



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 2

P.O. Box 429, DAVIS, Ca. 95616

March-April March-April, 1977

No. 1

Endangered American Wilderness Act - 1977

The Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977 is now working its way through the legislative maze in Washington D.C. Three California wilderness proposals are in this bill along with 19 other areas from western states. Hearings are expected at any time.

Congressman Morris Udall has introduced HR 3454 "to designate certain public lands for preservation as wilderness... (and) to provide for the study of additional endangered public lands for such designation."

The Senate bill had not yet been introduced at the time of writing, but was expected by the end of February. Senator Frank Church of Idaho will be the lead sponsor.

The three California proposals in the bill are the 260,000 acre Golden Trout Wilderness, the 60,080 acre Ventana Wilderness Additions, and the 21, 250 acre Santa Lucia Wilderness.

VENTANA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

The 95,152 acre Ventana Wilderness was originally established in 1969. The proposed additions would add another 60,080 acres to the wilderness.

Congressional Reorganization

The makeup of the Congressional Committees that consider wilderness legislation look good this year. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, chaired by Morris Udall, has strong environmentalists in many subcommittees. The Senate's new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (formerly Interior Committee) was not completely reorganized at the time of writing.

Udall, sponsor of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977, is a longtime supporter of wilderness. California's Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson decided to take the vacant chair of the Public Works Committee and is no longer on the Interior Committee. Also leaving Interior was Representative Shirley Pettis.

Californians now on the committee are Philip Burton, Don Clausen, Robert Lagomarsino, George Miller, and newly appointed John Krebs. Burton is now chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs.

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management wilderness issues will come to the Subcommittee in Indian Affairs and Public Lands, chaired by Wyoming's Teno Roncalio. Alaska D-2 park and refuge proposals will be heard by John Seiberling's General Oversight and Alaska Lands subcommittee.

Little is known at this time about the makeup of the Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, headed by Senator Henry Jackson. This information will be supplied in the next issue of the **Wilderness Record**.

The proposed additions include Cone Peak-Coast Ridge Miller Canyon-Church Creek Canyon, Tassajara Creek, and the Santa Lucia Creek watershed.

The Cone Peak area would add a diversified ecosystem including a substantial portion of the major coast ridge south of the present Ventana Wilderness. Below Cone Peak itself, elevations range from 500 to 5,000 feet less than 3 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The ridge area offers a breathtaking view of the coastline on one side and the rugged interior mountains on the other. Miller Canyon and Church Creek Canyon are easily accessible by trail and are used extensively. This area has stands of Santa Lucia fir on the ridges and grass in the canyons because of the two streams which run year round. The Santa Lucia Creek Canyon lies to the east and is separated from the present wilderness by a dirt road. The lower end of the canyon is deep and rugged and little used because of its inaccessibility.

SANTA LUCIA WILDERNESS

The proposed Santa Lucia wilderness lies within and adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest in San Luis Obispo County, along the central coast of California. The area is basically a wild, rough highland with numerous outcroppings of rock. Except for three flat, fern-covered valleys, the area is mostly covered with trees. The Santa Lucia area contains the only stand of knobcone pine between Monterey and the San Bernadino Mountains, one of the most extensive stands of bigcone pine in existence, and fine groves of manzanita, canyon oak, tan oak, maple and sycamore.

cont. on p.4

ORV APPEALS

The Sierra Club and California Native Plant Society are asking U.S. Regional Forester Doug Leisz to review the legality of Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Plans on three California National Forests in California. The ORV plans being appealed are for Sequoia, Lassen and Six Rivers National Forests. Appeals are based on what conservationists believe is

the failure of the plans to protect natural values, including wilderness, wildlife, and watershed, from destruction by jeep and motorcycle users.

All National Forests are now completing or have completed ORV plans, in compliance with President Nixon's 1972 Executive Order.

A major problem with the

cont. on p.4



Low-elevation ecosystem at Henry Coe State Park. Such areas are poorly represented in our wilderness system. See insert for details on a state program to preserve such areas.

CWC ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the California Wilderness Coalition was held February 5 in Davis. Only a few members attended. They heard reports from CWC officers on ongoing programs.

Major business of the meeting was election of officers for the coming year.

Secretary Jeff Barnickol submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors, citing job commitments which prevented him from taking an active role in CWC at this time. The Board accepted his resignation and thanked him for his services during the founding and first year of CWC.

Steve Evans of Chico was elected to the Board to replace Jeff. Steve is a founder and co-coordinator of the Northstate Wilderness Committee, as well as a Board member of the Butte

Environmental Council and editor of its newspaper, **Homegrown**. Steve received the Wilderness Society's Olaus Murie - Harvey Broome award in 1975 for his efforts on behalf of wilderness preservation.

Phil Farrell was elected President, succeeding Jim Eaton. Jim will serve this year as Secretary. Bob Schneider retained his position as Treasurer. Don Morrill was elected Vice-President, the post vacated by Phil.

The following day the new officers of CWC conducted a workshop for wilderness activists in the Davis-Sacramento-Woodland area. Provisions of the National Wilderness Act and operations of federal agencies and the Congress were discussed. At the conclusion, the participants made plans to involve themselves regularly in CWC projects.

JOIN CWC

The California Wilderness Coalition is a membership organization. Its funds, activities, and accomplishments depend on the efforts of members.

We need more members and more membership involvement if we are to continue to grow and expand our efforts on behalf of wilderness preservation.

California Wilderness Coalition P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616

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☐ Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Enclosed is \$_____ for first-year membership dues.

☐ Here is a special contribution of \$_____ to help with the Coalition's work.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

ANNUAL DUES:†

(Note: one dollar of annual dues supports the *Wilderness Record*)

Individual	\$ 6
Low-income individual	3
Patron	500
Non-profit organization	25
Sponsor (business)	*

† not tax deductible

* will be individually established

Devils Corral, in proposed Mokelumne Wilderness extension L. Fergus



Mokelumne Group Forms

Friends of the Mokelumne Wilderness have recently organized. Their goal is the enlargement of the Mokelumne Wilderness by about 45,000 acres.

The Mokelumne Wilderness is located in the Sierra Crest Zone between Carson and Ebbetts Pass. The proposed additions contain some of the most beautiful and most fragile country in the Central Sierra Nevada.

The Pacific Crest Trail passes through this popular area, and opportunities for a winter cross-country skiing Wilderness experience are superb.

For more information call or write:

Alison Binder, P.O. Box 762, Jackson, CA 95642 (209-223-0288)

Steve Stocking, 236 W. Knoles Way, Stockton, CA 95204 (209-463-2459)

Luis Ireland, 4414 San Ramon Drive, Davis, CA 95616 (916-756-7479)



Red Fir

L. Ireland

Wheeler Lake, Mokelumne area



Raymond Lake and Peak, Mokelumne area L. Fergus

North Butte Proposed Wilderness

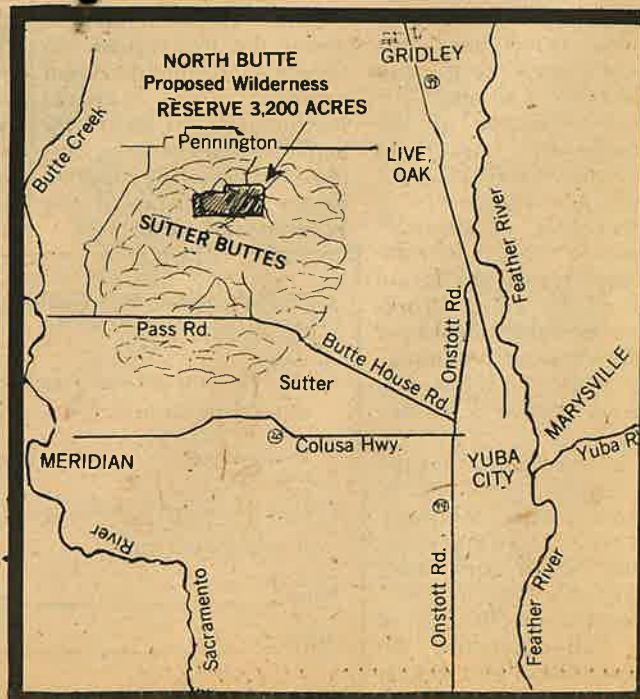
The Save the Sutter Buttes Association is continuing their efforts to preserve a portion of the Sutter Buttes as a State Wilderness Preserve Park.

Located in the middle of the Sacramento Valley, the Sutter Buttes are California's own "smallest mountain range." The Maidus Indians called them Histum Yani, "Middle Mountains" of the Valley. The 3,200 acre preserve proposal is situated atop the North Sutter Butte. The area contains a wealth of archeological, geological, and natural history information. Mt. Diablo and Mt. Shasta are both visible from the summit.

The idea of a park in the Buttes is not new, however, if action is not taken soon, roads, towers, gravel pits, and developments will continue to spread into the Buttes. The Buttes were given top priority as a state park following passage of the State Bond Act authorizing sale of \$250 million dollars in bonds for state parks.

For information on what you can do to help to make a North Buttes State Wilderness Park a reality write:

Save the Buttes Association
1354 Geneva Avenue
Yuba City, Ca. 95991



Staff

Editor Bob Schneider
Jim Trumbly
Fred Gunsky
Phil Farrell
Mike Nolasco
Beth Newman
Paul Grant
Kyle Morrison
Sari Sommarstrom

Photos by:
Phil Farrell
Luis Ireland
Lloyd Fergus

Officers of CWC

President - Phil Farrell
Vice-Pres. - Don Morrill
Treasurer - Bob Schneider
Secretary - Jim Eaton
Fifth Director - Steve Evans

Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

... to promote throughout the State of California the

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

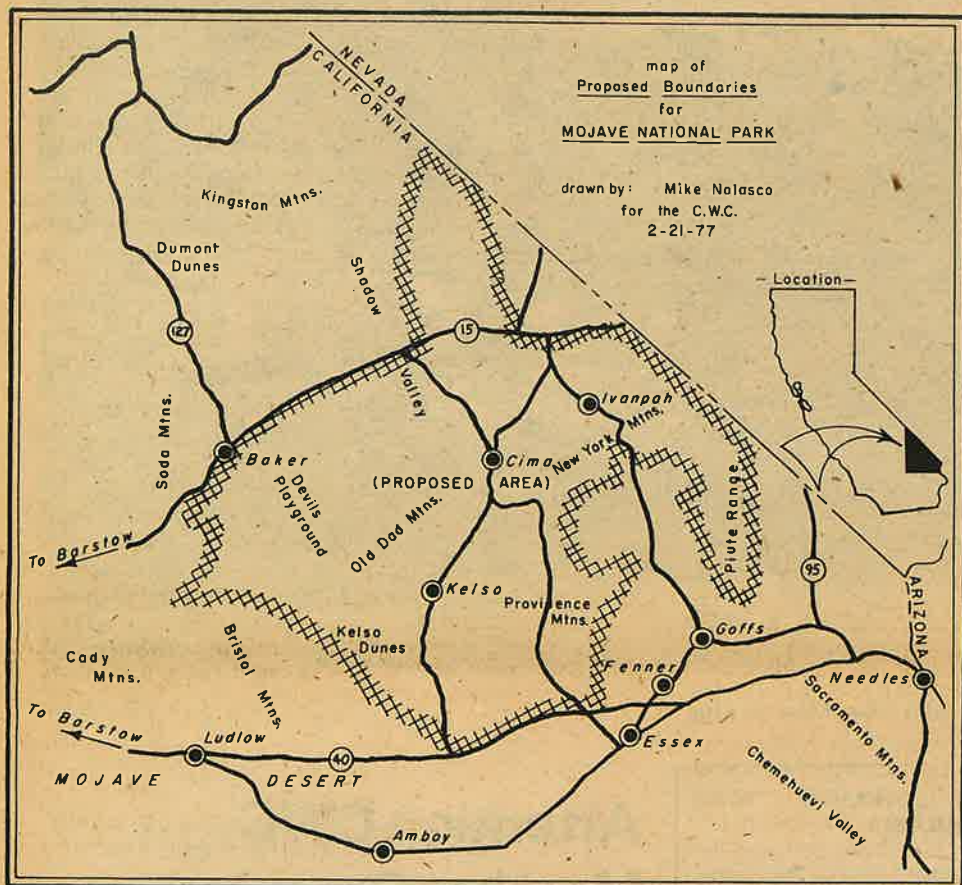
Mojave Park Group Forms

The Mojave National Park Coalition was formed recently to promote establishment of a 1,200,000-acre East Mojave National Park. As reported in the Desert Deadline supplement to this paper, the East Mojave contains outstanding natural, historical, geological,

botanical, wildlife, archaeological and recreational resources. The accompanying map illustrates the proposed boundaries of the park.

Present supporters of the Coalition include the Desert Protective Council, California Wilderness

Coalition, Sierra Club, and High Desert Environmental Defense Fund. Persons interested in working on the Park proposal should write to Mojave National Park Task Force, P.O. Box 1367, Barstow, CA 92311, or contact the CWC for more information.



Bighorn Sheep

By James Elder

A unique wildlife preserve, the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Zoological Area in the Inyo National Forest, was established in 1971 to protect the last remaining pocket of these animals in the Sierra. On the decline in the past as a result of intense, direct pressure from human encroachment, the bighorn is still under pressure in its last sanctuary. Restrictions are placed on human use of the Zoological Area.

Historically scarce compared with other big-game species, the Sierra Nevada bighorn was decimated by three man-controlled factors: many were killed for their meat, the white man introduced live stock which competed with the bighorn for forage, and domestic stock brought disease to which the bighorn proved susceptible.

There are few places where the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep still exists in the United States, although a sizeable population of the same species exists in British

Columbia. The bighorn was classified as rare on the U.S. Department of Interior's rare and endangered species list in 1966. The present population of less than 300 is confined to a small area of the Sierra.

Research on the Sierra Nevada bighorn has been scanty due to the remoteness of its habitat and the difficulty of finding specimens. The little research that has been done, in the past, shows a reduction in numbers even after the elimination of hunting and domestic livestock pressures. The lack of research has hampered attempts to find a cause for the apparent further decline of the bighorn.

In the past several years, a cooperative effort between Kings Canyon National Park, Inyo National Forest, California Department of Fish and Game, and the University of Michigan has begun to study various aspects of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep ecology and

biology. Research being conducted now has shed some light on interaction between the bighorn and people. People in the past did not make heavy use of the areas frequented by sheep. But increased leisure and better and lighter backpacking equipment have allowed more people to enter areas once traveled only by bighorn.

For the most part, however, sheep and people inhabit distinct and different areas of the Sierra, with the exception of a couple of places where direct interactions occur.

In general, lambs and ewes are more wary and prefer to stay on steep, rocky areas at higher elevations that provide escape terrain. Rams are sometimes seen at lower elevations, even among the trees that ewes and lambs would avoid at all costs. Rams, ewes, and lambs all seem to avoid areas that are used by people, at least during the season when

cont. on p.4



Clark Mtn., East Mojave

J. Hart

DESERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SELECTED

The California Desert Advisory Committee was recently appointed by former Secretary of Interior, Thomas Kleppe, to assist the Bureau of Land Management in developing a comprehensive plan for the California Desert.

The Bureau of Land Management Organic Act, (Title VI of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 - PL 94-579) directed the Secretary to establish the advisory committee to advise him "with respect to the preparation and implementation of the comprehensive long-range plan" for the Desert.

The Act directed that 11 interests or disciplines should be represented by experts in those fields on the 15 member Committee. The BLM solicited nominations in these areas from the public and the final selection was made from over 300 nominations. Ed Hastey, BLM State Director, to whom the Advisory Committee will report, reflected the importance of the appointments when he said the BLM is "counting

heavily on advice, assistance, and guidance" from the Committee.

Conservationists are hopeful that the Committee will establish strong

guidelines to prevent the continued destruction of the California Desert.

Members of the committee, listed by interest or discipline represented, are:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Laurence William (Bill) Lane, Jr., Portola Valley, California; Chairman of the Board of Lane Publishing Company and Publisher of SUNSET Magazine.

Erna I. Schilling, San Bernardino, California; Past President, League of Women Voters of California; Member, San Bernardino County Regional Parks Commission.

SOCIAL SCIENCE: Dr. Harvey S. Perloff, Los Angeles, California; Dean, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of California at Los Angeles.

STATE GOVERNMENT: James W. Burns, Davis, California; Assistant to the Secretary for State and Federal Planning, Resources Agency of California.

ELECTED GENERAL-PURPOSE

GOVERNMENT: Clayton A. Record, Jr., San Jacinto, California; Member of the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County.

OUTDOOR RECREATION: Genny Schumacher Smith, Palo Alto, California; Author and free-lance writer.

Ronald J. Sloan, Thousand Oaks, California; Land development consultant and former member of the Board of Trustees of the American Motorcyclist Association.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: W. Leon Hunter, Barstow, California; Director, Desert Research Center, Barstow Unified School District.

EARTH SCIENCE: Dr. Richard Henry Jahns, Menlo Park, California; Dean, School of Earth Science, Stanford University.

CULTURAL-HISTORICAL

RESOURCES: Dr. Margaret L. Weide, Las Vegas, Nevada; Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES: Dr. Wilbur W. Mayhew, Riverside, California; Professor of Zoology, University of California, Riverside.

BOTANICAL RESOURCES: Dr. Richard J. Vogl, Cypress, California; Professor of Biology, California State University, Los Angeles.

ENERGY-UTILITIES: Frank W. Devore, San Diego, California; Vice President, Governmental Affairs, San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

MINING-MINERALS: Emmett D. (Dean) Lemon, Glendale, California; Manager, Environmental Affairs, U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation.

GENERAL PUBLIC: Frank D. Veiga, Whittier, California; President, Veiga-Robinson Mortuary, Los Angeles.



Kelso Dunes, East Mojave, tallest stationary dunes in U.S.

J. Hart

cont. from p.1

**GOLDEN TROUT
WILDERNESS**

The proposed Golden Trout Wilderness is located within the Sequoia and Inyo National Forests immediately south of Sequoia National Park and within a three-hour drive of Los Angeles. The 260,000-acre area extends from the more gentle western slopes of the Sierra Nevada to the more precipitous ridges on the eastern side of the mountains. Elevations range from 5,000 to 12,000 feet.

At the heart of the Golden Trout area is Golden Trout Creek, the only native habitat of California's State fish. This is a separate trout species which developed its unique golden brown coloring isolated from other trout in the remoteness of the creek. The area is also the home of the spotted owl and pine marten as well as more common wildlife such as deer, bear and coyote.

The Forest Service has proposed to study the northern half of the Golden Trout area for possible wilderness classification. However, the balance of the area is not protected in any special way and is subject to multiple-use management.

Timber sales are presently under consideration in the Little Kern area. The Golden Trout cannot withstand heavy fishing pressure or siltation of the small streams in which it is found. Logging and construction of timber access roads would increase these problems and seriously threaten the Golden Trout.

SUMMARY

Part of the statement of findings and policy in the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977 says: "Therefore, the Congress finds and declares that it is in the national interest that certain of these endangered areas be promptly designated as wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System, in order to preserve such areas as an enduring resource of wilderness which shall be managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness character of the land and its specific multiple values for watershed preservation, wildlife habitat protection, scenic and historic preservation, and scientific research and educational use, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge and inspiration, for the benefit of all of the American people of present and future generations."

Wilderness

Mineral King You Can Help Save It

By Robert Gray

There still is hope that Mineral King can be saved.

Despite tens of thousands of dollars spent on feasibility studies, newspaper ads and other ballyhoo, Mickey Mouse might not win. Disneyland north might not be built, and a unique alpine valley in the southern Sierras might be left alone to bask peacefully as it has for thousands of years.

That is the implied promise in twin bills which have been reintroduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Last year, bills were introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate

to transfer Mineral King from the Agriculture Department (Forest Service) to the Department of the Interior (Park Service). In other words, the legislation would have made Mineral King a part of Sequoia National Park.

There is no logical or ecological reason why Mineral King should be excluded from the Park. A mere glance at a map shows how badly it was gerrymandered from park protection in the first place. And now that those original mining claims have long since died, there is no legal reason to keep it outside.

Those two bills got exactly nowhere last year; they were introduced much too late in the session to be heard.

But now they have been reintroduced. In the House, Congressman John Krebs of California has sponsored a bill (H.R. 1771) to remove Mineral King from Agriculture. As of this writing, 26 other Congressmen have cosponsored it. In the Senate, Senator Alan Cranston has introduced similar legislation (S. 88).

As long as Mineral King is under the control of the Forest Service, there is always the distinct possibility that down the road a piece there will be an effort to turn it into Disneyland North. The valley and its rimming of peaks **must** be incorporated into Sequoia Park. And this is the year in which it **must** happen.

For more information contact:

- Hal Thomas, Box 327, Friant, Ca. 93626 (209) 822-2439

- John Modin, 2552 Willowdale Dr., El Dorado Hills, Ca. 95630 (916) 933-0175

ORV APPEALS

cont. from p.1

ORV plans is that they have allowed Off Road Vehicle use in roadless areas, many of which have been proposed for wilderness classification by conservationists. The Lassen National Forest plan, for instance, leaves open to ORV use the much of the proposed Ishi and Feather River wilderness areas.

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Attorney Larry Silver has informed the Regional Forester that other ORV plans are being reviewed and that unless substantial changes are made in many of them, additional plans will be appealed. Conservationists and attorneys are studying ORV plans for the Shasta-Trinity, Modoc, Mendocino, Klamath and other National Forests.

We need help in reviewing plans for possible appeal. If a National Forest you know has an ORV plan which you think is bad, contact the California Wilderness Coalition.

Bighorn Sheep cont.

people are most heavily concentrated along trails, near water, and among trees. Direct interactions occur where backpacking trails either cross routes followed by sheep or enter zones frequented by sheep. Occasionally sheep will tolerate interactions with people but the conditions are not yet clear. After sheep will express reactions varying between concern and outright flight. More often than not, sheep see people long before people see sheep, due to the sheep's extraordinary eyesight.

In contrast, the same species of bighorn sheep in

British Columbia seems to have adapted to humans quite well. They can often be approached closely. It is questionable whether their counterpart in the Sierra Nevada can make the same adaptation. No two sets of animals, even of the same species, can be presumed to react in the same way. Even if they are adaptable, a docile, habituated-to-humans animal does not seem in keeping with the wilderness character of the high Sierra.

Further regulations restricting use of bighorn areas may be required to decrease the intensity and number of interactions

between people and bighorn. People might be confined to certain areas and trails, or there might be further restrictions on numbers. Present policy allows a quota of 25 persons per day to enter at each trailhead from the Inyo National Forest into bighorn zones. There is no pressure to increase the quota. Kings Canyon National Park has no quotas for the bighorn zones, but the distance from the trailhead is usually sufficient to discourage hikers. Most people enter the bighorn zones through Inyo National Forest.

Fifty per cent of present users of the area indicated they would tolerate further regulations, and only ten per cent disapproved of the present ones.



It is not yet clear whether the Sierra Nevada bighorn is being displaced from preferred habitat by people, but they certainly are affected by the numbers that confront them. If these animals are to be kept healthy and wild, it seems they must be protected from human encroachment.

Franklin Lake, Mineral King

P. Farrell

**MT SHASTA MAP
AVAILABLE**

The Mt. Shasta Resources Council has produced a detailed map of the Mt. Shasta area illustrating their wilderness proposals. The map which measures 3½ feet by 5 feet is a handy reference tool for hikers, climbers, and researchers. Cost: Members \$2.00, non-members \$4.00. Write MSRC, Box 829, Mt. Shasta, Ca. 96067. (Membership is \$3) Allow several weeks for delivery.

Attention CWC Member Organizations

The Wilderness Record is your newspaper. It provides an opportunity for localized organizations to obtain statewide publicity for their areas of interest. In the past the Wilderness Record has run supplements on the Siskiyou and the California Desert. In addition, we have attempted to provide notices on the formation of

new wilderness groups and organizations.

The success of the Wilderness Record in assisting you, however, is dependent upon your response and participation. If you face a particularly critical period in the implementation of your wilderness goals the CWC can help by providing statewide publicity of your problem. Please keep us informed by submitting articles and notices. Because of space limitations we may not print everything we receive, and we will edit when necessary. However, we will do our best to help you.

PHOTOS WANTED

The CWC is building a black and white photo file on California wilderness areas and issues. If you have photos you feel would be of use, please send them to the CWC. Many of these photos will be used by the Wilderness Record.

Please mark all submitted photos with your name and address and a picture caption.

California State Wilderness Program

A Supplement to the Wilderness Record, March 1977

Prepared by Phil Farrell



Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Calif. Dept.
Parks & Recreation

Why a State Wilderness System?

Why classify state-owned lands in California as "wilderness areas?"

First is the answer to the more general question: why preserve wilderness? Leading thinkers for over a century have given us answers to that question. They cite the needs for mental and physical refreshment, for inspiration, for scientific study of undisturbed ecosystems, for wildlife habitat, for conservation of delicate watersheds, and for many other purposes, as sufficient reason to preserve wilderness lands in their natural state.

Wilderness does exist on many units of state-owned lands in California, but its total area is not large compared to the wilderness which yet survives under federal ownership in national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands. These state holdings have thus been largely overlooked by the wilderness movement.

Lately, conservationists have reconized that many choice smaller areas of wilderness, all worthy of preservation, have come into state ownership, including certain types of landscapes and ecosystems not represented in federal holdings.

Having recognized that there are units of wilderness in state ownership worth preserving, the question of why they should be classified as "wilderness areas" can now be answered. Classification as a "wilderness area" under the California Wilderness Act offers the most permanent and restrictive form of protection available to these areas.

Some argue that this protection is not really necessary. They point out that virtually all the wilderness lands owned by the state were specifically acquired for conservation purposes as state parks or wildlife areas.

These areas are generally not open to "multiple use" or commodity extraction. Preservation of their natural values is often intended by the managing agencies.

In short, the opponents of special classification argue that we can count on the good intentions of the managing agencies to preserve wilderness.

Unfortunately, experience with both state and federal agencies over the years has conclusively disproved this thesis. Small compromises with wilderness are repeatedly made by the agencies if left to do as they will. Each little compromise is rationalized as being needed for administrative convenience, or to promote a certain type of recreation, or the like. The end result of years of such small compromises is the death of wilderness.

By this process we have seen many of our state parks transformed to little more than "state parking lots," for example, through construction of dense road networks and recreational developments.

In other cases, well-intentioned agencies can be powerless to stop outside interests who threaten wilderness values if special legislative wilderness classification does not exist.

A good example was the bitterly fought proposal to route a freeway along the coastline of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This freeway would have destroyed an exquisite wilderness of wild beach and virgin redwood forest. Years of intense citizen effort were required to divert the freeway to an inland route.

The California Wilderness Act did not exist at the time this freeway battle was fought. But its use now can prevent development proposals such as this in the future.

Legislative classification of state-owned wild lands as "wilderness areas" is thus very important for the perpetual preservation of these areas. This classification replaces a vague and easily side-stepped promise to preserve natural values with precise management direction for a clearly defined area. It serves notice on all who would compromise wilderness to their own ends that no compromise will be permitted within designated areas.

Citizen involvement and pressure will be needed to gain wilderness classification for our state-owned wild lands. This supplement describes the potential state wilderness system and the process by which areas will be considered for classification. Read it and learn what you, as an individual, can do.

AGENCIES DELAY WILDERNESS REVIEW

State agencies have so far managed only minimal compliance with the review requirements of the California Wilderness Act. Mistaken interpretations of those requirements, and a seeming lack of interest in the program, have caused substantial delays in carrying out the review program.

The California Wilderness Act requires a comprehensive review of all state-owned lands under the jurisdiction of the Resources Agency and the State Lands Commission to determine their suitability for designation as state wilderness areas.

This review requirement may be broken down into four steps: identification of roadless areas; development of management recommendations; public hearings; and reports to the Legislature.

For lands owned by the state as of January 1, 1975, the Act requires the Resources Agency to complete all steps by January 1, 1978, and the State Lands Commission to finish by January 1, 1976. Lands acquired after January 1, 1975, must also be reviewed for wilderness

suitability within three years after acquisition. In addition, state-owned roadless areas within or contiguous to federal wilderness areas designated by the Congress after January 1, 1975, must be reviewed for state wilderness classification within one year after the federal action.

So far, the agencies have hardly gotten beyond first base. It appears they had hopes to skip third on their way home.

Review Process

The first step in the review process is to identify roadless areas possessing wilderness qualities. The California Wilderness Act provides a specific definition of "roadless area" (section 5093.32(a) of Public Resources Code):

"... a reasonably compact area of undeveloped land which possesses the general characteristics of a wilderness... and within which there is no improved road that is suitable for public travel by motorized vehicles intended primarily for highway use."

Areas with jeep trails or primitive roads not passable to ordinary vehicles, or fire roads closed to public use, are considered roadless for purposes of wilderness reviews. No specific size limitation is given, only the general requirement that

the roadless area be large enough to be preserved as wilderness.

While the departments within the Resources Agency are required to review all their land holdings to locate roadless areas, the State

cont. on p. S-4



"The half-million acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park offers many opportunities to preserve unspoiled desert wilderness."

Calif. Dept. Parks &
Recreation

What Is:

The California Wilderness Act?

At the urging of conservationists, the California Wilderness Act was passed by the state legislature in 1974. This act establishes a policy for the preservation of wilderness lands owned by the state of California, and sets up a procedure to implement that policy.

The California Wilderness Act was modeled after and closely parallels the federal Wilderness Act in definitions of wilderness and in management requirements for wilderness.

A "California Wilderness Preservation System" is established by the Act to consist of areas of state-owned land designated as wilderness according to the provisions of the Act.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

Like the federal Wilderness Act, the California Wilderness Act provides that state-owned lands to be considered for designation as wilderness must generally possess a "primeval character and influence", be free of permanent improvements or human habitation, and have been "affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable".

The California Wilderness Act explicitly states that wilderness areas need not be "pristine" or "virgin". Lands which have been modified by man's activities in the past but which have been "substantially restored to a near natural appearance" may also be designated as wilderness.

Areas of any size may be designated as wilderness if their preservation is practicable, although the Act suggests 5000 acres as a guide for minimum size. In addition, the Act specifies that state holdings

contiguous to wilderness lands in other ownership (such as federal lands) may be designated as wilderness, even if by themselves they would be too small.

EXTENT OF SYSTEM

Two initial areas were designated as components of the California Wilderness Preservation System by the Act. Within the Mt. San Jacinto State Park 9,800 acres were designated as the San Jacinto State Wilderness. Approximately 90,000 acres in Anza-Borrego State Park were designated as the Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness. In addition, effective January 1, 1977, a number of small state-owned inholdings within designated federal wilderness areas were classified as part of the California Wilderness System, pending eventual transfer to the federal government.

The Act required that all other lands in state ownership under the jurisdiction of the Resources Agency or the State Lands Commission be reviewed for potential classification as state wilderness areas. The Resources Agency includes state land-managing departments concerned with conservation of natural resources. The State Lands Commission manages the so-called "state school lands" - square-mile sections of land long ago given to the state by the federal government to be sold or otherwise used to support school systems.

Another article in this supplement describes the review process in detail.

Final authority to classify state-owned lands as wilderness rests with the Legislature (except for state parks - see article elsewhere in this supplement). After classification, a wilderness area continues to be

managed by the same agency as before, and for the same primary purpose as before (wildlife, recreation, etc.), except that management must be carried out within the special limitations and requirements needed to preserve wilderness.

USE OF WILDERNESS AREAS

The intent of wilderness classification of state lands is to designate places where the process of nature shall continue without interference or interruption by man. Thus, certain

restrictions and requirements are imposed on the use of these areas.

Individual rights of entry and use for recreation, scientific study, etc., remain largely as they were prior to classification. They may be controlled as needed to serve the primary purpose of the land unit and to preserve wilderness values. Motorized transportation of any sort, however, is prohibited within wilderness as being inconsistent with the objectives of wilderness preservation.

Cont. on p. S-4



Rare oak woodland wilderness Henry Coe State Park

ROADLESS AREAS ID'ed BY STATE

The California State Wilderness Act requires all roadless areas under the jurisdiction of the Resources Agency or the State Lands Commission to be reviewed for their potential as state wilderness areas.

Two years after passage of the Act, these Agencies have finally produced a list of roadless areas under review, though it is still tentative. Conservationists also believe that it is incomplete.

Here is a description of the lands which have been identified as roadless by the departments within the Resources Agency. Each of these areas will be the subject of management reviews. Proposals will be developed for the future use of each, and will be presented for public review at hearings to be scheduled later in the year.

Conservationists should carefully check these lists for completeness. They should notify the Director of the appropriate department (see addresses section) if any roadless land with wilderness qualities under that department's

jurisdiction has been omitted from these lists. This should be done as soon as possible, since less than a year remains to complete wilderness studies.

Holdings of the State Lands Commission which have been identified as roadless comprise a long list of small parcels too voluminous to reproduce here. This list may be reviewed at the State Lands Commission offices in Sacramento (see addresses section).

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The greatest potential for state wilderness areas exists in lands which are part of the State park system. Over half a million acres of land within the park system probably qualify for wilderness status; how much is designated will depend on citizen interest.

A preliminary inventory of roadless areas in the state park system has been completed. This inventory simply consists of a list of state park units which have some roadless resource. Managers of some units have supplied more detailed information about boundaries and features of roadless areas, but in many cases all that is known at this time is that a roadless area exists.

The lists below summarize information obtained from the Department. State Park areas are divided into three categories by the Department: areas with a major roadless component; areas with some roadless component; and areas with little or no roadless component. The last will not be given further review for wilderness classification.

Conservationists do not necessarily agree with the categorization of particular park areas.

Many of the areas with only minor roadless components will probably

not be recommended for wilderness classification on the basis that they are too small. Some, however, may be suitable in combination with contiguous federally owned areas.

I. Areas with major roadless components:

State Parks

Andrew Molera
Anza-Borrego Desert
Butano
Cuyamaca Rancho
Del Norte Coast
Redwoods
The Forest of Nisene
Marks
Henry W. Coe
Humboldt Redwoods
Jedediah Smith Redwoods
Montana de Oro
Prairie Creek Redwoods

State Recreation Areas

Austin Creek

II. Areas with some roadless component:

State Parks

Annadel
Big Basin Redwoods
Booth-Napa Valley
Calaveras Big Trees
Castle Crag
Grover Hot Springs
Heart Bar*
Henry Cowell Redwoods
Julia Pfeiffer Burns
Malibu Creek
Morro Bay
Mount Diablo
Plumas-Eureka
Point Mugu
Robert Louis Stevenson
Saddleback Butte
Salt Point
Sugarloaf Ridge
Sugar Pine Point
Topanga

State Recreation Areas

Lake Oroville
Picacho
Providence Mountains
Red Rock Canyon
San Luis Reservoir
Silverwood Lake

State Reserves

Montgomery Woods

*Heart Bar State Park is being transferred to the U.S. Forest Service.

III. Areas with little or no roadless component:

State Parks

Twenty-nine remaining state parks not included in the two categories above are included in this category. These are considered too small or developed by the Department to possess roadless areas with wilderness qualities.

State Reserves

As small areas established to protect specific natural features, most of the state reserves fall into this category.

State Historical Units

These areas commemorate man's impact upon the land. Because of this, and their small size, the Department does not feel any qualify as state wilderness.

State Recreation Areas

Seven state recreation areas are listed in the categories above. The remainder contain recreational developments which disqualify them from wilderness consideration, according to the Department.

State Beaches

These are all considered too small and developed to have any roadless areas with wilderness qualities.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Lands owned and managed by the Department of Water Resources are generally related to water projects such as aqueducts, dams, and power plants. Obviously, due to the nature of the improvements on these lands, none qualify for wilderness.

Often, however, the Department had to purchase more land than it actually needed for structures. Department policy is to eventually dispose of these "excess lands" to other public agencies or private owners.

Cont. on p. S-3



Granite spires characterize Castle Crag State Park. State lands here are intermingled with roadless National Forest lands.

Calif. Dept. Parks & Recreation

Alternative Classifications for State Parks

The California Wilderness Act states that only the Legislature can designate state-owned lands as "wilderness areas." But the Legislature has provided another method of wilderness classification in a companion law, Public Resources Code Section 5001.5, for lands within the state park system only.

This alternative classification is known as "state wilderness." It is applied administratively to lands within the state park system by the State Park and Recreation Commission, an appointed body which oversees management of

the state park system.

Both "wilderness areas," designated by the Legislature, and "state wildernesses," designated by the Park and Recreation Commission, are considered part of the California Wilderness Preservation System by the California Wilderness Act. As such, both types of areas are subject to the protective management requirements of the Act.

One important protection for "state wilderness" is foregone, however. This is the protection against arbitrary administrative

declassification and removal from the Wilderness System in the future.

A wilderness designation imposed by the Legislature cannot be removed except by another act of the Legislature.

But lands classified as "state wilderness" by the Park and Recreation Commission can be reclassified into some other management category, and thus be removed from the Wilderness System, by the Commission at any future time without approval of the Legislature.

Public Resources Code

Section 5001.5 also provides other types of protective classification for state park system lands in addition to state wilderness.

"State reserves" are set up to preserve outstanding natural or scenic features "in a condition of undisturbed integrity." Improvements, including road access, may be undertaken to provide for day-use by visitors. A good example is Point Lobos State Reserve near Carmel.

Areas within the state park system with outstanding natural or scientific significance, such as unique biological, geological, or topographical features and associations, may be classified as "natural preserves." These areas are supposed to be of sufficient

size to allow natural ecological processes to continue without interference by man. State Park and Recreation Department policy is to maintain natural preserves in a roadless condition. Recreation activities consistent with ecological preservation, such as hiking, are permitted.

These other classifications can offer significant protection to natural features, but they are inferior to wilderness classification for protecting wilderness values and the wild nature of the land. Nevertheless, the Department of Parks and Recreation looks upon them as possible



South Grove of Sequoias at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Calif. Dept. Parks & Recreation

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Time is short for citizen action. Studies of potential additions to the California Wilderness Preservation System must be finished by the end of 1977. But only recently has any information become available about the wilderness program.

Three main opportunities for citizen input into the selection of additional state wilderness areas await us.

The first and most comprehensive opportunity will be the public hearings required by the California Wilderness Act prior to submission of agency reports to the Legislature.

At these hearings, the state agencies will be soliciting citizen views of their proposals for or against wilderness classification. Expressions of public interest, as well as information about wilderness values presented by citizens or citizen groups, may well influence the final agency recommendations. Furthermore, all input received at these hearings will be forwarded to the Legislature.

The second major opportunity for public input will come in the Legislature, when and if legislation is proposed to act upon agency recommendations. Introduction of legislation and favorable action on it will no doubt depend directly on the level of public interest expressed to legislators. This will not be a one-shot procedure, but rather an on-going and possibly lengthy process.

Finally, it is very likely that the State Park and Recreation Commission will exercise its independent authority to classify state park lands as "state wilderness." In this matter it will follow closely the recommendations of the State Parks and Recreation Department. However, citizen input will be heard at

the Commission meetings when these proposals are considered.

The key to meeting all these opportunities is citizen input. This means individuals, like yourself, standing up for the areas you know or are concerned about, and expressing your views to the agencies or Legislature.

There are several steps you should take now to prepare for upcoming public hearings:

(1) **Get on the mailing list.** Make sure you will be notified of upcoming hearings. Write to the Resources Agency and State Lands Commission and ask to be put on the mailing list for notification of public hearings on wilderness reviews. Ask to be sent any written information which will be developed on the resources and proposals for the areas that interest you. Also write the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to get on the mailing list to find out about Park and Recreation Commission meetings at which wilderness designations will be considered. (See addresses section)

(2) **Check roadless area lists for completeness.** Review the lists of roadless areas in this supplement. Do you know of any state-owned roadless areas with wilderness qualities which are missing? If so, write to the appropriate department, or the Resources Agency if you don't know who manages the land, and tell them where the area is. Send a copy of your letter to CWC so we can follow it up, too.

(3) **Visit study area.** Take a look at the state-owned lands near you. Take pictures, gather evidence to support wilderness classification. Talk to area managers about management considerations which might

affect classification. Many of these areas are close to urban areas and can be visited on a day trip.

(4) **Attend the hearings.** Get your friends and organizations to go, too. Speak out in favor of wilderness classification.

(5) **If you are not already a member, join the California Wilderness Coalition.** We will try to keep you up-to-date on what's happening to state wilderness as well as federal wilderness issues.

ADDRESSES

Ms. Claire Dedrick
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Director
Department of Fish and Game
The Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director
Department of Forestry
The Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director
Department of Water Resources
The Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

William F. Northrup
Executive Officer
State Lands Commission
1807 13th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Wilderness Coalition
P.O. Box 429
Davis, CA 95616

Roadless Areas

cont. from p S-2

At this time, the Department of Water Resources owns one parcel of "excess land" which is roadless and possesses wilderness qualities. This is a 6000-acre parcel located north of the San Luis Reservoir project.

Consideration of wilderness classification for this parcel must also consider the disposal policy of the Department. Since the Department does not wish to maintain permanent possession of this land, it may first have to be transferred to some other agency if it is to be preserved as wilderness.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The Department of Fish and Game manages over fifty parcels of state-owned lands acquired for the protection of wildlife habitat and the provision of wildlife-related recreation opportunities. Many of these are small, on the order of a hundred acres, but several exceed 5000 acres in size. The largest is the 43,000 acre Tehama Wildlife Area. Many wildlife areas are

alternatives to wilderness classification for the roadless areas in some state park units, particularly smaller units with unusual biological features.

Seeking administrative action by the Park and Recreation Commission to protect wilderness in the state park system is simpler and more direct than working through the

complex and time-consuming procedures of the Legislature. Because of this directness, it may seem more attractive to conservationists. However, the price is possible inferior protection for wilderness values and impermanent classifications. Working for legislative action may well prove more fruitful in the long run.

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

In addition to many small parcels of land containing fire lookouts and stations, the Department of Forestry controls several large state forests. These forests were acquired from private owners several decades ago to maintain their value for timber growth and production. They generally have a history of management for timber products.

The Department has, however, identified two small roadless areas within state forests. A 1000-acre roadless parcel of chaparral type is found in the so-called "Wentz Property", located along the U.S.-Mexico boundary. Several hundred acres of the Mountain Home State Forest, near Sequoia National Park, have also been identified as roadless.

The Mountain Home parcel is small but significant. It protrudes as a long peninsula into conservationists' Golden Trout Wilderness proposal on surrounding Sequoia National Forest lands.

heavily manipulated by the Department with practices such as farming land to grow food for waterfowl. A few still contain wild and undeveloped land.

The Department of Fish and Game, however, adamantly refuses to recognize any roadless areas on its holdings, or to give any consideration for wilderness preservation.

In the case of the Tehama Wildlife area, at least, this is in direct contradiction to the California Wilderness Act. California Wilderness Coalition members report that the Tehama area does contain large roadless areas, which must be considered for wilderness classification under the provisions of the Act.

Conservationists suspect that some of the other large holdings of the Fish and Game Department may also have roadless areas which the Department refuses to recognize.

In the case of the Fish and Game Department, it looks as though citizens may have to do the job of identifying roadless lands which should be considered for wilderness classification, since the Department so far refuses to fulfill this respon-

Agency delays...

cont. from p. S-1

Lands Commission is only required to look at those state school lands which had been previously identified as possessing "significant environmental values" pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 6370.2. About one-third of the approximately 600,000 acres of state school lands had been so identified.

The second step in wilderness reviews is for the agencies to study the resources and uses of the roadless areas they have identified and come up with a preliminary recommendation for or against wilderness classification.

The California Wilderness Act really gives no guidance as to how this should be done. It is reasonable to expect, however, that it would be conducted in an open-minded manner, and that all considerations which led up to the management recommendation would be adequately documented. In comparable reviews required by the federal Wilderness Act, this involved the preparation of a written report and draft Environmental Impact Statement for each area.

The third step is to seek public opinion on the preliminary agency recommendation. The California Wilderness Act prescribes a public hearing to consider any recommendation regarding the suitability of an area for wilderness designation. Prior notice of the hearing must be published in newspapers in the county where the area is located and provided by mail to anyone who has requested to be notified of wilderness hearings. The hearing must be held in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Sacramento, whichever is closest to the area affected.

Additional hearings at other locations may also be held.

It is expected that the agency will review its preliminary recommendation about wilderness designation in light of the concerns expressed by the public, and possibly change it to better meet those concerns, before presenting a final recommendation to the Legislature.

The final step in the wilderness process for a roadless area is a report to the Legislature which includes the agency's final recommendation concerning wilderness designation of that area and which should include documentation of the considerations which led up to that recommendation. The California Wilderness Act specifically provides that all testimony received at the public hearing must be included as part of this report to the Legislature.

Agency Compliance

How have the state agencies complied with these review requirements? Their response has been characterized by delay and indifference.

The Resources Agency formed a Wilderness Preservation Committee with representatives from the various departments, as well as the State Lands Commission, to co-ordinate the wilderness program. This committee set the tone for agency compliance by incorrectly interpreting the California Wilderness Act to mean that roadless areas could be eliminated from wilderness consideration without public hearings or any other form of public review. Thus, much of the program could be handled "in-house" from the perspective of the agencies.

Armed with this interpretation of the Act,

STATE LANDS COMMISSION PLANS CONSOLIDATION

The State Lands Commission has not met the requirements of the California Wilderness Act for wilderness review in any substantive way. But the question of how to get it to comply may soon become moot. The Commission plans a major land consolidation which would radically alter the location of lands under its control.

The Commission is custodian of over 600,000 acres of "state school

lands." These are one-square-mile sections scattered throughout the state. Because they are small and scattered, the Commission is unable to manage them effectively for any specific purpose.

The Commission has thus determined to work out some kind of major land consolidation proposal. The crux of this consolidation would be a land exchange with the federal government. The

isolated state school lands, which are now mostly surrounded by other federal land holdings, would be turned over to the federal government and the state would acquire several large parcels of land from the unappropriated public lands in return.

Details of the exchange are yet to be worked out, including: will the exchange be on an acre-per-acre of value-per-value basis; where will the Commission acquire lands; and what present holdings, if any, should be kept. Congressional approval will also be required.

This consolidation proposal offers opportunities to acquire some larger parcels of land more suitable for wilderness classification than the Commission's present small holdings. The California Wilderness Act will require wilderness reviews of any lands which are acquired.

Right now, the Commission staff does not seem interested in acquiring wilderness. Their primary goal is to acquire manageable parcels with economic uses. The State Lands Division would like to become a multiple-use land

management agency, similar to the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The Division (staff to the Commission) is willing, however, to hear public views on the lands it should keep, transfer to the federal government, and acquire from the federal government, and on the uses it should put those lands to. The Commission itself will have to approve the staff's consolidation plan at a meeting open to the public. This is expected to happen within the year.

To get more information about the consolidation plan, offer suggestions, or get on a mailing list to be notified of the State Lands Commission meetings at which the plan will be considered, write to William Northrup, Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission (see addresses section).

Wilderness Act

cont. from p. S-2

Commodity exploitation of wilderness areas is prohibited by the Act. This means no logging, resort development, mining, etc. An exception allows grazing of livestock under lease, or other private rights, to continue where they existed prior to January 1, 1975.

Generally, no structures may be constructed in state wilderness areas. This means no dams, buildings, roads, powerlines, or the like. Semi-improved campgrounds and primitive latrines are permitted. In addition, unobtrusive equipment for the collection of hydrometeorological data and the conduct of weather modification activities is specifically permitted, a departure from the federal Wilderness Act.

A unique provision not found in the federal Wilderness Act prohibits flying of aircraft lower than 5000 feet above the ground surface of any state wilderness area.

There is a general exception to the management prohibitions of the Act granted to the managing agency, as necessary in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the wilderness, or as necessary to control fire, insects, and disease.

Anyone who is particularly interested in the California Wilderness Preservation System should obtain a copy of the Act. It can be found in many libraries as Sections 5093.30 to 5093.40 of the California Public Resources Code. A request to the California Secretary for Resources may produce a copy.



State-owned inholdings within federal Cache Creek area may be traded to Federal gov't. under State Lands Commission land consolidation plan.

the various agencies felt no urgency in involving the public. After all, they expected to eliminate most areas from consideration and then to hold a few hearings on the areas they favored for wilderness classification.

The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Water Resources simply pronounced all their lands unfit for wilderness. No real documentation was developed for this decision since the departments never expected it to be subject to public scrutiny.

The State Lands Commission also made good use of this labor-saving interpretation of the Act. The Commission had already missed its statutory deadline of January 1, 1976, for completion of reviews and reports to the Legislature. To catch up as quickly as possible, it made a hasty review of its lands, using published maps but little field work to locate roadless areas.

Deliberations by the Commission staff, without any public input, then resulted in pronouncing all these areas unsuitable for wilderness classification, primarily because they were too small. No public hearings were held to see what the public thought of this conclusion.

Then, in a model of pro-forma compliance with the law, the Commission submitted its final report to the Legislature. This report,

recommending against wilderness classification for any Commission lands, consisted of 23 lines buried at the end of an annual report on the wilderness system required of the Resources Agency.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, probably the major wilderness-holding department, meanwhile asked its field offices for information about roadless areas and recommendations for classifications in late 1975. It then sat upon the information throughout 1976 without taking any further action to develop and justify management proposals.

Conservationists Protest

As 1976 passed with little visible effort being given to the wilderness program by state agencies, the California Wilderness Coalition and others made inquiries and complaints.

The CWC uncovered the misinterpretation of public hearing requirements which the agencies had adopted and protested vigorously to the Resources Agency. This convinced the chairman of the Wilderness Preservation Committee that public hearings were indeed required on all roadless areas.

Suddenly, a much greater task faced the agencies. They essentially had to start

their reviews over, albeit with two years out of the three allotted to this program now gone.

The Resources Agency ordered its departments to produce lists of roadless areas. They were supplied to CWC just in time to appear in this Supplement. As mentioned elsewhere, conservationists do not feel that these lists are yet complete.

The Agency also proposes consolidation of public hearings because the deadline for final action is now so close. Instead of holding a separate hearing for each of the dozens of roadless areas to be reviewed, the Agency plans to hold a "super hearing" to consider all areas at once. This single hearing will be repeated in each of the four cities specified as hearing locations in the California Wilderness Act. Hearing dates are not yet set, but are expected for late summer or fall.

Published material briefly describing the roadless areas and recommendations for or against wilderness classification should be available prior to the hearings to those who request it in advance from the Resources Agency.

The State Lands Commission will also have to hold hearings to consider public response to its anti-wilderness stance. These hearings will probably be consolidated with those of the Resources Agency.



Antelope Creek in Tehama Wildlife Area