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WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

ISSN 0194-3030

Vol. 20, No. 12

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, CA 95616

December 1995



Granite Lake in the Mokelumne Wilderness

Photo by Pete Yamagata

Mokelumne plan: more restrictions, better protection

By Lucy Rosenau

The Forest Service has a new plan in store for the popular Mokelumne Wilderness, and it looks pretty good.

Although the agency rejected the most protective of the management options it studied and deferred the question of whether it is appropriate to allow fish stocking in wilderness lakes and streams, the proposed plan is a significant advance on the status quo. If adopted, the plan will impose needed restrictions on camping, shooting, and stock use and standardize regulations that now vary among the three national forests the wilderness straddles.

A visit to any of the most popular lakes in the wilderness will illustrate the problems the Forest Service has faced in trying to protect the Mokelumne Wilderness. The Mokelumne's location on the Sierra's crest immediately south of Carson Pass makes the wilderness a favorite destination for recreationists from Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Lake Tahoe. On summer weekends, easily accessible lakes like Winnemucca, Round Top, and Fourth of July are ringed with campers and daytrippers. The resulting detritus—campfire rings, denuded campsites, and litter of all kinds—lingers long after

the people have left. Existing regulations have lessened the worst of the impacts, but the problem persists: too many people.

The Forest Service's solution is to impose a quota on the number of people who may camp at the lakes between Memorial Day and Labor Day. At Winnemucca and Round Top, campers will have to stay in designated campsites and will have to move on after two nights. At Fourth of July Lake, the limit will be three nights. More extreme measures, including a quota on day users and a ban on camping, were considered but not adopted.

The agency's other remedy for the overuse of popular wilderness destinations is to develop and promote trails outside the wilderness as alternatives to wilderness trails. Dispersing people from popular, overused areas has disadvantages as well as advantages. Although it may seem a logical solution, and one preferable to increasing restrictions on how the wilderness may be used, dispersing people outside the wilderness could transfer the problems now despoiling portions of the wilderness to neighboring areas that are pristine and unprotected.

The new Mokelumne plan also reduces the
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Trinity Alps: new plan, same old management

By Jim Eaton

A new management plan for the Trinity Alps Wilderness, one of the largest wilderness areas in California, is available for public comment. A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) has been released for the 512,005-acre wilderness which spans portions of the Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, and Six Rivers national forests.

Though the Forest Service has prepared a thorough EIS for the Trinity Alps, the document proposes scant change in how the wilderness is managed. Two controversial practices with broad ecological impacts, cattle grazing and fish stocking, will continue relatively unchanged. Most of the proposed changes would remedy problems caused by recreationists.

A major exception to the plan's recreational bias is fire suppression. The Forest Service is proposing to increase its use of prescribed fire (controlled burns) and allow more fires—whatever their cause—to burn themselves out. Of the 9,000 acres expected to burn each year in the wilderness, three-quarters would be from prescribed fires.

The document analyzes seven potential management options, including retaining the status quo. The other options range from accommodating the maximum number of wilderness visitors to emphasizing natural ecological processes. The agency's preferred plan is a hybrid of the other six plans.

Whatever option is chosen, the Forest Service would establish four land classifications in the wilderness—pristine, primitive, semi-primitive, and transition—with guidelines for their management. As defined by the agency, pristine areas have no trails and offer the recreationist the best opportunity for solitude. At the other end of the spectrum, transition zones tend to start at main trailheads and encompass heavily used trails where encounters with other people are likely.

Under the preferred management plan, day users no longer will have to obtain a permit to enter the wilderness, and no quota will be established. The maximum party size will be reduced from 25 people to 10, though larger groups (up to 25 people) may be authorized by a special permit. Specific areas may be subject to a smaller party size

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

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Wilderness Record

Volume 20, Number 12
ISSN 0194-3030

The *Wilderness Record* is published monthly by the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit is appreciated. Subscription is free with membership.

Submissions on California wilderness and related subjects are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

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Printed by the Davis Enterprise
on recycled paper.

Coalition news

Monthly Report

Since so far winter has declined to make an appearance, Wendy and I decided to celebrate Thanksgiving by taking a hike in the Sierra. We ventured north of Interstate 80 along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) into the Castle Peak Roadless Area.

This is a popular area for cross-country skiers, and last November they were cruising the icy slopes. But this year there was not a speck of white powder to be found, aside from the pitiful slab of machine-made snow melting at Boreal Ridge ski resort.

It was a delightfully sunny day that had inspired another dozen people with the same idea. We wore T-shirts; I wished I had brought shorts.

Except for winter travel, I had not been here since this section of the PCT was constructed. I was pleasantly surprised at how the trail gently follows the natural contours of the valley, unlike the overengineered trails I've encountered elsewhere. The fall color here was green: pines, firs, and hemlocks dominated.

We decided to climb Castle Peak, the 9,100-foot spires of breccia familiar to so many Reno-bound travellers. The view from the summit was great. I was pleased at how many wilderness and roadless areas we could see: Lassen Volcanic, Grouse Lakes, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Mt. Rose, Granite Chief, North Fork American, Freel Peak, Desolation, Mokelumne, and Carson-Iceberg.

Earlier that morning when we were putting on our boots to begin our journey, a man in a pickup with a mountain bike in back drove up, saw us, and decided to go elsewhere. It is illegal to bicycle on the PCT.

But that hadn't stopped other mountain bikers from flouting the law. We found their tracks everywhere along the trail.

The previous week, Lucy, Lora, and Ryan hiked the PCT into the Mokelumne Wilderness. They too found mountain bike spoor.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not opposed to bicycling. Most of my friends have mountain bikes, and I own a Univega. After walking, it is my favorite mode of transport. But I don't ride in wilderness areas, on the PCT, or anywhere else bikes are banned.

I know that only a small percentage of mountain bikers ride in the wilderness. But like outlaw motorcyclists, horse users, or hikers, they cause a lot of harm.

And the mountain biking organizations that want to change the law to allow bikes in wilderness areas have chosen the worst anti-environmental legislators to champion their cause. This scores no points with me.

What didn't make sense to me is why the bikers had to use this section of the PCT. There is a dirt road paralleling the trail on the opposite side of Castle Valley. But there was no sign anyone had ridden there.

Is it so much better to ride on a trail than a dirt road? Or were those cyclists just making a statement that no one was going to tell them where they could and could not ride?

I never picture wise-users riding bicycles. I thought they all drove pickups.

Disturbing as it was, that episode did not spoil my Thanksgiving. We enjoyed our hike, came home to soak our weary bones, and supped on the leftovers from a traditional feast we had prepared the previous weekend.

Rather, that afternoon on Castle Peak I was thankful. Thankful for the eight wilderness areas I could see from my perch, thankful for the other wildlands that remain unroaded and unlogged, and thankful for the CWC members whose generous donations allow us to keep working to protect wild California.

By Jim Eaton



1995 Conservation Report

What does the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) do? The *Wilderness Record* reports only a smattering of our work each month, so most of the things we do never see print. To fill in the gaps, here is our second annual conservation report.

Although we try to review every project proposed for California's public lands, we reserve most of our energies for defending roadless areas, wilderness study areas, wild rivers, large stands of old-growth, and other important wildlands. We also try to respond to all requests for assistance from our members, but we concentrate on California's more remote public lands since those lands have the fewest defenders.

In 1994, we worked on over 100 projects affecting nearly 70 wild areas. In 1995, we worked on nearly 180 projects affecting over 125 areas. The increase is mostly attributable to the larger staff and budget made possible by the generous support of our members. Unfortunately, the not-so-generous efforts of Congress, federal land management agencies, and the mining, grazing, and timber industries to attack our public lands have significantly increased our workload, as well.

The Forest Service in particular generates a lot of work for us, and this month's installment of the conservation report is devoted to California's national forests. Next month, everything else.

Statewide: We requested that Congress eliminate the Forest Service's road construction budget and ban development in roadless areas. The CWC opposed the passage of a rider that prohibits appeals of salvage sales and, with dozens of other conservation groups, asked President

Clinton to do everything in his power to defy the rider.

We also opposed the Western Forest Health Initiative which targets roadless areas and other sensitive lands for salvage logging and helped craft a Citizens' Forest Health Initiative that promotes lower-impact approaches to improving the health of forests. The CWC supports Forest Service efforts to increase the use of fire as a management tool. Our primer on salvage logging was distributed to members of Congress, the press, and the public.

We opposed the removal of National Forest Management Act regulations that require the Forest Service to provide for the habitat needs of all native species, and met with Senator Barbara Boxer's staff to discuss national forest management. We also met with the regional forester (the head of the Forest Service in California) to air our concerns.

The CWC organizes and leads meetings of the California Ancient Forest Alliance (CAFA) and publishes and distributes the CAFA newsletter. (If you would like to

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Wilderness Trivia Question

What three subspecies of wapiti (elk) roam California's wilds?

Answer on page 7

Wilderness management

The Point Reyes fire

By David Rains Wallace

Little did I know—when I wrote a short piece for last year's *Record* about encroachment of Douglas fir forest on other habitats at the Phil Burton Wilderness on Pt. Reyes—how soon nature and some high school campers would address my concern. Or how near-apocalyptically. The early October 1995 wildfire that started at an abandoned campfire west of Inverness burned most of the wilderness's northern half, consuming 11,000 acres and destroying 48 homes before it was stopped at a cost of well over \$20 million in damage alone.

I walked around the southern end of the burned area after the Park Service re-opened most of it in mid-November. The contrast between the fire's behavior in coastal scrub-grassland and fir forest was striking. The scrub and grass of the headlands and coastal slopes had burned so uniformly that the area looked unchanged at first glance—a scattering of dark and light patches—until I saw that the light patches are now bare soil instead of grass, and the dark patches are now charred sticks instead of brush. The fire had turned bay, bayberry, and buckthorn leaves in ravines orange-yellow, so the landscape looked like a photo-negative of its pre-fire self, with pale leaves against dark ground instead of vice versa. The scrub and grassland also were starting to regenerate uniformly. All the coyote bushes had an inch of new growth at the trunk, and bracken fern a foot tall had grown from the black soil in some places.

On the Coast Trail midway between Arch Rock and Coast Camp, everything visible was burned except the Pacific. It was a magnificent spectacle, in an austere way. A lot of raptors and songbirds were active in the burned area, but the only living non-bird vertebrate I saw there was a young alligator lizard on the trunk of a tree, a huge

eucalyptus that stands (apparently unharmed by the fire except for a dead lower limb and slightly charred bark) on an old ranch site above Kelham Beach. There were plenty of bones lying around, mostly old ones exposed when the grass burned, although I saw one fresh set of deer bones that might have been a fire casualty. Insects were abundant, particularly butterflies.

The only scrub-grassland that hadn't burned was a headland south of Coast Camp that burned last year.

Although the coyote bush had regrown to a couple of feet high in places and the ground was covered with timothy and other dry grasses, the latest fire merely scorched the ground and burned a scattering of the bushes. It left the dry grass untouched. Evidently there wasn't enough fuel for it.

The fire's effect on the Douglas fir forest was immediately obvious from the reddish brown of dead treetops. It was also completely *non-uniform*, almost whimsical. Sometimes it had burned only the ground, sometimes only trunks, sometimes only foliage. I passed one place where it had completely charred an open grove of medium-sized firs and left untouched an adjacent thicket of saplings that would have seemed much more flammable.

The fire erased most of the young fir forest that had become established in the past few decades on the upper slopes and ravines of the scrub-grassland zone. It burned patches along the summit of Inverness Ridge, opening up the largely even-aged forest that I believe was planted there by the U. C. Berkeley Forestry Department in the 1930s. It didn't reach the grasslands around Mt. Wittenberg or the meadows on the landward side of Inverness Ridge,

so those will continue to grow up to forest.

Aside from pushing the fir forest back from the coastal slopes, it's hard to say what the fire's ecological effects will be. The top of Inverness Ridge now looks like a post-logging tree farm instead of a pre-logging farm because the firefighters brought in heavy equipment to cut a break along the ridgetop south to near Coast Creek. This was a violation of the spirit if not the letter of the Wilderness Act, but I doubt anybody thought much of it in the panicky

atmosphere at the time. They were afraid the fire would crown in the Bear Valley old-growth and keep going to Bolinas and points south. As though in mitigation of this, the Park Service has finally done some much-needed trail rehabilitation such as rerouting the Mt.

Wittenberg summit trail and fixing the ever-widening gully that the old trail had become.

Along with the traditional hand-wringing about property damage, the media carried a considerable amount of "feel good" rhetoric about how nature is adapted to fire and will regenerate and be good as new. I wonder, though, about at least some of the effects of such a big, rare fire on a natural area that's surrounded by farms and suburbs and that's still recovering from 100 years of grazing. I didn't notice any big flush of native forbs and grasses on the headland south of Coast Camp that burned last year. Exotic weeds like scarlet pimpernel and introduced grasses like wild oat and timothy seemed to prevail. Most of California's exotic weeds are just as fire-adapted as the natives, since they come from the Mediterranean. The fire might actually set back recovery of some native plants,

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The landscape looked like a photo-negative of its pre-fire self, with pale leaves against dark ground instead of vice versa.

Trinity Alps plan puts cattle first

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limit. The Forest Service does not plan to restrict the numbers of pack or saddle stock or dogs in a single party, but "animals of all species...must be under control of the owner."

Outfitters and guides would be subject to the same restrictions as other wilderness users in most places, but heavily used areas may be closed to them. This essentially is the current policy.

Firewood gathering would be prohibited or discouraged in areas that show signs of overuse, and primitive toilets might be installed as a last resort in areas like Morris Meadows, Canyon Creek, Granite Lake, and Caribou Lakes.

Controversies ducked

The Forest Service dodged two of the more contentious issues, grazing and fish stocking, in the wilderness plan.

Although the agency admits to concern that grazing is having adverse impacts on water quality, vegetation, recreation, sensitive habitats, and trails, the Forest Service considers it a historical use of wilderness that must be allowed to continue unless there are overwhelming reasons to curtail it.

It is noteworthy that the agency devotes more space in the EIS to analyzing the management plan's impact on livestock than cattle's impact on the wilderness. The EIS concerns itself with such possibilities as dogs harassing livestock and people taking "actions that would be detrimental to the cattle (e.g. shooting, chasing, striking, etc.)."

Most incredibly, the re-establishment of Roosevelt elk, a native species that had been extirpated from this part of California, is to be subordinate to cattle grazing: the number of elk

that will be settled in the wilderness will depend on the forage available, if any, after permitted livestock use.

The Trinity Alps management plan sidesteps another controversy—fish stocking. Native and non-native species of trout have been imported into many of the wilderness' lakes.

Although introduced fish are known to affect native species, no relevant information is available in the EIS because "data regarding the distribution and abundance

of threatened, endangered, protected, or sensitive species [do] not exist for the Trinity Alps Wilderness."

Nevertheless, fish stocking will continue in 87 of the 104 lakes in the Trinity Alps. Since fish stocking can be detrimental to native plants and animals, baseline surveys, monitoring, and rehabilitation will be conducted "if funding ever becomes a reality."

These are the main deficiencies in an otherwise thorough EIS. The fire management plan is detailed, and the inventory of trails and campsites looks complete. Excellent computer-generated maps illustrate the seven management options, fire risk, vegetation, land allocation, and inventoried campsites.

What you can do

Write a letter by January 24, 1996 to Karyn L. Wood, Acting Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, Attn: Stepha Arnaud, Trinity Alps Wilderness Plan. In your letter:

- support the Forest Service's enlightened approach to fire suppression and prescribed fire;
- support the reduction of party size, the prohibition on campfires where wood is scarce, and the rehabilitation of overused campsites;
- ask that the agency analyze the environmental impacts of grazing and consider no grazing as one of its management options;
- question the wisdom of allowing fish stocking in the wilderness when its impacts on threatened and endangered species are unknown.

Jim Eaton is executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition.



Trinity Alps Wilderness Photo by Charles Jopson

Wilderness news

Goodbye to the Grizzly

By Delbert Williams

Two summers ago, while driving to one of the trailheads for the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Feather River, I noted blue paint sprayed on a very large tree. A tape measure run around the base of this old pine yielded a circumference of 221 inches. Quick calculations transformed this circumference into a diameter of 74 inches, well above the 30-inch CASPO rule. Was this a mistake? No. Even though the timber sale was finalized after CASPO, the management plan for the California spotted owl, was adopted, the environmental assessment for the sale had been performed before, legitimizing the cutting of such big old trees.

As I sit here above the river writing this, the ground shakes and the sounds of chain saws and falling trees reverberate through the canyon. Tractor (bulldozer) logging is underway above the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Feather River.

The public impression is that large trees are no longer being cut in the Sierra Nevada. But a few hours spent beside the highways that traverse the range will supplant this misconception with the realization that sales that escaped CASPO are now being logged, effectively bridging the gap between the degradation that preceded CASPO and the new degradation now occurring under the provisions of numerous salvage sales.

The considerable number of four to six foot diameter trees (now stumps) that graced the slopes directly above the wild and scenic river disappeared as part of the 2.3 million board foot Grizzly timber sale in the Plumas National Forest, a sale named for Grizzly Creek which plummets down into the Middle Fork of the Feather River. Of course, the grizzly bears for which the creek was named are no more—they were removed long before the large trees now being cut, even though they roamed here when these trees began growing. At that time, waterfowl feathers

seasonally blanketed the river and its banks accounting for the name *Rio de las Plumas*, Feather River. Today the feathers are gone, along with the Pacific salmon and sturgeon that once spawned in the headwaters of the Feather River system.

Unfortunately, the Grizzly timber sale is not confined to the watershed of the Middle Fork but spills over the ridge into the upper reaches of Rock Creek, an area rich in sensitive species. Rock Creek flows north into Spanish Creek, the waters of which eventually become a part of the North Fork of the Feather River, where power generation dams, highways, and railroads defy any possible characterization as wild or scenic.

But here in the headwaters of Rock Creek we are still able to enjoy the presence of mountain lions, black bears and coyotes, rabbits, squirrels, and pileated woodpeckers—even the rapidly disappearing mountain yellow-legged frog can be found here. The public perception is not only that all this is protected, but that it is overly protected, a perception echoed in the vastness of our legislative chambers of late. But this is an illusion. The big trees fall and cattle trample the springs that feed Rock Creek, while detonation wires with spent blasting caps still attached lie tangled among the broken boulders mined above it.

It is now four o'clock in the afternoon. The chain saws are silent, and falling trees no longer shake the ground. The bulldozers' engines have been shut down—at least until tomorrow. For the time being I can forget and gaze across the deep canyon of the Middle Fork. As always when here, I feel deep appreciation for President Carter who made this river a part of the Wild and Scenic System.

At sunrise tomorrow, the chain saws will scream and the ground will shake. I know that no amount of protest, no form of litigation can stop this logging. The Grizzly timber sale is somehow barely legitimate. But next

The ground shakes and the sounds of chain saws and falling trees reverberate through the canyon. Tractor logging is underway above the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Feather River.



Tractor logging the Grizzly sale in the Plumas National Forest. Some of the logging took place in the Middle Fork Roadless Area. Photo by Delbert Williams

year is an election year. It will be a time to be careful about who we vote for, so our vote will ensure feelings of deep appreciation instead of nauseating regret.

Delbert Williams lives near Quincy.

Mokelumne Wilderness plan

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number of people who may travel and camp together and the number of pack or saddle stock they may use. Under present regulations, the party size limit is 15 people and 25 stock. The agency's new proposal limits overnight parties to eight people and eight animals; day users would be allowed to travel in groups of 12 with 12 stock animals. Scientists who study wilderness management have long recommended lowering party sizes because a large party that camps together tends to cause more damage to its campsite than would the same number of people and stock in several smaller parties.

There are few other new restrictions on users of pack stock, and Mokelumne Canyon, where stock currently are banned, will be opened to limited stock use. Commercial outfitters who provide pack or saddle stock will be required to carry feed for their animals and help maintain trails.

The Mokelumne plan addresses three especially controversial issues to varying degrees. The Forest Service will increase protections for riparian areas now suffering from the depredations of grazing cattle and consider removing cattle from popular camping areas. Public complaints about noisy cowbells moved the agency to ban the use of bells when existing grazing permits are transferred, a small step but a step nonetheless.

The Forest Service is taking a much bolder step in banning target shooting and plinking—in short, any discharge of a gun not associated with legal hunting. Al-

though similar bans have been implemented in other wilderness areas, proposed bans for the Mokelumne and the nearby Carson-Iceberg Wilderness have been targeted by organizations that oppose the ban.

On a third controversy, over whether the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) should continue to import fish into the wilderness, the Forest Service will neither fish nor cut bait. The agency asserts that "this issue is outside the scope of the environmental assessment" because the Forest Service and DFG are developing a memorandum of understanding on managing fish in the Mokelumne Wilderness.

The Mokelumne Wilderness plan will be adopted, perhaps with revisions, by the supervisors of the Eldorado, Stanislaus, and Toiyabe national forests after the public comment period on the draft plan ends December 8. If you would like to receive a copy of the final plan, contact Jim Michael at the Eldorado National Forest supervisor's office, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667; (916) 622-5061.

Pt. Reyes fire

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while benefiting the weeds. I noticed that a patch of Scotch broom that the Park Service had tried to eradicate from Divide Meadow with a controlled burn last year had regrown so quickly that it looked like the pre-burn patch.

I can't help wondering if the fire would have been less costly and destructive if the Park Service had maintained a controlled burn policy over the past few decades. At least the area along the Inverness residential zone could have been managed with fire, since the Bishop pine zone there is fire-dependent. If much of the area had been burned within recent years, the fire might have stopped (or been stopped) there. This certainly would have been worth the money it cost to run the program, not only in short-run terms of property and public money saved, but in long-run terms of learning to live with fire. Civilization is going to have the luxury of stopping fires with aircraft, bulldozers, and chainsaws only as long as fossil fuel is cheap and abundant, which, incredible as it seems, won't be forever.

David Rains Wallace is the author of, among other books, The Klamath Knot.



Wilderness news

Taking aim at trespassing cattle

By Paul Spitler

Jim Stokes has been hiking, camping, and hunting in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness for as long as he can remember. He has seen the land slowly recovering from the disastrous sheep grazing that took place in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Native grasses that had been absent for decades were finally coming back. But now the grasses are on the decline again, suffering from over a dozen years of illegal cattle grazing.

"They just tear the place up," Stokes said of the unlawful bovines. "Any place that you used to be able to get water from now flows urine-yellow because the cows rest in the streams. You have to run the cattle out just to find a campsite."

The eastern side of the wilderness is officially closed to cattle grazing. Unofficially, however, the area remains open to grazing by cattle that legally may graze on neighboring lands. The cattle belong on an allotment that borders the wilderness area. But according to local hunter Bryan Hill, there is not enough forage in the allotment. "The only grazing outside of the wilderness area [is] in the riparian meadows. There's simply not enough forage to justify an allotment there, so the ranchers turn the cattle out and they go right into the wilderness." The lush meadows and glades within the wilderness provide abundant, attractive forage.

The rancher in charge of the cattle is required to round up trespassing cows once every two weeks and return them to their legal grazing sites, but the Forest Service does not regularly check to see if the roundups or "rides" are completed. The agency depends instead on a yearly report and an honor system. The report, based on information provided by the rancher, notes the date of each ride and

the number of cattle that were rounded up from the wilderness area. Last year, trespassing cattle were gathered on 28 percent of the rides. As the Forest Service readily admits, the actual amount of trespass could be significantly higher because cattle are free to trespass between roundups.

The roundups are ineffective, says Stokes. "Sure, the ranchers push the cows out, but they go right back in the next morning. The cattle know exactly where to go and how to get there."

Stokes and Hill first noticed trespassing cattle in the early 1980s and have been complaining to the Forest Service steadily about the problem for years. The Forest Service officer in charge of the allotment, Randy Jost, acknowledged a problem with trespassing cattle. Next summer, Jost said, the Forest Service plans to construct an electrically charged wire fence to keep the cattle out of the wilderness. If that doesn't work (and Jost didn't seem hopeful that it would), the next step is a wooden fence built at taxpayer expense.

"I'm caught in the middle," said Jost, explaining that ranchers argue that they don't have the time or money to complete rides more regularly. However, Jost also stated that the Forest Service can be swayed by the public. "If a whole bunch of complaints start coming in, we'll be under a lot of pressure to act. The more responses [about the illegal grazing] we get, the more likely we are to do something about it."

What you can do

Write to Randy Jost, District Range Program Coordinator, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, HC01 Box 400, Platina, CA 96076. Request that the Forest Service take prompt action to permanently prevent cows from trespassing in the wilderness area. If a drift fence is necessary,

it should be constructed outside the wilderness area boundary along existing roads. If the fence proves unsuccessful in stopping the trespass, request that the allotment be cancelled when it comes up for renewal in 1999.

If you can't beat 'em, humiliate 'em

Calves and lambs would graze free for life if they were born on a grazing allotment, according to a provision buried in an early draft of the budget reconciliation bill—a provision some Democrats call Aid to Families with Dependent Cows.

Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez), long a foe of grazing subsidies, exposed the provision on the floor of the House. "It's not good for these cows. They don't have to show any social responsibility," Miller scoffed. "They can just keep having calves. It encourages you to move cows out of the private sector and into the public sector to have their babies just so they can get welfare checks."

The provision stipulated free lifetime grazing for any "animal that is progeny, born during the period of use authorized under a grazing permit or grazing lease, of an animal on which a grazing fee is paid."

Brian Garber, associate director of the National Cattlemen's Association, which helped draft the legislation, claimed that the whole thing was a typo.

"Incredible," Miller told the *Washington Post*. "They take a grazing system that doesn't pay for itself today and it will only take two generations of cows to make the whole system free."

After Miller's remarks, the language was dropped. Courtesy, *The Wilderness Society's New Voices newsletter*.

Deer Creek salvage sale shelved

By Steve Evans

A major showdown over a proposed salvage sale adjacent to Deer Creek in the Lassen National Forest was averted, at least for now, when the Forest Service shelved the sale.

In response to a request from an unusual coalition of conservationists, the timber industry, and local community leaders, Lassen Forest Supervisor Leonard Atencio announced that he was shelving the proposed Barkley salvage sale at least until next spring.

In its latest incarnation, the Barkley sale involved constructing more than two miles of roads in the Polk Springs Roadless Area and logging 176 acres of trees burned in the 1994 Barkley fire adjacent to critical holding and spawning habitat for Deer Creek's endangered spring run chinook salmon. In recognition of the creek's outstanding fishery, wildlife, scenery, and cultural sites, the Forest Service has recommended this segment of Deer Creek for designation as a wild river in the federal Wild and Scenic River System.

Atencio's decision averted a possible showdown over one of the first salvage sales in the Sierra Nevada placed off-limits to administrative appeal and restricted from full legal review by legislation approved by the Republican majority in Congress this summer. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund intended to challenge the sale in federal court on behalf of the California Wilderness Coalition and other conservation groups but was unable to file a lawsuit in the narrow 15-day window allowed by the new law.

As a result, the last "court" of appeal for the 9,400-acre Polk Springs Roadless Area and the endangered salmon of Deer Creek was the Quincy Library Group—an alliance of local conservationists, timber industry representatives, and community leaders who have agreed that roadless and riparian areas in the Lassen and Plumas national forests

should be off-limits to logging and road-building.

Stating that "a deal is a deal," the Quincy Library Group asked the Forest Service to withdraw the sale because it violated the group's agreement. Ironically, the Forest Service was pushing the controversial timber sale at the same time that the Clinton administration was preparing to announce that more than \$4 million of additional funding for wildfire fuel reduction and watershed restoration projects would be earmarked for the Lassen and Plumas forests—largely thanks to lobbying by the Quincy Library Group. The Forest Service subsequently shelved the sale, probably to avoid political embarrassment.

In addition to concerns about the adverse impacts of road construction and logging on the roadless area and endangered salmon, conservationists criticized the Forest Service's characterization of the aftermath of the Barkley fire as an emergency that needed to be remedied by human intervention. In fact, the 40,000-acre fire helped restore an oak-grassland-chaparral ecosystem dependent on periodic wildfire and burned less than 250 acres of commercially valuable trees.



Forest Service officials survey burned trees proposed for logging in the Polk Springs Roadless Area, Lassen NF. Photo by Steve Evans

Although the Barkley sale may be resurrected next spring, the likelihood of the trees being logged is negligible because they will continue to decay over the winter. Barkley is the third timber sale in 15 years to be proposed for the Polk Springs Roadless Area and then withdrawn because of environmental concerns and substantial public opposition.

Steve Evans is conservation director for Friends of the River and a director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Annual report

The year in conservation

continued from page 2

receive the CAFA newsletter, contact the CWC office.)

Northwest: The CWC is monitoring how Option 9, President Clinton's 1994 strategy to preserve and restore old-growth forests and sensitive watersheds in the Pacific Northwest, is being implemented in California. Conservation associate Ryan Henson is serving on one of the official advisory committees. We continue to work to make the watershed analyses required by Option 9 more comprehensive and focused more on watershed restoration than exploitation.

In meetings with Klamath-Siskiyou activists, we coordinated appeals of the new Mendocino, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Klamath national forest management plans.

Sierra Nevada: To monitor their progress and ensure that conservationist perspectives are fairly represented in their forthcoming report, the CWC met frequently with the scientists who are studying the region's ecological and social health for the congressionally mandated Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project. We opposed the Forest Service's inadequate plans to manage California spotted owl habitat in the region. And we are beginning a long-term campaign, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, to preserve the region's public lands.

Angeles National Forest (NF): In response to a member's concerns, we requested that the Forest Service do more to ensure that mountain bikes are kept off the portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that passes through Sheep Mountain Wilderness. We provided input on forthcoming management plans for the San Gabriel, Sheep Mountain, and San Jacinto wilderness areas.

Cleveland NF: We encouraged senators Feinstein and Boxer to support the acquisition of undeveloped private land adjacent to the No Name Roadless Area. We opposed grazing in the Pine Creek Wilderness and asked the Forest Service to minimize the impacts of mining adjacent to the Caliente Roadless Area.

Eldorado NF: The CWC opposed off-road vehicle use in the Caples Creek and Pyramid roadless areas but supported Forest Service proposals to allow lightning fires to burn unimpeded in the Mokelumne Wilderness.

Inyo NF: We monitored grazing in the White Mountain, Blanco Mountain, and Birch Canyon roadless areas, issued a wilderness alert to CWC members about possible logging and ski resort development in the San Joaquin Roadless Area, and with Friends of the Inyo, opposed all such projects in that roadless area. We also opposed the development of a mining-associated wastewater evaporation pond adjacent to the John Muir Wilderness.

Klamath NF: We opposed logging in the Muse and Siskiyou roadless areas and in the Rhombus Late-Successional (old-growth) Reserve. We defeated one salvage sale in the Tom Martin Roadless Area but are still fighting another. The CWC objected to proposed logging adjacent to the Snoozer Roadless Area and the Marble Mountain Wilderness. We monitored grazing in the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps wilderness areas and in the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area and encouraged the Forest Service to permanently close several roads adjacent to the Portuguese Roadless Area and the Marble Mountain Wilderness. With the Klamath Forest Alliance and other groups, we appealed the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan because it fails to protect roadless areas, sensitive fish populations, and old-growth habitat.

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: The CWC supported a Forest Service plan to exclude cattle from portions of the proposed Echo-Carson Wilderness.

Lassen NF: We encouraged the Forest Service to protect Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks and their populations of threatened steelhead trout from logging, road construction, and other development. We supported a Forest Service decision to prevent strip-mining in the Cinder Butte Roadless Area. With Friends of the River,

the Quincy Library Group, and other organizations, we defeated a logging proposal for the Polk Springs Roadless Area. The CWC opposed grazing in the Caribou Wilderness.

Los Padres NF: We opposed both the construction of off-road vehicle routes through the Sespe-Frazier Roadless Area and oil and gas drilling in 18 roadless areas, including Sespe-Frazier, Garcia Mountain, Cuyama, and Condor Point.

Mendocino NF: We monitored grazing in the Snow Mountain Wilderness and a number of roadless areas. We fought a proposal to turn the Mendocino Pass Road into a two-lane, paved highway and monitored the watershed analyses for the Eel River, Grindstone Creek, and Black



Near North Yolla Bolly Peak, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, Shasta-Trinity NF. Photo by Pete Yamagata

Butte River watersheds. The CWC supported the use of prescribed fire in the Deer Mountain Roadless Area and other parts of the forest, opposed plans to log old-growth near the Reister Canyon Roadless Area, and monitored logging adjacent to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, Thomes Creek Roadless Area, and in old-growth pockets outside roadless areas. We praised the Forest Service for closing roads and reducing erosion in the Middle Fork Eel watershed. With Mendocino Forest Watch and other groups, the CWC appealed the Mendocino Land and Resource Management Plan for failing to protect roadless areas and provide adequate old-growth habitat connections throughout the forest.

Modoc NF: Frequent meetings with the Forest Service to discuss salvage logging in old-growth stands led to the agency's dropping its planned old-growth salvage sales, including one proposed for the Knox Mountain Roadless Area. The CWC monitored the implementation of Option 9 in the Medicine Lake Highlands, the only part of the forest covered by Option 9. We opposed geothermal exploration in the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area and monitored grazing in the South Warner Wilderness and

Steele Swamp, Big Canyon, Mount Vida, Crane Mountain, Mount Bidwell, Soldier, Powley, Pine Creek, Jess, and Mill roadless areas. We praised a Forest Service proposal to allow natural fires to burn unchecked (but carefully monitored) in the South Warner Wilderness.

Plumas NF: We discussed prescribed fire, salvage logging, and thinning with Forest Service officials and monitored grazing in the Adams Peak Roadless Area.

San Bernardino NF: The CWC submitted comments on a proposed mine expansion near the new Bighorn Mountain Wilderness. We supported a settlement between conservationists and the Forest Service that better protects Deep Creek and Sugarloaf roadless areas. We provided input on forthcoming management plans for the Cucamonga, San Geronio, San Jacinto, and Santa Rosa wilderness areas.

Sequoia NF: The CWC opposed logging plans for Lion Ridge, Slate Mountain, Agnew, and Jennie Lakes roadless areas. We monitored grazing in Mill Creek and Cannell roadless areas. With the California Native Plant Society, we supported forestwide adoption of improved grazing standards.

Shasta-Trinity NF: With Citizens for Better Forestry and other groups, we protected the Bonanza King Roadless Area from being logged. We supported road closures near the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness and opposed development of a ski resort in the Mount Shasta Roadless Area, adjacent to the Mount Shasta Wilderness. With the Sierra Club and other groups, the CWC appealed the Shasta-Trinity Land and Resource Management Plan for failing to protect roadless areas, sensitive watersheds, and old-growth forests.

Sierra NF: The CWC successfully lobbied for improvements in logging projects near the Kaiser Wilderness and Dinkey Lakes Roadless Area and opposed road construction, pipeline development, and overgrazing in the Mount Raymond Roadless Area. We monitored grazing in the Dinkey Lakes Roadless Area and the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness.

Six Rivers NF: We opposed logging in the Pilot Creek Roadless Area. With the Northcoast Environmental Center and other groups, the CWC appealed the Six Rivers Land and Resource Management Plan because it fails to protect old-growth groves and roadless areas in the southern part of the forest.

Stanislaus NF: We monitored grazing in the Bell Meadows Roadless Area and the Emigrant and Carson-Iceberg wilderness areas and objected to a plan to delete portions of the Tryon Peak Roadless Area from the agency's proposed additions to the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. We opposed logging in a pocket of old-growth near the Mokelumne Wilderness.

Tahoe NF: With Friends of Plumas Wilderness, the CWC opposed logging in the Bald Mountain and Middle Yuba roadless areas. We also opposed plans for a ski lift across the Pacific Crest Trail and a ski resort adjacent to the Granite Chief Wilderness. We met with Senator Feinstein's staff to answer their questions about the health of the Tahoe National Forest.

Toiyabe NF: With the Wilderness Society and Sorensen's Resort, we protected the Raymond Peak Roadless Area from proposed logging. We supported a Forest Service proposal to suspend grazing in portions of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, and we monitored grazing in the Horsethief and Steven's Peak roadless areas.



Forum

Inviting guide to California's Alps

The Trinity Alps: a hiking and backpacking guide

By Luther Linkhart with Michael White, Wilderness Press, Berkeley, 1994, 228 pages with map, \$15.95.

Had this guide existed back when I first started exploring the Trinity Alps, it would have saved me a lot of grief. I'd have been forewarned that one route I chose "is a strenuous trip involving almost 12,000 feet of elevation change, and the crossing of four major ridge systems." Of another trail I painfully remember, the authors write that "opinions vary about how many switchbacks are on the 2,200-foot climb up the very steep south face of Sawtooth Ridge, but the consensus seems to be somewhere between 89 and 98."

No question, the Trinity Alps are steep. Some folks describe the Alps as a miniature Sierra, but the authors put it better: "If you crumple a piece of paper into a ball, then spread it out part way so that it is still crinkled and creased in all directions, you will have an approximate micromodel of the topography of the Trinity Alps."

Luther Linkhart wrote the first edition of this guidebook in 1983 for the much smaller Trinity Alps Primitive Area. For the third edition, he and Michael White have compiled detailed descriptions of over 200 miles of trail in the 512,000-acre wilderness.

The bulk of the book is a thorough description of the trails outlined in 32 trips ranging from one to nine days. Most of the routes are two- to four-day trips. Detailed as the guide is, the authors and publisher caution you not to "walk or ride the trails with your nose in the book to find

your way."

A short introduction includes some natural history and human history of the area, but descriptions of the plants, animals, and scenery can be found throughout the rest of the book. Though the authors express few strong opinions about the management of the area, they do mention that "the most abundant warm-blooded animal in the Trinity Alps is the beef cow."

High-quality black-and-white photographs enhance the text. They aren't numerous, but they all are quite good.

The only errors that jumped out at me regarded the history of the California Wilderness Act that established the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The authors state, for instance, that the legislation "received final action by the Senate on September 28, 1984" though in fact that was the date President Reagan signed the bill into law. I'm kind of picky about these things.

But the errors pale compared with the love for the wilderness and the concern for its proper care that permeate the book. Linkhart and White want to inspire hikers, backpackers, and equestrians and to persuade auto-bound visitors to leave their cars to explore the wilderness. If you've never been to California's Alps, pick up a copy of the guide and let it inspire you to make them the destination of your next trip.

—Jim Eaton

Letters

Cherished memories of the High Trips

The comments by Nell Patterson in the November issue are so false they cry out for response. Her remarks about the destructiveness of livestock are not substantiated by any monitoring system. I stand by my claim ["How many are too many?" August 1995 *WR*] that education is the answer, not continual attacks on people who choose to use and enjoy their pack and saddle stock in the wilderness. Her comments about the Sierra Club High Trips are completely unfounded and must be challenged.

I challenge her to find and identify just one site of a Sierra Club High Trip camp in the High Sierra. Ike Livermore, my father, and I provided the stock and packing services for the trips from 1946 to 1965. In the last 30 years I have passed by many of the old sites. There is no sign of the 175 people who camped at any particular spot. In fact, most of the time it is very hard to identify the exact area. Almost always they camped at sites that were dry and most able to tolerate trampling. From 1955 on, long before any mandate from the agencies, I know firsthand that they packed out all their trash. Never in 20 years did I see them construct any type of cupboard, chairs, tables, etc. They used propane the last five years that I packed for them, so no wood was burned for cooking.

To call these fine people "invaders" is heartless and shows a gross lack of knowledge about the trips. The High Trips probably educated more people with means and influence about the values of wilderness and the importance of its preservation than any other organization has before or since. There were indeed two-week-long workshops about the Sierra ecosystem. In a conversation with David Brower in mid-September, we talked about how the trips made a wilderness experience available to so many who otherwise could not have made a backcountry trip. Old and young alike, the lame and the hardy, were introduced to the wilderness in a way they would never forget. These same people returned to the cities and became wilderness activists. The "invaders" are the people who helped make possible the solitary experiences that Ms. Patterson enjoys today.

True, there was a commissary and a cook. These were young people like Phillip Berry, now a past president of the Sierra Club. The campfires were an experience in themselves. Speakers at those campfires included Sierra Club

notables like Francis Farquhar, David Brower, Norman Clyde, Norman "Ike" Livermore, and in the very early days John Muir. Wood was burned, but it was always taken where plentiful, and where possible in a secluded spot. All fire rings were obliterated. Trees were never cut down, nor were entire logs used for fires, nor were pine groves attacked with axes. The last large trip was conducted in 1969. An era passed, but the memories of those trips are cherished by those who took part, and we resent the perpetuation of myths and misinformation by those not fortunate to have enjoyed a High Trip.

Charles Morgan

Executive Director,

Backcountry Horsemen of California
Springville

Due praise

My compliments to Ryan and the others who testified at the field hearings and didn't allow themselves to be cowed. The article "How Congress works (version 1995)" was actually heartening: with people like Ryan and the others who are willing to make our message heard, there is hope.

Howard J. Whitaker
Gold River



'Tis the season to stock up on CWC T-shirts.

Calendar

December 11-12 PUBLIC MEETING of the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee in Eureka. For more information, call Constance Hendryx at the Klamath National Forest, (916) 842-6131.

December 28 COMMENTS DUE on the draft trail plan for Sequoia National Forest (see November 1995 *WR*). Send to: Jim Whitfield, Forest Trail Planner, Sequoia NF, 900 W. Grand Ave., Porterville, CA 93257.

January 6-7 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM on environmental legislation, sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League Foundation, in Sacramento. For more information, contact Jamie Phillips at PCL Foundation, 926 J St., Suite 612, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 444-8726; phillips@quicknet.com

January 19 COMMENTS DUE on the Forest Service's proposed Desired Condition for the Mammoth-June area of the Inyo National Forest (article in January 1996 *WR*). For a copy of the document, contact Bob Hawkins, Inyo NF, 873 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514; (619) 873-2490.

January 24 COMMENTS DUE on a draft management plan for the Trinity Alps Wilderness (see article on page 1). Send to: Karyn L. Wood, Acting Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001, Attn: Stepha Arnaud, Trinity Alps Wilderness Plan.

February 2-4 CONFERENCE of western ancient forest activists in Ashland. For more information, contact Headwaters at P. O. Box 729, Ashland, OR 97520; (503) 482-4459; headwaters@igc.apc.org

February 3 ANNUAL MEETING of the California Wilderness Coalition in Davis. For details, call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

February 16-19 WETLANDS FESTIVAL promoting conservation in the Central Valley. For more information about Duck Days classes and field trips, call (916) 758-1286 or (800) 425-5001.

CWC T-shirts

Julissa wears our six-tone landscape shirt, available in jade, fuchsia, light blue, or pale green for \$15. Paul sports our three-color logo T-shirt, available in jade, royal blue, birch, or cream for \$15.

Not shown but still available: our animal design by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank, in beige or light gray, for \$12. All shirts are 100 percent double-knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.

Wilderness Trivia Answer

Roosevelt, Rocky Mountain, and Tule.

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Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club Madrone Audubon Society; Santa Rosa Marble Mountain Audubon Society; Etna Marin Conservation League; San Rafael Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah Mendocino Forest Watch; Willits Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society; Carmel Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento Native Species for Habitat; Sunnyvale Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F. NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Nordic Voice; Livermore

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"Everything visible was burned except the Pacific."

—David Rains Wallace
on the Pt. Reyes fire (p. 3)

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