

WILDERNESS RECORD

News Journal of the California Wilderness Coalition

FALL 2009



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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.



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COVER: CALIFORNIA LUPINE — CWC ARCHIVE
ABOVE: NORTHERN SIERRA — PHIL FARRELL

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The last issue of the *Wilderness Record* was a tribute to the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009—signed into law by President Obama in March 2009. This issue of the *Wilderness Record* will celebrate the anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, remember our past achievements which have paved the way for our current campaigns, and spotlight the unique organizing efforts of CWC; such as the utilization of art to build support for wilderness.

Hopefully many of you have utilized the summer to enjoy the beauty that the outdoors of California has to offer by camping, hiking, fishing and bird watching. These activities are traditional uses of the wild spaces that the Wilderness Act protected in 1964. The idea of wilderness is not just to permanently capture the wild character of a particular landscape, but to provide a place to enjoy historic pastimes in their original settings. Please join CWC in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Through the Wilderness Act, CWC has led on-the-ground efforts to protect nearly 15 million acres of wild spaces throughout California. Since its inception in 1976, CWC has utilized a cadre of grassroots organizing tools, most unique, the methodology of building diverse constituencies. These Constituencies represent the diverse framework of Californians who support the protection of wild spaces. This tactic allows us to build a comprehensive base of support to effectively raise awareness of the benefits that wilderness designation brings to local communities.

In our continued efforts to build a broad base of support for wilderness, CWC is co-sponsoring the 2010 Western Wilderness Conference. On behalf of CWC, I invite you to attend the 2010 Western Wilderness Conference, scheduled for April 8–11th at UC Berkeley. CWC is working in collaboration with The Sierra Club, Californians for Western Wilderness, Ventana Wilderness Alliance, River Runner's for Wilderness, Desert Protective Council and various other supporting organizations to coordinate a leadership conference. This conference will bring together past, future and present wilderness advocates to share and exchange knowledge and experiences to build upon the previous success of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. As we continue to learn more about climate change and its affects on the environment, the focus of the conference will be to build new allies, and develop new aims to maximize opportunities for participants to acquire or improve practical knowledge leading to more successful local conservation work.

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the future generation of wilderness activists, I encourage you to make a contribution to support California Wilderness Coalition. You may use the enclosed envelope or visit our website to make a special 45th anniversary donation, sign-up for our environmental action alerts or volunteer to participate in our stewardship projects. www.calwild.org

Mary-Austin Klein, President, Board of Directors



San Ysidro Mountains, Anza Borrego, CA – MARY-AUSTIN KLEIN



Celebrating 45 Years of the Wilderness Act

Doug Scott, Campaign for America's Wilderness and Monica Argandoña, Desert Program Director

Forty-five years ago this month, a bipartisan group of lawmakers agreed to legislation that would have a lasting impact on our nation's public lands—not by changing them, but by making sure some portion of these magnificent wild places would remain the same in perpetuity. The Wilderness Act, signed into law September 3, 1964, was statutory acknowledgement that our public lands helped shape us as a people and that there was great value in ensuring future generations have the opportunity to experience some part of the original landscape. When the Act was passed, 54 areas totaling 9.1 million acres in 13 states were designated as wilderness. In the 45 years since the Act was passed, ordinary citizens, working through their elected representatives, used the Wilderness Act to permanently protect more than 109 million acres of wilderness as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Thanks to support and leadership by both parties, Congress has since passed 140 additional bills preserving wild land in 44 states and Puerto Rico. Thanks to the Act, incredible places like the Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming,

Washington's Glacier Peak Wilderness, and of course all 148 beautiful places in California such as the John Muir Wilderness, the King Range Wilderness, and Malpais Mesa Wilderness, are protected for our children—and theirs—to use and enjoy.

“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology,” President Lyndon Johnson said at the bill signing ceremony, “We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.” The latest additions to the wilderness system occurred this past March, when President Obama signed the bipartisan Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which included wilderness protection for just over two million acres—across nine states—from California to West Virginia. Yet all told, the nation's wilderness still accounts for less than five percent of the country's land mass—and half of that lies in Alaska. As we continue to lose 6,000 acres of open space each day, clearly there is more to do.

This year also marks the 15th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA). The CDPA, championed by Senator Dianne Feinstein, and signed into law on October 31, 1994, was a landmark bill that designated over seven million acres of wilderness. It designated 69 wilderness areas in the desert such as the Indian Pass Wilderness, Old Woman Mountains Wilderness, and Orocochia Wilderness. It also created Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave Preserve, and created a Desert Lily Sanctuary. The importance of this legislation cannot be underestimated as the desert is being ravaged by off-road vehicle abuse and threats of mining and development. There are still more areas that need protection in the desert and we are working very hard to make that happen.

Protecting wilderness has largely been the result of everyday people from across the nation. The battle to pass the CDPA was long and hard fought, and it could not have happened without the total commitment of Senator Feinstein and an amazing group of activists who love the desert. Two of those activists, George Barnes and Jim Dodson, a former CWC board member, still teach us about the desert and have helped us with our current desert proposal. We could not work on wilderness designation without the help of our wonderful volunteers who write letters, make phone calls, go out in the field and lobby in D.C. for areas they love. Recognizing the importance of the Wilderness Act to our nation, the U.S. Senate recently passed a resolution commemorating the 45th anniversary of this

landmark measure. The resolution states that the Senate “commends the extraordinary work of the individuals and organizations involved in building the National Wilderness Preservation System; and is grateful for the wilderness, a tremendous asset the United States continues to preserve as a gift to future generations of the United States.”

Support for wilderness protection remains broad and deep. A 2008 Zogby International poll of likely voters found that nearly nine in ten (87 percent) believe that protecting wilderness is important. This support is consistent with other polls on the issue, and cuts across political, regional, religious and ethnic lines.

Ten years after the Wilderness Act was signed, another president acknowledged the critical importance of our wild lands. President Gerald Ford said, “I believe that the Wilderness System serves a basic need of all Americans, even those who may never visit a wilderness area—the preservation of a vital element of our heritage. ... Wilderness preservation insures that a central facet of our Nation can still be realized, not just remembered.”

This 45th year of the Wilderness Act is an anniversary worth celebrating, for wilderness is much of what defines us as Americans. As we head out to enjoy the last few days of summer over the Labor Day weekend, many of us will be hiking, camping, fishing, paddling or picnicking in some of the special wild places bequeathed to us by those who years ago had the foresight to preserve and protect some of our most treasured landscapes.



Joshua Tree — CWC ARCHIVE



Anza-Borrego Desert — CWC ARCHIVE



Wilderness Stewardship

Caring for wilderness: CWC joins with student interns, volunteers and government officials to get the job done

Ryan Henson, Policy Director

Once a wild place is designated as wilderness by Congress it gets critically important statutory protection that can block mining, logging, road construction and other forms of development. Wilderness designation is in fact the most protective legal status available to public land under American law.

However, what if the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park

Service lack the resources to properly implement a wilderness bill on the ground? Even when they have the resources to properly protect a wilderness area agency staff cannot be everywhere at once to prevent illegal or irresponsible activities.

The solution to both of these scenarios is the same: citizens must help government officials protect wilderness areas. The CWC's emerging Wilderness Stewardship Program is designed to accomplish this task.

The CWC has a long history of working to raise money for federal agencies through the Congressional appropriations process and then recruiting volunteers to work with the agencies on wilderness management projects. Our new Wilderness Stewardship Program marks the first time that the CWC itself has applied for grants to improve the management of specific wilderness areas.

The need for the Wilderness Stewardship Program became apparent in 2006 when the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act was signed into law. The bill designated over 275,000 acres of wilderness and 21 miles of wild and scenic rivers. While it was winding its way through the legislative process the funding for managing the new wilderness areas was stripped from the bill in order to make it easier to pass. As the primary group working on the legislation the CWC promised the USFS and BLM that we would help them raise the money and recruit the volunteers they would need to implement the measure.

In 2008 the CWC received \$45,000 from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF), and after partnering with the staff of the Mendocino National Forest (MNF), the BLM's Arcata Field Office, and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), we used the funding to improve on-the-ground management of the 53,887-acre Yuki Wilderness, one of the newly-established North Coast wilderness areas.

Specifically, the CWC and its partners:

- Erected vehicle barriers to prevent illegal vehicle use;
- Conducted a recreation site inventory to get baseline data on the condition of the Yuki's trails and campsites;
- Posted hundreds of boundary signs;
- Designed and distributed a beautiful free map to visitors to educate them about the Yuki Wilderness and wilderness-use ethics in general;



- Monitored the effectiveness of sign postings, barriers and education in reducing illegal vehicle use;
- Constructed educational kiosks at strategic locations; and
- Recruited and trained volunteers to be stewards of the area for the project's duration and beyond.

The work was overseen by the infectiously-enthusiastic Samantha Krause of the SCA, a student attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Despite the fact that we lost almost two months of valuable time waiting for last year's record-setting fires to die down, the Yuki Wilderness Stewardship Project was universally hailed as a success by all involved. Not only did we improve on-the-ground management of the new wilderness, but we greatly increased awareness of and appreciation for the wilderness in nearby communities.

As a result of this success, this year the CWC has expanded its partnership with the USFS, BLM and SCA to continue our efforts in the Yuki Wilderness and to improve on-the-ground management of the Sanhedrin Wilderness (10,571 acres) in the Mendocino National Forest, the Snow Mountain Wilderness (60,076 acres) in the same forest, and the BLM's El Paso Mountains Wilderness (23,780 acres) in the California desert. Funding is being provided by California State Park's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program (they provide grants to protect and restore wild places on both federal and state lands that are either harmed or threatened by off-road vehicles), NFF and RLFF.

Keep an eye on the CWC's website and the pages of the *Wilderness Record* for announcements of volunteer projects in these wilderness areas.



Our Unique Organizing Methods

Laurel Williams, Desert Field Organizer



Although it would be nice if our most beautiful wild places could sprout claws and defend themselves, wilderness areas do not designate themselves. Even in difficult economic times like these, there is an onslaught of development, road building, energy drilling, solar panel paving, and a slew of other things threatening to scrape, bulldoze and crush all that is wild, living, and beautiful. It is more important than ever to organize the necessary support to pass strong laws that protect our unique places. The CWC has taken some bold steps to develop and gain the support needed to pass legislation in rural California.

Exactly what sort of support is needed? Even in what many would consider a “favorable” political climate for environmental issues, most congressional representatives want a bill that is supported by a diverse constituency. This means that in addition to having a plethora of support letters from our members, we also need to demonstrate that “nontraditional” allies are at the table when our wilderness proposals are being crafted. Some of these folks include off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, business owners, developers, local elected officials from all political backgrounds, land owners, and dirt bike racers.

Besides engaging nontraditional interests in wilderness campaigns, congressional representatives can require local government support before embarking on a wilderness bill. For the most part, the last wild places to be protected exist in rural counties. The greatest amount of support for environmental issues has grown from urban areas—cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles—whereas developing local rural support can take much longer. Past environmental campaigns were often created to resonate with urban dwellers, and heavily relied on this urban core to bring these campaigns to victory.

In both regards—engaging non traditional allies and building local support in rural areas—the CWC has taken

an innovative approach. While it is and always will be important for the CWC to retain our supporters, we have some other methodologies in place.

Like many other organizations, the CWC has a central office in the Bay Area. But unlike many organizations, we also have a field office in San Bernardino County, and staff in Shasta County and Imperial County. The CWC has chosen to go to where the wild places are and base our organizing operations there. We have hired locals to help build support in their own communities for conservation. Some may consider this strategy ridiculous. It does have its downsides. After all, there are fewer people in these rural communities. The voting base tends not to vote green. Elected officials are often entrenched in local politics and it can be tougher for their constituents to hold them accountable. Organizing in rural communities that are not accustomed to being waved down on the street to sign a postcard takes a different, often creative approach.

The upsides however, have great potential. Establishing a local citizenry that advocates for its wild backyard and embraces innovative and appropriate forms of business and tourism could result in a far more sustainable conservation movement.

When it comes to engaging nontraditional allies, the CWC takes an on-the-ground approach. Our staff has toured potential wilderness areas with various groups and politicians in every conceivable weather condition—wind, rain, blazing sun, dust, and bitter cold. Whether we are surveying a dirt route in the desert, or pouring over maps at a diner, expanding the circle to include nontraditional allies in the conversation about wilderness has not only helped to win over congressional representatives, it has made the conservation movement stronger and more diverse for the future.

CWC welcomes two new board members: In June Sam Roberts and Paul Smith were elected to the board.

Sam Roberts was born and raised in southern California, and has lived in his home state his entire life. His family loved the outdoors and Sam was introduced to wilderness before he could walk. Family camping trips led to backpacking, then on to rock climbing and mountaineering. His climbing adventures have taken him from the granite walls of Yosemite Valley to the summit of 24,580-foot Noshaq in Afghanistan. In 1990 he started Sam Roberts Photography, and has been shooting and writing about the natural world ever since. Recent assignments have given Sam the chance to work with biologists and land managers, and have proven to him again the powerful place photography has in the preservation of wildlands. An intense devotion to wilderness has led Sam to the CWC's Board of Directors. **Paul Smith** is the owner of the 29 Palms Inn in Southern California, founder of the Mojave Desert Land Trust, and President of the Desert Conservation Institute. Paul believes our wild lands have provided wonderful benefits to his family, friends and himself. These benefits range from landing a trout in the Sierra wilderness to walking through the quiet beauty of open desert lands. He is excited to be given the opportunity to continue these benefits for others. We are delighted to have them join our team! Welcome.

CWC wishes all the best to Kyle and Erika!



A simultaneous Welcome and Farewell to our Summer Legal Intern, Kyle Aarons, who has returned to the University of Michigan to continue working towards degrees in law and public policy. Kyle has been helping Policy Director Ryan Henson with various research projects, including the development of a searchable reference guide containing all of California's Wilderness bills. We're proud that Kyle will be focusing on environmental policy, including independent research into the Roadless Rule.

Erika Garcia, who has served in many critical positions with CWC, left in August after nearly four years of outstanding work, to pursue a master's degree in public health at UC Berkeley. Erika was originally hired as a membership assistant, was promoted to Administrative Assistant, then was promoted to Membership Manager and most recently served as Interim Operations Manager this summer. During her tenure she worked to significantly increase CWC's membership and build upon our impact in the community. Erika's enthusiasm, warmth, and famous vegan cupcakes will be missed, but we are excited for her to take the next step in her career! Please join us in wishing Erika a fond farewell and best of luck.



Welcome Dana!

CWC welcomes Dana Saks as our new Operations Manager. Dana has a comprehensive background in community and political activism, a great respect for the environment, and a deep commitment to social justice. Born in Palm Springs, she grew-up in the Coachella Valley located in the Mojave Desert. She first became aware of land conservation issues when the Ritz-Carlton attempted to expand their Rancho Mirage resort located in the Santa Rosa Mountain Range, to build a golf course. Dana had



a cousin on the Rancho Mirage City Council who successfully fought to protect the Santa Rosa Mountain Range, home to the endangered Big Horn Sheep. This early and frequent exposure to politics and political conversations led Dana to become a community activist as a teenager and she has since participated in various political campaigns. Dana moved to Oakland to attend Mills College where she earned a degree in Sociology. She later worked for the Vice President of Development in the Office of Institutional Advancement at Mills College. In this role, she monitored the departmental budget; processed invoices, expenses and reimbursement paperwork; managed the VP's calendar; maintained vendor files; and assisted in event planning.

Representative Darrell Issa proposes to protect northern San Diego County wilderness

Ryan Henson, Policy Director

On July 13, 2009 Congressman Darrell Issa (a Republican who represents northern San Diego and southwestern Riverside counties) announced his intention to introduce the “Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2009,” a bill strongly supported by the CWC and other conservation groups because it would protect two of southern California’s most important areas of open space as wilderness.

The Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2009 would add over 7,796 acres (over 12 square miles) to the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness and would expand the Beauty Mountain Wilderness by an additional 13,635 acres (21 square miles). Representative Issa’s bill would build on successful legislation sponsored earlier this year by Senator Barbara Boxer (Democrat, California) and Representative Mary Bono Mack (a Republican who represents most of Riverside County) whose “California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act” established the Beauty Mountain Wilderness and enlarged the Agua Tibia Wilderness that was established in 1975.

Representative Issa took the somewhat unusual step of posting the draft bill and maps of the proposed wilderness areas on his website and he gave the public until August 17th to provide input on the idea of protecting the areas. As stated on his website, “This legislation will protect and preserve lands for use by current and future generations. I’m asking for the public to review and share their ideas so that this wilderness area is created in full consultation with those who will enjoy the benefits of protecting this land and live near it.”

The areas slated for protection

The proposed additions to the Agua Tibia Wilderness are at the northernmost tip of the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) on the north-slope of Palomar Mountain, the site of the famous Palomar Observatory. Agua Tibia is a land of steep canyons cloaked in coastal sage scrub habitat. This once-common plant community is quickly being replaced by development in much of southern California, a phenomenon that has threatened habitats for the rosy boa, coast horned lizard and other sensitive species. In rugged, shady canyons, north-facing slopes, and other sheltered places, small groves of pine and fir

endure the hot, dry summers. Willow, cottonwood and other hardwoods grow along the larger streams in the area and provide a cool refuge for wildlife. In the summer months, small pools of water in the canyon heat up, giving Agua Tibia its name—Spanish for “warm water.” The Agua Tibia additions can best be accessed via the rugged Cutca Trail.

As the name implies, Beauty Mountain is a scenic jewel. It is draped in chaparral, fascinating rock formations and oak woodlands. The area is an ecological transition zone between Anza-Borrego Desert State Park on the east and the endangered coastal sage scrub habitat of the Coast Range on the west. As such, Beauty Mountain serves as a critical bridge for migrating wildlife in a rapidly urbanizing region. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considers Beauty Mountain’s Million Dollar Spring to be one of the most “pristine watersheds in all of southwestern California.” The California Riding and Hiking Trail crosses the area. A provision in the bill encourages (but does not require) the BLM to construct corrals, trailhead facilities and a basic campground near the Beauty Mountain Wilderness because such facilities are lacking in the area.

Representative Issa toured Agua Tibia and Beauty Mountain in 2008 and agreed to help protect them both for their scenic and habitat values and also because they provide excellent recreation opportunities for his constituents and others. We hope to see the bill introduced in the fall of 2009.

Other northern San Diego County wilderness candidates

While conservationists are extremely grateful to Representative Issa for agreeing to protect the additions to the Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia wilderness areas, the following deserving wild places in his congressional district need his help as well.

Barker Valley: This roughly 11,900-acre roadless area is described by the staff of the CNF, “as perhaps the most isolated non-wilderness area in San Diego County.” Its rugged, chaparral covered hills are interspersed with oak-studded valleys that provide a great haven for wildlife like the rare Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly. The



West Fork San Luis Rey River originates in the area and the stream is considered very important by biologists because of its genetically-unique landlocked steelhead trout population. The river also contains a series of waterfalls that are especially scenic in spring. Roughly 7.4 miles of the West Fork San Luis Rey were found eligible for “wild and scenic river” designation by the Forest Service (when a stream is protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act it is protected from dam construction and often a protected corridor is established along the stream to protect its ecological and social values).

Caliente: This roughly 10,000-acre area on the western boundary of the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park contains a six mile stretch of the popular Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The area is noted for its interesting rock formations and seasonal springs that serve as a critical water source for wildlife and for hikers and equestrians using the Pacific Crest Trail. Caliente is also the headwaters of the San Luis Rey River, a very important source of drinking water for downstream communities. Roughly 3.4 miles of the river were found eligible for wild and scenic river status by the Cleveland CNF.

San Diego River: Approximately 2,400 acres of this area is in Representative Issa’s district. The scenic, rugged canyon is home to many sensitive species including the arroyo toad, California gnatcatcher, two-striped garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, coast horned lizard, coastal rosy boa, and orange-throated whiptail, as well as sensitive habitats such as the endangered coastal sage scrub community. Roughly 11.1 miles of the upper San Diego has been proposed as a wild and scenic river by Senator Boxer in the past.

San Felipe Hills: This compact little 5,300-acre mountain range northeast of Julian is managed by the BLM and it includes over six miles of the popular Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The potential wilderness borders the western side of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and it is a fascinating transition zone between the desert floor and the oak and chaparral high country of western San Diego County.

San Ysidro Mountain: This 2,125-acre wild land consists of the 6,020-foot peak of San Ysidro Mountain and its rocky, chaparral-covered southern flanks. Seasonal streams in the area can hold water late into the summer, thus making them an oasis for wildlife. The sensitive loggerhead shrike and two rare flowers call the mountain home. The potential wilderness adjoins the western boundary of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Santa Margarita River: Approximately 1.5 miles of the stream are managed by the BLM and the agency found it eligible for wild and scenic river status in 1994. The BLM notes that the stream is “the only essentially undeveloped, natural, and free-flowing river which reaches the sea in the southern California coastal area.” It is home to California gnatcatchers, beaver, clapper rails, bald eagles and other sensitive wildlife species, as well as vanishing habitats like coastal sage scrub.

San Mateo Creek: Roughly 11.9 miles of the stream in the existing San Mateo Wilderness are eligible for WSR status according to the CNF. The canyon contains lush forests of oak, willow and sycamore, and though annual rainfall averages only 15 to 20 inches, pools remain in the canyon most of the year. The wilderness is known to host 139 bird species, 37 mammal species, 46 reptile and amphibian species and seven species of fish. This diversity is astounding given that the Santa Ana Mountains are an island of open space in a sea of development. Approximately 3.4 miles of Devil Canyon, a tributary, were also found eligible for wild and scenic river designation.

“In order to promote preservation of California’s fragile desert regions, I paint landscapes with detailed realism documenting the mountain ranges and the magical light conditions of the Mojave Desert. Becoming a board member of the CWC has given me the opportunity to support an organization that employs skilled policy makers focused on protecting areas that are featured in my paintings.” —Mary-Austin Klein



Wilderness and the Arts

Bill Tieman, Development Director

Artistic production, politics, and advocacy have always had a very close—and complex—relationship to each other. One of the most visible places where they intersect is in popular music. The revival of folk music in the mid-twentieth century by Pete Seeger and others, for example, became deeply intertwined in the 1960s and 70s with the civil rights movement, protests against the war in Vietnam, and the growth of environmental activism. And the relationship between the visual arts and politics has an equally rich history: many Americans would immediately recognize Shepard Fairey’s “Hope” poster that became an icon of Barack Obama’s historic presidential campaign last year. Yet what is particularly interesting about this relationship is not just that art is created or used in the service of one political interest or another. What’s remarkable is how often some of the greatest advocates of a particular cause are themselves artists. Creative production, in other words, is not simply something that gets co-opted in the service of one cause or another. For many, rather, that process of creation—whether of poetry, photography, film, painting, etc.—is itself part and parcel of their advocacy and political work.

This is no less true of conservation and wilderness advocacy than it is of other political commitments. Indeed, among artist-conservationists in the United

States, wilderness holds a very special place. To European settlers and their descendents, the “New World” (and later the frontier of the West) represented something very different from the role played by landscape in the European cultural imagination. Landscapes that were “untrammelled”—which today is the primary criterion for land to be designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964—was in fact a distinctly American subject for visual artists. In Europe landscapes were often perceived as saturated with centuries of human history, the repositories for the material legacy of great civilizations like classical Greece and Rome. The American wilderness on the other hand was perceived as the antithesis of human society: sometimes nurturing, more often not, “wildness” was a thing unto itself, always in a complex relationship with civilized life.

Some of those artist-activists are well-known names in American culture. In his essay “Walking,” an early version of which was delivered as a lecture in 1851, Henry David Thoreau explained that the “West of which I speak is but another name for the Wild; and what I have been preparing to say is, that in Wildness is the preservation of the world.” One of the greats in the history of American literature, he is also one of the greats in wilderness philosophy and a pioneer of wilderness protection. The “Hudson River School” of painting

that emerged in the early and mid-nineteenth century is commonly regarded as the first uniquely American school of painting. Painters like Thomas Cole whose work defined the school's style explored the idea of wilderness and its relationship to society. Inspired initially by the ruggedness of the Hudson valley and the Catskills, some later explored these themes in wilderness areas of New England, the American West, and South America. In the following century Ansel Adams became well known not only for his exquisite landscape photography but also for his advocacy on behalf of wilderness protection. His publication in 1938 of *Sierra Nevada: The John Muir Trail*, together with his Congressional testimony, were integral to the creation of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

CWC is fortunate to have among its board two accomplished artists, painter Mary-Austin Klein and photographer Sam Roberts. Born in San Bernardino and raised on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Mary-Austin found inspiration in the California landscape at an early age. The Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design took her inland to Los Angeles where she now spends her time when she's not at her desert cabin in Twentynine Palms. Mary-Austin is well-known for the finely detailed realism she employs to document natural landscapes, and her paintings are deeply imbued with a sense of place.

35 years ago my uncle and I went on a backpacking trip in the Minarets Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada. The sights on that trip had a profound effect on me, and, unknown to me at the time, led directly to my career as an outdoor photographer. 2 weeks ago I made this photograph as my wife and I backpacked on the same trails that were virtually unchanged since that summer long ago. Had this area not been afforded protection under the Wilderness Act, who knows what our experience might have been? Photography has always played

SUGGESTED READINGS

- "Ansel Adams at 100," an interactive multimedia feature by SFMOMA: http://www.sfmoma.org/multimedia/interactive_features/22
- *Wilderness and the American Mind* by Roderick Nash, Yale University Press (2001, 4th ed.)
- *American Wilderness: The Story of the Hudson River School of Painting* by Barbara Babcock Millhouse, Black Dome Press (2007)
- *Our Wilderness: America's Common Ground* by Doug Scott and Robert Redford, Fulcrum Publishing (2009)
- *Constructing Nature: Readings from the American Experience* by Richard Jensen and Edward E. Lotto, Prentice Hall (1996)

New board member Sam Roberts has accumulated an immense portfolio of fine wilderness photography through many years of adventure traveling worldwide. His photographs evoke the rich intimacy with wild places that he has experienced in his travels and that he hopes others will feel inspired to discover and protect.

a key role in bringing awareness to the public of our need to protect wild places; indeed, this region has been renamed the Ansel Adams Wilderness commemorating the well known photographer whose images were instrumental in it's creation. I am on the Board of Directors of the California Wilderness Coalition to help ensure that 35 years from now another generation of young people can be profoundly moved by an experience in California's wilderness areas. —Sam Roberts



Ansel Adams Wilderness — SAM ROBERTS

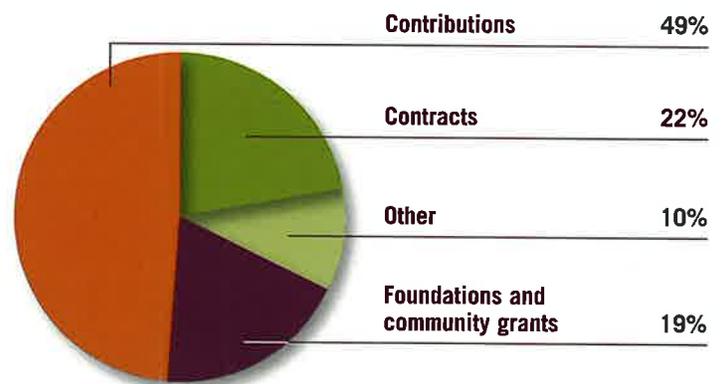
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

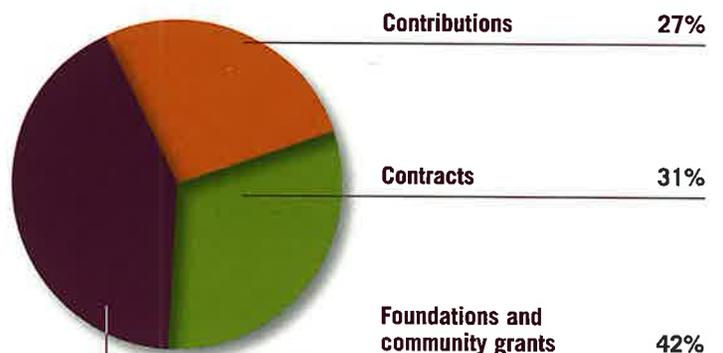
- Led in the effort to pass the California Desert & Mountain Heritage Act, Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act and Eastern Sierra & Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act. President Obama signed these acts into law on March 30th, 2009, designating more than 700,000 acres of new wilderness and 104 miles of wild and scenic rivers in California.
- Organized a diverse constituency consisting of wilderness advocates, business owners, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, local government officials, community leaders, government agencies, Native American tribes, and local and national nonprofits to propose the designation of approximately 700,000 acres of wild places in the Southern California Desert.
- Recruited a record number of volunteers to assist in the restoration of the Yuki Wilderness. These efforts concluded in the restoration of areas damaged by illegal OHV use, the erection of vehicle barriers, the posting of wilderness boundary signs and the construction of educational kiosks. The stewardship project increased awareness of and appreciation for wilderness in local communities and improved on-the-ground management.
- Spearheaded efforts to engage the U.S. Forest Service in utilizing the Travel Route Designation Process to enact sensible science based assessments of roads in forests, with the ultimate goal of protecting fragile watersheds, wildlife areas, streams, rivers and roadless areas from unnecessary damage.



2009 INCOME



2008 INCOME

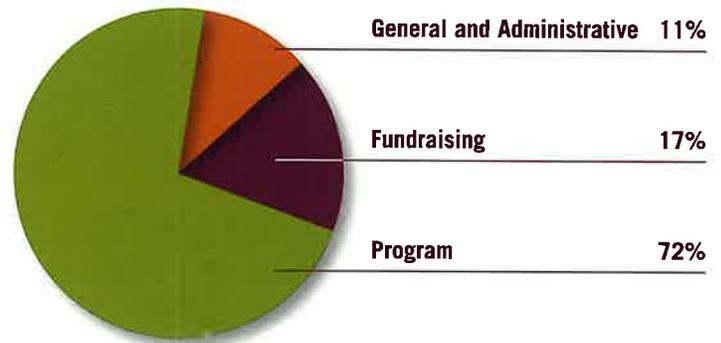


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES JUNE 30, 2009 AND 2008

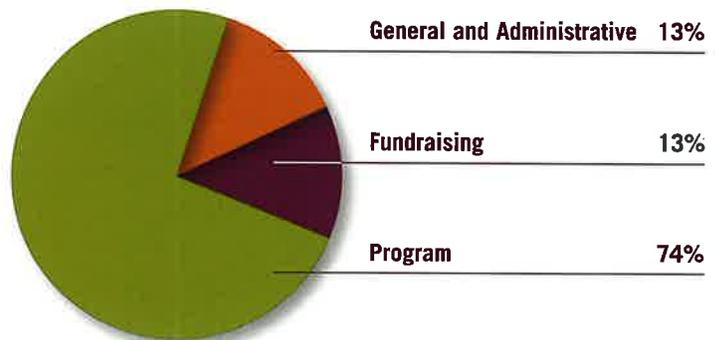
	2009	2008
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 336,022	\$ 134,328
Foundations and Community Grants	\$ 125,345	\$ 213,000
Contracts	\$ 145,326	\$ 155,167
Interest Income	\$ 506	\$ 1,528
Other	\$ 65,000	\$ 25
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 672,199	\$ 504,048

	2009	2008
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 700,357	\$ 488,886
General and administrative	\$ 109,510	\$ 82,934
Fundraising	\$ 163,685	\$ 81,835
Total Expenses	\$ 973,552	\$ 653,655
Change in Net Assets	\$ (301,353)	\$ (149,607)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 796,958	\$ 946,565
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 495,605	\$ 796,958

2009 EXPENSES



2008 EXPENSES



BALANCE SHEETS JUNE 30, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 210,011	\$ 208,895
Receivables	\$ 298,650	\$ 622,818
Property and equipment	\$ 5,795	\$ 3,479
Other Assets	\$ 790	\$ 200
Total Assets	\$ 515,246	\$ 835,392
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,641	\$ 38,434
Total Liabilities	\$ 19,641	\$ 38,434
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 144,345	\$ 93,909
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 351,259	\$ 703,049
Total net Assets	\$ 495,604	\$ 796,958
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 515,245	\$ 835,392



Duncan Canyon — CWC ARCHIVE

The summary of financial information for 2008 has been extracted* from California Wilderness Coalition's audited financial statements. To obtain copies of the completed audited financial statements, please contact Kristi Davis, Associate Director, kdavis@calwild.org or 510-451-1450.

*The 2009 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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The next wave of communication and organizing

Julia Kernitz, GIS Specialist

The California Wilderness Coalition has been slowly expanding our presence on the internet. If you spend time on Facebook, Twitter, or ConservationNEXT, connect to our pages and show your support! Stay connected to the California Wilderness Coalition through the following online media outlets:

Facebook

Facebook has become an important resource not only for social connections, but community activism as well. CWC is now on the Facebook network and ready to connect to wilderness supporters worldwide. Find our page on Facebook by searching for the California Wilderness Coalition. To show your support and to stay up to date on our latest wilderness work, become a Fan of our efforts. As a Fan you will receive information on our regular hiking and camping outings along with policy updates on our legal work throughout California. Sign up for Facebook online at facebook.com or become a Fan of the coalition if you're already part of the Facebook network.

Twitter

Twitter is now a household name referring to the simplest networking site that the internet has to offer. Twitter is a communication tool made for writing short messages to friends in your network to keep them informed of things happening in your daily life. If you have a busy schedule but want to stay informed, Twitter is an easy way to receive current updates and news on friends, family, politicians, and active organizations. If you're in the Twitter loop, search for the California Wilderness Coalition and follow us online. Receive bite-sized snippets of weekly updates from CWC and the work we are doing throughout California. To join Twitter go to twitter.com and start an account. "Follow"



us online to get weekly updates fed directly to your twitter home page.

ConservationNext

ConservationNext is a social networking site similar to Facebook, but designed specifically for outdoors and conservation enthusiasts. This network of enviros is rapidly growing, creating a hub for like-minded activists to stay informed and connected. ConservationNEXT is set up to bring those who care about environmental issues together to discuss thoughts on environmental concerns, share information, and create opportunities to take direct action in conservation efforts. "Endorse" the CWC and other active conservation organizations to stay informed on opportunities to become politically active or to get dirty volunteering with us in the field. To join ConservationNext visit www.conservationnext.com and set up your profile. ConservationNEXT is also connected to Facebook, so you can log in with your Facebook account if preferable. Once a NEXTer, search for the California Wilderness Coalition and "Click to Endorse" our efforts.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

Celebrate the Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964!

In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, please make a special donation of \$19.64, \$45 or \$1,964, to support wilderness protection, preservation and restoration!

We need your emails to protect wild California

If you are interested in receiving the latest wilderness and wild lands news for California, send an email to info@calwild.org and we'll add you to our California Wilderness Alert email list. Once signed-up, you'll receive action alerts and e-newsletters. Together we can help generate the political will to protect wild California!

Save trees: Sign up to receive the Wilderness Record electronically!

Help the environment by sending an email to info@calwild.org requesting to receive electronic versions of the Wilderness Record instead of paper versions. Your

first electronic copy of the Wilderness Record will be the Winter 2010 issue.

Become a monthly member today!

By making a monthly donation, you will help us save precious dollars and plan your giving more effectively. With a gift as little as \$11 a month, you'll be doing your part to protect wild California.

Monthly giving levels are \$11, \$15, \$20, \$35, \$50, \$100, or more.

New monthly donation members (with a minimum gift of \$11 per month) will receive a subscription to the *Wilderness Record*, a CWC tote bag, invitations to wilderness events, Galen Rowell Wilderness note cards, and a calendar.

Each new membership adds to the grassroots strength that CWC needs to protect the last wild places in California.

Go to our website and sign up today, or fill out and mail the envelope located in the center of the Wilderness record, or call us at 510-451-1450.

Status and Name Change for Pinnacles National Monument

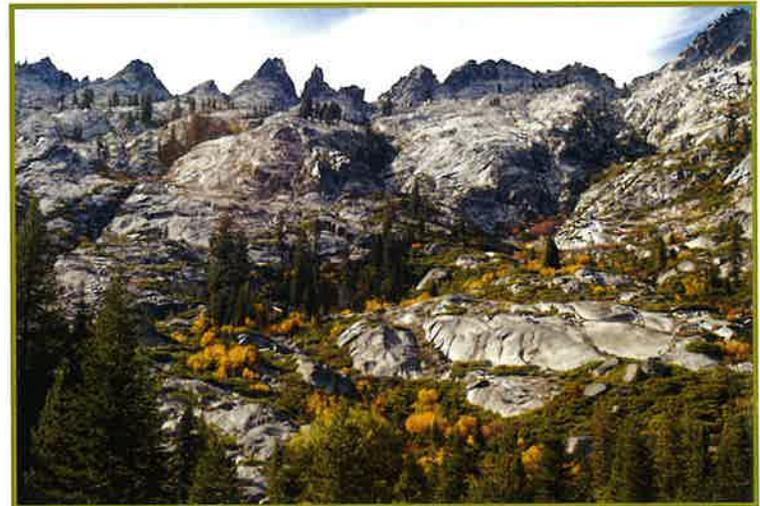
Gordon Johnson, CWC Volunteer

Legislation that would change the status of Pinnacles National Monument to a National Park and add 2,905 acres to its wilderness has been introduced by Representative Sam Farr of California's 17th Congressional District. This new park would encompass more than 26,000 acres.

Located in the Gabilan Mountains of the Pacific Coast Range in central California, Pinnacles was designated a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. This landscape of towering pinnacles, steep cliffs, huge monoliths and talus caves is half of the Neenach Volcano that has migrated up the San Andreas Fault from southern California.

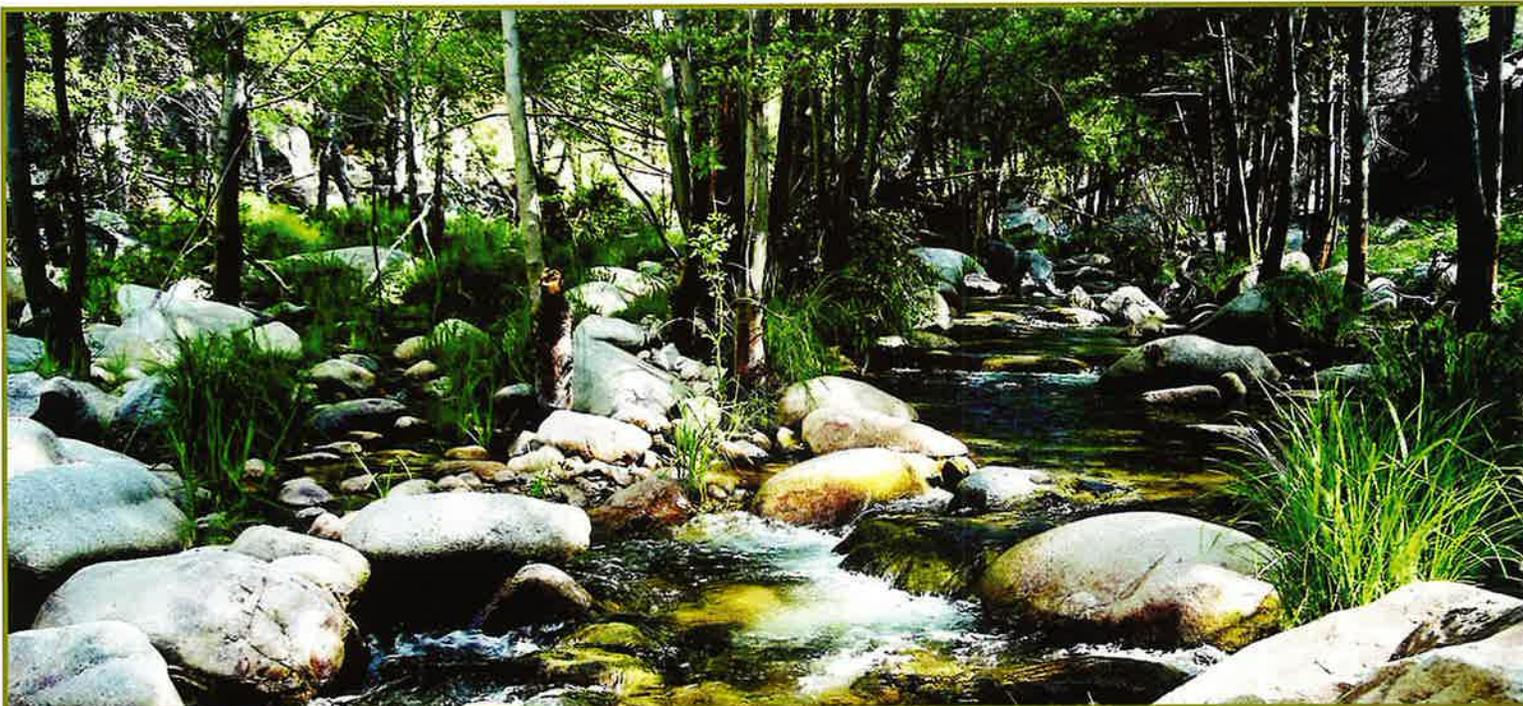
Pinnacles serve as a release site for the endangered California condor. A part of the California Recovery Program since 2003, these magnificent birds may be observed gliding over the High Peaks area of the Monument.

Within the monument, an existing wilderness area protects approximately 16,000 acres. This portion of



Pinnacles was designated as the Pinnacles Wilderness in 1976. In 2002, the Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act added another 2,710 acres. The 2009 legislation will permanently protect another 2,905 acres from roads and other intrusions. Lower Chalone Creek, as well as the slopes of Chalone Peak, are included in the new wilderness proposal.

The bill would also rename the Pinnacles Wilderness as the Hain Wilderness in honor of brothers Arthur and Schuyler Hain who were early homesteaders in the area. Their tireless efforts led to the creation of the original 2,500 acre National Monument.



Desert Wilderness & Wild Rivers Campaign Fall Outings

Join the California Wilderness Coalition and partner groups to see the spectacular wild desert areas and rivers that are being proposed for protection.

OCTOBER

Sat. 10th Castle Mountains Auto Tour & Day Hike with Lunch at Hotel Nipton

The Castle Mountains are located along the California-Nevada border and are surrounded on three sides by the Mojave National Preserve. We'll drive past the densest Joshua Tree forest in the world and take a few short hikes to get a glimpse of some of the interesting desert species, expansive views, and history of Hart mine area. We'll also enjoy lunch at the unique Hotel Nipton. For details, contact Laurel, 909-260-8833, lwilliams@calwild.org

Sat. & Sun. 17th–18th Exploring the Soda Mountains

East of Barstow and north of I-15, the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is rugged and largely unknown. We will car camp Saturday evening in the open flats near the Cronese Lakes. With an early start on Sunday we will have a full day to hike and explore the ridges and deep washes that define much of the area. Our experience will help us appreciate a unique place and to comment upon the future of this WSA. The hike is moderate in difficulty. There will be a potluck Saturday evening. Join us for the day or overnight. For details contact leader: Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER

Sat. & Sun. 7th–8th Death Valley "Bowling Alley" Car Camp & Hike

This narrow strip of land between Death Valley National Park and Fort Irwin is lovingly referred to as the "Bowling Alley" and is an ideal wilderness candidate. With unique and beautiful geology, several perennial springs, and habitat for desert tortoise and bighorn sheep, we'll have lots to explore! We'll drive in on some rough routes and then day hike from our car/tent camp site. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Join us for the day or overnight. Hike leaders: Kate Allen & Carol Wiley. Contact Laurel, 909-260-8833, lwilliams@calwild.org for details.

Sat. & Sun. 21st–22nd Surprise Canyon

Surprise Canyon is a beautiful desert canyon with a year-round stream on the eastern edge of the Panamint Valley. This canyon was once degraded by extreme off road vehicle use but is now recovering. We'll hike and rock scramble several miles up the canyon to explore the proposed wild and scenic river and riparian habitat. Car/tent camp and potluck dinner in the flats of the Surprise Canyon wilderness on Saturday night. Join us for the day or overnight. Hike leader: Tom Budlong. Contact Laurel, 909-260-8833, lwilliams@calwild.org for more details.

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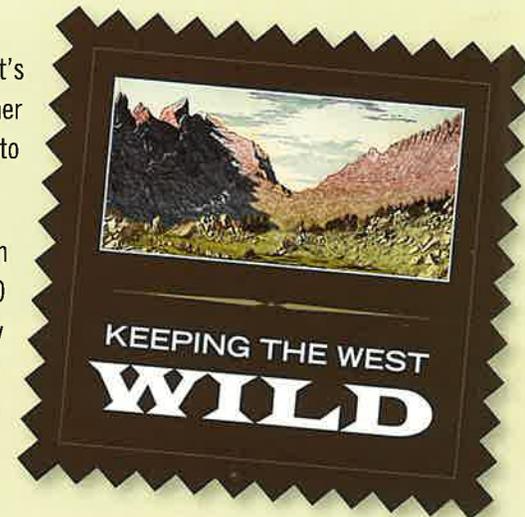
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SAVE THE DATE: 04 08 10

Ten years have passed since the last gathering of wilderness advocates in California, and it's been even longer since wild lands conservationists from throughout the West have come together to inspire each other, share experiences, empower and train a new generation of activists to safeguard the West's wild places.

We are delighted to tell you that next year that will change! California Wilderness Coalition is proud to Co-Sponsor the 2010 Western Wilderness Conference. From April 8–11, the 2010 Western Wilderness Conference will bring grassroots wilderness advocates together in Berkeley from throughout the western states. Momentum for wilderness preservation is building not only in California, but throughout the entire United States. The goal of this gathering will be to empower and train a new generation of activists to build upon our success with the recent Omnibus Public Land Management Act, as they share their experiences and plan collaboratively for future challenges. We hope that this conference will be the touchstone that leads to the eventual preservation and restoration of millions of acres of pristine wilderness throughout the Western United States.

We hope that you are able to join us, for more information please visit, www.westernwilderness.com or email Kristi Davis, CWC Associate Director, kdavis@calwild.org or call 510-451-1450.



Artwork courtesy of Tom Killion, tomkillion.com
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“The early California Wilderness Conferences helped protect untold thousands of wild acres, overcoming the opposition of every private interest group imaginable. But there is still much more to do...” —David Brower