



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 2

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

November-December, 1977

No. 5

ENDANGERED AMERICAN WILDERNESS ACT

It is likely that by the time this is printed the Endangered American Wilderness Act will be law. The bill is now in conference committee. One of the major differences to be decided there is the acreage of the proposed Golden Trout Wilderness. President Carter is expected to sign the legislation as soon as the bill receives final Congressional approval.

Three California areas are in the bill: Ventana additions, Santa Lucia, and Golden Trout. The House of Representatives passed a small Golden Trout wilderness proposal of 179,625 acres while the Senate went for 333,100 acres.

Conservationists were supported by Senator Alan Cranston and the

State of California in asking for a 417,000 acre Golden Trout wilderness. At Senate hearings on September 20, Joe Fontaine gave testimony in support of Golden Trout on behalf of the California Wilderness Coalition. Many other groups, such as the Kern Plateau Association and the International Federation of Fly Fishermen, also lent their support.

A conference committee is scheduled to meet in early November to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Although no California legislators are on the committee it is hoped that Senator Cranston, Representative John Krebs, and others will convince the conferees to support the

large Golden Trout wilderness.

A House-Senate conference committee reached agreement November 3 on a 306,000-acre Golden Trout wilderness. A prior, tentative 4-3 vote supported the larger 333,000 acre proposal, but the conferees decided on a token appeasement of Senator Hayakawa and Representative Ketcham by deleting 27,000 acres. The lands left out of the wilderness are in Soda and Rattlesnake watersheds and an area south of Moses Maggie.

Unfortunately, the Conference Committee was unable to agree on wilderness proposals in Oregon and Colorado, and postponed further action on the bill till November 29.

ORVs Capture State Parks

The State's Department of Parks and Recreation has apparently been captured by off-road vehicle users. The draft **Off Highway Vehicle Recreation** plan issued by the Department couldn't be more pro-ORV if the ORV people themselves wrote it. Perhaps they did.

The plan refers to off-highway vehicles (OHV), the euphemism preferred by ORVs in an attempt to improve their image. The plan is an undisguised raid on public lands--both State and Federal. Among the recommendations:

Federal agencies should provide land, technical assistance and financial assistance to ORVs. The National Park Service (!) should consider allowing ORV use on lands they manage.

The State Park System should permit ORV use in units other than those designated as vehicular recreation areas.

The plan has errors. It is stated that "no environmental organization has gone so far as to call for the complete abolition of ORVs and none is expected to." The Wilderness Society, American Land Conservation Council, and others intend to correct the record on this point.

The need for ORVs to minimize opposition to the sport is pointed out, along with the comment that "it will be incumbent on federal and state agencies, and other large landowners to assume the responsibility for providing most of the needed facilities."

In the past the California Wilder-

ness Coalition has been supportive of the many good actions taken by the Department of Parks and Recreation. If this plan represents a shift in the direction of the management for our State Parks, however, we will have to take another look at proposals to expand the Parks system.

Copies of this report may be

obtained from Russell W. Cahill, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, Ca. 95811.

Let Mr. Cahill know how you feel about ORVs. Your state representatives will also be interested in your opinion.

GIVE FOR WILDERNESS

It's a busy time for the wilderness movement in California. The Endangered American Wilderness Act, Mineral King, the Ishi Wilderness Proposal, numerous Forest Service Land Use Plans and EIS's, Wild and Scenic River Legislation, the proposed East Mohave National Park, and the Siskiyou are a sampling of the critical wilderness issues requiring time, effort and money.

As the gift season nears, please take time to remember the wilderness movement. The following suggestions deserve your consideration:

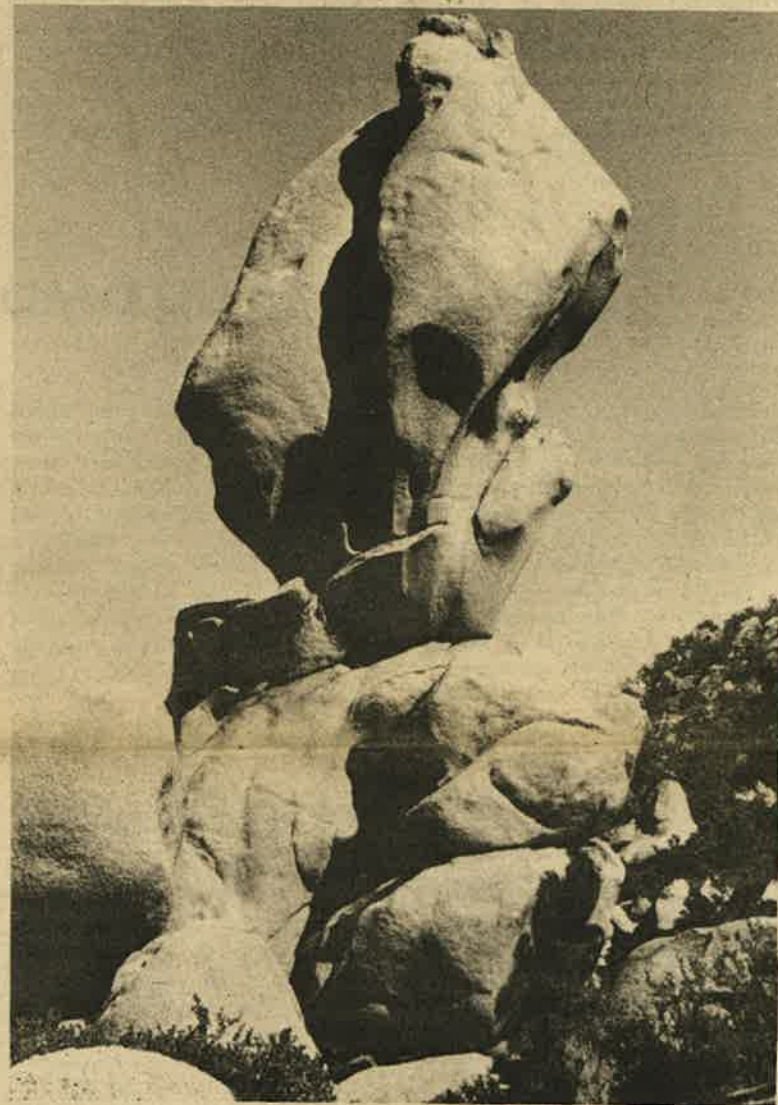
JOIN THE CWC--If you aren't already a member--please join. And if you can, include an extra donation.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP--Why not give a CWC membership to a friend or family? Help save wild lands with a small wilderness gift.

THE CWC FOUNDATION--Make a tax-deductible contribution to the CWC Foundation. Send your gift care of the California Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA. 95616. We will pass on your contribution when the Foundation

officially receives its tax-deductible status. (If deductible status is not obtained by the end of the year, your donation will be returned.) **JOIN THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY AND OTHER NATIONAL CONSERVATION GROUPS.** These

national groups do an immeasurable amount in helping to preserve California wildlands. Without their assistance in Washington, many of our proposals would languish on the back burner. They deserve our support.



Unique rock outcroppings in the New York Mountains, East Mojave Desert, California. Inside, page 6, a look at recent plans for the area.

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

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☐ Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition
Enclosed is \$ _____ for first-year membership dues.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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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)	25

*not tax deductible

V2N4

President's Message

by Bob Schneider

On October 25, 1977, at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the CWC, Phillip Farrell resigned as President and I accepted the position. Phil had been preparing us for this move for some time, but it was still difficult to accept. I hope he will rejoin the Wilderness effort with new perspective and new hope. We cannot let Phil off the hook.

Phil has developed an expertise that is invaluable and irreplaceable. The Forest Service knows him as tenacious, painstaking watchdog. Phil may know more about the working and thinking of the Forest Service than just about anyone else in the conservation movement.

There is no one who can now take up his careful relationship with the "Wise Administrators" and the "Goddam Bureaucrats."

Since the WILDERNESS RECORD was first published, Phil has been a major contributor. His massive insert in the first edition, a comprehensive map showing all of the roadless areas in California, is the only compilation of that data ever made. This type of creative research is Phil's hallmark. Everyone who works closely with the CWC has greatly appreciated Phil's work, and everyone who reads the WILDERNESS RECORD has benefited from it.

The next few months will be a

critical period for the Wilderness Coalition. We are planning new programs, seeking new members, and we hope to obtain tax-deductible status for the California Wilderness Foundation within the next few weeks.

We are seeking to unify the Coalition. By bringing together representatives of the organizations which make up the Coalition, we hope to strengthen the California wilderness movement.

I look forward to serving as President and I hope my energy and enthusiasm will help spark new coalition efforts.

Hayakawa on Wilderness

The Senate on October 20 passed the Endangered American Wilderness Act, H.R. 3454, by a vote of 89 to 3. Three Republicans voted against the bill: Senators Goldwater (Arizona), Scott (Penn.) and S.I. Hayakawa (California).

Senator Hayakawa fought the Endangered Act through both houses of Congress. His position is best explained in his speech to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on September 20:

"Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having the opportunity to testify this evening before the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation. We are here to discuss a piece of legislation that is very important to my state of California, S. 1180; this bill is known as the Endangered American Wilderness Act. It would set aside as wilderness three areas in the state of California: 240,000 acres in the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests which would be known as the Golden Trout Wilderness Area; 21,250 acres of the Los Padres National Forest that would be designated as the Santa Lucia Wilderness; and 60,080 acres of the Los Padres National Forest that would be known as the Ventura [sic] Wilderness. The total acreage involved in my state alone is 321,330 acres. The Forest Service estimates that the acreage of the proposed Golden Trout area is actually 333,100 acres--this legislation must have been thrown together without too much concern because the total is off by 90,000 acres! There are seven

other parcels of land in other states included in the bill, bringing the total wilderness set-asides from this piece of legislation alone to a total of 682,930 acres--this is well over half a million acres of land!

"This bill specifically states '...the Congress finds and declares that it is in the national interest that certain of these endangered areas be promptly designated as wilderness...' I am one member of Congress who does not believe that designating our federal lands as wilderness is truly in the national interest. A wilderness designation means that no roads can be built in an area. It means that no machinery whatsoever may be used in these places. A wilderness designation actually reserves a parcel of land for an elite group of people--those who have the time, money, and interest for rugged hiking, camping and fishing--without any reliance on transportation into the area.

"Although it is nice for the few who are able to enjoy the privilege of using these areas, what about the rest of society? We are at this time spending millions of dollars in order to make public places accessible to the handicapped. But how many handicapped people will be able to use these wilderness areas? How many older people and how many of our youth will be able to enjoy them? How many people have the free time to be able to hike further than into the outskirts of these places?

"Just over one-fifth of the entire state of California is set aside in

national forests. Of these forest lands, eight and one half percent is already wilderness. This amounts to 1.7 million acres of wilderness in the state of California alone.

"Although in this piece of legislation we are discussing a few isolated tracts of land, at the present time there are 7.9 acres of land in wilderness proposals pending before the Congress, not including those affecting the state of Alaska. The Forest Service's current inventory of roadless areas could lock up 22 million acres of the current 90 million of our commercial forest land.

"As we continue to set aside these lands, the supply of lumber continues to decrease at a corresponding rate. Secretary Harris of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is calling for a government investigation to find out why the cost of lumber has risen 90 per cent over the past two years. Mr. Chairman, we don't need an investigation of this matter--anyone who understands the basics of supply and demand can tell you that the more land we take out of timber production, the higher the price of lumber will be.

"I am convinced that the general public does not understand forestry as a branch of agriculture. Many people think that once a tree has been cut, that's the end of it. I recently traveled to northern California where I took a close look at many miles of U.S. forest land. It is amazing what care is taken to replant areas that have recently been har-

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NEWS BRIEFS

RARE II Moving

The Forest Service's new Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) is continuing. The most recent schedule calls for the release of the final inventory of roadless lands by mid-November along with a list of criteria to be used in the evaluation of potential wilderness. A draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for the release in May 1978.

The inventory finalized in November will take into account public involvement obtained this summer. An interim adjustment to the inventory submitted by the Regional Forester in October contained numerous changes. In California, 40 roadless areas were enlarged by 165,800 acres, 98 areas were reduced in size by 179,700 acres, 31 new areas totalling 233,000 acres were

added, and 12 areas with 92,700 acres were deleted. The net gain in roadless acres totaled 157,400 acres. However, 60,000 acres of this came from the "discovery" of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area on the Angeles National Forest.

The Chief of the Forest Service, John McGuire, will make final adjustments to the inventory.

The criteria to be used will be announced in November. There are indications that the Forest Service will use criteria involving ecosystems, landforms, wildlife, and location.

The next opportunity for public participation in the RARE II process probably will occur in May when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is issued.

Stanislaus Protested

Several environmental and individuals have protested an extension of time requested by the Calaveras Water District for water development on the North Fork of the Stanislaus River. The projects would include an enlarged Spicers Reservoir that would flood a portion of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Study Area.

The State Water Resources Control Board previously ordered Calaveras County to obtain voter approval for financing the projects by December 1, 1977. Friends of the River, the Wilderness Society, and Dale I. Meyer filed a formal protest to the County's request for an

extension of time to this order. The County has not been able to find financial backing for their development plans on the Stanislaus River.

The protest points out that the proposed extension of time will be contrary to law, have an adverse environmental impact, and not best serve the public interest. Additional protests were filed by the Sierra Club, the Edward F. Casey family, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The issue of whether to allow the extension of time now rests with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Mineral King Hearings

The House National Parks Subcommittee held hearings October 27th on H.R. 1771, Representative John Krebs' bill to add Mineral King to Sequoia National Park. Among the seventeen witnesses in favor of the bill were Rep. Krebs, Rep. Jerry Patterson, former Rep. Jerome Waldie, several San Joaquin Valley farmers, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Fresno County, and a former Forest Service air pollution expert.

Twenty-two groups registered support for the protection of Mineral King, including the California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the Wilderness Society, and Skiers to Keep Mineral King Natural. Opposition came

primarily from Walt Disney Productions and the Far West Ski Association.

House Committee members appeared to favor the bill. At one point during the hearing, Rep. Joe Skubitz remarked, "the whole idea of Disney kills me." After hearing from Disney officials their plan for a scaled-down resort, Skubitz added that it would be "the camel's nose under the deck."

Committee Chairman Phil Burton believes the bill will move out of subcommittee soon. No hearings have yet been scheduled in the Senate where California's Alan Cranston has authored a bill identical to Rep. Krebs'.

CWC Goes to Wash.

California Congressmen have received few letters this year from their constituents supporting protection of additional wilderness areas.

This fact was discovered by Coalition members Tom Jopson and Sari Sommarstrom during visits to the Washington, D.C. offices of fifteen California congressmen in October.

Jopson and Sommarstrom were in the capital to participate in a Wilderness Society seminar aimed at acquainting wilderness leaders

from around the country with the workings of Congress.

The two Californians tried to impress upon the Congressmen that wilderness preservation is an important concern to many Californians. As a result of their visit, Sommarstrom and Jopson feel that Californians who care about wilderness need to write more letters to their congressmen if that concern is to be translated into action.

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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) 758-1380. 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 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.



Photo by Bob Schneider

MT. SHASTA WILDERNESS

Forest and Summit

The Legend of Lemuria

Thousands of years ago where the Pacific now lies there existed a continent whose easternmost shores were in the present area of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada ranges. On this continent lived a supernatural human race which had reached an extremely high state of cultural development and civilization. What most differentiated the Lemurian from present-day man, besides his large head, very high forehead, and taller height, was his ability in

perception and communication with the aid of a sixth sense or third eye. It was located in the center of the forehead and was about the size of a walnut. It was used for long distance impressions and also enabled him to communicate with animals. In essence it was an extra sensory device superior to those that we possess in the present day. Eventually a great catastrophe occurred. Lemuria began sinking into the Pacific, and Mt. Shasta, because of its height, offered a refuge.

"Ascent of Shasta"

B.P. Avery, May, 1874

"As we rise above the valley, at first by a gentle ascent, the character of the forest changes. The pines are less frequent, the firs are more so, and the undergrowth is less thick and varied. The ten or twelve species of conifers are reduced at last to three or four—yellow pine, Douglas spruce, and a large fir. The surface becomes rough with broken masses of basalt and other lava rocks, part of the outflow of the slumbering volcanoes above. An unusually rugged field of this material, where vegetation is nearly exhausted, and where the horses bruise their pasterns at every step, is called by Sisson 'The Devil's Gar-

den.' At an elevation of about 7,000 feet, we go through a belt of silver-leaf firs (*Picea nobilis*), a very symmetrical, beautiful tree, with a juicy, greenish-tinted bark, foliage colored of a faint tea-green at the tips, almost silvery in certain lights; the trunk small in diameter, but straight and taper as a mast, and reaching a height of 150 feet. These handsome firs scent the air, while they shut out the rays of the sun and give the sky a darker color as seen through their dense capitals. The beauty of the trees on the lower flanks of Shasta has become known in Europe, where their seeds are in demand."

"Shasta"

Clarence King, Dec. 1871

After we had walked along a short curved ridge which forms the summit, representing, as I believe, all that remains of the original crater, it became my occupation to study the view.

A singularly transparent air revealed every plain and peak till the earth's curvature rolled them under remote horizons. The whole great disk of world outspread beneath wore an aspect of glorious cheerfulness. The cascade range, a roll of blue forest land, stretched northward surmounted at intervals by volcanoes; the lower, like symmetrical Mount Pitt, bare and warm with rosy lava colors; those farther north lifting against the pale horizon-blue solid white cones upon which strong light rested with brilliance. It seemed incredible that we should see so far toward the Columbia River, almost across the state of Oregon, but there stood Pitt, Jefferson, and the Three Sisters in unmistakable plainness. Northeast and east spread those great plains out of which rise low lava chains, and a few small, burned-out volcanoes, and there, too, were the group of Klamath and Goose Lakes lying in mid plain glassing the deep upper violet. Farther and farther from our mountain base in that direction the greenness of forest and meadow fades out into rich mellow brown, with warm cloudings of sienna over bare lava hills, and shades, as you reach the eastern limit, in pale ash and lavender and buff, where stretches of level land slope down over

Madelin plains into Nevada deserts. An unmistakable purity and delicacy of tint, with transparent air and paleness of tone, give all desert scenes the aspect of watercolor drawings. Even at this immense distance, I could see the gradual change from rich, warm hues of rocky slope, or plain overspread with ripened vegetation, out to the high pale key of the desert.

Southeast the mountain spurs are smoothed into a broad glacis, densely overgrown with chaparral, and ending in open groves around plains of yellow grass.

A little farther begin the wild canon-curved piles of green mountains which represent the Sierras, and afar, towering over them, eighty miles away, the lava dome of Lassen's Peak stands up bold and fine. South, the Sacramento canyon cuts down to unseen depths, its deep trough opening a view of the California plain,—a brown, sunny expanse, over which loom in vanishing perspective the coast-range peaks. West of us, and quite around the semi-circle of view, stretches a vast sea of ridges, chains, peaks and sharp walls of canyons, as wild and tumultuous as an ocean storm. Here and there above the blue billows rise snow-crests and shaggy rock-chains, but the topography is indistinguishable. With difficulty I could trace for a short distance the Klamath canyon course, recognizing the Siskiyou peaks where Professor Brewer and I had been years before; but in that broad area no further unravelling was possible. So high is Shasta, so dominant above the field of view, that we looked over it all as upon a great shield which rose gently in all directions to the sky.

"Muir, Raker, Englebright, and Stuhl have tried unsuccessfully for nearly a century to represent the mountain. Instead of 200,000 acres, the proposed wilderness can only be 50,000, but it is still a beautiful piece

of land. There are also many areas below the proposed wilderness which are of nearly comparable beauty. To continue pecking away is an insult, not only to the spirit of the mountain, but also to ourselves."

Steve Johnson



Photo by Bill Zaumen

ISHI CONFERENCE

A SUCCESS

by Brad Richards

After months of preparation and effort on the parts of Ishi Task Force members, the Ishi Conference was held on the CSU Chico campus Sept. 31, Oct. 1 & 2, and was a considerable success. The conference consisted of a slide show and two panel discussions followed by an overnight hike into the heart of Ishi Country on Deer Creek.

With attendance reaching nearly one hundred, the conference began with a media presentation including "Deer Song" sung by Ishi in 1914, giving an excellent impression of the nature and history of Ishi Country. This show, essentially the creation of Sami and Dave Izzo, is now available to any group in California interested in viewing it.

The first panel discussion dealt with the general topic of Cultural Resources. Participating were Wes Dempsey, CSU Chico botanist discussing the ecology of the area; Jerry Johnson, CSU Sacramento anthropologist and recognized archaeological authority on Ishi Country; Tom Taylor, ichthyologist discussing the fisheries of the area; Bob Baiocchi representing California Fly Fishermen, and Bill Swanson, USFS Alamanor District Ranger.

This country, as described by Wes Dempsey, is geologically volcanic mud and lava flows eroded into often deep precipitous canyons by the continuous force of Mill Creek and Deer Creek, and other lesser streams. Because of this volcanic understructure and low elevation of the area, the majority of Ishi Country is covered by chaparral and oak savannah relying on a preciously thin soil structure for sustenance. This thinness of the soil layer, Dempsey contends, makes it extremely vulnerable to destructive erosion caused by the ever increasing use of the area by off-road vehicles (ORV). Of particular interest was the existence of isolated stands of Ponderosa pine called pineries. These ecosystems could be useful for study of genotypes if they were protected as research natural areas.

The issue of ORV access into this country arose again with the talk given by Dr. Jerry Johnson, who deserves special credit for giving a well informed presentation without preparation, having volunteered to substitute for another speaker unable to make the panel. Dr. Johnson has been doing research in this area for the past eleven years. His experience has been of an ever increasing attrition of available artifacts in archaeological sites. The vandalism of "pothunters" has destroyed up to fifty percent of the available data in some sites. An example of this is Kingsley Cave adjacent to Mill Creek. At the present time, ORVs have punched a jeep road to within a quarter mile of this famous location. He also discussed the unfortunate quandary that has arisen from the significant increase of visitation into this area due to notoriety received from Theodora Kroeber's book *Ishi in Two Worlds* since its publication in 1961.

To deal with this problem the Forest Service in the past has installed signs forbidding the removal of any cultural evidence. The result has always been the disappearance of the signs within a few weeks. Due to a lack of adequate funding the Forest Service has been unable to patrol the area to prevent this occurrence. To sum up his talk, Dr. Johnson posed the question central to the entire Ishi Wilderness controversy: What does Ishi Country have to offer that would conflict with wilderness designation? Listing no marketable timber, no useful minerals and what the Forest Service claims is a minimal interest in hydroelectric potential on the part of P.G.&E. and the Department of Water Resources, Dr. Johnson concluded that there is a preponderance of factors favoring wilderness protection. From his standpoint, the presence of innumerable research sites in and around the proposal is a definite plus, if only adequate protection for these sites can be instituted.

Another resource was related by

presentations given by Tom Taylor and Bob Baiocchi, dealing with fish species and fishing. Accompanying his talk, Mr. Taylor showed slides of the various species inhabiting Deer Creek and Mill Creek, including some interesting underwater shots. These streams sustain populations of game fish including rainbow and Brown trout, and other species such as Squawfish, Hardhead, Tule Perch and Small Mouth Bass. They are also the last natural unimpounded spawning grounds for King Salmon and steelhead trout in the Central Valley. Mr. Baiocchi expanded further on this subject, emphasizing that these streams are the last remaining spawning grounds for large numbers of Spring Run Salmon as well. These are a special race of Chinook which have met with severe depletion of numbers in recent years throughout the Central Valley. On Butte Creek alone an estimated population of 26,000 salmon twenty years ago has been reduced to less than 300 according to recent studies. Adjacent to the San Joaquin they are all but extinct. Preservation of these streams is definitely supported by many fishermen who have been willing to walk in on the several well established foot trails for years.

Last to speak was Bill Swanson, discussing several problems facing the possibility of Wilderness designation and management. Though he acknowledged Wilderness as a definite resource potential, it was also Swanson's contention that technically Ishi Country is not in a pristine condition. Stating that the land was once much more open, he explained that two factors have contributed to changes experienced on the land. Intensive grazing by large herds of sheep and cattle in the early part of this century have led to the disappearance of plants like wild oats, that now grow only in rare protected areas. Also the efficiency of fire prevention over the years has led to increased concentrations of brush leading the Forest Service to contemplate utilizing either herbicides or prescribed burning to remove the



threat of wildfire. Noting the variety of interests represented in the panel he suggested all these groups unify their information into a combined proposal. He then went on to explain that should a Wilderness be established, there would still be some question how the area should be managed. "Wilderness means different things to different people," Swanson said, referring to problems like the possible adverse impact on the Tehema deer herd.

"What the Future Holds for Ishi Country," was the topic of Saturday morning's panel discussion. Participating were: Fred Gunsky, representing Ishi Task Force; Jim Eaton, representing the Wilderness Society; Jerry Mensch, speaking on the State Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and Nancy Morton speaking for Northstate Wilderness Committee.

Fred Gunsky's interest was in approaching Wilderness designation from an historical perspective, advocating "something that not too many wilderness enthusiasts do." That is linking Wilderness, a term traditionally associated with natural justifications, usually excluding previous human activities, "with those people in the past who have done something of historic interest in connection with that area", i.e. Ishi and his people. Gunsky suggested that the traditional approach of viewing wilderness only as areas that have not been altered by the hand of man is too restrictive. Urging flexibility in interpretation of the Wilderness Act, Gunsky noted that we're always in danger, especially in this country and this century, of losing our past. The setting aside of Ishi Country would serve to preserve a valuable link with our country's aboriginal past.

Jake Jacobson discussed the Forest Service policy of multiple use management, as seeking to comply with the structures of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), by examining "all the

effects upon the human environment," he seemed to steer away from wilderness designation as though wilderness were something of no use to human interests.

Continuing on this tack, Jacobson emphasized the sustained use of the area by ORVs with restrictions imposed on vehicle use within the area under the auspices of the recently established National Forests ORV Management plans. He then lamented the essential uselessness of these restrictions due to the lack of funding for the purpose of patrolling the area, offering no possible remedies for the situation. Jacobson then reminded the audience that the Forest Service is obliged to solicit opinions from "not just one interest group." Later in an interview with the Chico News and Review, he described opposition to wilderness designation by two ORV clubs in Oroville and Paradise as well as by the timber, mining, and grazing industries. Quoting from the Chico News and Review, "these industries are opposed to what they consider the be efforts to establish more wilderness acreage than is consistent with national goals." There are no specific acreage limits established in the Wilderness Act. Also considering the ever-increasing use and overuse of existing wilderness areas each year, this is a rather weak argument. It is obvious that the mentioned industries view wilderness as a threat to their age old "manifest destiny" of exploiting the land in any old way they damn well please!

Jim Eaton followed by summing up the persistent policy of the Forest Service. "The Forest Service developed off-road vehicle plans for all the National Forests last year, and in my view of them, almost universally they're terrible. They are pretty much the status quo. If ORVs have been in the area they get to stay."

Jerry Mensch of the California Department of Fish and Game then affirmed the eligibility of Mill and



Deer Creeks under the State Wild and Scenic Rivers System, cautioning that "it takes a legislative bill to designate the stream for inclusion in the State act, and the only way that these bills are going to come about or that specific streams will be included is through the support of the local legislators. We also need a great amount of support from local government agencies. Without this support, in many cases, the state agencies are afraid to approach the programs or projects.

Speaking last for the Northstate Wilderness Committee was Nancy Morton. She stressed the uniqueness of the Ishi Area, noting that there exist no other wilderness areas encompassing an ecosystem like this. Most wildernesses are either high mountain and forest, desert, or swamp. She also emphasized that "Mill and Deer Creeks are wild rivers. They flow unpounded from their sources down to the valley. There are a few flash-board dams down toward the end for water removal and use of agriculture, but it's not the big dams today." Morton then went on to stress the impermanence of the ORV trails in the Ishi Country. "Certainly in one winter, all of them won't grow back, but in a while they will, if you just close them off at the top."

ISHI COUNTRY

- Unique Study Area

by Fred Gunsky

Nowhere duplicated in the National Wilderness Preservation System or among roadless areas adopted for study is Ishi Country in the foothills of Lassen National Forest, the onetime home of the "last wild Indian" in North America.

More than 50,000 acres of the rugged lava front country in California's Tehama County are without roads, but plagued by off-road vehicles on the trails and jeep tracks.

The old Lassen Trail of the Forty-Niners crosses Ishi Country on its way to the Sacramento Valley. If visitors were limited to foot or horseback, this would be a unique example of wilderness below the 4,000-foot level.

Increasing numbers of visitors do hike in, carrying packs. Fishermen on Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks walk in from trailheads. It is mainly hunters who use four-wheel-drives, and others who enter with two- or four-wheelers to bite the dirt.

An Ishi Wilderness study was proposed in RARE I, but was dropped from the Forest Service list after the hearings. Now the proposal has more adherents, and the Almanor Ranger District has enlarged the proposed boundaries to include more of the oak- and pine-studded volcanic area.

Ishi himself, the last of the Yahi band of Yana Indians who appeared, nearly starving, in Oroville in 1911, made his homeland nationally famous. He has been helped, of course, by Theodora Kroeber, widow of the anthropologist who befriended Ishi, who wrote *Ishi in Two Worlds*. The book has sold a half-million copies.

The legacy of Ishi, and of the

After a short question and answer period, the panel discussion portion of the conference was finished. Forty-nine people of those who attended also participated in the short over-night hike from Ponderosa Way bordering the proposal into Old Graham Place on Deer Creek. It was remarkable how smoothly the hike proceeded considering the difficulties of arranging transportation and providing three meals for this large group.

A warm afternoon hike, a spaghetti dinner replete with wine, and the pleasant conversation around a crackling campfire completed the day. The next morning after breakfast the group broke up, with people exploring farther down the canyon, some bushwhacking up the canyon slopes, some fishing or just hanging around.

All seemed pleased and very much impressed with the experience when it was over. We of the Ishi Task Force extend our warmest thanks to all who made this conference possible by their participation and attendance and look forward to an ever-increasing interest in our cause and eventual preservation for the land that once sustained Ishi and his people in as perfect a harmony as perhaps has ever been achieved on this earth.



Ishi Task Force Plans

by Sami Izzo

"Grass roots: society at the local level especially in rural areas as distinguished from the centers of political leadership; the very foundation or source."

Ishi Task Force is the grass roots behind the drive for preservation of the proposed Ishi Wilderness, the homeland of the Yana Indians and now the famous last survivor, Ishi. This foothill country is still intact in its wild state and we hope to keep it so. But in order to achieve this state of nondevelopment we must prove that wilderness is the "highest and best use for the land" (a motto by which the Forest Service operates

The Ishi Conference held last month focused on these ideas of wilderness and wild rivers. Experts provided participants with an idea of the immense resource of the area. It became obvious that here is a need for protective measures for the archaeological sites and for research of pinery ecosystems, unique stands of undisturbed native vegetation. In the discussions of the Forest Service management policies, antiquities protection and water rights, the focus centered on the need to analyze the web of political interrelationships which surrounds this

front country. That is the present task before us. Specific committees will investigate the issues: protective laws which pertain to Ishi Country; water rights and quality; legislation promotion; means of public support; the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Senate Bill 107) and the Wilderness Act.

If you are interested in working with us to achieve these goals, please come to the Northstate Wilderness Committee meetings (7:00 Thursday at CAVE, 218 Chestnut St. Chico) where much of the work goes on. There will be a general Ishi Task Force meeting in late January (tentatively Jan. 15th), to share all the information which the committees gather. It will also be the beginning of the next legislative session and hopefully the advent of formal protection for our proposed Ishi Wilderness.





Mojave National Park Coalition

In 1976 the Mojave National Park Coalition was organized to fight for this objective. The organizers realized then that the BLM would not be able to adequately fulfill the management and protection needs of

the area. Their cause is gaining wide support. Write them! What could be more exciting than to be a part of the establishment of a new National Park?



photos by Jim Eaton

Castle Rocks Roadless Area Recommended by BLM Staff for wilderness study, but rejected by Area Manager.

EAST MOJAVE PLAN

The draft land use management plan for the East Mojave area was released in late September by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for public review and comment.

The 2-million acre East Mojave is a unique area considered by many to be of National Park caliber. BLM's management plan for this spectacular region is completely inadequate.

BLM's response to this National Park opportunity is a travesty. The **East Mojave Draft Management Framework Plan**, which presents recommendations on land use management policy, raises doubts among conservationists as to BLM's ability and willingness to administer properly such an outstanding area.

BLM has developed a land-use management framework for the California Desert that is neither logical nor workable. It has divided the desert into regions, and within each region attempted to provide for nearly every use BLM recognizes under its multiple-use, sustained yield orientation. As a result, there are Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use, grazing use, mining use, industrial use, and natural and cultural resource land use designations within each region.

Under this approach, BLM cannot deal with a large contiguous natural and cultural resource like the East Mojave. Instead of treating the East Mojave as a whole, a gem of the desert to be saved from piecemeal annihilation, BLM has systematically dissected it.

This planning approach for the East Mojave breaks with the basic tenets of proper management and protection of large areas which agencies like the National Park Service have followed.

The East Mojave plan does identify several areas that should be preserved, in the BLM's view. These are identified as Outstanding Natural Areas (6 recommended), and Wilderness Study Areas (4 recom-

mended). Curiously, use in Outstanding Natural Areas is not discussed. ORV use in these areas would be at the discretion of the Area Manager. The criterion would be the level of land use he thinks would not be damaging to the resources. The plan fails to mention the 17 roadless areas not designated for wilderness study.

This loose, head-in-the-sand treatment of the East Mojave area conflicts with the area's National Park qualities, revealed by BLM's own source inventory:

"In all of the California Desert there is no finer grouping of different wildlife habitats than in the East Mojave, both from the viewpoint of the total number of species and the total number of animals. Kelso Dunes, Granite, Providence, and New York Mountains, and the Cima Dome are the finest examples of their particular habitat types in California, as well as being the best preserved at this time."

"Overall the...area may be considered rich floristically. Of the 1000 species of vascular plants estimated for the entire California Desert area, 706 are recorded as being present in the planning unit. Currently 25 plants occurring in or nearby the planning area appear on the rare or endangered species list... There are several important, unique, or rare yucca, and spanish bayonet communities, which reach their ultimate

on Cima Dome. Cima Dome joshua trees are matched nowhere else in the California Desert."

"The East Mojave...contains some of the most unique cultural resources in the entire California Desert. These vary from an extensive concentration of rock art [i.e. petroglyphs and pictographs] to a major segment of the historic Mojave Road."

"Many observers feel that the East Mojave embodies the finest scenery in the California Desert. There is little question of the excellence and diversity of the desert scenery here."

The plan also notes that the East Mojave is one of the most valuable recreation areas in the California Desert, as well as being a valuable area for education and research.

The BLM has been surprised by what it has found in the East Mojave. The area was little known. In fact, members of the BLM staff admitted they never expected to find such breadth and quality of resources at the outset of their inventory. Now, as the area's superlative nature becomes more widely known, many conservationists think of it as nothing less than National Park caliber.

The question then is, can BLM appropriately respond to the management and protection needs of the area? BLM tries to maintain that "highly restrictive land uses should be applied very judiciously... (to) enable protection and preservation management in the immediate vicinity of areas needing this type of management while leaving the surrounding region available for a great many other uses." This policy is transparently ORV-oriented.

Anyone who is interested in the BLM East Mojave Draft Management Framework Plan, or anyone who has knowledge of the area, can write to BLM-Riverside. No deadline has been set by BLM for comments, but the agency will probably be making final decisions by December.

**Riverside District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, Ca. 92507**

**Mojave National Park
task force
P.O. Box 1367
Barstow, Ca. 92311**



MYTH OF THE MONTH

Editor's note: Articles have recently appeared in *New West Magazine*, the *Washington Post* and other papers concerning fires in Wilderness Areas. The writers of these articles have been sadly misinformed.

"Why did Big Sur burn? One problem was the Wilderness Act. Rather than protecting the natural area, it hindered the fire fighters." (New West, Aug. 29, 1977.)

This comment is the type of viewpoint perpetuated by inference from US Forest Service statements about Wilderness fires. The statements of the *New West* writer are ignorant; the statements of the U.S. Forest Service are merely typical.

The Wilderness Act does not hinder fire fighters. Any necessary fire control measures are permissible in wilderness areas. To quote from section 4(d) of the Act, "...In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and disease, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable..."

Perhaps the *New West* writer was blinded by the fire; for that I can forgive him. But the US Forest Service has no excuse. They know what the Wilderness Act says and does not say. Their statements about the fires and wilderness are irresponsible distortions of the desires of Congress in creating the Wilderness system.

The Forest Service does not like wilderness classifications. The Wilderness Act provides restrictions on the management of such lands which the Forest Service must follow. This makes them accountable. They would much prefer one of their own classifications, such as "primitive area." They make up the rules for those, so they can bend them or change them at will.

The Wilderness Act protects wild areas from the whim of the Forest Service. Therefore, the Forest Service continues to try and make wilderness unpopular. Conservationists are accused of having foisted off on the public a Wilderness System so rigid that the areas in the system can't be touched. The *New West* writer perpetuates the myth by suggesting that the Wilderness Act needs to be "relaxed to allow systematic controlled burning and construction of strategic fire roads." What was

more disturbing during this past busy fire season was that other newspapers also helped to perpetuate this myth.

More can be said about the original quote, "Why did Big Sur burn?"

The Big Sur area burned for only one reason: hot, dry wood got sparked by lightning. Neither the USFS, the Wilderness Act, nor the writer of the article had anything to do with that.

And it continued to burn only because the weather conditions were right and dry chaparral is an excellent fuel. I have to laugh when the USFS claims that a few bulldozer tracks will stop a chaparral fire. Remember the fire in the Tehachapi Mountains which leaped the "ultimate" fire break, the 10 concrete lanes of Interstate 5?

The suggestion that fire is somehow "unnatural" is also curious. California chaparral is a fire community. Its plants have adapted to fire in ways that insure their survival. Many chaparral plants need fire to stimulate germination of their seeds. Fires have burned the chaparral and forest for millions of years. And, surprisingly, the brush and trees were in pretty good shape when man arrived on the scene.

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vested. Once the trees have begun to grow back again, it is very difficult even to tell that they once had been cut. The Golden Trout Wilderness proposal alone would reduce the total timber supply in that area by one-third, and would result in the

loss of approximately 250 jobs. There are three mills in the area, and one of them would be shut down completely. What will happen to the families of these workers once we have robbed them of their livelihood?

"Time and again we talk about protecting a certain type of fish or plant or animal, but we also need to consider the protection of the people who live and work in the area. If we

leave these lands under the protection of the United States Forest Service, and manage them under a multiple-use plan, many people will have the advantage of being able to use this land. These federally controlled properties should be available for the use of all of the taxpayers of this country, not just the few who can afford the time and money to hike into the wilderness."



BOOK REVIEW

The Sierra Club's new guide to backpacking is written by prize-winning poet John Hart. It comes as no surprise that *Walking Softly in the Wilderness* is well-written, concise and coherent. It's also fun to read.

What makes Hart's book different from other backpacking books you may have read is the emphasis. He gives good coverage to equipment and technique, but his main approach is indicated by the book's title. A new philosophy of wilderness is growing up right now, partly inspired by the "clean climbing" ethic pioneered in Yosemite, but mostly by necessity.

Hart says, "As more and more people seek out the wilderness, some of that wilderness is suddenly, unmistakably crowded. Certain especially popular places are getting the worked-over look of rundown city parks...Today, in almost every well known wilderness, there are places where the fabric of the land has visibly begun to fray."

Walking Softly is for the hiker who is conscious of the problems of overuse. When people become more aware of their impact on the wilderness, the wilderness will suffer less from their visits.

The last three chapters of *Walking Softly* comprise a section called "The Politics of Wilderness." It includes an orientation to state and federal agencies which control most of our wilderness, and a brief description

of the Wilderness Act of 1964--which everyone who loves wilderness should be acquainted with.

The last chapter, "Problems in Wilderness Management," describes the side of things backpackers often don't consider--that is, the viewpoint of the federal employees who manage the land, for good or ill. Here are the reasons for the restrictions backpackers find in more and more wilderness areas. Hart quotes one official in Yosemite who says, "We have to plan everything with the worst backcountry user in mind."

The official keepers of wilderness do often see the worst of the damage--ripped-up alpine meadows, eroded shortcuts, even just plain litter. Their planning affects all backcountry users. To have an effective voice in planning for the wilderness, we need to understand the planners.

Hart concentrates on less-obvious details of backpacking. Winter camping, cross-country travel, site-choosing, and even sanitation and fire-building are all discussed at length in the light of the new philosophy.

But you'll also find the basics: how to buy boots, down versus Dacron, what kind of clothes to wear. There is a lot of information in *Walking Softly*; whether you're an old pro or a complete novice, there's something here to learn. Highly recommended.



Photo by Mary DeDecker

Walk Softly

One of the simplest and most enjoyable wilderness activities has one of the most adverse environmental impacts on the wilderness ecosystem. Tromping and trains (highways) that result are a continuing threat to water quality and the quality of the visual environment. Yet they needn't be and we can all directly and easily reduce our impact by "walking softly."

Walking softly is as much a state of mind as it is a method of locomotion. It can be visualized as the ecotopian end of the transportation spectrum.

As an ideal, imagine a Paiute hunter in deerskin moccasins noiselessly gliding across a meadow without leaving a trace. Take time to see and feel the ground beneath your

feet. Be particularly careful in the Spring or when crossing streams or wetlands. Step up on down timber, rocks and boulders even if it means a detour and delay. Step gently and without twisting if you must walk on fragile plants and flowers. (Imagine how you'd feel if after twenty five years of struggling, straggling growth a clod 200 times your weight stomped you into the ground).

Try wearing sneakers or crepe soled boots rather than vibram lugged climbing boots. They are more comfortable, less work (you may lift 4 tons less per mile), and are much easier on the flora. Slow down a little, strive for smooth and fluid steps, and walk softly with the spirit of the earth mother.

--David B nbridge

Update

LAND USE PLANS

Alpine

The Final plan for the Alpine Planning Unit is being appealed by the California Wilderness Coalition, the Wilderness Society, and the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. The planning unit contains portions of the Carson-Iceberg, Mokelumne additions, and Freel Peak proposed wilderness areas.

The Toiyabe National Forest has accepted the appeal as timely, although they have not adopted a stay of development for the areas

involved

The final plan called for the development of about half of the Horsethief roadless area. One of the arguments in the appeal is that the Forest Service is prohibited by its own regulations from splitting roadless areas and considering the individual pieces. The Horsethief roadless area is only part of a much larger Freel Peak Area which has not yet been studied for its wilderness potential.

Trabuco

The future of six roadless areas on the Cleveland National Forest will be decided soon. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Trabuco Planning Unit was issued on November 1st for public comment.

More than half of the planning unit has been inventoried as roadless. The six roadless areas are Ladd (5,700 acres), Coldwater (9,000 acres), Horsethief (6,800 acres), Trabuco Hot Springs (23,000 acres), Wildhorse (10,800 acres), and San Mateo (25,900 acres).

Four alternative plans are offered. There is no preferred plan of the Forest Service.

Alternative I would continue the present management for the area. Wilderness studies would be conducted on portions of all of the roadless areas except Horsethief, for a total of 43,500 acres.

Alternative II proposes studying 9,600 acres of land for wilderness classification in the San Mateo area. No wilderness would be studied if Alternative III is selected.

All 79,800 acres of roadless land would be kept undeveloped while wilderness studies are conducted under Alternative IV.

No deadline for comment was set, but January 1 is a likely target for written responses to the plan. Comments may be sent to Frederik G. de Holl, Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest, 880 Front Street, Room 6-S-5, San Diego, Ca. 92188. Copies of the Draft EIS may also be requested from Mr. deHoll.

Rancheria Management Unit
Land Management Plan
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
Kings River Ranger District
Sierra National Forest
California



Rancheria

The Sierra National Forest has distributed a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Rancheria Management Unit, located east of Fresno. The plan calls for heavily logging the western portion of the unit and retaining the eastern portion as roadless, although helicopter logging will be allowed in places.

The Forest Service, however, continues to ignore the Wilderness Act and its requirement to retain roadless lands contiguous to Primitive Areas pending Congressional action. The Rancheria area is part of a large chunk of potential wilderness adja-

cent to the High Sierra Primitive Area. The Forest Service's plan is illegal until such time as Congress acts on the reclassification of the Primitive Area.

If the Forest Service can get away with it, they intend to allow logging on 64% of the 13,540 acre management unit. The remaining 4,921 acres of "non-commercial timberlands with steep, rocky terrain dominating the landscape" will be logged only for control of insect or disease infestations. 2,035 acres of the lands to be committed to timber harvesting will be cut by helicopter.

Mohawk

A Final Environmental Impact Statement has been filed by the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests for the Mohawk Land Management Plan. The plan calls for the development of 51% of the inventoried roadless areas in the unit.

The Final proposal will manage 7,850 acres of the Lakes inventoried roadless area for "primitive dispersed recreational opportunities." Timber could be harvested after a fire, blow-down, insect and disease epidemics, etc. The remaining 2,000 acres of the roadless area will be managed for timber production.

8,620 acres of the Beartrap roadless area will be retained and studied at a later date. 1,900 acres of the area will be logged.

The 5,000 acre Dixon Creek roadless area will be developed.

The Forest Service refused to look at the Mohawk Planning Unit during this summer's roadless inventory required by the new Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). The California Wilderness Coalition is currently considering the best action to take to assure proper identification and consideration of potential wilderness lands within the Mohawk Planning Unit.

South Fork Mountain

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has issued its Land Management Plan for the South Fork Mountain Management Unit. Highlights of the proposed alternative plan include the development of the Chinquapin and East Fork roadless areas, development of the non-inventoried Penney Ridge roadless area, and minimum off-road vehicle restrictions.

A portion of the South Fork roadless area falling within this management unit will be retained pending further evaluation during the Hayfork-Hyampom land use planning process.

A number of interesting maps are included in the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Overlaying the Land Capabilities & Limitations and the Cultural Resource Sensitivity Zones maps with the map of the proposed plan leads one to wonder if the Forest Service makes its man-

agement decisions prior to obtaining the information about the land.

Adverse environmental impacts that cannot be avoided with the preferred plan include the inability to guarantee:

1) the reversal of the declining trend of the South Fork of the Trinity River Anadromous Fishery Resource upriver from Forest Glen.

2) the reversal of the decline of the South Fork Mountain Deer Herd on the eastern slopes of the mountain.

3) the reversal of the decline of old growth-dependent wildlife species such as: the spotted owl, pileated woodpeckers, wolverines, and pine marten.

Copies of this plan may be obtained from Richard J. Pflif, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 1615 Continental Street, Redding, Ca. 96001. Comments will be accepted until November 30.

Big Bear Basin

A draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Big Bear Basin Planning Unit has been published by the San Bernardino National Forest. The only inventoried roadless area within the unit will be examined for wilderness characteristics during the planning for the adjacent Santa Ana Planning Unit.

There is little difference among the various alternatives in the plan. All of them call for managing the

2,700 acre Bertha Peak area for backcountry recreation. Off-road vehicles will be controlled by varying degrees, with only Alternative B banning snowmobiles. Timber cutting remains the same under all alternatives. One difference would be in the number of new winter sports facilities allowed.

Deadline for comments was November 11th.

North Fork American River

The Resources Agency has released their Waterway Management Plan for the North Fork American River. Most of the river from its headwaters to Colfax is designated as Wild in the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Small sections near Colfax and at the Cedars have been classified as Scenic.

The State recognized that the North Fork American is being studied for possible inclusion in both the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Waterway

Management plan specifically recommends that "The California Department of Forestry, in reviewing timber harvest plans, place particular emphasis on the protection of environmental values, to ensure that the harvest will not threaten valuable aesthetic, recreational, wildlife, or other resources, or detract in any way from potential congressional designation of such areas as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System or as Wilderness Areas."

The State also recommends stronger ORV controls than those currently issued by the Forest Ser-

vice. The Plan states, "The U.S. Forest Service [should] close and post as closed all other trails leading into and along the North Fork at their respective trail heads in the Tahoe National Forest."

Numerous additional recommendations stress the need for maintaining the wilderness character of the North Fork American River.

Waterway Management Plans have also been issued for the Lower American and the Van Duzen Rivers. These streams only have scenic and recreational designations.

Tahoe Basin ORV Plan

The Lake Basin Management Unit of the Forest Service has released its final Off-Road Vehicle Plan. The Plan is a pleasant change from the non-controls issued by most National Forests.

The Summer Vehicle Plan restricts ORVs to designated routes through-

out the Tahoe Basin. Closed areas include the Desolation Wilderness and parts of the Upper Truckee (Dardanelles) and the Freel Peak roadless areas.

Winter closures are fewer with Desolation and a part of Freel Peak closed to snowmobiles. The Upper

Truckee area is open to snowmobiles on designated routes. Other lands are completely open to machines.

Copies of the plan may be obtained from the U.S. Forest Service, 1052 Tata Lane, P.O. Box 8465, South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 95731.