



# Wilderness Record

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 6

P.O. Box 429, Davis, CA 95617

May-June 1981

No. 3

## Wilderness Act Under Fire

# Bill Would Increase Public Land Mining

The latest attack in a continuing barrage of anti-wilderness legislation in Congress was launched recently by Rep. James Santini (R-NV) in the form of a "National Mineral Security Act."

The bill, H.R. 3364, proposes to ease an alleged strain on the mineral industry and the nation's mineral supply by establishing mineral development and extraction as high-priority uses of the public lands.

Santini's proposal would, among other things, extend the deadline for staking new mining claims in Wilderness areas from 1984 to 1994. It would also grant the Secretary of the Interior sweeping discretionary authority to rescind withdrawals of any public lands from development consideration, including

national parks. This proposed authority could be used to override both congressional and presidential withdrawal orders.

The bill would additionally establish a publicly-financed mineral development lobby and relax pollution standards currently applied to the mineral industry.

Santini stressed his faith in the industry's claim that the nation faces a mineral shortage of crisis proportions as a result of exaggerated environmental concerns. He stated that, "We cannot afford to continue following the perilous path of indifference leading to a serious mineral calamity."

Conservationists have uniformly denounced Santini's bill as a thinly-veiled attack on existing land protection policy. A

Sierra Club spokesman charged, "Our opponents are trying to paint wilderness... as the villain responsible for supposed shortages of strategic minerals."

Opponents of the bill also claim that mineral development is a far more damaging example of an exclusionary single use of the public lands than is wilderness. They charge that the mineral industry has had sufficient time—20 years—in which to explore Wilderness areas for developmental potential, and that an extension of the claim-staking deadline is unnecessary.

Members of California's congressional delegation currently listed as co-sponsoring H.R. 3364 are Reps. Burgener, Clausen, Dornan, and Lagomarsino.

## Hearing Held on Hayakawa Bill

Amid proceedings that one observer described as resembling "a Roman circus," opposite sides on the wilderness question squared off before Senator Malcolm Wallop's (R-WY) Public Lands Subcommittee on April 22 and 23 to debate Sen. S.I. Hayakawa's (R-CA) anti-wilderness bill, S. 842.

S. 842 would place strict new deadlines on wilderness consideration for RARE II roadless areas, would forbid any court from reviewing the RARE II environmental impact statement, and would prohibit future consideration of National Forest lands for wilderness designation.

(RARE II is an acronym for the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process.)

Speaking against the bill, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Dr. Rupert Cutler denounced S. 842 as offensive to "conservationists and professional planners alike." If the bill passes, Cutler added, the wilderness option "is a dead duck."

Similar opposition to specific anti-forestry provisions of the Hayakawa bill was voiced by the

American Forestry Association.

Particularly upsetting to conservationists is S. 842's apparent rejection of the principles agreed upon in a compromise reached last year with the timber industry. One result of the agreement was "sufficiency" language, which among other things does not forever foreclose the possibility of wilderness designation for RARE II areas not included in state wilderness bills. Such language has been used in legislation affecting more than one-third of the nation's RARE II acreage.

Speakers testifying on behalf of timber and other development interest made few references to last year's compromise. Instead, they emphasized the delays caused by administrative appeals brought by environmentalists on certain timber sales, although most such sales are unaffected by the bill. Supporters of legislation also stressed the link between so-called "Reaganomics" and development of forest lands.

Many conservationists feel that the bill's

proponents have seriously overstated the negative economic impact of wilderness designation. As an example of this, the Sierra Club offered a recent excerpt from the *Forest Industry Affairs Letter* that praises the bill for recognizing priorities other than wilderness: "Priorities like the consumer's fading hopes of homeownership. Or slowing the 340% increase he's paid for gas since passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act."

According to Sierra Club representative Russ Shay, "Sam Hayakawa is really off-base on this one. The timber industry has gone crazy with greed, throwing out any pretense of compromise or concern for wilderness."

The hearings were scheduled on very short notice and were held during the Senate's Easter recess. As a result, no senators opposed to the bill were present, and the reception for conservationists was not warm.

One bright note for conservationists was the statement submitted by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA). Cranston announced his



Sierra Club President Joe Fontaine Addresses Conferees

Photo by Bill Hess

## Conference a Success

An enthusiastic crowd of 125 wilderness supporters and activists gathered in Kernville the weekend of May 8-10 to attend "South Sierra 2," the Wild Lands and Waters Confluence. Wilderness and river issues of the Kern Plateau, Southern Sierra, and California Desert were the prime focuses of the conference.

Sierra Club President Joe Fontaine gave the keynote address, urging those present to join the campaign to dump Interior Secretary James Watt. Fontaine reported that in the first weeks of the petition drive to remove Watt, signatures are arriving at the rate of 5,000 per day. Many local residents gave presentations and led

panels. Photographer Bev Steveson showed slides of the areas discussed at the conference with a special section on the Desert Tortoise Preserve. Evening feature programs were "Ecological Islands in the Kern Watershed" by Sequoia National Forest Botanist James Shevock and "Butterflies of the Southern Sierra" by Phil Nordin. All the slide presentations featured excellent photographs with informative narratives.

Talks on local preservation of wild lands were made by Gene Tackett, Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors and Rick Hewett of the Nature Conservancy.

Panel participants included Jim Dodson from the Desert Protective Council, Russ Shay of the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition Executive Director Jim Eaton, and Friends of the River staff members Mark Dubois, Betty Andrews, and Monica Larenas.

Long-time activist Ardis Walker talked about the Kern Plateau and read selections of his poetry. Walker presented awards to several local wilderness supporters.

Other features of the conference included drawings for numerous gifts, and art auction, and many information tables set up by state and local groups. Early risers were treated to a bird walk through the riparian forest along the Kern River led by Coalition President Bob Barnes.

Conference organizers Dave Brown and Mike Henstra announced a special fall workshop for activists to plan strategy for saving the region's wild lands and waters. The date will be set this summer.



Public Lands Panel

Photo by Bill Hess

firm opposition to S. 842, stating his plans to work toward a balanced California wilderness bill and a state-by-state approach to wilderness legislation.

Raising the threat of filibuster, Cranston said committee approval of Hayakawa's measure could trigger "protracted" floor debate and lead to a legislative stalemate.

Sen. Wallop has promised to hold additional hearings on S. 842. In addition, the bill will undergo public hearings before the Senate Agriculture Committee. As we go to press, firm dates have not been set for either hearing.

## Weaverville Hearing Update

As we go to press, the May 22 hearing in Weaverville on Rep. Phillip Burton's California wilderness bill, H.R. 859, is imminent. Two logistical changes have been made: the hearing will be held at the Weaverville High School gymnasium, rather than at the Weaverville Elementary School, and the starting time has been changed to 9 a.m. from 10 a.m.



# Coalition Report

By Jim Eaton

We welcome two new business sponsors to the California Wilderness Coalition this month. Siskiyou Forestry Consultants of Arcata and Baldwins' Forestry Services of Douglas City are our newest sponsors.

Our member groups are increasing as well. The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County and Sierra Treks, a backpacking group of the Mt. Hermon Association, have joined the Coalition. Addresses for these organizational and sponsor members are on the back page.

Coalition President Bob Barnes has expanded the CWC's facilities by opening our Porterville office. Bob plans to tap a reservoir of volunteer help in his area, so you may receive future mailings from the Coalition with a San Joaquin Valley postmark. The address of this satellite office is P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258.

We hope you have received our fund appeal letter from David Brower, Joe Fontaine, and Mike McCloskey by now. At the time of this writing we still are debating whether or not to send it first class (at an additional \$100 in postage) or by bulk mail. We have a few more days to decide as we wade through the morass of postal regulations governing business reply mail. I would like to share with you some of our thinking regarding the fund appeal and our mailing procedures.

The California Wilderness Coalition needs several thousand dollars to get us through the summer. Our

income is lowest during the summer months, and we are headed into Summer 1981 without a cash reserve. This is complicated by a necessary office move - a neighboring business is gobbling our windowless cave - with commercial space hard to find in Davis. The expense of moving was not anticipated and will fall during our lean months.

By laying off our staff we can probably limp through the summer, producing the *Wilderness Record*, mailing alerts, and expanding our membership. But we would not have the hired guns to get into the crucial issues that are before us right now.

For example, the congressional hearing on more than two million acres of proposed wilderness in California's national forests is just the beginning of the political process for these areas. Boundary adjustments, committee markup, and possible Senate hearings will follow during the next few months. This will also be the prime time for fighting Senator Hayakawa's log-the-wilderness bill.

Also, we just learned today that the Bureau of Land Management has been ordered to prepare legislation that will release for development more than 3.7 million acres of wilderness study areas in the California Desert. August is the target date for completion of this document. Like the Hayakawa bill, this effort would foreclose the wilderness option on millions of acres of wild land without designating a single acre of wilderness.

This is why we are asking you to search hard for a few extra dollars to help us continue to work hard to save California's wilderness. We use money wisely here; most of our work is done by dedicated volunteers. But it does take money to maintain an office, pay the phone bill, buy the stamps, and keep our staff of two. Please do what you can to help us through the summer.

Which brings us to the postage issue. Our change in tax status this year allows us to use special third class rates for non-profit organizations. This will save us hundreds of dollars this year for mailing the *Wilderness Record* alone. In addition, we have experimented in mailing some letters and alerts by "snail mail." The wilderness alert is a good example; we sent this out almost a month before the deadline for letters. But it took 28 days for some of these alerts to work their way from Davis to the Bay Area!

In the future, we will be sending most alerts and other "timely" mail by first class. But to cut costs, issues with long lead times may come out under our bulk permit; we will try to cut delivery times by mailing to Southern California members from our Porterville office. Thank you for your support. As you go hiking this summer, or raft a river, or just read about California's wild lands and waters, we hope you will think about what the Coalition is doing to keep these places wild. Your contribution will keep us on the job.

## Mono Lake Field Trips

The Mono Lake Committee, a Coalition member group, has announced plans to conduct free half-day field trips in the Mono Basin from June 13 to September 13. The committee hopes that a day exploring the geology, botany, zoology, and human history of the basin will demonstrate first-hand how water diversions are affecting the area, which is considered by some to be an "irreplaceable natural treasure."

Interested individuals should meet on Saturdays and Sundays at the Mono Lake County Park, five miles north of Lee Vining on U.S. 395 at 9 a.m., or carpool from the Information



Center in Lee Vining at 8:30 a.m.

Participants should bring clothing for any kind of weather, hats sunscreen, sunglasses, swimsuits, towels, fresh water, lunch, and walking shoes that can get wet. All ages are welcome.

Those planning to stay overnight in the area (trips will conclude around 2 p.m.) may find accommodations at motels in Lee Vining and June Lake. Forest Service campgrounds are situated in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons.

For further information, contact the Committee at (714) 647-6386, or write to: Mono Lake Field Trips, P.O. Box 26, Lee Vining, CA 93541.



## Coalition in Action

Much of the recent activity of the Coalition involved the May 22nd Congressional hearing in Weaverville on the national forest wilderness bills. Our wilderness alert on this issue went to our entire membership, and a media advisory was issued to newspapers and radio and television stations throughout the state. The Coalition and many of its member groups will be attending the

hearing.

We were a cosponsor of the Kernville wilderness conference on May 8-10. Newsletters and other information were distributed at a table there. Advisory Committee members David Gaines (Mono Lake Committee) and Joe Fontaine (Sierra Club) gave presentations along with Coalition President Bob Barnes and Executive Director Jim Eaton.

In addition, Jim Eaton travelled to Sonoma State University to speak with an environmental studies class

on wilderness and meet with local activists. He also made a journey to Chico and Quincy; in the latter city he debated on radio with a local planner on the Sagebrush Rebellion and met with members of Friends of Plumas Wilderness, a group concentrating on the Bucks Lake roadless area.

Program Coordinator Archie Douglas organized a Coalition table at the Whole Earth Festival in Davis. Our thanks to Kris Baldwin, Dennis Coules, and Beth Newman for sitting at the table.

## Kern River Preserve Purchased

1500 acres of the lush and scenic South Fork of the Kern River has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy, a national nonprofit conservation organization. Located adjacent to Lake Isabella, 600 acres of this \$2.5 million purchase includes some of the best examples of California's bottomland riparian forest, one of the state's most diminished ecosystems.

The preserve lies within the South Fork river valley of Kern County, about 60 miles east of Bakersfield. Elevation is moderate, ranging from 2620 feet to 2671 feet. The South Fork flows through the property from east to west. It is on these rich alluvial soils with the accompanying high water table that a dense growth of trees and shrubs is supported.

John Muir once described California's riparian

woodlands as "forests of tropical luxuriance." In Muir's day, and as early as the state's settlement boom in 1848, an estimated 800,000 acres of these rich and verdant forests abounded throughout California. Today, only 12,000 acres remain.

The South Fork's dramatic forest of lush, broad-leaved and deciduous trees, contains some of the best examples of native cottonwoods and willows in California. According to Steve McCormick of the Conservancy, "The area is truly unique. There is simply no other place like it in the state." McCormick went on to say that the Conservancy hopes to ensure preservation of the area by acquiring additional acreage in the future. All the area surrounding the preserve is privately owned, but the Army Corps of Engineers has dedicated its

South Fork Wildlife Area a mile west of the preserve.

The fertile valley of the South Fork has long been an attraction for humans. Indians of the Tubatulal tribe roamed the valley for centuries prior to the arrival of white settlers around 1850. Many mining camps dotted the hillsides and the valley floor was given over to cattle grazing, hay growing, and a variety of agricultural activities. A unique flour mill, built in the 1870's, stands as mute testimony to the pioneer industry of A. Brown, original owner of the property.

Wildlife in the preserve is both varied and abundant. Most notable among the 50 species of birds which make up this exceptional collection, is a substantial breeding population of the rare Yellow-billed cuckoo. Wood ducks, Red-shouldered hawks, Yellow-

breasted chats, Blue Grosbeaks, and Great Blue Herons are among declining North American species which have been seen frequently along the South Fork. Beaver, opossum, coyote, deer, ringtailed cat, muledeer, and river otter are also common.

The Conservancy will manage the South Fork of the Kern as a private nature sanctuary. A resident preserve manager has been hired to coordinate protection activities on the property, and the preserve will be open to the public on a limited basis. The South Fork will become part of a network of over 700 preserves nationwide.

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, whose resources are devoted to the protection of threatened land and endangered species.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Sketch by Dave Winkler



# Wilderness Wildlife

## Bigfoot

By Dennis Coules



If the elusive ape known as "bigfoot" actually exists anywhere, one of the most likely spots is in the remote Siskiyou Mountains of the extreme northwest corner of California. It was at Bluff Creek, a portion of the Klamath River watershed in Humboldt County, where the term "bigfoot" actually originated. Although the giant 16-inch footprints that kept appearing on the newly constructed logging road along Bluff Creek in 1958 were not the first ever seen, they were the first extensively publicized. It was also at Bluff Creek, in 1967, that the famous Roger Patterson film of what was purported to be a walking female bigfoot was taken.

Another name often used for this creature is sasquatch, of Indian origin. The great taxonomist Karl Linnaeus, who created the system of binomial nomenclature to describe species, actually used the name *Homo troglodytes* in his *Systema Natural* for creatures which resembled man physically but were hairy and lacked man's power of speech.

It is beyond the scope of this article to consider whether bigfoot actually exists, an endless controversy which may never cease unless a specimen is actually examined. However, given the many records of sightings and/or tracks, whether real, imagined, or fraudulent, several generalizations can be made about bigfoot's characteristics, habits, and geographical distribution. John Green, in his excellent compendium of bigfoot records entitled *Sasquatch, The Apes Among Us* (Hancock House 1978, 492 pp.) provides the data necessary for these observations.

### DESCRIPTION

The average height of sasquatches reported in California is 8.21 feet. The range of height reports over all of North America is from 4 to 14 feet, but only 4% of

body is covered with hair except for the face, the neck is very short, the ears small, and face flat with a large flat nose. The characteristic that identifies it as bigfoot, is of course the habit of walking upright.

Herman

By Unger



"Not a lot of clues, Chief! We found one footprint."

estimates have been over 10 feet. 62% of track reports for the California population are between 15 to 16 inches in length. Most sasquatches are reported to have dark hair, although some are light brown, silver-tipped or white. Many night sightings report that bigfoot's eyes reflect light as do those of many nocturnal mammals—a function of choroid layers in the eyes that increase sensitivity to dim light.

The creature is most often reported as having a very heavy build, most resembling that of a gorilla. The

### ZOOGEOGRAPHY

The sasquatch phenomenon is by no means limited to the humid west coast forest, although reports have been most numerous in California, Washington, British Columbia and Oregon (in that order). Reports are also strung out throughout the midwest and east coast, with a large concentration in southern and central Florida. However, sasquatches have rarely been reported in areas without forest cover, and their distribution corresponds well with a

map of 20 inches minimum annual precipitation. Thus most portions of Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado are virtually devoid of sightings despite the presence of forested, mountainous terrain.

In California the vast majority of reports have originated from the wet forests of the northwest corner, with some strung out in the northern Sierra as far south as Yosemite National Park and 3 reports near Lake Isabella. Surprisingly, over 30 separate reports are from the relatively dry San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains close to Los Angeles. Of course these mountains are heavily visited, which would increase the chances of a human-bigfoot encounter.

Reports and legends from other continents in the north temperate zone also refer to non-human bipedal primates. These include the abominable snowman or yeti of Tibet (which, however is smaller and less erect than our bigfoot), the almas of the Soviet Union, and wild men of European stories from the Middle Ages. Other unknown bipeds have been reported from South America, Africa, and South Asia.

Green speculates that bigfoot may be a modern-day representative of the fossil genus *Gigantopithecus*. This species could have been spread from its point of origin in China or India up the montane forest causeway which extends from Szechuan through Manchuria into the eastern part of Siberia. From there, it may have crossed the Bering Strait land bridge into North America during the Pleistocene glaciation.

Humans used the same land bridge to colonize North America from Asia about 26,000 years ago, and several other species also utilized it.

Indian legends throughout Canada and the United States refer to sasquatches or giant hairy men, some of which were supposed to have lived at a former time and others to be still in existence.

### BIGFOOT BIOLOGY

Although observations of sasquatches feeding have been very few, they appear to be quite omnivorous. Berries, clams, small rodents, leaves, fish, aquatic plants, corn, livestock and garbage have been reported as being eaten. Several reports exist of bigfoot picking up a freshly shot or road-killed deer, tucking it under one arm and running away. One person reported watching a group of 3 sasquatches picking up large rocks and smelling them. He watched them eat the rodents that were thus uncovered like "a person eating a banana, except without peeling them." This was apparently a family group, with a male, female and smaller individual who seemed afraid of the male, always keeping on the other side of the female.

Some Indian legends hold that sasquatch was an eater of human flesh, particularly the population at Mount St. Helens, which caused this mountain to be avoided by the local people. There are no modern reports of this behavior, however. Spokane Indians complained that the creatures stole salmon from their nets, and sasquatches were seen on

more than a dozen occasions during a big run of sockeye salmon on the Nooksack River in Washington. A few reports exist of bigfoot swimming.

A number of sounds are associated with this creature, particularly high-pitched screams. One individual that was apparently startled when it spilled some hot tea on itself when raiding an occupied camp in the Sierra Nevada released a torrent of grunts, moans, snarls, snorts, tooth-popping and chest-beating.

There is no evidence that bigfoot normally associates in groups other than immediate family units.

### RELATIONS WITH MAN

Judging from the reports that have been accumulated, bigfoot has a lot more to fear from man than vice versa. Of 72 reports of bigfoot-human encounters where the creature appeared to notice the human observer, 20 fled, 14 approached closer, 22 watched the human and 11 avoided him. None attacked. However, there are several reports of humans shooting sasquatches, although no bodies have been recovered that ever reached scientists.

By far the greatest threat to sasquatch is the penetration of humanity into its once securely remote forest habitat. Many of the Florida sightings were in areas that are now in the middle of suburban subdivisions. Bluff Creek and vicinity is on US Forest Service land that was thoroughly logged-over after the many tracks were found in the 1950-60's. Just north what is perhaps the best remaining sasquatch habitat in California—the deep coniferous forests of the Siskiyou roadless area—is slated for rapid and massive clearcutting by the US Forest Service, despite public opposition to the destruction of this magnificent wilderness area. So, the outlook is no better for bigfoot than it is for many species that are not pre-adapted to survive under greatly disturbed conditions. If sasquatch does exist, it may conceivably disappear without ever being known to science.

## California Wilderness Coalition

Editor  
Jim Eaton

Contributors  
Dennis Coules  
Archie Douglas  
Jim Eaton  
John Hooper

Production  
Archie Douglas  
Fred Gunsky

Distribution  
Tony Dirksen  
Jennifer Pullen  
Steve Evans

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.

### Advisory Committee

Harriet Allen  
David R. Brower  
Joseph Fontaine  
David Gaines  
Phillip Hyde  
Norman B. Livermore, Jr.  
Michael McCloskey  
Nancy S. Pearlman  
Raymond J. Sherwin  
Thomas Winnett

### Board of Directors

President - Bob Barnes  
Vice President - Bob Schneider  
Secretary - Steve Evans  
Treasurer - Wendy Cohen  
Director - Beth Newman  
Director - Richard Spotts  
Director - John Hooper

Executive Director -  
Jim Eaton

Program Coordinator -  
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 used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.



# Comments on San Rafael Wilderness Management

In an attempt to determine "the direction management should proceed" in the San Rafael Wilderness, the Los Padres National Forest has released a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) of management proposals for the area. While generally pleased with the document, conservationists have complained that the U.S. Forest Service continues to place excessive emphasis on human uses of Wilderness Areas rather than concentrating on resource capacity.

Archie Douglas, who developed the California Wilderness Coalition's response to the DEA, felt that in most cases the document "represents a sincere effort by the Forest Service to consider the entire range of alternatives available." However, Douglas also noted the Coalition's strong objections to the Forest Service's failure to mention the California condor, a species known to rely on parts of the San Rafael Wilderness for breeding. The endangered status of the condor has been widely publicized.

Noting that one of the two administratively-designated Condor Sanctuaries in the United States is in the San Rafael Wilderness, the Coalition criticized the Forest Service for avoiding the issue of how to protect the birds

and their habitat. In its comments, the Coalition declared that the Forest Service has "a responsibility to manage the San Rafael Wilderness in such a manner as to protect, if not improve, the condor's chances of survival." The Coalition urged that efforts to protect condor habitat in the San Rafael Wilderness be intensified by the Forest Service, so as to enhance the birds' chances of successful breeding.

An aspect of the DEA that the Coalition and other conservationists found disturbing was the Forest Service's alleged "consistent misinterpretation" of the general guidelines for wilderness management established by the 1964 Wilderness Act, with specific regard to the controversial subject of prescribed burning—the deliberate application of fire to certain areas for any of a variety of purposes.

The DEA notes that, at present, prescribed burning is not permitted in the San Rafael Wilderness, stating that any change in this policy would have to be approved by Congress. The Coalition points out in its comments that the Wilderness Act states clearly that "such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire" in designated Wilderness Areas. Conservationists feel that this language confers upon the Forest Service and

other federal agencies the right to implement prescribed burning in Wilderness, particularly where such burning prevents dangerous levels of fuel from building up, or in areas where wildfire is an essential element of the ecosystem, as it is in the chaparral communities so prevalent in the San Rafael Wilderness.

The Coalition urged the Forest Service to consider prescribed burning wherever its use would be "consistent with maintenance of wilderness values." Prescribed burning should not be implemented, according to the Coalition, for "non-wilderness purposes, such as the clearing of land to facilitate livestock grazing."

The DEA also considers alternative methods of fire suppression in the San Rafael Wilderness, proposing a range of management possibilities from allowing all fires to burn anywhere in the Wilderness to using helicopters, heli-torches (to start backfires), and heavy mechanical equipment. Indicating its belief that this section of the DEA is "moot," due to the Wilderness Act's guidelines on fires in Wilderness Areas, the Coalition mentioned several ways in which it felt fire suppression might be best practiced.

In general, Coalition recommendations urged

the Forest Service's adoption of the so-called "minimum tool" philosophy. This policy calls for the use of tools that, "while capable of suppressing the fire, inflict the minimum impact upon resources of all the tools available." Thus, the Coalition recommended the use of whatever tools might be deemed necessary to prevent a fire in the San Rafael Wilderness, man-made or natural, from endangering lands and other property beyond the wilderness boundary.

In addition, the Coalition supported a management alternative proposing to limit efforts at suppression of both man and naturally caused fires to the edge of the Wilderness, "in conditions that do not present significant danger of allowing the fire to become uncontrollable." The Coalition also stated its position that all fires should

be treated on a case by case basis by the Forest Service, so as to prevent excessive resource damage as a result of over-zealous fire suppression techniques or the development of an uncontrollable fire posing serious threats to non-wilderness land.

A third subject considered in the DEA that conservationists point to as indicative of the Forest Service's misreading of the Wilderness Act is the agency's concern over providing solitude to Wilderness users. The Coalition asserts in its comments that the Forest Service is not required by the Wilderness Act to ensure solitude, nor should it.

The Wilderness Act states that a Wilderness must provide "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." While conced-

ing that solitude may be a desirable aspect of the wilderness experience to some users, the Coalition attacked the DEA's inference that future restrictions on visitor use might be imposed in parts of the Wilderness in order to maintain "opportunities for solitude."

Pointing out that it supports any effort aimed at protecting wilderness, the Coalition commented that it finds quota systems acceptable in many cases, but not where they exist to ensure solitude. "The only factor which should be examined to determine the level of human use sustainable" in the Wilderness, according to the Coalition, is that of resource capacity. Solitude is not a resource."

No date has been announced for release of the final Environmental Assessment of the Wilderness Management Plan.

## CWC Member Groups

Our newest group members:

**Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County**  
905 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Sierra Treks**  
Mt. Hermon Association, Inc.  
Mt. Hermon, CA 95041

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**

**Concerned Citizens of Calaveras County**

**Defenders of Wildlife**

**Desert Protective Council**

**Earth Ecology Club**

**Ecology Center of So. California**

**Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County**

**Friends of the Earth**

**Friends of the River**

**Friends of the River Foundation**

**Golden Gate Environmental Law Society**

**Granite Chief Task Force**

**Greenpeace**

**Ishi Task Force**

**Island Foundation**

**Kern Plateau Association**

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

**Lake Tahoe Audubon Society**

**Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club**

**Mendocino Environment Center**

**Mono Lake Committee**

**Mt. Shasta Audubon Society**

**Mt. Shasta Resources Council**

**NCRCC Sierra Club**

**Northcoast Environmental Center**

**Northeast Californians for Wilderness**

**Northstate Wilderness Committee**

**The Red Mountain Association**

**Salmon Trollers Marketing Association**

**San Joaquin Institute for Environmental Action**

**San Joaquin Wilderness Association**

**Sierra Association for Environment**

**Sierra Treks**

**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**

## 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.

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

**Ace Family Hardware-Kauai**  
4018 Rice St.  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

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

**Baldwin's Forestry Services**  
P.O. Box 22  
Douglas City, CA 96024

**Daybell Nursery**  
55 N.E. Street  
Porterville, CA 93257  
(209) 781-5126

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

**Earth Integral, Inc.**  
2655 Portage Bay Ave.  
Davis, CA 95616  
(916) 756-9300

**Four Seasons Sports**  
410 Redwood  
Oakland, CA 94619

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

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

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

**The North Face**  
1234 Fifth Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(415) 548-1371

**San Francisco Travel Service**  
728 Montgomery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 991-6640

**Bob Schneider, Contractor**  
Solar Homes  
2402 Westemess Road  
Davis, CA 95616  
(916) 758-4315

**Siskiyou Forestry Consultants**  
P.O. Box 241  
Arcata, CA 95521

**Ski Hut**  
1615 University Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(415) 843-6505

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

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

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

**Zoo-Ink Screen Print**  
2415 Third St., No. 270  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
(415) 863-1207

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

ANNUAL DUES:†

☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$ 10

Low-income individual 5

Patron 500

Non-profit organization 30

Sponsor (business) 30

† tax deductible