



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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No. 5



PT. REYES

JOSHUA

PINNACLES

On October 20th California's contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System was increased by half a million acres. Wilderness areas in three of the State's National Park units were signed into law last month, increasing California's total wilderness to 2,362,800 acres - more than any other state in the Nation. The three new wilderness areas are in Joshua Tree National Monument, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Pinnacles National Monument. Desert Wilderness

California's first desert wilderness on federal lands is a big one. 455,150 acres of wilderness were designated at Joshua Tree National Monument (37,550 acres of this is "potential" wilderness, contingent upon the purchase of private lands and rights within the Monument boundaries).

A good description of this new wilderness was included in a letter Senator John

cont. on pg. 3

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Death Valley, Kaiser, Joshua Tree, Pinnacles, Pt. Reyes, Sheep Mountain, and Snow Mountain, the California Wilderness Coalition would like to thank the following people and organizations for their special help in saving California's wilderness lands. Many others, of course, played important roles in protecting these areas. We apologize for inadvertently overlooking anyone and for our lack of space which prevents the printing of the thousands of people who participated in the campaigns.

Thank you:
Senator Alan Cranston
Senator John Tunney
Representative John Burton
Representative Philip Burton

Representative Don Clausen
Representative Bizz Johnson
Representative John Krebs
Representative Bob Leggett
Representative Jim Lloyd
Representative George Miller
Representative Shirley Pettis
Representative Burt Talcott
County of Colusa
County of Glenn
County of Lake
County of Marin
Active Conservation Tactics
Citizens Advisory Committee, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Friends of the Earth
National Parks and Conservation Association
Northstate Wilderness Committee

Cranston, Pettis, Krebs

Opposition to the 22,500 acre Kaiser Wilderness was tremendous. But John Krebs fought for his bill all

Save Kaiser Ridge Committee
Sierra Club
Snow Mountain Wilderness Area Committee

The Wilderness Society
Ed Davis
Paul Deauville
Bill Duddleson
Jerry Freidman
Lyle Gaston
Charles Hull
Katherine Johnson
Tom Maloney
Norville Martin
Bob McDonnell
Katherine Petterson
Hal Thomas
Dee Trent
George Whitmore

the way. With the able assistance of Phillip Burton, Krebs was able to overcome the roadblocks set up by Bernie Sisk and Bizz Johnson. In a fight that extended all the way to the House floor, Krebs stood fast and defended Kaiser from attack

cont. on back page

Congress has passed, and the President has signed into law, legislation to create in California a Kaiser Wilderness and Snow Mountain and Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Areas. The bills passed Congress over the vociferous objections of the timber industry and the U.S. Forest Service. They are a magnificent illustration that sustained citizen action can prevail, and public lands slated for timber harvest or other development can be set aside for future generations.

cont. on back page

Join the Coalition!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____

ANNUAL DUES (NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Individual | \$6 | Organization | \$25 |
| Low-income Ind. | \$3 | Patron | \$500 |

FORUM

Defending Wilderness in Congress

One of the most interesting forums is the Floor of the House of Representatives. The following exchange took place when Congressman Bernie Sisk made a last ditch attempt to kill the Kaiser Wilderness bill. John Krebs ably defended his proposal and the amendment failed. The 22,500 acre Kaiser Wilderness is now protected.

Congressional Record
House Oct. 27, 1976

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:
Amendment offered by Mr. MELCHER: Page 6, lines 10 thru 14, delete all of paragraph (2).

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is the Kaiser Ridge Wilderness proposal. By the authorization of the committee, I have offered it as a separate amendment so that it can be stricken from the bill if that is the will of the House.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MELCHER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this particular bill, which is known as the Kaiser Wilderness Area, was passed by the Senate and was to be placed on the Suspension Calendar a week ago today. It was removed from the Suspension Calendar because of the objection of one Member, my good friend from California (Mr. SISK).

The fact remains that this wilderness area is totally in my district and in no one else's district. I would ask the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Montana, to withdraw his amendment. Since, apparently, the gentleman does not wish to do so, I will ask for a recorded vote.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MELCHER. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I think the majority senti-

ment of the committee, in the light of what has happened, is to defeat this amendment.

The gentleman from Montana is required to offer it because of the action of the committee, but I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KREBS. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to endorse what the gentleman from Arizona had to say. I do not have any particular interest in getting involved in a dispute with the gentleman from California, but the gentleman from California (Mr. KREBS) is the Representative of the area involved. He is the one who is going to have to take the heat that is involved if there is any heat to be taken as a result of this kind of a decision. He has ably represented his constituency.

I agree with the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I would point out that this amendment did pass both the full committee and the subcommittee by a substantial margin.

Mr. SISK. Mr. Speaker, I move to strike the last word.

(Mr. SISK asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SISK. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a procedure which I outlined earlier as being a situation where the skids were greased. We never had an opportunity for this issue to stand on its own bottom, so to speak. I might say that the people involved in connection with the mill workers and the timber industry are basically in my district. I represented this particular area, I might say to my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado, for 20 years. I know this area quite well. I agree that the specific area, Kaiser Ridge,

is now in my colleague's district. But the point at issue is the majority of the people in connection with the timber industry, in connection with labor in the area, which actually takes part in my district, in Oak Arrow, in Norfolk, and other mill towns in the area, are very much opposed to this particular legislation.

I might say the National Apartments Union is opposed to this particular legislation. So there are a number of people involved, I am not accusing my good friend from California (Mr. KREBS) of engineering this particular part, but we are actually preserving a backdoor playground for some 200 or 300 cabin owners in the area of a beautiful area.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, this is unfortunate that the matter comes up in this form, and I would hope, of course, that the amendment offered, I am assuming in good faith by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. MELCHER), be adopted.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to strike the last word, and I rise in opposition to the amendment.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I think it should be clear to the Members of the House on this side of the aisle that 24 out of 28 Members signed a letter of support for inclusion of this area in the bill. When it was offered in the committee there was overwhelming support in the committee to include the Kaiser Ridge area. When the amendment was offered in the committee to take it out, there was not a quorum present. There were only five members of the committee present at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to reject this amendment.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MILLER of California. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KREBS).

Wilderness Protection Benefits

Parker Case Reaffirmed

Recent action by the U.S. Congress confirms the principle that roadless lands contiguous to national forest Primitive Areas must be maintained by the U.S. Forest Service in an undeveloped condition pending a Congressional decision on the future of the Primitive Area and surrounding lands.

This is important for California, where the Forest Service is ignoring the principle right now and attempting to develop roadless lands contiguous to the Salmon-Trinity Alps and High Sierra Primitive Areas.

In the now-famous Parker case in Colorado, the U.S. District Court held in 1969 that the Wilderness Act required that a roadless area - East Meadow Creek - contiguous to the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area be maintained in wilderness condition by the Forest Service pending a decision by Congress on reclassification of the Primitive Area to Wilderness. The Forest Service had wanted to cut timber in the area.

The court held that the Wilderness Act guaranteed to Congress and the President the right to add such contiguous roadless lands to

Wilderness. To allow the Forest Service to develop these lands and preclude exercise of that right was thus illegal.

On appeal by the Forest Service, the Supreme Court upheld the decision (by denying review). In spite of this, the Forest Service has been reluctant to embrace the principle. It has taken the morally indefensible position that technicalities of court jurisdiction mean that it does not have to apply the Parker case to Primitive Areas in California.

But recent Congressional action has given further credence to conservationists' demands that the Parker case decision be applied by the Forest Service to California.

First, Congress has shown that it does indeed wish to exercise the right to include contiguous lands in Wilderness by including the subject of contention in the Parker case - East Meadow Creek - into the new Eagles Nest Wilderness which was established in July 1976.

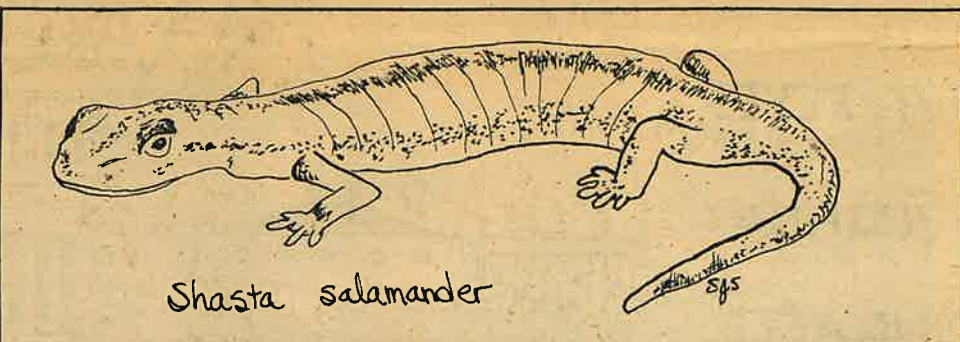
Second, Congress has established several new national forest wilderness study areas (Public Law 94-557), including two in California: Sheep Moun-

tain and Snow Mountain (see article elsewhere in this issue). The Congress now requires that these areas be studied by the Forest Service for potential Wilderness designation according to the same provisions of the Wilderness Act that applied to Primitive Areas.

In addition, the law establishing these new wilderness study areas includes specific provisions reiterating the Parker Case principle.

The House Interior Committee report on the law (No. 94-1562) explains these provisions: "In summary, the Committee expects that the language of section 3(b) of the Wilderness Act relating to preservation of options of the President to enlarge and ultimately the Congress to expand and designate certain boundaries recommended by the agency is not impaired."

The Congress in this act has reiterated the principle of the Parker case and applied it to two new wilderness study areas on national forests in California. Surely then, under the original provisions of the Wilderness Act, it must also apply to California's Primitive Areas.



Shasta salamander

Mr. KREBS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman inadvertently left out that 24 members out of the 28 members of the Democratic delegation from California signed the letter urging the Speaker to place this bill on the Suspension Calendar. That is the type of broad support it has from the California delegation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. MELCHER).

The amendment was rejected.

Congressional Record
House October 1, 1976

The following exchange took place during a discussion of the Pt. Reyes Wilderness Bill and other National Park issues:

Mr. KETCHUM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Death Valley bill put 976 people out of work at that point and 107 people are out of work at this point. Could the gentleman tell me, will this bill put any more people out of work?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. This bill will not put any people out of work. This bill creates a wilderness area in a national park area. The national park is given a high degree of protection with that designation. The only thing creating a wilderness area in a national park does is that it means one cannot build roads without getting further approval from Congress. In the national parks we do not

cut timber, we do not do mining ordinarily, we do not allow grazing, and we do not allow commercial fishing. So there is no economic loss, as I see it.

Mr. KETCHUM. If the gentleman will yield further, I totally understand what a wilderness area is, I say to gentleman from North Carolina, for whom I have the greatest respect, but do any of these wilderness areas we are now proposing have any concessions at all within their boundaries at the present time? Because, if the area becomes a wilderness area, those people then will be put out of work. I ask the gentleman: Will anybody be put out of work, as they were put out of work in Death Valley?

Mr. RONCALIO. Not in Wyoming.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. No people are living in any of these wilderness areas.

Mr. KETCHUM. I thank the gentleman. I am delighted that no one else will be put out of work as a result of the work of this committee.

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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.



BLM Organic Act

After six years of consideration, an "organic act" to guide management of the public-domain lands by the Bureau of Land Management in the U.S. Department of Interior has become law. This new act is known officially as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and colloquially as the BLM Organic Act.

The public-domain lands are federal lands which were "left over" after disposal of original territorial acquisitions to private and state ownership, or to reservation as national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and military bases. In California, there are 15.5-million acres of such lands, mostly in the desert.

Up to now, there has been no co-ordinated policy for management of these lands. Hundreds of antiquated laws had provided for disposal of the land or use by special interests.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act now sets up a strong policy of

retention of the public lands for multiple use and protection of environmental quality. It also for the first time makes these lands subject to Wilderness Act. Special provisions apply to the California desert and King Range.

Unfortunately, some special interest provisions in the act grant additional privileges to livestock grazing on the public lands, and the ability to withdraw lands from mining or other uses to protect vulnerable environmental values is curtailed. These provisions of the law are also made to apply to national forest lands.

For wilderness advocates, the most important section of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is Section 603, which sets up a wilderness review program for the public lands.

The Wilderness Act did not provide for review or classification of any public land under the jurisdiction

cont. from pg. 1

Tunney wrote urging passage of his wilderness legislation:

"The delicate landforms and the large assembly of curious desert plants and animals in the Southern California Mojave Desert would make an excellent addition to our national wilderness lands. A wilderness area within the Joshua Tree National Monument will place in the National Wilderness System a fine example of this high desert, as well as some of the low desert areas of the Colorado desert ecosystem. The desert environment

is harsh on many forms of wildlife, but desert bighorn sheep and the rare and unusual kit fox find refuge here. The Monument provides habitat for many small animals, and also for larger predators like the badger, coyote and bobcat. The unique flora and fauna sharing this parched land depend upon one another for survival.

"The undeveloped lands of the monument offer spectacular scenery. Volcanic eruptions and massive faulting have created mountain ranges rising to over 5,000 feet.

Heavy rainfalls have carved deep valleys and deposited extensive alluvial fans outward from canyon mouths. The result of these rugged physical processes is one of the most spectacular displays of geology in the Southwestern United States."

Senator Alan Cranston worked closely with Tunney and Representative Shirley Pettis to move this non-controversial legislation through Congress. The designation of wilderness at Joshua Tree is expected to give the National Park Service added muscle in controlling some illegal off road vehicle use continuing in the Monument.

SEASHORE WILDERNESS

There are many unusual things about the wilderness established at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, including the fact that it is the only wilderness twice signed into law. When passage of the National Park Omnibus Wilderness Bill was in doubt, Congressman John Burton pushed the Pt. Reyes wilderness bill through separately. The omnibus bill did pass, though, and President Ford signed both bills. Fortunately, both Pt. Reyes bills are the same.

The 33,370 acres of wilderness at Pt. Reyes also contains "potential" wilderness - 8,000 acres of tidelands for which the State of California retains fishing and mineral rights. These rights are not expected to have any conflict with wilderness management, however, especially in conservation minded Marin County.

The three unit Pt. Reyes Wilderness protects the southern cliffs and forests, the precious Drakes and Limantour Esteros, and the stretch of coastline from Pt. Reyes to Tomales Point. It is

California's first seashore wilderness.

Although the wilderness is at places only 100 yards wide, it contains some of the wildest lands in the State. The agreements worked out by the Citizens Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area were instrumental in obtaining the approval of Congress.

Congress also felt it appropriate to order the naming of the Environmental Education Center for the late Congressman Clem Miller in commemoration of the vision and leadership he gave to the creation and protection of Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

CHAPPARRAL WILDERNESS

13,942 acres of wilderness were dedicated at Pinnacles National Monument. The Monument was expanded by 1700 acres, with 660 acres of these additions slated for inclusion as part of the Pinnacles Wilderness when the land is obtained (part of 990 acres of "potential" wilderness).

This wilderness adds to the system an outstanding example of the chapparal-digger pine biotic type. It supports such important species as blacktailed deer, mountain lion, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, and golden eagle.

The designation of wilderness at Pinnacles also ends a long threat of a "motor nature trail" once proposed across the northern end of the Monument. Congressman Burt Talcott and Senators Alan Cranston and John Tunney worked closely with the National Park Service and local conservationists in working out this wilderness proposal and park expansion.



of the BLM as Wilderness, although it did not explicitly bar such action either.

Now this oversight has been rectified by a strong wilderness review program. Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the Secretary of the Interior (who has authority over the BLM) to identify all roadless areas on the public lands, and to study each one and report on its suitability as Wilderness within 15 years, according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act.

This study and report requirement will affect a great deal of land. There are estimated to be 35-50 million acres of roadless lands under BLM administration in the lower 48 states, including nearly 4

million acres in California. Every single one of these roadless areas will have to be delineated and studied as a potential Wilderness area, with a report made to Congress.

Section 603 goes further, however. It says that until Congress acts on the reports of the Secretary, either accepting or rejecting his proposals for future management of roadless areas on the public lands, the BLM must preserve the wilderness character of these roadless areas.

Exceptions are made to allow continuation of livestock grazing and prospecting for and development of minerals, subject to restrictions needed to prevent undue environmental damage. Similar exceptions are granted in the Wilderness Act itself.

This is a strong tool indeed for the protection of wilderness on the public lands, which conservationists should use by insuring that all roadless areas are identified. It is far stronger, for instance, than existing law applicable to national forest roadless areas.

Additional special provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management act apply to the California desert and King Range.

TAHOE PLAN

The U.S. Forest Service has just released an Environmental Analysis Report (EAR) for a proposed general Land Use Plan for the national forest lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The proposed plan will give overall direction for use of national forests in the Basin.

Three alternatives are given in the EAR.

Alternative A, the proposed plan, would continue existing general management direction

Alternative B would emphasize natural amenity values. High quality water, scenic, natural and cultural values would be provided. Recreation would emphasize primitive and undeveloped area experiences. Timber harvest would be highly restricted.

Alternative C would emphasize the production of goods and services within environmental and legal limits. Developed recreation, timber production, and livestock grazing would

be given priority.

The Lake Tahoe Basin contains a portion of the Desolation Wilderness as well as three roadless areas: Lincoln Creek, part of Dardanelles, and part of Horsethief. None of the alternatives proposes a strong direction either for or against Wilderness classification of these roadless areas.

General management direction, also the same for all alternatives, is provided to help minimize destructive effects of recreation use in the Desolation Wilderness.

Conservationists are seeking Wilderness classification for the Dardanelles (otherwise known as Upper Truckee) roadless area.

Conservationists also urge that the entire Dardanelles and Horsethief roadless areas, which both extend beyond the Lake Tahoe Basin boundary, be given coordinated study for Wilderness, regardless of

Forest Service administrative boundaries.

The Forest Service is seeking public comment on its proposed Land Use Plan. You are urged to express your support for the conservationist position in a letter addressed to W.A. Morgan, Acting Administrator, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, P.O. Box 8465, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731. Deadline for comments is December 21, 1976. You may also request a copy of the EAR from the above address.

Death Valley

Parks Protected From Mining

Death Valley and the Wilderness won, and the mining companies lost, when President Ford signed into law a bill protecting several units of the National Park System from mining.

Although the battle is not yet over at Death Valley, and the wilderness issue there has yet to come forward, the first steps towards eliminating mining in this National Monument were taken. Wilderness designation at Death Valley is closely tied to the reduction of the mining threat there.

The issue raised at Death Valley had benefits elsewhere. New mining claims were prohibited in Mt. McKinley, Crater Lake, Glacier Bay, Organ Pipe Cactus, and Coronado in addition to Death Valley.

The crucial moment for

the Park Mining bill came in September when efforts were made to delete Glacier Bay and Death Valley from the bill. The hard fought battle to protect these areas was won when the amendment to delete Glacier Bay lost 110-251. Representative Ketchum's amendment to delete Death Valley then came up on a voice vote - no audible "ayes" were heard, but the House Chamber thundered with "NOES!!"

The mining now occurring in Death Valley is subject to a four-year moratorium on expansion of the disturbed areas while the Secretary of Interior undertakes a study to determine the cost of acquiring existing claims in contrast to the environmental cost of continued mining activity in all six units.

National Forest Management Act

Congress took what many conservationists regard as "a giant step sideways" in passing the National Forest Management Act. The legislation is somewhat better than conservationists feared it would be, but it is not a reform bill. A well-funded year-long timber industry blitz of Congress produced a stampede toward a mediocre bill, despite the pleadings of conservationists for substantial reform. Senator Hubert Humphrey and Congressman Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson led the charge in the wrong direction.

Congress did essentially what conservationists asked them **not** to do—they left the administration of the National Forests up to the Forest Service and Secretary of Agriculture. The law calls

on the Secretary to establish guidelines for timber management which will, in effect, become law on National Forests. There are some legal constraints on the Secretary's discretion. However, some of the best provisions in the new law contain vague language or loopholes.

Under the legislation, the Secretary must write regulations which include: -identification of and protection for marginal lands those which can't produce trees economically. Such lands could include much of the citizen-proposed Wilderness areas in the state.

-provisions for "sustained yield of timber" (no more cut than can be grown each year) rather than the "turn old forests into productive tree farms" philosophy of



the timber industry. The bad news is that a loophole for the first time could permit deviations from sustained yield after a process of public involvement.

-provisions to protect the diversity of plant and animal communities.

-some limitations on clear-cutting.

The final effect of the law will depend on what kind of regulations the Secretary of Agriculture writes. The Secretary is required by law to get the opinions of an appointed committee of scientists.

Cranston Pettis Krebs

cont. from pg. 1

after attack. On September 27, the House passed the Kaiser Wilderness bill.

But the fight was not over. The opposition tried a last-ditch effort to kill Kaiser in the Senate. An amendment was prepared to delete Kaiser from the Senate bill. The vote was scheduled for September 30, two days before adjournment.

With only two days remaining before the end of the session, it was obvious that there was no time for a conference committee should bills passed by the House and the Senate be markedly different. So when Alan Cranston learned that a number of amendments were being prepared for the Senate bill that included Kaiser, he raced down to the Senate chamber.

Senator Hansen had already offered his amendment to delete lands from the proposed Fitzpatrick Wilderness in Wyoming. He expected little opposition.

At this point Cranston rose and spoke in opposition to the amendment. His reasons for objecting were not related to the specifics of the situation in Wyoming; Cranston was concerned that changes would sink all 27 wilderness and wilderness study areas in the bill. Senators Eagleton and Symington spoke out in favor of Cranston's position.

The vote was taken. Senator Hanson watched in horror as his amendment was rejected 32 to 38. Kaiser survived another hurdle. On October 1 the bill was sent to the President.

The Forest Service never learns when to quit.

Notwithstanding the fact that the bill included non-controversial wilderness proposals in Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and other states, our friends in green recommended a veto of the bill. Perhaps due to his anti-environmental image and the closeness of the campaign, President Ford rejected his agency's advice. The Kaiser Wilderness was signed into law on October 19th.

SHIRLEY PETTIS

Few people expected to see the proposed Joshua Tree Wilderness pass this year. With only a month left in the session the Senate had yet to hold hearings on the issue.

Suddenly things began to move. The House passed Ms. Pettis proposal and the Senate quickly scheduled hearings and began moving the bill. Senator Tunney fired off a letter urging passage of the wilderness proposal. Conservationists became optimistic that a Joshua Tree wilderness might make it in 1976.

But it was not until October 1 that the Senate passed the bill that included Joshua Tree. There was but a single day for the House to agree with the Senate bill.

October 2nd was a long, long day. It was the final day of this Congress and every Representative had a bill he or she wanted passed. As the day wore on into night, a final list of the bills to be considered before adjournment was announced. The Park Wilderness bill was not among the chosen few.

Even at this late hour Shirley Pettis noticed that the wilderness bill was not on the docket. Shocked by this turn of events, she raced up to the Speaker to correct this omission. It took some hard persuasion, but the bill was added to the list. But the adjournment hour was fast approaching.

Finally, the Park Wilderness bill came up. It passed easily. Ten minutes later Congress adjourned. Had the bill been one lower on the list, Joshua Tree, Pinnacles, and park units throughout the Nation would not have their wilderness proposals passed, and the long Congressional process would have started from the beginning next year. Years of work were saved by the alertness of Representative Pettis and ten long minutes.

Behind the Scenes

Few people outside of Washington, D.C. know how close California came to having no wildernesses or study areas this year. While those of us in the West anxiously awaited word that our wilderness proposals had passed Congress, people on the "Hill" were performing legislative miracles.

Although credit for the passage of the wilderness bills should be shared with hundreds of individuals and organizations that worked for years on these projects, our representatives in Congress worked really hard.

cont. from pg. 1

KAISER WILDERNESS

By far the most controversial was the 28,000-acre Kaiser proposal, for an area that lies north of Huntington Lake, about 65 miles northeast of Fresno. Timber industry opposition, led in the House by Rep. B.R. Sisk, pulled out all the stops in an effort to kill the bill. A compromise 22,500-acre preserve was proposed by the House, which left a portion of two proposed Forest Service timber sales—some 5,500 acres—out of the designated Wilderness. The Senate went along with the House, and the President signed the compromise bill which designated the 22,500-acre Kaiser Wilderness.

Conservationists throughout the state hailed the passage of the Kaiser Wilderness bill as a major victory. First, the area was designated as a Wilderness **without** a formal wilderness study. Wilderness Studies have proved to be a costly and often unnecessary procedure, particularly in areas where existing citizen or agency studies show wilderness values to be paramount.

Second, the battle for Kaiser was the first head-to-head confrontation between the timber in-

dustry and citizen conservationists over a roadless area which the Forest Service had rejected for wilderness study. It has been shown that unprotected roadless areas—so-called "de facto" wilderness—can be protected by public demand regardless of the conclusions of public agencies.

Snow Mountain Study Area

The designation by law of a 37,000-acre Snow Mountain Wilderness Study area brings Snow Mountain Wilderness a few short steps from realization. The area, which lies in Mendocino National Forest north of Clear Lake has been the scene of a twenty-year battle between local citizens and the U.S. Forest Service. Study after study by the Forest Service rejected Snow Mountain for Wilderness protection, despite overwhelming support of citizens in Glenn, Lake, and Colusa counties.

Thanks to the work of Congressmen Bizz Johnson, Don Clausen, and Robert Leggett, a bill was passed authorizing a formal wilderness study of the area and a report to Congress. Although the Forest Service may very well flunk Snow Mountain once again, Con-

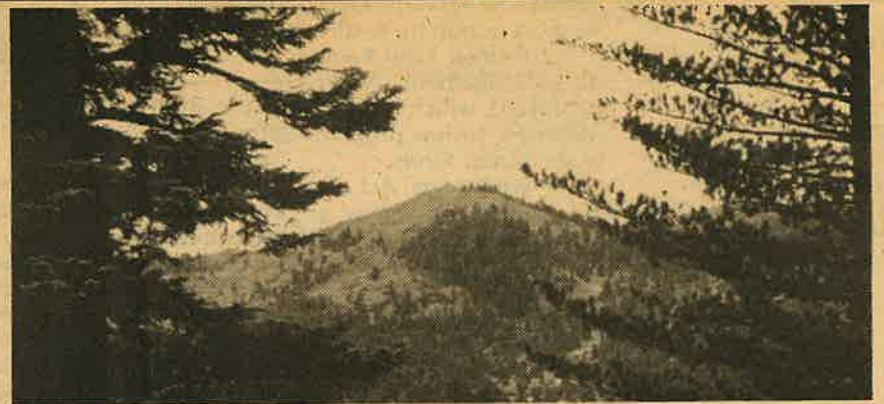
gress has reserved the final say as to its ultimate designation. Meanwhile the area must be managed to assure protection of its wilderness character and potential.

Sheep Mountain Study Area

The 52,000-Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area is located about an hour's drive north of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains. A major value of this unique wild area is its function as habitat for the Nelson Bighorn Sheep, now considered vulnerable to extinction.

In 1973 the U.S. Forest Service selected 31,680-acres of the area for future wilderness study, yet lets out more than 20,000 acres of prime bighorn sheep habitat. Concerned local citizens working with Congressman Jim Lloyd have now assured that the entire area will receive careful consideration of wilderness values, along with its protection until Congress makes the final designation.

The battles are not over for Snow Mountain and Sheep Mountain. Citizens will need to respond to U.S. Forest Service Wilderness proposals. But a major step has been taken with enactment of the legislation.



Snow Mountain

Photo by Clude Wise

EUREKA DUNES CLOSED TO VEHICLES

The scenic and botanically interesting Eureka Dunes have been closed to all Vehicle travel by the Bureau

of Land Management (BLM). The BLM, which had earlier opened half of the dunes to vehicles, reached its decision after an intensive review of the area.

The review concluded that "The residual impacts of vehicle use will be partial or complete elimination of vegetation, flora, and ecosystem processes on the

dunes."

When BLM Bakersfield district manager Louis Boll announced his original "partition" of the Eureka Dunes, leaving the most scenic and interesting part of dunes open to vehicles, public outcry became loud. Bishop residents who wished to see the entire dune system closed obtained the backing of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, their congressman Rep. Ketchum, and numerous other groups and individuals (see article in Desert Deadline). Their combined efforts forced the BLM to do the review and to issue the environmental analysis on the Eureka Dunes. The closure of the dunes was based on the findings in the environmental analysis.





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DESERT DEADLINE

The Fight to Save the California Desert

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DAMAGE ... MISMANAGEMENT ...

The California Desert is under siege. By its own admission the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considers that an estimated 12 to 20 per cent of its desert holdings have been devastated by off-road vehicles (ORVs) alone. The Bureau aptly calls these 2 to 3 million acres "sacrifice areas," heedless of the fact that most of the sacrifice has taken place in the past eight years. This tremendous loss is in addition to the hundreds of acres devoted to utility corridors, mining, and land development.

More important to note is that off-road vehicle activity is not being contained. Without effective restrictions, more than 90 per cent of the BLM lands are accessible to ORV encroachment and damage. The Bureau management continues to appease a special-interest minority. Thus more and more of the desert's vast beauty, serenity and wilderness qualities are rapidly being lost. Many of the nation's finest dune systems, unique natural communities, and archaeological treasures are being ravaged under the wheel.

The crisis in the California Desert centers on the policies and practices of the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM administers, in public trust, 16 million acres and most of the Desert's remaining wildlands. It is the caretaker of this singular landscape, and is responsible for its management within a framework of multiple use, long-term productivity and conservation. Those goals have not been met.

ORV users, their organizations, and industry they support, are tightly knit and vocal. At every opportunity they pressure the BLM for unrestricted use of the Desert. For the most part, they have been successful.

They are, however, a small minority. A recent statewide public opinion poll shows conclusively that the number of non-motorized recreationists who enjoy the desert is far greater. Those surveyed are, by a wide margin, concerned most for protection of wildlife and the desert environment, and favor more control over recreational and

other public uses.

The BLM, so far as action is concerned, has yet to accept these facts. When Bureau personnel visit recreation sites they see nothing but ORVs scrambling over the terrain, while the other users - campers, hikers and photographers - have scattered to remote corners hopefully seeking the serenity the Desert once provided.

The fight to save the California Desert has just begun. It can be won, but only with participation by many of those who care. Let the BLM and your elected representatives know how you feel. Public involvement is an essential part of the process of BLM planning. Those who speak up influence decisions.

The Bureau is currently preparing management plans for the many individual desert areas. Each completed plan serves as a guide to the future use of the area.

At this time planning has just started for the large East Mojave Unit, considered by many to be the "gem" of the Mojave. It contains the beautiful and ecologically rich Providence Mountains, Kelso Dunes (highest in the state), Cima Dome, the finest Joshua Tree forest, giant nolinias and barrel cacti, rare fan palm oases, the Cinder Cones. It has limestone caves, cactus gardens, Indian petroglyphs and pictographs, portions of the historic Mojave Road, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, rare birds and plants.

You can help to save the East Mojave and other areas by speaking out. Join organizations campaigning to preserve the Desert. Keep informed. Write letters. Show up at the meetings. If you care, be a part of the fight to save the life of the California Desert.

East Mojave National Park?

The eastern Mojave Desert is considered by many to be worthy of joining Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and the other natural and historic wonders of the National Park System. The combination of natural and historic features found there is unequalled elsewhere in the California Desert.

• It is spectacular, with varied and unique geologic formations.

It is alive, with a diverse assemblage of plants and animals.

It is steeped in history and pre-history, with historic trails and towns and prehistoric artifacts.

It is relatively unspoiled, with much of the area still considered for primitive recreation. Many call the eastern Mojave the "gem of the desert."

There has been official recognition of the natural wonders of the eastern Mojave by both National Park Service and the California State Park System.

The Cima Dome, the Joshua Tree area, and the Mojave Cinder Cones (formed less than 1000 years ago) are outstanding features and they have been fully recognized and

designated Natural Landmarks by the National Park Service. A recent study by the University of Arizona has proposed 3 additional areas as outstanding candidates for National Landmark status. These are the Central Providence Mountains, the Kelso Dunes (Devils Playground), and the Granite Mountains Pediment.

The California State Park System, in its 1968 plan, stated unequivocally that the above mentioned parts of the eastern Mojave, plus the New York Mountains and Clark Mountains, are "worthy of National Park status."

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BLM: Special Interest Agency

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to which the people of this country have entrusted the management of the California Desert, has consistently catered to those groups of desert users who consume the desert's resources. Specifically, these consumptive users include off-road vehicle (ORV) users, miners and grazers. The most consumptive of these groups are the ORV users.

The avarice of the ORV users is painfully evident. Wes Chambers, assistant desert planning director for the BLM, has indicated that the BLM has already "written off" between 12 to 20 per cent of the desert (some 2-3 million acres) as irreversibly damaged by ORV's. This irreversible consumption of desert resources seems likely to continue unless the BLM is moved or forced to change.

ORV users exercise undue influence with the BLM.

The president of the California Four-Wheel-Drive Association is a member of the BLM Riverside District citizen advisory board. A motorcycle store operator sits on the Bakersfield District Board. No other specific form of outdoor recreation (hiking, horseback riding, photography) enjoys advisory board representation despite a survey which clearly shows off-road vehicle users to be a small minority of desert recreationists.

The relationship between ORV groups and BLM managers is cozy. A few months ago the BLM Riverside District allowed a four-wheel-drive group to drive into the Kelso Dunes (one of only two dunes systems in the desert closed to vehicles) for the purpose of aiding the BLM in their inventorying for the East Mojave Plan. The group's report resulting from the trip "aided" the BLM by suggesting that the Kelso Dunes be re-opened to vehicle use.

What has this preferential treatment of ORV users meant to the planning and

management activities of the BLM? These are some examples.

1) In 1972, the BLM issued the Interim Critical Management Plan (ICMP) for the desert. It purports to control vehicle use in the desert. It designates five basic management zones in the desert. (See article elsewhere in this report). A discussion of the ICMP with Chambers revealed that the five zones are actually managed and used as two zones: open and closed. Areas closed to ORV's represent about two per cent of the desert, open areas represent 98 per cent. The BLM maintains that lack of manpower has led to this situation.

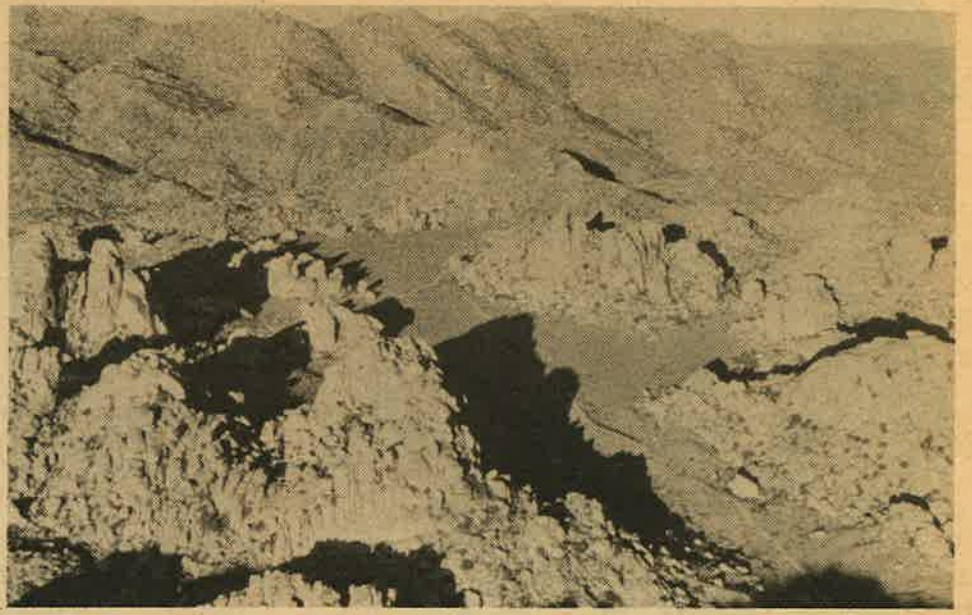
2) In 1974, the BLM spent \$250,000 to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Barstow-Las Vegas cross-country motorcycle race. The EIS undertaken by a conscientious BLM staff, was well done and later won an award. It warned of irreparable damage to the desert should the race be allowed. Nonetheless the BLM allowed the race and spent an additional \$100,000 to police it. A post-mortem study in April 1975 revealed that damage exceeded the predictions of the EIS.

3) In 1975, the BLM finally decided not to allow the Barstow-Vegas motorcycle race, but in an apparent effort to appease the motorcycle clubs involved it began efforts to establish an alternative course in

another little used area called Cadiz.

4) The recently released plan for the Yuha Planning Area in Imperial County showed several small primitive areas, with one centered around Meyers Valley. However, careful study of the ORV portion of the plan reveals that the Meyers Valley is, in fact, open to vehicles, not closed. When questioned about this, Chambers said that the BLM has been pressured to open the area by members of one San Diego ORV club. Chambers indicated that the BLM recognized the problems which resulted from allowing vehicles into a primitive area, and that they had a plan to control this use. The idea was that groups of only three or four vehicles at a time would be allowed into the Meyers Valley and each group would be accompanied by a ranger. Chambers felt this would be an appropriate use of a ranger's time.

BLM management of ORV use, which has brought about the "sacrifice" (this is BLM's word) of at least 2-3 million acres of the California Desert, is woefully inadequate. It seems that this inadequacy is likely to continue until the BLM is compelled to make the transition from a resource consuming land office to a resource protecting and managing Bureau of Land Management.



Meyers Valley in heart of Inkopah Primitive Area - Opened to ORVs by BLM to appease an ORV club from San Diego

BLM PLANNING

The Bureau of Land Management is divided into management districts assembled under a state office, or authority. Two districts cover California Desert lands, the Bakersfield District and the Riverside District. The Bakersfield District manages land approximately north of the northern boundary of San Bernardino County in the desert. The Riverside District manages such land south to the Mexican border.

Each of these districts has a staff responsible for resource management and for some short-range planning within its jurisdiction.

Planning for the entire

desert on the basis of long range objectives is done by the Desert Planning Staff (DPS), a branch of the state office. The staff is located in Riverside at the district office, 1695 Spruce Street.

The DPS consists of management personnel and a cadre of specialists. The Management includes the Desert Planning Director, Neil Pfulb, and the assistant director, Wes Chambers. Public comments should be addressed to Pfulb. There are specialists in many areas, including lands, geology and minerals, wildlife, archaeology, and recreation.

For the purpose of management and planning the California Desert region of BLM land is divided into 28 planning units ranging in size from approximately one-half million to two million acres. These are sub-units of the districts.

A plan is to be developed for each of the units by the Desert Planning Staff. So far the complete planning process including public review has been completed

for three units: Yuha, El Paso, and Red Mountain. Planning is currently in progress on a fourth unit, the large and very unique East Mojave. (See article, East Mojave Park?)

Planning for each unit has two major phases. The first is a Unit Resource Analysis (URA). This is an inventory activity in which specialists gather resource data and identify issues and problems. URAs are in-house documents and are not distributed to the public, but such information is available upon request.

The second phase is development of a Management Framework Plan (MFP), the official management guide for a unit.

There is a series of steps in the development of an MFP. These include preparation of a Draft MFP, public review and comment, re-evaluation of the draft, and preparation of a Final MFP, followed by resolution of any problems and official release.

The district office can become involved during formulation of the plan. Once completed the plan is sent to the district office for execution and the Desert Planning Staff no longer has any control over it.

The MFP is the Bureau's official guide to future management decisions within a unit. It outlines management objectives for specific areas and resources within those units, and determines how these will be allocated.

An MFP is divided into "elements" including lands; geology, energy and minerals; range management and vegetation; watershed; recreation; cultural resources (in-

Aerial view of motorcycle scars from Barstow-Las Vegas motorcycle race

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BLM Gets Organic Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has at last received a clear mandate from Congress to manage the lands of the public domain. The mandate will allow for greater protection of sensitive areas like the California Desert. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (also called the "BLM Organic Act") pulls together the myriad of confusing and conflicting

laws formerly guiding the BLM, gives the agency the long overdue enforcement powers similar to other land management agencies, specifies a multiple use and sustained yield policy, and requires the study and interim protection of roadless areas over 5,000 acres. Congress has finally let BLM come of age.

Of special importance are provisions for the management of the California

desert (Section 601), added to the Act with the help of Rep. Shirley Pettis.

The Act specifically acknowledges several important points about the Desert. First, it states that the fragile desert ecosystem is "easily scarred and slowly healed." Second, it points to the "past inadequate Federal management authority, and third, it recognizes that the pressures of use particularly

recreational are rapidly increasing. In light of these and other considerations protective management direction is provided for the California Desert Conservation Area (as depicted in an April 1974 BLM map).

Following the principles of multiple use, sustained yield, and the maintenance of environmental quality, the California desert section of the Organic Act provides that:

-The Secretary of the Interior "shall prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the

public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area...before September 30, 1980"

-an interim program be executed to manage use and protect the public lands" and their resources now in danger of destruction..."

-a uniformed desert ranger force be created immediately

-a California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee be established within 60 days (by November 24, 1976) to help prepare and implement the long-range plan;

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Public Poll -- Revealing

In November 1975 the Bureau of Land Management contracted with Field Research Corporation to conduct a statewide public opinion poll on the California desert. The purpose of the survey was to obtain a better understanding of how people of the state feel about those areas.

Results of the poll, released earlier this year, may be surprising to many people who felt the desert had little interest to recreationists other than off-road vehicle users. In fact, just the opposite was shown to be true. There is an express demand for a variety of recreational activities with off-road vehicle enthusiasts comprising only a small minority. Further, survey results show a strong public concern for protecting and maintaining the Deserts ecology, wildlife, and scenic and historic features.

MOTORCYCLE MINORITY

The part of the survey that asked people which recreational activities they engage in or prefer on the California Desert gave results showing sightseeing and camping as the most popular. Motorcycling, jeeping, dunebugging and motorcycle racing accounted for few of the preferred activities, ranking 13th, 14th, 15th and

18th respectively. (See bar graph below). Motorcycling, apparently the most popular form of off-road vehicle activity, had a percentage response of 17, less than one-half of that shown for hiking and photography, and significantly less than for backpacking, horseback riding, or camping. In general, Northern Californians expressed much the same preference for various desert recreational activities as did Southern Californians.

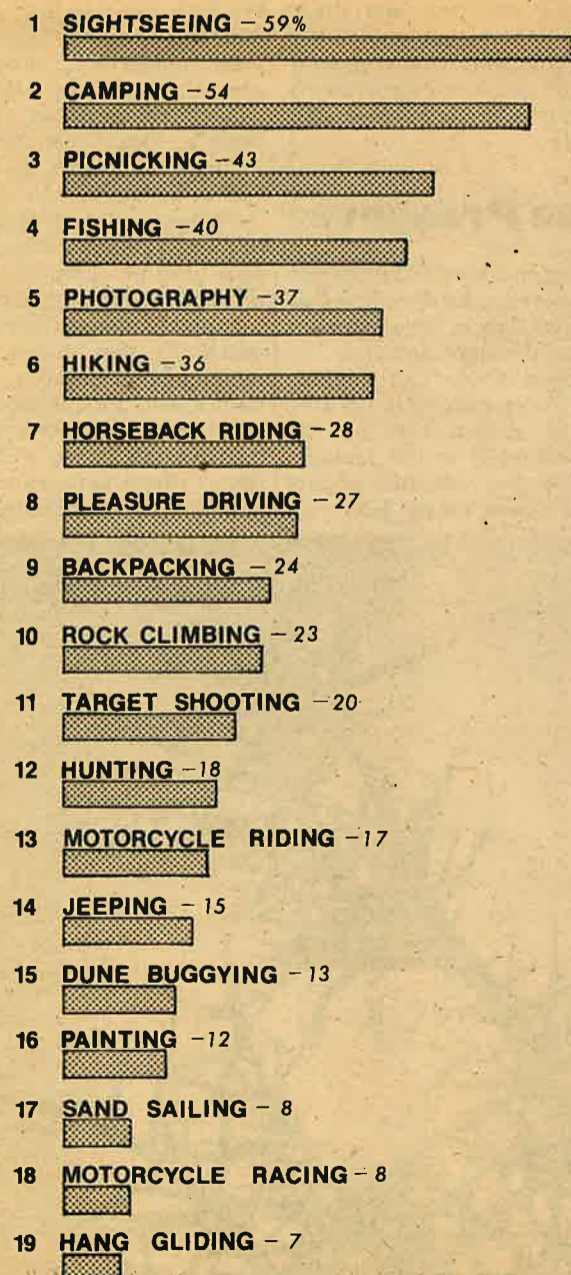
CONCERN FOR PROTECTION

In response to other questions Californians expressed strong protective sentiments regarding the California Desert. Ranked responses (see bar graph below) show that "more protection of wildlife and ecology" is the most important issue listed by Californians. "Protection of important historic areas and "less development of all kinds" are next as issues of citizen concern. Both Southern Californians and Northern Californians expressed the same concern for protecting desert integrity. Desert users and non-users alike, were strongly in favor of protection.

What this poll does in terms of redirecting BLM efforts remains to be seen. Current BLM appeasement of the small but well-organized minority of off-road vehicle users would have to change if management is to reflect public feelings. Whether this happens or not is dependent on citizen action by at least some of that majority reflected by the poll.

Q. Which of these activities, if any, you do or would like to do in the California Desert?

RESULTS



Q. From this list, select what you feel are the THREE MOST important issues regarding the California Desert - things you believe should have top priority?

Q. Which three are LEAST important?

RESULTS

(top 5 choices from list of 12 issues)

| MOST IMPORTANT | | |
|----------------|--|----|
| 1 | More protection of Desert wildlife and ecology | 54 |
| 2 | More protection of areas of historical importance | 39 |
| 3 | Less development of all kinds | 37 |
| 4 | More campgrounds | 29 |
| 5 | More control over recreational and other public uses | 22 |

| LEAST IMPORTANT | | |
|-----------------|--|----|
| 1 | More motels and eating places | 56 |
| 2 | More places for use of off-road vehicles | 45 |
| 3 | More places for organized recreation | 29 |
| 4 | More development of mineral resources | 19 |
| 5 | More roads and sightseeing places | 19 |



N. Hazard

ORVers Displace Other Recreationists

A recent article in *Parks and Recreation*, journal of the National Recreation and Parks Association, shows that off-road vehicle recreational activities conflict with non-mechanized forms of outdoor recreation. Off-roaders impair the enjoyment of other recreationists using the same area. Off-roaders may suppress use by other recreationists and displace them from certain areas.

In an intensive study of off-roaders and traditional recreationists, Dr. Robert Badaracco has developed a concept called the "ISD Syndrome" which consists of the progression from impairment of recreation at satisfaction to suppression of use and eventual displacement. Examples of the ISD Syndrome may be found nationally and on the California desert.

As brought out in the *Parks and Recreation* article, Lark Campground in San Diego County on the edge of the desert, was once used frequently by traditional outdoor recreationists campers and picnickers. Gradually the motorcyclists moved in, and the former recreationists left. Those who still come to Lark Campground complain about the noise, dust and commotion.

The Lark Campground situation is not unusual in the California Desert. Afton Canyon, once a favorite site of desert campers, has become an ORV park also. Dune-buggists and motorcyclists convene there on weekends in great numbers. Few other recreationists are found at Afton anymore. The hills have been scarred from uncontrolled motorcycle and dunebuggy play. The ISD Syndrome article explains that officials responsible for managing recreation areas must recognize the tendency for loud, mechanized, intrusive recreationists to drive others off. "Recreational demand" should thus not be measured solely by "participation" rates "at given site locations." The research points out that true demand must be determined by objective measurements of the public through surveys and public opinion polls. (See article on Statewide Public Opinion Poll.)





N. Hazard

Desert Scenery Different -- Fragile

Ben Turby, a self-admitted "character" and a "desert rat", says that the scenery of the California Desert is being rapidly destroyed. Turby came to the Mojave over forty years ago. "Then the desert was a wild land that stretched as far as the eye could see." There were no powerlines, fried chicken stands, and motorcyclists zooming all over the place. "Sure, a few miners like me left their scars but they are minor compared to the destruction going on today."

Desert scenery is exceptionally fragile. A tiny can in the open with nothing to hide it can be seen shimmering at a great distance. Mining scars on hillsides and ORV tracks on desert "pavement" are visible for miles. But this visibility and great feeling of expanse is basic to what constitutes the unique scenic beauty of the desert—a beauty that has attracted millions of sightseers, painters and photographers.

Fragile as it is, California desert scenery has deteriorated rapidly. ORV scars and the resulting loss of vegetation and erosion continue to mar more views. Litter is easily visible in heavy use areas and along roads. Powerlines have fragmented the once vast desert into small parcels, so that escaping from the influences of man once so easy has now become increasingly difficult.

What will the future

California Desert look like at this alarming rate of deterioration? That's a question that will not be hard to answer if our priorities in desert use are not reassessed.

The Bureau of Land Management which manages in trust to the American public a major portion of this scenic expanse, will play a significant part as it has in the past. Its policy of allowing unchecked consumptive oriented resource use without apparent consideration of the scenic resource, perhaps the desert's most popular aspect is exemplified by present conditions. (A recent public opinion poll in-

dedicated sightseeing to be the most popular recreation form, see article).

The future then, depends greatly on what priorities we embody and how they are expressed through BLM policy. Turby, who has lived most of his life in the California Desert, hasn't given much thought to the future here. He says his mining luck is about "played out" and he plans to head south into Mexico pretty soon. But unlike Ben, who will leave, the many future generations who live in and visit the California Desert may have to accept a desert that's been "played out".

DEATH VALLEY EXPANSION

Expansion of Death Valley National Monument has been proposed as a means of protecting several of the mountain ranges and valleys which are adjacent to the Monument. These potential additions are quite large, as can be seen on the map.

Eureka Valley with its sand dunes, and the surrounding mountain ranges contain several rare or endangered species of plants and animals.

The Saline Valley is one of the last primitive desert valley and mountain association where the impact of modern man is not in evidence. The Panamint Valley and surrounding

mountains contain warm and fresh springs with associated riparian vegetation, and many archaeological sites. The Panamint mountains are limestone and the flora and fauna show considerable Sierran influence. Deer are found there, for example.

The Owlhead Mountains to the south, and the Amargosa Range east of the Monument should also be added.

Most of the areas described above are roadless and therefore would enlarge and extend the potential wilderness within the Monument.

DESERT WILDERNESS

The wild lands of the California Desert await protection. The Bureau of Land Management Organic Act of 1976 and the Wilderness Act of 1964 provide the means, but those who love the desert must provide the energy.

Protection of wild lands will provide the opportunity for people to enjoy the serenity of the desert away from the noise and disruption of off-road vehicles. As use of the desert increases, these no-vehicles enclaves will become all the more valuable.

The desert contains a great variety of landforms, vegetation types and wildlife habitats, as well as archaeological and historic sites in which in combination, provide superlative potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), however has not established any wildernesses protected by the Wilderness Act on any of its lands. The BLM Organic Act of 1976 may change the situation. It directs the BLM to review all roadless areas over 5,000 acres and evaluate the potential for each to be included under the protection of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, the Organic Act provides some measure of protection for the roadless areas during

the 15 year review period.

This is a good opportunity for people to become involved in the protection of the desert. The Desert Planning Staff (DPS) at the Riverside Office of the BLM will likely be conducting the review. Wilderness supporters should make their views known to the DPS and the BLM in general.

Desert wildlands are remarkable for their strong contrasts. Broad expanses of olive green creosote scrub are abruptly interrupted by bare cliffs of desert mountain ranges. The heat and brightness of a desert wash is transformed into the green shade of a fan palm oasis. The base of a mountain supports a cactus garden; the top of the same mountain supports a white fir forest. The seemingly dead expanses of dry lakes come alive with delicate shrimp and other creatures when rare torrential rains fill them. The same rains clothe the broad expanses of sand and desert "pavement" with wildflowers. Wilderness will protect the land and the creatures.

The desert is alive and the struggle for survival is perhaps nowhere better seen. Plants and animals have been shaped by the strong forces of hot and cold, and wet and dry. Wilderness will provide the opportunity for this generation, and future generations of people to observe and

experience these forces.

Wilderness is one means of protecting rare and endangered endemic animals and plants. Wilderness protection might be given to the endemic insects of the Kelso Dunes, to the rare Mojave Ground Squirrel, and to the Little Kangaroo Mouse which lives only in the vicinity of the northern Eureka Valley.

Rare California palm oases, giant nolina, and the relic white fir forests could all be protected.

Wilderness protection may never be extended to the Desert Tortoise, which favors the broad, relatively flat expanses of desert scrub. Very few of the broad valleys of the desert remain untrampled. Special attention might be directed toward identifying remaining areas of this type which may still qualify as wilderness.

Wilderness is also one way to protect portions of the desert with sufficient appeal that they are often loaded in vehicles and removed the city. For example, cactus are disappearing at a prodigious rate. Petroglyphs, pictographs, and other prehistoric artifacts are likewise being lost.

No present federal Wildernesses except the recently enacted Joshua Tree Wilderness, protect any of the three desert types, the Sonoran, the Mojave, and the Great Basin, which make up the California Desert.

Isolated segments of each of these types can remain in near pristine condition of protection is forthcoming.

Desert wilderness will add much to the variety of wildlands available to Californians and others, and will insure that people will have places to go in the desert where nature and its forces still predominate.

Desert Tortoise Preserve

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee was established in June, 1974 to promote the welfare of the Desert Tortoise, the California State reptile. Its efforts have been specifically directed toward the establishment and protection of the Desert Tortoise Preserve, northeast of the town of Mojave.

Studies by desert zoologist Dr. Kristin Berry of the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Planning Staff have concluded that the tortoise is diminishing in numbers throughout the State of California.

The flat expanses of creosote bush favored by the tortoise are also favored by sheep grazers and off-road vehicle users.

At the urging of Dr. Berry and more than 200 other individuals and groups the BLM designated the Desert Tortoise Preserve and closed it to off-road vehicles.

There are still conflicts with off-road vehicle use in the area however. Many ORVers seem to feel that no areas should be closed to them, and they have concentrated their ORV play in the preserve area apparent-

ly in an attempt to eliminate the desire for the preserve. Several races have also been run through and near the preserve.

Sheep grazing in the area was supposed to be prohibited as of January, 1976 but whether or not

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Crucifixion - thorn

CALIFORNIA DESERT





ORV DESTRUCTION

Off-road vehicles are extremely damaging to desert soils, vegetation and wildlife. Soil is broken down, exposed and made subject to excessive erosion by wind and water.

Plant life is destroyed either directly by vehicles or indirectly by the erosional process, while wildlife suffers with the loss of plants.

Damage is so severe in many California Desert areas that rehabilitation is not likely to prove possible even if the desire exists, according to Howard Wilshire, a geologist with the U.S. Geologic Survey.

Similar conclusions are the results of recent investigations by scientists studying off-road vehicle impacts in the California Desert.

Wilshire states that there is no question that California deserts and those of adjoining states are suffering severe damage under the wheels of off-road vehicles. With the possible exception of certain types of dry lake deposits, all desert soils have proven vulnerable to vehicle damage. Even many kinds

of rocks offer little resistance to vehicle damage under prevalent use styles.

Damage from off-road vehicle use in the desert is particularly magnified by the types of fragile soils that occur there, he explains, and by the semi-arid climatic conditions.

The protective desert "pavement" (a crust formed from flat, tightly packed or partially cemented stones), although apparently sturdy on the surface, has in most cases an underlayer of extremely soft, spongy soil which is highly erodible when exposed. With the passing of any vehicle, motorcycle or larger, the "pavement" is easily broken. From there the erosional processes accelerate.

Plant life in such arid desert regions is commonly so fragile that a single vehicle crossing is sufficient to destroy it. With harsh climatic conditions limiting the rate of plant regeneration, this seriously extends exposure of the soil to destructive erosion.

Wilshire adds "that the

desert soils vary in their resistance to vehicle breakdown, but enormous areas are being used sufficiently to cause damage that will be very slow to heal, much of which may never recover to its former state." Of particular note are the many truly ancient desert landforms being under the wheel and not likely to ever return.

In investigating the destructive process that of a hobbled wheel designed to excavate as well as provide locomotion rolling across the earth at least three things normally happen. Each of these are contributive to the resulting destruction. These are:

1. **soil compaction**- This, the most damaging of all effects, increases run off by reducing ability of soil to absorb water, thereby increasing erosion potential. Compaction, "often to hardnesses comparable to unpaved roads" likewise reduces the soil's suitability for plant regeneration.

2. **the soil is sheared horizontally**- The cause of plant stripping and dust. This process removes the natural barriers to erosion.

3. **mechanical erosion**- Part of which becomes airborne and part of which is displaced downslope. The familiar dust plume emanating from the wheels of ORV's causes soil loss and plant damage in a larger area. This occurs as dust is deposited on plants, affecting their health and vigor. In such harsh growing conditions as the desert such effects can be the difference in survival.

Wilshire adds that "it is popular to suggest that sand dunes can absorb vehicle impact and quickly become restored through the action

of the wind. It is, however, important to realize that a dune system is far more than a pile of loose sand on the surface; here is a whole complex of interior and peripheral soil assemblages, land surface types, and life systems that exist solely or mainly because of the presence of the dunes. Hence, while it may be true that at least the aesthetic qualities of the dunes proper are restored by wind, this is not true of the interior and peripheral soils that are stabilized by plants and other natural covers. These, in all of the dune systems that have had prolonged vehicle use, clearly show serious degradation and surface scars that will remain for very long periods of time."

To appreciate the scope of the entire problem is should be realized that current estimates of motorcycle numbers, of which two-thirds are designed for off-road use, are between 9 - 12 million. To this must be added the rapidly growing numbers of four-wheel-drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles, dune buggies and an astonishing variety of other motorized devices used off the roads. Studies to date indicate that the average minimum visible scar left by a single motorcycle is such that less than 20 miles of travel affects an acre of land. This distance for typical four-wheel-drive vehicles is less than 6 miles. Thus, if roughly two million motorcycles and one million four-wheel off-road vehicles in California lined up in the desert they would have to drive a straight line distance of only 60 miles to impact all 16 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land.

ORV DAMAGE MAP

A map showing the extent of off-road vehicle damage is available for public scrutiny at the Desert Planning Staff in Riverside. This Map demonstrates that heavy vehicle use is occurring in areas other than

those designated "open to vehicle use" by the BLM California Desert Vehicle Program. For more information, contact Neil Pfulb, Director of the Desert Planning Staff.



The consequences of these daily changes are staggering. Even if one chooses to ignore loss of the intrinsic values of the desert, the human consequences of this use would not appear any more acceptable: the destruction and loss of the soil mantle creates a true wasteland in which the quality of life for those who have chosen to live in and near the desert, and those who may be forced to live there is the future, is impaired by the increased rate of erosion;

the problems of water, the most critical human residence problem, is exacerbated by the harsh modifications of the hydrologic system; and possible future needs of the desert environment, for example solar power plants, may be jeopardized by destabilizing the surface and promoting erosion. To this must be added the losses counted by those who appreciate the desert because it is the desert.

ICMP - Really ORV Fun Guide

The Interior Critical Management Plan (ICMP) is the Bureau of Land Management's map to guide off-road vehicle use on the California Desert. It is a guide, a guide to minimal protection and maximal off-road vehicular fun by dune buggies, motorcyclists and other off-rollers.

The ICMP, produced around 1972 and only slightly modified since by the Bureau, provides for "open" type use (ORV use unrestricted by any roads or trails) on about 8-10 per cent of BLM administered lands. Considerably less land has been "closed" to all vehicular use.

Continuing with ICMP designations, there are the categories "existing roads and trails" and "designated roads and trails." "Existing roads and trails" is defined in such a way that almost any readily apparent track in the desert is a road. It also allows free use of washes, woods and dune systems and any other area where "nature obliterates evidence of prior use." As yet, there are no designated road and trail areas in the desert and until such time, these areas revert to the "existing roads and trails" class. Complicated? Read on.

On top of all this are the "giant asterisks". The ICMP is studded with these asterisks which superim-

pose competitive racing areas on top of other designations. For example, an "existing road and trail" area becomes a racing area if it is marked with an asterisk. There are dozens of these asterisks all over the ICMP map. Totally confused? There's still more.

"Special Design" areas are scattered blue splotches on the ICMP which are scheduled to be studied and accorded other designations. Until such time, they automatically revert to "existing roads and trails". Interestingly, many, if not more, of the special design areas are currently popular play areas with the ORV crowd.

Finally, if you read all the fine print in this utterly incomprehensible plan, you will find a provision that enduro racing (time trial motorcycling racing) is permitted on yes, you guessed it "existing roads and trails."

The ICMP designations are one thing and what is actually happening out on the desert is quite another. There are far more areas being used by cross-country off-rollers, motorcycle riders and dune buggies than are shown on the ICMP plan. Reports to CWC by observers very familiar with the desert indicate extensive use and damage of desert resources by off-rollers far beyond what one would expect from just looking at the ICMP.



ORV scars on dry lake bed. Will nature erase these in our lifetime?



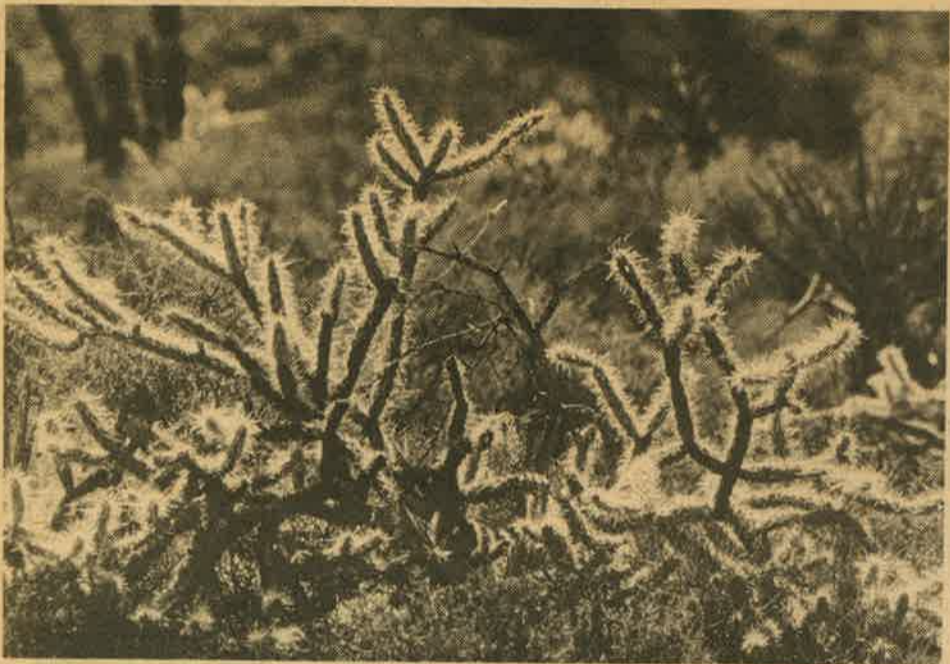
U.S.G.S.

WRITE CARTER

Now is an excellent time to write president-elect Carter urging him to appoint good, environmentally sensitive people to his administration. Letters to this effect can have a tremendous impact on his selections.

Urge him, in your own words, to appoint environmentalists, particularly

to Secretary of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). You could cite the problems with the California Desert and BLM mismanagement as examples. Also, you may want to add that you hope he continues to maintain a good environment record when he becomes president.



Groups Working to Save the Calif. Desert

Audubon Society
1105 North Hollister
Pasadena, CA 91104

Riverside Chapter
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1023
Riverside, CA 92502

The Nature Conservancy
P.O. Box 60616
Terminal Annex
Los Angeles, CA 90060

San Bernardino Valley Audubon
P.O. Box 21
Running Springs, CA 92382

California Wilderness Coalition
Box 429
Davis, CA 95616

Desert Bighorn Council
U.S. Naval Weapons Center
China Lake, CA 93555

The Wilderness Society
729 15th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Desert Protective Council
Box 4294
Palm Springs, CA 92262

High Desert Environmental
Defense Fund
P.O. Box 193
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

California Native Plant Society
2380 Ellsworth
Berkeley, CA

A Closer look at the Eureka Dunes Victory

The story of the effort which led to the headlines "Eureka Dunes Closed to Vehicles" is a tribute to the initiative and ingenuity of the individuals involved. Similar stories could be told about the establishment of Anza-Borrego State Park, an effort spearheaded by members of the Desert Protective Council, or the protection of Joshua Tree National Monument, achieved by concerned individuals and groups in Southern California.

Each victory achieved by people who value keeping our natural wonders intact over those who would consume all of these wonders, has a story.

This article presents the ideas and techniques of the people who gave their time and effort to protect the Eureka Dunes from destructive uses.

Four people deserve special recognition: Mary DeDecker, a botanist from Independence, Grace and Rolin Enfield, from Bishop, and Genny Schumacher Smith, a writer from Palo Alto.

There are several interesting characteristics of the effort to save the Eureka Dunes.

First, the impetus and initial energy came from the efforts of a few individuals. Each decided the Dunes deserved protection from ORV use and that enough other people felt the same way.

The second characteristic was the perseverance of those involved. Despite an initial defeat at the BLM district level, they continued their efforts and were finally successful.

The techniques used to influence the decision to close Eureka Dunes to ORVs are instructive.

Genny Smith suggests several general guidelines for action.

Build a good case. Obtain facts and document them. Be sure they are accurate. Underestimate if necessary, but never exaggerate.

Try to discover which arguments will persuade "them."

Search for support anywhere and everywhere.

The supporters of the Eureka Dunes built a very strong case. They avoided arguments such as "It's unique," "The ecology is fragile," or "The ecology ought to be preserved," not

because they weren't true, but because they were difficult to substantiate.

They built their case around a few substantial arguments. Genny Smith tells the story:

"One of our most powerful arguments for closure of Eureka Sand Dune to ORVs was based on the supply and demand of desert sand dune. (In the early stages of our campaign, we didn't know or even care what the supply and demand were. But as we gathered material and figures, it suddenly became clear that we had an overwhelming argument by the tail.)

Our argument was simple but powerful: There are only ten sand dunes of significance on BLM desert lands in California. The demand for recreation at a desert dune comes from two basic groups of people, the off-road vehicle enthusiasts and the people I call The Lookers—the campers, picnickers, sightseers, hikers, birdwatchers, photographers, artists, and all those others who will drive hundreds of miles to find a beautiful and unusual place. The Lookers far outnumber the ORV enthusiasts, by 10 to 1 at least. How is the limited supply allocated to fit these demands? Exactly opposite to what it should be! Of the ten desert sand dunes, eight are open to ORVs and only one (Kelso Dune near Baker) is closed to ORVs and thus available for The Lookers to enjoy."

Another argument centered around the scientific and educational value of the Dunes. They developed figures which showed substantial use of the Dunes by school and university classes. Many scientists from all over the country wrote and substantiated their claims of the scientific importance of the Dunes.

Many supporters and potential supporters of the Eureka Dunes closure were identified. The ability to identify which of the carefully substantiated arguments would best persuade the potential supporters and decision-makers was crucial to success.

They gained the support of many individuals, groups, and governmental bodies. A partial list includes the

Inyo County Board of Supervisors, botanical and scientific institutions from as far away as New York, the Inyo County Planning Commission, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Support came from unexpected sources also. For example, Congressman Ketchum is not a strong environmentalist. He was, however, persuaded to issue a strong statement in favor of closing the Dunes. Ketchum seemed most persuaded by the public use survey.

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors was most interested in the potential recreational uses of the Dunes and the effect of alternatives used on the large and economically important recreation industry of the county.

Scientists and teachers were interested in the variety and rarity of the geologic and biologic attributes of the Dunes.

The supporters of the Eureka Dunes closure successfully addressed the wide range of concerns of the people and groups interested in the Dunes.

The effort to persuade people included many public presentations. Successful presentations were carefully prepared. Presentations were brief, simple, but powerfully clear and understandable. Smith says that arguments were graphically presented, utilizing large posters. Graphics force simplification, and that is important, according to Genny.

Genny Smith summarizes the lessons to be learned from the successful effort to protect the Eureka Dunes:

"Whatever controversy you are in, you will usually find that both sides have only a handful of people that carry the load of planning and organizing and speaking in public. That's all that it takes, if that handful is willing to knock themselves out, to work incredible hours, to look at themselves and realize what they **don't** know, to find experts who **do** know and will help, to acquire political know-how, and to take advantage of the lucky breaks that almost always come along."

The absence of wheel tracks on the Eureka Dunes is mute testimony to the success of the effort, plus hundreds of people who worked for a worthwhile goal.

Desert Protective Council

The desert protective council was established in 1954 to safeguard for wise and reverent use those desert areas that are of scenic, scientific, historical,

spiritual, and recreational values. It also seeks to educate children and adults, by all appropriate means, to a better understanding of the desert.

The Council has secured greater enforcement in protecting desert flora from exploitation, and consistently supports acquisition of outstanding desert sites by California and various county parks departments.

East Mojave

cont. from pg. S-1

A part of the Providence Mountains, which contains the Mitchell limestone caverns is currently a state recreation area.

The scenery of the eastern Mojave is as varied as can be found anywhere.

Outstanding geologic formations attract the eye and interest of visitors; jagged peaks and broad valleys, dunes and red cinder cones, cliffs and mesas, the broad expanse of an intermittent lake and the confines of a river canyon. The Cima Dome still mystifies scientists studying its origin.

The Kelso Dunes appeal not only to the eye of the visitor but also to the ear. They are "singing dunes." That is to say, the sands squeak, whistle, whine and rumble when set into motion by the wind.

The vegetation of the eastern Mojave reflects the mixing of three major desert vegetation types: The Mojave, the Sonoran and the Great Basin. Other relic populations of plants reflecting other influences also occur. For example, at the summit of Clark Mountain is a relic white fir forest, occurring unexpectedly only a few miles from one of the finest cactus gardens in the desert. In the canyons of the New York Mountains there are plants more characteristic of coastal California: oak, Ceanothus, manzanita, and silk tassel.

The great variety of vegetation types provides habitat for an astonishing number of animals. Forty-seven species of mammals, 206 species of birds, and thirty-six species of reptiles have been observed, as well as uncounted numbers of species of insects.

The mountains support

populations of deer, porcupines, mountain lions and bighorn sheep. Golden eagles, owls and hummingbirds are frequently seen.

Creosote bush scrub supports the desert tortoise, California's state reptile.

The Kelso dunes support a variety of animals, including the Mojave Fringetoe lizard, adapted for burrowing in sand. A study of these dunes has revealed that they support three species of insects found nowhere else in the world.

Perhaps the finest "birding" in the desert is in the Ft. Piute area, the site of a rare desert oasis. Over 80 species of birds find sustenance there.

Historical and archeological sites are found throughout the eastern Mojave.

The historic Mojave Road (circa 1853-59) traversed the area from east to west, and much of the original track can still be seen. Fort Piute was an army outpost and relay station in the late 1860's. Relics of early mining efforts still remain. The historic town of Kelso is within the area. Parts of 4 early railroads crossed the eastern Mojave and evidence of their presence can still be seen.

The number and variety of archeological sites is astounding. As many as 15,000 sites may be found. These include pictographs, petroglyphs, a pre-historic village, campsites, milling sites.

A brief cataloging of the superlative features of the eastern Mojave does not do it justice. Protection of the area as a National Park and the establishment of wilderness areas would be a fitting tribute to the "Gem of the Desert."



BLM Planning

cont. from pg. S-2

cluding archaeology and history), and wildlife. For each element, at least one map is usually presented to show the location of specific resources, sensitivity of a resource, and/or use designations if appropriate. Each of these element subject areas is addressed as to "priorities" and "decisions" and is followed by a rationale for each.

It is stated by the BLM that each plan is dynamic and will be reviewed and amended as necessary to reflect new conditions.

Planning for the Yuha Unit is complete. The El Paso-Red Mountain (joint unit) MFP has received public comment and the Final report will be issued soon. The East Mojave Unit is now in the Draft preparation stage and is expected to be released in January 1977.

You can get your name on a mailing list to receive Draft and Final MFPs for planning units. Write to the Desert Planning Staff and ask to be on the list. If you are

particularly interested in East Mojave or in another unit, say so.

Public involvement is an essential part of BLM planning. Those who participate influence decisions on the allotment and use of resources. It is of the greatest importance that individuals who care about the California Desert make their views known.

Aside from letter responses to formal planning documents, there is a citizens advisory board for each district, established for the purpose of seeking public sentiment on BLM matters. This is the Multiple Use Advisory Board, appointed by the State Director. The Board serves as a go-between for the public and the District Office staff. It holds public meetings for this purpose.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the BLM is available at all times for your comments. If you are concerned about any issue, do not hesitate to write, call, or visit the office to express your views.

Organic Act

cont. from pg. S-2

-National Forest and U.S. military land adjacent to the Area be managed in a compatible manner with these protective provisions. In addition, a maximum of

\$40 million was appropriated for fiscal years 1977 through 1981 to carry out the purposes of the desert section of the Act.

Clauses which tend to weaken the Conservation Area legislation allow continuance of ORV use, but only where "appropriate," and allow mineral exploration and exploitation.

The Organic Act, particularly the Desert Conservation Area section, promises a better future for our public lands.

This insert was prepared by Jim Trumbly and Tom Jopson with the assistance of Fred Gunsby, Sari Som-

Aerial views of ancient Indian intaglios made by scrapping aside surface layer of darkened pebbles. Many have been damaged by ORVs. One shown here partially damaged before protective fencing installed.



Where to Write

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA

Riverside District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA

Neil B. Pfulb
Desert Planning Staff
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA

Bakersfield District
800 Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA

Senator Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C.

Write: Your Representative
House Office Building
Washington D.C.

Write the CWC, we can
and will keep you informed
on the desert.



Many scars shown here were made by General Patton's training operations in the 1940's.

Tortoise Preserve

cont. from pg. S-4

grazing has actually stopped is uncertain.

In December, 1975 the BLM received an appropriation of \$135,000.00 for management and development of the preserve. The funds have been used for fencing, protection and patrol, interpretive displays and land appraisals.

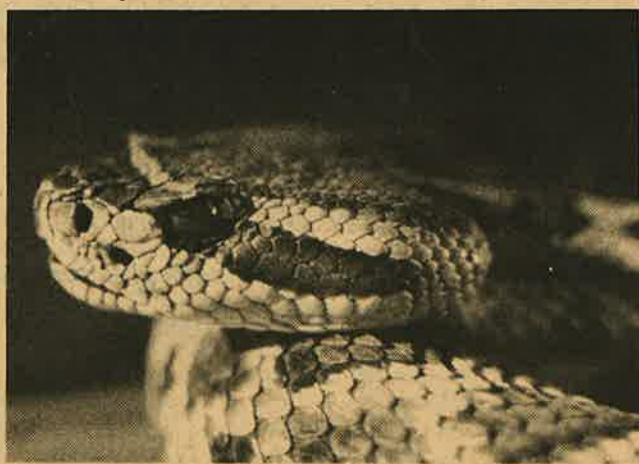
Portions of the Preserve are in private ownership. The BLM may exchange some parcels for land outside the preserve. In addition, the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee plans to purchase other private lands.

The Preserve is within the BLM's Red Mountain-El Paso planning area.

The Final Management Framework Plan for the area was supposed to have been made public by July, 1976 but it has not yet appeared. The Plan is to establish an ORV open area near or

adjacent to the Preserve, increasing conflict over its use. The habitat of California's state reptile, the Desert Tortoise, is diminishing as use of the desert increases.

You can help protect the tortoise by presenting your views forcefully to the BLM as often as the opportunity arises. You should also contact the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee.



N. Hazard