



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 34
Davis, Ca

ISSN 0194-3030

Vol. 4

P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616

November - December 1979

No. 6

RARE II Wilderness Legislation

Hearings have been set for five California wilderness bills now before Congress. The Subcommittee on Public Lands of the House Interior Committee has set aside three days—November 13, 15, and 16—to hear testimony on proposals to designate as wilderness numerous Forest Service roadless areas in the state.

Two of the measures to be considered are omnibus bills that affect many areas recently studied in the Forest Service RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) process. Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson's HR 5586 is essentially the timber industry's answer to RARE II, while Rep. Phillip Burton has countered with HR 5578, a bill affecting around 5 million acres of wild land.

Also before the committee are wilderness bills for Mt. Shasta (HR 3299, Johnson), Red Buttes (HR 4383, Weaver), and Sheep Mountain (HR 5541, Lloyd).

Johnson's omnibus bill, bearing the misnomer "California Wilderness Act of 1979," would legislatively require that 2.5 million acres of roadless areas in the state be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. The only designated wilderness areas in the bill would be those proposed by the Forest Service in their final RARE II decision (with reduced acreage at Mt. Shasta corresponding to Johnson's HR 3299).

Burton's bill would protect about four times as much land as the Johnson measure and would prevent the development of

the remaining wild lands.

Johnson's omnibus bill has the distinction of being the first wilderness bill ever to be referred to the timber-industry-dominated Agriculture Committee. No previous bill of this kind has ever gone to Agriculture, but due to the "release" part of HR 5586 it has been referred jointly to Interior and Agriculture. With this precedent, a similar Idaho wilderness bill also has been jointly referred.

Johnson's bill designates as wilderness all Forest Service "wilderness" recommendations in RARE II and releases to development all "nonwilderness" recommendations.

The measure by Burton establishes wilderness areas for all "wilderness" and "future planning" RARE II areas in the state and an additional 71 areas that the Forest Service allocated to "nonwilderness." Most of these 71 areas are in a lawsuit filed by the State of California against the Forest Service.

Johnson's Shasta bill is similar to the rocks-and-ice proposal of the Forest Service. Only the top of Mt. Shasta would be protected, and a large chunk of land is carved out of the southwest slope for a new ski area.

Red Buttes, known to the Forest Service as Kangaroo, straddles the Oregon-California border. HR 4383 is sponsored by Jim Weaver of Oregon and would designate 84,500 acres as wilderness. The Forest Service recommended no wilderness here, but President Carter changed their recommendation to a small 26,000-acre wilderness.

Jim Lloyd's Sheep Mountain wilderness bill would set up a 45,000-acre wilderness, about 15,000 acres larger than the Forest Service proposal. Senator Alan Cranston has a similar but smaller bill that leaves out land coveted by downhill skiers.

No wilderness hearings have been set for the Senate this year.

THANKS

Thanks go to all who wrote to BLM on their wilderness proposals. Because of your letters public input was strongly for wilderness protection of many important areas. The Skeddaddle Mountains received 55 letters supporting Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status vs. 8 against and Willow Creek Canyon received 70 letters in support vs. only 3 against WSA status by the Oct. 15 deadline. Reportedly both of these areas are expected to be designated WSAs in their entirety. However, other areas which received strong public support may not fare so well and will require further citizen action. This record of public support for wilderness will be extremely useful if protests and appeals become necessary. The BLM will release their final decision for California areas around Nov. 26.



Thompson Peak and Grizzly Lake in Trinity Alps.

Photo by Jim Eaton

Red Buttes

The Alps of Southern Oregon

By **BILL ASHWORTH**
Red Buttes Wilderness Council

You can see the peaks from Interstate 5 if you know where to look. Heading South over Sexton Mountain, down that long hill ten miles north of Grants Pass, they stand up on the horizon—a pair of tiny red triangles, blurry with distance, shouldering up over range after range of nearer, lower hills. The Red Buttes.

For a closer look, turn off the freeway at Gold Hill or Medford, drive through Jacksonville, climb over the divide into the Applegate

Valley, and turn left at Ruch, upstream along the Applegate. The mountains will appear as you round a corner near Rogue River National Forest's Star Ranger Station—big, jagged peaks, Red Buttes and several of its companions, closing in the head of the valley like a wall. The closer you get, the taller and more rugged they look, until finally, you leave your car and hike back into them. Along the rushing streams, through the meadow filled cirques or beside the tiny, jewel-like lakes, you will wonder how mountains such as these could have gone unnoticed

for so long. Too long, almost. For though there are nearly 100,000 acres of prime wildlands left in this area, they are a mere tenth of what was once here, and only in the last ten years have voices been raised to demand protection of this tiny remainder. Protection has not yet arrived, and will not, unless the current clamor rises to a roar loud enough to be heard in Washington, D.C.

And, as so often sadly seems to happen, it will be the policies of the Forest Service—supposedly this area's steward—which may lead to Red Buttes destruc-

tion.

Description of area

Seen on a map, the Red Buttes wilderness proposal looks like a gigantic fish, the head and most of the body in California, the three-finned tail thrusting above the water line into Oregon. Where the fish's eye should be is Red Buttes itself, a double glacial horn of striking red peridotite, surrounded by a garland of blue lakes and green, flowery meadows; at the other end of the fish, at the tip of its westernmost fluke, is Oregon Caves National Monument. Threading the

cont. on page 3

South Sierra Conference

A highly informative and provocative South Sierra Regional Conference was held on October 6-7 in Kernville. Over 225 participants learned about the proposed San Joaquin Wilderness, Mono Lake-Owens Valley, the Kern and Kings River Watersheds, the Death Valley/Eureka-Saline Valley region, Sequoia National Forest flora, Desert Tortoise Preserve and other northern Mojave Desert areas.

Some highlights of the program included a presentation by former State Senator Peter Behr on the proposed Environmental Bill of Rights for California, slide shows on many of the outstanding areas within the conference's scope, and an explanation of the burro vs. wildlife problem by biologist Pete Sanchez of Death Valley National Monument. Ardis Walker, long time

advocate of the Golden Trout Wilderness, spoke on the philosophical aspects of wilderness preservation. Geologists Howard Wilshire and John Nakata presented their multi-media off-road vehicle show, and Howard Brown of the Washington, D.C.-based American Rivers Conservation Council, discussed the usefulness of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, among many other excellent presentations. Many participants attended a field trip to the South Fork Kern Wildlife Area, one of the largest riparian forests remaining in California.

Bob Barnes of the Kern Watershed Association (and CWC board member) took the responsibility for organization and preparation of the conference, and is to be commended for its outstanding success.

Coalition Report

by Wendy Cohen
President

It has happened!!! Legislation has been introduced in Congress concerning RARE II lands in California. Congressional hearings are scheduled for mid-November. After playing by Forest Service rules throughout the RARE II process, we are now on the offensive in our own arena—Congress. It is Congress, not the Forest Service, which designates Wilderness Areas. However, while we now have the opportunity to see many areas in California receive formal Wilderness protection, the legislation poses a challenge to us as well.

The news item in this issue describes the two bills that were introduced in Congress. The legislative "non-wilderness" aspect of Bizz Johnson's bill is not acceptable for any part of California. The proper place for decisions regarding "non-wilderness" RARE II lands is in the land use planning process, not in blanket re-

lease of areas from wilderness consideration. Johnson's bill is also unacceptable to conservationists because the Forest Service recommendations for wilderness in California are flagrantly inadequate as established by the public, the State of California, and a number of members of Congress.

Phillip Burton's bill, on the other hand, represents about the greatest possible protection for California forest wildlands by designating over 5 million acres of wilderness. With this spirited move, Burton and his cosponsors have demonstrated their reprisal against the attempt of Johnson and the timber industry to destroy California's wild lands.

There is a great battle shaping up in Congress in the near future but there is also an unprecedented opportunity to protect California wilderness. Now is when we must devote more

energy than ever before. Your letters are what is needed the most. Your many RARE II letters, while ignored by the Forest Service, are recognized by Congress as an overwhelming statement of public support for wilderness. Congress is receptive to communications from the public. Let your Congressman know how you feel about these two bills since we are now in the public arena where public opinion does count.

The coalition will keep its active members informed as both bills proceed through Committees and onto the House floor. Now, more than ever, wilderness needs your help. Congress is the last step in a long struggle for many of these areas and with enough public support, they will be protected. Remember, the introduction of legislation is not the end but just the beginning of the fight.

BLM Wilderness Appeal Filed

The California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society and Friends of the Earth filed a joint protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) final initial wilderness inventory in August. As a result six areas originally dropped were reinstated in the wilderness inventory and will receive further consideration of their wilderness values. These include Paoha Island in Mono Lake and five areas in the Susanville District that were dropped due to lack of "topographic diversity" or "vegetative screening," which was said to limit opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation despite the natural condition of the areas.

However, the BLM California State Office refused to reinstate twelve areas that

fit into a single category—all are adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II areas that were allocated to "non-wilderness" by the Forest Service. The BLM areas were dropped as "not containing 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands" although all meet this criterion when the adjacent RARE II areas are added.

Both federal agencies—the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service—have the authority to study and preserve wilderness lands and the BLM's **Wilderness Inventory Handbook** clearly states that an area of less than 5,000 contiguous roadless acres may be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification if it is "contiguous with land managed by another agency which has been formally determined to have

wilderness or potential wilderness values." In its statement denying the request to reinstate these areas, the BLM maintained that the Forest Service areas that were allocated to non-wilderness possess "insufficient wilderness values."

The three organizations which filed the original protest feel that the requirements for wilderness study are clearly met by the twelve areas, and plan to file an appeal of the BLM denial. This is particularly important for several areas of the Kern Plateau region that are incorporated in citizen wilderness proposals (see September-October 1979 **Wilderness Record**). As this issue goes to press, the appeal will be filed with the BLM's Board of Land Appeals.

Siskiyou Timber Plan

Siskiyou National Forest has issued a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for its proposed revision of the 10-year Timber Resource Plan. The DEIS evaluates four alternatives for 1,090,499 acres of national forest in southwestern Oregon and part of Del Norte County, California. Intensive management practices are compared and analyzed for those lands which have been classified as commercial forest land available for timber production. Marginal lands will not be scheduled for harvesting this decade.

The DEIS states that "Projected yields on which this plan is based assume that herbicides will be used to prepare sites for reforestation and to release existing conifer stands from hardwood competition. This is a necessary part of the intensive management program."

Aspects of timber management addressed in the plan include number of acres to be harvested annually, rotation age and compliance with nondeclining evenflow requirements (management for continuous production). Impacts of proposed intensive forest management are identified as erosion, stream blockage, lowered forest tree diversity, elimination of climax forest stands, and reduction of habitat for old-growth dependent wildlife species such as the threatened spotted owl.

Included in the draft EIS are useful appendices such as lists of rare plants and old-growth dependent wildlife species and copies of forest management guidelines. The Timber Resource Plan draft EIS is available free from Siskiyou National Forest, P.O. Box 440, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526. Comments will be accepted until November 27, 1979.

ADDRESS TO REMEMBER

When writing your Congressman, the correct address to use is:

Representative . . .
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Send a copy of your correspondence to:
Senator Alan Cranston
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



Siskiyou, view from Doctor Rock.

Photo by Jim Eaton

News Briefs . . .

POPULATION POLICY

A bill has been introduced in Congress to establish population stabilization as a national goal. HR 5062 would establish an Office of Population Policy to review the programs and policies of federal agencies and evaluate their consistency with

the goal of ending population growth.

Hearings have not yet been scheduled on the bill. The Government Operations Committee, chaired by Representative Jack Brooks, will first consider it.

GOODBYE SNAIL DARTER

The habitat of the snail darter was doomed when President Carter signed a bill exempting the Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River from the Endangered Species Act and other laws. A team of biologists will attempt to find and remove

all the fish and move them to the Holston River. According to Hal O'Connor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "The chances of long-term survival for these transplanted populations are not good, but we feel that it is our responsibility to do everything we can to prolong the snail darter's existence."

ENDANGERED ACT

In mid-October the Endangered Species Act Reauthorization was approved by the House with one major weakening amendment. The amendment would move to the Interior Department an independent panel that currently develops scientific advice on trade in endangered species. The removal of the Endangered Species Scientific Authority's current independence was proposed by Rep. John Breaux (D-LA) who objected to the ESSA's role in restricting exports of Louisiana alligator hides. The only remaining opportunity to block this change in the Endangered Species Act is the House-Senate conference on the bill since the Senate made no changes in the ESSA's functions.



Siskiyou, Twin Peaks area.

Photo by Doug Ayers

Wilderness Wildlife



The Pronghorn

by Dennis Coules

The pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) was once probably the most common hooved mammal in California, exceeding both deer and tule elk in numbers. Prior to Gold Rush days antelope were abundant and widespread, occupying most of the state except the coastal areas and higher mountain ranges.

Writing in 1855, J.S. Newberry stated that they were most numerous in the San Joaquin Valley where they were "found in herds literally of thousands." By 1923, due to commercial hunting and habitat changes, antelope had been reduced to small bands in six widely separated areas containing a total of about 1,057 animals. The San Joaquin and southern desert antelope disappeared by 1932 and those in Antelope Valley were gone by 1940.

Today antelope are found in California only in Mono County (remnants of an unsuccessful reintroduction attempt) and the extreme northeastern corner of the state, where their numbers have increased to about 5,000.

The pronghorn is not a true antelope but is in a family unique to the North American continent—Antilocapridae. Two subspecies occurred in California, the Oregon pronghorn and the desert pronghorn. Their appearance is very distinctive; both males and females have horns and a white rump patch which serves as a danger signal to other antelope. Their eyesight is considered to be among the best of any mammal and vision is the sense most relied upon for detection of predators. Antelopes can run at great speeds over rough, rocky terrain and have been clocked at 96 km/hr.

The breeding period in northeast California is September and October and twin kids are usually born in May or early June. Kids, of course, are the most vulnerable to predation, and are known to serve as prey to coyotes, bobcats and an occasional golden eagle.

Browse and forbs constituted 98 percent of the forage consumed, with grasses representing only 2 percent in one study in

northeast California. Big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata*, was the dominant browse, amounting to over 35 percent of the entire diet. Studies in other states also indicate a heavy dependence on various species of sagebrush. However this plant is not available over much of the antelope's original range, demonstrating flexibility in diet.

Ranchers at times complain that range use by antelope conflicts with use by domestic livestock and illegal killings of pronghorns sometimes result. A 1947 study by H.K. Buechner in western Texas determined that 9.4 antelope consume as much forage as one cow, but since antelope compete with cattle for only about 25 percent of the forage (cattle are basically grass eaters), it takes approximately 38 antelope to utilize the forage that would be used by one cow. However, competition with sheep is more severe, and the total loss of antelope from overgrazed sheep pastures in Texas was due to starvation.

California antelope are migratory and they may range 50 or more miles seasonally. This characteristic has contributed to their decline because sheep-tight fencing restricts their range. Living on open, level or rolling terrain, they never evolved an instinct to jump barriers of any height. Entanglement in fencing can also cause mortality, as does poaching, severe snow conditions, diseases and road kills.

Attempts have and will continue to be made to reintroduce the antelope to portions of its former habi-

tat. Starting in 1947 a total of 145 were transplanted to former range in Mono County. As fewer animals now exist there than were originally introduced, the transplant is considered unsuccessful. Illegal poaching was the greatest known mortality factor. In many areas reintroduction attempts would be doomed to failure because of range abuse by livestock, agricultural developments, fencing and other changes. It has been estimated that at least 10,000 acres are necessary to support a herd.

At the present time the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) reports that the northeast California herd may be stabilizing at between 4,000 and 5,000 individuals. Special hunts have been held on a periodic basis since 1942. Only a limited number of mature bucks are taken, with little effect on population size or fecundity.

In a 1977 report, the DFG points out that "there is no organized program to take advantage of the aesthetic aspects of these interesting animals. Increased publicity could greatly increase the non-appropriative use of this species." Many of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Susanville District wilderness inventory areas, especially the larger ones such as the Skedaddles, are a good place to view our remaining antelope herds. In fact, maintenance of antelope habitat is a good reason for these areas to be recommended for wilderness status during the wilderness study phase about to commence.

Red Buttes cont.

body from east to west like a stony backbone are the tall rocky peaks of the Rogue Klamath Divide, the principal range of the Siskiyou Mountains. Running somewhat north to south through the tail is the equally tall though less rugged Greyback Range, which is the watershed divide between the Illinois and Applegate Rivers.

The roadless area is a supreme botanical area. Near Miller Lake and Steve's Peak are the northernmost known stands of Baker's Cypress in the world. Conversely, some of the southernmost known stands of Alaska Cedars are on the north side of Mt. Emily. The rare and beautiful Weeping Spruce, endemic to the Siskiyou, is profuse throughout the area.

At Cook and Green Pass is one of the greatest concentrations of diverse species to be found anywhere. The California Native Plant Society, which runs annual field trips to the pass, has identified over 300 species in the general area—most within a half-mile radius of the pass. Profuse displays of the two Siskiyou bitter-roots, *Lewisia cotyledon* and *L. liana*, occur throughout the Red Buttes reaching their heights of display at Cameron Meadows.

Other Points of Interest

Butted Fork Vally - The only major untouched watershed remaining in the eastern Siskiyou, the Butte Fork heads into the lakes of Cedar Basin, and runs eastward for ten miles along the northern base of the Rogue-Klamath Divide.

Scorpion Cave - A few yards north of the California border, Scorpion's 1700 feet of mapped passage make it the second-longest limestone cave in Oregon.

Big Tree - In the small wildlands portion of Oregon Caves National Monument, this tree is the largest known Douglas fir in Oregon.

Pacific Crest Trail - A ten-mile segment of the trail lies within the southeast corner of the wilderness, along the sides of Kangaroo Mountain and Red Buttes.

The Politics of Destruction

Three National Forests—Rogue River and Siskiyou in Oregon, Klamath in California—share responsibility for the bulk of Red Buttes. This division led to the cutting up of Red Buttes into five separate roadless areas in RARE I in 1972, divided according to Forest and Ranger District boundaries. As a whole, the area unquestionably qualified as wilderness, but the Forest

Service refused to look at it as a whole. None of the five component roadless areas made it onto the final RARE I wilderness list.

RARE II was a little better. In this process, Red Buttes was at least considered as a whole, though named Kangaroo roadless area by the Forest Service. The area did as conservationists expected, ranking by almost all measures among the top few or potential wildernesses in both Oregon and California. However, for reasons best known to themselves, the Forest Service chose to ignore the clear results of their own analysis, and when the dust was cleared after RARE II, Red Buttes was still not recommended as a wilderness.

It was at this point that President Carter and Representative Jim Weaver both stepped into the picture. Carter, evidently annoyed by the mounds of mail he was receiving criticizing the Forest Service's handling of RARE II, ordered the agency to alter its recommendations to include at least a portion of the Red Buttes as wilderness (ultimately, 26,000 acres were so designated).

Weaver, fed up with the whole thing, introduced an 84,000-acre conservation-sponsored bill for wilderness. The bill is currently in committee, where action is expected some time in the fall. The bill number is HR 4383.

Staff

Contributors

Editor - Jim Eaton
Dennis Coules
Beth Newman
Jim Trumbly
Fred Ginsky
Mike Nolasco

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.

Board of Directors

President - Wendy Cohen
Vice-President - Sari Sommarstrom
Secretary - Steve Evans
Treasurer - Beth Newman
Director - Jim Eaton
Director - Bob Barnes
Director - unfilled

Staff

Project Coordinator -
Dennis Coules
Administrative Assistant -
Archie Douglas

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.

Sagebrush Rebellion Vetoed

On September 21, Governor Brown vetoed the so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" bill aimed at questioning the federal government's right to manage land in California. The bill, AB 1407, would have required the State Lands Commission to conduct a study to determine whether title to California lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is constitutional.

Conservationists strongly supported the Governor's veto because the "Sagebrush Rebellion," pushed by the legislatures of several western states, is largely a reaction against environmental restrictions on logging, grazing, mining and off-road vehicle use recently implemented by the BLM. States such as Nevada are attempting to establish authority over millions of acres administered by the BLM. In most cases the state

governments involved are relatively hostile to environmental protection and wilderness. The possibility exists that state takeovers of public lands would lead to land sales to private interests. The "Rebellion" may also be aimed at intimidating the BLM to withdraw or weaken enforcement of land use regulations.

In his veto message, Governor Brown stated, "Before authorizing state funds for the study called for in this bill, I believe the state of California should review its own land management practices. The federal as well as the state management of land within California is not what it should be." The Governor deserves thanks for his veto, particularly considering the fact that it passed the Senate on a 37-0 vote with no organized opposition (Governor Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814).

Sheep Mountain

Downhill skiers are after yet another proposed wilderness area, this time Sheep Mountain in the Angeles National Forest. Bills have been introduced in Congress, and Senator Alan Cranston appears to be listening to the ski industry.

The battle is centered on the northeast slopes of Mt. San Antonio. Skiers want another downhill development here. The Nelson bighorn sheep use this area as summer range, and conservationists (and presumably the sheep) want the area preserved as wilderness.

Congressman Jim Lloyd apparently sides with the sheep with his proposed 45,000-acre wilderness bill, HR 5541. Senator Alan Cranston seems to favor downhill skiing with his S1909, a bill to establish a 44,400-acre wilderness. Although Cranston's bill is just 600 acres smaller than Lloyd's, his proposal would exclude more than a thousand acres at Mt. San Antonio and pick up additional acreage elsewhere.

Sheep Mountain was the subject of a U.S. Forest Service wilderness study mandated by Congress. Rather than complying with the law, the Forest Service incorporated Sheep Mountain into the RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evalua-

tion) process eventually recommending a 30,400-acre wilderness.

Both bills exclude Stockton Flats, an area adjacent to the existing Mt. Baldy ski area.

The proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness is remote, ragged, and rich in scenic grandeur. The terrain includes the headwaters of the northern and western drainages of Mt. Baldy, the highest of the San Gabriel peaks. Here lie peaks over 9,000 feet high, several of which are important summer range for the Nelson bighorn sheep. Anchoring the northwest corner of the area is massive Mt. Baden-Powell, separated from Mt. Baldy by the deep gash of the Upper East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Plants and animals exist together here in a habitat that is still largely undisturbed. Streams in the region support a native fishery and provide sustenance for species such as bighorn sheep and mule deer. Golden eagles fly overhead. Stands of big-cone Douglas fir, pines, riparian vegetation, and a chaparral influence in the south add variety. The area contains relics of the brief burst of mining activity that once spread through the range.

Congressman Jim Lloyd introduced his bill on October 11. He pointed out that the Forest Service proposal "leaves out important lambing areas and bighorn summer and winter ranges which are vital to the survival of the sheep—this area's most valuable resource."

"I look forward to the enactment of this measure in order to preserve, protect, and responsibly manage this rugged wilderness which exists in such remarkable proximity to the Los Angeles metropolitan area," Lloyd added.

—Jim Eaton
Bob McDonnell

IMPORTANT CORRECTION

In the October *Wild California* article "RARE II Bills Introduced," Rep. Phillip Burton's wilderness bill was erroneously labeled HR 5586, the same number as Rep. Bizz Johnson's anti-wilderness bill. The correct number for Burton's bill is HR 5578. It is important not to confuse the two!



Sheep Mountain Roadless Area, Mt. Baldy.

Lassen

Uphill Climb for Ski Development

Downhill ski facilities at Lassen Volcanic National Park should be phased out, according to an advisory board of Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. The board acted on a recommendation of a study team to complete the removal of the development in five years.

The team visited the Park last August at the request of the Director of the National Park Service.

They reviewed both the ski area and the presently closed Manzanita Lake facilities. Team members were Douglas W. Schwartz, Steven L. Rose, and former astronaut Walter Schirra.

Besides recommending the phaseout of the ski area, the board agreed with the team's conclusion that the lodge-museum-cabin area

at Manzanita Lake should be reopened as it is not endangered by a potential Chaos Crags rockfall.

The complete recommendation of the board on the ski area is as follows:

The small ski area at the Mineral entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park should be phased out completely over the next five years. When Lassen Volcanic National Park was established, a small beginners' rope tow was already in existence within the proposed Park area.

Although this facility was not compatible with National Park objectives, it was allowed to remain in operation. A recent request to upgrade the ski run by changing the rope tow to a chairlift has prompted a

reexamination of this problem.

The ski area is located just at the southern entrance to one of only two roads leading into the Park. Its location changes what should be an initial natural experience by the visitor first entering the Park, to more of a carnival-like atmosphere. Also, even though the ski area is quite small, its equipment and operations have had a detrimental environmental, esthetic, and interpretative impact on the Park. Furthermore, in the winter when the remainder of that part of the Park is closed to traffic, the Park Service must keep the road clear of snow, at a cost of \$35,000 per year, just to serve the concessionaire's ski customers.

The National Forest Service is currently considering the construction of its own ski area in the immediate region, on a mountain much more suited to a complete ski operation. If the Park Service were to announce a phased closure of the small Lassen ski area, it would provide an added impetus to encourage the Forest Service to implement their plans. This would result in a more all-ski facility for the region and relieve Lassen Park of an eyesore, point of congestion, expensive, and non-conforming activity.

For all these reasons, plus the fact that it is a totally non-conforming use, the three members of the committee recommended the ski area be phased out completely.

***** Announcement

This is the last chance for non-member readers to join CWC at our low depression-era rates. As of Jan. 1, 1980, the rates will increase to \$10 regular/\$5 low income/\$30 sponsor or group member. We have found that the previous rates won't even cover basic membership services such as *Wilderness Record* and *Wild California* publication and mailing costs. Other expenses such as rent, alerts and phone bills have pushed CWC into a dependence on large loans from board members and other volunteers. (P.S. Are there any patrons out there?)

Gift memberships for the Holidays—Instead of that chainsaw for dad or that new dirtbike for junior, why not give a membership to CWC this year? It's a good way to get new people involved in the wilderness preservation movement, build up the Coalition's membership and financial resources and give a gift that literally lasts all year. And our \$6 rate is so cheap you can give one to everybody on your greeting card list! So just use the handy order form in this issue, mark it "gift order" and attach as many extra sheets as necessary.

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

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

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

Ski Hut
1615 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Wildflower Farms Native Plant Nursery
1831 Terrace Place
Delano, CA 93215

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

Ace Family Hardware
4018 Rice St.
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

The North Face
1234 Fifth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

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

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

ANNUAL DUES:
Note: one dollar of annual dues supports the *Wilderness Record*

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

not tax deductible