

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

MARCH 1987

The California Desert



Protection Act

TURN TO PAGES 4 AND 5

THE LAST
SIGNIFICANT
EXPANSE OF
UNTOUCHED
WILDERNESS IN THE
CONTINENTAL UNITED
STATES IS RIGHT HERE
IN CALIFORNIA

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing millions of acres of Desert wildlands. Congressional directives for management of the region call for protection and conservation of the area's resources for future generations.

Instead, the BLM has opened potential wilderness to mining and off-road vehicle use, impairing their values before Congress can consider their merits for designation.

The California Desert Protection League, a coalition of citizen groups, was formed to preserve the California Desert by seeking permanent statutory protection for these special landscapes.

Pages 4 and 5 feature the League's activities and fight in the protection of the desert.

LAKE NATOMA LAW
SUIT

A law suit challenging State of California plans to allow private development in the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area was filed Feb 4th in Sacramento County Superior Court

Bringing the suit were Frank Cirill of Sacramento and Ronald D. Hilbert of Rancho Cordova plus three organizations: the Lake Natoma Rowing Association Inc., River City Paddlers Inc. and Save the American River Association Inc. Cirill, a former Sacramento county Parks commissioner, is coordinator for the community Task Force to Stop the commercialization of Lake Natoma. Hilbert is a well-known local authority on canoeing and kayaking.

The suit challenges a decision by the State Park and Recreation Commission last year to allow a private campground to be built in a wildlife area on Lake Natoma, the reservoir behind Nimbus dam on the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DIRECTOR RESIGNS

On behalf of CSPRA I would like to thank Director Briner, Deputy Director Tanner, and special Assistant, Rathbun, for their dedicated contributions to the State Park System during the past four years. We realize that life at the top is never easy in these complex and politically volatile times. Our best wishes go with them in their future careers.

JAMES WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL ANNOUNCED

Last year CSPRA approached the Department with a proposal to dedicate the main classroom at Mott Training Center after the late James Whitehead. It seemed a fitting tribute to the former District Superintendent and State Parks Commissioner who was well known for his inspirational speeches on park philosophy and values, delivered in

that very room to new employees.

MANAGEMENT SPEAKS

I recently received some valuable feedback from members in upper management concerned about positions the Board of Directors is taking on certain professional issues. To give management members the opportunity to air their concerns, I have scheduled a manager's roundtable at the Ventura conference. Constructive professional debate is the key factor in the dynamic growth of CSPRA. Our publications encourage contributions with varying viewpoints.

The annual membership survey, letters to the editors, and open Board meetings, help create the road map your elected representatives follow.

INSPIRATION, WHERE ART THOU?

Becoming the head of any organization nat-

urally leads one toward those inevitable, questions:

Who are we?

Where do we go from here?

How do we get there?

Lee Iacocca saved Chrysler and wrote a best-selling book about how he answered these questions. CSPRA Presidents aren't in the same league as car company executives and potential Oval Office candidates, but most have tried their best to chart a steady course

Looking back over 1986 I would like to share a few highlights, thanks to the unselfish volunteer efforts of many of you.

1) Membership

We are growing! With a net increase of 77.

2) Public Awareness Campaign

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The NEWSLETTER'S Editor is Steve Horvitz, contributing editors and authors are as noted.

Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

NATOMA - continued
from page 1

American River in Rancho Cordova. The campground is to be the first phase of a much larger development that could include 150 RV campsites, a store and snackbar, boat rentals, and one or more dinner boats which would cruise the lake.

"This is a case with statewide implications," Cirill who is a long time activist in local sports and conservation groups.

"With this suit, we will establish a precedent that says developers without planning for such basic things as how, for example, sewage will be disposed of."

The state commission approved the plan last August despite unanimous opposition of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, the Sacramento County Parks Commission and most Legislators elected from Sacramento County. In Addition, the plan was opposed by state and local conservation groups, homeowner groups, and associations representing swimmers, birders, fishermen and

boaters.

The area in question is at Nimbus Flat, adjacent to Alder Creek on the south side of Lake Natoma between Highway 50 and the lake. The 1979 General Plan for the area calls for it to remain as a natural area for passive use by the public.

Among other things, the suit alleges that the state approved

"THIS IS A CASE WITH STATEWIDE IMPLICATIONS... WITH THIS SUIT, WE WILL ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT THAT, SAYS THE STATE CAN'T SIMPLY HAND PUBLIC LAND OVER TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS..."

plans for the development without following numerous requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act including failure to complete and certify an environmental impact report without: Considering how the project conflicts with existing plans for the area; without planning for sewage disposal from the site; without examining alternate sites; without inspecting the area for rare and endangered species or providing protections for a nearby heron rookery; without adequately determining traffic impacts; without examining conflicts

with existing uses of the lake.

Cirill noted that the lake currently has a five-mile speed limit. The lake's surface is used chiefly by swimmers, day sailers, paddlers, rowers and fishermen. In addition to the proposed development's negative impact on existing uses Cirill noted that the proposed Nimbus Flat Campground at Negro Bar on the other end of the lake.

The plaintiffs are represented by Sacramento attorney John Holland.

Their suit alleges that the state acted in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner in approving the development and that a "prejudicial abuse of discretion" occurred.

They asked the court issue an injunction restraining the state from taking further action to allow development in the area until steps are taken to see that any project is in full conformity with both existing plans and state law. For more information write P.O. Box 191334, Sacramento CA 95819.

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GO GENTLE INTO THE DESERT

from the L.A. Times, copyright 1987

"Say "wilderness" and certain images come to mind: mountains, forests, waterfalls, lakes, streams, deer, pack mules. The impressions are green and cool and pleasant. Say "desert" and the vision is sand, wind, endless barren waste, emptiness. It is hot, brown and oppressive. But there is such a thing as desert wilderness. There are spectacular granitic peaks in the California desert, waterfalls and vast carpets of wildflowers. The desert is home to multitudes of plants and animals including the tortoise and bighorn sheep, the Joshua tree and the creosote bush.

Everyone knows the desert for its searing, inescapable heat, but there also are freezing temperatures and snowfall. On the whole, the desert climate generally is mild. Silence and spaciousness are essential ingredients of the wilderness experience. Both abound in the desert.

Southern California contains 25 million acres of desert within a day's drive of

the coastal metropolitan complex and its 13 million residents. Rarely visited by most, the California Desert is destined to become a major recreational playground.

Californians and Congress have an opportunity to plan for that day and to provide key portions of the desert, a distinctly fragile environment, with the protection it should have so it can properly be appreciated and enjoyed by future generations. That goal would be achieved by the California Desert Protection Act sponsored by Sen. Alan Cranston. The bill would expand death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and elevate them to national park status.

...The concept has merit and deserves support. The extensive amount of wilderness proposed will be controversial, but opponents will have ample opportunity to testify at hearings in the months to come.

...The fragility of the desert is demon-

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

1. Designates Bureau of Land Management Wilderness 7,000 square miles
2. Establishes Joshua Tree National Park, adds to existing Monument lands 400 square miles
4. Establishes Mojave National Park 2,300 square miles
5. Miscellaneous Provisions:
 - Red Rock Canyon State Park additions 32 square miles
 - Desert Lily Sanctuary 3 square miles
 - Indian Canyons National Historical Site 3/4 square mile

What You

Write your Representative, address: Hon. _____ House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515.

Or Write to Senator Pete Wilson: Same address.

strated by the surviving gouges in the land of the tanks of Gen. George Patton's Third Army, which trained in portions of the proposed Mojave park for the invasion of North Africa in 1942. But the desert is so vast and seemingly hostile and impregnable, it tends

Access: More than 30,000 miles of road provide access to the California Desert. 85% of proposed wilderness is within three miles of a road.

Recreation: Hunting will for the most part, remain unaffected. No off-road vehicle open areas will be closed. All long distance races will continue.

Local Economy: Grazing will continue, except in the new national parks. An estimated one million tourists each year will replace about 4,000 cows.

Costs: The bill redirects current funding to programs that benefit more people and provide increased resource protection.

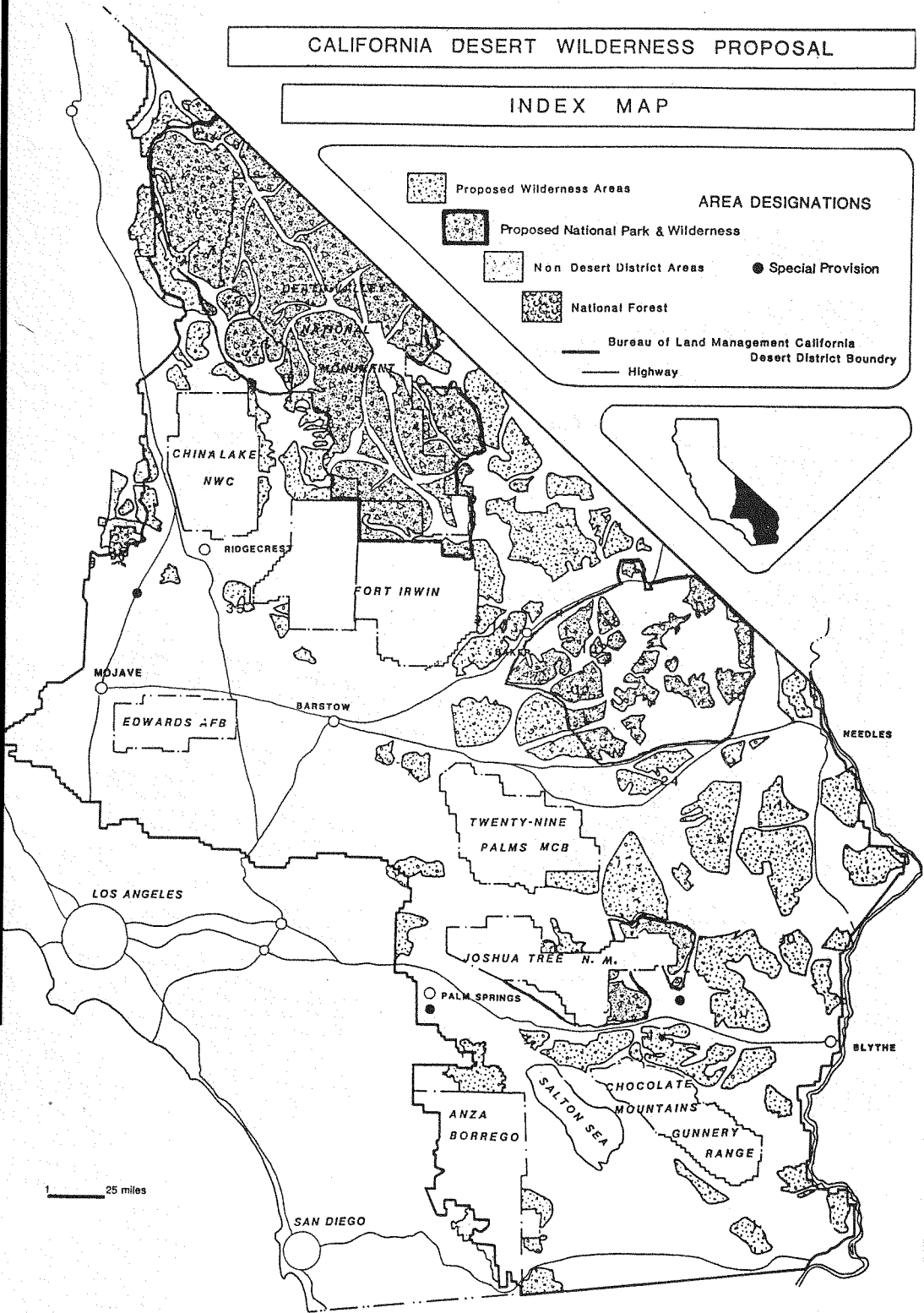
Can Do

Contact the California Desert protection League for more information:

2410 Beverly Boulevard #2
Los Angeles, CA 90057,
213-387-1847.

to be ignored or taken for granted. The growing population shift into Riverside and San Bernardino counties should be a sign that now is not too soon to plan for its protection." ++

Contact Gar Salzgeber for more information.





california state park rangers association

February 1, 1987

Rick Farmer, President
421 Keokuk St.
Petaluma, CA 94952

William S. Briner
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Dear Director Briner:

I was sorry to hear the news about your resignation. Though I wish we could have been in agreement on more professional issues during your administration, the association always found you approachable and deeply concerned about the management of the State Park System.

Politics and parks have always seemed more incompatible traveling companions than the union with many other governmental bureaucracies.

Perhaps the passion and conviction for which park employees and public supporters are often known, create a management environment that makes it very difficult to chart a steady course in today's political climate.

Hard times in our careers often lead to reflection and insight. I do hope the lessons and achievements of your administration make us all a bit wiser about our future roles as State Park supporters.

I would like to repeat our invitation to address and/or attend our March conference.

Best of luck to you with your future plans.

Sincerely,

Rick Farmer
Rick Farmer
President



california state park rangers association

January 30, 1987

Rick Farmer, President
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 381-4620

Governor George Deukmejian
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

You will soon be selecting a new Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation. As a professional association with interests in maintaining the highest standards of management in the State Park System, we respectfully ask you to consider the following.

We need an inspirational leader to guide us through the difficult challenges that lie ahead. Park use continues to climb while the budget and staffing levels remain essentially static.

We need a leader with strong park ideals, balanced by a sense of creative pragmatism. Doing more with less is a phrase we in the profession frequently hear. But dedicated public servants holding a deep love for nature cannot keep their chins up forever. We must know there is an unwavering commitment from above to preserving the quality of the beaches, forests, mountains, lakes, deserts, and historic sites, under our stewardship.

At the same time, the growing numbers of park visitors must be assured of clean, safe facilities and an uplifting nature or recreational experience.

The new Director will face problems like aging park buildings and fewer campfire programs. The situation will require a creative thinker with vision and resolve. Because a campfire program is not a luxury; it is an educational necessity that ensures a responsible park visitor.

The solutions are not easy. The challenge is to find them, then inspire staff and visitors alike to enthusiastically support our great State Park System. Volunteerism and alternative funding sources are two major issues seeking immediate attention and long-term strategies.

We need a Director who knows parks, a leader with vision and integrity, a leader with many years of professional park management experience, a leader with that rare ability to relate the enduring values of our State Park System to the everyday lives of all Californians.

We wish you success in your search and would appreciate being consulted during the selection process.

I will leave you with a quote from one of our most respected former State Park Directors. I think it is as relevant today as when spoken in 1957.

The heart of our movement (the park movement) is a thing of the spirit, although the material we deal with is land. It is a high calling that has as its purpose to assure the people of the future that they will have the great experiences in the out-of-doors that we have had. In the midst of the turmoil of administration and the perfection of our techniques we must remember this.

...Newton B. Drury

Sincerely,

Rick Farmer
Rick Farmer
President

cc. Resources Agency Secretary

PRESIDENT from page-2

it brought state-wide media attention to staffing shortfalls and the overall condition of the State Park System. It has forged an alliance of unions, professional associations, volunteers, and outside park support groups, that now serve as a communications network.

3) SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK ACQUISITION

CSPRA was an important participant in promoting the acquisition of coastal property and old growth redwood forest that almost doubles the size of the park.

4) STATE PARK COMMISSION

We attended more Commission meetings and presented more testimony than ever before. We are building a "watch-dog" reputation of upholding the highest standards of interpretation on Public Resources Code issues like advertising, concessions, and resource protection.

5) ELECTIONS

Our fall elections garnered the largest ballot return in our

history.

For 1987 I would like to focus the majority of our attention on a major upgrade of our publications. I hope to get your support in finding funding and soliciting top quality contributions

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RETIRED CSPRA AND DEPARTMENT SEMI-ANNUAL GOLF GET TOGETHER

This year hosts Jim and Jeri Tucker will be your contact for the April 22nd and 23rd event.

This year it will be held at the Wilcox-oaks golf course. Green fees are \$15.00

Bring your R.V., camper or trailer and stay at the Tucker's ranch near Corning. Or a local motel.

Notify Jim and Jeri (916-824-5643) by april 10th if you plan on using their ranch.

The program: Tues. April 21st, arrival and get-to-gether at Jim's, the motels, and Red Barn restaurant. Wed. the 22nd, golf time at 11:30 with a 5:00 PM swim and BBQ. Thurs, the 23rd, Golf time is 10:00 AM and awards at the Tuckers

The CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

A professional association.

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For information on the association or additional phone numbers write the executive manager.

M T. SAN JACINTO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mt. San Jacinto S.P. will be celebrating its 50th anniversary May 28 - 31. A reunion weekend is being planned for May 30 and 31.

If you'd like to attend contact Ken Smith, P.O. Box 252, Borrego Springs CA 92004. Ken is looking for former employees of the park if you know of any, please pass the word. ++

E EC - LAST CALL!

The 1987 Joint Conference, "Pulling Together" is just around the corner:

March 12th - 15th.

@ DD LOTS

Conservation officials in Illinois have come up with an unusual T-shirt (described as tacky in some quarters) to raise money for its conservation magazine, Outdoor Highlights.

The shirt says, "State Parks Are For the Birds." There's a white blotch on the shoulder signifying a birds's trademark.

A spokesman says the shirt is one of the departments's best-selling gift items, ranking right up there with a "State Parks Are For The Birds" hat, which comes with its own white and gray plastic bird dropping.

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S STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING:

The Commission will meet on Friday, March 13th at 9 a.m. at the City Council chambers, 1900 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe. To take action on the proposed classification of the Lake Country Estates Project; the proposed plan for a thematic food service concession at Mandalay State Beach; and proposed renewal of the General Store and Gift Shop concession at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

Any person may present oral or written statements, or send material directly to the Commission for consideration. ++

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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mail to:

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