



WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

October 1996

Misery comes to an end

Activists stop another logging rider clearcut in California

By Ryan Henson

Like a nightmarish ghost rising from the grave, the Misery timber sale in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest made an unwelcome return to the world of the living recently. The planned clearcut, originally conceived in 1986, had been on hold pending the outcome of the old-growth battles of the late 1980's and early 1990's. After years of controversy and court injunctions in which old-growth clearcuts like Misery were held at bay, President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan (known as Option 9) was approved. While Option 9 reduced logging in the Pacific Northwest and northwestern California, it also lifted existing court injunctions against logging in ancient forests. This allowed the Forest Service to resurrect the Misery timber sale a few months ago, only to cancel it after overwhelming opposition from Native American tribes and conservation activists.

Conservationists opposed the sale from the beginning because it would have clearcut ancient forest and built roads in Don Juan Creek watershed, a pristine tributary of the Trinity River. The Don Juan Creek drainage is also a part of the 21,300-acre Cow Creek Roadless Area, a wildland separated from the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the north by only a dirt road. If the roadless area remains in its pristine state, it someday could either be added to the Trinity Alps Wilderness or designated a wilderness in its own right by Congress. The roadless area also hosts several old-growth dependent animal and plant species and is sacred to three Native American tribes in the region. The tribes were particularly incensed be-

cause the Misery sale would have clearcut forest along a trail used for religious purposes by local native peoples for thousands of years.

During its decade-long hiatus, the Misery timber sale remained essentially the same while law, policy, and science changed dramatically around it. Conservation activists, particularly Joseph Bower and Anthony Ambrose of Citizens for Better Forestry (CBF) in Trinity County, pressured the Forest Service to—at the very least—make the latest incarnation of the Misery timber sale comply with these changes, especially the Option 9 plan mentioned above. While this led the Forest Service to reduce the size and number of proposed clearcuts and roads in the Misery sale, activists were concerned that the project would still cause tremendous harm to the Cow Creek Roadless Area. They were also upset that the Misery sale clearly would have been illegal had it not been for the passage last year of the so-called timber salvage rider (an amendment, now known as the "logging rider," which exempts logging projects on many federal lands from environmental law and citizen challenge). Because of the rider, conservation activists were unable to stop the sale in court and were forced, once again, to appeal to the court of public opinion alone.

In July, the Western Ancient Forest Campaign (W AFC) added the Misery sale to its list of destructive logging projects authorized by the logging rider in California's national forests. This gained the sale a great deal of attention, as did the work of the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC), CBF, and W AFC to pressure the Clinton administration to cancel the sale. Activists informed the administration that logging the roadless area and its old-growth forests was both destruc-

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Now spared from clearcuts, the Cow Creek Roadless Area is sacred to Native American tribes and home to old-growth dependent species. Photo by Jim Eaton

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Six Rivers National Forest shelves logging plans after public outcry

By Ryan Henson

Thanks to the many calls and letters sent to the Clinton administration by conservation-minded people, the Six Rivers National Forest has decided not to log the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area under the infamous logging rider (a law shielding many Forest Service logging projects from environmental law). If the logging plans had gone forward under the rider, activists would have

been powerless to stop the Forest Service. Now, the agency will wait until the logging rider expires before proceeding with its plans, thus allowing citizen and conservation groups an opportunity to stop their logging plans in court. The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) and other groups believe the Forest Service will have little, if any, chance of proving to a judge that its logging plans comply with environmental law and policy.

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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

"A computer on every desk," was our recent mantra, hoping to end our office game of musical chairs. With the recent donation to two used Macintoshes, that goal has become a reality.

Some may criticize our loyalty to Apple, although three of our computers were donations from that corporation. Others comment that our workplace looks more like a Macintosh museum than an office. The latter comment has merit, as none of our seven machines are the same model.

We have Ryan happily working on his MacPlus, (part of our original grant from Apple). An SE serves as our second word processing machine. Kathy has a Classic on her desk (a recent donation from former *Wilderness Record* editor Lucy Rosenau), the SE30 serves as our dedicated fax machine (courtesy of Ridge Builders).

Moving up to our color monitors, Herb now has an LC on his desk thanks to David Kane; the LCII sits on mine, and the PowerMac 8500 has a desk of its own (the latter are both grants from Apple).

We actually have eight Macs if you count the IICI that Paul brought in for his desk. Unfortunately the power supply blew after three days, and I have yet to find an affordable replacement.

Our aging Laserwriter still cranks away, although there are times it needs to be weighted down with documents to produce clean copies. I would not mind showing some disloyalty to Apple should there be a Hewlett-Packard employee out there who can help us get a modern printer.

The office was strangely silent last month as Ryan and Paul flew off to Washington, D.C. and Kathy spent the week at San Juan Ridge (outside of Nevada City) taking a class from poet and environmental activist Gary Snyder. It was Kate Cox's last week with us as she headed north to resume her studies at Western Washington University.

Ryan and Paul spent a long week working to get Congress to repeal the salvage logging rider and talk the Clinton administration into cancelling timber sales. Although Congress did not repeal the rider, they didn't extend it, either. Now we are waiting to see if President Clinton will use his authority to rescind a number of horrendous sales pushed by the Forest Service under their temporary salvage rider authority.

My only escape from Davis this month was a long weekend Wendy and I took to Albuquerque to help Dave Foreman celebrate his "50 and Free" party. This event celebrated Dave's upcoming 50th birthday and the recent dropping of charges by federal prosecutors of conspiracy charges stemming from an old Earth First! case.

Although scheduled as an outdoor desert party, Hurricane Fausto forced the event into Dave and Nancy's house. A mixture of old Wilderness Society colleagues, Earth First! activists, Wildlands Project staff and board members, and New Mexico activists came together to celebrate Dave's freedom. Spicy local cuisine and microbrewed beer kept us satisfied as we greeted old friends and made new ones.

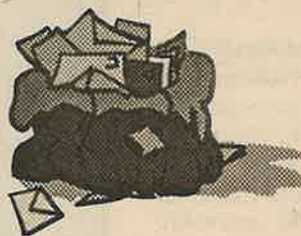
I hadn't seen Susan Morgan or Bob Langsenscamp since my Wilderness Society days 25 years ago.

My birthday was that Sunday, and we spent part of it hiking around the Sandia Mountains Wilderness. We didn't have to drive to it; the wildlands start just three blocks from Dave's front door. The monsoon rains finally had come, and the desert was carpeted with colorful flowers.

It was a long way to go for a three-day weekend, but it was worth it. Now if only I could figure out a way to live three blocks from a designated wilderness area.

By Jim Eaton

We knew snail-mail was slow, but this is ridiculous



Have you noticed your *Wilderness Record* arriving later the past few months? We are mailing it at the same time, but new sacking requirements by the Postal Service are causing major delays.

Our bulk mail used to go to West Sacramento for processing. Now it is shipped to Oakland where it seems to go into storage (collect dust) for some time. Delivery to Sacramento used to take two or three days—now it takes two weeks. We realize other locations may be even worse.

In October, non-profit mailing rates will take a major hike. Other changes will require higher costs for mail that cannot be sorted by machine.

There is hope, but at a price. Mail that is bar coded with a nine-digit zip code can receive reduced rates and faster service. The catch is that each mailing must be done with Postal Service *certified* software to qualify. The cheapest software we have seen to date will run about \$800 per year. The California Wilderness Coalition has had the ability to bar code its mail for years, although our software is not certified.

We apologize for the delays; we are frustrated by this new system, but hopeful that when we can comply with the Postal Service's new regulations, we trust that our mail to you will be received in a timely fashion.

Thanks for the bytes...

Our stable of computer equipment increased significantly last month. Thank you to:

Lucy Rosenau for the donation of her trusty Mac Classic; David Kane for the family Mac LC; and Paul Tarczy for two 640-megabyte hard drives to store all the wonderful work we do on our computers.

Are your state legislators voting right for animals? Send for our free voting chart to find out.

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Wilderness Trivia Question

How many "salvage rider" timber sales in California roadless areas have been stopped by citizen action this year?

Answer on page 7

Salvage Rider

Forest defense goes to the banks of the Potomac River Reflections on a week in Washington, D.C.

By Ryan Henson

Thanks to the 104th Congress, we have spent most of the last year struggling to keep our federal old-growth forests from being sold off to the highest bidder. The infamous logging rider which suspended our environmental laws and left our forests defenseless has dominated both our professional and personal lives and kept us from working on the many other programs, like the Wildlands Project, that the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) offers. With the small handful of other groups defending pristine wild areas and ancient forest in our public lands, we have successfully kept the chainsaws at bay for the most part—but time is quickly running out.

Paul Spitler, the California organizer of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign (W AFC) and I have just returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. where we brought the forest fight to the halls of Congress and the White House. Our message to Congress was simple: repeal the logging rider or California will lose thousands of acres of ancient forest, pristine roadless areas, endangered fish habitat, and other irreplaceable ecological treasures. Our message to the White House was equally stark: you have the power to cancel destructive logging rider timber sales—use it now or we will hold you accountable. While this was Paul's first trip to Washington, it was my third this year alone, and I have to admit I was not looking forward to leaving my eleven-hour-per day job at CWC for the hectic, sixteen-hour-day world of our nation's capitol.

While in Washington, Paul worked hard to promote rider repeal in Congress. Paul met with the staff of several moderate Republican senators who may have been critical swing votes for rider repeal, and he also struggled in vain to find a Democratic sponsor for a rider repeal bill in the Senate. He faced a classic Washington catch-22: no Democrat wanted to sponsor a rider repeal measure until we could show that we had lined up enough votes for it

to win (no one wants to sponsor a losing bill), while moderate Republicans were unwilling to help until they found out who the Democratic sponsor is.

This frustrating situation largely scuttled the rider repeal fight for the week Paul and I were in Washington. However, on our last day in town, Paul's boss at W AFC, Jim Jontz (a former Democratic Congressman from Indiana) latched on to a new strategy: win rider repeal through the continuing resolution (CR) negotiations. This strategy breathed new life and enthusiasm into the rider repeal effort and gave us our best opportunity yet to drive a stake through the heart of the logging rider.

CRs are stop-gap measures designed to keep the government running when Congress is unable to pass an acceptable appropriations bill (the infamous government "shut down" a few months ago resulted from Congress' failure to pass either an appropriations bill or a CR). Appropriations bills had failed in both the Senate and the House recently in part due to the propensity of the 104th Congress to attach anti-environmental, anti-immigrant, anti-abortion, and anti-this-and-that riders to spending bills (that is how the logging rider became law in the first place). Facing White House veto threats, several appropriations bills died and Congress was forced to settle for a CR.

Repealing the rider through a CR was a brilliant strategy because CRs are not subject to the same floor votes and committee hearings as standard appropriations

bills. CRs are essentially backroom deals between the White House and Congress. If we had convinced the President to demand that rider repeal be included in any CR sent to his desk, then we would have faced an excellent chance of success. If the Republicans refused to include rider repeal in a CR, then they faced shutting the government down again. The last time Republicans did this, they paid dearly in the polls. Another incentive is that members of Congress have to pass a CR before they can go home to run for re-election.

Since Paul and I only learned about this strategy on our last day in Washington, we were unable to lobby members of Congress directly on the CR. We had to lay that burden on the phone and fax machine back home. Unfortunately, within a week of getting home, we learned that despite our intensive lobbying the rider was not repealed through the CR.

While Paul lobbied for rider repeal, I spent my time struggling to convince the Clinton administration to cancel destructive logging rider projects. I was surprised to see that many people in the Clinton administration still trust the U.S. Forest Service to implement the rider in an environmentally-responsible manner. While the Forest Service has always tried to foster a neutral, deer-caught-in-the-headlights image, I did not understand how anyone could take this image seriously after the agency's long and shameful history of destroying millions of acres of America's last, best wilderness. I know all of the usual excuses: "Congress made them do it," "They were just following orders" (this one failed to convince anyone at the Nuremberg trials), and, my favorite, "The agency is still evolving." While I know that each of these excuses is partly true, I also know that many Forest Service officials are as fanatically devoted to destroying wild areas as I am to defending them. I have met plenty of Forest Service employees who wield chainsaws with an almost religious zeal, people who would like nothing more than to bulldoze and clearcut everything we hold dear. While we were in Washington, Paul and I laughed heartily when we read in the *Washington Post* that Jack Ward Thomas, the Chief of the Forest Service, was touring the country complaining that because of the logging rider "This demonization (of the Forest Service) is on the verge of bringing down this agency". We knew, of course, that the Forest Service had helped write the logging rider in the first place and had actively lobbied behind the scenes for its passage.

In my Washington meetings I was a portrait of fair-mindedness and reason, and my grim opinion of the Forest Service never left my lips. Near the end of my visit, I finally found two officials who not only knew the logging rider thoroughly, but knew the Forest Service's true nature as well. This common understanding of the rider's destructive impacts and the Forest Service's role in bringing shame upon the Clinton administration formed a constant, unspoken undercurrent in our discussions. I found meeting with these officials refreshing since I did not have to spend half of the meeting explaining the issue to them. While I felt that they heard and understood my arguments and even seemed fairly sympathetic toward

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Misery logging project cancelled

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tive and unnecessary and urged President Clinton and his staff to order the Forest Service to stop it. Activists also called the Shasta-Trinity National Forest repeatedly with the same request.

In early September, the Forest Service cancelled the Misery timber sale citing "significant public controversy" as its reason. The Misery timber sale became only the second planned logging rider clearcut in California (and the third nationwide) to be cancelled by the Clinton administration since the logging rider passed last year (the first sale ever cancelled was the Barkley salvage sale in California's Lassen National Forest). Activists have long urged President Clinton to cancel all logging rider timber sales planned in old-growth forests, roadless areas, and other sensitive ecosystems. Unfortunately, the administration has been slow to respond.

The ancient forests of the Don Juan Creek drainage will now remain standing despite the logging rider or the unwelcome resurrection of the Misery timber sale. The defeat of the Misery timber sale is yet another testament to the power of teamwork and grassroots activism to save California's threatened wild areas.

Orleans Mountain Roadless Area spared

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The Forest Service originally sought to remove, under "authority" of the rider, 11 million board-feet of trees from the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area, an old-growth rich wildland adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness (See September 1996 *Wilderness Record* for more information). Activists objected to these plans because the affected watersheds are important steelhead trout spawning streams and are known habitat for pine martens, Pacific fishers, northern spotted owls, and other old-growth dependent species. The Forest Service planned to pull fallen trees directly out of streambeds, from steep canyons walls, from landslide-prone soils, and other areas that aquatic scientists and forest ecologists have long urged the Forest Service to avoid. In addition, the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area is one of the largest remaining pristine wild areas in California, and could be added to the adjacent Trinity Alps Wilderness one day if it remains in a pristine condition.

CWC would like to thank all of its members who contacted the Clinton administration to oppose this project. This is proof, once again, that your efforts on behalf of California's wild areas truly make a difference.

Wilderness Management

Stampede of bad grazing bills gets corralled

By Ryan Henson

Now that the 104th Congress has been turned out to pasture, it appears that the plethora of destructive grazing proposals pushed by anti-environmental members of Congress in 1996 will finally disappear for this year (for details, see the September 1996 *Wilderness Record*).

The first, and most potentially damaging proposal was Senator Pete Domenici's (R-NM) Livestock Grazing Act which would have essentially given over control of vast areas of public land to ranching interests. The most "moderate" proposal (the Public Rangelands Management Act) would have exempted grazing decisions from environmental law, kept taxpayer-subsidized grazing fees at far below fair-market rates, kept the public from participating in livestock management decisions on their own public lands, and discouraged—and in some cases even prevented—ranchers from leaving public land ungrazed for a period of time to let it recover. These and other proposals would have been disastrous for our public lands and the plants and wildlife depending on them. Also, these provisions, if passed, would have led to more water pollution, soil depletion, erosion, and other severe impacts than any of us could have imagined.

Ironically, all of this destruction would have been subsidized by the taxpayers under these proposed bills. While there is no guarantee that these provisions will not reappear next year, at least for now they have been led back to their stall by Speaker Gingrich, Senator Domenici, and other advocates of cowboy corporate welfare.

To his credit, President Clinton stood firm in defense of sound public lands grazing policies and vetoed every bill containing these provisions. Senator Domenici's defeat is, thankfully, yet another failure of the 104th Congress to pass its contract on the environment.



Cows grazing in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. A wholesale giveaway to the ranching industry has been averted this year.
Photo by Jeff Schaffer

SNEP report boosts ancient forest protection

By Ryan Henson

As was reported in the August issue of the *Wilderness Record*, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report, the largest independent study of the Sierra Nevada ever conducted, concludes that ancient forests in the Range of Light are quickly disappearing and that steps must be taken soon to halt this rapid habitat decline.

While it is critically important that policy makers, the press, and others consider the SNEP report's conclusions, it is also imperative that conservation activists use the report to accomplish on the ground what the SNEP scientists outlined on paper. In many ways the SNEP report validates what the conservation community has been saying about ancient forests for decades, and how the report is used in the coming months may ultimately determine the fate of the Sierra Nevada's last old-growth forests and the species who depend on them.

The SNEP report offers six strategies for managing ancient forests. These strategies are designed to:

- Maintain existing old-growth groves;
- Grow more old-growth where possible;
- Restore fire to its natural role in old-growth ecosystems;
- Restore some old-growth habitat elements to heavily logged areas, and;
- Improve old-growth forest distribution at all latitudinal and elevational ranges (most remaining old-growth in the Sierra is concentrated in the middle and high elevations in the west side of the range, while it has nearly disappeared at low elevations and on the east side).

Of the six strategies, the one that has received the most praise from activists is the "areas of late successional emphasis" (ALSE) strategy. The ALSE strategy is what is known in conservation biology as a "large-block" approach. The large-block strategy is predicated on the theory that biological diversity is best preserved by protecting large blocks of contiguous habitat in reserves and

linking these reserves with habitat corridors. The large-block approach has the support of a substantial portion of the scientific community, and activists have promoted for years. Significantly, the large-block strategy forms the theoretical foundation for such ecosystem restoration and protection plans as Option 9 (President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan), the Wildlands Project, and the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

The SNEP ALSE strategy would create dozens of old-growth management areas 20,000 to 60,000-acres in size, composed of the best remaining ancient forest as well as areas with a high likelihood of becoming old-growth again if they are managed carefully. Unlike the old-growth reserves authorized by Option 9, which are open to several kinds of destructive logging practices, the Forest Service would be required to only allow activities in the ALSEs that "maintain conditions as near natural as possible." While the Forest Service has been known to take such loopholes and stretch them to ridiculous lengths, the SNEP scientists were careful to note that the Forest Service's primary role in ALSE management is to set controlled burns in the ALSEs to reduce the severity of wildfires. This limited discretion would prevent the Forest Service from wiping out an ALSE through salvage logging if it burned (something allowed in Option 9 old-growth reserves), thus tacitly rejecting Forest Service arguments that post-fire salvage logging is necessary to promote forest re-growth and recovery.

If the ALSE strategy worked, the scientists estimate that it would double the amount of ancient forest in the Sierra Nevada over time. The ALSE network is also useful in that it is too large and widespread to be destroyed by wildfire. In essence, not all of our old-growth eggs would be kept in one fire-prone basket.

Despite this, the SNEP scientists acknowledge that the ALSE system alone would not maintain and restore ancient forest ecosystems and the water, soil, plants, and

wildlife associated with them. The reason for this is that there is not enough ancient forest in the east side of the Sierra to form the foundation of an ALSE network, and also that there is little advantage in establishing the network if everything around it is logged to oblivion. This would sever the habitat connections between the ALSEs and other wild areas and make them ecological islands in a sea of clearcuts and roads. Animals and plants requiring more room than is provided by the ALSEs habitat would either have to make due, or go extinct.

To remedy these problems, the SNEP team recommends that outside of ALSEs, large-diameter trees, snags (standing dead trees used for animal denning and nesting), and fallen logs be maintained and re-grown over time where they do not currently exist. This could be accomplished by prohibiting the Forest Service from logging trees over a certain size (a strategy favored by many conservation activists), by extending the "rotation age" (the period of time a tree is allowed to grow until it is logged), or by logging only in very small patches (called "group selection" logging) so that the unlogged landscape is the norm rather than the exception (the opposite is currently true). They also recommend that ALSEs be connected to one another by riparian buffers, steep slopes, landslide-prone soils, wilderness areas, and other areas where logging would be either prohibited or greatly limited.

Unfortunately, the SNEP scientists neglected to specifically recommend that roadless areas be protected, despite the wealth of scientific evidence—including substantial evidence in the SNEP report itself that such areas are important and deserve protection. This was the subject of considerable controversy while the SNEP study was being conducted, and many activists believe that the Forest Service pressured the scientists to ignore these critical wild areas (the SNEP scientists relied on the agency's cooperation and funding to complete their

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Ancient Forests

Another sweet deal for Hurwitz, another bad deal for Headwaters Forest

Over three thousand people attended the September 15th rally in support of full protection of the Headwaters forest in Humboldt County. In response, Maxxam, controlled by corporate-raider Charles Hurwitz, conceded to temporarily halt any logging until a "deal" could be made that would protect the ancient redwoods and satisfy Maxxam. For several weeks, negotiations towards protection of Headwaters Forest have been underway between the Department of Interior, Senator Dianne Feinstein's office, and Maxxam. The agreement which these parties announced on September 28—under banner headlines proclaiming that Headwaters has been saved—utterly fails to protect these remaining ancient redwood groves.

Under the agreement, Maxxam has agreed to a ten-month moratorium on salvage operations in only two of Headwaters' six ancient groves. During this time, the government and Maxxam will expedite the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a document which essentially allows Maxxam to kill endangered species on part of their property in exchange for protecting habitat elsewhere. Protection of just the two groves hinges on approval of the HCP, as well as congressional support for the more than \$300 million in land swaps and cash which Maxxam would receive in exchange for the two groves and a small buffer zone. The greatest fear is that the other four ancient groves, the residual old growth, and the marbled murrelet and coho salmon habitat which comprise the rest of the 60,000-acre forest will simply be sacrificed to the chain saws under this exemption to the Endangered Species Act.

The Environmental Protection Information Center's (EPIC) Programs Director Cecelia Lanman, having fought continually for real protection of the Headwaters Forest over the past decade, pointed out the inadequacy of today's agreement: "Environmentalists realize that the announced 'deal' will not provide a biological solution to the Headwaters issue. We are gravely concerned that the

ancient redwood groves and endangered species like the marbled murrelet and coho salmon will be jeopardized." Kathy Bailey of the Sierra Club warns that "The tentative agreement means that Pacific Lumber can hold the Headwaters Grove hostage while Hurwitz dictates how he will comply with the Endangered Species Act on the rest of his forest lands." In short, this is not a "deal" at all, but an announcement carefully crafted to stem an overwhelming tide of public support for protection of Headwaters Forest.

The Headwaters Forest Coordinating Committee (HFCC) calls for an immediate stay of logging activity and a place at the negotiating table so that a solid deal can be crafted that will benefit the forest, not just Charles Hurwitz. The government must represent the public interest by aggressively pursuing a debt for nature swap to acquire all six ancient redwood groves of the 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest.

The HFCC believes that a large acreage reserve is necessary to ensure recovery of endangered species and provide long-term forestry and restoration jobs in the community. Accordingly, they are preparing a restoration plan with a jobs component to offer long-term solutions to the forest crisis.

As far as the expedited Habitat Conservation Plan in the so-called Headwaters "deal" is concerned, EPIC is prepared to litigate to ensure full compliance with all existing environmental laws. Their federal lawsuit against Pacific Lumber's salvage operations is working its way through the courts, and they have requested both temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions to protect the groves while the case goes to trial.

On another front, Senator Barbara Boxer and Hilda Diaz-Soltero of the National Marine Fisheries Service have urged Governor Pete Wilson to reconvene the Board of Forestry. He should ask that the Board act immediately

to stop salvage logging, which currently takes place in coastal ancient forests under an exemption to environmental review provisions of California's Forest Practice Rules. EPIC and Sierra Club filed a petition for emergency rules in September which urged the Board to disallow exemption logging in coastal old-growth forests, including Headwaters, but they denied the request amid rumors that a Headwaters deal was in the works.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Call and fax the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi. Let them know that a "deal" which sacrifices four of Headwaters' ancient groves and leaves endangered species protection in the hands of Charles Hurwitz is completely unacceptable. Ask for an immediate moratorium on salvage logging and real, open negotiations which bring all concerned parties to the table.

Dianne Feinstein: (202) 224-3841 fax (202) 228-3954

John Garamendi: (202) 208-6291 fax (202) 208-3048

- Call and fax Governor Pete Wilson, and insist that he direct the Board of Forestry to take immediate action to stop salvage logging in coastal ancient forests. Also contact Doug Wheeler, Chair of the Board of Forestry, and urge him to waste no time in protecting sensitive old-growth ecosystems from lawless salvage logging.

Pete Wilson: (916) 658-2793, fax (916) 445-4633

Doug Wheeler: (916) 653-5656, fax (916) 653-8102

- Information concerning the state of negotiations changes daily. For updates, and to find out about other ways you may be able to help, contact EPIC at (707) 923-2931 or the Mendocino Environmental Center at (707) 468-1660.

Courtesy of the Environmental Protection Information Center.

Raymond Peak Roadless Area threatened with logging—again

By Ryan Henson

The Toiyabe National Forest is proposing to log the Raymond Peak Roadless Area just south of the town of Markleeville, California as part of the Upper Poor Boy salvage sale. The Raymond Peak Roadless Area is adjacent to the Mokelumne Wilderness and could be added to the wilderness one day if the area remains in a pristine condition.

Last year, the California Wilderness Coalition, Sorensen's Resort, and the Wilderness Society, stopped another proposed salvage sale in the area after several months of struggling. That was before the passage of the "logging rider" by Congress last year which made many types of logging projects in national forests immune from environmental law. Because of this, conservation groups like ours cannot stop this project in court. As a result, our only means of defending this area is to appeal to the court of public opinion.

Rare eastside Sierran old-growth forest grows in the roadless area, and sadly, a University of California at Davis study (called the SNEP report) recently found that only nine percent of the ancient forest that once graced the slopes of the eastside Sierra still exists today. Because of its unique ancient forest habitat, the Raymond Peak Roadless Area hosts (or is likely to host) several threatened wildlife species, including northern goshawk, California spotted owl, great gray owl, white-headed woodpecker, fisher, marten, and wolverine, among others. The Forest Service's proposed logging plans will degrade this habitat and could drive these species closer to extinction.

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The Raymond Peak Roadless Area was saved from logging last year, but now it is threatened again by Forest Service logging proposals. Toiyabe National Forest
Photo by Lucy Rosenau

Wilderness News

BLM's efforts to preserve Sacramento River habitat hit a snag

by Ryan Henson

The Sacramento River is a ribbon of wildland running south through the heart of the northern Central Valley. While it is surrounded by farms and ranches, the Sacramento River east of Redding and Red Bluff in Tehama County is far from the glorified drainage ditch it becomes downstream. In fact, several portions of the Sacramento in the northern Central Valley are eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System—a designation preserved for only the wildest and most ecologically critical streams and rivers.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been quietly acquiring public land along this stretch of the Sacramento for several years now. The BLM's ultimate goal is to acquire 40,000 of riparian, grassland, wetland (including rare vernal pools), and oak woodland habitat along the river (currently, the agency manages over 12,000 acres). These important habitats help support the many endangered and threatened species which call the area home. These species include slender orcutt grass, bald eagle, greatersandhill crane, prairie falcon, Swainson's hawk, salmon, and steelhead trout. One day, the BLM's 40,000-acre Sacramento River Management Area will preserve the last remaining riparian system on the Sacramento River between Shasta Reservoir and the city of Sacramento.

Hikers, anglers, birdwatchers, boaters, hunters, and other recreationists are flocking to the newly acquired BLM holdings in ever increasing numbers. These people spend thousands of dollars annually at local businesses, and this revenue has drawn support for the BLM's acquisition efforts from the local business community.

To acquire these wild areas, the BLM will give up several thousand acres of scattered public land in the region. Not only will the sale of these lands help raise money for the acquisition effort, but it will also help satisfy the concerns of Tehama County citizens upset about the loss of property tax revenues (federal landowners like the BLM and Forest Service do not pay local

property taxes). Because of this land disposal program, after the BLM acquires its 40,000 acres, Tehama County will have less BLM land than it did before the acquisition effort began.

This net loss of public land was enough to satisfy the Tehama County Board of Supervisors in past years since it would result in a net gain in property tax revenue for the county. However, the Board is now balking at the BLM's proposed acquisition of the Orwick Ranch, an ecologically critical property containing wetlands, ancient oaks, and riparian habitat. Some members of the Board are upset at the estimated loss of \$6,000 annually in property tax revenue for the county if the Orwick property is acquired by the BLM. What these board members ignore, however, is the increased tourism dollars this acquisition will generate, as well as the priceless value of the biological diversity preserved in the area.

What you can do

The BLM needs your help to continue its land acquisition program along the Sacramento River. Please write to:

Supervisor Barbara McIver
Chairperson
Tehama County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080

by October 26, 1996 and mention that you fully support the BLM's land acquisition program along the Sacramento River. Stress that the tourism dollars generated by the acquisition program (coupled with the BLM's land disposal efforts) will far outweigh any short-term loss in tax revenues. Also, mention that it is important to you that the Sacramento River's outstanding wildlife, recreation, and scenic values be preserved for future generations and that acquiring these areas will benefit not only the people of California, but all Americans.

and that you would like the Forest Service to use the SNEP report to guide its land management activities.

Please send a copy of your letter to Kathleen McGinty, Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503, Fax (202) 395-4639. Remind her that logging the Raymond Peak Roadless Area will harm sensitive wildlife species, worsen fire danger, and violate President Clinton's promise to protect our nation's environment. Request that she prevent the roadless area from being logged under the provisions of the infamous logging rider.

Toiyabe logging goes after eastside old-growth

continued from page 3

The Poor Boy salvage sale is being touted by the Forest Service as a way to reduce fire danger. However, the SNEP report concluded that logging worsens fire danger "more than any other human activity," especially if the highly-flammable logging debris (known as slash) is not adequately removed after logging. Since salvage sales often remove the largest, most fire-resistant trees and rarely generate enough money to clean up the slash the loggers leave behind, conservationists fear that the Poor Boy salvage sale will worsen fire danger in the area.

What you can do

Please write or fax a letter to Mary Wagner, District Ranger, Carson Ranger District, 1536 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, Fax (702) 884-8199 as soon as possible. Request that she not log the Raymond Peak Roadless Area as part of the Upper Poor Boy salvage sale. Remind her that the roadless area is a haven for threatened wildlife species and is one of the last unlogged, unroaded wild areas in that part of the Sierra Nevada. Also remind her that you support adding the Raymond Peak Roadless Area to the adjacent Mokelumne Wilderness,

PUBLICATIONS FROM WILD EARTH

"How to Design An Ecological Reserve System," the first in a series of special papers to be published by *Wild Earth*, is now available. Written by Stephen C. Trombulak, Ph.D., professor of biology and environmental studies at Middlebury College in Vermont, this monograph provides detailed guidance for non-scientists on how to design science-based ecological reserves. Copies are available from *Wild Earth* for \$5 (POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477). Bulk discounts are available for organizations.

SNEP report's findings on old-growth in the Sierra

continued from page 3

studies, and thus were probably sensitive to their concerns). Whether this is true or not, even a cursory glance at the proposed ALSE network reveals that many of the forested roadless areas in the Sierra will be included in old-growth reserves for the simple reason that they contain much of the Sierra Nevada's remaining ancient forest (in general, no roads usually means no logging). Many of the roadless areas not included in ALSE's fall into steep areas, landslide prone areas, and other places recommended for protection by the SNEP scientists.

The SNEP report's old-growth strategies, especially the ALSE approach, provide activists with ample ammunition to work through Congress, natural resource agencies, the courts, and the court of public opinion to save the remaining ancient forests of the Sierra Nevada and restore old-growth over time.

Editor's note: Next month, fire expert John Buckley will look at SNEP's findings on fire in the Range of Light. In the coming months the Wilderness Record will continue to look at the SNEP report and its implications for conservation of the Sierra Nevada.



Wilderness Forum

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for breaking the story on the trespass in Sequoia National Park. It is reprehensible that cows crossed over into the park from either Big Whitney Meadows or Rocky Basin Lakes. I doubt very much that they strayed there! Inyo Forest did not know that the trespass had taken place until the ranch foreman recently advised them of the trespass. Closing Big Whitney Meadows would have little effect on encroachments as the cattle are more likely to have come in from Rocky Basin Lakes and Rocky Basin Lakes is accessible by two other routes: Tunnel Meadows and Little Whitney Meadows.

There are two errors that need to be corrected in the article by Trent W. Orr regarding input on the wilderness plan for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (SEKI). The planning process is not associated with any attempt to raise the allowable number of stock in the parks. The planning process was started several years prior to the implementation of standards for the number of stock allowed in the parks. The implementation of an increase in allowable stock was a result of long and careful study by the Central Sierra Wilderness group (Yosemite and SEKI parks as well as Sierra, Toiyabe, Inyo, and Sequoia

In his article, "Are Watershed Analyses doing their job?" [August 1996 *Wilderness Record*], Paul Spitler misses the most important point. The watershed analysis documents provide activists with all the information they need to challenge agency decisions and even sue to protect habitat when appropriate.

His example of the Lower Hayforks WA stated that the Forest Service found that habitat fragmentation due to logging inhibits migration and that grazing degrades riparian ecosystems (surprise). But they concluded that more logging and grazing is needed to maintain forest health. The problem is not with the analysis of the watershed conditions but the recommendations. The FS

national forests) in an attempt to standardize regulations for through travelers. The stock limit was set at 25 head for each entity of the group. At the time some forests had no limit, and except for SEKI the 25 head limit was already the rule in most. The regulations were implemented after extensive public review. The "wilderness advocates" mentioned by Orr brought suit to have the number reduced to the original 20 head (not 15 as stated by Orr). The parks lost the suit and the regulations reflect the new number. The suit also included charges that the park was being mismanaged in regards to pack and saddle stock. This part of the suit was not adjudicated on the condition of the park completing the already started plan for managing the wilderness of parks.

The suit should never have been brought as the net result was almost nothing, and the direct cost to the park was \$50,000. Money that could have been spent in a much wiser way. The \$50,000 was in cash and does not reflect the substantial costs of the Parks in the litigation.

*Charles Morgan, Executive Secretary
Backcountry Horsemen of California*

has clearly used correct facts to reach an incorrect conclusion. Activists need to use the provided information in the media, meeting halls and courts to correct the agency's recommendations.

Too often, the courts, arguing that the agencies are all experts, will side with agencies when activists challenge their data or analysis. In this case, the agency provides the data and analysis showing the impacts. Even short-sighted, anti-environmental judges cannot fail to see the fallacy of the agency arguments.

Tom Myers, Ph.D.

Rider repeal & tales from Washington

continued from page 3

them, they were extremely close-lipped about what they were going to do about the rider and when they would do it.

One highlight of our trip was being able to tout a letter to the President from over two dozen members of the California Congressional delegation urging Mr. Clinton to cancel destructive rider sales in California. Paul and I distributed the letter widely around the White House and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the agency that is supposed to control the Forest Service) and informed the press about it. Paul and I lobbied hard to convince reluctant members of Congress to sign the letter, and even several conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans urged the White House to act. Unfortunately, Senator Dianne Feinstein did not sign the letter, citing vague concerns about additional research having to be done.

On our way home from Washington, Paul and I spotted a member of the President's cabinet on the plane (I would prefer not to disclose his identity for the time being). Fortunately, this official sat next to me, and he made the mistake of asking me what I was doing in D.C. When I explained why Paul and I had flown out to Washington, the Secretary mentioned that Vice-President Gore would be very interested in the logging rider and would probably be willing to help. As the Secretary wrote the speech he had to give the next day, I wrote a letter to the Vice-President appealing to him to ask the President to cancel destructive logging rider timber sales. As our plane approached Sacramento, I asked the Secretary if he would have an aide deliver my letter to Mr. Gore. "No," he said, "I'll deliver the letter to him myself." He then proceeded to write a personal message to the Vice-

President on my envelope asking him to read my letter and consider helping our cause. After a full week of bouncing back and forth from one tight-lipped official to another, I was relieved to finally find someone who wanted to help.

Time is running out for California forests threatened by the logging rider. Now that attempts to repeal the rider have failed for the last time, it is more important than ever that we fight to convince President Clinton to cancel destructive logging rider projects. He has the authority to cancel these projects, and we believe he is morally obligated to exercise this authority.

What you can do

Even if you have done so several times before, please call or write the President and urge him to prevent the Forest Service from offering any roadless area or old-growth sales until the logging rider expires. You can reach President Clinton at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500, (202) 456-1414, or by fax at (202) 456-2883. Please send copies of your letter to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, fax (202) 720-2166 and Kathleen McGinty, Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Old Executive Office Building, Room 360, Washington, DC 20501, fax (202) 395-4639.

Wilderness Trivia Answer

38 sales in 23 roadless areas

Calendar

October 22 Rally and demonstration at the Forest Service office in Yreka, California to protest the cutting of ancient forest and roadless areas under the logging rider. Carpools are being organized from the Bay Area and the Sacramento region by CWC (call us for a ride). Call the Klamath Forest Alliance at 916-467-5405 for more information.

November 16 The California Forests in Crisis Symposium at UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium will offer workshops on using environmental law to protect ancient forests, sustainable logging practices, scientific tools for forest activists, forest communities and political power, fire ecology and fire policy, innovative visions and tactics for defending forests, and post-election strategies. A public forum and slide presentation will be held Saturday evening on topics ranging from forest ecology to wood-use reduction. Speakers include David Brower, former northcoast Representative Dan Hamburg, Bill Devall, Cecilia Lanman, Felice Pace, Linda Blum, Ryan Henson, and many more. Admission is \$25 for the entire program (\$12 with a student or senior I.D.), and \$5 for the evening program alone. Call Elissa Anderman of the El Bosque Pumalin Foundation at 415-771-1102 for more information.

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.

Coalition Member Groups

Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb 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 Fund for Animals; San Francisco Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley

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Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata 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 Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund; S. F. Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville South Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia Tule River Conservancy; Porterville 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

"I think the biggest mistake that we have made involved an issue known in the United States as the 'salvage rider'..."

— Vice-President Al Gore, hours before the Clinton administration gave up on efforts to repeal the logging rider. See story page 3.

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