



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. XL

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No. 1

Wild lands saved



The California Wilderness Coalition has worked for the past 40 years to preserve wild spaces such as Hayfork Creek in Northwestern California.

COALITION FORMS

From the Mar/Apr 1976 Wilderness Record, Vol. 1, No. 1

California Wilderness has just gained a new friend. The California Wilderness Coalition has been formed by a group of wilderness conservationists concerned with the need for a stepped-up level of activity on behalf of wilderness in the state. Before now, no statewide group has focused solely on wilderness preservation.

The California Wilderness Coalition has as its single goal the preservation of all remaining wilderness lands in California. It estimates that nearly 14 million acres of wild land still exist (14 percent of the state's total area) under the jurisdiction of federal and state agencies. However, only 1.9 million acres of this wild land has legal protection against road-building, motorized vehicles, logging and other wilderness-destroying

activities; protection on which is given units of the National or California (state) Wilderness Preservation Systems.

The remaining 12 million acres – lands which are just as valuable and also widely used for recreation, inspiration, scientific study, wildlife habitat, and other wilderness uses – are open to and threatened by development. Wilderness lovers will need to be well-organized

to save any or all of these unprotected wild lands.

The Coalition will pull together not only individuals and environmental groups, but any scientific, educational, or civic organization that is interested in wilderness or a particular wilderness area. In addition, the Coalition will include those who have an economic interest in undeveloped land: manufacturers and retailers of back-

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Wilderness Bill Signed

From the Sept/Oct 1984 Wilderness Record

There was no ceremony, not even a press release from the White House, but President Reagan signed the California Wilderness Act into law on September 28th.

Although the Reagan Administration opposed the bill the past four years, strong bipartisan support apparently convinced the President to sign. The bill was 600,000 acres smaller than that previously passed by the House, the result of effort by Senator Pete Wilson, a fellow Republican.

The legislation protects 25 new wilderness areas and 14 additions to existing wilderness area totaling 1.8 million acres of national forest land. It also

designates 677,600 acres of Yosemite National Park and 736,980 acres of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park as wilderness. Tied to the wilderness bill was wild and scenic river classification for 83 miles of the Tuolumne River and the establishment of a Mono Basin National Scenic Area.

Three "planning areas" are protected for four years while the Forest Service completes wilderness studies and Congress reconsiders the areas. About 1.7 million acres of land remains in "further planning areas" that will be studied during the forest planning process. Eighty percent of the acreage of these areas is in the Inyo and Los Padres national forests, however, regions with little commercial timber. Many of the other

areas are in southern California, also without many commercial trees.

As a result of the bill, a wilderness environmental impact statement is no longer needed before timber sales or other activities can proceed in over 3.4 million acres of "released" roadless lands.

Due to this legislation, the Forest Service will have to change their computer data used in developing their forest plans. This may cause a delay in the release of draft plans of six to eight months.

The Senate compromise eliminated 19 areas previously approved for wilderness designation by the House and reduced in size others. Some of these areas were remanded to further planning, but oth-

ers were released.

Conservation sought protection for some of the new wilderness areas for decades. Areas like Ansel Adams (San Joaquin), the Siskiyou, Snow Mountain, and Granite Chief have had individuals and groups continually working for their preservation since before the passage of the Wilderness Act twenty years ago.

The new challenge for conservationists now is to find means of protecting important "released" areas and participating in the study of the further planning areas. Also, the designation of wilderness study areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management, including the King Range and the California Desert, has only just begun.

40 CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION Celebrating 40 Years

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the California Wilderness Coalition. On Oct 22nd, current and former board members, staff, and supporters gathered to celebrate the many successes over that stretch and contemplate what the next 40 might bring.

This special edition *Wilderness Record* is a re-printing of many of the articles commemorating major victories over that time period. The *Wilderness Record*, for much of the California Wilderness Coalition's history, was the primary method of communicating the organization's work. While much of our communication has moved online, we thought it fitting to revive

the look and feel of the original edition for your reading pleasure. We hope you enjoy.

Read about our honorees on **page 2**.

We are deeply grateful to the generous sponsors of our 40th Anniversary celebration; they are listed on **page 4**.



CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION
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2016 Phil Burton Award Winner: Ryan Henson

The Phil Burton Wilderness Award is given to someone who has significant accomplishments in wilderness protection. This year's winner is a friend and colleague to anyone who has worked with CalWild in the last 20-plus years and absolutely deserving of such an honor: Ryan Henson.



Ryan, currently CalWild's Senior Policy Director, has built a reputation across the state as a wilderness expert and conservationist willing and eager to meet with anyone who might be interested in public lands protection. Ryan was intimately involved in a number of the greatest wilderness conservation achievements in the last 20 years including the 1997-2001 first non-governmental comprehensive survey of California's wilderness identifying 7.2 million potential wilderness acres, the 2006 North Coast Bill which protected 275,000 wilderness acres and 21 miles of wild and scenic river, and the 2009

Omnibus Public Land Management Act adding 779,800 wilderness acres. More recently, Ryan was instrumental in CalWild's major victories in the desert: the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which protected 2.8 million acres as National Conservation Lands.

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and accomplishment advocate on our side. We raise a toast to his accomplishments knowing that there are plenty more where those came from in the future.

Boring name, glorious results

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 protects vast stretches of wild California

by Ryan Henson, Policy Director

Condensed from the Summer 2009 Wilderness Record

Our success can be attributed to our grassroots strength—bringing together people, organizations, and decision-makers across our state to protect California's last wild places. Through our unique organizing efforts of developing a diverse constituency of support we spearheaded the efforts to designate over 700,000 acres of wilderness in California.

On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Man-

agement Act of 2009. The legislation protected over 743,000 acres (1,160 square miles) of California's federal lands as wilderness in the eastern Sierra Nevada, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks and Riverside County. It was the largest wilderness protection measure affecting California in 15 years.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act contained over 160 bills sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats designed to improve water management, expand wilderness areas and parks, protect historic sites, and accomplish other important conservation goals

in many states. These measure were rolled into a single piece of bipartisan legislation in order to thwart filibuster attempts by anti-environmental members of Congress.

The Omnibus bill contained the following California wilderness measures that had originally been proposed as stand-alone pieces of legislation: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act, and California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act.



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Honoring the California Wilderness Coalition's Founders

The founders of the California Wilderness Coalition had the vision to create an organization to champion the wild lands of California. On CalWild's 40th Anniversary,

we are also celebrating the visionaries who got it all started. Without that first step, none of what came after would have been possible. A very special thanks to Jim Eaton, Don

Morrill, Phil Farrell, Bob Schneider, and Jeff Barnickol for their vision of community-empowered environmental advocacy.



Jim Eaton



Don Morrill



Phil Farrell



Bob Schneider

Coalition Forms

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packing and skiing equipment, publishers of mountaineering and trail guides, photographers, packers, and guides.

The main activities of the CWC can be grouped into four general categories: organization, communication, education, and research. Actual projects may overlap these groups.

A prime function of the Coalition is to organize statewide effort for wilderness preservation. As funds become available, coordinators will be hired to travel to all corners of the state to meet with members, groups, and business about cooperating in the wilderness effort. These organizers can then assist local individuals in forming an ad hoc group for their particular threatened area.

A bimonthly newspaper, the Wilderness Record, will be the major

vehicle for communication. All members will be informed on the latest events affecting wilderness or proposed areas, information about specific areas and which groups are concerned with them, and problems of wilderness management. Special alerts will also be sent out as needed to inform interested persons about hearings, bills, and threats to wild lands.

Education will be accomplished through special publications and workshops. The Coalition will see that background materials on various aspects of wilderness preservation are prepared and distributed to those who need and want this information. Evening and weekend workshops will also be held in communities throughout the state so that wilderness supporters can meet each other and plan specific programs to protect their favorite areas.

Debunking the anti-wilderness arguments

of industry and agencies will be a major responsibility of the research programs of the CWC. Many statements given in opposition to wilderness proposals are misleading or completely false and need to be exposed. Research is also needed on the scientific values of wilderness, the importance of wild lands to plants and animals (especially endangered species), and the proper management programs of protected areas.

The California Wilderness Coalition is not intended to replace local groups fighting for wilderness. Its purpose is to increase the effectiveness of such groups by providing a state-wide focus on their particular issue. It will take a united effort by citizens throughout the state to add new areas to the National and California State Wilderness Preservation Systems and to insure that the systems remain intact.

Wanted: The CWC needs a usable IBM Selectric typewriter. If you can help, please contact Chris Morrill care of the CWC. (Adapted from the March/April 1976 Wilderness Record.)



Our Mission

The California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild) protects and restores the state's wildest natural landscapes and watersheds on public lands. These important wild places provide clean air and water, refuges for wildlife, and outstanding opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal for people. CalWild is the only state-

wide organization dedicated solely to protecting and restoring the wild places and native biodiversity of California's public lands.

BUMPER STICKERS

"SAVE MT. SHASTA" bumper stickers are now available. For information write Mt. Shasta Resources Council.

The Fight for Passage for the 2006 North Coast Bill

From the Wilderness Record, Fall 2006

The passage of H.R. 233, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act marks the culmination of many years of hard work by countless people.

First mapped by volunteers and staff of CWC and other groups during the Citizens' Wilderness Inventory (CWI) between 1997 and 2001, the areas included in this bill

represent the incredible diversity to be found on California's North Coast. Inspired by the beauty of these areas, conservationists hoped to include these lands in Senator Barbara Boxer's statewide wilderness bill. Local activists began collecting evidence of support for wilderness and attempting to resolve potential conflicts among ranchers, loggers, private landowners and other stakeholders. Their admirable work caught the attention of Representa-

tive Mike Thompson, who agreed to introduce a House version of Senator Boxer's bill in 2002.

The struggle to pass the bill through Congress was monumental. The House Resources Committee, under the leadership of Representative Richard Pombo, was notoriously anti-environmental, with a particular disdain for wilderness. Waves of North Coast activists volunteered to lobby for the bill in Washington, D.C.

while paid staff fended off repeated attacks from the International Mountain Biking Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition and other interests. Senator Dianne Feinstein became a co-sponsor of the bill in early 2004, and she, along with Senator Boxer and Representative Thompson did an absolutely masterful job of navigating through the rocky shoals of D.C. politics. By the time it was signed into law on October 17, 2006, the bill designated 275,830

acres (roughly 431 square miles) of land as wilderness and protected 21 miles of the Black Butte River as a wild and scenic river. H.R. 233 would not have passed if it were not for the deft political skills of Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Representative Thompson, and the outstanding passion and commitment of the many North Coast activists who struggled to advance the measure over the years.

From the wind-swept beaches of the Lost Coast, to the startling peaks of the Trinity Alps, to the salmon and trout-filled waters of the Black Butte River and the dry heat of Cache Creek Wilderness chaparral, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act leaves a legacy of beauty that will inspire and enrich the lives of North Coast residents and visitors for generations to come.

RARE II: Wilderness Sell-Out Forest Service Incurable

Condensed from the Wilderness Record, Jan/Feb 1979

After 18 months of study, the Forest Service has concluded its Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II. Their final proposal heavily favors timber and development interests and is totally unresponsive to environmental considerations and the thousands of inputs from wilderness supporters.

In California, 757,252 acres (13%) were recommended for "wilderness," 2,406,436 acres (43%) for "non-wilderness" and 2,484,022 acres (44%) for "further planning". Over 600,000 acres were dropped from the RARE II process altogether, with no explanation from the Forest Service during the public comment period. The boundaries of many areas were also altered without public notification.

considered for wilderness preservation by the Forest Service. For example, in the critical Siskiyou Mountain roadless area, perhaps the wild-est area left in the state, only 68,150 acres were recommended for "wilderness" while 140,844 acres were recommended for "non-wilderness." This occurred despite the fact that of the 1,920 personal letters written to the Forest Service on the Siskiyou, 87% favored

areas in Southern California also are doomed to exploitation via non-wilderness designations, and remarkably small wilderness proposals were made for areas for which public wilderness hearings have been held - Sheep Mountain, Snow Mountain and Mount Shasta.

Conservationists' reactions to the Forest Service proposal have been mixed, ranging from great disappointment to total disgust. Wilderness Society Executive Director William Turnage said that "their decision can be called neither acceptable nor balanced."

Forest Service trickery concerning the method of utilizing public input has been especially criticized. Although originally stating that the "content" and "substance of comments would bear more consideration than sheer numbers, the Forest Service gave as much weight to form letters, petitions and coupons as they did to original, personal letters in the decision process. The total number of signatures for or against wilderness designation was used as a criterion in the final decision, although many of these signatures appeared on timber industry prepared coupons on which the respondent merely checked a box that he preferred "non-wilderness" for all roadless areas in a particular national forest. According to Sierra Club RARE II Coordinator John McComb, "The agency went back on its promises and ignored the very real political distinc-

tion between form letters and personally written letters. If you count the letter from people who took the time to write in their own words about areas they know and care for, over 90% of the areas conservationists seek as wilderness received a very strong majority of public comments for wilderness allocation."

public and for environmentalists in particular."

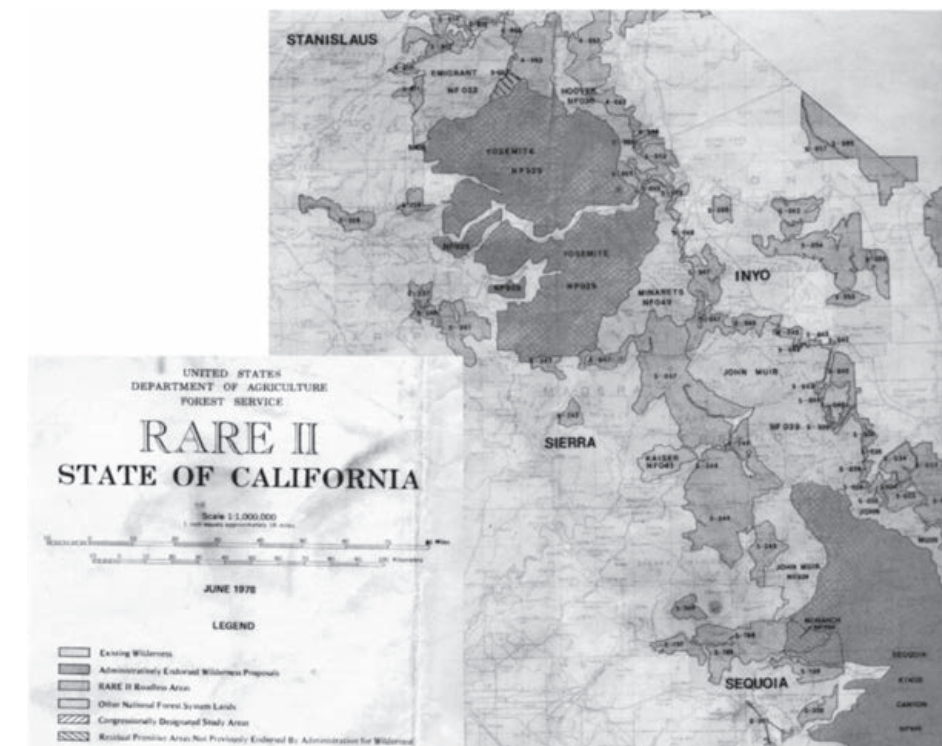
Fortunately, the Forest Service will not have the final word on lands under their jurisdiction. Congress must act to establish wilderness areas. Although the Forest Service asserts that all areas proposed for "non-wilderness" will be open to development as



Steve Evans touts the proposed Ishi Wilderness at the California Wilderness Coalition's 1978 conference, held in part to strategize about the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II process.

The total lack of opportunity for public input on the final environmental statement has also been strongly criticized. The Forest Service has made its final decision behind closed doors, without soliciting public comment on the far-ranging proposal. Forest Service critic Jim Walters has commented, "This breaks with the procedures of other federal agencies which submit their final congressional proposals for public comment. The Forest Service has again demonstrated its total contempt and disdain for the

of mid-April, they have solicited comments from state Governors and interested members of Congress. Conservationists' first priority will be wilderness legislation for the most important areas that have been proposed for "non-wilderness" by the Forest Service. Communication with Senators and Representatives favoring their introduction and support of wilderness legislation for these specific, endangered areas will be vital in the (campaign to combat the disastrous RARE II).



The Forest Service released its second attempt at an analysis of roadless areas nationwide in June of 1978. Only 13 percent of roadless acreage was recommended for wilderness designation. Over 600,000 acres were dropped from the RARE II process altogether with no explanation.

On January 4, the Secretary of Agriculture released the RARE II Final Environmental Statement. This document constitutes the Forest Service's final proposal for the fate of 62 million acres of undeveloped land, including 5,648,000 acres in California.

The North Coast area fared the worst in the RARE II recommendation, with the vast majority of areas recommended for "non-wilderness." These areas will be completely open to development on the completion of land use plans - "non-wilderness" areas will never again be

wilderness designation for the entire roadless area. Trinity County roadless areas were also overwhelmingly slated for development, despite the fact that the County Board of Supervisors submitted a carefully considered wilderness proposal to the Forest Service. Many

Thank you to the generous sponsors of our 40th Anniversary Celebration


On October 22nd, we honored our founders and the many other CalWild staff, board and activists since 1976 that have helped to preserve more than 16 million acres of wilderness. CalWild continues to protect and restore the state's wildest natural landscapes and watersheds on public lands. These important wild places provide clean air and water, refuges for wildlife, and outstanding opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal for people.

As always, we're indebted to a number of people and groups who helped make this event happen, including our top sponsors:

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Don Morrill and Sue Barton



The California Wilderness Coalition has worked for the past 40 years to preserve wild spaces such as these in Inyo Forest (left) and at Carrizo Plain (right).



Wilderness comes to the desert

by Lucy Rosenau

Condensed from the Wilderness Record, November 1994

The numbers alone are giddy: With a few strokes of the presidential pen, California will have 70 new wilderness areas and another four wilderness areas will be enlarged, for a whopping total of 7.6 million acres of wilderness – more than double the state's existing wilderness acreage and more new wilderness areas than were established by all of California's previous wilderness bills.

But remarkable as they are, the numbers don't begin to convey the importance of the California Desert Protection Act, both as a political victory and as an ecological landmark. In shepherding the largest public lands bill since 1980's Alaska Lands Act through an exceptionally intransigent Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein impressed political observers and environmentalists alike. "Senator Feinstein's determination to see this legislation enacted was what got it through in the final hours," the Wilderness

Society's Norbert Riedy said. "She was committed from the start and never wavered." So big a victory in the face of an extended Republican filibuster can only bolster Senator Feinstein in her quest for re-election.

The bill's passage bolstered a lot of weary spirits. It has been eight years since Sen. Alan Cranston introduced the first legislation to protect the California desert, only to be frustrated, again and again, by Republican opposition. Activists working to protect wildlands and wild rivers outside the desert have been told, again and again, to wait until the desert bill passes. On Friday, October 7, at 2:09 in the morning, the House of Representatives passed the desert bill. Some 30 hours later on Saturday morning, the Senate voted first to end a filibuster and then to pass the desert bill, and champagne corks began popping all over California.

The celebration was all the sweeter because the bill that passed is considerably larger than desert activists had hoped



for when they began their campaign to protect the California desert in the 1970s. A preliminary recommendation for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) desert wilderness compiled by activists in the early 1980s included about three million acres. Judy Anderson, one of the organizers of the environmentalist campaign, said, "every year the opposition delayed, the bigger the bill got."

The desert bill marks a turning point for wilderness legislation in California. Unlike the wilderness bills of the past, future legislation will be designed to protect lands of ecological, rather than primarily recreational, significance. With this bill finally behind them, wilderness activists can turn their attention to developing wilderness proposals for the remaining unprotected and little-known wildlands throughout the state.

Monthly Report

by Jim Eaton

Condensed from the Wilderness Record, November 1994

[Editor's note: This is an example of a monthly report that then-Executive Director Jim Eaton often placed in the *Wilderness Record*. This was chosen to show how many years of dedicated effort it can take before a bill comes to fruition.]

By the time the Coalition formed in 1976, there were a number of desert supporters. Tom Jopson and Jim Trumbly, the first editors of the *Wilderness Record*, were such champions that we adopted a desert mountain range and sand dunes as our logo. They worked with the Desert Protective Council to produce the *Desert Deadline*, an eight-page *Record* supplement on the fight to save the desert.

We also published a map of potential wilderness areas through California. Phil Farrell pored

over maps and discovered scores of desert roadless areas. But to show you how little we knew of the desert, that initial inventory missed 18 of our new wilderness areas.

The Coalition began organizing southern California wilderness activist in 1977, first with a weekend workshop at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge and then at a working meeting at the College of the Desert. Harriet Allen provided invaluable assistance by setting up those meetings and introducing me to Judy Anderson, Jim Dodson, Lyle Gaston and Elden Hughes.

Since then, a steady stream of *Record* articles, training workshops, statewide conferences, and congressional hearings has marked the Coalition's involvement with the desert. We are proud to be part of the massive alliance that pulled together to make this desert bill possible.

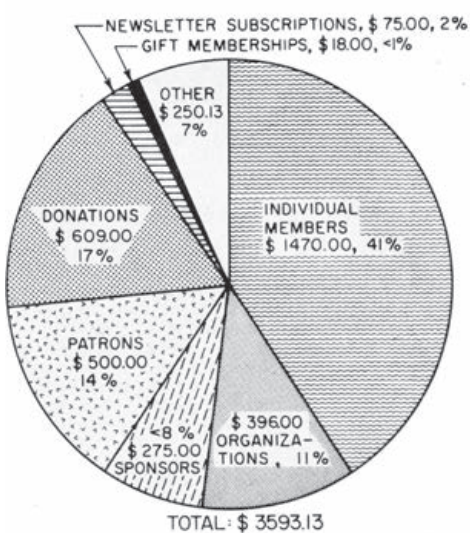
In addition to the names mentioned above, there is another who must be acknowledged. The Wilderness Society's Nobby Riedy has dedicated the last few years of his life to getting this legislation enacted. I have no idea what more he can do for an encore.

I was in high school when the Wilderness Act passed, establishing the first 1.3 million acres of California wilderness. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working on every wilderness bill affecting our state. But never have I experienced the unmitigated joy that the desert bill brought, adding 7,663,069 acres of wilderness in California and pushing the National Wilderness Preservation System over 100 million acres.

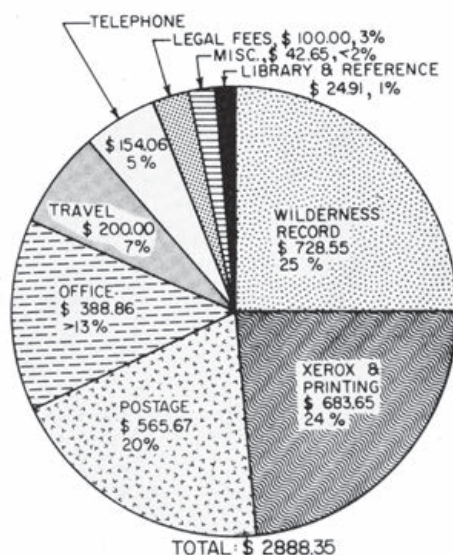
Thank you all for making this happen.

California Wilderness Coalition's First Year: Where the \$ Goes

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Drawing by Mike Nolasco.

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I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$_____ for membership.

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