



WORDS OF *the* WILD

Vol. XXI, No. 2 August 2018

Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee

Northwest California Wilderness Bill Introduced

Jared Huffman's Mountains & Rivers legislation is now HR 6596

-- by Victoria Brandon



photo: Office of Rep Jared Huffman

Northwest California mountains and rivers

Wilderness areas, establishing eight new ones, (see listing, p 2) and designating nearly 400 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, the bill contains provisions to restore national forests and fish habitat, stimulate local economies through forest stewardship programs,

enhance recreational

opportunities, and reduce fire danger. The legislation would not limit hunting or fishing, close any legally open roads or trails to vehicles, or affect access to or the use of private property.

As he introduced the bill, Congressman Huffman stated: "From the majestic Smith River to the ancient redwoods and old-growth forests, and the rugged mountains in between, our public lands are worth protecting and restoring for future generations to enjoy. Today, some of these landscapes are not fully protected, and others are not managed to their full potential: we can do more to ensure fire resilience, support healthy wildlife, and spur outdoor recreation. After hearing from countless constituents and stakeholders on my draft legislation to address these issues, I'm introducing the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act, a carefully developed bill to protect the communities and lands we value the most. I'm grateful for all the constituents who took the time to share their thoughts and innovative ideas, which ultimately shaped the bill I introduced today."

Now that the long anticipated HR 6596 has been introduced, the Sierra Club's national wildlands team can evaluate its provisions and recommend an official Club position.

To learn more about bill specifics and see detailed maps, visit <https://mountainsandrivers.org>.

(Victoria Brandon is Redwood Chapter Chair and Chapter Wilderness Chair.)



At last, on

July 26, 2018, after more than five years of stakeholder consultation, revisions, more consultation, and more revisions, Congressman Jared Huffman's (D-CA2) long-awaited public lands bill was introduced in Congress. (full text at <https://huffman.house.gov/rep-huffman-introduces-northwest-california-wilderness-recreation-and-working-forests-act>)

HR 6596, the "Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act," is very similar to the proposed Mountains and Rivers legislation that this newsletter has discussed. (see WOW, April 2018, April 2015) Besides expanding nine existing

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Conglomerate Mesa —still at risk following a real--but momentary--victory

-- by Fran Hunt

Words of the Wild has followed Sierra Club's efforts with our allies to oppose the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) May 16 decision approving drilling for gold exploration at Conglomerate Mesa near Death Valley National Park. A mining company, Silver Standard Resources (SSR Inc.), had proposed to drill 1,000 feet down into Conglomerate Mesa at seven locations to collect samples to analyze for gold. Our allies and we understand that gold exploration and mining at Conglomerate Mesa would endanger the area's recreation and tourism-based economy, unique cultural resources, delicate water supply, and other important values. (See WOW, Dec 2017)

On June 15, SSR Inc. withdrew its application to explore for gold at the mesa. Apparently – a victory for the Conglomerate Mesa's wildness? But the BLM has since informed us that the agency has granted a new potential replacement company 60 days to complete the required formalities to transfer drilling authorization to themselves to take over the project. It's rare for the BLM to allow an approved project to be transferred to someone new, and there are many unanswered questions about the BLM's decision making process. Conglomerate Mesa is not yet out of danger.

That same June day, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Inyo, CalWild, the California Native Plant Society, The Wilderness Society, and the Center for Biological Diversity delivered a letter to BLM State Director Jerry Perez in Sacramento asking him to review and stay this ill-advised project.

Our June 15 letter to the BLM outlined the agency's failure to carefully study and consider the project's potential impacts to critical ground and surface waters, and to the region's renowned scenic values and all-to rare dark night skies. The BLM had, for example, offered no analysis of how the mesa's groundwater supplies

might be affected by deep exploratory drilling using unidentified drilling chemicals. The BLM also failed to provide legally required monitoring and protections for rare plants.

Sierra Club and our allies will continue to oppose vigorously any exploration for toxic-laden open

photo: Tom Budlong



On Conglomerate Mesa

pit cyanide heap leach mining in this special and culturally rich natural area. The drilling project BLM approved would create dust and noise disturbance to visitors and wildlife, impact dark skies with 24/7 lights, and deplete scarce water sources. An actual mine would permanently and irreparably scar the area.

As Kathy Bancroft, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, makes clear: "Conglomerate Mesa is our ancestral homeland. We will oppose any company that tries to take over this project. Exploration is the first step to destructive industrial-scale open pit mining. We remain united as a community in stopping any effort to damage this significant cultural area."

"Conglomerate Mesa cannot be considered 'safe' while it is in limbo," said Jora Fogg, Policy Director of Friends of the Inyo. "The local constituency for protecting our public lands, scarce water supplies, and rural quality of life is strong in opposition to this project."

In addition to protecting the mesa's remarkable views, cultural values, and diverse plant and

animal life, safeguarding Conglomerate Mesa is essential to preserving Inyo County's robust outdoor recreation economy - the economic engine of the Eastern Sierra.

While Friends of the Inyo, the Sierra Club and their many allies and volunteers are happy to see SSR Mining, a large and well-funded international company, leave Conglomerate Mesa, we recognize that the fight won't end until these lands receive permanent protection.

"Conglomerate Mesa will not be fully safe until it is permanently protected from the threat of industrial-scale open pit mining," said Lynn Boulton, Chair of the Sierra Club's Range of Light Group. "Our most valuable 'gold' is not in the ground - it is the healthy environment and stunning natural scenery that fuel our

local economy, our outdoor recreation opportunities, and our overall quality of life in the Eastern Sierra."

-- Fran Hunt is Sierra Club's Eastern Sierra organizer; this article is adapted from her Inyo Forest News, July 2018) ♪

Wilderness Areas in NW CA bill, HR 6596:

New Areas to be designated:

Black Butte River Wilderness.— 11,117 acres,
Chinquapin Wilderness.— 26,890 acres,
English Ridge Wilderness.— 6,204 acres,
Headwaters Forest Wilderness.— 4,360 acres,
Mad River Buttes Wilderness.— 6,002 acres,
Pattison Wilderness.— 28,595 acres,
South Fork Trinity River Wilderness.— 26,446 acres,
Underwood Wilderness.— 15,127 acres.

Wilderness Additions:

Chancelulla Wilderness Additions.— 6,212 acres;
Mount Lassic Wilderness Addition.— 1,292 acres;
North Fork Eel Wilderness Addition.— 17,182 acres;
Sanhedrin Wilderness Addition.— 112 acres;
Siskiyou Wilderness Addition.— 27,747 acres;
South Fork Eel River Wilderness Addition.— 313 acres;
Trinity Alps Wilderness Addition.— 62,695 acres;
Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Addition.— 10,729 acres,
Yuki Wilderness Addition.— 10,866 acres. ♪

Introducing new Wilderness co-chair Sandra Cattell

-- by Anne Henny

Northern Co-Chair, CA/NV Wilderness

A big welcome to Sandra Cattell, new southern region co-chair for our California/Nevada Wilderness Committee. Sandra brings a wealth of Sierra Club leadership experience and a powerful commitment to making our committee ever more effective and inclusive. I asked her how she got started in wilderness and where she wants to help lead our committee:

Where did your passion for nature and the environment come from?

I have always loved the wild spaces; however, the passion began on a trip to Lake Tahoe as a young girl. I can still almost smell and taste the air, horseback riding through the pine forest, looking down on the glistening lake. I think that's what truly hooked me!

How did you get involved in wilderness?

I hiked and backpacked as a young woman, mostly in the Sierra Nevada, the Los Padres and Angeles Forests, and the Santa Monica Mountains, and pretty much wherever I visited. When I moved to Santa Clarita 39 years ago, I joined a group of activists wanting to stop a dump in Elsmere Canyon, the historic Native American route between the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Later, a Sierra Club friend asked me to help stop a poorly conceived development not far from there, in Newhall Pass, that would impact the wildlife corridor between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Santa Susana Mountains. Both areas were saved, and are now preserved in perpetuity as Santa Clarita Open Spaces. I also worked to stop a 56-million-ton sand and gravel mine on the east side of the city, between homes and the Santa Clara River. For that I worked with my Congressional Representative and the City of Santa Clarita, and that is how I met and first worked with the Sierra Club Wildlands Team and Legislative staff. I also worked on the Save Open

Space campaign that successfully created a benefit district, whereby residents tax themselves to purchase open space (over 8,000 acres to date), and am currently on the Open Space Audit and Accountability Panel for the City of Santa Clarita, working to ensure the funds are spent prudently.

Why do you do it?

My love and then passion has turned me into an activist. We need to preserve our open spaces not just for people to enjoy, but for the benefit of our planet. We must ensure the survival of the many species of flora and fauna by protecting and preserving their environments. We must recognize that our open spaces, wildlands and oceans are the lungs of our planet, sequestering carbon, and producing oxygen. We must not stop there, but green our cities and suburbs, become better stewards of our food producing lands, protect our air and water, and promote renewables that will help get us off fossil fuels without destroying our open spaces.



Sandra Cattell at Devil's Punchbowl, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Why do you want to be co-chair for the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee?

The old adage, "to change everything you need everyone", comes to mind, but given as that might not be possible, I would like to see this become an active, engaging team. To do this, I would like to see at least one liaison from every chapter,

forming an actual committee, and to have meetings to address the environmental attacks on our Wilderness and Monuments. This committee could also be a resource for the members. I would like to explore solutions to getting under-served populations into our mountains and into our organization.

Thanks, Sandra! And great thanks to Jim Hines for his service as southern co-chair; he keeps on with Los Padres Chapter and wildlife leadership.

Sandra Cattell is the chair of the Santa Clarita Group, Angeles Chapter, and serves on the Angeles Chapter Political and Conservation Committees as well as the Chapter Executive Committee. She is also on the California State Political Committee and the National Wildlands and Wilderness Team. She has received the Weldon Heald Award, which is the highest Conservation Award of the Angeles Chapter, as well as Commendation from the City of Santa Clarita. ∞

Mono Basin Sage Grouse could still get protection

In May, a U.S. district court ruled that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wrongly denied Endangered Species Act protection to the bi-state sage grouse in the Mono Basin border area between California and Nevada. (see WOW, Dec. 2013).

In 2013 the agency had proposed listing the bi-state "distinct population segment" of sage grouse as threatened, but they backed down in 2015, finding--without justification-- that the bird did not warrant federal protection. After conservation groups sued, the court has now required reconsideration. The genetically isolated Mono Basin sage grouse face severe problems--from heavy livestock grazing to cheatgrass invasion to mining and energy development, plus urban encroachment--that result in habitat loss. Sage grouse populations west-wide have significantly declined from vast abundance.

Castle Crags has new Access

The Castle Crags project of the Wilderness Land Trust has crossed the finish line.

In July, the alliance between the Trust, three timber companies, the climbing community and the Forest Service resulted in permanent protection of the beloved Castle Crags area in northern California, a rock climbing destination, wildlife habitat, and important water source for California residents.

The Wilderness Land Trust purchased two square miles of land adjacent to the Castle Crags State Park and Federal Wilderness from Roseburg Forest Products. This acquisition allowed the transfer of more than 1,250 acres to the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Funding for the transaction was provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, along with the Access Fund Climbing Conservation Loan Program, The Conservation Alliance, and conservation community donors.

Eagles and other raptors frequently soar through the Crags, which contain world-class climbing opportunities. In the forest surrounding the Crags, almost 1,000 acres of mature timber also now stand protected. The area features stunning views of Mount Shasta and Mount Lassen. Little Castle Creek provides spawning habitat for trout and fishing opportunities; it flows to the Sacramento River, providing clean water throughout California via the Sacramento River Delta. ∞
(from The Wilderness Land Trust--<https://wildernesslandtrust.org/>)

photo: The Wilderness Land Trust



Castle Crags newly reachable

Ski Gondola within Granite Chief Wilderness (?)

-- by John Moore

The Granite Chief Wilderness (GCW), northwest of Lake Tahoe and immediately west of the Sierra Crest, was designated in the 1984 California Wilderness Act – victory after a 25-year campaign. Virgin forests, rugged peaks, 11 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, and the beautiful Five Lakes Basin make the GCW an outstanding wilderness. At designation, the GCW included thousands of acres of private land, now almost all purchased, but the owner of a 55-acre parcel near the northeast corner has refused to sell.

Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows skiers have long desired a ski lift (gondola) connecting the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski areas, which are located in adjacent valleys below the GCW and are both owned by KSL Capital Partners LLC. KSL initially proposed a route crossing the 55-acre parcel inside the GCW boundary (see map). Outraged wilderness activists protested the proposed loss of wilderness; KSL reminded them that the Wilderness Act does not apply to private lands inside wilderness areas. Effective opposition to the initial route has convinced KSL to seriously consider routes not crossing the Wilderness; two alternative routes in the Draft EIR/EIS do not cross it.

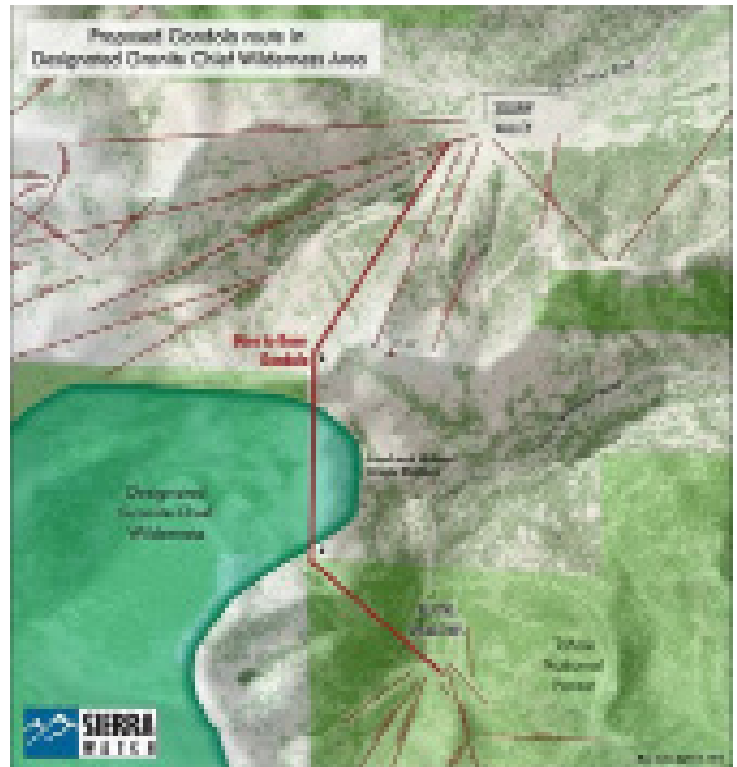
The Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter and other environmental organizations are pursuing four goals that would reduce

environmental impacts of the gondola:

- a route not crossing the Wilderness;
- minimizing damage to habitat of the endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog and performing more than the legally required mitigation;
- minimizing visual impacts to Alpine Meadows;
- operation of the gondola only during ski season, not in summer.

Purchasing the 55-acre parcel and adding it to the Wilderness is an equally important goal.

The gondola is only a small part of KSL's plans to create a "world-class resort". KSL also proposes an enormous expansion of lodging in high-rise buildings and summer resort facilities in Squaw Valley. The facilities would include an indoor water park (ten miles from Lake Tahoe!) and an indoor adventure center (the Sierra Nevada is right outside!) This expansion is opposed by environmentalists disgusted by the proposed degradation of Squaw Valley and the effects of a great increase in tourism and traffic in the already congested North Lake Tahoe area. Sierra Watch is suing Placer County, claiming that approval of the expansion is based on inadequate environmental analyses. ∞



The originally proposed gondola route. The 55-acre parcel is the area within the Wilderness to the right of the route. The thin red lines are Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski lifts.

Nevada--and Clark County Commission resolution

Nevada activists continue to wrestle with several ominous issues. Development inducing-aspects of a Washoe County bill that includes some wilderness, plus a new development-laced resolution from Clark County—the southern Nevada area surrounding Las Vegas, are current big topics. Brian Beffort, Toiyabe Chapter director, based in Reno, recently opposed the Clark County resolution in a June blog:

Clark County Commission Votes for Sprawl

“When the Clark County Commission approved a resolution June 19 to increase the size of the Las Vegas metropolitan area, they let a select few decide our future with virtually no public process and destined us all to another generation of sprawl.

Developers will profit. Taxpayers will pay the price for the increasing strain on water, sewer, infrastructure and emergency services. Everyone will experience more polluted air and water, less access to outdoor recreation, more flooding, more gridlock, longer commute times, lower quality of life, and a higher cost of living.

Commissioners also propose to “protect” 300,000 acres of habitat for the threatened desert tortoise [in order] to develop the same amount of land. Again habitat shrinks for the threatened species—proof of what happens when you let lobbyists and developers decide how to protect wildlife, instead of Fish & Wildlife Service biologists.

To be fair, the resolution contained some good elements, such as new wilderness [the resolution called for designating the Clark County portion of the Mt Stirling Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, and expanding the existing Muddy Mountains, South McCullough, Eldorado and Ireteba Peaks Wildernesses] and other protected areas—[several additional Areas of Critical Environmental Concern-ACECs], improvements to storm-water management, and expansion to the Moapa Paiute Reservation.



Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee

The rest of the resolution, however, is nothing but a giveaway to developers and shows that we’ve learned nothing from the decades of proof that sprawl makes life worse across the board....

If we’re going to fit 9 billion people on this planet, or 3 million people in the Las Vegas Valley, and thrive in the process, we all need to do economic growth and conservation differently. Our commissioners are missing an opportunity to lead in the sustainable development of this region.... Instead, we’re refusing to learn from the past, and passing the buck to our congressional delegation to wrestle with these challenges.”

The Chapter’s Comments to Clark County when its resolution was still in draft form also stated—in part, amid much specific, careful detail:

** It is important to accommodate population growth, while balancing economic development with the conservation of open space, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. Unfortunately, beyond the designation of wilderness areas and a few other proposals, this resolution is a terrible step forward.

** We encourage the Clark County Commission to adopt a much broader definition of conservation. Designating large landscapes outside of town is vitally important for the integrity of landscapes, maintaining viable populations of wildlife, managing watersheds, and preserving public lands recreational opportunities.

** If a development project happens with no consideration of the natural systems on which we depend for our air, water, food, and wealth-generating natural resources, it cannot create economic prosperity in the long-run.

** **Climate Change and Renewable Energy:** This resolution does not acknowledge our changing climate patterns, the projected increase in temperatures and flooding,... further exacerbated by a growing footprint of cement and asphalt.

*** **Water:** Where will the water come from to support this development? ☞

Desert Refuge Reprieve

WOW has featured the ongoing land-grab effort by the Air Force to take over management of the majority of the massive Desert National Wildlife Refuge in southern Nevada, northeast of Las Vegas—at 1.6 million acres by far the largest wildlife refuge in the Lower 48.

Good news for 2018. In late July, after the Congressional “reconciliation” of the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act—the final bill contained NO transfer of a vast portion of the wild Desert Refuge to the military. This means we can catch our breath and celebrate that the Desert Refuge is safe for now.

However, as Friends of Nevada Wilderness reports, the Air Force plans have not changed, and this fall they are expected to issue a new “final” report updating their military takeover plans. Stay tuned for developments and further action.

In the meantime, THANKS to all who contacted members of Congress on this issue and commented on the military’s plans. In all, the Air Force received 32,000 comments in favor of keeping the Desert National Wildlife Refuge as it stands today—an amazing accomplishment!

Attack on Nevada WSAs?

Nevada Senator Dean Heller recently announced plans to introduce legislation that will remove Congressional protection from most of Nevada’s wildest and most beautiful Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Places like the Park Range, Robert’s Mountain, Goshute and Morey Peak could see mining, oil and gas leasing or power lines. Nevada has about 63 Wilderness Study Areas remaining, totaling 2.5 million acres scattered throughout the state, and we seek to keep them as Wilderness Study Areas until a public lands process carefully reviews every area with full public involvement.

On August 9, Toiyabe Chapter chair Anne Macquarie and many others spoke at a vigorous Carson City protest of Sen. Heller’s anticipated legislation. The good news is that he has NOT introduced any bill as was threatened – and may not even do so, before he faces a contested election. But – stay tuned. ☞

A boost for California Wild River protection?

On August 9, the California State Senate passed AB 2975 by Assembly member Laura Friedman.

This bill provides a mechanism for the state to include river segments in its state wild and scenic river system, should the Trump administration remove them from the federal system. California is one of thirty states that, in addition to supporting numerous federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, has its own system of state Wild & Scenic Rivers. California's State system now includes 15 designated rivers: the Albion, American, Carson, Eel, Gualala, Klamath, McCloud, Salmon, Scott, Smith, South Yuba, Trinity, Van Duzen, and West Walker Rivers, and Cache Creek.—and two “special” rivers, Mill Creek and Deer Creek.

Southern California Assembly member Friedman represents the 43rd Assembly District, covering part of Los Angeles plus Glendale, Burbank, and La Canada Flintridge.

YOU can help get AB2975 into law! Please Email Governor Brown TODAY to urge him to Sign AB 2975. Here is how to email the Governor:

Please go to <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/> and follow these instructions:

1. Scroll down to “Email the Governor”, click on “Have Comment”, and type in your name and email address.

2. Use the “PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECT” drop down menu to scroll down to the “AB02975/Wild and scenic rivers” subject line. Check the box if you would like the Governor to reply to your email and click on the “Continue” button.

3. Click on the “Pro” button and paste a customized version of the sample email that follows into the narrative box provided. Add your personal thoughts, particularly if you have a local federal river you are familiar with and for which would like to see a state safety net provided. There is a 6,000 character maximum for your message.

4. Proof read your email and then click on the “Send Email” button.

Getting Kids Outdoors (or not)

Can “freedom” become neglect?

Screen-addicted Children Spend 16 Minutes a Day Outside

In February, Greg Hurst of The Times n London, reported that a new study published by the UK’s Office for National Statistics says children in Britain spend just 16 minutes a day playing or exploring in parks and other open spaces. The study focused on the average amount of time spent outdoors in parks, the countryside, the coast or seaside, and included excursions on weekends as well as weekdays. The researchers also noted that outdoor time dropped to ten minutes per day as youngsters reached their mid-teens.

Least Fit Children 20 Years Ago Would Be Among Fittest Today,

Also in February, the Huffington Post cited another British study finding that children considered unfit 20 years ago would be among the fittest children today. The report, by Helen Chandler-Wilde, which was featured on a BBC television program about a childhood fitness initiative “Super Movers,” states that the least fit child in a class of 30 in 1998 would be among the five fittest in 2018. Researchers say the shift from active play outdoors to indoor screen-based activities has meant that today’s

children are the first generation since the Second World War to be less fit than their parents.

Free Range Kids’ Bill Passes Utah Senate Committee

In January, a bill that makes it no longer a crime for parents to let their children walk home alone from school or play outside alone has passed a Utah Senate committee. This bill modifies child neglect law in Utah to allow for so-called “free range kids.”

“As a society, we’ve kind of erred as our pendulum has swung for children’s safety a little bit too much to the side of helicopter parenting, right? We want kids to be able to learn how to navigate the world so when they’re adults they’re fully prepared to handle things on their own,” said the bill’s sponsor, Republican Senator Lincoln Fillmore, from South Jordan.

“Free range kids” and “free range parenting” is a pushback on the concept that children are constantly in danger. Sen. Fillmore told the Senate Health and Human Services Committee that under existing Utah law, parents could face child neglect.

If a child is allowed some old-fashioned fun and independence — like riding a bike, or climbing a tree—and if the kid wipes out on his bike one week, bonks his head on a branch the next, is he a lovingly tended child with parents who believe kids can (and even should) endure a couple bruises? Or is he a neglected child? And can a social worker or other child protective agent tell the difference? ∞

SAMPLE EMAIL FOR AB 2975:

Dear Governor Brown

Please sign AB 2975 (Friedman). Approved by the California Legislature with rare bi-partisan support, this simple bill offers state protection for federal Wild and Scenic Rivers in California if Congress or the Trump Administrations passes legislation or signs an executive order eliminating or weakening federal protection for a river. This is a reasonable but vital response to the environmental protection roll-backs proposed by Congress and the Trump Regime.

The bill does not increase the number of river miles in the state, it simply assures protection of our existing federal rivers. Any protection provided under this statute sunsets at the end of 2025.

Thank you, (name, address, email) ∞

Celebrate Wild Rivers 50th anniversary in 2018

On October 2, 1968 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act into law, representing a historic new national policy of preserving rivers in their free-flowing, natural condition instead of the dam-building ethos prevalent up until then.





Outings

Support wilderness the Sierra Club way!



August 25 - Sat San Francisco Natural Areas Nursery Workday

Join S F Bay Chapter Gay & Lesbian Section volunteers to work at the San Francisco Rec & Parks Nursery in Golden Gate Park, assisting in the propagation of native plants to be planted in the park system's natural areas in fall and winter. Work held rain or shine; all tools and gloves provided. Children welcome if accompanied by an adult. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes; bring water. Meet 10 am by nursery entry gate in Golden Gate Park at 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. (intersection with Bowling Green Dr, just inside park from Kezar Dr. and 3rd Ave.) Level: Easy. Russell Hartman, event organizer. rph1917@comcast.net, (650)242-2679.

August 26 - Sun Deer Lakes Sierra View Hike

From Lake George, hike 5.5 mi up to and along Mammoth Crest to Deer Lakes. Then cross the crest and descend cross country to Sky and Gentian meadows, return to Lake George on trail. Beautiful panoramic views from crest, with wildflowers still in meadows. Round trip about 13 mi, strenuous. Meet Mammoth Lakes Union Bank parking lot, 8 am. Well behaved dogs welcome. Range of Light Group Leader: Melissa (760)937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net.

September 6 - Thurs Hondo Canyon Backbone Trail & Fossil Ridge

Join Angeles Chapter Wilderness Adventures for a moderately paced 9-mile 1800 ft.-gain hike in scenic canyon and along ridge with great ocean, mountain and valley views. Meet 8 am at trailhead, at 478-614 Old Topanga Canyon Rd, 0.4 mile west of intersection with Topanga Canyon Blvd. Limited roadside parking; ridesharing suggested. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco hikerfive@gmail.com; (310)645-9442. Asst: Nancy Krupa, nkrupa@aol.com; (818)981-4799.

September 28 - 30 -- Fri-Sun Trinity Alps Backpack

Join SF Bay Chapter Backpacking Section for a fall venture for experienced backpackers. Canyon Creek Backpack from Hobo Gulch Rd, Big Bar, CA. Cost: \$40. Tentative time, 1 pm. Moderate (2B1) Contact organizers: Michael Bandrowski, mike.bandrowski@gmail.com, (510)834-3235, and Kathryn Leonard, kleonardnet@yahoo.com (925) 309-4048. Details after RSVP.



photo: JoAnne Clarke

Wilderness field trip to see National Forest Ecosystem beyond Giant Sequoias needing protection

OUTING Report: Wilderness Committee Views Sequoia wilderness proposals

Memorial Day weekend is a great time of year to enjoy the Sierra Nevada emerging from winter--rivers high, flowers blossoming, days long and sunny. Or--chilly and foggy--even drizzly, as we found out on our Memorial Day outing to explore several Sequoia National Forest roadless areas deserving of a wilderness recommendation in the current Forest plan revision process.

From our Group campsite in Long Meadow Campground in the Giant Sequoia National Monument--a part of the Forest that is already protected--trip organizers Steve Evans of Mother Lode Chapter and California Wilderness Coalition, Jamie Erwin of Sierra Forest Legacy, and Vicky Hoover, CA/NV wilderness committee outing chair, directed visits to the Golden Trout Wilderness additions and showed off clear views over Cannell Peak and Stormy Canyon proposals. Longtime wilderness hero Joe Fontaine was on hand to give us some history and lead the group into a favorite glen within the Freeman grove of Giant Sequoias. ♪

“Following the footsteps of our ancestors”

Fran Hunt reports from Bishop, CA: Eastern Sierra volunteers and community members recently gathered in Bishop to help pack meals for the upcoming Indigenous Women Hike—a journey brought by nine Indigenous women representing the Nuumu, Dine, Yokut, Nde and Picuiris/Latinx. The hikers will walk ancestral trade routes—Nuumu Poyo—to honor their ancestors and to strengthen their connection to Mother Earth and the sacred places inside themselves.

The women attest: under the Religious Freedom Act of 1978, we will be traveling our ancestral trade routes in prayer to honor our relatives who came before us. As Indigenous women we unite in sisterhood, we will realign with traditional and sacred spaces, and bring awareness to

Indigenous issues. Through resilience and commitment, we intend to complete the 210 mile journey from Cottonwood Pass to Yosemite Valley in the Summer of 2018. In order to prepare ourselves and achieve balance in our bodies, we will reconnect with our landscape and heal our bodies through healthy life changes. ♪

<https://www.indigenouswomenhike.com/>

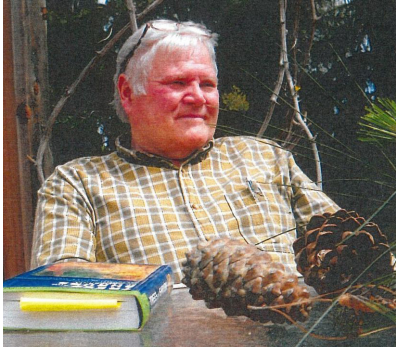


photo: from www.indigenouswomenhike.com/

Losses in the Wilderness family

Carl Weidert

On July 29, Carl Weidert, from Shingletown near Redding, passed away from kidney failure complications.



Carl worked on proposed wilderness in northern California even before the passage of the 1984 California

Wilderness Act, and attended at least one Congressional field hearing at Mt Shasta about the then-proposed Mt Shsta Wilderness. During the 1980s, Carl was a forest issues expert in the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. After he left that group, he remained active in the Mother Lode Chapter's Shasta Group.

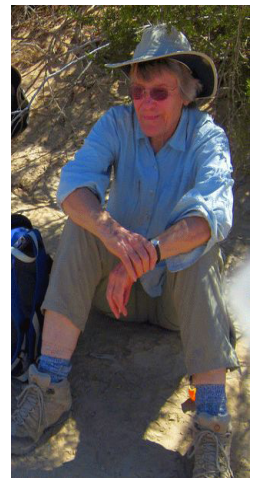
Carl retired from the business he had co-owned for 35 years with his brother Stan (for whom WOW had an obituary in April 2009); they made a livelihood as modern day "hunter-gatherers," collecting pollen in California, Nevada and Oregon for sale to pharmaceutical companies for allergy treatments. By being out in

wild nature to earn his living, Carl's powers of observation grew; he did not miss much in a landscape.

He held a BA and MS in Biology from California State University, Fullerton, and did PhD work at U.C. Santa Barbara. He was a member of the Northwest Sacramento Valley Provincial Advisory Committee for the President's Option 9 plan for managing ancient forests; the California Soils Council, the Shasta-Tehama Bioregional Council; and worked with Western Shasta Resource Conservation District relating to the Bear Creek Watershed in which he lived, He attended meetings on the Bay Delta plan in 2014; he proposed covering the state Water Project canal to save 2 million acre-feet of water annually from evaporation. He suggested adding solar panels atop the covering; the electricity would more than pay for pumping water. His knowledge of geology, botany, ecology, and archeology helped him contribute many educational overnight trips and day walks for 30 years. After Carl's health declined he still strongly supported his wife Marti in her fine art work and leading of Shasta Group outings to wild places.

Gwen Rosser

Gwen Rosser of Lake Tahoe, California, was an avid participant over many years on service trips to the CA desert led by the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee. Gwen's regular and frequent presence added a lot to our trips and her good cheer, her ever-ready help, and her enthusiastic commissary assistance at meal times were all much appreciated. She joined at least one Western Utah exploratory trip sponsored by the committee. Gwen's daughter Audrey sent the sad news of Gwen's death July 23, after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer; she sent an invitation to the celebration of Gwen's life Aug. 18, in Tahoe Vista, CA. Gwen leaves three daughters and six grandchildren. We miss her. ☺



The Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, an issue committee of the CA/NV Regional Conservation Committee, advocates for preservation of unroaded, undeveloped public lands in a wild state, through legislation and appropriate management, and sponsors stewardship and wilderness study outings.

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"Mountains complement desert, as desert complements city, as wilderness complements and completes civilization."

--Ed Abbey, Desert Solitaire