CARRIZO PLAIN AND SIMPLE
Grazing Does Not = Conservation

About 50 miles southwest of Bakersfield and 50 miles southeast of San Luis Obispo lie 250,000 acres of a federally designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This is the portion of San Luis Obispo County comprised of the Carrizo Plain, Eldhorn Plain, portions of the Temblor Mountain Range and the Caliente Mountain Range, known collectively as the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA). It is also a repository of vast archaeological and cultural resources.

In his proclamation designating this area as the Carrizo Plain National Monument, President Clinton noted: “Since the mid-1800s, large portions of the grasslands that once spanned the entire four hundred mile expanse of California’s nearby San Joaquin Valley and other valleys in the vicinity have been eliminated by extensive land conversion to agricultural, industrial, and urban land uses. The Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is dramatically bisected by the San Andreas Fault zone, is the largest undeveloped remnant of this ecosystem, providing crucial habitat for the long-term conservation of the many endemic plant and animal species that still inhabit the area.”

The land is managed under the Monument’s management plan and the Caliente Resource Management Plan, which has the stated objective continued on page 4

A Nuclear Alliance
The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, a newly formed statewide organization, went online the week of January 10 at www.a4nr.org. Its goal is the promotion of legislation to prohibit re-licensing of California’s nuclear power plants and the development of energy alternatives to replace them.

State law currently prohibits the construction of new nuclear power plants in California until the problem of permanent, safe storage of nuclear waste has been solved, a 20-year-old prohibition that has spared the state the fate that has befallen Illinois and many states in the southeast that are now riddled with nuclear reactors. The ANR is lobbying for the sensible extension of that prohibition to the continued operation of existing nuclear power plants in California.

“IT is vital that Californians realize that there are two high-level radioactive waste dumps in our vulnerable earthquake-active coastal zone,” said ANR Executive Director Rochelle Becker. “To continue to produce plutonium, uranium, strontium-90, cesium-137 and other radioactive elements when there is no safe place to store this lethal material could have devastating consequences for us. Even if the nation’s only proposed nuclear waste facility, Yucca Mountain, should someday be allowed to open, there’s no space for the radioactive waste that

continued on page 5
Bush Administration’s New Forest Rules: More Logging, Less Wildlife Protection, Dirtier Water, and No Input

For the second year in a row, the Bush Administration announced a harmful new forest policy on the eve of the Christmas holiday. On December 23, 2003, the administration announced they were opening up pristine parts of the Tongass National Forest to new logging and development. Last December, they released damaging new regulatory changes to the rules that guide sound forest management.

The Bush administration’s new rules effectively remove 20 years of National Forest protections. The new Forest Service planning regulations undermine important wildlife, clean water, and other environmental protections. Instead of protecting wild forests from limiting damage to wildlife and clean water, these new regulations allow agency discretion to carry out harmful projects and revise management plans at will. Additionally, the new regulations will sharply limit the opportunity for meaningful participation by citizens in local forest planning.

“The new forest rules clearly reflect the Bush administration’s belief that logging companies should be the primary beneficiary of our National Forests,” said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. “Americans want to protect the places where they hike, hunt and fish, but when the Bush administration rewrote the rules, they wrote the public out of the equation.”

America’s National Forests deserve better. With these new rules the administration’s regulations on science, ignorance the importance of public input, tilts the playing field sharply toward the logging companies by creating a presumption that all national forest lands are open to industrial or timber uses unless explicitly prohibited, and leaves monitoring of logging impacts at the discretion of individual forest supervisors.

The new rules for long-term forest planning will reduce protections for forest wildlife and eliminate requirements that forest plans comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The regulations also change enforcement of the 1976 National Forest Management Act, and, not surprisingly, conform closely to a timber industry “wish list” presented shortly after the 2001 presidential inauguration. Taken together with the administration’s plan to remove wild forest protection for National Forests, these changes will create serious threats to many of our last remaining wild roadless areas and old-growth forests. Instead of bowing to timber industry pressures and undermining existing National Forest protections; the Bush administration should work to protect our clean water, restore wildlife habitat, and preserve the wild forest heritage of all Americans.

For more information and to take action: visit www.sierraclub.org/forests
Films in February

presented by HopeDance Media
www.hopedance.org, 544-9663.
Cosponsored by the Sierra Club, In-
formation Press and the Green Party of
SLO County.

All films and presentations are at the
SLO Library (Osoo & Palm).

Friday, Feb. 4, 7pm, $5. Two films. COD-
ENAME ARTICHOCHE: the Secret
Human Experiments of the CIA, which
collected all 1950s military
projects involving psychedelic
drugs and poisons. And THE MAN WHO
KNEW: FBI special agent John
O’Neill warned that Osama Bin Laden
was going to strike and no one
listened. A Frontline presentation.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7pm. Donations,
MONUMENTAL: David Brower’s Fight
For Wild America. Not since John
Muir has an American fought so
hard, or been more successful, in protect-
ing our natural heritage. (77min)

Friday, Feb. 11, 7pm. Donations, two
Films: SEX AND THE HOLY CITY. The
BBC travelled across four continents
to talk to those directly affected by the
Vatican’s role in the bitter global
debate over women’s rights and
reproductive health. And INSIDE
MECCA, 3 pilgrimages to the Haj by a
white woman from Texas, a black man
from South Africa, and an Indonesian
businessman.

Sunday, Feb 13, 7pm, $5: PROM-
ISIES, An Academy-award nominee
documentary about 7 children, Pales-
tinians and Israelis, who give us an
insight into the prejudices, hopes,
despairs and realities of their home.
“A movie that changes you.” —Mike
Nichols

Wednesday, Feb 16, 7pm. Donations,
Slide-show Presentation: Fair Trade
Chocolate in Ghana: Cal Poly Profes-
sor, Tom Neuzhous will discuss what
Fair Trade means for the cocoa farm-
ners of West Africa, where 70% of
the world’s chocolate comes from. Free
samples!

Friday, Feb 18, 7pm. Donations,
TWO BILL HICKS PERFORMANCES
Stand up comedian / “preacher” - Bill
Hicks, who died a decade ago, is more
relevant than ever.

Sunday, Feb 20, 7pm, Donations,
“CUBA: What’s Wrong with This Pic-
ture?” and “Mission against Terror”
(about the Cuban 5), with director
Bernie Dwyer from Radio Havana
(Cuba). “A movie that changes you.” —Mike
Nichols

By Andrew Christie

David Brower: Monumental

Like most people who live in the public eye, David Brower
was required to compose a “bio” — an official summary of
self, suitable for excerpting by editors or reproduction on
the backs of book jackets. His went, in part, like this:
“Joined the Sierra Club in 1933, was a world-class
climber when it took little class (first ascent of Shipherock, New
Mexico, his best), and helped add ten units to the National Park
System, keep duns out of Dinosaur Na-
tional Monument, the Grand Canyon, and the Yakun,
lobbied to establish the National Wilder-
ness Preservation System, invented the
Outdoor Recreation Resources Review,
published or edited about a dozen
environmental books, started the
Sierra Club Founda-
Friends of the Earth
International (now in 58
countries), the
League of Conserva-
Voters, Earth In-

ternational (UK),
Earth Island Insti-
tute (U.S.), Earth
Island Action
Group, the North
Cascades Conserva-

tion Council, the
Fate of the Earth
Conference (in four
countries), starting the
Global CPR
Service (Conserva-

tion, Preservation,
Restoration), and the
Ecological
Council of the
Americas… once a
sophomore drop-
out from C.U. Berkeley,
twice a visiting pro-

fessor at Stanford,
once at Case Western (where he wrote a
page in the NYT
Sunday Magazine about how to manage the Earth, and
Reader’s Digest liked it), ten honorary
degrees, on

Advisory Board of the Yosemite Concession Service, on the
“Dream Team” of Interface Corporation, three
times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize… shiftless procras-
tinator and master of creative sloth, enjoying the delights
of retirement by getting nothing done, talks endlessly,
writes the same way.

I first heard David Brower speak at a Patagonia environ-
mental seminar series about ten years ago, but didn’t re-
ally meet him until August 1999. The Maxxam Corporation
took over Kaiser Aluminum and the Pacific Lumber
Company, much to the regret of both. Over two days that
August, at the Oakland Marriott, Brower chaired a meeting
of the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment,
which had come together earlier that year when two
groups — Kaiser’s striking steelworkers and environmen-
talists fighting to save the Headwaters Forest from
Maxxam’s ruthless clear cutting — realized they should
make common cause. Three months later in the streets of
Seattle, that realization became “Teammates & turtles,”
allied against the destructive policies of the World Trade
Organization and making history in images that were
beamed around the world.

On those thronged streets, in rain, pepper spray, tear
gas and rubber bullets, I met David Brower for the first
time. The 87-year-old environmentalist had come there
to support the deal to save the Headwaters Forest.

On those thronged streets, in rain, pepper spray, tear
gas and rubber bullets, I met David Brower for the last
time. The 87-year-old environmentalist had come there
with 50,000 purple Mohawked 18-year-olds, midwestern
sheet-metal workers, people of faith, and Asian, European,
African and North & South American farmers and labor-
leaders, all standing together in the conviction that a bet-
ner world is possible.

When he died, less than a year later, I wrote a brief
reminiscence of him. It went like this:

David Brower, the greatest American envi-
ronmental champion since John Muir, died
on November 5. In the outpouring of eulo-
gies and encomiums occasioned by his
passing, one note of irony was always
certain to be bounded (and equally certain
to have vastly amused Mr. Brower): Namely,
the fact that those in the environ-
mental movement whom he irritated and enraged
the most, and who devoted a great deal of their time to
vigorously opposing him, are those who are now
praising him the loudest. The undertone of relief is
unmistakable: Now that he’s gone, it’s safe.

Throughout his life, Mr. Brower struggled against
the greed of Homo sapi-
ens: Those who do the actual environmental rap-
ing and pillaging, and those
“boardroom environ-
mentalists” who aid and
abet them by tailoring the
tone of their voices and the
magnitude of their actions
in defense of the natural
world to fit the prevailing
political winds.

Those who profess envi-
ronmental concern but
render the protection of the
Earth’s wildlife and vanish-
ing habitat subordinate to
organizational harmony or
“process” were Mr.
Brower’s natural enemies.
He never had the time or
patience for their favored
activities — the building of
bureaucracies, the cutting
deals, the choosing of
lesser evils. Mr. Brower
was an agitator and a stinging
gadfly. His drive was relentless. He insisted on the
urgency of the peril and the need for ac-
tion as the first, last, and only concern.
At the board meetings of the organizations he fon-
ced or led — organizations from
which he invariably abstained, some-
times more than once — it was clear that
he was, well into his eighties, truly the
youngest person in the room.
He saw his battles through. He pressed
the issue. He kept at the destroyers until
the destroyers relented. He was unaired to
cause strife and dissent, and grasped
the fact that it is usually the ability and
willingsness to do so which brings about
the temporary victories in our battles
to gain real protections for the wild earth, and
an unwillingness to do so or a longing for
compromise at any cost that brings about the
permanent defeats.

David Brower was the embodiment of
the concept of the Power of One to make a
difference. Those of us who cherish
his memory owe it to that memory to let his
natural enemies know: He is not gone, and
it is not safe.

The documentary Monumental: David Brower’s Fight
For Wild America, will have its Central Coast premiere at
7pm, Thursday, February 10, at the SLO Library. For infor-
mation, go to www.hopedance.org or call 544-9663.

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mation, go to www.hopedance.org or call 544-9663.
to “manage the CPNA so that indigens
or the Calientes? We don’t know, and the BLM – which has no data on any of this and is not seeking any – does not know either. It does not know if management objectives are being met.

This has been going on for eight years, despite clear direction in both the Caliente Revised Management Plan and the CPNA Management Plan. After eight years, where is the data to support the need for grazing on the traditional leases? How are decisions being made to turn out livestock, year after year, without this data?

Significant departures from the existing CPNA Management Plan and the Caliente Resource Management Plan (as related to Carrizo) are being proposed in the current planning process. Yet BLM is seeking the most cursory level of environmental re-

vie – an Environmental Assessment (EA) – for its revised plan, rather than a more rigorous and detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proper level of environ-
mental review for a new Revised Management Plan is an EIS.

At the crux of the issue is the conversion of the 10-year “traditional” grazing leases in the Monument to annual “free-use” permits. The 10- year leases have led to overgrazing and erosion. “Free-use” permits would be managed by biologists to benefit native wildlife. Grazing on Carrizo Plain was, and is, supposed to be used only as a tool to benefit native species, not just to establish federal grazing preference.

As noted in the plans, there are many sensitive archeological sites (often near water where cattle typi-
cally congregate) within the bound-
aries of the CPNA, especially in the Calientes and along the foothills. Are cattle damaging known sites, or po-
tentially damaging undiscovered sites?

BLM staff argues that they need more time – 5 years or more – to gather data in the Temblors and the Calientes. But they have already had 8 years to gather data and they con-
tinue to graze without it. How is it that there is enough data to continue annual grazing, but not enough data to correct inconsistencies in the cur-
rent management plan in the plan-
ning process? Is grazing still to be the benefit native species or not?

It certainly seems that free-use permits would be a more appropriate (and flexible) tool to manage grazing within the entire CPNA and that the appro-
riate public process to convert the traditional leases to free-use in the CPNA planning process and the parallel revision of the Caliente RMP. Indeed, traditional leases appear to be contrary to the stated mission and management goals of the current plan.

The fact that they continue to be grazed without regard to data is an indication that they have a life of their own, one that is contrary to what the managing partners in-
tended and what the public was promised.

The “precautionary prin-
ciple” and the current Management Plan dictate that one should not graze within the CPNA if there is the potential to harm native species. Indeed, one should not graze unless grazing benefits native species – especially given that this area has long been identified as an ACEC, the extraordinarily high concentration of Threatened and Endangered spe-
cies, and that this is the last signifi-
cant tract of San Joaquin Valley habi-
tat left in California.

We do not want to wait, and the Carrizo cannot afford to wait, another 5 years (or longer) for new stud-
ies while resources are potentially being damaged. The Re-
vised Management Plan process allows for maximum public notice and participa-
tion and is the right process by which to make necessary changes in how grazing occurs on the CPNA and to

Grazing on Carrizo Plain was, and is, supposed to be used only as a tool to benefit native species, not to establish federal grazing preference.

ACT NOW!

Support Vegetation Management - Alternative 3

Mike Pool
California State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Re: Carrizo Plain National Monu-
ment RMP

Dear Mr. Pool,

The “traditional” 10-year grazing leases have placed economic consider-
ations over the protection of biodiversity in Carrizo Plain Na-
tional Monument. Given the clear federal directive to manage for biodiversity and not to establish federal grazing preference, these leases should be converted to free-
use permits, with need assessed on an annual basis, or eliminated at the earliest possible date if their need is not substantiated by credible data. For this reason, I strongly support Vegetation Management Alternative 3 in the CPNA draft as endorsed by the California Department of Fish and Game and unanimously sup-
ported by the public in attendance at the May 2004 meeting of the Carrizo Resource Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

(your name here)
Nuclear
(continued from page 1)

would be produced during a re-licensing period.

Becker, former Project Manager for nuclear safety and security issues for the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, founded the ANR as a state organization to take on the legislative agenda beyond the scope of the Mothers for Peace, which will continue to pursue legal challenges against the nuclear power industry.

On January 14, the PBS program NOW aired The Nuclear Option; Nuclear Plant Safety After 9/11, an examination of the nationwide struggle to increase security at nuclear facilities post-9/11, including the efforts of the citizens of the small county of San Luis Obispo, which has taken the lead in that struggle through multiple legal proceedings brought by the Mothers for Peace in conjunction with Sierra Club, Public Citizen and others. The program can be viewed at www.pbs.org/now/thisweek/archive.html.

"It is irresponsible for California to continue to allow production of high-level radioactive waste that could severely impact our health, safety, environment and economy," said Becker. "The risks of storage and transport, and the cost, will only go up. This is not a legacy California can responsibly leave to our children and grandchildren.

"The Sierra Club supports the systematic reduction of society’s dependence on nuclear fission as a source of electric power and the closure and decommissioning of commercial reactors. This is a necessary component of the ‘Smarter, Cleaner, Stronger’ strategy, a report published in October 2004 for the Blue Green Alliance, a coalition of labor and environmental advocates including the Sierra Club, that provides a "roadmap to a smart energy policy for a clean environment and a strong nation’ and concludes that "the time has come for America to replace its aging, inefficient energy supply system with better technologies for the new century."

Only 11% of all federal R&D money goes to renewable energy, less than one fifth of the amount lavished on the nuclear power subsidy. Shutting down nuclear powerplants and redirecting the public funds subsidizing their operation and upkeep should be part of the investment in efficient, clean energy technologies. The implementation and acceleration of existing technologies, stimulation of the development of renewable domestic energy sources, and promotion of research and development of efficient new technologies would lower business costs and boost productivity.

In California alone, the “Smarter, Cleaner, Stronger” plan would result in 207,000 additional new jobs created and an average household saving on energy bills of $770 per year.

Sea otters are considered ‘indicators’ of the health of our nearshore ecosystem, canaries in the ocean coal mine. As the otter coughs and chokes along its path to recovery, it has become apparent that the otter is also an indicator of the health of our nearshore ecosystem. Anything we can do to protect and clean up the marine environment will benefit otters. We must keep oil out, create marine reserves, and promote the development of renewable energy sources. While these are sweeping changes, there can be no doubt that we will be able to do better this year, all year. And next month, when you get a letter requesting your financial support of the Chapter, think big! While we’re not exactly what Jack Brill is talking about in his presentation on Socially Responsible Investing at this month’s chapter meeting, we are an investment, and a pretty responsible one, for people who don’t like the idea of San Luis Obispo turning into a giant subdivision and strip mall, with air you can’t easily breathe, water you’d rather not drink, and wildlife that live mostly in memory. But to keep doing what we’re doing, we need to do better this year, all year.

What’s Going On with Our Otters?

By Steve Shimak
Executive Director, The Otter Project

Scattered around the offices here at the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo — the most literally named building in town — are a profuse number of note pads from Poor Richard’s Press, the printer that all local enviros who come through here use for stationery, cards, flyers, brochures and posters (convenient locations in SLO: Santa Maria, Paso Robles, Atascadero and Arroyo Grande... okay, Leslie, now can we get a discount?). Inscribed at the top of every page on the pads is the following motto: “Either print things worth reading or do things worth printing.”

It is our hope that we are doing both those things. And if you think that what we are doing is both worth doing and reading about, we hope that you will be inclined to translate that sense of worth into its monetary analog on behalf of the local chapter.

conceptions: The settlement funding we just won for the preservation of our local threatened Western snowy plovers as reported on our front page last month — $480,000, to be exact — isn’t going to anyone but the researchers, educators, plover volunteers who do the fieldwork, and contractors. The Sierra Club can’t get a dime. We won a victory for the plovers, not for our treasurers...

We’re pleased with the results of our year-end fund-raising campaign. But to keep doing what we’re doing, we need to do better this year, all year.

Here’s the Pitch...

And so here’s an idea: Think of the Chapter as a monthly expense. Whenever the Santa Lucian appears in your mailbox, after you’ve read it, put it away with your phone, cable, and gas bills.
TDC's: The Sprawling Scandal
Ag Land Abused by Flawed “Preservation” Program

By Sue Harvey
Chapter Executive Committee

TDC’s are busting out all over, all over the meadows and the range (apologies to Rodgers and Hammerstein).

The TDC (Transfer of Development Credits) program was established to redirect development rights from rural and Ag lands to urban areas – offering the opportunity to appropriately increase density adjacent to cities. The Ag Commissioner’s office has repeatedly stated the use of TDCs on Ag land is not consistent with the intent of the TDC program, which is to protect agricultural resources and operations. Ag zoned lands were never advertised as a development tool, yet applications to subdivide Ag and rural lands to smaller than minimum parcel size are sprouting up like dandelions in spring.

The TDC program is under review. The Board of Supervisors has directed planning staff to establish criteria to restrict the use of TDCs on Ag land or remove the use of TDCs on Ag land altogether. These applications are inconsistent with the County’s Ag and Open Space Policies. Yet, nearly 40% of the new applications for TDC credits have been to divide Ag lands. Recently, the Board of Supervisors greatly increased the Ag and rural lands subject to subdivision in this manner by designating 5 mile circles around urban and village lines. The Air Pollution Control District recommends that TDC receiver sites (land eligible to accept TDC’s) be only within urban or village reserve lines. The Board’s change has opened up at least 36% of the County’s Ag land to subdivision with TDCs.

The Templeton Area Advisory Group (TAAG) has voiced their concern about the program to the Planning Department and the Board of Supervisors. TAAG has requested a moratorium be placed on TDC applications until such time as TAAG’s community-based TDC program is in place. The Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council (SMAC) reiterated its opposition to Ag land as a receiver site at its meeting on January 12. Creston Citizens for Ag Land Preservation (CCALP) organized in May of 2004 to challenge the onslaught of TDC applications to subdivide Ag Land. CCALP spokesperson Maria Lorca sees merit in the program but ...finds use of credits to divide Ag land an outrageous and unjustifiable abuse. We have not found another TDC program anywhere that allows this to happen. How does it make sense to preserve Ag land in one part of the county only to divide it up in another?

The Grand Jury investigation of the TDC program in March 2001 recommended that the TDC program “…be amended to provide for community based programs only, tailored to local needs….” Yet the Planning Department has unilaterally designated several areas, such as South Atascadero, as TDC receiver sites – effectively increasing density potential without community input. As Lorca notes, “In South Atascadero, the program is being used to over ride community plan standards and the objections of neighbors.”

Inland North County is the area most vulnerable to this rural sprawl because of the lack of community-based plans. Requests for subdivision of land using TDCs are routinely approved and scutrition given to the cumulative effects of these de facto zoning upgrades. In the North County, TDCs are fast becoming a means to bypass extensively reviewed, expensive General Plan amendments.

The Coastal Areas and the cities for the most part do not accept credits. South County has its own plan, and Los Osos has a community-based plan. Unless interested citizens such as advisory councils or neighborhood groups take the initiative, the county program, with its inherent abuses, prevails. For more information about the TDC program or how to get started with your own community-based program, contact the County Planning Department and your local advisory council. Also, contact Creston Citizens for Ag Land Preservation: Maria Lorca P.O. Box 397 Creston, CA 93432 (805) 674-1863 message (805) 226-0892 mlorca@globalnet.net CCALP will be happy to share their information with you and they can email you an Adobe Acrobat file of the County’s TDC ordinance.

Otters

believe it would be inappropriate to enact change without conclusively identifying the incremental benefit derived from each modification. Scientists call for more research.

So – from the conservation perspective — what can be done?

The otter’s range should be allowed to expand south into the Channel Islands. Waters south of Point Conception are a federal “no-otter-zone” protecting the interests of a handful of sea urchin fishermen exporting sushi topping to Japan. California is spending millions to restore kelp, fish, and otter recovery. As has been said over and over again, we cannot manage wildlife, we can only manage ourselves; simple common sense suggests the no-otter-zone has to go.

To take action on this item, visit www.otterproject.org.

A statewide network of marine reserves should be created that places high value on complete and healthy marine ecosystems. The network should be big enough that areas outside the reserves respond with increased productivity and diversity. Reserves — areas where exploitation is prohibited — will not only provide true sanctuary, they will produce lar- vae to seed areas outside the reserve.

Sea otters — and all of us — will benefit from the increased productivity and diversity. The Central Coast is the lead area in the revived Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative. To take action on this item, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa and insert yourself into the MLPA Initiative process.

Stricter sewage and storm water treatment should be enacted. Cities with lower treatment standards, such as Morro Bay, should be brought into compliance. Specifically, we should scale storm water treatment to be able to handle the large percentage of the total contaminant load contained in the runoff from the “first flush” — winter storms. Generally, the volume of these first storms is relatively small.

Butyltin, mixed with boat paint to kill algae and barnacles, and a powerful immune suppressant in mammals, should be banned. The scientific literature calls butyltin the “most toxic chemical ever introduced into the marine environment.” The United Nations has proposed a worldwide ban on the use and manufacture of butyltin. The Administration, together with US chemical companies, has opposed this ban. To take action on this item write to the President and urge him to ratify the BCD convention on anti fouling chemicals.

We must vigorously oppose offshore oil drilling and exploration at every crossroads. We must oppose development of the 38 leased but undeveloped tracts extending from Venturo to Morro Bay, support inclusion of Davidson Seamount, 20 miles off Pt. Sur, in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (see “Sanctuary Now!” January Santa Lucian).

The science and conservation communities involve like-minded people. Scientists are trained to stay focused on the issue at hand. Conservationists are trained to propel science into policy. Working together, we can catalyze positive change for the future.

For more information on the sea otter and actions you can take, visit www.otterproject.org or write The Otter Project, 3908 Stewart Court, Marina, CA 93933.
Classifieds

Classified ads are $10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the last week of the month prior to publication (next deadline is Feb. 21, 2005). Please submit your ad and payment to: Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter p.o. Box 15755 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 sierra8@charter.net

Local Government Meetings

City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404.
Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
SLO Council of Governments: 781-4219
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

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Environmental 911

Here’s an easy way to report on environmental concerns or to get information on issues affecting our ecology: Call 911! That’s just a catchy title, though. The real number is . . . (drum roll):
(415) 977-5520 or environmental911@sierraclub.org

A Will . . .

. . . is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You may even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
(415) 977-5538.
Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outing leader, please contact Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

Hiking Classifications:
Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.
Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Wed., Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 4 p.m. Informal 1-2 hours hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check Website at http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index.html or e-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat., Feb. 5, 8:45 a.m., OAT'S PEAK-COON CREEK LOOP: Hike from Spooner's Cove Ranger Station along gradually ascending open ridge to lunch at Oat's Peak. After lunch, we'll descend along a spur ridge through a canopy of oak woods through Coon Creek valley to the ocean. Loop may be finished by Bluff trail or roadway back to the Ranger Station (9 mi, 1500 ft. elev. gain). Meet 8:45 a.m. at Santa Maria at the North SB County Government Center's easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels. SLO residents call for meeting time and place. Hikes are subject to change so always contact the leader. JERRY 928-5598 (AR).

Sat., Feb. 5, 9:00 a.m., Cerro Alto-long hike loop. Join the leader on this 7.1 mile hike in the Los Padres National Forest. Elevation gain is about 1700 ft. We will begin at the Cerro Alto campground and hike to the summit. On the return we will pass through the eucalyptus grove and take the Boy Scout Trail back to the road to the campground. From the summit on a clear day there is a sweeping view of the coastline from Mussel Rock to Estero Bay. Meet in the day use area at the back of the Cerro Alto campground. Cerro Alto campground is on the south side of Highway 41 and is 8 miles east of Morro Bay. This is an Adventure Pass area. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, lunch or snack, water, and dress for the weather. For info, call Chuck at 927-3769.

Sun., February 6, 11 a.m., SUPERBOWL ALTERNATIVE HIKE AND POTLUCK: If bears, dolphins, and eagles sound like animals, not teams, join us as we hike Point Sal to our potluck lunch destination (5 mrt, 1300 ft. elev. gain). Bring a daypack with food to share, as well as a plate, utensils, and water for yourself. Meet at the Orcutt Long's Drug parking lot at 11am. Hikes are subject to change, always contact the leader. HIM 937-6766 (AR).

Sun., Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m., COAST HIKE: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano at 0930. Secret passageway to spectacular dunes, Dogs on leash OK. Water and windbreaker. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org.

Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m., BIRDING IN MORRO BAY: We will tour the back bay to see how many shore birds we can find. Bring your boat and equipment, PFD, windbreaker, bird book, binoculars and a picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE 12:19 PM 4.7'. LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. LOW TIDE 6:36 PM 0.4' PUT IN 10:00 AM. Jack Beagle, 773-2147.

Sun., Feb. 13, 9:30 a.m., POINT SAL: Meet at end of Brown Rd at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to ‘pass’ and then decide. Dogs OK if they do not chase cattle. Water, lunch, windbreaker, nos, and a friend. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org.

Sat-Mon., Feb. 19-21, Southern Nevada Hot Spots. President’s Day field trip to visit two key threatened public land areas. Join a day hike Saturday to the new Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, just south of Las Vegas, where helicopter overflights are a serious concern, if a proposed new heliport is built. Sunday and Monday join overnight car campout to the Gold Butte area at the eastern edge of the state where striking cultural artifacts and unique geological formations are in danger of being overrun by exponential increases in recreation use by off-road vehicles. We’ll see these troubled treasures for ourselves and learn how we can help. The overnight features central commissary. Leader Vicky Hoover is assisted by several local experts. vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, (415-977-5527). SF Bay/CNRCC Desert Com.

Sun., Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m., Cabrillo Peak and Beyond. Join us for this 2.5 hr., 6 mile loop hike with 900' elevation gain. Everyone welcome but beginners will fall way behind due to the non-stop pace and elevation gain. Meet at the quarry trailhead at the large dirt parking lot in Morro Bay State Park. It is located on South Bay Boulevard, 1.3 miles from Hwy 1 or 2.6 miles from Los Osos Valley Road. Rain cancels. Leader: AI (534-0462) (3B).

Sun., Feb. 20th , 9:30 a.m., MUSSEL ROCK: Meet on Guad. Beach at 0930. Hike south. Dog on leash OK at this time of year. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org.

Sun., Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m., COAST HIKE: See a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Bring lunch and water. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org.

Sat., Feb. 26, 9am, Three peaks loop in Montana de Oro SP: Bag Valencia, Oats, and False Alan peaks on this strenuous 11 mi., 3000 ft., loop hike. Similar to last month’s False Alan Peak hike but 33% more fun with the addition of Valencia Peak. Several places to loop back early for those wanting a shorter hike. Lunch break in the Coon Creek cypress grove. The wildflowers should be getting nice by now. Possible ticks and poison oak in places. Meet at visitor center. Rain cancels. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, <rws_usa@yahoo.com> (4F)

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.