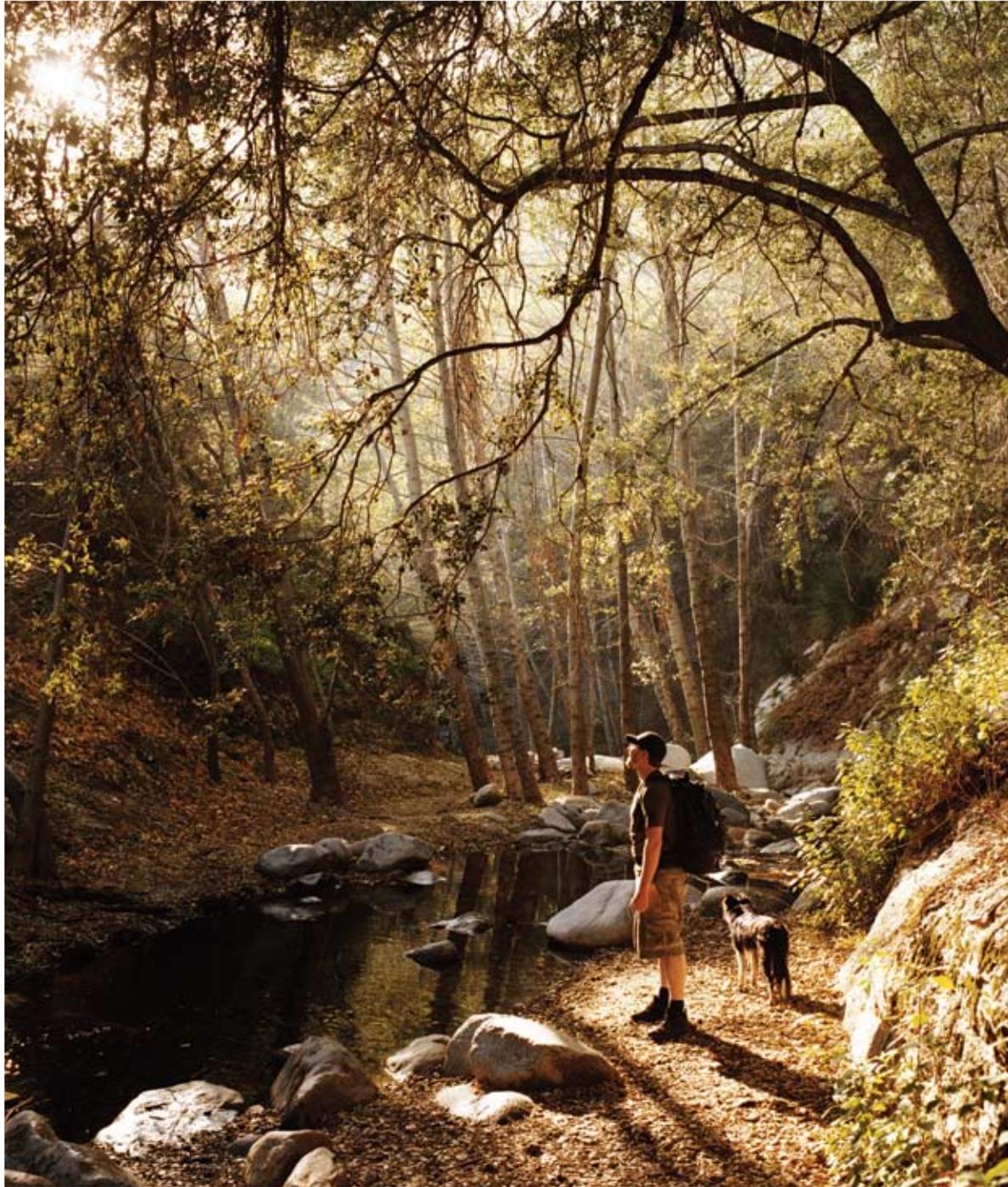


WILDERNESS RECORD

News Journal of the California Wilderness Coalition

FALL 2008



Conglomerate Mesa Threatened by Gold Mine PAGE 6

Wilderness Volunteer Lobbies Congress PAGE 4 **Federal Wrap-Up** PAGE 10 **Annual Report** PAGE 12



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WILDERNESS
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The California Wilderness Coalition protects the natural landscapes that make California unique, providing clean air and water, a home to wildlife, and a place for recreation and spiritual renewal. CWC is the only organization dedicated to protecting and restoring California's wild places and native biodiversity on a statewide level. Since 1976, we have empowered local communities and conservationists to be the voice for wild California.

Wildflowers – CWC ARCHIVES



WILDERNESS RECORD

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The Wilderness Record is published quarterly by the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted with the permission from the editor. Articles, photographs, and artwork on California wilderness, wildlife, and related subjects are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

COVER: SWEETZER FALLS, ANGELES CREST
NATIONAL FOREST — AMANDA FRIEDMAN

DESIGN BY ISON DESIGN/ISONDESIGN.COM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



In a last minute victory for CWC's Golden State Wilderness Campaign, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the designation of a new wilderness area at Limekiln State Park along the Big Sur coast. Authored by Assemblymember John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) CWC worked with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and activist Gordon Johnson to pass this breakthrough legislation.

Several years ago, CWC's Golden State Wilderness Inventory revealed that thousands of acres of potential state-owned wilderness areas were not protected. These state lands not only offer the best in outdoor recreation, but also contain watersheds and forests that clean our air and water. They are also home to our most threatened wildlife and native plants.

Over the next several years, CWC will take on the challenge of protecting these lands. Working with local activists, lawmakers, state, and federal agencies, we will secure wilderness designations for state owned lands and permanently protect these Californian jewels.

In this issue you'll read about our work to pass federal wilderness legislation. Early September we were in Washington D.C. lobbying as the minutes ticked away on the final hours of the session. However, the worsening financial crisis required urgent legislative action and both Houses adjourned before voting on the bills. Senator Harry Reid has vowed to call a "lame duck" session after the November election.

CWC has been tracking proposed management plans for four southern California national forests. Sadly, the United States Forest Service has eschewed not only our comments but also the 2006 legal challenge filed by the state of California to protect roadless public lands. That left us no choice but to file a lawsuit. The proposed plan would open more than 90% of Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests to development. It is one of the worst management plans developed in recent years under the Bush Administration, which has repeatedly challenged the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

As the stock market tumbles and the price of gold climbs higher it comes as no surprise that mining claims on public lands have escalated. The latest claim threatens one of our priority projects, the Malpais Mesa Proposed Wilderness Additions, a pristine desert landscape that has never been mined, grazed or developed (see *Tom Budlong's article on page 6*).

So, where to go from here? In the next year CWC will continue in its leadership role in designating public lands for wilderness on both the federal and state levels. We will work to build local constituencies in support of appropriate management of public wild lands, and we will protect them from exploitation and damage from inappropriate uses like mining, drilling, logging, and illegal off-road vehicle driving. And we will educate the public, lawmakers and business leaders on many contributions of California's wild lands to our economy, our environment and the quality of our lives.

We couldn't do any of this without our members; your support is the foundation of all our work. Thank you.

Barbara Hill is the Executive Director of CWC

bhill@calwild.org



Wilderness Volunteer Lobbies Congress

Shannah Zorn, business owner, resident of Hemet, and CWC member, joined dozens of California wilderness advocates in Washington, D.C. to support legislation which would protect 800,000 acres of wild California. She became involved with CWC after meeting staffer Laurel Williams at an event in her community.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of accompanying the California Wilderness Coalition team to Washington, D.C. for several exciting, action-packed days worth of meetings and events. The trip was inspiring right from the start, as wilderness advocates from many parts of the US came together to hear several of our country's most noted wilderness leaders talk about the history of the wilderness movement and the crucial work that still needs to be done. I was particularly moved by Senator Salazar's description of his boyhood in rural Colorado and his success in uniting constituents for the protection of wild places in his home state.

The trip left many deep impressions upon me. I could see that the majority of Congressional members we met

appreciated our trip to DC. For many of us, it meant time away from family and work. I was also struck by how familiar lawmakers and staff were with the work of California Wilderness Coalition. Representative Bono Mack, who is sponsoring a bill for nearly 200,000 acres in Riverside County, made note of her gratitude in working with CWC and our pragmatic, collaborative approach to working with her on bill language and securing local support. I am proud to be part of the group that is building a reputation for fairness and capabilities that will pave the way for future wilderness legislation.

For me, the trip was a wonderful learning opportunity. And even more importantly, it was an opportunity to speak about something that I care about to people who can help make a difference. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make Wilderness Week happen!

Senate Advances California Desert & Mountain Heritage Act

By Laurel Williams

On September 11, 2008, CWC staff and volunteers joined more than 100 wilderness activists from across the country to lobby Congress in support of wilderness. All three of the major California Wilderness Bills that CWC has been fighting for were finally approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, meaning the next stop would be a full vote by the Senate. The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act introduced by Representative Mary Bono Mack in the House and Senator Barbara Boxer in the Senate had previously been approved by the House, and has been waiting for Senate action since early summer.

If passed, the bill will protect 191,000 acres of wilderness, including areas in Joshua Tree National Park and the Beauty Mountain area west of Anza-Borrego State Park. The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act would also protect four rivers as "wild and scenic" including Fuller Mill Creek.

There's more wilderness out there...

Over the years CWC has continually helped monitor existing wilderness areas and inventory potential new wilderness areas. In the California desert, we are at a critical and exciting juncture. With the help of dedicated volunteers, local community leaders and our coalition partners, we have readied a proposal for several new wilderness areas in the desert. Some of the spectacular wild places include:

- The Avawatz Mountains—an area with nine natural springs, bighorn sheep, and Native American cultural sites



- The Cady Mountains—one of the few places where the Mojave River flows above ground and is internationally known for agates
- Big Morongo—a desert oasis that boasts the second highest concentration of migratory birds in the United States

This is not the first time that some of these special wild places are being proposed to receive the wilderness protection that they deserve. Many of these places were included in the original California Desert Protection Act, but were excluded due to active mining claims, private inholdings, or other unresolved issues. Now these issues have been resolved.

From here, CWC will continue to work with desert communities to build a strong network of supporters who can help influence our elected officials to support our proposal and introduce it as legislation. The timing couldn't be more crucial! California loses 100 acres of pristine wild land each day to development, logging, mining, and road building. Pressure on our wild places is on the rise and it is increasingly more important to protect our wild public lands while we still can.

To learn more about the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act and CWC's role please contact Monica Argandoña at margandona@calwild.org or 909-946-1855.



Page 5 photos of Avawatz Death Valley – CWC ARCHIVES



By Tom Budlong

Conglomerate Mesa Threatened by Gold Mine

Next time you drive through Owens Valley, look east, not west. It's all there. The Inyo/White Mountain Range is largely protected by Malpais Mesa and Inyo Mountains Wilderness. But in between is the largely forgotten Conglomerate Mesa. Gold mining is threatening to change Conglomerate Mesa from lonely and forgotten into an industrial zone.

As it sits today, Conglomerate Mesa is un-roaded, has never been grazed, and has never seen the old pick-and-shovel mining from the early days of California. Higher elevations (the highest point is 7,700 feet) contain a scattering of piñons. Lower elevations support a healthy stand of Joshua Trees, one of the more spectacular Joshua Tree forests. The aridity has precluded grazing, invasive plants, and unknown grasses. Access is difficult from any direction. It takes a good deal of exploration to just find Conglomerate Mesa, even though it's in plain sight from the southern Sierra Nevada region and to anyone who might look while driving 395 in the

vicinity of Olancho or Lone Pine. The peak register has 20–30 entries.

Evidence of man is in just two forms. Keeler, immediately below Conglomerate Mesa in Owens Valley, was the end of the Carson & Colorado narrow gauge. From there, a freighting trail for transporting

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please ask BLM to prevent the destruction of this timeless, pristine, de-facto wilderness in favor of short term production of a non essential commodity. Your letters will have an impact.

Hector Villalobos, Field Manger

BLM Ridgecrest
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Or email at Hector_Villalobos@blm.gov

supplies and ore went east across the Mesa. The trail still exists. Curious, small, fireplace-like rock structures are the only other evidence of human activity. Their purpose has not been verified, but it is suspected they are related to the need for charcoal to feed the smelters at the Cerro Gordo silver mines, several miles north.

But there is no evidence of mining. Timberline Resources, the mining company threatening Conglomerate Mesa, says that because the gold there is microscopic, the old miners could not have seen it. They want to bulldoze roads into the southern end to drill holes to see what lies below. Another company attempted drilling ten years ago, and then left. The BLM had to force them to make good on their promise to recontour the roads.

Timberline Resources makes their plans well known on their website (www.timberline-resources.com). It speaks of a ten square mile project area. It speaks of a multi-million ounce gold deposit (for comparison, in ten years of operation the Briggs mine in Panamint Valley produced 550,000 ounces). It speaks of 'Carlin' type gold, which almost always involves an open-pit cyanide heap-leach facility. If their exploration runs to Timberline's desired conclusion, climbers and travelers will be treated to the sight of a new industrial zone. Picture giant trucks carrying 200 tons of rock, digging a giant mining pit, and the resulting leach piles glistening with cyanide solution taking over this once remote mesa. The BLM is in the process of creating the necessary environmental documents that would permit Timberline's exploratory drilling.



Conglomerate Mesa – MONICA ARGANDOÑA

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?



JOHN TERENCE TURNER

The answer for many of our members is an estate gift to ensure the protection of California's wild places. Since 1976, CWC has been at the forefront of protecting wild California. Whether you choose to make a bequest or a planned gift, you will be ensuring wilderness protection for now and for the future.

We have a number of planned giving opportunities available. Contact us to learn more.

Kristi Davis, Associate Director, kdavis@calwild.org
or 510-451-1450.



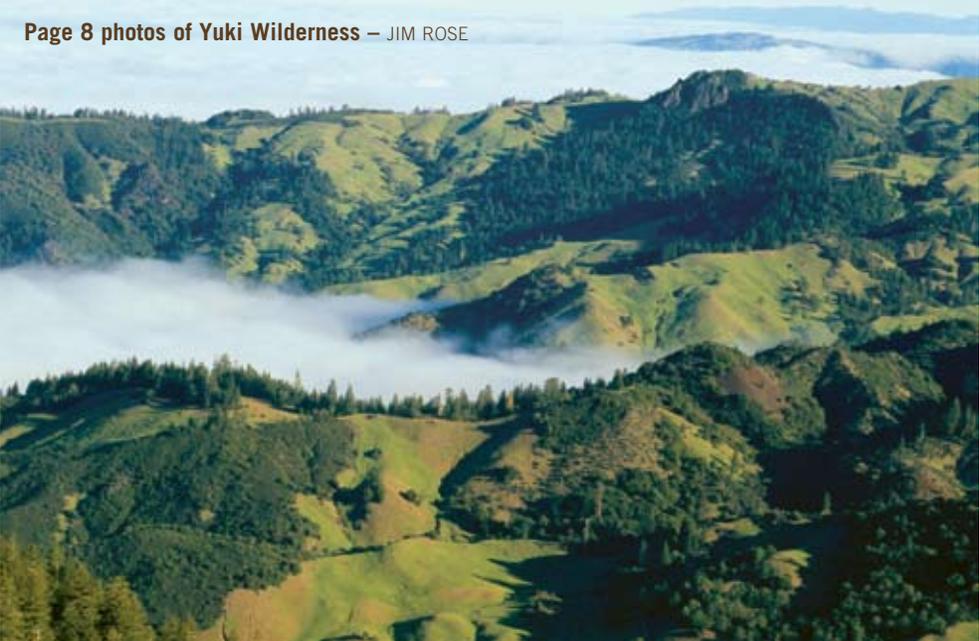
Volunteering in the Wilderness

In 2006, California Wilderness Coalition successfully won passage of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. The act protects over 275,000 acres of public land in Napa, Lake Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. This past spring, CWC staffer Ryan Henson explored the possibility of hiring a student intern to work on restoring the newly protected Yuki Wilderness in Mendocino County.

CWC was able to secure funding with help from the National Forest Foundation and in partnership with Mendocino National Forest (MNF), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Samantha Krause, a student intern, spent the summer recruiting, training, and coordinating volunteers to educate the public about Yuki Wilderness and to protect the wilderness from illegal vehicle use. These volunteers gained the skills and tools necessary to become stewards of this area for the life of the project and beyond. The volunteer wilderness stewardship program started by Samantha will doubtlessly continue to protect Yuki Wilderness and other wild lands in the years to come.



There are many opportunities for you to contribute as well. If you're interested in joining a diverse community of wilderness enthusiasts, or taking a hike in this new wilderness area, please contact Samantha at Samanathakrause@gmail.com.



Page 8 photos of Yuki Wilderness – JIM ROSE

COALITION NEWS

CWC board member **James Wilson** and his wife **Kay** hosted our fall board meeting at their home in Bishop, CA at the end of September. Board and staff hiked the stunning White Mountains which are included in the Eastern Sierra Wilderness Bill. Two new members were elected to the board and they are **Mitch O'Farrell** from Los Angeles and **Stacy Binns** of San Mateo. Stacy is an architect, and with her partner George Bennett launched Fringe Studio. Their work is modern, light, and environmentally green, drawing inspiration from the landscape where their projects are located. She is a graduate of California College of the Arts. She and her family are backcountry travelers and spend as much time as they can hiking. Mitch is District Director for Eric Garcetti, L.A. Council President. His work has included participation in the L.A. River revitalization master plan as well as helping to formulate policy and goals for the 13th district. We are delighted to have them join us, welcome!



CWC Board of Directors from left to right: **Bob Moskovitz**, **Deborah Moskovitz**, **Alan Carlton**, **Mary-Austin Klein**, **James Wilson**, **Barbara Hill (Staff)**, **Ryan Henson (Staff)**, **Phil Farrell**, **James Dodson**, and **Mitch O'Farrell**.



CWC also hired new staff over the summer. **Kristi Davis** came on board in June as Associate Director. An Oakland resident, she is a traveling enthusiast; most recently hiking throughout Vietnam. After growing up in Monterey, she graduated from Mount Holyoke College and holds a Masters of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco. Prior to coming to CWC she worked at the Sierra Club Foundation and served on the board of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.



Erin Ziegler joined us in August as Deputy Policy Director. A recent graduate of Boalt Hall at U.C. Berkeley, she also holds a Certificate in Environmental Law and Policy. Erin is a California native who graduated with honors from Humboldt State and also worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Mike Thompson. She has published several papers including: *Public Use Jurisprudence: Before and After Kelo*; *Giving and Taking: Land Use Regulation in Post-Katrina New Orleans*; and *Deconstructing Dam Relicensing: A Guide to Citizen Participation*.



Most recently, **Julia Kernitz** was hired as a GIS coordinator. She will head our mapping projects which are essential in designating wilderness areas. Originally from Philadelphia, she went to school in the mountains of North Carolina and found her passion in nature and the outdoors. While at Warren Wilson College she helped run a working farm and forest. When not mapping, you can find her exploring her new home state.

CWC would also like to welcome our new interns. **Nicholas Garcia** and **Lili Rosenberg** will join the Oakland office. **Siobhan Lavender**, **Nicole Esclamato**, **Jamii Barackman**, and **Lisa Sedgwick** will join the Upland office.



CWC Wraps Up a Hectic and Frustrating Congressional Year

CWC Pushing for “Special Session”

By Ryan Henson, Deputy Policy Director

Three California wilderness bills that CWC supports have yet to come to the Senate for a vote thanks to the near gridlock that has gripped Capitol Hill because of election year rancor, battles over energy policy, and multi-billion dollar bailouts of high profile financial institutions. A possible lame-duck session after the election may give us one last chance for this session.

For two years, CWC has been working with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representative Mary Bono Mack (R-Palm Springs) to secure passage of the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, S. 2109 and H.R. 3682. The bill seeks to permanently protect 200,000 acres (310 square miles) of stunning, public land in Riverside County by establishing:

- four new wilderness areas covering 65,827 acres
- seven additions to existing wilderness covering 124,297 acres

- four additions to the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument covering 8,367 acres

It would also protect 31.5 miles along four streams as wild and scenic rivers. Once a stream is protected as a wild and scenic river it can never be dammed or diverted.

The beautiful dunes, canyons, peaks, chaparral thickets, Joshua tree groves, and oak woodlands of Riverside County would be permanently protected from exploitation. Among the areas proposed for protection is Joshua Tree National Park, a world-famous tourist destination that is home to many imperiled species of plants and animals such as the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise.

Senator Boxer’s and Representative Jim Costa’s (D-Fresno) Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act of 2007 (S. 1774 and H.R. 3022) would protect 114,686 acres (179 square miles) of the park as wilderness and name a portion of the new wilderness

after former Congressman John Krebs who was instrumental in saving the area from development when it was not yet a national park. Among other dramatic features, the wilderness additions include groves of giant sequoias, the world's thickest trees.

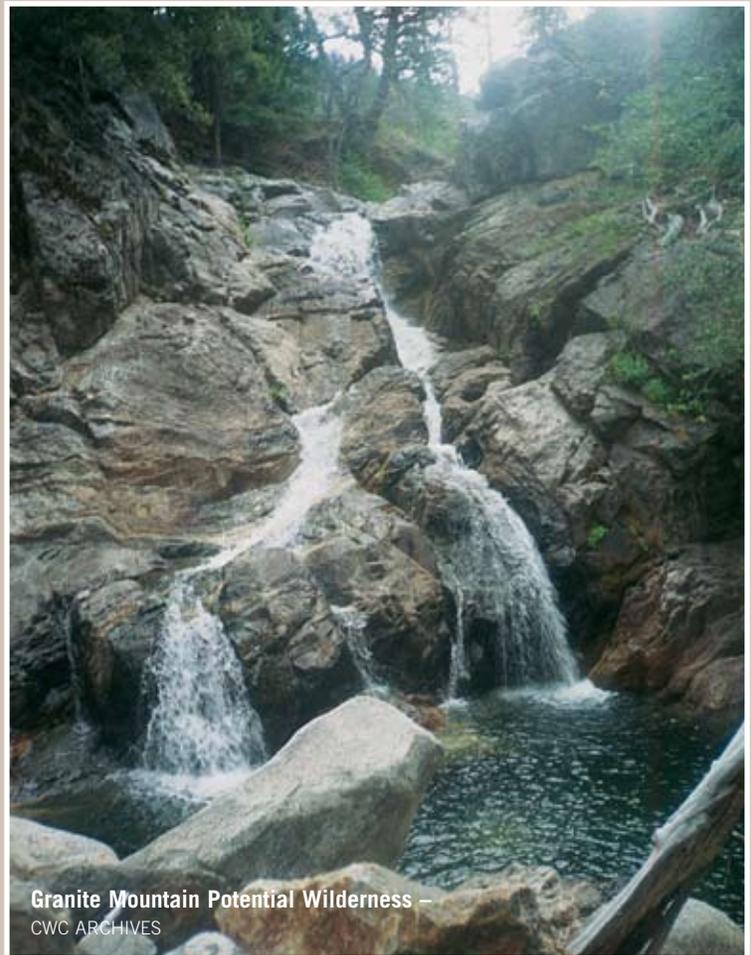
Both of these bills have been passed by the House of Representatives, and on September 11, 2008 they were passed unanimously by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. The bills now only need a vote of the full Senate for them to be sent to President Bush's desk.

The largest of the three California wilderness bills currently before Congress is Senator Boxer's and Representative Buck McKeon's (R-Santa Clarita) Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act (S. 3069 and H.R. 6156) covering Inyo, Mono, and northern Los Angeles counties. It would protect 501,805 acres by establishing:

- four new wilderness areas covering 297,214 acres
- four additions to existing wilderness covering 175,591 acres
- A 29,000-acre Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest

It would also protect 52.65 miles of 3 streams as wild and scenic rivers.

Opposition had been fierce from the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, snowmobilers and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. McKeon and Boxer were forced to negotiate concessions that raised concern from wilderness advocates. For example, the bill proposes to "release" 51,000 acres of the Masonic Mountain, Mormon Meadow, Walford Springs, and Granite Mountain Wilderness Study Areas, meaning that Congress will withdraw current protections from the areas, but the bill does not subject the areas to what is known as "hard release" that would either mandate development in



the areas or prevent them from being administratively protected in the future.

It will also establish a 7,680-acre snowmobile recreation area in Leavitt Bowl, adjacent to the Hoover West Wilderness Addition in what is currently a roadless area. However, we believe there are three important mitigating factors. First, the bill sanctions existing snowmobile use rather than allowing it in an area that the machines are not currently used. Second, the bill requires that the area be managed for non-motorized recreation during the summer months. Lastly, the bill will establish an additional snowmobile area on 3,200 acres of non-roadless land in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

We and our partners came to the agreement that these compromises are more than offset by the long-awaited wilderness designation for the famous White Mountains, substantial additions to the John Muir, Hoover, and Ansel Adams wilderness areas, as well as the many other positive aspects of the bill.

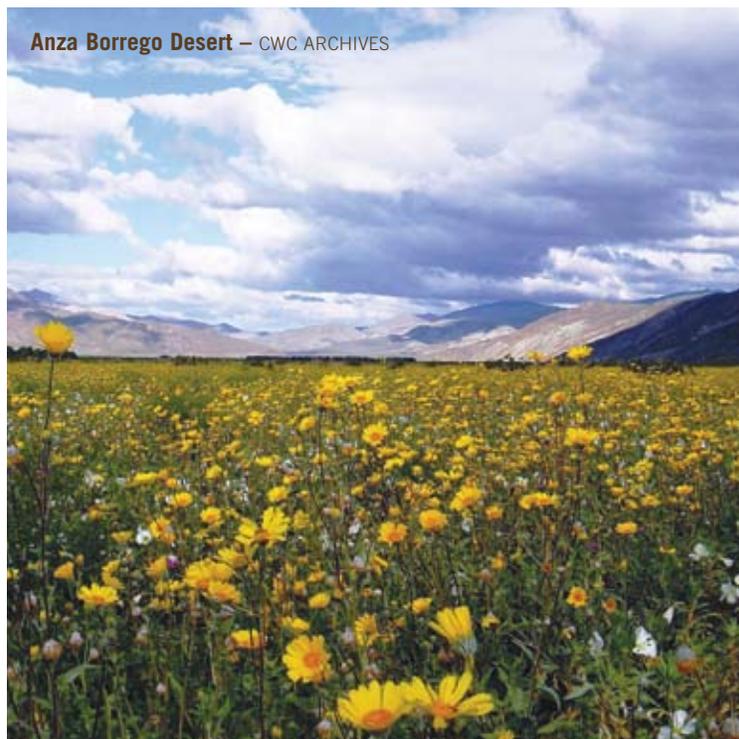
The Eastern Sierra bill was passed unanimously on September 11, 2008 by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. The bills now only need a vote of the full Senate and House.



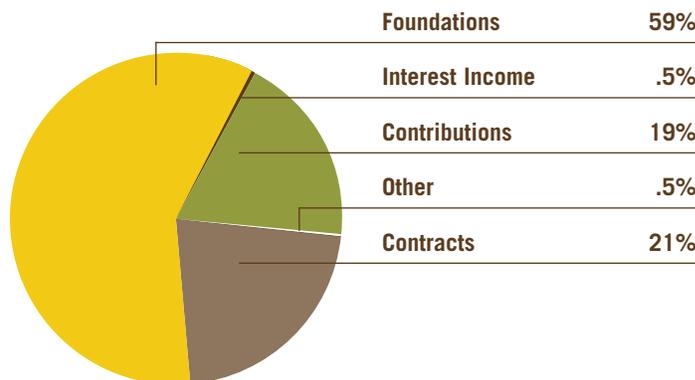
ANNUAL REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

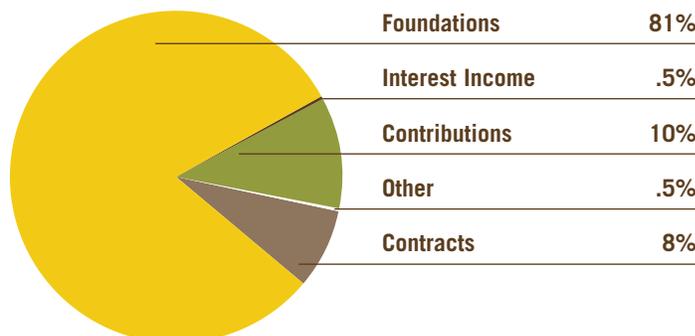
- Designated new state wilderness at Limekiln State Park along the Big Sur coast
- Secured funding from the State Park Off-Road Vehicle Trust Fund for projects that provide improvements to non-motorized recreation facilities like trail heads, access roads, and campgrounds
- Stopped proposed logging at Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness, a 16,000 acre Tahoe Forest watershed and wildlife area
- Introduced three major wilderness bills to Congress:
 - The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act permanently protects new wilderness areas around Riverside County—we successfully expanded the acres of wilderness by 55% over prior versions
 - The Sequoia King’s Canyon Bill adds to current wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
 - The Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Mountains Wild Heritage Act preserves spectacular mountains, rivers, and open spaces of the Eastern Sierras
- Won our fight to stop Bush Administration support of R.S. 2477 claims in Death Valley National Park and Mojave Preserve
- Filed suit to protect the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests
- Monitored and responded to proposed Southwest National Interest Electrical Transmission Corridor which threatens high quality wilderness areas in the California desert



2008 INCOME



2007 INCOME

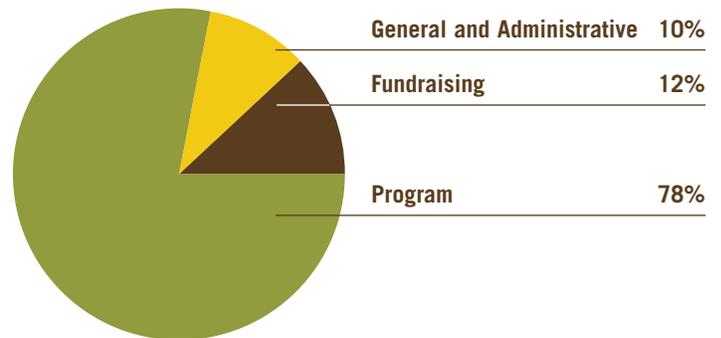


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

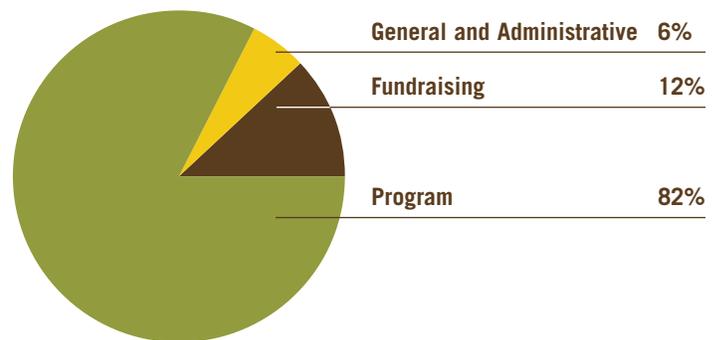
	2008	2007
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 134,328	\$ 134,061
Foundations and Community Grants	\$ 423,478	\$ 1,003,105
Contracts	\$ 155,167	\$ 95,842
Interest Income	\$ 1,528	\$ 3,920
Other	\$ 25	\$ 400
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 714,526	\$1,237,328

	2008	2007
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 498,667	\$ 554,351
General and administrative	\$ 64,073	\$ 37,328
Fundraising	\$ 75,292	\$ 80,087
Total Expenses	\$ 638,032	\$ 671,766
Change in Net Assets	\$ 76,494	\$ 565,562
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 946,565	\$ 381,003
Net Assets, end of year	\$1,023,059	\$ 946,565

2008 EXPENSES



2007 EXPENSES



BALANCE SHEETS JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 207,679	\$ 45,684
Accounts Receivable	\$ 533,744	\$ 931,439
Property and equipment	\$ 3,479	\$ 7,411
Other Assets	\$ 1,616	\$ 200
Total Assets	\$ 746,518	\$ 984,734
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 93,936	\$ 38,169
Total Liabilities	\$ 93,936	\$ 38,169
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ (278,090)	\$ 15,893
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 930,672	\$ 930,672
Total net Assets	\$ 652,582	\$ 946,565
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 746,518	\$ 984,734

View from Fonts Point Anza
Borrogo Desert – CWC ARCHIVES



The summary of financial information for 2007 has been extracted* from California Wilderness Coalition's audited financial statements. To obtain copies of the complete audited financial statements, please contact Kristi Davis, Associate Director.

*The 2008 figures reflect unaudited financials.

California Wilderness Coalition wishes to thank our donors of \$100 and higher, and all of our donors whose support is critical to our success.

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Cady Mountains Day Hike from Afton Canyon

Saturday, November 15 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Join us for a cross country hike through rugged landscapes and winding slot canyons just north of Barstow. Our hike will take us through lands that were utilized by Native Americans as a water source. Jedediah Smith and Kit Carson traveled through this area in the early 1800's. We'll start in Afton Canyon, often called the Grand Canyon of California, with beautiful red, gold, brown, and purple striped walls. This area is one of the few places where the Mojave River flows above ground, and the surface water attracts a variety of wildlife. We'll hike roughly 4 miles, keeping a



Afton Canyon – CWC ARCHIVES

watch for bighorn sheep and other animals. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, and bring 2 liters of water and lunch. Don't forget your camera!

Contact Laurel at lwilliams@calwild.org or 909-260-8833 for more information.

Meet in Barstow at the Starbucks at 1620 E Main St., 8:30AM.

Carpooling from Claremont, Rancho Cucamonga, and Victorville is possible.

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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