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Permit No. 34  
Davis, Ca

ISSN 0194-3030

# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 5

P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95616

May-June 1980

No. 3

## RARE II Bill Bottled Up

At times, Congressman Phillip Burton can do wonders with legislation he supports. The Burton-Santini bill on Lake Tahoe went from introduction, through subcommittee mark-up, to passage by the House Interior Committee in less than one week.

California's RARE II legislation, however, now is proceeding at glacial speed. Due mainly to objections from Rep. Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson, bills to designate millions of acres of wilderness in the state have stalled in the Interior Committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands.

Burton has been able to work out compromises with most California representatives affected by his wilderness bill. While Johnson is the primary obstacle, objections also are coming from Reps. Don Clausen and William Thomas.

The timber industry now seems to be encouraging delay on congressional action. This may be due to the massive timber mill closures resulting from the housing slowdown, or it could be that the industry expects more sympathetic legislators after the November elections.

As action in the House is delayed, the possibility of hearings and passage in the Senate is reduced. In election years Congress tends to spend much time campaigning, especially in the months just prior to the general election.

If the wilderness bill does not pass this session of Congress, the process will have to begin anew next year. However, the letters, testimony, and lobbying by conservationists will not be wasted as it will allow a new bill to be quickly drafted.



Grizzly Peak, Emigrant Wilderness additions

Photo by Clyde Wahrhaftig

## Whalen Fired

William J. Whalen, director of the National Park Service the past three years, recently was fired by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. Russell E. Dickenson was named as the new Director.

Andrus said, "I have removed Mr. William J. Whalen as director of the National Park Service because I believe it best for the service, for the department, and for Mr. Whalen's health." Whalen spent three weeks in a hospital in March, reportedly due to physical exhaustion.

Dickenson has been Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest region the past four years. He

served under past director Robert Walker as his deputy in 1973-1975.

Whalen had come under fire from conservationists, concessionaires, and members of Congress for different issues the past year. Groups like The Wilderness Society were unhappy with the plan for the management of Yosemite National Park released last fall because it failed to do enough to "de-urbanize Yosemite Valley." Other interests criticized him for being too tough on commercial businesses in national parks.

Whalen felt that he also was being dismissed due to

low morale in the park service. He was fired after he refused an opportunity to step down voluntarily.

Dickenson, 57, served for more than 20 years as a ranger, chief ranger, and superintendent in various parks outside California. Prior to becoming deputy director, he was director of the National Capitol region where he received the Interior Department's highest award for his work on urban park management.

Dickenson plans to review the Yosemite management plan prior to its scheduled release June 1.

## Desert Plan News

May 15 marked the completion of the public comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Draft California Desert Plan. In a mailing dated May 21, the Bureau indicated that the next step in the planning process will be publication of a "Proposed Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement" on September 30, 1980. This will

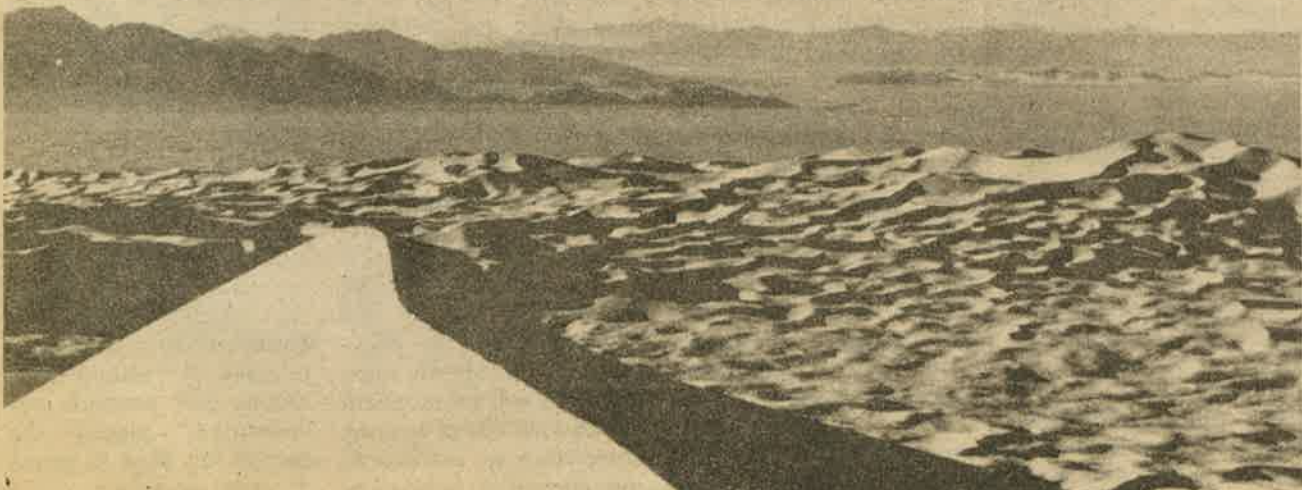
be subject to only a 30-day public comment period before the Final Plan is prepared.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, the President's Council on Environmental Quality and other private and public agencies have pointed out that one of the major legal deficiencies of the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the failure to provide the public with a reasonable range of alternatives to carry out BLM's mandate to prepare the Desert Plan. None of the alternatives offered — "Protection," "Balanced," "Use," and "No Action" — would carry out the mandate to prepare the Plan within a framework of sustained yield and environmental quality.

The failure of BLM to identify one of the Draft Plan alternatives as a "preferred alternative" was also pointed out as a major procedural inadequacy

which reduced the focus and usefulness of public comments.

Twelve public hearings were held throughout Southern California and at two Northern California locations between April 17 and May 7. Reports from the Los Angeles and San Diego hearings indicated that speakers were about equally divided between those supporting protection of desert resources and wilderness and those desiring unrestricted vehicle recreation and other consumptive uses. At the Oakland and Sacramento hearings speakers favoring protection far outnumbered those favoring unrestricted consumptive uses. At the Sacramento hearing one of the two speakers on behalf of ORV use was the Phantom Duck (Louis McKey, organizer of an annual illegal motorcycle race along the old-Barstow-Vegas race route), who supported the "No Action" alternative.



Kelso Dunes

Photo by Jack Hart



# Coalition Report

by Wendy Cohen

In June, there will be some big changes in the California Wilderness Coalition. For one thing, our CETA grant ends on June 14, and with it go our two employees, Dennis Coules and Archie Douglas. Archie, however, will be staying on half-time until mid-July.

The second reason for change is that Jim Eaton's job with The Wilderness Society (which shares the Coalition's Davis office) ends in mid-June as well. The Coalition's association with Jim and The Wilderness Society has always been important and very fruitful, and we are sad to see the Society cutting back on its activities in California.

The future might sound gloomy for the Coalition, but this is not the case. With tremendous help from Jim, we have applied for a \$25,000 grant from the Packard Foundation in Palo Alto, and we will hear the results in June.

The grant proposal calls

for two CWC staff positions including an Executive Director and a Conservation Director. The program will include all our present administrative and educational activities. In addition, we will have a new media program, a much expanded fund-raising effort and a wider scope of topics in our publications. We'll also be starting a major effort to expand greatly our individual membership as well as relations with member groups and sponsors.

These plans are far-reaching and exciting. If we receive even part of the requested amount from Packard Foundation, we can begin our new program and work zealously to raise the remainder.

Also in connection with the Packard grant, the Coalition is in the process of forming an advisory committee of citizens involved in the protection of California's wildlands. The com-

mittee, which also will be helpful in other grant proposals, will consist of professional environmentalists, leaders of national conservation groups, wilderness business executives, community leaders, writers, photographers, and artists. We hope eventually to include a couple of dozen people. The committee will not only lend some credibility to the Coalition in the eyes of foundations, but will provide valuable advice from people who have had much experience with wilderness and environmental issues.

So we are looking toward the future in a big way. We are not counting on only one foundation. During the summer we will be applying to others, as well as pursuing other fund-raising methods. If you have ideas for fund-raisers or would like to hold an event in your home, please contact us.

# Reader's Opinion

Editor:

Dennis Coules makes a very compelling case in the March-April *Wilderness Record* for better control of free-roaming desert burros and horses that are threatening the existence of hard-pressed native desert wildlife.

However, I would urge the *Wilderness Record* to cool down the rhetoric a bit concerning the actions of humane groups who are lawfully resisting the removal of burros from the Grand Canyon and Death Valley.

Yes, these people are wrong on this specific issue, just as the right-to-life groups are wrong on the

abortion issue.

The burros clearly must go if we are to protect native plants and wildlife. If no other method can be found, humane shooting may be the answer. Likewise, the inability of life-support systems to support more humans on this planet without drastically degrading these systems, which support all life, may require drastic solutions, including freedom of choice whether or not to carry a pregnancy to full term.

But the humane and right-to-life people are motivated by something that we shouldn't forget: and that is a love for life, and a realization that a society that condones the careless

extinction of life, or inhumane behavior, is a society not likely to be kind to the life-support systems.

With this fully understood, I would urge the California Wilderness Coalition to press forward with its wilderness work, but also with an effort to persuade the very necessary and valuable humane groups that a love for life should be a love for all life, and that the numbers of any species that multiplies to the point of endangering other species, or the life-support system itself, must be firmly controlled.

Ron Guenther  
Fort Bragg



Road-triggered landslide, Smith River watershed

Photo by Dave Van de Mark

# Wild Plans for Smith River Spawned

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announced May 17 that the draft Smith River Waterway Management Plan has been completed and is now available for public review. This plan was prepared to fulfill the requirements of the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Developed in close cooperation with Del Norte County, the U.S. Forest Service and various state, federal and local agencies, the plan covers the Smith River and all its tributaries from the Oregon-California state boundary to the Pacific Ocean.

The planning process utilized in developing this plan involved an extensive analysis of baseline resource conditions within the 610-square-mile California portion of the Smith River drainage. This included such physical characteristics as geology, hydrology, soils and geologic hazards (landslides, erosion factors) as well as the biological resources such as fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Following this analysis, the various problems facing the resources were studied, as was the effectiveness of existing laws and regulations in dealing with those problems. This process provided the framework for developing specific recommendations for protecting and enhancing the river's

resources. The recommendations contained in the plan deal with the Wild and Scenic River resources of recreation, fish, wildlife and scenic values. They concentrate on resource uses or land management activities such as timber harvesting, road construction, mining and related activities which can adversely impact the river's resources.

The draft plan proposes a series of seven alternatives for addressing the issue of final retention of tributaries within the State Wild and Scenic Rivers system. These alternatives range from an all-inclusive approach emphasizing hydrologic factors to an approach where only the main river and portions of its major forks are included and all tributaries are excluded. Background information is presented on more than 90 tributaries to assist the reader and ultimately the Legislature in deciding which Smith River tributaries should remain in the system.

And, finally, there is an extensive analysis of the economic effects of implementing the various recommendations contained in the plan, with emphasis placed on the local economy.

Copies of the draft Smith River Waterway Management Plan and appendices are available by writing the

DFG, Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814, or by calling the department at (916) 445-0460. A limited number of copies will also be available at local libraries in Crescent City and Eureka as well as the department's Region 1 offices in Redding and Eureka. Large scale blue-line prints of the various data maps in the plan and appendices also are available upon request.

Two public hearings will be held to receive oral testimony on the draft plan. The first hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 20 in the Crescent City Cultural Center, Front Street, Crescent City. The second hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 21, in the Resources Building Auditorium at 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento.

Written comments should be directed to the department at the Ninth Street address before June 30. Following this public review period and after completion of the necessary revisions, a final Smith River Waterway Management Plan will be submitted by the Resources Agency secretary to the Legislature for approval as required by the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

All persons are invited to attend the public hearings and provide written comments, the DFG said.

# Mining Our Public Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the Department of Interior has released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering regulation of hard-rock mining on the public lands. The EIS deals with proposed new regulations for hard-rock mining on all BLM-administered lands and with final regulations for mining in areas under consideration in the BLM's Wilderness Review.

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, BLM is required to prevent undue degradation of the public lands. Three years ago, BLM's original draft mining regulation proposal met stiff opposition from the mining

industry and was never implemented. The just-released second draft proposal is weaker than the first in terms of environmental protection.

In many respects, BLM's regulations are patterned after existing Forest Service hard-rock mining rules. They require a plan describing the operation to be submitted to BLM, at which time BLM prepares an Environmental Assessment Record (EAR) to determine what conditions will be required to protect the environment. The regulations do not specify when a full EIS will be required.

Two methods of assuring compliance are available in the regulations: bonding to

ensure reclamation, and court action to obtain an injunction and damages for mining "undertaken without a plan of operations or without taking actions specified in a notice of noncompliance."

Environmentalists charge that the regulations are deficient in the following ways: (1) the terms "unnecessary and undue degradation" are not adequately defined; (2) BLM authority to enforce plans of operation is not adequate; (3) bonds required to ensure reclamation may be released if "natural conditions will preclude revegetation," placing the burden on BLM to prove

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# Where Wilderness Came of Age

## SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS

by Archie Douglas

The San Rafael Wilderness is located in the San Rafael and Sierra Madre ranges in southeastern Santa Barbara County in the Los Padres National Forest. It comprises a strip of land about ten miles wide and 25 miles long running in a generally northwest-southeast direction.

Elevations in the Wilderness range from a high of 6,596 feet atop San Rafael Mountain to a low of 1,166 feet near the confluence of Manzanita Creek and the Siquoc River. The relatively low elevation, in comparison with many of the other Congressionally-designated wilderness areas in California, contributes to the area's uniqueness and was a factor in its acceptance into the National Wilderness System in March, 1968. It is especially attractive in winter and spring, when most other areas are inaccessible to the majority of the public. In summer and fall, however, two-thirds of the area is closed due to high fire hazard (usually about July 1 to November 15).

The Wilderness is characterized by steep, brushy slopes and rocky cliffs.

About 90 per cent of the area is covered by brush, with grassy openings (potreros) interspersed throughout. Scattered strands of mixed conifers occur on the northern slopes, but California laurel, cottonwood, and live oak (along with a great quantity of poison oak) are predominant near streambeds. Other species include ponderosa, Jeffery, sugar, coulter, digger, and pinyon pine; big cone spruce (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*, a type of Douglas fir); white fir; and incense cedar.

The most significant wildlife species present in the San Rafael Wilderness is the California condor. The 1,200 acre Siquoc Condor Sanctuary (established in 1937), in the heart of the Wilderness, is a crucial area for this endangered species whose habitat is extremely limited. No nests have been authenticated in the sanctuary since 1902 (the 53,000-acre Sespe Wildlife Area in the Madulce-Buckhorn roadless area was formed to protect condor nesting areas), but the birds have been known to roost and bathe near Siquoc Falls. Other wildlife in the

area include California mule and Columbian black-tailed deer, black bears, mountain lions, coyotes, and golden eagles. A small stretch of Manzanita Creek is artificially stocked with fingerling trout, but otherwise the fish-producing capacity of the three major streams is limited.

### THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS CONTROVERSY

To some wilderness activists, the 1964 National Wilderness Act stands as the ultimate acknowledgement of their movement's acceptance by American society. This view, while not incorrect, is incomplete. Like any other law enacted by Congress, the effect of the Wilderness Act could not be gauged properly until it had undergone its first application. The 'test case' was the U.S. Forest Service's San Rafael Wilderness Proposal of 1965.

A Santa Barbara County area of over 110,000 acres, including the San Rafael National Primitive Area, established in 1937, was proposed for wilderness consideration. Public hearings held in Santa Barbara, as required by law, revealed that conservationists sought a wilderness area totaling about 158,000 acres. The Forest Service soon conceded that because of errors in marking boundaries, it would increase the proposed wilderness area by 32,800 acres.

The revised proposal passed in the Senate, but quickly bogged down in the House. Conservationists were pushing hard for an amendment to the proposal which would add 2,200 acres to the wilderness. They claimed that valuable cultural resources, pictographs drawn thousands of years ago by the Chumash In-



White Ledge Creek, San Rafael Wilderness

Photo by Archie Douglas

dians, would be threatened with destruction if not protected by wilderness designation. In addition, they said, many fragile, grassy balds, called potreros, which contribute greatly to the area's uniqueness, would be denied wilderness protection under the Forest Service proposal.

In October, 1967 a San Rafael Wilderness Bill including the controversial 2,200 acres was adopted by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Because of the conflicting acreages in the House and Senate versions, a Senate-House conference committee was convened to resolve the difference.

In December, 1967 the conference committee (including Reps. Morris K. Udall of Arizona and Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson, then and now of California's First District), submitted its report. Its recommenda-

tion: "That the House recede from its amendment" adding the 2,200 acres.

The crucial factor behind the committee's decision was the Forest Service's assertion that 600 acres along the Sierra Madre Ridge were essential to controlling wildfires in the area. All 600 acres were within the proposed addition.

Having worked hard for the House amendment, conservationists doubled their efforts to refute the Forest Service position. Armed with conservationist-supplied information, Rep. John V. Tunney of California declared that the Forest Service's firebreak plan for the Sierra Madre Ridge was all that remained of a long-abandoned development scheme for the area. The plan, which called for creation of a ski resort and extensive road construction, would have increased substantially the risk of wildfire.

What Rep. Tunney, along with others critical of the Forest Service position, could not understand was why the plan for a firebreak remained in force even though (1) the plans for development had been scrapped, (2) the fire boss for the area had personally told Tunney that a fire on the ridge would only burn 15-20 acres before it could be controlled, and (3) the district ranger had admitted that a firebreak could be constructed outside the 2,200-acre parcel and be just as effective as the projected one.

To some the debate over the conference committee's report concerned more than whether or not the Forest Service needed a parcel of land for a firebreak. They felt that a fierce battle was being waged between citizens' conservation groups and the U.S. Forest Service over which

side would influence future wilderness policy. The issue, according to one Congressman, was one of "emotionalism versus professionalism."

In defense of the conservationists' position, Rep. John Saylor of Pennsylvania urged his colleagues not to be swayed by the supposed technical expertise of the Forest Service. "The Forest Service," he said, "simply does not want to see its proposal changed by Congress in response to the conservationists' testimony."

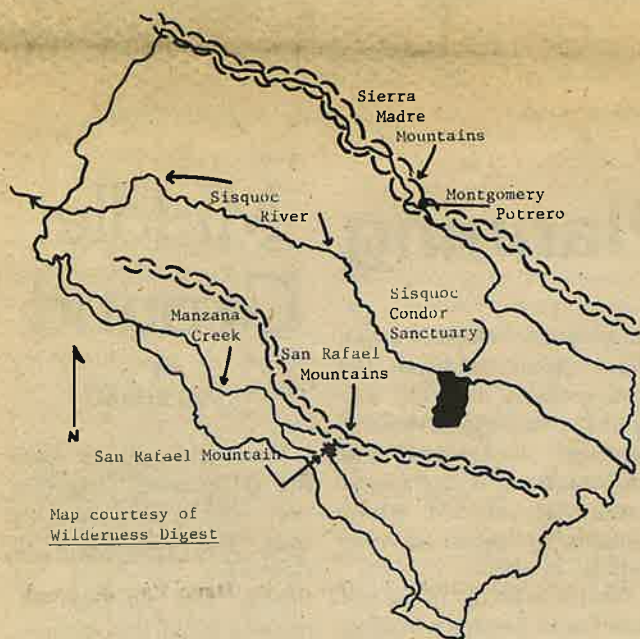
The chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Wayne Aspinall, took the opposing viewpoint. Referring to conservationists as "those who seem to have no end to their desire to put in wraps the public lands of the United States," Aspinall stated his firm belief in the ability of the Forest Service to adequately protect values found on national forest lands.

After a stormy hour of debate, a majority of congressmen sided with Aspinall, voting 238-155 not to reconsider the committee report. The 2,200 acres would not be included in the San Rafael Wilderness.

Conservationists were disappointed by their defeat, but were consoled by the great increase in acreage they had been able to achieve. The nation had gained a fine wilderness area, one described by President Johnson as "rocky, rugged, and lonely." He signed the San Rafael Wilderness Bill into law on March 21, 1968.

Conservationists and federal agencies have battled over the fate of the public lands many times since 1968, but San Rafael stands alone. Many people in the wilderness movement today got their first taste of a congressional battle during the San Rafael controversy and

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Map courtesy of Wilderness Digest



Manzanita Creek Canyon with San Rafael Mtn. in background, San Rafael Wilderness

Photo by Archie Douglas



## Sierra Forest Plan

# How Much Wilderness?

Sierra National Forest, far ahead of the schedule for forest planning of other national forests in California, has released a set of five preliminary alternatives to be considered in preparation of its Forest Plan. Because this will probably be the first Forest Plan to be completed in California, it will set an important precedent.

The five preliminary alternatives are subject to a 30-day public-comment period ending June 6. A purpose of soliciting public comment at this stage is to reduce conflicts prior to developing a Draft Environmental Statement (DES), according to Sierra National Forest Planning Officer John Kruse.

A 90-day public-comment period will follow publication of the Draft Forest Plan and DES in August. No "preferred alternative" is identified at this early stage.

The five alternatives offered are (1) maximum protection of goods and services, such as timber, (2) low-budget level of activities, (3) implementation

of the recommended 1975 "Resource Planning Act" (RPA) program, with emphasis on timber and range production and developed recreation, (4) emphasize non-market values such as wilderness, wildlife, fish habitat, environmental quality and dispersed recreation, and (5) continuation of current programs and activities.

Two issues not addressed in the preliminary alternatives which will be included in the DES are (1) a departure from evenflow, sustained-yield timber management (cutting timber at a rate greater than the rate of regeneration within the forest) and (2) consideration for wilderness designation of that part of the San Joaquin Roadless Area that was allocated to non-wilderness during RARE II (the Forest Service's controversial roadless area allocation program) but was included in a successful lawsuit by the State of California that requires further site-specific study of wilderness suitability for 47 California roadless areas.

### WILDERNESS AREAS

Sierra National Forest contains the existing Kaiser, Monarch and John Muir Wilderness Areas. In addition, ten roadless areas that were considered during RARE II are included within the National Forest boundaries.

Outstanding areas such as San Joaquin, Kings River, Dinkey Lakes, and Rancheria Creek are among the ten. Dinkey Lakes, Kings

River and Rancheria Creek were placed in the "further planning" category during RARE II whereas San Joaquin was split between "wilderness" and "non-wilderness" allocations. Further planning areas are to be included during Forest Plan preparation.

Of the preliminary alternatives prepared, Alternative 4 (non-market emphasis) would recommend the most further-planning

areas for wilderness designation, as well as a portion of the court-contested San Joaquin non-wilderness area. Alternative 4 would also place most of the roadless areas allocated to non-wilderness during RARE II into a land-use category that emphasizes dispersed recreation and wildlife protection over commodity production.

Other alternatives would offer for wilderness designation either none of the RARE II further planning areas (Alternative 2), a very slight increase in wilderness acreage (Alternatives 1 and 5), or a small increase in wilderness acreage (Al-

ternative 3).

Other aspects of forest management, such as management of range, wildlife, recreation, timber, soils, watershed, minerals, and fire are also to be addressed in the Forest Plan.

To receive a copy of the DES when it is released in August, write to Jim Kruse, Planning Officer, Sierra National Forest, 1130 O Street, Fresno, CA 93721. This will probably be the last opportunity to comment on the planning process and wilderness recommendations for the National Forest before the Sierra Forest Plan is finalized.



Balloon Dome from Squaw Dome, San Joaquin Roadless Area

Photo by Rose Certini

## San Rafael

cont. from pg. 3

remember it clearly. For the first time, a single area was considered for wilderness designation by Congress. Though the contested 2,200 acres were lost, conservationists served notice on the Forest Service and on Congress that they would be heard.

### THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS TODAY

Today, the San Rafael Wilderness is as it was in 1968 — wild, rugged, and protected. Its acreage (142,918) is unchanged. The lands around the wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest, however, are becoming increasingly important as the controversy over the California condor grows.

An area of 64,200 acres adjacent to the San Rafael was recommended for designation as the Dick Smith (Madulce-Buckhorn) Wilderness during the Forest Service's RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) process. It was the only new conservationist wilderness proposal accepted by the Forest Service during RARE II. This area, named for the noted Santa Barbara naturalist, will constitute another link in the proposed Condor Flyway Wilderness.

As reported in *Wild California* #9 (April, 1980) the Condor Flyway would be a chain of wilderness areas extending throughout the southern Los Padres National Forest. Supporters of the concept are particularly interested in a-

chieving wilderness status for the huge Sespe-Frazier Roadless Area, northeast of Ojai. Like many other roadless areas in the Los Padres National Forest, Sespe-Frazier was allocated to the "further planning" category during RARE II, so its fate is still uncertain. A sizeable condor sanctuary already exists within the roadless area, much larger than that within San Rafael, but conservationists believe that protection of the entire 320,700 acre tract is essential to the bird's survival. The final status of the Sespe-Frazier area will depend on its treatment in the Forest Plan developed by the Los Padres National Forest in the next few years.

**U.S.G.S. TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:** 7.5 minute quadrangles covering the San Rafael Wilderness are *Bald Mtn., Hurricane Deck, Salisbury Potrero, Big Pine Mtn., San Rafael Mtn., Figueroa Mtn.*

A map showing trails and developed campsites on the Los Padres National Forest, including the San Rafael Wilderness, is available for 50¢ at Ranger Stations and from: Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA 93017.

Two Guide Books: *Trails of the San Rafael Wilderness...* in Santa Barbara County, by Hiester and Ford; and, *Hiking the Santa Barbara Backcountry*, Dennis R. Gagnon, Ward Ritchie Press, provide extensive information on the area.

## Regional Forest Planning

The identification of issues, concerns, and opportunities was the first step in the regional planning process of Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service.

Several thousand people participated in the planning process by attending regional workshops and writing letters during the public comment period which ended in January. State and local government officials and agencies, education institutions, natural resource industries, environmental groups, user groups,

Federal agencies other than the Forest Service, Forest Service employees, and private citizens commented on a wide range of local, regional, and national issues.

Analysis of public comments resulted in a significantly increased number of issues that will be dealt with in the Regional Plan. Nearly three times as many issues may be addressed as were originally proposed.

By early summer a public information packet will be distributed. This packet will

summarize which issues have been selected for presentation in the Regional Plan, the screening process used, and the disposition of those which were not selected. More detailed information also will be available.

Those wishing to be on the Forest Service's mailing list should send their name to Don Bielefield, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Office of Information, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

## Middle Ground

by  
CARI BURKE

John and Gifford were hiking buddies. Together they ranged far and wide over the mountains of California, surveying the beauty and marking the majesty of all they beheld. Then one day, while looking around for some new majesty, they found themselves below snowline; here they were surrounded by the tall trees of luxuriant forests which stood beside the clear waters of unbridled rivers.

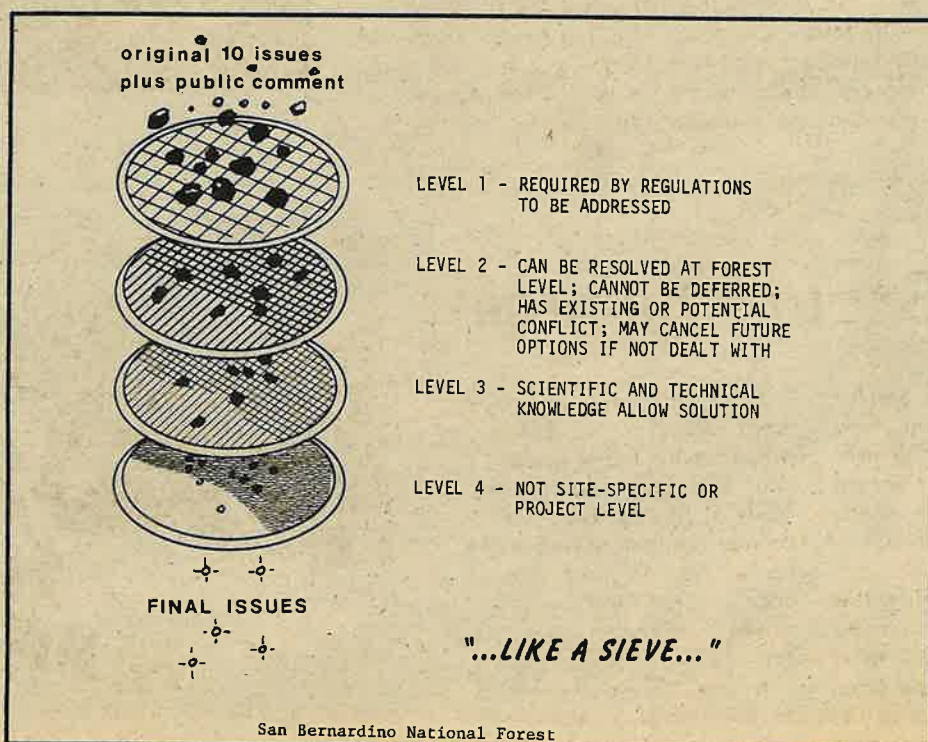
"How multiply useful!" remarked Gifford.

"How purely pristine!" said John, the two speaking at once.

"Mere woods," muttered Gifford under his breath. "Mere wilderness."

"Yes," said John. "Some day."

With that they eyed each other long and longingly, for the first time, for the last; then parted company there below snowline, in the forests beside the rivers, the one man determined to multiply the uses of the earth, the other to preserve earth's multiplicity. There was sadness in their parting, each for the other's view - but there was no hesitancy - for in matters of earth there is no middle ground.





# No Park for East Bay Ridgeland

The National Park Service has determined that ridgelines of the San Francisco Bay Area are not nationally significant and should not be part of a national recreation area.

The Park Service study, completed in February, analyzes natural, cultural, recreation, and open-space resources of the ridgelines. The value of this open-space resource is noted, but the recommendation for management is for local and special-purpose governments joining together to form a permanent ridgelines organization.

"Ridgelines" is the term used to refer to that portion of the California coast range east and south of San Francisco Bay in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties. These hills and ridges, situated next to an extensive urbanized area, remain largely open space. Traditional use of these ridgelines has been for grazing, watershed, and recreation.

Today, nearly three quarters of the more than 1,300 square miles of the ridge-

lands is in private ownership, mostly in large tracts utilized for grazing beef cattle. Most landowners have elected to place their grazing lands in Williamson Act contracts which calls for them to be maintained in open space uses for a minimum of ten years in return for lowered assessments on property taxes. In addition, the three counties have zoned the great preponderance of the ridgelines in various agricultural categories.

Despite these and other measures by local governments, development has not been precluded in the ridgelines. As the San Francisco Bay metropolitan area continues to grow, there are ever-increasing pressures on local government to allow use of more of the ridgelines for residential housing. These pressures have prompted individuals and citizen groups, interested in trying to maintain the open-space character of the ridgelines, to try to forestall any additional development there. These efforts have

been directed toward having government play a larger role in ridgelines land-use decisions. Ridgelines landowners, however, see any further actions by government in this direction as an infringement on their individual property rights.

Congress mandated a study to determine whether or not there is a role for the Federal government to play in open-space preservation of the ridgelines. This determination was to include the feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System in the ridgelines.

Potential wilderness areas exist in the ridgelines study area. Two State Parks, Mount Diablo and Henry Coe, were reviewed for possible inclusion in the California State Wilderness System in 1978. The California Wilderness Coalition is working with the Sierra Club's Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee and other groups to establish a State wilderness on Mount Diablo. The State of California has reversed itself on a

wilderness recommendation due to a fire management problem. The State, however, is recommending a 12,000-acre wilderness for Henry Coe State Park.

The extensive regional parks in the area also have wildlands that could become part of a State or Federal wilderness system. Local conservationists have been looking at these lands and adjacent private lands to determine their suitability as wilderness.

In rejecting the national recreation area proposal for the ridgelines, the Park Service developed three options:

Option 1 calls for local general and specific governments joining together to form a permanent ridgelines organization which,

through utilization of existing land-use controls, would have as its primary purpose the retention of the open-space nature of the ridgelines. The organization would be set up to define the regional interest, to develop a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional land-use plan and provide a continuing forum for regional review of land-use issues. Membership could include representatives from appropriate state and federal agencies, as well as representatives of all private interests in the ridgelines.

Option 2 calls for the establishment by the California legislature of a permanent agency with planning and permit powers for the ridgelines area to insure the protection of its open-space value.

Option 3 calls for the development of a locally-prepared comprehensive land-use management plan which would form the basis,

upon plan approval by the Federal government, for the granting of Federal funds. These funds would be used for planning and the acquisition of key parcels of land. The Federal government would ensure that all of its activities in the planning area are consistent with the plan.

Of the three options, the Park Service feels that a full implementation of the first would effectively deal with present threats to the ridgelines. This option would also serve to test whether or not local governments, through the marshalling of existing regulatory powers and financial resources, can deal with the preservation of a regional open-space resource. The success, or failure, of this option would help determine whether or not other levels of government are necessary and need to be involved to protect the ridgelines.

## Marine Sanctuary Proposed

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the federal agency responsible for managing the nation's marine sanctuaries, has released a draft environmental impact statement on a proposed sanctuary to protect the waters off Point Reyes, California, and the Farallon Islands.

The sanctuary described in the Commerce Department agency's report is a 1000-square-mile area off the California coast just north of San Francisco that would be used to study and protect the rich marine system of these waters.

The proposed sanctuary surrounds especially important seabird rookeries and habitats for seals and sea lions. NOAA has worked closely with the California Coastal Commission, and held several public meetings in California to develop the proposal.

"The marine sanctuary will not create a wilderness closed to human use, but instead would set up a special program to give this area long-term attention," said Michael Glazer, Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management. According to Glazer, the sanctuary would be used to conduct research, to monitor the conditions of the area's natural resources, and to provide educational programs. "Through planning and coordination with other agencies, the sanctuary would be a special voice for the living resources of the area," he added.

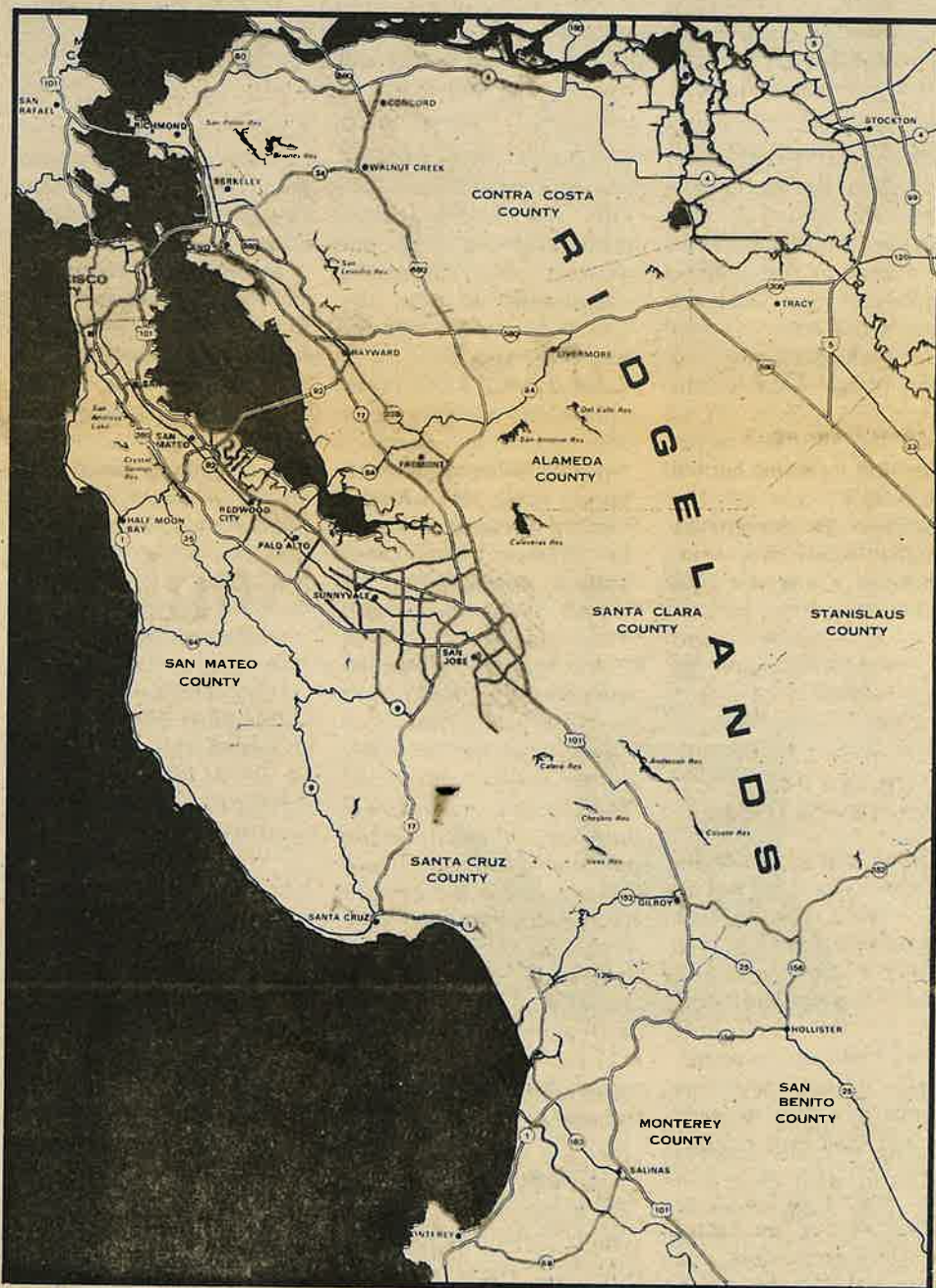
Portions of both Point Reyes National Seashore and the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge are in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Proposed regulations are also a part of the manage-

ment plan for the sanctuary and they are discussed in detail in the draft environmental impact statement. The proposed regulations would prohibit all oil and gas exploration in any part of the sanctuary and would prevent oil tankers and other heavy commercial vessels from coming within one mile of the Farallon Islands or Bolinas Lagoon.

The draft impact statement also proposed restrictions on discharging pollutants in the sanctuary and declares waters around the Farallon Islands, Bolinas Lagoon, and other sensitive areas off limits to aircraft flying lower than 1000 feet.

Copies of the 225-page impact statement are available from the Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235.



## Limits for Snow Mountain

The U.S. Forest Service recently has taken new actions regarding the proposed Snow Mountain Wilderness on the Mendocino National Forest:

1. Groups entering the Snow Mountain proposed wilderness are now limited to a maximum of 25 persons. An order implementing this was signed by the Forest Supervisor on April 30, 1980.

2. An interim management plan is now being prepared for Snow Mountain. The plan should be ready by July 1, 1980. It will set management objectives, review management situations and assumptions, and establish management directions.

3. A map and brochure for the Snow Mountain Area is being prepared and is expected in midsummer.



Snow Mountain West

Photo by Jim Eaton



# Wilderness Management

## FIRE

Among the hotter wilderness issues is the subject of fire. Concerns about the effect of wildfires inside and outside wilderness areas, the use of motorized equipment to fight fires in wilderness, and the practice of prescribed burning currently are being debated by citizens, the Forest Service and Congress.

While the myth that you cannot fight fires in wilderness persists, the Wilderness Act of 1964 clearly stated that "such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects,

and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable." [Section 4 (d) (1)].

Prescribed burning, intentionally set fires for fuel reduction, range improvement, or wildlife habitat manipulation, is becoming an important issue in wilderness management. The National Park Service already is burning portions of Lava Beds and Pinnacles National Monuments that are in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest Service is plan-

ning prescribed burning in the Ventana and Santa Lucia wilderness areas, but balks at burning other wildernesses. The Bureau of Land Management has plans to burn some Wilderness Study Areas.

In this issue, background information on the fire ecology of chaparral lands is provided. In later publications the ecology of other ecosystems, the myth of fire suppression in wilderness, prescribed burning, and Congressional direction will be discussed.

## Chaparral Fire Ecology

Chaparral brushlands throughout the world have historically burned so often that they are regarded as a fire-climax or fire-adapted vegetation type. Chaparral brushlands have evolved toward characteristics that make them highly flammable and dependent on recurring fires for restoration and optimum growth and health.

Studies on chamise exemplify how this brush produces a fuel bed for

interesting interaction between fire and chamise. Fire kills the above-ground portion of the shrub and destroys the allelopathic compounds in the soil. Chamise is a vigorous sprouter from buds on an underground root-crown burl called a ligno tuber. This sprouting response is rapid and is not dependent upon rains. In addition, most of the seeds produced by chamise are dormant until a fire improves the

After a fire, chaparral begins almost immediate regrowth and recovery. Sprouting species such as chamise begin sprouting within a few weeks after a fire (a physiological response not requiring rainfall). Nonsprouters that require the heat of fire to break seed dormancy germinate the following fall with the advent of winter rains. The general successional pattern following fire is as follows:

1. During the first 1-3 years, annual and biennial herbaceous species, sprouters and brush seedlings cover the area. Species diversity is greatest at this time and decreases as succession continues.
2. The second state is from 5-10 years and is marked by the absence of herbaceous species. Intermediate and permanent successional brush species are both present.
3. From 15-30 years, the intermediate shrub species such as ceanothus

Fire-maintained Ventana Wilderness

Photo by Phil Farrell

begin to die. Chamise increases its dominance and the standing dead material begins to build up a heavy fuel load.

4. Beyond 35 years the stand becomes decadent with little vitality and productivity. Dead material is a large part of the stand and in most cases a wildfire burns it before this stage.

The successional species and rate vary with geographic location, slope exposure, soils, and season of burn. In Northern California annual grasses tend to dominate most burn areas. Grass species usually noted are: Italian rye, wild oats, soft chess, ripgut brome,

and red brome, all of which are naturalized mediterranean species. A number of forbs are also present and appear only after a fire and in a rather fixed successional pattern.

Wildlife communities that exist prior to fire in mature to decadent chamise chaparral are low in total biomass and species diversity. Following a fire large mammals such as blacktail deer, birds and most small mammals increase in both total numbers and species numbers. The reason for the difference is due to the available browse for deer or other species. The proliferation of young nutritious and available browse plus grasses and forbs after a fire accounts for the increase in vertebrate populations. Predators also increase following fire due to the increase in prey species.

Most studies on brushland hydrology have established that chaparral is an extremely efficient watershed cover but that it also consumes most of the soil moisture. This characteristic in part accounts for the low vegetative diversity in mature and old stands of chaparral brush.

Chamise chaparral soils are generally recognized as

being low in fertility, especially in nitrogen and phosphorus. The hot dry summer season inhibits soils micro-organisms, and that along with the high lignin content of the available ground litter greatly reduces mineral cycling from decomposition. As a result, much of the nutrient pool is tied up in the standing biomass.

Fire is one principal method of releasing nutrients and making them available to growing plants. Phosphorous, potassium and magnesium are for the most part returned to the soil in the form of ash.

The amount of nitrogen returned is a function of the intensity and duration of the fire. Volatile losses of 20-40 percent of the total nitrogen have been recorded on very hot fires. Even with these losses the available nitrogen is measurably increased. Nutrient losses in debris and runoff following a fire do increase but they have been shown to be less than 6 percent of the total.

In summary, the chaparral ecosystem functions with fire playing an integral role in the natural processes. Chaparral evolved with fire, is adapted to fire, and requires fire for rejuvenation of the community.



rapid burning. As the individual plant matures, shading of lower branches results in many dead stems and small twigs which are retained on lower portions of the plant. A "laddering" of dead branches increases the porosity and fuel load of the standing biomass. In addition, highly flammable volatile terpenes are present in the leaves which also produces the aromatic character of the plant.

It has been shown that the leaves of chamise produce and accumulate water-soluble phenolic compounds during summer drought periods which inhibit the germination and growth of almost all species (including chamise) below the canopy. Fog and rain drip carry the compound to the soil where it persists as long as the shrub remains intact.

This characteristic, called allelopathy, leads to an

seed bed and allows normal germination with wet weather.

In other words, as chamise grows old it builds a highly flammable fuel loading to enhance the possibility of fire which it needs to renew itself. It is generally regarded as a climax vegetation type which requires fire to insure its own existence.

Buckbrush or wedge-leaf ceanothus does not sprout from root crowns but depends on fire to break the seed dormancy. As the stand ages and the plants become decadent and eventually die, there is no replacement without fire.

The frequency of fire in the chaparral ranges from once every five years in some areas of Southern California to once every 25-30 years in other types. Chaparral is considered old at 15-30 years and, beyond 30 years, decadent and senile.

## San Benito Burn Plan

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing a five-year prescribed burn plan for public lands in San Benito County.

Approximately 25,000 acres of public land have been identified as having excessive fuel hazards. Another 5,000 acres have been identified for wildlife habitat improvement burns on a 10 year rotational basis.

Within the limits of annual funding, one or two burns will be conducted each year. About 330 acres

in 20 separate small burns are planned each year for wildlife.

The only established wilderness area in the county is at Pinnacles National Monument. The Bureau of Land Management has designated some 6,500 acres of public land adjacent to Pinnacles as a Wilderness Study Area. The San Benito Mountain Natural Area (1,500 acres) also is designated as a Wilderness Study Area.





# Wilderness Wildlife

## Siskiyou Wildlife Depends on Old Growth

by Dennis Coules

The Siskiyou Mountains, found in extreme north-western California, may be the best remaining habitat for a large variety of wildlife species which live in the Klamath Mountains region of California. About 240,000 acres of the Siskiyou are still wild and roadless; this is the largest expanse of unprotected forested wilderness in California.



Spotted owl

Much of the Siskiyou's abundant wildlife is dependent on the extensive stands of old growth forest that still exist in the roadless area. The undisturbed nature of the watershed has also preserved excellent

stream spawning habitat for silver salmon, king salmon, and both summer and winter run steelhead trout.

Furbearers found in the Siskiyou include the marten, fisher, and wolverine. All three of these members of the weasel family, *Mustelidae*, prefer dense pine or fir forests in remote regions. The wolverine, first discovered to occur in the Siskiyou in 1966, is the rarest mammal in California.

Other mammals that are particularly dependent on mature, old growth stands include the northern flying squirrel and red tree mouse. The Siskiyou also support good populations of black bear, black-tailed deer, cougar, bobcat, ring-tailed cat, raccoon, and numerous squirrels, chipmunks, and bats.

Snags and rotten trees found in the Siskiyou's uncut forests are essential to many species of birds as nesting or feeding sites. In Siskiyou National Forest (which includes only a small portion of the roadless area but some similar habitats to the north), 41 species of birds have been identified as "totally or heavily dependent" on dead and decaying trees. These include owls, woodpeckers, hawks and eagles, chickadees, nuthatches, and bluebirds. Some birds of particular sensitivity are the bald eagle, spotted owl, and

pileated woodpecker.

A visitor to the Siskiyou, particularly at the lower elevations in summer, is likely to come across the northern Pacific rattlesnake, the only poisonous species in the humid Pacific North-

*Ascapus truei*, is the single North American species of its family. It lives in or near clear, cold, rocky streams and the tadpole may live in torrents by clinging to rocks with its large sucker-like mouth. The "tail" is a



Fisher

west region. Other snakes occurring here include terrestrial and aquatic garter snakes, Pacific gopher snake, common and mountain kingsnakes, rubber boa, ringneck, and racer.

Moist habitats or pools within the deep forest are the haunts of many secretive amphibians such as the Olympic and Pacific giant salamanders, yellow-blotched salamander, and red-legged frog. Newts are conspicuous in almost every pond along some Siskiyou trails, which they often share with Pacific treefrogs. The unique tailed frog,

copulatory organ of the male; this is the only family of frogs with internal fertilization.



Ring-tailed cat



Siskiyou

Photo by John Hart

### PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL

The diverse wildlife fauna that now inhabits the Siskiyou roadless area could not survive road-building and logging intact. Species dependent on old growth or clear streams would decrease or disappear. Yet of the 240,000 roadless and wild acres administered by

the Forest Service in the Siskiyou region, only 99,359 acres were recommended for wilderness designation. The rest will be roaded and logged if the Forest Service has its way.

The only hope for preservation of wildlife and other values in the Siskiyou now lies with Congress.

## Wildlife Notes

### BLACK TOAD PROTECTION

On January 24, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew proposals to list and designate Critical Habitat for nine fishes and one species of toad. The withdrawals are a result of failure to complete the listings within two years of the original proposal, which is required under 1978 amendments to the Endangered Species Act. These recent withdrawals are in addition to the withdrawal of proposals to list 1,876 plants and animals, as reported in the March-April *Wilderness Record*.

The Black toad, *Bufo exsul*, the only California species affected by the January withdrawal, is found only in and around Deep Springs and Antelope Springs in Deep Springs Valley, Inyo County. Its entire habitat comprises only a few acres.

In addition to this proposed withdrawal by the Fish and Wildlife Service, "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) status was also rejected for the Deep Springs toad habitat in the Draft California Desert Plan, leaving no official protection for this very rare amphibian.

Alturas in Modoc County, part of the bighorn's traditional range.

The DFG's original plan had been to capture 20 animals by baiting a trap with fermented apple pulp. When this effort failed, the DFG roundup crew used a helicopter and then a human line to force 14 sheep into a corral. Once inside, the frantic bighorn battered themselves bloody trying to escape. Four animals succeeded in leaping free.

The remaining sheep were hobbled, blindfolded, and carried downhill to be vaccinated and checked for disease. In less than fifteen minutes, 3 adult rams and 2 ewes were dead, a result of what was described as "capture stress syndrome."

California bighorn sheep, *Ovis canadensis californiana*, were once found in great numbers along the Pacific coast from southern California into Canada. Today California can only claim an estimated 350 sheep. The decline in the species resulted from over-hunting (now prohibited), introduced diseases, and competition with domestic and feral livestock. Bighorns are generally found only in remote areas and they avoid contact with man.

### BIGHORN SHEEP DIE DURING RELOCATION

A relocation attempt organized to thin a California herd of bighorn sheep in Lava Beds National Monument ended in tragedy February 19 when five of ten sheep herded into a pen died of exhaustion, fright, and hyperventilation.

A California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) veterinarian admitted afterward, "We just handled them too much, too long, and they can't take it."

The animals were to have been relocated to the South Warner Range, southeast of

### 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.

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The *Wilderness Record* is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Address all correspondence to:  
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# Mining

cont. from pg. 2

that reclamation has not been attempted in good faith; and (4) the regulations are not clear concerning the closure of uneconomical mines which are damaging natural resources.

In the final regulations for control of mining in areas under wilderness review, BLM made major changes from its interim management policy issued in December. A "grandfather clause" was liberalized: not only may existing mineral uses continue in the same manner and degree as before an area was designated for wilderness study, but also "logical expansion" from exploration to production will be allowed if the added impacts are not "significantly" different from those occurring October 21, 1976.

On April 24, a hearing on proposed regulations was held by House Subcommittee on Mines, chaired by mining industry supporter Rep. Jim Santini (D-Nev.). Only mining industry spokesmen testified at the hearing, expressing opposition to the concept of reclamation requirements and also to the even weaker Wilderness Study Area regulations.

The public comment

period on the proposed regulations is reported to have been extended to June 16. Copies of the draft EIS

can be obtained by calling John Moon, BLM at (916) 484-4515. More information can be obtained from the Coalition.



## Alpine Falls

Alpine Products, Inc., of West Sacramento has gone out of business. Alpine Products was a CWC business sponsor and was working with CWC Board member Bob Schneider on an ongoing fund-raising effort for the Coalition. The company was in the process of producing a daypack with a CWC patch and handbill, and \$1.00 from each pack sold was to be donated to

the Coalition. Although this is a blow to everyone who was working on it, the idea is still a valid one and the artwork for the patch and the handbill has already been done. The Coalition will approach other outdoor equipment manufacturers in the near future. If you know of a manufacturer who might be interested in such a venture, tell us about it.

# Election Returns

Conservationists in the 2nd Congressional district are happy that Norma Bork won the Democratic nomination in a four-way race. Ms. Bork received 42.6% of the vote; Brian Kahn was second with 37%. She will face incumbent Don H. Clausen in the November election.

Initiatives to ban the use of phenoxy herbicides in Humboldt and Del Norte counties lost. Humboldt's initiative lost by a margin of 22,948 to 18,639. "No" forces, guided by political consultants Slevin Brown Associates of San Francisco, used phone banks and mass-mailed brochures in the campaign's final days.

Of the "no" funds, \$35,127 came from Simpson Timber Co. and \$25,580 came from Louisiana Pacific Corp., both with large Humboldt County holdings.

Although they had less of a stake in the local initiative, Weyerhaeuser Corp. and Champion International contributed \$14,900 and \$10,000 respectively, choosing to "start fighting when Poland was attacked rather than fighting yourself," one

timber company source said.

Timber interests raised at least \$108,000 to beat the Humboldt measure, while proponents raised about \$20,585.

In Del Norte County, voters said no in an advisory question, 3,010 to 1,974, in which the Board of Supervisors asked if they should implement a ban on herbicide sprays. Voters also rejected, 2,992 to 1,886, an initiative ordinance which would have banned the sprays.

Two other advisory measures passed in Del Norte County. The first, asking for the completion of the U.S. Forest Service's Gasquet-Orleans (GO) road through the proposed Siskiyou wilderness, passed 3,923 to 978. The other, favoring a limit on the jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission to 500 feet inland, passed 4,065 to 755.

By a 2-1 margin western El Dorado County voters gave the go-ahead to the massive \$560 million water supply and hydroelectric project called SOFAR on the South Fork of the American River.

-from the Sacramento Bee

## CWC Business Sponsors

Like any citizen 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.

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(415) 421-2459

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4018 Rice St.  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

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1234 Fifth Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710

## CWC Member Groups

Two of our member groups were inadvertently omitted from last issue's list. Their addresses follow. Other addresses may be obtained from the Coalition.

**Mt. Shasta Resources Council**  
P.O. Box 829  
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067  
Mt. Shasta

**San Joaquin Wilderness Association**  
P.O. Box 5742  
Fresno, CA 93755

CWC Member Groups:

**American Alpine Club**

**Bay Chapter, Sierra Club**

**Butte Environmental Council**

**California Native Plant Society**

**Citizens to Save Our Public Lands**

**Citizens for Mojave National Park**

**Desert Protective Council**

**Earth Ecology Club**

**Ecology Center of So. California**

**Friends of the Earth**

**Friends of the River**

**Friends of the River Foundation**

**Golden Gate Environmental Law Society**

**Granite Chief Task Force**

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**Kern Plateau Association**

**Knapsack Section, Bay Chapter, Sierra Club**

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**Sinkyone Council**

**Siskiyou Mountains Resource Council**

**Sonoma County Ecology Center**

**South Fork Fish and Game**

**South Fork Trinity Watershed Association**

**South Fork Watershed Association**

**Trinity Alps Group**

**The Wilderness Group of Mendocino County**

**The Wilderness Society**

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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