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Wilderness Record

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 4

P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616

May-June, 1979

No. 3



Proposed BLM Skedaddle Mountains Wilderness Study Area (CA-020-612).

BLM Statewide Inventory

Letters Needed Now

May 29, 1979 is the last day that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will accept public comment on the initial statewide wilderness inventory. Over 4,500,000 acres are at stake in California. To date conservationists, overwhelmed by RARE II, Alaska, desert wilderness and other issues, have demonstrated pitifully little involvement in the statewide inventory.

The purpose of the initial inventory is to identify lands that clearly do not have wilderness characteristics, contain less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands or are not roadless. The BLM has proposed that 2,503,418 acres fall into this category and should not be considered further for wilderness, while 2,076,554 acres should receive closer study during the intensive inventory to be held between June and November of this year.

You are urged to become informed and involved in the BLM wilderness review. The following areas can be stressed in any comments made to the BLM. Make sure to mention area numbers in correspondence with the Bureau.

(1) Mono Lake region. Area CA-010-091 includes lands on both the northwest and south shores of Mono Lake as well as Paoha Island. The area is proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it "does not contain 5,000 acres of

contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition." However, the Wilderness Act provides that all roadless islands may be reviewed for wilderness suitability regardless of size. Further study of all three portions of this area could lead to increased action for protection of Mono Lake itself.

(2) Susanville District. The Susanville District of the BLM includes lands in extreme northeastern California. The district is to be commended for dropping only about 10% of their acreage during the initial inventory. However, the district is ahead of schedule and well into the intensive inventory planning stage.

Extremely heavy input from miners and ranchers unfriendly to wilderness has affected the results. Only 13 of the approximately 100 areas for which intensive inventory decisions have been made are scheduled to be retained for the study phase. Input from conservationists around the state is the only hope for wilderness consideration of these areas. Input should mention the need to retain these areas for further study: Little Mud Flat (CA-020-611), Sheldon Antelope Refuge Contiguous (CA-020-1012), Tule Mt. (CA-020-211), Pit River Canyon (CA-020-103) and Tunnison Mts. (CA-020-311 and CA-020-312). The Tunnison Mts. area is unique in the Susanville

District by being well-watered and adjacent to the scenic gorge of Willow Creek, much frequented by fishermen. Other outstanding areas are scheduled to survive the intensive inventory but the BLM should be encouraged to retain them anyway: High Rock Canyon (CA-020-913, CA-020-914), Fredonyer Peak (CA-020-303) with its aspen groves, and Skedaddle Mts. (CA-020-612), proposed for bighorn sheep introduction.

(3) Stanislaus River Canyon. Area CA-040-207 includes the river from Parrotts Ferry northeast to the Forest Service boundary as well as the

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Carter Opens Forests

On April 16th President Carter angered environmentalists by releasing to immediate development 36 million acres of America's dwindling wilderness resource. The Administration's final recommendations on RARE II, a second evaluation of the nation's National Forest roadless areas for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, essentially reaffirms a Department of Agriculture recommendation in January.

As a result of this decision, 60% of the untouched remnants of America's National Forests will be available to entry by logging and mining interests even though this controversial acreage contains inconsequential commodity conflicts and is of demonstrated high wilderness quality.

Wilderness Society Executive Director William A. Turnage termed the announcement "among the most negative decisions in the history of public land management and one which threatens to negate the Administration's impressive environmental record."

Environmentalists charged that Carter's decision gave timber companies what they wanted in order to soften industry opposition to reorganization—which would move the Forest Service from the Agriculture Dept. to the Interior Dept.

"For many years, the process of determining the best uses of

National Forest has been a slow, piecemeal effort," Carter said. "This process has been the source of frustration and controversy for all interest groups... it is my hope that the decision being announced today will help resolve the long-standing controversy over their case."

Rupert Cutler, assistant Secretary of Agriculture, said it will probably take two or three Congresses before all the proposed wilderness is set aside. However, the Forest Service can open the 36 million acres to development by administrative order.

Citizen groups are now turning their attention toward Capitol Hill and are asking members of Congress to undo the needless threat to our natural resources which these recommendations represent. The initial emphasis will be on protection for those areas allocated to non-wilderness which are now immediately threatened with logging and other development. Thirty-one RARE II areas in California are slated for development activities between April 15 and September 30, 1979. Conservationists are confident that Congress will act to bring the results into line with strong sentiment expressed by the public for significant additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System and to recognize the endangered nature of these lands themselves.

California Gains Little

The Administration's changes to the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement reflected almost no improvement over the Forest Service's original recommendations. Less than 5 percent of the 2.5 million acres of proposed non-wilderness were elevated to the further planning or wilderness categories.

Only six of California's 335 roadless areas were changed by President Carter in April. Only two of these areas were given partial wilderness protection.

Conservationists and California state officials severely criticized the

President's decision. Carter recommended that only 983,900 acres of California RARE II areas be designated as wilderness, compared to the state's request for 1.5 million acres.

"We had the feeling from the word go that the U.S. Forest Service was willing to give the timber industry its Christmas wish," stated Frank Goodson, an aide to state resources secretary Huey Johnson. "They did just that."

Buttes (Kangaroo) area in Siskiyou County. Although the recommendation is less than 1/3 of the 90,000 acre roadless area it does reflect the first time the Administration has recognized the wilderness values here. The entire area had previously been designated non-wilderness.

The only other wilderness recommended by the President is 58,800 acres of the White Mountains. This is only about a fifth of the roadless acreage in the portion of the White Mountains managed by

the Forest Service; additional wildlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management are contiguous to these areas. The remainder of the roadless areas in this range of the famous bristlecone pine are still classified as further planning areas.

A portion of the Orleans Mountain roadless area slated for development received a reprieve by moving to the further planning category. But of the 142,200 acres previously designated as non-wilderness only 46,600

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Coalition Report

by Wendy Cohen
President

Since the beginning of the year, there have been several changes, both major and minor, in the structure and work of the Coalition. Some of these changes including new staff and Board of Director members, were described in the Coalition Report in the March-April issue of the Wilderness Record. I would like to discuss here another aspect of the new course for CWC, namely, expansion.

All new members, whether individual, group, or business sponsor, serve to strengthen the Coalition and broaden its base. Each new individual member, as well as enhancing CWC's financial outlook, has special talents or knowledge which contribute greatly to our work. Each new group member reinforces the unity of the conservation movement in California thereby better enabling us to counter the powerful and well-financed anti-wilderness forces.

And each new business sponsor adds broad-based support for the movement by recruiting members and lending political support. CWC members should patronize and promote our business sponsors (listed on the last page of this issue) whenever possible. Also, please thank them for supporting CWC.

Because of our present and, hopefully, continued expansion, and because of an expiring lease, CWC will be forced to find a new main office as of September 1, 1979. A downtown Davis location is preferred but any and all suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Also needed are office supplies and furniture including (but not limited to) desks, bookshelves, file cabinets and typewriters. Any office supplies that can be donated would be gratefully welcome.

Finally, not only CWC but the California Wilderness Foundation

(CWF) as well, has undergone some recent changes. Alan Houser was appointed to the CWF Board of Trustees and Mark Palmer was hired by CWF as a fundraiser. Alan is presently the chairman of the Bay Chapter Sierra Club Wilderness Subcommittee and brings to the Board a substantial working knowledge of wilderness issues.

Mark's fundraising efforts will greatly enhance the ability of the Foundation to distribute grants to wilderness groups throughout California, as well as fund projects of CWC.

Once again, membership is one of the most important parts of CWC. Please tell a friend about CWC—we will gladly send brochures and information to anyone interested or willing to distribute them. Together, we can put up a good fight to defend our remaining wild lands.

South Sierra Regional Conference

On October 6 and 7, the Kern Plateau Association, the California Wilderness Coalition and several other organizations will hold a regional wilderness conference in Kernville, California. The proposed San Joaquin Wilderness, Mono Lake-Owens Valley, the Kern and Kings River Watersheds, the Death Valley/Eureka-Saline Valley region and other northern Mojave Desert areas will be considered.

This conference is an outgrowth of the recent

Coalition co-sponsored "Wild Land and Water Confluence," and will be the first of four regional gatherings planned for the next year. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about the issues affecting the diverse wild lands in this region, and also discover how concerned individuals can become involved.

One anticipated highlight of the conference is an in-depth workshop with the staff of the American Rivers Conservation Council.

The Council is a Washington, DC based organization, and they will explain how the Federal Wild and Scenic River Study program operates.

For more information contact: Bob Barnes, South Fork Watershed Association, PO Box 749, Porterville, CA, 93258, phone (209)-784-4477; or Donna Williamson, Kern Plateau Association, PO Box 579, Kernville, CA, 93238, phone (714)-376-2483; or the California Wilderness Coalition.

Mono Lake

During the first week in April a shallow channel was blasted through the growing land bridge linking Mono Lake's Negit Island to the mainland. The channel is essential to protect tens of thousands of California Gulls, the world's largest known colony, from coyotes, rodents and other mainland predators. The California National Guard, back for a repeat of last year's performance, conducted the blasting under auspices of the California Department of Fish and Game.

But the blasting is a stop-gap and all-too-temporary reprieve. Unless water diversions by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power are curtailed, the gulls will again face disaster next year. Fish and Game

is considering dredging a ten-foot-deep channel this autumn, if the funds can be obtained from the State legislature. Such a channel would afford the gulls several years of protection at present diversion rates. That is, if they do not succumb to increasing salinities, which is a real possibility.

In response to the requests for a long-term solution, Assemblyman Norm Waters (D-Lodi), together with three other Central Valley co-sponsors, introduced legislation which could prevent Los Angeles Water and Power from diverting flows until Mono Lake reaches its 1970 level. The bill, AB 367, would also prevent further diversions from endangering the California Gulls or other inhabitants of Mono Lake's

unique ecosystem.

Mono Lake supporters, including David Gaines of the Mono Lake Committee and Mark Palmer of the Sierra Club, testified at the first hearing on April 18. To everyone's surprise, the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee approved the bill, and thereby put Los Angeles Water and Power on notice that the protection of Mono Lake has statewide support. The bill was approved by a vote of 5 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. It must now survive votes in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and then the full Assembly. Even if it is not finally enacted, the bill should promote efforts to obtain lasting protection of Mono Lake and its varied resources.

Desert Wilderness Study Phase

The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness review program for the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) entered the study phase on March 31 with release of the final wilderness inventory map and narratives.

Between now and September 30, 1980, each of the 138 areas that have been identified as Wilderness Study Areas will receive intensive study and consideration for a recommendation to Congress as to suitability or non-suitability for wilderness designation. Public participation is encouraged by the BLM in making decisions which will affect the resources of 5,520,518 acres of unspoiled desert lands.

All of the Wilderness Study Areas were identified by the BLM as having wilderness characteristics, as defined by section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. These characteristics relate to natural condition, opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and outstanding ecological, geological or other features. Conservationists disagree with the BLM over the omission of many significant areas and parts of areas. Some boundary adjustments will be possible during the study phase.

Particularly offensive to conservationists was the reduction in size of the Santa Rosa Mountain Wilderness Study Area north of Anza-Borrego

State Park and the Orocopia Mountains/Mecca Hills (area 344). Both of these areas contain prime bighorn sheep habitat as well as extremely diverse faunas, geological features and vegetation. The summary of public comments during the inventory of the Santa Rosa Mountains stated that "comments were overwhelming in saying this area is one of the most pristine and potentially spectacular wilderness areas in the desert." Under these circumstances, BLM's diminution of the Wilderness Study Area is being questioned.

The Wilderness Study Areas will now be analyzed by the Desert Plan Staff (DPS) of the BLM and evaluated within the framework for development of the California Desert Plan. Each area will be analyzed in terms of 13 criteria: size, natural condition, solitude, recreational opportunity, ecological uniqueness and diversity, geological uniqueness and diversity, scenery, adjacent wilderness, manageability, accessibility, previous recreational use, historical and cultural values, and uniqueness relative to areas within the CDCA which have been established or administratively endorsed as wilderness by other federal agencies.

Wilderness values of each area will then be compared with values for other resource uses which may be incompati-

ble with wilderness, for example, mining, vehicular access, public utilities and development. Beginning on October 1, 1980, the actual wilderness suitability recommendations will be forwarded through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. The recommendations will be accompanied by mineral surveys, environmental statements and other data required by law. Within two years after receipt of each Secretarial recommendation, the President must report his final recommendations to Congress. Only Congress may designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Until Congress has made a final determination, BLM has the responsibility for managing Wilderness Study Areas in a manner that will not impair their suitability for wilderness designation by Congress. Procedures and regulations for this interim management have been proposed and a public comment period has elapsed. The final regulations should be available at any time.

Public input into the desert wilderness program is solicited by the BLM during the study phase and conservationist input is vital to counterbalance the demands of off-road vehicle, mining and development interests. A "workbook" of public input guidelines for the



Exposed Mono Lake tufa formations.

Photo by Dave Brown

study phase has been prepared by the BLM. Both factual input and general opinions are requested from the public.

Specific Wilderness Study Areas can be discussed, including needed boundary adjustments, or general comments on the subject of desert wilderness can be transmitted. The deadline for public comment is June 1, 1979.

Send comments or requests for the workbook, final map and narratives or other information to BLM Desert Plan Staff, Wilderness, 3610 Central Ave., Suite 402, Riverside, CA 92506.

Siskiyou NF

Siskiyou National Forest has begun work on its integrated Forest Plan, as required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Forest personnel are identifying issues, concerns and opportunities that will be addressed in the Plan.

After the list of issues has been selected, the Forest will begin compiling data and conducting research to determine alternatives for managing the Forest to deal with the issues iden-

tified. In September the public will have the opportunity for input in the development of these alternatives.

The Forest will periodically issue "Forest Plan Reports" to keep interested persons informed of the progress of planning and to invite assistance and suggestions. To be placed on the mailing list for the reports, write to Bill Covey, Forest Supervisor, Siskiyou National Forest, P.O. Box 440, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526.

Wilderness Wildlife

The Mountain Lion

by Dennis Coules

The mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) occupies a summer range of about 70,000 square miles in California. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) estimates that there are about 2,400 lions in the state. Their range is closely correlated with the seasonal deer range. It is not known whether population numbers are remaining stable or declining, but such factors as reservoir construction, road extension and residential development serve to reduce the lion's potential habitat. The mountain lion is currently a

protected non-game animal and can normally be killed only after confirmed depredation on livestock.

DFG studies have indicated that the mountain lion in California is smaller than in most other western states. Adult males average 106 pounds, females 77 pounds. The lion may breed at any time of year but the reproductive rate is fairly low at one or two kittens born every other year.

The mountain lion is an opportunistic carnivore, with deer constituting the primary prey. Rabbits

and rodents are also eaten, as well as wild boar, opossums and occasionally livestock. Humans are not a preferred food item. There has been only one incident of human attack in California, which was by a rabid lion in 1918. In several cases dogs have been seen to chase a lion from a residence and the dog has failed to return.

Because of the lion's close association with its major prey species, claims have been made in the past by deer hunters that mountain lions are a factor in depressing deer herds. Numerous studies by DFG and other agencies and institutions have demonstrated that deer numbers are actually controlled mainly by the condition of the habitat. In one study area of the Los Padres National Forest, a steady decline in the deer population occurred for 10 years preceeding 1975 while the lion population remained stable; the deer population increased in 1975 and 1976 despite the relatively large numbers of lions.

Predation by mountain lions on livestock is a minor problem in California according to DFG. Between April 1971 and December 1977 DFG verified 134 incidents. Four to five mountain lions were killed during



Graphic by Susan Wilhite

Fish and Game Commission where livestock have been killed in the preceeding year.

Trophy hunting is the purpose of the legislation as no increase in livestock depredation in recent years during the hunting moratorium has been indicated. As noted by Larry Sitton, there were approximately 5 million cattle and 900,000 sheep in California in 1976 but only 29 verified incidents of lion predation for all livestock species. To many persons, the reduced opportunity to glimpse our most spectacular predator in the wild makes trophy hunting for this species seem a despicable waste.

this time period on permits allowed for cases of depredation. Almost half of the incidents involved sheep. To show a perspective on the problem, DFG biologist and wildlife manager Richard Weaver has stated that "dogs do 100-fold more damage to sheep than do lions." A 1977 report on DFG studies conducted by Richard Weaver and field biologist Larry Sitton recommends that present depredation policy appears adequate to handle the problem.

At present the semi-protected legal status of the mountain lion in California is in jeopardy. In 1971 the California

legislature enacted legislation authored by John Dunlap which changed the status of the mountain lion from a game animal to protected nongame mammal. The taking of livestock depredating individuals was still allowed, as was the recreational pursuit and treeing of lions by permit, as long as the animal was not killed. S.B. 835, introduced during the current session of the State Senate, would break the hunting moratorium and allow 15% of the estimated lion population to be hunted with dogs. Hunting could take place in any county designated by the

Sierra NF

The Sierra National Forest is beginning to gather data for its Forest Land and Resources Management Plan. This plan will be a single document covering all forest resources and activities including recreation, wilderness, timber, wildlife, water and grazing. Preparation of an integrated Forest Plan is directed by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA).

Target date for completion of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Plan is February 1980,

with a final EIS scheduled for public distribution in November 1980. The Sierra's plan will be the first plan developed under NFMA in Region 5 of the Forest Service.

Public participation is encouraged throughout the 18-month planning process. Material will be sent periodically to persons on the Forest Plan mailing list to solicit comments. To be placed on the list, write to Forest Supervisor Richard Stauber, Sierra National Forest, Federal Building, 1130 O Street, Room 3017, Fresno, CA 93721.

BLM

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valley of the South Fork east to the Forest Service boundary. The BLM has submitted this area as suitable for further study, and should be supported for doing so. Wilderness designation is a potential method to preserve the river above Parrotts Ferry from inundation by New Melones Dam.

(4) **Thatcher-Elk Creek Contiguous.** Area CA-050-212 connects two RARE II areas of Mendocino National Forest: Thatcher and Elk Creek. If combined, the three areas of the two agencies would total over 45,000 acres. The BLM intends to include this area in the intensive inventory, and

should be urged to study it in the context of the larger roadless area of which it is a part. The Forest Service RARE II process allocated Elk Creek to further planning and Thatcher to non-wilderness, but conservationists and the state of California are urging Congress and the Carter administration to place Thatcher in further planning also.

(5) **Offshore islands.** Area CA-050-400 includes all unreserved rocks and islands offshore of the coast of California lying above mean high tide. Combined area is about 1,000 acres and the largest

island is 15 acres. Most are within one-half mile of shore and many provide critical habitat for sea lions and sea birds. The BLM proposes to drop these islands from further wilderness consideration because of their small size. However, the Wilderness Act and BLM's own "Wilderness Inventory Handbook" both state that an island may be of any size to qualify for wilderness study identification. Congress has designated numerous small islands as wilderness to protect their biological and other values. Another reason given by the BLM for

disqualifying the islands is the ludicrous statement that "Difficulty of access limits opportunities for solitude."

(6) **RARE II adjacent areas/Bakersfield District.** The Bakersfield District office of the BLM failed to take into consideration adjacent roadless lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service in making many of their initial inventory decisions. Several areas are proposed to be dropped from further wilderness study because they are less than 5,000 acres in size although the combined public land roadless acreage is much larger than this. This is clearly contrary to BLM wilderness inventory procedures and regulations and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976,

which mandated the wilderness review by the BLM. The total roadless acreage of public lands administered by agencies with wilderness review responsibilities should be the determining size criterion. Some of the specific areas involved are CA-010-033, a portion of which is adjacent to the Mill Creek RARE II area; CA-010-047, portions of which are adjacent to 4 RARE II areas (Chico, Cannell, Woolstaff, Greenhorn Creek); CA-010-031 and CA-010-053, adjacent to South Sierra; CA-010-067, next to Horton; CA-010-069, the west portion of which is adjacent to Coyote North and Coyote Southeast, and two eastern portions of which are adjacent to Black Canyon and Soldier Canyon respectively; CA-010-086, next to Excelsior and Glass Mountain; CA-010-087, adjacent to Glass Mountain; and CA-010-091, the extreme southern portion of which is adjacent to Mono Craters. This serious error on the part of the Bakersfield District should not be overlooked.

(7) **Beegum Contiguous.** Area CA-030-300 is composed of many widely scattered parcels none of which exceed 5,000 acres in size. The BLM proposes to drop these from further wilderness consideration for this reason. However,

the extreme southwest parcel adjoins the 8,600 acre East Beegum RARE II area which, although allocated to non-wilderness by the Forest Service, is proposed for wilderness designation by conservationists and further planning by the state. The BLM area should be studied further so that the wilderness characteristics of the combined roadless area can be evaluated.

Comments can be sent to the BLM at: **BLM California Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2921 (Wilderness), Sacramento, CA 95825.** In writing comments, stress that the areas meet wilderness inventory criteria of a natural condition and providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined recreation. It would be most effective to request from the California Office a set of inventory maps and narratives which includes "inventory worksheets." A separate worksheet can be filled out for each inventory area to be commented on and returned to the California Office or individual district office. However, if time prohibits this much effort, letter-format comments are also very important. Public concern for these areas must be expressed if the BLM is to take its wilderness review seriously!

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The **Wilderness Record** is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Address all correspondence to: P.O. Box 429 Davis, CA 95616 (916) 758-0380. Articles may be reprinted. Credit would be appreciated.

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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.

RARE II

Destruction Schedule

As of President Carter's RARE II decision on April 16, thirty-one of California's roadless national forest areas are scheduled for development activities between now and September 30. Seventeen of these areas have been considered as high priority wilderness areas by conservationists, according to Sierra Club wilderness coordinator John Amodio.

The developments scheduled range from ski area development in the San Joaquin area and road construction in Carson-Iceburg to timber sales in Sheep Mountain, North Fork Middle Fork American River, Bald Mountain, Cub Creek, Portuguese, Orleans Mountain and other areas. Several areas are also scheduled for vegetative type conversions and timber salvage

sales.

The chart on this page summarizes the developments that are scheduled for several important roadless areas.

There is little time left to assess what effects these developments may have on the wilderness qualities of the areas involved. There are a few options now open to conservationists to delay damage to the areas. Standard administrative challenges can be made to the development activities. Members of Congress can be persuaded to introduce Wilderness Study Area legislation for a specific area. The State of California may seek such legislation for areas that they recommended be placed in the further planning or wilderness category but which ended up on the non-wilderness list.

A temporary reprieve may be in store for some areas via a "Bumpers Agreement" request. Representative Philip Burton has requested Representative Morris Udall, Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to ask the administration to defer development for six months on 77 RARE II areas in California. With few exceptions, these are the areas found on the state's list. Portions of the San Joaquin not on the state list are also requested for deferral of development. About 12 of the imminently endangered areas may receive temporary protection during this process. Conservationists are now awaiting a response from the administration concerning this request.

FOREST	NUMBER	RARE II NAME	PROPOSED ACTIVITY
Cleveland	05019	Eagle Peak	Vegetative manipulation for fawning habitat, water structure
Inyo	B5047	San Joaquin	1350 acre ski area, 1600 acre ski area
Inyo	05054	Glass Mtn.	Range revegetation--burn 100 acres
Lassen	05094	Cub Creek	Timber sale--1 MMBF (million board feet)
Klamath	B5074	Portuguese	Timber sale--2900 acres
Klamath	B5709	Orleans Mtn.	Timber Sale--100 acres
Los Padres	05105	Chalk Peak	Prescribe burn--2000 acres
Los Padres	05130	White Ledge	Fuelbreak maintenance--200 acres, possible uranium mining
Los Padres	05136	Antimony	Reforestation--50 acres
Mendocino	05139	Thomas Creek	Timber sale--3.2 MMEF, 2.5 miles of road
Mendocino	05141	Thatcher	Type conversion, 900 acre fuel break
San Berdo.	L5307	Sheep Mtn.	Timber sale--0.1 MMBF
Sequoia	05208	Rincon	Game habitat--3000 acre burn & firelines
Sequoia	05209	Connell	Game habitat--350 acre burn & fireline
Sequoia	05214	Mill Creek	Fence--3 miles
Shasta-Trin.	05227	East Girard	Road to private land--0.1 mile
Shasta-Trin.	05238	West Girard	Road to private land--0.2 mile
Stanislaus	05256	N. Mtn.	Helicopter log--0.7 MMBF (Salvage sale)
Stanislaus	05811	Bell Meadow	Helicopter log--0.2 MMBF (Salvage sale)
Stanislaus	05812	Water House	Helicopter log--0.1 MMBF (Salvage sale)
Stanislaus	05813	Eagle	Helicopter log--0.2 MMBF (Salvage sale)
Stanislaus	05814	Dome	Helicopter log--0.2 MMBF (Salvage sale)
Tahoe	05265	NF Middle Fork American	Timber sale--15 MMBF
Toiyabe	04938	Mt. Olsen	Cord wood sale--100 cords, 10 acres
Toiyabe	S4936	Carson-Iceberg	Road construction--2 miles

This table indicates RARE II areas allocated to non-wilderness that are scheduled for development activities from 4/15/79 thru 9/30/79. Of the 31 areas scheduled for some development, only those proposed for wilderness or further planning in the conservationists' Alternative W are listed.

Skiing Threatens San Joaquin

Portions of the San Joaquin roadless area that were allocated to non-wilderness during the RARE II process are immediately threatened with development for downhill skiing. Two areas in Inyo National Forest, comprising 1,350 and 1,660 acres, are scheduled for ski area development between now and September 30, 1979.

These areas lie to the east of the Sierra Crest and are quite scenic, with contrasts of lush meadows and perennial streams immediately adjacent to dry volcanic areas. The area is biologically fascinating as many species of plants and animals from the west slope of the Sierra

have managed to cross relatively low Minaret Summit to establish communities on the east side.

The Forest Service placed these lands in the non-wilderness category to facilitate development of downhill skiing. Conservationists requested that these areas be allocated to further planning so that wilderness designation could be considered along with ski development. The areas involved are adjacent to the Minarets and John Muir Wilderness, as well as to portions of the San Joaquin which were allocated to wilderness under RARE II.

A Mammoth master plan alternative, backed by Mono County business interests and

Dave McCoy's Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, envisions the development of a new resort between Mammoth Lakes and June Lake, which would serve as a center of 15 miles of ski runs between the two areas. This project will be the subject of a Forest Service environmental impact study to begin April 15.

At this time only Congressional action could delay the development of the area so that wilderness values could be considered and weighed against the benefits of ski development. The Mammoth resort area already handles more visitors than any other ski area in the United States.

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acres—less than one-third—will be looked at further. These lands are contiguous with the Trinity Alps Primitive Area.

One southern California area was rescued from non-wilderness. 21,000 acres of the Pleasant View roadless area on the Angeles National Forest will be looked at during land use planning.

The remaining 5,700 acres stays in non-wilderness.

3,300 acres of the Castle Crags roadless area is now in further planning.

This small but spectacular area near Dunsmuir is adjacent to proposed wilderness lands in the Castle Crags State Park. 9,700 acres of the Forest Service roadless area was previously recommended for wilderness, but the 3,300 acre piece was left out for a potential downhill ski development. This smaller piece will now be looked at further during land use planning.

Most disappointing of the changes is the incredibly small alteration made to the San Joaquin

roadless area. Of the 112,200 acres earlier placed in non-wilderness, the Administration is moving 1,500 acres—less than 2 percent—to further planning.

These six changes made by President Carter do not even begin to reflect the public's view on the RARE II allocation of last January. The recommendations of the State of California and various members of Congress are being ignored by the Carter Administration.

CWC Business Sponsors

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

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(415) 658-5075

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Berkeley, CA 94704
(415) 843-8080

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

The Naturalist
219 E Street
Davis, CA 95616
(916) 758-2323

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

San Francisco Travel Service
728 Montgomery St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 881-6640

Daybell Nursery & Florist
55 N.E. Street
Porterville, CA 93257

Bay Area Congressional Forum

An informal exchange of ideas between conservationists and representatives of the nine Bay Area Congresspeople and of California's two Senators is planned for June in San Francisco. This educational meeting will be aimed at establishing better communication with these Congressional representatives who have been

generally supportive of environmental issues. Both environmentalists and Congresspeople need to determine how they can effectively support each other and how they can help protect wild places which are all outside the Bay Area. People from other areas especially should attend to educate the Congressional aides about

wild issues of concern throughout California.

The forum will be held on June 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Fort Mason Center, Building 312 in San Francisco. It is sponsored by the Bay Area Environmental Caucus, an ad hoc group which is an outgrowth of the Bay Area Regional Caucus meeting at the Wild Land and Water Confluence held earlier this year.

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.

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