Desert Alert

Peninsular Bighorn Need
Endangered Species Listing
by Joan Taylor

Did you know that there are more golf courses in the Coachella Valley than there are Peninsular bighorn sheep in the mountains surrounding them? Sad but true. Once the most numerous of desert bighorn sheep, Peninsular bighorn are on the very brink of extinction.

Disease, rampant development, cattle grazing, predation and drought have all combined to bring this animal to the brink of extinction. In the late '70s there were over 1200 of them between the San Gorgonio Pass and Mexico. Now there are only 280 left in their entire range.

The Desert Committee, in coordination with the San Gorgonio and San Diego Chapters, has been working for years to get federal protection for Peninsular bighorn as an endangered species, and the Club is in federal appellate court right now to force the government to list this animal.

But courts take time, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service could act immediately to save these wonderful animals. Please call, fax, or write Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior, and simply tell him that Peninsular bighorn sheep will perish without federal protection. They need to be listed as an endangered species immediately. Ask him to help. Five minutes of your time could make the difference for these wonderful animals.

Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of Interior
1849 "C" Street NW #6151
Washington, DC 20240

Phone: (202) 208-6291
Fax: (202) 208-6956

Magnificent Peninsular Bighorn Ram bedding down for the night.  

BLM Wilderness
Nevada’s Hidden Treasure
by Marge Sill

Some of the wildest, most remote, and magnificent wildlands in our country are to be found in Nevada’s public lands. Far less known than the spectacular Utah wilderness to the east, these wildlands have received little attention from the general public and even from the most ardent wilderness advocates in

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View from the Chair

by Elden Hughes

It has been said that "facts tell, but stories sell." My column this time is a series of small stories. If you have similar stories, share them with the editor. We can all use them — they work better than facts.

The U S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) enforces the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In the field we work with the finest folk around — what happens when they get promoted? The Regional Office in Portland sits on any potential ESA listing unless it is blasted out of them. In Washington DC they accept almost any "Habitat Conservation Plan" put before them to avoid moving on listings. This means lawsuits just to make them do their jobs. Because we sued, in June, a judge told the FWS that even though it is three years late, they must make a decision on the Flat Tailed Horned Lizard, a species from the Colorado Desert along the river.

We sued on the Peninsula Bighorn Sheep — it’s closer to listing. There are more golf courses than bighorn sheep (down to 75 now). The golf courses are winning. The FWS procrastinates; some judges let them. Now we are having to appeal the judges inactivity.

A dozen miles to the north of King Clone, the 11,700 year old creosote ring, is the Soggy Lake Mojave Yucca Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) with clone rings of Mojave Yucca that are probably equally old. I decided to check it out recently. The ACEC covers several hundred acres, but the BLM has fenced only about 7 acres; the area inside the fence is in good shape. The area outside the fence is trashed. An ACEC is supposed to be the BLM’s highest level of protection. What’s going wrong? The ACEC is in the middle of the Johnson Valley Off-road Vehicle Open Area. I have just written to the BLM about what is happening. Like the F&WS, you have to nag the BLM to be sure they do something.

The Martin Swallowtail butterfly is one of the rarest butterflies in the world. Its habitat is at most 4 square miles. The BLM never stopped the butterfly collectors from raiding this fragile habitat. In 1994 it appeared that it had been collected to extinction. But, also in 1994, its terrain became part of the Mojave National Preserve. Collecting stopped. Was it too late? Fortunately, no. A few were left. This year it was my privilege to see my first Martin Swallowtail butterfly. How many other species are hovering at the brink of extinction?

One more story with a moral. Decades ago when my oldest son was eight years old, he and I were sitting on the cliff at San Elijo watching flocks of brown pelicans fly north along the coast. It is easy to sail south along our coast, but quite difficult to sail north. These pelicans did it with ease.

They used the lift provided by each incoming wave and soared just in front of the wave until it peaked and started to break, and then with one wing beat they lifted above the wave and caught the wave behind. Actually they didn’t even need the one wing beat; they just used forward soaring momentum.

At the time, I was flying gliders, sailplanes. I knew that the glider I often flew had a better lift-over-drag ratio than any pelican in the sky. Yet, there was no way I could duplicate what the pelican was doing. Even if the waves had been proportionally bigger I could not have soared using the power of the waves.

We studied the waves and the pelicans a long time. What was their secret? I finally concluded that they had much better information than I. In a sailplane I had the seat of my pants, my view of the horizon, speedometer, an altimeter, and an altitude gain and loss meter. Each pelican has about 20,000 feathers and each feather has a nerve and each nerve feeds directly to the brain. Each pelican knew a lot more about what was happening in its flight envelope than I did in mine.

At its best, our Desert Committee serves as the feathers feeding the messages. By adopting a Wilderness, or getting acquainted with a half dozen ACEC’s, or monitoring a couple grazing allotments, our members provide the feedback the committee needs. None of us can see the whole, but our committee can see it much more clearly than the managing agencies, whose staffs come and go. With better information we can fuss, nudge or sue. We can soar.
Nevada’s Treasures

(Continued from page 1)

the past. In fact, many who know Nevada only from driving I-80 or I-15 really think of the state as a "wasteland", not realizing the treasures that lie off the paved freeways.

However, this situation is changing rapidly, and we now have the opportunity to add a portion of Nevada’s BLM wildlands to the National Wilderness System. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada has been taking helicopter tours to survey these wildlands and plans to introduce a BLM wilderness bill as soon as Congress becomes more environmentally conscious.

Except for Alaska, Nevada has the largest amount of area managed by the Bureau of Lands Management — 49 million acres. Over five million acres of roadless, undeveloped lands have been identified by the BLM as having wilderness characteristics of solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and unique geological, ecological, and scenic values. Approximately two million acres have been recommended to Congress by the BLM for wilderness designation.

These five million acres of Wilderness Study Areas represent an enormous range of diversity, from the high forested peak of 10,990 foot Mt. Grafton in eastern Nevada, to the enormous expanse of the Black Rock Desert in the northwest, to the redbrick country of the Muddy and Mormon mountains in southern Nevada. Some areas are seemingly stark and bleak as, for example, Blue Eagle Peak just south of the Mt. Grant wilderness, while others such as the Blue Lakes area in the Pine Forest Range near the Oregon border are truly alpine with sparkling lakes, streams, and timberline trees.

Since Nevada is the fifth most biodiverse state and the most mountainous state in the country (facts that are little known, even to most environmentalists), many of these areas contain special plants and animals to be found in very few other places. Southern Nevada WSA’s are the home of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and the threatened Desert Tortoise. The threatened Lahontan Cutthroat trout inhabit the streams of the WSA’s in northern and eastern Nevada, and the endangered pupfish can be found in many of the warm springs. Pronghorn antelope, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, and badger find refuge in these wilderness lands. The WSA’s are a reptile haven, ranging from the Gila Monster to numerous species of small lizards to the Great Basin Rattler.

Some WSA’s are a riot of color in the spring following a wet winter because of the wildflowers, many of which are endemic to a certain area. An inventory is finally being compiled of the snails,

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Desert Committee Mission

The Sierra Club California/Nevada Desert Committee works for the protection and conservation of the California/Nevada desert, supports the same objectives in all desert areas of the Southwest, monitors and works with governments and agencies to promote preservation of our arid lands, sponsors educational and work trips, encourages and supports others to work for the same objectives, and maintains, shares and publishes information about the desert.
The Fort Irwin Expansion

Pasadena Hearing Draws 150 to Protest Army's Plans
from reports by Richard Knox and Jim Schoedler

On May 8 members of concerned environmental groups, 4-wheel-drive clubs, motorcyclists, hikers, backpackers, and all manner of desert users crowded into the Magnolia Room of the Pasadena Holiday Inn to register their concerns about the proposed expansion of Fort Irwin. They represented an unprecedented coming together of traditional adversaries.

General Wallace, the commander of Fort Irwin made a brief presentation on the Army's perceived need for the expansion. He and his staff then retreated to the back of the room where they did not have to directly confront the concerned citizens in attendance.

During the public hearing, over sixty speakers lambasted the adequacy of the EIS and questioned the need for the Army to expand in face of the end of the Cold War and subsequent plans to close many bases. In over two hours of comment, no one spoke on behalf of the expansion.

Southern Inyo County Supervisor, Michael Dorame, stressed the disastrous economic impact on the residents of Southern Inyo and neighboring residents in Nevada, outlining the loss of tourist trade expected throughout Inyo County.

Many citizens and groups expressed major concern about the environmental impacts on the desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep. A number of speakers questioned the inability of the army and the navy to coordinate use of space on the adjacent China Lake Naval Weapons Test Center. China Lake is once again on the list for closure and the portions of that land not returned to public use could be utilized by the army.

Richard Knox of Bishop is active with the Range of Light Group. Jim Schoedler chairs the Angeles Chapter Public Lands Committee.

Rep. Miller Leads Opposition to Army Efforts to Annex CA Desert

WASHINGTON, May 29--Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez) weighed in with five other California representatives to oppose efforts by the U.S. Army to annex part of the California desert for the expansion of Ft. Irwin's National Training Center, northeast of Barstow, Calif.

The 300,000-acre parcel being eyed for tank combat by the Army was set aside for preservation by the landmark California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which Miller, then chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, spearheaded during the 103rd Congress.

"The withdrawal and use of more than 300,000 additional acres of public lands for military purposes would irrevocably alter the wilderness characteristics of this relatively undisturbed and remote setting," wrote Miller, now senior Democrat on the committee which oversees national
parks and other federal lands. "In addition, it would require the acquisition of thousands of acres of State Lands and the condemnation of thousands more acres of private lands at significant cost to the already overstrained budget for Federal land acquisitions."

Miller noted that any withdrawal of more than 5,000 acres of public lands for military use would require Congressional approval. "We will strongly oppose any legislative attempt to withdraw ecologically-sensitive desert lands or change their wilderness study status," the representatives pledged.

As an alternative to the annexation, Miller proposed "joint military use of existing military facilities," rather than expansion of a new one. Joining Miller in sending the letter to the Bureau of Land Management in response to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed acquisition were Reps. Nancy Pelosi, Pete Stark, Anna Eshoo, Bob Filner and Howard Berman.

[Image of a cartoon turtle with a sign "FORT IRWIN EXPANSION"

(Yipes, there goes the neighborhood!
(Willis Simms is conservation chair for the San Fernando Valley Group)

"Silence Knew Not..."

(The testimony before the BLM Public Hearing regarding the Ft. Irwin Expansion, May 8, 1997)

The wilderness stood motionless at the end of this day and silence knew not of the TV broadcast which said;

That soon would come bombers and tanks, and men with their focus through sights on each other's caravan.

The wilderness stood empty this day to receive it's fate... thousands of years lead up to this date.

The wilderness stood silent and birds flitted about the bushes and animals unaware, awaiting the rout.

"The land shall be scarred so a nation can fight an invisible enemy in a future plight."

Don't they (and we) know or even realize? Can't we remember the bad times then (and now)?

WAR IS OVER!
WAR IS OVER!!
WAR IS OVER!!!

Say WE and the wilderness again, and again, and again.

Larry Iwerks
Song to the Avawatz Mountains (Spring 1997)
edited by Ray Strong
Desert News and Opinion

Ft. Irwin, Tortoise, Chemgold —
When things get quiet.
by Elden Hughes

People are asking, "What's happening on Ft. Irwin?" The answer is that whatever is happening is now behind closed doors. We made the fuss and got the folks to the hearings. Now, apparently ... nothing.

Not really. The Army and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are trying to negotiate their final positions and those positions depend on the Department of Interior and the Department of Defence, the administration and finally Congress.

What should we be doing? Keep sending letters to your Member-of-Congress saying that no expansion of Ft. Irwin is justified. Ultimately it has to go to Congress.

The Desert Tortoise was listed as threatened in 1990. The Fish and Wildlife Service Tortoise Recovery Plan was completed in 1994. No major BLM plan has yet incorporated the Tortoise Recovery Plan.

What should we be doing? Keep tracking and pushing the Western Mojave Plan, the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Plan and the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan and the Park plans to insure that all fully incorporate the Tortoise Recovery Plan.

Chemgold is a proposed absolutely huge gold mine in Imperial County right up against two wilderness areas, the most sacred lands of the Quechan Native Americans and truly gorgeous pristine lands. In its first Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) it proposed to dig the deepest mining pit in California and then just leave it -- no reclamation. We propose to fight. There will be a new DEIS promised for September. We will be getting out alerts for hearings and letters. It's going to take us all, it will be a very big fight and it is just starting.

Speaking of planning efforts -- we plan to win.

There's Green in Them Thar Hills
by Dave Eppele
Arizona Cactus News (reprinted by permission)

For the past 11 years "On The Desert" has taken you to all regions of the deserts of North America. From San Anton' to San Bernardino and from Pojake (Po-hawk-ay) to Podunk, "On The Desert" lets your, dear reader, know just what's going on. Date-lines from Mexico and around the great Southwest are commonplace.

This column takes us to the Mojave desert — that vast scorched outback of borax, creosote and dry lakes. Out here there are hundreds of old abandoned shacks and if your look closely, you can still see the tracks of General George S. Patton's tanks 50 years after they rumbled through Cadiz, California.

For the past month, one of our readers from Barstow, California has been telling me of planeloads of investors, politicians, hydrologists and crop specialists flying in to have a look at the south side of Sheephole Pass. Investors from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Wall Street rub elbows at the local watering hole, swapping stories about a parched basin about the size of Switzerland.

The object of their affections is a vast store of underground water big enough to transform the Cadiz Valley into a fertile green sea of lemon trees and (here we go again) cotton. There are already 1600 acres under cultivation. One huge farm uses a 30's trailer court as its headquarters, right out there with the drying palm trees and boarded-up bar and cafe. It's the headquarters of the Cadiz Land Company. Their signs along old Route 66 scream that there's enough water to transform 10,000 acres into cropland. They say 180,000 sensitive Los Angelinos (sic) can all get their kicks out here on the Mojave.

Someone must be reading and believing in those signs, because according to the Southern California Council of Governments, the two fastest growing areas of California are the Victor Valley, south of Barstow and the Antelope Valley, north of Palmdale. Victor Valley currently has 230,000 residents and the population is expected to reach 700,000 in ten years. The population of Antelope Valley? Try 330,000 on for size, with an estimated 700,000 population forecast for the year 2005.

Looking ahead to the time when desert water could
be priced around $6 a gallon, the big message around Cadiz seems to be: "We can easily provide enough water for 180,000 and what water we don't use, we can sell to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. We can build a new pipeline over to the California Aqueduct."

Hydrologists say that the Cadiz area is at the bottom of a gradient that catches the drainage from 1,300 square miles, an area the size of Rhode Island. They also say there's a lot of water under Catellus. This caused the immediate formation of the Catellus Development Corporation, which has its own vision of developing 800,000 acres of desert empire — to be built on the same source of underground water.

Cadiz and Catellus insist there is enough water to fulfill both their dreams. Just who controls the water has yet to be clarified, but the biggest unanswered question is whether there is enough runoff to replenish the aquifer. The question has been answered time after time, in hundreds of water meetings. In every single case of desert development, the water is drawn out of the aquifers at a rate that far exceeds its replenishment. That's like writing a check without sufficient funds in the bank.

But you know, the real sad fact is that the desert plants — those things that make a desert look like a desert — will just wither up and die. And those plants are what keep the surrounding desert sands intact.

I wonder if someone wandering the Mojave near Cadiz around 2050 will see entire cities abandoned because the cost of pumping water rose to $1500 a barrel.

Submitted by Stan Haye

Briggs Mine Update
by Stan Haye

The CR Briggs open pit heap leach gold mine in the Panamint Valley is now in production. The mine, owned by Canyon Resources of Golden, CO, has been given good environmental reviews by environmentalists who have inspected it, and by the Bureau of Land Management, which is responsible for permitting and bonding. Of course, this is just confirming that the reclamation promised in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is probably inadequate but all that could be obtained given the 1872 Mining Law, seems to be occurring.

However, exploration to the north and south of the present open pit has confirmed the presence of another 318,700 ounces of gold, representing a 49% increase of the initial 653,000 ounce Briggs reserve. Canyon Resources is now planning to write an additional EIS in order to mine these additional reserves. Ben Licari, Briggs Project Manager, stated at a recent meeting that construction of new open pits near the present pit will result in sequential backfilling of the present pit. We will see.

At another project, the World Beater in nearby Pleasant Canyon, Compass Minerals has drilled a few holes in a narrow canyon. A mine and possible road construction would have very serious impacts on the riparian area of Pleasant Canyon, as well as an unusual cactus garden on the mine site itself. No EIS has yet been received by Inyo County or the BLM.

Desert Committee Co-chair
Hughes receives John Muir Award
Sierra Club's Highest Honor

In May the Sierra Club bestowed its highest award on Desert Committee co-chair Elden Hughes. Elden was given the John Muir Award which honors leaders who continue John Muir's work of preservation and establishment of parks and wilderness. The Sierra Club Board of Directors specifically mentioned Elden's decades of work to protect wild and scenic rivers in California and his integral role in passing the California Desert Protection Act.

"Every American who wants to see California's beautiful environment protected owes Elden a debt of gratitude," said Adam Werbach, Sierra Club President. "Thanks to his hard work, dedication, and perseverance, our rivers remain wild and the Mojave Desert finally has the protection it deserves."

"John Muir did more than anyone else in history to protect California's environment, and getting an award with his name on it is a true honor," said Hughes. "But the real reward is visiting the desert and knowing that my grandchildren and their grandchildren will get the chance to explore its splendor and beauty."
Trip Reports

Palm Canyon-Santa Rosas Backpack
March 1997
Leaders: Joan Taylor, Kathy Kelley

Early spring in the low desert can sometimes be a little toasty. Such was the case this March when over a dozen intrepid souls hiked the length of Palm Canyon, then backpacked across the newly expanded Santa Rosa Wilderness.

The springs and streams were running (albeit intermittently), wildflowers were out, and the scenery as always was gorgeous. Walking along the rim of Palm Canyon is a great way to see the many large and small oases that gave it its name. Gradually, following the aboriginal "trail of a thousand shrines" we ascended into cottonwood and pinyon pines to Pinyon Flat camp for a barbecue and campout.

Backpacking in the Santa Rosas

After 90 degree temperatures in Palm Canyon, the cool air at 4000+ feet felt great. Off we set the next morning for Agua Alta Spring, one of the many Native American sites on our way. Following the Cactus Spring Trail, we cruised along the base of the Santa Rosas, past scenic Horsethief Creek with its rustlers' corral, to the east-west divide where we lunched. Into camp early, we had plenty of time to relax and soak up the cool of the evening, for the highs were forecast to be over 100 for our descent through mighty Martinez Canyon the next day.

But nature smiled on us, and the mercury never even reached 90. After navigating the somewhat treacherous stretch of "trail" down into Martinez, we detoured for a trip upstream to Jack Miller's old rock cabin, still in excellent condition. Then, dousing ourselves whenever the stream surfaced, we made our way out to the rendezvous with 4WD vehicles at the end of the cherry stem. Don't cold soft drinks acquire a special something after trekking across the desert for three days? Special thanks to Kathy Kelley for her able leadership, and all the gracious and hardy participants who made this trip a delight.

submitted by Joan Taylor

Joshua Tree National Park
May 10-11, 1997
Leaders: Bob and Maureen Cates

Several years ago a wildfire swept through the extreme west end of Joshua Tree NP. This surrealistic landscape, visited on Saturday afternoon, was one of the highlights of the trip. In an area almost bare of any living plants, where the Joshua trees were burnt to the ground, the group found the most extensive collection of wildflowers during the weekend.

With three naturalists — botanist Oscar Clark, bird expert Kathy Keane and geologist Justin Browne — joining a trip led by historian and Joshua Tree Visitor's Guidebook author Bob Cates, everyone had an expert to ask questions of.

The trip began with bird watchers separating from plants folks as they meandered through the Morongo Preserve, just outside JTNP on the morning of the 10th. It got a bit warm, but no one minded as nearly all of the group saw a vermilion flycatcher before they left the preserve area. Next came the surrealistic high forest of burned Joshua Trees and a visit to the largest tree (not burned) at the end of a dusty road. A non-traditional dinner (pizza and salad) followed the traditional happy hour at the NP campground on the site of the former "Jellystone" commercial camp-
Rock Cabin in Martinez Canyon

ground.

On Sunday, the group visited the more well known parts of the park and hiked across the desert to some unusual rock inscriptions. The last of the group stopped at the visitor center in Joshua Tree before their long drive back to the urban areas.

submitted by Judy Anderson

Last Chance Ramble
May 9–11, 1997
Leaders: Vicky Hoover, Fred Camphausen

Our goal was to enjoy some of the new wilderness in the desert that we had worked for! Two cars from the Bay Area with three people each converged on Campy’s house in Bishop the night before; all enjoyed his hospitality “in the shadow of Mt. Tom”. We left there Friday 7:30 am, picking up one participant in Big Pine, and the last in Eureka Valley. Including the leaders, we had 9 participants.

From here two of the five vehicles were shuttled across to a mile beyond Crankshaft Junction, at the end of the Last Chance Spring Road. The drivers then rejoined the others and we drove along the Cucamongo Canyon Rd., which separates the Sylvania Mts. Wilderness from Death Valley National Park. After 2.1 miles we parked for a side hike north into the Sylvania Mountains, up an unnamed wash

coming south through these very rugged and contorted mountains. At one point we circumvented an 80 foot dry waterfall on a steep cattle trail, later rejoining the canyon. We had lunch after about 1.5 miles, where a small side track leads up to several mines.

Returning to the cars, we proceeded 2.5 miles past Willow Spring to the "corner", at 6000 ft., where a former jeep track heads south toward Last Chance Canyon. Here we spent an hour packing for the two-night backpack ahead of us. Each person carried at least two gallons of water; several had closer to three. The packing job was punctuated by a sudden rain shower, with big drops and sharp peals of thunder and bolts of lightning. At 4:30 we started up the old vehicle route. The wilderness sign closing it was intact, and there were no obvious vehicle tracks. After half a mile we came to a halt at the edge of the cliff--too steep to descend directly but affording a good view over the contorted badlands and washes. After a 1/4 mile traverse east along the edge, there was a fairly easy route down into the canyon, mostly on an apparent cattle trail. We hiked till shortly after 6 pm when we made camp on a gentle bench just above the wash, enjoying a leisurely central commissary dinner (soup, pasta parmesan, brownies) and a pleasant cool night under the stars. The crescent moon soon sank behind the Last Chance range.

Saturday was peak day. We backpacked just over two miles down canyon, setting up camp at 4900 feet on a bench where a side canyon heads west toward Last Chance Mountain, 3500 feet up. Seven of the party followed the leader toward the peak, while Campy explored nearby Copper Canyon heading east toward Nevada -- the border is parallel to Last Chance Canyon, less than two miles from it. The remaining trip member explored a different side canyon. Our ascent party left the side wash at 5700 feet and headed up a ridge that led toward the main rib of the range north of Last Chance Mountain. The ridge was gentle to moderately steep with mostly soft footing, but occasionally cruddy, slippery gravel. Pinyon pines appeared as soon as we got on the ridge. At 6800 or 6900 feet, four members of the party turned back, wending a leisurely return back to camp at about 3:30. In camp they were excited to watch a king snake.

The leader and two others kept going, reaching the

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Last Chance Ramble

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summit about 2:30. This ridge from the northeast proved to be a very viable ascent route from Last Chance Canyon. There were at least two other variations we could have done using alternate parallel ridges. The route was direct, with only one 100-foot drop to a saddle due north of the peak, just before the final 300-foot slog to the summit. The hot afternoon was mercifully tempered by frequent cloud cover; even so, our two quarts of water per person were just barely enough.

Our summit hour was not nearly enough to take in the dazzling broad view, south into Death Valley, past Eureka Dunes over Tin, Dry, and Saline Peaks, the whole Inyo Range, north west to White Mountain Peak, and beyond to the shining sweep of the Sierra. It was very clear south from the Palisades to University Peak, then fairly dim on toward Mt Whitney. I found about abrupt dry waterfalls; several times we had to detour around such obstacles. In one place we scrambled up 100 feet to cross into the next small side gully to the east. We scrambled down several small cliffs, ducked under fallen logs and slithered along little animal trails to avoid brush-choked patches. A couple of willow-ringed springs had noticeable water—but not enough to drink easily. We returned to camp at 7 pm for another relaxing evening—with our lofty white summit in distant view. Our bugler-tuna stew was cooked, it was noted, on the last chance range. It was followed by cheesecake and the last of the wine.

Sunday morning we backpacked another 2.5 miles down the broad sandy wash, leaving it to head west (uphill) up a side wash toward Last Chance Spring. The daily clouds had not appeared yet, and it was hot. We climbed out of the wash, leaving packs on the descent road for a side hike up to the spring. After lunch at the shack below Last Chance Spring, we explored the lush grassy fenced-in area, finding no easily accessible water in the bog. The shooting stars there bloomed with extraordinary, fierce brightness. Water was found and filtered at another spring (with pipe and trough) 200 yards up the trail that heads toward the peak. This was welcome as people were getting low on water. We had enough to manage till reaching the vehicles, but it was fun to wash off and drink unreservedly.

We reached the cars shortly after 1:30 following another two plus miles on the spring road. All nine of us squeezed into the two vehicles, and returned to Eureka Valley. While we were retrieving cars in Cucomongo Canyon, yet another sudden rain shower hit—just like the one at the very same spot two days earlier. Soon various trip members went separate ways, and only four of us were left for a fine Mexican dinner in Bishop (after showers at Campy's). My two passengers and I stayed the night and enjoyed a leisurely drive Monday, with scenic stops, back to the Bay Area, over the just-opened Sonora Pass. A spectacular green, white and wet world—what a contrast to the dry desert.

submitted by Vicky Hoover

my earlier register entry from ten years ago, plus many familiar names in the register placed mid-seventies. I could not find anywhere near the summit, among the abundant pinyons, the single bristlecone pine Campy had promised.

For variety, on the descent we started down the faint "trail" heading east, leaving it soon to plunge into a gully east of point 7883. We followed the gully all the way down to rejoin our ascent route at the point where we had first taken to the ridge. While the long gully was fun and went well, it would not have been a good ascent route. We had the suspense of wondering...
Exploring northwestern Nevada's High Rock
By Henry Egghart

This past Memorial Day weekend, Marge Sill and Tom Myers of Reno and Vicky Hoover of San Francisco led a group of 39 people to High Rock Canyon. They came from Reno, Carson City, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Southern California, and even one from Utah, to this joint outing of the Sierra Club's California-Nevada Desert Committee, the Toiyabe Chapter and the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

High Rock Canyon, only a four hour drive north of Reno, is a remote and lonely place. Far from any paved road, store or gas station, this stark, wild landscape holds unexpected delights: a large lake without a single motor boat on it, well-watered canyons with cattail marshes, grassy flats, and high, shear cliffs, and flower bedecked mountain slopes.

We set up our tents among waist-high sagebrush near High Rock Lake. The shallow lake lies in a wide, flat valley encircled by mountains. Streams flowing from High Rock Canyon and Little High Rock Canyon feed the lake. We were not the first to enjoy this campsite: the place was littered with flakes of black volcanic glass --obsidian -- left by prehistoric tool and weapon makers.

On Saturday, Tom led eight stalwart hikers up the tallest nearby peak, Old Smokey Mountain. The view from Old Smokey was worth getting battered by four rain squalls. Six wilderness study areas lie below, and from horizon to horizon stretches wild country, hardly marked by our industrial culture.

The rest of the group, led by Marge Sill, explored High Rock Canyon. Roger Farschon of the Bureau of Land Management, the agency that administers these public lands, explained that sixty thousand people passed through this canyon during the two years it was part of the wagon trail to the West Coast. This rugged landscape must have made an impression on these pioneers struggling to cross the high desert.

The words of Wallace Stegner come to mind. "Wilderness was the challenge that made us what we are as a people," Stegner wrote. "Something will go out of us as a people if the last remaining wilderness is gone." Wilderness designation for the wildlands that are left can ensure that never happens.

On Sunday, we hiked into Little High Rock Canyon, with Kirk Petersen as leader. This canyon has no roads, and cattle grazing has not been allowed for at least half a dozen years. Lush riparian vegetation gives way to flats covered with chest-high bunchgrass or sagebrush extending up to the jumbled cliffs of dark volcanic rock. Wild horses and colts scampered up a distant slopes, and raptors circled overhead.

On Monday, there was time for more desert exploration, including the famed Fly Canyon Potholes, on the way home. Once you "get over the color green" as Stegner put it, the special beauty of the desert reveals itself. The High Rock trip showed us that Nevada's desert wilderness definitely is worth preserving.

Added note from co-leader Vicky Hoover: Trips to Nevada's varied but largely unknown natural areas will be regular features of the Desert Committee's outings, just as Nevada wilderness will increasingly be a Sierra Club campaign: do become an advocate and a connoisseur of this extraordinary wild state.

Henry Egghart is a wilderness activist from Reno.

Desert Bighorn Sheep Census Yields Lowest Count in 27 Years

For the past twenty-seven years the Fourth of July weekend has been the date desert wildlife activists have gathered for the annual census count of Peninsula Desert Bighorn Sheep at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Desert bighorn need to water at least every other day in July, and with three days of observation at two dozen sites in the park, the opportunity of capturing reliable data is the greatest.

Mark Jorgensen, Resources Officer, at Anza-Borrego released this year's results following the rendezvous on Sunday afternoon. A total of 107 animals were recorded during the census. The breakout was 26 rams, 43 ewes, 24 lambs, 7 male yearlings and 3 female yearlings. The low count was expected as the effects of the continued drought and high level of predation between 1993-1996 depress the population. The bright note of this year's count is the encouraging number of lambs which may result in a recovery of the bands in the future.

Report submitted by Bob Hartman
Desert Outings

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car with good clearance will be adequate for most trips; however, many of the roads used are dirt and, as with all desert travel, you should come prepared. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book *Adventuring in the California Desert* by Lynne Foster.

We want you to enjoy our study trips and work parties. They are designed to help you see the desert in a way you have not seen it before. We usually have a campfire in the evenings with lots of food (potluck) and camaraderie.

1997 Trips

AUG 14-17 THURS-SUN So Nevada Group Cottonwood-Barley Crk Loop Backpack/Monitor Range, NV: Leisurely paced, moderate BP, 25 mi, 3000' gain, in Toiyabe NF. Hike mostly on trail w/multiple stream crossings through an exclusive Quaking Aspen forest. Side trips & day hike to high point, Table Mtn (10,800') with it's sweeping cross Nevada views. 2WD vehicles OK, HCV desired. Send refundable reserve deposit of $20 (Sierra Club), H & W phones, rideshare prefer to Leader: DAVID HARDY, Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, (702) 875-4549. Assist: TBA.

AUG 16-17 SAT-SUN Kern-Kaweah Chapter White Mtns - Bristlecone Pine Forest Exploratory: Dry camp with light-moderate day hiking at 10,000+ ft elev, some off trail. Trip will include Cottonwood Basin; ancient forest Patriarch Grove; Wyman Creek drainage; White Mtn City (site); observation of cattle grazing impacts, star gazing, etc. Meet at camp Fri eve. Group size ltd; high-clearance vehicles req'd. Send SASE, H & W phones, rideshare info to Leader: JOE FONTAINE, Box 307, Tehachapi, CA 93551, (805) 821-2055. Assist: TBA.

AUG 22-24 FRI-SUN Range of Light Group Inyo Mtns Wilderness Study & Car Camp: Base camp in Badger Flat area at 6,000-7000 ft elev in pinyon pine & bristlecone pine forest on the edge of the new Inyo Mtn Wilderness. Explore this new wilderness with its dramatic overlooks & hidden trails to springs & historic sites. Light to moderate day hiking from dry base camp. Potluck & camaraderie. 2-WD vehicles with good clearance OK, 4-WD better. Send 4x9 SASE, H & W phones, carpool info to Leader: MICHAEL PRATHER (Toiyabe Chp), Drawer D, Lone Pine, CA 93545, (619) 876-5807 (before 8:30 PM). Assist: TBA.

AUG 30-SEP 1 SAT-MON Toiyabe Chapter 3rd Annual Twin River Loop Backpack, Toiyabe Range, Central Nevada: 3rd Labor Day return to lovely little known area of Central Nevada. First we'll ascend the S. Twin River trail which meanders in & out of a beautiful stream, surrounded by lush vegetation. Then we'll cross the ridge with views of Arc Dome (11,773') & descend the N. Twin River trail which winds through a dramatic, steep-walled cyn. Moderate; 14 miles RT; 3,000 ft elev gain. Send SASE, H & W phones, carpool info to Leader: SHARON KAVESKI, 1245 Brinkby Ave, #C, Reno, NV 89509, (702) 826-5770 (eves). Assist: LELEIA HEADING (702) 322-1170 (days).

SEP 2-22 WED-MON So Nevada Group Coyote Gulch Backpack/Escalante River Region, Utah: Easy-moderate BP to Coyote Gulch. A brilliant red sandstone, shear walled cyn with numerous arches & waterfalls. 30 mi rt, mostly flat, easy stream-side walking; camping at cathedral like site. We'll explore w/dayhikes down narrow slot cyns; good swimming. Group size ltd. Send refundable reserv deposit of $20 (Sierra Club), H & W phones, rideshare prefer to Leader: DAVID HARDY, Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, (702) 875-4549. Assist: TBA.

OCT 4-5 SAT-SUN Desert Peaks Section Waucoma Mtn (11,123') Bkpk. Inyo Nat'l Forest: Join us in novel approach to climbing pk. Drive up Mazourka Cyn from Independence, bkpkl along old jeep tris to Squaw Flat; eve camp. Carry water for overnight camping needs. Sun climb Waucoma, moderate xc, 3200'g, 5.5 mi rt. Please send SASE to Leader: IGOR MAMEDALIN, 24 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine, CA 92612, (714) 786-3918, (igorm@aol.com). Co-leaders: SUZANNE MAMEDALIN & MARIS VALKASS.

OCT 11-12 SAT-SUN CNRCC Desert Cmte Ft Irwin Expansion/Archaeological Exploration: Dis-
cover and document petroglyphs and other archaeological sites jeopardized by US Army's proposed expansion of Ft Irwin. Informal lectures & instr. by a professional archaeologist. Choice of moderate & strenuous hiking. Car & tent camping; central commissary with good food provided. Send 2 SASE, $22 (payable to Sierra Club, $10 non-refundable if you cancel), H & W phones, carpool info to Reserv/Co-leader: JOAN JONES HOLTZ, 11826 The Wye, El Monte, CA 91732. For additional information phone Co-leader: BONNIE SHARPE, (714) 528-9596.

OCT 18-19 SAT-SUN Loma Prieta Chapter Panamint Mtns Area Desert Study & Monitoring Trip: Join Death Valley Task Force tour including: large mining operation, historic ghost town, mining camps, outlaws, springs, vehicle & burro impact, with commanding views from Panamint Crest. Special guest at carcamp, Sat eve. Light-mod. hiking, some x-country. High-clearance 4WD req'd (others carpool). Send 4x9 SASE, phone #s, carpool info to Leader: GEORGE BARNES, 960 Ilma Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306, (415) 494-8895, (george.barnes@sierraclub.org). Assist: DAVE BYBEE.

OCT 25-26 SAT-SUN CNCC Desert Committee Little Petroglyph Cyn (China Lake NWC) & Briggs Mine Tour: On Sat, we will explore with photog. Mark Pahuta, in normally closed Little Petroglyph Cyn at the Naval Weapons Center. This canyon protects a unique collection of petroglyphs. On Sun we'll tour the new Briggs gold mine in the Panamints w/side trips. Sat night dry carcamp by Trona Pinnacles. 2WD vehicles OK, high-clear. preferred. Group size ltd. Must send social security, DR license #s, 2 lg SASE, H & W phones, vehicle type (plate#) to Leader: DOLPH AMSTER (Kern-Kaweah Chp), PO Box 1106, Ridgecrest, CA 93556, (619) 446-3104, dolph@ridgecrest.ca.us. Co-leader: KEN AMSTER.

OCT 25-26 SAT-SUN Desert Peaks Section NE Coso Mtns Exploratory & Carcamp: Moderate off trail hiking. Experience infrequently visited area of the desert. Some unknown peaks, canyons, mines & just good scenery. Will climb some peak, or hike some canyon. 4WD or high clearance vehicle. Usual campfire & social hour. Group size limited. Send SASE to Leader: MARIS VALKASS, 1728 Van Horne Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, (310) 379-8592, avalkass@earthlink.net. Co-leaders: IGOR & SUZANNE MAMEDALIN.

NOV 1-2 SAT-SUN San Gorgonio Chapter Pioneertown Mtns, Berdoo Cyn, Joshua Tree NP Ramble: Sat explore scenic pinyon pine cyn in Pioneer Mtns. Easy to moderate hiking, some xc. Sat eve car camp in Joshua Tree NP. Sunday: 4 WD excursion will take us on Geology Tour Rd; 2 hr hike to Pinyon Well (hist mine site); lunch w/ great vistas; then 4 WD bump & grind down Berdoo Cyn to Palm Springs. Reserv req'd. Send SASE, H & W phones, vehicle type, carpool pref to Reserv: JOAN TAYLOR (Tahquitz Grp), 1800 S Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264, (619) 778-1101. Leader: KATHY KELLEY. Assist: TBA.


NOV 8-10 SAT-MON SF Bay Chapter SW Nevada Grapevine & Queer Wilderness Study Trip: Car camp & expl 2 Nevada BLM WSAs on edge of Death Valley NP. Drive from Scotty's Castle Jet to base camp betw Grapevine & Queer Mtns & day hike each (moderate xc). Area represents ecotone betw hot desert to the S and cold Great Basin further N. Contains rolling hills, flat benches, colorful mosaics of volcanic rocks w/great views of DV over 8000' below. Possible viewing of big horn, deer, wild horses & burros nr Willow Spr. Central commissary w/$15 fee. Send SASE w/$15 (Sierra Club), rideshare info, H & W phones to Leader: VICKY HOOVER, 85 Second St, 2nd Fl, SF, CA 94105, (415) 977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Assist: TBA.

NOV 10-11 MON-TUE So Nevada Group Afton Cyn Expl/West Mojave: We'll hike up Afton Cyn (600 ft ht), which the Mojave R crosses; explore some of Afton's steep narrow slot cyns. Interesting geology & rock formations. Easy paced moderate xc hiking. Car camp in cmpgrd w/water, potluck, campfire, etc. Hi-clear vehicles req'd. Send refundable reserv deposit of $20 (Sierra Club), H & W phones, ride share pref to Leader: DAVID HARDY (Toiyabe Chp), Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89009, (702) 875-4549. Assist: TBA.

NOV 15-16 SAT-SUN San Gorgonio Chapter Joshua Tree NP Desert Study/Car Camp: Expect crisp evenings w/clear air, during full moon, at this late autumn car camp. Professional photog, PHIL LINDGREN will share with us his favorite parts of the park. NPS staff will
discuss problems of remaining inholdings & implementation of the wilderness plan. Dayhiking w/some rock scrambling. For details & directions send SASE w/carpool info & phone #s to Leaders: CAL & LETTY FRENCH, 1690 N Second Ave, Upland, CA 91784, (909) 985-6067.

NOV 22-23 SAT-SUN CNCC Desert Cmte Cady Mtns Desert Study & Car Camp: Exploratory hikes w/naturalist, in BLM wilderness study area, E of Barstow; wide vistas, colorful mtn ranges broken by high valleys & dry lakes. Hi-clearance vehicle req’d. Moderate xc hiking. Visit bighorn sheep area & guzzler; petroglyph sites, if time. Sat eve potluck. Send SASE w/vehicle type, rideshare info, H & W phones to Leader: BETH EPSTEIN (Angeles Chp), 301 Granada Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814, (562) 439-0646. Asst: TBA.

NOV 28-30 FRI-SUN CNCC Desert Cmte Archaeological Exp/Indian Pass & Picacho Wilderness, Imperial Co: Visit w/Native American activists, sacred arch sites endangered by proposed Chemgolds open pit mine. With naturalist EDIE HARMON & wilderness activist NICK ERVIN we’ll locate petroglyphs, morteros, sleeping circles, chipping stations; explore between Gavilan & Julian Washes; slot canyons in incredibly wild volcanic wilderness! Moderate hiking, some xc; hi-clear, vehicles req’d; dry car camping. Send 2 lg SASE, $5 (Sierra Club) for Leader’s exp/no refunds, H & W phones, ride share info to Leaders: GWEN & BOB HARWOOD (Angeles Chp), 19758 Wells Dr, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, (818) 887-7375, ba908@lafln.org.

DEC 13-14 SAT-SUN Kern-Kaweah Chapter Owlshead Mtns, Saratoga Sprs, Ibex Dunes Desert Study & Car Camp: Explore southern most addition to Death Valley NP. We’ll also visit the restored Saratoga Sprs w/its ancient pupfish survivors. Easy-moderate hiking w/ some xc; primitive camping w/potluck, campfire by full moon. 2 WD cars OK/high clear pref. Send SASE, H & W phones, ride share info to Leader: JOE FONTEZA, Box 307, Tehachapi, CA 93551, (805) 821-2055, jofonteza@sierraclub.org. Asst: JUDY ANDERSON.

DEC 27-29 SAT-MON San Diego Chapter Fish Creek Wilderness/Anza-Borrego Desert Car Camp: Holiday Break Time! With naturalist NICK ERVIN, we’ll experience the beauty of the Sonoran desert in both Anza-Borrego Desert SP & the adjacent Fish Creek Wilderness area. Highlights incl fossil abundant badlands; spectacular dry waterfall formations; stands of the unusual (N of Mexico) elephant tree & more. Potluck/campfire. 2 WD cars OK. Send lg SASE, H & W phones, ride share info to Reserv: NICK ERVIN, 4781 Mount St Helens Dr, San Diego, CA 92117, (619) 565-9582. Leader: HAL BRODY. Asst: TBA.

1998 Trips

JAN 10-11 SAT-SUN Range of Light Group Copper & Golden Cyn Car Camp, Death Valley: Sat special 7 mi rt, 2500’gain hike in normally closed Copper Cyn w/DVNP ranger. Paleontologists paradise. Mammoth, horse, camel, saber-toothed tiger fossil tracks. Moderate xc hiking. Sat eve campfire & potluck. Sun, 7 mi loop hike in Golden Cyn area to dry waterfalls; see badlands topography, purple washes, Zabriskie’s Pt. 2WD OK. Expect Nat’l Pk & camp site fee. Send 2-4x9 SASEs w/carpool pref, H & W phones to Leader: HANK LEVINE (Toiyabe Chp), PO Box 7266, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, (760) 943-9474. Asst: GARY GENTHER.

JAN 23-25 FRI-SUN San Gorgonio Chapter Mojave National Preserve Exploratory & Car Camp: Friday with geologist explore: Caruthers Cyn in scenic NY Mtns (good botany, hist mining); Rock Spring (site of old fort & petroglyphs). Sat-Sun explore: Cima Dome (1,500 ft rim ht, 75 sq mi) w/ its lg volcanic field of cinder cones & dense Joshua Tree forest; Kelso Dunes (600 ft) & more. NPS staff will discuss Preserve mgmt. Easy-moderate hiking, some x-country; 2WD vehicles OK; 2 nights at Midhills Cmpd (fee) w/potluck & campfire. Send SASE, H & W phones, ride share info to Leader: CAROL WILEY (Mojave Gp), 15457 Eto Camino Rd, Victorville, CA 92394, (619) 245-8734/h, 245-4271 X-316/w. Assist: BARBARA BALLEY.

JAN 31-FEB 1 SAT-SUN San Diego Chapter Tamarisk Removal Work Party, Anza-Borrego Desert: We’ll attack salt cedar (hogs water) with a vengeance in Corrizo Wash nr Anza-Borrego SP. With left over energy we’ll hike to Cimarron Sprs & petroglyphs in the wash. Car camp under the stars (new moon). Opt car camp Fri night. Send refundable reserve/deposit of $10 (Sierra Club), SASE w/H & W phones, carpoo info to Leader: LARRY KLAASSEN, 4821 Louise Dr, San Diego, CA 92115, (619) 582-7407, klaassen_l@juno.com. Assist: PAT KLAASSEN.

FEB 7-8 SAT-SUN CNCC Desert Cmte Muddy Mtns /Hidden Valley Desert Study: Explore this pristine WSA, 25 mi NE Las Vegas, with botanist & biologist HERMI HILAT. Contains rugged limestone pks & cyps; Hidden Valley w/red-orange sandstone outcroppings; typical Mojave lo-desert veg; petroglyphs. Hike to Muddy Pk (5363’). Easy-moderate x-country hiking; primitive camping w/potluck, campfire. Hi-clear 2WD req’d/4WD best. Send SASE, H & W phones, ride share info to Leader: RON BRUSHA (Angeles Chp), 1400 Cleveland Rd, Glendale, CA 91202, (818) 247-7710. Assist: TBA.
Chemgold Project

Ecologically Disastrous Mining Proposal Spotlights Corporate Welfare
by Nick Ervin

Congress and the President’s prolonged struggle to agree on a format to balance the federal budget has once again been in the headlines. But curiously absent from the current budget plan is genuine reform of “corporate welfare” — an array of hidden subsidies and tax breaks for corporate America.

A glaring example of such corporate welfare, and unsound environmental policy, is taking shape right now in the Imperial County desert east of San Diego where Chemgold, Inc. is well on its way toward creating a gigantic open-pit gold mine on public land.

Chemgold, by way of a sister corporation which holds a mineral claim on taxpayer-owned land, can mine hardrock minerals like gold and silver without paying a single cent of royalties to the U.S. Treasury. The General Mining Law of 1872 still allows valid claimholders royalty-free access to certain minerals on American public lands.

The only way Chemgold’s project can be profitable is to rely on the 1872 Mining Law subsidy plus the utilization of “cyanide heap-leach” technology. Cyanide heap-leaching involves spraying a weak but biologically poisonous sodium cyanide solution on piles of rock to leach out commercial quantities of gold. The toxic residue leftover is caught in covered ponds — eventually to leak into the ground and the subsurface water it contains.

This monumental mine, if constructed, will operate less than 1/2 mile from the boundaries of two spectacular new wilderness areas created by the landmark California Desert Protection Act in 1994. It will also impinge on a recognized area of critical concern for rare archaeological resources, permanently destroying at least 40 Native American religious sites, plus valuable habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.

Despite overwhelming opposition expressed by the public in both written comments and at hearings, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is poised to give final approval to the company’s Environmental Impact Statement. Under Chemgold’s plan, reclamation on the site after 20 years of mining will only be partial, leaving massive 400-foot rock piles — equivalent to a 40 story building — extending a full one mile in length across previously pristine desert lands.

The BLM claims it hands are tied by the 1872 Mining Law. Yet scientists and concerned citizens have pointed out serious flaws in the company’s Environmental Impact Statement which have yet to be seriously addressed.

The Imperial project deserves a place in the dustbin of ill-advised schemes of yesteryear. The taxpayer and the desert deserve far better.

Nick Ervin is a San Diego desert activist.

Nevada’s Treasures

(Continued from page 3)

amphibians, insects, etc. to be found in these wild places, most of them associated with tiny springs and creeks — an invaluable resource in the driest state in the country. Glorious streaks of aspen follow the streams in eastern Nevada. High on the mountain tops are conifers, including the ancient bristlecone pine, one of the world’s oldest living things.

The BLM’s wilderness recommendations are just a fraction of the land that should be designated as wilderness in Nevada. The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness are now putting together a large educational campaign to introduce the public to the many values and enormous diversity of Nevada’s BLM wildlands. These efforts include a slide show, a traveling display of photographs, and brochures to explain wilderness and its values. Maps are being prepared to show the WSA’s, all the additional areas that were left out of the process by the BLM, and our recommendations for wilderness.

We want the citizens of fast-growing Nevada (many of whom are newcomers to the state) to understand the outstanding country to be found in our wildlands. We also want to involve the wilderness advocates in other states and to issue to them a special invitation to come and visit these remote, almost primeval areas where they will see more wildlife in a day than humans in a week.

For further information about Nevada’s BLM wilderness or to find out how you and your group can help with this effort, please contact the author at (702) 322-2867.
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