

WILDERNESS RECORD

California Wilderness Coalition

*A Voice
for Wild
California*



Anniversary
25
1976-2001

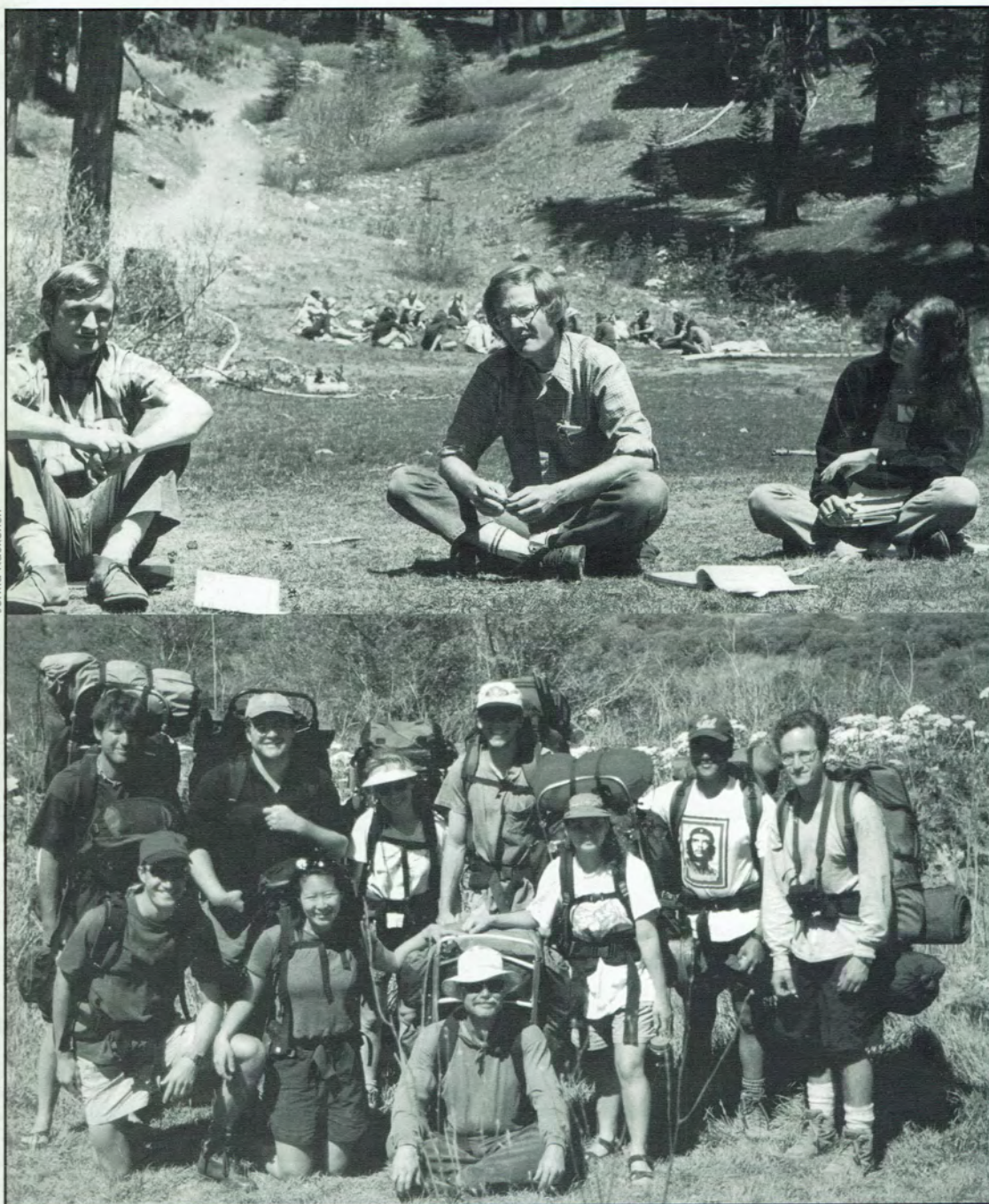
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25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Since the California Wilderness Coalition held its first wilderness workshops in 1976 (top photo), over 12 million acres of wildlands have been protected as wilderness, such as those at Point Reyes National Seashore (CWC staff and friends in bottom photo, 2000).



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Our Mission

The California Wilderness Coalition defends the pristine landscapes that make California unique, provide a home to our wildlife, and preserve a place for spiritual renewal. We protect wilderness for its own sake, for ourselves, and for generations yet to come. We identify and protect the habitat necessary for the long-term survival of California's plants and animals. Since 1976, through advocacy and public education, we have enlisted the support of citizens and policy-makers in our efforts to preserve California's wildlands.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

What a time for the California Wilderness Coalition



January 14, 2001 marked the 25th anniversary of the California Wilderness Coalition. We could not have picked a more appropriate time to celebrate a quarter century of wilderness advocacy.

In the week preceding our anniversary, President Clinton's administration eliminated commercial logging and road construction on 58 million acres of undesignated wilderness, enacted sweeping new protections for the national forests in John Muir's Sierra Nevada, and called for the elimination of all logging of America's remaining ancient forests.

Of course, our finest hour was marred by the threats posed by the Bush presidency. The new President's thinly veiled calls for dismantling American environmental laws, and his ultra-conservative Secretary of Interior, have cast a pall over the American conservation movement. What will become of our recent gains?

After 25 years, the need for CWC could not be greater.

In this special edition of the *Wilderness Record*, we celebrate CWC's first 25 years of advocacy, research and education on behalf of California's wildlands.

Since the time of our founding, California's landscapes have changed dramatically. Over 12 million acres of publically owned wildlands have been protected as wilderness. Another 675,000 acres have been lost to logging, road-building, and development. California's population has more than doubled, and the pressures on our wildlands is greater than ever.

Despite the changes, CWC has remained a consistent and vibrant advocate for California wilderness. Since 1976, we have recruited and trained citizen activists, hosted wilderness conferences, conducted public education campaigns in support of wilderness, and advocated for the permanent preservation of California's last wild places.

Today, as we continue that work, our efforts are as necessary and effective as ever. Many of you must be wondering what will become of our accomplishments. Will the roadless area policy and Sierra Nevada management plan last the year? Without a strong statewide wilderness protection organization, our ability to defend these policies would be seriously diminished. CWC's work is absolutely essential.

Since our founding in 1976, the Coalition has grown tremendously and our mission has evolved as well. We now strive to conserve California's most important wildlands and wildlife habitat wherever they may be found.

This evolution has provided us numerous new opportunities. As our involvement in the founding and implementation of the State of California conservation blueprint shows, we have become a respected leader in the efforts to increase protection for all of California's publicly and privately owned habitat. The impacts of our efforts have increased dramatically.

Our growth has also allowed us to remain one of the most effective, innovative, and dedicated organizations committed to California's wildlands.

I hope you cherish this special edition, and will join us in celebrating our victories in this, our 25th year. We could not do our important work without your loyal support. The victories described within these pages are yours as much as ours.

As to the future, despite the dark clouds looming on the wilderness horizon, we will successfully preserve California's last wild places. With your help, we have successfully defended over 12 million acres of wilderness in the past 25 years. In the next 25, we will do even better.

The birth of wilderness

by Marge Sill

Since so much of the protected wildlands in the United States occurs are designated wilderness areas, it is hard to believe that the Wilderness Act itself has only existed for 37 years. Before the signing of the bill by President Johnson in September, 1964, wilderness, wild, and primitive areas were established by the Forest Service, but these protections could be revoked with a stroke of a pen. The first such wilderness was established in 1924 in the Gila National Forest of southwest New Mexico and was specifically designated for wilderness recreation.

The first federal law to set aside wilderness was passed by Congress in 1930 to protect over one million acres in northern Minnesota as the Superior Primitive Area. In 1939, the Forest Service adopted regulations that National Forest Primitive Areas would be reviewed and reclassified as "wilderness," "wild," or "roadless," depending on their size.

The effort to achieve national wilderness protection culminated in the founding of The Wilderness Society in 1935 and by the efforts of many activists in the Sierra Club during the 1940s and early 1950s. The first draft of the Wilderness Act was written by Howard Zahniser, Executive Director of The Wilderness Society, in 1955, and the first versions of it were introduced in

1956 in the Senate by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota) and in the House by John Saylor (R-Pennsylvania). However, it took eight years, 18 hearings, and 66 versions of the Wilderness Act before it was finally passed.

The passage of this legislation depended upon an enormous grassroots effort by environmentalists to persuade their legislators that wilderness reflected the importance and uniqueness of wildlands in the United States—lands that would not be exploited or developed but left in their natural state for generations to come. It was a bipartisan effort that spanned the whole country and included a variety of people, not just climbers and hikers. Whenever three conservationists met, the topic of choice would probably be wilderness. Numerous wilderness meetings were held all over the United States, in cities and in rural areas, to talk about strategy and to inspire the troops for further efforts. It was an extraordinarily positive campaign: instead of trying to stop something bad, we were mobilizing to achieve a wonderful victory. And we were all working together, each in our own important way, for this victory.

Howard Zahniser, a modest man who respected all people, including members of Congress, worked without rest on the legislation, rewriting the

language to make it more palatable to those who had various concerns and to the powerful Committee chairs. Unfortunately, he died before the signing of the bill, but he did testify during the last round of congressional hearings. To those of us

who knew him and loved him, he was our wilderness hero, a mild-mannered John Muir who used his head and his heart to achieve something precious for all of us.

What does this monumental legislation do? In its own words, "in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas with the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Everyone who loves wilderness should keep a copy of the Wilderness Act around (perhaps several copies so they can be handed out to friends and foes). It is true that compromises had to be made, language put in to assuage special interests such as livestock grazing, but these compromises do not diminish the essential purpose of the Act—to preserve and protect wildlands forever.

When you "walk softly in the wilderness," whether it be the rugged peaks of the Sierra Nevada or the magnificent forests of the Northwest, or the other over 100 million acres of presently designated wilderness that we have protected in the past 37 years, it is good to remember and to honor those who worked so diligently to pass the Wilderness Act for our country.

Marge Sill has been working to protect Eastern Sierra and Great Basin ecosystems for over 50 years.



1989

Marge speaking at the California Wilderness Conference in May 2000



The California Wilderness Coalition's roots run deep

by Jim Eaton

As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley in the early 1960s, my brother, Bud (or Lafayette Claud Eaton, III, as he is known in some quarters) told me (his younger brother, still in high school) about the free speech movement. Little did I know then that this crusade would profoundly affect not only my life, but the wilderness movement in California.

For reasons I have yet to ascertain, the movement led to the creation of a Berkeley campus environmental organization, Active Conservation Tactics (ACT). By the time I became a freshman at UC Davis, a chapter of ACT was forming at my university.

Upstairs in our World War II military housing dorm known as Aggie Villa "O" Building lived Bob Schneider. Bob would introduce me to ACT, and he became a lifelong friend in the process.

Bob was one of the early Davis ACT leaders, along with Lee Otter, Jim Rose, and Jim Trumbly. But unlike many campus conservation groups in the late '60s, our group became orientated towards wilderness preservation, rather than recycling, global overpopulation, or other noble causes. The Forest Service was conducting a wilderness study for Snow Mountain, in the northern Coast Ranges, and our



Jim Eaton, co-founder of CWC, and Stickeen

Wilderness Act

September 3

Establishes: National Wilderness Preservation System, the first in the world.

Designates:

Caribou, Cucamonga, Dome Land, Hoover, John Muir, Marble Mountain, Minarets, Mokelumne, San Geronio, San Jacinto, South Warner, Thousand Lakes, and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel wildernesses.

Land & Water Conservation Fund Act
Establishes annual source of money for the purchase of private lands, including wilderness inholdings.

P.L. 90-271
March 21
Designates San Rafael Wilderness.

P.L. 90-318
May 24
Designates San Gabriel Wilderness.

National Environmental Policy Act
January 1
Requires federal agencies to assess and make public the environmental impacts of proposed projects.

State California Wilderness Act
September 23
Establishes: State Wilderness System.

1964 1965 1968 1969 1970 1972 1974

Requires:

Secretary of Interior to review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more in the national parks and monuments, and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges. However, requires that the Forest Service review only its existing administratively designated "primitive areas," leaving out tens of millions of de facto roadless areas nationwide. This ultimately leads to the RARE I and II reviews.

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
Establishes: National Wild & Scenic River System.

Designates: Middle Fork Feather, California's first Wild and Scenic River.

P.L. 91-58
August 18
Designates Ventana Wilderness.

P.L. 91-82
October 10
Designates Desolation Wilderness.

P.L. 92-493
October 13
Designates Lava Beds Wilderness.

P.L. 92-510
October 19
Designates Lassen Volcanic Wilderness.

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I) completed by Forest Service.

Designates: Mt. San Jacinto and Santa Rosa (later Anza-Borrego) wildernesses.

P.L. 93-550
December 26
Designates Farallon Wilderness.



Bob Schneider, co-founder of CWC and current Director of the California Wild Heritage Campaign

group adopted this as our first challenge.

The Snow Mountain campaign taught us a lot. We quickly learned that this area would not be saved by a bunch of earnest students in Davis, but instead would take the efforts of citizens living in Lake, Glenn, and Colusa counties. However, because of our coordinating efforts, Representative Robert L. Leggett asked ACT to bring him proposed legislation to make Snow Mountain a wilderness. We did so, although it would take another 14 years for this bill to become law.

Davis ACT became the seed for wilderness activism throughout the West. Roger Scholl is now a leader in Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Harold Wood is active in Tulare County. Bob Schneider runs the California Wild Heritage Campaign. And other activists have infiltrated local communities in Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Calaveras counties and eastern Washington, and work for state and federal governments.

Many of us became involved with the local Sierra Club. Our mentors were Dave Brower, Luis Ireland, Harriet Allen, Eric Gerstung, and Joe Fontaine. But as we worked within the existing conservation movement, we became frustrated with the compromises and lack of vision sometimes displayed by local Club activists.

	January 14 California Wilderness Coalition is founded.					
	P.L. 94-544 October 18 Designates Point Reyes Wilderness.	Endangered American Wilderness Act February 24 Designates: Golden Trout and Santa Lucia wildernesses. Enlarges: Ventana Wilderness.	State Parks Commission October 9 Designates Boney Mountain Wilderness in Point Mugu State Park.	State Parks Commission November 5 Designates West Waddell Wilderness in Big Basin State Park. The Commission also sets aside hundreds of thousands more acres in Anza Borrego State Park, as well as lands in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.	Gasquet- Orleans Road Construction is blocked on First Amendment grounds. The sacred area is later permanently protected in the Siskiyou Wilderness.	California Wilderness Act September 28 Designates: Bucks Lake, Carson-Iceberg, Castle Crags, Chancelulla, Dick Smith, Dinkey Lakes, Granite Chief, Hauser, Ishi, Jennie Lakes, Machesna Mountain, Monarch, Mt. Shasta, North Fork, Pine Creek, Russian, San Joaquin, San Mateo Canyon, Santa Rosa, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Sheep Mountain, Siskiyou, Snow Mountain, South Sierra, Trinity Alps, and Yosemite wildernesses.
P.L. 93- 632 January 3 Designates Agua Tibia and Emigrant wildernesses.	P.L. 94-557 October 19 Designates Kaiser Wilderness.					

1975	1976	1978	1981	1982	1983	1984
P.L. 94-567 October 20 Designates Joshua Tree, Pinnacles, and Point Reyes (again) wildernesses. Federal Land Policy & Management Act October 21 Requires Bureau of Land Management to inventory its lands for their wilderness potential and to preserve their wilderness quality.		April 28 to 30 California Wilderness Coalition holds its first large conference, at Merritt College in Oakland. Over 200 people from as far as San Diego and Eureka attend.		California v. Block, a decision rejecting the Forest Service's second inadequate inventory of its roadless lands (RARE II), is upheld.		Enlarges: Caribou, Cucamonga, Dome Land, Emigrant, John Muir, Marble Mountain, Minarets, Mokelumne, Red Buttes, San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, San Rafael, South Warner, Ventana, and Yolla Bolly- Middle Eel wildernesses. Renames: Minarets and San Joaquin wildernesses as Ansel Adams Wilderness.
<i>Celebrating the history of California's wilderness...</i>						

So we formed the American Land Conservation Council—a radical group with a conservative name. By now we had grown to include a great Stanford activist, Phil Farrell, and some other folks from the Bay Area, like John Hart and Nick Van Pelt. June Dailey, Mary Tappell, and Jeff Barnickol were also involved. We were frustrated with Forest Service studies that took a particular roadless area, like Snow Mountain or Mt. Shasta, and tried to cut it into pieces like a pie, with a slice for every interest group: the off-road vehicle enthusiasts, the timber industry, the backpacking community, and others.



Phil Farrell, CWC co-founder and photographer of extremely remote places, with Larry Kolb

Instead, we sought to have the roadless area considered in context with the larger landscape—including the radical thought that perhaps all wild areas should be preserved, and that other lands should be allowed to recover their wild character. We developed a plan for Mt. Shasta that not only protected all the roadless lands there, but also provided for the restoration of the previously logged and roaded lands on the lower slopes of the mountain.

Then in the fall of 1975, I flew to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the Emigrant Wilderness. On my return, I stopped off in Denver, where my old roommate, Roger Scholl, now worked for The Wilderness Society. We spoke about the success of the Oregon Wilderness Coalition and how we should try the same in California.

When I got home, I called four good friends to get together and talk about this idea. Bob Schneider, Don Morrill, Phil Farrell, Jeff Barnickol, and I decided to organize the California Wilderness Coalition.

...and the history of the California Wilderness Coalition

*State Parks
Commission
May 10*
Designates
Henry Coe State
Wilderness.

*P.L. 99-68
July 19*
Renames Point
Reyes Wilder-
ness as Phillip
Burton
Wilderness.

October 19 to 22
California
Wilderness
Coalition holds a
wilderness
conference in
Visalia.
750 people attend.

Northern
Spotted Owl
listed as
threatened
under the
federal Endan-
gered Species
Act.

*Condor Range &
Rivers Act*

June 19
Designates:
Chumash, Garcia,
Matilija, Sespe,
and Silver Peak
wildernesses.

Enlarges:
San Rafael and
Ventana wilder-
nesses.

*California Desert Protection Act
October 31*

More than doubles California's
wilderness system, to 14 million
acres.

Designates:
69 new wilderness areas
managed by the Bureau of Land
Management, as well as wilderness
areas in all three national parks.

1985

1989

1990

1991

1992

1994

October 25 to 27
California
Wilderness
Coalition holds a
wilderness
conference in
Visalia.
700 people
attend. Senator
Alan Cranston
publicly
announces that he
will introduce the
California Desert
Protection Act.

*P.L. 101-539
November 8*
Enlarges Ventana
Wilderness.



The BLM releases
its Wilderness
Study Report
analyzing the
wilderness potential
of 7.1 million acres
of BLM roadless
lands. The report
recommends only
62 areas totaling
2.3 million acres
for wilderness,
leaving 147 areas
totaling 4.8 million
acres vulnerable to
other uses.

Enlarges: three Forest
Service wilderness areas.

Establishes the Mojave National
Preserve and two Fish and
Wildlife Service wilderness areas.

Enlarges Death Valley and Joshua
Tree national monuments and re-
designates them as national parks.

CWC assumes the role of
California coordinator for the
Wildlands Project.

**Joyce and Peter Burk, who initiated the idea of a Mojave National Park in 1976, with
Senator Alan Cranston, who introduced the first legislation that would make it so.**

During that first year, the CWC developed the first inventory of wildlands. At that time, we believed there were 262 roadless areas besides the existing wilderness areas, for a total of about 14 million acres. Back in 1976 there were 1.9 million acres of land preserved as wilderness.

Today there are 14 million acres protected as federal wilderness, plus a half-million acres of state wilderness. Which just goes to show that we were too conservative 25 years ago. But in our defense, we were working without satellite photos and ArcView.

And although the CWC cannot take total credit for those 12.1 million acres of wilderness designated during our 25-year history, we can boast that we were part of every bit of legislation that passed during those years.

CWC has played an integral role in campaigns that eventually led to the passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 to the Desert Protection Act of 1994, and numerous regional wilderness bills. California's 100 plus wilderness areas are a testament to the tenacious and committed work of CWC and our coalition partners.

Today, wilderness remains a core part of CWC's mission. As a founding organization, and key partner of the California Wild Heritage Campaign, we are continuing our tradition of wilderness advocacy by completing an inventory of California's remaining potential wilderness areas, and building support for wilderness across the state.

But, as you will read throughout this special edition, our work now extends far beyond traditional wilderness. We are now fighting for the preservation of California's biological diversity as well as *all* of its wildlands. And through our four core programs, we aim to build a network of protected landscapes across California that will provide a place for each of our state's species.

We have had a great 25 years, and the next 25 should be even better!

Jim Eaton founded the California Wilderness Coalition in 1976, and was its Executive Director from 1980 to 1997.

CWC and Western Ancient Forest Campaign initiate the Stop the Salvage Rider Campaign to protect California's forests from reckless logging.	CWC releases comprehensive report on the condition of California's roadless areas.	<i>State Parks Commission</i> Designates the Redwood Heritage State Wilderness in Jedediah Smith State Park and Murrelet State Wilderness in Prairie Creek State Park.	The California Wild Heritage Campaign is born, combining the efforts of CWC, Friends of the River, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and numerous grassroots groups. <i>January 11</i> President Clinton designates the California Coastal National Monument and adds 8,000 acres to the Pinnacles National Monument.	<i>January 5</i> Forest Service issues its roadless area policy, banning conventional logging and road-building on 4.4 million acres of national forest roadless land in California. No national forests are excluded from the policy.	
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
CWC initiates the Wildlands 2000 campaign to inventory remaining roadless areas.	Forest Service proposes a policy that bans road construction in some roadless areas, but excludes four of California's northwestern forests from the policy.	CWC helps secure funding for the state to conduct an assessment that will identify priority landscapes for conservation. The program is initiated in July. <i>November 18</i> National Park Service adds 1752 acres to Phillip Burton Wilderness. <i>PL 106-145</i> <i>December 9</i> Designates Otay Mountain Wilderness.	<i>April 15</i> Clinton designates the Giant Sequoia National Monument. <i>May 5</i> Over 700 people attend the California Wilderness Conference in Sacramento, building support for future wilderness protection. <i>P.L. 106-351</i> <i>October 24</i> Designates: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument CWC finishes its 3-year inventory of California's last unprotected federal wildlands.	<i>January 12</i> Forest Service issues its Record of Decision for the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan. The landmark plan creates over four million acres of old-growth reserves and eliminates logging of all ancient forests in the Sierra Nevada. <i>January 17</i> President Clinton designates Carrizo Plain National Monument.	

How the quest for roadless area protection began Or: what does RARE II stand for, anyway?

The RARE I Inventory

The Wilderness Act of 1964 required the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to inventory all of their lands for potential wilderness areas, study them, and protect them until Congress made a final determination on the wilderness suitability of each area. The Act did not do the same for the Forest Service. Instead it took areas administratively designated by the Forest Service as “wild” or “wilderness” and made them the first components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The only lands the Forest Service was required to study for potential wilderness were lands that had been administratively designated as “primitive areas” by the agency. But there were millions of acres of de facto wilderness that the Forest Service was not required to study, including areas that citizens had been fighting to protect for years, even decades. There was talk of requiring the Forest Service to study these lands for wilderness designation.

In order to head off an executive order mandating such a study, (especially since it feared interim protection for all roadless areas until Congress made its decision), the Forest Service announced, in 1971, the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) program. The RARE I inventory, completed in 1972, found 1,449 areas with 56 million acres nationwide, including 136 areas totaling 3.3 million acres in California. Conservationists knew that the inventory was far from complete.

RARE II

After the first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE), the U.S.



Alan Houser

Steve Evans touts the proposed Ishi Wilderness at the California Wilderness Coalition's 1978 conference, held in part to strategize about the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II process.

Forest Service attempted to develop many roadless areas throughout the country. They were stopped by a Sierra Club lawsuit that was settled out-of-court after the Forest Service agreed to complete a site-specific environmental impact statement (EIS) for each area proposed for development.

In late 1976, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler announced that the Forest Service would re-do the roadless area review. The second attempt, eventually dubbed RARE II, began in June 1977 with a new inventory of roadless areas.

Many roadless areas had been missed in RARE I. In California, 190 new roadless areas totaling 2.8 million acres were “discovered” in RARE II. The RARE II inventory found 30 new roadless areas in both the Inyo and Los Padres national

forests. In the San Bernardino national forest the Forest Service found 23 more, and in the Modoc, an additional 20. By June 1978, the Forest Service released a draft EIS covering some 2,000 roadless areas totaling 62 million acres nationwide.

The RARE II program had no on-site analysis or new data gathering and put speed ahead of thoroughness whenever necessary. There was no field review of data and virtually no national-level quality control. In many cases the data for timber values and other resources were old and unreliable. Wilderness values were summarized in a “Wilderness Attributed Rating System” (known as WARS) that was open to the biases of individual Forest Service personnel.

After a three-month public comment period for the draft EIS, the Forest Service began working on their recommendations. Only 18 months

after beginning RARE II, the final EIS was released.

Only 13 percent of roadless acreage in California was recommended for wilderness designation. Over 600,000 acres were dropped from the RARE II process altogether with no explanation. The boundaries of many areas were altered without public notification.

In 1979 the state of California filed suit against the U.S. Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) decision. The state specifically sought to protect 41 areas, totaling 991,247 acres, that were designated as "non-wilderness" by the federal agency.

On January 8, 1980, Judge Lawrence Karlton granted a summary judgment against the Forest Service in *California v. Bergland* (later *California v. Block*), ruling that the Forest Service failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Among the NEPA violations were:

- The RARE II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) failed to examine, per NEPA requirements,

the site-specific wilderness values of the roadless areas. Further, the EIS failed to examine the site-specific adverse environmental impacts that would result from the decisions to open areas to development through non-wilderness designation.

- The Forest Service did not examine a reasonable range of alternatives. Of eleven alternatives examined in the EIS, ten allocated 34 percent or fewer of the total number of areas to wilderness and the other alternative allocated all of the areas to wilderness. This was a violation of NEPA's requirement to study a broad range of reasonable alternatives for a proposed action.

- The Forest Service failed to solicit public comment on the actual RARE II proposal. This proposal did not appear until the final EIS was released in January 1979, and it differed considerably from the ten alternatives present in the draft.

In ruling that the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement was inadequate, Judge Karlton pointed out that the opportunity for wilderness classification for non-wilderness or "released" roadless areas would be permanently foreclosed because development activities would change the nature of these areas.

Late in 1982, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Judge Karlton's decision.

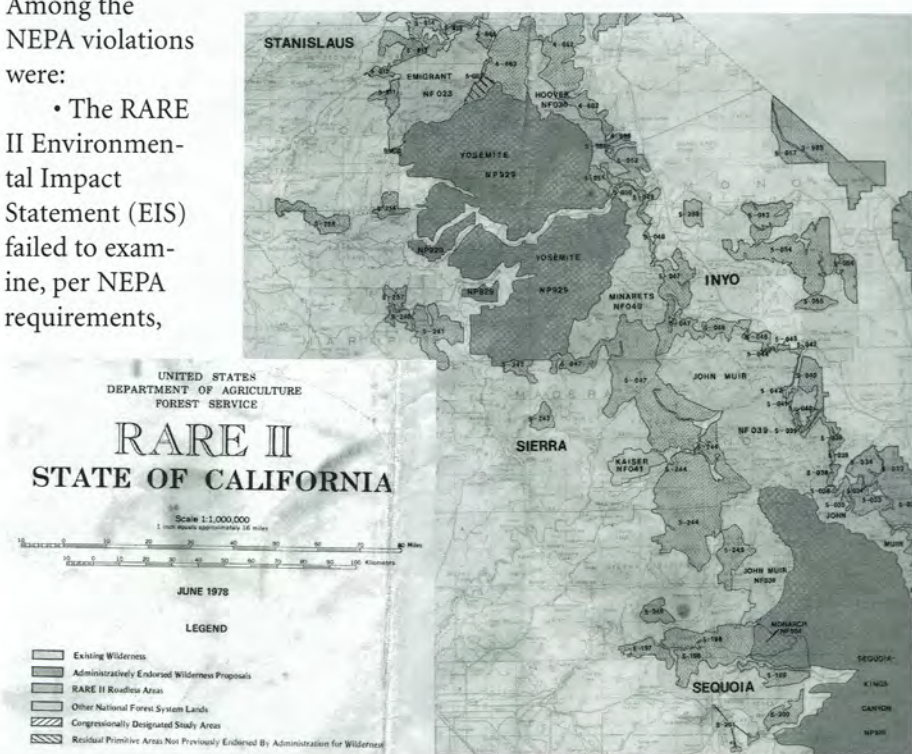
Conservationists continued to push for preservation of national forest roadless areas. In 1984, 1.8 million acres of national forest land were protected as wilderness by the California Wilderness Act. Legislation in 1992 and 1994 protected over 400,000 and 95,000 acres of national forest land, respectively.

In 1996, the Forest Service attempted to log many roadless areas in California under the temporary suspension of environmental laws effected by the salvage logging rider (see article on page 19). Most of these projects were eventually cancelled due to public outcry.

In 1998, the Forest Service proposed to ban road construction in some roadless areas, but excluded four of California's national forests. Again the public asked for more, and after several more drafts, the policy was finalized on January 5, 2001, banning road construction and conventional logging on 58 million acres nationwide, 4.4 million in California.

At press time, the Bush administration was attempting to delay the roadless area protection policy, in flagrant disregard for the millions of people nationwide who have testified in favor of it. The conservationist community is now gearing up in defense of this critically important policy.

Excerpted by Eve Ladwig-Scott from the Wilderness Primer written by Jim Eaton.



The Forest Service released its second attempt at an analysis of roadless areas nationwide in June of 1978. Only 13 percent of roadless acreage in California was recommended for wilderness designation. Over 600,000 acres were dropped from the RARE II process altogether with no explanation.

Celebrating the diversity of Bureau of Land Management lands

Wilderness yet to be: today's public lands could be tomorrow's wilderness

by Jim Eaton

When the Wilderness Act passed in 1964, 1.3 million acres of Forest Service lands in California were designated as wilderness. A study process was then established for wildlands managed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and for primitive areas managed by the Forest Service.

It took another twelve years for Congress to mandate that another land governing agency, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), look at its wildlands. The 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), commonly known as the "BLM Organic Act," required the BLM to complete its review of "roadless areas 5,000 acres or more and roadless islands" during the following 15 years.

BLM first began to review lands in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). In 1978, while procedures for inventorying potential "wilderness study areas" (WSAs) still were being finalized, public meetings were held for review and comment on 336 potential WSAs. By the following year, the desert inventory had shrunk to 138 areas totaling slightly over 5.7 million acres.

The wilderness review in the CDCA was incorporated into the larger California Desert Plan (also required by FLPMA) that was completed in 1980. Only 44 areas, with two million acres, were recommended by the BLM for wilderness designation.



The Tunnison Wilderness Study Area is one of five WSAs in the Buffalo Smoke potential wilderness, a 350,000-acre Great Basin wildland that straddles the California-Nevada border.

But in 1994, Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act (for the story, see article on page 14)....However, not all WSAs are in the desert. BLM completed its inventory for lands outside the CDCA in 1979. Here too, the number of surviving WSAs was a fraction of the roadless areas initially inventoried. The California Wilderness Coalition and other groups protested and appealed on behalf of a number of discarded areas, but only one area was reinstated.

During the 1980s, these non-CDCA areas were studied in 15 different environmental impact statements. Formal public hearings were held and written comments

were accepted for each of these documents. While the studies were underway, then-Interior Secretary James Watt tried to drop from review 60 WSAs—a quarter million acres of land. Six major environmental organizations and the late Representative Phillip Burton filed suit to stop the Interior Secretary and have these "Watt-droppings" reinstated. U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton agreed with the environmentalists that Watt did not have the authority to remove areas from the study.

Ultimately, the BLM recommended that outside the CDCA, portions of only 16 WSAs totaling 185,703 acres should become wilderness—22 percent of the

acreage studied. Some of these areas adjacent to the CDCA became wilderness in 1994. But many areas remain. BLM's recommendation was sent to the President for presentation to Congress.

What remains wild

From the Mexican border to the Oregon border, from the Lost Coast to the shores of Mono Lake, nearly 100 WSAs await a final decision of their fate by Congress. Environmentalists estimate that at least a million acres of wildlands are wild enough to be designated as wilderness. Many of these WSAs represent ecosystems not included in our current wilderness system. A few examples of the great diversity of BLM wild places follow:

With the longest stretch of wild coastline left on the northern Pacific [sometimes referred to as the Lost Coast], the King Range WSA is uniquely valuable. The terrain is dramatic: coastal mountains rise

abruptly from the shore; erosion and landslides—surface manifestations of the shifting continental plates—etch the landscape. Raptors, including the northern spotted owl and the bald eagle, nest in the old-growth Douglas fir that cover the range. Along the shore are middens, detritus of prehistoric Athapaskan inhabitants.

The Bodie Hills region, located east of Bridgeport and north of Mono Lake, is a starkly beautiful country of contrasting landforms and diverse habitats. Alkali wetlands and playas, dense stands of aspen and willow, and flower-filled mead-

ows and cacti are all found among the rolling hills dominated by pinyon-juniper woodland and big sagebrush. A cinder cone forms the backdrop for the "Dry Lakes Plateau," which drops away to the red rock gorge of Rough Creek. Herds of pronghorn roam the hills, raptors dot the skies, and the ubiquitous sage grouse provide comic relief.

Much of the Cache Creek WSA's vegetation is chaparral and chamise. There also are oak woodlands and savannas, isolated serpentine barrens, and some groves of rare Sargent's cypress. These ecosystems

are not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The state's second largest

winter concentration of the endangered bald eagle is here, as well as the second largest herd of tule elk. Golden eagle and prairie falcon soar above land populated with black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and deer.

Five WSAs straddling the California-Nevada border comprise the Buffalo Smoke potential wilderness. This is volcanic country, and most of the rocks were extruded during the past ten million years when the earth's crust was breaking along faults into the large blocks that form today's basin valleys and mountain ranges. In days past, bison roamed here. Remnant bands of pronghorn still do. Gray wolves once stalked through the mountains. Today, coyotes are the largest predator. The 350,000-acre expanse of wildlands supports sage grouse, a characteristic Great Basin species whose population is declining.

If you are interested in being part of a statewide campaign to protect these and other wild areas, please contact the California Wilderness Coalition.

Jim Eaton served as CWC's Executive Director for 17 years. His article is reprinted from the July 1997 edition of the *Wilderness Record*.



Fairy lanterns (*Calochortus* sp.) in the Cache Creek potential wilderness

Jim Rose



Jim Rose

The Five Springs Wilderness Study Area, also in the Buffalo Smoke potential wilderness

The California Wilderness Act of 1984: Remembering and rejoicing in its accomplishments

by Blake Meneken

Seventeen years ago, on September 28, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed the California Wilderness Act into law, designating over three million acres of California's wild landscapes as federal wilderness. President Reagan and his administration had been opposed to the bill for the previous four years, but strong bipartisan support combined with the work and dedication of hundreds of activists and organizations convinced the President to sign the bill.

Celebration was in order; the final draft of the bill created 1.8 million acres of national forest wilderness, forever protecting these lands from motorized vehicles, logging, mining, road-building, and other forms of "development." But the bill also elicited mixed emotional responses due to the compromises that were made in Congress. A previous draft including 600,000 more acres of proposed wilderness areas had passed in the House of Representatives three times. In addition, the final draft opened over 3.4 million acres of roadless land to future logging, mining, or other degradation.

Wilderness activists, however, seldom give up. The released areas included lands that had been the subject of controversy for decades, areas like Silver Peak, Chips Creek, Echo-Carson, and Glass Creek Meadows. Activists working to protect these and other areas did not quit; they redoubled their efforts to preserve their favorite wild areas. In 1992, the Condor Range and Rivers Act designated Silver Peak, an area released in 1984, as wilderness. In addition, all remaining unprotected federal wildlands were field-checked for their ability to qualify for future wilderness designation by the California Wilderness Coalition from 1997 to 2000. Last but not least,



The Granite Chief region was protected as wilderness in 1984, although then-Governor Pete Wilson required that the originally proposed acreage be decreased. Additions to the area are still possible.

the fight to protect national forest roadless lands culminated in 2001 with a Forest Service policy that bans road building and conventional logging on 4.4 million acres of national forest land in California.

Despite the compromises made in the 1984 California Wilderness Act, we remember and celebrate its accomplishments. The Act nearly doubled the acreage of national forest wilderness, and more than tripled the acreage of national park wilderness. Twenty five new wilderness areas and 14 additions to existing wilderness areas, as well as two new national park wilderness areas, were created by the Act. In addition, the Tuolumne River was given Wild and Scenic River status (protecting it from dam building and water diversions), and the Mono Basin was designated as a National Forest Scenic Area.

Of the 41 areas newly designated as wilderness, some of the highlights included: the formation of the

119,000-acre Ansel Adams Wilderness from the proposed San Joaquin Wilderness, the existing Minarets Wilderness and additions to the Minarets; wilderness designation for the Granite Chief, Carson-Iceberg, Trinity Alps, Snow Mountain, and Mt. Shasta roadless areas; and wilderness status for 1.4 million acres of land in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. Activists had been working for protection of some of these areas for decades.

Eighty-three miles of the Tuolumne River, stretching from the alpine headwaters in Yosemite National Park to the massive Don Pedro Reservoir in the foothills, were protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Tuolumne River features a variety of landscapes, from glacial canyons and subalpine meadows to foothill woodlands in the Stanislaus National Forest. The Wild and Scenic protection is interrupted in only two places: Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Early Intake Dam, just outside Yosemite. Some of the Tuolumne's forks and tributaries were left vulnerable to threats of dams and development. Protection is still being sought for some of these segments to this day.

The California Wilderness Act was a great accomplishment. Typical of a legislative compromise, no one was completely satisfied with it. But it is important to remember that the Act was a big step in the right direction. Someday many of the areas excluded from previous bills will be protected as wilderness. Growing support from wilderness enthusiasts across the state will allow us to make these strides in the future.

Blake Meneken is an intern for the California Wilderness Coalition.

From misty rainforests to chaparral-cloaked canyons and oak woodlands: *The Condor Range & Rivers Act*

by **Gordon Johnson**

In 1992, the Los Padres Condor Range and Rivers Act added more than 400,000 acres of wilderness to the Los Padres National Forest, an area stretching more than 200 miles along California's central and southern coast. From the misty rainforests of the Big Sur Coast to the chaparral-cloaked canyons and oak woodlands of the southern Los Padres, this part of California features some of its most visited wilderness areas.

The largest wilderness established was the Sespe. 219,700 acres in size, the Sespe also embraces the 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary and is renowned for its spectacular sandstone cliffs and ancient Indian petroglyph sites. Other wilderness areas designated include the 29,600-acre Matilija Wilderness, with the scenic alder- and maple-lined canyon of Matilija Creek and high-country conifers. The Chumash Wilderness of 38,150 acres has elevations approaching 9,000 feet and some of the most rugged terrain in



Jim Rose

The largest wilderness created was the Sespe. 219,700 acres in size, the Sespe also embraces the 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary.

southern California. The 14,100 acres of the Garcia Wilderness features stunning displays of wildflowers in the spring and a remarkable diversity of plants and animals. The northernmost of these new wilderness areas is the 14,500-acre Silver Peak Wilderness, where the most southern naturally occurring coastal redwoods are found. Spectacular views of the Big Sur coastline and surrounding mountains are available from its peaks, and a forest of Douglas fir is found in the Salmon Creek drainage.

Non-wilderness areas of the Big Sur coast received a degree of protection when the Condor Range and Rivers Act withdrew coastal areas from any new mining claims or other entry under the mining laws of the United States. The Act required that existing mining operations be consistent with the protection of the area's scenic, scientific and cultural resources.

The existing San Rafael Wilderness was also enlarged by 46,400 acres to its present size of 197,380 acres. In 1968, it had become the first Primitive Area to be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The San Rafael

Wilderness is notable for the region known as Hurricane Deck, featuring meadows, plateaus, and sandstone formations.

The Ventana Wilderness, first established as a Primitive Area in 1931, was expanded by 38,000 acres to a total of 202,178 acres. The California condor, re-introduced into the Ventana Wilderness, may be observed gliding over these newly added areas.

The act also designated 84 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers within the Los Padres National Forest. Sespe Creek, the Sisquoc and Big Sur Rivers were recipients of this federal protection. (Designation as a Wild and Scenic River precludes dam building or water diversions.) The Forest Service was also directed to study Piru, Matilija, and Lopez Creeks, as well as the Little Sur River and an unprotected segment of upper Sespe Creek for possible designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Gordon Johnson is California Wilderness Coalition's Proposal Coordinator for the California Wild Heritage Campaign. He helped to found the Ventana Wilderness Alliance in 1998.



Jim Rose

A heron in the Matilija Wilderness, which became protected under the 1992 act

The fight to protect the desert's wilderness

by Elden Hughes

On October 31, 1994, President Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), raising the protection levels on more than 9 million acres and capping a 10-year grassroots campaign. The act created the Mojave National Preserve, enlarged Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments (and made them national parks), and created 69 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas totaling more than 3.5 million acres.

There were actually 116 proposed wilderness areas in the CDPA. Most of them became law, many as part of the national park units. Frank Wheat tells this story beautifully in his book, *California Desert Miracle* (Sunbelt Publications 1999).

Activists had worked hard to pass the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) with its creation of the California Desert Conservation Area. This led to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 with its recommendation of 2.1 million acres of desert wilderness. Conservationists wanted more, but in the year that James Watt became Secretary of Interior, stolid acceptance and working within the system seemed like a good idea.

Mining interests and off-road vehicle riders opposed the plan and appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. In 1982 and 1983, James Watt and the Department of Interior settled the appeal by seriously amending the desert plan and rewriting many provisions they didn't want. Recommended wilderness was reduced by 400,000 acres, and the size of the East Mojave National Scenic Area was also reduced. Zoning protections for limited use areas were gutted.

Activists realized that just being within the desert plan text wasn't going to work. They needed legislative change. Meetings led by Jim Dodson, Jim Eaton, Judy Anderson and others took place to determine what was really sought. How much wilderness? Where? What about parks? Judy Anderson in the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter office

Peter and Joyce Burk pursue National Park status for the eastern region of the California Mojave desert as a Bicentennial project.

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) is founded and begins holding "wilderness workshops."

Spring
San Bernadino Congressman George Brown introduces legislation to designate the Mojave a national park. He re-introduces this legislation in 1979.

December
BLM issues its California Desert Conservation Area Plan, including proposals for wilderness. Unfortunately, the final plan is a watered down version of previous drafts.

Summer
Interior Secretary James Watt attempts to eliminate protected status of two-thirds of desert WSAs in California. He is ultimately unsuccessful.

September
BLM proposes revisions that gut the Desert Plan, allowing the Barstow to Vegas motorcycle race through WSAs and tortoise habitat, and reducing the proposed wilderness acreage. The amendments are largely adopted in 1983.

1976

1978

1980

1981

1982

1984

October 21
Federal Land Policy Management Act creates the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), a "total ecosystem that is extremely fragile, easily scarred, and slowly healed;" calls for a management plan to be developed.

Act calls for the inventory of BLM lands for wilderness quality areas, to be put in to Wilderness Study Areas pending Congressional action.

April
CWC holds its first large wilderness conference to strategize on RARE II (roadless area) and desert protection. Many conferences will be held over the next several decades to build support.

The BLM also initiates a yearly plan amendment process, which in future years further weakens the protective standards of the plan. Only 2.1 million out of 5.7 million acres of WSAs are declared "suitable" for wilderness designation.

Desert leaders begin mapping the desert for possible wilderness legislation.

December
Secretary Watt publishes an order reducing WSA acreage nationwide. Watt's order is eventually rolled back after years of litigation.

CWC is a founding member of the California Desert Protection League, a coalition of groups and individuals that leads the campaign for desert wilderness.

A partial list of events leading to the passage of the California Desert Protection Act

began the Herculean process of drawing legislative maps.

A coalition called the California Desert Protection League began pulling together the efforts of 120 environmental organizations. Thus began the 10-year campaign that led to raising the protection levels on those 9 million acres.

Lessons learned from the campaign

1. Think BIG! Include more than you expect to get. Remember that it is harder to add areas later than in the beginning. Just because the BLM thinks only mountain tops are wilderness doesn't make it true. Include the bajadas (alluvial plains formed at the base of mountains by the coalescing of several alluvial fans) and pull the boundaries down to the roads to enhance management and maximize protected habitat.
2. Think outside the box! Just because Congressional staffs don't like mixed bills (i.e., bills dealing with multiple agencies) doesn't make it right. The CDPA designated wilderness in Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service lands. It created national parks. It enlarged state parks. It even invented some designations (Desert Lily Sanctuary).
3. Get the big cities and counties on board. Work with the locals and rural folks, but recognize that much local support will be intimidated into silence by resource exploitive employers.
4. Stay flexible! Many issues will be site specific. If you make a few adjustments for them, they go away and you look reasonable.
5. Keep pushing! Land bills take time, more time than one ever wants to believe. Keep pushing. In years when "the bill is going no place," keep getting city, county and newspaper endorsements. Keep signing on new organizations. Keep pushing!
6. Keep pushing! In the year "the bill is a slam dunk!" it isn't. Nothing is a slam dunk. Keep pushing!

Elden Hughes and his wife, Patsy Carpenter, collected over 8,000 desert wilderness photographs and logged tens of thousands of lobbying miles to help build support for the California Desert Protection Act. Elden retired from computer consulting in 1990 to work full time on passage of the bill.

October
At the wilderness conference in Visalia, Senator Alan Cranston publicly announces that he will introduce the Desert Bill. He introduces it in February 1986.

January
Senator Cranston and Congressman Mel Levine introduce a second version of the Desert Bill in both Houses.

October
Negotiations between Senator Pete Wilson and Cranston fail; Wilson then opposes the Cranston bill as "locking" Californians out of the desert.

July
Congressmen George Miller, Rick Lehman and Mel Levine introduce a new version of the Desert Bill (H.R. 2929). It reduces wilderness acreage and proposes a "Mojave National Monument," not a park.

Between 1987 and 1994
numerous hearings are held in both DC and California. CWC works to develop support for the legislation and to get members of the public and CWC to testify at the hearings.

1985

1987

1989

1991

1992

1994

July
The first Congressional hearing on the bill is held before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests. CWC Executive Director Jim Eaton testifies.

CWC conducts a conference in Visalia to gather support for the California Desert Protection Act and other wilderness issues. About 750 people attend.

December
BLM ends the Barstow-Las Vegas race.

The BLM releases its Wilderness Study Report analyzing the wilderness potential of 7.1 million acres of BLM roadless lands. The report recommends only 62 areas totaling 2.3 million acres for wilderness, leaving 147 areas totaling 4.8 million acres vulnerable to other uses.

November
Cranston retires. Levine is defeated. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein are elected; both support the bill.

October 31
The California Desert Protection Act is signed into law.

Sources:

1. *California Desert Miracle: The Fight for Desert Parks and Wilderness*, by Frank Wheat. Sunbelt Publications, 1999.
2. Recollections of former CWC board members and staff; previous editions of the *Wilderness Record*.

How support for wilderness was won...a retrospective of CWC conferences, and other events

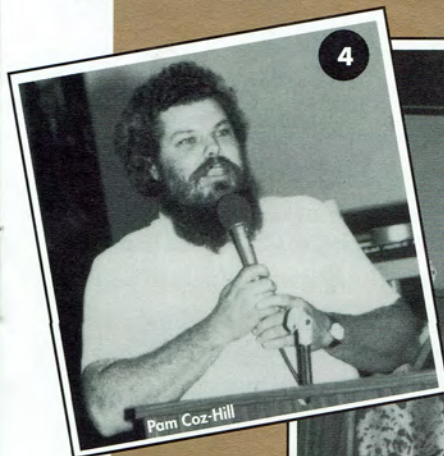
1978



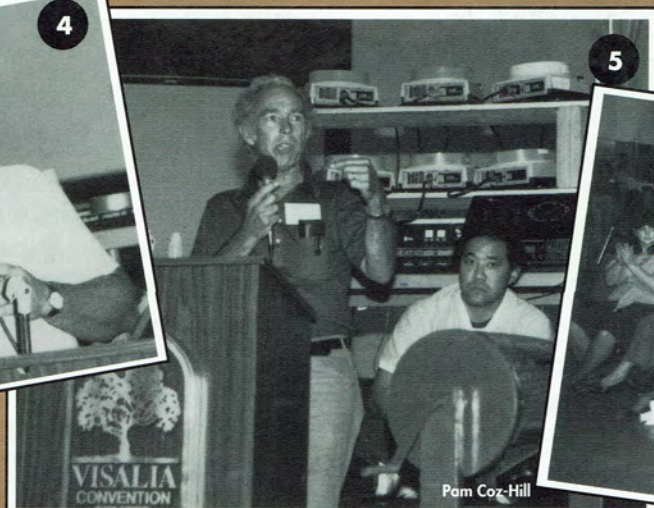
1. David Brower (top left) was the keynote speaker at the 1978 wilderness conference, which was held to build grassroots support for the protection of roadless areas and desert wilderness in California as well as wildlands in Alaska. Conference participants attended panels on political tactics and the proposed Mojave National Park.

2. Advocates for the Trinity Alps, part of which became protected by wilderness designation in 1984. 3. Grassroots groups from across the state furnished educational displays about their favorite roadless areas. Pictured here: the "Save Granite Chief" booth. Part of Granite Chief was designated as wilderness in 1984. 4. Jim Eaton, CWC's Executive Director for 17 years, spoke at the 1985 conference, which brought together 700 concerned citizens to inspire and educate them in preparation for future battles for wilderness. 5. Howard Wilshire, a geologist by training, has been advocating for the protection of the California desert and against off-road vehicle abuse for many years, with the accompaniment of a six-slide-projector presentation set to music. He spoke passionately about the desert and off-road vehicle abuse at the 1985 wilderness conference in Visalia. 6. Wilderness activists at the 1985 conference, at which Senator Alan Cranston publicly announced he would sponsor the California Desert Protection Act. 7. Desert leaders Judy Anderson and Jim Dodson led panels and spoke at the 1985 conference. Less than two years later they flew to Washington to testify before the U.S. Senate in the first of many congressional hearings before the California Desert Protection Act was passed in 1994. 8. Peter and Joyce Burk traveled around the state, advocating for a Mojave National Park, beginning in 1976. After presenting his map of the proposed park at the 1985 wilderness conference, Peter testified before the U.S. Senate in July 1987 (shown here). The area was designated the Mojave National Preserve in 1994 after many years of complex negotiations. 9. At a 1989 conference workshop, activists practiced how to convince decision makers to support wilderness. Tim Mahoney (dark vest) played the role of a U.S. Senator while Jeff Widen (right) acted the part of his aide. Jim Middleton, Susan Bower, and Herb Klarer (top to bottom) practiced their roles as wilderness advocates. 10. CWC Conservation Associate Tina Andolina led a regional panel at the 2000 wilderness conference on gathering support for future wilderness designations in the Sierra Nevada.

1985



Pam Coz-Hill



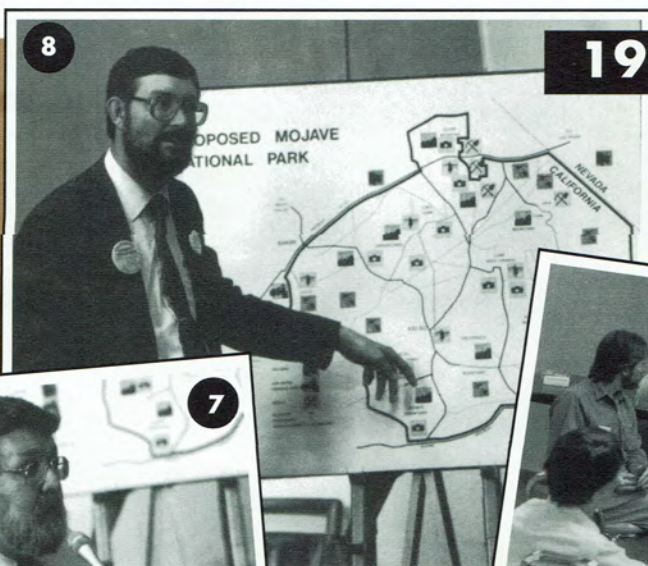
Pam Coz-Hill



Pam Coz-Hill

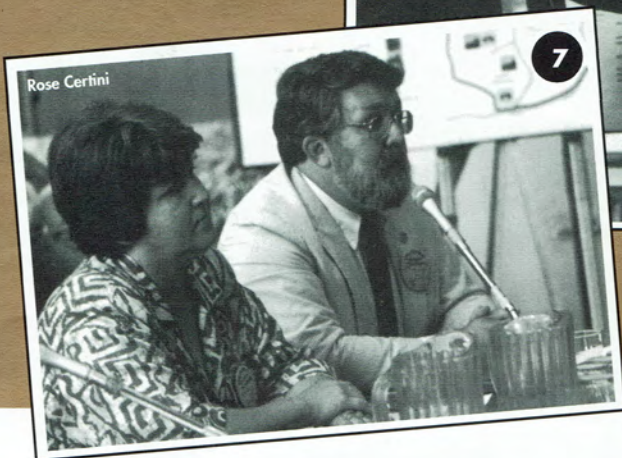
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1987 & 1989

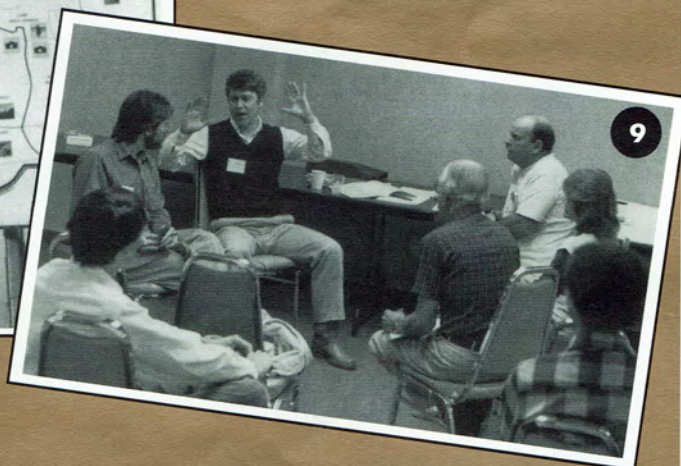


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Rose Certini



9



10

2000



Of lava lamps and clearcuts: The California public lands conservation scene in 1976 and 2001

by Ryan Henson

What images come to mind when you think of 1976? Disco, polyester, lava lamps, the election of Jimmy Carter, and the gala American Bicentennial celebration are a few of the memories that come to some of us. When the CWC was founded in that fateful year, its founders were not thinking about disco and bellbottoms. At that time, California's national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings were in very serious trouble, and the Forest Service and BLM were wrangling with conservationists over how best to survey the wild areas that remained.

In the early 1970s, off-road vehicles were beginning to swarm across BLM lands and national forests. Off-road vehicle routes proliferated in many areas, especially in meadows and other accessible areas near major roads. Many areas that are protected today, such as the Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest, were increasingly popular destinations for dirt bikers and other off-road vehicle enthusiasts at that time. The California desert in particular was overrun with jeeps, dirtbikes, and other off-road vehicles. By 1976, federal agencies finally began to enforce an executive order issued by President Nixon designed to better manage off-road vehicle use. Today, while many problems remain, the land has begun to heal at last and the construction of new off-road vehicle routes through sensitive wild places has largely been stopped.

Logging and road construction were rampant in California's national forests in 1976. The cut from California's forests that year was



Logging and road construction were rampant in California's national forests in 1976. The cut from California's forests that year was 1.428 trillion board feet.

1,428,000,000 board feet, enough to fill 285,600 log trucks that, if parked bumper to bumper, would extend for 2,704 miles. The leaders of the Forest Service at that time believed that logging was good for our forests, and that the construction of new roads was a net public benefit. The dominant forestry schools of the time taught that trees were like crops that were either "harvested," or left in the field to senselessly rot. To make matters worse, there was bipartisan support in Congress for the Forest Service's logging program.

By contrast, the cut from California's national forests in 1997 (the latest official data available) was 427,000,000 board feet, enough to fill 85,400 log trucks that would extend 808 miles if parked bumper to bumper. The unofficial cutting level for 2000 is 388,000,000 board feet (77,600 trucks extending 734 miles). In addition, while Congress and the Forest Service today may still contain many pro-logging stalwarts, the attitude shift in both institutions has been dramatic. This year, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck called for an end to the logging of old-growth forest, a tremendous step forward for an agency that dedicated

itself to the conversion of almost all ancient forests into monocultural "tree farms" in the not too distant past.

In January 1976, California had 22 areas that had been designated as wilderness by Congress. These wildlands covered over 2,465,000 acres and included such gems as the Ventana, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Emigrant, John Muir, and the San Gabriel wilderness areas among others.

With the passage in that year of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM was required to evaluate its roadless lands and determine which areas should be recommended for wilderness. This process would not be completed in California until 1990. The Forest Service had already completed the first of its roadless area surveys.

By 1979, the agency would complete a second survey after the first was successfully challenged in court. In 1976, the National Forest Management Act had been passed. This landmark law established the process the Forest Service uses to develop individual management plans for each national forest.

The law also required the agency to assess the suitability of roadless areas for wilderness status. The CWC was founded primarily to monitor the BLM and Forest Service's wilderness surveys and recommendations to Congress.

Today, in part because of the CWC's watchdog work, California has 141 wilderness areas encompassing over 13,975,000 acres.

Ryan Henson was the first Conservation Associate hired by California Wilderness Coalition. He began as an intern for the CWC in 1989.

One of our greatest past challenges: the "Salvage Rider" of 1995-1996

by Ryan Henson

Hidden deep in the pages of a massive 1995 budget bill was the "salvage rider," a law stripping the public of the right to challenge many kinds of logging projects on federal land. Since the budget bill also contained aid for victims of the Loma Prieta earthquake and other worthy causes, President Clinton felt he had to sign it.

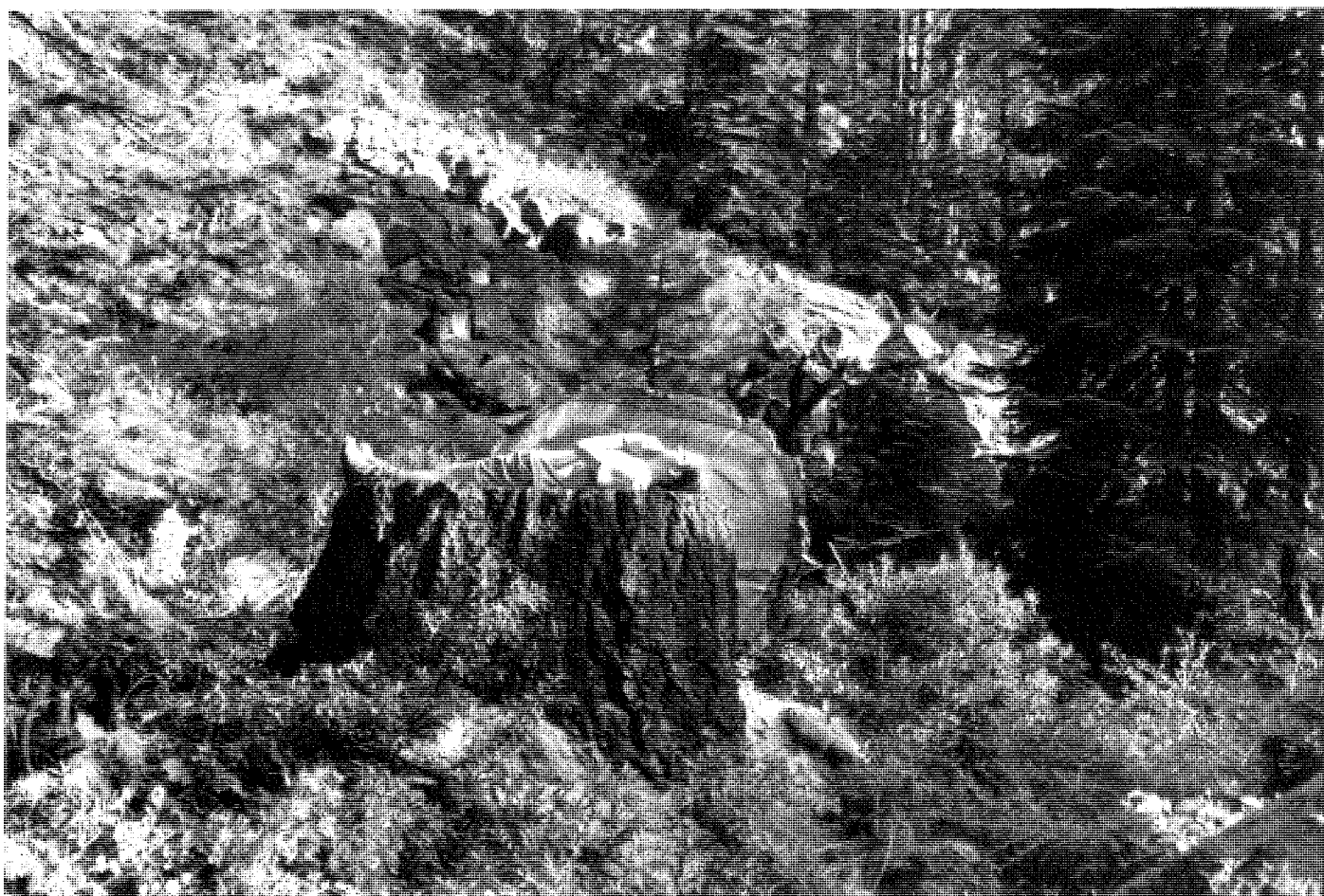
This piece of legislative blackmail resulted in a swarm of logging projects proposed in some of California's most important wild places. To fight the salvage logging

rider, the California Wilderness Coalition joined with the Western Ancient Forest Campaign (now American Lands Alliance) to launch the California Stop the Salvage Rider Campaign in 1996. The rider increased logging by suspending the laws regulating most forms of logging on public lands. Activists were forced to appeal to the court of public opinion since we were unable to appeal to a court of law. Thousands of letters, faxes, and phone calls, as well as peaceful demonstrations, stopped many of the most destructive rider sales in the state.

Unfortunately, some did go through.

By the time the salvage rider ended on December 31, 1996, over 90 logging projects on public lands had been stopped or greatly altered. Of the 28 worst logging projects originally planned under the rider for California, 21 were canceled. In all, 37 roadless areas and thousands of acres of old growth forest were saved by exerting grassroots pressure on the Clinton administration and the Forest Service.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.



Trees over the 30" diameter limit were illegally cut in the Bullshead salvage logging sale in 1997. The activist lying across this freshly cut stump is 5' 7" in height.

The California Wild Heritage Campaign: continuing the tradition of wilderness protection

By **Bob Schneider** and **Ryan Henson**

In 1979, the Forest Service completed a survey of its wildest lands, areas that the agency felt were eligible for wilderness status. The Forest Service identified 6.3 million acres of these "roadless areas" in California's national forests. Similarly, in 1991, the Bureau of Land Management released its Wilderness Study Report analyzing the wilderness potential of 7.1 million acres of BLM roadless lands. The BLM report recommended only 62 areas totaling 2.3 million acres for wilderness, leaving 147 areas totaling 4.8 million acres vulnerable to other uses.

Some of these areas were protected in the wilderness legislation sought by CWC and other groups that passed in 1984, 1992, and 1994. CWC staff knew that many of the remaining unprotected roadless areas had been damaged or destroyed by development since 1979, but the extent of this damage was unknown. In late 1997, the CWC decided it would conduct a survey of Forest Service roadless areas to see which remained wild.

CWC staff spent countless hours examining Forest Service records, aerial photos, and other information to conduct its survey. In late 1998 the CWC released a report of its findings, entitled *California's Vanishing Forests: Two Decades of Destruction*. This significant report documented the tragic loss of over 675,000 acres, an area roughly the size of Yosemite National Park, of potential wilderness in our national forests since 1979.

The report also sparked what is perhaps the largest, on the ground, volunteer citizen's, land use inventory ever undertaken. This campaign was called Wildlands 2000, and its centerpiece was a major on-the-ground mapping effort involving over 150 volunteers and paid staff. The purpose of the mapping effort was to produce accurate maps of which Forest Service

and Bureau of Land Management wild places actually qualified for wilderness status.

The Wildlands 2000 effort began in late 1998 and was completed in the summer of 2000; it provided an accurate estimate to the question: How much unprotected wilderness is left on our public lands in California? The answer was remarkable. There are over 5 million acres in over 300 different areas.



The Yuki roadless area, in the Mendocino National Forest, was one of over 300 areas field-checked for its potential for future wilderness designation during CWC's three-year mapping effort.

Parallel to this effort, Friends of the River identified 2800 miles of rivers that qualify for wild and scenic status in California.

In late 1999, the Wildlands 2000 campaign began building public support for protecting these areas as wilderness, with a special emphasis on building support in communities near the potential new wilderness areas. Discussions ensued on how we might work most effectively to permanently protect these lands and rivers.

Concurrently, the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign (SNFPC), a collaborative effort of national, re-

gional, and local conservation groups working to defend the Sierra Nevada, was winding up a massive public education and administrative advocacy effort designed to encourage the Forest Service to prepare a scientifically credible and ecologically beneficial management plan for the Sierra. The focused campaign to protect the Sierra Nevada mountain range became our model.

Thus the California Wild Heritage Campaign was born. An offspring of the unqualified success of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, the California Wilderness Coalition Wildlands 2000 project, and Friends of the River's wild rivers efforts, the Wild Heritage Campaign has unified the strengths and resources of each of its founding organizations.

Organizations from across the state have joined the California Wild Heritage Campaign in its efforts to protect our last unprotected wild places and rivers. The campaign has become a coalition of over 110 national, state and local grassroots conservation organizations, businesses, faith-based groups, service clubs, youth groups and others working together to protect these irreplaceable resources. How appropriate to enter a new millennium by working to ensure the protection of our wild heritage for future generations.

Californians have a tremendous opportunity to protect our remaining wild heritage. We have the tools and the organization to be successful. Members of the CWC, working with its many partners and friends, can take pride in knowing that it has rejuvenated California's wilderness movement.

Bob Schneider is the Director of the California Wild Heritage Campaign and a co-founder of the California Wilderness Coalition. Ryan Henson was the first Conservation Associate hired by the California Wilderness Coalition.

The California Wildlands Project: connecting the wilderness for the sake of our wildlife

by **Chris Erichsen**

In the late 1980s, wilderness advocates saw the need to build a long-term vision for wildlife habitat. Joining forces with conservation scientists, they formed the first organization to promote regional restoration, The Wildlands Project.

This movement quickly gained national momentum. In 1992, wilderness advocate Dave Foreman, CWC's founder Jim Eaton, and others met in San Francisco to discuss how the campaign would take root in the west. Jim Eaton immediately recognized the need for a Wildlands Project campaign that would restore and protect the larger landscape and make California's wilderness flourish. In 1994, the California Wilderness Coalition agreed to become the official coordinator for the Wildlands Project in California.

The California Wildlands Project, which aims to identify and protect a network of wildlife habitat statewide, complements the wilderness preservation movement in a few key ways:

1. Wilderness protection contributes to implementing wildlands planning by protecting large, roadless, and biologically diverse lands in our state.

By ensuring wilderness designation for our roadless public lands, we protect the critical building blocks of a wildlands plan.

2. The sole purpose of implementing wildlands conservation plans is to restore and protect the full range of native biological diversity. Each wildlands plan is part of a continental mission to stop the sixth major extinction crisis.

A wildlands plan needs meaningful wilderness areas to be whole. Habitat types, such as chaparral, oak woodlands, and grasslands, that are currently rare in our Wilderness Preservation System, are a top priority for future wilderness designation. In addition, we

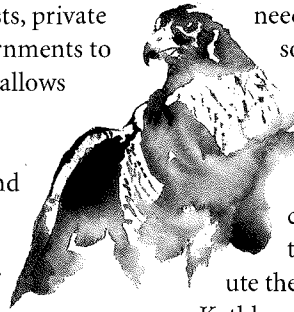
need to work with land trusts, private landowners, and local governments to manage lands in a way that allows wildlife to migrate between wilderness areas.

Wilderness advocacy and wildlands planning are complementary strategies for the long-term vitality of California's biological diversity and wildlands. This symbiotic relationship has developed over the past several decades as wilderness advocates began to consider whether wilderness alone was enough to sustain our nation's wildlife.

In 1985, William Newmark, a renowned conservation biologist, compared the habitat area needs of large carnivores to the habitat provided by western national parks and wilderness areas. He found national parks alone to be too small to sustain healthy populations of wide-ranging carnivores. The key word to remember there is "alone." Wilderness areas and national parks are not sufficient to harbor the species and processes that help balance and sustain the larger landscape. We must identify the critical habitats, specifically, where they are and how large they need to be for maintaining and restoring the natural balance.

In addition, we need to ask how we can protect the ecological balances and processes that invigorate the larger landscape. To answer these questions, the California Wildlands Project is creating maps for each of California's ecoregions, to show where important wildlife habitat exists, and where it needs to be protected and restored.

There have been numerous CWC staff who have furthered the California Wildlands Project's mission. Kathleen Brennan was its first coordinator; she initiated the GIS mapping that would become the project's focus. In 1997, Rich Hunter came on board; he constructed draft maps for habitat



needs of the mountain lion in southern California, helped facilitate the first regional habitat maps for the north coast region, and organized several regional mapping conferences that brought together scientists to contribute their knowledge. [Editor's note:

Kathleen and Rich are now engaged to be married.] In 1999, I was hired as the program's coordinator and have continued to help improve habitat maps for the south coast, central coasts and Sierra Nevada ecoregions.

Executive Director Paul Spitler has helped secure funding for the state of California to complete a "conservation blueprint." In 2000, the state legislature provided \$2 million for this effort. Goals include identifying the state's most important landscapes, assessing the tools currently available to protect these landscapes, and identifying steps the state can take to preserve high priority habitat.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, the California Wildlands Project initiated the first statewide connectivity conference last November, bringing together agency personnel and conservation biologists to capture specific, on-the-ground knowledge of habitat corridors that must be prioritized for conservation and restoration.

Goals for the near future include initiating mapping of habitat in California's Central Valley and desert regions, as well as continuing to improve the maps already developed for the other regions of the state. We are proud of the California Wildlands Project's achievements over the past six years, and will continue to make significant contributions toward a long-term biologically viable future for California.

Chris Erichsen is the California Wildlands Project Coordinator.

Time Warp!

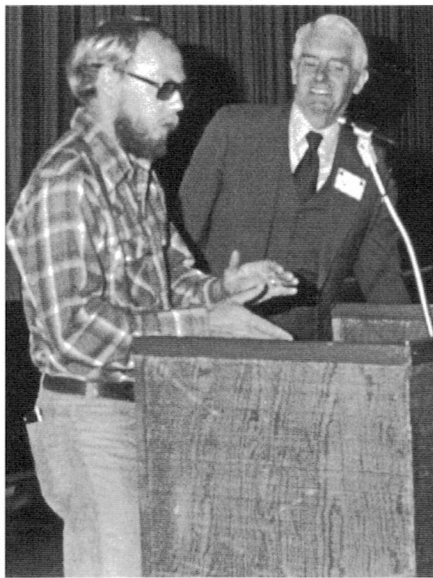
Pictures of CWC staff in the late 1970s

Bob Schneider



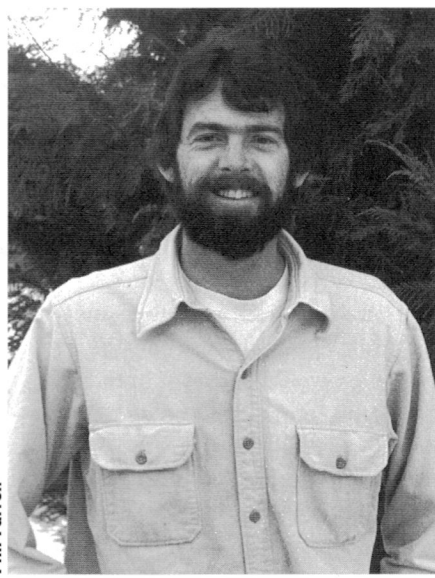
Jim Eaton, co-founder, president in 1976, and Executive Director 1980-1997 (photo taken in 1978)

Alan Houser

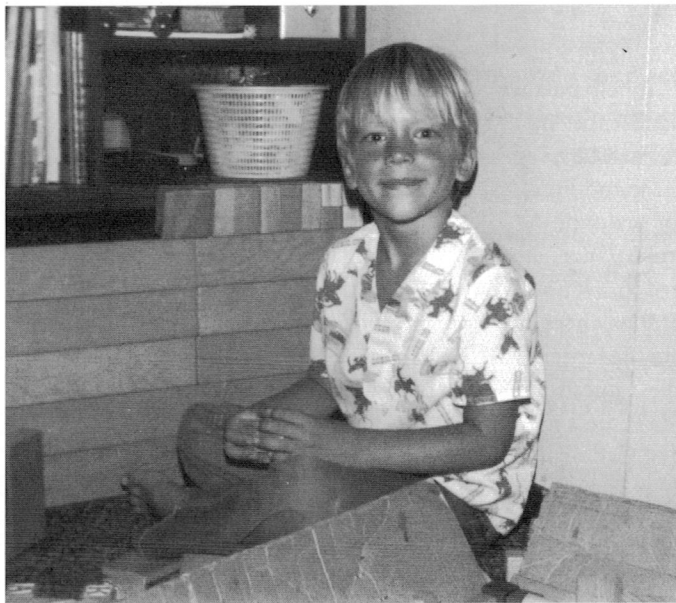


Bob Schneider, co-founder (left) and David Brower, arch-druid, in 1978

Phil Farrell



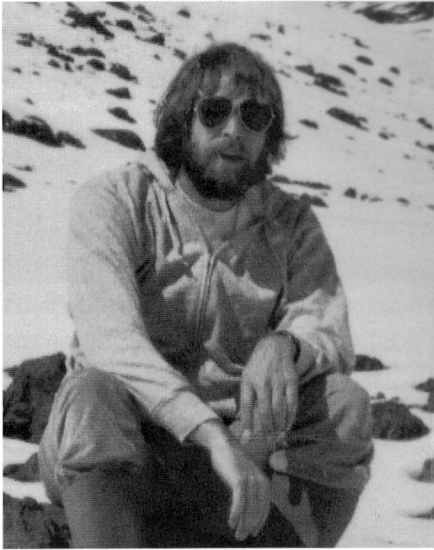
Don Morrill, co-founder and current CWC Treasurer, in 1976



Paul Spitler (current Executive Director of CWC) in 1976



Eve Ladwig-Scott (current Associate Director of CWC) in 1976



Gordon Johnson (currently a CWC Conservation Associate) in 1976



Ryan Henson (currently a CWC Conservation Associate) in 1976



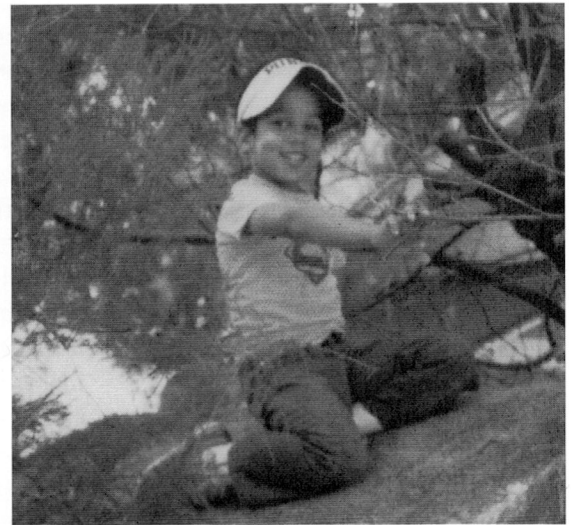
Chris Erichsen (left), current Conservation Associate, with his sister Andrea (now an ornithologist) in 1976



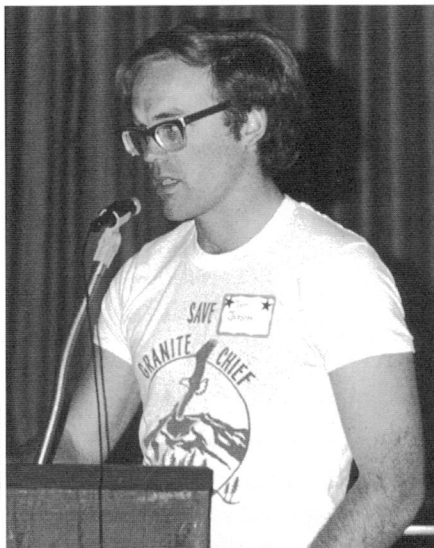
Tina Andolina (currently a CWC Conservation Associate) in 1976



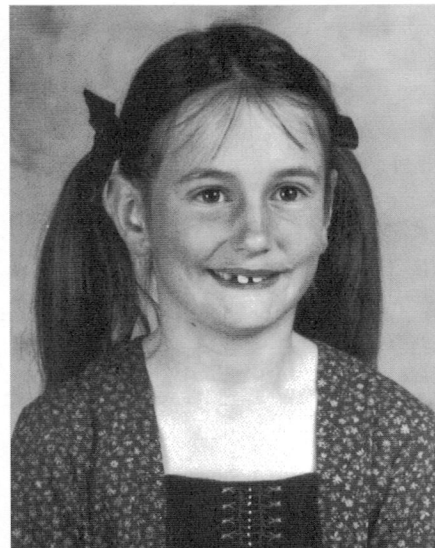
Janice Stafford (current CWC Bookkeeper) in 1975



Matei Tarail (current CWC Membership and Development Associate) in 1976



Tom Jopson, first Wilderness Record Editor, in 1978



Laura Kindsvater, current Wilderness Record Editor, in 1976



Carrie Sandstedt (Conservation Associate for CWC) in 1976

New forest plan for the Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau offers welcome changes for public lands

by Ryan Henson

In the last days of the Clinton administration, then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman approved the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment. Conservationists hailed the plan as a giant step forward in protecting and restoring threatened forest ecosystems from the Modoc National Forest in the north, to the Sequoia National Forest hundreds of miles to the south.

The strategy includes unprecedented limits on logging in sensitive habitat types. For example, the plan establishes old-growth forest reserves covering 40 percent of 11 national forests. These reserves contain most of the remaining ancient forest in the Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau, and cover some 4,042,000 acres (6,315 square miles) of land. Within these areas the Forest Service has limited itself to using fire as a management tool to restore and maintain the health of forests that have been hurt by the exclusion of natural fires, and to reduce the unnatural accumulation of fuel in areas that have been clearcut or partially logged in the past. Where tree removal may be considered necessary prior to the reintroduction of fire, only trees less than 12 inches in diameter may be removed.

In addition to establishing old-growth forest reserves, nest sites of the California spotted owl, northern goshawk, great gray owl, and willow flycatcher, as well as the dens of fisher and marten (two threatened relatives of the mink that live in old-growth forest) will also receive increased protection from logging and, in the case of the flycatcher, livestock grazing as well. Protecting these den and nest sites will limit logging on an additional 736,000 acres (1,150 square

miles) of land. To address concerns from conservationists and scientists about the isolated populations of fisher in the southern Sierra, an additional 1,391,000 acres (2,173 square miles) will be managed to aid the recovery of this species.

The remaining portion of the forest has also received increased protection by the imposition of a rule prohibiting the cutting of trees over 20 inches in diameter in most circumstances and by limiting the amount of forest canopy that can be removed. Areas along streams will also receive more protection. In forests near urbanized areas, the Forest Service plans to cut more trees, allegedly to reduce the risk of severe wildfires around communities.

Logging is expected to result in 187 million board feet (roughly enough to fill 37,400 log trucks) of trees cut annually, down significantly from the 372

million board feet per year cut between 1994-1999 (74,400 log truck loads annually). Logging levels will decline further after the expiration of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library



Jim Rose

The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment includes unprecedented limits on logging in sensitive habitat types. For example, the plan establishes old-growth forest reserves covering 40 percent of 11 national forests.

Group Pilot Project in a few years.

The approval of the Sierra plan is the culmination of many years of hard work. As early as 1992, many scientists



Jim Rose

Nest sites of the California spotted owl, northern goshawk, great gray owl, and willow flycatcher, as well as the dens of fisher and marten (two threatened relatives of the mink that live in old-growth forest) will also receive increased protection from logging.

began to believe that populations of the California spotted owl were at risk in the Range of Light. The California spotted owl is closely associated with ancient forests and is considered an "indicator species" by scientists and conservationists. In other words, if the spotted owl is declining, then all other species that depend on similar habitat may also be declining. A similar battle over the management of habitat for the northern spotted owl, a close relative of the California owl, was being fought in northwestern California and western Oregon and Washington. Concerns over the decline of the northern spotted owl in the Northwest led a federal judge to issue an injunction in 1989 against the logging of suitable owl habitat.

The Forest Service was extremely concerned that if California spotted owl populations continued to decline, and if conservationists sued over it, then a similar logging ban would be imposed in the Sierra Nevada. With the threat of a suit by conservationists and under pressure from scientists and pro-conservation politicians to protect at least some Sierra Nevada ancient forest, in 1993 the Forest Service issued the California Spotted Owl (CASPO) guidelines. The CASPO guidelines prohibited the cutting of live trees over 30 inches in diameter on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, but left most of the Modoc Plateau and east-slope Sierra open to the cutting of large trees

because fewer owls call these areas home. For a time, logging pressure shifted to these unprotected areas.

Despite their shortcomings, the CASPO guidelines resulted in a reduction of logging from an average of 879 million board feet of trees cut per year (roughly 175,800 log truck loads), to 372 million board feet per year (74,400 log truck loads). The guidelines were meant to be in place temporarily until a long-term plan was developed. In 1995 the Forest Service issued a draft long-term policy that activists found extremely objectionable because it would have resulted in a massive logging program designed supposedly to reduce the threat of unnaturally hot wildfires.

In 1996, the Forest Service's efforts to finalize their long-term logging plan were thrown into disarray when the University of California at Davis issued the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) Report. This multi-volume report was commissioned by Congress and was meant to be an assessment of the Sierra Nevada's water, forests, rural economies, and other key social and ecological attributes and to offer recommendations as to how they could be effectively managed. The SNEP Report greatly undercut many of the Forest Service's justifications for increased logging, but the agency rushed to finalize its draft.

Conservationists appealed to Congress and the White House and demanded that the draft be with-

drawn since it completely ignored the key findings of the SNEP Report. The Forest Service agreed to revise its draft plan, but even this revision was found wanting by many scientists and activists, and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman convened a panel of scientists in 1997 to review the revised draft and compare it to the key findings of the SNEP Report, as well as other scientific information. In late 1997, the panel of scientists concluded that the Forest Service's draft plan was insufficient to protect both the California spotted owl and threatened Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

Perhaps tiring of the Forest Service in California's failure to produce a legally acceptable plan, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck directed his subordinates to produce a plan that stood "on the solid foundation of the best available science." Eventually, after two years of public comment, the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment was approved.

Unless Congress weakens the plan, or the Forest Service overly exploits the plan's loopholes, the plan will result in a radical and positive change in the way the forests of the Sierra Nevada are managed over the next few decades. The CWC and other groups will monitor the plan's implementation and work to defend it from opponents in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

The winter's hard work yields success

by Tina Andolina

Efforts to protect our last remaining wild places have kicked into overdrive during the past several months. The focus of our efforts has been to reach out to new wilderness enthusiasts and generate support in the communities adjacent to our unprotected wild places. Activists have been out in force gathering letters of support from local businesses and organizations that want to see our remaining wildlands protected.

The letters pouring in demonstrate quite clearly the overwhelming and diverse support for protecting our wild heritage. We have always known it was out there, now we are beginning to see it tangibly displayed. It is vitally important we keep up this effort. The more we can demonstrate this overwhelming support, the more likely we will be to protect these areas from looming threats and one day win permanent protection for them.

We now have over 30 different groups working to promote areas and rivers in their backyard. In the southern Sierra, for example, many new activists have become involved in the wilderness campaign and are now taking up the charge on their own. Currently there are four separate groups working to promote areas and rivers in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Two groups are dedicated to a Sequoia Wilderness Campaign, one in Bakersfield and one in Visalia, and two groups are working to permanently protect wild places in the Sierra National Forest, one in Oakhurst and one in Fresno.

These advocates have done tremendous job reaching out to supporters in their community. Wilderness designation needs local champions, so it is vitally important we have strong and dedicated groups of individuals working for each river and wild place we hope to protect.

In November and December many local wilderness groups held regional meetings to coordinate efforts, assess

outreach efforts, and determine a strategy for the coming months. These meetings offered activists working in different parts of the state a chance to come together and share valuable knowledge and experience. Regional meetings were held in Los Angeles, Fresno, Sacramento, Redding, Bishop, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Arcata, Ukiah, and Susanville.

In Sacramento, for example, activists from the Plumas, Tahoe, and El Dorado National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin met to identify which areas local activists were working to generate support for and to brainstorm as a group how local activists could promote their areas and rivers to the larger community. The focus was on identifying groups or individuals not traditionally associated with the wilderness movement, but that might be supportive of our efforts. We identified rafting companies, various garden, hiking, historical, or senior groups folks could contact. These initial lists provided local groups with a great starting point from which they could go out into their community and generate support.

These meetings were a tremendous success and gave activists an extraordinary opportunity to come together, envision the wilderness effort from a regional perspective, and get a feel for what a wilderness and wild rivers proposal from their region might look like. On April 28, activists will strategize in a statewide meeting about the entire proposal.

This spring and summer we will be planning trips to visit these last unprotected wild places in California. There is no better way to get acquainted with our wild heritage than to spend a glorious day traipsing around in the unprotected backcountry or floating down a wild river. We will get scores of people out to see these places we are working to protect; that is one sure way to win support for our efforts! If you feel inspired to take part in this campaign, you can help by getting folks out to these special places, organizing a trip, or introducing family and friends to the idea of future additional wilderness.

Tina Andolina is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

Saturday, April 14: Hike to Feather River Falls in the Plumas National Forest. Come see this nationally renowned potential wilderness area and the magnificent Feather River National Scenic Trail. For more information contact Tina Andolina at 530-758-0380 or tina@calwild.org.

Saturday, April 21: Hike to the South Fork Merced potential wilderness area in the Sierra National Forest. Just outside of Yosemite, this area offers excellent day hike trails, grand views and famous spring wildflower displays. For more information contact Tina Andolina at 530-758-0380 or tina@calwild.org.

Sunday, April 29: Visit the Cache Creek potential wilderness and wild and scenic river. The oak woodlands have a terrific wildflower bloom in April and May. Come check it out! For more information, contact Tina Andolina at 530-758-0380 or tina@calwild.org.

Saturday, May 5, 2001: Save Medicine Lake annual banquet and auction in Mount Shasta. For more information, contact Janie Painter at (530) 926-5514 or jpainter@jps.net.

For additional hikes and other events, see the calendar at www.calwild.org.

Bureau of Land Management misses opportunity to rein in off-road vehicle abuse

by Kristen Brengel

In January of 2001, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its final strategy for managing off-road vehicle use. The strategy was intended to address current motorized off-road vehicle designated routes and areas; existing motorized off-road regulations; off-road vehicle impacts on resources; road and trail design, maintenance, and restoration; management of special areas, including Wilderness Study Areas; monitoring; education; law enforcement; and the BLM's budgetary needs.

In revising their off-road vehicle management strategy, the BLM had an opportunity to protect natural resources and values on the 264 million acres of precious public land under its watch. California alone holds 14 million acres of BLM lands including places like Algodones Dunes. Unfortunately, the opportunity was lost. Nationwide, 94 percent of BLM land will continue to be left open to dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies, and other off-road vehicles without any real protection.

After a year-long process, 29 public hearings, and thousands of public comments in support of protecting fragile lands from damage caused by off-road vehicles, BLM's National Management Strategy on Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use offers at best inconclusive guidance for future off-road vehicle plans. This is despite the admissions by the agency that the damage caused by off-road vehicles is widespread and escalating.

The plan should have provided immediate protection to the deserts, canyons, and rangelands of the West from the severe damage caused by dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles. To provide real protection to the public lands managed by the BLM, the agency should have incorporated the following:



Susan Harrison

1. Closing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), inventoried roadless areas, and all other wilderness-quality lands to off-road vehicles.

The strategy acknowledges the need to provide additional protection for WSAs. But rather than draft management direction that reflects its legal obligation to protect WSAs, the BLM's only goal has been to provide more information about its Interim Management Policy, the policy that explains the management of these areas.

BLM has been managing WSAs for 20 years under this policy. By now, management staff should be well versed in the agency's responsibility to prevent damage to WSAs. They should recognize that this policy must be utilized and the agency should close WSAs to off-road vehicle use. (Nationwide, WSAs account for just 6.4 percent of land managed by the BLM.)

2. Reining in off-road vehicle use outside these wilderness areas.

The BLM believes it does not have the authority to create a policy that would ban off-road vehicle riding on all routes except for those routes specifi-

cally marked with a sign as "open."

Yet two Executive Orders, from Presidents Nixon and Carter, do give the agency the legal mandate to do just that.

If BLM had actually followed through on this mandate, BLM lands would be much better protected from the widespread damage caused by off-road vehicles.

3. Allowing off-road vehicles only where the BLM can demonstrate it is monitoring the impacts of off-road vehicles and enforcing rules protecting the land from off-road vehicle damage.

The Bureau of Land Management has missed a huge opportunity. Rather than provide meaningful protection to our precious public lands, it adopted a strategy that lacks substantive direction for land managers, leaving some of our most sensitive areas in danger of continued off-road vehicle abuse.

Kristen Brengel works for the National Off-Road Vehicle Coalition. She can be reached at (202) 429-2694. The National Off-Road Vehicle Coalition includes over 100 organizations; its mission is to protect and restore public lands and waters from off-road vehicle abuse.

Off-road vehicles should be allowed only where the BLM can demonstrate it is monitoring the impacts of off-road vehicles and enforcing rules protecting the land from off-road vehicle damage.

Pictured here: BLM's Knoxville Recreation Area.

California's new Congressional representatives: What does this mean for wilderness?

by Tina Andolina

With a new election comes a new California delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives. Last November we sent four new Democratic representatives and one new Republican to Washington D.C. That means, of the 52 House members representing the Golden State, we have 31 Democrats and 20 Republicans (and one vacant seat). And of course we still have our two Democratic senators. What does this mean for California's wilderness in the next couple of years?

In the House of Representatives, any new wilderness legislation would be directed to two separate committees for review before the entire House would vote on it. Those committees are the House Resources Committee and the Agricultural Committee, and California has representatives on both.

On the Agricultural Committee we have two prominent Republicans from the Central Valley, Richard Pombo of Tracy, and Doug Ose of Sacramento and Yolo County. Representative Ose's district is also home to one of the

largest potential wilderness areas, Cache Creek. Many of Congressman Pombo's constituents spend a great deal of time recreating in the wild places of the Stanislaus National Forest and others, in the nearby Sierra Nevada.

Democrats on the Agricultural Committee include Gary Condit from Modesto, Cal Dooley from Hanford, Mike Thompson of St. Helena, and Joe Baca from Rialto. Both Representatives Condit and Dooley are in districts near potential wilderness in the southern Sierra Nevada. However, Congressman

Thompson's district contains a great deal of potential wilderness in the Mendocino, Six Rivers, Klamath, and Shasta-Trinity National

Forests. This district also con-

tains the pristine Lost Coast

potential wilderness area.

Cal Dooley and Richard Pombo are both also on the House Resources Committee along with Republicans

George Radanovich of Mariposa, Elton Gallegly of Simi Valley, and Ken Calvert of Corona. Congressman Radanovich's district includes

spectacular potential wilderness in the Sierra National Forest including the Kings River potential wilderness and the Shuteye and Mt. Raymond areas. California also has two other Democratic representatives on the committee, both from the Los Angeles basin, Grace Napolitano and Hilda Solis. Constituents of both these districts enjoy nearby recreational opportunities in the Angeles National Forest.

Senator Dianne Feinstein sits on the committee with the jurisdiction over wilderness issues in the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Senator Barbara Boxer sits on the Committee for Environment and Public Works, which may review new wilderness legislation but is not obligated to.

All of this means that our California delegation is in a great position to support and champion permanent protection for our remaining wild places. We are extremely fortunate to have a delegation that is becoming more aware of forest and wildlands issues and more dedicated to conservation. However, we must ensure that our elected representatives know how important preserving our last remnants of wild land is to all Californians.

Some of the representatives on these important committees have not traditionally supported protecting our wildlands, which means it is vital to let them know that a top priority for their constituents is protecting our wild heritage for all Californians and future generations to enjoy. Volunteers and staff of the California Wild Heritage Campaign have been busy over the winter collecting letters of support from wilderness advocates across the state. (For more information on the campaign's progress, see the article on page 26.)

Tina Andolina is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.

The winds of change blow cold

by Tina Andolina

With a new President in the White House, we also get a new Executive Cabinet to head up the various federal agencies governing transportation to education to...you guessed it, public lands. These cabinet members, called secretaries, help develop and implement federal regulations that can have a direct effect on California wilderness. Two cabinet positions in particular can have a tremendous effect on how our wildlands and designated wilderness areas are cared for: the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Both of President Bush's appointments do not bode well for our wildlands.

Former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton has been named by President Bush to head the United States Department of the Interior. This department has jurisdiction over agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others. Norton replaces former Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

Norton has been dubbed by many in the environmental community as a James Watt protégé. She worked for former Interior Secretary Watt at the Mountain State Legal Foundation in Colorado, which has ties to the "wise use" movement, and again as an attorney for the Interior Department during the Reagan administration. While she was with the Department, she championed the opening of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, a position wholeheartedly supported by President Bush.

She chairs the Republican Environmental Advocates, formed in 1998 to clean up the party's anti-environmental image. The coalition advocates environmental fixes based on free-market economic strategies. Environmental groups claim, however, that the coalition is merely a political action commit-

tee, whose donors include several energy companies and associations representing mining, logging, chemicals and coal. Republicans for Environmental Protection, a rival group, described the coalition as showing "no signs of being either grassroots or pro-environment. The word greenscam comes first to mind."

Norton will now have jurisdiction over grazing on public BLM lands, the management of Wilderness Study Areas, and Endangered Species listings. She will also formulate final decisions on snowmobiles in National Parks and development in Yosemite.

The Forest Service falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, which is now headed by California native, Ann Veneman.

Veneman, once an attorney for the anti-wilderness group called the SAMS (Sierra Nevada Access Multiple Use) Coalition, was Deputy Secretary for Agriculture in the first Bush Administration from 1991-1993 and was California Agriculture Secretary under Governor Pete Wilson from 1995-1999. After Wilson left office she worked for a private law firm, Nossaman, Guthner, Knox and Elliot LLP.

Veneman's top priorities while working in Sacramento and Washington were to open foreign trade markets for U.S. agricultural products and to support genetic engineering. Veneman was on the board of Calgene, a biotech genetic engineering firm in California.

Since her main focus has always



Heron Dance

been agribusiness, it is too early to tell what to expect from her with regard to our nation's forests.

Also of concern is who may be appointed as the new Forest Service Chief and as the Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment.

The Undersecretary oversees the Forest Service Chief post and can have a direct impact on California forests, especially in the Sierra Nevada. In the coming months the new Forest Service Chief and Undersecretary will have to make key decisions regarding overturning or implementing the landmark Sierra Nevada Framework policy. The new Chief will also be charged with implementing the new roads policy and the roadless area policy, determining whether or not to log ancient trees, and determining whether to continue the shift in the focus of the Forest Service to protecting the watershed and ecosystem values our forests provide, or reversing the course back to the days of getting out the cut by any means necessary.

Tina Andolina is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition. She earned her degree in political science from UC Davis in 1998.

Final roadless area protection plan approved in the Clinton administration's last days

New administration attempts to delay policy's implementation

by **Ryan Henson**
and **Tina Andolina**

On January 5, 2001 President Clinton approved the Forest Service Roadless Area

Conservation policy, an act that will go a long way towards protecting nearly 60 million acres of our national forests—an area larger than all of our national parks combined—from logging, road construction, and other destructive activities.

This historic victory would not have been possible without all the hard work and dedication of activists from throughout California and the United States who wrote letters, attended public hearings, and did countless other things to convince the Clinton administration to develop and approve a strong and lasting roadless area policy. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said, "Never before have the American people so actively participated in helping to decide how their public lands should be managed. The fact that more than 1.5 million comments were received from Americans show that these truly are all of the people's lands, not just a few, and they care deeply about how they are cared for."

Under the final version of the policy, most national forest roadless areas will be protected from conventional logging. The draft versions of the roadless policy had not addressed logging at all. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck said that it was the overwhelming number of public comments asking for a prohibition on roadless area logging that convinced him to address the issue. Similarly, when the first draft of the policy was released in May 2000, Alaska's vast Tongass National Forest was completely exempted. In the next draft, the Tongass was included, but only after a four year "transition period." Under the final

version of the policy, the Tongass will be immediately included in the policy.

In California, 4.4 million areas will be protected under the policy.

On February 5, the Bush administration issued a notice delaying implementation of the roadless area policy nationwide.

Implementation of the roadless area policy had already been postponed for two months after the final decision was entered into the Federal Register on January 12, in order to give Congress a chance to review it. However, in a memo sent to all federal agencies on inauguration day, President Bush deferred several of Clinton's most recent actions, including new regulations that had not yet taken effect. On February 5, the Forest Service issued a notice stating that the delay would apply to the extremely popular roadless policy.

The Bush Administration does not have the authority to simply overturn the new policy. The policy progressed through the lengthy rule-making process for federal regulations and was already printed in the Federal Register before former President Clinton left office. Final regulations effectively become law once they are printed in the Register.

During the Congressional review period, however, Congress has the authority under the relatively obscure



Eric Beckwith

The North Fork American roadless area provides prime habitat for golden eagles and prairie falcons, and areas of primeval forest support spotted owls. This wild area will no longer face periodic threats from logging and road construction as a result of the roadless area policy.

Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act (or SBRFA) enacted in 1996 to vote whether the policy should come into effect or be tossed out entirely. Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho and Sen. Frank Murkowski of Alaska have both discussed attempting to use the SBRFA law to officially overturn the new policy. The law gives Congress the ability to vote on any new federal regulation that impacts small business if such action is approved by a majority of both Houses of Congress within 60 days of the policy being published. The SBRFA law has never been used before, and environmentalists have vowed to fight any attempt to dismantle or overturn the roadless area policy.

Stay tuned to the Wilderness Record for ways you can help protect this historic step forward in our nation's conservation history.

Ryan Henson and Tina Andolina are Conservation Associates for the California Wilderness Coalition.

Maps of Sierra Nevada, central coast and south coast near completion

by Chris Erichsen

The California Wildlands Project's mission is to facilitate preservation of habitat for wildlife. Using the best available science and current Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methods, the project constructs wildlands maps, which describe habitat needs for different species in most regions of the state. Taken together, these regional analyses provide a statewide picture that is a valuable tool for conservationists and planners responsible for maintaining wildlife populations. It is intended to help direct planning efforts in habitat protection and restoration, by locating large wild areas that can provide habitat to carnivores, as well as linkages that will allow migration between these core areas.

The California Wilderness Coalition has nearly finished the next iteration of analysis of habitat needs in the Sierra Nevada, central coast and south coast regions.

The Sierra Nevada

The California Wilderness Coalition reached a significant milestone in June 2000 with the completion of a preliminary draft of the Sierra Nevada wildlands map. The map presents a vision for long-term restoration and protection for the Sierra, specifically, for a connected and protected Sierra landscape that will preserve Sierran biodiversity and ecological processes for centuries to come.

This map had been developed with the goal of analyzing the needs of certain wildlife species, including the gray wolf, wolverine, Pacific fisher, marten, California spotted owl, and mule deer, as well as preservation of oak habitats.

The California Wilderness Coalition is now collaborating with Dr.

Fraser Shilling to complete the conservation planning component, building on the map completed last June. Our current goal is to identify discrete conservation units in the Sierra that meet the needs of a broader group of wildlife species and protect a high percentage of Sierra Nevada habitat communities.

Dr. Shilling's team is employing state-of-the-art mapping and planning techniques that will provide CWC with very new information, a scientifically reviewed and repeatable method, and specific conservation sites with which we will build an achievable implementation plan. Mapping and planning should be completed by mid-May.

Central Coast

After finishing the first draft of habitat maps for the central coast, in August 2000 CWC began to develop them further by addressing a broader set of wildlife species. Currently, we are analyzing the habitat needs of the mountain lion, bobcat, San Joaquin kit fox, steelhead, California red-legged frog, and pronghorn antelope. A major goal in this analysis is to identify sites for conservation that provide critical habitat for these species.

The plan will also measure habitat fragmentation in oak woodlands and identify priority conservation sites for oaks. Lastly, an aquatic analysis will be included. This will prioritize conservation and management efforts at the watershed level, primarily for steelhead recovery in streams and rivers.

A talented team of ecologists from the University of California, Davis and GreenInfo Network are nearing completion of this planning stage. Final products will be available in May. The information this plan will bring to the conservation community will be new, informative, and scientifically based.

South Coast

In January 2000, CWC published the first wildlands map and report for one of the biological hot-spots on our planet, the south coast ecoregion of California. This publication has been received with enthusiasm and support by regional conservation organizations, agencies, and university scientists.

To further develop conservation planning for this region, CWC has coordinated with conservation biologist, Dr. Richard Jeo, to review and improve previous maps. Dr. Jeo has identified a broader group of wildlife species, and developed a comprehensive methodology for mapping a wildlands network for this complex ecoregion. Additionally, he has performed quantitative analyses of wildlife species distribution in a reserve network for this region. The production of the wildlands conservation plan will be complete by May.

Over the last several years, CWC has also coordinated and supported the development of a wildlands organization in the south coast. To date, the South Coast Wildlands Project organization, directed by Kristeen Penrod, has developed a strategic plan, raised funds for restoration work, and assembled an impressive technical advisory team and a board of directors, including Dr. Paul Beier (Northern Arizona University), Dr. Ann Croissant (San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy), and Dr. Hartmut Walter (UCLA). The South Coast Wildlands Project recently held its first rendezvous in Monrovia Canyon. Its goals for the near future include integrating the forthcoming wildlands plan into existing protection efforts.

If you wish to be notified of a report's availability, please contact Chris Erichsen, California Wildlands Project Coordinator, at chris@calwild.org or (530) 758-0380.

New Carrizo Plain National Monument is established

by Ryan Henson

Lying adjacent to the southwest edge of the San Joaquin Valley in eastern San Luis Obispo County, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Carrizo Plain is the largest and most undisturbed remnant of the great Central Valley prairie ecosystem that once dominated the heart of the state. The San Andreas Fault slices dramatically through the area and is quite visible even on the surface of the prairie. The 250,000-acre (390 square-mile) area (204,107 acres of which is federal land) is a diverse complex of habitats that for the most part have elsewhere been broken by the plow or entombed in asphalt and concrete. On January 17, 2001, President Clinton designated the Carrizo Plain a national monument to assist the BLM in its effort to preserve and restore it.

The new monument's grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools (seasonal wetlands), and other ecosystems host many endangered species of animals and plants such as the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-

nosed leopard lizard, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, giant kangaroo rat, California jewelflower, Hoover's woolly-star, and San Joaquin woollythreads. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the Carrizo Plain National Monument "critical habitat" for the continued survival of the California condor. Other species, including

pronghorn antelope, tule elk (the world's smallest elk), mountain lion, burrowing owl, sandhill crane, prairie falcon,

visiting the Carrizo Plain National Monument in increasing numbers.

The Caliente Mountains portion of the monument is managed by the BLM as a wilderness study area (WSA). This means that the Caliente Mountains are protected by the BLM until Congress decides whether they deserve wilderness status. Activists are currently studying the possibility of proposing both the Caliente Mountains WSA and other portions of the new national monument as wilderness. While monuments are very significant forms of protection for wild places, Congress could revoke these protections, although this has thus far

never happened. President George Bush has expressed opposition to the new national monuments proclaimed by his predecessor in Clinton's last days in office.

For more information on

the Carrizo Plain National Monument, contact:

BLM, Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 391-6000

Or visit the official Carrizo Plain website at: www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/carrizoplain.html

Ryan Henson is a Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition.



Paula Schiffman

The Carrizo Plain is the largest and most undisturbed remnant of the great Central Valley prairie ecosystem that once dominated the heart of the state.



Paula Schiffman

golden eagle, and mountain plover also call the area home.

The new monument is rich with evidence of its prehistoric and historic past. Painted Rock, a sacred ceremonial site of the Chumash people, rises majestically from the grassland. Short trails exist at Soda Lake (an enormous vernal pool) and Painted Rock, but cross-country hiking opportunities are numerous across the area's broad plains and gentle ridges. Birders, botanists and other natural history enthusiasts are

Barak Gale joins the board

CWC is proud to welcome Barak Gale to our board of directors. Barak retired from his optometry practice in 2000 to devote himself full-time to conservation issues. Barak has been an important leader in both the conservation and Jewish communities. In 1999 and 2000 he was part of the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation delegations to Washington, D.C. that advocated for the decoupling of school funding from logging revenues, as well as other national forest issues. "We visited numerous Representatives and Senators' offices where we advocated religious responsibility for our forests—in particular ending commercial logging on national forests," Barak stated.

CWC in the news

The year 2001 has begun with landmark moves in conservation history. From the finalization of the roadless area conservation policy to a recent report highlighting off-road vehicle impacts, the California Wilderness Coalition has been involved and in the press. With the signing of the **Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Policy** by president Bill Clinton, 58 million acres of national forest nationwide, including 4.4 million acres in California, were protected from road building

and commercial logging. The policy safeguards the cleanest sources of drinking water, protects public access and recreational opportunities for hunters, anglers, hikers and campers and provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife. *The Fresno Bee* quoted CWC Executive Director Paul Spitler on January 6, 2001 as stating, "The decision could well turn out to be the most important conservation action of the 21st century."

The adoption of the **Sierra Nevada Framework**, a precedent-setting plan that will protect approximately 11 million acres of national forest in the Sierra Nevada, including old-growth forests and wildlife habitat, begins a process of restoring and protecting the Sierra Nevada's ecosystems, which have been degraded by decades of logging and road building. The plan also aims to reverse declining populations of the California spotted owl and other wildlife. The January 13, 2001 *Sacramento Bee* quoted the California Wilderness Coalition: "This is a new dawn for the Sierra. Finally the range of light will glow again."

Environmentalists around the nation cheered when President Clinton established **national monuments** from Montana to the US Virgin Islands including the 327,769 acre Giant Sequoia National Monument. The monument designation offers greater protection to some of America's most treasured places. In the *San Jose Mercury News*, on January 14:

"These are some of the most special places remaining in the American landscape," said Paul Spitler, Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition. "The question is, 50 years from now will people remember local opposition to the Sequoia monument or will they remember that President Clinton helped save the sequoias? We save these places for our grandchildren."

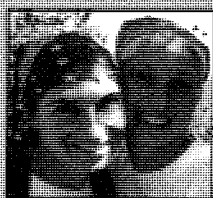
Most recently the California Wilderness Coalition released a report, entitled **Off-Road to Ruin**, highlighting the effects of dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles. The report details the extensive and often irreparable harm caused to California's soils, water, air and wildlife habitat by the uncontrolled use of dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles.

At press time, the report was breaking news on TV and radio stations and in newspapers across the state. Check the next *Wilderness Record* for more details.

Internships available

The California Wilderness Coalition has many internship opportunities. We have a small but dedicated staff who are working on so many fascinating issues that your help would be invaluable! We have research opportunities for those who like to read, and work with our grassroots organizers for those who like to talk.

We like to match your interests with the staffperson working in that field. We look forward to talking with you about what you would like to learn more about. Our hope is that you would commit to 10-12 hours per week, for a term of at least 3 months. Please contact Eve Ladwig-Scott at (530) 758-0380 or at eve@calwild.org with questions or to request an interview.



Carrie (left) with her sister

New star on the horizon

CWC recently had the very good fortune to hire Carrie Sandstedt as a Conservation Associate. A native of Nebraska, Carrie majored in environmental studies at U.C. Santa Barbara, graduating in 1996.

She was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1996 through 1998 in Togo, as a Rural Community Development Volunteer she worked on projects ranging from agriculture to health care to infrastructure development. Prior to coming to work for CWC, Carrie worked for The Wilderness Society briefly on the National Off-Road Vehicle Coalition and more extensively on the Chesapeake Bay Program, which aimed at protecting lands in Potomac River Watershed at the watershed level—from the least wild areas in urban centers to wilderness quality lands in the national forests.

Carrie is bright, talented, dedicated, and passionate, and will make an excellent addition to our team. Her primary roles will be to organize support for the President's roadless area policy and Sierra Nevada management plan, and to coordinate CWC's off-road vehicle campaign.

Desert plan needs work

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proposed an amendment to desert management. This plan will have profound impacts on California's desert.

The draft plan falls short of protecting desert resources. Desert washes (the dry beds of intermittent streams), an important biological resource, are not sufficiently protected under the current draft. Proposed management of livestock grazing would not retire allotments in desert tortoise critical habitat, violating the tortoise's recovery plan. The draft also proposes new water developments for desert bighorn sheep and mule deer. Although water resources for these animals are important, their construction could require new roads, disqualifying these areas from future wilderness designation.

What you can do

Please request a copy of the Draft Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement by writing to:

District Manager, California Desert
Bureau of Land Management
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

Write a letter to the above BLM address and express your concerns about the plan, attention: Lead, Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Plan.

Southern California national forests launch major planning effort

National forests, like cities and counties, are zoned for various levels of development. "Land and resource management plans" (LRMPs) describe these zones and their restrictions.

Every national forest must have a LRMP and revise it every 10 to 15 years. Southern California's Cleveland, Los Padres, Angeles, and San Bernardino national forests are currently seeking

public input on revising their LRMPs.

These four forests are ecologically diverse and contain many spectacular wild places, yet they are in urban regions. The revised LRMPs must provide adequate protection for the many ecological and social values that make these forests irreplaceable.

What you can do

Please write to:

Forest Supervisor Jody Cook
Angeles National Forest
701 N. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
Fax: (626) 574-5233

Ask that the Southern California Forest and resource management plans:

- Require that all roadless areas be protected from vehicle use and all development activity.
- Include a comprehensive review of potential wild and scenic rivers.
- Mandate that threatened and/or unique habitats be preserved and restored. Allow fire to play a more natural role in ecosystems.
- Update mining and grazing regulations to meet current scientific and policy considerations.
- Identify which roads require continued maintenance and which roads should be closed for ecological and fiscal reasons. Mandate that official off-road vehicle routes be identified and that off-road vehicle use be confined to these signed, sanctioned routes.
- Include wilderness management plans for all wilderness areas that currently do not have them.
- Identify key inholdings to acquire, and make inholdings in wilderness, roadless areas, or other important natural areas the highest acquisition priorities.

Wilderness campaigns ready to forge ahead

Wilderness campaigns are finding success across the country, despite shifts in political power. Last year, the Republican-controlled Congress passed

eight Wilderness bills, adding over one million acres of public land to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Moreover, former Presidents Reagan and Bush signed over 40 wilderness bills during their terms.

Courtesy of the Wilderness Support Center.

Department of Fish & Game halts fish stocking

Trying to stave off extinction for two imperiled amphibians, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in January issued a temporary moratorium on the 50-year-old practice of stocking many naturally fishless lakes and ponds in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges.

Scientists believe non-native trout's feeding on tadpoles of the mountain yellow-legged and Cascade frogs is a factor in the frogs' precipitous population declines. Currently, the mountain yellow-legged frog is under review for listing as an endangered species. The halt to stocking will be in effect until state scientists can assess the impacts of the program on frog populations.

DFG biologists plan to study the effects of fish stocking for one to three years. Lakes where fish stocking has had no negative effect on frog populations will then be stocked again. Although some anglers fear that the stocking moratorium will eliminate many backcountry fishing opportunities, recent studies in the Sierra Nevada have shown that the majority of trout populations will maintain themselves via natural reproduction.

Forest Service Chief calls for greater protection of old-growth forests

In a January speech, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck outlined steps to direct National Forests to inventory, map, protect, sustain, and enhance old-growth forests. He stated, "In the future, the Forest Service will manage old-growth forests specifically to maintain and enhance old-growth values and

characteristics."

While Chief Dombeck's directions can be overturned by the Bush Administration, they signify a tremendous shift in the thinking of an agency once solely focused on commercial logging. Conservationists applauded the goal.

In memory of Alan Cranston

On December 31, 2000, California lost another giant of the environmental movement. Former United States Senator Alan Cranston died at the age of 86. During his quarter century tenure in the U.S. Senate, Alan Cranston championed civil rights, nuclear disarmament, and the environment.

Senator Cranston was a long-time wilderness and river advocate. Over 7 million acres of wilderness are protected, and the Merced River, the North Fork of the Kern, and the Kings River are National Wild and Scenic Rivers today, because Alan Cranston used his political skill and determination to pass national legislation to protect them.

Courtesy of Friends of the River.

Rider delaying snowmobile bans passes

Undermining the public's desire to end snowmobile use in national parks, the 106th Congress attached a pro-industry snowmobile "rider" to an appropriations bill. The rider will prevent the Park Service from restricting snowmobile use until next year.

Courtesy of The Wilderness Society.

BLM rejects largest mine ever

On January 17, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt rejected a proposal for a massive gold mine in southeastern California. The Glamis gold mine would have covered over 1,500 acres of public land. The land is considered sacred by the Quechan Indians and provides habitat for several rare and endangered animals, including the desert tortoise.

The decision has been heralded as a major shift in philosophy for the Bureau of Land Management. It is the first time BLM has denied a major

proposed gold mine based on the environmental and cultural impacts of the project. The impacts of this decision on future mining proposals on federal land could be far-reaching.

Northwest Forest Plan feud continues

Changes proposed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will significantly weaken the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The changes would reduce the number of plants and animals the agencies are required to survey before logging old-growth forests. The agencies proposed the reduced survey requirements after a federal judge ruled that they were violating the plan's requirement to conduct wildlife surveys prior to logging old forests. The judge subsequently ordered them to develop a new plan for conducting the surveys.

The agencies maintain the new plan will increase logging in the Pacific Northwest by 15 million board feet per year (enough to fill 3,000 logging trucks) and possibly open 20,000 acres of additional forest to cutting.

Additionally, on December 8, 2000, federal Judge Barbara Rothstein ruled that the agencies failed to comply with Northwest Forest Plan mandates to ensure logging will not destroy endangered salmon habitat. As a result, the court has halted 170 federal timber sales in northern California, Oregon and Washington. In California, the Klamath, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests will be affected.

Golden Trout Wilderness free of cows...for a while

The Inyo National Forest decided on February 2 to remove cows from the Golden Trout Wilderness for the next 10 years. Anheuser-Busch, facing a public relations mess over the damage its cattle were causing to fragile Sierra Nevada meadows, had agreed that it would not return cattle to the area in 2001. However, the Forest Service's decision means that the corporation loses its grazing permit for an additional nine years.

4.1 million acres protected for red-legged frog

Over 4.1 million acres of critical habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog were designated on March 6, 2001, including 29 separate areas in 28 counties and over 500 miles of streams and rivers. The largest in the state of California and one of the largest in the nation, the designation was the result of a hard-fought victory involving a federal lawsuit and a public letter-writing campaign. The frog's population has decreased by at least 90%.

Courtesy of the Center for Biological Diversity.

Black Rock Desert Wilderness bill passes

On December 15, 2000, Congress passed a legislative package that included the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act. The measure was signed by President Clinton. The bill protects 1.2 million acres of land managed by the BLM, and designates more than 740,000 acres of wilderness. Doubling the amount of wilderness in Nevada, it is the largest wilderness bill to be passed by Congress since the California Desert Protection Act.

Courtesy of the Wilderness Support Center.

Two new members are appointed to the Off-Road Vehicle Commission

Daphne Greene was appointed to the commission by Governor Gray Davis. She is a member of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, the Access Fund, the United Four-Wheel Drive Association, the California Historical Society, and the Sierra Club.

Harold Thomas is an environmental prosecutor, formerly of the California Department of Fish and Game. He has worked on environmental issues for many years, and represents an association of cabin owners in the Tahoe Sierra.

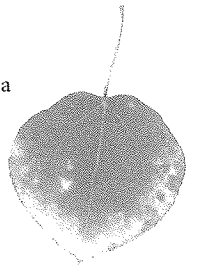
Greene and Thomas express a fair and balanced voice on the commission, and bring extensive experience in public lands issues. CWC welcomes both.

B U S I N E S S S P O N S O R S

100Fires Book Company
Acorn Naturalists
Ascent Technologies
Mark Bagley
Knut Barde
Berry & Associates,
Marketing Productivity Consulting
Bored Feet Publications
Camp Lotus
Conservation Land Group, Inc.
Echo: The Wilderness Company, Inc.
Ellison & Schneider
Greg Fox, Fox Print Specialists
Gregory Mountain Products
Genny Smith Books
Giselle's Travel
William Gustafson
Instant Replay Communications
Verna Jigour Associates, Conservation
Ecology Services

David B. Kelley
KiaTech, Inc.
William M. Kier Associates
Laughing Bear Press
Madison Landscaping
David Merion
Mill Valley Plumbing
Mountain Hardware
Mountain Light Photography
Neurohealth NLP Counseling
James P. Pacht
Patagonia, Inc.
Peet's Coffee & Tea
The Petervin Press
Pinnacle Fundraising Services
Pre-Paid Legal Services
Raven Maps
REI

Bob Rutemoeller
Drs. Helene and Rob Schaeffer,
Psychological Corporation
Shasta Mountain Guides
Siskiyou Forestry Consultants
Solano Press Books
Sorensen's Resort
Richard Strohl
Talon Associates
TDC Environmental
Christopher P. Valle-Riestra
Water Wise
Weidert Biological
Eric White Photography
Wild Iris Studio
Wilderness Press
Wilson's Eastside Sports
Zoo-Ink Screen Print

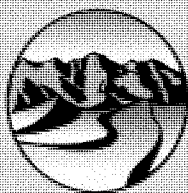


C O A L I T I O N M E M B E R G R O U P S

American Lands Alliance; Washington, D.C.
Animal Protection Institute; Sacramento
Ancient Forest International; Redway
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles
Backcountry Horsemen of California;
Springville
Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland
Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S.F.
Big Bear Group, Sierra Club; Big Bear Lake
California Alpine Club; San Francisco
Calif. League of Conservation Voters;
Oakland
California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln
California Native Plant Society; Sacramento
California Oak Foundation; Oakland
Californians for Utah Wilderness; S.F.
Center for Biological Diversity; Tucson, AZ
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation;
Georgetown
Central Sierra Environmental Resource
Center; Twain Harte
Citizens for Better Forestry; Arcata
Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes
Coast Range Ecosystem Alliance; Santa
Clara
Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno
Communication Works; San Francisco
Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs
Desert Subcomm., Sierra Club; San Diego
Desert Survivors; Oakland
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; S.F.
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop
Ecology Center; Berkeley
Ecology Center of Southern California; L.A.
El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach
Forests Forever; San Francisco
Fresno Audubon Society; Fresno
Friends of China Camp; San Rafael
Friends of Chinquapin; Oakland
Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy
Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena
Friends of the Inyo; Lee Vining

Friends of the River; Sacramento
Fund for Animals; San Francisco
Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley
Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Cedar
City, UT
High Sierra Hikers Assoc.; S. Lake Tahoe
Idylwild Earth Fair; Idylwild
International Ctr for Earth Concerns; Ojai
John Muir Project; Pasadena
Jumping Frog Research Inst.; Angels Camp
Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia
Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai
Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield
Kern-Kaweah Chp., Sierra Club; Bakersfield
Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna
Laguna Hills Audubon Society; Laguna
Hills
League to Save Lake Tahoe; S. Lake Tahoe
LEGACY-The Landscape Connection;
Arcata
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto
Los Angeles Audubon Society; W. Hollywd.
Los Padres Chp., Sierra Club; Santa Barbara
Marin Conservation League; San Rafael
Mariposa Democratic Club; Mariposa
Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah
Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining
Monterey Bay Chap., Calif. Native Plant Society
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society
Mother Lode Chp., Sierra Club; Sacramento
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Soc.; Mt. Shasta
Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento
Native Habitats; Woodside
Natural Heritage Institute; San Francisco
Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F.
NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa
Nordic Voice; Livermore
Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata
People for Nipomo Dunes National
Seashore; Nipomo
Pew Wilderness Center; Boulder, CO
Placer County Cons. Task Force; Newcastle

Planning & Conservation League;
Sacramento
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
Sacramento Audubon Society; Sacramento
San Bernadino Mountains Group, Sierra
Club; Blue Jay
San Diego Audubon Society; San Diego
San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego
San Fernando Valley Audubon; Van Nuys
Santa Clara Valley Audubon; Cupertino
Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology; Modesto
Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville
Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley
Seventh Generation Fund; Arcata
Sierra Club California; San Francisco
Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe
Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR
Smith River Alliance; Trinidad
Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR
South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville
S. Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City
Southern Calif. Forests Committee; Barstow
Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia
Tule River Conservancy; Porterville
U.C. Davis Envir. Law Society; Davis
Ventana Wilderness Alliance; Santa Cruz
Ventana Wilderness Society; Carmel Valley
Ventana Wildlands Project; Santa Clara
Western States Endurance Run; S.F.
Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO
The Wilderness Society; San Francisco
The Wildlands Project; Tucson, AZ
Willits Environmental Center; Willits
Wintu Audubon Society; Redding
Yahi Group, Sierra Club; Chico
Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis
Yolo Audubon Society; Davis



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This bristlecone pine forest in the White Mountains potential wilderness area has existed for over 4000 years. With care and stewardship, our children and their children will continue to enjoy their company. Photograph courtesy of Galen Rowell, Mountain Light Photography.

M E M B E R S H I P

Thanks for a quarter century of wilderness protection

Since 1976, California Wilderness Coalition has led the charge to defend and permanently protect California's rich wildlands legacy. Without our loyal and supportive members, we would not have achieved many of the lofty goals our founders set for us 25 years ago.

Of course, much more work remains to be done. Many of the state's most beautiful and ecologically significant areas are currently threatened by off-road vehicles, mining, logging or other forms of resource extraction. Each time you renew your membership or recommend CWC to your friends and associates you strengthen our capacity to protect wild California.

You can also help us realize our vision of protecting pristine wild areas by:

Donating stocks

Many members have chosen to help protect wilderness by donating appreciated stocks. Donors receive a tax deduction for the entire value of the stocks, even if they were purchased for a small part of that value. (Please check with your tax advisor to clarify your exact tax benefits.) We will work with you if you wish to electronically transfer securities.

Planned giving

Protect wild California in your will. Many of us cannot make day-to-day contributions to the causes that we love; yet in our will we can make a bequest that will leave a lasting legacy of wilderness. Here's an example of language you might use in making a bequest:

"to the California Wilderness Coalition, a non-profit organization organized and existing under the laws of the state of California with the current address of 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616, for its general purposes."

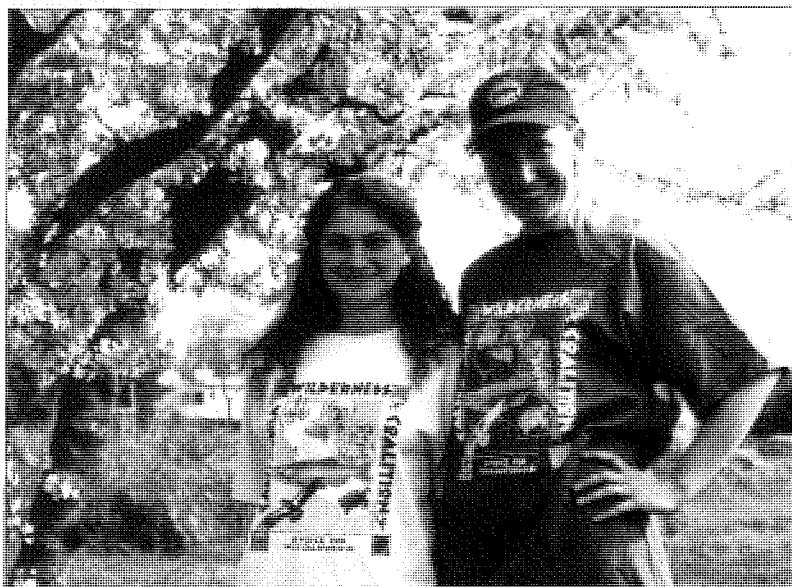
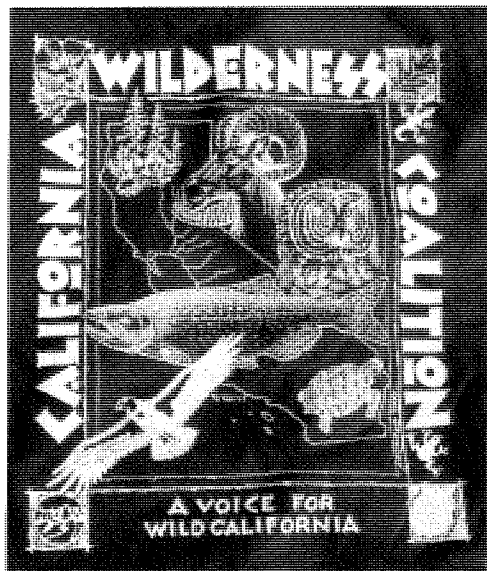
Wildland Advocates

Show your commitment to the protection of wild California by joining over 120 members of our major donor program. This committed group of individuals empowers the staff and volunteers at CWC to keep up their efforts to protect California's special wild places. Wildland Advocate members receive press releases and letters keeping them up-to-speed on our day-to-day efforts. You can join Wildland Advocates by increasing your membership renewal or fund appeal donation, or by signing up for a monthly credit card deduction. Giving levels for Wildland Advocates start at \$250 per year.

Please contact Eve Ladwig Scott at 530-758-0380 if you have questions or suggestions about giving to protect our wilderness heritage.



Buy a CWC t-shirt or cap
and show your support
for wild California!



These newly designed shirts are of super-comfortable 100% organic cotton, made by Patagonia. The design is available either in white on a cobalt blue shirt, or in full color on a natural shirt. Warning: Even after washing and drying, these shirts tend to run a size larger than most t-shirts. Available in sizes S-XL.

Shirts depict a few of the wild and threatened animals across California, from the desert tortoise, to the bighorn sheep of the Sierra Nevada.



These well-built, form-fitting caps are perfect for hikes or sunny days. Our full-color logo is embroidered on the front and "A Voice for Wild California" is embroidered on the back. Caps are 100% cotton, navy blue, and adjustable to all sizes. ALL profits from sales will be used for CWC's programs. \$15.00 each.

ORDER FORM

Item	Color	Size	No.	Price	Subtotal
T-shirt(s)				\$10 each	
Hat(s)	blue			\$15 each	

Subtotal _____

Shipping* _____

Total _____

* Shipping: \$2.00 for first hat, \$0.75 for each additional hat. \$2.50 for first shirt, \$1.50 for each additional shirt.

Method of payment:

☐ Check enclosed.

☐ Bill my ☐ Visa; ☐ MasterCard; ☐ Am. Expr.

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Gift from: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please mail to: California Wilderness Coalition,
2655 Portage Bay East #5, Davis, California
95616.

Pleasant View

The Pleasant View Potential Wilderness is on the north face of the San Gabriel Mountains and is thus quite different from its neighbor, the San Gabriel Wilderness, to the south. For example, the Pleasant View region has larger groves of ancient Jeffrey, sugar, and ponderosa pines, as well as white fir, black oak, bigcone spruce, and incense cedar. The snow lingers longer into the spring, thus providing wildflower displays and deep, cold creeks late into the summer.

At lower elevations, oaks increase in number and diversity; they form classic California oak savanna habitat in a few areas. Also represented at lower elevations are chaparral and California foothill woodland communities, featuring live oak, scrub oak, and Coulter pine.

Bighorn sheep (a threatened species) occasionally wander into this area, and perhaps one day the endangered California condor may return. Other sensitive species include the

Jim Schoedler



California spotted owl, southern rubber boa, and ferruginous hawk. Black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, mule deer, mountain and California quail, Lewis' acorn, and downy woodpeckers, and western bluebird are more common.

The potential wilderness includes the famous, 54-mile Silver Moccasin Trail, a rite of passage for Boy Scouts seeking the coveted Silver Moccasin Award. Since 1942, youth from the city have sought to learn woodcraft and prove their mettle on this rugged path.

The region also includes the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, which runs along the Angeles Crest at over 6,000 feet in elevation. One of the most popular hikes is to Cooper Canyon Falls, a 35-foot drop that is quite spectacular in the spring. Cooper Canyon and other streams in this area offer refreshing swimming holes and fishing for rainbow trout. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding are also popular activities.

**Approximate
acreage: 26,000**

**Managing
agency: Angeles
National Forest**

**Location:
Approximately
12 air-miles
southeast of
Palmdale in Los
Angeles County**

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Please mail to: California Wilderness Coalition, 2655 Portage Bay East #5, Davis, California 95616.

s/01/wr

Eric Beckwith



The Chips Creek roadless area: The roadless area policy, the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, and possible future wilderness designation will all play a role in how these old-growth trees are "managed." For related stories, see pages 24, 26 and 30.

A Voice for Wild California — Celebrating 25 Years



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