



WINTER  
2011

# WILDERNESS RECORD

NEWS JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION



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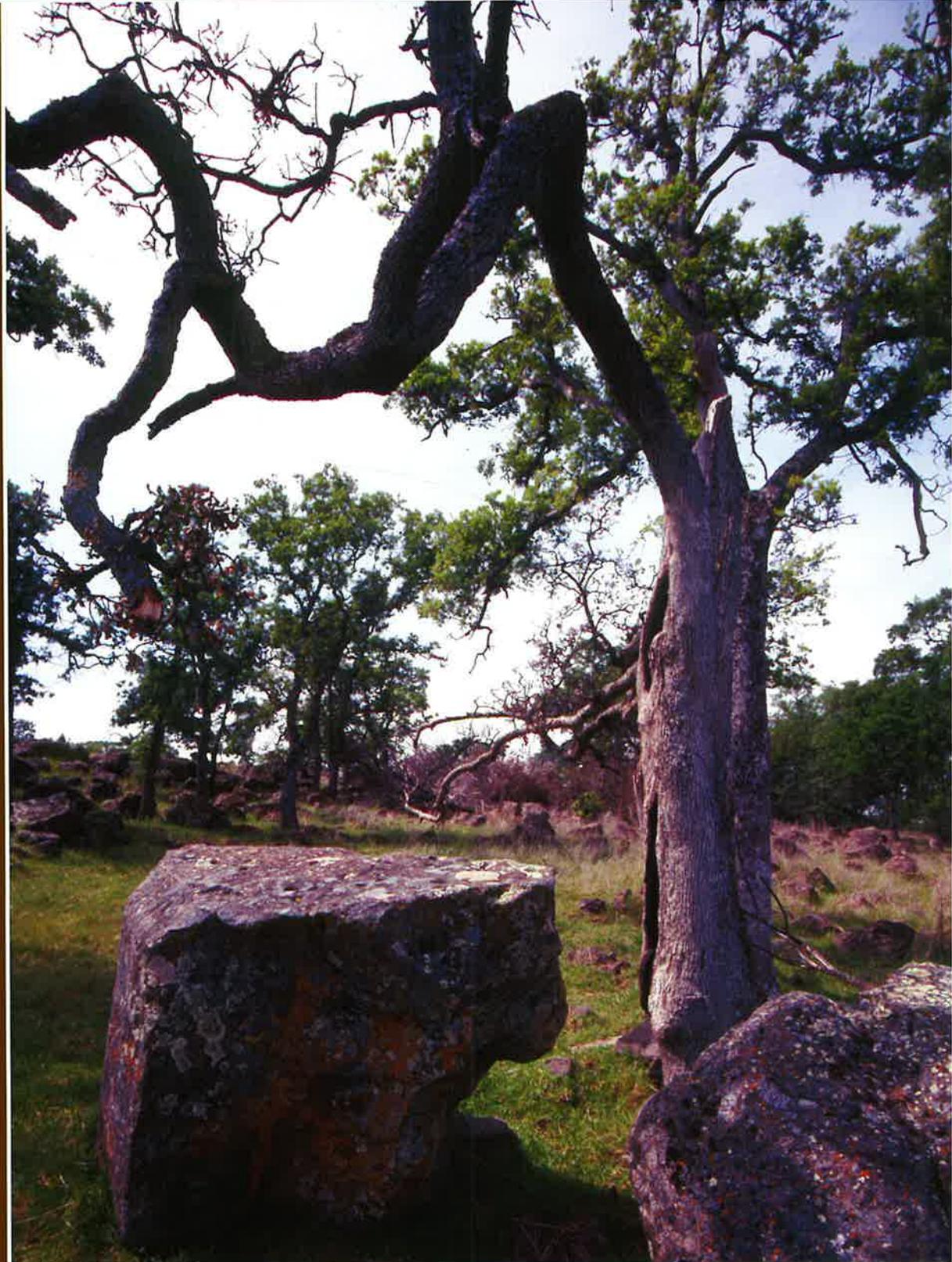
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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director  
**KRISTI DAVIS**



When we talk about the California Wilderness Coalition the first two parts of our name often get the most attention. We talk about California because that's where we work. Scenes of the landscape from the redwoods to the Mojave pepper our language. The words of wilderness are often always close at hand too. Words like legacy, preserve, future, intrinsic value. The words come easily because not only is California beautiful, but the work to keep parts of it wild, free, and intact is absolutely necessary.

The language we use less often, but is none the less important to our work, is from the Coalition part of the California Wilderness Coalition. Partnerships, collaboration, and teamwork as concepts are not as poetic as mountain vistas or desert canyons, but they are truly the basis of what we do.

The founders of the California Wilderness Coalition decided on that name because they realized in 1976 that the job of designating wilderness in California is bigger than one group and requires an array of stakeholders, resources, and levels of investment to make it happen.

Today we are committed to broadening our reach to ensure our membership is as diverse and vibrant as the people of our state. It is now more important than ever that California Wilderness Coalition works to identify new communities of support and deepen the commitment of our current members and coalition partners. It is imperative that we leverage our relationships to impress upon Congress the need and importance of the permanent protection of California's wild places. Without the political clout of our members we would not have the power to help move legislation to protect wilderness.

In the pages of this issue of the Wilderness Record we have managed to gather a small slice of the members of our broader coalition. We hear the varying viewpoints and representatives of our partnerships — from an on the ground view of a federal land management agency; to an emerging threat to the sanctity of wilderness from another advocacy non-profit; to a piece about working with volunteers in Washington DC for wilderness week; to what it's like working with a Senator's legislative team.

I also wish to honor and congratulate Ryan Henson, who was awarded "Partner of the Year" from the US Forest Service for his dedication, commitment and work in the Mendocino National Forest. Not only does this award reflect Ryan's extraordinary commit-

ment to wilderness preservation, but it demonstrates the kinds of relationships we strive to build and maintain here at the California Wilderness Coalition.

It is important to reflect on our history and prepare for our future. Looking back on a Coalition now midstride in its third decade, it's remarkable to see how dynamic and fluid an organization we are — and at the same time how unwavering and focused. We've had many successes in the past few years, however, in the piece by Ryan Henson about last November's elections, we acknowledge that we have some real challenges in the few years ahead. Besides continuing the work of coordinating diverse stakeholders, interests, and voices, we are also starting a new campaign to grow our membership. The goal, in a state of nearly 40 million people, is to accurately reflect how Californians feel about their wild places.

It is also important that we at the California Wilderness Coalition take this opportunity to thank our members and coalition partners. We literally could not do this work without your support.

I invite you to join us in protecting California's wild places, and if you are already a member, I invite you to deepen your commitment. You may do so by returning the enclosed envelope or donating online, [www.calwild.org](http://www.calwild.org).

With the support that we generate, we hope to win passage of the California Desert Protection Act and the Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2011 and to build support for further wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest. In order to attract and maintain a wide base of support we decided it was time for a little bit of a makeover. You'll notice the changes beginning with this issue of the Wilderness Record. Besides creating a new logo we will also be launching a redesigned website early in the New Year. The site promises to continue with the California Wilderness Coalition's tradition of great photography, and will include an archive of all our major accomplishments. It will also be more organized and easy to navigate for both new visitors and long-time members.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristi Davis".

Kristi Davis, Executive Director

Southern  
California Deputy  
Conservation  
Director

LAUREL  
WILLIAMS

① From left to right,  
David Lamfrom,  
Marcia Bond,  
Lucas Basulto,  
Representative  
McKeon, and  
Laurel Williams.



## VOLUNTEERS TAKE THE HILL IN D.C. WILDERNESS WEEK 2010

This past September the California Wilderness Coalition, several partner groups and a team of grassroots activists made the trek to Washington, DC for Wilderness Week. It was an opportunity for individuals from across the country to meet with Senators and Representatives in our nation's capital and lobby for the protection of the wild places they love. Throughout the week, participants met with key decision-makers in Congress, shared their passion for preserving the unique and wild places of California, and urged each member to get behind wilderness proposals and pass them into law.

Although the CWC organizes lobby trips nearly every year focused solely on California legislation, Wilderness Week is a chance for wilderness advocates from many states to gather together, compare notes, build camaraderie, and learn important skills to further their wilderness campaigns. Two of the CWC's national partners, the Campaign for America's Wilderness at the PEW Environment Group and the Wilderness Support Center (part of The Wilderness Society), devote staff time to host and organize a week of trainings and lobby visits and provide scholarships for volunteers to attend. This year, ten volunteers and eight staff formed California's Wilderness Week team.

Once in DC, the CWC staff helped lead the team from California to lobby on wilderness and other public lands conservation efforts. Advocates discussed wild places from Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia proposed wilderness additions near San Diego to the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area in northern California. The group met with Senators Feinstein and Boxer, as well as with numerous House members and important committee staff to advocate for each wilderness effort in California.

This year marked an exciting moment for several of the CWC's critical efforts toward wilderness legislation. CWC staff and volunteers were able to lobby for the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) of 2010, which seeks to preserve some of the last untouched landscapes in the California desert. Among these places is the Avawatz Mountains — an area that is sacred to Native American tribes and contains important habitat for animals like the desert bighorn sheep. Four passionate people from California's desert region attended Wilderness Week to advocate for Senator Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) of 2010.

Lucas Basulto, a college student from Barstow, took his very first plane flight to attend the DC trip and he found the visit extremely informative and enlightening. "I got to visit an unquestionably vital place in

this country's history and I got a firsthand look at how our government and representatives work to get done what our state and nation need," he said. "I also got to meet Senator Feinstein, the person responsible for the Desert Protection Act of '94 — it was the highlight of the trip!"

Lucas was also part of an innovative project that the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) spearheaded to help raise awareness about the Mojave desert. The NPCA is one of the CWC's vital partners on the CDPA of 2010.

David Lamfrom the desert program manager of the NPCA and his partner, Rana Knighten, worked in collaboration with students from the high desert to create a book entitled *Tortoises Through the Lens*.<sup>\*</sup> The book is a beautiful photographic journey through the Mojave desert highlighting one of its most extraordinary creatures — the desert tortoise. The students spent countless Saturdays with David and Rana learning photography and wildlife biology as they explored the Mojave in search of the elusive tortoise. The professionally published book was presented to each congressional office as both a gift and a subtle reminder of just what is at stake as we work to preserve our last wild desert lands and rivers.

Volunteers and staff braved torrential rain and blistered feet to meet with members of Congress and urge support for the CDPA of 2010. Marcia Bond, the Barstow Hampton Inn General Manager and Wilderness Week volunteer, described her experience as "... a time I will cherish and share with others for the rest of my life. Not only was I standing up for a cause I deeply believe in, I was able to get a clearer understanding of the "mechanics" of our wonderful democracy." Referring to her battered feet from walking so many miles of hallway, Marcia added, "I would also like to humbly thank the nurses who tended to and wrapped my incredibly blistered feet in the House and the Senate Buildings! God Bless America!"

② Lucas with Senator Feinstein

③ Congressman McKeon reading Tortoise book

④ CA WW team in front of capital building



To help represent the many folks who could not attend Wilderness Week, the CWC delivered hundreds of photo postcards of people with our seven-foot tall Joshua tree to members of Congress. The old saying “a picture is worth a 1,000 words” rang true — the photo postcards were a big hit. The photos were visual proof of just how many Californians care deeply about preserving our beautiful desert ecosystems.

Change to this “The stack of postcards seemed to make quite an impression on Congressman Jerry Lewis, who represents a district with several important wild places including the Deep Creek, the Castle Mountains, and the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument. In addition to offering the postcards, staff and volunteers brought with them a stack of letters from the ever-growing list of chambers of commerce, businesses, and individual citizens that support the CDPA of 2010.

Many other special wild places in California were also discussed during the week. One such place is the Los Padres National Forest which provides refuge to more than 400 species of wildlife and offers innumerable opportunities for recreation including hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. It is especially crucial to protect these wild lands as increasing development encroaches on the forest. The CWC and several partner organizations are working to conserve areas within Los Padres National Forest as wilderness.

Theresa Bulla-Richards, a teacher and wilderness volunteer, lives in a cabin on the edge of the Los Padres National Forest. Theresa and her husband are also fly-fishing outfitters and rely on an intact ecosystem for the viability of their business. Their family has long found solace in the surrounding forest and celebrated the sighting of mountain lions, bobcats, bear, red tail hawks and hummingbirds. “Around us we see an economy in a state of collapse because short term gain took precedence over long term wisdom. By placing portions of our forest in wilderness designation we can permanently safeguard the remaining wild lands

of the Los Padres and protect this vital resource for generations yet to come,” she said. Theresa went on to describe how each morning she wakes to the sound of Sisar creek and bird songs. She sees the light filtering through the oaks, and the great blue heron stalking trout. Theresa’s love for the forest runs deep. While in DC she urged her congressman to preserve this unique forest sanctuary that stretches from the Big Sur Coast to the western edge of Los Angeles County.

By the end of the week more than 120 wilderness advocates had met with their Senators and Representatives to make the case for permanently protecting two million acres of wilderness in about a dozen states — from Oregon and California to Tennessee and West Virginia. Teachers, hunters and anglers, small business owners, outfitters, conservationists and other everyday Americans took time away from their work and families to travel to the nation’s capital to urge Congress to preserve our nation’s last wild lands.

The California Wilderness Coalition was able to organize a diverse group of wilderness supporters, including voting age youth, business owners, and community leaders to participate in Wilderness Week. Participants had the opportunity to outline the benefits of wilderness and explain why they support wilderness conservation—whether those benefits were educational, recreational, environmental, spiritual, or economic. This broad range of supporters, and the ability to build coalitions that exemplify the diversity of support for wilderness is what makes CWC unique. We are ever grateful to the volunteers who participated in Wilderness Week.

\*The book *Tortoises Through the Lens* can be purchased online at [Sunbeltbooks.com](http://Sunbeltbooks.com) or in person at the Kelso Depot gift shop at the Mojave National Preserve. All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit Desert tortoise recovery and conservation.



Senior  
Conservation  
Director

RYAN  
HENSON



## WILDERNESS & THE NEW CONGRESS

When you are sitting near a gurgling stream in an old-growth forest, or you are taking in a sweeping, unspoiled desert vista, Congress is probably not one of the things that springs to mind. But, for better or worse, the fate of many such areas is in hands of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

The November 5 midterm election resulted in a Republican takeover of the House of Representatives and a reduced Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate. How will this affect efforts to protect wilderness, particularly in the Golden State?

### WHY CONGRESS MATTERS

The vast majority of California's remaining wild places, both those that are protected and those that are at risk of development are managed by three agencies: the Bureau of Land Management (BLM, with 15.2 million acres), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS, with 20.7 million acres) and the National Park Service (NPS, with 7.1 million acres). Together, these agencies are the stewards of 41 percent of California.

Congress and the president decide how these lands are to be managed over the longterm, including the degree to which they will be developed. While NPS lands are vulnerable to tourist-related development, USFS and BLM lands are open to mining, logging, oil and gas drilling, utility development, road construction, dam building, off-road vehicle use, over-grazing by cattle and other livestock and a host of other activities that can rob wild areas of their natural, scenic and recreational values over time. So, for over 150 years, conservationists, federal land managers, members of Congress, various industries and other interests have battled over the fate of federal public lands in California and elsewhere.

A great victory for conservation came with the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The law created a system of "wilderness areas" on federal land where, with a few exceptions, logging, mining, road construction, dam building, vehicle use and other destructive activities are prohibited. Since only Congress can protect federal land as wilderness, over the last 46 years conservationists have launched innumerable campaigns to convince Congress to pass wilderness legislation. As a result, California has 148 designated wilderness areas, more than any other state.

Wilderness protection has a long history of bipartisan support, especially in California. For example, between 2002 and 2010 three House Republicans and four House Democrats have sponsored wilderness protection bills for parts of the Golden State. Presidents Ford, Nixon and Reagan, Senators Thomas Kuchel and Pete Wilson and Representatives Robert J. Lagomarsino and Elton Gallegly are among other Republicans that have been involved in protecting California wilderness since 1964. The following critically important bills did not pass in the 111th. Congress and conservationists will be working hard in 2011 to get the bills reintroduced and passed.





① North end Panamint Valley, Death Valley National Park



② Joshua Tree National Park



## THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS AGENDA FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS

passing in 2011-2012 given Senator Feinstein's devotion to desert protection and her influence, long record of working well with Republicans, and reputation for being a tenacious advocate.

Representative Darrell Issa's (R-Vista) "Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act" would add over 7,796 acres to the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness and would expand the Beauty Mountain Wilderness by an additional 13,635 acres. Both areas are in northern San Diego County. Given that Representative Issa is an influential Republican with strong conservative credentials we hope that the Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act will fare well in 2011-2012.

Senator Barbara Boxer's (D-California) "Sacramento River National Recreation Area Act" proposes to protect 17,000 acres of BLM land south of Redding and east of Red Bluff as the "Sacramento River National Recreation Area" (NRA). While the land included in the proposed NRA is not wilderness-caliber, it is a high-priority for the CWC and other groups because it is the most undeveloped portion of the Sacramento River below Shasta Dam. Senator Boxer has made environmental protection one of her highest priorities, and as a result she succeeded in passing five wilderness bills between 2002 and 2009. Two of these bills were passed while Republicans controlled the House of

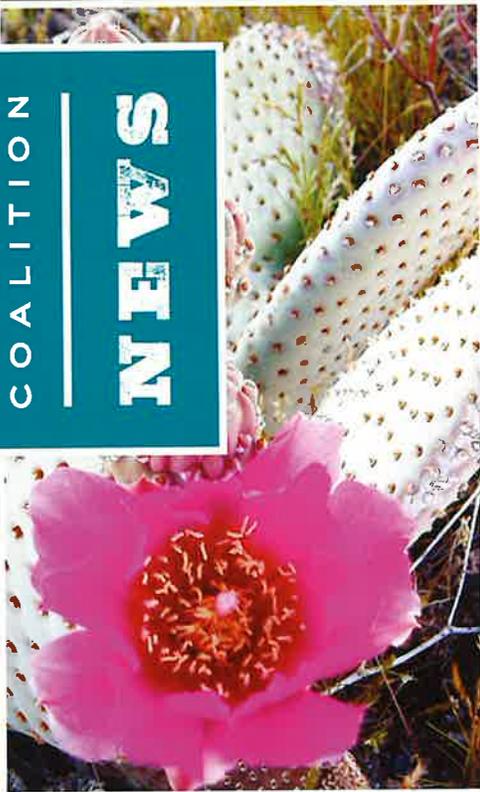
Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-California) California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) proposes to protect over 1.6 million acres of land in southeastern California as wilderness, national monuments and in other protective designations. We are optimistic that the CDPA has a good chance of

Representatives. In addition, Senator Boxer has successfully worked with Republicans on wilderness bills, including Representative Mary Bono Mack (R-Palm Springs) and Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-Santa Clarita). Given her track record, we are optimistic that she can find a way to move her initiatives forward.

Representative Sam Farr (D-Salinas) and Senator Boxer both introduced bills in 2010 to make Pinnacles National Monument a national park. The "Pinnacles National Park Act" also proposed to enlarge the land protected as wilderness in Pinnacles by 2,905 acres. Representative Farr also introduced the "Big Sur Forest Service Management Unit Act" in 2010 that would slightly expand the boundaries of the Ventana Wilderness among other things. We hope that he and Senator Boxer will reintroduce both bills early in 2011. It is worth noting that Representative Farr succeeded in passing a wilderness bill to protect parts of Big Sur in 2002 when Republicans controlled the House.

In addition to the bills that will hopefully be reintroduced, we are leading efforts to get new measures introduced by Republican House members that would protect wild lands in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest. Representative Mike Thompson (D-Napa) is also considering the possibility of proposing a 300,000-acre national conservation area in his district. Significantly, Representative Thompson and Senator Boxer succeeded in getting the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act through Congress in 2006 when Republicans controlled the House.





## BON VOYAGE JULIA

**Julia Kernitz**, our resident GIS Specialist, left the comforts of the Oakland office and set sail around the world. Julia's humor, creativity, and easy going nature will be missed. Please join us in wishing Julia a fond farewell and bon voyage.



📷 Prickly Pear: CWC Archive



## WILD WOMEN

In early December **Kristi Davis and Laurel Williams**, along with women representing conservation organizations from across the country, convened in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to attend the first annual Women in Wilderness Conference.

Women in leadership roles are faced with many challenges and opportunities so the conference provided an opportunity for women to share their stories, network with other women in the wilderness community, foster leadership, and inspire a renewed passion for protecting our wild places. Conference participants discussed wilderness heroines and identified important leadership skills that are vital to successful conservation work.



📷 Sara Husby

## PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Mendocino National Forest recently honored **Ryan Henson** with the 2010 Regional Forester's Partner of the Year. The award recognized Ryan's ability to work with a range of stakeholders, but also his deep dedication to the preservation of California's wild lands. "Ryan has brought energy, creativity and contagious enthusiasm to the Forest through his passion for wilderness, and by his grass roots efforts to build a strong base of citizen stewards to improve wilderness management and protection for future generations," the award says. The honor was presented by the Chief to the U.S. Forest Service, Tom Tidwell. Congratulations again Ryan.



📷 US Forest Service, CWC Archive



## ANNUAL EVENT

We are pleased to announce that our annual fundraiser was a huge success. This year we honored legendary climber and conservationist, **Conrad Anker**, with the Phillip Burton Award. We also recognized former CWC intern, **Samantha Krause**, with a youth wilderness leadership award. This was the inaugural year for the youth award, and from now on the honor will bear Samantha's name.

The event was held at the David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley. Besides great music, food, and a large auction, we also got to visit with our conservation friends – both new and old.

Thank you again to all of the event's sponsors, supporters, and new members.



📷 Amando Mendoza

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Please join the California Wilderness Coalition in welcoming Caitrin Phillips and Lillian Fler to the board of directors.

**Caitrin Phillips** was raised in the foothills of Northern California, along with her younger sister and older brother, on just enough property for her Dad to say yes to any pet she ever wanted; including horses, goats, rabbits, geese, dogs, cats, and peacocks! After high school she went to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and earned her BS in Marine Sciences and Fisheries. While at Cal Poly, Caitrin spent a 10 weeks at sea in the South Pacific studying aboard the TS Golden Bear. After graduation she spent three years working as a biologist for the USGS studying water quality and ecology in the San Francisco Bay-Delta. Looking for a new challenge Caitrin left the USGS to pursue her Master in Public Policy at UC Berkeley's Goldman School. The focus for her program is environmental, water, and energy policy. As a way to get involved in the environmental non-profit community, Caitrin became a Berkeley Board Fellow.



**Lillian Fler**, along with her younger sister, was raised in the backwoods of Vermont by two extraordinary and adaptive hippies. After eighteen years of skiing, snowboarding, exploring, and swimming in the Northeast Kingdom, she made her way to St. Paul, Minnesota to attend Macalester College, and graduated with a degree in Linguistics and Anthropology. From there she set out for New Zealand and spent six months backpacking, weeding, and digging fence post holes. Rejuvenated, yet tired of manual labor, she found herself in Berkeley and landed a job with Heyday, an independent, nonprofit publisher and unique cultural institution. She is still at Heyday after five years, running events which aim to promote widespread awareness and celebration of California's many cultures, landscapes, and boundary-breaking ideas. She lives in San Francisco where she spends her time exploring its urban terrain and taking weekend trips to rural California so as not to lose her backcountry spirit.



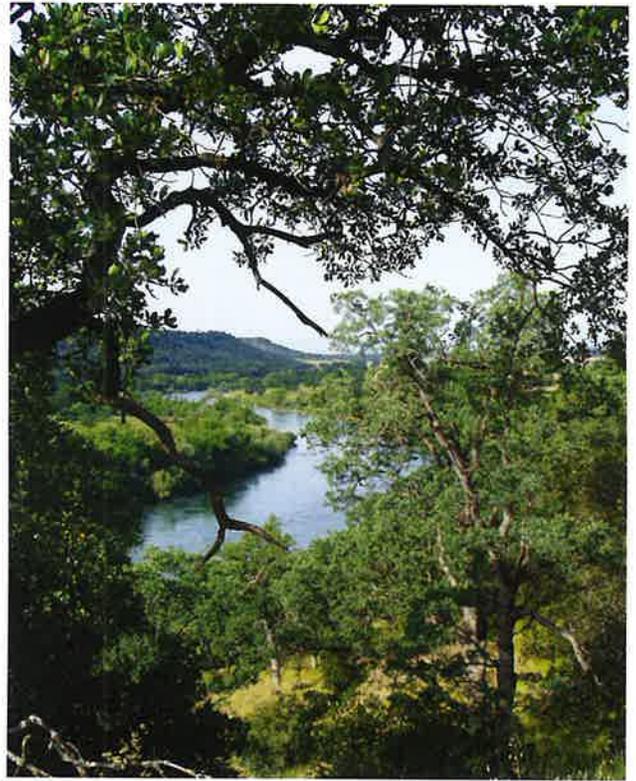
# PROTECTING THE BEND

**Before the introduction of agriculture, grazing, flood control and urban sprawl to the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys the region was covered with a network of uninterrupted oak forest. Valley oak mixed riparian forest dominated the lower river terraces while blue oak and purple needle grass savannah dominated the upper terraces and reached into the foothills of the Sierra and Coast Range Mountains.**

Today, less than five percent of the original Great Valley forest remains. The once vast flood plains are gone. Most of the Sacramento River is constrained by levees and rip rap, while the upland oak savannah is fragmented by cities, cleared for grazing, and cut for fuelwood. One exception to this story is along a stretch of land that is currently the proposed Sacramento River National Recreation Area, a stretch of river between the towns of Red Bluff and Anderson, where the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has assembled 18,000 acres to conserve the riparian forest and oak savannah habitat. The river here snakes back on itself — an area known locally as Bend.

The volcanic uplands in Bend contain numerous vernal pools that are habitat for several threatened, endangered, or sensitive species — including tadpole shrimp, fairy shrimp and slender Orcutt grass. They also provide seasonal habitat for migrating and resident waterfowl and watering holes for terrestrial species. The oak savannah is prime habitat for Lewis' woodpecker, acorn woodpecker, quail, turkey, deer, coyote, fox and feral pig. The riparian zone is an area of abundant life and incredible biological diversity. It helps maintain water quality and temperature for the four runs of Chinook salmon as well as the Shasta steelhead and the native resident fish, provides habitat for migratory and resident song birds, supports a wide variety of vegetation, and is a welcome respite from the intense summer sun and heat.

Bend is rife with history, both Native American and Euro-American. At the time of Euro-American contact, Bend was inhabited by the Yana Indians who seasonally migrated between the Sierra foothills and the Sacramento River valley following food sources and fleeing inclement weather. Midden deposits in Bend document the Yana and their predecessors occupying the river corridor and the surrounding uplands for at least 7,000 years. More recently, Euro-American trappers and explorers visited the area with the most notable example being Jedediah Smith in 1828. Before, during and after the California Gold Rush, the Bend area was inhabited by homesteaders and sheep ranchers trying to scratch a living from the rocky terrain.



In 1972 the BLM recognized the unique character of this stretch of the Sacramento River and started to acquire land from willing sellers on the river and the tributaries. Progress was slow at first, with no approved plans or funding in place. In 1993 the Redding Field Office of the BLM developed the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and designated the Bend Outstanding Natural Area.

The creation of an Outstanding Natural Area is an administrative action that can be implemented by the BLM through the normal planning processes. This status is extended to an area if the local managers determine that the landscape merits special attention and care to ensure it remains in a natural condition for the enjoyment of present and future visitors. A National Recreation Area designation, on the other hand, is an act of Congress that carries with it a legislated set of protections and management guidelines. In the case of Bend, the differences in terms of management would be slight. The BLM has already been managing to keep the landscape intact, but this extra layer of protection would help ensure the future of this unique place.

Today, after 19 separate acquisitions, the Bend is 18,000 acres of contiguous public land with 17 miles of river frontage, 7 miles of Paynes Creek, 1 mile of Inks Creek, 4 miles of Battle Creek and

# KELLY WILLIAMS

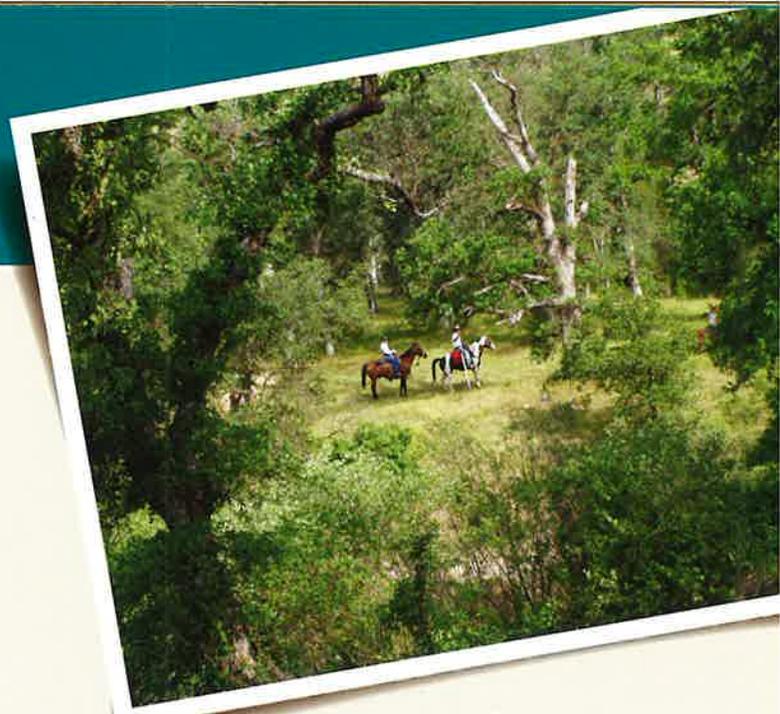
NATURAL AREA MANAGER,  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

several miles of lesser known or unnamed creeks. More acquisitions are planned over the next few years.

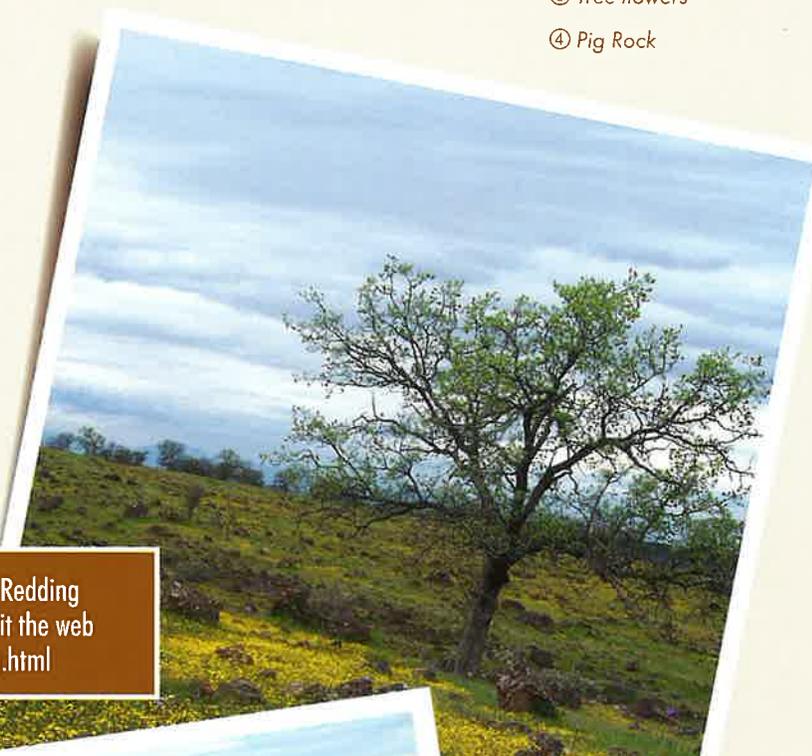
The Bend is multiple-use public land open, free of charge to the public for hiking, horse riding, bicycling, camping, hunting and almost any non-motorized activity. Target shooting is prohibited except in one designated location. Access is very good for most of the area with parking lots on BLM maintained roads, county roads and State Hwy 36. Also, with 17 miles of Sacramento River frontage, access by boat to the public land is common place.

What you won't find in Bend are crowds, busses filled with tourists, visitor centers with stores selling souvenirs, entrance booths collecting fees, or signs telling you to stay on the trail. In Bend, the BLM encourages families and individuals to explore this remarkable landscape through an experience of self-discovery and exploration. There are trails for those that want them but they are primitive and, in places, sparsely signed.

For the hiker, equestrian or mountain biker the Yana Trail is a must. It parallels the river for approximately 9 miles between the trail heads at Perry Riffle and Jellys Ferry. For most this is best experienced with a shuttle vehicle left at the far end of the trip. If you are after a shorter expedition there are numerous loops and lots of places to wander throughout the area of the Bass Pond, Paynes Creek Wetlands and Perry Riffle. If you want to get off the trail, set your sights on one of the many canyons or vista points and explore along with Jedediah.



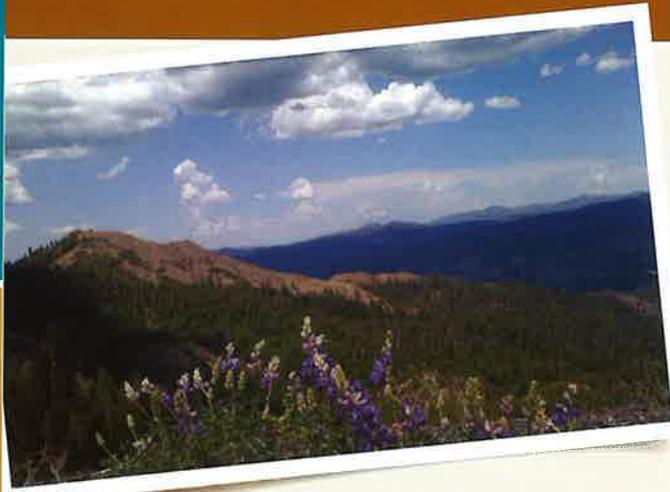
- ① Yana Trail River
- ② Horses at Inks Creek
- ③ Tree flowers
- ④ Pig Rock



Further information can be obtained from the Redding Field Office of the BLM at 530-224-2100 or visit the web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/redding.html>



# KEEPING WILDERNESS WILD



① Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Leech Mountain area, Mendocino National Forest, Trinity County, 640 acres, acquired and awaiting transaction costs funding for transfer to Forest Service

The Wilderness Act provided that any private inholdings purchased by the U.S. Government may be incorporated into a wilderness area without an additional act of Congress. Funds for such federal acquisitions generally come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund or Federal Land Transfer Facilitation Act.

The Wilderness Land Trust is the only organization that focuses solely on acquiring existing wilderness inholdings from willing sellers, and then transferring them to the federal government. The Trust fulfills a critical role in the process of securing these lands because they deal exclusively with wilderness inholding real estate, can act faster and more efficiently than a government land management agency, and can navigate the complicated questions about access or mining activity.

In the same Sheep Mountain Wilderness that contains the "Bridge to Nowhere," the Wilderness Land Trust was able to rescue an inholding from a mining development threat in 2007. The historic Big Horn Mine opened in 1859. Now it is within one hour of 17 million people in the metro Los Angeles region and has become famous as a popular local hiking destination. Even though mining ceased some years ago, the rising price of gold made it more attractive to reopen the mine. So much so that a major mining company spent millions on studies and permits in the mid-1990's and was ready to reopen the mine.

The Trust was able to work with the mine owners to finalize a purchase satisfactory to all parties. This project also illustrates the possible complexities of such transactions since part of the Trust's due diligence included the possibility of site contamination with toxics from previous mining operations. Luckily, this site was clean because the government requires remediation of any such environmental issues prior to taking title to land.

From 2002 to 2006 the CWC worked hard to pass Representative Mike Thompson's (D-Napa) and Senator Barbara Boxer's (D-California) Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. Among the thirteen areas protected by the measure were the new Sanhedrin Wilderness and additions to the existing Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. Both places contained inholdings that posed development threats to the wilderness areas.

In a major achievement, the Wilderness Land Trust has just completed purchase of a 640-acre (1 square mile) inholding in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest. Now six miles of road through the wilderness can be converted to a foot and horse trail and future development and other incompatible uses can be prevented. This parcel provides bear and deer habitat, and feeds the watershed of

Former President Harry Truman said: "The battle for conservation cannot be limited to the winning of new conquests. Like liberty itself, conservation must be fought for unceasingly to protect earlier victories." For preservationists, wilderness protection is considered the ultimate victory. Indeed, federal wilderness designation is an Act of Congress that implies a certain level of permanence. But then there's the fine print: wilderness inholdings.

Inholdings are parcels of private lands that are relics from past mining and timber claims and patents, homestead acts, and railroad grants. The National Wilderness Preservation System is actually perforated by some 400,000 acres (more than 625 square miles) of such inholdings. In the vast majority of cases, the owners are content to allow their lands to coexist in the matrix of wilderness. In some places, though, these pockets of private land are akin to ticking time bombs because of the possibility that they could be developed.

One of the first examples of the commercialization of wilderness happened in Colorado when a real estate developer tried to build \$800,000 luxury condos on an inholding and demanded permission to build a road across an adjacent wilderness area under the "reasonable access" provision of the Wilderness Act.

Unfortunately, time has shown that this is not an isolated case — from luxury condos to new exclusive communities disguised as recreational gold mining clubs — the legacy of grandfathered inholdings present a threat to the integrity of existing wilderness.

In California there are a total of 118,000 acres (184 square miles) of private inholdings in wilderness areas. One example is the "Bridge to Nowhere" in the Sheep Mountain Wilderness of California's San Gabriel Mountains. The abandoned bridge was built long before wilderness designation and is now an inholding. Unfortunately, it now hosts a bungee-jumping destination run by a private enterprise.



# PAUL TORRENCE

BOARD MEMBER,  
THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST

the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River, thereby supporting habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead trout. Now, the Trust faces the challenge of raising funds to transfer the property to the Mendocino National Forest for permanent wilderness protection.

A second project in the Mendocino National Forest is in the 10,571 acre Sanhedrin Wilderness that would protect a 40-acre tract from additional logging, potential residential development, and access via a half mile road that juts into the wilderness. This parcel is along Thomas Creek, which flows in to the Wild and Scenic Eel River, a stream that, like its Middle Fork to the north, is an important refuge for salmon and steelhead trout.

It takes organizations like both the California Wilderness Coalition and Wilderness Land Trust to ensure California's wilderness future. To help support this kind of work, implore Senators Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and your member of the House of Representatives to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund that has been consistently shorted to accommodate other budget items.

② Beauty Mountain Wilderness, Riverside & San Diego Counties, 962 acre parcel, transferred to BLM

③ Sanhedrin Wilderness, Thomas Creek, Mendocino National Forest. Funds needed to complete acquisition.



More information about the Wilderness Land Trust is at [wildernesslandtrust.org](http://wildernesslandtrust.org)

Since its creation in 1992, by Coloradan Jon Mulford, the Wilderness Land Trust has purchased and protected 344 parcels, containing over 31,203 acres of inholdings in 76 designated and proposed wilderness areas. When invited to work in proposed areas, the Trust both helps property owners achieve their goals for a fair and timely return, and helps designation boundaries make sense, reducing future management costs and political concerns. In California, 168 parcels and more than 23,000 acres in 42 wilderness and wilderness study areas have been protected:

WILDERNESS AREAS	ACRES PROTECTED
Beauty Mountain .....	2,322
Big Maria Mountains .....	625.14
Bristol Mountain .....	163.75
Bodie Mountains .....	3,748
Cache Creek .....	240
Cadiz Dunes .....	160
Cady Mountains .....	100
Chuckwalla Mountains .....	20
Dead Mountains .....	273.71
Domeland .....	40
Elkhorn Ridge Proposed .....	1,564
El Paso Mountains .....	240
Golden Trout .....	80
Granite Mountain .....	120
Grass Valley .....	55
Jacumba .....	40
Kelso Dunes .....	20
King Range .....	90
Kingston Range .....	1310
Lassen Volcanic .....	80
Little Chuckwalla .....	85
Marble Mountain .....	640
Mount Shasta .....	240
North Algodones Dunes .....	165
Old Woman .....	1,587
Owens Peak.....	837
Palen/McCoy .....	495
Piute Mountains .....	160
Rice Valley .....	940
Sacatar Trail .....	2,430
Sheep Mountain .....	287
Sheephole Valley .....	685
Siskiyou .....	48
Soda Mountains .....	380
South Sierra .....	80
South Warner WSA.....	160
Timbered Crater WSA.....	195
Trinity Alps .....	3,748
Tunnison WSA .....	210
Ventana .....	160
Yolla Bolly -Middle Eel .....	280

Southern  
California  
Conservation  
Director

MONICA  
ARGANDOÑA

# WILDERNESS HEROES: TOURING THE DESERT WITH JAMES PETERSON

It was 117 degrees as we made our sandwiches, and tried to find shade. We had been touring the Avawatz wilderness study area for the past four hours, and I was pretty sure the two Feinstein staffers who were with us were impressed. It was hot, and dusty, and remote, but the Avawatz provide a commanding backdrop of colorful eroded slopes, rugged ridges, and steep, narrow canyons. The Senator's protocol, before she even considers introducing a bill, entails thorough research by her staff, including that they see the area in person. James Peterson, Senator Feinstein's Deputy State Director, and Chris Carrillo, her field representative for Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties, were eating their turkey sandwiches and still reviewing the map, making sure they understood the boundaries we were proposing. Charlie Callagan from Death Valley National Park was also with us sharing his knowledge of the Avawatz and answering questions about the proposed additions to Death Valley.

Working on the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 has been a long process involving countless hours poring over maps, meeting with stakeholders, strategizing and organizing support, and driving thousands of miles through the desert. One of the first tasks was to convince Senator Feinstein to introduce a wilderness bill that would complete her legacy in the desert. Taking James and Chris to the areas that we wanted

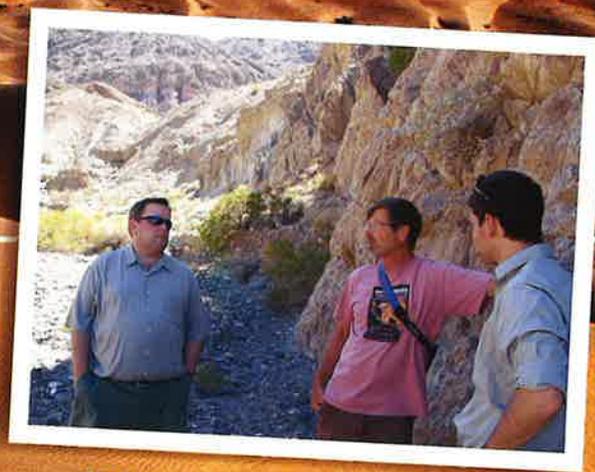
to see protected was extremely important for us because we knew that when they experienced the Avawatz, or Surprise Canyon, or Great Falls Basin first hand they would see that these special places have wilderness characteristics. Driving more than 3,600 miles exploring areas in Imperial, San Bernardino, and Inyo counties really reflects the dedication of the Senator and her staff.

Besides taking James to parts of the desert he had never been, we also introduced him to passionate desert activists. People like Tom Budlong, a longtime CWC supporter, who showed us Great Falls Basin, Conglomerate Mesa, and Surprise Canyon. George Barnes, a longtime activist and a key figure in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, and Terry Frewin, a longtime desert activist, who shared their knowledge about the Avawatz, Soda Mountains, Kingston Range, and the Trilobite and Clipper additions. Craig Deutsche led the tour in Imperial County and has been an incredible source of information.

We completed the first desert tours in early 2007. At the end of 2009, Senator Feinstein introduced the California Desert Protection Act 2010 (S.2921) which will protect nearly 1.6 million acres of unique landscape. CWC continues to work closely with the Senator's staff to answer questions and build support that will help the Senator pass this



① James, Chris, Brain Brown  
(a local activist and owner of China Ranch),  
and Leon Kazandjian in the Amargosa



② Chris, James, and Charlie in the Avawatz

# A FRESH LOOK



monumental piece of legislation. I asked James what he felt were the more challenging parts of working on the bill. "Dealing with 115+ degree weather, cliffs (I hate cliffs), maneuvering along trails not well suited to my rental car and long days on bumpy roads presented certain physical challenges," he said. "In terms of the legislation itself, getting stakeholders to trust and work together was daunting at first. So too was getting some stakeholders to think outside the box. But in the end, I was impressed by everyone's willingness to listen to one another and find common solutions."

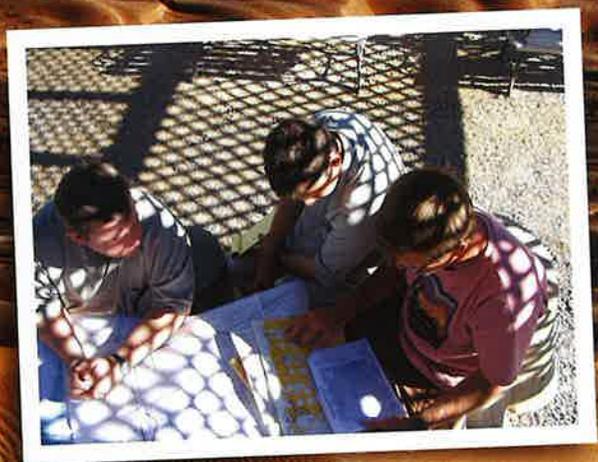
There is no doubt that this bill is filled with compromise and negotiation. We have been working in some of the most conservative and anti-wilderness counties in the state, and our proposal would simply not have gone anywhere without bringing in local stakeholders and discussing the issues. And in the end, we still have a bill that will protect 1.6 million acres of our California desert. "The most memorable moments are when stakeholders with diverse interests and philosophies found ways to work with one another to find solutions together," said James. "I am very grateful for all the hard work and dedication of CWC's staff. Without their grit and determination, this bill would not have been possible."

Besides working on our current conservation campaigns, we've been busy updating our look here at the California Wilderness Coalition. The redesign is the first part of implementing our new communications plan. The ultimate goal is to attract new supporters, improve our dialogue with existing members, and continue to be the most effective (and only) statewide organization who studies, maps, writes policy, and defends California's wild lands.

You are holding in your hands the first phase of the redesign — the Winter Wilderness Record. By now, you've probably already noticed the changes, including our new logo. In the coming weeks you will also see that calwild.org is getting a facelift. Please take a moment to visit the new site, check out some new interactivity, and drop us a line to let us know what you think.

In the process of updating we've had a chance to look closely at CWC's history. Being reminded of our unique approach to conservation and all of our accomplishments in the past has left us inspired. We are excited that in 2011 we will celebrate our 35th anniversary. As we continue to grow, change, and adapt to the current pressures and challenges of the future of conservation we will continue to strive to be "your voice for wild California."

**Thanks again for all of your support.**



③ Chris, James, and Charlie sitting in Shoshone looking at maps.



## INVEST IN WILD CALIFORNIA

### BECOME A MONTHLY MEMBER

By making a modest monthly donation to CWC, you will help to sustain our ongoing campaigns. A steady stream of financial support allows us to better plan our conservation campaigns. With a monthly gift of as little as \$15, you will help ensure a wild California legacy. You can sign up to become a Monthly Member at [calwild.org](http://calwild.org), by filling out the envelope included in this Wilderness Record, or by giving us a call at 510-451-1450.

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT

With the support of our members last year, CWC led the grassroots effort to introduce several conservation bills, covering over two million acres of California's unique landscape. We need your support as we continue to grow and to seek the permanent preservation of some of our state's most wild lands in 2011. Please consider renewing your membership of \$35, \$50, \$100, or use this opportunity to make a donation beyond the membership rates. With our members, we have built a community of wilderness supporters who stay engaged by attending outings that we host, receive our weekly action alerts, and are sent up-to-date legislative information. We can't do this important work without you. Become a member or make a donation at [calwild.org](http://calwild.org), by filling out the envelope included in this Wilderness Record, or by giving us a call at 510-451-1450.

### HELP REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT AND SAVE RESOURCES

Sign up to receive your next Wilderness Record faster and greener by requesting an electronic Wilderness Record. Send an email to [info@calwild.org](mailto:info@calwild.org) and we'll add you to our weekly California Action Alert email list providing you with current information about our campaigns. Please indicate that you would like to receive the electronic version of the Wilderness Record.



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Dear CWC Supporter,

CWC is not immune to the economic erosion that is affecting the world, our country, and California.

Times are hard - belts must be tightened. In our continuing efforts to reduce costs and redirect funds to core programs, we believe the time is right to transition the Wilderness Record from paper to electronic publication.

We know that for many of you, the Wilderness Record has been your primary source of information about your Coalition and its work. We want to continue that communication electronically. We lack email addresses for many of our members. Please send your preferred email address to [info@calwild.org](mailto:info@calwild.org).

Of course, the Wilderness Record will also be published digitally (and archived) on our website, [www.calwild.org](http://www.calwild.org). You can go there anytime to get the latest news.

We rely on the generosity of our members and supporters for funding. We appreciate your continued support and generosity, especially at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kristi Davis, Executive Director at [kdavis@calwild.org](mailto:kdavis@calwild.org) or 510-451-1450.