



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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No.1



Santa Lucia, proposed wilderness. One of many important subjects of the upcoming wilderness conference.

Phil Farrell

ARE WE DEGRADING THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM?

If you've dealt with the Forest Service (FS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an effort to designate a wilderness area, which they oppose, then you've probably heard their concern that over-eager citizen conservationists are degrading the National Wilderness Preservation System by including inferior areas in it.

There are two aspects to their argument. One is that dull, uninteresting, commonplace areas, though wild, will "degrade" the Wilderness System; that only unusual, spectacular, outstanding areas qualify for the signal honor of being included in the Wilderness System.

They also argue that including areas with any sign of man's former presence "degrades" the "purity" of the Wilderness System. They say it lessens the value and standards of those truly wild areas merely by association--in other words, this tarnishes the shine of all wilderness.

I call the first argument, against commonplace wilderness designations, the "Jewels in the Crown Syndrome." At a recent meeting with some top officials of the BLM, I expressed the concern that we need to preserve some commonplace, ordinary areas as wilderness, too, in addition to the unique areas. The meeting exploded! First one and then another BLM official lept up to denounce such a heretical notion. Finally, one asked, "How many millions of acres of sagebrush flats do you want in the Wilderness System?"

Well, I must admit that whether or not sagebrush flats have any personal appeal to me, sagebrush flats that qualify for wilderness should be in the system.

The Forest Service and the BLM use several criteria in rating "wilderness quality." They have included such things as the lack of the marks of man and the basic ecological integrity. But most of the

Dave Foreman

weight falls on such items as: abundance of water, availability of campsites and trailheads, scenic quality, abundance and diversity of wildlife, variety of wilderness experiences, and forms of recreation available.

These qualities can and do add to the interest and possibly even to the value of an area, but they don't determine if it is wilderness or not. These criteria discriminate against desert-type areas and favor high alpine areas. They also reveal a considerable bias towards wilderness as merely a primitive recreation area--a high mountain area of rugged scenic grandeur with outstanding trout streams and potable water, classic campsites, abundant big game for viewing or hunting, and a good trail system--all prerequisites for a two-week trail ride "vacation of a lifetime."

Well, this just isn't it. The purpose of the National Wilderness Preservation System

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Wilderness Foundation Formed- Goals Set

The California Wilderness Foundation received tax-deductible status from the Internal Revenue Service at the end of November 1977.

"The specific and primary purposes are to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands in their natural condition, by supporting programs and projects of individuals and

organizations that seek to educate the public or any segment thereof about the values of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest; make scientific studies concerning resources, values and uses of wilderness; and enlist public interest and co-operation in protecting existing or potential wilderness

Creation of the foundation has provided an additional tax-deductible source of funds for the California Wilderness Movement.

In the near future the Foundation will provide basic guidelines for individuals and groups who wish to apply for grants from the C.W.F. Those desiring more information should write Larry Kolb, President, California Wilderness Foundation, P.O. Box 429, Davis, Ca., 95616. Contributions may be sent to the same address.

Conference Slated

The California Wilderness Conference plans to hold a wilderness conference April 29 and 30 in the San Francisco Bay Area. The conference will provide an opportunity for the diverse groups and individuals of the California Wilderness

movement to meet each other, to work together and help unify and strengthen the wilderness movement.

As an issue, wilderness preservation concerns all Californians. The conference will provide a time to discuss with representatives how the Coalition intends to make wilderness an important issue. While energy inflation and unemployment are not to be ignored, wilderness preservation must not be lost at the expense of other political actions.

During the conference, statewide wilderness goals and directions for the following years will be formulated. It will be an educational experience for us all.

The conference is still in the planning stages. Those interested in helping with the organization should contact the C.W.C. office.

Annual Meeting

The California Wilderness Coalition Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 4, 1978, at 1707 Baywood Ln., Davis, Ca., starting at 10:00 a.m. The C.W.C. meeting will be followed by the California Wilderness Foundation Annual meeting at 1:00 p.m. and a Wilderness Conference organizational meeting at 3:00 p.m. (Whew!) A pot-luck dinner and evening get-together will be organized for all participants following the meeting. Everyone is invited to attend one or all meetings or just come for the pot-luck dinner, get-together. We hope that all C.W.C. organizations will send at least one representative member.

Photos

Needed

Your photo could be printed on this page, instead of gathering dust in a drawer. We need photos of California wilderness resource areas to use in the **Wilderness Record**. Write the Coalition for more information.

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

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

ANNUAL DUES:

Note: one dollar of annual dues supports the Wilderness Record

Individual	\$ 6
Low-Income individual	3
Patron	500
Non-profit organization	25
Sponsor (business)	25

not tax deductible

V2N4

President's Message

(PART II)

by Bob Schneider

1977 was a good year for the California Wilderness movement. The Endangered American Wilderness Act containing three California areas including Golden Trout, Ventana Additions and Santa Lucia wilderness areas moved through Congress. Hopefully it will pass in early 1978. The State of California moved ahead with its report on the State Wilderness system. The Administration's report to the State Legislation was due January 1, 1978.

We witnessed the birth of several new wilderness activist groups, such as the Citizens for a Mojave National Park and the Mokelumne Task Force. Other groups such as Granite Chief Wilderness Task Force and the Mt. Shasta Resources Council are increasing in effectiveness.

The California Wilderness Coalition has grown. We have hired a part-time office manager to improve operations. Most significantly, the California Wilderness Foundation has been formed and has received their tax deductibility status from the Internal

Revenue Service.

1978 promises to be a more successful year. Once again, the degree of success which the California Wilderness Movement attains is directly dependent upon all those individuals and groups making up the movement. I foresee several goals for the coming year and, as President of the C.W.C., as your help in attaining these goals:

1. A California Wilderness Conference:

(see article on proposed conference) It is time to bring together the diverse elements of the wilderness movement. The conference will provide an opportunity to meet each other, to renew our energy and enthusiasm, to evaluate our goals and directions, to unite and strengthen the wilderness movement.

2. A Southern California Wilderness Representative:

Southern California needs a wilderness representative to organize and coordinate the wilderness movement. I feel the fight to protect much of the California Desert and other Southern California wild areas

can be strengthened by the hiring of a wilderness coordinator.

3. Increased Coordination with Outdoor Sports Equipment Manufacturers and Retailers:

Outdoor sports equipment manufacturers and retailers are directly dependent upon accessibility of wild areas for use by their clients in order to sell their products. We need their support to help protect these areas which their clients use. During the coming year, we hope to expand C.W.C. contact and coordination with the business community.

4. The California Wilderness Foundation

Establishment of the foundation will allow us to use tax deductible contributions for projects which qualify under the tax deductible guidelines. This includes educational projects, projects effecting administrative decisions, legal actions and other projects. The C.W.C. hopes to assist the Foundation in achieving their goals. Early in the year guidelines for applying for grants will be available to C.W.C. groups.

5. Improve Communication with C.W.C. Member Organizations:

The California Wilderness Conference will help to attain this goal. The C.W.C. has not worked as effectively as a Coalition as it might. We hope to be more effective in 1978.

6. Off-Road Vehicles:

A halt must be called to ORV take-over of California wildlands, particularly in the California Desert. ORV's have too often displaced legitimate forms of recreation; increased soil erosion; exceeded air, water and noise standards; destroyed fragile eco-types and obliterated archeological sites. ORV use is not a child's game to be tolerated. It is too often a matter of total wholesale destruction of the landscape. It is a wanton waste of precious resources. Strong regulations by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the State of California are needed to control the impact of this small number of people on both other recreation users and on wildland landscape.



Juniper, Coyote Valley

Jeff Schaffer



Jeff Schaffer

BUSINESS SUPPORT SOUGHT

As of Jan., 1978, California Wilderness Coalition began campaign to increase business support of the California Wilderness movement. Those businesses joining the C.W.C. will receive a listing in each issue of the *Wilderness Record* in appreciation of their support. We hope our members will support those businesses supporting wilderness. In

addition, we hope to involve businesses directly in increasing protection for those California Wildland areas which their customers use. C.W.C. members interested in working with the business community to protect wildlands should write the C.W.C. office, P.O. Box 429, Davis, Ca., 95616.

River Conference

Friends of the River will hold a conference this March at California State University at Sacramento. There will be panels, discussions and entertainment. Anyone interested in rivers is urged to attend. For more information write to: Friends of the River, 401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, CA 95814.

SOUTH FORK MTN

The U.S. Forest Service has rejected wilderness study for roadless areas on South Fork Mountain in Trinity National Forest with a statement that gives only lip service to values other than timber.

The logging program proposed in the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the unit plan for the South Fork Mountain Planning Unit would eliminate three roadless areas, severely impact the population of anadromous fish in the South Fork of the Trinity River, disturb and eliminate habitat for a potential "threatened" wildlife species, and may eliminate habitat for plants classified "endangered," "threatened" or "rare" by the California Native Plant Society. Many elements of the plan clearly violate provisions of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. In addition, none of the other alternatives in the draft provide protection for fish and wildlife of water quality.

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OFFICE MANAGER NEEDED

The California Wilderness Coalition seeks an office manager to work no later than June, 1978. The job entails running the office, coordinating volunteer efforts, assisting with the *Wilderness Record*, and assisting the communication and cooperation among C.W.C. organizations. Other projects may include working for the California Wilderness Foundation, and coordinating media contacts. Those persons interested should contact Bob Schneider through the C.W.C. office.

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PURPOSES OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION:

...to promote throughout the state of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest by

making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

Officers of CWC
President Bob Schneider
Treasurer Jeff Barnickol
Secretary
Director Steve Evans
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Foes Rally to Halt G-O Road

by Tim McKay

On November 8, the Six Rivers National Forest issued its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on what is currently one of California's most controversial road construction projects. The Six Rivers proposal to complete the last 7 miles--the Chimney Rock section--of this forest highway has drawn fire from a wide variety of conservation and Native American groups.

The Gasquet-Orleans Road, locally known as the GO road, cuts through a proposed Siskiyou wilderness and comes close to many sites held sacred by traditional practitioners of three northern California Native American tribes. Almost 50% of the 492-page document discusses the question of whether or not the road will affect the traditional heritage of these tribes.

Donald Miller, archaeologist for Region Five of the U.S. Forest Service, has argued that there will be no direct impact to sites of religious significance to the traditional practitioners involved and this is what the DEIS summary states; on the other hand, at least six other archaeologists and anthropologists have argued that Miller's conclusions are invalid, and that the entire viewshed from the Chimney Rock area should be protected as a feature of its religious use.

Dr. Arnold Pilling, Professor of Anthropology at Wayne State University, has charged Miller with unprofessional conduct and is investigating the possibility of having him drummed out of the American Anthropological Association, a professional organization of anthropologists and archaeologists.

The U.S. Forest Service sticks with Miller in spite of

all the smoke-- and the fact that just about every outside anthropological consultant they hire comes to the conclusion that the road should not be completed and that the area shouldn't be logged.

The Chimney Rock section of the GO road would sever the Blue Creek Planning Unit from the main Siskiyou Planning Unit. Forest Service plans, currently under appeal, call for logging some 929 million board feet of timber from this lovely lowland forest, which even contains some scattered groves of redwoods.

The Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council, a coalition of conservationists from several organizations, have been acting as a clearinghouse for information on the Siskiyou Wilderness proposal, and to date they have received several copies of comments on the Chimney Rock Draft.

Brett Matusek of Green Side Up, Inc., a reforestation company, says, "This report by Six Rivers National Forest is another incomplete and hypothesis-propagated function of a politically socialistic attempt to deny religious freedom..."

Save the Smith, an organization dedicated to the protection of California's famed Smith River, said in part: "This Draft EIS is filled with a number of fallacies including the fallacy of quantification, the fallacy of objective consciousness, the fallacies of conventional economics and the fallacies of single-purpose planning under the false label of multiple-use planning."

Northwest Citizens for Wilderness, of Helena, Montana, goes on, "...it does appear valid to presume construction of the road section was decided and subsequently the envir-

onmental statement was drafted to legalize the decision..."

Friends of Del Norte, a conservation organization closest to the actual road, stated in their recent newsletter that "Forest Service studies show that timber harvest access roads on Six Rivers N.F. have been responsible for up to 65% of the decline in spawning habitats for salmon and steelhead since World War II, due to associated erosion and siltation. Close to 500 miles of access roads are planned for the roadless areas off the GO road."

In summary, the completion of the GO road will deny the Native subculture reference points, which will surely doom their cultures to extinction. And in spite of a big document with lots of colored paper, the Forest Service did an inadequate job of discussing the impacts of this projects. As a final example, under "Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources," the Forest Service can say that choosing Alternative A, the no-build alternative, means that "the opportunity for a scenic drive, increased hunting and fishing activity will be irretrievably foregone." This is irresponsible editing, to say the least; without development the option for development is still maintained.

Comments on the Chimney Rock Draft EIS can be sent to Six Rivers National Forest, 710 E Street, Eureka CA 95501. They should also provide you with a copy on request. The deadline for comments on the Draft is February 6, 1978.

For further information on the Siskiyou Mountains and the struggle to protect them as wilderness write to: Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council,



From a 1947 FORTUNE ad

Salmon River Plan

The Resources Agency of California has transmitted to Governor Brown a final plan for the management of the Salmon River. The plan has a number of recommendations for control of road building, logging, mining, and other developments.

Two river segments have been classified as wild. These segments are (1) Wooley

Creek between its confluence with the Salmon River at Murderers Bar and its intersection with the Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary; and (2) the North Fork, roughly between Mule Bridge (north of the Summer Dawn Mine) and the stream's intersection with the Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary.

Both segments had been inside Wilderness Study Areas identified during the Forest Service R.A.R.E. I process. It is hoped that the Forest Service will agree with the State that these areas could be managed to preserve their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible by adding them to the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area.

RARE II Map Printed

For those of you who would like to see just where California's RARE II areas are located, the U.S. Forest Service has just released a 1:1,000,000 map showing existing and potential wilderness.

In addition to the 6,000+ acres of roadless areas inventoried during last year's Roadless Area Evaluation, the map also shows designated wilderness areas, primitive areas, and Congressionally mandated Wilderness Study Areas.

Although there are some glaring errors (Pt. Reyes Wilderness, for example), the map is a good representation of California's wilderness resource lands. Wilderness and roadless areas managed by the State and the Bureau of Land Management are not shown, however.

The four-color map was sent to participants in last summer's RARE II meetings. If you did not receive a map, try writing to the Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111.



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The roadless areas within the unit, particularly the area called Cinquapin, contain some very nice stands of mixed Douglas fir and other lowland species, a vegetation community not represented in the Wilderness System in California.

The logging will disturb large areas of relatively steep, unstable soil and lead to erosion and severe sedimentation. The sediment renders streams unsuitable for spawning use by trout, salmon and steelhead. It also causes increased water temperatures which can kill young fish. The USFS predicts at least a 50% reduction in young fish production within the unit. This estimate does not assume any sediment from slides and mass wasting, both very common sources of sediment in the unit. Thus the situation will probably be worse than they indicate.

The proposed destruction of

the fishery is clearly in violation of the provisions of Section 6 (E)(i) of the National Forest Management Act which states that timber shall be harvested only where "protection is provided for streams...from detrimental changes in water temperature, [and] deposits of sediment, where harvests are likely to seriously and adversely affect water conditions or fish habitat..."

The spotted owl, removed from the threatened species list in 1973, and now being considered for that classification once again, requires old growth forests to survive. The logging plan does not provide for its needs or the needs of other old growth dependent species, including the pileated woodpecker, flying squirrels, martens, and wolverines. "We estimate that about 45 of the selected climax wildlife species will decline over the long term from old growth

removal."

One endangered plant (CNPS), *Frasera umpquaensis*, is known within the planning unit. At least part of its habitat will be protected from logging by the plan. One plant, *Arenaria rosea*, classified as endangered, and three plants classified as threatened or rare are known from areas adjacent to the planning unit. It is not known whether they occur within the planning unit, or whether the logging will have an impact on their populations.

The period for public comment on the draft has passed, but expressions of concern for fish, wildlife, and water quality may be directed to the California State Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, Ca., and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1000 Coddington Center, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401.

Tahoe N.F. Plan

A new Timber Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement have been released for public comment by Tahoe National Forest. A small booklet with a synopsis of the six management alternatives being presented is available from Robert G. Lancaster, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, Hwy. 49 and Coyote Street, Nevada City, Ca. 95959.

The total annual allowable cut on the Tahoe Forest would vary from 102 to 199 million board feet under the different alternatives. The booklet provides almost no information, however, so it is recommended that anyone particularly interested in this issue request a complete copy of the plan and the Draft EIS. Comments on the alternatives will be accepted until March 1, 1978.



Sequoia- Kings Canyon Natl. Parks To Hold Public Meetings

Two public meetings to discuss the draft Development Concept Plan for the Giant Forest/Lodgepole area of Sequoia National Park and its accompanying draft Environmental Impact Statement have been scheduled for early February 1979.

The first meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the McLane High School All Purpose Room, 2727 North Cedar Ave., Fresno, on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Room, Visalia Convention Center, 303 East Acequia, Visalia.

National Park Service personnel and planners will be available at each of the meeting locations at 6:30 p.m. and

will answer questions or explain details of the Plan during the hour before the meetings begin.

The proposed Plan calls for Giant Forest to be converted to a day use area with the relocation of the concession development to Clover Creek. A transportation system, utilizing existing roadways, would be initiated to reduce both private vehicle use in Giant Forest and the continual flow of traffic on the Generals Highway.

Lodgepole will continue to serve as the camping center with some campground redesign and resource stabilization. Campsites will be fixed at the current level of 260 sites.

The Wolverton ski area will remain essentially unchanged

but the rope tows will be upgraded to improve visitor safety.

To meet mandatory health and safety codes, the existing sewage facilities at Giant Forest will be upgraded to serve during the phase-out period. A proposed new sewage treatment plant will be located at Clover Creek with effluent disposal southwest of the Red Fir site.

The public is cordially invited to attend the meetings and present their views on the draft documents. Anyone wishing to submit written comments may send them to the Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Ash Mountain, Three Rivers, Calif. 93271 until Mar. 6, 1978.



Sonora Pass Plans

The Stanislaus National Forest is considering the construction of a trailhead facility near Sonora Pass for the recently completed Pacific Crest Trail in this area. Public comment is being accepted during January.

The trailhead facility would consist of a parking area, restroom and signboard, but may also include such features as a drop camp, horse handling area, picnic tables, and drinking water. It would be located as close as possible to the Pacific Crest Trail - Highway 108 intersection near Sonora Pass.

Comments should be directed to James W. Frazier, Stanislaus National Forest, Summit Ranger District, Star Route, Box 1295, Sonora, Ca. 95370. His telephone is (209) 965-3434.

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should be to preserve in its natural condition as many varieties of the American wilderness as possible -- to identify those still-wild areas or those areas capable of reverting to the wild and zoning them for management to maintain, protect, and restore (if needed) that wilderness.

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness by saying it is land that, in comparison to the rest of the country, is generally undeveloped and natural appearing. It should have opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation (which any wild country regardless of scenic value, etc. will have), and it may (not must) contain other values. These other values are what make an area outstanding and especially noteworthy, but they are not requirements to make it wilderness. They merely add to its appeal to most people.

Officials from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sometimes argue that over-eager citizen conservationists are degrading the National Wilderness Preservation System by fighting to include inferior areas in it. They argue that dull, uninteresting, commonplace areas will degrade the system. This part of their argument was dealt with in an article in the last issue.

The more common half of the argument, which is enshrined in countless Forest Service documents, is that wilderness areas must be pure, pristine, and virgin. Is there an old overgrown jeep trail in the area? It's a sign of man, and the area doesn't qualify. Was there some selective tie-hacking in the area before the turn of the century? Human intrusion. It's not wilderness. Did a prospector once sink an exploratory shaft back up in a canyon? The wilderness character surrounding 20,000 acres has been irretrievably lost.

Does this sound farfetched? It isn't. There have been dozens such real life examples of the Forest Service disquali-

fying areas from wilderness consideration for such contrived reasons.

Thanks to the new Administration of Jimmy Carter, however, we may well be free of the onerous burden of the "purity" complex at the higher levels of the Forest Service. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler's new direction to the Forest Service seems to toll the death knell for official "purity." Dr. Cutler has said to Congress,

"We also have an opportunity to include in the wilderness system lands not entirely free of the 'marks of mankind,' but fully capable of providing, in the long term, wilderness benefits to many people. In considering such lands for wilderness designation or study, we will look openly at the features or uses traditionally considered to be nonconforming."

Nonetheless, it sometimes takes a long time for new ideas to trickle down through the Forest Service bureaucracy to the lower levels of district rangers and even forest supervisors. So we may continue to encounter "purity" stumbling blocks at the local level.

Therefore, it is useful to look at how Congress stands on the issue of "purity" requirements for the wilderness. Members of Congress are, after all, the final arbiters of wilderness qualification. Congress has had a running feud with the Forest Service over the interpretation of the Wilderness Act on this question.

Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), now chairman of the House Interior Committee, recently said, "this whole purity theory originated with the Forest Service. It has been repeatedly rejected by the Congress. In every test, Forest Service claims that areas are not suitable for these reasons have been rejected. Most notable was our complete repudiation of the Forest Service view that no areas in the national forests in our Eastern States could be designated as wilderness..."

"It would be nice to have our national wilderness pres-

ervation system absolutely pure and completely free of any sign of the hand of man. But the fact is that we are getting a late start in this business of preserving America's wilderness...We cannot have perfection."

In a recent discussion of the issue, Sen. James Buckley (R-N.Y.) pointed out the actual language of the Wilderness Act, which says candidate areas must be "without permanent improvements" and "with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" (emphasis by the Senator).

Where there have been differences between agency and citizen conservationists' wilderness proposals, Congress has tended to agree with the citizens in the majority of cases. Congress has also included quite obvious impurities. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness of New Jersey, which had a paved county road splitting it, was designated by Congress (with the road) after the county closed the road. Bander National Monument Wilderness (New Mexico); includes the ruins of several small cities housing thousands of people 700 years ago.

Why, then, does the Forest Service have their hang-up on purity? I'd like to toss out three reasons for consideration. One, perhaps the most important, is their fear that too much national forest land will qualify for wilderness if they relax their rigorous standards.

In the 1973 hearings, Forest Service chief John McGuire said, "We have had to make some kind of arbitrary distinctions between lands that are not suitable. With our puristic, narrow, discarded interpretation, we still come up with something like 70 million acres out of 130 million. If you extend it to the East, you get half of the forest system qualified for wilderness."

Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) replied, "I think the cat is now out of the bag. I couldn't understand until you made your last remark, how you could possibly interpret your definition of wilderness the

way you do." The Senators then told the Forest Service that they, the members of Congress, not the Forest Service, would determine how much wilderness was necessary and should be designated.

So, in answer to the question, "Are we degrading the wilderness system?" my answer is a firm "NO." I see only two ways in which we can indeed degrade the National Wilderness Preservation System.

One would be to relax the

management standards for an area after it is in the wilderness system--to allow roads, timber cutting, etc. The other would be to form a less than adequate wilderness system -- one deprived in acreage, number of areas, and variety of ecosystems and experiences represented.

The only way America can have a quality wilderness system, of which we can be proud, is by creating a large and representative National Wilderness Preservation System -- containing several ex-

amples each of all our historic American ecosystems, areas both splendid and modest, and containing as much total acreage as we can.

Wilderness designation and wilderness management as outlined in the Wilderness Act are the best way yet devised by man to insure that Americans of this and future generations will have an enduring resource of wilderness.

Dave Foreman is the Southwest representative for the Wilderness

— Book Review —

by Francia

The Word for World is Forest
by Ursula K. LeGuin
A Berkeley Medallion Book,
Berkeley Publishing Co, 1976
\$1.50 (paperback)

This science fiction allegory is reminiscent of the bitter-sweet story of *Ishl Between Two Worlds*. It is a story of brutal rape of a beautiful land and an admirable people in an unusual setting. Ursula K. Le Guin is the daughter of the famous writer/anthropologist couple, Theodor and Alfred Kroeber, who knew and loved Ishl. The annihilation of Ishl's world must have inspired this powerful tale. The two heroes of the tale, Selver, sh'ab (god/translator) of the planet Athshe and Captain Raj Lyubov, an earthborn anthropology specialist (spesh) assigned to the New Tahiti Colony on Athshe are reminiscent of the Ishl and Alfred Kroeber, respectively.

The New Tahiti Colony was established for the narrow purpose of extracting timber from the lush forested plant Athshe (which also means forest) and shipping it back to a resource-ruined earth. There is a certain vengeful delight in seeing the world through Ursula LeGuin's feminist, humanist eyes. The protagonist, Captain Davidson, is an MCP bent on destroying this forested paradise the same way he rapes

and kills women, such as Selver's wife. Most of his lieutenants are also your basic MCPs (American, Asian, European and African). They are contemptible and all too reminiscent of the worst of forest land "managers" - public and private - in our own lovely forested world. But all men are not evil. Lyubov, a translator himself, a sh'ab, although a mere "spesh" is a prince among men and reminiscent of many a real-life noble forester, hydrologist, game warden or other spesh doing his job intelligently and sensitively.

While it is easy to identify and despise or admire the arthmen in the story, it was at first difficult to identify with the Athsheans. Introduced to us first from the MCP perspective they are indeed odd. "creechies," they're called - only a meter high with green and brown fur. Weird! (But as the story unfolds, I admit I found myself enviously wishing I too had silky fur that blended so beautifully with the brown and green forest. I felt deficient in my nakedness.)

Seen next from the sensitive perspective of the anthropologist Lyubov, the creechies appear much like the indigenous peoples we liquidated as we raped and plundered the extraordinarily beautiful American wilderness, which the Indians inhabited with such grace.

Finally, Selver himself emerges with a dignified and intelligent vengeance to remove the noxious invaders before they wipe out his entire people and world. But this is not just a parable about the destruction of wilderness and whole races of living beings. It is a parable about the nature of destruction itself. Destruction is all-consuming. Captain Davidson's ways eventually lead to the destruction of his men and himself.

It is very satisfying to know that Athshe will be saved; that the Athsheans will continue to be governed as always by their headwomen. But will it really be the same as before? Davidson was also a sh'ab, although not an evil one, and there is no use in pretending that he did not teach the Athsheans how to kill.

For ourselves, we would be wise to learn from the Athsheans about living peacefully with each other and with our world. On Athshe, the men were dreamers. If the women believed the dreams, they put them into action. Intellect to the men, politics to the women and ethics and stewardship to the interaction of both - a sane and just arrangement. As for personal strife, the Athsheans like wolves were descent. Baring the neck was sign enough of submission. The victorious would raise their voices in song. Killing was superfluous.