

COMPLIMENTARY
COPY



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 1

P.O. Box 429, DAVIS, Ca. 95616

January-February 1977

No. 6



Wilderness Workshop held in 1976. More are planned for 1977.

Our First Year

A Summary by President Jim Eaton

The California Wilderness Coalition celebrates its first birthday this month. During its first year, the CWC grew from an idea to a Statewide organization uniting hundreds of individuals, groups, and businesses. It was an exciting year for wilderness, with dozens of "brushfires" fought to protect wildlands from development and with the designation of four new wilderness areas and two wilderness study areas.

What role did the CWC play in last year's battles? It would not be honest, of course, for the Coalition to take credit for successes that involved literally thousands of people. For many of these areas, however, the margin of victory was so little that we might not have won if our combined efforts had been less effective.

The California Wilderness Coalition accomplished several things not done previously. Five editions of the **Wilderness Record** brought the issues and threats facing California's wild lands to Statewide attention. In addition, four supplements to the newspaper focused detailed attention on subjects of vital concern to supporters of wilderness:

- an inventory of California's existing and potential wilderness areas, including a map, and information about how our public land agencies are (or are not) protecting wildlands;

- a guide to citizen involvement in Forest Service planning showing the unit plans that affect roadless areas and their

timetables;

- a review of the proposed Siskiyou wilderness, a roadless area facing imminent destruction; and

- a detailed report on the critical situation facing our desert wild lands, prepared with the assistance of the Desert Protective Council.

The Coalition set up an inventory of the interests and skills of California wilderness supporters in order to increase the effectiveness of our wilderness movement. Special alerts are sent to people who have indicated an interest in a particular area. Those offering volunteer help are contacted personally.

(This information is compiled from answers to 2 "Wilderness Activists Questionnaire." If you did not receive a questionnaire or have misplaced it, drop the CWC a note.)

Among the special wilderness alerts prepared and/or distributed by the CWC were flyers on Joshua Tree, Kaiser Ridge, Mineral King, Siskiyou Mountains, Truckee-Little Truckee, Rancheria Creek, and Little Kern. Many of these alerts were made possible by the background information provided by member organizations of the CWC. These timely, factual alerts helped to inform wilderness supporters of administrative or legislative decisions being made concerning these particular areas.

The Coalition helped sponsor two wilderness workshops during 1975 - a statewide wilderness workshop at Donner Sum-

mit and a training session for people interested in the proposed Granite Chief Wilderness.

The CWC was represented in Congress. The Coalition used a special donation to send a local witness to testify in favor of the proposed Snow Mountain wilderness. A CWC representative testified on behalf of the Pt. Reyes wilderness before the House Interior Committee.

All of the above was done on the Coalition's limited first-year budget without paid staff.

The CWC did not suddenly arrive on the scene as the sole protector of California wilderness; it acted as a catalyst. Hundreds of individuals and organizations were already working to save wilderness in California. The CWC has helped to unite these people, and it has provided statewide support for individual wilderness efforts. CWC work could not continue without your help and support. What about 1977? With your continual support in 1977, the CWC will:

- publish six issues of the **Wilderness Record**;

- publish three or four special supplements on specific areas or topics;

- prepare wilderness alerts as needed throughout the year;

- conduct a series of regional wilderness workshops in the State, especially in Southern California, as well as a State Workshop;

- continue to build a coalition of businesses, groups, and individuals who support wilderness;

- research and publish background information on various wilderness proposals; and

- take an active part supporting both State and Federal legislation designating California's wild lands as wilderness.

It will take a lot of effort to accomplish these goals. We need your active support and involvement. The CWC will continue its determined efforts to save California Wilderness.

Members Are Important

The California Wilderness Coalition is a membership organization. Its funds, activities, and accomplishments depend on the efforts of members.

We need more members and more membership involvement if we are to continue to grow and expand our efforts on behalf of wilderness preservation.

If you are not a member, please consider joining. For nominal dues you will receive **Wilderness Record**, the only statewide newspaper in California that regularly concentrates on wilderness issues.

Free sample copies of the **Record** are sent all over the state to be displayed where wilderness users will see them. Perhaps that is how you got this copy. But this service cannot continue unless a significant portion of those who pick up these free samples contribute their ongoing support by becoming members.

Your membership dues also support the research and political work of the Coalition: monitoring agencies, lobbying, uncovering the facts about the extent and nature of our remaining wilderness, organizing local groups and educating their leaders. Other articles in this issue describe the accomplishments of the Coalition in this, our first year, as well as showing where the money from members has gone.

If you are a member, could you find a way to help a little more? How about an additional donation above basic dues? (We greatly appreciate the many individuals who have already done so).

One of our members proposes a "pay as you go" plan. He suggests that every time we enjoy wilderness, both those areas which have been protected through the efforts of others in the past, and those areas yet to be saved, we put aside a small sum - say fifty cents or one dollar - to be donated to the wilderness preservation cause (specifically the Coalition). A "wilderness tax" of one dollar is only a small amount compared to the costs of equipment and transportation for our wilderness trips. But if everyone taxed himself in this way it could amount to a substantial sum to help preserve wilderness for our own use and that of others in the future.

Maybe you could encourage a friend to join. Recycle this newspaper or send us his or her name and address and we will be happy to send a sample copy of the **Wilderness Record**. Or how about a gift membership?

You can also make a gift to your whole community. We are anxious to get **Wilderness Record** into public or school libraries where many people can see it and learn about

wilderness issues in California. For five dollars (special library rate) you could send a year's worth of the **Record** to a library of your choice.

You might want to let your local library know your intentions first, then send its address along with the five dollars and we will take care of the rest!

Many members have volunteered their time and talents in response to our membership questionnaire.

We are grateful for their response and will be following up on these generous offers.

You will find a membership form on this page. Please make use of it if you can, for yourself or as a gift. The more members we have, and the more funds, time, and energies which come from those members, the greater our combined effectiveness will be in saving California's wilderness.

California Wilderness Coalition P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616

☐ Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for first-year membership dues.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

ANNUAL DUES:†

(Note: one dollar of annual dues supports the *Wilderness Record*)

Individual	\$ 6
Low-income individual	3
Patron	500
Non-profit organization	25
Sponsor (business)	*

† not tax deductible
* will be individually established

100

FORUM

By Ruth C. Douglas

Wilderness User Fees

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.

Whatever our views on population, it is - or so it appears to me - undeniable that population increase and freedom are in inverse ratio - as the one goes up the other goes down.

As freedom declines so do those things which are "free" - as we call whatever we use without putting out some form of payment for it.

If we look back in the history of Western civilization we may note that for the Greek philosopher Aristotle "distributive justice does not concern itself with water and air for these are in such abundance that they belong to all men..." It is a long time now since we have had "water rights" in these United States and as for air, if it is to be breathable we are all aware that it is no longer for free. In this context how is it that we who use wilderness can continue to expect to use it free of all charge or cost?

When the wilderness permit came into use in many wilderness areas (first on the West Coast but now in other parts of the country as wilderness use increases) this was the first sign that wilderness was no longer to be used without some form of control - indeed without some form of control many

use areas would no longer be wilderness. Administration of wilderness areas obviously costs dollars and cents. Although most of us are, I think, not in favor of adding trails, yet existing trails must be maintained and in certain areas where ORV users ride right up to wilderness boundaries on their trail bikes wilderness perimeters should be patrolled to keep them out. But funds are scarce both for trail maintenance and for wilderness protective patrols. Yet wilderness permits are still given out without cost to us, the wilderness user.

I wonder if this free use of wilderness can continue very much longer if we want our wilderness to remain wild, to remain wilderness.

A system of voluntary contributions towards wilderness maintenance may, I think, be ruled out once and for all. We have tried this with various means but with unvarying lack of success in regard to the "non-consumptive use" (as official jargon has it) of wildlife. The amount of money collected is pitifully inadequate to do the job and the "consumptive" users of wildlife (hunters, trappers, fishermen) can point a triumphant finger at us. Their contributions through all sorts of license fees is so great that the Department of Fish and Game will continue to be

administered with the consumptive user in the driver's seat. Now there is talk of a bill to be introduced at the national level by Senator Gary Hart of Colorado which would fund protection of non-game animals and birds through a ten percent excise tax on backpacking and photographic equipment. Predictably - and sadly - the retailers of such equipment are said to be protesting...

Meanwhile in a midwestern state ORV users put up cash for trails destined for bike use while hikers push for a "free" trail system for themselves. Guess whose trails are getting first attention and priority? This, I think, is what we must consider when we instinctively reject the idea of paying out of our pockets for wilderness and wilderness use. Let us leave aside - for the present - the manner in which we are to assess ourselves - paid wilderness permits or other methods - let us begin by admitting that in accepting - perhaps even being the first to suggest it to the authorities (Forest Service, BLM, etc.), we will gain respect and influence for our cause.

If we want to continue to have wild areas - just as if we want to continue to have wild animals that are not game animals - we are going to have to pay for them in dollars and cents.



Highland Creek Valley in Carson-Iceberg. Proposed raising of Spicer Mdw. Reservoir would flood into this area.

Dam Menaces Carson-Iceberg

As if the New Melones project weren't enough of an insult, the besieged Stanislaus River now faces five more proposed dams. The Calaveras County Water District intends to enlarge or construct a new series of dams on the North Fork of the Stanislaus. One of the dams would cause the flooding of three miles of the Carson Iceberg Wilderness Study Area.

Besides the staircase reservoirs and powerhouses, the CCWD project would convert 28 miles of river and tributaries into 18 miles of tunnels. Transmission lines and tunnels would pass through Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Funding for the project would come from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Several public hearings were held in December prior to a decision on whether or not SMUD should get involved in the first stages of the \$400 million project.

River and wilderness supporters turned out in force at a December 2 hearing. The SMUD auditorium was filled, as were an overflow hearing room and chairs set out in the lobby so that latecomers had to sit out in an adjoining walkway. Almost all of the speakers in the six-hour hearing gave detailed testimony against the water project.

A statement by the California Wilderness Coalition pointed out that any decisions to proceed with

the Spicer Meadows Reservoir portion of the project would be illegal until the wilderness study for the Carson Iceberg area is finished. Forest Service regulations prohibit actions that would change a study area's wilderness characteristics prior to completion of a study.

The Environmental Report issued for the project glosses over the impact the reservoir would have on Carson Iceberg. It suggests that since only 175 acres of the 134,000 acre study area would be flooded, the degree to which the reservoir would detract to the "overall" quality of the area would be "minimal." Con-

servationists, however, believe that the impact of a three-mile long artificial lake would be substantial, even if only 175 acres of the Carson Iceberg would actually be under water.

While the battle at present is over whether or not SMUD will fund the project, conservationists

throughout the State should be aware that the dam builders have added to the threats facing this magnificent proposed wilderness. Other hazards to Carson Iceberg include logging, ski development, highway routing, off-road-vehicle use, and overgrazing. The fight to save this popular roadless area is just beginning.

Disney at Independence Lake

Many of you will recall back in the summer of 1974 the announcement of a joint venture between Walt Disney Productions, Southern Pacific Land Company, and Sierra Pacific Power and Independence Lake for the development of a year round recreational resort. Apparently frustrated with the setbacks at Mineral King, Disney was looking for an alternative development.

Disney first had to wait for the Tahoe National Forest's Truckee-Little Truckee Unit plan to be completed because most of the land he

wishes to develop as ski area is under public ownership. With this plan acknowledging year round recreational development for the Independence Lake - Mt. Lola area, Disney was off and running again.

The latest production by Disney is a mammoth copyrighted environmental assessment document which is available for public review at the Sierra County Planning Department, the Truckee Ranger Station of the Forest Service, the Forest Supervisors office in Nevada City, and the Forest

Service Regional office in S.F.

Disney's next step will be to file for a zoning change with the Sierra County Planning Commission. This will initiate environmental proceedings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with Sierra County as the lead agency. This will also initiate the development of federal EIS developed by the Forest Service.

If this development is to be stopped, now is the time to prepare. Stay tuned for further developments.

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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.

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE RECORD

The following list of Supplements was published in Volume 1 of the Wilderness Record. Those desiring back issues should write the CWC. A small donation to cover postage would be appreciated.

Issue

1. THE STATE OF WILDERNESS (contains a map of all California roadless areas)
2. FOREST SERVICE PLANNING - A Guide to Citizen Involvement
3. no supplement
4. THE SISKIYOU - Logger's Boots in Bigfoot Country
5. DESERT DEADLINE - The Fight to Save the California Desert

AN OVERSIGHT

The striking illustration of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. which appeared on the cover page of our November-December issue was done by Michael Nolasco, a member of CWC.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual business meeting of the California Wilderness Coalition will be held at 10 am, February 5th, at 1707 Baywood Lane in Davis. All members are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the CWC.

Coalition Sponsors

The following outdoor sports businesses have joined the California Wilderness Coalition as sponsor members. We would like to thank them for their support of California wildlands. We encourage CWC members to patronize these companies that support wilderness. We appreciate their support and encourage other outdoor sports businesses to join the wilderness movement.

Thank you:

Alpine Products - Sacramento
Great Pacific Iron Works - Ventura
Mountain Travel - Berkeley
Alpine Supply - Davis
Wilderness Press - Berkeley

THE COMING CONGRESS

The upcoming 95th Congress will consider a wide range of wilderness issues including a new Endangered American Wilderness Bill, Alaska Parks and Wilderness legislation, and hopefully, bills to protect a number of threatened wilderness areas in California.

Last year, Congress gave wilderness protection to portions of Point Reyes National Park, Joshua Tree and Pinnacles National Monuments, and Kaiser Wilderness in Sierra National Forest. In addition, we got wilderness studies for Snow Mountain and Sheep Mountain.

Many of the California accomplishments in Congress were due to the work of Senator Alan Cranston and Representatives John Krebs and Shirley Pettis. Fortunately, all are back in the 95th Congress.

The fate of wilderness in California and other states could hinge in part on who is next chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The Interior Committees of both House and Senate are responsible for wilderness legislation. With the retirement of the former chairman, our own Congressman Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson is next in line for Chair of the House Committee. (His is the huge First Congressional District stretching from Roseville to Yreka). Although Bizz supported a wilderness study at Snow Mountain, he strongly opposed Kaiser and other wilderness, and is generally considered a senior spokesman for the timber and mining interests on the

committee. However, with Congressman Jim Wright taking the Majority Leader's position, Bizz also has an opportunity to be Chairman of Public Works. According to House rules, he can't be chairman of both, and if he chooses Public Works, Morris Udall will most likely assume the Interior Committee chairmanship. Udall is one of the most outspoken conservationists on Capitol Hill, and was the leading sponsor of the Endangered Wilderness Bill in the last Congress. A Udall-led Interior Committee could be expected to have an outstanding record of wilderness preservation.

Congressman Harold "Bizz" Johnson has decided to seek the Chairmanship of the House Public Works Committee. The position opened up when Rep. Jim Wright of Texas, won the contest for majority leader of the House. By abandoning any claim to the top Interior post, Johnson opened the door for Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., to take over the chairmanship of that Committee. Conservationists are looking forward to a productive two years on important wilderness legislation.

California conservationists are hoping for legislative action on the following critical areas in the coming Congress:

Siskiyou. This superb 200,000-acre wildland in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties is constantly under threat of logging and roads. A concerted effort by

local conservation groups and the Sierra Club together with Indian groups fighting to preserve sacred lands has held off most of the threats so far. However, prompt Congressional action is imperative to save this area.

Golden Trout: The 240,000-acre potential wilderness includes the Kern Plateau and native habitat for Golden Trout. U.S. Forest Service plans include logging for much of the area.

Yolla Bolly Additions: Two additions to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness on the north and west totaling 49,000 acres are proposed by citizen conservationists. This wildland includes the Middle Fork of the Eel with its fragile summer steelhead runs, and the Big Butte roadless area administered by BLM. Many of the proposed additions were once part of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness, but were cut out by the Forest Service in the 1950's.

Granite Chief. This outstanding wild area west of the Lake Tahoe Basin also needs Congressional protection. Forest Service plans are to log much of the Southern portion. The Forest Service has failed to act on a Southern Pacific Land Company request for exchange of their checkerboard inholdings.

Marble Mountain Additions: We have a chance to add almost 100,000 acres to the Marble Mountain Wilderness, with the help of the Congress. Although the Forest Service has slated 67,000 acres for wilderness study, some 30,000 are left unprotected.

Kings River: The superb 125,000-acre proposed Kings River Wilderness is dominated by the canyons of the Kings River east of Fresno. Forest Service plans logging for the scenic Rancheria Creek portion.

Santa Lucia: After three sessions of Congress (six years of bill introductions) conservationists are hoping for action this year on this 21,500-acre area on Los Padres National Forest near San Luis Obispo.

National Park Wilderness: The situation with regard to Congressional action on park wilderness is somewhat uncertain. Bills have been introduced in previous Congresses for Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park wilderness which reflect both Park Service and citizen proposals. Action on Yosemite wilderness will most likely await final outcome of the master plan process. However, a Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness bill could move this year.

Redwood National Park: Outlook is good for hearings on bills to expand the park boundaries. Hopefully the buck-passing between federal and state agencies will stop with positive Congressional action on a park expansion bill similar to the one introduced by Phil Burton (D-S.F.) last Congress.

Mineral King: After over eight years of legal battles, this may be the year for Mineral King. Both John Krebs, the local Congressman of Kaiser fame, and Senator Alan Cranston will most likely press bills to add Mineral King to Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.

The key to any success is you writing letters, sending telegrams, and then writing more letters. Let your Congressperson (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) know what you think. It works!

ORV Monitor Published

The Sierra Club has reactivated publication of the ORV Monitor. The Monitor contains national news and information on off-road vehicle problems. Subscriptions (at \$8 per year) can be obtained by writing ORV Monitor, Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA. 94108.

often most effective playing one agency off against another. This is not something underhanded or negative, but rather well within the American political tradition of checks and balances. In short, fear keeps 'em honest.

If reorganization is carried out, it could result in a much closer relationship among the agencies, and less of a change to use this important tool. However, good people at the top would make its use less imperative.

You can help make sure we get some good ones by writing:

President-elect Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia

Tell him of your concern for the National Forests, and ask him to appoint conservationists as Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture as well as Forest Service Chief. While you're at it, ask for a conservationist as Secretary of Interior, and as Assistant Secretary for Wildlife and Parks.

BUMPER STICKERS

"SAVE MT. SHASTA" bumper stickers are now available. For information write Mt. Shasta Resources Council.

GOVT. REORG.

President-elect Carter's promise of government reorganization could include a proposal for all land administering and related agencies to be placed in a Department of Natural Resources. Would this make the Forest Service (as well as BLM, Park Service) more or less responsive to environmental concerns?

One problem with such a reorganization, which tempers conservationists' enthusiasm, is that it might make government more efficient but at the same time less responsive to the public. The heart of a land-administering bureaucracy are laws to carry out, and its

life blood is lands to administer. With laws and land, the agency can justify increased budget requests and new programs. Anything that stymies or retards that growth is considered a threat by the agency.

Often the strongest force to make bureaucracies respond is the fear of losing control. Thus an area might be given some protective status by the Forest Service or BLM because they are afraid if they do not give it protection themselves, it will be lost to another agency like the National Park Service. To put it bluntly, conservationists are

Where the \$ Goes

The California Wilderness Coalition staff feels it is important that members of the CWC know that their wilderness contributions are effectively used. The two pie charts, one for income and one for disbursements, illustrates the CWC budget during our first 11 months. Income totalled \$3,593.13, while disbursements totalled \$2,888.35. Cash on hand as of December 1, 1976, was \$704.78.

The income chart is largely self-explanatory. Some special notes must be made, however, concerning disbursements. In the chart there is no mention of salary and wages. This is simply because the CWC has been a totally volunteer organization. We expect this to change. As most members join we anticipate hiring

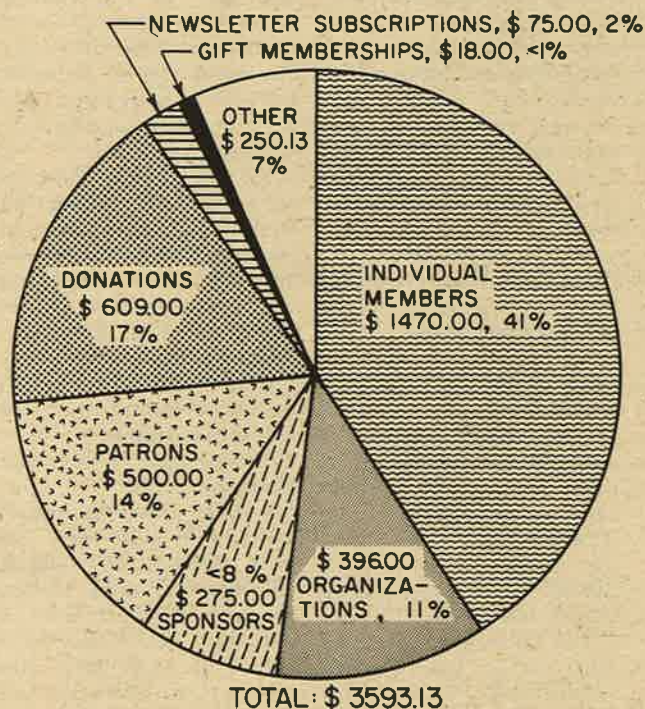
some office help to handle routine tasks, coordinate volunteers, and generally increase our effectiveness.

Xerox and printing costs (\$683.65) initially have been high this year as we developed our logo, brochure and stationery. Wilderness Record expenses (\$728.55) include only printing costs. Much of the telephone and postage costs are also attributable to the Record.

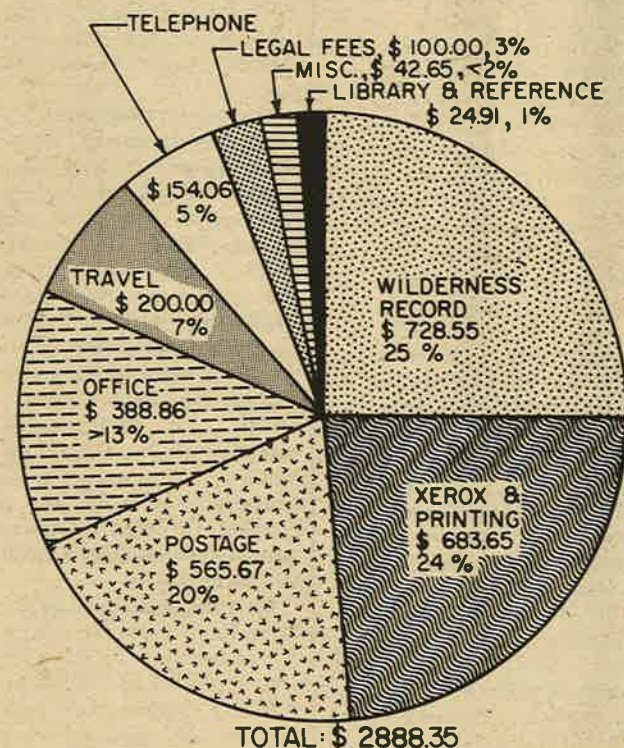
Travel expense (\$200) helped send a local representative to Washington, D.C., to testify in behalf of the Snow Mountain Study Bill which passed in the last session of Congress.

Any further questions concerning the budget should be directed to the Treasurer, Bob Schneider, at the CWC address.

INCOME



DISBURSEMENTS



Whats In Store For National Forests

By Don Morrill

I've never met a Forest Service employee who wasn't polite, friendly, or who refused to listen to me. And I've never been so frustrated as when trying to convince one to **do something** to protect the National Forests.

The U.S. Forest Service has perhaps the most dedicated workers of any government agency. Unfortunately their dedication is first and foremost to the U.S. Forest Service, particularly its image and continued growth. It is the conventional wisdom now that bureaucracies are self-serving and unresponsive, so mine is not startling revelation. And it will come as no surprise to any conservationist who has worked with that agency. However, we will be stuck with the Forest Service, or a facsimile, for many years to come simply because the public's forests need to be administered. The question is: How can we make the agency more responsive to the public interest?

Most importantly, we need responsive and thoughtful conservationists in charge. We have the best opportunity in decades to have such people at the head of Cabinet departments and agencies. Jimmy Carter has convinced many people of his commitment to the environment. How strong that commitment really is will be reflected in the quality of the people he appoints. The right people, given time, could change the philosophy of the Forest Service towards forest management and wilderness.

Because the Forest Service is in the Department of Agriculture, a good Secretary of Agriculture is essential. Many major decisions affecting National Forests and wilderness will be or can be made at the Secretary's desk. He or she will be giving final approval to new regulations under the National Forest Management Act which will govern Forest Service actions for years to come. In addition, all wilderness proposals from Forest Service Primitive Areas go to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval or change. The last Secretary, Earl Butz, had doors that were perpetually open to industry lobbyists, and a mind predictably closed to environmental problems. Timber lobbyists constantly went to him over the heads of others, including the Forest Service. The next Secretary will undoubtedly be an expert in the major business of the Department - agricultural production. However, a

Secretary with an open mind and a sensitivity to public values of wilderness would be a tremendous asset.

The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, in charge of the U.S. Forest Service, is probably the most crucial appointment Carter could make for the future of the National Forests. This person, more than the Secretary, will be dealing with Forest Service matters day to day. Many of our administrative appeals of unit plans and timber sales may go to this person.

Of course the identity of

the next Forest Service Chief is of critical concern to conservationists. The position of Chief historically has been a career position - meaning that the Chief has come from the ranks of the Forest Service itself. This is a tradition, rather than a requirement. After 80 years, it may be the time for a change of tradition. We need someone who is qualified, but independent to redirect the Forest Service. Most specifically, a Chief to fight for de facto wilderness, and to reverse the Service's anti-wilderness attitude.

COW MTN. MFP AVAILABLE

The Bureau of Land Management's Cow Mountain Planning Unit Management Framework Plan is now available from the BLM Ukiah office. The planning area is approximately 137,000 acres, of which 60,000 acres are national resource lands. The plan is development-oriented and fails to consider wilderness classification. Nevertheless, the BLM Organic Act requires that all BLM areas must be considered for wilderness. As a result, reevaluation of the resources of the area is necessary.

Essentially, the southern portion of the unit would be sacrificed to off-road-vehicle use and the

northern section would be managed for backpacking.

A copy of the BLM summary report can be obtained from the district office in Ukiah. Those interested in having portions of the Cow Mountain area considered for wilderness should write Melvin D. Clausen, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 555 Leslie Street, Ukiah, CA., 95482.

Urge that Clausen consider portions of the Cow Mountain area for wilderness classification and that he defer implementation of the Management Framework Plan until the wilderness review required by the Organic Act is completed.

GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS AREA IN DANGER

A proposed land use plan for the Little Kern Planning Unit in Sequoia National Forest threatens the rare Little Kern Golden Trout and would destroy a large portion of the proposed Golden Trout Wilderness Area.

The plan is described in a Draft Environmental Statement issued on November 3, 1976. It calls for logging off-road vehicle use, and road-building on 54,000 acres of wilderness lands in the southern Little Kern Planning Unit. The northern half of the planning unit, some 58,000 acres, would be given further study for Wilderness classification by the Forest Service. The entire area, however, is part of a proposal by conservationists for a Golden Trout Wilderness Area.

Of critical concern in the Little Kern Planning Unit is the protection of habitat for the Little Kern Golden Trout, a distinct, rare subspecies of golden trout found only in the Little Kern River drainage.

Hybridization with introduced rainbow trout has

reduced the pure populations of Little Kern Golden Trout to a dangerously low level. Efforts are being made to reestablish the original fish throughout the drainage. But these plans depend upon maintenance of the wilderness condition of the watershed.

Logging and road-building, as proposed by the Forest Service, would destroy golden trout habitat through siltation of stream spawning beds. Soils in the Little Kern River basin are loose and sandy and easily eroded if disturbed.

Furthermore, building roads into the drainage would bring large numbers of recreationists into the area and put severe fishing pressure on the golden trout. The quality of the fishing experience would be destroyed and populations of the golden trout greatly reduced.

The Little Kern Planning Unit also has superb wilderness values for recreation and inspiration. It adjoins the vast wilderness of the Sequoia National Park



Cone Peak Roadless Area seen from Cone Peak.

USFS PLAN FOR BIG SUR

A large portion of the Big Sur region is included within the Big Sur Coastal Planning Unit of the Los Padres National Forest. The federal lands within the planning unit include some shoreline and a great deal of the adjacent mountains extending back to the coastal ridge. The U.S. Forest Service has just released a proposed plan and Draft Environmental Statement (DES) for this planning unit.

Included within the planning unit are a portion of the Ventana Wilderness and two recently identified roadless areas - Cone Peak and Silver Peak.

The Forest Service proposes to generally maintain the wild and undeveloped character of this planning unit. However, after only a cursory evaluation of wilderness values of the two roadless areas in the DES, the Forest Service rejects the option of intensive wilderness study and possible eventual Wilderness classification for these roadless areas.

Nor did the Forest Service consider these roadless areas in their entirety.

to the north and other roadless lands which are also part of the Golden Trout Wilderness proposal to the east, south, and west. A good trail network traverses the area and connects it with these adjoining wilderness lands.

All the roadless lands of the Little Kern Planning Unit were originally proposed for Wilderness study by the Forest Service in 1972, but due to strong pressure from the timber lobby, they backed down and are now only proposing the northern half of the Planning Unit for wilderness study.

The roadless lands of the Planning Unit are not generally suited to timber production however. The most valuable timber stands are on the steep slopes where watershed damage would be great if they were cut. The majority of the timber stands elsewhere are dry open pine stands where regeneration after cutting may be difficult. In any case,

These roadless areas have extensions which continue across the planning unit boundary, but only the portions within the planning unit are evaluated in the DES. This is in violation of Forest Service regulations.

Under the proposed plan, the Forest Service would not undertake any developments in the roadless areas which would permanently disqualify them from eventual Wilderness classification, however.

Conservationists disagree with the Forest Service approach and feel that these roadless areas, especially the Cone Peak area which is contiguous to the Ventana Wilderness, have high potential for Wilderness classification.

The Cone Peak area contains unusual botanical associations such as relic sugar pine forests, a section of the coast ridge, and wet ocean-facing drainages, none of which are presently included within the Ventana Wilderness. Addition of the Cone Peak roadless area to the Ventana Wilderness would add a

great deal of recreational and ecological diversity to the Wilderness.

Other features of the Forest Service proposal include limitation of access throughout almost the entire planning unit to foot or horseback except for vehicles on existing roads, construction of additional trails and trail camps, construction of additional vehicle access camps and picnic areas along Highway 1, and extensive prescribed burning in the roadless areas to reduce fire hazards.

The proposed plan would institute controls on the heavily used Big Sur River portion of the Ventana Wilderness to reduce visitor use levels approximately 25 per cent. This is necessary to eliminate ecological damage and water pollution from over-use. Special botanical or research designations would be considered for Cone Peak and other areas of unusual botanical interest.

The option of expanding the National Forest boundary to the ocean throughout the Planning Unit to allow for acquisition of additional scenic and wilderness lands from willing sellers was considered in an earlier planning stage but has been rejected by the Forest Service in the DES.

Conservationists feel that the proposed land use plan is generally commendable but that the wilderness values of the two roadless areas have not been adequately studied. They urge that these roadless areas, especially Cone Peak, be established as formal wilderness study areas. The option of expanding the Forest Boundary to the ocean to allow for acquisition of important scenic and roadless lands also deserves further consideration.

Comments on the proposed plan and DES are requested by February 20, 1977. They should be addressed to Forest Supervisor Allan West, Los Padres National Forest, 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA. 93017. You are urged to write in support of the conservationists' positions.

the amount of timber available is not great.

Conservationists are urging that the Forest Service reject this proposed plan and instead select all the roadless lands in the Little Kern Planning Unit for wilderness study. This is essentially alternative "D" in the Draft Environmental Statement.

You are urged to write a letter in support of the conservationists' position to Supervisor John Leasure, Sequoia National Forest, 900 W. Grand Ave., Porterville, CA. 93257. Intense opposition to wilderness in the Little Kern Planning Unit is expected not only from timber interests, but also from motorcycle groups who want off-road access to the area. Your letter is thus important.

The official deadline for comments on the Draft Environmental Statement is January 2, 1977. But comments received after that date will still be considered.