is obvious from these figures that a wide variety of the most common outdoor recreation activities are compatible with and often

occur in wilderness. Participation rates in wilderness-type recreation activities are comparable to participation rates in recreational activities incompatible with wilderness. Indeed, participation in wilderness-type activities is proportionally much higher (compared to the available land base) than participation in activities incompatible with wilderness.

Over 419 million acres of public lands are available for recreation in the United States (excluding Alaska), but less than one-fourth of that total is wilderness (both classified and de-facto).

To sum up, the statement that only a very tiny minority of the American people benefit from Wilderness preservation is clearly false and a pernicious myth. The direct users are a substantial minority, and indirect benefits accrue to society as a whole.

## CWC Member Organizations

American Alpine Club - Sierra Nevada Section  
Friends of the Earth  
Sierra Club - Northern California Regional Conservation Committee

Sonoma County Ecology Center  
Northstate Wilderness Committee  
Save Kaiser Ridge Committee

American Land Conservation Council  
Northcoast Environmental Council

Sierra Club - San Francisco Bay Chapter  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society

Sierra County Conservation Club  
Active Conservation Tactics  
Calif Native Plant Society

Stanford Conservation Group  
Granite Chief Wilderness Task Force

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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.



# AGENCY PLANNING ROLLS

## Condors or Phosphates

The Bureau of Land Management has released a Final Environmental Impact Statement on a proposed preference right phosphate lease on the Los Padres National Forest. The decision to grant the lease comes five years after the Draft impact statement which reported a large number of potential adverse environmental effects, including the question of survival of the California condor.

The BLM is proposing to allow U.S. Gypsum Company to mine 2,434 acres on the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County. In addition to the 50-year mining project, a processing plant will be constructed adjacent to the lease area.

The Final EIS states that the proposed action will adversely impact wildlife, particularly threatening the Condor and air quality, soils, vegetation, aesthetics,

recreation, land use, traffic on State Route 33, and the Ventura County General Plan. The mining proposal would result in the permanent removal of 30,000,000 tons of phosphate ore.

The mining would also intrude onto the Pine Mountain roadless area.

The Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources listed in the EIS states: "the potential for irreversible decline in the condor population is clearly associated with the habitat modification that would be caused by this proposal."

A public meeting on this proposal and the EIS has been scheduled for July 23 in Ojai. Copies of the statement are available from Curt Berklund, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Loggers in Rancheria

The Sierra National Forest has made public its plan to log much of the Rancheria Creek portion of the proposed Kings River Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada east of Fresno. The Rancheria Creek area near Crown Valley has long been popular with hikers, backpackers, and horsemen. It is on the main trail to Tehipite Valley. Well endowed with streams and lakes and meadows, it is one of the Sierra National Forest's most attractive roadless areas. Its beauty is enhanced by the presence of trees, and naturally the Forest Service has plans for them.

The Sierra National Forest has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a plan to log most of the forest land in the 13,000 acre Rancheria planning unit. All of this land qualifies as wilderness, and is part of the 125,000 acre Kings River Wilderness proposal.

Anyone who is interested in the future of Rancheria Creek-Crown Valley area should write immediately for a copy of the EIS on the Rancheria Planning Unit from Sotero Muniz, Supervisor, Sierra National Forest, 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, Ca. 93721.

The EIS will give you information you need to participate in the preservation of Rancheria Creek. Comments on the EIS should be sent to Sierra National Forest soon; the record will be closed within 60 days. Request that your comments be included as part of the final EIS.

By George Whitmore



## Feather River Compromise Reached

In an attempt to settle a pending administrative appeal of the Panhandle Timber sale on the Lassen National Forest, the Forest Service has tentatively agreed to make a unified study of the wilderness potential and future use of conservationists' entire feather River Wilderness Study Area proposal.

The Feather River Wilderness Study Area proposal consists of two neighboring units, Chips Creek and Plumas, which lie on opposite sides of the North Fork of the Feather River. The two units are presently split among four different Forest Service planning units in the Lassen and Plumas national forests.

The American Land Conservation Council,

Friends of the Earth, Northern California Fly Fishers, Northstate Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club, and Phillip Farrell, had appealed to the Panhandle Timber Sale because a small portion of the Sale intrudes onto the Chips Creek unit of the Feather River proposal. The appellants charged that National Forest laws and regulations required the Forest Service to study the wilderness potential of the entire Chips Creek unit before any portion of that unit was committed to other

uses, such as timber harvest.

Under the proposed settlement, the appellants would drop their appeal of the Panhandle Timber Sale and allow it to proceed unimpeded, thus losing approximately 600 acres from the northern end of the Chips Creek unit. In return, the Forest Service would put both the Chips Creek and Plumas units of the Feather River proposal into one planning unit, or into two units to be studied concurrently. In addition, the Forest Service would not undertake any further actions which would change the wilderness character of a slightly modified Chips Creek unit until the new land use plan was completed in two to three years.

Conservationists regard this settlement as a significant victory in their attempts to get genuine consideration for the wilderness values of the Feather River proposal by the Forest Service. The settlement has yet to be officially implemented but no difficulties are expected.

## State Wilderness

In the May of this year, the State of California Resources Agency proposed a set of Guidelines for management of state Wilderness Areas.

The basic thrust of the guidelines is to require state agencies which manage wilderness areas to prepare master plans for the use and management of each area. The guidelines suggest a number of techniques to be considered in order to control the impacts of human use, including regulation of entry with a permit system, designation of campsites, and provision of primitive latrines.

The Agency will issue final regulations later in the year. Further information can be obtained from Jim Burns, Assistant to the Secretary for Resources, Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For further information on location of State designated wilderness areas and on the potential for State wilderness, write the California Wilderness Coalition, P.O. box 891, Davis Ca. 95616.

## NorCal PAG Update

The May-June issue of the **Wilderness Record** contained an article describing the need for public input into the development of the Forest Service's Northern California Planning Area Guide.

That article indicated that the draft Planning Area Guide would be released on June 1, with forty-five day comment period following. The **Wilderness Record** has since learned that, due to production difficulties, the draft Planning Area Guide will not be available until mid or late July. Comments will thus be accepted at least until the end of August.

## In Memorium

\*Ken Bohlig, Northern Rockies Wilderness Coordinator for the Sierra Club, died June 4 in a fall while hiking near the Salmon River. He was on Sierra Club business along a stretch of the river within the proposed Gospel-Hump Wilderness Study Area in Idaho.

Few of us in California knew Ken well, but we all support the cause for which he was fighting.

The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) and the Sierra Club have established a joint "Ken Bohlig Wilderness Memorial Fund" to be used to carry on Ken's commitment for the preservation of wilderness in the Pioneer Mtns. and elsewhere on the Beaverhead National Forest. Memorial contributions may be directed to the MWA at P.O. Box 84, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

## Yes to Disney?

## NO TO CASTLE PEAK

On May 28th the Forest Service released a Finance Environmental Statement for the Truckee-Little Truckee Rivers Planning Unit on the Tahoe National Forest. The Castle Peak (Mt. Lola) roadless area was not selected for further wilderness study, and the Disney Corporation's plan for a massive ski development at Independence Lake is apparently being favorably received.

Although the Forest Service did not change their plans with this Final Statement, they did

undertake a commendable job of analyzing comments from the public.

According to the **Tahoe World**, 435 responses to the Draft Statement addressed the topic of development at Independence Lake with 129 favoring the project and 306 opposed to it.

Large numbers of letters also asked that the Castle Peak area be designated a wilderness study area.

Copies of the Final EIS are available from Robert G. Lancaster, Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City, CA 95959.

## ❖ Carson-Iceberg ❖ Horsethief ❖ Mokelumne

The Toiyabe National Forest has released a draft environmental statement for the Alpine Planning Unit. Included within this planning unit are parts of the Carson-Iceberg, Mokelumne Wilderness additions, and Horsethief roadless areas.

A limited number of

single copies are available from Forest Supervisor John J. Lavin, Toiyabe National Forest, 111 Virginia Street, Room 601, Reno, Nevada 89501. Comments must be received at the above address by August 9, 1976, in order to be considered in the preparation of the final environmental statement.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Note: One dollar of annual membership dues supports the Wilderness Record

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Organization	25
Patron	500

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