



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 3

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November-December, 1978

No. 6

BURTON PARK BILL PASSES

Mineral King Protected

In the closing days of Congress, Representative Phillip Burton accomplished the impossible: he won approval of his omnibus parks bill. That National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 is one of the most outstanding preservation measures ever to pass Congress.

Major victories for California include:

- Addition of Mineral King to Sequoia National Park;

- Creation of a Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area near Los Angeles;

- Addition of the North Fork of the King River for "study" under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; and

- Expansion of Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Burton practiced "shuttle diplomacy" between the House and the Senate to work out disagreements in the massive measure. \$1.2 billion is authorized for national and local parks in 44 states and two trust territories.

Outside California, the bill more than doubles the amount of protected wilderness in the National Park System by designating 1,854,000 acres in eight parks. Six new National Trails were added, totalling 12,000 miles. Twenty-one new units were added to the National Park System. Eight rivers were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and 17 rivers designated for study.

The 16,200 acre Mineral King area has been the site of a long struggle between environmentalists and developers. Representative John Krebs sponsored legislation in the House to transfer Mineral King to Sequoia National Park, and Senator Alan Cranston introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

The Senate strengthened this legislation to effectively ban downhill skiing by prohibiting permanent ski facilities. The Senate also deleted, and the House accepted, any attempt to reimburse Disney Productions, Inc. \$1.2 million in

development and land acquisition costs in trying to develop the area.

Senator S. I. Hayakawa had attempted to delete Mineral King from the Burton bill and substitute a one-year study of its skiing potential. It was rejected by a voice vote.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will be a 90,000 acre urban park. \$155.5 million was authorized to purchase the lands that are primarily in private ownership.

The North Fork of the American River becomes California's second Wild River in our national system. The legislation was passed before the Tahoe National Forest completed its final proposal on the wild river study previously authorized. Congressperson Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson's support for the wild river legislation was important in moving this proposal so quickly.

This portion of the American River passes through the 49,100 acre North Fork American roadless area, so additional protection of this watershed is quite feasible.

The Kern River's North Fork will be studied for possible inclusion in our National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Although the recently enacted Golden Trout Wilderness bill will insure that most of the headwaters of this river will remain undisturbed, wild river status for the rest of the Kern will add to the protection environmentalists want for the Kern Plateau.

While many people worked to make the omnibus park bill a success, the leadership and perseverance of Rep. Phillip Burton was considered by conservation leaders the key. Brock Evans, Director of the Sierra Club's Washington office, stated, "The omnibus bill was Burton's idea, and he was successful, not only in pushing it through the House, but then in shepherding it through the long and tortuous Senate process during the last crucial days of Congress. Without Burton, it could never have happened, and the whole nation owes him a great deal of thanks."



Representative Phillip Burton

RARE II

As we go to press, the Forest Service still is tabulating public response on the RARE II program. Results were expected in late October, but a flood of mail just prior to the deadline overloaded the computers. Some estimates place the total number of letters and forms at over 400,000.

Despite the delay caused by this heavy citizen comment the Forest Service intends to stay on their previously announced schedule. The agency's recommendations for wilderness, non-wilderness, and future planning should be available in December when they release their final environmental statement on RARE II.

Yosemite Expansion

The National Park Service has recommended an additional 24,305 acres be added to their 1972 wilderness recommendation of 646,821 acres for Yosemite National Park. The additions are part of a recently released general management plan for the park.

The general management plan for Yosemite will guide overall park management and development for approximately 15 years. Included are specific development concept plans for all developed areas inside the park, minor boundary adjustments, and the proposed additions to the wilderness recommendation.

The draft plan would result in overnight ac-

comodations decreasing by 11%, camping increasing by 9%, and day parking decreasing by 16%. Overcrowding and automobile traffic will be significantly reduced in Yosemite Valley. The long-term goal of the National Park Service is to remove all cars from the Valley.

The new Park Service recommendation of 666,915 acres of wilderness and 4,211 acres of potential wilderness is only 20,000 acres shy of the proposal by environmental groups. The new acreage is in very critical areas. Several key portions of the park, however, are not supported by the Park Service for wilderness.

All additional lands proposed for potential and

actual wilderness classification will be protected from further development. Areas that will undergo no actual physical alterations as a result of the reclassification are the lands south of Tamarack Flat, the lower Illilouette Valley, the Hetch Hetchy roadless area, the city of San Francisco parcels, and the enclaves on the north rim of Yosemite Valley. These lands include well over half of the area of the proposed additions.

Four road segments will be abandoned and restored to a natural condition: 7 miles of eastern portion and 6 miles of the western portion of the Old Tioga Road; the North Mountain Road between Wilderness Unit 5 and Hetch Hetchy roadless

area; and the road to the baseline camp east of Mather. The North Mountain Road and the eastern portion of the Old Tioga Road have been closed to the public. The western portion of the Old Tioga Road will be closed after removal of the pavement from some areas, but private development will be removed before the road is abandoned. Historically significant drainage structures will be recorded before their removal or deterioration.

Key areas still not recommended for wilderness by the Park Service include six thirty acre enclaves around the High Sierra Camps, Little Yosemite Valley, and Hetch Hetchy and Eleanor Reser-

voirs.

The Park Service continues to recommend six exclusions for existing concessionaire-operated High Camps and cross country ski hut. These facilities are relatively small and innocuous. Although it is not desirable to have such structures in wilderness, environmentalists believe that it would be far better simply to include them as non-conforming exceptions, rather than to create future problems by carving out substantial enclaves. They feel that inclusion in wilderness assures that at such time as the facilities are discontinued the area will be truly protected; exclusion from wilderness would diminish any incentive to discontinue the non-conforming use, and would in fact permit continuous rehabilitation and expan-

sions of the facilities.

Little Yosemite Valley is a 2,000 acre piece of wilderness land originally proposed for wilderness by the Park Service but deleted from their 1972 proposal for "management reasons." Due to high visitor use the Park Service feels it necessary to leave the land out of wilderness protection so that they can provide needed facilities. Environmentalists feel that facilities necessary to protect the wilderness values can be allowed in designated wilderness and that convenience developments are inappropriate anyway.

The Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy Reservoirs are recommended for wilderness by environmental groups. Actually, their proposal is for the dismantl-

President's Message

by Bob Schneider

"Burton Omnibus Bill" passes. To each of us who hopes for the preservation of a significant portion of America's wild lands for future generations the passage of the "Burton Bill" has been warmly welcomed. I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation on behalf of myself and the California Wilderness Coalition to Representative Phil Burton of San Francisco who worked so diligently to insure passage of this bill, and to Senator Alan Cranston who guided its progress in the Senate. In California, the bill transferred Mineral King from the Forest Service to the National Park Service, established the North Fork American Wild River, gave the South Fork Kern River study status, and established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

California Wilderness Coalition Update

I. The Board of Directors at their October 21, 1978 meeting elected 3 new directors: Beth Newman, Dr. Sari Sommarstrom, and Wendy Cohen. Beth Newman of Davis has worked with the Coalition over the last two years and was in-

strumental in organizing RARE II input. Dr. Sari Sommarstrom of Covelo brings scientific expertise to the Board. Sari has a strong background in wilderness and wilderness management. Wendy Cohen is an environmental studies student at UC Berkeley and has worked for a number of years with the Sierra Club Bay Chapter Wilderness Committee.

We now have a core of Directors in the Davis area and energetic representation of the Bay Area, North Coast and Chico areas. We hope the presence of our new directors in these areas will help us in communicating and assisting local groups.

II. At the Board meeting we discussed options and directions to take in the fight to preserve California wildlands. The CWC will renew its efforts to assist local groups and to provide expertise and focus to the statewide wilderness effort. In this regard, the Board took the following actions: 1. CWC hired Dave Brown as the CWC Executive Director. Dave worked with the Oregon Wilderness Coalition for 4 years. He has a special interest in the California Desert. Dave's

prime responsibility is to assist existing local groups and to organize new groups to support specific wilderness areas.

Deb Haury will be our office manager. She will assist Dave and help with our publications and office procedures.

2. CWC will publish the new *Wild California*. Members will receive the *Wilderness Record* and *Wild California* in alternating months. We hope this will increase our effectiveness in providing our members with timely information.

3. The CWC office staff will put out a bi-weekly annotated bibliography of literature on current wilderness issues. All member groups will receive a copy.

4. We will continue to strengthen the wilderness movement by enlisting the support of other groups, business sponsors, and individuals.

III. **Funding:** During the Christmas Season please remember the California Wilderness Coalition. Your generous donations will allow us to continue to improve the conservation efforts of the California Wilderness Movement.

Bulldozed Lassen

by Steve Evans

In early September, the Phillips Petroleum Corporation improved with bulldozers a jeep road into Section 36 of Lassen Volcanic National Park and began exploratory drilling for geothermal resources at what is commonly known as the "Terminal Geyser."

The individual public reaction to this little-known event and even the response from the National Park Service can best be described by the statement, "But they can't do that!" But as current legalities define things, Phillips Petroleum can . . . and they have done so.

Section 36 is a privately owned inholding within the southern boundary of Lassen Volcanic National Park. The area is approximately two miles southwest of the Drakesbad resort. Looking at a map, the area's two notable resources are the entrance of the Pacific Crest Trail into the park from the national forest land and a geological/geographic entity known as the Terminal Geyser which has been described as "a hole in the ground with steam coming out of it."

Dick Vance, chief naturalist for Lassen Park, asserts that the Park Service was not notified of the road improvement and drilling. "A Park ranger stumbled upon them working the

road with bulldozers," he stated. Vance described the road improvement as a "mess."

The inholding in question is owned by a variety of entities including a large corporation, private individuals, and several members of various families. The inholding is currently being managed by W.M. Beatty and Associates, a land holding company based in Redding.

Last year, Plumas County granted a permit to Phillips Petroleum to begin exploratory drilling. Of the few people protesting the granting of the permit was park Superintendent Bill Stephenson. He indicated at the permit hearing that the Park Service had legal control over Section 36 and they could condemn the area if need be to prevent degradation of its natural values. The Park Service does have the ability to condemn private inholdings in national parks. However, that was last year.

The Park Service is currently rewriting their land acquisition policy. During the new policy formation, all funds for condemnation of private inholdings have been frozen. Furthermore, the proposed new policy has come under heavy criticism from inholding owners at recent hearings in California, Washington, and Colorado.

Despite the current land acquisition freeze, the indications are from the local Park Service officials that condemnation proceedings have in fact begun. Dick Vance stated, "This particular inholding has priori-

ty. Condemnation has been approved by Senator Jackson of the Parks Committee." Just what effect the current freeze and controversy will have on this particular case remains to be seen.

All public incredulity aside, Phillips Petroleum appears to be completely within all federal, state, and county laws. Bill Curtiss of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund stated, "I've been following this issue since we heard about the county permit. So far, we have no legal handle to prevent this operation."

When asked if he had been in contact with either Beatty or Phillips Petroleum, he replied, "No, we have been treading lightly so far. There is a very definite element of paranoia involved when Sierra Club Legal Defense calls Phillips Petroleum. We don't want any information source to clam up."

"I can't imagine how Phillips figures they can get away with this on a public relations level," he added. "What would happen if people started writing letters protesting the intrusion into their National Park?"

Curtiss indicated that for right now, it would be best to take a wait and see attitude. "Who knows? They might not find anything commercially exploitable or the Park Service could get the go ahead to condemn the section tomorrow. When they start moving in with the equipment to exploit the well, then we'll have to do something."

Desert Scenic Trail

The National Park Service will hold a series of eleven public meetings in five western states on the progress of the Desert National Scenic Trail feasibility study.

The Desert Trail would provide a hiking and riding trail between Mexico and Canada, primarily through desert regions. Proposed routings for the Trail in California pass through Death Valley National Monument and the proposed East Mojave National Park as well as numerous Wilderness Study Areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The only California meeting will be held in Riverside on November 21,

1978, at Raincross Square, 3443 Orange Street. Persons attending the meetings will be provided with an information booklet containing a response section in which they may summarize their views on the Desert Trail study.

Those unable to attend one of the public meetings may participate in the planning process by obtaining a copy of the information booklet from the Regional Director, Western Regional Office, Attn: Desert Trail Study, National Park Service, P.O. Box 36063, San Francisco, CA 94102. Response should be returned to the above address by December 30, 1978.



Fletcher Lake, Yosemite Natl. Park

Yosemite cont. from pg. 1

ing of the dams and the draining of the reservoirs. In time, these lands will revert to wilderness.

Ten public meetings will be held in November and December to hear public views on the draft plan. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. local time. In addition, at each location Park Service officials will be present from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and for one hour prior to the meeting to discuss the draft General Management Plan on an informal basis with interested people. The schedule of meetings is as follows:

Nov. 27, Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite National Park

Nov. 28, Sheraton Inn, 2550 West Clinton Avenue, Fresno

Nov. 29, Bishop Union High School, 301 N. Fowler, Bishop

Nov. 30, Masonic Temple, 1123 J. Street, Sacramento

Dec. 4, California Hall, 625 Polk Street, San Francisco

Dec. 5, Municipal Auditorium Theater, 10 Tenth Street, Oakland

Dec. 6, Orange County Room, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim

Dec. 7, Pierce College Campus Center, 6201 Winnetka Avenue, Woodland Hills

Dec. 11, Natural History Museum, El Prado and Village Place, Balboa Park, San Diego

Dec. 13, Department of the Interior Auditorium, 18th and C Streets, N.W.,

Washington, D. C.

A 44-page Summary of the draft plan is available by writing: Summary, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. The 56,000 persons already

on the Yosemite planning mailing list were to receive a copy of the Summary automatically.

Written comments will be accepted until January 15th.

by Phil Farrell

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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 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.

BLM Wilderness Inventory

Citizens concerned about California's 6+ million acres of desert wildlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management now have a chance to speak up! Your letters of support and statements at public meetings will help determine the future of these potential wilderness areas. Mighty anti-wilderness forces are combining to fight the concept of desert wilderness. Your active involvement is needed to ensure that hundreds of wild places are protected from abuses of off-road vehicle users, miners, energy developers, and urban sprawl.

Public opinion polls have repeatedly shown

that the vast majority of the public supports preservation of the natural values of the California desert. But a vocal minority of desert exploiters are beginning a well-funded campaign to convince the Bureau of Land Management and Congress that little or no wilderness should be designated. Conservationists must counter this challenge to the wilderness idea with an educational and political program to acquaint government officials and legislators with the values of desert wildlands and the strong public support for its preservation.

You can be a part of this program.



Eureka Dunes

by Jim Eaton



South Providence Mountains

by Jim Eaton

Wilderness Wildlife Bighorn Sheep

by Dennis Coules

The bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) is a true wilderness species which is usually seen only by those willing to hike into its isolated habitats. It has been estimated that less than 3,750 of these animals survive in California and their range continues to decrease. Three subspecies occur here - the Nelson bighorn (*O. c. nelsoni*), California bighorn (*O. c. californiana*) and peninsular bighorn (*O. c. cremnobates*).

The California bighorn numbers only 215 in this state and has been designated "rare" by the

California Department of Fish and Game. The peninsular bighorn population is close to 1,200 and they have also been designated "rare."

Although the species has been totally protected by state law since 1873, reductions in both range and numbers continue to occur. By 1920, the bighorn had disappeared from northern California. Major reasons for their decline throughout the state include overgrazing by livestock, introduction of diseases from domestic animals, illegal hunting, competition with feral burros, and destruction

of habitat by road-building, erection of fences and removal or diversion of water sources.

Wilderness status for bighorn habitat can aid in stabilization or recovery of their populations by limiting adverse human developments and disturbance. The range of the California bighorn is restricted to the Sierra Crest from Mammoth Lakes south to Mount Langley, except for a small population that was transplanted into Lava Beds National Monument from British Columbia in 1971. Some of this habitat is being evaluated in the Forest Service's RARE II program for potential wilderness designation.

The peninsular bighorn occurs in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside Coun-

ty, and in mountain ranges to the south in San Diego County and Baja California. Much of this range is included in Anza Borrego State Park, but substantial portions are in the public domain. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now in the process of evaluating much of this territory in their wilderness review.

Much of the range of the Nelson bighorn is also being evaluated in the BLM wilderness review in California. Major populations exist in the Panamint Mountains, Clark Mountain, Granite Mountains, New York Mountains, Old Woman Mountains, Providence Mountains, Sacramento Mountains, Turtle Mountains, and Picacho Peaks, all being currently evaluated by the BLM.

Unfortunately, the bighorn has not fared well under past BLM management practices. Several mountain ranges that were reported to have resident bighorn populations in 1946 no longer do so. These include the Ord Mountains, Whipple Mountains, Big Maria Mountains and Little Maria Mountains. Drastic declines have been observed in other areas of the public domain including the Panamint Range and Deep Springs, Inyo County.

Hopefully the BLM and Forest Service will consider this significant biological resource and its need for protection from human disturbance when making recommendations for wilderness designations of lands administered by these agencies.

The single most controversial issue of the BLM's Wilderness Review to date has been the attempt to define a "road" as it affects the boundaries of potential BLM wilderness areas. In response to the draft Wilderness Policy and Review Procedures released for public comment last March, the Bureau received tens of thousands of letters and petitions from off-road vehicle interests seeking to throw out the proposed road definition in favor of

one which would leave most of the BLM lands out of the Wilderness Review. The BLM, however, retained essentially the original road definition which was derived from the legislative history of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976:

"The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

The following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in this definition will be used:

"Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. 'Improved' does not necessarily mean formal construction. 'Main-

tained' does not necessarily mean annual maintenance."

"Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools."

"Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims."

While there are some minor improvements which could be made in the road definition, it is vastly superior to what the off-road vehicle interests proposed. It now remains the task of conservationists to see that the BLM properly applies the definition during the Wilderness Review process.

BLM Natl. Wilderness Inventory

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the Department of Interior, currently manages about 180 million acres of lands and waters, most of which are in the Western States. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) was enacted in October of 1976, directing that BLM lands be planned for and managed under the multiple-use concept. FLPMA, also known sometimes as the BLM's "Organic Act," required that the Bureau review its lands for potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System as established by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Direction for this wilderness review is contained in Section 603 of FLPMA. Section 603 mandates that all wilderness inventories, studies, and final Presidential recommendations to Congress must be completed by October 1991. Certain BLM lands, such as the old administrative primitive areas, research natural areas, and

the California Desert Conservation Area (see map), must be reviewed much earlier - by **October 1980**.

The formal wilderness review began nationally in March 1978, when the BLM issued its draft Wilderness Policy and Review Procedures. After a lengthy period of public comment, and intense pressure by the off-road vehicle interests, the BLM has released its **Wilderness Inventory Handbook**. This document covers only the first phase of the wilderness review - the inventory of those roadless BLM lands having wilderness characteristics. Guidelines on the study and recommendation phases of the review will be released in the near future.

The BLM has been relatively quick to respond to the mandates of Section 603 and is currently establishing a wilderness staff on district, state and national levels. In fact, many BLM districts have already made preliminary inven-

cont. on next page





Pencil Cholla

by Jim Eaton

BLM NAT'L INVENTORY cont.

stories of their lands for potential Wilderness Study Areas which would be given in-depth consideration over the next fifteen years.

It is essential that conservationists become familiar with and involved in the BLM Wilderness Review process. At stake is a greater wilderness land base than the existing Wilderness System and RARE II inventory combined. Right now, the inventory phase is particularly critical since it will determine which lands are given further consideration for wilderness, and those that are left open to development.

The movement to protect wilderness on the public lands is still in its infancy, and it is important that new people become involved. Most BLM lands have been historically ignored for their wilderness and other natural values. Hence, it will be necessary to raise a new public consciousness concerning the value of these diverse lands and water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW!

1. Write to the BLM and request a copy of the **Wilderness Inventory Handbook**, and ask that your name be placed on the mailing lists to be kept informed of all facets of the Wilderness Review. In California contact: Phil Lord, BLM State Office, Federal Office Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA, 95825; and the BLM California Desert Plan Program, 3610 Central - Suite 402, Riverside, CA, 92506.
2. Contact the California Wilderness Coalition and

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has entered the third and final public participation phase of their wilderness inventory for the California Desert. This most important opportunity for citizen involvement began on November 1 and will close January 31, 1978.

The wilderness inventory is simply an identification of those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act. After the inventory is completed in February of 1979 the Wilderness Study Areas identified will be analyzed during a study phase.

It is important that citizens encourage the BLM to inventory all areas that meet the requirements of the

Wilderness Act. It will be difficult to obtain a wilderness study for an area overlooked during the inventory. Areas missed will not receive Interim Management that protects Wilderness Study Areas from degradation during the wilderness study phase.

Conservationists played an important role during the beginning stages of the wilderness inventory this summer when they pointed out vast acreages and numerous overlooked areas. The BLM has responded by adding many of these areas to their inventory. While conservationists still have some important areas that the BLM has yet to recognize, the current list of potential Wilderness Study Areas is greatly improved.

During the next 90 days, desert wildland supporters

must let the BLM know that they want all qualifying lands with wilderness characteristics included in the inventory. Off-road vehicle users, miners, and energy developers will be attempting to have many areas removed from the inventory, regardless of the fact that the lands possess wilderness qualities.

Citizens must support the BLM for the six million acres of wild land now inventoried, and they should encourage the BLM to add the areas they previously have missed.

It is equally important that elected officials are aware of the strong public support for wilderness in the California Desert. A strong educational effort will be needed to show that a good wilderness inventory of desert wildlands will not end public use of the desert, stop grazing or mining, send the nation into a major recession, or cause cancer.

Individuals interested in helping preserve desert wilderness are encouraged to visit these magnificent places. The California Wilderness Coalition will be happy to put you in contact with those knowledgeable about the desert and those organizing field studies.

As with the other agencies which have already been working on wilderness studies, citizens must keep in mind that Congress - not BLM - will make the final decisions. The same kinds of grassroots citizen action (field studies, map drawing, organizing, publicity, etc.) will be required to influence these decisions as have been required with the other agencies. We certainly hope the BLM will provide real leadership with its own wilderness proposals, but citizens must be prepared to counter with their own proposals for important areas if the agency does not. If the results of the BLM wilderness review process are not satisfactory, then these citizen proposals will have to be taken directly to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, or the Congress for action.

BULLETIN

Desert Wilderness Meetings

The BLM (Bureau of Land Management) has announced that its "draft" Wilderness Inventory Map for the California Desert Conservation Area will be published November 1. A public review and comment period will begin then and last until January 31, 1979. The map delineates 336 separate areas which have been inventoried for the presence of roads and of wilderness characteristics as evaluated by the BLM. It is the third in a series of wilderness inventory maps which will culminate in a "final" map to be published February 28, 1979.

The BLM plans to hold 10 formal public meetings on the draft inventory, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the locations and dates listed below. Testimony will be recorded by court reporters.

Two written copies of all testimony are requested for inclusion in the official

record. More information, including the draft inventory map and supporting narratives, can be obtained from the BLM Desert Wilderness Office, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507.

Dates and locations of public hearings

Monday, December 4
SACRAMENTO
Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street

Tuesday, December 5
NEEDLES
City Council Chambers
1111 Bailey

Wednesday, December 6
LOS ANGELES
Supervisors' Hearing Room
500 W. Temple

Thursday, December 7
BARSTOW
City Council Chambers
220 E. Mountain View Avenue

Friday, December 8
RIVERSIDE
City Council Chambers
10th and Main

Monday, December 11
SANTA ANA
Ramada Inn
1600 E. 1st Street

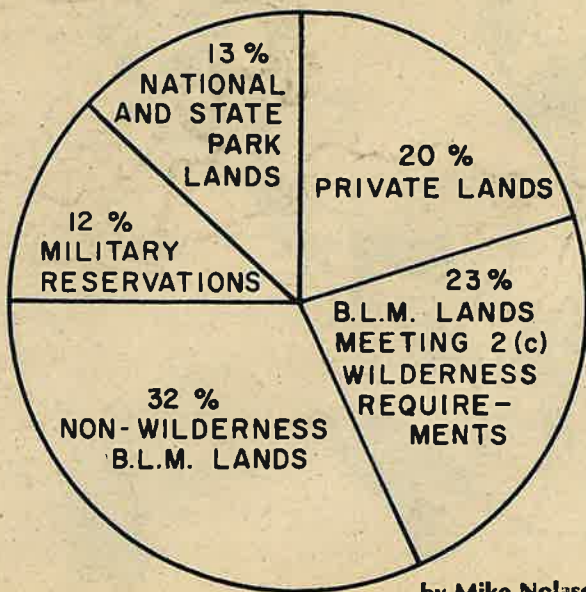
Tuesday, December 12
TRONA
Kerr-McGee Recreation Hall
Argus Avenue

Wednesday, December 13
SAN DIEGO
S.D.G. & E. Auditorium
101 Ash Street

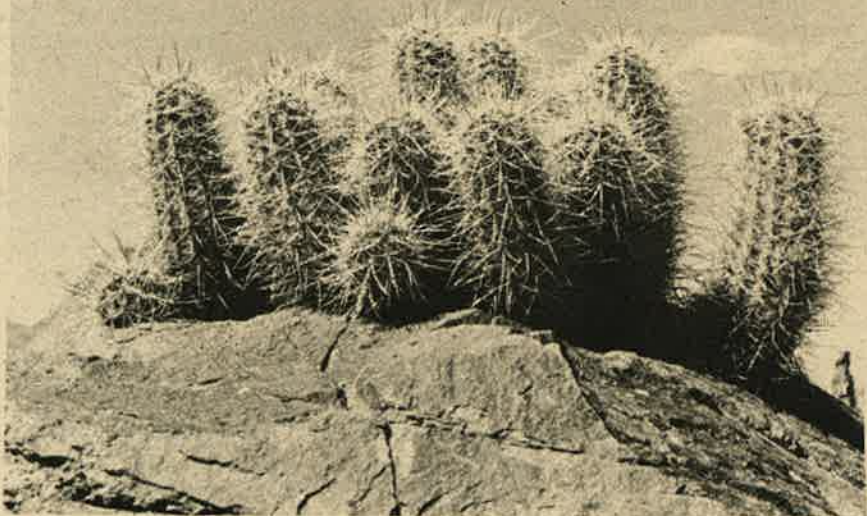
Thursday, December 14
LONE PINE
Town Hall
Bush & Jackson Streets

Friday, December 15
EL CENTRO
Imperial Irrigation District Auditorium
1285 Broadway

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT



by Mike Nolasco



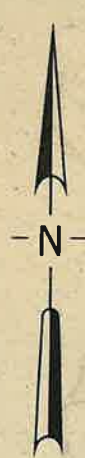
Hedgehog Cactus

by Jim Eaton

Bishop

Big Pine

Independence



MO

Los

Major Highway

Improved Road

Other Road

"Road"

CDCA Boundary

County Boundary

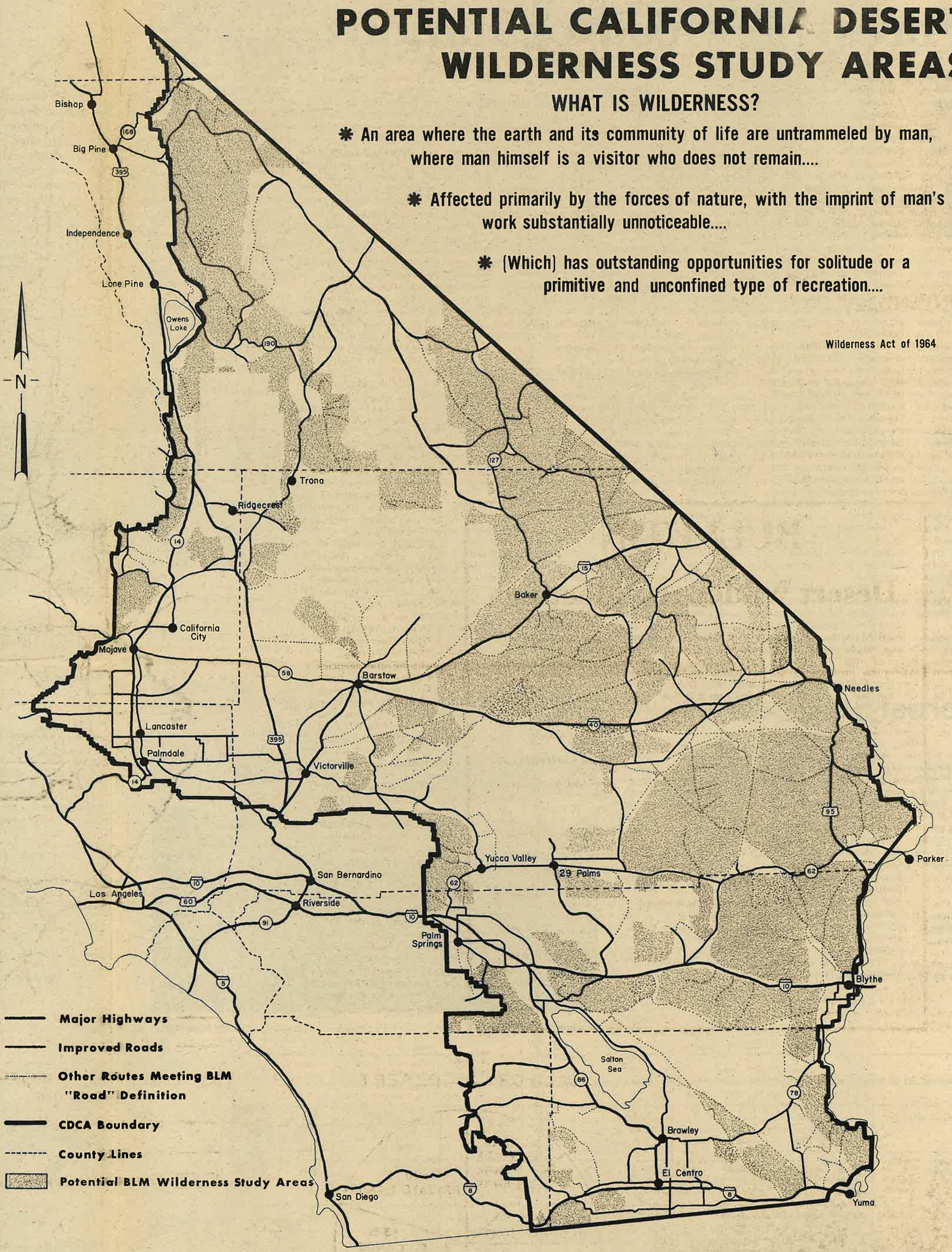
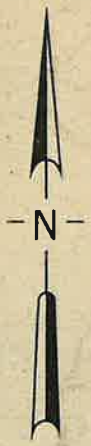
Potential Wilderness

POTENTIAL CALIFORNIA DESERT WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

- * An area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain....
- * Affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable....
- * (Which) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation....

Wilderness Act of 1964



- Major Highways
- Improved Roads
- Other Routes Meeting BLM "Road" Definition
- CDCA Boundary
- County Lines
- Potential BLM Wilderness Study Areas

New Forest Service Regulations

On August 31, the U.S. Forest Service issued its proposed new regulations to implement the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. The regulations are entitled "National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning" (36 CFR, Part 219). In this Act, Congress directed the Forest Service to establish regulations that would limit the use of clearcutting, prevent destructive and uneconomical logging on marginal lands, assure protection of streams and fisheries, and preserve the diversity of plant and animal communities. The regulations were to assure that recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife, and other multiple-use values would not continue to be senselessly sacrificed to timber production.

The proposed regulations establish two new processes. First, they create a new process to integrate planning for all resources and uses on each national forest in a single document, the "Forest Plan." Each national forest within the Forest Service's nine regions is expected to have a completed plan by 1985. The regulations are also designed to link forest-level planning decisions to national goals through "Regional Plans."

The plans, which are only vaguely discussed in the

regulations, will assign to each forest various targets for such "outputs" as timber production, range use, and recreation visitor-days. Second, the proposed regulations establish "Resource Management Standards and Guidelines" to govern planning for each of the major resource systems (e.g. fish and wildlife, timber, wilderness). These guidelines touch on all the critical issues discussed in the NFMA but conservationists feel that they are woefully inadequate to prevent abusive timber practices or to assure long-term protection of the resource base.

Conservationists have strongly criticized the proposed regulations for their generally weak content and failure to be specific. The regulations are considered to be as vague as the previous forest management directives which led to the enactment of the NFMA in the first place. In many cases, the final decision on a forest management issue is left up to the regional or local national forest plan.

The following are specific issues which have been inadequately addressed or ignored in the proposed regulations:

1. **No EIS.** The Forest Service has prepared no environmental impact statement (EIS) to help the public understand the impacts of and alternatives to the

proposed regulations.

2. **Land Management Planning.** The regulations do not clearly describe the nature of regional planning nor require an EIS for each regional plan.

3. **Clearcutting.** The regulations fail to set standards limiting the size of clearcuts, the spacing of clearcuts, and the frequency and extent of clearcutting in any watershed.

4. **Silviculture and Rotation Age.** The Forest Service's present all-or-nothing approach to uneven-aged management (the whole forest, or none of it) leads to even-aged management, including clearcutting on virtually all harvested acres. The regulations should require consideration of using both even- and uneven-aged management in a forest to reflect different multiple-use emphases. The Forest Service should set guidelines for using longer rotation periods (time between cuts) in areas where diversity, recreation opportunities, or wildlife habitat would be enhanced.

5. **Protection of Streams and Fisheries.** The regulations should do more than simply repeat the broad language of the Act about protecting waters, wetlands, and fish habitat. Specific guidelines about such protective measures as leaving buffer strips along streams and lakes to reduce sedimentation and protect

aquatic life should be included.

6. **Timber Harvest Levels.** Prior to 1976 the Forest Service defined sustained yield as the maximum amount of timber that can be cut each decade on a national forest without jeopardizing future production; harvest levels may increase over time but may never decrease. This definition is known as "non-declining yield." The NFMA expressly established non-declining yield as national policy, with only limited exceptions for higher harvest levels, but the Forest Service is trying to ignore this clear direction from Congress.

The timber harvest scheduling regulations should not permit routine consideration of "departures" from non-declining yield (that is, quicker logging of old growth forests). Especially dangerous is a requirement that departures can be formulated whenever the non-declining harvest level would cause local economic instability or fail to meet production targets assigned by the regional plan. Under an alternative proposal supported by environmentalists (and published with the regulations), only non-declining yield would be used in developing a Forest Plan. Departure proposals would only be considered later, and a departure could be approved only if it would

be consistent with all the multiple-use objectives of the Forest Plan (a criterion set forth in the Act but ignored by the proposed regulations).

7. **Marginal Lands.** The Forest Service's guidelines for identifying lands not suited for timber production are wholly inadequate. Environmentalists have instead proposed guidelines for identifying such lands using both **economic** and **physical** criteria, as required by the Act. Under the environmentalists' proposal, which is printed with the regulations, logging would be prevented on steep and fragile soils and in harsh climates. In addition, uneconomical logging (i.e. when the cost of producing the timber exceeds the benefit) would also be prohibited. These criteria are consistent with the intention of the Act and are of critical importance to forest management in all parts of the country.

8. **Diversity.** The Act established the duty of the Forest Service to "provide for diversity of plant and animal communities" and to "preserve the diversity of tree species." But the regulations require only that diversity be "evaluated"; and by sanctioning "the removal of particular species of trees" the regulations would permit the continued conversion of diverse forests to industrial-type monocultures. Affir-

mative guidelines to protect and enhance diversity, such as using lower rotations and uneven-aged management, are needed in both the wildlife and silviculture portions of the regulations.

9. **Recreation and Wilderness.** The regulations lack any mention of preserving and protecting trails, which are being lost to logging and logging roads at an alarming rate. Regarding wilderness, a provision should be made for evaluating the wilderness potential of areas not included in the RARE-II inventory. Guidelines for evaluating the costs and benefits of development vs. preservation are needed. Furthermore, the direction on planning for existing wilderness mentions only the problem of controlling levels of use without discussing problems caused by mining and grazing, or the special problem of managing lands adjacent to wilderness.

All concerned readers are urged to comment on the proposed regulations by writing to Chief John McGuire, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013. The deadline for comments is November 30. A copy of the regulations can be obtained by writing Charles Hartgraves, same address as above. They are also printed in the **Federal Register** Vol. 43, (170): 39046-39059, 31 August 1978, available in many libraries.

The final regulations will have a profound effect on the quality of our National Forests for years to come. It is especially important to comment on the provisions for timber harvest levels and marginal lands in support of the environmentalists' alternative proposals (see 6 and 7 above).

Forest Service EIS's

This chart shows the status of Environmental Impact Statements under preparation by the U.S. Forest Service in California. If you would like to have a copy of any particular statement sent to you it should be requested from the contact person on the list.

FOOTNOTES

1. Regional Forester, California Region, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111

2. Chief, USDA - Forest Service, Box 2417,

Washington, D.C. 20013

3. Filing date is based on the date of publication of availability of the DES in the Federal Register

4. In this case, the Regional Forester, California Region, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 and the Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, 319 S.W. Pine St., Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208 are responsible for the National Forest System lands within their Regions

5. This inter-agency project involves the National Park

Service and the Bureau of Land Management as well as the Forest Service

6. This inter-agency project involves the Bureau of Land Management as well as the Forest Service

7. A draft supplement to the FES for the King Unit was filed 5/5/78. The date of availability for the final supplement is estimated as 10/78

8. Estimated dates of availability of the draft supplement is 8/78, and of the final supplement is 1/79.



Siskiyou Mtns. Area

by John Hart

COMPOSITE LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS UNDER PREPARATION - USDA - Forest Service - <u>California Region</u>					October 1, 1978			
Administrative Unit	Name and Nature of Proposal (and number-if assigned)	Location	Responsible Official	For more information, contact	Draft ES		Final ES	
					Est. Filing Date	Date Filed	Est. Filing date	Date Filed
Angeles N.F.	Bouquet Canyon Recreation Residence Tract Study	Calif. Los Angeles County	Regional Forester <u>1/</u>	Dave Kohut, c/o Saugus Rgr. Dist. 23759 W. Valencia Blvd. Room 20 Valencia, CA 91355 805-259-2790	12/78		9/79	
	Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study (05-01-78-03)	Calif. Los Angeles & San Bernardino Counties	Chief <u>2/</u>	Dick Rea, c/o Angeles N. F. 150 South Los Robles, Suite 300 Pasadena, CA 91101 FTS 799-0360 213-577-0360		4/28/78	12/78	
Cleveland N.F.	Trabuco District Land Management Plan (05-02-78-01)	Calif. Orange and Riverside Counties	Regional Forester <u>1/</u>	Jick Modee, c/o Cleveland N.F. 880 Front St., Room 655, San Diego CA 92188 FTS 895-5191 714-293-5191		11/11/77	9/78	
Eldorado N.F.	None at this date			Jesse Barton, Eldorado NF 100 Forni St., Placerville, CA 95667 FTS thru 556-9000 916-622-5061				

Administrative Unit	Name and Nature of Proposal (and number-if assigned)	Location	Responsible Official	For more information, contact	Draft ES		Final ES	
					Est. Filing Date	Date Filed	Est. Filing Date	Date Filed
Klamath N.F.	North Siskiyou Land Management Plan	Calif. Siskiyou County Oregon Jackson County Josephine County	Regional Foresters 4/	Lew Manhart, c/o Klamath N.F. 215 Main St., Yreka, CA 96097 FTS thru 556-9000 916-842-2741	12/78		4/79	
	King Land Management Plan (05-05-76-03)	Calif. Siskiyou County	Regional Forester 1/	Lew Manhart, c/o Klamath N.F. 215 Main St., Yreka, CA 96097 FTS thru 556-9000 916-842-2741				4/22/77 2/
	Medicine Lake Land Management Plan (05-09-78-05)	Calif. Modoc & Siskiyou Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Larry Smith, c/o Modoc N.F. 441 N. Main St., Alturas, CA 96101 FTS thru 556-9000 916-934-3316		4/14/78	11/78	
Lassen N.F.	None at this time			Clarence Jacobson c/o Lassen N.F. 707 Nevada St., Susanville, CA 96130 FTS thru 556-9000 916-257-2151				
Los Padres N.F.	None at this date			Gerald Little, c/o Los Padres N.F., 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA 93017 FTS 960-7775 805 968-1775				
Mendocino N.F.	Timber Management Plan (05-08-78-04)	Calif. Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama, & Trinity Counties	Chief 2/	Paul Schuller, c/o Mendocino N.F. 420 E. Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988, FTS thru 556-9000 916 934-3316	Revision 1/79	2/24/78	4/79	
	Snow Mountain Wilderness Study (05-08-78-07)	Calif. Glenn, Colusa, Lake counties	Chief 2/	Dick English, c/o Mendocino N.F. 420 E. Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988, FTS thru 566-9000 916/934-3316		7/10/78	2/79	
	Big Butte-Shinbone Land Management Plan 6/	Calif. Mendocino and Trinity Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Dick English c/o Mendocino, N.F. 420 E. Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988 FTS thru 556-9000 916 934-3316	9/79		6/80	
Modoc N.F.	Medicine Lake Land Management Plan (05-09-78-05)	Calif. Modoc & Siskiyou Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Larry Smith, c/o Modoc N.F. 441 N. Main St., Alturas, CA 96101 FTS thru 556-9000 916 934-3316		4/14/78	11/78	
Plumas N.F.	None at this date			Bill Howard, c/o Plumas N.F. 159 Lawrence St., Box 1500 Quincy, CA 95971 FTS thru 556-9000 916 283-2050				
San Bernardino N.F.	Big Bear Basin Land Management Plan (05-12-77-12)	Calif. San Bernardino County	Regional Forester 1/	Wayne Maynard, c/o San Bernardino N.F. 144 N. Mountain View, San Bernardino, CA 92408 FTS 793-5591 714 383-5591		9/23/77	10/78	
	Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study (05-01-76-03)	Calif. Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties	Chief 2/	Dick Rea, c/o Angeles N.F. 150 South Los Robles, Suite 300 Pasadena, CA 91101 FTS 799-0360 213-577-0360		4/28/78	12/78	
Sequoia N.F.	None at this date			Charles Pickering, c/o Sequoia N.F. 100 W. Grand Ave., Porterville, CA 93257 FTS thru 556-9000 209-784-1500				
Shasta-Trinity NFs	South Fork Mountain Land Management Plan (05-14-77-09)	Calif. Trinity County	Regional Forester 1/	Ken Ross, c/o Shasta-Trinity N.F. 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA 96001 FTS 461-5407 916-246-5222	Revision 11/78	10/28/77	5/79	
	Girard-McCloud Land Management Plan	Calif. Shasta County	Regional Forester 1/	David Johnson, c/o Shasta-Trinity N.F. 2400 Washington Ave. Redding, CA 96001 FTS 461-5407 916-246-5222	11/78		4/79	
	Mount Shasta Wilderness Study (05-14-78-08)	Calif. Siskiyou County	Chief 2/	David Johnson, c/o Shasta-Trinity N.F. 2400 Washington Ave. Redding, CA 96001 FTS 461-5407 916-246-5222		7/10/78	2/79	
	Medicine Lake Land Management Plan (05-09-78-05)	Calif. Modoc & Siskiyou Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Larry Smith, c/o Modoc N.F. 441 N. Main St., Alturas, CA 96101 FTS thru 556-9000 916-934-3316		4/14/78	11/78	
Sierra N.F.	Timber Management Plan	Calif. Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties	Regional Forester 1/	John Kruse, c/o Sierra N.F. 1130 "O" St., Room 3017, Fresno CA 93721 FTS 467-5171 209-487-5171	9/78		2/79	
Six Rivers N. F.	Fox Unit Land Management Plan	Calif. Del Norte County	Regional Forester 1/	Owen Peck, c/o Six Rivers N.F. 507 "F" St., Eureka, CA 95501 FTS thru 556-9000 707-442-1721		9/17/73		4/26/74 8/
	G-O Road (Chimney Rock Section) (05-10-78-02)	Calif. Del Norte County	Regional Forester 1/	Owen Peck, c/o Six Rivers N.F. 507 "F" St., Eureka, CA 95501 FTS thru 556-9000; 707-442-1721		11/18/78	1/79	
	Big Butte-Shinbone Land Management Plan 6/	Calif. Mendocino and Trinity Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Dick English c/ Mendocino N.F. 420 E. Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988 FTS thru 556-9000 916-934-3316	9/79		6/80	
Stanislaus N.F.	Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River 5/	Calif. Tuolumne County	Chief 2/	Carl Rust, c/o Stanislaus NF 1755 Fairview Lane, Sonoma, CA 95370 FTS thru 556-9000 209-532-3671	9/78		6/79	
Tahoe N.F.	Timber Management Plan	Calif. Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Yuba Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Bruce Moyle, c/o Tahoe N.F. Highway 49 and Coyote St. Nevada City, CA 95959 FTS thru 556-9000; 916-265-4531		12/23/78	9/78	
	North Fork American River Wild and Scenic River (05-17-78-02)	Calif. Placer Co.	Chief 2/	George Cadzow, c/o Tahoe N.F. Highway 49 and Coyote St. Nevada City, CA 95959 FTS thru 556-9000; 916-265-4531		3/24/78	11/78	
	Independence Lake Winter Sports Development	Calif. Nevada and Sierra Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Dick Adams, c/o Tahoe N.F. Box 399 Truckee, CA 95734 FTS thru 556-9000; 916-587-3320				
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	Lake Tahoe Basin Unit Land Management Plan (05-17-78-03)	Calif. Alpine, El Dorado & Placer Counties Nevada Carson City, Washoe, & Douglas Counties	Regional Forester 1/	Jon Hoefer, c/o Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 1052 Tata Lane, Box 8465, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95791 FTS thru 556-9000; 916-544-6420	10/78		7/79	
Regional Office	Establishment and Improvement of Forest Stands	Calif., Nevada Oregon Several counties	Regional Forester 1/	Will Charter, c/o Regional Forester, (Timber Management Staff), 630 Sansome Street St., San Francisco, CA 94111 FTS 556-5514; 415-556-5514	11/78		3/79	

RARE II Saga

By Mark Palmer

"A stirring account of one man's struggle with bureaucracy" (with apologies to my friends in the Forest Service)

The wave of RARE II eddied, bubbled, spit and crashed around me for several months before I took the final plunge. Three days before the "Public (of which I am a member) Comment" deadline, I began writing my RARE II letters.

RARE II, as we all know, stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation No. 2 (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation the First, having shown signs of terminal government boondoggling, was taken out and shot). The Forest Service is attempting to place all the nation's defacto wilderness areas into three convenient categories: (1) Rape, pillage and burn, (2) fool around with some studies and hope all conservationists drop dead, and (3) give in and lock the bastard up.

The key to this ingenious evaluation is a careful, unbiased weighing of correspondence. Each parcel of roadless land (some 332 in California alone) must make the applaud-o-meter rise above the boos and hisses of the exploiters by a recognized, clear-cut, firm percentage (which, not unexpectedly, keeps changing).

I'll buy this game, I thought enthusiastically. Shucks, what's a bit of writer's cramp?

Naturally, I took the good ol' Forest Service at its word. Other people might sloppily write about saving "the Sierra" or "the Wilderness," but not me. No sir! Those fine bureaucrats were damn well gonna get a letter for every bloody blue spot on their stinking map I could scrawl. By Yosemite's bounding boulders, the least I

could do was screw up a computer, give an employee or two ulcers, and cause them to spend plenty of money on my correspondence which might be spent more destructively elsewhere. Hell, they made up the rules!

Besides which, I really do like Wilderness. "Wild Should Wild Remain," "In Wilderness is the Preservation of the Earth," and all that stuff.

So, I bent to my typewriter and began. Three letters applauding the Siskiyou roadless areas (one area was split between two National Forests, but given only one identification number. That didn't fool me - I wrote two letters!). One for Mount Shasta; one for Snow Mountain. Half a dozen covered the Condrey-Kangaroo area. Fifteen letters to save the White Mountains. Thirty letters to cover all of the habitat of the California Condor in the Los Padres National Forest. I giggled insanely after each flourish of "Sincerely yours."

By Sequoia's *semper-virens*, I didn't give an inch. No area was too small; no area was too remote. Each got a letter praising its rugged, scenic virtues to high Heaven!

And still I wrote . . .

But I couldn't just stop there. We are all seized by forebodings and doubts at some point. Would anybody read all of these letters? Did it matter? Do they **really** CARE?

So I inserted, in the middle of the stack, my recommendation that Forest Service headquarters in downtown San Francisco be declared a roadless wilderness " . . . where man is but a visitor . . ." I wanted to see what that would do to their computer.

And still, I wrote . . . The final pile of letters amounted to 265 separate pieces of paper and weighed 25 pounds.

Of course, I was immediately struck by a new predicament. 25 pounds of mail does not get delivered for peanuts (Sorry, Jimmy). I may well be an elite conservationist, but I was still broke.

The answer, as usual, was deceptively simple - I would deliver them, IN PERSON. Hell yes! Get a look at their faces as I strode in, 25 pounds of "wildness" and "scenery" and "incomparable values" under my arm. How would they act?

But simple answers are for simple people. I began to worry. Those people, I reflected, carried axes! If they could topple 12-ton Doug Firs, what could they do to a scrawny environmentalist? I clearly needed a witness.

Of course, the only possible person was Albert.

Albert is a phenomena. His devotion to wilderness and wildlife habitat approaches legend. With 1/4 Indian blood, and virtually no money, his letters (written long-hand and very articulate) cover volumes. During the RARE II process, he hadn't slept or eaten, as it would interfere with his letter writing.

I called him immediately: "Hello, Albert. How's it going?"

"Oh, I'm real disappointed. I got out a lot of letters last night, finishing up my RARE II writing."

"Guess how many letters I wrote?" I asked smugly. "Two hundred and sixty-five!" I waited for his astonished reaction.

"That's nice."

Somewhat deflated, I asked how many he had written. It turned out Albert

had written (long-hand mind you) a letter on every RARE II area in California. He was disappointed because, although he had the RARE II workbooks and maps for every state in the union except Texas and Louisiana, he didn't have time to write more for outside of California in order for his letters to reach the Forest Service by the October 1st deadline.

"October 1st isn't the receiving deadline," I said off-hand, distracted by my obvious literary limitations. "That's only the date the letters have to be post-marked."

"Oh yeah?"

His voice quickened, eager.

"OH YEAH?"

His voice rose in pitch. "Hey, I just got my check. . . I could by more stamps . . . and I could WRITE MORE LETTERS!!"

I suddenly realized I was losing him. "There's the Woodland Caribou in Idaho #1-125," he gibbered.

Members of the California Wilderness Coalition will soon receive the first edition of "Wild California," a joint publication of the Coalition and The Wilderness Society. Issue number one should be appearing in mailboxes in early December.

Several factors led to the decision to print a second newsletter. First, Coalition members have felt that much wilderness news becomes stale between issues of the **Wilderness Record** which is published six times a year. "Wild California" will be com-

"Albert, ALBERT! By John Muir's buttons, get a hold of yourself! I need you to escort me to the Forest Service office."

Albert agreed to meet me in downtown San Francisco - staunch old Albert would walk that fatal mile with me. Naturally, rapid transit broke down, and I finally arrived in the city at 4:30 PM on a Friday afternoon.

630 Sansome Street is the most imposing monument to incompetent architecture within its particular neighborhood - it looks like a cubic garbage can painted gray. This symbolism was not lost on us.

Sure enough, every office in the Forest Service section was empty. It was eerie, like a scene out of "Night of the Living Dead." I could imagine the para-normal investigators mulling over the empty rooms - doors flung open, cigarettes smoldering in ash trays, half-empty styrofoam cups of still warm coffee - "Hm-m-m-m, it appears, Dr. Zorcoff, as if they left in a hurry, and then they VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!"

Our footsteps echoed hollowly down the dank hall-ways.

"Shit," I muttered.

"Twenty minutes to five and these bastards have all split."

"It's your money," Albert replied philosophically.

Suddenly, in the section

where machines purred quietly on both sides of the hallway, a short, bespeckled computer expert popped out and directed us to the 14th floor. Sure enough, the RARE II office was still open. We strode in confidently and handed over, casually, the package of letters. A young, bearded forester took them smilingly and began leafing through them. "265," I said.

"Wow," he answered. Suddenly, his eyes grew wider. "WOW! You wrote all these yourself!?"

"Absolutely, I'm a dedicated environmentalist!" Albert roared his approval. The forester shook his head, bemused.

"Well, thank you!" He then explained the process whereby our comments would be evaluated in Utah - somewhere out on the blasted desert, miles from the nearest tree, I thought grimly - for final decisions on the outcome of our nation's last wild places.

"Thank you again," he said, beaming, as we left.

"Will you lock the bastards up?" I called over my shoulder.

"Beg pardon?" he called in a puzzled voice.

And Albert and I headed for the nearest Financial District for a few beers in celebration.

Why not? Such opportunities in life are rare . . .

"Wild California" Coming in December

CWC Sponsored Businesses

Like any political organization, California Wilderness Coalition depends on sponsorship and support. The organization is grateful to the following businesses that have been able to see beyond just selling their products to the great need to preserve the wilderness in which their products are used.

The Smilie Company
575 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-421-2459

Echo, The Wilderness Company
6505 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94609
(415) 658-5075

Wilderness Press
2440 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
(415) 843-8080

Mammoth Maintenance Service
P.O. Box 155
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(714) 934-8616

Antelope Camping Equipment Mfg. Co.
21740 Granada Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 253-1913

Solano Ski Sport
1215 Tabor Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 422-1705

New World Outfitters
1055 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Alpine Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 403
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 372-2861

The Alpine Supply Co.
130 G. Street
Davis, CA 95616
(916) 756-2241

The Mountain Shop, Inc.
228 Grant Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 362-8477

Four Seasons Sports
410 Redwood
Oakland, CA 94619

***** COMING

Wilderness and river organizations will join together in a joint conference March 2-4, 1979. Sponsor groups include the California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Friends of the River Foundation, and The Wilderness Society.

Full details on the event will be presented in the Jan.-Feb. issue of the **Wilderness Record**.

Tahoe Timber Management Plan

The Tahoe National Forest has released a final environmental statement and timber management plan. The preferred alternative would allow an average annual harvest of 147 million board feet of timber, down one million from the current harvest. Timber in the eight

RARE II roadless areas is included in these plans; any areas recommended for wilderness will force an adjustment in the timber management plan.

Copies of the plan are available from the Tahoe National Forest, Highway 49 and Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959.

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
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