Lompico headwaters may be logged  

p. 3
Trail Guides make great gifts

A small, dedicated group of Chapter members have just released the newest edition of the Los Padres Trail Guide. Joyce Stevens and Steve Chambers co-edited this version which has significant revisions from the previous edition due largely to the 1998 fires in the Kirk/Hare and Tasajara/Five Mountain areas. While primarily a hand-book for hikers and backpackers, the guide gives a concise history of the forest with great descriptions of the roughness of the terrain and colorful photographs of the spectacular habitat.

To produce this guide, volunteers hiked hundreds of miles of trails to update descriptions of trail conditions as well as to list the many interesting historical and cultural artifacts left by early settlers and travelers. Extensive detail is provided, including directions to trailheads, mileage along the trails, elevation gain, presence of water and noteworthy natural features. Some of the trails which were overgrown or impassable in the past such as the Black Cone Trail are now much improved thanks to the efforts of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, an organization dedicated to restoring areas of the wilderness.

During this holiday season, make a gift to yourself and others to get away from this hectic world. Join one of our Chapter organized outings or pick up a guide and go on your own. Reconnect with nature and see for yourself the blissful sanctuary of the wilderness in your own backyard.

—Rita Dalessio

Humanism: Systems of thought stressing rational inquiry & human expe-
rience over abstract theorizing or orthodox religion. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value of goodness in human beings and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. If interested, please contact HAMBA, the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Humanist Association, anneh@redshift.com or P.O. Box 222094, Carmel CA 93922.

Quality or quantity? value or price? the Sun or fossil fuels? what world will you choose?


Lorax or Clorox?

People can get used to almost anything. Psychologists use the term, “habituation” to describe the process of screening out the background noise that dominates our daily lives. So most of the time we are not consciously aware of the hum of the refrigerator, the roar of highway traffic, or the smell of tailpipe emissions as we step out our front door.

What was once obnoxious has become normal and, to some, comforting. Groomed and watered sports fields seem more normal than the dark and scary woods. One year, the 8-to-11-year olds in my Safe Hiking class were reluctant to go down in the redwood duff because it was dirty and unfamiliar.

The glittering lights of Las Vegas (and the local mall) are seen as more beautiful than the glittering lights of the stars in the open desert. We are used to pesti-cides in our food and debate the accept-able level rather than ask why any level is acceptable.

We expect to see animals in game parks rather than in their natural set-
tings. When William Manley came to California in 1849-50, he encountered antelope in Merced and grizzly bears in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

In the winter of 1979 I could still see the snow-capped Sierra from my neigh-
borhood in Sacramento. Today, Sacramento is among the 5 worst cities in the U.S. for air quality.

In the Dr. Seuss book The Lorax, the reclusive, plundering industrialist sits alone in the ruins of his factory amidst the clearcut forest and the smog-filled air. As he tells his sad tale, he says to the young listener: “UNLESS someone like you cares—A whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

Back in the 1960s when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, I used to soak our lettuce in a weak bleach solu-
tion to kill bacteria and parasites. My then husband, Jim, got used to the taste. After we got back to the States and I served him a salad, he looked at me accusingly. “What’s wrong with this salad?” he demanded. “I didn’t add the Clorox.” I responded.

The Clorox is all around us. Try not to get used to it. It may get a lot worse, UNLESS . . . . —Debbie Bulger
Santa Cruz County will appeal Lompico Timber Harvest Plan

by Kevin Collins

A
fter more than two years of foot dragging, (34 extensions) on October 30, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) finally approved the highly contentious Lompico Timber Harvest Plan. Santa Cruz County has submitted an appeal to the Board of Forestry which will decide in early December whether or not to hear the appeal. If the Board of Forestry denies the appeal, the Plan will still have to go before the Regional Water Board for a Waste Discharge Requirement Permit or waiver.

This Timber Harvest Plan generated the largest public hearing on record for a local timber harvest. Over 300 letters of opposition were sent to CDF. As reported previously in The Ventana, one of the reasons for such great concern is the fact that this 425-acre property is the headwaters of Lompico Creek, which is the major water source for the Lompico County Water District. The district has been under a state-imposed moratorium preventing the release of new water connections for many years.

Most of the redwood is found along the stream corridors. And not really wasted at all. by burying, ensures that it will be re-used, fish is somewhat less. Returning the offal to and similar numbers pertain for crustaceans fish are discarded after the fillets are taken, compared to ripping out invasive exotics only in northeastern California.

Editor’s note:

The biologists The Ventana consulted inform me that the common crayfish is an introduced species and is not native to California. They have all but replaced our original native species, which is not living in nature for the weekend! It is my opinion that our members shouldn’t have to kill the animals that live in the natural habitat to experience the joy of being there. Isn’t our motto to “Leave only footprints and take only pictures?”

Please reconsider the idea of allowing a Sierra Club group killing so many crawdads for the sake of what? To feel like they were willing to pay many times what Burch paid for the property in 1995. The Sierra Club is supporting the efforts to stop this logging operation. To keep informed, contact the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, 335-8136 or bats@cruzio.com or visit www.lompicocreek.org.

Volunteers needed

Santa Cruz welcomes letters. Send to: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR The Ventana, 9023 King Street Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or email to dbdugger@cwru.edu Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.

Appalled at crawdad feast

I am writing to express my dismay that group leaders of the Miller Canyon back-packing trip (October 13) are planning to prepare “local crawdads with garlic and lemon sauce” each night of the group hike. It’s one thing for one or two people to go out into the woods and have a few of the local inhabitants for ingredients for their dinner, it is something to be done again to collect enough of the indigenous creek animals to feed a group.

Whereas the flesh of a fish is edible, the only part of a crawdad that is eaten is the tail, a mere bite of food. I am appalled at the idea of a Sierra Club group killing so many crawdads for ingredients for their dinner, is something else again to collect enough of the indigenous creek animals to feed a group.

Most of the redwood is found along the stream corridors. It's one thing for one or two people to go out into the woods and have a few of the local inhabitants for ingredients for their dinner, it is something to be done again to collect enough of the indigenous creek animals to feed a group.

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Contact Your Representatives

The Sierra Club | Ventura Chapter Volume 42 Number 6, 2003
The environmental LIES of George W. Bush

Suppressed or falsified science documented by Waxman Report and New York Times

by Richard Saver

Criticism has been growing about the Bush administration’s interference in the scientific research and analysis done by federal agencies. Much of that research involves environmental issues. Bush’s interference has led to false statements by the President, false statements in Congress, suppressed reports, altered web sites, and more.

Congressional Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) commissioned a study to document these falsehoods. The report by the Special Investigations Division of the House Committee on Government Reform can be reviewed at www.skyhighway.com/~rjs. While many of us have heard about the Administration’s lies, distortions, and interference, it is still shocking to see so many of them documented in one publication. The report identifies one common attribute of the interference: it benefits powerful Bush supporters including business interests and political conservatives. The interference sacrifices the credibility of Federal research and harms the American public (and the world) in order to promote a political and ideological agenda.

Specific examples are summarized below:

Bush Lie: Feedlots

The US Department of Agriculture supports research on conditions associated with animal confinement practices with negative health or environmental issues. In one case they prevented a researcher from presenting his results from a study showing antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the air near hog confinements in Iowa and Missouri. The USDA suppressed this research at the request of someone from the National Pork Producers Council. USDA scientists must now seek prior approval (from USDA Bush appointees) for any manuscripts related to agricultural practices with negative health or environmental issues.

Bush Lie: Arctic Refuge

Interior Secretary Gale Norton gave false written testimony to Congress regarding drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when she said that ANWR’s caribou calving occurred most outside ANWR while her own department’s research showed the opposite. She also deleted important findings by her own scientists that indicated that caribou calving and survival could be harmed by drilling activities in ANWR.

Bush Lie: Water Quality

Perchlorate, the main ingredient in solid rocket fuel, is a serious health threat. Research in 1997 showed significant health risks, even at low levels, especially for infants and developing fetuses. The Bush Pentagon has systematically suppressed information on the levels of perchlorate in ground water and soils at numerous sites contaminated by the military and its contractors. Instead the Bush Administration is pushing for legislation to protect the polluters from liability.

Bush Lie: Environmental Health

In an effort to make sure science facts don’t interfere with Bush pollution policies, in 2002 the administration appointed persons with strong ties to polluting industries to an important environmental health advisory body of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Bush Lie: Global Warming

When Bush rejected the Kyoto protocol on global warming, that was bad enough. But then Bush personally lied when he said his global warming policies would be “science-based.” The truth has been the opposite. At the behest of ExxonMobil, Bush had the State Department request the removal of Dr. Robert Watson as chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate. Watson had produced a report predicting 2.5 to 10.5 degree global temperature increases by 2100. This conflicted with the Bush policy of global warming denial. As part of the policy of denials Bush tried to suppress other information on global warming. In 2002 the Bush administration left global warming out of an annual report on air pollution. In 2003 a major EPA report on the environment also contained no information on global warming. The report originally had a section on global warming, but Bush’s political operatives demanded changes that were not true or that distorted the scientific findings. This created enough of an uproar among EPA scientists that EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman decided to drop the global warming section completely.

Additionally the EPA has withheld reports from Congress that show that a proposed alternative to Bush’s “Clear Skies Act” would be much more effective, would cost very little more, and would save 17,802 lives from reduced pollution. The alternative would also reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a major contributor to global warming. Bush policy is opposed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Bush also refused to let the EPA release a study requested by Congress which showed that the financial impact to the U.S. economy from controlling greenhouse gas emissions would be 50 to 100 times less than the amount claimed by the White House.

Bush Lie: Environmental Lead Poisoning

Research indicates that the current federal standards for lead exposure in children are too high. In a damaging (to children) attempt to block any changes in the standards, the Bush administration has replaced members of CDC’s Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention with persons from the lead industry. It turns out that the lead industry had a direct hand in picking one of these people. Even though research shows that childhood learning ability is impaired at the current federal limits and that those limits need to be reduced by a factor of 2 or more, one of the Bush appointees to the committee actually claims that lead levels 7 times higher than the present standard are safe for children’s brains. No one outside the lead industry holds that discredited view.

Bush Lie: Oil Drilling

Halliburton (headed formerly by Vice President Cheney) uses an environmentally damming drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing that injects benzene and other carcinogens into the ground. In an attempt to cover up potential ground water contamination from this practice, the EPA changed data in a report to Congress. The report in its original form showed that there was real potential for contamination, but at the request of the oil industry the data were changed to show no potential for contamination. The White House also deleted discussion of the environmental hazards of hydraulic drilling from the White House National Energy Policy document.

Bush Lie: Wetlands

Soon after Bush took office the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers changed its policy from protecting wetlands to one of destroying wetlands. U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientists concluded that proposed rule changes on wetlands would lead to significant environmental damage and that the Corps’ own data supported this conclusion. Interior Secretary Norton suppressed this information by failing to present the Fish and Wildlife scientists’ report to the Corps. The proposed harmful rules were enacted.

Bush Lie: Yellowstone

A report written by Park staff detailing several ongoing environmental concerns at the Park was edited to remove any mention of these concerns. The Bush Interior Department used the altered report to argue that Yellowstone should be removed from a list of parks in danger and in need of international attention. The United Nations World Heritage Committee removed Yellowstone from the list based on the bogus report.

Bush Lie: World Trade Center

In a sickening disregard for the health and lives of Americans, the White House pressured the EPA not to warn the public about the potential health effects of the smoke, dust, and debris from the collapse of the World Trade Center. This was apparently done in order to get the New York Stock Market reopened as quickly as possible. The White House prevented the EPA from issuing guidelines about cleaning apartments and offices. Indeed the EPA made false statements about the safety of the debris and dust without any monitoring data to back it up, and they gave false advice on how to do the cleanup. The Towers were known to contain thousands of pounds of lead, tons of asbestos, and thousands of gallons of chemicals which when burned produced dioxins and other highly toxic byproducts. While the EPA already had procedures in place for dealing with the health and environmental problems of a major terrorist attack, the EPA did not follow its own procedures. As a result tens of thousands of residents and workers in Manhattan have been put at risk for serious, long-term health problems, and much of the contamination still remains in the environment at dangerous levels. All of this information, including the direct involvement of the White House in falsifying EPA reports and press releases, is contained in a report by the EPA Inspector General. Although the report was suppressed by the White House, a copy was leaked to the New York Times and the full report is now available. This lie came to light after the Waxman report was released.

Links to the entire Waxman and EPA Reports, are at skyhighway.com/~rjs.
City of Santa Cruz reduces pesticide use

by Celia Scott

The City of Santa Cruz hires goats to clear brush around the Bay Street Reservoir, Newell Creek Dam and the Water Treatment Plant instead of using herbicides. On city-owned DeLaveaga Golf Course, workers remove invasive English Daisies (masquerading as golf balls) by hand. And around the city, park employees are using “green-flaming” with a propane torch to remove weeds from fencelines and other places. It’s all part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a program which has enabled the City to substantially reduce pesticide use.

In November 1998, the City Council approved a policy requiring all City Departments and contractors to “eliminate or reduce pesticide applications on City property to the maximum extent feasible” and to educate the public about the dangers of toxic chemicals. The resulting IPM Program is an ecological approach to pest management, where non-chemical methods are preferred, and least-toxic pesticides are used only as a last resort.

The program has evolved over the last five years under the guidance of consultants (Daar/IPM Consulting Group), the City’s new Resource Ecologist, and an IPM Technical Advisory Committee composed of citizens and city staff. In December 2002 the City received an IPM Innovator Award from the State Department of Pesticide Regulation.

This October, the IPM Program passed another milestone when the City Council adopted an IPM Guidance Manual for use by City staff, as well as a Reduced-Risk Pesticide List (RRPL). The RRPL includes a list of acceptable products that have a relatively low hazard to users, the public, and the environment. The use of more hazardous products is tightly controlled through precise limits as to use, and a strict, one-time-only, exemption process. An annual report to the City Council on pesticide use is required. Current estimates of direct costs to the City for implementing an IPM Program are upward of $52,000 per year, without taking into account the hard-to-measure benefits to public health and the environment. However, experience in other communities (such as San Francisco, the pioneer on IPM efforts) indicates that over the long run, costs to local government are reduced.

For more information on the City of Santa Cruz IPM Program, and to obtain copies of the IPM Guidance Manual (which includes valuable chapters on IPM use in gardening and on how to deal with aphids, gophers, pink snow mold, rats and yellow jackets), call the City Resource Ecologist and IPM Coordinator, Kirk Lenington, 420-5364 or visit the City IPM website: www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/advbod/pk/ipm.html.

Finally a park

In late October the California Court of Appeal upheld the transfer of Hatton Canyon from Caltrans to State Parks. Attorney Michael Stamp represented the Club in the suit. The appeal had been filed by the Citizens for Hatton Canyon, in time for ski season. Herb Holden is a hotel management group based in Los Altos. Guests should start seeing some changes including remodeled bathrooms in time for ski season. Herb Holden is now employed by Miramar instead of the Club.

Fly boys

Six juvenile male condors and a 12-year-old mentor male condor are slated to be released in the Pinnacles sometime in December. It has been more than 100 years since California Condors soared over this rugged park. Since the birds travel great distances, it is hoped the males will eventually mate outside the park. Their task for the present is to learn how to exist in the wild.

SIMoN says

Check out the new Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary website, www.mbnms-simon.org. SIMoN stands for Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network and showcases scientific monitoring projects conducted by hundreds of researchers. The site includes an interactive mapping application that allows users to create their own maps incorporating information from various data sets to monitor major habitats, species and issues.

Under new management

The Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge is now being run by Miramar Hospitality, a hotel management group based in Los Altos. The Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge is now being run by Miramar Hospitality, a hotel management group based in Los Altos. Guests should start seeing some changes including remodeled bathrooms in time for ski season. Herb Holden is now employed by Miramar instead of the Club.

Above: Living lawnmowers clear brush at Newell Creek Dam. Right: A city worker “greenflames a park fence line. Far right: Gardeners remove English Daisies at DeLaveaga Golf Course.
HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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Non-Sierra Club events of interest

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.

Potluck: Colorado
Join Bob Hale on an adventure to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.
Bring food to share for 8 and your own plate and utensils. Drinks available. Chair, 6:15 p.m. Turn east at Hwy. 1 and Rio Road; turn south at the last stop light at Carmel Center Place; park in the lighted area behind Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more information call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Potluck: Costa Rica and Guatemala
Join McCord to present this slide show from her recent trip to Costa Rica and Guatemala. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Volunteer Potluck: Speaking Up For Animals
Jeff West will present slides from his trip to the Grand Canyon. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Master Composter Training
Learn everything there is to know about backyard and worm composting. FREE training for Santa Cruz County residents. In exchange, students will volunteer their time to teach others about composting. Includes 7 Tuesday evening classes and 5 Saturday field trips. All class materials including books, worm bins and worms provided. Contact Ecology Action, 426-9925 x 14 or www.ecoact.org. Sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

Benefit Concert
The Lompico Watershed Conservancy will hold a benefit concert at Don Quixote’s Restaurant in Felton. 4-9 p.m. Four popular blue grass, Celtic, and country rock bands. Call Jessica, 334-7696 for updated information.

Volunteer to restore native habitat in California Native Plant Society
Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz County. Wear water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but, if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Call Linda Brodman, 462-4041 for more information. Email: redwdrn@pacbell.net. www.cruzcnps.org.

Watching Wildlife: Native Plant Society
Wear water & gloves. Join us for great fun and a great way to learn about native plants. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet at Octopus Preserve. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society
Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz County. Wear comfortable layered work clothing. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but, if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Call Linda Brodman, 462-4041 for more information. Email: redwdrn@pacbell.net. www.cruzcnps.org.

Habitat restoration — Watsonville Wetlands
Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply Lot at Green Valley Road and Main Street in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

Volunteer to restore native habitat in Watsonville Wetlands Watch
Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply Lot at Green Valley Road and Main Street in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

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**MEETING PLACES**

**DIRECTIONS:**
- From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Fair shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot near Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. From Hwy. 1 take the 41st Avenue exit toward Felton. From 41st Avenue turn east toward the Joseph B. Graham Hill Park. Meet at the entrance to the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank, opposite the Post Office.
- Albertson’s/Bagel Bakery: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Road (Hwy. G16), toward the Carmel Valley. Go approximately 0.1 mile and then turn right at the light toward the shopping centers. Albertson’s and the Bagel Bakery are on the right.

**Santa Cruz County Govt. Center:** This is the large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water Streets in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot that is nearest to the gas station.

**Felton Fair:** From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Fair shopping center. We meet at the cafe located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in the Safeway parking lot close to 41st Avenue.

**MPC Parking Lot:** Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1, take the Fisherman’s Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

**OUTINGS**

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them.

Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club. CSL = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on CSL outings.

**EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:**
The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader): The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines.

- EASY: No more than 5 miles a day; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
- MODERATE: 5-10 miles a day; up to 2,000 ft. elevation gain; 1 to 2 1/2 mph; boots; better than average fitness required.
- STRENUOUS: Distance variable; may involve over-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

**NEWS:**

**MEETING PLACES**

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**Santa Cruz County Govt. Center:** This is the large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water Streets in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot that is nearest to the gas station.

**Felton Fair:** From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Fair shopping center. We meet at the cafe located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in the Safeway parking lot close to 41st Avenue.

**MPC Parking Lot:** Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1, take the Fisherman’s Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

**OUTINGS**

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them.

Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club. CSL = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on CSL outings.

**EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:**
The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader): The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines.

- EASY: No more than 5 miles a day; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
- MODERATE: 5-10 miles a day; up to 2,000 ft. elevation gain; 1 to 2 1/2 mph; boots; better than average fitness required.
- STRENUOUS: Distance variable; may involve over-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.
**O U T I N G S**

**Saturday, December 20**

**WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.**
See December 7.

**Sunday, December 21**

**HIKE: POST SUMMIT & MOUNT MANUEL**
Very strenuous hike from East Molera over Post Summit and Mount Manuel to Big Sur State Park, 12 miles, 3000’ elevation gain. Beautiful views of the Big Sur coast. Car shuttle. Hike will take all day. Bring $5 for carpool. Wear boots, bring a big lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:20 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 423-1422 or brunrnl@aol.com.

**Sunday, December 28**

**BIKE RIDE: CSUMB/FORT ORD**
Work off some holiday calories. 25 miles, mostly on paved streets. We’ll explore the Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the East Garrison area, and see native plant reserves. Hilly terrain; leisurely pace. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the thrift shop parking lot just inside the main gate off Hwy. 1. Bring water and a snack. Helmets mandatory. Leaders: Cath Farran and Mary Dantion 372-7427.

**January 1**

**HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH**
We can never hope to equal the great New Year’s Day hikes by Bob de Yoe (for 25 years) and Joan di Stefano (for the last 12 years), but come along with us for a laid-back 4 miles. It’s a Ventana Chapter New Year’s tradition. We’ll try to include a surprise. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in Pacific Grove at Sunset Drive & Asilomar Ave. Cloudy or sunny. Dress for weather. It’s usually windy along the coast. Bring water and snacks. For more info, phone co-leaders: Mary Gale, 422-6972 or Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

**Monday, January 3**

**WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.**
See December 7.

**Tuesday, January 6**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: SUNSET BEACH**
We’ll walk both the bluffs and the beach. 4 miles with some hills. Bring lunch, water, $2 for carpool and your share of entrance $3. Dress for windy and/or wet weather. Meet at Seas 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m., or at Sunset Beach at the kiosk parking lot for about 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Joan Brumher, 662-5923 and Mary Lou Schneider, 879-1859.

**Tuesday, January 10**

**HIKE: ALMADEN VALLEY/LOS GATOS**
The recently opened trail links Almaden Valley with Los Gatos as it snakes along the northern slope of Mt. Umunhum. This longest stretch of new Bay Area trail in more than 10 years goes through an area once laced with mining vats and some dumps. Bring lunch and water, 9 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or 10:00 a.m. at trailhead in San Jose (Hwy. 17 to Cambrian to end of Hicks Rd.). Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.

**Saturday, January 10**

**HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL**
We'll ascend the ridge from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 10-miles with 5000’ elevation gain. Panoramic views all the way. Bring lunch, plenty of water, $5 for carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

**Saturday, January 11**

**HIKE: POGONIUS/GRAY WHALE/WILDER**
We’ll use the bus system at the start and end of this hike to enjoy a fine 8-mile walk in the greenbelt lands surrounding Santa Cruz, traversing the Pogonip, the upper UCSC campus, the Gray Whale Ranch and Wilder Ranch State Park. Our route will take us through forests, and over meadows with spectacular views across Monterey Bay as we descend toward the ocean. Bring lunch and $3 bus fare. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center on Pacific Ave, in time to catch the 9:05 a.m. #46 bus to campus; we’ll return to the Metro Center at 4:35 p.m. Call leaders Celia or Peter Scott at 423-0796 to confirm bus times, or for further information.

**Sunday, January 11**

**HIKE: WEST MOLERA**
Hidden Trail to Ridge Trail to Panorama Trail to Bluff Trail. Fantastic ocean views. Stream crossing, 8 miles, and 1000’ elevation gain. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water, extra shoes for the stream crossing. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 655-3555 (new telephone number).

**Sunday, January 11**

**WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.**
See December 7.

**Sunday, January 11**

**HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL**
We’ll ascend the ridge from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 10-miles with 5000’ elevation gain. Panoramic views all the way. Bring lunch, plenty of water, $5 for carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

**Tuesday, January 13**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: WEST CLIFF/NATURAL BRIDGES**
We’ll walk along the bluffs to view large winter waves. At Natural Bridges we’ll visit the monarch butterflies in the eucalyptus grove. Lunch at the picnic tables by the Visitors’ Center. Easy, flat miles, shorter option. Meet at Sears 41st Ave, before 9:30 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. at the Lighthouse Field parking lot next to the restrooms. Bring lunch, sunscreen, hat and $1 for carpool. Binoculars optional. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

**Saturday, January 17**

**HIKE: JOSEPH T. GRANT COUNTY PARK**
We’ll explore the upper reaches of this Santa Clara County Park in the foothills of Mt. Hamilton east of San Jose. 12 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. Some of the largest white and black oak I have ever encountered and beautiful views overlooking Santa Clara County. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Ctr. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. It is a 1 1/4 hour drive over Hwy 17 to the trailhead. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

**Saturday, January 17**

**HIKE: EWOLDSEN TRAIL**
5-6 mile hike starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park to a panoramic viewpoint high above the ocean. After we’ll visit the waterfall, bring hat, water, lunch, and $5 for carpool. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. Back around 5:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, 884-9705 or andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

**Saturday, January 17**

**HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH**
Hike 2.5 miles on the ridge with optional 4.5-mile canyon hike (both on dirt roads). With good weather, we’ll sit at the beach after our hike. Great views of the coast. Bring plenty of water, $ for carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Land Trust office. Heavy rain cancels. Call or email to reserve a spot. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

**Sunday, January 18**

**HIKE: DANISH CREEK**
Continuing our exploration of the perimeters of the Ventana Wilderness, we’ll hike from Los Padres Dam, join the Big Pines Trail and continue to the 1800’ elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, and wear hiking boots. Meet at Mid-Valley Shopping Center in Carmel Valley at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

**Thursday, January 7**

**HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH**
We can never hope to equal the great New Year’s Day hikes by Bob de Yoe (for 25 years) and Joan di Stefano (for the last 12 years), but come along with us for a laid-back 4 miles. It’s a Ventana Chapter New Year’s tradition. We’ll try to include a surprise. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in Pacific Grove at Sunset Drive & Asilomar Ave. Cloudy or sunny. Dress for weather. It’s usually windy along the coast. Bring water and snacks. For more info, phone co-leaders: Mary Gale, 422-6972 or Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

**Wednesday, January 7**

**HIKE: ALMADEN VALLEY/LOS GATOS**
The recently opened trail links Almaden Valley with Los Gatos as it snakes along the northern slope of Mt. Umumah. This longest stretch of new Bay Area trail in more than 10 years goes through an area once laced with mining vats and some dumps. Bring lunch and water, 9 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or 10:00 a.m. at trailhead in San Jose (Hwy. 17 to Cambrian to end of Hicks Rd.). Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.
Sunday, January 15

HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA
Carpool: 4 1/2 hours to Fort Hunter Liggett to climb the highest peak in the Ventana Wilderness. Very strenuous. Reserve all day. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Betty MacGowan, 510-215-9253 or email at Bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, January 27

SENIOR SAUNTER: SEACLIFF BEACH
Hiker’s choice of a level 4-mile hike along the beach path, or walk uphill Cliff Drive in a neighborhood for a mile and back down to the beach along a secret path. Lunch at the picnic tables. Dress for weather and bring a Stanton (benches may be wet). $1 carpool fee. Meet at Sear’s 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at the trailhead, 10:10 a.m. (Hey. 68 to Olmsted Rd. to Jacks Peak Dr. Go left 0.3 mile to east parking area.) Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Wednesday, January 21

LORENZO VALLEY MUSEUM AND THE OLD TOWN JAIL.
Then a short walk to the new library, followed by an additional
little country walk before lunch at a park beside the river. Overall, 2 miles. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, $2 for carpool and $ for a museum donation. Meet at Sars 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Fair at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

Saturday, January 24

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.
See December 7.

Wednesday, January 21

HIKE: JACKS PEAK
This 855-acre Monterey County Park has excellent views of Monterey Bay and Carmel Valley from the 5 miles of trails through coastal scrub, chaparral, and Monterey pine. We start near the top of the peak. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sars 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or at Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit at 9:30 a.m., or at the trailhead, 10:10 a.m. (Hey. 68 to Olmsted Rd. to Jacks Peak Dr. Go left 0.3 mile to east parking area.) Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, Saturday, January 20-21

HIKE: DEVILS PEAK
Starting at Basker’s Gap, this hike goes steadily uphill through oak and madrone woods to Skinners Ridge, then up the peak. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and $1 for carpool. Binoculars optional. Leader: Jean Harrison: 425-5447.

Sunday, January 25

HIKE: POKE LOMBO EAST
Short hike up to Tunitshierry Hill from Hwy. 1, just south of the entrance to Point Lobos but at the east side. Perhaps we’ll check out Gibson Cyn. Bring lunch, water. Lunch at a park beside the river. Overall, 2 miles. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and $1 for carpool.

Wednesday, February 4

HIKE: UVAS CANYON COUNTY PARK
This lovely wooded 1200-acre park is nestled on the eastern side of the Santa Cruz Mountains. After hiking the waterfall loop, we’ll hike uphill to Triple Falls and then Knibbs Knob (steep). 7 miles. Bring water and lunch. Hiking boots recommended. Meet at Sars 41st Ave. to carpool at 9:00 a.m. or at 9:30 a.m. at Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit, or at entrance to Uvas Canyon County Park. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, February 7

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE
Wonderful hike around the Mitteldorf Preserve, administered by the Big Sur Land Trust. 9 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. Great views and gorgeous old trees (the largest redwood in Monterey County). Bring lunch and water, wear boots. Meet at the San Carlos Ranch Gate, one mile off Carmel Valley Road at 9:30 a.m. Call leader for reservation. Leader: Anteline Suiter, 624-1647.

Tuesday, February 3

HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA
Carpool: 4 1/2 hours to Fort Hunter Liggett to climb the highest peak in the Ventana Wilderness. Very strenuous. Reserve all day. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 372-7427.

Friday - Sunday, January 30 - Feb. 1

HUTCHINSON LODGE SKI TRIP
Great views on this 11-mile hike through meadows and in redwoods, 2000’ elevation gain. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, binoculars and $1 for carpool. Wear good boots. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

HUTCHINSON LODGE
Hutchinson Lodge is the small lodge near Clair Lippan. We’ll have it to ourselves. The lodge has 2 sleeping lofts, 2 wood stoves, and a sauna. The cost of this weekend/person is only $50 members. Non-members/$54. The price includes all meals (Vegetarian available) X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the main lodge, in addition to free access to groomed trails right from the back door. Free shuttle bus to nearby cross-country and downhill ski areas. We’ll share cooking and cleaning. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total (payable to Sierra Club) and a $100 deposit payable to Sierra Club.

Names ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ©X-Colorado. The price includes all meals! (Vegetarian available) X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the main lodge, in addition to free access to groomed trails right from the back door. Free shuttle bus to nearby cross-country and downhill ski areas. We’ll share cooking and cleaning. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total (payable to Sierra Club) and a $50 deposit payable to Sierra Club.

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The Sierra Club’s

Clair Tappana Lodge
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We did NOT become a Youth Hostel!

Come visit Sierra Club's flagship lodge and enjoy the winter. The Lodge is now managed by Miramar Hospitality, but you will notice few operational changes. You can still bring a bottle of wine for our greatly improved dinners.

Clair Tappana offers many exciting workshops and outdoor activities including snowshoe ecology tours, back-country ski trips, avalanche safety courses and moonlight hikes. There are cross-country ski and telemark lessons daily and groomed trails right outside the back door.

Popular annual activities this winter will include:

Ski Bus Trips
January 23–25, February 20–22, and March 16–18. Leave from and return to Oakland. $135 members, $155 non-members, $65 kids 12 and under. Free shuttles to all five local resorts.

Kids' Ski Weekends

Bluegrass Weekend

Snowshoe Ecology Tours
January 2–4 and April 2–4. Broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology and see some magnificent scenery. $100 members, $110 non-members.

Spring Skiing in the Sierra
March 21–26. Five days of guided ski trips. Moderate to challenging trails and classic Sierra scenery. $475 members, $495 non-members.

New Midweek Lodge/Ski Packages!
One or two nights, cross-country or downhill.

For more information about the lodge, rates, updates to the program and activity schedules, and ski packages, please visit our website www.ctt.sierraclub.org or call 530-426-3632.

www.ctl.sierraclub.org
Post Office Box 36, Norden, CA 95724
530-426-3632 (voice) • 530-426-0742 (fax)
e-mail: CTD@sierraclub.org

Come hike with us!

Sunday, February 8

WALK: POINT LOBOS, NORTH COAST
Easy 2-mile loop around Whaler’s Cove, the Pit and Moss Cove then on to the south end of Monastery Beach. Although short, the walk will be splendid—or your money back. Meet at the Bank of America on Rio Road in Carmel at 10:02 a.m. Bring snack, water, and dress for the weather (windbreaker advised.) Rain cancels. For more information, call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, February 8

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL
We’ll hike up from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 11 miles, 3200’ elevation gain with incredible views. Wear boots, bring lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 655-3109 (new phone number).

Sunday, February 8

HIKE: TASSAJARA LOOP
This strenuous hike in the heart of the Ventana Wilderness is best done in winter. Expect a great wonderful tour. Call for necessary information. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or Bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, February 10

SENIOR SAUNTER: SALINAS RIVER
We'll walk along the beach to see an old ship-wrecked boat half buried in the sand, and then on to nearby Salinas River. Walk is on dirt road and sand. Easy 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Marina - Del Monte Blvd. east and turn right. Meet at dirt parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch, jacket and $2 for car-pool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

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JOINING $39
GIFT $47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $10.00 for a Chapter newsletter.

Fishy fact

Remember to buy only wild Pacific salmon when you eat out or go to the market. The average salmon farm creates as much raw sewage as a city of 65,000, says Ian McAllister of the Washington State-based Raincoast Conservation Society. Even worse, this untreated poop is laced with antibiotics. The resulting ocean dead zones can extend up to 500’ around the holding pens.

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Resurrected Eastern Access road would harm Pogonip

Petition signatures needed

Revival of an old threat to the integrity of the Pogonip Greenbelt in the City of Santa Cruz has mobilized the Sierra Club and sparked the formation of a new group, Keep the Greenbelt Green. The Club opposes a paved roadway (known as the “Eastern Access”) through the Pogonip. Proponents envision a road from Hwy. 9 to UCSC, which they believe would relieve university-related traffic on the westside of Santa Cruz.

Keep the Greenbelt Green acknowledges the traffic problems in Westside neighborhoods, and supports more effective, energy-efficient and environmentally-sound solutions rather than violating the integrity of City greenbelt lands. Effective solutions to Westside traffic are included in the Master Transportation Study (MTS) now pending before the Santa Cruz City Council. Keep the Greenbelt Green is circulating a petition to the UCSC Chancellor and the Santa Cruz City Council urging them to reject a roadway through the Pogonip and to implement instead the solutions outlined in the MTS. The petition will be submitted to the City Council at the 3:00 p.m. public hearing on December 9, where the Council will take action on the Master Transportation Study.

A paved, heavily-used roadway through Pogonip’s steep terrain would severely damage its natural beauty and wildlife habitats, and would replace its peaceful serenity with traffic noise and air and water pollution. For many in our community, as well as the resident wildlife, Pogonip is a sanctuary from the urban world. Roads and traffic have no place in Pogonip.

How to help

• Sign a petition. Petitions are available for signing at the Sierra Club office, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz (phone 426-HIKE), or at various locations in the City of Santa Cruz (phone 429-6166). They may also be obtained on line at sensibletransportation.org/greenbelt, along with a flyer and a fact sheet on the “Eastern Access.”
• Download a petition and gather signatures.
• Email the Santa Cruz City Council (citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us) and Chancellor Greenwood (mgrnwdw@ucsc.edu) to oppose a road through the Pogonip.
• Contact 429-6166, or greenbelt@sensibletransportation.org to volunteer or for more information.
• Come on the Dec. 6 Pogonip hike to view proposed routes for the roadway.

As far as I could see, a dark green sea of untouched forest rolled out to the whole encircling horizon. In a lifetime—nine, anyway—one is given this blessing only rarely: the chance to stand on high ground, turn in every direction, and see absolutely not one single sign of humanity. This is how the world once was, without our avarice and dominion.” —Barbara Kingsolver


ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

Sierra Club Member Profile

Advertising in this newsletter packs more clout into your advertising dollars. Sierra Club members are one of the most valuable audiences in America. They are “opinion leaders” and “influentials,” by any name they are some of America’s most sought-after advertising targets. Their own purchasing activity is substantial. But, more important, they influence others—in everything from opinion and outlook to choice of products. They are not only consumers, but also doers and leaders.

Club Members are among the most active, affluent audiences of adventure travelers and year-round outdoor sports enthusiasts your advertising dollars can buy. It’s an unduplicated audience with the power to buy your products and services.

Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age 43
Male/Female 63%/37%
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Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active than the average adult
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Whitewater Rafting 5.5 times more active

Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

Potential Advertisers!

For Rate Information, Contact: Debbie Bulger 457-1036
Sierra Club hails environmental wins in State Legislature

47 of 48 bills supported by Club signed into law

This was a banner year for the environmental movement in the California State Legislature with laws passed to protect our watersheds, coastal waters, air quality, and community environment. One of our highest priorities, SB 812 (Burton) marked the first significant reform to the State Forest Practices Act in 37 years. This new law gives the Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to block the approval of logging plans that would violate water quality standards.

Two other bills signed into law which will improve enforcement of State water quality law were SB 923 (Sher) and AB 897. SB 923 requires that State Water Board waivers from waste discharge requirements be in the public interest, authorizes fee on waivers, and requires waiver conditions to include a monitoring requirement except when discharges do not pose a significant threat to water quality. AB 897 (Jackson) strengthens water quality enforcement by reducing distinctions between nonpoint and point source violations.

Also signed were AB 121 (Simian) and AB 926 (Nakano), which regulate discharges by cruise ships in our coastal waters. AB 16 (Jackson) will protect our coastal waters and shoreline by requiring offshore oil to be piped rather than shipped to tanker to shore.

A large package of bills authored by Senator Dean Florez (Bakersfield) will address the terrible air quality in the Central Valley where children suffer from asthma at three times the national rate. Other significant air quality bills signed included SB 656 (Sher), which strengthens regulation of particulate matter, and SB 288 (Sher), which locks in place California’s air quality regulations in the face of rollbacks by the Bush administration.

Two important bills that address solid waste were signed. SB 20 (Sher) requires establishment of a system to recycle cathode ray tubes (CRTs - televisions and computer monitors) and AB 28 (Jackson and Sher) expands the state’s bottle bill to include all service connections of urban water suppliers that receive water from the Central Valley Project.

Another major win was SB 812 (Burton) which gives the Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to block the approval of logging plans that would violate water quality standards.

Sierra Club priority bills signed into law in 2003

- SB 220 (Sher) creates a advance recycling fee on electronic waste to fund recycling of discarded electronic equipment.
- SB 189 (Eccles) moves California closer to the goal of establishing an environmental health tracking system.
- SB 245 (Sher) restricts the use of transgenic, and exotic fish/fish aquaculture in State waters.
- SB 283 (Sher) blocks the Bush Administration rollback air quality regulations.
- SB 331 (Romero) codifies the doctrine of delayed discovery as it applies to the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit for injury, illness, or death caused by exposure to a hazardous material or toxic substance.
- SB 352 (Eccles) prohibits the siting of a school within 500 feet of a freeway and brings closer scrutiny to the siting of schools near hazardous operations or rail yards.
- SB 412 (Sher) allows for the collection of any fully-protected species as is necessary for scientific research, including efforts to recover those species.
- SB 418 (Sher) streamlines and clarifies the streamlined alteration agreement process.
- SB 552 (Burton) requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission to develop minimum fuel efficiency and emission standards and specifications for all vehicles leased or purchased by the State of California.
- SB 469 (Eccles) prohibits mining operations from selling their products to the State agencies unless they have complied with SMARA.
- SB 604 (Sher) works to improve air quality by requiring the California Air Resources Board and local air districts to identify and adopt cost-effective measures to reduce particulate pollution.
- SB 666 (Bowen) facilitates the protection of Ballona Wetlands.
- SB 700 (Florez & Sher) repeals the current agricultural exemption on air quality permits.
- SB 704 and 725 (Flores) will phase out open field burning of agricultural waste in the San Joaquin Valley over the next decade.
- SB 777 (Eccles) improves whistleblower protection by creating a confidential Whistleblower Hotline in the office of the Attorney General, providing a safe haven for employees who want to expose wrongdoing within their companies.
- SB 796 (Dunn) allows workers to file civil actions against their employers for violations of the Labor Code.
- SB 810 (Burton) gives the Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to block the approval of logging plans that would violate water quality standards.
- SB 923 (Sher) authorizes the State Water Board to issue waivers from waste discharge requirements, authorizes a fee on waivers, and requires waiver conditions to include a monitoring requirement except when discharges do not pose a significant threat to water quality.
- SB 1004 (Stobo) establishes safeguards to protect Californians from perchlorate contamination and require those who contaminate drinking water supplies to pay for the costs caused by their pollution.
- AB 16 (Jackson) requires that oil produced offshore be transported by pipeline instead of by ship.
- AB 21 (Jackson) establishes terms for Coastal Commissioners appointed by the Legislature (response to lawsuit by Pacific Legal Foundation).
- AB 28 (Jackson, Pavley, Burton, Sher) increases the deposit amount for beverage container recycling.
- AB 47 (Simian) requires landowners to include maps of their past logging conducted in the watershed.
- AB 152 (Cropper) allows the establishment of a regulatory fee structure that ensures that those who pollute our air and water will bear the full cost of regulation.
- AB 121 (Simian) prohibits cruise ships from dumping sewage or oily bilge into State waters.
- AB 322 (Chung) bans the use of fire retardant polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) after 2028.
- AB 334 (Goldberg) allows local governments to limit the availability or prohibit the installation of water softeners that damage community sewer systems.
- AB 433 (Nakano) reauthorizes the market ballast water discharge management program, which will help control the introduction of invasive species accidentally released from ship ballast water.
- AB 455 (Chu) prohibits the use of four regulated heavy metals - lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium - in packaging materials.
- AB 514 (Kelso) requires water meters on all service connections of urban water suppliers that receive water from the Central Valley Project.
- AB 826 (Jackson), the Perchlorate Contamination Prevention Act, requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to establish standards for best management practices for the handling of perchlorate materials.
- AB 859 (Nakano) facilitates the protection of Ballona Wetlands.
- AB 897 (Jackson) strengthens water quality enforcement by reducing distinctions between nonpoint and point source violations.
- AB 906 (Nakano) prohibits cruise ships from discharging graywater from kitchens, laundries, and showers into State waters.
- AB 998 (Lowenthal) imposes an initial $3 per gallon fee on perchloroethylene (perc or PCE) to fund a grant program for alternative dry cleaning systems considered to be nontoxic and nonsmog-forming.
- AB 999 (Horton) reduces mercury pollution by making non-mercury dental fillings eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement.
- AB 1689 (Berg) assigns Wild & Scenic River status to Albion and Guadalupe Rivers.
- AB 1244 (Chu) encourages the modernization of urban schools and will help to revitalize urban neighborhoods.
- AB 1330 (Simian) creates a privately-funded State Department of Education study to analyze the scholastic and behavioral effects of outdoor education on underserved populations.
- AB 1562 (Steinberg) provides a statutory basis for CalEPA’s Environmental Indicators for California Project.
- AB 1492 (Laid) closes loopholes in the Williamson Act by restricting lot line adjustments and construction of nonagricultural buildings not allowed in the contract.
- AB 1497 (Montague) helps ensure that solid waste landfills throughout the state are operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment by increasing the ability of communities to participate in decisions about local landfills.
- AB 1541 (Montague) improves reporting of water pollution by classifying failure to file reports of the discharge of waste into waterways as “serious violations” under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.
- AB 1548 (Palver) facilitates coordination of environmental education curricula.
- AB 1685 (Leno) extends the California Public Utilities Commission’s Self-Generation Incentive Program and requires certain distributed generation projects using fossil fuels to meet specific emissions targets to be eligible for the program.
- AB 1702 (Laird & Wiggin) helps clean up contaminated military bases by saving positions at the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the State Water Resources Control Board that oversee base remediation and that are not funded by the General Fund.
- AB 1756 (Asem. Budget Committee) prohibits the California Integrated Waste Management Board from spending public funds on the incineration of waste tires.
Sierra Club togs make great holiday gifts

Shopping for just the right present for your special tree-hugger? Check out the new Sierra Club clothing for men and women. These fashions not only look good, but also use sustainable fabrics such as wool, hemp, organic cotton or EcoSpun fleece, produced entirely from post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Even the denim is politically correct. It is manufactured in Denmark using golf balls instead of mined pumice to give the fabric its traditional worn look.

Best of all, the Club receives a royalty on each item sold. Styles include jackets, pants, sweaters, and shirts. The clothing is produced by Isda & Company based in San Francisco. Sierra Club requires its suppliers to adhere to the workplace code of conduct of the Fair Labor Association, a coalition of universities, non-governmental organizations and companies such as Eddie Bauer, Patagonia and others.

If you think it’s time to supplement your own winter wardrobe or you need some inspiration for holiday gifts, the Sierra Club line of Fall/Winter apparel has an array of warm winter clothing that will keep you toasty during the coming outdoor season and for many years to come. A full selection of men’s and women’s apparel is available at: www.sierraclubgear.com. Locally, Sierra Club clothing is sold at EcoGoods in downtown Santa Cruz, 1130 Pacific Avenue and, in the near future, at the Friends of the Sea Otter Education and Retail Center, 381 Cannery Row in Monterey.

The men’s boiled wool jacket includes hand warmer pockets and buttoned chest pockets.

Holiday gifts at your Club bookstore

by Nada Kovalik

Desert Solitaire

The tourists have gone home. Most of them. A few still ramble in and ramble around in their sand-pitted dust-choked iron dinosaurs, but the great majority, answering a mystical summons, have returned to the smoky jungles and swamps of what we call, in wistful hope, American civilization.

Yes, that’s the gravely grumpy voice of Edward Abbey echoing across the years from 1968, when he first wrote that impudent masterpiece, Desert Solitaire. If you’ve not read it since its publication 35 years ago, you’re in for a treat. If you’ve never read it, an even bigger treat.

As a young man Abbey spent a season as a park ranger in Arches National Park in southeastern Utah. His stories and ruminations on those days are sparks from a fiery, protective love of nature.

Often Abbey was prescient. Even then, he was proposing what is now being hotly debated as part of Yosemite’s future: a banning or large reduction of private automobile traffic. Here’s what he said:

“Excluding the automobile from the heart of the great cities has been seriously advocated by thoughtful observers of our urban problems. It seems to me an equally proper solution to the problems besetting our national parks. Of course it would be a serious blow to Industrial Tourism and would be bitterly resisted by those who profit from that industry. . . . But such a revolution, like it or not, is precisely what is needed. The only foreseeable alternative, given the current trend of things, is the gradual destruction of our national parks.”

Desert Solitaire in paperback, published by Touchstone Press of Simon and Schuster, remains a jewel of a little book, easy to drop into a backpack.

Stieken

Another small classic, Stieken by John Muir, can be found on the bookstore shelves. Originally published in 1909, the modern paperback edition is published by Hayden Books. It will charm anyone from 8 to 80+. Stieken was a small raggedy dog which Muir picked up on one of his travels in Alaska. (More accurately, Stieken picked up Muir and stuck to him like a little black bar through wild blizzards and horrendous glacial excursions. The little mongrel is charmingly depicted with an attitude and a jaunty tail in illustrations by Carl Dennis. The story is tempered with Muir’s musings on “the unity and sanctitude of all living things.”)

Trail Guides

And of course, be sure to get your new copy of the Trail Guide to Los Padres National Forest and Popular Outings, which describes day hikes and bike rides in the Monterey Bay area and beyond.

The Club bookstore is located on the south side of Ocean Avenue in Carmel, midway between San Carlos and Dolores. Volunteers are on hand to help you from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Court rules Yosemite Merced River Plan not protective

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on October 27 in favor of Friends of Yosemite Valley and MERG (Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth), that the Merced River Management Plan does not protect the River. The opinion filed by Judge Wardlaw ruled that the National Park Service’s (NPS) Plan for the Merced River violates the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by “insufficiently addressing user capacities and improperly setting river area boundaries within El Portal.”

In its ruling the court stated it expects the NPS to implement measures to avoid environmental degradation. The court also ruled that the boundaries the NPS set for its El Portal area, on the Park’s western boundary, were improperly set as they do not protect the Merced River’s outstanding remarkable resource values.

This appeal was accompanied by an Amicus Brief filed by Pete Frost of the Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of 52 other environmental groups including Sierra Club. The case will now return to the District Court in Fresno to implement the appellate decision. To read the full opinion, visit www.ca9 .uscourts.gov and click opinions where you can search by date.

This “Preserve” cuts protected trees and harms steelhead

The Chapter is raising significant concerns about the Potrero Subdivision planned for Rancho San Carlos (aka “The Preserve”). We are especially concerned about the impacts to water usage and the cutting of protected trees. A proposal for the “Potrero Subdivision,” mostly in the Carmel Valley area, is detailed in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, on which the Chapter commented.

Rancho San Carlos (RSC) proposes 29 more estate homes for this “phase.” Even with the huge lots, the developer wants to ignore its promises to “site the houses in the least environmentally sensitive locations” and make them “subordinate to the landscape,” by cutting 259 “Landmark” and “Protected” trees. In addition, the Chapter believes the tree-cutting already approved on RSC could be taking the project well beyond the biological impacts analyzed in the EIR for the overall project.

In addition, the water system for the entire project has a cloud over it. In particular, the Chapter and Carmel River Stewardship Association recently documented serious drawdowns of Garzas Creek, which runs through RSC. As reported in the last Ventana Garzas Creek is a major tributary of the Carmel River and a vital link in the life support system for the federally-listed steelhead trout in that river. The proposed Potrero subdivision would draw from the same “ranch-wide water system” that is apparently significantly impacting Garzas Creek, and may be impacting Potrero and San Jose Creeks as well.

Hydrological consultant Dr. John William submitted much of the technical data and field work submitted with the Club’s comments.

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Please Recycle This Paper Again
Forest Service studies may help Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign

A report in the last Ventana the Club is working with other environmental groups to achieve "Wild and Scenic River" designation for free-flowing Central Coast rivers. Currently only the Big Sur River has this designation. A "wild and scenic" designation would protect additional rivers or river segments from dams, diversions and new development.

Earlier this year the U.S. Forest Service agreed to study designation of the Arroyo Seco River, San Antonio River, and the North Fork of the Little Sur River. If the Forest Service determines that these rivers merit listing, the recommendation will be incorporated into the draft Management Plan for the Los Padres National Forest. The public comment period of the proposed plan would be an opportunity to express your support for permanent protection of wild and free flowing streams of the northern Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur coast.

Rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic River System by Congress, which means that the process is always political. Whatever happens, local activists will continue to survey the wild and free flowing rivers and streams of the northern Santa Lucia to document their "Outstanding Remarkable Values" and work for their protection. Additional information on the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign is available at: www.ventanawild.org/projects/rivers and www.nps.gov/rivers.

Sierra Club launches Southern California Forests Campaign

Early in 2004 the Forest Service will release details of six options for managing the Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests. The resulting management plans will affect over three and a half million acres of forest lands. Brief descriptions of the options have already been released and range from the good to the bad to the downright ugly.

The good option, based on recommendations from the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, focuses on protecting and restoring our forests while providing opportunities for low-impact recreation. This option would stop destructive development such as highways, oil wells, and power lines. The worst options increase resource extraction (more oil wells, logging, and mining) and off-road vehicle use. The outcome is very much in doubt.

In response, the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations have organized the Southern California Forest Campaign to lobby for the option which emphasizes resource protection, restoration, and low-impact recreation.

Without many voices raised in defense of these national forests, the Forest Service will hear mostly from mining and oil companies, developers, and others who wish to exploit these public lands. To learn more about the Southern California Forests Campaign and sign up to help out, visit www.sierraclub.org/ca/4hills.

12 states sue EPA over failure to address global warming

Twelve states, several cities, and over a dozen environmental groups joined forces to challenge the Bush Administration’s continued failure to confront global warming. The plaintiffs are targeting the unprecedented ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency late last summer that summarily disavowed the agency’s long-standing jurisdiction under the Clean Air Act to regulate global warming emissions.

The states, cities and groups challenged the EPA decision in the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Rates: $4.00 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Approximate 35 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Typewritten or computer generated copy preferred.

CO-HOUSING Live in a Cohousing Neighborhood that Offers You More! Oak Creek Commons is a 36 home neighborhood under construction on 14 acres in Paso Robles, CA. Advantages of our community are private home ownership, a built-in social life, and living among other environmentally-conscious people of all ages. Our traffic-free neighborhood offers energy efficient designed homes, 10 acres of preserved woodlands, a community center, and organic gardens and orchards. The spectacular Central Coast is your large backyard.

For Orientations and Site Tours offered regularly. Call Today 805-489-8735.

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McCabe Canyon added to Pinnacles National Monument

McCabe Canyon preserves an increasingly rare and important California habitat: valley oak woodland. This new acquisition is a key addition to the Pinnacles.

The 240-acre McCabe Canyon (known as the Francis Ranch) was added to Pinnacles National Monument in September. The property abuts the park across the road and north of the entrance station. It preserves an increasingly rare and important California habitat, valley oak woodland, and provides a key piece of the boundary protection envisioned in the park’s 2000 boundary expansion. The property owner, a willing seller who has been working with park officials over the past two years, will retain a life estate on the property.

Threatened valley oak ecosystems, extremely rare within the park and disappearing throughout the state, are extensive throughout McCabe Canyon. The valley oak systems have healthy native understories which are both excellent wildlife habitat and an extremely valuable seed source that will provide an outstanding opportunity for restoration with native genetic stock. The park will manage this site for its natural resource values.

At present, there is no developed public access to McCabe Canyon. Park officials are working to make McCabe Canyon more accessible while preserving both the resources and the privacy of the former owner, who lives on site. The 24,000-acre Pinnacles National Monument, protected since 1908, preserves intact a remarkable diversity of habitat and natural resources unique to the central coast region of California. A boundary expansion in 2000 added over 12,000 acres to the park; some 2,500 acres of which was private property. With the purchase of McCabe Canyon, Pinnacles National Monument is one step closer to completing its critical land acquisition priorities. The park’s top acquisition priority remains the 2000-acre Pinnacles Ranch, which is rich in natural and cultural resources and will provide critical habitat for California condors, which are slated to be released at Pinnacles National Monument in December.