



# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*January*  
1956

*Conservation Review: 1955*



# These Are Ways You Can Help . . .

The primary need of conservation today is to make more and more people aware of the beauty and inspiration found in the out-of-doors. If this can be done, the threats to our National Parks, Monuments, and Wilderness Areas will diminish; the management of grazing land, forests, and hillsides will become more scientific; and the "litterbug" will become a social outcast. It can be done by educating the people and it is up to us as individuals to do this. It is not hard. Most of us have already done more than we may realize. Yet few of us have done all we can. Here are some ways you may have helped in the past and can help in the future.

1. Be proud that you are a conservationist. Don't be afraid to express yourself. It is not necessary to try to convert the listener and it is not necessary to get involved in a bitter argument. Just keep informed on the important conservation issues and be prepared to discuss them thoughtfully. You will be surprised how

*THE SIERRA CLUB,\** founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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\*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

## Conservation Year

This *Bulletin* is devoted to a review of the year 1955, presenting leading problems in the preservation of parks and wilderness from the point of view of the Sierra Club. Like our first such review a year ago, it is not complete or exhaustive, but within limited space attempts to touch the high spots and to include enough background information to make it a useful handbook for conservationists in the year ahead.

many people will listen and there will be more conservationists as a result.

2. Invite guests when you go on trips. This is a very good way to win friends for conservation and will open new interests for many people.

3. Those of us with cameras have an excellent opportunity. Show your pictures to everyone who will look at them. Compare photographs of unspoiled scenery with photographs of scenery where developments have taken place. Discuss areas threatened by the enemies of conservation. Take some extra pictures to circulate to friends and relatives throughout the country.

4. If you take a trip to an area that is under controversy, give your local newspaper an account of the trip and mention briefly what the controversy is about. Most people on vacation send postal cards to friends. Why not mention that someone wants to build a dam in the canyon shown on the front of the card or cut down the forest of redwoods where you camped last night?

5. If you are able, contribute generously to organizations such as the Sierra Club, Trustees for Conservation, Wilderness Society, National Parks Association, Save-the-Redwoods League, etc. This is very important. Some of these organizations issue periodicals that are quite inexpensive—why not give a few subscriptions to friends who might be interested?

6. Write letters to your representatives in the government expressing our views on conservation subjects. If you have time to take trips, you have time to do this. If you do not write, you may discover some day that there are no places left worth going to see.

*Always write as an individual.* It is better to write a good letter than it is to send a form letter used by a group.

DONALD TEAGUE  
in *Condor Call*



# Sierra Club Bulletin

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NUMBER 1

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

## The Sierra Club on the National Scene

SON OF THE WILDERNESS and father of the Sierra Club, John Muir was already nationally prominent when he became the Club's first president 64 years ago. His concern for the emerging National Park system, and for the forest reserves which later became the national forests, was a concern which the Club shared. That concern has never diminished.

The Club's name came from California's Sierra Nevada. The early conservation program centered in the Sierra Nevada. So did most of the first wilderness outings, which John Muir and William E. Colby started in order to bring more people into intimate contact with the Range of Light as it was then, and as it could remain if enough people knew it to protect it. As the central Sierra was the focus of activity, so was central California the focus of membership. Of the 182 charter members (of whom three are still living), 175 were from the San Francisco Bay region, many of them drawn from the faculties of the University of California and Stanford University. Of the remaining seven, two were from the San Joaquin Valley, Galen Clark was the Yosemite member, there were lone members in Seattle, New York, and Utah, and there was a member in Santa Barbara—that far south!

But "sierra" means, among other things, "saw-toothed mountain range," and these exist all over the West. Growing interest in travel to scenic places brought people from all over the country to these places, and problems came with the people. A good number of the travelers joined Sierra Club

trips to some of these places, and then stayed with the Club to help solve the problems.

In two of the early conservation battles the Club enlisted nation-wide support. The first was to persuade the State of California to give Yosemite Valley back to the federal government. We won. The second was to persuade the city of San Francisco not to invade Hetch Hetchy Valley, part of Yosemite National Park, for water and power development for which there were (and still are) alternatives. We lost, but gained lasting support; with Hetch Hetchy as a horrible example, the creation of an enduring National Park system could be expedited. There was enough nation-wide conservation cooperation to make the National Park Act become law in 1916. Perhaps it is significant that five of the six Directors of the National Park Service have been members of the Sierra Club. All of those now living still are. Stephen T. Mather, the first Director, first became interested in the national parks on a Sierra Club High Trip.

THE EARLY BATTLES for the parks demonstrated how important it is to fight off a threat wherever it first appears. An invasion of Yellowstone, of Glacier, of Olympic, of Jackson Hole, would serve only to strengthen the hand of those who might soon wish to exploit the parks close to the home base. The Sierra Club fought off dangers in these, at first distant, fields as soon as they arose. In the earliest fights it was joined by, or joined with, the Appalachian Mountain



Club, the Prairie Club, and the organization which has since become the American Planning and Civic Association. On the West Coast it coöperated with such pioneer organizations as the Mazamas and the Mountaineers, a coöperation which finally led to the creation of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Other organizations appeared on the national scene; of these, those whose programs most nearly paralleled the Sierra Club's and with which the Club worked most closely, were the National Parks Association (1919), the Izaak Walton League of America (1922), and the Wilderness Society (1935).

The national community of interest led in 1947 to the formation of the Natural Resources Council of America, in which the Club soon became an active participant, its executive director becoming chairman of the Council last year. The Council sought the creation of a committee on conservation to advise the Secretary of the Interior. The then president of the Club was named to the first committee and now serves as its chairman.

**T**HE NATURAL Resources Council was something new. It is not an action organization seeking to impose a common will upon the 37 national organizations that belong to it. The Council is primarily a forum. It provides an occasion which did not previously exist for leaders of these organizations to meet and to share knowledge, and to continue sharing knowledge after the meeting breaks up and they return to their respective headquarters. But for all the things which it is not, or has not yet become, it already is a force greater than the sum of its component parts.

This is the force, this new unity among conservationists, which the proponents of Echo Park dam ran head into in what became the most important battle for the national park idea since the invasion of Hetch Hetchy. The many organizations who joined to protect Dinosaurs were disparate in kind. Some were technical societies, some were primarily of fishermen, others of hunters, of mountaineers, of people who especially like birds or gardens or wild places in

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For a nation that grows more metropolitan and industrialized every year, the experience of solitude, even the simple fact of quiet, has become inestimable . . . It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched, so that a tree will rot where it falls, a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity, a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water—and moderns may at least see what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood.

BERNARD DeVOTO

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general. Possibly the only one thing they had in common was a devotion to the abstract concept that wilderness has values which our culture cannot afford to lose, and that this is an important part of living for something besides making a living. Whatever it was they shared, they worked in concert and they won (at least at this writing). The Sierra Club was one of the instruments that played in that concert. The combined harmony produced a magnificent symphony, and we shall need to keep the score at hand and play it again from time to time.

January 6, 1956, finds 9,972 members in the Club. We are sorry the next 28 didn't arrive sooner, but they'll come, and others behind them. They will come from all the states (one is still missing) and from even more foreign countries (to add to the fifteen now represented). They will find much good to do, and much pleasure in doing it. Their part is to help plan, and if necessary battle, for an America which should continue to be at least as beautiful as the one we know.

DAVID R. BROWER

### *Pictures and a Book*

You may have recognized the photograph on the cover. It's by Martin Litton (he's in the raft, but he set up the camera), and it also appears, in color, on the dust jacket of *This Is Dinosaur*, the book that helped to demonstrate our case for preserving the National Monument.

A beautiful example of bookmaking, although it was a rush job for a purpose, the volume was edited by Wallace Stegner and published in 1955 by Alfred A. Knopf. Several other Sierra Club members contributed pictures and text.



# Our Winning Fight for Dinosaur

THE NAVAJOS of Window Rock, Arizona, performed a war dance as 1955 opened. The fulsome newspaper stories said they were dancing to underscore their demand for immediate Congressional approval of the Upper Colorado Project.

But as 1955 ended their dance had proved in vain. The billion-and-a-half-dollar reclamation bill had failed to pass.

And Echo Park Dam, with its callous invasion of Dinosaur National Monument and its implicit threat to America's National Parks, was dead.

Dead, at least, for now.

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay had proclaimed the Administration's decision to abandon Echo Park dam; his words were backed by Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams.

## *Aroused Opposition*

The Senators and Congressmen from the Upper Basin states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico had publicly announced their inability to defeat the aroused opposition of conservationists throughout the country.

If Echo Park Dam were really dead, it marked one of the greatest victories for park conservation in American history.

McKay acknowledged as much, and in his statement near the close of 1955 he pledged that the Interior Department would be prepared to recommend a system of alternate dams so that the Upper Colorado project bills could be redrawn with acceptable replacements for Echo Park.

As 1956 opens the Reclamation Bureau

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**"Today, with fresh water from the oceans just within our grasp and power unlimited from nuclear fission in sight, why, why rush to destroy such gifts of nature? Why destroy in a few years the glory and the archeological and historical treasure lands that have taken geologic ages to prepare—a feast for which many of us are unworthy but which we may preserve for our children's children?"**

**(Letter from a recent traveler to  
Dinosaur National Monument)**

is engaged once more in "studies" of the whole project. But only when the new Upper Colorado bills are submitted this session will conservation forces know for sure whether their victory is real.

Leading the vigilant scrutiny over the new legislation will be many men from many organizations, and David R. Brower, the Sierra Club's Executive Director, will be among them.

Brower has helped captain the fight for Dinosaur ever since it began.

It was he, no engineer, who presented to Congress the "ninth-grade arithmetic" figures that demolished the Interior Department's most cherished argument and proved that the "evaporation loss" statistics showing Echo Park Dam to be so necessary were in fact a shibboleth.

Throughout 1955 Brower was a virtual commuter to Washington and points east. Flying back and forth across the country, often while on official leave from the Club's staff, Brower became almost as familiar a figure in the Capitol as any Congressman.

Brower and the Sierra Club's directors foresaw in 1954 that the fight against Echo Park would need new political armaments. So they alerted other conservation groups and the arms were forged.

## *Trustees Organized*

In San Francisco the Trustees for Conservation was created to act as an organization legally entitled to conduct lobbying activities. In New York its counterpart, the Council of Conservationists, was reactivated.

These two groups, financed with voluntary contributions, joined the Citizen's Committee on Natural Resources to wield their power before Congress.

In February of last year, soon after the Navajos danced their highly-publicized war dance at the behest of Upper Basin propagandists, Brower flew to Washington for the first of 1955's legislative debates.

He testified before both Senate and House committees more than a month.

Brower had made himself an expert in the highly technical engineering aspects of the project. In his testimony a year before, the Upper Basin Congressmen had listened more or less politely—but this time they knew his mettle, and they argued with him bitterly.

Brower held his own, and riposted successfully: Echo Park was not essential to the project, he held, neither for water storage for irrigation nor for power. And the threat of invasion against other National Parks was no mere fancy, either.

Then, at the end of March, the Senate Interior Committee shrugged off the opposition. It approved the Upper Colorado Project bill, set a construction figure of more than \$1,500,000,000 and kept the Echo Park Dam in the measure.

Debate began in the Senate in April, and despite a vain attempt by Senator Neuber-

ger of Oregon to knock out Echo Park, the bill passed by a roll-call vote of 58 to 23.

This action was expected, but a more important pro-dam strategy was in the wind. Backers of the big project had decided to remove Echo Park dam from the House bill, hoping thereby to lull the conservationists.

Echo Park could be reinstated later, they thought.

Brower flew back to Washington in June as a representative of the Trustees for Conservation and helped evolve a new pattern of opposition.

### *House Maneuver*

The House reclamation subcommittee juggled the bill around, pared its cost down to \$760,000,000 and eliminated all mention of Echo Park.

But the opposition was alive to the strategy.

While the juggling was going on, Brower and others in Washington called on all conservationists to express new opposition to the entire Upper Colorado Project until it was completely re-engineered so that all its so-called benefits could be expressly achieved with substitutes for Echo Park.

Letters began pouring into Congress, as they had the year before. The incessant educational campaign began to pay off. Congressmen who had thought to satisfy the conservationists by mere elimination of Echo Park realized they would have a real scrap on their hands.

Ardor for the bill began to cool in the House of Representatives. The closing days of Congress found the measure bottled up, even after it was cleared for a vote by the House Rules Committee.

### *Shelved for Session*

On July 26 the Upper Colorado bill was shelved for the session.

With Congress closed down, there was still much work to do, and Brower flew to Florida in October for a meeting of the Natural Resources Council. He was elected chairman of the group, which coordinates the conservation work of 37 national organizations and a combined membership of more than 2,000,000.

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## *That Local Boy Who Made Good*

David R. Brower became Executive Director of the Sierra Club on December 15, 1952. A veteran mountaineer, he had previously served the Club in many capacities. A member of the Board of Directors since 1941, he had also:

- Edited the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, the *Club Handbook*, the *Manual of Ski Mountaineering* and *Going Light—With Backpack or Burro*.

- Been Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, and a leader in the work of a half dozen or more Club committees.

- Led two Club knapsack trips, and participated in High Trip leadership since 1939, as manager since 1947.

- Been a principal contributor to the Club's films, *Sky-Land Trails of the Kings and Skis to the Sky-Land*.

- Helped train the Mountain Troops in World War II, seen combat in Italy, and served as an officer in the infantry reserve.

It should be added that as a result of his training, Anne Brower and their four children ably seconded him from home headquarters in Berkeley, helping to make possible his splendid work in the Dinosaur fight.



During the summer the legislators of the Upper Basin states, and the well-financed lobbying outfits in the Colorado River area, had been working over their plans too.

At first there was strong sentiment for another try at ramming the whole project through Congress in 1956—the whole project, Echo Park Dam and all.

But some of the “whole hog” advocates were heeding the words of Reclamation Commissioner Wilbur Dexheimer who, in Denver, had said he thought Echo Park Dam was dead—at least for the time being.

Yet the political situation was in a real state of flux, and the October meeting of conservationists in Florida made it clear there would be no let-up in opposition to the Upper Colorado Project until Echo Park was soundly engineered out.

Despite that publicly expressed determination, Secretary McKay was apparently not quite ready to retreat. He conferred with President Eisenhower in Denver on October 25 and emerged from the meeting with the announcement that the Administration would re-submit the entire Upper Colorado project to Congress in 1956.

### *McKay's Last Stand*

“I'm for the whole thing as passed by the Senate,” McKay declared.

That statement, however, proved to be the last of the hang-tough public utterances from anyone in authority.

Only a week later the Congressmen and Senators from the four Upper Basin states followed McKay into Denver and held a meeting of their own.

As they gathered they read in the *Denver Post* a full-page advertisement published by the Council of Conservationists. It warned that Echo Park would have to be guaranteed against inundation if the conservation forces were ever to end their opposition.

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The very same population pressures that force us to seek new power resources also make our dedicated natural lands more valuable as recreational resources. The greater the pressures for invasion of these important areas, the greater the tragedy of yielding to them.

LEWIS F. CLARK



*San Francisco Chronicle*

The legislators weighed their problem carefully, and at last issued a public statement: In the interest of getting their project through, they said, they would amend the proposed legislation at the coming session of Congress and delete the long-fought dam.

But, as always, the conservationists were not content with mere deletion.

Brower flew once more to Washington on November 26, to meet with the Council of Conservationists; to attend the National Watershed Congress, and to join in private discussions with government officials.

On November 29 Brower and other leaders in the fight gathered to hear a historic announcement from Secretary McKay.

McKay recalled the decision of the Upper Basin Congressmen to cease pressing for Echo Park, and he told the gathering:

“It does seem clear that the passage of an authorization for the Upper Colorado Project in the next session of Congress may be accomplished as a result of the agreement to exclude Echo Park. In the interest of getting the Upper Colorado project started the Department will acquiesce in this action.”

McKay went even further: he informed conservationists that the Interior Department felt the project was “feasible” without Echo Park, and thereby laid to rest for good the Department’s insistence that the dam in



Dinosaur was the "wheelhorse" of the entire reclamation scheme.

And he promised that his Department would be prepared to lay before the 1956 Congress a system of alternate dam proposals to erase completely the threat to Echo Park.

A few days later the National Watershed Congress heard the same pledge from Sherman Adams, assistant to the President.

It seemed like complete victory. But was it?

Only a week after the Denver conference of Congressmen, Wyoming's Governor Milward T. Simpson had proclaimed publicly that Echo Park Dam was "only temporarily forsaken." His zeal was chastised by many of his colleagues and by newspapers in the Upper Basin.

But it served as a warning, and despite the declarations by McKay and Adams in Washington those with whom Brower had worked so hard knew there could be no resting on laurels.

Brower is back in San Francisco. But the carefully-designed conservation machinery in Washington is operating.

Each new piece of legislation affecting the

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The parks do not belong to one State or to one section. They have become democratized. The Yosemite, the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon are national properties in which every citizen has a vested interest; they belong as much to the man of Massachusetts, of Michigan, of Florida, as they do to the people of California, of Wyoming, and Arizona.

STEPHEN T. MATHER

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Upper Colorado project will be rigorously scrutinized as it goes into the hopper.

Each new decision by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Interior Department will be studied with equal care.

If a new mobilization of conservation resources is needed to protect Echo Park, and also to protect Rainbow Bridge National Monument near Glen Canyon, those forces will be alerted swiftly.

Until now the fight that Brower has so capably helped to lead has been successful.

Now there is a victory to protect—and to make solid for the generations to come, who will learn to know and love the canyons of Dinosaur as permanent features of a reinforced National Park system.

DAVID PERLMAN

## Trustees Round Out First Year

Support for elevation of Dinosaur National Monument to national park status was voted at the first annual meeting of Trustees for Conservation, held in San Francisco December 10.

Trustees for Conservation was organized late in 1954 expressly for the purpose of raising money to influence legislation, an activity in which established conservation organizations may engage only at the risk of their tax-exempt status.

Clifford V. Heimbucher, treasurer, reported the organization had received contributions totaling more than \$17,000 to October 31, 1955, of which about \$13,500 had been expended, substantially all of it in the Echo Park Dam controversy.

The Trustees decided to continue to watch the Echo Park Dam situation, even though its outcome seems favorable. They also decided to continue the organization

in active operation to solicit funds for use in future legislative battles to protect the National Park system and dedicated areas.

One of these contests, the Trustees were informed, may be over the proposed reduction in size of Olympic National Park by 300,000 acres, now actively being agitated by timber interests.

All officers of Trustees for Conservation were reelected. They include Ansel Adams, San Francisco, president; Weldon F. Heald, Tucson, Ariz., Wallace Stegner, Stanford University, Calif., and Dr. Edgar Wayburn, San Francisco, vice-presidents; Stuart R. Dole, secretary; and Clifford V. Heimbucher, San Francisco, treasurer.

Additional persons to complete the organization's full quota of 51 Trustees will be invited to serve, further extending the geographical composition of the Trustees.

WILLIAM LOSH



## Hardwood Forest Sample Preserved

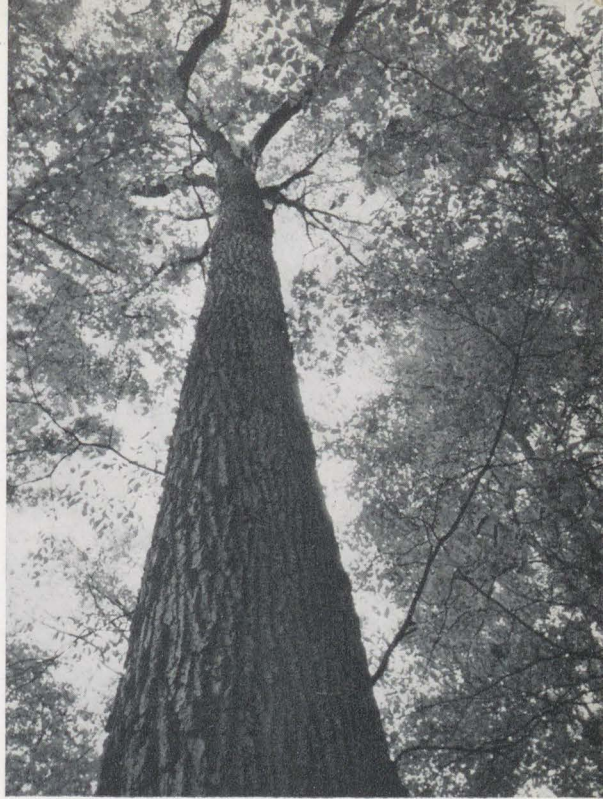
The preservation of the giant oak pictured here and others like it, more than 300 years old, is one of the success stories of conservation in 1955. The trees stand in a 65-acre primeval forest known as Mettler's Woods, in Somerset County, New Jersey, one of the most heavily traveled parts of America. Besides white, red and black oaks, there are hickories, beeches, and sugar maples, and an understory of 30-foot dogwoods.

Recorded history of the property goes back to 1701, when surrounding acres were cleared, but through the years this little tract was spared while a vast extent of similar forest was being destroyed in what is now the crowded eastern United States.

Rutgers University life scientists, using the Woods for observation and study, learned in 1952 of the owner's intention to sell the valuable hardwoods to a lumberman. A fund was started to save Mettler's Woods for science—and for beauty—and excellent work was done in presenting the case in various publications, notably *Life* ("The World We Live In: Part XII," November 8, 1954).

The owner generously reduced the purchase price to \$75,000, but at least \$25,000 more was needed for maintenance. Audubon Society groups, garden clubs, mountaineering clubs, patriotic societies, Scouts and schools spread the appeal. By June 3, 1955, fund-raisers had received 2,167 donations and pledges, amounting to \$57,649. Then \$75,000 was pledged by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. The union, which has a national membership of nearly 800,000, acquired the tract and gave it to Rutgers with the understanding that the Woods should be saved in perpetuity and named "The William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest."

The fund of \$57,649 will be used by the university for a continuing ecological study project, utilizing the 65 acres of primeval woods and 71 acres of surrounding fields. Dedication exercises were held on October 15.



*John Wolbarst*

## Victory in New York

Characterized by *The New York Times* as evidence of "the immense latent strength of conservation as a political force in the United States" was the defeat by New York State voters on November 8 of a proposal to use 1,500 acres of the state-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve for a dam.

In 1954 the State Constitution was amended to invest authority in the people to decide when and where dams should be built in the public forest. The 3-to-1 vote for that amendment was repeated in the recent election, which rejected the plan to build a Panther Mountain dam on the south branch of the Moose River.

Nearly all the newspapers in New York City carried editorials condemning the Panther dam proposal. The Council of Conservationists distributed information on the issue, and issued green-and-white stickers to coöperators, who used them in correspondence. Members of the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to circulate this material, and shared in credit for the result.



# Butano Story

## *An object lesson for the future*

THE STORY of Butano Forest is one to give us pause. It is a tragic drama, with all the necessary elements—a vigorous cast of opposing characters, suspense, action, crises, and then the unhappy ending. There are too many stories like this unfolding in the field of conservation today. It may pay us to try to see why it happened as it did.

The Butano story properly starts some 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, when many little *sempervirens* found the soil and climate of the northern Pacific coast to their liking. Some 50 miles south of what is now San Francisco, close to the southern limit of the area of their growth, many of these small trees crowded in. Through storm and fire and the changing seasons they grew and prospered and became mighty forests. By a remarkable stroke of fortune, the trees of Butano survived in their virgin state until well into the 20th century.

Some 4,500 acres of these magnificent redwoods became the property of Stanford University, and were offered to Santa Clara County for a park some 20 years ago—for \$300,000. If enough people had cared then, Butano would have been saved. But not enough people cared, and the area was sold—not to Santa Clara—but to a lumber company. In 1945, still miraculously intact, it changed hands again and became the property of the Pacific Lumber Company (cost, approximately \$500,000).

In 1947, the big drama began. At that time, enough people in the Bay area began to wake up to the great treasure they had in the Butano. Here were trees 50 to 60 feet in circumference, towering 200 to 300 feet high—trees to equal almost any in California. Here were idyllic waterfalls with a magnificent forest floor of ferns and sylvan ground cover. And all of this was less than 50 miles from the burgeoning metropolitan area of San Francisco.

This was the year that Butano Associates was formed to spearhead the drive to save

*After the loggers came: Assemblymen Francis C. Lindsay and Jack Schrade inspect damage to Butano Forest, August 17, 1955  
(San Francisco Chronicle)*

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the forest. The State Park Commission was interested and set aside \$600,000 for acquisition of the Butano under the matching fund system. San Mateo offered to match half of this with its \$305,000 County Memorial Park, if San Francisco would donate an equal amount. A \$300,000 bond issue went on the San Francisco ballot in **November, 1948**. It failed of a two-thirds majority of the voters by less than two per cent!

In 1949, Butano Associates led support of the Dolwig bill in the State Legislature. This was a bill to enable the state to purchase the Butano outright. Governor Earl Warren agreed that the trees should be saved, but did not know how to save them. The State Legislature failed to pass the Dolwig Bill. Governor Warren refused to abandon the matching fund principle.

By 1951, cutting was under way in the Butano, and sights were lowered. Fifteen hundred acres including the great "heart" of the area was the goal for acquisition. The lumber company agreed not to log this area—yet.

It was believed that \$1,200,000 would buy this acreage. Approximately \$485,000 was made available when Santa Clara County added its Mt. Madonna Park to San Mateo's offer of its County Memorial Park for "matching." Each county agreed to put up \$50,000 in cash if San Francisco would donate \$100,000. Butano Associates were working hard at fund-raising. The Sierra Club set out to raise \$5,000 for a "Sierra Club Grove" in the Butano.

By **January, 1952**, the Sierra Club had raised \$5,750. In November, the people of San Francisco voted by an "overwhelming" majority to give \$100,000 toward the purchase of Butano. Things looked rosy and everything was set for the grand finale.

And nothing happened.

Throughout 1953 and 1954, the cast of characters talked and dallied. Appraisers came and went. The lumber company set a





price of \$1,700,000 for 1,020 acres. It became apparent that not enough money had been raised. The State Park Commission avoided condemnation.

In 1955, the State Legislature finally decided to pass a Dolwig bill to allocate state funds for the outright purchase of the Butano. The bill was incorporated into the State Park Omnibus bill and vetoed by Governor Goodwin J. Knight in July. Without delay, the loggers went to work on the "heart" of the Butano. There are now only 360 acres of trees left.

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties have "compromised" with the Pacific Lumber Company and accepted the 360 acres as the proper area for acquisition. Some 2,000 acres of second and third growth redwoods—pleasant country—will be acquired along with this to make, as Jack Barnard puts it, a Butano Park, but *not* a Butano Forest, for the people of California.

There were hundreds of thousands of dollars raised to acquire a Butano Forest. Hundreds of thousands of people voted for it. Thousands of people gave untold man-hours of work to save the Butano. Why, then, was it lost?

As members of the cast of the Butano story, and as conservationists, we can well afford some soul-searching—however difficult it may be—in making an answer. Where did we fail?

1. *We did not go "all out" in our efforts.* We raised some money, and we wrote some letters, but we did not do enough. We sacrificed the Butano to other conservation issues. Granted these issues were important, the Butano was *our* job, right in our own back yard. We arranged for thousands of people to investigate crucial areas out-of-state, but how many did we get interested in the Butano? From 1952 through 1954, the monthly *Bulletin* carried no mention of the



Butano. Yet these were among the most critical years—years when an aroused public might well have turned the tide.

2. *We did not follow through in our efforts.* The efforts we made—though not enough—were telling: we raised the money we set out to raise, we helped “get out the vote,” but we didn’t see things through. In 1952, we sat back with a sigh of relief, deciding our job was done. Again in 1955, when the legislation passed, we didn’t bother to wonder what would happen if the bill were vetoed. Who looked ahead to the next step—to the possibility that cutting would start immediately?

3. *We assumed too much*—and herein lies our major lesson. We left the fate of the Butano in the hands of others, assuming they would guard it—and they did not. Until an issue is “signed, sealed and delivered,” we must realize that we cannot relax our guard.

If we can learn these lessons from the tragedy of the Butano, it may not have been in vain.

PEGGY WAYBURN

## California's New Anti-Litter Law

On September 7, 1955, Section 600.5 of the Vehicle Code of the State of California became effective. This section is commonly known as the Anti-Litter Law and provides as follows:

It shall be unlawful to place, deposit or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited, or dumped, any garbage, swill, cans, bottles, papers, ashes, refuse, carcass of any dead animal, offal, trash or rubbish or any noisome, nauseous, or offensive matter in or upon any public highway or road, including any portion of the right of way thereof.

The penalty for violation of this act is by fine not exceeding \$50.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding five days. Subsequent violations and convictions draw greater penalties.

The California Highway Patrol diligently enforces the provisions of this section. In addition, private citizens may report the

license number of a violator of the act with a statement of the facts concerning the violation to the California Highway Patrol, and indicate their willingness to appear as witnesses. The benefits of this new law can only be realized by diligent enforcement on the part of the authorities, and by the public exercising its responsibility in reporting violations.

Similar penalties are provided for violations of Section 600 of the Vehicle Code, where, outside of a business or residence district, a person in a vehicle, or a pedestrian, throws from or upon any road or highway, any cigarette, cigar, ashes or any other flaming or glowing substance.

RANDAL F. DICKEY, JR.

## First Scenic Area —At Calaveras

The establishment of the Calaveras Memorial Scenic Area, the first of national forest lands in California to be set aside under this classification, has gladdened the hearts of conservationists. For many years the hope had been that this magnificent stand of sugar pines would be preserved.

This area of approximately 378 acres, adjacent to the Calaveras South Grove Big Tree State Park, contains the finest stand of veteran sugar pines in the state, intermingled with yellow pines, firs, cedars and a few giant Sequoias. Under the Scenic Area classification, the land will be maintained as nearly as possible in an undisturbed condition; no mining, no grazing, or any other commodity use will be permitted. There is no occupancy of the land, and none will be allowed in the future. The only development will be a minimum of trails to permit access to the area, and only in case of a disastrous fire or uncontrollable epidemic insect attack will the removal or salvage of the killed trees be authorized.

It is hoped that the Forest Service will be able to apply Scenic Area classification to other small plots of notable scenic value.

HARRIET T. PARSONS



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## What Will the Park System Be in 1975?

What is California's future? Renowned for scenic beauty, rich traditions, abundant resources and great opportunities, this State, with 300,000 new population each year, is undergoing something akin to a revolution. Planners are speculating as to our problems 20 years from now when our present 12,500,000 will have increased to almost 20,000,000. Thought is being given to highways, to water, to housing, to many other material things. But I wonder whether sufficient thought is being given to the one thing that is most characteristic of California's distinction, and is summed up in this question:

"What kind of an environment will be prescribed for these millions of people to live in when we reach the year 1975?"

We are planning super-highways for the future. Where will these highways lead our people, accustomed as they are to the beauty of our native landscape and to the healing effect for body and soul of contact with nature

out-of-doors? Those who travel from the smog of southern cities to the open spaces and clear air of the Borrego and Anza Deserts, or leave the heat of interior valleys to enjoy the cool shadows of the Redwood Highway, or the shimmering beauty of Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe (to give but two of many examples), are seeking an *environment* that ministers to their needs. We can take pride that our pattern of land management and philosophy is responsible for preserving some of the wild places where our harassed population can seek relief from the tensions of mechanized urban life. It is going to take imagination and daring and great restraint for us to hold even the six-tenths of one per cent of the surface of this great State which we have set aside in our State Parks. What will the State Park System be in 1975?

NEWTON B. DRURY,  
Chief, California Division of Parks,  
*News and Views*, March 30, 1955

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## Setback for State Park Purchases

As the time for the adjournment of the California Legislature drew near in July, we awaited the Governor's signing of S. 1729, the \$16,000,000 beaches and parks bill. The measure was to make use of a portion of the tidelands oil royalties which had been the subject of a long fight between the State and the Federal Government. The bill had in it a little of something for everyone—beaches, forests, trails, roadside rests, historical monuments. To many, the most important single item was for acquisition of Butano Forest.

Then fell the bomb. Governor Knight announced that he would veto the bill. Why? Because, said the Governor, "Allocations of funds . . . should be through the regular budget process in accordance with a system of priorities as is done in other capital outlay budgeting and should not be on a basis of competition among members of the Legislature through special bills."

Now what? The money: Governor Knight stated that there would be no attempt to transfer the \$15,932,500 to the general fund. He insisted that the tidelands money must

be kept intact. The parks: the State Park Commission assured the Governor that "work will be begun immediately to develop a sound, long-term beach and park acquisition plan with a system of priorities and with a recommended set of policies for the Legislature's consideration."

What's happening? The Park Commission has started its work. To aid in the preparation of its program, the Commission has held public hearings at which proposed projects could be presented by anyone interested. The Sierra Club Conservation Committee sponsored the appearance of advocates of several proposed park sites. The Conservation Committee has prepared its own survey of State Park requirements and its recommended program of priorities for acquisition.

What next? The budget session of the Legislature will soon convene. Before it will be the new acquisition program of the Division of Beaches and Parks. Some of our hopes may be fulfilled. Their chances will increase if we continue to voice those hopes.

JOHN P. SCHAGEN

# Chapters at Work

## *Pacific Northwest*

Our newest chapter has a very wide field of operation in conservation problems, and has been able to work in close coordination with the conservation committees of The Mountaineers (Seattle), Mazamas (Portland), and Chemeketans (Salem).

The chapter has represented the Sierra Club at the Society of American Foresters Conference (Portland), the Forest Service hearings on the Three Sisters boundary changes (Eugene), the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee (Spokane), and the Western Forestry Conference (Portland). It has also represented the Club at meetings with Senators Jackson of Washington and Neuberger of Oregon, and Representative Westland of Washington, in discussing local and national conservation issues.

Here are some examples of the range of problems in the chapter's broad territory:

### **Olympic National Park**

1. Pressure to make timber available for logging by transfer of much virgin forest land from Park to Forest Service jurisdiction.
2. "Salvage logging" which destroys the natural sequence of events.
3. Pressure for a road along Olympic Park Ocean Strip which would destroy a unique beach wilderness area.
4. Need for transfer of the Ocean Strip beach from the State to the Department of Interior.

### **Mt. Rainier**

1. A proposed demountable T-bar lift which may still mar the natural scenery.
2. Construction of a new winter access road (adherence to Sierra Club-recommended standards for National Parks road should be assured).

### **McKenzie River**

City of Eugene plans a series of dams which would be harmful to a great recreational area.

### **British Columbia**

Strathcona Provincial Park is threatened by a proposed second-stage high dam.

### **Upper Columbia River**

Watershed development includes construction of two dams which would seriously interfere with fish migration and elk winter range.

### **Glacier Peak**

The chapter has cooperated closely with The Mountaineers to survey and recommend an undeveloped section of the Cascade to be included within the proposed Wilderness Area.

## *Angeles*

For the third year the Sierra Club was represented with a booth at the Los Angeles County Fair, which brought the organization's name and purposes before many who would not otherwise have known of it. Several thousand of the chapter's popular litterbug pamphlets, written by Ruth Simpson, were distributed, some of them in other states. Preliminary surveys led to recommendations that Catalina Island and mountain areas at Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear be made State parks. Several short conservation talks were given at Friday dinner meetings of the chapter, and the committee sponsored three complete programs. A scholarship was awarded at the Idyllwild School of Conservation. Conservation columns were supplied chapter publications.

## *Atlantic*

Effective work in the Dinosaur fight was continued, through postcard notices, articles in the *Argonaut*, and particularly through the many showings of the film *Wilderness River Trail* arranged by Albert and Alberta Wright Gerould in and around Philadelphia. Both the chapter and the Audubon Society copies of the film were in almost continuous use, and the audiences, both large and small, were composed of people who might be expected to make their views known to their Congressmen. It is felt that there is an awakening realization in the East of the importance of saving the last remaining wilderness and national parks. Many easterners who have never seen the western country are vigorous supporters of the National Park idea.

The chapter cooperated with other conservation organizations in opposition to Panther Mountain Dam in the New York State Forest Preserve.

## *Kern-Kaweah*

The chapter's 1955 conservation activities had two distinct purposes. First, the continued education of its own members. Through the regular *Newsletter*, special bulletins, and announcements at meetings, members were kept up to date on the progress of important conservation issues and reminded of the importance of expressing their opinions to appropriate officials.

Second, a beginning was made in educating people outside the Club in the fundamentals of conservation, and in the significance of specific  
*(Continued on Page 30)*



# Tell the People

## *New approach is needed in our educational role*

"CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS and get their good tidings," wrote John Muir. Since 1892 the Sierra Club has brought people to the mountains and spread the good tidings of wild nature's benefits for modern man.

Partly through our efforts, the situation has changed. It is not enough simply to bring more people to the Sierra; any automobile can do that. In 1956, millions could be reached by Muir's good tidings. But there are mental and cultural barriers to overcome. A new approach is required in our educational role.

With the 20th Century's massive assault on natural resources has come an equally severe pressure to uproot man from his place in nature. Our task, as many of us see it, is to counter this pressure, not by trying to sweep back the tide of history with our little broom but rather by working in the areas of civilized taste and thought and habit, to develop in people a conscious desire to use without waste the rare heritage of wild nature.

How shall we do this? Other agencies, with the support of public funds or endowments, or with something to sell, carry on their campaigns of education and propaganda with professional talent and a full array of expensive technical media. We have only our enthusiasm, very limited funds, and the intermittent activity of volunteers. Our greatest advantage is that we believe in the truth and importance of what we have to say. And outdoor folk are rugged, ingenious and persistent.

Education, in the largest sense, includes whatever affects the growth of men's minds and motives. Some of the basic Sierra Club activities continue to accomplish our purposes: outings, mountaineering, winter sports, natural science, publications. It is in the realm of the spoken word, use of pictures (still and motion), exhibits, leadership of youth, help to schools, and the techniques of advertising and publicity that we must develop new ideas.

Many Sierrans have given serious thought to this problem. At every Wilderness Con-

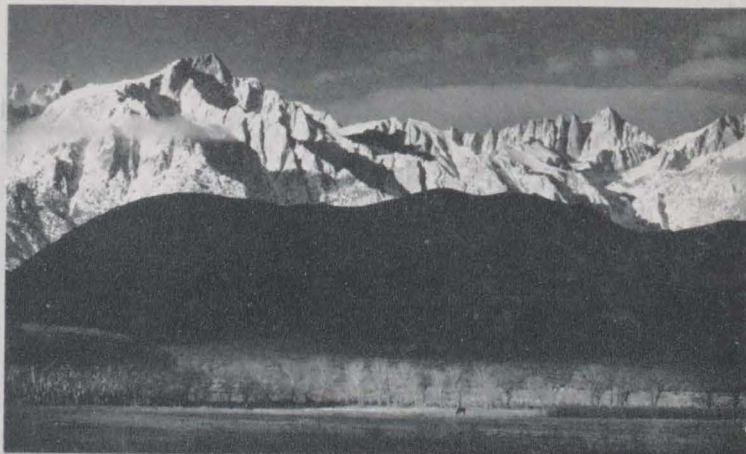
ference it has been the subject of frequent questions, if not of satisfactory answers. Dana Abell and others in this issue of the *Bulletin* have good things to say about it. Read the section on "Chapters at Work" and you'll observe that, throughout the Club, members are aware of the need for educational activity and are attempting to supply it.

Both in the chapters and in the committees of the Club, however, one is impressed with a tremendous amount of wasted motion, an ebb and flow of effort, a lack of direction. Not that a highly integrated program, ordered from on high, is likely to be successful with volunteer workers; the point is that our thinking hasn't matured yet and we badly need to organize our ideas by thinking aloud, together. An opportunity to do just that, on a Club-wide basis, with all the dozens of interested members present, is one of the practical requirements for getting this show on the road. A Wilderness Conference devoted to the subject, after a special "convention" of chapter and Club education representatives, would be most helpful.

AN INFORMANT who knows what has been done in conservation education by one of our two biggest chapters has this analysis of recent difficulties: "grandiose plans without the determined work to push them through; big operator attitudes and no-time situations . . ." The criticism, unfortunately, applies with equal pertinence to similar efforts elsewhere. True enough, big talk won't do the job. Our informant's prescription is "imagination and hard work"; he doesn't specify the proportions, but a conservative dose would be at least half sheer perspiration, pencil-pushing and leg work. The challenge is both to leadership and followership.

Our task is twofold. We must interest our own nearly 10,000 members more thoroughly in the ideas and ideals of conservation. As informed individuals they are our best means of winning friends and influencing people. And when they are interested, those who have the time and talent will come to

*"This Is the American Earth," the photo-and-text display by Ansel Adams and Nancy Newhall (of which this is the first panel), will be circulated throughout the country in 1956 by the Smithsonian Institution. Sponsored by the Sierra Club and California Academy of Sciences, it was shown in 1955 at the Academy, at Stanford University, and at LeConte Lodge in Yosemite. Purpose of the exhibit is to give perspective to the whole pattern of conservation by presenting the natural scene in terms of National Parks and wilderness.*



**THIS IS THE AMERICAN EARTH**

our aid in carrying out the second part of our program. That is to interest every citizen in the enjoyment and the preservation of scenic resources.

Mere preaching will not accomplish this. The arts of persuasion are highly developed these days, and we need to get and follow the advice of experts. An intellectual or literary approach will work with some people, but the majority can be reached only in terms they understand, whether through schools, youth groups, clubs, churches, fairs, museums, window displays, bulletin boards, movies, radio, television, newspapers, magazines or direct mail.

Obviously we are not ready to wage total

war on all these fronts. We must choose our targets and develop weapons within our means.

Several of the chapters, for example, have recently produced visual aid materials. We have slide sets with speakers' texts; photo-and-caption displays; "minute museum" photographs; posters made by students in contests, and the like. We have leaflets and broadsides, chiefly on the subject of camp and trail litter. We have a few movies, notably *Wilderness River Trail*. These items are scarce; some are second-rate; few have the broad, popular appeal we seek.

A critical need is for qualified speakers, equipped with information and visual aids,





WHAT IS THE PRICE OF EXALTATION?



WHAT IS THE WORTH OF EXPERIENCE  
THAT WIDENS AND ENLIGHTENS OUR HORIZONS?

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SOLITUDE—OF PEACE OF LIGHT OF SILENCE?



who are willing and able to fill the frequent requests from clubs and civic groups. Each chapter should have a "speakers bureau," and should actively solicit opportunities to speak. If possible, radio and television programs and spots should be arranged. Imagination and persistence also will result in the presentation of our point of view in the press.

All these functions may belong to the chapters, but they presuppose facilities that can be provided only by the Club as a whole. An efficient library system, a good and available file of photographs and documents, a central office with the answers to questions, publications that are adequate to our needs

(including this *Bulletin*), good liaison among groups and between the Club and individual members, financial assistance when appropriate—these form the backbone of a functioning information and education program.

Since the time of John Muir, the Sierra Club has grown bigger and more influential. We have recently won prestige in a successful battle to assure the integrity of the National Park system. This article merely says that we should, from our position of strength, carry our message far and wide by modern means. "There is a love of wild nature in everybody," Muir declared. Shall we conserve that wonderful human resource?

FRED GUNSKY

## The Four Wilderness Conferences

FOR TWO DAYS in mid-March most of the leading wilderness conservationists of the country assembled at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley for the fourth biennial Wilderness Conference sponsored by the Sierra Club. They gathered in earnest little knots between sessions, met for the scheduled discussions, and enjoyed once again the opportunity to talk with what may well be the largest gathering of wilderness experts ever to get together under one roof.

Almost a decade ago Ike Livermore, then a Director of the Sierra Club, urged a joint meeting of the administrators (Park and Forest Service officials) and users (hikers, riders, campers, packers) of Sierra wilderness areas. In the spring of 1949 the Sierra Club sponsored the High Sierra Wilderness Conference. Two days of meetings at the Claremont brought together nearly 100 officers and individuals from the federal and state services, the Packers' Association, and outing clubs.

Probably the most important result of that first Conference was the discovery—not entirely unexpected—that the concerns of each of the groups were shared by a number of the others. Just realizing that someone else was "helping them worry" seemed to encourage people, and the approaches to some of the problems suddenly became less difficult. The groundwork was thus laid for cöoperation between various workers who had not until then recognized from what quarters help might be expected. One of the best of the decisions reached by the first Wilderness Conference was that others should be held.

The Second Wilderness Conference, in 1951, took cognizance of the findings that whatever threatens a wilderness in the Sierra is essentially the same as what threatens unaltered lands in any other part of the world. More people came to this meeting than to the first, and from farther afield. The nature of the threats to natural lands was more clearly recognized and defined, and it was urged that conservationists work

for a national wilderness-preservation system, with legislation to strengthen the protection of our preserves from destructive exploitation, either in inappropriate activity or in too intensive use.

The 1953 Wilderness Conference drew 145 participants from all over the West and from such distant places as New York, Washington, Alaska, and Bavaria; it was remarkable for the great fundamental agreement among the majority of the participants. It was characterized by a search for ways to express the values of wilderness in noncommercial terms; it was clear that the esthetic and spiritual worth of wild country is recognized.

An important accomplishment of this third Conference was the recognition that some of the values of wilderness are to be found even in city parks, although those values are more numerous and more significant as we get farther from urban centers and closer to the heart of true wilderness. Clear statement of this concept illuminated the possibility of beginning education for proper wilderness use even on city playgrounds and progressing as the user's experience progresses from the familiar to the new—from the city to the unaltered wilderness. The place to *start* wilderness education is wherever receptive subjects may be found.

THE 1955 Conference, biggest yet, pressed for clear administrative policy on wilderness and for expression of concepts in a form suitable as a basis for legislation. It was obvious that the individuals and groups present were ready to say, "O.K.—we understand one another now and we have a pretty good idea of what we want. Let's go after it!"

There will be more such meetings—and they are good opportunities for the right people to listen, as well as for all of us to talk to one another. Participants in the earlier meetings at the Claremont in Berkeley are looking forward to another in 1957. Will you be there?

CHARLOTTE E. MAUK



*Glacier Peak Limited Area, Washington: Triplets from Sahale Arm, above Cascade Pass. An important objective in 1956 is to promote the extension of boundaries to include all of this superlative country in a Wilderness Area. Several outings are planned there.*

## Northwest Conference

Sponsored by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs is the Conference on Wilderness in the Northwest, scheduled to be held in Portland, April 7 and 8. The meeting will be patterned on the Sierra Club's biennial series of Wilderness Conferences, and will afford an opportunity to discuss principles and problems of wilderness preservation in the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Leo Gallagher is general chairman, and Al Kirnak is program chairman. Information may be obtained from Virilis Fischer, 420 N.W. Skyline Boulevard, Portland 1, Ore.



*Tom Miller, Mountaineers*

## Are We Really a Minority?

The idea that wilderness supporters are at the most a straggling minority is fairly firmly entrenched in the minds of a good many governmental administrators these days, as it is with most of the wilderness lovers themselves. At times, I suspect that this idea may be the very thing that attracts many of these people into the support of the principles behind wilderness preservation. Certainly the absence of great masses of people from our back country areas has come to be one of the most appealing features thereof.

But how effective should be this claim that we are only the tiniest (and "purest") of minorities? For a long time I have agreed that because our ranks are limited, we should be rather modest in our demands; but recently I have come to wonder whether we might not find that our minority point of view is shared by an overwhelming majority of American citizens.

The Dinosaur issue has given me a wonderful opportunity to talk to a good many

people about wilderness lands. In addition to explaining the principles upon which we stand, I attempted in my first talks to justify them and to sell my audience on the ideal. It soon became obvious that the person who will argue against wilderness, once it is explained simply and realistically, is rare indeed.

No doubt my sampling of public opinion has been somewhat biased, but I do think that this conclusion is near enough to the truth that we who favor the preservation of large segments of wilderness land should stop talking loudly about minority rights and start working to build the great weight of inert public opinion into an active force.

Before we carry this conclusion to unjustified extremes, perhaps we should decide on what basis we may share opinions on wilderness preservation with a much larger segment of public opinion. Probably the most important point to remember in expanding support for wilderness is that to agree with wilderness supporters is one thing but to *feel*

as they do is another. Perhaps we are making a mistake in attempting to expand our number by emphasizing *appreciation* of the intangible values of wilderness and scenic resources.

As a friend has tellingly pointed out, the preservation of these things that we believe in makes good conservation sense whether a person can become teary-eyed over them or not, and he adds that in all likelihood they are being included in the rapidly developing public conservation sense not because of us but in spite of us. It was his opinion that as the conservation idea really catches hold, the wilderness groups will be left behind. There is undoubtedly much sense in what he says, for the "nature lovers" will probably never find a completely sympathetic audience in mass public opinion. To the public at large the wilderness groups are "nature lovers." It is likely that our appreciation for the out-of-doors is a sort which will never be shared by the masses.

But another friend—one who knows the ins-and-outs of Sacramento quite well—has said that nothing ever gets through the Legislature simply because it is logical. If wilderness preservation does make good sense but the appreciation which we feel has no mass appeal, how can we ever expect wilderness and park ideals to gain full legal status? Perhaps there is a satisfactory answer to this in the idea that the first friend suggested, that wilderness is going to become part of this broad conservation sense whether we help it or not. If through logic and plain common sense these ideals are built into mass public opinion, then it is safe to assume that a new sentiment—perhaps totally unrelated to ours—will arise to give these ideals the legal support they need and deserve.

What then should be our role in expanding the conservation outlook? First there is an important function of holding onto what we have. This must go on much as it has, drawing on the sentiment of the present minority, recruiting new wilderness lovers as opportunity allows, fighting where necessary, and losing some but winning others of the battles to be joined. This is the function which depends on appreciation as such. But the second function is really the more im-

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## Just Give Us Time

(On West Marin Island in San Francisco Bay, on October 12, 1955, hundreds of rare white egrets were found wantonly shot and killed. Because they faced extinction years ago, killing egrets is both a state and a federal crime.)

Some day the last white egret will be dead. "This species is extinct," the books will say. The man who "saw an egret once" will die. The living images will pass away.

Then we can stand by any water's edge  
In any twilight, desolate and still,  
And see no homing angel-birds drift down  
To rest, and know they never will.

"*Ardea egretta* . . ." "*Ardea candidissima*  
. . ."

Loss beyond measure, guilt beyond all  
shame.

A bullet can fly faster than a bird.

". . . *plumage pure white.*" It was, before  
we came.

PHOEBE SUMNER

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portant. To accomplish it we may have to step considerably out of character, leaving the expression of our emotion at home and even forgetting for the present that wilderness is our first conservation love. Instead, we must use all of our efforts and experience to build what Aldo Leopold has called "the land ethic" into public thinking. Stated simply, this ethic demands that in all use of land the primary concern should be that it will be as useful to the coming generations as it is to us. Examples should be drawn not from the aesthetic aspects of conservation, but from those which lie close to the purely economic public heart—brush land management, balanced water use, full use of wildlife resources, wise control of the natural fertility of the land, carefully budgeted use of the non-renewable mineral resources, and so ad infinitum. Then with each stride in strengthening this ethic in the mind of the masses, appreciation of wilderness and park ideals, whether for practical or aesthetic reasons, will be one step closer to the widespread public acceptance which we are seeking and now is within our grasp.

DANA ABELL  
*Tehipite Topics*



# Wildlife Refuges

*Military, other interests  
covet these 'waste' lands*

There was a time in this country when a boy who was fed up with long division and wanted to get into the woods for a while only had to cross the north forty, climb the fence, and there he was. Time and the neighbors began to change all that. Men who could see beyond tomorrow realized that "woods-values"—wildness, space and wildlife—would not endure as left-overs; they had to be specifically provided for. Many areas have therefore been dedicated to the general proposition that these values are important to the welfare of the nation.

Now, as competition for land grows keener, it becomes increasingly difficult to set aside new dedicated lands—forests, parks, monuments, refuges and the like—and increasingly difficult to protect those already established.

One of the biggest users of land, these days, is the military. As the Armed Forces grow and weapons increase in range and destructive power, more room is needed. "Waste" land is limited now, even in the West, and Federal holdings, especially Wildlife Refuges, offer attractions for military planners. Here, for example, are two recent proposals: **Kofa Game Range**, Arizona (660,000 acres for desert life such as the bighorn sheep)—about 5,000,000 acres wanted for testing poison gas on a battle-front scale; **Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge**, Oklahoma (59,099 acres for short-grass prairie life—such as bison and long-horned cattle)—10,700 acres wanted for extension of artillery range. By the time this is printed these issues may have been resolved but others will have arisen.

This military yen for Federal lands is not

*National Audubon Society*

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Interior Secretary Douglas McKay, who was acclaimed for protecting the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge from an attempted "grab" by the Army in October, has aroused wide protests by a later action. On December 2, he signed a new code throwing open practically all of the 264 national wildlife refuges to oil and gas leasing. It is expected that the Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the 17,472,182 acres, will be deluged with lease applications from operators who have been trying for many years to exploit these dedicated areas.

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an easy thing to oppose. After all, these men are single-minded and aggressive in their pursuit of national defense, as they ought to be. Nobody wants to hamstring them. But on the other hand they should be prevented from unnecessarily damaging the nation they are pledged to protect.

The Sierra Club, realizing the great and irreplaceable values at stake in this respect, has adopted the following position:

1. That the development of extended firing and bombing ranges is in the interest of national defense and should be continued.

2. That no extensions should be permitted to encroach upon legally established National Parks, Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Refuges or Recreational Areas unless (a) essential to sound and comprehensive plans for the training of the Armed Forces and (b) detailed investigation has been made by the Armed Forces of the best alternatives and the results of such investigation with supporting data are published well in advance of official action on the project, in what might be called a "white paper."

The purpose of such a "white paper" would be to subject the conclusions of the Armed Forces to critical public scrutiny and thus enable the people of the United States, acting through Congress, to determine whether it is better to choose a less desirable solution and pay the differential cost, rather than impair lands dedicated to other purposes.



It is urged that differences of opinion on technical matters, including those on which details are considered privileged, should be referred to an impartial board for report in order that the people and the Congress may be able to reach a conclusion upon the basis of firmly established facts objectively reviewed.

3. It is the belief of the Sierra Club that the growing population which the Armed Forces seek to make secure will have an increasing need in an advancing culture for the values which these dedicated lands, and others which must be added, can contribute to American civilization.

RICHARD D. TABER

## Mitchell's Caverns, A New State Park

One of the most interesting and unique of California's new state parks, Mitchell's Caverns State Park is located deep in the Mojave Desert, about 25 miles from U.S. Highway 66, near Essex in San Bernardino County. Towering 7,000-foot desert peaks, magnificent vistas over great expanses of desert, fascinating geology, rich and unspoiled plant life and abundant desert animal and bird life make a worthy setting for the unusual limestone caverns discovered

and protected for many years by Jack Mitchell and his wife.

It had long been a dream of Mitchell's that his work in opening, publicizing and preserving the caverns would some day be perpetuated in a state or national park. After his accidental death last year, this dream was finally realized through arrangements made between Mrs. Mitchell and the State Division of Beaches and Parks.

According to William Kenyon, Southern California District Superintendent of the Division of Beaches and Parks, two State Park rangers now reside on the property and protect it on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week basis from possible vandalism, particularly in the caverns with their stalagmites and stalactites. The property is closed to the public while improvements necessary for public safety are being made.

Long-range plans include acquisition of some 30 sections of public land in the Providence Mountains adjoining the 80-acre Mitchell property. This additional land is necessary to include summit areas of the peaks and to permit the preservation of the attractive scenic qualities of the area. Mr. Kenyon reports that the Division is temporarily stymied because existing provisions of the Federal Recreation Act of 1929 permit a state to acquire only a maximum of 640 acres of Federal land per year for recreational purposes. JOSEPH R. MOMYER

## Attack on Olympic Park Is Renewed

Olympic National Park continues to be coveted by tree merchants. Forty-two "forest products industries" and banks, through public relations counselors Roderic Olzen-dam and Associates, hope to "educate" the public to support their effort to obtain the park's lush forests. Their announced "public information program" is designed to try to secure "positive action by the Congress in 1957" of a transfer to the U.S. Forest Service, for the purpose of logging, "approximately one-third of the heavily timbered, highly productive area situated on the lower fringes of the Olympic National Park." This is a renewed attack which will require continued attention.

During the past year the practice of using the proceeds from salvage logging in Olympic National Park to acquire private lands within the park boundaries was discontinued by the National Park Service. Salvage logging, however, can still be done, with proceeds going into the Treasury.

Recently brought to our attention is the shooting of wildlife on the state-owned section of beach below mean high tide adjacent to the Olympic National Park ocean strip. It is thought desirable to give protection to the bears and otter, deer and seals, and other animals when they are on this beach which is a part of the park in all but name.

PAULINE DYER



## Some Mining Law Conflicts Ended

An outstanding conservation achievement of the 84th Congress was the enactment of Public Law No. 167 (known as "Multiple Use of Surface Public Lands—Materials Disposal") on July 23, 1955. This Act amends the so-called Materials Act of July 3, 1947 and the mining laws by providing for multiple use of the surface of public land used for mining.

The present mining laws date back to 1867. They were enacted for the purpose of encouraging exploration and development of the mineral wealth of the West. Conflicts for the surface use of these public lands were then practically non-existent and not anticipated. As years have gone by, population and industrial growth of our country have created an ever increasing demand for multiple surface use of the national forests and the public domain. Long ago it became evident that single-purpose mining laws were neither protecting the real prospector on the one hand nor serving the general public on the other.

Conservationists have been fighting abuses of the mining laws under the guise of mineral claims for many years. During the past year they were joined by the leaders of the mining industry represented by the American Mining Congress.

Several sections of the new Act are designed to clarify and protect the mineral rights of bona fide claimants, and to provide for public agencies to manage and dispose of common varieties of minerals (not patentable under the mining laws) and vegeta-

tive materials. Common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite and cinders can no longer be used as the basis of a mining location. These minerals are now placed under the existing Leasing Act. The new law specifically provides that claims filed after July 23, 1955 shall not be used for any purposes other than prospecting, mining or uses incidental to mining. The Federal Government has the right to manage and dispose of the surface resources, except to the extent that the claimant requires these resources in connection with legitimate mining.

To implement the new Act, the 84th Congress appropriated special funds to test old claims which are invalid or inactive. In California, the first pilot area of about 50,000 acres has been selected in the Sequoia National Forest. Surveys are being made to determine mineral locations, occupancy, and mining activities within the test area.

When the field work of the pilot area is completed a public notice running consecutively for 150 days is anticipated in order to inform interested persons and allow them to assert their rights. Failure to answer the notice does not affect the validity of the mineral claim or right to patent, but claimants wishing to exercise their right to the surface must file verified statements during the advertising period. These claims will be examined as to their mineral sufficiency. If their validity is questioned, a claimant may have a hearing before the Department of the Interior.

Valid claims lose no rights under prior

*What's wrong with this picture? It's human—or equine—erosion. Lyell Fork trail at Tuolumne Meadows exhibits these parallel horse tracks. Would pavement be worse? (Milton Hildebrand)*



law. Voluntary waivers of surface rights not needed in the mineral development of the property would expediate the work.

Where does all this leave us? We believe that the new Act is a real step forward in the conservation of our natural resources. It shows the intent of Congress to enforce the laws against mining abuses. It demonstrates the willingness of the mining industry to recognize that the surface of the land has values other than mineral values. It provides a way for Federal administrators in the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to take steps against abuses.

It removes certain common minerals from the application of the mining laws and sets up a procedure for public management of the surface rights until and unless the mining operation requires exclusive use. No longer can a claimant, by the simple process of driving stakes at four corners and registering a mining claim, prevent the public from asserting its rights and making use of forest products growing on the land. Since fish and wildlife are included in the resources of the surface, a mining claim locator cannot deny the rights of hunters and fishermen, nor can he use his claim as his own exclusive hunting club or cabin site.

The new Act is by no means a cure-all. However, it should resolve many conflicts in land use to the advantage of both the miner and the public. The claimant's rights will be clarified, and the public will secure use of the surface without endangering or materially interfering with prospecting, mining or processing operations.

The new law affects wilderness areas in the national forests only indirectly. The scope and extent of its benefits will soon be determined. They may be material. Abuses of the mining laws for access and occupancy will be eliminated. As at present, there is no prohibition against legitimate mining in wilderness or other classified areas. There remains the conflict between mining and the wilderness concept.

*(The foregoing article was prepared by Dr. Edgar Wayburn, Sierra Club Conservation Chairman, in collaboration with Mil-lard M. Barnum, Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service.)*

## San Jacinto Tram Opposition Grows

All but the newer members of the Sierra Club are familiar with the efforts of this and other outdoor and conservation organizations to defend the serene summit plateau of beautiful Mt. San Jacinto and Mt. San Jacinto State Park against the intrusions of an aerial tramway. The fight began during the early years of World War II when scattered conservationists in the armed forces lost early rounds to a well organized minority, centering in Palm Springs.

The Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority Act of 1945, the enabling act for construction of the tramway, though passed by the California Legislature in that year through the efforts of a skillful and persuasive lobby, has been consistently opposed, and with growing vigor, by increasing numbers of public spirited citizens.

In April of 1955, the growing opposition culminated in the introduction into the Legislature of Assembly Bill 3030. Backed by most outdoor and conservation groups of the state, and sponsored by the Citizens Group of Idyllwild, A.B. 3030 would have solved the problem by repealing the Winter Park Authority Act of 1945. Unfortunately, the enthusiasm of the cooperating groups was greater than their immediate political strength, and the tramway supporters succeeded in blocking the bill in Committee.

However, it is important to realize that the bill was not entirely killed. Through the efforts of the Citizens Group, the bill was assigned to the Interim Subcommittee on Beaches and Parks of the Assembly Committee on Conservation, Planning and Public Works for further study. On October 24, 1955, the members of the subcommittee made an all-day horseback trip up the mountain to study the park and its needs. They were led by Ana Mary Elliott of the Citizens Group.

It is good to hear from Miss Elliott that the legislators were "patient and enduring—deeply interested in the future of the park."

JOSEPH R. MOMYER



# Forest Wilderness

## *How dedicated areas are being reclassified*

A recent Department of Agriculture fact sheet stated that the Forest Service in the last 25 years has established 79 areas, encompassing about 14,000,000 acres, in which primitive conditions of environment are preserved. We recognize this as a description of Primitive, Wilderness, Wild and Roadless areas that have been established in our national forests.

These wilderness areas, as we call them generally, comprise a very respectable chunk of real estate which Americans are fortunate to have. We owe a debt of gratitude to the laymen and Forest Service officials who were the architects of the system and to those who have since administered and protected it. The defense of our wilderness system has been no small task.

Wilderness areas have always been subject to four potential threats: (1) entry under the U.S. mining law; (2) development of certain mineral resources under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act; (3) water resource development under the Reclamation Act of 1902, and (4) pressure to utilize wilderness for purposes destructive to the wilderness concept (i.e.: lumbering, resort and road development). These four threats have resulted in numerous invasions of wilderness areas against which the Secretary of Agriculture has often been powerless to act.

Protection is based solely on Forest Service regulations. The first dedicated areas were Primitive Areas established under a regulation known as L-20. In 1939, L-20 was replaced by more restrictive regulations known as U-1 and U-2. The Primitive Areas created under L-20 were henceforward administered under the U regulations, with the understanding that they would be rededicated as Wild or Wilderness Areas (according to their size) at a future time after the Forest Service had restudied their boundaries.

The U regulations provide good, but not perfect, protection for wilderness, as a review of their provisions will reveal.

### Regulation U-1, Wilderness Areas

(a) Upon recommendation of the Chief, Forest Service, national forest lands in single tracts of not less than 100,000 acres may be designated by the Secretary as "wilderness areas," within which there shall be no roads or other provision for motorized transportation, no commercial timber cutting, and no occupancy under special use permit for hotels, stores, resorts, summer homes, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, or similar uses: *Provided*, That roads over national forest lands reserved from the public domain and necessary for ingress and egress to or from privately owned property shall be allowed under appropriate conditions determined by the forest su-

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The chief biologic and economic reason for preserving wilderness areas is that they do preserve the balance of nature; that they are the refuge of the predators, who are constant in their value to us; that they are great reservoirs of the serene order of nature, where things work the way they ought to. They are the right answers in the back of the book, from which we can get help in solving our problems outside them, when we make a mess of things, as we usually do.

DONALD CULROSS PEATTIE

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pervisor, and upon allowance of such roads and boundary of the wilderness area may be modified without prior notice or public hearing to exclude the portion affected by the roads.

(b) Grazing of domestic livestock, development of water storage projects which do not involve road construction, and improvements necessary for the protection of the forest may be permitted subject to such restrictions as the Chief deems desirable. Within such designated wildernesses when the use is for other than administrative needs and emergencies the landing of airplanes and the use of motorboats are prohibited on national forest land or water unless such use by airplanes or motorboats has already become well established and the use of motor vehicles is prohibited unless the use is in accordance with a statutory right of ingress and egress.

(c) Wilderness areas will not be modified or eliminated except by order of the Secretary except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. Notice of every proposed establishment,

modification, or elimination will be published or publicly posted by the Forest Service for a period of at least 90 days prior to the approval of the contemplated order and if there is any demand for a public hearing, the regional forester shall hold such hearing and make full report thereon to the Chief of the Forest Service, who will submit it with his recommendations to the Secretary.

### Regulation U-2, Wild Areas

Suitable areas of National Forest land in single tracts of less than 100,000 acres but not less than 5,000 acres may be designated by the Chief, Forest Service, as "wild areas," which shall be administered in the same manner as wilderness areas, with the same restrictions upon their use. The procedure for establishment, modification, or elimination of wild areas shall be as for wilderness areas, except that final action in each case will be by the Chief.

We believe that many people will be surprised that protection of America's wilderness rests on so slim a base as these regulations. Section (c) of Regulation U-1 specified that neither modification nor elimination of wilderness areas shall be undertaken without prior public notice and, if demanded, a public hearing. But this is not an entirely effective safeguard, as neither the Chief of the Forest Service nor the Secretary of Agriculture is bound by the opinions expressed at these public hearings. Theoretically, America's wilderness areas could be wiped out by the stroke of the Secretary of Agriculture's pen even though public sentiment did not favor it.

### *Weaknesses, strength*

A review of some of the important decisions concerning dedicated Wild or Wilderness Area will, we think, serve to show both the weaknesses and strength of the regulations governing wilderness protection. Before the war and again in 1947 skiers in Southern California pressed the Forest Service to modify the boundary of the San Geronio Primitive Area to permit its development for winter recreation. In response to this appeal the California Regional Office of the Forest Service proposed to exclude from the Primitive Area a corridor of land to allow the construction of a service road into the heart of the area. The Sierra Club and

many other conservation organizations vigorously protested this action, so a public hearing was called by the Forest Service. This hearing produced a multitude of arguments on both sides of the question, making it a most difficult matter to decide. However, in what proved to be a far-reaching decision, Forest Service Chief Lyle Watts finally ruled that the San Geronio Primitive Area had a higher public value as a wilderness and a watershed than as a downhill skiing area.

He stated: "I fully appreciate the great public demand and need for additional downhill skiing areas in southern California and I recognize skiing as an appropriate form of forest recreation that should be encouraged by the Forest Service. I also recognize that San Geronio is an area well suited for a downhill skiing development. At the same time, were the area opened as proposed the loss of other public values such as wilderness skiing, ski touring, summer wilderness use, organized camping, and watershed values combined, would be greater than the public gain through development for downhill skiing."

### *The Gila hearing*

In 1952 the Regional Forester in the Southwestern Region recommended that the Gila Primitive Area in New Mexico be severely modified to exclude one area because its lands were more suitable for timber production than for wilderness. Another area was to be excluded because it contained a number of private parcels of land and had been penetrated in many places by jeeps, autos and motorcycles.

A public hearing was called in accordance with Section (c) of Regulation U-1. In the words of Weldon Heald, the Sierra Club representative, this was the sentiment at the hearing: "The hearing in Silver City was the most amazing indication of the strong growth of conservation in recent years I have ever seen. From 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. a steady procession marched to the lectern and spoke against eliminating one inch of the Gila Primitive area. The American Legion, Chambers of Commerce, sportsmen's associations, Garden Clubs, Kiwanis, 44



women of Catron County, VFW and every organization in the four southwestern counties had representatives who read statements vigorously opposed to any elimination whatsoever. Not one organization in the region favored the changes." This overwhelming support of the wilderness concept resulted in a favorable decision by the Secretary of Agriculture. He ruled that the area

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**The value of these forests in storing and dispensing the bounty of the mountain clouds is infinitely greater than lumber or sheep. To the dwellers of the plain, dependent on irrigation, the Big Tree, leaving all its higher uses out of the count, is a tree of life, a never-failing spring, sending living water to the lowlands all through the hot rainless summer.**

JOHN MUIR

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which had been penetrated by jeeps and autos was to remain in Primitive Area status to be studied further. All the remaining lands of the original Primitive Area were to remain as wilderness in rededicated Gila Wilderness Area.

More recently, *Bulletin* readers have seen a good deal on the subject of the Three Sisters Primitive Area in Oregon. You may remember that the Regional Office of the Forest Service, in this instance also, initiated the suggestion that the size of the Primitive Area be reduced by lopping off a sizable acreage of merchantable timber. After years of discussions and field trips the Forest Service brought the matter to a head by posting public notice that about 55,000 acres was to be eliminated from the west side of the Primitive Area. The subsequent public hearing brought forth many viewpoints because the long period of controversy had brought numerous interests into the dispute.

### *Three Sisters question*

Since the hearing we have heard unofficially that the Regional Forester recommended to Washington that his proposal be approved—although the preponderance of testimony at the hearing did not favor this reduction in the boundary. As yet the decision of the Chief of the Forest Service

and the Secretary of Agriculture has not been announced.

Sierra Club members who use California's Wild and Wilderness Areas should realize that the California Regional Office of the Forest Service is staffed with administrators who cherish and respect the wilderness as much as we do. They have labored diligently not only to protect California's wilderness from destructive encroachments but also to perfect its boundaries as insurance against demands in the future for unreasonable modifications. Examples of this are found in the Marble Mountains Wilderness Area in Klamath National Forest and the Middle Eel-Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area in Mendocino and Trinity National Forests. Several years ago a systematic study of these areas was begun. Defensible boundaries and a solution of the private-lands problem were the main goals of the investigation. To assure full agreement with the project the Forest Service conducted survey parties of conservationists into the areas, and consulted with local county authorities and land owners. By redrawing the boundaries to exclude some private land and trading adjacent national forest lands for other private in-holdings the Forest Service was able to establish these two Wilderness Areas without public hearings, inasmuch as there were no protests.

### *Desolation Valley*

Another instance of effective work on the part of the Forest Service personnel in the California Region is the enlargement of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area in Eldorado National Forest. As originally set up the area comprised 41,380 acres. A study has been made to add more than 18,000 acres to this area mainly along the west and south boundaries. The area to be added on the west is the spectacular, glaciated west flank of the west ridge of Desolation Valley. There are numerous patches of alpine forest interspersed with meadows along this slope and many beautiful lakes. The southern addition includes Ralston Peak and more glacier lakes. This southern section is particularly valuable as wilderness as it is adjacent to the large Echo Lake resort area and there-

fore will serve as an unspoiled hinterland into which hikers and riders can go from the resort area.

The formalities for carrying out this planned addition to the Desolation Primitive Area have not yet been accomplished but the Forest Service hopes to complete them in the near future.

We believe that some definite conclusions can be drawn from the case histories which we have cited. One of the most encouraging is that the importance of preserving dedicated wilderness areas has not been overlooked by the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture in the decisions they have made thus far. This attitude has prevailed even though in numerous instances recommendations from the regions have, we believe, not reflected this philosophy.

Unfortunately, we may not always be able to depend on national administrators for last-minute reprieves for our wilderness. Both personnel and philosophy can change. As an example: In the same press release referred to at the beginning of this article, the Forest Service said:

"The present system of Wilderness Areas has been carefully selected. It represents the type of country which is suitable for wilderness and in which commercial values are slight. This is in line with Forest Service policy of putting lands to their highest use. The Forest Service intends to maintain these areas insofar as that is consistent with the public welfare. This does not mean that there may not be some adjustments necessary in present boundaries, but it does mean that any adjustments made will be carefully considered and the decision will be

made on the basis of whether the area is of greater public value as a wilderness or for other purposes."

If the administrators in Washington, D.C., and in the regions *believe* in wilderness and are willing to fight for its protection, the policy just outlined is adequate. But reread this statement assuming that you are an administrator who believes that dollar income from the national forests is all-important and that camping and hiking in the wilderness are strictly for the birds. How then would you interpret the phrase "It (wilderness) represents the type of country which is suitable for wilderness and in which *commercial values are slight*" when ruling on whether timber lands within a wilderness area should be made available for logging operations?

There is no question but that America's wilderness needs more than the administrative protection it receives now under the U regulations. We should have a national wilderness policy laid down by Congress. That policy should protect our wilderness from capricious administrative decisions, and from exploitation under the mining, mineral leasing, and reclamation laws. Finally it should recognize that the value of wilderness cannot be measured in terms of dollars. With our growing mobile population and the resulting utilization of more and more previously unused space, it will not be many years before the original wilderness will have disappeared completely unless wilderness is considered to be a fragile, irreplaceable living museum and treated accordingly.

JOHN R. BARNARD

## Another Joshua Tree Threat

There is a new threat to Joshua Tree National Monument. The adverse report of the National Park Service on the proposed Blue Cut road has not discouraged local interests in the Coachella Valley from seeking a direct access road from Twenty-nine Palms to Indio.

An alternate route farther west is now proposed, which would link Thousand Palms with Joshua Tree, connecting with existing roads in Lost Horse Valley. This road would

lie entirely in Riverside County and might become a county project, but permission for its construction would still have to come from the Federal government which has control over the Monument.

The Conservation Committee, Southern Section, will conduct a careful study of the newly proposed road and the threat it poses to the scenic and scientific values of the Monument.

CLARK H. JONES



## Campaign to Save Upper McKenzie

The Upper McKenzie-Beaver Marsh project of the Eugene Water and Electric Board would dam Fish Lake in central Oregon and make it a reservoir to flow into Clear Lake. The latter in turn would also be dammed and used as a reservoir, the water being diverted from its normal outlet, the McKenzie River, of which it is the principal source, through a tunnel to a power house two miles below, at Beaver Marsh. There a re-regulating dam and pool would be constructed.

The project would produce 30,000 kilowatts for three or four hours per day, week days, and would be used entirely for peak power, the water flow being inadequate for continuous operation at that capacity. The Water Board claims that peak power can be obtained this way slightly cheaper than from Bonneville Power Administration, from which the city of Eugene can obtain power at preferential rates.

Objections to the project are based on the fact that Clear Lake is unique. Formed by a recent lava flow that dammed the Upper McKenzie, it is fed by springs from snow melting on the lava field above and contains a "ghost forest," the trunks of trees submerged when the lake was formed and preserved in the pure, frigid water. The lake is crystal clear, with a white diatomaceous bottom. Making this a fluctuating reservoir fed by impure water from Fish Lake would destroy its unique qualities. Diverting the McKenzie would destroy two magnificent waterfalls and an exceptionally beautiful clear-water stream. The 46-mile power line right-of-way clearing would mar the scenery of the McKenzie Valley below.

The case was argued before the State Engineer in March and before the Federal Power Commission in June. The Engineer approved the project subject to certain restrictions as to fish and flow, and later the examiner ruled in the same way and the Federal Power Commission has issued a license. The Water Board must still go to the people for approval of a bond issue to



*Tamolitch Falls on Upper McKenzie  
(Oregon Highway Commission)*

finance it. In the meantime, Senators Morse and Neuberger and Secretary McKay have issued strong public statements condemning the project, on the grounds that the scenic and recreational values outweigh the small advantage in cost of power. Senator Neuberger has offered to introduce a bill in Congress to save the McKenzie, if substantial support is assured. Present information seems to indicate such support both from national organizations and the people of the McKenzie and South Santiam basins.

KARL W. ONTHANK

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### *Military Beachhead*

A recent Navy beachhead is reported in the heart of a National Park unit, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area in North Carolina which was "permanently reserved as a primitive wilderness" by Act of Congress in 1937. The installation was permitted by Interior Department officials when the Navy insisted it must have the site for security purposes. What the Navy is building, however, is an oceanographic laboratory, says the Wildlife Management Institute.



# Chapters at Work

issues. The Conservation Chairman spoke to a section of the local AAUW chapter; the *News-letter* editor showed slides at a meeting at which new teachers of the city and county were guests; others spoke to Boy Scout groups and an adult night-school class. The chapter feels that this phase of conservation education needs much more attention and development, possibly through establishment of a central Sierra Club library of slides, pictures and exhibits—artistic, up to date and of professional quality—which could be borrowed by the chapters and used to further an understanding of conservation problems among many more people.

## *Loma Prieta*

An expanded local Conservation Committee continued efforts in the campaign to save Dinosaur, by frequent showings of the chapter copy of *Wilderness River Trail*, and by a comprehensive mailing of letters to individuals in other sections of the nation. The State Park Survey Committee, headed by Dorothy Varian, completed a report on the four potential State park sites in this region. Jules Eichorn appeared before State Park Commission hearings to present data on a proposed park site along the Skyline Boulevard consisting of redwood forest and meadowland. Peter Frothingham prepared a Sierra Club exhibit for the Stanford Libraries, and was instrumental in obtaining the Ansel Adams and Nancy Newhall photo exhibit "This Is the American Earth" for display at Stanford.

The chapter spearheaded appeals to Governor Knight to stop logging in the Butano redwood area until a purchase of this tract could be authorized by the 1956 Legislature. The committee made three-dimensional litterbug and clean-camp displays, laid out by Florence and Ken Andersen, and is now working on a Regional Park display covering the South Bay.

## *Los Padres*

Considerable attention has been given to the Thorn Meadows-Alamo Mountain "sanitation salvage." Insect-infested and high risk trees are removed by a private lumber company under contract with the U.S. Forest Service, and the chapter has made several precautionary inspection trips and given the problem much study. The chapter is working on some constructive suggestions toward reduction of forest fires and hopes to encourage increased club-wide interest in this matter. Dr. Harold Shantz and Fred

## *Summary of local action*

(continued from Page 14)

Cowles opposed use of fire as a brush range management tool before a meeting of the Club Conservation Committee in San Francisco.

This chapter is also giving thought to whether there is a threat to the Condor Refuge in the operations of the United Water Conservation District, and is studying and surveying the site for the proposed Topa Topa dam. It has been represented at several national conservation meetings and conventions.

## *Mother Lode*

The chapter Conservation Committee screened all bills affecting conservation entered in the State Legislature, and kept Sierra Club leaders advised as to the constantly changing situation regarding these bills. Appearances were made at hearings and direct contact work was done with legislators.

Members experienced in hydro-electric development made detailed studies of three proposed Central California projects: American River development threatening Desolation Valley Wild Area; Wawona dam with possible invasion of Yosemite National Park; and Washoe Project with danger to Truckee River fishery.

The committee made personal, phone and letter contacts with legislators in efforts to prevent the San Jacinto tramway development and in favor of Butano Forest being made a State park. Opposition to hunting in State Parks was furthered by a letter campaign by Mother Lode members, and strong newspaper editorials were solicited. Hasty action was forestalled.

## *Riverside*

Continuing the chapter's staunch opposition to the Mt. San Jacinto tramway, the Conservation Committee sought diligently for facts and participated in numerous hearings and meetings. The committee studied the Lake Elsinore area, Black Canyon, and the Coolgardie-Joshau area as state park possibilities, and represented the Club in opposition to mining and the construction of a proposed road through Joshua Tree National Monument. A. K. Whidden talked to many groups about the Upper Colorado Project, and his analysis of the water situation was publicized widely. For the fourth year the chapter co-sponsored the Audubon screen tours. Litterbug posters were placed in schools, libraries, sporting goods stores and other places.



## San Diego

Dinosaur, Mt. San Jacinto and Joshua Tree National Monument engaged the attention of the chapter and its conservationists. Suggested boundary changes for Anza Desert and Borrego State parks will be closely studied. Torrey Pines Park, containing the famed trees of that name, has been threatened with damaging invasion for a city golf course. This has been vigorously fought, and the struggle will continue. A lecture program with slides contributed by many members is being worked up to create interest in and concern for scenic places.

## San Francisco Bay

The Bay Chapter negotiated the signing of agreements providing for saltmarsh wild fowl refuges in the south Bay near Dumbarton Bridge. Parties to the agreements include the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society and local Audubon chapters.

A clean-up day in Marin County resulted in four miles of cleaner roadsides along scenic State Route 1. A research program was begun on the subject of regional parks, with emphasis on the East Bay Regional Parks. The Chapter maintained an active interest in various state and local conservation matters in Marin County, Butano Forest, Golden Gate Park and Drakes Bay.

The Conservation Education Section continued its program of interesting young people in the appreciation and careful use of parks and scenic areas. Additional panel displays were made and new slide sets are in production. A circulating "minute museum" of individual pictures was instituted, and high schools were encouraged to make posters to aid in the anti-litter campaign. Exhibits were shown at the Wilderness Conference and throughout the Bay Area, and the Section again published issues of the *Bay Leaf*, the chapter conservation newsletter.

## Tehipite

Chapter members made two trips to Le Conte Lodge in Yosemite Valley to assist in a clean-up project around the building. Plans have been made with a district ranger of the U.S. Forest Service for a project on reclaiming mountain meadows, which will be worked on during the coming summer. Also, plans are under way for cleaning up some of the camp areas in the lower foothills of the Sierra, with hope of future coöperation from the public once the areas are put in order.

VIVIAN SCHAGEN

## Almanac

O GOD, we thank thee for this universe, our great home, for its vastness and its riches, and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it and of which we are part. We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds, for the driving clouds and the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees, and for the grass under our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can see the splendor of the morning, hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of the springtime. Grant us, we pray thee, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty, and save our souls from being so steeped in care or so darkened by passion that we pass heedless and unseeing when even the thornbush by the wayside is aflame with thy glory. Help us, Blessed Lord, to use these good things fairly, and with kindness one toward another, working for each other and living for thee. Sanctify this food to our use and our lives to thy service. Amen.

*(Invocation by the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre, Jr., Dean of the Washington Cathedral, at the banquet of the second National Watershed Congress, December 5, 1955).*

AFTER you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, love, and so on—have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear—what remains? Nature remains; to bring out from their torpid recesses, the affinities of a man or woman with the open air, the trees, fields, and changes of seasons—the sun by day and the stars of heaven by night. We will begin from these convictions . . .

. . . Then there is a humiliating lesson one learns, in serene hours, of a fine day or night. Nature seems to look on all fixed-up poetry and art as something almost impertinent . . .

WALT WHITMAN, *Specimen Days*

# What's Behind the Wilderness Idea?

HOWARD ZAHNISER, executive secretary of The Wilderness Society and editor of *The Living Wilderness*, presented an address at the National Citizens' Planning Conference on Parks and Open Spaces for the American People, held in Washington, D.C., May 24, 1955. His remarks, in which he proposed the establishment of a national wilderness preservation system, included passages on the underlying philosophy of the wilderness idea that have been widely quoted. Following are some of them.

In addition to our needs for urban and suburban parks and open spaces, in addition to the need for a countryside of rural loveliness, a landscape of beauty for our living, and in addition to the needs for parkways and parks and well-developed areas for all kinds of outdoor recreation, there is in our planning a need also to secure the preservation of some areas that are so managed as to be left unmanaged—areas that are undeveloped by man's mechanical tools and in every way unmodified by his civilization. These are the areas of wilderness that still live on in our national parks, national forests, State parks and forests . . .

These are areas with values that are in jeopardy not only from exploitation for commodity purposes and from appropriation for engineering uses. Their peculiar values are also in danger from development for recreation, even from efforts to protect and manage them as wilderness . . .

I believe that at least in the present phase of our civilization we have a profound, a fundamental need for areas of wilderness—a need that is not only recreational and spiritual but also educational and scientific, and withal essential to a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, and our place in all nature.

This need is for areas of the earth within which we stand without our mechanisms that

make us immediate masters over our environment—areas of wild nature in which we sense ourselves to be, what in fact I believe we are, dependent members of an interdependent community of living creatures that together derive their existence from the sun . . .

We deeply need the humility to know ourselves as the dependent members of a great community of life, and this can indeed be one of the spiritual benefits of a wilderness experience. Without the gadgets, the inventions, the contrivances whereby men have seemed to establish among themselves an independence of nature, without these distractions, to know the wilderness is to know a profound humility, to recognize one's littleness . . .

Paradoxically, the wilderness which thus teaches modern man his dependence on the whole community of life can also teach him a needed personal independence—an ability to care for himself, to carry his own burdens, to provide his own fuel, prepare his own food, furnish his own shelter, make his own bed, and—perhaps most remarkable of all—transport himself by walking . . .

We are a part of the wildness of the universe. That is our nature. Our noblest, happiest character develops with the influence of wilderness. Away from it, we degenerate into the squalor of slums or the frustration of clinical couches. With the wilderness we are at home.

Some of us think we see this so clearly that for ourselves, for our children, our continuing posterity, and our fellow man we covet with a consuming intensity the fullness of the human development that keeps its contact with wilderness. Out of the wilderness, we realize, has come the substance of our culture, and with a living wilderness—it is our faith—we shall have also a vibrant vital culture—an enduring civilization of healthful happy people who, like Antaeus, perpetually renew themselves in contact with the earth . . .