



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

**Yahi
Group**



News Articles Programs Hikes and Outings Meetings Events

Cherokee Residents Battle Proposed Mining Project

by Susan Sears

If Phil Cash of Fairfield, Idaho has his way, Cherokee's Sugarloaf Peak will be mined on three sides. Mr. Cash is president of Advanced Mineral Technology (AMT), the Nevada corporation which is proposing a silica sand mining operation, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared by Environmental Science Associates of Sacramento.

The proposed project encompasses 798 acres in the heart of the Cherokee community. Concerned residents have joined a group called the Cherokee Preservation Society which has dedicated itself to preventing the new mining operation from going forward.

The Cherokee area is rich in history, both ancient and fairly recent. This is land considered sacred by the Maidu and Cherokee Indians. President Rutherford B. Hayes once visited the area, having traveled by horse-drawn wagon from Chico with John Bidwell. The present environment of Cherokee is peaceful and bucolic, other than the famous early-spring wildflower phenomenon, when hundreds of visitors ascend to admire the carpets of blossoms covering the flat tops of nearby Table Mountain.

In addition to the pit-mining operation, AMT proposes to construct a processing plant. If all goes according to AMT's plan, there will be 96 trucks coming and going daily on Cherokee Road for 23 years (48 each way, from mine to processing plant and return). These trucks would undoubtedly be of the 20-ton diesel variety.

The Cherokee Preservation Society has identified numerous potential impacts to their community, all of which must be addressed in



Waterfall at Table Mountain.

the EIR:

Decrease in property values -- values have already fallen, with only rumors of the mine.

Increased traffic hazards -- truck traffic entering/leaving SR70 on a hill with poor sight distance; also, hazards to the numerous bicyclists and motorcycle riders who presently use Cherokee Road.

Water depletion --

mining uses tremendous quantities of water.

Water contamination -- mercury from previous gold mining is still present at the site; it could be released into soil and runoff water by new mining activities.

Destruction of all vegetation within the mine area -- The proposed project's "revegetation plan" calls for extensive use of herbicides for weed control over the 23 years of the project's life. Replanted trees and shrubs would require 50 years' growth to bring the vegetation back to its present state.

Since the primary product of the proposed mining operation is silica sand (used in making glass), and silica sand is an extremely plentiful commodity on our planet, Cherokee's embattled residents feel, rightfully so, that there is no urgent need for the silica sand resting peacefully within Sugarloaf Peak to be extracted and hauled away.

Those most affected by the threat of a mine as their new neighbor have instituted a fervent letter-writing campaign directed at Mr. Cash personally, with copies to Butte County District 1 Supervisor Bob Beeler. Over three thousand people have signed petitions which will be sent to the Board of Supervisors as part

Yahi Group—Sierra Club
Post Office Box 2012
Chico CA 95927

Pre Sort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Chico, California

Honors for 25-Year Members

Congratulations to these dedicated people who are celebrating 25 years as Sierra Club members:

Anita Aguilar of Paradise; **Izella Evans, Neal Dunbar, Barry Furst, Bill and Dene Guyton, Michael McGinnis,** and **Barbara Shockley**, all from Chico.

Certificates were presented at the recent

About this Newsletter

SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927.

The newsletter is mailed free to all current members of the Sierra Club residing in the Yahi Group area. It is also available, without charge, at selected public places and merchants in the Yahi Group area.

For submissions, comments and inquiries, please write to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico CA 95927 or contact the content editor Susan Sears at 530-532-0149 or the copy editor Louise Casey at 530-872-9159.

For advertising in the Newsletter, please call Goodie Sweatt, 530-849-3988. For changes in membership address (which also affects the address for receiving the newsletter by mail) please write to Sierra Club Member Services, Post Office Box 52968, Boulder CO 80328-2968; sending a mailing label for the old address will speed the process.

Submission Guidelines:

Please include name, phone, and address with each submittal. Short, single topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. A one week extension is available if the submission is sent by email and advance advisory has been provided that the article is forthcoming. Submissions will be returned if specifically requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The right is reserved to edit all submissions

From the Ex-Com:

Yahi Group Takes a Stand

A pair of Chico issues were among the items that recently came up at the Yahi Group's executive committee meetings: the city's proposal to widen Manzanita Avenue where it crosses Bidwell Park, and the illegal cutting of a large number of trees at a new subdivision on the southeast side of town. The positions we adopted on these issues were presented to the Chico County Council in letters written with the approval of the executive committee.

The Manzanita Avenue widening was addressed at the request of a neighborhood group. The Draft Environmental Impact Report released by the city listed several options for the project, most of which would have made the road much wider. They would have required the removal of a large number of trees, substantial loss of parkland, and the addition of a bunch of new traffic lights. The neighborhood group's proposal, "Plan B," avoided these problems by using a narrower roadway and roundabouts at intersections. Our letter urged the City Council to consider Plan B and to reject options that would have created another four-lane road through the park. We were pleased to hear that Chico City Manager Tom Lando has now endorsed Plan B.

The tree-cutting incident at developer Andrew Meghdadi's new subdivision offended just about everyone. The illegal and seemingly pointless destruction of a large stand of mature Blue Oaks sparked a lot of newspaper coverage and an overflow crowd at the next City Council meeting. Our letter pointed out the need for a meaningful tree preservation ordinance in Chico. There is no way to undo the damage that was done; our focus should be on ways to ensure that it doesn't happen again. Our letter also urged the council to adopt the city staff's recommendation that the developer be required to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Report; that appears to be the most effective way to mitigate the damage that has already been done.

The good news is that the City Council agreed with both of our positions. Motions to require the supplemental EIR and to begin work on a tree ordinance both passed unanimously. Work on the new ordinance is just beginning; we hope that you will follow this issue and urge the council to enact

Yahi Group of the Sierra Club

Elected Officials

Co-Chair (Organization)

Kevin Birkes: 530-824-2588

kevbirkes@earthlink.net

Co-Chair (Administration)

Joanne Gerson: 530-893-2154

joanne.gerson@att.net

Vice-Chair

Steve Green: 530-899-1076

sgreen@well.com

Secretary

Susan Mason: 530-892-1666

slmason@pacbell.net

Treasurer

Joanne Gerson: 530-893-2154

joanne.gerson@att.net

Fifth Member

Christy Strauch: 530-891-0500

christy@shocking.com

Yahi Group Contacts

General Contact

Linda Stuke: 530-345-2696

Conservation Committee

Christy Strauch: 530-891-0500

christy@shocking.com

Forestry Committee

Stephen Sayre: 530-876-1391

sayhart@infostations.com

Local and Residential Logging

Jean Crist: 530-873-6383

cont103@aol.com

Membership

Gerda Lydon: 530-343-9277

PLydon2948@aol.com

Newsletter Publication Editor

Louise Casey: 530-872-9159

LouiseCasey@netscape.net

Newsletter Content Editor

Susan Sears: 530-532-0149

sjsears@cncnet.com

Getting Involved

Summer 2002

The following letter was recently submitted to the Chico City Council for its consideration, and City Manager Tom Lando said he planned to recommend the Yahi Group's choice when the Council discusses the Manzanita Avenue EIR.

Dear City Council Members,

The Sierra Club, Yahi Group, representing over 1400 members in Northern California, asks that the Chico City Council give serious consideration to Neighborhood Plan B as an alternative to those presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA) for the widening of Manzanita Avenue, Chico Canyon Road and Bruce Road.

Plan B would improve safety and reduce pollution. Roundabouts reduce the time that vehicles spend standing at traffic signals. The four-lane alternatives would encourage speeding traffic and increase pedestrian-vehicle conflicts. A two-lane roadway with roundabouts would encourage reasonable speeds and allow easier pedestrian crossing. Bicycle lanes on both sides of the road would reduce conflicts with vehicles and pedestrians, and would reduce traffic congestion by encouraging alternatives to motor vehicles.

The significantly lower cost of Plan B provides an obvious benefit to taxpayers and reflects a saving of resources and a reduction in construction activity in an environmentally sensitive riparian corridor.

We feel that the lack of a Park Commission recommendation points out the need for examination of plans beyond those presented in the DEIR/EA.

It is our understanding that the traffic estimates used to justify this project assume a build-out of Bidwell Ranch. We believe that this assumption is unrealistic and should not be used to justify expensive road projects.

Plan B best honors the General Plan designation of Manzanita Avenue as both a scenic road and an important traffic corridor. We feel that the creation of another multi-lane crossing through Bidwell Park would be an unnecessary and radical step. A four-lane alternative would encourage truck traffic on surface streets. Traffic constraints forced by Bidwell Park and Chico's creeks have always forced an emphasis on neighborhood-oriented development in Chico. We hope that this focus could be encouraged and that less emphasis should be placed on plans that encourage cross-town traffic.

Any plan will have to strike a balance between the need for adequate traffic circulation and the

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded

by Gerda Lydon

Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded at the Yahi Group Awards Banquet to the following individuals for various special contributions to the Yahi Group for the year 2001/02: **Charlee Bockrath** for her help in stepping in to take over tasks needed to be done for the group, also for being the depository of the first-aid kit; **Susan Condon** for her many years of coordinating the calendar sales; **Larry Crisman** for sharing skiing information and turning over any donations received to the Yahi Group; and **Susan Mason** for her many efforts to involve members in pursuing Yahi Group's conservation efforts, as well as for her work as Secretary on the Executive Committee. Thank you all.

If any of you know of members in Lassen, Plumas, Glenn and Butte counties who should be recognized next year, please direct your suggestions to the Awards Committee: Goodie Sweatt, Betty Volker, Alan Mendoza and Gerda Lydon. Phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses are listed in this newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities

These are some of the areas where the local Yahi Group can use your help. If no specific project contact is listed, please contact Christy Strauch, 891-0500 or christy@shocking.com.

1. volunteer to help the Forest Service, BLM and State of California maintain hiking trails. Contact Alan Mendoza at 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.
2. volunteer to work on the Pacific Crest Trail this summer (projects in the Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe and Shasta-Trinity National Forest). Contact JoAnn Michael at 938-4826 or jomike@snowcrest.com.
3. volunteer to be on the Yahi Trail Guide committee or to suggest/walk/write up trails to be included in the Guide. Contact Louise Casey at 530-872-9159 or LouiseCasey@netscape.net.
4. volunteer to help with the Stop Skyway Mall project.
5. volunteer to attend specific meetings of City Councils, Town meetings and other public meetings where we know an important issue will be discussed. This is an observer role with a phone call or e-mail to the Ex-Com summarizing what was said.
6. volunteer to attend a few meetings of the Sacramento River Coalition when it is formed.
7. volunteer to help restore Hetch

Steve Miller
Broker-Associate



Prudential
California Realty

600 Main St.
Chico, CA 95928
Office 530 342-6100 ext. 124 Res. 530 345-0806
Fax 530 343-7960 email: Steve@Chico4sale.com

An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

**10% Discount to Club Members
on Tax Preparation**

John Burge
Certified Public Accountant

567 East Fifth Avenue
Chico, California 95926

342-3680
Fax 345-7651

Member Profile

Page 4

Member Profile: Gerda Lydon

Soft-spoken and modest to a fault, Gerda Lydon's gentle demeanor and unassuming lifestyle belies her somewhat tumultuous history, dogged determination and inexhaustible volunteerism.

"There are people with stronger views than I," she said in her charming East European accent, genuinely surprised she was chosen for a member profile. "There are better candidates for profiles. I've never really been much of an activist." She practically protested, always politely, being written about through the entire process.

Nonetheless, it's the quiet, behind-the-scenes work and selfless commitment which people like Lydon, 73, engage in that are the backbone of many an organized effort - from raising a family to running a company to making changes in the fabric of social consciousness.

Born in pre-Nazi Vienna, Austria, her father was the salesman for the family business - a silk tie factory his father owned - and mom was a homemaker. Life was "comfortable" for her and her family, she recalls, at first.

It was also then, at a very young age, that she started developing a love and appreciation for nature and the "pristine wilderness," she says, because her dad used to take them out backpacking in the Austrian mountains all the time.

"The whole family was backpackers," she said, "even my grandparents."

But in 1939, when she was spirited away to England, she said there were "lots of strikes and political unrest, and Nazis marching all around." Her father had already made his way to the Dominican Republic, she said, and she was able to join her parents there a year later, in 1940.

"My mother had somehow escaped by that time," she relates, obviously uncomfortable talking about this period of her life. "Those were pretty scary and confusing times. It was really an upheaval for everybody."

Yet, when queried about the impact all that had on her life, and despite her apparent aversion to dredging up the memories, she sums up the experience in thoughtful reflection, "When you're a teen, you just learn to accept that kind of stuff. You learn to fit in, to get along. You adjust."

After six years in the Dominican Republic, where she graduated high school from the Colegio Sagrado Corazon (The Sacred Heart College), her family moved to Bogotá,



Gerda Lydon

Colombia. Her father worked as an accountant for various companies in both locales, and she began her 13-year career as a secretary while in Bogotá, working for Tropical Oil, a Canadian subsidiary of Standard Oil.

At the time, "it wasn't an issue," she said, referring to the apparent conflict between being pro-ecology and working for a big oil company.

Her father also died while they lived in Bogotá, "from smoking," she says with a squint and sneer. "My mother made me promise never to smoke again," she said, and even though she had smoked as a teen, she never smoked again after that.

After another six years in Colombia, Gerda moved to Los Angeles in 1952 where she lived four years, working as a secretary for various insurance companies. Her mother joined her two years later. It was also while in L.A., in her early 20's, that she joined the Sierra Club and started indulging in her "favorite" pastime -- hiking and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

And it was at just such a function - a Sierra Club "backpacker's reunion" at Lake Merritt in Oakland - where she met her future husband, Phil Lydon.

But it wasn't love at first sight for them, she said, or anything like that. Rather, they met kind of romantically after the event was snowed out and the group retreated to a friend's house to cook dinner over an open fire and listen to another friend play her guitar.

"Things just kind of developed after that over the next few months," she said, "at meetings we were both at."

"Rex Burress was even the park ranger there (at Lake Merritt)," she added later, alluding to the funny way destiny seems to work sometimes. Burress is presently a contributing writer for this newsletter and has been an active member of the Yahi Group for some time.

The year was 1956 and, by then, she had moved to Berkeley and was working as a secretary in the Chemistry Department at U.C. Berkeley. The campus was "really very quiet and academic" at that time, she says.

During her years in L.A. and Berkeley, she took several college courses in subjects "that interested me," like music, history and geology, but didn't obtain a degree. She did, however, obtain her U.S. citizenship while in Berkeley, "at the court house in San Francisco," she says with some degree of pride. (She's also fluent in German and Spanish).

Phil and Gerda were married and moved to Redding "in a whirlwind" in 1959, when he was transferred as part of his job -- a geologist with the State Division of Mines. At this point, she retired from her career as a secretary and set about making a home for the newlyweds.

In 1963 came the first of the events that had the "most impact" on her life--having kids -- when they adopted their first son, Rob. She gave birth to Sharon the year after and son Mike immediately following that, in 1965.

"Having kids was the greatest shock," she says laughing, "that REALLY changes your life. You can't even go backpacking anymore. So we went camping a lot."

But devotion to the care and raising of her family "took lots of time" and was the primary focus of her energies during much of her life, she says, talking proudly about her children and six grandchildren. Rob is now a veterinarian in Cottonwood (in Shasta County), Sharon is a surveyor/engineering aide with the Public Works Department of Yuba City, and Mike's a computer engineer in Boise, Idaho.

Unfortunately, however, she says she thinks only her youngest grew up with the same concern she has for preserving what wilderness is left, despite all their family forays into the wilds.

They finally ended up in Chico in 1967, when Phil took a position as a professor of geology at then-Chico State College (now C.S.U. Chico). He retired in 1988.

Getting Out

Summer 2002

What's Happening to Our Trails?

A favorite bumper sticker of anti-environmentalists is "Sierra Club Hike to Hell!" Unfortunately, the condition of many of our local hiking trails has begun to remind us of this bumper sticker. The recent Storrie Fire did severe damage to many of our favorite trails in the Feather River Canyon and the Forest Service has been given few funds to restore the trails. A number of other trails have not been maintained due to limited use or neglect.

If you are interested in working on trails, we are starting a list of volunteers so that we can help the Forest Service, BLM and State of California on projects that will require volunteers. Please give me a call at 891-8789 or email me at ajmendoza@prodigy.net if you have some extra time in your life to give up a few days during the year and meet some outstanding people. If you would like to work on the Pacific Crest Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail Association will be doing a number of volunteer projects in the Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe and Shasta-Trinity National Forest this summer. Please call JoAnn Michael at 530-938-4826 or jomike@snowcrest.com.

Yahi Group's General Outing Information

The following information is intended for people who have decided to take or are contemplating an outing that has been organized by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club. The information is based on the Group's established policy (available from the web site or from the Outings Committee Chair); it will be supplemented by trip specific information and by the outing leader.

Transportation: There is an active interest in car pooling, but leaders cannot organize car pools to Sierra Club outings. All trips begin and end at the trailhead, which is not necessarily the initial meeting place. Any car pool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers.

Riders are expected, as a matter of courtesy, to reimburse drivers to cover the transportation expenses of the trip. A customary amount is 6 cents per mile per passenger depending on the vehicle, the number of passengers, and the road conditions. This is only a guideline.

Membership in Sierra Club not required: Outings are open to the general public unless otherwise indicated. If you enjoy the outings, it is hoped that you will see the value of joining; application information is available on the back page or on the web site.

Fees and costs: Occasionally an outing announcement will indicate a cost. Unless the announcement specifically indicates that outing is a fund raiser, the cost indicated is only that which has been estimated to cover trip expenses.

Sign-up: Most activities do not require advance sign-up; it is merely necessary to show up at the designated time and place. For those outings where advance sign-up is requested, a call to the leader will initiate the procedure. If fees or deposits are needed, the sign-up is not considered complete until those have been paid. Deposits may not be refundable; please inquire at time of making payment.

All activities: These are group outings. It is important that participants follow the instructions of the outing leader. Please be sure you are in adequate physical condition to undertake the activity you choose (see classifications for guidance). If you are unsure of the difficulty of the trip or of your ability, check with the leader before deciding to go. The outing leader may decide to disallow the participation of an outing applicant if the leader concludes that the applicant's reduced preparation or capability may negatively affect the outing for the rest of the group.

Hiking and Day Activities: Bring lunch, water, and essentials, as well as reimbursement money for your driver. Wear boots or sturdy shoes.

Dos and Don'ts: Plan to carry out anything you carry in. Pets are not allowed unless the trip specifically indicates "pets permitted". No firearms. No electronic music devices.

Young people: Please consult with the leader for a decision as to whether the outing is appropriate for a youth, whether accompanied by an adult or not. Any person under 18 not accompanied by a parent must have a written parental authorization to give to the outing leader. Forms may be obtained in advance from the outing leader or from the Outings Committee Chair at 872-0419. The completed form is required to provide for emergency medical care if needed.

Errors in the schedule: If there is incorrect information in an outings announcement, please see the web site at www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/ or call Skip Augur at 894-1366 to obtain a

Ten Peaks in Ten Weeks!

Hike #1: Saturday, June 29, Crater Peak, 8,677 ft. (grade 2, class B). Approximately 6 miles round trip. Meet at 9:30 A.M. on Hwy. 44 past Lassen Park at the snowmobile area.

Hike #2: Saturday, July 13, Eagle Peak, Ski Heil and Loomis Peak (grade 3, class B). 80% cross-country, 1 mile of scramble and some hand-over-hand. Meet at 9 A.M. at Lassen Park summit parking lot.

Hike #3: July 27, Pilot Pinnacle and Mt. Diller (grade 2, class B).

Hike #4: August 10, Brokeoff Mountain (grade 2, class C).

Hike #5: August 24, Mt. Lassen, Reading



Hike Classifications

These are general guidelines. If there are questions, ask the outing leader.

Distance Rating

Grade 1: up to 6 miles

Grade 2: 6-10 miles

Grade 3: 10-15 miles

Grade 4: 15-20 miles

Grade 5: over 20 miles



Lassen and Brokeoff Peaks

Bidwell Park Trail Maintenance

On the first Saturday of each month, you can help keep Bidwell Park beautiful. Plan to join other interested people to maintain the trails in Upper Bidwell Park on any of these days: June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7. This activity is suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Volunteers should meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots (and appropriate clothing if the weather is inclement).

Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us

Yahi Summer 2002 Outings

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday-Monday, May 25-27 – Mill Creek Memorial Day Backpack & Trail Maintenance (grade 3, class B) (educational). Join the Yahi Group for our annual Memorial Day weekend trail maintenance trip. We will hike 14-15 miles downstream starting at Upper Mill Creek (4000 feet) to Black Rock (2000 feet). On the way we hike through forests, enjoy wildflowers and follow along the creek. The Forest Service will provide tools and car shuttle back to our cars. Group size is limited, call for reservations. Return time around 6 PM Monday. Leader: Goodie, 894-3988, Asst. Leader: Annette, 872-3557.

June 2002



Gold Lake: Buck's Lake Wilderness Hike (June 29)

Saturday, June 1 - Polk Springs PWA Exploration & Climb (grade 2, class B) (educational). This will be a new hike (but not for beginners) exploring an old gold miner's trail in another part of the Ishi Potential Wilderness Additions. From the historic Lassen Trail where it joins Ponderosa Way we will descend about 1800' in only 3 ½ miles to the geologically interesting Polk Springs area at Deer Creek, then return by the same route. A 4WD or other sturdy vehicle is recommended to get to the trailhead, where the trip starts. It's a fairly long drive on a dirt road from Cohasset. Bring lunch, water and sturdy boots. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30AM, Chico Park & Ride at 8:15AM, or at the Cohasset Store about 8:45AM. Return about dusk. Rain (even 2 days previous) cancels. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

Sunday, June 2 – Upper Bidwell Park Hike (grade 1, class A). A fairly easy 4-mile trek along the south side of Chico Creek from Five-Mile, past the golf course to the diversion dam and back. Bring lunch, water and sun protection. Meet at

the Five-Mile parking lot at 10AM, and return by 3PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549

Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9 – Trail Maintenance and Camp Clean-Up, Deer Creek (grade 2, class A). Depending on USFS support, we will spend Saturday walking the 3-4 miles of trail downstream from the wooden bridge below the transfer station. We will trim over-hanging branches, remove logs and smooth the tread. Those wanting to spend the night will camp Saturday at the wooden bridge and spend Sunday morning cleaning up the unofficial campground. A beautiful area and a chance to give back. Please call leader in advance for details, what to bring and meeting place. Leader: John, 892-1262.

Friday, June 14, 7-8:30PM – Concert in the Park. Come join us for some summer fun while listening to great music at the Downtown Concert Series. The Sierra Singles will be getting together in front of the Chico Paper Company (4th and Broadway). Afterwards we'll go for yogurt or ice cream. Leader: Karen, 899-8305.

Saturday, June 15 – PCT Lookout Rock Hike (grade 4-B) A long (16-17 mile) relatively flat hike along the Pacific Crest Trail west of Quincy from Buck's Summit to Lookout Rock. We'll see the historic pioneer wagon route from American Valley to Marysville, wildflowers and lots of views of the eastern Sierras. Bring lunch, carpool \$ and plenty of water. Please call leader in advance to verify date. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7:45AM or at the northwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Oroville at 8:30AM. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Friday - Sunday, June 21-23. Backpack in the Trinity Alps Stonewall Pass to Echo Lake (grade 4, class C). We'll hike 7 miles into the Trinity Alps crossing Stonewall Pass to enjoy the cool enclave of Echo Lake. We'll set up base camp and explore. Excellent vistas, some snow, lots of breathable air. Bring backpacking gear, food for 3 days, 2 nights and \$ for carpooling. Group size is limited. Approximate round trip drive of 300 miles. Return time about 8 PM on Sunday. Call for reservations and specifics. Leader: Theresa, 899-7331.

Saturday, June 22 – Deer Creek Hike (grade 1, class A). The crashing cacophony of Deer Creek provides constant music and several small waterfalls as we travel downstream on a 4.6 mile undulating trail through the lovely evergreens of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and incense cedar. Only 40 miles from Chico, the drive up Hwy 32 is a delight in itself. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and a camera. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Return time by 4PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Sunday, June 23 – North Rim Upper Bidwell Park Evening Hike (grade 1, class A) An evening stroll along the North Rim to celebrate the beginning of Summer and the waxing moon. Bring water, flashlight and comfortable footwear. Meet at Horseshoe Lake parking lot at 6PM. Leader: Jan, 894-0438, Asst. Leader: Goodie, 894-3988.

Friday, June 28 – Full Moon Hike in Upper Bidwell Park (grade 1, class A). Let's take the Yahi Trail along the creek in the cool of the evening. Bring water and flashlight. Meet at Horseshoe Lake near the old rifle range at 7PM. Return time will be around 9PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Saturday, June 29 – Bucks Lake Wilderness Hike (grade 2, class B). We'll hike from Silver Lake (west of Quincy) 2 miles and 800' uphill to beautiful Gold Lake for lunch and a swim. Afterwards depending on the snow we will do an optional side trip up to the Pacific Crest Trail for a magnificent view before descending. Bring lunch, boots, water, sunscreen, bathing suit and \$ for drivers (round trip approx. 180 miles). Meet at 8AM at the Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Jan, 894-0438, Asst. Leader: Goodie: 894-3988.

July 2002

Thursday-Sunday, July 4-7 – Warner Mountain Backpack (grade 3, class B). A 15-17 mile loop trip in the remote, mystical Warner Mountains south of Alturas. We'll enjoy the wildflowers, pretty streams, great views of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen and optional dayhikes. We'll leave Wednesday evening and stay at the Patterson Campground. On Thursday we begin with an 800-900' elevation gain to



Sky High Lakes—Marble Mountains (July 14-19)

reach the beautiful Summit Trail. Individual commissary. Call leaders to reserve space and get more information. Leader: Teresa, 899-7331, Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Saturday, July 6 – Dayhike & Swim on the Hanford Land Trust (grade 1, class A). View the beautiful, groomed forest on this invitational hike through the Hanford Land Trust off of Pentz Road in upper Paradise. John Hanford will give a brief talk about his efforts over 40 years, then we'll take a switchback trail down about 700' to the Miocene Canal. From there we will follow the canal upstream a short ways, then drop down to the West Branch of the Feather River for a refreshing swim and a return uphill by the same route. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 9AM. Bring lunch water and a swimsuit. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14 – Shasta County Getaway: River Float and Caverns (grade 1, class A). We'll join the Shasta Group for a relaxing float down the Sacramento River from Redding to Anderson on Saturday. We'll camp out that night and take in the Shasta Caverns on Sunday. This excursion includes ferry boat and bus rides and guided tour of the caverns. Call leader in advance for details and to sign up. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Sunday-Friday, July 14-19 - Marble Mountain Wilderness Backpack (grade 2, class B) Avoid the weekend crowds. We will drive the 200 miles from Chico in the afternoon of the 21st, with an early dinner in Yreka. Car camp that night near the trailhead. Monday we will walk the 5 to 6 miles to Sky High Lakes and set up a base

Outings and Events

Summer 2002

camp. The next three days we'll day hike to places like Paradise Lake, Rainy Lake, Marble Mountain, Black Marble Mountain, and Campbell Lake. These are challenging hikes (grades 3-4, class C) with awesome views. Hike out on Friday. Individual commissary. Trip limited to 8 individuals. Contact leader: John Hollister, 530-892-1262 or jhubhollister@hotmail.com or assistant leader: Alan Mendoza, 530-891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net

Sunday, July 21 - Yahi Group Summer Picnic and Planning Meeting. Join us at Five-Mile for a potluck, volleyball, croquet and fun starting at 4:30PM. Everyone welcome. Bring a potluck dish to share, lawn chairs/blanket and your own drinks. After the potluck we'll plan our outings for the fall (September 1 - December 1). For more info, call Alan, 891-8789.

Saturday, July 27 - Lassen Park Shuttle Hike (grade 1, class A). This is a 5.5 mile moderately difficult hike from King's Creek Meadows along an undulating trail with constantly changing vistas to pretty, 75' Mill Creek Falls and ending at the Southwest Campground. This little-traveled area is excellent for viewing birds, wildflowers and deer. It'll be a great time to get out of the hot valley and into the cool elevations of Lassen Park. Bring lunch, water, sturdy boots and \$ for carpool and entrance fee. Car-shuttle required. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM. Return time around 5PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549, Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Friday-Sunday July 26-28 - Camp out at Willow Lake. You are encouraged to bring children. Willow lake is north of Chester. There are some interesting short hikes surrounding the lake area. Campsites are on the lake. (think water toys) This outing is suitable for all ages. Campsites are primitive and limited. Call leader for more info and availability of sites. Children without a parent in attendance must complete a special permission form in advance of the event. Call Betty for info and space availability at 345-7205. Cost: campsite fee.

August 2002

Saturday-Sunday, August 3-4 - Saucer Lake Backpack (grade 1, class A). This is a great trip for families with small children, beginners, out of shapers, and those just wanting to relax. A wilderness experience in a three mile hike. We will leave the Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 Saturday morning, drive 50 miles on good roads, and hike in. After two miles we will come to Green Island Lake for a lunch or snack break. One more mile brings us to Saucer Lake where we can swim, fish, hike, read a book, etc. Individual commissary. Return Sunday about 4 P.M. Please contact leader in advance, John Hollister 892-1262 or jhubhollister@hotmail.com

Sunday, August 4 - Mountain Bike Ride to Colby Mountain (grade 3, class B). A 15 mile trip with excellent views of Mt. Lassen and the Butte Creek and Deer Creek drainages. Some single track. Bring properly maintained bike, helmet, tube, patch kit, pump, lunch, lots of water, appropriate clothing and \$ for carpool. A round trip drive of 75 miles. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998

Saturday, August 10 - Brokeoff Mountain Day Hike (grade 2, class C). We'll join the Shasta Group for Lassen Park's best



Saucer Lake (August 3-4)

Photo by Alan Mendoza

kept secret, the strenuous and scenic 7-mile trail up to Brokeoff Mountain. There'll be plenty of photo opportunities as we cross little creeks, hike along ponds, and pass through meadows full of flowers up to a great view of Mt. Lassen. Thunderstorm cancels. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and entrance fees. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM. Return time around 5-6PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Sunday, August 11 - Blue Lake Day Hike & Swim (grade 1, class A) (educational). Join us for this easy one-mile hike to Blue Lake in the Wild Cattle Mountain Potential Wilderness Area, just south of Lassen Volcanic National Park, in the upper Feather River watershed. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30AM or at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:15AM. Bring lunch, water and swimsuit. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com.

Saturday, August 17 - Soda Lake Day Hike in Lassen Park (grade 2, class B). A 4-5 mile, high elevation hike on a rough trail from the base of Lassen Peak to the spectacular Soda Lake basin in eastern Lassen Park. Along the way we'll see beautiful meadows, cascading creeks, wildflowers and views of Mt. Shasta and Manzanita Lake. Bring lunch, water, boots and carpool \$. Call leader for meeting place and time. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Sunday, August 18 - Colby Meadows Hike (grade 2, class A). A hike of about 7 total miles in the cross country ski area. We will see seldom visited meadows and springs and may see pileated woodpeckers, northern goshawks and red breasted sapsuckers. Bring boots, lunch, water and \$ for drivers. Round-trip drive of about 75-80 miles. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Friday, August 23, 7-8:30PM - Concert in the Park. Come join us for some summer fun while listening to great music at the Downtown Concert Series. The Sierra Singles will be getting together in front of the Chico Paper Company (4th and Broadway). Afterwards we'll go for yogurt or ice cream. Leader: Karen, 899-8305.

Friday-Monday, August 23-Sept. 2 - Backpack Around Mt. Whitney (grade 5, class D). A 10-day semi-loop trip beginning at the Cottonwood Trailhead south of Mt. Whitney

and exiting out over Shepard Pass north of Mt. Whitney. About 45-55 relatively strenuous, high elevation miles with two, tough cross country sections. We have planned two layover days at Sky Blue Lake and Wright Lakes Basin for optional side trips and climbs of Mt. Tyndall and nearby peaks or you can just enjoy the remarkable granite canyons, alpine meadows and vistas. For experienced backpackers, in good condition only. Individual commissary. Call leader in advance for more info. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Saturday, August 24 - Mt. Lassen Moonlight Hike (grade 1, class C). Come have a howling good time as you watch the sunset and the moon rise over Lassen Peak. A 5-mile steep, winding trail takes in some incredible views. We'll meet at Chico Park & Ride at 1:30 PM so we can ascend to the peak in daylight. We'll eat dinner at the top and have time to explore the crater before descending by moonlight. The peak can be very windy and cold, so dress in layers and bring extra warm clothes. Also bring sturdy boots, dinner, water, flashlight and \$ for carpool and entrance fee. Return time around 11PM. Thunderstorms cancel. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Saturday-Monday, August 31-Sept. 2 - Lassen Park Backpack (grade 4, class B). A moderate 3 day and 2 night trip. We'll enter the park from the southeast at the Juniper Lake Trailhead, hike into the Twin Lake area and make a base camp Saturday. On Sunday we will hike to the top of the spectacular Cinder Cone or do an alternate hike and then hike out on Monday. Self commissary. Call leader to reserve space and for more information. Leader: Kevin, 894-0438.

September 2002

Saturday, September 7 - PCT Hike from Humboldt Summit to Carter Meadow (grade 2, class A). From the Humboldt Road at the northern-most end of Butte County, we'll hike a mostly level 7-mile route north along the Pacific Crest Trail to our car shuttle at Carter Meadow. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30AM or at the Chico Park & Ride at 8:15AM. Bring lunch, water, comfortable hiking boots, binoculars and \$ for drivers. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391 or sayhart@infostations.com, Asst. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Directions to Meeting Places

Chico Park and Ride. From Highways 99 and 32, go east on 32 and make an immediate left onto Fir Street (it's only about 100 yards from Highway 99). We meet in the lot closest to the freeway.

Paradise Albertson's: The parking lot is at the corner of Wagstaff and Clark Roads; we meet in the northwest corner.

Horseshoe Lake parking lot (the old Rifle Range parking lot): Take East Avenue or Manzanita to Wildwood Avenue (the entrance to Upper Bidwell Park). Continue along the paved road over all the golf course speed bumps. When the speed bumps end you are almost there, so look to the left for the outhouses; we'll meet near there.

Websites



Yahi Group Web Site

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Motherlode Chapter Web Site:

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org

Ski Gold Mountain at an Impasse

Introduction

Downhill ski areas are "high use" sport venues geared primarily for winter fun, but in summer, they become aesthetic eyesores. Few ski areas could win an award for scenic beauty or environmental sensitivity. Most are on U.S. Forest Service lands located in National Forests, and a tacit partnership has developed between these custodians of our public lands and the ski companies that manage and exploit them.

There is a unique relationship between the State Park System ("Parks") and the Johnsville Ski Bowl (also known as "Ski Gold Mountain" and/or the "Plumas-Eureka Ski Bowl," which is located within the Plumas-Eureka State Park) because this facility is the only ski bowl in the Park System (there is cross-country skiing in both the Plumas-Eureka and other State Parks).

This marriage has recently developed an interesting conundrum between the responsible government agency -- the Park -- and its concessionaire players. The ski area issues, and there are several, make this story exceptional.

The Johnsville Ski Bowl is located on the side of Eureka Peak in the Plumas-Eureka State Park at the very northern extremity of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is next to the tiny historic gold-mining town of Johnsville, where the expansion plans for a major ski development would certainly have a high impact. Town residents, and those in the neighboring residential communities, want a voice in any future development and expansion plans for the Park's ski area.

The California State Park System, which has limited experience in ski bowl management, is uncertain how any ski development best fits into the Park's overall strategy and has yet to develop a specific general plan for the Plumas-Eureka State Park. Moreover, public input regarding property issues on the one hand and scenic and quietude values on the other is neither solicited nor desired by the State Park managers or the local political legislators, who predictably prioritize to land development.

An impasse has developed between the present ski area lease holders, Gold Mountain Foundation -- a California tax-exempt organization but better identified by locals as a land development and sales firm -- and the State Park System, over obtaining a long-term ski area lease allowing continued control and, more importantly, ski area expansion.

To complicate matters, the State Park originally accepted the land developer's "Negative Declaration" in lieu of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the ski

area but, after the fact, rescinded their acceptance and demanded a revised plan ideally including an EIR, because the initial Declaration was determined to be flawed. It was discovered that the closing period of the "Negative Declaration" for public comment preceded the issuance of the Declaration, and that the Public Notice regarding comments was published out of the area.

Because Gold Mountain refuses to submit a revised ski area plan, the State Park System refuses to grant a long-term lease, and Gold Mountain has a month-to-month arrangement. In essence, there were oversight problems by the Park, and no time for public comment over the Negative Declaration submitted by Gold Mountain. Now an impasse has developed between Gold Mountain and the State Park System, lawsuits are threatened, and there is no skiing in the Plumas-Eureka Ski Bowl.

Negative Declaration

In the summer of 1999, Gold Mountain Foundation, a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization, became the Johnsville Ski Bowl's manager and assumed the Plumas Ski Club's lease. The ski club, located in Quincy, California, and also a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization, had been the ski bowl manager since the bowl's inception in 1955 and had run the operation on a part-time basis.

A troika-type arrangement had been reached between Gold Mountain as new managers of the ski area, the Plumas Ski Club (purveyors of the "historic long-board races"), and the California State Park System, the owners and stewards of the ski hill property.

Robert Macomber, Superintendent of the Sierra District of the State Park System, stated expanded facilities on the Johnsville ski hill, specifically the construction of a new seated-chair lift, would require an EIR. Shortly thereafter, Superintendent Macomber retired from the Park System.

In the autumn of 1999, extensive "grooming" of the ski hill's manzanita-cloaked runs began. Old runs were improved and enlarged, and trees were felled to make new runs. In September of 2000, it was learned by serendipity that a "Negative Declaration" had been submitted to the State Park System in July 2000. No EIR had been prepared or filed. It could be assumed that the transition between one Park Superintendent and the next lessened the focus of Sierra District Headquarters on the EIR process.

Scrutiny of the Negative Declaration also revealed that the period of public input had

terminated in June of 2000, prior to the issuance of the document in July. Additionally, there were two similar but not exactly identical Negative Declarations given to the public. Plumas County Planning Director John McMorrow had authored the first and less detailed of these.

Gold Mountain Foundation's Negative Declaration proposed extensive ski bowl expansion, including changing from its prior part-time use to a 7-day-a-week operation; ski bowl renovations included a seated chair lift, an ice-skating rink, expansion of food service facilities including alcoholic beverage service, and locating an overflow parking area on the leeward side of Johnsville with shuttle bus service through town and up the hill to the ski bowl.

Subsequent investigation showed that the legal advertisement for the Negative Declaration had been published in November of 2000 in an out-of-area newspaper some 60 miles distant, at Truckee, California -- two counties away. Still, the Park considered the period of public input closed. The Park System thereafter denied there could be challenges involving CEQA issues since the period allowing any challenges had expired. The State Park System had accepted the Negative Declaration "without mitigation." It all looked like a done deal.

Public Meeting

The Negative Declaration's acceptance and the lack of an EIR incensed Johnsville residents, who were concerned about the extensive expansion of the ski bowl and the lack of public input into the process taking place on public land. Letters and phone conferences with State Park officials, including Director Rusty Areias, were initiated.

In June of 2001, a public meeting was held, with representatives of the State Park System, including newly-appointed Superintendent John Knott, the Gold Mountain Foundation represented by Peggy Garner, a principal in the Gold Mountain operation, now managers of the renamed "Ski Gold Mountain" facility, and members of the public. Many members of the Plumas Ski Club, Johnsville residents and other local residents were present at the large outdoor meeting, which was also attended by County Supervisor Don Clark and Road Superintendent Tom Hunter. It was a spirited gathering.

Gold Mountain's presentation consisted of presenting an overview of the goals of their facility and then answering questions from the

Conservation

Summer 2002

Ski Gold Mountain Impasse *(continued from p. 8)*

audience. The negative issues raised by local residents were water quality and availability, traffic density and speed, impact of a shuttle service, security, trash and sewage disposal, and disabled access. There were also complaints of oil spillage, sanitation overflow, inadequate fire prevention, and removal of trees for ski runs without Park authorization.

(continued on p. 9)

The overriding theme of ski enthusiasts -- the proponents -- was the desire to ski in an expanded facility with the most emotional comments centered around the use of the bowl for local children of the Johnsville Junior Ski Club.

Gold Mountain responded that they would never consider an EIR because of its expense, and felt they had complied with State Health Department mandated improvements in ski hill drinking water, and would dispense bottled water in the interim. When closely questioned, they further commented there would be no constructive engagement between the residential communities, including Johnsville, to solve mutual problems. The tone of Gold Mountain's response was that any plan must be their way, or Gold Mountain would leave the mountain.

County Supervisor Clark pledged his offices and energies to do what was best for the majority of County residents, namely encouraging ski bowl use, and Johnsville must suffer the consequences of his more global strategy. He pledged and delivered speed-control signs for Johnsville. The State Park subsequently inspected the ski area and arranged a general cleanup of the facilities, which included trash, sewage, and removal of some fuel contaminants.

Closed-Door Meeting

On February 8, 2002, Gold Mountain Foundation principals Dariel and Peggy Garner, two board members of the Plumas Ski Club, and Supervisor Don Clark of Plumas County, along with semi-retired State Judge Stanley "Spike" Young -- acting as negotiator for opening the ski area -- met with State Parks officials at the Sierra District Headquarters. One of the Parks attendees was a senior official from Sacramento; the ski bowl issue was certainly getting the Park System's attention.

The meeting's goal was to negotiate the opening of the Park's ski bowl. Excepting the Parks officials, all the interested political attendees and others were proponents of skiing. The meeting was deemed private by Parks, and public access, even to an observer,

was denied. It was a closed-door affair, and no minutes were kept.

Gold Mountain was told the Park System would require another ski bowl proposal for its review before considering a long-term relationship, and Gold Mountain would not commit to doing such; the opposition to resubmitting seems the heart of the impasse. The outcome was a refusal to open the ski hill at Plumas-Eureka State Park for the 2001-2002 season, based on the month-to-month agreement with the Park.

The Park terminated Gold Mountain's long-term lease on August 30, 2001, and they remain the concessionaires on a monthly lease basis. Certainly Gold Mountain has yet to provide a ski bowl proposal for the ski year 2002-2003, so the ski area may never again open under their standard or anyone else's. The State agency responsible for ski bowl inspections requires use of this park's ski bowl equipment for two consecutive years, or the bowl's operating permit could well be voided.

One positive outcome of the meeting was permission of the Park to allow the "historic" long board events to be run at the ski bowl by the Plumas Ski Club in January, February and March of this year.

Controversy and Stalemate

The present impasse between the State Parks System and Gold Mountain Foundation is due to the revision in Parks' thinking over the originally-filed Negative Declaration. Parks has decided that the original document was too limited for the scope of the proposed modifications within the Plumas-Eureka State Park.

In April of 2001, Parks formally rescinded its decision to accept the original Negative Declaration. It advised Gold Mountain that a new proposal would be required and that it would then decide, upon receipt of the proposal, whether it would be acceptable to Parks and if so, whether another Negative Declaration would suffice or if a full EIR would be required. Parks wanted to start the entire process anew.

Will there be a Gold Mountain proposal, a new Negative Declaration, or even an EIR for the Plumas Eureka-Park? It appears that not much has happened or is about to happen very soon. Mr. Dariel Garner, President of Gold Mountain Foundation, states Parks wants at least another improved Negative Declaration, and that any EIR process would be too expensive and time-consuming. Gold Mountain's position seems to be gross receipts

as profit from the Johnsville ski bowl operation. In the last ski season, this income amounted to a few hundred dollars, not a great incentive for an action-oriented stance.

Gold Mountain feels they have performed to Parks' specifications. Although Garner feels his goals were altruistic, he knows the Park System rejected Gold Mountain, and he has invested enough money in the ski bowl and lost too much in the process. Ski bowl expansion, including construction of a seated chair lift, mostly likely will never be completed by Gold Mountain. Probably, Gold Mountain has no plan to re-open the Plumas-Eureka ski facility or make improvements. The long-rumored threat of a lawsuit against Parks by Gold Mountain has also failed to materialize, although the filing deadline has not yet passed as of this writing. Gold Mountain did file a claim with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board against the Park System on August 14, 2001, but on October 19, 2001, the Board rejected this claim as involving complex factual and legal issues.

The school children members of the Johnsville Junior Ski Club and their families presently have no local ski facility in Plumas County and now travel to the Lake Tahoe area for their ski program. On the positive side, the Plumas Ski Club was successful in holding its "long board" fund-raising events on the mountain this year through the lobbying efforts of Clark and Young. The citizens of Johnsville have traffic control with help from "Radar" signs installed by the County and enforcement by the California Highway Patrol.

Parks is still very positive about bringing skiing back to the ski bowl, but under its restrictions and guidelines. However, the Park System contract with Gold Mountain presently realizes 2% of the gross receipts as profit from the Johnsville ski bowl operation. In the last ski season, this income amounted to a few hundred dollars, not a great incentive for an action-oriented stance.

Outlook

To resolve the impasse, Clark has proposed that the Eastern Plumas Recreation and Park District (EPRPD) assume the concessionaire role for the ski bowl, replacing the Gold Mountain management. Clark also projects ski bowl improvements and maintenance could be supported with funds from the State of California's recently approved Proposition 40 that finances parks and recreation expansion and infrastructure support. The third key element of Clark's plan is Gold Mountain's

Major New Federal Bill Proposed to Protect California's Wild Heritage

Submitted by Doug Pressel of the California Wild Heritage Campaign

California Senator Barbara Boxer's bill to protect a number of California's remaining wilderness areas and various sections of eligible wild and scenic rivers will soon be introduced into Congress and deserves all the support we can muster to help it become law.

The California Wild Heritage Campaign is working with thousands of activists across the state to permanently protect a large inventory of these special wild areas and rivers. Friends of the River, California's statewide river conservation organization, along with hundreds of grass-roots activists, organizations and businesses throughout the state, including the Sierra Club, the California Wilderness Coalition, the Wilderness Society and Patagonia, have set out to work in nearly every county with either an acre of unprotected wilderness or a mile of unprotected wild river. In total, there are close to 100 citizen groups working for the cause, from San Diego to Mount Shasta, from the desert to the central coast.

A partial list of Northeast California areas likely to be included in Senator Boxer's bill are additions to the Ishi Wilderness (Lassen National Forest), Lassen National Park Wilderness additions including Girard Ridge and Heart Lake potential wilderness areas, Yolla Bolly potential wilderness additions (Mendocino National Forest), and a Feather Falls wilderness area to protect the land surrounding this local treasure. Sections of two Northern California rivers are likely to receive Wild and Scenic designation: South Fork of the Trinity River and Cache Creek. A National Conservation Area is being proposed for a section of the Sacramento River near Red Bluff.

Feather Falls

For almost a year, the California Wild Heritage Campaign (CHWC) has been working to protect the Feather Falls area. As you may know, currently the Feather Falls area is a designated National Scenic Area, and is within the Plumas National Forest (PNF). In studies conducted by the PNF, both the Feather Falls land area and several area streams were found eligible for either Wilderness or Wild & Scenic River protection. Wilderness is the strongest protection available for public land, and Wild & Scenic River status is the strongest protection available for rivers. Wilderness protects wild areas from logging, new mining claims and off-road vehicles. Wild & Scenic River protection prohibits new dams on the

designated segment of a river or creek and protects the shoreline.

The current proposal CHWC is working on involves a proposed 8,000-acre wilderness area as well as Wild & Scenic River status for the Fall River, the South Branch Middle Fork Feather River, and the Little North Fork Feather River. All of it is within Butte County, whose motto is "Land of Natural Wealth and Beauty."

Ski Gold Mountain Impasse

(continued from p. 9)

voluntary withdrawal as concessionaire of the ski bowl.

Whether Gold Mountain will gracefully depart from the mountain is not certain. A withdrawal might compromise Gold Mountain Foundation's charitable status as a California tax-exempt corporation, as they consistently use the ski bowl as partial justification for their charitable exemption. Clark's plan also requires that Parks accept any EPRPD proposal as the alternate ski area concessionaire. EPRPD was only approved by the voters in the March 2002 election, and is presently in an organizational mode. Its financial underpinnings, especially to assume the ski bowl liabilities, must still be

(continued on p. 10)

determined.

Any future "historic long board races" would likely continue to be organized by the Plumas Ski Club because the club has the motivation, the need for fund raising, and the requirement to justify its tax-exempt status.

Would concessionaire transition allow input regarding upgrading and intensity of the ski area's use from the densely populated, closely situated residential areas lying proximate to the ski area? Will there be an EIR requirement that allows public comment? What's in the ski area project and its commercialism for the adjacent local merchants and communities, especially if

What You Can Do to Help

- * Visit the CHWC website, www.californiawild.org
- * Get involved: Call Jessica Rios at (530) 343-9541, or e-mail her at Jessica@calwild.org

- * Write letters:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
One Post Street, Suite 2450

Gerda Lydon

(continued from p. 4)

As the children grew up, picking up more of her time, she started getting more involved in issues that interested her outside of the immediate family.

She was chair of the local Sierra Club branch, the Yahi Group, from 1984 to 1988 (and secretary before that); has been Membership (Committee) Chair and Program Coordinator for the Yahi Group since '86; was president of the Butte County League of

(continued on p. 10)

Women Voters from '93 to '97; does a lot of volunteer work for the libraries ("I'm very pro-library," she says); attends Bidwell Park and Playground meetings and helps with the trails in Upper Bidwell Park; helps with the Prime Timers Opera Workshop; has been "pretty active" at the Discovery Shop, a second-hand store which donates its proceeds to local charities; and even served on the Butte County Fish and Game Commission for eight years.

"That was very educational," she said rather wryly. "I was really the only environmentally-conscious one on the board, and the rest were hunters."

Sustainable logging practices and wise land-use planning are also important issues for Gerda, although she concedes she doesn't follow City Council or Planning Commission meetings much.

Mountain Heart Yoga Retreat

June 14-16 at McCloud, CA near Mt. Shasta. \$249 includes lodging, vegetarian meals, yoga practice & nature hikes. Lisa Dice is a Certified Yoga Instructor & Sierra Club Outings

Most Sierra Club members know that John Muir helped create the club in 1892 and that he was the first president until his death in 1914. Members generally recognize that Muir was a naturalist intent on promoting preservation of portions of the Sierras as well as being concerned about the wise use of natural resources in general.

Although some members may also know that the term "Sierra" is Spanish for a range of mountains having a saw-toothed appearance, and that "Nevada" refers to a snowy range (How many know that there is another Sierra Nevada, in Spain?), many may not realize that there was a man preceding Muir who was initially the namer and climber of most of the Sierra mountains. His name was Clarence King, Geologist, another strong five-foot, six-inch adventurer who clamored around the Sierras with the Whitney California Geological Survey in 1864, four years before Muir even arrived in California. King, Muir, and John Wesley Powell, one-armed Civil War hero first to boat through the Grand Canyon, were all short, 150 pounders, but giants in what they accomplished.

King wrote a book called *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* that provides some dramatic descriptions of the mountains, and although John Muir later was "annoyed" the way King bent some truths for the benefit of a story, his pioneering efforts were nevertheless quite remarkable and his writing quite descriptive. Many remember that there was a conflict between Whitney and Muir in reference to the role of glaciers helping form Yosemite, and King loyally backed the anti-glacier Whitney thought, even though he recognized that glaciers had been present. In his book King described evidence of the movement of great ice masses that he found in the Yosemite area in 1864. As we know, that "wiry Scotsman Muir" discovered the presence of present living glaciers and stressed the vital role previously glaciers had in constructing the landscape. But King and Muir never met, and although they had mutual interests in spite of different theories, they would probably have enjoyed the experience as each was jovial, witty, and an exceptional conversationalist.

One of the main differences between the two mountain-lovers was their initial perceptions of the High Sierras. To King, the summits of the Sierras was described initially as "awfulness" and "emptiness." He said, "There is no sentiment of beauty in the whole

scene...silence and desolation are the themes which nature has wrought out under this eternally serious sky." Compare this with Muir's attitude of "awesomeness" with a reference to "God's beauty," and you realize it is the certain respect of nature that endears us to the Muirian philosophy.

What both men recognized was the disgraceful and destructive way the Sierras--and the American continent--was being utilized by the resource manipulators with hardly any thought of preserving sections in parks. King remarked about the "perpetual emigrants" who besieged the landscape with livestock, cutting the forests, and fouling the water without restraint or conscience. We saw this extended into the gold rush days when the hills and mountains were attacked in an uncontrolled fashion resulting in eroded streams and barren foothills. There is a greedy tendency to "get all one can" regardless of the long term effects to the environment, and even the American government was encouraging "the settlement of every square inch of America" through its Manifest Destiny. King told of one "Newty family from Pike" that had 2,000 hogs in the Sierra foothills that they moved from meadow to meadow to root out a living, and described the rock-hard meadows left in the wake of the devastating sheep.

Even though John Muir did some early work as a sheepherder, he recognized the destruction to the habitats they inflicted, and he later called them "hoofed locusts," and denounced them in his effort to save Yosemite. That present-day recreational wonderland was almost lost to private enterprise. President Lincoln had declared preservation of Yosemite in 1864, and instructed California to safeguard it. In fact, Clarence King was one of the surveyors who worked in that year to define the boundaries.

Crooked dealings of the "Enron" variety threatened to destroy the valley, an evil which was recognized by Muir, and he worked feverishly petitioning Congress to make it a National Park with National protection, but it wasn't until 1906 that he and Theodore Roosevelt succeeded in tearing it from the grip of greedy monopolies.

It took nearly half a century to salvage something as precious as Yosemite Valley. There is a need to be ever vigilant in protecting the realm of nature or it will be utterly destroyed. There are people out there who can see only as far as the buck in their face. Roosevelt was not politically afraid to

assert his views, and remarked: "No small part of the prosperity of California depends upon the preservation of her water supply; and the water supply cannot be preserved unless the forests are preserved."

It is interesting to ponder what reason compels some people to exert exceptional energy in advocating the protection of nature, and other mentalities that proceed to extract as much profit from the land as possible. When John Muir made his "last journey" to South America in 1911, it was typical of him to notice "the wanton destruction" he witnessed in several places. Muir's journal demonstrates that he was not only a traveler and botanist, but also a preservationist with global concerns. The larger trees, he lamented, "have simply been burned and killed so that they stand melancholy and as black monuments, some of them nearly a hundred feet high."

Muir went on to Africa "just to see the baobab trees," and his journals are remarkable for what they omit. He made extensive notes regarding beauty of the landscape, but did not mention any of the many wars that had preceded him, nor the Italians invading Libya just months before his passage. Sound familiar? Given Muir's pacifist demeanor, his omissions of African colonial conflicts may be due to his preference for the natural over the cultural. Muir's journals from Africa make clear that the history of most concern to him was natural history.

In a time of international turmoil and "terrorist attacks," let us not forget a calmer



Gray Lodge Update

We are heading into our off-season for tourists. Although many people still enjoy the beauty of Gray Lodge during the summer months, some are discouraged by the abundant mosquitoes and black gnats. Our seasonal ponds are nearly drained now, allowing for the staff to manage the land through disking, planting and burning. The majority of our visitors include anglers and early-morning birdwatchers. Watch for our updates in fall and winter, the best seasons of Gray Lodge's year.

Staples, Inc. Introduces Tree-Free Paper

by Susan Sears

A recent press release issued by Staples, Inc., reports that hemp/flax paper manufactured by Living Tree Paper Company of Eugene, OR, would be available in over 1,000 of the firm's "superstores" across the country in time for Earth Day.

Consumers can now purchase reams of newly-stocked Vanguard Recycled Plus (tm), a 90% post-consumer waste, 10% non-wood paper. Expected to sell at a price of \$6.99 per ream, the versatile sheet is guaranteed for use in ink-jet and laser printers and copiers, and makes beautiful business stationery.

"No new trees went into this paper!" the bright green and white label announces. Instead, Vanguard Recycled Plus is made from recycled office paper and Hemp/Flax, a combination of hemp and flax fibers. The 24-pound premium white bond paper is acid free and process-chlorine free, and the Hemp/Flax portion is totally chlorine free. The paper is distributed through Southworth Paper Company of Agawam, MA, a 160-year-old producer of fine paper. Southworth is the leading distributor of fine papers in all office superstores.

With this move, Staples, Inc., a Massachusetts-based, \$11-billion retailer of office supplies, joins over 40 Fortune 500 companies who have pledged to phase out virgin-wood papers and introduce environmental alternatives. "We commend Staples for making the effort to provide its customers with a true environmental paper, and we're delighted that Southworth has joined us in this effort," said Carolyn Moran, president of Living Tree Paper Company. A leader in developing non-wood and post-consumer waste papers since 1995, Living Tree Paper Company supplies clients such as Mitsubishi, Nike and Patagonia.

Consumer demand is shifting, and companies are changing their practices to match. Home Depot and Lowe's have not suffered from their environmentally responsible choice to stop selling wood from old growth forests. Staples' decision to sell Living Tree Paper came after nearly three years of intense pressure from environmentalists who decried the company's refusal to sell 100% recycled paper.

Hollywood actor and environmental activist Woody Harrelson says, "Over 50% of the forests cut in the United States have been used for paper products which mostly end up in landfills. Breaking our dependence on wood-based paper is one of the most important things we can do for Mother

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." -John Muir

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag



My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 email _____
 Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my Mastercard Visa
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

F94Q W 0904 1
 Enclose check and mail to:
 Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Ed's Printing

- We encourage the use of recycled papers
100% recycle paper available
- We use vegetable based inks
- Paper sizes printed up to 18 x 24 in.

550 Cherry Street • Chico, CA • 891-4625

Mountain Sports

Specialists In

- * Technical Outerwear & Sportswear
- * Backpacking
- * Rock Climbing/Mountaineering
- * Traveling
- * X-Country Skiing



"Serving Chico Since 1975"

176 E. 3rd St., Chico, CA 95928 (530) 345-5011/Fax (530) 345-5229

Bread On A Journey Is No Burden

...Russian proverb



Miller's Bread is available at the Saturday morning Farmer's Market, S & S Produce and Chico Natural Foods (530) 532-6384



Sales • Service
Instruction • Rentals

178 East 2nd Street
 Chico, CA 95928
 Voice: 530-345-2453
 Fax: 530-345-9064
 Email: nraschico@aol.com

www.northrimadventure.com

TREK



GT

Chico's Best Bike Shop

Budd Schwab

330 Main Street • Chico, CA 95928 • (530) 345-2081

Recycle



Reuse