



Wilderness Record

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 2

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

July-August, 1977

No. 3

New Forest Service Program

NEW CHANCE FOR WILDERNESS

More than four million acres of potential wilderness has received a new lease on life. Roadless areas on California's National Forests are being restudied for their wilderness potential. Citizens have an unprecedented chance to push for protection of these wild but threatened lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is resurrecting a new Wilderness Evaluation from the remains of their 1972 Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) program. This new procedure is beginning with an inventory of roadless areas and will finish next summer with the selection of new wilderness areas, study areas, and "release"

areas (the "released" areas will be available for non-wilderness uses). Opportunities for public involvement will be added from time-to-time during the coming year.

This new Wilderness Evaluation is being called RARE II by some environmentalists; others call it Son of RARE or RARE 1977. It will be the Forest Service's method of resolving the question of how much National Forest land and National Grasslands should be designated as wilderness.

The new program will correct many of the faults of the original RARE process. Definitions will be standard throughout the Nation, and an accurate inventory of roadless lands is promised. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

The inventory of roadless areas will show potential wilderness lands without regard to proposed management plans or existing uses. This time there will be no fragmentation of roadless areas or preconceived boundaries. The public will be fully involved and able to suggest additions and corrections to the inventory.

The public will also have a chance to say which roadless areas they would like to see made

cont. on page 5

Join the Coalition

The California Wilderness Coalition is a membership organization. It needs the energy and money of its members. With a wilderness review program of monumental proportions about to begin, the Endangered America Wilderness Act nearing crucial votes, and a state wilderness program in high gear, there is an urgent need for the Coalition to step up its activities.

But this increase in activity can only come about with an increase in membership. New members are needed to provide the energy, activism, enthusiasm, and financial support for new programs. Additional contributions from old members are also important at this crucial time.

This issue of the **Wilderness Record**

contains eight pages of news and features twice the size of a normal issue. We hope you find it twice as interesting. Larger editions, like this, and more frequent publication can only be implemented on a regular basis if membership increases.

Won't you please consider joining the Coalition, if you are not already a member? Don't you owe it to yourself to support efforts to preserve the wilderness you love? If you are already a member, please make an effort to find a new member. Imagine how much more could be done by us all if every member could find another to swell the ranks!

An application form is included on this page for your convenience. We hope you will use it today.



Frog Lake - potential addition to Mokelumne Wilderness to be reconsidered in new Forest Service program.

State Hearings Set

Public hearings to consider potential additions to the California State Wilderness System have been set for August 10, 11, 15, and 17 in Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, and San Francisco. The hearing record will be open for written comments until August 24, 1977.

These hearings are an

important part of the review process established by the California Wilderness Act. The major steps so far have been the identification of roadless areas on state-owned lands by the Resources Agency and State Lands Commission, the review of these areas by the state departments, and the development of tentative wilderness recommendations by the departments.

These tentative wilderness recommendations will be the subject of the public hearings. They will be reconsidered by the Resources Agency in light of the public input received at the hearings, and they may be expanded or contracted before final recommendations are sent to the state Legislature by January 1, 1978.

All public input received will be included in the report to the Legislature. Only the Legislature can

designate state-owned lands as "Wilderness Areas" under the provisions of the California Wilderness Act, except that State Park System lands can also be designated as "State Wilderness," a less permanent but equally restrictive classification, by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

While the state wilderness program has generated little controversy so far in comparison to federal wilderness issues, it has met with considerable apathy and even hostility from the state agencies themselves. Thus, a strong showing of support for wilderness designations by citizens either at the hearings, or in letters for the hearing record, will provide the momentum for the wilderness program.

An information packet should be available in early July from the Resources

Agency, giving preliminary agency wilderness recommendations and background information on each area under review. For a copy, write to: California Resources Agency, Office of the Secretary, Attn. Jim Burns, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1131, Sacramento, Ca. 95814. Or phone Mr. Burns at 916-445-0178. Copies of the information packet will also be available at the hearings.

A supplement to the March-April 1977 issue of the **Wilderness Record** contained detailed background information about the California state wilderness program. Extra copies are available upon request from the Coalition.

Locations for the state wilderness hearings are given below. All hearings are presently scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., cont. on page 8

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: _____

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)	25*

† not tax deductible
* minimum

USFS Backs Calif. Wilderness Areas

Reflecting President Carter's concern for the environment, the U.S. Forest Service now supports Wilderness designation for three California areas. They are Ventana Wilderness Additions, Santa Lucia, and Golden Trout, all part of the pending Endangered American Wilderness Act. Conservationists are happy to see the Forest Service supporting these proposals, although they object to the Service's inadequate acreage for Golden Trout.

Details of the Forest Service's position on these California areas are part of their recommendations on

Congressman Morris K. Udall's H.R. 3354, the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977. The bill would designate 22 wilderness and wilderness study areas in western states.

The Forest Service is supporting the 61,080 acre Ventana Wilderness Additions in Monterey County. The four proposed additions would add land in the Miller Creek, Church Creek, Tassajara Creek, Santa Lucia Creek, and Cone Peak-Coast Ridge areas. When this legislation is passed the expanded Ventana Wilderness will total more than 155,000 acres.

The proposed Santa Lucia Wilderness in San Luis Obispo County is now recommended for immediate wilderness designation, although the Forest Service is proposing to exclude 325 acres containing a powerline corridor, two electronic sites, a lookout tower, road, commercial telephone line, and the City of San Luis Obispo lands. In years past the Forest Service has refused to admit that the proposed 21,250-acre Santa Lucia area even qualified for wilderness designation. Conservationists are delighted that the agency is now supporting wilderness for most of the area.

They are not pleased, however, with the Forest Service proposal for Golden Trout Wilderness. The Forest Service is asking that only 179,625 acres be designated as wilderness so that more than 230,000 acres can be roaded, logged, jeeped, and motorbiked. This plan is not adequate to protect this magnificent area, and citizens plan to continue their fight to see that all of the proposed Golden Trout Wilderness is protected by law.

The House Interior Committee expects to report out Udall's bill this summer for action by the full House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate has not begun considering the issue, but hearings could be held as early as this fall.



Lopez Canyon in the Santa Lucia Wilderness Proposal

WILDERNESS BILL ADVANCES

The Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977 has cleared the first of several legislative hurdles in Washington, D.C.

The three California proposals in the bill are the Ventana Wilderness Additions, Santa Lucia, and Golden Trout. All three areas came through a markup session of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs & Public Lands of the House Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs in good shape.

The Subcommittee favorably reported the 61,800-acre Ventana Wilderness Additions on the Los Padres National Forest. They also okayed the 21,250-acre Santa Lucia wilderness, although a

powerline corridor was placed in "Wilderness Reserve" to be designated as wilderness, subject only to the removal of the existing and temporary nonconforming improvement.

The Golden Trout wilderness proposal survived an attempt by Congressman James Johnson (Colorado) to have it dropped from the bill. The Subcommittee supports a 410,000 acre wilderness with 6,000 acres to be studied further due to its potential for downhill skiing.

The bill now moves to the full House Interior Committee. The Senate has yet to begin consideration of the measure.

USDA STUDY:

Preserve Sierra Wilderness

A U.S. Department of Agriculture study has recently recommended that all remaining wilderness resource lands within the San Joaquin River Basin be preserved as wilderness. The recommendation is in a draft report on a river basin study being conducted by the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and Economic Research Service for the San Joaquin River Basin.

The purpose of the study is to identify long-term, water-related land resource problems within the region, and to suggest solutions to aid local and regional decision-makers. Included within the study region are all the lands draining into the San Joaquin Valley, from the Stanislaus River south to the Tehachapi Mountains.

Using existing National Park Service and Forest Service inventories, the report finds, that, besides the 500,000 acres of classified Wilderness Areas

within the Basin, 2.4 million acres of other wilderness resource lands are still available for classification. If present trends continue, however, 300,000 acres of this wilderness resource will be lost to other uses, principally timber production, by the year 2000, according to the report. Noting that there is a high public demand for wilderness preservation in this region, the report recommends that measures be taken to prevent further loss of wilderness lands, and to preserve all 2.9 million acres of wilderness resource lands within the Basin.

The report notes that the minor loss of timber-producing capability, if all wilderness in the Basin is preserved, can easily be made up by recommended intensive management practices on other forest areas, both public and private. Indeed, even under an alternative plan which maximizes national

economic development, the report recommends that only 100,000 acres of wilderness be developed for other uses.

The river basin planning staff is soliciting comments from the public on the draft report. Conservationists are urging retention of the very good recommendations for wilderness preservation. They feel that the final report can be improved through use of the new roadless area inventories being prepared by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, and through a revision to include preservation of additional wilderness resource lands located by these new inventories.

Your letter urging support for the wilderness recommendation should be sent, by July 15 if possible to Francis Lum, Chairman USDA Field Advisory Committee, 2828 Chiles Road, Davis, Ca. 95616. A copy of the report can be requested from the same address.

CWC Hires Staff

The California Wilderness Coalition is taking a giant leap forward by hiring its first employees. Two half-time positions were filled in June.

Julie Sullivan is the Coalition's office coordinator. She has an A.B. from Yale in Chinese, which will be handy for evaluating Forest Service Environmental Impact Statements. Julie's job is keeping the CWC running by keeping up with memberships, renewals, changes of address, requests for information, questionnaires, filing, local volunteers and anything else we can talk her into doing.

Our executive officer is Phil Farrell. He works on special projects and sees to the general operation of

the Coalition. His main task is the setting up of the California Wilderness Foundation to receive tax deductible contributions. Phil is a collector of B.S.; he has one from Stanford in Geophysics and another from U.C. Berkeley in Forestry.

We are too embarrassed to mention their salaries - it comes out of petty cash. This will be corrected as soon as possible. We want to bring them up to poverty level, at least.

Things are already improving the Coalition. Last year's letters have been answered, and new projects are underway. If Julie and Phil can withstand the low pay and high Davis temperatures, you can look forward to new levels of Coalition activities and effectiveness.



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The WILDERNESS RECORD is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 429, Davis CA 95616. Telephone is (916) 758-0380. Articles may be reprinted. Credit would be appreciated.

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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 carry-

ing 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.

Environmental Message to Congress

Carter Supports Wilderness

WILDERNESS PROGRAMS

President Carter is revising wilderness proposals of previous Administrations to reflect his views and philosophy on preservation. Although no California areas were on the list of enlarged areas, citizens are hoping that Carter at a later date will support their wilderness proposals for such places as the Trinity Alps and Death Valley.

The President also announced that he will give early attention to wilderness proposals for the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and for Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona, which would be the first wilderness area on Bureau of Land Management lands. He also has directed an initiation of a vigorous wilderness program for other lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

In his message to Congress, President Carter remarked:

"When the Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, it established a landmark of American conservation policy. The National Wilderness Preservation System created by this Act must be expanded promptly, before the most deserving areas of federal lands are opened to other uses and lost to wilderness forever.

I endorse, and in some cases am proposing to expand, all of the more than 24 million acres of wilderness proposals submitted to the Congress by previous Administrations."

"I recognize the special need to preserve wilderness east of the Rockies and in Alaska, and I am directing that federal agencies expedite the preparation of wilderness proposals for these areas.

"Finally, I have directed the Secretary of the Interior to initiate a vigorous wilderness program for the Bureau of Land Management under the new Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976."

ORV CONTROLS

Despite receiving many thousands of letters and telegrams protesting any further controls on the use of off-road vehicles, President Carter took another step towards preventing damage to the public lands by motor vehicles. He told Congress:

"While off-road vehicles provide enjoyment and recreation for many, their indiscriminate use poses a threat to our public lands. Uncontrolled, they have ruined fragile soils, harassed wildlife, and damaged unique archaeological sites.

"In 1972, federal agencies began to control the use of such vehicles on the public lands under Executive Order 11644. While these regulations have achieved some measure of protection for the soil, vegetation, and other values of the public lands, environmental damage has continued in certain areas. Accordingly, I am today amending this Executive Order to exclude off-road vehicles from certain portions of the public lands where their use has caused or seems likely to cause considerable environmental damage."

Although the changes in the Executive Order were not as strong as some environmentalists had hoped for, this portion of President Carter's environmental message shows the continuing concern of the administration for the destruction wrought by off-road vehicles. This is seen in one of the major amendments added to Executive Order 11644:

"Sec. 9. Special Protection of the Public Lands.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3 of this Order, the respective agency head shall, whenever he determines that the use of off-road vehicles will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands, im-

mediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effects, until such time as he determines that adverse effects have been eliminated and that measures have been implemented to prevent future recurrence.

"(b) Each respective agency head is authorized to adopt the policy that portions of the public lands within this jurisdiction shall be closed to use by off-road vehicles except those areas or trails which are suitable and specifically designated as open to such use pursuant to Section 3 of this Order."

MINING LAW REFORM

In his environmental message to Congress, President Carter expressed his wish to see the archaic 1872 Mining Law replaced with legislation reflecting the needs of the 20th Century. President Carter stated:

"For more than a century, the development of hardrock minerals on the public lands has been governed by the Mining Law of 1872. This law once served an important purpose: encouraging settlement of the West and rapid development of mineral wealth there. But it is now outdated and inadequate. It fails to set forth clear authority for establishing

environmental standards, and in some cases has allowed mining operations to degrade the water, soil, and air. It ignores the need for balanced management of resources and it has permitted the public's mineral resources to be developed without any royalty return to the federal treasury.

"Therefore I am today instructing the Secretary of the Interior to prepare, for submission to the Congress, legislation to replace the Mining Law of 1872 with one more suited to contemporary needs. Among its provisions should be these: (1) a leasing system for publicly owned hardrock minerals; (2) explicit federal discretionary authority over mineral exploration and development on the public lands; (3) strict standards for environmental protection and for reclamation of mined areas; (4) a requirement for approval of operation and reclamation plans before mining can begin; (5) royalties for the use of public lands and mineral resources; and (6) the integration of mining into land-use plans being developed for the public lands."

This new legislation would provide much greater protection for wilderness and potential wilderness lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. This will be especially important for

the California Desert where prospecting by bulldozer and environmentally unsound mining practices have been particularly damaging to wild lands.

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

President Jimmy Carter is asking Congress to add eight rivers totaling 1303 miles to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to order the study of 20 additional rivers. According to the President:

"To date only 19 free-flowing rivers, totaling 1,655 miles, have been designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Another 31 rivers have been identified as worthy of study for designation in the future.

"We must identify as quickly as possible the best remaining candidates for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System before they are dammed, channelized, or damaged by unwise development along their banks."

Among the new study rivers is California's Kern River, which flows through the proposed wilderness areas of Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout. Wild River protection for the Kern would give additional protection to these long-standing wilderness proposals.



Should historic structures like this stay in Wilderness Areas?

Wilderness Digest Ready

The WILDERNESS DIGEST, a guide for all California wildernesses plus the Grand Canyon, is published in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and California State Parks. The 1977-78 issue details permit regulations, supplemental rules, access roads and trails, and addresses and phone numbers for each area. The DIGEST includes suggestions on where to

go to avoid the crowds, a description of the permit system, and good advice about wilderness ethics, hypothermia and bears, all in a handy paperback size.

If there's no copy in your backpack store, you can order one for \$1.50 from:

WILDERNESS DIGEST
P.O. Box 787

Lone Pine, Ca. 93545
Incidentally, the cover of the DIGEST is marked "Reproduction encouraged."

USFS Purity Arguments Dropped

Environmentalists and the U.S. Forest Service have long battled over what you can and can't do in a designated wilderness.

In years past the Forest Service has held a "purist" approach to wilderness management. They have opposed rustic toilets, snow monitoring devices, historic structures, and the like, in wilderness areas.

During the hearings on the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977, Oregon's Congressman Jim Weaver asked specific questions of the Forest Service relating to wilderness management. Dr. Rupert Cutler, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, responded to these questions with specific policies now used by the Forest Service. Dr. Cutler's answers indicate that the Forest Service is now managing wilderness much as many environmentalists would like.

Here are excerpts from the questions and answers given at the May 2, 1977, hearing:

Mr. Weaver: What are the Forest Service management objectives for wilderness? What is it you are trying to accomplish with your specific policies?

Dr. Cutler: There are seven elements which summarize the Department's wilderness management objectives:

- 1) Maintain an enduring system of high-quality wilderness.
- 2) Perpetuate the wilderness resource.
- 3) Consistent with these first two, provide opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of wilderness and the unique experiences dependent upon a wilderness setting.
- 4) Maintain plants and animals indigenous to the area.
- 5) Accommodate and administer those "non-

conforming, but excepted" uses provided in the Act in a way to minimize their impacts.

6) Maintain stable watersheds.

7) Consider protection needs for endangered species and their habitats.

Forest Service wilderness management actions are guided by the basic principles embraced by the following questions:

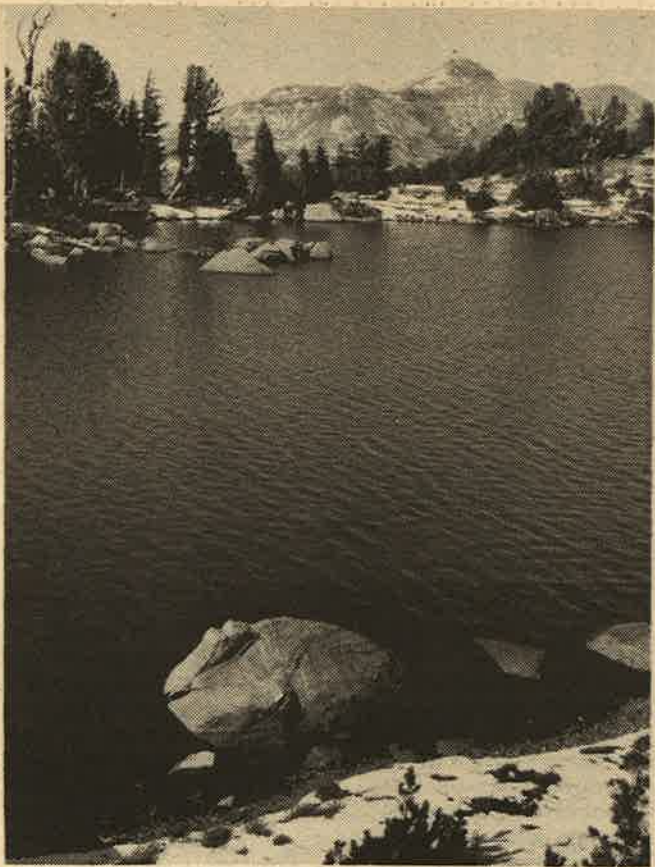
- 1) Is it necessary to protect the resource and manage the use?
- 2) Is it the minimum action or facility required to accomplish the objective?
- 3) Does it protect the wilderness values?
- 4) Does it pass a test of reason and common sense?

Mr. Weaver: What is the Forest Service Policy on toilets in classified wilderness? Are they allowed? Under what conditions or criteria do you allow them?

Dr. Cutler: Latrines may be provided in National Forest wildernesses where they are deemed essential for protection of the wilderness resource. They are not installed primarily for the convenience of the user. By "latrine" we mean anything from a typical pit toilet with rustic walls and roof down to a screened "one-holer" without walls or overhead shelter.

Mr. Weaver: What kind of facilities do you allow in wilderness, such as hitching posts, rustic shelter, trail signs, water supply developments, bridges, and so forth? What do you do with facilities that are already there when an area is classified, such as old cabins or other historic structures?

Dr. Cutler: Hitchracks, where needed to prevent damage to the wilderness resource, will be located away from main trails, cont. on page 6



Looking across Winnemucca Lake to proposed Upper Truckee Wilderness

Public Involvement - Round One

The first opportunity for the public to get active in the new Wilderness Evaluation comes in July and August. Seventeen public workshops are scheduled throughout California. Written comments will also be accepted. These workshops will give citizens a chance to

see what the Forest Service has inventoried as roadless and undeveloped areas. Additions and corrections should be pointed out - the Forest Service promises to be responsive and either to include new areas in their list or publish them on separate lists. Wilderness supporters will have the opportunity

to make general comments on what type of areas will help round out our National Wilderness Preservation System. Citizens may want to point out that we need wilderness areas representing many different ecosystems, areas near big cities, and areas containing rare species of plants and animals.

It is important that these workshops not turn into "wilderness disposal" sessions. Environmental groups are taking the position that areas should not be released from wilderness study solely for lack of public support. All areas should be studied for wilderness unless overwhelming evidence already exists that exploitive uses are of greater benefit to society than wilderness.

The meetings are specifically scheduled for weekends and evenings to allow working citizens a chance to attend. Please try to make it to a workshop. The success of this new Wilderness Evaluation depends upon our participation.

Seventeen workshops are scheduled for California. The Forest Service is requesting that individuals pre-register so that pre-work materials can be sent to them. However, pre-registration is **not** required; you may simply show up at the workshop if you desire. Local Forests will bring detailed information to the workshop, but inventory maps for the entire state will be available at each workshop. If you want to notify the Forest Service that you will be attending a workshop, contact the coordinating office.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM TIMETABLE

The Forest Service has a tentative schedule for its Wilderness Evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands. The process began in June and is expected to run into the summer of 1978. Although the

specific deadlines may change, the relative position of the steps in the review will likely remain the same.

June 15-Begin initial inventory of roadless lands.

July & August-Hold public workshops on inventory.

Sept. 15-Close public comment period.

September-Analyze public response.

October 1 - Complete inventory of roadless areas.

Nov. & Dec.- Public meetings to rank suitability of areas.

January 1 - Begin evaluation of alternative plans.

February 1-Complete evaluation of alternatives.

March 1-File Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

March & April- Public involvement sessions on draft plan.

May 1-Review and evaluate public responses.

June 1 -File Final Environmental Impact Statement.

August - Complete Wilderness Evaluation program.

Was RARE Well Done?

A dramatic new wilderness review program for the national forests is being undertaken by the Carter administration. In large part, it will build and improve upon an earlier program, called the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (known as "RARE"), that was conducted by the Forest Service from 1971 to 1973.

The old RARE program had many inconsistencies and shortcomings, which are the reason for a new program now.

The first step in RARE was an inventory of remaining wilderness resource lands. The criteria specified were that these lands be unroaded and undeveloped. Local field offices of the Forest Service were ordered to inventory these lands during the winter and spring of 1971-72.

While showing that there was far more wilderness resource left on the national forests than most people had imagined, this inventory of roadless areas was inadequate in several ways.

"Roadlessness" was never defined by the national office of the Forest Service, so that many different and inconsistent definitions were used by different field offices. Large roadless areas were often subdivided into smaller units on the basis of factors that had nothing to do with wilderness values.

The inventory was rushed and done with little field work. Conser-

vationists had very little opportunity to conduct their own field studies. When they did supply information to correct the inventory, it was ignored.

This incomplete, but nevertheless extensive, inventory of roadless areas, totaling over 3.3 million acres in California alone, was next evaluated to select study areas to be considered for Wilderness classification.

Subjective recommendations of national forest supervisors and regional foresters were heavily relied upon in this process.

An attempt was also made to devise quantitative ratings to help choose the most suitable areas for wilderness study.

The infamous "Quality Index" was the result. Its purpose was to rate the "wilderness quality" of each roadless area on a numerical scale. It was a cornerstone of the RARE program and has been widely used in Forest Service planning since.

Unfortunately, the Quality Index turned out to be the gravestone for many roadless areas, because the things it measures have little to do with wilderness quality. The Quality Index measures scenic and recreational characteristics of the roadless areas compared to the traditional alpine landscape model. Many of its components are contradictory to each other. Virtually all require highly subjective judgments.

The result, which has been shown in many case examples, was that the

Quality Index rating could be and often was manipulated to fit the preconceived notions of the reviewer.

The costs of Wilderness classification in terms of foregone resource uses were considered as well. These were often just ballpark guesses. Conceptual errors also limited their usefulness: for example, the cost of road construction that would be needed for resource exploitation was listed as an economic benefit rather than a cost!

Public input played a role in the selection of study areas. But the deck was stacked against citizen involvement, at least in California. Only a few public hearings were held on short notice. Information documents were often difficult to obtain. Hurried deadlines prevented opportunities for field studies. Public comment which referred to a particular area by other than the most current "official" name was often ignored.

What were the results of RARE? From the 136 inventoried roadless areas comprising 3.3 million acres in California, 21 areas totaling nearly one million acres were selected as "new wilderness study areas" (often called simply new study areas). However, one-fourth of this total acreage consisted of areas **already studied** in conjunction with Primitive Area reviews required by the Wilderness Act.

These new study areas, plus additional ones in other states, were **cont. on page 8**

USFS Wilderness Evaluation

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COORDINATION OFFICE	
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Sacramento California Cal-State University 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA.	Eldorado National Forest 100 Forni Road Placerville, CA. 95667 (916) 622-5061	July 30, 1977
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Fresno California Clovis High School 5550 N. Fowler Clovis, CA.	Sierra National Forest Federal Building 1130 "O" Street Fresno, CA. 93721 (209) 487-5155	August 3, 1977
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Oroville California Las Plumas High School 238 Las Plumas Ave. Oroville, CA.	Plumas National Forest 159 Lawrence Street Quincy, CA. 95971 (916) 283-2050	August 3, 1977
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	San Diego California U.S. Grant Hotel 326 Broadway San Diego, CA.	Cleveland National Forest 880 Front St. - Rm 6-S-5 San Diego, CA. 92188 (714) 293-5050	August 4, 1977
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Santa Ana California City Hall Annex City of Santa Ana 530 N. Ross Santa Ana, CA.	Cleveland National Forest 880 Front St. - Rm 6-S-5 San Diego, CA. 92188 (714) 293-5050	August 6, 1977
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Eureka California Eureka Senior High Sch. 1915 J Street Eureka, CA.	Six Rivers National Forest 507 "F" Street Eureka, CA. 95501 (707) 442-1721	August 6, 1977
July 30, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Bishop California Bishop Union High Sch. 301 N. Fowler Bishop, CA.	Inyo National Forest 873 North Main St. Bishop, CA. 93514 (714) 873-5841	August 8, 1977
July 30, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Pasadena California Pasadena City College 1570 East Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA.	Angeles National Forest 150 S. Los Robles Room 300 Pasadena, CA. 91101 (213) 577-0050	August 13, 1977

USFS Wilderness Evaluation Workshops

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COORDINATION OFFICE		DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COORDINATION OFFICE
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Sacramento California Cal-State University 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA.	Eldorado National Forest 100 Forni Road Placerville, CA. 95667 (916) 622-5061		July 30, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Bakersfield California West High School 1200 N. Stien Road Bakersfield, CA.	Sequoia National Forest 900 W. Grand Ave. Porterville, CA. 93257 (202) 784-1500
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Fresno California Clovis High School 5550 N. Fowler Clovis, CA.	Sierra National Forest Federal Building 1130 "O" Street Fresno, CA. 93721 (209) 487-5155		August 3, 1977	7:00 P.M.	Ukiah California Nekomis Elementary Sch. 495 Washington Street Ukiah, CA.	Mendocino National Forest 420 E. Laurel Street Willows, CA 95988 (916) 934-3316
July 16, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Oroville California Las Plumas High School 238 Las Plumas Ave. Oroville, CA.	Plumas National Forest 159 Lawrence Street Quincy, CA. 95971 (916) 283-2050		August 3, 1977	6:30 P.M.	Susanville California Lassen College Highway 139 Susanville, CA.	Lassen National Forest 707 Nevada Street Susanville, CA 96130 (916) 257-2151
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	San Diego California U.S. Grant Hotel 326 Broadway San Diego, CA.	Cleveland National Forest 880 Front St. - Rm 6-S-5 San Diego, CA. 92188 (714) 293-5050		August 4, 1977	7:00 P.M.	Alturas California Modoc High School Alturas, CA.	Modoc National Forest 441 N. Main Street Alturas, CA 96101 (916) 233-3521
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Santa Ana California City Hall Annex City of Santa Ana 530 N. Ross Santa Ana, CA.	Cleveland National Forest 880 Front St. - Rm 6-S-5 San Diego, CA. 92188 (714) 293-5050		August 6, 1977	10:00 A.M.	Ashland Oregon Southern Oregon College Ashland, Oregon	Klamath National Forest 1215 South Main Yreka, CA 96097 (916) 842-2741
July 23, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Eureka California Eureka Senior High Sch. 1915 J Street Eureka, CA.	Six Rivers National Forest 507 "F" Street Eureka, CA. 95501 (707) 442-1721		August 6, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Redding California Civic Auditorium & Convention Center Redding, CA.	Shasta-Trinity Nat'l Forest 1615 Continental Street Redding, CA 96001 (916) 246-5222
July 30, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Bishop California Bishop Union High Sch. 301 N. Fowler Bishop, CA.	Inyo National Forest 873 North Main St. Bishop, CA. 93514 (714) 873-5841		August 6, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Santa Barbara California La Colina Jr. High School 4025 Foothill Santa Barbara, CA	Los Padres National Forest 42 Aero Camino Goleta, CA 93017 (805) 968-1578
July 30, 1977	9:00 A.M.	Pasadena California Pasadena City College 1570 East Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA.	Angeles National Forest 150 S. Los Robles Room 300 Pasadena, CA. 91101 (213) 577-0050		August 8, 1977	1-4:00 P.M. 7-10:00 P.M.	Reno Nevada Pioneer Inn 221 S. Virginia Reno, NEV	U.S. Forest Service 630 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111 (415) 556-0122
					August 13, 1977	9:00 A.M.	San Francisco California Airport Roadway Inn 380 South Airport Blvd. South San Francisco, CA.	U.S. Forest Service 630 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111 (415) 556-0122

New Chance for Wilderness

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immediate wilderness, to be studied further, or to be released for development. In addition to public meetings, the Forest Service plans a national poll to obtain opinions on how large and diverse the National Wilderness Preservation System should be.

Environmentalists will have to watch this Wilderness Evaluation to make sure that large numbers of roadless areas are not placed on the "release" list. Most areas should at least be studied further to determine their best management.

The selection of instant wilderness areas for a direct recommendation to Congress is an excellent opportunity to move along many long-standing proposals. Many areas, like Mt. Shasta, Granite Chief, Carson-Iceberg, San Joaquin, and the White Mountains, should be chosen for immediate wilderness designation. Numerous California roadless areas should be placed on the instant list.

The crucial part of this Wilderness Evaluation is public involvement. Wilderness supporters **must** express their opinions if we are to preserve additional wilderness areas. The California Wilderness Coalition will keep you informed on how to help. If you are not now receiving our wilderness alerts, drop us a line.

The first round of public workshops is published in this paper. We hope to see you at one of these meetings.



Roadless areas that cross Forest boundaries, such as Carson-Iceberg, above, must now be inventoried as one area.

WHAT IS A ROADLESS AREA?

With the Forest Service embarking on a new Wilderness Evaluation, the question arises: what is a roadless and undeveloped area?

In the earlier 1972 review there were no definitions of "roadless" and "undeveloped". Different National Forests used different criteria. Some areas were not inventoried as roadless due to historic wagon trails now used by jeeps, motorcycle trails or private land.

This time around the Forest Service intends to do a complete inventory of roadless lands. This identification of wild areas is not to be influenced by proposed management plans. The evaluation of the best uses for these lands will be done **after** a complete inventory is made.

Definitions have been distributed to all National Forests. The criteria for roadless areas should be fairly uniform across the Nation. Many new potential wilderness areas are expected to be identified as a result of these standards.

A road is defined as a vehicle way that was constructed and/or maintained by mechanized equipment to a standard suitable for public travel by motorized vehicles intended primarily for highway travel. It has a definite road prism with cuts and fills and has, or should have, constructed drainage.

In the 1972 review, many National Forests left out areas with routes pioneered by jeeps. This time these areas will (or should be) inventoried as roadless.

Both firebreaks and fuelbreaks may be included within an inventoried roadless area unless they contain a mechanically-constructed road.

A roadless area may include timber harvest areas where logging is not evident. Areas may be included which contain

early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or where clear cuts have regenerated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas.

Plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident may be inventoried.

Areas with evidence of historic mining (50 years ago) may be included. Areas of significant current mineral activity including prospecting with mechanical earthmoving equipment should not be included. Areas should not be excluded where the only evidence of prospecting is holes which have been drilled without the need for access roads to the site.

Areas will not be inventoried that have significant leases issued under the 1920 Leasing Act (oil and gas, geothermal, coal, phosphate, etc.). Prospecting permits would generally not cause an area to be excluded.

Roadless areas may have minor range improvements such as fences and water troughs but not type conversion where chained trees are readily visible and apparent.

Spray or burning projects should not be excluded where there is little or no evidence of the project.

Television, radio and telephone repeaters, and the like may be included, provided their impact is minimal.

Telephone lines, powerlines, and underground pipelines should generally be excluded if they involve a cleared right-of-way. Ground-return telephone lines may be included.

Roadless areas may have occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps.

Developed sites will generally not be included. Minor developments that

could be easily removed do not disqualify an area.

Watershed treatment areas may be included only where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. Areas will not be excluded where minor watershed treatment has been accomplished by hand, such as small hand constructed gully plugs.

Areas will be inventoried only if they contain more than 70 per cent Federal ownership unless Federal lands can be managed in their natural condition. This criterion may affect numerous areas on the Tahoe and Shasta-Trinity National Forests that have checkerboard land patterns resulting from early railroad land grants.

Airstrips and helispots may be included in a roadless area.

In the previous inventory, there were many instances where an area was broken up into separate roadless areas. This time around these areas will be consolidated and given one name even if the area lies on more than one Forest. If a roadless area goes beyond the Forest boundary to lands administered by other Federal agencies, it will be inventoried to the Forest boundary, and it will be noted that the area extends onto other lands.

Normally an area needs to be of at least 5,000 acres to be inventoried, but any

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on Workshops

977	9:00 A.M.	Bakersfield California West High School 1200 N. Stien Road Bakersfield, CA.	Sequoia National Forest 900 W. Grand Ave. Porterville, CA. 93257 (202) 784-1500
977	7:00 P.M.	Ukiah California Nekomis Elementary Sch. 495 Washington Street Ukiah, CA.	Mendocino National Forest 420 E. Laurel Street Willows, CA. 95988 (916) 934-3316
977	6:30 P.M.	Susanville California Lassen College Highway 139 Susanville, CA.	Lassen National Forest 707 Nevada Street Susanville, CA. 96130 (916) 257-2151
977	7:00 P.M.	Alturas California Modoc High School Alturas, CA.	Modoc National Forest 441 N. Main Street Alturas, CA. 96101 (916) 233-3521
977	10:00 A.M.	Ashland Oregon Southern Oregon College Ashland, Oregon	Klamath National Forest 1215 South Main Yreka, CA. 96097 (916) 842-2741
977	9:00 A.M.	Redding California Civic Auditorium & Convention Center Redding, CA.	Shasta-Trinity Nat'l Forest 1615 Continental Street Redding, CA. 96001 (916) 246-5222
977	9:00 A.M.	Santa Barbara California La Colina Jr. High School 4025 Foothill Santa Barbara, CA	Los Padres National Forest 42 Aero Camino Goleta, CA. 93017 (805) 968-1578
977	1-4:00 P.M. 7-10:00 P.M.	Reno Nevada Pioneer Inn 221 S. Virginia Reno, NEV	U.S. Forest Service 630 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA. 94111 (415) 556-0122
1977	9:00 A.M.	San Francisco California Airport Roadway Inn 380 South Airport Blvd. South San Francisco, CA.	U.S. Forest Service 630 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA. 94111 (415) 556-0122

Inventory Steps

The first task in the new Wilderness Evaluation program is the inventory of roadless and undeveloped areas. The Forest Service is to:

-map all existing wildernesses and primitive areas.

-map the original roadless area inventory. Consolidate contiguous areas where possible.

Areas contiguous to existing or proposed wildernesses need not be 5000 acres or more.

-add areas missed in the original inventory. These might have been omitted inadvertently or for other reasons such as from variations in interpreting instructions. An example would be areas between ridgetops and roads which are actually roadless, but were left out because of their proximity to a road.

-add areas subsequently identified as roadless through land management planning.

-add as a separate group areas identified by Congress for wilderness study or endorsed by the administration in pending legislation.

-add qualifying areas

regardless of size, that are contiguous to roadless and undeveloped areas in other Federal ownership that have identified wilderness potential.

These could be areas adjoining lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, or Fish and Wildlife Service.

-list and subtract areas allocated for non-wilderness in land management plans for which final environmental impact statements have been filed so long as the areas are not included in Administration-endorsed pending legislation. This list will be adjusted on a continuing basis as land management plan final environmental statements are filed.

-list as a separate group areas suggested by the public for addition to or deletion from those identified through the preceding steps.

-analyse the map data compiled in the above process and make determination of the areas to be considered in developing alternatives for classification.

Feather River Plan Begun

The Plumas National Forest has recently released the Preliminary Land Management Proposals for the 520,000-acre Feather River Planning Unit. The proposals are one of the initial steps towards an eventual environmental impact statement on future land use decisions.

A key planning unit to conservationists, the Feather Unit contains over 100,000 acres of roadless lands, including possible additions to the Middle Fork, Feather River Wild and Scenic River, and the 70,000-acre proposed Feather River Wilderness Study Area.

The Feather River Wilderness Study Area straddles the North Fork of the river. It is divided into two units by Highway 70 and the Western Pacific Railroad. Renowned for its diversity and beauty, the Feather proposal is one of the last large roadless areas in the northern Sierra Nevada.

Typical of Forest Service publications, the document gives three land use alternatives designated A, B, and C. The alternatives theoretically give the range of options from protection of amenities in Alternative A to the full exploitation of resources

in Alternative C. Alternative B, of course, is the "middle of the road" approach which attempts to satisfy both.

Also typical of Forest Service planning attempts is the juggling of wilderness resource area boundaries. Vital sections of the proposed Feather River Wilderness Study Area were not designated for potential wilderness study in Alternative A.

It should be noted that although Alternative A is not totally acceptable to conservationists, Alternatives B and C leave even more to be desired. No acreage was designated for wilderness study at all in these options.

As the planning process continues, the major bone of contention between conservationists and the resource exploiters will probably be the High Lakes region of the proposed Feather River Wilderness Study Area. Its gentle terrain, dotted with tiny lakes, is appreciated by both hikers and off-road vehicle drivers. Extensive resource damage has occurred throughout the area because of heavy ORV use.

The Preliminary Land Management Proposals for the Feather River Planning Unit lead conser-

vationists to question the credibility of the U.S. Forest Service. In June, 1976, a compromise was developed between the supervisors of the Lassen and Plumas National Forests and conservation groups interested in the Feather Area. In exchange for dropping the appeal of a proposed timber sale in the West Unit of the Feather proposal and rearranging conservationists' boundaries, the Forest Service agreed to regard the proposal as an alternative in their planning process. None of the present Forest Service proposals, however, include the entire Feather proposal in a wilderness study area.

Comments on the Feather River Planning Unit Alternatives are requested by August 1, 1977. However, the Forest Service's new wilderness evaluation program may cause a delay in the planning process. Interested citizens are urged to write to Forest Supervisor Lloyd Britton, Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 1500, Quincy, Ca. 94701 to request the Preliminary Land Management Proposals for the Feather River Planning Unit. Comments on the proposals should be sent by August 1 to the same address.



Chips Creek in proposed Feather River Wilderness Study Area

Lassen Park Master Plan

A series of six public meetings will be held during the first week of August, to hear public comment on the draft General Management Plan and Environmental Statement for Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Two major proposals in this plan affect the existing downhill ski area and the Manzanita Lake campground. No mention is made of snowmobiles, currently banned in the Park, but snowmobilers are expected to try to pressure the Park Service into opening Lassen for their use.

The ski area will be retained with a relocation of the beginner and intermediate rope tows. A new chair lift would not be constructed. Environmental groups are asking that

downhill skiing be eliminated from the National Park and that the area be used for cross-country skiing and ski snowshoeing.

The Manzanita Lake facilities are proposed to be relocated just outside the National Park in the Manzanita Chutes area. The previously developed area would be restored.

Members wanting additional information may write the California Wilderness Coalition for a Wilderness Alert on this issue. The Park Service will be accepting written comments until September 6, 1977.

One hour prior to the beginning of each meeting Park Superintendent Bill Stephenson and a park planner will be at the meeting sites to answer

questions and explain details of the planning documents. The meetings will be held as follows:

Aug. 1, 1977, Chico, 7:30 p.m., Art Center, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds.

Aug. 2, 1977, Susanville, 7:30 p.m., Student Center, Lassen High School.

Aug. 3, 1977, Mineral, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, Elementary School.

Aug. 4, 1977, Redding, 7:30 p.m., Room 400, Theater Bldg., Shasta Community College, 1065 N. Old Oregon Trail.

Aug. 5, 1977, Red Bluff, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, Tehama County Fairgrounds.

Aug. 6, 1977, San Francisco, 2 p.m., Headquarters, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason.

USFS Purity Arguments Dropped

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streams, lakes, camping spots and focal points of interest.

Rustic shelters are not provided in wilderness. If such shelter exists in an area when it is designated, its use and maintenance will continue until it needs major reconstruction or its continual presence results in damage. It then is removed. This, generally, is 15 to 20 years for well maintained shelters.

Signs are limited to those necessary to facilitate wilderness use. Trail intersections often need only one destination name and an arrow for each departure possibility. However, we do not generally remove existing signs until their maintenance is no longer practical. They are then replaced with the "minimum necessary."

We have not developed water supplies for wilderness visitors. Water would be developed only if an individual circumstance indicated it necessary and then only to the minimum required.

Bridges are provided

- where no bridgeless route or crossing is reasonably available;

- where crossings during the primary use season cannot be safely negotiated on foot or cannot be safely forded by horses;

- and where less formal devices are frequently destroyed or damaged by floodwaters.

The general approach for facilities existing when the area is classified is to: 1) evaluate the need for the facility for managing or protecting the wilderness resource - if needed, it will be retained and maintained. When replacement is needed, there will be redetermination of need. 2) If found to be not needed for management or protection, it will be either - a) used until it needs major reconstruction or itself causes problems and then removed, as with shelters, or b) remove it, as with fences, etc. Removal might be by benign neglect - letting it "melt into the ground." If a property seems to have historic value, it will be evaluated by the Forest Service, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. If the property is a structure, and is determined to have

some degree of historical significance, the Forest Service will consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation about recognizing the site, recording and measuring, etc.

Mr. Weaver: What kind of trails do you build in wilderness? Are there differences in trail standards in classified wilderness than in other areas?

Dr. Cutler: The standard for trails in wilderness is extremely flexible, with nearly "infinite" variety possible. We attempt to build trails that fit the country rather than intrude on it. Generally, trails with treads wider than 24 inches are not built. Trunk trails may have branches constructed to appear as little more than game trails. Trails layout is often the best "indirect" management tool in getting optimum utilization of a wilderness recreation capacity without overuse or abuse of popular spots.

Mr. Weaver: What is the Forest Service policy on fire in wilderness - do you put all of them out? Do you restrict the kind of equipment methods you can use putting them out?

Dr. Cutler: The Forest Service recognizes that fire

has been a part of the natural cycles in wilderness. Even so, there are places and times where the threat from fire to life and/or property within the wilderness, or to life, resources, and property outside wilderness, is not tolerable. Therefore, unless a special fire management plan is in effect, fires within a wilderness are attacked and put out.

The method of fire fighting is selected to cause least damage to the natural values. The Forest Service has, however, complete authority and does employ as needed its full force, mechanized or otherwise, to fight a wilderness fire if need be.

In several wildernesses, we have special fire management plans under which natural fires are allowed to burn when predetermined conditions exist. These special plans are preceded by considerable professional study, public review, and executive approval before being implemented. All such fires are closely monitored and suppressed when conditions change.

Mr. Weaver: Do you permit the use of mechanized equipment in wilderness, such as chain saws or portable

generators? Is there a difference in what you allow for management as opposed to visitors?

Dr. Cutler: The Wilderness Act of 1964 generally prohibits the use of motorized vehicles and motorized and mechanized equipment. The exceptions are for emergencies, the use of motorboats and aircraft when previously established and as regulated by the Secretary, and for administrative use as necessary for the purpose of wilderness management.

The visitor is not allowed use of chain saws, etc. Administrative uses are permitted for a specific authorized purpose, i.e., unusual trail clearing and search and rescue. There are several areas with air fields open for public use; the BWCA has controlled motorboat use on certain lakes.

We impose restrictions on our own use of motorized vehicles and equipment for management purposes. It is controlled and seldom necessary to use them. Our use is generally confined to trail construction or heavy maintenance, fire suppression, and search and rescue.

Mr. Weaver: What is your policy on fish stocking in wilderness? To what extent do you allow stocking, and with what methods?

Dr. Cutler: Fish stocking can be done in wilderness. The need should be specified in that wilderness management plan, and normally will be by primitive transport. Where a State Game and Fish agency used aerial drops to stock a wilderness lake prior to designation, the Forest Service permits a continuation of aerial transport. We urge that this be done outside the heavy use season to minimize the intrusion upon visitors' wilderness experience.

Mr. Weaver: What restrictions do you apply to hunting and game management in wilderness?

Dr. Cutler: Hunting is permitted within wildernesses, so long as applicable State and Federal laws and regulations are obeyed. Game management is limited to what is necessary and to minimum means. Introduction of animals is permitted if such introduction is according to the wilderness

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Myth of the Month

by Rep. Morris Udall

Editor's note: Those people who oppose wilderness preservation have promoted and gained wide acceptance for certain ill-founded or untrue contentions that argue against wilderness. In this column, we will attempt to expose and refute these **myths** about wilderness. We welcome suggestions from our readers for topics to investigate.

(Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona, sponsor of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977, made a major speech before Congress on March 1, 1977 to explain the purposes and provisions of the bill. As part of his remarks, he refuted some of the important myths advanced by those who argue against wilderness preservation. We are pleased to reproduce excerpts that are particularly timely in light of the new Forest Service wilderness evaluation program now underway.)

During my years of service in this House, I have had a particularly close association with wilderness issues. I have participated in every piece of wilderness legislation, from the original Wilderness Act onward. I have heard all the arguments, and this experience has been most instructive.

It is a matter of particular concern to me to find that the Forest Service persists in using the discredited "sights and sounds" argument against wilderness proposals. The use of this argument, which runs directly counter to the intent of the Congress causes confusion and greatly misleads the public and local public officials.

The "sights and sounds" of activities outside an area have no bearing upon the suitability of the area itself, as an entity, for designation as wilderness. Early in the consideration of the original Wilderness Act, the then chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, Senator James Murray, took great care to establish a clear record of legislative intent on this

precise point. In the key sentence establishing the criteria for suitability of land as wilderness, the earlier draft of the act had referred to areas "retaining their primeval environment and influence."

However, on July 2, 1960 Senator Murray introduced a carefully revised wilderness bill, incorporating "many constructive changes" which remain in the law as enacted. One of those changes was an amendment to this part of the criteria for suitability, replacing the word "environment" with the word "character." Senator Murray carefully built a record of the legislative intent behind this change, explaining here on the floor of the Senate: "The word 'character' is substituted because 'environment' might be taken to mean the surroundings of the wilderness, rather than the wilderness entity."

So, as a matter of clearly established legislative intent, it is the specific qualities of the land itself, within the boundaries of an area, which determine its suitability for designation as wilderness. The surrounding lands and whatever sights and sounds may occur there, have no bearing.

A third theme of anti-wilderness arguments suggests that we ought to turn our attention to devising alternative land classifications, with less stringent management requirements. It is suggested that such a new category would allow for heavier development of facilities, and so accommodate greater densities of human use. In part, this argument rests on the fallacious purity theory, for it presupposes that certain recreational support facilities are not permitted within wilderness areas. A frequent favorite argument one hears is that the Wilderness Act precludes sanitary facilities. But this is simply not true. Nor

does the act prohibit other basic wilderness camping developments, if necessary such as developed trails, protected water supplies or handpumps, campfire rings, rustic directional signs, and the like.

Those who have made these arguments also suggest that some new sort of land classification would permit various manipulations of the natural environment. Trees might not be logged in huge clear cuts, of course, but perhaps the stringent prohibition on timber cutting in wilderness areas would be relaxed. Then logging could occur by helicopter, and only to "improve" the forest. But then, of course, it would hardly be a wilderness anymore...and I know very few people who would choose to have their outdoor vacation amidst crowds of people, beneath all the noise and confusion of helicopter logging.

Such proposals run diametrically counter to the strong expressed public preference for a statutory wilderness program. Those who are working to secure protection for areas such as those proposed in the Endangered American Wilderness Act want full wilderness protection for these places, with all the assurance of permanence inherent in the statutory protections of the Wilderness Act, and without "hardening the site" to bring excessive density of human use. If we have demands for accommodating more wilderness users, then we must take care to preserve an adequate system of wilderness areas, not try to cram more and more people into the few areas we have protected thus far.

We should not be distracted from our wilderness establishment and management program by such diversionary tactics.

to my questions about Wilderness management policies of the Forest Service. You have cleared up a good deal of confusion. It appears that management policies are **not** the major deterrent to wilderness classification on the National Forests that many people have contended - and I see the threads of a reasonable and common sense policy in your statement. I would hope that your statement is but the first step toward updating, clarifying, and publicizing Forest Service Wilderness management policies.

management plan and the animals are native to the habitat or were, historically. Again, primitive transport means are preferred; however, there can be special provisions made if mechanical transport is needed to accomplish a necessary introduction.

Mr. Weaver: Is grazing, mining, and water development for irrigation or other purposes allowed in wilderness?

Dr. Cutler: Grazing is permitted where established at the time the area became wilderness. However, intensive

management systems requiring significant development are not permitted. Mining is permitted under the 1872 Mining Laws unless the area has been withdrawn from entry. Claims may be located until December 31, 1983. In some wildernesses, the subsurface rights are in private ownership.

Water developments require Presidential approval. However, existing developments may be maintained.

Mr. Weaver: Dr. Cutler, I want to thank you for your most responsive answers



Hare Canyon in proposed Ventana Wilderness Additions

Wilderness Consideration Lacking in San Gabriel Plan

A draft environmental statement (DES) recently released by the Angeles National Forest for the San Gabriel Planning Unit fails to adequately consider the wilderness values of roadless lands within the unit.

The San Gabriel Planning Unit includes 187,000 acres of extremely rugged mountainous terrain in the Angeles National Forest rising directly from the Los Angeles basin. Included within the Planning Unit are the existing 36,000-acre San Gabriel Wilderness Area, 52,000 acres of Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area recently established by the Congress, the 3,500-acre Cucamonga Additions Wilderness Study Area established by the Forest Service in 1973 (plus some potential extensions of that area), and the 4000-acre West Fork San Gabriel and 6000-acre San Dimas wilderness resource areas.

The DES does not discuss at this time the potential of the Sheep Mountain and Cucamonga Study Areas for wilderness classification; that will come after

further detailed studies. But it does suggest alternative uses for the other wilderness resource lands within the unit, as well as various proposals for development of the recreation resources of the unit.

In this DES, the Forest Service points out that the San Gabriel Mountains are an island of open space surrounded by densely populated and highly developed areas of the Los Angeles Basin. It also discusses the relative lack of classified Wilderness Areas in southern California and the great demands for wilderness use in that region. In light of these facts, we would expect that, at a minimum, the Forest Service would be proposing intensive study and deliberation before releasing any potential wilderness areas in the unit to other uses.

Instead, the Forest Service gives a cursory and completely inadequate evaluation of wilderness qualities of the wilderness resource lands, and proposes several alternative management plans

that would develop these wilderness resource areas without further study. This is in violation of Forest Service regulations as well as common sense.

Conservationists feel that the information on wilderness values presented in the DES is not sufficient to permit selection at this time of any alternative which opens wilderness resource lands within the unit to development. Intensive study of their qualifications for wilderness classification is needed, especially in light of how rare wilderness is in this highly urbanized area.

Comments on the DES and management alternatives are being solicited by the Forest Service, and should be sent by July 15 if possible to William Dresser, Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest, 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 300, Pasadena, CA 91101. Copies of the DES may be requested from the same office.

Outdoor Women

A women's outing group is now forming chapters in California. OUTDOOR WOMEN offers a bimonthly newsletter, classes, outings and lectures to interested women (men are allowed when accompanied by a woman). The national organization, based in Washington, D.C., has representatives in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. For more information, contact:

Barbara Raichle
OUTDOOR WOMEN
P.O. Box 2074
Hollywood, Ca.

90028



Hiking in proposed Granite Chief Wilderness

PLANNING UPDATES

Little Kern

A just-released Final Environmental Statement for the Little Kern Planning Unit on the Sequoia National Forest describes a Forest Service proposal to study only half of the Little Kern River watershed for potential Wilderness classification while opening the remainder to logging, road-based recreation, and trailbike use.

This plan is virtually identical to that proposed in the Draft Environmental Statement last year. The proposed wilderness study area in the northern portion of the watershed is increased in size to 49,440 acres by adding 440 acres along the main Kern River in the Grasshopper Flat area. Stream protection zones one hundred feet in width are also established along streams in the southern half of the unit (where logging is proposed), in an effort to protect the habitat of the Little Kern Golden Trout.

Conservationists, as well as the State Department of Fish and Game, remain convinced that the Little Kern watershed is too fragile to withstand the impacts of logging, road-building and increased recreation use without irrevocably destroying the habitat of the Little Kern Golden Trout. Conservationists will continue to press for Wilderness classification of the entire Little Kern River watershed. Their efforts now are focused on the "Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977", which includes a large proposal for a Golden Trout Wilderness that would protect the Little Kern River.

Big Butte - Shinbone

The Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forests and the Ukiah District of the Bureau of Land Management have announced the formation of a joint study team to plan the future use and development of 35,000 acres of public domain and national forest in the Big Butte - Shinbone Planning Unit northeast of Covelo.

The study area is roadless and undeveloped and contiguous with the existing Yolla Bolly - Middle Eel Wilderness. Portions of the study area were originally included within the Yolla Bolly

Wilderness prior to boundary reductions made by the Forest Service in the 1950's. Conservationists are urging that the entire study area be added to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness.

The study team is presently collecting resource data to prepare management alternatives for the area by early 1978. Expressions of interest in the area and support for its addition to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness by members of the public would be appropriate at this time. Information on resources and uses of the area is also requested by August 1, 1977, and should be sent to the Mendocino National Forest, P.O. Box 431, Willows, CA 95988, Attn. LaVon Perez.

Almanor

A Draft Environmental Statement (DES) on the Almanor Planning Unit of the Lassen National Forest is expected to be completed during July. This Unit includes lands at the headwaters of the North Fork of the Feather River around Lake Almanor.

The major areas of wilderness interest in the unit include the existing Caribou Wilderness, the small but significant Butt Mountain roadless area, and possible roadless lands adjacent to the Caribou Wilderness and Lassen National Park Wilderness.

The Soda Creek-Chips Creek-High Lakes area, part of conservationists' Feather River Wilderness Study Area proposal, was formerly included within this Planning Unit but has been transferred to the Feather River Planning Unit now being worked on by the Plumas National Forest.

Copies of the DES may be requested from Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest, 707 Nevada St., Susanville, CA 96130. Comments will also be accepted at the same address for sixty days after release of the DES.

Shasta - Clear Creek

One of the first new land-use plans to come from the Bureau of Land Management in California since the passage of the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" (the "BLM Organic Act") has ignored an important provision of that law.

Land-use decisions made in May 1976 for the Shasta-Clear Creek Planning Area in Shasta County do not meet the Organic Act's wilderness review provisions. Those provisions require the Bureau of Land Management to inventory roadless lands as part of their land-use planning, study those lands for potential Wilderness classification, and preserve the wilderness character of the lands until Congress can act on the Bureau's recommendations.

The Shasta-Clear Creek Planning Area contains the Beegum Gorge roadless area and a possible roadless area in the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The Bureau has not yet inventoried those roadless lands, and it plans wildlife habitat manipulation and timber harvests on portions of the areas in direct contradiction to the law.

Implementation of the plan must be held in abeyance until the roadless areas can be inventoried and management decisions amended to protect their wilderness character.

Further information about the Bureau's plans for the Shasta-Clear Creek Planning Area can be obtained from Stanley Butzer, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2460 Athens Ave., Redding, CA 96001.

Mohawk

A Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the Mohawk Planning Unit on the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests is expected to be available on July 15. The Mohawk Unit is within the Feather River drainage near the town of Graeagle. This FES will present a Forest Service proposed land use plan for the unit, as well as alternatives, to allow selection of a final plan by the Forest Supervisor.

The proposed Forest Service plan is similar to the one they presented in the Draft Environmental statement for the unit in 1976. The Lakes Basin roadless area is to be maintained as a roadless and undeveloped recreation area, except for the very northern tip, which is to be opened to timber harvesting. The northern fourth of the Beartrap roadless area, on McCrae Ridge, will also be opened

to timber harvesting; the rest of the Beartrap area will be placed in a deferred category to be reconsidered at a future date (probably at least five years from now). Meanwhile it will be kept roadless and undeveloped.

The remainder of the unit will be primarily devoted to timber harvesting.

Limitation of off-road vehicles to designated routes only is planned for the Beartrap, Lakes Basin, and Nelson Creek areas for summer use. Other parts of the planning unit are left open to off-road vehicle use, including unlimited snowmobile use throughout the unit.

Conservationists are not completely happy with the Forest Service proposal. They are especially disappointed to see that a wilderness study is not being proposed for either the Lakes Basin or the Beartrap wilderness resource areas. These areas are both high-quality wilderness with few resource conflicts. Controls on off-road vehicles should also be strengthened.

A final land-use plan cannot be selected for at least ninety days after release of the FES, and comments on the proposal during that period may influence the Forest Supervisor's final selection. Copies of the FES may be obtained from Lloyd Britton, Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest, 159 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971.

Flume - Bohemotash

The high country between Trinity and Shasta Lakes in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, north of Redding, is now the subject of a new Forest Service planning effort as the Flume-Bohemotash Planning Unit.

The Forest Service has just begun its planning efforts for the 155,000 acres of land within the unit. Three roadless areas totaling 31,000 acres are included: Slate, Dog Creek, and Backbone.

Public expressions of significant issues and values within the unit are now being sought. For further information, contact the Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 1615 Continental St., Redding, CA 96001.

ment plans. If all or a portion of a roadless area was considered in a plan all the way through to the final decision and the decision was to manage for other than a wilderness study area, the area may



Proposed Hoover Wilderness Addition

State Hearings Set cont. from page 1

but with sufficient public interest, these times could probably be extended or changed. If you cannot attend the hearings, send a letter for the hearing record by August 24, 1977, to Mr. Burns at the address given above, indicating your support for wilderness and your comments on specific proposals.

The Coalition is anxious to hear from you if you have an interest in the state wilderness program in general or in particular state-owned wilderness lands. Write and let us know your ideas about state wilderness at P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616.

STATE WILDERNESS HEARINGS SCHEDULE

All hearings 10 a.m. to 3p.m.

August 10, 1977 Los Angeles 107 S. Broadway, Room 1138

August 11, 1977 San Diego 1350 Front Street, Room B-109

August 15, 1977 Sacramento 1416 Ninth St., 1st floor auditorium

August 17, 1977 San Francisco 455 Golden Gate Ave., Room 1194

Was RARE Well Done?

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withdrawn from development until they could be intensively studied for possible Wilderness classification. The new study is to include a mineral survey, Environmental Statement, and public hearing. The result will be a recommendation to Congress for or against Wilderness classification.

Dissatisfied with the arbitrary nature of the program, the inadequate opportunities for public input, and the rapid pace with which important decisions were being made, the Sierra Club and others sued the Forest Service in 1972 to seek modifications in the RARE program.

This case, known as **Sierra Club v. Butz**, was settled out of court when the Forest Service agreed to give further consideration to Wilderness classification for the non-selected roadless areas during land-use planning, and file an Environmental

Statement on any proposed development of such an area.

And what about the roadless areas missed in the original inventory? The Chief of the Forest Service, in 1974, finally required that these too be identified and considered for Wilderness classification in land use planning.

But the consideration of non-selected roadless areas in land use planning has fallen far short of what was expected. Non-inventoried roadless areas have not been identified consistently. "Consideration" of wilderness values has often been cursory, generally just a regurgitation of the faulty analyses used in RARE. Arbitrarily subdivided roadless areas remain subdivided, and wilderness values that extend across these fictitious boundaries are not considered in their entirety. Finally, the desires of citizens for the preservation of these areas are simply ignored.

Improvements in the process have not been applied systematically throughout the state. Thus, the time is ripe for a new wilderness review program to complete the inventory of wilderness resource lands, evaluate wilderness qualities by fairer means, and afford a chance for the ideas and values of citizens to be heard and given attention.

What Is a Roadless Area?

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area adjacent to an existing Wilderness or Primitive Area should be identified, regardless of size. Also, a

"roadless island" is defined as a roadless area that is surrounded by permanent waters or that is markedly distinguished from surrounding lands by topographical or ecological features such as

precipices, canyons, thickets, or swamps. A roadless island need not be 5,000 acres.

The only exception to the inventory process will be in areas with completed project or land manage-

not necessarily be inventoried. But if the non-conforming activities have not yet taken place, the public may wish to put in on the inventory.