



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 2

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

May-June, 1977

No. 2

Favorable Ruling On Wilderness Study Units

The Chief of the U.S. Forest Service has issued a precedent-setting decision striking down a planning process which had fragmented a large wilderness resource area into many small areas to be planned in a piecemeal fashion.

The decision came in response to an administrative appeal filed by Idaho conservationists against two land use plans affecting parts of the citizen's proposed 450,000 acre Gospel-Hump Wilderness Study Area on the Nezperce National Forest in northern Idaho.

National Forest officials had arbitrarily divided the Gospel-Hump area into eight separate inventoried roadless areas and nine distinct planning units. Each inventoried roadless

area and planning unit was to be considered separately from the others.

Conservationists protested that this illogical planning process made consideration of the wilderness values of the whole Gospel-Hump area impossible. The Chief of the Forest Service agreed. He held that the Nezperce planners had violated both the decision in **Sierra Club vs. Butz**, which required further evaluation of wilderness values for roadless areas in land use planning, and Forest Service regulations which required adjacent roadless areas to be evaluated as a whole, with their interrelationships considered.

The Chief threw out the plans under appeal and ordered a new planning process to be defined that

would properly consider the wilderness values of the entire contiguous roadless tract. The Chief also held that additional contiguous roadless lands in the Fayette National Forest must also be considered part of this single roadless tract, even though separated by a National Forest boundary and a river with motorboat traffic on it.

Chief McGuire's deci-

sion has precedent-setting value for the whole nation.

Here in California, we have also been plagued by Forest Service gerrymandering of wilderness areas, such as in the Plumas, Siskiyou Mountains, Kings River, and Golden Trout wilderness resource areas. Hopefully, this Idaho precedent will help us to get better consideration for wilderness resources in California.



Headwaters of the North Fork American River. Wilderness Status for adjacent areas could provide additional protection.

KING UNIT EIS INADEQUATE

A Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the King Planning Unit on the Klamath National Forest, released April 5, fails to give proper consideration to wilderness values of the Ten Bear roadless area within the Unit.

A year ago an article in the **Wilderness Record** (Vol. 1, No. 2) pointed out the deficiencies in the Draft Environmental Statement (DES) for this planning unit. The entire Ten Bear roadless area was not considered for wilderness

study, the value of the roadless area for wilderness was not assessed, and the environmental impacts of the Forest Service plan, which called for logging most of the roadless area, were glossed over.

None of these deficiencies of the DES have been corrected in the FES. Nor has the Forest Service plan been altered to provide wilderness study for any major portion of the Ten Bear roadless area, even though 32 of the 49 re-

cont. on page 4

North Fork American Wild River Wilderness

The Tahoe National Forest is asking the public for comments on its wild river study for the North Fork of the American River. The only portion of this river being studied is the stretch from the Colfax-Iowa Hill bridge (upper end of the proposed Auburn Reservoir) upstream to the Cedars. The Forest Service is offering five alternatives for comment: Alternative A would not have any wild river classification; Alternative B& C& D would have short portions of the river classified wild; Alternative E would have the entire 45 mile stretch of river designated as wild.

Most of the stretch of river under study flows through the North Fork American River Wilderness Study Area also being considered by the Tahoe National Forest. While wild river status would protect the river and a narrow corridor on either side, the establishment of a wilderness would preserve

the upper slopes of the canyon and important tributary streams. The Forest Service, however, is going to make their wild river recommendations to Congress prior to considering the wilderness issue.

Presently there is only one federally designated Wild and Scenic River in California - the Middle Fork of the Feather River. A state system of wild rivers prevents state dam projects along several ad-

cont. on page 4

UPPER TRUCKEE SKI EXPANSION THREAT

The Eldorado National Forest has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning a proposed expansion of the Sierra Ski Ranch. The proposed expansion, near Echo Summit on U.S. Highway 50, would invade a portion of the Upper Truckee *de facto* wilderness.

The additions would increase the size of the winter sports permit area from its existing 800 acres to about 1,500; would increase the number of chair lifts from 5 to 11; would increase the parking capacity from 1,100 cars to 2,000 cars; and would increase the persons-at-one-time capacity from 3,000 to 7,000.

Most of the new lifts would be constructed in

Hanson Canyon, a portion of the proposed Upper Truckee wilderness. The Forest Service overlooked this area during their roadless area review, but they now admit that the area is unroaded and adjacent to the Dardanelles Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). The Forest Service divides the proposed Upper Truckee wilderness into two roadless areas - Dardanelles and Caples Creek - on the basis of a jeep road crossing the area.

Forest Service regulations require that an entire roadless area be studied before any portion of the area is developed. As a result of the **Sierra Club vs. Butz** lawsuit, an Environmental Impact Statement must be filed. Forest

cont. on page 4

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

☐ 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: _____

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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
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Update

USFS Actions On Roadless Areas

Wilderness conservationists will be faced with a deluge of U.S. Forest Service Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), both draft and final, during the coming 12 months. It is essential that conservationists build a good record with letters on draft EIS's, and that inadequate final EIS's are appealed administratively. Only by active participation in the EIS process can we assure

that the wild lands involved are carefully considered for their wilderness potential.

Without administrative appeals of these plans, most of the roadless areas in these plans will be logged. If you are interested in helping on an administrative appeal (gathering facts, affidavits, etc.) contact the CWC.

In addition to EIS's in land use plans, the Forest

Service will be conducting studies and hearings on designated Wilderness Study Areas. They will make a proposal for future management of the areas, which may or may not include a Wilderness recommendation to the President and Congress. If you are interested in receiving copies of EIS's or notice of wilderness studies contact the listed National Forest.

TENTATIVE FOREST SERVICE PLANNING SCHEDULE

DRAFT EIS's

Unit Plan	Proposed Wilderness	National Forest	Date
G-O Road	Siskiyou	Six Rivers	May
So. Fork Mt.	Yolla Bolly Additions	Shasta-Trinity	May
Almanor	Butt Mt., Cub Creek	Lassen	May/June
Grider	Marble Mt. Additions	Klamath	May/June
Girard-McCloud	McCloud	Shasta-Trinity	July/August
Middle Eel	Yolla Bolly Additions	Mendocino	late 1977
Kings River Pine Ridge Chiquito/Bass Lake Mariposa Upper San Joaquin	Kings River Dinkey Lakes San Joaquin	Sierra	late 1977/early 1978
Feather River	Feather River	Plumas/Lassen	early 1978

FINAL EIS's

Unit Plan	Proposed Wilderness	National Forest	Date
Rancheria	Kings River	Sierra	April/May
King	Marble Mt. Additions	Klamath	April
Mohawk	Lakes Basin/Lavezolla Cr.	Plumas (Tahoe)	May
Little Kern	Golden Trout	Sequoia	May/June
Big Sur Coastal	Ventana Additions	Los Padres	July/August

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Area	National Forest	Date
Mt. Shasta	Shasta-Trinity	June/July 1977
*Sheep Mt.	San Bernadino/Angelos	Fall 1977
*Snow Mt.	Mendocino	Winter 1978
North Fk. American	Tahoe	Winter 1978



It's hard to believe Mt. Shasta isn't a National Park. Yet, its flanks remain unprotected from commercial exploitation. Public hearings on Mt. Shasta's future will be held in June or July 1977. Issues at Stake include wilderness classification, the Mt. Shasta National Wilderness Recovery area, ski resort expansion, and the future of Shasta Red Fir forests.

ANALYZING AN EIS

By KAREN FANT YARNELL

Since the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), those of us in the environmental movement have been besieged by an alarming array of fat, imposing environmental impact statements (EIS's) from all levels of government and for all manner of proposed projects. To the uninitiated, these volumes can seem most frightening, and far beyond the normal comprehension of a mere human being! They may

seem unimportant or not worth the trouble to read, let alone review.

Granted, some EIS's, or portions at least, seem totally incomprehensible to the average reader. If you happen to be an expert in a particular field, geology or botany, there are certain sections in which EIS's which you can address directly. This type of input is very much needed: scientific responses on scientific subjects.

Most of us, however, are not specialists in a technical field. Nonetheless, a lay person can provide valuable input into the EIS process. This process, as mandated by NEPA, provides an opportunity for us to communicate our desires, concerns, alternatives, mitigation measures, etc., to officials in charge of a project. It is a privilege we worked hard for, and we should make use of this chance to participate directly in the planning process.

The big question becomes, "How do I, a lay person, go about analyzing an environmental impact statement?"

Even if you know nothing about an area, this document is supposed to contain all you need in order to make an intelligent analysis and response. So take advantage of the breakdown of the sections, the locations maps, the various charts and figures, and the summary of the proposal. Familiarize yourself with the basics. This is important, because if you get bogged down too early, forget it! You'll never get through the EIS!!

In evaluating an environmental impact statement, one of the most critical details to look for is what information is contained or rather, not contained, in the text. The Forest Service draft and

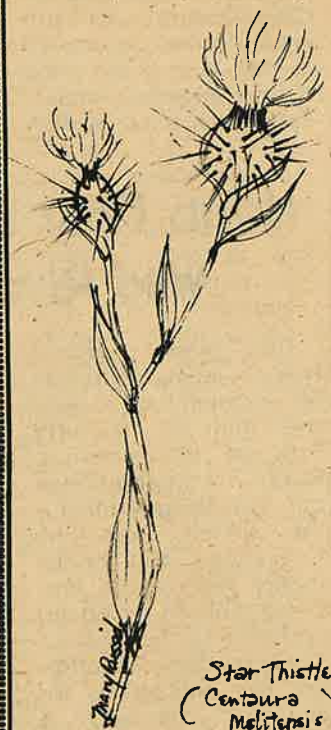
final EIS's on the proposed ski resort at Mineral King are classics as far as missing information is concerned.

The plan calls for a year-round recreational complex to be developed in Mineral King Valley, which is surrounded on three sides by Sequoia National Park. Specifics include: 18 ski lifts, overnight lodging, food services, mid-terminal restaurants, multi-level parking, swimming pools, ice rinks, covered walks, malls, bridges, etc. The final EIS plan is designed to accommodate 6000 persons at one time in non-winter and 8000 persons in winter.

With a development on such a grand scale, the plans must be well developed, right? Wrong! The EIS is riddled with vagueness: "studies will be undertaken," certain aspects "possibly" will be included, and other non-specifics. Even more ludicrous in an assessment of this type, the EIS states that the ski lifts will be "located generally" and the specific location of the village structures "will be determined as planning progresses."

Such information is essential to an adequate EIS. Obviously, the planning is still in the initial stages, the basic information is incomplete, and, consequently, the environmental impact of the development cannot be evaluated adequately. In an analysis of this EIS, such inadequacies must be pointed out.

Another question to keep in mind is, what are the discrepancies? In this same EIS, 760,000 gallons of water per day would be needed for this project. Yet, there is no discussion of where it will come from. It is simply implied that the water will be supplied when the development needs it! The East Fork of the Kaweah River is com-



Star Thistle
(Centaura
Melitensis)

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Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

... to promote throughout the State of California the

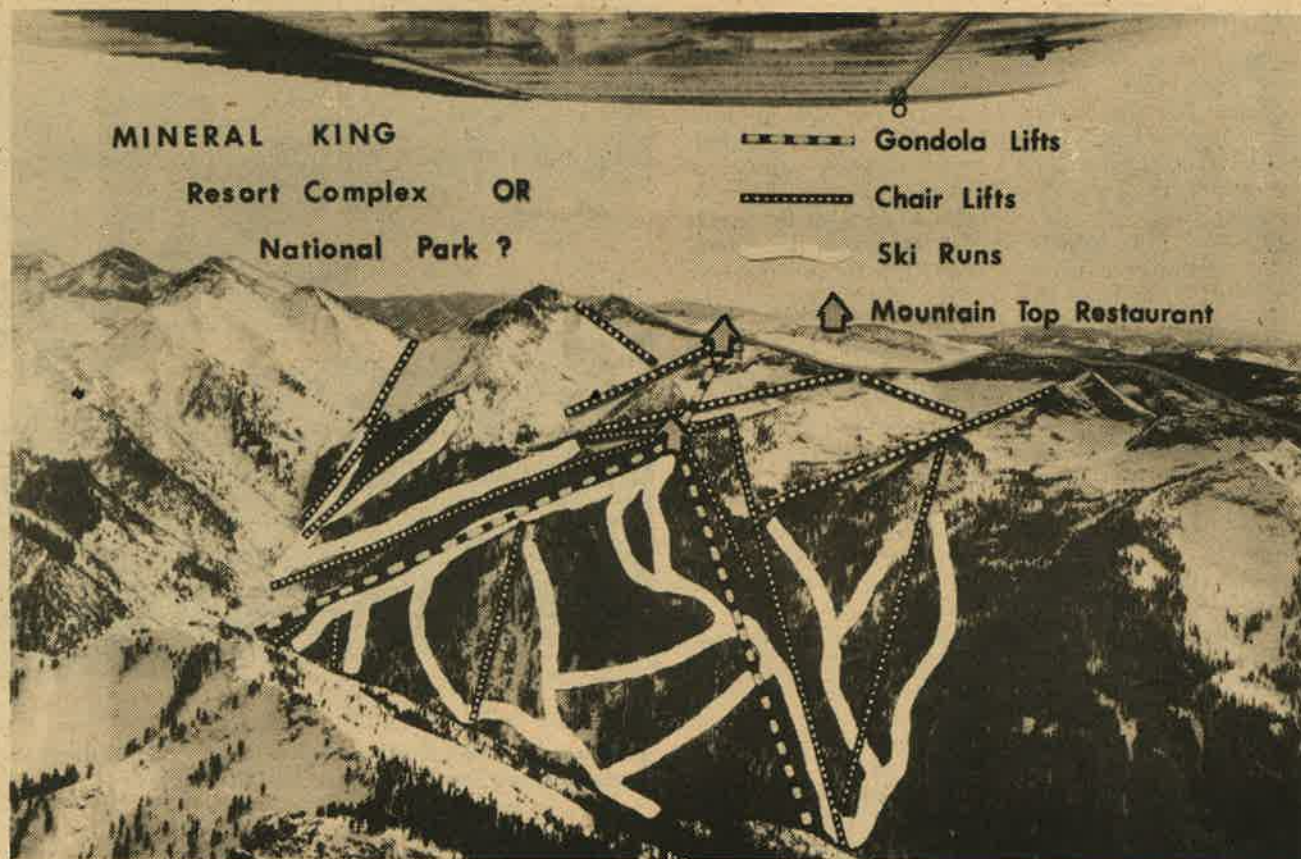
preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest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

Mineral King Park DFG Opposed

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is opposed to National Park status for Mineral King because the department feels the deer herd would not be managed properly. The fact is, however, that the National Park Service has complete authority to manage wildlife under its jurisdiction, including hunting as a means of reducing surplus populations. The inter-agency battle over wildlife management has been raging for years between the two government agencies. DFG prefers retention of wildlife refuge status with more stringent rules governing management of the area a somewhat unrealistic position since it

should now be apparent that Mineral King will either suffer massive development or become part of the National Park System. At this time there is no middle ground.

LETTERS ARE NEEDED now to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, urging him to request the Resources Agency to support National Park Status for Mineral King, reminding him that any problem relating to wildlife management can be resolved legislatively before Mineral King is transferred to the NPS. Send a copy of your letter to: Honorable Clair T. Deidreick, Secretary for Resources, 1416 9th St. Sacto, CA 95814



mitted to other purposes, namely, agricultural. A groundwater study has not been conducted, but this is one of the principle sources listed for water supply. If water sources are not found for mid-terminal restaurants, "water can be transported by gondola from the valley"! When such EIS statements are placed back-to-back, it is obvious that there is quite a problem with supplying this quantity of water for the proposal. A thorough analysis of this EIS would include a discussion of such discrepancies.

The reviewer of an EIS also should be on the lookout for biased assumptions, fallacious statements and illogical conclusions. The Mineral King EIS claims that Mineral King is unavailable for Wilderness consideration because of "the decision made in the the 1960's to develop the area...The developments proposed for the area would, when built, be incompatible with the Wilderness Act." This is a ridiculous statement! Since when does a **decision** to construct something constitute a "trampling by man," as defined by the Wilderness Act? Possible future land use does not in any way change its present condition, which includes areas suitable for wilderness classification. Such statements must not get by the reviewer without comment.

In addition to the above points, a reviewer should add new information whenever possible. Last fall, while doing work for an EIS, an Army Corps of Engineers botanist discovered 30 to 35 plants of a rare wild snapdragon believed to be extinct. This little plant, the furbish lousewort, could thwart

construction of the \$600 million Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric project on the Upper St. John River in northern Maine! If plans continue for construction of the two dams, the Army Corps would come in direct conflict with the Endangered Species Act, which prevents federal projects from destroying rare and endangered species of plants and animals. You, too, might add that missing bit of information which would reorient an entire project!

Last, but not least, NEPA directs the agencies to consider a full range of alternatives to the proposed project. A typical Forest Service planning unit EIS usually lists three to five alternatives.

Be sure to indicate in your EIS response the alternative which best defines the actions, or non-actions, you would like to see happen in the area. If none of the alternatives fits the bill, be flexible: create your own alternative!

The Sequoia National Forest draft EIS on the Little Kern Planning Unit, which covers half of the proposed Golden Trout Wilderness Area, contains eight alternatives. This wide range of alternatives encompasses proposals from continued present management, maximum Wilderness Study, and maximum timber production, to combinations of roadless recreation, selective timber harvest and various sizes of Wilderness Study Areas. This is a commendable array of alternatives.

The Forest Service preferred alternative for this EIS is a combination which was determined after receiving initial public input on the planning unit. Their alternative is not the direction we want for the Little Kern, but it indicates



that some National Forests, at least, are attempting to work within the NEPA framework of responsiveness to the public. This is a far cry from much of the closet planning that has occurred in many of our federal agencies in the past.

Finally, the best way to learn to analyze an EIS is simply by doing it. Throw an EIS answering party. Adopt a National Forest, a ranger district, a planning unit, a Wilderness proposal. If you know an area, you will know how to comment on plans for it when a proposal comes up.

And by all means, don't give up. The environmental impact process is not the only route available to us. It is a tool whereby the public can become intimately involved in the land care planning process of a favorite area. This is very important, for it may eliminate or lessen some of the problems of the past before they happen. But it is not the final step. Only Congress can create a Wilderness Area, and only Congress can stop Disney's "ski circus" designs on Mineral King!

Mineral King Pro-Development Forces

Under auspices of the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, a coalition of labor unions, ski associations, representatives of Disney Productions, and the U.S. Forest Service met to launch a campaign advocating development at Mineral King. The new group, "United Organizations of America," is adamant in opposition to National Park status for Mineral King and will fight a determined battle to develop - and destroy - a precious natural heritage. We cannot let them succeed.

Representative Krebs's Washington office reports that the Congressman is unimpressed by formation of the U.O.A. But in speaking at a local Sierra Club banquet in Fresno on February 26, Krebs, author of H.R. 1771 which would transfer Mineral King to the National Park Service, said that "although we have a better chance than ever before to make Mineral King a part of Sequoia National Park it would be a mistake to take enactment

for granted." He counseled members not to underestimate the "mischief that opponents can cause", and said that labor would try to block the legislation in the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

We cannot ignore the political prowess of organized labor, Walt Disney Productions, and the Forest Service. We must fight now - and hard - to counter this rejuvenated assault on Mineral King.

Although Mineral King hearings have not yet been scheduled, they will be soon. Please write each of your Senators

Ask them to press hard for passage of S.88 and H.R.1771 which would incorporate Mineral King within Sequoia National Park. Tell them:

1. That Mineral King is an area of outstanding scenic and natural qualities that mandate preservation within the National Park System.

2. That Mineral King was gerrymandered from surrounding Sequoia Nation-

al Park because of long defunct mining activity in the late 1800's. Mineral King is an integral part of Sequoia Park's ecosystems and should have been included in the Park originally.

3. Any extensive development at Mineral King would require the illegal construction of a highway or other modes of access across existing Sequoia National Park thus destroying the very resources Sequoia Park was established to protect!

Morrill Resigns

Don Morrill has resigned as the Sierra Club's Northern California Wilderness Coordinator. During his two and one half years with the Sierra Club Don assisted in the formation of numerous ad hoc wilderness groups working to preserve wilderness in Northern California. He was one of the original organizers of the California Wilderness Coalition. And in addition, Don's enthusiasm kept many of us going whenever our efforts began to slow.

Don will be moving to Humboldt County. He intends to continue work for wilderness preservation and possibly attend graduate school.

Don wished to particularly thank all those who supported his work with their volunteer efforts. He says "Through volunteer effort wilderness is becoming a vitally important statewide conservation issue in the public mind."

"In response to the Draft Environmental Statement 23 replies were received within the 60 day response period. An additional 26 replies were received in reaction to an article about roadless area allocation aspects of the draft statement. This article appeared in the California Wilderness Coalition newspaper."

**From the King Planning Unit
Final Environmental Statement**



NORTH FORK AMERICAN

cont. from page 1

ditional rivers, including the North Fork of the American, but this classification does not affect federal dam projects or use of federal lands along the river.

The California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Friends of the Earth and the Wilderness Society recommend the following:

1. The Forest Service should select Alternative E as their recommendation to Congress. The entire stretch of river under study qualifies as "Wild" and should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

2. The Forest Service should not divorce the issues of wild river and wilderness. Wild River designation for the entire stretch of study river will protect some reaches outside the proposed wilderness; wilderness designation will protect a larger area from road building, logging, and the use of motorized vehicles. There is no reason why these two

types of protective designation cannot overlap.

3. Even though their mandate is only to study this 45-mile stretch of river, the Forest Service should look at the entire North Fork of the American River for possible wild river classification. The river from the Cedars to its source should be designated as wild (and included in the proposed Granite Chief Wilderness). Much of the river and its canyon that would be flooded out by the Auburn Dam and Reservoir qualifies as "wild" and should be so designated in lieu of the Dam project. Few of California's rivers flowing out of the Sierra Nevada have such a lengthy stretch of free-flowing river as does the North Fork of the American.

Deadline for comments is May 15, 1977 (The April 15 deadline is in error).

Send your letters to:

Robert G. Lancaster, Supervisor

Tahoe National Forest
Nevada City, California
95959

UPPER TRUCKEE

cont. from page 1

Service Chief John R. McGuire recently reaffirmed these requirements in ruling with environmentalists on an appeal of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Study Area in Idaho.

The Eldorado National Forest, however, ignores this requirement in its justification for expanding the Sierra Ski Ranch. The Forest Service is treating the 250-acre Hanson Canyon as a separate roadless area even though it is immediately adjacent to the Dardanelles Inventoried Roadless Area. As a result, the Service reaches the conclusion that this 250-acre canyon is small in relation to the Dardanelles IRA and has no qualities that would enhance the IRA.

This piecemeal "nib-

bling away" process is in direct contradiction to Forest Service regulations. The Eldorado National Forest anticipates this objection by stating that Hanson Canyon is not part of the inventoried roadless area. The fact that the Canyon was missed during the Roadless Area Review does not excuse the Forest Service from having to study the entire area now.

Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted until May 18, 1977. Comments should be sent to Joseph H. Harn, Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667. Copies of the EIS may be requested at the above address.

Mining Impact Examples Needed

Reform of the antiquated 1872 Mining Law is a strong possibility during this Congress, reports John McComb, new public lands lobbyist for the Sierra Club. The 1872 law is the cause of much needless destruction of wilderness and other environmental values by mining activity. It gives absolute priority to mining over other uses of the public lands. Thus, miners have no incentive to protect the environment.

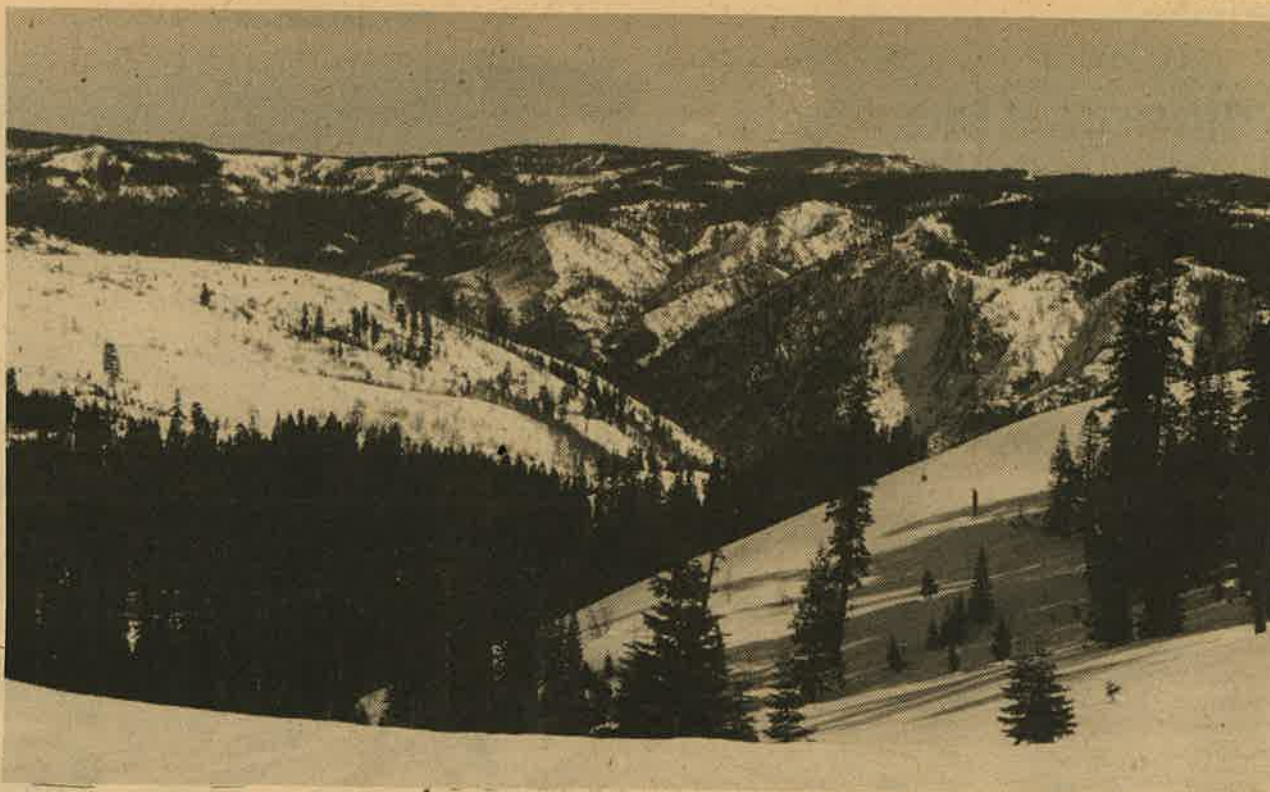
To aid in the reform effort, McComb is seeking information about case examples of mining abuses of the public lands.

McComb is looking for examples of situations where other resource values were so great that mining should never have

occurred; where mining was possibly appropriate but provisions for environmental protection were inadequate; and where existing Forest Service of Bureau of Land Management regulations to control mining were not adequately enforced.

The minimum information needed now is the location of impact; when it occurred; who to contact for additional information (try to give both address and phone number); and the type of problem (e.g., damage to streams, mining in highly scenic area).

Information should be sent as soon as possible to John McComb, Sierra Club, 2014 East Broadway, Room 212, Tucson, Arizona 85719 (or call 602-624-5553).



Headwaters of the North Fork American River Federal and State Wilderness and Scenic River Plans can provide protection for the North Fork American River Canyon.

NORTH FORK AMERICAN STATE PLAN

The California Department of Fish and Game has released a preliminary waterway management plan for the North Fork of the American River prepared to fulfill the requirements of the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the plan contains recommendations for actions by federal, state, and local agencies to maintain the natural characteristics of the river and adjacent lands.

The portion of the North Fork American River designated as a State Wild and Scenic River lies between the Colfax-Iowa Hill Bridge and the source of the river along the Sierra crest near Squaw Valley. This encompasses 48 miles of the North Fork, entirely within Placer County.

The State Wild and Scenic River differs from the Federal study being conducted for the North Fork in several important aspects. First, the State wild river extends beyond the Cedars to include the headwaters of the river. This headwaters region lies within the proposed Granite Chief Wilderness.

The Federal wild river would protect a narrow strip of land no less than one-quarter-mile in width on each side of the river.

The State's Wild and Scenic River planning area is generally wider. For the most part, the planning area boundaries were determined to be a break in topography between the main canyon and the more gently sloped uplands. Above Royal Gorge, the boundaries follow the drainage divide around the headwaters area, including fragile environments near the river's

source and encompassing the viewshed. The planning area in the Federal study contains about 13,000 acres of land; the State planning area totals about 62,000 acres.

The State's preliminary plan has 122 recommendations for the management of the Wild and Scenic North Fork American River. These recommendations cover such topics as mining, timber management, trail bike use, backpacking, river running, residential use, as well as general recommendations. Most of the recommendations call for a high degree of protection for the river and its watershed.

The State is soliciting comments on this preliminary plan. Opposition to the plan is expected from miners, off-road vehicle users, and local property owners. Strong support for the waterways plan is needed to counter these special interests.

Copies of the plan are available from the Department of Fish and Game, Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments may be sent to the same address no later than May 22, 1977.

KING UNIT

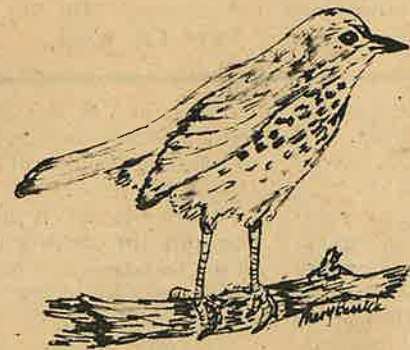
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spondents to the DES requested such study.

Conservationists feel that the FES for the King Planning Unit does not meet the requirements of the decision in **Sierra Club vs. Butz**, which requires a re-evaluation of wilderness qualities of inventoried roadless areas during unit planning, or the directive of Chief John McGuire of August 28, 1974, which requires additional road-

less lands discovered in unit planning to be treated as inventoried roadless areas (half the roadless land in the King Planning Unit falls into this category).

Forest Service decision whether to adopt the proposed plan is expected after May 5. An appeal is being considered by conservationists if deficiencies in the plan and FES remain uncorrected.



Sierra Hermit Thrush

Snow Mountain Study

In early March, Coalition officers Phil Farrell and Jim Eaton met with Mendocino National Forest Planner Tom Crimmins to discuss the Snow Mountain wilderness study now underway.

Farrell and Eaton expressed to Crimmins the strong desire of wilderness conservationists to see the entire Snow Mountain Study Area, plus any suitable additions, preserved as wilderness.

Crimmins indicated that several alternative boundaries for a Snow Mountain Wilderness were under study. He also outlined the planning process to be followed.

A "working committee" comprised of local citizens representing diverse interests is being formed. This

committee will review Forest Service planning efforts at every stage. Management alternatives will be finalized this summer. Existing resource information, plus updates where needed, will then be used to assess the alternatives and prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the fall. The Draft will propose one alternative as the Forest Service preferred alternative.

After approval by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Draft EIS will be released for public review and comment in January 1978. A hearing on the Forest Service proposal will be held according to Wilderness Act procedures. The final Forest Service proposal will be developed after consideration of public input and sent to Congress by the statutory deadline of October 1978.

Conservationists should express early their support of a Snow Mountain Wilderness and their desire to get on the mailing list for notification of the Draft EIS and public hearings on the wilderness proposal. Write to Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, 420 East Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988.