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Mt. Shasta looms over Little Crater Lake in the Mt. Eddy Roadless Area

Photo by Phil Rhodes

For the salmon, steelhead, and roadless areas

CWC appeals Shasta-Trinity forest plan

By Ryan Henson

On behalf of the California Wilderness Coalition and eight other conservation groups, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund recently appealed the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The appeal cited water quality concerns, declining fisheries, wild-and-scenic river recommendations, and roadless area management as the main justifications for challenging the plan.

The appeal is ironic given that the LRMP is the best management plan ever developed for the 2.1 million-acre Shasta-Trinity. Unlike previous plans, the LRMP places 51 percent (over 156,000 acres) of the Shasta-Trinity's roadless areas under various kinds of protective designations, recommends that 80 miles of streams and rivers be added to the wild-and-scenic river system, and recommends for protection almost 25,000 acres of research natural areas (set aside for botanical research) and nearly 7,000 acres of special interest areas (regions containing significant historical, ecological, or geological features). In addition, the plan reduces logging from 200 million board feet per year (the average annual cut from 1975 to 1992) to 82 million board feet per year, and authorizes the construction of

three miles of road per year, down significantly from past levels.

Most of these changes are due to President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan (Option 9), which designated nearly 532,000 acres of late-successional reserves in the forest. Reserves are lands managed to sustain habitat for old-growth dependent species such as the northern spotted owl. Option 9 also greatly increased protection for stream-side areas. For example, watercourses, wetlands, and unstable riparian areas are protected by buffers ranging from 300 to 600 feet in width. Though these buffers may not seem large, they cover one-third of the forest.

A purposely narrow appeal

Because of these improvements over previous plans, conservationists are not seeking to force a complete withdrawal of the LRMP as they would have done in the past. Instead, the appeal focuses on several problem areas.

First of all, Friends of the River and the other appellants contend that the plan gave inadequate consideration to the East Fork Trinity River, East Fork of the South Fork Trinity River, Manzanita Creek, Smoky Creek, and five other streams for wild-and-scenic river status. Activists worry that the scenic beauty, water quality, aquatic habi-

continued on page 5

Did avalanche doom Mt. Shasta ski area?

Since its beginning nearly 20 years ago, the California Wilderness Coalition has assisted local groups opposing a ski resort high on the flank of Mt. Shasta. In 1978 an avalanche wiped out a ski area there, but the Forest Service and local boosters have a dream of building a larger resort in this spot (in the meantime, another ski area was built lower on the mountain where it is not subjected to avalanches, white outs, and high winds).

Despite losing appeals, lawsuits, and National Historical Preservation Act rulings, the Forest Service inexorably continues to push for a new ski area. But Mother Nature may have terminated the proposal this past winter by sending a wall of snow through the site.

On August 9, the following article appeared in the Sports section of the Sacramento Bee, apparently borrowing from an earlier article in the San Francisco Examiner by Tom Stienstra:

Avalanche results are devastating

Bee News Services

Nature bats last and, in this case, she really cleared the bases. On the southern slopes of Mt. Shasta, she cleared hundreds of giant trees as well as everything else in sight.

As snow finally melts off at the 7,500-foot level at Shasta, unveiled is the damage from a devastating avalanche last winter—a 150-foot wide swath that leveled everything in its path over a course of nearly a mile.

The avalanche rammed through a portion of the proposed site of a new ski park on the mountain and would have likely demolished a good piece of it, perhaps burying skiers and cars in the process. It is the same area, where, in 1978, an avalanche destroyed the previous ski park.

continued on page 3

CWC fundraiser on Sept. 13 in San Francisco

**Introducing
The Wildlands Project
featuring
Dave Foreman and Michael Soulé
details on page 3**

In this issue:

**Despite passage of desert bill,
Mojave is still threatened.....3**

**Klamath Forest Plan devas-
tates roadless areas.....4**

**Tahoe roadless area logged—
Forest Service says "oops!".....6**

Coalition news

Monthly Report

Friends often ask me where to go backpacking. I know their requirements: a wilderness with pretty lakes and no people. Ha. Like I'm going to tell them about my favorite places.

Wendy, Inyo, and I discovered another such place last month, but this once I'm even willing to share it with you. Of course, there's a catch.

It's a pretty lake, nestled amongst the mountain hemlocks and lodgepole pines at about 7,800 feet in the Mokelumne Wilderness. I didn't see any fish, but you can spend your time gazing in the distance at Mokelumne Peak, Round Top, and Thunder Mountain.

Flowers abound, even on the tarn's islands. Several nice campsites can be found, and they seldom are used. Even though we backpacked there over a weekend, we didn't see a soul the entire time we were in the wilderness.

How do you get there? Our route took us by trail to Devils Lake, up a thousand feet of granite ledges cloaked with brush and snow, down several miles of jeep trail, to the "trail" to the lake.

To be fair to the Forest Service, the Mokelumne Wilderness map does show this as an *unmaintained* trail. But from the deadfall, small trees growing in the trail, overhanging limbs, and meandering cow paths, it became easier to travel cross-country. We arrived exhausted.

Oh yes, the name of the place. Mosquito Lake. It is appropriately named.

With the abundant rainfall and snow providing prime insect haunts, people have been reporting ravenous mosquitos throughout the Sierra this year. Mosquito Lake was no exception.

Around all day, the bugs were worst at sunset (and I suppose sunrise, but I didn't bother to rise and check it out). They bit through clothing, even Levis.

Repellant just created a challenge for them.

We found a number of the bloodsuckers inside our tent, so we began swatting them. Our revenge was abated when we found they already had fed on the dog. The inside of the tent rivaled the Simpson crime scene.

But at night the stars were outstanding, especially the Milky Way. I have a great program on the Mac, *Distant Suns*, which I use to print out cheat-sheets for the sky for any date and location. It draws the constellations for me and adds the names of planets and stars. Amateur astronomy made easy. Unfortunately I printed it out for 9:30 am instead of pm. I should have known that Orion would not be high in the sky in August. But there were other friends to recognize—Scorpio, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, and, in the wee hours, Pegasus.

I was puzzled by the lack of wildlife. Elsewhere we saw deer, bear scat, chipmunks, hawks, a bald eagle, and other critters. It was forebodingly quiet around the lake. Despite the lack of fish, I didn't see any frogs. Only a few Clark's nutcrackers scolded us for invading their space. Perhaps it was a hard winter up there.

Apart from the sore muscles and mosquito bites, it was a great trip. Clean air. Great views. Beautiful flowers. Solitude. The west side of the Mokelumne Wilderness is lightly used, partially due to its ruggedness and difficult access. But it's worth it if you crave solitude.

So if you ask me for advice on places to backpack, I may have some suggestions. But there could be a catch.

By Jim Eaton

Comments on grizzlies and Canyon Fred

It was with great excitement that I read "Bring Back the Griz," the June issue's lead story. I was pleased to see that Coalition assisting with this courageous initial effort to restore one of our state's most significant symbols.

However, I read with dismay the responses to the proposal in the July letters section. Personally, I have little interest a sanitized limited wilderness. I do enter wilderness to be stimulated but also most certainly to be challenged. In addition, I believe that driving to most wilderness areas on our state's congested highways is far more threatening to my personal safety than any population of brown bears could be. The grizzly was an integral, essential element of many of California's bioregions. Its reintroduction would not be an ecological panacea, but it certainly would be an important step in the right direction. It is true that the vast majority of the state is no longer suitable for grizzlies, but there are a number of areas (southern Los Padres, southern Sierra Nevada, etc.) where such a reintroduction might be possible. It will take many years of difficult work, compromise, fundraising, and problem solving to bring back the great bear, but such an effort would be very worthwhile. If supporting this reintroduction makes me an "eco-freak," so be it! Return true wilderness to California. Bring back the griz!

Joel Despain
Three Rivers

While I usually enjoy Canyon Fred's dispatches from his trips to the Sierra, I cannot leave his statement in the

August issue of the WR go by without comment. He said, "...and signs telling me what the good folks the Backcountry Horsemen are for maintaining all the wilderness fences." It is obvious from his description that he was referring to the drift fences at Little Whitney Meadows. These were constructed by volunteers from 1985 to 1988 to protect the meadow from cattle grazing until mid September. We do not advocate the construction of fences beyond those necessary to protect the resource. The California Dept. of Fish and Game has constructed many more miles of fences within the Golden Trout Wilderness. Most of us use removable portable electric fences where they are required to restrain pack and saddle stock.

Fred might suggest that if the stock, cattle, and recreational horses and mules were removed there would be no need for the fences. But that would be in violation of the Golden Trout Wilderness Plan which states that historic uses, structures, pastures, etc., will remain in the wilderness, and it further states that one management emphasis will be to promote and facilitate recreational pack and saddle stock use. It would have been politically impossible to create the GTW without that emphasis in the plan. That political reality is just as strong today.

Fred referred to the mess on the Whitney Trail. He should have seen the amount of trash that existed in 1957 when our outfit packed at no charge over 50 mule loads (about 7,500 pounds) off the mountain in that one year alone. Most of these loads came from Mirror Lake and had been deposited by hikers over many years.

Charles Morgan, Executive Director
Backcountry Horsemen of California

Roscoe Poland 1906-1995

We were saddened to learn of the death of Roscoe Poland on August 13. A longtime supporter of the California Wilderness Coalition, Roscoe founded the environmental newsletter *Conservation Call*, a fiery call to action on many issues.

During his 89 years, Roscoe worked on environmental causes that many of us know from history books, starting with the struggle to save Dinosaur National Monument from being dammed. He later fought to stop a road through Coyote Canyon in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Roscoe served as conservation chair for the Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter and was an active cooperator for the Wilderness Society.

His survivors include his wife of 46 years, Wilma Herz Poland, a daughter, and a grandson.

Among Roscoe's favorite poems are these lines from Gerard Manley Hopkins:

"O let them be left, wilderness and wet;

Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."

Roscoe's enduring commitment to the environment reminds us all that there is no early retirement to working for environmental protection—we sign on for life.

—Jim Eaton

Thanks all around

Thanks to Ben Burke and Owen McMichael, the CWC's newest volunteers. Ben made our rickety, unattractive display booth shine with his graphic design skills. Ben is also working on our new and improved permanent display booth. Ben can work wonders with a minuscule budget, glue, and a half-dozen photographs cut out of magazines!

Owen has been helping Ryan sort through the hundreds of Forest Service projects we are notified of each week. With Owen's help, Ryan is able to dig through the piles of paper and identify the most important projects requiring our immediate attention. When Owen returns to high school at the end of the summer, he'll probably be the only person around who knows where the No Name Roadless Area is.

The CWC also owes a great debt to Image Promotions, Granite Chief Outdoor Sports, and Patagonia. On August 5 these businesses helped Ryan hand out literature and sell raffle tickets at the Squaw Valley Mountain Run and the Tahoe Fat Tire Festival. Thanks to their generous help, the CWC raised over \$500 and distributed hundreds of brochures, newsletters, and other information. All that and an excuse to sit around Lake Tahoe on a beautiful summer day!

Correction

In editing Susan Zakin's letter regarding grizzlies in last month's WR, the acting editor inadvertently dropped the subject from one of her sentences. It should have read "You can visit the Page Museum at the La Brea tar pits, where paleontologists have found a wealth of megafauna that is now extinct, including the short-faced bear, twice as large as a grizzly, the dire wolf, and the sabre tooth cat." Our apologies.

Wilderness Trivia Question

What is the easternmost roadless in the Tahoe National Forest?

Answer on page 7

Desert wilderness and more

The Mojave: threatened again

By Nobby Riedy

The Mojave National Park Preserve is one of America's newest "crown jewels" and the fourth largest park outside of Alaska. Its grand valleys and majestic ranges hold tremendous historic resources. Centuries old Native American rock art is scattered across its 1.5 million acres. U.S. Calvary outposts from the 1860s, an historic railroad depot, and the haunting remains of turn of the century mines are to be discovered when visiting the Mojave.

The wildlife habitats of the Mojave have been identified as the finest assembly in the California Desert. From high mountain peaks down to dry lake beds, from perennial springs and streams to sand dunes higher than the Washington Monument, the region supports over 300 species of wildlife. Ring tailed cats, kit fox, and badgers patrol the Mojave nights. Golden eagles, desert bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, and even a fish species can be observed in daylight.

Last October, after eight years of public debate and countless compromises, the Mojave was included in the National Park System as a national park preserve. Allowing for certain grandfathered activities, the Mojave National Park Preserve is to be managed to the same standards as a national park. The new park was created to protect recreational, historic, and natural values in one of the

most significant regions of America's great desert ecosystems.

But the Mojave's spectacular views, quiet canyons, and soothing silence again is threatened. Led by California Representative Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) the House of Representatives recently voted, in essence, to block the national park service from doing their job of safeguarding the Mojave.

Out of view of the public, Lewis added a rider to the Park Service's budget which would allow them to spend only \$1 to manage the Mojave. Apparently, Lewis was upset over what the national park service brought to the Mojave—resource protection, visitor services, and law enforcement. He has indicated he prefers the area's previous management regime: one that allowed open pit mines, cross-country motorcycle races, and use of firearms in recreation areas.

On the House floor, Representative Vic Fazio (D-Woodland) attempted to restore funding for the Mojave by striking the Lewis rider. Fazio's amendment was voted on late at night after hours of partisan wrangling over other aspects of the legislation. Unfortunately this led to a series of defeats for various amendments, including Fazio's. He and his staff deserve our thanks for their extensive efforts in support of the Mojave.

In the Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein has continued to voice her strong support for park service management of the Mojave. After an intensive effort by California activists, the National Park & Conservation Association, and the Wilderness Society, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed out their 1996 fiscal year Interior Appropriations bill without the restrictive language adopted by the House. The bill goes to the Senate floor in August with a joint House—Senate Conference Committee not expected until September.

Turning back the clock on the Mojave would be an insult to all the Americans who worked so hard to have it preserved. It also would be an insult to Lewis' own constituents who have been in the middle of this legislative battle for nearly a decade. In the last few months, local communities have demonstrated their own support for the new park unit. Local chambers of commerce and business leaders even have asked for Lewis' help in obtaining funds the Park Service needs to do its job. This new support recognizes that the Preserve is not only good for the environment, it is good for the economy of nearby communities.

Lewis' rider not only prevents the Park Service from bringing in visitor services, law enforcement, and resource protection, it also would eliminate a 2.7 million dollar investment in San Bernardino County's economy. Nationally, the Park Service estimates that for every \$1



Rock formation in Caruthers Canyon, Mojave National Preserve
Photo by Pete Yamagata

invested in a park, local communities earn \$10 in return. In the California desert, the return has been closer to \$20. In 1993, Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments generated over \$120 million in sales and tax revenue and nearly 2,000 jobs. The 1993 budgets for those two park units totalled \$6 million. Projections for the Mojave National Preserve indicate that it has the potential to generate similar economic benefits. Since October, visitation to the Mojave and surrounding communities has increased significantly.

It now is apparent that opponents to the California Desert Protection Act will not be happy until the Mojave is stripped from the National Park System. But the appropriations fight is not over. It will take the continued commitment of California's congressional delegation and all of us for the full potential of the Mojave National Park Preserve to be met. Please join the effort by contacting your representative and senators and one of the organizations working to preserve California's newest crown jewel.

Nobby Riedy works for the Wilderness Society and is a CWC board member.

Special event

The Wildlands Project: a wilderness vision for the next 100 years

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

featuring
Dave Foreman, founder of The Wildlands Project

Michael Soulé, conservation biologist
Jim Eaton, CWC executive director

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco

Reception 6:00–7:30 PM
Slide show & lecture 7:30–9:00 PM

\$25 general admission

(\$15 to Sierra Club members with membership card)
all proceeds benefit the California Wilderness Coalition and The Wildlands Project

sponsored by:
Patagonia, Inc.
The Wildlands Project
California Wilderness Coalition
San Francisco Bay Chapter, Sierra Club

Shasta avalanche roars through proposed ski area

continued from page 1

From the air, you can see how the avalanche carved a gash in the mountain, starting near Shastarama Point at an elevation of 11,120 feet and crashing all the way past Panther Meadow Campground and over the access road near Bunny Flat at 7,000 feet. From the ground, viewing the damage was shocking, with one long stretch appearing as if a team of bulldozers had plowed through, and another where once-tall fir trees were strewn about like broken baseball bats.

Many of the trees are blocking Shasta's access road, the Everitt Memorial Highway, and the Forest Service does not have equipment large enough to move them.

Many people in the area are taking this as another clear message from nature to not build anything in the Mt. Shasta wilderness, especially a ski park.

The Spirit of Mt. Shasta

*Mt. Shasta, the perfect mountain for me
A hat-shaped crown of clouds worn jauntily
Dressed in Shasta red fir robe warmly worn
Except where by man it is so badly torn
My spirit on yonder landscape rests
Then soars on eagle's back to mighty crests.*

*The breeze softly sings as a little girl's sigh
Booming rocks warn that danger is nigh
Meadow flowers are the glitter of your jewels
Glaciers and avalanches become your tools
Serenity through quiet valleys ranges
The face of this land needs no changes.*

© Larry Wehmeyer

Ancient forests

Klamath forest plan muddies the waters

By Ryan Henson

Lying just south of the Oregon border and, for the most part, west of Interstate 5, the Klamath National Forest is a land of great diversity. Indeed, the Klamath Physiographic Province is an area noted by biologists worldwide for its diversity of flora and its high incidence of rare, endemic species. In one area of the Klamath, 17 distinct species of conifers grow within one square mile. This is believed to be the greatest conifer diversity on Earth. The biological significance of the Klamath has not been promoted by the Forest Service, however. Instead, the agency's emphasis has been on logging. Until recently, the Klamath was the top timber-producing national forest in California.

The Klamath National Forest's recently released Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the latest attempt to resolve more than a decade of litigation, policy changes, and general acrimony mostly over the management of old-growth forests and critical fish habitat. The first draft of the LRMP, released in 1986, was withdrawn due to lawsuits over the destruction of ancient forest ecosystems as symbolized by the decline of the northern spotted owl. In 1994, President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan (Option 9) was approved and permanently changed land management in the Klamath and other national forests and Bureau of Land Management districts within the range of the northern spotted owl.

Most areas receive increased protection

The LRMP allocates the majority of the forest outside of designated wilderness areas and wild-and-scenic rivers to some kind of protective classification.

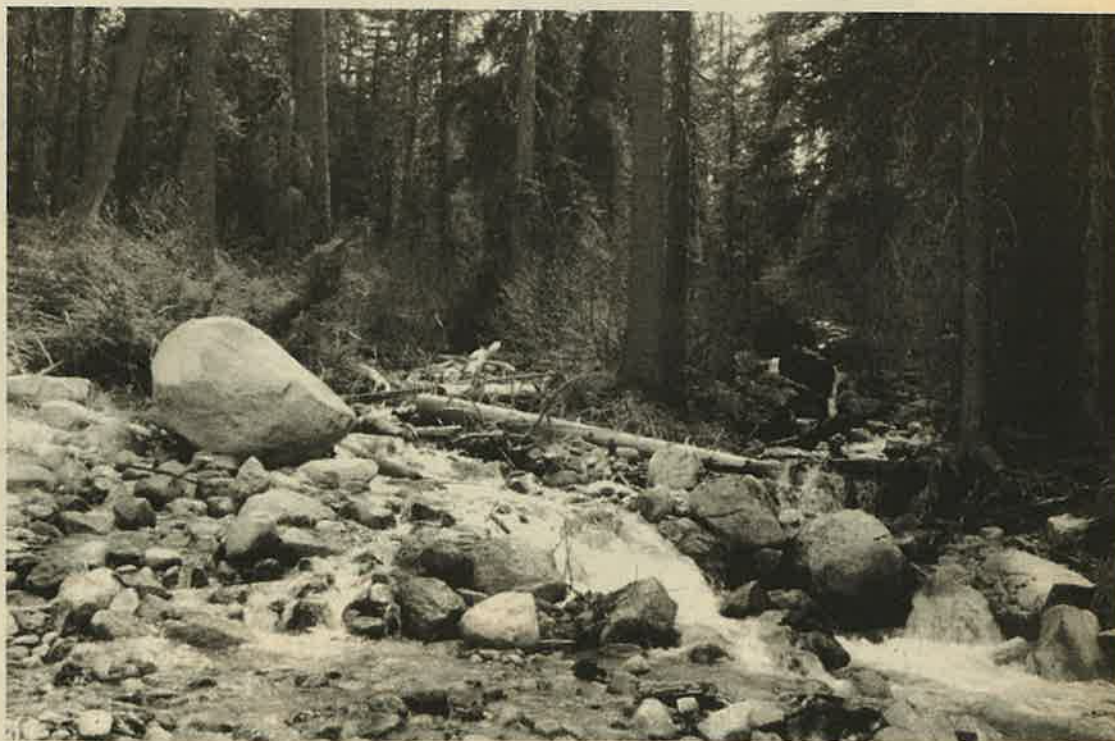
For example, an estimated 458,000 acres of riparian areas are slated for protection as are nearly 411,000 acres of late-successional (i.e. old-growth) reserves. While these areas are not completely safe from logging and development under the plan, they are immune from wholesale clearcutting and other types of commercial exploitation. About 791,000 acres are left for intensive logging, after also removing areas set aside for primitive recreation, special interest areas (lands containing geological, botanical, historical, or other features of interest), research natural areas (botanical communities set aside for research and education), wilderness areas, and wild-and-scenic rivers. From these lands, the LRMP allows the annual logging of 128 million board feet of trees, down significantly from past levels.

Due to these land classifications and the thoroughness of the plan, it is certainly the best management plan ever produced in the history of the Klamath National Forest.

Now the bad news

Close analysis of the LRMP reveals that forest ecosystems will be inadequately protected to keep logging levels as high as possible. The Forest Service proposes logging in areas where the agency itself admits forests will not grow again. The agency's solution is to spray these areas with herbicides after logging supposedly to promote the re-growth of trees. Though there are no studies demonstrating that herbicide application will be effective, by assuming that its solution will work, the agency can "count" thousands of acres which would otherwise be unsuitable for timber production as contributing to the annual timber sale quantity. This amount still largely determines the budget available for a national forest. In this way, the plan overestimates sustainable logging levels by about 15 percent.

Another indication of the agency's strategy to maximize logging is the inadequate protection afforded aquatic ecosystems in the LRMP. The plan fails to designate adequate "key watersheds" for wild salmon. Even worse, perhaps, the LRMP does not establish no-logging buffer zones along small headwater streams. Steep mountain streams are intrinsically prone to landslides that destroy habitat for salmon, rare amphibians, and other aquatic species; logging next to streams accelerates slope and bank failure and raises water temperatures by removing the shading forest canopy. By leaving headwater streams open



Conifers abound along Horse Range Creek in the Russian Wilderness

Photo by Jim Eaton

to logging, the Forest Service may doom some stocks of wild salmon and rare amphibians to extinction.

Plan obfuscates fate of roadless areas

Activists are also concerned by the plan's failure to present a clear analysis of the existing condition, future management, and ecological and social impacts of either developing or protecting roadless areas.

For example, the plan claims that approximately 89 percent of the forest's roadless areas will be in "unregulated" land management classifications. This means that, according to the Forest Service, only 11 percent of all roadless lands in the forest will be open to conventional logging practices.

An analysis of the plan reveals however that the vast majority of unregulated lands in the forest are open to salvage logging (the logging of supposedly dead and dying trees following fires and other natural events). Over the last decade, salvage logging has become the primary cause of roadless area destruction, comprising over 90 percent of all roadless area development activities. Since the late 1970s, the Klamath National Forest has destroyed approximately 40,600 acres of roadless lands, primarily through salvage logging following fire. This has earned the Klamath the dubious distinction of having devastated more roadless lands than any other national forest in California.

With this in mind, the Forest Service's claim that the LRMP protects the vast majority of the Klamath's roadless areas is suspect at best. Further examination reveals that only 110,000 acres of roadless lands (46 percent of all remaining roadless areas in the forest) fall within fairly protective management prescriptions (late-successional reserve, backcountry management area, wild-and-scenic river corridor, research natural area, and special interest area). The remaining 130,000 acres (54 percent of all remaining roadless areas in the forest) are slated for logging and other development, though up to a third will receive a small degree of protection as riparian reserves (300 to 600 foot buffers around streams, rivers, wetlands, and other watersources). Unfortunately, roads and clearcuts can be placed around and sometimes in riparian reserves.

The plan does not contain statistics on roadless areas destroyed, slated for destruction, or zoned for protection. Activists have to wade through a sea of numbers, draw their own roadless area map overlays, and resort to other time-consuming and frustrating techniques to deduce these critical figures.

This is not the end of the plan's problems. For many years, the Forest Service has argued that helicopter logging does not destroy roadless areas because, after all the clearcutting is done, the area remains roadless. This oddly literal interpretation of wilderness characteristics ignores the fact that roadless areas are supposed to be pristine in every sense of the word—that means un-roaded, un-mined, and definitely un-logged. However, the Klamath LRMP obscures this fact by listing areas that have been logged with bulldozers as destroyed, while listing areas that have been helicopter logged as still intact. The plan also fails to list any of the negative consequences helicopter logging may have had on the affected roadless areas (even when old-growth forest was clearcut).

This attempt to blur the distinction between developed areas and wild areas is seen by conservationists as a blatant attempt to make helicopter logging seem harmless. Since salvage logging with helicopters is one of the most common ways the Forest Service goes about ruining our national forest wildlands (see Bald Mountain Roadless Area article on page 6), and since it will surely become more time and again in the future, conservationists will almost certainly appeal this facet of the plan. One particularly disturbing aspect of the LRMP is its allocation of a portion of the Red Buttes Wilderness Additions (also known as the Kangaroo Roadless Area) to a protective backcountry management prescription even though it was helicopter logged in the late-1980s, and even though other unlogged parts of the area were denied protection.

These are unfortunate failures given that the Klamath LRMP, ironically, offers the best roadless area analysis ever presented by the Forest Service in California. For example, for the first time the Forest Service lists many of the important ecological attributes of the Klamath's roadless areas and mentions whether or not they are adjacent to wilderness areas, roadless areas on neighboring national forests, national monuments, or other important wild areas. The plan also makes the unprecedented step of mentioning whether or not a roadless area functions as a

continued on page 5

Ancient forests and wilderness management

Shasta-Trinity forest management plan appealed by CWC

continued from page 1

tat, recreational opportunities, and other outstanding features of these rivers and streams may be degraded unless they receive comprehensive assessments of their potential for wild-and-scenic river status. This is important because stream segments under consideration for wild-and-scenic river status receive protection for the duration of the suitability study.

In addition, conservationists are concerned that the LRMP fails to protect adequately existing wild-and-scenic rivers, especially the ecologically critical South Fork Trinity. As the appeal points out, over 50 percent of the South Fork Trinity's watershed has been logged and filled with roads since World War II. Last year only a handful of steelhead and salmon returned to spawn in the river, down precipitously from the time when the Trinity had one of the most prolific anadromous fish runs in California. Despite this, the plan allows logging for "insect and disease control," as well as for "hazard reduction" along the wild-and-scenic river corridor (wild-and-scenic rivers have quarter-mile wide protective buffers on all sides). Such salvage logging has never been shown to reduce the severity of insect attack, nor has it been shown to reduce unspecified "hazards." To the appellants, the salvage logging provision is simply meant to make money for the Forest Service and timber industry. According to the appeal, such ill-conceived loopholes have no place in a watershed as important—and imperiled—as the South Fork Trinity and should be removed from the LRMP.

The fate of roadless areas unclear

The LRMP presented confusing and contradictory information regarding roadless area management in the forest. For example, one part of the plan states that a third of the Chanchelulla Roadless Area (a potential addition to the adjacent Chanchelulla Wilderness) and a large portion of the Eagle Roadless Area will be managed for intensive logging, while another part of the plan declares that such practices will not

be allowed in these areas. Particularly worrisome is the fate of such old-growth rich areas as the Murphy Glade Roadless Area (adjacent to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness) which is allocated to intensive logging in one part of the plan and old-growth preservation in another. Similar discrepancies exist in the LRMP for the Backbone, Bonanza King, Castle Crag, Chinquapin, Dog Creek, East Fork, Kettle Mountain, Panther, Salt Gulch, and Wells Mountain roadless areas. Indeed, the fate of fully half of the roadless areas in the forest is unclear in the LRMP due

Indeed, the fate of fully half of the roadless areas in the forest is unclear in the LRMP due to contradictory information.

to contradictory information.

The plan did not consider the ecological, economic, and social impacts of allowing development in roadless areas. For example, nowhere does the plan explain what impact clearcutting and road construction may have on formerly pristine regions. This is important given that roadless areas function as critical habitat links between wilderness areas, wild-and-scenic rivers, and other important areas. With the majority of the forest already logged and filled with roads, the importance of roadless areas in maintaining biological diversity, water quality, and primitive recreation opportunities is obvious. Before such areas are zoned for development in LRMPs, conservationists contend that the least the Forest Service can do is fully analyze the impacts of not protecting them.

The plan did not recommend for wilderness designation the popular Mount Eddy Roadless Area, which includes the Pacific Crest Trail. As with other roadless areas in the Shasta-Trinity, the Forest Service failed to discuss adequately the impact of not fully protecting the area as wilderness (only Congress has the authority to designate new wilderness areas, but the Forest Service may choose to protect roadless areas and other wildlands until Congress decides their fate). Mount Eddy was the only "further planning area" (an area protected until the Forest Service could decide whether or not it is worthy of wilderness designation) identified by Congress in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Poor analysis of roadless characteristics

The Forest Service concedes that the LRMP used the discredited Wilderness Attributes Rating System (WARS) to analyze the wilderness character of the Shasta-Trinity's roadless areas. The WARS process assesses the natural integrity, apparent naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation potential, and outstanding features of roadless areas. While this would appear to require a fairly comprehensive survey, the use of the WARS process in the LRMP is inconsistent and incomplete at best, and the system itself has been found in federal court to be greatly flawed.

For example, none of the descriptions of roadless areas offered in the plan systematically assessed the WARS attributes of these wildlands. When these attributes are discussed, it is often in a vague and contradictory manner. For instance, the LRMP describes the Chinquapin Roadless Area in the following terms: "Older over-mature [i.e. old-growth]...forests blanket the rugged steep slopes...specimen sized chinquapins grow throughout the

area." However, the plan concludes that the area lacks "vegetative diversity," and this in turn "limits varied opportunities for primitive recreation." Similarly, the plan describes the Dog Creek Roadless Area as having "steep slopes and rugged terrain," and as being "heavily dissected by intermittent stream courses," and yet it concludes that it has a "rather homogeneous landscape." Lastly, the LRMP describes the stunning topography and botanical diversity of the East Girard Roadless Area in a few short sentences: "More than 14 buttes and mountains...are present. Mixed conifer stands cover the majority of the area....Live oak, black oak, and manzanita grow in pockets throughout [the] area." True to form, however, in the end the plan concludes that "Opportunities for dispersed recreation are limited due to the absence of lakes, uniform topography, and vegetation." It is the use of inadequate and often arbitrary forms of analysis that forced conservationists to appeal the plan. If the Forest Service will not protect all of the Shasta-Trinity's irreplaceable roadless areas, at least they should give them a fair hearing.

The Forest Service has until January 7, 1996 to decide whether or not the LRMP should be changed as a result of the appeal. After that, the appellants may consider suing the agency in federal court to force improvements in the plan. In the meantime, the Forest Service and the appellants will meet face-to-face soon to discuss the details of the appeal and find out whether any issues can be resolved without further negotiation. Stay tuned to the *Wilderness Record* for details.

Ryan Henson is the CWC's conservation associate.

Klamath forest plan

continued from page 4

habitat corridor (where known) between other wild areas. For instance, the plan concedes that the Orleans 1 and Orleans 2 roadless areas serve as "important forested habitat link[s] between the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps Wildernesses." Though the plan fails to protect either roadless area, at least it mentions what will be lost if they are logged. This is a startling breakthrough for an agency that has long denied the importance of roadless areas for anything other than primitive recreation, and then only grudgingly.

This positive and almost revolutionary aspect of the plan is off-set by its failure to discuss the potential social, ecological, and economic consequences of allowing development in roadless areas. Nowhere does the plan discuss what may happen if the natural character of roadless areas is altered. This aspect of the plan will face an almost certain appeal from the conservation community.

Now for some good news

The LRMP recommends over 171 miles of rivers and streams for wild-and-scenic river status. This includes ecologically critical segments of the Klamath, Scott, and Salmon rivers, including Wooley Creek. The plan also designates 12,500 acres of research natural areas, representing nine distinct botanical communities including subalpine meadow, brewer spruce, Pacific Douglas-fir, mountain chaparral, and foothill woodland, among others. The plan also creates 45 special interest areas covering 22,000 acres, including obsidian flows, pillow lava, a stand of the rare Port-Orford cedar, several serpentine plant communities, the southernmost population of Alaska yellow cedar, and the northernmost stands of grey pine (formerly known as digger pine) and foxtail pine.

These designations show that the Forest Service has the capacity at times to recognize and protect the ecological, scenic, and recreational qualities that make the Klamath National Forest unique and utterly irreplaceable. Now if only the agency would work with the conservation community to protect the Klamath's remaining roadless areas and critical watercourses.

Fire management plans underway for South Warner and Mokelumne wilderness areas

The Forest Service is asking for public comment on fire management plans for two California wilderness areas, the South Warner and the Mokelumne.

The South Warner Wilderness plan would allow lightning fires to burn if they meet specific criteria. These criteria would include protection of human life and property within and directly adjacent to the wilderness, protection of soil and watershed resources, maintenance of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat, specific weather and fuel parameters, drought indices, air quality, funding, and social and political impacts.

The plan may also allow for limited prescribed fires in small areas of high fuel concentrations. Such fires would be used to reduce fuels before a lightning fire is allowed to burn.

Comments on the South Warner plan should be sent

by September 29 to the District Ranger, Warner Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 220, Cedarville, CA 96104. More information may be obtained from Elizabeth Ballard or Chuck McElwain at (916) 279-6116.

The Mokelumne Wilderness fire management plan is in the initial phase of scoping. The public is invited to comment on the range of issues that should be addressed.

Proposed actions could include allowing natural fires, reducing fire loads with prescribed fires, and establishing appropriate fire suppression responses within the wilderness boundaries.

Comments on the Mokelumne plan should be sent by September 25 to Judith Yandoh, District Ranger, Amador Ranger District, 26820 Silver Drive, Pioneer, CA 95666. More information may be obtained from Joan McNamara, project coordinator, at (209) 295-4251.

Roadless areas and wilderness management

Bald Mt. Roadless Area falls to the chainsaw

By Ryan Henson

Over the last few weeks, the 5,623-acre Bald Mountain Roadless Area in the Tahoe National Forest, once the easternmost roadless area in the northern Sierra Nevada to host stands of old-growth pine and fir, lost over 1,000 acres to salvage logging (the cutting of supposedly dead and dying trees), road construction, and other development.

With the help of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF), the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) and the Plumas Forest Project scrambled to save the area by appealing the salvage sale. Sadly, by the time the Forest Service met with the appellants to try and resolve their concerns, the roadless area had already been chopped in half by Sierra Pacific Industries.

This is a terrible loss for biological diversity in California. The Bald Mountain Roadless Area contained the only significant old-growth stands in the northeastern portion of the Tahoe National Forest. The roadless area also is a unique transition zone between the mixed-conifer forests of the western Sierra Nevada, the Jeffrey pine forests of the eastern Sierra Nevada, and the bitterbrush and juniper habitats of the Great Basin. The area also hosts a stand of the rare Washoe pine, most of which, fortunately, is protected in the Babbitt Research Natural Area (an area set aside for botanical research).

Until recently, the Bald Mountain Roadless Area had been forgotten by the conservation community. Without activists reminding the Forest Service about the existence and importance of the roadless area, the agency simply ignored it and treated it like any other part of the landscape.

When the Bald Mountain Roadless Area burned in the Cottonwood fire last year, activists noticed the roadless area once again, but this recollection came too late. As soon as the Cottonwood fire was extinguished, the Forest Service began planning a 100 million board foot salvage sale in the roadless area and surrounding lands. For perspective, this is more than is cut every year by the Mendocino, Los Padres, Inyo, Sierra, San Bernardino, Cleveland, Six Rivers, and Modoc national forests combined. While the roadless area comprised only 15 percent of the total sale area, it contained the only stands of large trees in the region and, thus, was a prime target. Most of the burned area had been clearcut earlier, and only the roadless area had remained unlogged.

Though the roadless area burned less intensely than the rest of the sale area because of its large-tree dominated structure (large trees are more fire-resistant than the small, crowded trees planted after clearcutting), the Forest Service still proposed to salvage log it and construct nearly a mile and a half of road ironically to "save it from burning again in the future." This odd claim is based on the assumption that dead trees will fall to the ground and create a fuel hazard. Though the Forest Service has never been able to present scientific evidence to substantiate this theory, it has become the single most popular justification for salvage logging. In the past, the Forest Service always admitted that salvage sales were simply designed to make money by cutting burned trees before they rot. This blunt yet refreshingly honest explanation is no longer used now that the agency claims to have embraced a newer, more holistic "ecosystem management" approach to development.

When conservationists reminded the Forest Service about the existence of the Bald Mountain Roadless Area, they responded that they had never heard of it. The California Wilderness Coalition showed them their own survey maps from the 1970s which clearly delineate the area, so the Forest Service began scrambling to provide a cursory analysis of the impacts of logging in the roadless area as required by their own regulations. At the same time, state water quality officials were outraged over the scope of the proposed logging and its potential water quality impacts. The Forest Service made several last-minute changes to the sale to avoid violating state and federal clean water laws. Despite these mitigations, the water agencies remained unhappy with the sale.

Though the project could have been stopped because



These trees no longer stand in the Bald Mountain Roadless Area

Photo by Ryan Henson

of water quality and roadless area concerns, the Forest Service had one last trick up its sleeve. The Tahoe National Forest convinced the Forest Service's Regional Office in San Francisco that the Cottonwood Salvage Sale was the only way to deal with the ecological and social "emergency" caused by the fire. With these new emergency powers, the Tahoe National Forest was able to start logging a month and a half earlier than they otherwise could have under current Forest Service policy. In other words, conservationists lost the ability to stop the project while negotiations occurred—the longer we talked, the more trees fell.

While this "emergency" designation was a coup for the Forest Service, it was a disaster for the roadless area. Logging began almost immediately after the sale was approved, and when activists inspected the roadless area a few days after filing the appeal, they found much of it had been logged already. Steve Volker of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund saw apparently unburned trees being loaded onto logging trucks (only burned trees were supposed to be cut). While the accidental—and sometimes illegal—cutting of perfectly healthy trees is fairly common in large-scale Forest Service salvage sales, it made the "emergency" designation for the project seem that much more frustrating and ludicrous.

The roadless area was cut in half just a few weeks after the sale was approved. Since the Forest Service has won the

war on the ground by destroying the roadless area, the conservation community is left grasping at legal straws to try and make the best of a defeat. The best activists can hope for is to get all of the roads in the Bald Mountain region closed so that it can become a roadless area once again in a century or so.

The Bald Mountain Roadless Area joins the long list of roadless wildlands that have been destroyed by the Forest Service since the mid-1980s. The primary cause of roadless area destruction remains salvage logging. Over 90 percent of the potentially harmful projects proposed in roadless areas over the last decade have been salvage sales. This trend may grow far worse over the next year as a result of the salvage rider signed by President Clinton in July. The rider is a provision exempting salvage sales from most environmental laws and severely limiting the ability of activists to stop them in court.

What you can do

Write to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, as well as your representative in the House, and request that they work to protect national forest roadless areas from salvage logging and other destructive practices. Stress that roadless areas are among our last irreplaceable wildlands and are essential to maintaining clean water, healthy wildlife habitat, and our overall quality of life. Also request that they work to cut the Forest Service's logging and road construction budget during the appropriations process.

Changes for San Berdoo wildernesses

The San Bernardino National Forest wilderness management environmental assessment is available for review. Comments will be accepted until September 25.

The areas affected by this management decision are the Cucamonga, San Geronio, San Jacinto, and Santa Rosa wilderness areas. Alternative 2 was chosen by the forest supervisor which places priority on protecting wilderness values and natural processes by restricting some recreational activities. It would establish three "opportunity classes," pristine, primitive, and transition within and adjacent to the wilderness areas.

Alternative 2 contains the following directions:

- fish planting will be prohibited
- day and overnight use quotas will be slightly reduced in the San Geronio and San Jacinto wilderness areas
- maximum user group size will be reduced to 12
- packstock that travel and camp together will be limited to 8 per permit
- packstock food will be required to be packed in—no

grazing allowed

- dogs will be permitted on leash
- goats will not be permitted in wilderness areas with bighorn sheep
- campfires will be prohibited
- grazing will continue in the San Jacinto Wilderness
- only locally collected native species or sterile species would be seeded or planted to rehabilitate fire damaged areas.

Additional information on this proposed action and copies of the environmental assessment may be obtained from:

Frances Enkoji, Assistant Recreation Staff
1824 S. Commercenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430
(909) 884-6634 x 3141
(909) 383-5586 (fax)

Comments on the proposed action should be postmarked for faxed by September 25 to Gene Zimmerman, forest supervisor, at the above address.

Primitive and modern art



Petroglyph in the Bald Mountain Roadless Area

Photo by Ryan Henson



CWC T-shirts: the fall fashion statement for back-to-school attire

Everyone who rents in the Plumshire Building (where the CWC office is) gets roped into modeling our T-shirts. Back by popular demand, Linda (right) sports our newest T-shirt. The \$15 shirt features our logo in three colors on a background of jade, royal blue, birch, or cream. Sheila likes our six-tone landscape shirt in jade, fuchsia, light blue, or pale green for \$15.

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

Calendar

September 13 FUNDRAISER for the California Wilderness Coalition in San Francisco (see article on page 3). For more information call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

September 16 MEETING of the California Ancient Forest Alliance in Davis. For more information call Jim Eaton or Ryan Henson at (916) 758-0380.

September 17 MEETING of the board of directors of the California Wilderness Coalition in Davis. For more information call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

September 20 MEETING of the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) steering committee and science team in Sacramento. For more information call the SNEP Center at (916) 752-7856.

September 23-24 WATERSHED RESTORATION WORKSHOP in Georgetown, sponsored by the Pacific Rivers Council. For more information call Terry Terhaar at (916) 444-8726 x 84.

September 25 COMMENTS DUE on Mokelumne Wilderness fire plan (see article page 5). Contact Judith Yandoh, District Ranger, Amador Ranger District, 26820 Silver Drive, Pioneer, CA 95666.

September 29 COMMENTS DUE on South Warner Wilderness fire plan (see article page 5). Contact District Ranger, Warner Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 220, Cedarville, CA 96104.

Wilderness Trivia Answer

The Bald Mountain Roadless Area, or what remains of it (see page 6).

from page 2



**California
Wilderness
Coalition**

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.

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*"The universe of the wilderness is disappearing
like a snowbank on a south-facing
slope on a warm June day."*

—Robert Marshall

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