

AN UNHAPPY YEAR FOR YOUR PARKS?

FOR MANY YEARS you have seen on this cover various illustrations of what we thought were handsome bits of scenery—part of the whole picture of America the beautiful. This time we are eliminating the scenery to symbolize what the Secretary of the Interior has just done.

On December 11 Secretary McKay asked for liquidation of Dinosaur National Monument by recommending construction of Echo Park Dam, right in the heart of it.

Dinosaur and its wonderful canyons comprise a key unit of the National Park System, a unique, magnificent, friendly place, highly praised by all who have gone through it, wisely set aside to be enjoyed and protected as it is, deserving of being a full-fledged national park.

The Dinosaur Controversy Becomes Urgent

But this means more than the needless destruction of Dinosaur—it is the most serious and far-reaching threat that has been experienced since the creation of the National Park System.

While there undoubtedly is a need for an upper Colorado River water-storage program, the present plans have not given full consideration to all aspects and values. Alternate sites do exist that would spare the Dinosaur National Monument. Although the decision to include the Echo Park Dam in the initial phase of the development program was based solely on theoretical water evaporation loss, no one knows what the actual evaporation differential is between the Echo Park Dam and the alternate sites.

The needs can be met without invading the Dinosaur National Monument with Echo Park Dam. This battle to the finish requires an overwhelming response to this urgent plea for help from each conservationist.

ONLY YOU CAN SAVE THE NATIONAL PARK
SYSTEM — WHICH IS YOURS AND
YOUR CHILDREN'S

SIERRA CLUB
BULLETIN *January*
1954

People You Know

You don't know all of them, but you have 8,027 allies in your concern for the purposes of the Sierra Club. That's the number (plus yourself) enrolled in the club as of December 31, 1953.

Dr. Joel Hildebrand developed the Sierra Club Ski Tests in 1934, adapting them from the tests then used by the Ski Club of Great Britain. He made changes to conform with our deep snow conditions and our policy of encouraging ski touring, and added the Fourth Class test for beginners. The club's first ski judge and instructor, Dr. Hildebrand is still an active judge.

The Sierra Club tests became the basis for those of the California and National Ski Associations; our Third Class test is accepted by the National Ski Patrol for the qualification of a Senior Ski Patrolman. Present tests equal the requirements of any other club, and include additional items of touring technique.

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Published monthly except July and August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$7 (first year \$12), of which \$1 (nonmembers, \$3) is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under act of March 3, 1879. All communications and contributions should be addressed to Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

Judges from the Northern California list (see below) will be available for lower class tests every week end of the season at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Most of the leaders of scheduled ski tours are test judges. Second class tests will be given when needed, and judges in this class will be at the lodge during Washington's Birthday week end.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fourth Class: *Jim Talley, Howard Frohlich, Emile LaCrampe, Al Steck, Charlotte Cranmer, Dave Cudaback, Rudy Talso, Neil Anderson, Kyle Corson, Dave Stewart, Don Holser, Jean Kearney, Joan Altieri, Robert Larson, Earl Palmer, R. H. Watkins, Jr., Earl D. Oliver.*

Third Class: *Glenn Weber, Edgar Cerf, Jim Mulholland, Keith Lummis, Harry Abraham, Art Bellman, Paul Fulton, Jim Clifford, Chuck Wharton, Glenn Gaumer, Don McCluskey, Bob McGillicuddy, Bill Doub, Warren Robinson, Merritt Robinson, Virginia Clifford, Lotte Martens, Robert Frenkel.*

Second Class: *Lewis Clark, John Linford, Alex Hildebrand, Dr. Joel Hildebrand, Einar Nilsson, Ned Robinson, Doug Lummis, John Thune, Don Rehbein, Paul Spring, Dick Linstrum.*

Ski Mountaineering: *Lewis Clark, Alex Hildebrand, Dick Leonard, Einar Nilsson, John Linford, Phil Faulconer.*

First Aid: *Doris Leonard, Jim Hammond, Caroline Coleman.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fourth Class: *Robert Coup, Bill Davies, Charles Gerckens, Howard Koster, Wayne Mann, Harvey Mylander, Paul Steinhauer, Ruby Wacker.*

Third Class: *Lloyd Balsam, Beverly Beck, Muir Dawson, Fred Eaton, Hensel Fremstad, George Harr, Tom Kendig, Charles Wilts.*

Second Class: *Paul Flinchbaugh, Roy Gorin.*

Ramona Wascher, Secretary of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, will be glad to receive your check for \$1.00 so that you may become an associate member of the FWOC for 1954. Her address is 2741 Clay street, San Francisco 15.

The Sierra Club, along with other hiking and conservation clubs in Utah, Washington, Oregon and California, is a member of the Federation. But the membership of individual Sierras gives needed support to an influential organization that supplements the work of the club.



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 39

JANUARY, 1954

NUMBER 1

. . . TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE . . .

I intend to permit no encroachments upon the national park system without careful, and thorough study. If there is to be any encroachment upon the parks, it must be proven unmistakably that it will produce for the nation values that outweigh greatly those which are to be changed or destroyed.

DOUGLAS MCKAY, *Secretary of the Interior*
in *National Parks Magazine*,
October-December, 1953

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR DINOSAUR — AND THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

First, check over this recent calendar, to review what you're up against:

December 2-4. Washington, D. C. Conservationists from all over the world met in a Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future, first of its kind since Theodore Roosevelt called his conference in 1908. President Eisenhower, in his message of greeting December 2, advised against locking up resources. There was no word from the Administration about Dinosaur; none was expected.

December 7, 8. Washington, D. C. McKay called his own Advisory Committee on Conservation to Washington. They made a sound recommendation regarding Dinosaur. McKay was noncommittal, gave no indication of what was coming.

December 9. Colorado, Utah. Papers quoted Asst. Secty. Aandahl (over Reclamation) to this effect: Interior was preparing to recommend Echo Park dam. Meanwhile, Asst. Secty. Lewis (over National Parks) said in effect: Interior was initially set up to dispose of public lands; disposal is once again Department policy.

December 11. McKay, adamant to his Advisory Committee's recommendation, recom-

mended Echo Park dam, which would ruin Dinosaur forever.

December 25. Christmas. Mails jammed. Official Interior release on Dinosaur action not yet received by Sierra Club. Conservationists' attempts to protest in time seriously, inevitably hampered by mail delays and publication schedules.

January 7. President to give State-of-the-Union address to Congress, outlining his program.

January 18. Hearing to start on Upper Colorado Project legislation, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

The rush is on. Great effort is being made to jam Echo Park dam through before the public can learn what is happening — the public that owns the National Park System.

Conservationist's theme

We can keep a worth-while National Park System only with some sacrifice of material values. In a democracy, the public is entitled to know what the sacrifice is, and to decide whether the system is worth the sacrifice. Administrations since Lincoln's have helped the preservation of national scenic masterpieces as part of our standard of living.

This approach has been asked — and refused — in Dinosaur.

Alternate sites for dams which would save Dinosaur would also, it is claimed, waste water. But Interior's own experts disagree. McKay was requested to require further study, to subject the experts' data and interpretation to public scrutiny before making his own recommendation. He didn't.

You, as part owner of your Park System, can ask for reliable figures to show how much waste there is, if any. You are entitled to know how much of this waste would be paid for by the lower cost claimed for the alternate dams.

Above all, you, as an American, are entitled to sanction some added return of water to the atmosphere if that's what it costs to save Dinosaur — and if you want it saved for its unique intangible values. You have long since decided to "waste" the hydro power "locked up" in Yosemite's waterfalls. And to "waste" the wood locked up in the giant sequoias — grapestakes enough for the world's vineyards.

If you don't make yourself heard, Interior is content to let Dinosaur go by default, using reasoning that can lead to selling the rest of the Park System down the river economizing a few cents per person — and leaving the uneconomic crumbs for your children.

*Your tools of defense are few,
familiar, but effective*

Read and listen. The May 1952 *SCB* carried many details; the February issue will carry more (but let that issue bring more action, not delay the immediate steps need-

ed, fast.) Arrange to see, or schedule showings of, the club's new Dinosaur film, "Wilderness River Trail," ready January 14, with copies to be available in New York, Washington, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles. It's a beautiful, exciting first-rate picture in color and sound. It runs 28 minutes.

Write and talk. To your Representative, your Senators, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (ask that your letter be included in the record) and to your local newspaper and other media of communication. Talk to your friends, your organizations.

There's a touch-and-go election coming up in 1954. We must all make it clear that conservation isn't partisan, it's American. The feeling abroad in Washington now seems to be that there aren't enough conservationists to matter, but that the vote of the Upper Colorado Basin states will be in the bag if Reclamation builds Echo Park dam and the rest of the country pays the bill.

The Sierra Club is just one of many organizations with conservation programs representing millions of people who care. They need to care enough to say so quickly.

One final word, for now:

The club is going into its permanent funds to fight this battle. That's what the funds are for, but other battles loom ahead — battles which will be easier when this one is won. Contributions can help insure victory, and should be addressed to the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

*If the public knows, the parks will
be safe—if the public speaks!*

Chapters Work on Local Problems

Throughout California, chapters of the Sierra Club carry on through their members and officers, their publications and activities, a variety of work on local conservation problems. Here is a further sampling (see *SCB*, April '53):

Angeles — Two major fires in Angeles National Forest have brought this dilemma to the conservation-minded: whether or not such regions should be left inaccessible by

roads, and hence also less accessible to firefighters. Much of the fire damage was in areas used for outings.

The Sierra Club exhibit at the Los Angeles County Fair gave information and literature about the club and its conservation activities.

Tehipite — This chapter, geographically closest to the Sierra, is alarmed to notice the invasion of the high country by motorcycles,

(Concluded on page 7)

Arctic Preserve, Tule Elk, State Parks

THOSE ATTENDING the November 19 meeting of the Conservation Committee heard Starker Leopold report on the interest being shown by Canadians in establishing an Arctic wilderness preserve in the northwest Yukon. If such interest is translated into action, there is a possibility that an international Arctic wilderness preserve can be established, because serious thought is being given to reserving a similar area in northeastern Alaska. The two contiguous areas would constitute a fine scientific and ecological laboratory. The migratory caribou herd, which wanders back and forth across the Arctic landscape, would be assured that its long-used trailways will not be appropriated by more or less civilized man.

Many years ago the Tule Elk Reserve State Park was created to aid in preserving

Tule Elk

this animal in a small segment of its native habitat in Kern County. Though the area was established as a state park, the elk population has been administered by the State Division of Fish and Game.

Efforts to establish the Tule Elk at other locations have either failed or resulted in herds that competed with cattle and deer for available forage. The herd in the Tule Lake Reserve is of great importance, since it is the only remnant of this species in its original habitat. However, the State Fish and Game Commission has for some time wanted to relinquish responsibility for this herd or convert the area to a waterfowl refuge and public hunting ground.

The Sierra Club has felt that this reserve should be continued, so it was with satisfaction that we heard that the State Park Commission at its October meeting had agreed that control of the herd may be assumed by the Division of Beaches and Parks, if legally possible, when funds are available.

For some time the Conservation Committee has been discussing the necessity for establishing priorities in the acquisition of

state parks in order to avoid the mistake of acquiring areas of little or no scenic or recreational value while areas of tremendous scenic value are passed by.

In a report on the subject, Dr. Edgar Wayburn noted that the Olmsted survey in 1928 stressed the importance of preserving areas in the state park system that were of superlative scenic beauty. Development of these parks was to be of a type that would enhance visitors' appreciation of this natural beauty.

As described by Frederick Law Olmsted, state parks were to be created to "preserve and protect notable existing features of widespread public interest and recreational value because of special scenic, historic, scientific, or other characteristics that are mentally or spiritually significant, and, in that sense, of 'recreational' value for appreciative visitors, with or without accompanying active physical recreation of appropriate kinds and promoting enjoyment by the public of the characteristic values of each of the features thus selected for preservation by such means and methods as will keep them unimpaired for enjoyment by future generations."

Seventeen years later, at the close of World War II, it became evident that Cali-

State Parks

fornia's burgeoning population would also require state parks which were suitable for mass recreation. The State Legislature set up the Beaches and Parks Acquisition Fund of \$15,000,000, of which one-third was to be expended for inland parks and two-thirds for beaches. It also issued the following directive for guidance of the State Park Commission:

"In selecting desirable sites for parks, the primary policy of the Commission shall be to provide recreational facilities for those sections of the State where such facilities are not now available and particularly in the valley, desert and mountain areas of the interior."

Today the dilemma is obvious. On the one hand areas of high mass recreational poten-

tial must be acquired in order to satisfy the tremendous need of a fast-expanding population. At the same time the expanding population is pressing (economically or physically) against many areas of great scenic beauty, making it necessary to bring these areas into the state park system before they are subverted to less important uses.

There is no question that the Five-Year Program for the acquisition of both scenic and mass recreation state parks must go forward, and we support it most heartily. However, many feel that the Five-Year Plan must be carefully analyzed to determine whether a system of priorities should be set up to provide an acquisition program which is not too heavily weighted in favor of mass recreation parks.

The State Park Commission at its October meeting had reaffirmed its long-standing policy of not permitting hunting in state parks. To amplify the restatement of its views, the Commission listed eight reasons why it considers hunting incompatible with state park purposes.

Hunting

1. Parks are wildlife refuges because all living things are protected for observation under the preservation policy of the State Park Commission.

2. Only .58 of one per cent of the over 100 million acres in California is preserved in State Parks. This is but a small percentage of the State, and if *all* parks were opened to hunting, relatively little would be added to improve the hunting situation in the State.

3. Preservation of the parks in their natural state attracts millions of tourists and as such provides an economic resource which rates high among all the State's assets. Tourists and recreation are the basis of a billion-dollar industry in California. By careful preservation of natural landscapes with simple development for the comfort of visitors, this resource is on a sustained-yield basis with less overhead than keeping our forests or game management areas on a sustained-yield basis.

4. Attendance of visitors for recreation at State Parks is very high (over 42 million annually for all parks and beaches), and is believed to be greater and more diversified than if the park lands were administered for hunting only.

5. Hunting in parks would introduce a difficult and complex policing problem for park maintenance staffs which are not trained or equipped for this function. Camping facilities in parks, while available to all, including hunters, should not be a justification for the permitting of hunting in State Parks. In many instances, other wild lands nearby are available for hunting.

6. The use of long range rifles and the careless habits of some sportsmen would make parks unsafe for families, especially those who use the trails in the remote portions of parks. The visitors who do this should receive the same assurance of safety as do those in the areas with concentration of visitors. Their total number in any one park may exceed the number of hunters who might operate in a park during a limited game hunting season. Often persons hike to remote sections to observe undisturbed wildlife in a native habitat.

7. Hunters can find greater opportunities in their relations with farmers and private land owners, in establishing hunting rights.

8. Though progress has been made, much can be done to increase the available game for the hunters on lands such as game management areas and national forests, which are already set aside for hunting.

A glance at the map of California will reveal that the Colorado River from Parker Dam to Yuma is the boundary between California

Colorado River

and Arizona. It will also show that parks, camping and recreational facilities along this stretch of the river are almost nonexistent. Recognizing this, the Division of Beaches and Parks some time ago began to investigate the possibilities for one or more state parks along the river. This investigation has recently culminated in State Park Commission approval to acquire three units out of five proposed. One unit, just below Parker Dam, would extend about ten miles along the river bank. Another, known as Quien Sabe Point, in Riverside County, would cover about 14 miles of river front, and the third unit, on the Picacho 4S Ranch site in Imperial County would include about eight miles of the Colorado River bank. In all, more than 32,000 acres would become state park area.

JOHN R. BARNARD, *Chairman*
Conservation Committee

Chapters Work

(Continued from page 4)

whose two-wheel pilots seem to have their own increasing interest in getting away from roads, with resulting damage to the trails and to the principle of wilderness preservation.

Dana Abell, editor of the chapter's *Tehipite Topics*, was asked by the Fresno Natural History Society to speak on "Wilderness Values."

Los Padres — A matter of considerable satisfaction to members in the Santa Barbara area was the decision of Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay not to modify or rescind his original orders withdrawing the Santa Ynez watershed lands for oil and gas leasing. Los Padres Forest Supervisor L. A. Rickel has expressed his appreciation to the various organizations whose united efforts at the public hearing in May helped to affect the decision.

Mother Lode — Members attended an open meeting held in Sacramento in December by the State Department of Fish and Game, at which the public aired its views on hunting, fishing and conservation matters.

Riverside — A current proposal of the State Park Commission to establish a series of parks along the Colorado River is meeting opposition from sportsmen in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, since hunting would presumably be prohibited in such parks. A compromise plan is being studied.

Palm and Pine assured its readers that the cutting of timber at Barton Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains is part of a carefully considered plan to check the infestation of pine beetle in the ponderosa pines. Clark Jones and Joe Momyer were invited by the Forest Service to come to Barton Flats and learn about the start of the project there.

San Francisco Bay — A Conservation Education Section has just been organized. The initial program — aimed toward providing teachers and youth leaders with suggestions and materials — will include a monthly newsletter; the registration of a limited number of teachers and youth groups to receive exhibits, visual aids and other resource material; and the maintenance of sets of color slides, posters, maps, photos, etc., for display to youth and adult gatherings.

Almanac

THE TITLE of this department has puzzled some people who like words to mean just what they say. But the figurative use of language has an honorable tradition, and with our poetic license in our hip pocket we conceive the "Almanac" to be something beyond a calendar, register of festivals, or record of astronomical phenomena. While *Poor Richard* offered the required statistics, what we remember is old Ben's wisdom and the wit he salted it with. In our figurative frame of mind we balk at definitions, but a rough approximation of our purpose lies in the words *wit* and *wisdom*. Add literary quality, and you need only draw a circle around our class of subject matter: Incentives and insights regarding the natural scene and its preservation, today, for the future.

We have given you excerpts from John Muir and Aldo Leopold. After this aside we shall return to them and to others of our betters, including Henry Thoreau. Your suggestions are welcome, and before long we hope to print original items of pith and substance; why not yours? (Be warned: It isn't easy to convey the feeling of an outdoor experience and its meaning too, within the space of this column.)

The "Almanac" is included here to give pause for thought, to hint that the significance of mountain adventure is both individual and universal, to say a quiet prayer for a stream, a tree, a rock. In a manner of speaking this *is* a calendar of days — days of vitality and wonder in a wilderness world created anew each dawn; a register of festivals in season, when alone or in company we journey to sacred places to celebrate our reverence for the life or inanimate grandeur there; a record of phenomena sometimes astronomical, sometimes as palpable as an ant on a fallen log. Prognostication is appropriate to an almanac. We shall not hold it against our authors, moreover, if they ruminate well. Along with the ephemeris to help plot our course day by day, let there be words of truth to show us what is fundamentally worth conserving through the years, and why.

Along Many Trails

Probably for the first time in Himalayan mountaineering history two strong expeditions will hopefully scan the upper glaciers and ridges

Makalu

of the same peak, at the same time, from the same place, and possibly from the same camp. Wholly unknown to each other, the California Himalayan Committee and the New Zealand Alpine Club organized expeditions for an assault on Makalu in the spring of 1954. Both were granted permission for expeditions by the Nepalese government, but there was an important difference. The California Expedition held specific authorization for Makalu which predated the less well-defined permission of the New Zealand group. The New Zealanders, under the leadership of Sir Edmund Hillary, will go into the Makalu area, but, in a demonstration of the highest form of sportsmanship, have assured the Himalayan Committee that they will make no effort to climb the peak and that every advantage will be given us on the approach.

At a time when the Himalayan Committee's efforts to finance the expedition seemed least hopeful, the enthusiastic response of Sierra Club members has provided encouragement and substantial support. These contributions, which to date exceed \$6,000, may well mean the difference between going and not going.

Manufacturers, particularly local companies, have generously donated the bulk of the expedition's three tons of food, and some types of equipment, thus effectively reducing two costly budget items. The budget itself has been drastically revised and now stands at about half its original amount. Economies have been effected mainly by reducing the number of Sherpas to be employed and by using the least expensive mode of transportation. As a last resort, the expedition's complement may be reduced to eight men by eliminating much of the scientific program. It appears certain that an expedition of at least this size will be launched, although the cost to expedition members will be high. The schedule remains unchanged; equipment is being shipped by sea about the first of the year and the team will fly to Calcutta in late February.

CALIFORNIA HIMALAYAN COMMITTEE

As the California expedition sets out for its high adventure, Sierrans throughout the state will be interested in an opportunity to hear from Sir Edmund Hillary himself the story of his achievement last

Hillary

May 29, with the Sherpa Tenzing, in reaching the world's highest summit. The New Zealand mountaineer will appear at San Francisco's Opera House, at 8:30 p.m. on March 3, to show color slides and tell of the Everest climb. With him will be two of his companions on the expedition, W. G. Lowe and Dr. R. C. Evans; the latter was also with Herzog on Annapurna.

Town Hall, in arranging this appearance, has invited the Sierra Club and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to share in sponsoring the event and has offered them a return from ticket sales they make. Sierra Club members in the Bay Area will be mailed ticket application forms, and Town Hall will give the club part of the receipts from use of these forms. At the December meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided to contribute the net income from this source to the California Himalayan Committee.

For audiences in other areas Town Hall has arranged to present Hillary and his colleagues in Sacramento on March 4, in Stockton March 5, and in San Diego March 6. At last report, a program in Pasadena was also being planned.

While your 1954 calendar or diary is still fresh and new, make a note for May Day (Saturday, May 1). On the evening of the directors'

May Day

annual meeting, the Sierra Club Annual Banquet (Northern California) will be held in the appropriate "mountain-top" setting of San Francisco's Nob Hill. There will be details later in these columns about the dinner, the guest speaker, the orchestra for dancing and other items of the evening program. The event will take place in the Peacock Court of the Hotel Mark Hopkins.