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The King Range is again threatened—this time by a wilderness bill. Photo by Jim Eaton

Bill to repeal salvage rider is introduced in House

By Ryan Henson

Whether you call it the salvage rider, Public Law 104-19, or "logging without laws," the amendment to the Rescission Act signed by President Clinton last summer is devastating our ancient forests. The conservation group Save America's Forests calls the amendment "the most anti-environmental bill" ever signed into law.

Fortunately, a bipartisan coalition of House members is trying to repeal the amendment. House Resolution 2745 was introduced by Representative Elizabeth Furse (D-Oregon) in early December. Since then, the legislation to repeal the salvage rider has gained more than 70 co-sponsors. Conservationists are working hard to generate even more support for the bill in the House while appealing to Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) to introduce a similar measure in the Senate.

The salvage amendment exempted all salvage logging on public lands from judicial review, citizen appeals, and environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Forest Management Act. It defined salvage logging so broadly that almost all timber sales qualify. Despite assurances from the White House that federal agencies will continue to follow environmental laws, protect forest ecosys-

tems, and allow public scrutiny of salvage sales, examples of abuses abound.

Public lands in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana have been particularly hard hit by the amendment, and several large and potentially destructive salvage sales are planned next year for California's forests. With no conventional means available to stop the sales, even the most mainstream conservation leaders are engaging in mass demonstrations and civil disobedience. Brock Evans, vice-president of the National Audubon Society, and former Representative Jim Jontz recently joined with Earth First! co-founder Mike Roselle to protest the Sugarloaf timber sale in southern Oregon. With dozens of other activists, they were arrested for blocking a logging road at Sugarloaf.

Conservationists' efforts to prevent our public forests from being pillaged under the amendment were made more difficult when a federal judge ruled recently that to comply with the law, federal agencies must allow logging in even the most sensitive old-growth areas. Although President Clinton announced he would support a bill to strike down the judge's ruling, he said nothing about repealing the amendment. Conservationists fear that President Clinton opposes a repeal because it might be a tacit admission that he has failed to prevent abuses by the

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Environmentalists rally to defeat logging bill for North Coast

By Paul Spitler

For the past decade, "Save Headwaters!" has been the rallying cry of environmentalists from across the state. The last unprotected ancient redwood forest has captured the hearts of thousands and inspired a movement based on its preservation. Now, activists are shouting "Stop Frank Riggs!" as the Republican congressman moves to plunder Headwaters and other northern California old-growth forests.

Rep. Riggs (R-Windsor) recently introduced a broad-ranging bill that threatens not only the redwoods of Headwaters but ancient forests throughout the north state. His Northwest California Forest Health and Recovery Act (H.R. 2712) would:

- authorize the government to exchange federal lands of equal value for Headwaters forest (if the trade cannot be accomplished within three years, the forest would be opened to logging);
- mandate logging an estimated 100,000 acres of old-growth forest in the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers national forests;
- establish a new, albeit small, King Range Wilderness along the Lost Coast;
- mandate more logging in the Smith River National Recreation Area;
- suspend the Endangered Species Act in critical locations.

When the bill was introduced in early December, environmental groups feared its numerous provisions would divide their ranks. What they found instead was a united wall of opposition. "The bill," said Northcoast Environmental Center director Tim McKay, "has something to alienate everybody."

The most disastrous section of the bill requires that 50 percent of the old-growth stands and late-successional reserves in the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers national forests be logged within nine years. (Late-successional reserves are the old-growth forests protected under President Clinton's forest plan.) The bill never states outright that half of the old-growth in these forests should be logged. Rather, it calls for "controlled silvicultural treatment" to "test the effects" of logging on old-growth dependent species like the northern spotted owl.

Riggs' Orwellian doublespeak cannot hide that his intention is to give lumber companies what they have been bellowing for—access to old-growth trees. If his goal really were to learn about the relationship between old-growth dependent species and their habitat, the most cursory review of the dozens of scientific papers written on the subject would provide the answers. Also available for study are the millions of acres of old-growth forests that already have been logged.

If a deal to swap federal lands for Headwaters cannot be struck within three years, the owner of the forest, Pacific Lumber, would be granted an exemption from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since ESA-mandated protections for the marbled murrelet, a threatened species, are the only impediment now preventing Pacific Lumber from leveling Headwaters, the exemption is a license to log.

Exempting timber companies from key environmental laws is a favorite tactic of House Republicans. In addition to exempting Headwaters from the ESA, the Riggs bill prohibits the government from declaring any land in Humboldt County owned by Pacific Lumber critical habitat for an endangered species.

It is no surprise, then, to learn that Pacific Lumber provided input when the bill was written. Conservation groups, on the other hand,

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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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Coalition news

Monthly Report

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. I'm starting to understand the telescoping of time that comes with age, although with my generation it is Pink Floyd that resounds in my ears ("every year is getting shorter; never seem to find the time"). My parents grew up with vinyl records; my oldies are being reproduced on compact disks.

We discussed the pace of change this Christmas at a family gathering. My mother, who grew up on a farm without electricity, remembers running outside as a child to see that new invention, the airplane. It now has been more than 25 years since humans first landed on the Moon. My dad talked about the evolution of sound recording, from wire to reel-to-reel tapes, from cassette tapes to CDs. The world has come a long way during their lifetimes.

Wendy's sister, Lenore, is upset because her Macintosh LCIII is outdated less than two years after she bought it. I'm not too sympathetic, since her machine is more modern than any we have at home or in the office. I'm eying the Power Macs that will allow me to edit my camcorder tapes, even though I can see that by the turn of the century videotape may go the way of 8-track stereo. It's a digital world.

Likewise, the California Wilderness Coalition operated at a low key for nearly two decades. It wasn't too many years ago that I was the sole employee of the organization.

The Coalition grew up in 1995. We added our fourth employee, conservation associate Ryan Henson, and we accomplished far more than in any previous year. Considering the political setbacks we faced, we had to if wildlands were to be saved.

It was a year that required us to grow at an unprecedented rate—our budget grew from \$55,000 to \$83,000 in a single year. We will fall about \$7,000 shy of our goal for 1996, but our frugal spending, pitiful salaries, and Lucy's three-month leave of absence will leave us with money in

the bank to start the new year.

It was a year that forced me to stop wearing the mantle of executive director and start acting like one. I used to be a big fish in a small pond (executive director with a staff of none). Now I have to monitor budgets, work on strategic plans, schedule staff meetings, and make payroll. I'd be in big trouble if I didn't have the talents of Ryan, Lucy, and Lora backing me up.

But for 1996, we need to raise over \$100,000 to keep our basic program alive and start working for the future. And this budget includes no pay increases for our underpaid staff, only additional money for workshops and travel.

I do hope you understand what a no-frills organization the CWC is. At present, we offer no benefits (we joke that our health plan is encouraging our staff to walk or ride their bikes to work). Their health care is provided by supportive partners or from their own pockets. Wendy, our volunteer treasurer-for-life, is paid more as a State employee than the four Coalition employees combined.

The *Wilderness Record* is mailed by a group of local volunteers who gather each month for a potluck dinner and are entertained by slides or videos while they stick each label on by hand. Every renewal notice, alert, or fund appeal you receive has been folded by hand, the return envelope stamped by hand, and the whole thing collated, stuffed, sealed, stamped, and sorted by hand.

I suppose many would say this is outmoded, inefficient, or even wasteful. But in the CWC, people count. We appreciate our local mailing party volunteers, and we have never forgotten our roots.

In 1996, we will be returning to our grassroots to train activists throughout the state to defend our beleaguered wildlands. If you want to become more involved in saving wild places, we have a role for you.

By Jim Eaton

Correction

An article in the December 1995 issue of the *Wilderness Record* credited President Carter with protecting the Middle Fork Feather River. In fact, as our river expert Steve Evans was quick to point out, the bill that added the Middle Fork to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was signed by Lyndon Johnson.



Free salvage logging video

A free 30-minute video entitled "Public Forests: Plunder or Promise?" is available from Citizens for Better Forestry (CBF) at P. O. Box 1297, Hayfork, CA 96041 (additional copies cost \$10 apiece). The video contains an informative discussion of the effects of salvage logging on forest ecosystems, accompanied by powerful footage of the South Fork Roadless Area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest which was saved from salvage logging by CBF and other groups in the late 1980s. The video concentrates on the South Fork case in particular because it shows how arbitrary the Forest Service's salvage logging policies can be: the majority of the trees the Forest Service deemed dead or dying (and therefore fit for salvage logging) over seven years ago are healthy today. The video also addresses how the salvage rider diminishes civil rights.

Old friends and new

The California Wilderness Coalition has always relied on the kindness of friends (we haven't Ms. Dubois's way with strangers). We thank the following wilderness-minded organizations, businesses, and individuals for their notable generosity in supporting our work:

Ascent Technologies; California Alpine Club; Cool World Sports; Great Pacific Patagonia; Klamath Forest Alliance; Lipsey Plumbing & Heating; Peradam Foundation; Patagonia; Ridge Builders Group; Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter; The Wilderness Society; Zoo-Ink Screen Print.

Sidney Barnes; Lynn Berner; Susan & Joseph Bower; K & K Chaffey; Edythe & Samuel Cohen; Jim Eaton & Wendy Cohen; Susan Cohen; Brian Cox; Robert DeNike, Jr.; Frank DiGenova; Lawrence Janeway; Art Kulakow; Norman B. Livermore; Michael Lozeau; Merry Ann Moore & Robert Corrigan; Don Morrill; Philip Mullen; DeEtta Nicely; Peter Norquist; William Patterson; Daniel Raleigh; Bob Schneider; Mary Scoonover; Susan Smith; James Swinerton; Lynn Thomas; Bill Waid.

Wilderness Trivia Question

What is the only Indian word to become a generic geographical term in California?

Answer on page 7

Wilderness news

More gobbledygook from the agency that brought you "ecosystem management"

By Sally Miller

The Forest Service has released its long-awaited proposed desired condition for the 45,000-acre region between Mammoth and June lakes in the Inyo National Forest in California's eastern Sierra. The 22-page document, essentially a vision statement for the landscape, is a product of the agency's experiment in "ecosystem management" begun in 1992.

The Mammoth-June study area includes 21,000 acres of the San Joaquin Roadless Area which were released from mandatory consideration for wilderness designation by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Since that time, environmentalists have been fending off a multitude of proposals that would destroy the integrity of the roadless area. The roadless area and its surroundings harbor ancient red fir and mixed conifer forests; interesting geological formations like White Wing Mountain; beautiful Glass Creek meadow; habitat for furbearing mammals, Yosemite toad, and other sensitive species; spectacular scenery; and abundant opportunities for low-impact recreation.

Prior to releasing the proposed desired condition, the Forest Service prepared a report on existing and historic conditions in the Mammoth-June area. The agency is operating on the premise that if historic and, particularly, existing conditions are compared with a desired future condition, the Forest Service and the public will be able to determine what management practices are appropriate and necessary to attain the desired condition. Once a desired condition for the area is adopted, the agency will solicit proposals for projects compatible with that condition. Only at this stage of the process does the Forest Service intend to prepare documents that will be subject to the strict provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

What is the agency's desired condition for the Mammoth-June region and the San Joaquin Roadless Area? It's hard to tell. The document is vague enough to make it difficult for the reader to determine what the landscape will look like in the future, which a description of the desired condition certainly should do. Even where the agency provides some level of detail, as in tables that describe the desired condition for various types of vegetation, one cannot determine what is really proposed because the tables describing existing vegetation (from the earlier report) are not readily comparable with those that

describe the desired condition. The Forest Service has made no effort to conduct a comparison analysis that would help the public make the leap between the existing and desired condition, an omission that renders the document of questionable value.

It is easier to articulate what the proposed desired condition does *not* do. It does not recommend wilderness designation for the San Joaquin Roadless Area. Nor does it propose protecting the region's ancient forests, or any other administrative protections for the region's ecological and geological values. Although the Forest Service articulates a vision (whatever it might be) for the region's vegetation, it proposes no desired condition for wildlife populations. Instead, the agency claims that wildlife will be protected by the desired vegetation or habitat conditions. This is problematic: without defining measurable standards for wildlife, it will be difficult for the agency to determine if the desired vegetation conditions are indeed adequate to maintain viable wildlife populations. In sum, the Forest Service, as usual, has made no commitment to permanently protecting the region's natural values.

Because the desired condition is so vague, the Forest Service leaves the door open for all types of development—an alpine ski resort, an extensive mountain bike park and trails network, motorized use, and geothermal development, to name a few. Overall, this is a prescription for piecemeal development of this unique region.

Local environmentalists are still reviewing the document. Besides requesting that the agency either make a commitment to real ecosystem protection or abandon the



The Forest Service's "desired condition" for the San Joaquin Roadless Area does not include wilderness.
Photo by Sally Miller

misleading moniker of "ecosystem management," they may ask that the proposed desired condition be rewritten so the public can better understand just what the agency's vision is. Finally, there is the NEPA question: Should this document be subject to NEPA? Environmentalists claim that the Forest Service's establishment of a desired condition for the region meets the NEPA definition of an action that, if adopted, may affect the environment. Consequently, the environmentalists maintain, the proposed desired condition must be analyzed in an environmental impact statement. The Forest Service demurs. The fate of the San Joaquin Roadless Area and the larger ecosystem in which it resides ultimately will be decided by the public and, perhaps, the courts.

What you can do

The Forest Service is soliciting public comment on its proposed desired condition for the Mammoth-June region.
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Environmentalists rooting for repeal of salvage rider

continued from page 1

Forest Service, despite his assurances that the agency will follow the law and protect the environment. According to a congressional staff member who asked not to be identified, "President Clinton doesn't want to admit that the Forest Service at the regional level is almost completely out of his control. The agency has its own agenda, and it sees the salvage rider as a golden opportunity to pursue it." This statement lends credence to rumors that many White House officials consider the Forest Service a "rogue agency" with little regard for the administration's environmental concerns.

Many White House officials consider the Forest Service a "rogue agency" with little regard for the administration's environmental concerns.

salvage rider was enacted, public pressure, administrative appeals, and the courts might well have blocked these sales. With the salvage rider in force, activists can only protest in the hopes that public outrage will convince the Forest Service to withdraw its logging plans. But since the

Forest Service has stubbornly ignored the public's outrage over its logging policies for decades, it is unlikely that bad publicity alone will bring about a change of heart in the agency.

Meanwhile, abuses go unpunished. The Forest Service recently informed the California Wilderness Coalition that it had "accidentally"

logged 55 acres of old-growth forest near the Knox Mountain Roadless Area in the Modoc National Forest. The Modoc's old-growth had been protected under an agreement between the Forest Service and the Coalition and other groups who had filed an administrative appeal. Not only does the salvage rider make it possible for the Forest Service to flout such agreements, but the agency now can plan sales in previously protected areas, like the Modoc's only nesting area for the California spotted owl. The

salvage rider means such proposals can be challenged only in the court of public opinion—not in a court of law.

Salvage logging in the Marble Mountain Wilderness?

The Forest Service recently proposed a salvage sale on the border of the Marble Mountain Wilderness in the Klamath National Forest. When the California Wilderness Coalition examined the proposal, however, we determined that one of the proposed clearcuts is *in* the wilderness, raising the happy prospect of our using the salvage rider, which prohibits logging in designated wilderness areas, to protect the forest.

Since the salvage rider makes suing the agency extremely difficult and getting an injunction nearly impossible, however, the Forest Service could log the wilderness before we can intervene. To date, the agency has not admitted that the proposed clearcut is in the wilderness.

This is not the first time the Forest Service has missed its own boundaries: Klamath National Forest activists say several logging sales strayed into the wilderness after it was designated in 1964.
—Ryan Henson

Fish stocking and wilderness

Managing at-risk native fish in wilderness

In the past few years, the *Wilderness Record* has been host to occasional articles, letters, and commentary on the impacts of fish stocking in California's wilderness areas. To help ground the continuing discussion about this controversial practice, Eric Gerstung, a professional fisheries biologist and longtime member of the California Wilderness Coalition, offers a progress report on what the Department of Fish and Game is doing to protect and restore at-risk native fish in the wilderness areas managed by the Forest Service.

By Eric Gerstung

Wilderness protection alone is not sufficient to protect native fishes. If extinctions are to be averted, the number and size of populations must be increased. The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has been introducing and restoring native fish populations to suitable streams since the 1960s. Most of those suitable sites are within the wilderness areas of the state's national forests.

Designated wilderness in California's national forests provides a high degree of habitat protection for at-risk native fish species. The at-risk category consists of federal threatened species, species designated as sensitive by the Forest Service, and state species of special concern. The latter includes species that formerly were Fish and Wildlife Service Category 2 candidate species for listing or species that have been included in petitions for listing. At present, 15 at-risk native fish species are known to occur in streams within 15 designated national forest wilderness units (see table on page 5).

Forest Service wilderness regulations and declarations of congressional intent from committee reports accompanying past wilderness bills provide the DFG with guidelines for managing fisheries in wilderness areas. Examples of permitted management activities include: sampling fish populations with traps, nets, and battery-operated electrofishers; taking fish eggs for captive breeding; stocking juvenile fish species native or naturalized to the region; eradicating species not native to the area with fish toxicants approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); operating lake level and stream flow maintenance dams if their construction preceded wilderness designation; constructing barriers to prevent re-entry of undesirable, non-native fish species; removing barriers like logjams and rock slides to facilitate migratory fish passage; establishing livestock exclusion fences to reduce damage to sensitive riparian areas; and reducing erosion resulting from excessive livestock grazing.

If populations of native species, including native fishes at risk in California's designated wilderness areas, are to be maintained and restored, management activities consistent with maintenance of wilderness values must continue.

Palute cutthroat trout

This federally listed threatened species always has been considered the rarest trout in the state because it occurred only in a single stream—Silver King Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Carson River that is entirely within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. Hybridization with rainbow trout, which had been introduced by unknown sources to the stream nearly 40 years ago, eliminated genetically pure Paiute trout from most of its historic habitat.

Fortunately, before hybridization had become a problem, populations of pure Paiute cutthroat trout were established by transplanting fish into two small headwater tributaries above large waterfalls. Following several years of effort to eradicate hybridized populations, trout from these tributaries were used to re-establish populations of

pure Paiute cutthroat trout in their historic habitat.

Rotenone, a biodegradable plant product frequently used by organic farmers to control insect pests and by native people in South America to collect fish for consumption, was used to eradicate the hybrid trout. In the low concentrations used, rotenone is not toxic to plants, birds, or mammals, including humans. Although most species of aquatic insects are killed, recolonization from nearby populations is rapid. Recovery to pre-treatment levels generally occurs within two years.

Paiute cutthroat trout now occupy 13 miles of stream habitat in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. In addition, two satellite populations now exist in roadless portions of the White Mountains in Inyo County and one population in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. All satellite populations were established by transplanting genetically pure fish. Trout Unlimited, a trout conservation organization, is advocating the further expansion of the Paiute cutthroat trout range within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness so that a catch-and-release fishery can be established. Angling for Paiute cutthroat trout in the Silver King Creek drainage currently is prohibited.

Lahontan cutthroat trout

This federally listed threatened species formerly occurred in Lake Tahoe and in hundreds of miles of stream habitat within the drainages of the Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers. They once were so abundant that they supported commercial fisheries in Tahoe, Pyramid, and Walker lakes. Following many decades of stocking with non-native trout, the native cutthroat trout gradually were displaced from all but a few isolated headwater streams.

A modest restoration program involving the replacement of non-native fish populations with Lahontan cutthroat in selected California streams was initiated during the 1970s. To date, Lahontan cutthroat trout populations have been re-established in seven California streams with 16 miles of occupied habitat. Fourteen other populations previously existed. Reproducing populations now occur in the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River in the proposed Echo-Carson Wilderness, in Murphy Creek within the Sweetwater Roadless Area, and in the partially unroaded drainages of Slinkard Valley and Mill and Wolf creeks adjacent to the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. Restoration of Lahontan cutthroat trout to the largely roadless drainage of Silver Creek immediately east of Wolf Creek will be completed next year. In addition, transplants have expanded the range of existing populations within the headwaters of the East Fork of the Carson River by about one-third. The East Fork, and six other streams within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, now support Lahontan cutthroat trout. Nevada has successfully re-established Lahontan cutthroat trout in a number of Humboldt River tributaries, and more restoration is planned.

Coastal cutthroat trout

This state species of special concern occurs in most coastal streams north of the Eel River. Modification of estuaries and watershed damage from logging and agricultural development have reduced fish abundance substantially. Populations occur in tributaries of the Smith River, Illinois River, and Blue Creek, which drain the Siskiyou Wilderness. Management activity on these waters has been confined to periodic fish population inventories and enactment of reduced bag limits (a maximum of two trout per angler).

Little Kern golden trout

This federally listed threatened species historically occurred throughout the Little Kern River drainage in



Electrofishing on the East Fork of the Carson River, Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, where the Department of Fish and Game is restoring populations of threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Photo by Eric Gerstung

what is now part of Golden Trout Wilderness. In response to demands from local anglers for better trout fishing, the DFG planted rainbow trout in many Little Kern River tributaries during the 1930s. Widespread hybridization resulted. By 1970, Little Kern golden trout had been eliminated from 89 percent of their former habitat. Proposals to add this golden trout subspecies to the federal list of threatened species prompted the DFG to initiate a restoration program involving a series of phased rotenone applications followed by restocking with pure strains of native golden trout. The treatments were almost completed this year, and remaining unstocked, treated waters will be stocked next year. Little Kern golden trout will then occur in over 90 miles of stream, almost the entire drainage.

Volcano Creek golden trout

The Volcano Creek golden trout is characterized by vivid coloration in various hues of red and yellow. Its unique coloration and status as a California native prompted the state legislature to adopt the golden trout as the state fish of California.

Originally, they occurred only in Golden Trout Creek (once called Volcano Creek) and in most of the South Fork of the Kern River drainage. Isolated from other trout for thousands of years by impassable waterfalls, they evolved into the colorful golden trout.

Before the turn of the century, Volcano Creek golden trout were transported to the Cottonwood Lakes, now in the John Muir Wilderness. Every year since 1918, the DFG has taken eggs at the Cottonwood Lakes to produce golden trout fingerlings for stocking in over 200 high-elevation lakes. Recent genetic testing, however, indicates that this golden trout egg source has become hybridized with rainbow trout; consequently, these fish cannot be used in

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Fish stocking and wilderness

Managing at-risk fish in wilderness

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species restoration efforts.

Brown and rainbow trout have been stocked in the South Fork Kern at Kennedy Meadows where a trans-Sierra road crosses the stream. Upstream from the road, golden trout populations in the South Fork of the Kern River and tributaries in the Dome Land and South Sierra wildernesses downstream either have been hybridized or displaced. Equally serious, brown trout over a 15-year period worked their way into the entire South Fork golden trout population. There also was concern that anglers might move fish into Golden Trout Creek at Tunnel Meadows, where the two drainages are only several hundred yards apart. In response to this dire predicament, the DFG initiated a program during the early 1970s to eradicate the brown trout from the upper reaches of the South Fork and block their re-entry from downstream sources by constructing three native-rock fish barriers on the South Fork at six-mile intervals. Golden trout were restocked following a series of rotenone applications to remove brown trout. Though the treatments and restocking were successful, the two lowermost fish barriers are beginning to fail and must be reconstructed, an expensive and logistically difficult proposition. Continued maintenance also will be required.

In addition to exotic fish problems, golden trout habitat in the South Fork Kern River has been seriously degraded by over a century of livestock grazing. In many places a deep, narrow, grassy stream channel has been converted to a wide, shallow, sandy streambed. Anheuser-Busch, Inc. now holds the livestock permit for most of the affected area, which is in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Led by California Trout, angling groups will be urging the corporation to accept a reduction in grazing use.

The Volcano Creek golden trout, although not yet federally listed, remains very much at risk.

Kern River rainbow trout

This beautiful rosy-hued and often heavily spotted trout once occurred throughout the Kern River from the slopes of Mount Whitney downstream almost to Bakersfield. Water development and hybridization with hatchery rainbow trout have eliminated this native trout from the lower half of the drainage (downstream from Johnsondale Bridge). Viable populations are located in

upstream river reaches within Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness. Because anglers were overfishing the larger trout, the DFG has adopted more restrictive size and bag limits. Although this subspecies is not listed, it is classified as a state species of special concern.

Goose Lake redband trout

This state species of special concern is confined to the tributaries of Goose Lake and tributaries of the upper reaches of the Pit River, mostly in the Modoc National Forest. Water diversion and dams on Goose Lake tributaries and periodic lake desiccation have seriously reduced redband numbers. Pit River tributary populations within the South Warner Wilderness, notably those in East Creek, have been adversely affected by livestock. Most management efforts to date have focused on improving fish passage on several Goose Lake tributaries.

Coho salmon

Coho salmon abundance in California streams has declined at least 90 percent since 1950, mostly as a result of habitat degradation, long-term drought, and reduced ocean upwelling which reduces the salmon's food supply. Since coho salmon prefer lower gradient streams with deep pools and abundant in-stream woody cover for spawning and rearing, they are very sensitive to logging. Failing logging roads often produce landslides which fill pools, and streamside logging of mature trees greatly reduces potential recruitment of woody cover to the stream. Consequently, wilderness designation helps protect coho salmon habitat. Unfortunately, few of the low-gradient stream habitats desired by coho salmon are protected in wilderness areas. Small coho populations persist in a few streams in the Siskiyou, Marble Mountain, and Trinity Alps wildernesses.

Coho salmon are a state species of special concern. A number of proposals for federal listing have been submitted.

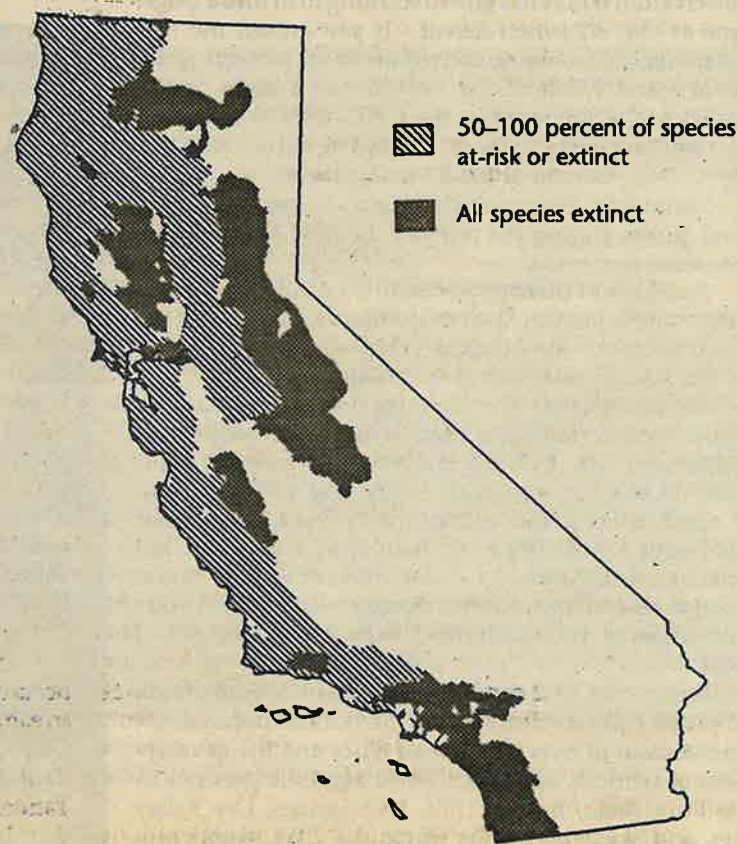
Summer steelhead trout and spring chinook salmon

Both of these fish are managed by the Forest Service as sensitive species. Summer steelhead and spring chinook salmon, unlike fall and winter races of these fish, migrate into fresh water far ahead of spawning, typically five to eight months, and there must hold in deep, cool canyon pools to survive the long, hot summer months.

Landslides triggered by failing logging roads constructed on steep or unstable slopes fill in the deep pools required by summer steelhead and spring chinook salmon. Not surprisingly, the best remaining populations of summer steelhead occur in the Middle Fork Eel River in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, the North Fork Trinity River in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, Clear Creek in the Siskiyou Wilderness, and Wooley Creek in the Marble Mountain Wilderness.

The best runs of spring chinook salmon occur in Mill and Deer creeks in the Ishi Wilderness and in the South Fork Salmon River, which is partly in the Trinity Alps

Salmon territory



Map by The Wilderness Society, based on data compiled in 1992-93

Wilderness. Forest Service and DFG diving crews inventory salmon and steelhead populations each summer and identify potential barriers to fish migration. Angling on these streams is either closed or limited to catch-and-release. Inadequate stream flow and excessive water temperatures on lower Mill and Deer creeks, and on the mainstem Klamath River during dry years, have reduced spring salmon and summer steelhead run sizes. On the Eel River, predation on young steelhead by illegally introduced squawfish has reduced the size of the summer steelhead population in the Middle Fork.

The DFG is participating in interagency committees established to control Eel River squawfish numbers and improve water conditions in lower Mill and Deer creeks and the mainstem Klamath.

Southern steelhead

Remnant populations of this state species of special concern occur in Sespe Creek in the Sespe Wilderness and a few other southern California streams. Problems with upstream fish passage and losses of fish in unscreened canals should be greatly reduced by the operation of new facilities at the Vern Freeman Dam on the Santa Clara River downstream from the confluence of Sespe Creek. Construction of the controversial Oat Mountain Dam on lower Sespe Creek, however, would eliminate this migratory southern steelhead population. Conservation organizations continue to advocate placing all of Sespe Creek in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Only portions of the creek are protected now.

Arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, and Santa Ana speckled dace

These non-game fish once were found in many southern California streams. Displacement by introduced fishes and habitat destruction have eliminated these fish from most historic habitats. Remnant populations still exist in the Sespe, San Gabriel, and Sheep Mountain wilderness areas and perhaps also in several other southern California wildernesses. DFG management efforts are largely limited to occasional population surveys.

Native fish species at risk

Wilderness	Native Fish
Siskiyou	spring chinook salmon(2); summer steelhead(2); coastal cutthroat trout(3); coho salmon(3)
Marble Mountain	spring chinook salmon(2); summer steelhead(2); coho salmon(3)
Trinity Alps	spring chinook salmon(2); summer steelhead(2); coho salmon(3)
Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel	summer steelhead(2)
South Warner	Goose Lake redband trout(3)
Ishi	spring chinook salmon(3)
Carson-Iceberg	Lahontan cutthroat trout(1); Paiute cutthroat trout(1); mountain sucker(3)
Ansel Adams	Paiute cutthroat trout (introduced)
Golden Trout	Little Kern golden trout(1); Volcano Creek golden trout(3); Kern River rainbow trout(3)
South Sierra	Volcano Creek golden trout(3)
Dome Land	Volcano Creek golden trout(3)
San Gabriel	arroyo chub(3); Santa Ana sucker(3); Santa Ana speckled dace(3)
Sheep Mountain	arroyo chub(3); Santa Ana sucker(3); Santa Ana speckled dace(3)
Sespe	arroyo chub(3); southern steelhead(3)
John Muir	Volcano Creek golden trout (introduced)

Key to classification: (1) federal threatened
(2) Forest Service sensitive
(3) state species of special concern

By Eric Gerstung

Coalition news

Conservation report, part two

The California Wilderness Coalition's (CWC) annual conservation report has grown too long to fit into a single issue of the *Wilderness Record*. If you missed the first installment, which summarized our work protecting national forest wildlands, or would like a copy of the unabridged report, contact the CWC office at 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616; (916) 758-0380.

Bureau of Land Management

Statewide: We opposed a Livestock Grazing Act that would make grazing the primary use of BLM (and some Forest Service) lands.

Bakersfield District: We testified against a proposed dam on the American River near Auburn and opposed the construction of an off-road vehicle route in the San Benito Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Desert District: The CWC supported plans to rehabilitate closed industrial sites in the Piper Mountains Wilderness. We provided input on management plans being developed for the new Bright Star, Kiavah, Chimney Peak, Owens Peak, and Sacatar Trail wilderness areas and for the BLM additions to Dome Land Wilderness. We encouraged the agency to close off-road vehicle routes through several former WSAs that were not designated as wilderness by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

Susanville District: We submitted comments on proposed grazing reform in the district and opposed the construction of over 20 miles of fence and the development of artificial water sources for domestic livestock in the Twin Peaks, Buffalo Hills, Five Springs, Dry Valley Rim, and Skedaddle WSAs which the CWC wants protected as the Smoke Creek Desert Wilderness complex.

Ukiah District: The CWC requested that the BLM ban logging and off-road vehicle use in the California portion of the Soda Mountain area to conform with bans in the Oregon portion. We monitored the Honeydew Creek, Bear Creek, and Mattole River watershed analyses. We worked with the agency on a coordinated resource management plan for the Cache Creek watershed, which includes Cache Creek WSA, and with the University of California to increase cooperation among public and private agencies and individuals in the Cache Creek watershed. We supported a proposal to acquire additional lands adjacent to Cache Creek WSA. We convinced the BLM to retain ownership of several parcels adjacent to important natural areas in the Mendocino National Forest. We praised the agency for removing several fences and other developments from the King Range WSA. We supported a proposal that would change the existing management of the Arcata Resource Area to conform with Option 9. Our conservation associate serves on a panel that advises the agency on grazing, recreation, forestry, and other issues in the Ukiah District.



Dome Land Wilderness was expanded to the east by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. Photo: Jim Eaton

National Park Service

Statewide: The CWC opposed congressional attempts to create a commission that would identify and liquidate "surplus" park holdings.

Lava Beds National Monument: We praised the agency's prescribed fire program.

Mojave National Preserve: We opposed Rep. Jerry Lewis' (R-Redlands) plan to bypass the California Desert Protection Act that established the Mojave Preserve by allocating the Park Service only one dollar to operate the preserve. We submitted our recommendations on how the Mojave Wilderness should be managed.

Yosemite National Park: The CWC opposed construction of administrative housing in Little Yosemite Valley in the Yosemite Wilderness.

Endangered species

The CWC joined the California Biodiversity Alliance, which works to strengthen the state Endangered Species Act. We attended a congressional field hearing in Stockton on reauthorizing the federal Endangered Species Act and urged senators Feinstein and Boxer to support the Act. We opposed an appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior because it contained provisions detrimental to protecting endangered species.

The Wildlands Project

The CWC represents the Wildlands Project in California, and executive director Jim Eaton is one of the Project's directors. With substantial help from Patagonia, we are generating new interest in the Project's goal of establishing an interconnected network of wilderness reserves throughout North America. We helped organize a meeting in Santa Barbara to map a wilderness restoration strategy for the south-central coast region (see article below), and we're planning other regional mapping meetings around the state.

Mapping a wilderness network for the south-central coast

By Ryan Henson

The more than 50 scientists, students, resource professionals, and conservation activists faced a singular challenge when they came in late October to Trinity Monastery in Santa Barbara to draft a Wildlands Project vision map for California's south-central coast: how to apply the Project's ambitious model for conserving large core wilderness areas to a region whose most important natural habitats are urban creeks, small wetlands, and the coastal bluffs next to Highway 101.

Launched in 1992 to address the decline of biological diversity, the Wildlands Project is asking local activists and scientists to identify potential core wilderness reserves across North and South America that can be interconnected with corridors of wild land to protect large, wide-ranging species that now are suffering from the fragmentation of their habitat. Although the Wildlands Project focuses on large wilderness reserves, the scientists involved in the Project expect that most smaller habitats and species will be protected as well.

Though the Wildlands Project model of core reserves surrounded by buffer zones and linked by corridors works well for wild, undeveloped areas, can it be used effectively in largely urbanized areas like Ventura and Santa Barbara counties? This was the challenge facing the participants at the mapping meeting. Ultimately, the maps they produced suggest that saving large wild areas and preserving small but important ecosystems can go hand in hand.

As expected, the Los Padres National Forest, most of which already has been designated as wilderness, appears on the maps as a large core reserve. Santa Ynez, Santa Clara, and Cuyama rivers, Sespe Creek, and other streams flowing out of the Los Padres were identified as corridors that link the forest with the lowlands. But the mappers did not stop there. They selected Carrizo Plain and Vandenberg

Air Force Base as core reserves for large herbivores and other animals and plants that require extensive grasslands. When the map was finished, many of the most significant natural areas of the south-central coast, including Carpinteria Marsh, Pismo Dunes, and the Santa Ynez Mountains, were in reserves, corridors, or buffer zones.

The draft maps will be reproduced using geographic information system technology by students at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The information eventually will be combined with Wildlands Project maps from surrounding regions to create a draft vision map for California.

In the meantime, local activists will use the draft maps to identify data gaps, test the political waters, prioritize areas for defense, and develop strategies to make their vision for the area a reality.

The Santa Barbara meeting, which was sponsored by Patagonia and generously hosted by the Trinity Monastery, set a high standard for all future Wildlands Project gatherings in California because of the diversity, enthusiasm, knowledge, and sheer number of people who participated. Greg Helms of the Environmental Defense Center and Rachel Couch of Trinity Monastery were instrumental in organizing the meeting and arranging for food, drink, lodging, and mapping supplies. The Los Padres National Forest rising behind the monastery was a fitting backdrop to the activity inside.

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) is overseeing the Wildlands Project in California, and mapping meetings are planned for other parts of the state. For more information, write to the CWC at 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616 or call (916) 758-0380. For more information on Wildlands Project efforts in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, contact Greg Helms at the Environmental Defense Center, 906 Garden Street, Suite 2, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; (805) 963-1622.

Ecosystem management

continued from page 3

gion. Send a letter to Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, 873 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514-2400 by January 19. Tell him you want:

- wilderness designation for the San Joaquin Roadless Area;
- the roadless area to be closed to mechanized and motorized recreation until it can be designated wilderness;
- no ski area development between Mammoth and June lakes;
- permanent protection and monitoring of the region's wildlife and ancient forests;
- no commercialized recreation developments in the Mammoth-June region.

Sally Miller is an activist with Friends of the Inyo and a director of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Wilderness news

San Bernardino appeal succeeds

Forest Service will protect roadless areas, re-evaluate wild and scenic rivers

By Ryan Henson

Forest management plans guide Forest Service decisions on everything from recreation to logging. Every national forest has a management plan, and they invariably are the result of years of meetings, fervent debate, and intense political pressure from interest groups with a stake in national forest management. Since the plans designate some areas for exploitation and others for protection, activists seeking to preserve old-growth forests, wild rivers, and roadless areas often appeal the plans to the chief of the Forest Service and, if necessary, take the agency to court.

But forest plan appeals rarely result in significant concessions from the agency. In just the last two months, appeals have been denied for the Tahoe and Modoc national forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The only surprise in these cases is that it took the agency five years or more to reject conservationist arguments.

Fortunately, the appeal of the 1988 San Bernardino forest plan had a happier outcome. The San Bernardino plan was already fairly good: it protects a larger percentage of the forest's roadless areas than any other plan in California, for example. Now the Forest Service has agreed to strengthen it further in response to an appeal by Friends of the River and the Sierra Club.

The Forest Service agreed to drop a proposed off-road vehicle route and close unauthorized routes in the Deep Creek Roadless Area, manage more lands in the Sugarloaf Roadless Area for habitat preservation and low-impact recreation, and re-examine the North Fork San Jacinto River and Holcomb Creek as potential wild and scenic rivers (these streams were deemed ineligible for wild-and-scenic river status in the 1988 plan).

The only shortcoming of the new agreement is that the Forest Service has not set even a tentative schedule for re-evaluating the North Fork San Jacinto River and Holcomb Creek's qualifications for wild and scenic designation. A schedule for completing the evaluations is needed because the Forest Service already has failed to comply with the forest plan's commitment to conduct suitability studies for potential wild and scenic rivers by 1994.

Nonetheless, conservationists are pleased with their rare victory in a forest plan appeal. If implemented properly, the agreement will help protect biological diver-

sity and low-impact recreational opportunities in one of California's most popular and ecologically diverse national forests.

But...

No sooner had we learned about the successful appeal of the San Bernardino forest plan than the Forest Service proposed salvage logging portions of the San Bernardino's Deep Creek Roadless Area in the wake of the recent Devil fire.

Though the Devil salvage sale is minuscule compared with timber sales proposed for the Klamath National Forest and other heavily wooded regions, conservationists have the same basic objections: salvage logging burned forests increases erosion and impairs natural forest regeneration. Salvage logging roadless areas also permanently degrades their wilderness character. To make matters worse, salvage sales almost always lose the government money. Why, conservationists ask, should we use our tax dollars to subsidize such destruction?

What is unusual about this salvage sale is that there are no timber companies in San Bernardino to log it. Instead, people in four-wheel drive vehicles will be allowed to drive cross-country (even through the roadless area) to chop down the burned trees of their choice even though the Forest Service admits that allowing people to drive cross-country may create permanent off-road vehicle routes, impede fire recovery, and harm rare flora.

Like all salvage sales, this one is covered by the salvage rider (see article on page 1) so public pressure alone—not appeals or lawsuits—can stop or alter the project.

What you can do

Write to Hal Seyden, Big Bear Ranger Station, San Bernardino National Forest, P. O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333 by January 19, 1995 (letters must be postmarked by that date). Request that the Forest Service either cancel the Devil salvage sale or restrict woodcutting to existing roads. Stress that it is irresponsible to allow cross-country four-wheel-drive use, especially in recently burned areas. Also request that the Deep Creek Roadless Area be protected from all logging and vehicular use until it can be designated as wilderness.

—Ryan Henson

King Range

continued from page 1

were categorically excluded. The Environmental Protection Information Center, which is leading the struggle to protect Headwaters, did not receive a copy of the proposed bill until two days before its introduction—far too late to offer changes.

Even the creation of a King Range Wilderness has not garnered support from environmentalists because the proposed wilderness includes only two-thirds of the federal land in the Lost Coast they want protected. The remainder of the land would be "released," opened to mining, logging, and other extractive uses. Most notably, Riggs' 24,000-acre wilderness would not include the lush old-growth forests of the Honeydew Creek watershed. Although the Bureau of Land Management maintains it has no plans to log Honeydew Creek, the agency acknowledges that if the land is released, it could be logged at any time.

Rep. Riggs calls his legislation "a balance between our desire to create new jobs and keep our economy strong, and our shared goal of providing long-term environmental protection." If he believes that we share his goal of logging the North Coast's last remaining old-growth, he could not be more wrong.

Paul Spittler is an intern at the California Wilderness Coalition.



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.

Calendar

January 19 COMMENTS DUE on the Forest Service's proposed desired condition for the Mammoth-June area of the Inyo National Forest (see article on page 3). Send to: Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, Inyo NF, 873 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514-2400.

January 19 COMMENTS DUE on salvage logging proposed for the Deep Creek Roadless Area of the San Bernardino National Forest (see article on this page). Send to: Hal Seyden, Big Bear Ranger Station, San Bernardino NF, P. O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333.

January 20 CONFERENCE on environmental law at the University of California at Davis. For more information, call Russ Naymark at (916) 753-1365.

January 24 COMMENTS DUE on a draft management plan for the Trinity Alps Wilderness (see article in December 1995 WR). 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 11 MEETING of the California Ancient Forest Alliance to plan the Sierra Nevada campaign, in Davis. For more information, call Jim Eaton at the CWC office: (916) 758-0380.

February 15-16 PUBLIC MEETING of the Northwest Saramento province advisory committee in Mt. Shasta. The topic is managing old-growth reserves. For details, call Ryan Henson at the CWC, (916) 758-0380.

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

Wilderness Trivia Answer

Bally (or bolly or bully) is a Wintun word for mountain, as in Yolla Bolly or Shasta Bally.

Coalition Member Groups

Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S. F. California Alpine Club; San Francisco California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln California Native Plant Society; Sacramento Citizens for Better Forestry; Hayfork Citizens for Mojave National Park; Barstow Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes; Nipomo Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno Conservation Call; Santa Rosa Davis Audubon Society; Davis Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs Desert Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego Desert Survivors; Oakland Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop Ecology Center; Berkeley Ecology Center of Southern California; L. A. El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs (FAWN); Georgetown Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena Friends of the Inyo; Lone Pine Friends of the River; Sacramento Friends of the River Foundation; S. F. Fund for Animals; San Francisco

Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern River Valley Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna League to Save Lake Tahoe; South Lake Tahoe Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto

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; Sunnysvale Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F. NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Nordic Voice; Livermore

North Coast Center for Biodiversity & Sustainability; Leggett Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata Northern Coast Range Biodiversity Project; Davis People for Nipomo Dunes Nat'l. Seashore; Nipomo Peppermint Alert; Porterville Placer County Cons. Task Force; Newcastle Planning & Conservation League; Sac. Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club; Mammoth Lakes Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa The Red Mountain Association; Leggett Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; Van Nuys Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE); Modesto Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund; S. F. Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR South Yuba R. Citizens League; Nevada City Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society Ventana Wildlands Group; Santa Cruz Western States Endurance Run; S. F. The Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO The Wilderness Society; San Francisco Wintu Audubon Society; Redding Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis

"Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind."

—Aldo Leopold

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