

CALIFORNIA
COAST & OCEAN

VOLUME 12, NO. 3

AUTUMN 1996 • \$4.95



**WILDERNESS SAGA:
INDIANS AT SINKYONE
WHAT'S AHEAD
IN RECREATION?**

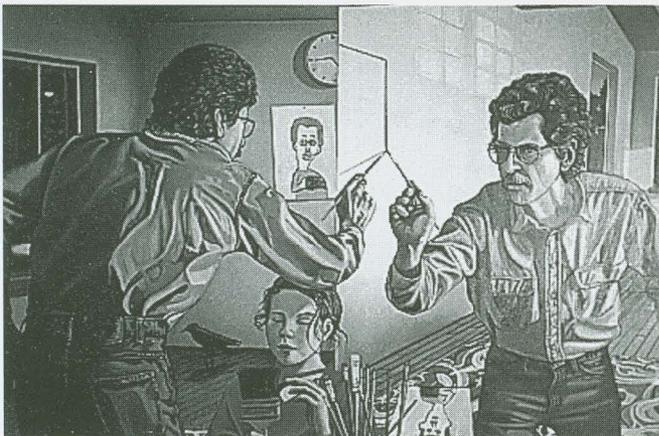
ABOUT THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency working to preserve, improve, and restore public access and natural resources along the coast and on San Francisco Bay. It builds trails and walkways, purchases threatened coastal land from willing sellers, enhances and restores wetlands and watersheds, protects open space and farmland, supports commercial fishing, helps cities develop and improve waterfronts, and crafts innovative solutions to land use conflicts. The Conservancy undertakes projects in partnership with nonprofit organizations, landowners, local governments, and other public agencies. It is funded primarily by bonds authorized by California voters.

To subscribe to CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN for one year (four issues), send a check (payable to "State Coastal Conservancy") for \$18 to:

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Cover Artist: John Wehrle has been creating site-specific murals for public architectural spaces for the past 20 years. He is known for work that is joyfully surreal, bringing wildlife and scenes from the past into the everyday urban environment. His clients have included the Cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Richmond, Cetus Corporation, the De Young Museum, and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Wehrle lives in Richmond, California with his wife Susan and their daughter Rebecca (seen in this painting).



Plant drawings on pages 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 14 are from *Plants Used By the Indians of Mendocino County, California* by V. K. Chesnut, Mendocino County Historical Society: 1974.

Oops! In the Summer 1996 issue of *Coast & Ocean*, credits for the drawings of the rush and dragonfly on p. 39 and the Dungeness crab on p. 40 were inadvertently omitted. Both drawings are by Jim Hays, and are taken from the book *Bogs, Meadows, Marshes and Swamps: A Guide to 25 Wetland Sites of Washington State*, published by The Mountaineers Books, Seattle, Wash., and reviewed on p. 38 of that issue.



STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

BOARD MEMBERS:

Penny Allen, Chair
Douglas P. Wheeler
Craig L. Brown
Louis Calcagno
Margaret Azevedo
Robert C. Kirkwood
Marcus E. Powers

ALTERNATES:

Jim Burns
Fred Klass

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Michael L. Fischer

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN
California Coast & Ocean is published by the State Coastal Conservancy in association with the California Academy of Sciences.

Rasa Gustaitis, Editor
Dewey Schwartzburg, Managing Editor
Anne Canright, Copy Editor
Hal Hughes, Contributing Editor
Meg Clark, Circulation Consultant

Design and page composition: Seventeenth Street Studios
Prepress and Printing: University of California
Printing Services

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN (ISSN 1052-5823) is published quarterly at \$18 for four issues. Copyright © 1996 State Coastal Conservancy, all rights reserved. No part of this issue may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic, or electronic process or otherwise copied for public or private use without written permission of the publisher. All opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the positions, official or otherwise, of the State Coastal Conservancy or of the California Academy of Sciences. Direct all correspondence, including editorial submissions and subscription requests, to:

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN

1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 286-0934, e-mail: calcoast@igc.apc.org

Articles appearing in *California Coast & Ocean* are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, *Biology Digest*, and *Environment Abstracts*.

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

CALIFORNIA

COAST & OCEAN

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3

AUTUMN 1996



JAY JONES

WILDERNESS SAGA

- 3 Sinkyone Lost and Found**
Neal Fishman
The inside story of the Indians' return to the Lost Coast
- 12 The Vision and the Work**
InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
The making of the first intertribal wilderness park

COASTAL RECREATION

- 15 Is California Starving the Goose That Laid the Golden Egg?**
Rasa Gustaitis
Coastal recreation is approaching a crisis
- 19 A Matter of Wave Rights**
Gary Taylor
Creating the world's first artificial surfing reef
- 21 Skateboarding the Pacific Rim**
Kevin Thatcher
The case for a much-maligned sport
- 24 What Good Are Parks?**
A *Coast & Ocean* interview with Donald W. Murphy
- 29 Millions of Steps for the Coast-Long Trail**
They walked from Oregon to Mexico
- 34 Ocean Protection Springs from the Watersheds**
Kip Evans
Citizens of 11 watersheds work to protect Monterey Marine Sanctuary
- 40 Greening a Concrete River**
How might the L.A. River resemble New York's Central Park?

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**
Why we need a "California Invests" initiative
- 38 EBB AND FLOW**
Orange County Wetlands to be restored/Humboldt County forest to be saved/Protection for Estero de San Antonio/Rare coastal habitat on Carmel Mountain to be purchased



COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

At about this time last year, we celebrated the opening of Cowell Ranch Beach, one of the few new beaches added to the State Park system in 15 years.

That should tell us something.

Since 1976, when the Coastal Plan was submitted to the state legislature, California's population has grown from 21.7 million to 32.2 million. In the next 20 years, it's projected to grow to 46.2 million—more than doubling since 1976. Yet it took five years—five years—after the construction of the parking lot, restrooms, trail, and bluff stairway to the beach before the State Parks Department was able to accept title and open this beach south of Half Moon Bay. Why? Lack of funds, lack of staff to manage and maintain that small new park, which residents had begun to call "the secret beach."

Our most popular coastal recreation areas are heavily used. "Packed" is the word State Parks professionals use for places like San Simeon, Doheny, Carlsbad, Silver Strand, Pfeiffer, and Steep Ravine. Just try to get reservations to camp there, or try to tour Año Nuevo when the elephant seals are there. In Santa Monica, so many people come to exercise by running up and down the bluffside stairway that local streets are jammed with double-parked cars.

Californians come to the coast for scuba diving, camping, hiking, kayaking, long-distance bicycling, hang-gliding, birdwatching, swimming, mountain biking, whalewatching, sunbathing, photographing, boating, fishing, and just simply to watch the waves break and the tides change. Not only Californians. This past summer an informal survey by the Department of Boating and Waterways found a surprising percentage of beachgoers—the majority, on some beaches—came from outside the state, thereby making a major contribution to our state's economic health.

Recognizing the importance of coastal recreation, State Parks has attempted to accommodate increased demand at most state beaches; as its capital funds dwindle, it has given major priority to replacing worn-out facilities. It has continued to acquire coastal lands, within the limits of its resources: Spring Ranch, Point Sal, Latigo Shores, Limekiln Creek, and Wilcox Ranch within the past five years, soon to be followed, we hope, by Grey Whale Ranch and Sand City. Nonetheless, we are not keeping up with the demand for coastal recreation.

Local opposition to the opening of new accessways between Highway 1 and the beach has increased, something one would not have thought possible 20 years ago, in the year of the Coastal Act. Why? The pent-up demand is so great



Michael Fischer with Coastwalkers

in some areas that such accessways as do exist are overwhelmed.

Controversy over beach use has raged in Los Angeles and Sonoma Counties and, though the issues are somewhat different, the basic cause is the same: who pays? In Los Angeles, the debate has been about who is to manage the beaches, the state or the county. The county now manages them. In Sonoma, "Free the Sonoma Beaches" bumper stickers referred to State Parks' short-lived attempt to charge for access to beaches that had always been free. While park facilities deteriorate for lack

of maintenance money, State Parks has been directed to reduce its dependence on the General Fund, so where can the Department turn but to cost-cutting, user fees, corporate sponsorship, or new commercial development in the parks? Is this what we want for our parks and beaches? Certainly not.

One bright spot is the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which reaches more than 50 miles along the Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo coast, and was created in 1972, the same year the Coastal Initiative passed. The old Crissy Field airfield will soon be redeveloped to provide backup space for windsurfers, a major run for urban dogs and their human partners, jogging paths, kite-flying greens, and a small restored tidal marsh. Congress passed the Presidio Trust legislation last month, opening the way for more progress in this grand national park.

As the governor crafts his budget for next year, "California Competes" is being used as a slogan to indicate a strategic direction. I submit that a key aspect in that competition is the ability to meet the demand of our exploding population and the growing number of out-of-state visitors for coastal recreation opportunities. To compete well, it is time—past time—to draft and pass a "California Invests" initiative. We need a new bond issue to acquire, restore, and develop coastal habitat and recreation areas if our tourism industry is to remain competitive and the beauties of our coast are to be protected for future generations. Within the lifetime of most Californians the state's population will have doubled. We must act now to protect coastal lands our grandchildren will need for recreation and spiritual well-being, or lose their respect. New Jersey voters just approved a \$350 million park and open space bond, as they have done every three years for the last twenty. We can keep up with New Jersey! ■

—Michael L. Fischer

The inside story of the decade-long battle for the future of a Lost Coast wilderness, told candidly and personally.

SINKYONE LOST AND FOUND

NEAL FISHMAN

I HAVE LOST my woodworkers pin. Don Nelson gave it to me, and also one to Maxene, when he was head of the International Woodworkers of America local union in Fort Bragg. I was very proud getting that pin; it was one of my prized possessions. It is clear now that I never deserved it. There is poetic justice in its loss.



DANIEL HOFFMAN, COURTESY OF THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



Sinkyone Wilderness, looking north across Wolf Creek to Bear Harbor



COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Creek at Bear Harbor



WHEN PEOPLE STREAMED into California with the Gold Rush, some of them headed north to cut the primeval forest and start ranches and towns. The original redwood forests lasted for nearly a century before only remnant stands remained. The people who were there before, the Wailaki, Pomo, Mattole, Cahto, and others, did not survive for more than a generation, except in dispersed bands. Cut down one by one and in unknown massacres, the original people of northern California, out of sight of the rest of the world, were enslaved and murdered. Their children were stolen and their world was destroyed.

Even today, the story of these peoples' destruction is largely unknown. Northern Mendocino County was no more remote from white civilization than were the Great Plains or the Apache country, but the holocaust that happened in the redwood country never caught the popular imagination. Perhaps it was just too hard to see, what with giant trees, great rivers, leaping salmon, and all that gold downstate to block the view.

When the Coastal Conservancy became involved in Sinkyone, we did not start out

with any grand ideas about righting historical wrongs. The creation of an intertribal park, representing the homecoming of Indian people to the coastal redwood forest, was not on our minds. But as it turned out, we may have helped the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council to achieve some of this. We may also have helped to create some jobs for the future. Perhaps a few will even be woodworker jobs. Nonetheless, I am afraid I still will have lost my woodworker's pin, even if I eventually find it hidden in my sock drawer.

"The Sinkyone Promise" (*Coast & Ocean*, Summer 1987) told of the deal that led to the acquisition of over 7,000 acres in the extreme northwest corner of Mendocino County. Much of what was said in that article no longer applies. To many, including Don Nelson, the Sinkyone promise has been broken.

Ancient redwoods are greatly valued by multitudes for their beauty and spiritual quality; they also produce some of the world's best and most valuable lumber. In the early 1980s, the Sinkyone country—a rugged, extraordinarily beautiful stretch of the Lost Coast—was a battlefield in the "Redwood Wars." On one side were those

who wanted to keep on logging the Sinkyone. They said that their jobs depended on it, that the country needed the wood, and that the county—then as now hard-pressed financially—needed the tax revenues.

On the other side were those who viewed continued logging as a wanton waste of our natural heritage. They wanted to add 7,000 acres owned by the Georgia Pacific Corporation to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, in the process saving one of the area's last stands of old-growth redwoods. They called this stand the Sally Bell Grove, after an Indian woman who had survived a massacre and lived well into this century. They believed that the forest and streams could be restored and then rededicated to the Indian people. They had been fighting for this, both in and out of court.

This was serious stuff. People chained themselves to trees; many were arrested; and a lawsuit stopped Georgia Pacific's logging operations in the Sinkyone. There was much bitterness, even hatred, among the various groups.

Into this mess stepped Conservancy staffer Maxene Spellman and Peter Grenell, then the Conservancy's executive officer. At a Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting in March 1986, they got the Conservancy appointed mediator for the Sinkyone fight. We were charged with setting up a multiparty negotiating group to figure out what to do. Peter asked me to take the lead and work with Maxene.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national conservation group, soon got involved and quietly cut a deal with Georgia Pacific officials to option the property at a bargain price. The Conservancy, along

with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Save the Redwoods League, put up the money to close the deal. The negotiating group pretty much agreed to go along with the settlement that was reached.

About half the 7,100-acre property, along the coast, would be added to the state park. The other half, comprising upland slopes and only scattered big trees, would be put to productive use. The Conservancy, working with the negotiating group, would devise a plan for how this land would be managed and who would own it. It was after this agreement was reached that Don gave me the pin.

So the rest of this story has to do with the 3,900-acre upland. Although it may not be the best part of the 7,100 acres, not the land with the last big redwood stands or the Coastal Trail, its fate has proven to be the most compelling part of the Sinkyone saga that has played out over the past decade.

This property is long and narrow, roughly one by seven miles running north to south. It is very steep in places and cut by many canyons and gullies. Because much of it was clear-cut in recent years, there is more heavy brush and hardwood forest than there is redwood or Douglas fir, and the land is crisscrossed with old logging roads and skid trails. But much of it is beginning to regenerate, partly through natural processes and also due to Georgia Pacific's replanting. Conifers are shooting up from the brush.

This property includes the headwaters, tributaries, and part of the main stems of several creeks that run down to the state park. It includes riparian forest and wetlands. It is also habitat for many animal



TERRY SPREITER

Looking toward Mistake Point at the mouth of Little Jackass Creek. The Sally Bell Grove stands within this watershed.



Geologists David Burnson and Kelly Helstrom oversee the removal of a log haul road from the Sally Bell Grove. This was a top priority project in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

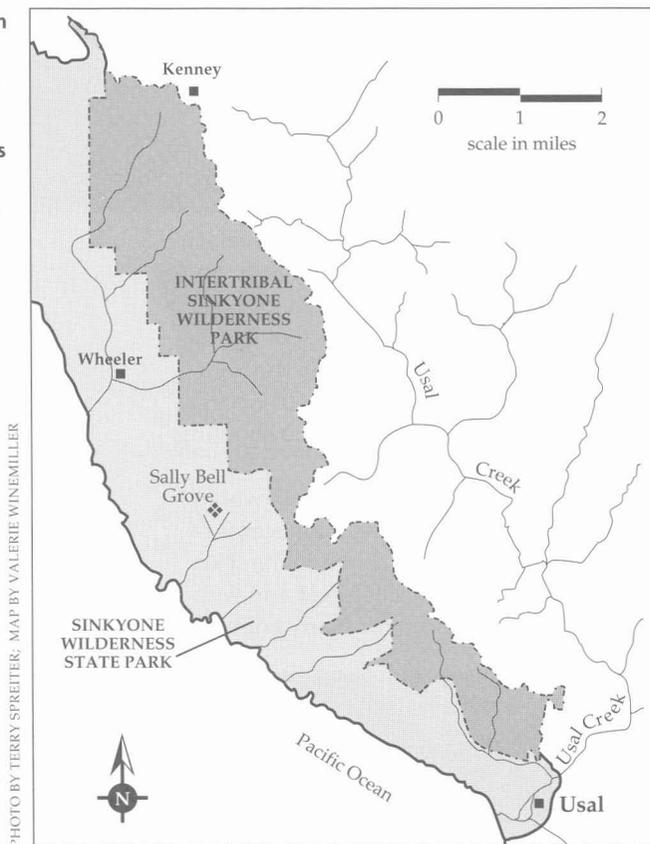


PHOTO BY TERRY SPREITER; MAP BY VALERIE WINEMILLER

species, from Roosevelt elk to banana slugs, ospreys to black bear.

The land is also supremely beautiful. The highest ridges rise more than 1,800 feet above the Pacific Ocean. One can look 50 miles north to Punta Gorda and the Kings Range, and to the south, even see the wisp of smoke coming from the Georgia Pacific mill in Fort Bragg. The ridges and valleys of the state park are in the immediate foreground.

Indian cultural remains are mostly ground to dust and part of the soil, water, and forest, yet one still feels the Indian presence. People lived in Sinkyone when the pyramids of Egypt were just a dream.

THE DEAL

When the Sinkyone transaction closed in 1986, we resigned ourselves to the deal as we saw it: The upland acres were to remain as industrial forest land. The primary use was definitely not for hikers, seekers of truth and wisdom, or anyone on the environmental side of the timber debate. That side had gotten the Sally Bell Grove, the Coastal Trail, and almost all the old growth. This land was to be for the other side.

It had been nip and tuck to reach even this compromise. The County Board of Supervisors, which had a firm policy that no more timber land should be taken out of production, had nearly disapproved the entire deal. Then state Senator Barry Keene and Assemblyman Dan Hauser supported the agreement, but only because there was to be a balanced approach. They might well have nixed funding had they not trusted that both the timber workers and the conservationists would get something.

Don Nelson, then the head of local woodworkers union, saw the deal the same way. During the negotiations that led to the property acquisition he had been the chief proponent of logging. He himself had cut many trees in Sinkyone. But in discussions he had been very reasonable, and he had risked much to agree to and, in fact, advocate the final agreement.

Some others in the negotiating group saw the deal differently, however. While they signed onto a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting the deal and calling for multiple use of the property, they were not always clear as to what this meant to them. Ruth Ann Cecil and Cecilia Lanman, who represented the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), agreed that multiple use would involve logging, but they were vague as to the extent and timing. They alluded to rotation periods much longer than industry standards. Julie Ver-ran of the Sierra Club, a long-time activist for Sinkyone, says that logging was never part of the deal.

Richard Gienger represented the Sinky-one Council, an ad hoc group of forest

activists, many of whom lived in Whale Gulch, a settlement just north of Sinkyone. Richard was an early and tenacious supporter of Sinkyone and deserves as much credit as anyone for its eventual fate. He hated the deal and never agreed to it.

Priscilla Hunter, a central character in this story and the Indian representative on the negotiating team, also signed the letter to the Board of Supervisors but believed that it only meant we would do more talking. She did not believe that the deal was clear at all.

To effect the agreement we thought we had, we began to map out a plan for the upland, with the intention that TPL would sell it on the open market in a year or so, and the Conservancy would get its money back. (The coastal portion was now owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation.) As I envisioned things, the land would go to investors—probably to some doctors from Cleveland who would make a bundle on tax breaks. They would hire a manager who would follow our plans, which would allow for intensive but careful logging. The Conservancy or another organization of our choice would retain a conservation and public-access easement. This permanent interest in the land would prevent the Doctors from Cleveland from cutting too much or from disturbing archeological sites, and would ensure that the public had access, including hunting access, a right which Georgia Pacific workers had always enjoyed.

When our plans were done in draft, I set out to sell them to members of the negotiating team. I thought that our consultants had done a good job and had developed a set of rules which would provide pretty good protection to the forest.

THE DEAL TAKES A TURN

At about the time the Sinkyone property was purchased, ten federally recognized tribes formed the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. Its goal was to acquire Sinkyone land for an intertribal park. Priscilla Hunter was and is its chairwoman, representing the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

I first met Priscilla in a small coffee shop in Ukiah. This was before the InterTribal Council was formed but after she had been appointed to the negotiating committee. She was also a member of the State Native American Heritage Commission. Maxene and I bought her lunch. She seemed pleased. I figured the Indians' issues would be peripheral. We would protect the archeological sites and they would think it was fine. Priscilla talked slowly and did not seem particularly knowledgeable about legal bureaucratic stuff. For a long time I did not see her depth and great intelligence. I didn't understand that she is a formidable guardian of her people and the land, and that she cannot be co-opted. I did not anticipate her opposition to logging.

At our first meeting she said nothing about an intertribal park. This idea came up at the next-to-last negotiating committee meeting before the deal was struck and the property was acquired. Ricardo Tapia, an Indian activist who had been party to the lawsuit that had tied up logging at Sinkyone, proposed such a park, but did not give much detail. I did not take the idea very seriously at the time.

Well after the deal closed, and well after my first meeting with Ricardo, it happened



Bear Harbor Beach,
Sinkyone Wilderness
State Park



TERRY SPREITER

Excavator restoring a hillside contour in Sinkyone state park.

that the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council was holding a gathering at Sinkyone. Priscilla invited me. I accepted, thinking this would be a good time to bring out the plans and maps and begin my salesmanship. Notwithstanding some talk about the intertribal park, I was still somewhat clueless about any real Indian opposition to the deal as we saw it.

To me, this gathering became a turning point. Together with many subsequent political tides, it turned the deal on its head.

Perhaps 50 people were present when I arrived Friday night. Tents had been set up in the state park campground near Usal Creek, food was being prepared, and a campfire was going. There were several Indian dance groups. I was pretty comfortable. That was to change the next day.

Around dusk Saturday I sat down in the grass, surrounded by interested and intent listeners, virtually everyone at the gathering. I spread the draft plans and maps—beautiful hand-drawn maps—on the ground and began to explain the deal, feeling confident and prepared. I went through the realities of state and local politics and the difficulty of reaching the compromise. I was even ready to offer a place for an intertribal park—a few acres down near the state park, maybe also some inholdings in the main upland, some of the “no cut” stream areas, and the archeological sites. Then Coyote and Ricardo Tapia stepped into the picture.

I don’t remember Ricardo’s words, something about the trees being their relatives. He didn’t think much of my plans and did

not think that I understood much about what Indian people wanted. He did not literally tear up my maps, but he lifted them and moved them away, waving his hand in a dismissive gesture.

Then Coyote sat down across from me, just a few feet away. I had met him a few times, but didn’t know much about him. I had noticed earlier that he was held in great respect by this particular gathering. He has intense eyes that can be piercing. His speech is slow and almost slurred at times, his voice soft-edged even when he is angry and has raised it a notch.

It was Coyote and I and 50 intent listeners. For half an hour, without interruptions, he talked about history, genocide, the destruction of forests and the land. I wanted to rebut with the iron-clad nature of the deal, but he gave no opening and held my gaze for the entire time he spoke. Much of what he said was a ramble, and some of it was incoherent. But I could not counter it. He ended with the firm statement that no trees should be cut in Sinkyone—none. It would be genocide.

Looking back, I now think of that hour with Coyote and Ricardo as one of the most memorable of my life. I made my way back to my tent in a state of shock. I remember feeling very much alone and at a loss that night. My tent was set off from the group, beside the stump of an ancient redwood, by a small stream. The summer fog came in, bringing cold and quiet. Lying in my sleeping bag, I knew I had to regain some initiative. We were to meet again the next morning. With some trepidation, I decided that I would use my trump card.

After breakfast, we again settled on the ground in a circle. Coyote again started talking about how my tribe—meaning all European people—had committed genocide on his tribe. I countered with an account of the travails of my people, the Jewish people, from the expulsion from Spain to the Holocaust. My tribe had done nothing to his and was itself the victim of genocide. I am not sure whether or not I gained anything from this gambit, but it gave me back a modicum of the rhetorical initiative. We ended the morning session with Coyote asking me to make the deal happen in another way, without cutting more trees.

I took a long walk up an old haul road that runs into the heart of Sinkyone. When I got back, there was one more short meeting.



I told Coyote that I would look for alternatives—realizing even then that as far as Don Nelson was concerned, the deal we had already made *was* the alternative. But Don had not sat through the past 12 hours, listening to Coyote and thinking about the Indian situation. I told myself I would find a solution that even Don would like.

NEW PATHS EMERGE

From that point on it was clear to me that the Indian community would not accept the deal as I or Don Nelson saw it. If we pressed for an early sale of the upland there would be trouble. I investigated various alternatives, to no avail. In the meantime, timber talk on the North Coast was changing, and so were politics. In Humboldt County, many people continued to get arrested in demonstrations to stop old-growth logging. In Mendocino County, Liz Henry was elected to the Board of Supervisors and was willing to listen to new ideas.

Don Nelson, no longer head of the woodworkers union, was busy exploring new directions. He was on the Forest Advisory Committee for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and had also, with others, formed the nonprofit Mendocino Forest Conservation Trust, which aimed, among other things, to acquire or at least manage the Sinkyone upland property. It became a rival to the InterTribal Council.

I had many other duties at the Conservancy, but kept a lookout for a way to carry out the deal we had made. I also helped the InterTribal Council get Conservancy funding for work on Indian history, but I still did not believe that the Council's goal of an intertribal park was achievable—not if it had a no-cut policy. The deal may have been vague, but to me selling the land to a strictly preservationist group was not possible. This changed in 1991, when I met Hawk Rosales, the Council's new coordinator.

Like many of the people involved in Sinkyone, Hawk is exceedingly complex. He is a horseman, saddle maker, tree planter, former Stanford student, and plays the violin. He harbors both compassion and anger. He is true to his cause and works very hard. Along with Priscilla and other members of the InterTribal Council, he pulled off a minor miracle in the next four years.

Hawk and I listened to each other. He and Priscilla Hunter continued to work with the

Indian community, and also with influential environmentalists, to build momentum for the InterTribal Park. This work required delicacy, especially for Hawk, a young man. (He was around 30 when I met him.) Because the Indian community is very deferential to elders, Hawk could only suggest and explain. The elders and the InterTribal Council board had the final say.

Eventually, the Council clarified its position on forestry: There could be restoration forestry. The pre-European forest had had well-spaced big trees. Sinkyone was now choked with vegetation, largely the result of years of clear-cutting. It would need to be thinned.

Thinning would only be done for the sake of the forest's health, however. Hawk and Priscilla insisted that economic gain could not be a motive in the InterTribal Park. There might be some monetary gains from the thinning, or from other projects, but never would economic incentives guide any actions. The park could provide employment, empowerment, and education. It would provide young people with work to restore Indian land for the good of all people, thereby learning new skills. Indian culture and history would be taught, as well as natural history and land restoration. I began to see that Hawk and Priscilla and the others on the InterTribal Council meant what they said and had the strength and character to pull it off.

Had Don Nelson and the Forest Conservation Trust come up with the funds to buy the upland in the early 1990s, the outcome of this project would have been very different. They did not. In many ways they were outgunned by the InterTribal Council—a historic turnaround of sorts. Don had good intentions and the "deal" to back him up. The Council had Hawk, Priscilla, and others working full time to establish their vision and raise funds. They played their hand with increasing confidence and support. Hawk made contacts with private foundations and with both Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. The Bay Area Friends of Sinkyone, an ad hoc support group, was established. Indians and others starting working on the land and assisting the Conservancy in our work. Through the State Department of Forestry, the federal government awarded the InterTribal Council a grant to develop a forest stewardship plan. The



Conservancy came through with matching funds as well as additional money for inventories of natural resources on the land.

We had come to see the intertribal park as the right answer for the entire property, not just a few acres, and were now actively working with the InterTribal Council to bring it about. Both the Conservancy and TPL threw out our original schedule for sale of the upland. We were willing to give the Council the time it needed. This would turn out to be over 10 years.

Letters began to flow in from all over California, then from out of state, then from Norway and Germany and Japan—nearly 1,000 letters in all, including some from entire classes in various schools, all supporting the intertribal park. The InterTribal Council began to receive grants from foundations and individuals around the country. Don's Forest Conservation Trust could not match this progress.

As the InterTribal Park vision caught on, I saw that the political structure at both the state and local level would probably go along. Sure, the InterTribal Council was not exactly the Doctors from Cleveland, but it had agreed that some level of thinning would have to be done. This would mean jobs and perhaps even trees going to local mills.

Then there was the larger picture. This would be the first intertribal park in the country. It would attract ecotourism. But even more important, this would be a new chapter in history, a step toward redressing

some of the gruesome past. Indian people would be working to restore this land. Together with others, including educators and scientists, they would bring back some of what had been lost. Indian children would have pride and hope, instead of being tied to government assistance or the burgeoning casino industry.

I broke the news to Don and the Mendocino Forest Conservation Trust, telling them that the InterTribal Council was the favored party to buy the land. This did not go over well.

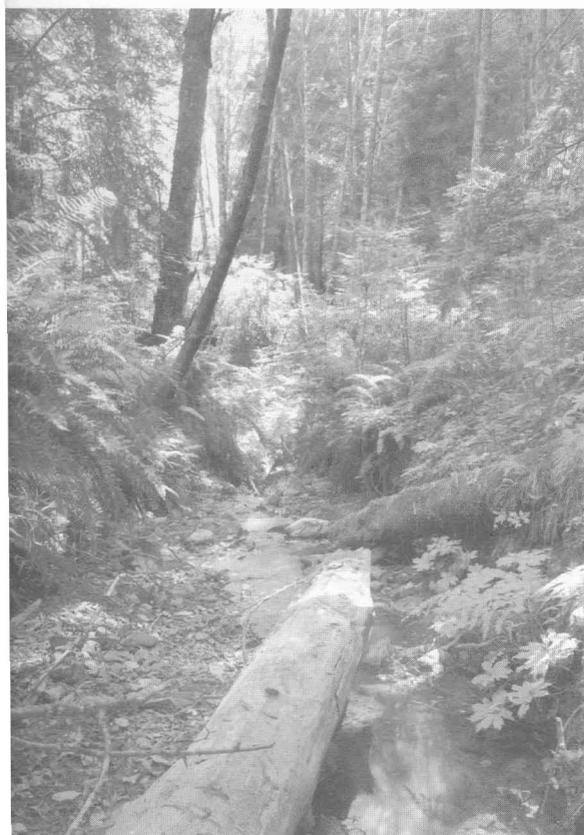
At the end of 1994, the County Board of Supervisors approved the intertribal park concept 5-0. Unlike 1986, when their concern was that land not be taken out of production, they now seemed more concerned with overproduction. Don Nelson showed up to express his anger and frustration over the course of events.

Now it was up to the Conservancy to make a choice. The uplands had to be sold so that we could get back the money we had lent. I had prepared a staff recommendation that the InterTribal Council's offer to buy a purchase option be accepted. On March 20, 1995, the Coastal Conservancy met in Fort Bragg's City Hall, which was packed with some 200 people, nearly all in support of the land's return to the Indians. Richard Gienger was there, and Coyote, Priscilla, and all the others who had carried the vision for Sinkyone. Don and a few others were there to oppose. They were not reticent or temperate in their criticism of the Conservancy or of me.

The debate lasted five hours, the longest project debate in the Conservancy's 20-year history. Many of those who spoke urged that the land be given to the Indians rather than sold. But I knew that the Conservancy could not afford to forgo the return of the funds it had lent to TPL to make the 7,100-acre Sinkyone acquisition possible. This money was needed for many other important projects along the 1,100-mile California coast.

At the end of the debate, however, Carl Williams, recently appointed chairman of the Coastal Commission and, in that capacity, a member of the Conservancy, moved that we authorize the sale of the property to the InterTribal Council for one dollar. This was a shocker and almost nixed the deal for that day. The audience exploded with shouts of approval, but no board member seconded the motion. Board member Margaret Azevedo suggested that we sell the uplands at a reduced rate. Only Carl joined her. Penny Allen, our chair, and Fred Klass, from the Department of Finance, held out for full payment.

Michael Fischer, the Conservancy's executive officer, saved the day by suggesting a compromise: approve a sale for \$1.4 million (this price, which had been agreed to by the InterTribal Council, included planning costs but not Conservancy staff or holding costs), but consider lowering the price at a later meeting if the InterTribal Council could not



LARA HATA

Creeks will be restored for salmon.



Looking north toward
Whale Gulch

raise the funds. The board approved and gave the Council up to three years to come up with \$1.4 million to buy the entire 3,900 acres.

The Conservancy also granted \$2 million to the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), a North Coast nonprofit organization, to purchase a conservation easement on the entire property. This easement, conceived by PFT and agreed to by the InterTribal Council and TPL, was much stronger than any that had been originally anticipated by the Conservancy. We eventually agreed that it would be best for the future. The easement is very strict in the near term, allowing only minimal commercial thinning. Only well into the next century, when the forest will have regrown, will more active commercial logging be allowable, and even then an old growth structure must be maintained throughout the entire property. No logging is required. The easement prohibits most other commercial activities on the land, but does allow a native plant nursery, horse packing operations, and traditional structures for cultural gatherings and tourism.

Now the question was: Could the InterTribal Council raise the money? They had raised \$100,000 for the option, mainly from small contributions, but the remaining \$1.3 million? It was a cliff-hanger.

To many people's surprise, by September 1996 the necessary funds had been secured. Although a few issues remain to be resolved, the Lannan Foundation of Los Angeles has agreed to grant the money needed to enable the Indians to buy the land. Within the next few months, the InterTribal Council should officially own 3,900 acres of Sinkyone wilderness.

I am very pleased at the outcome of the Sinkyone project, with its great possibilities for the future. I hope to return to Sinkyone many times in the coming years, to watch the Sinkyone InterTribal Wilderness Park vision be realized, but mainly just to see the trees grow.

I remain disturbed by the loss of my woodworkers pin. The support of Don Nelson and the union for the 1986 deal opened the way for the intertribal park, probably now to their chagrin. They have been vilified over the years for their opposition, but they just wanted to keep the deal they thought they made. That they now feel betrayed, especially by me, is not the way I hoped things would turn out.

In the end, however, the intertribal park may turn out to be close to the "deal." The conservation easement does not allow much current logging, yet there is very little left to cut on the upland. After the forest regrows, by the mid-21st century, the land could support continuous harvesting at a higher level than is now possible. This would have only minimal impacts on the ecosystem due to the strict conservation easement on which the InterTribal Council and the Pacific Forest Trust insisted. But such selective logging may never come to pass, given the opposition of the current InterTribal Council.

Only the future can say what the end result of this project will be. Nonetheless, I am sure that the future of Sinkyone, a future neither Don nor I will see, is in good hands. ■

Neal Fishman is the Coastal Conservancy's legislative coordinator and a long-time project analyst.



THE VISION AND THE WORK

BY THE INTERTRIBAL SINKYONE
WILDERNESS COUNCIL

WHEN THE Indian community became involved in Sinkyone again in the 1980s, after our removal from this landscape 150 years ago, it became clear that it was time to organize as a tribal entity to protect the Sinkyone area and Mother Earth from further destruction, and to develop a tribal park where Indian peoples could practice their traditional ways.

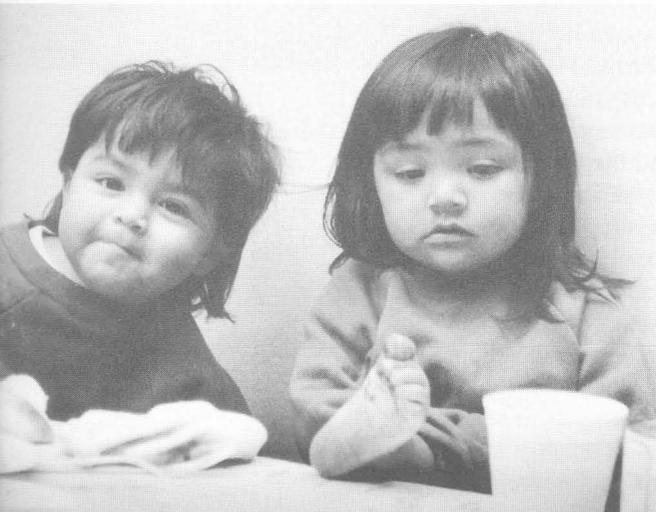
California Indian traditions have been endangered and eroded after the massacres and the clear-cutting of the redwood forests. The International Indian Treaty Council was a co-plaintiff in the 1985 Sally Bell lawsuit, *EPIC v. Johnson*, which put an end to logging at Sinkyone. The vision of the InterTribal Park came about at this time. Its essential elements have never changed.

In 1986 the Georgia Pacific Corporation sold 7,100 acres of its holdings, of which 3,200 acres were added to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The remaining 3,900 acres, known as the Upland Parcel, were bought by the Trust for Public Land with a loan from the Coastal Conservancy. In December 1986, tribes from this area formed the InterTribal Sinkyone

Wilderness Council and charged the Council with developing a plan to acquire, restore, preserve, and use this land in a way that would be consistent with traditional cultural practices. The Council consists of official delegates appointed by nine member tribes and two supporting tribes. Some tribal members can trace their lineage to original Sinkyone families. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is directly responsible to our member tribes.

At least four or five tribes lived within the area now known as Sinkyone—which was much more vast than the land so called today; it stretched roughly from Usal in the south to the Mattole River in the north, and from the Pacific Ocean to the south fork of the Eel River. These tribes were Wailaki (Athapaskan)-speaking, and they lived here continuously for thousands of years. The Sinkyone peoples were almost entirely eradicated within 40 years of the first contact with European settlers. Survivors joined other tribes at Round Valley, the Mendocino Reservation in Fort Bragg, and throughout Mendocino and Humboldt Counties.

At an intertribal gathering
in Sinkyone



KAREN EZEKIEL

At the formation of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council in 1986, we felt that the court's decision to halt logging in the Sinkyone should apply to the entire 7,100 acres that had been held by Georgia Pacific, and that all this land needed to be protected in perpetuity.

Now, ten years later, we have achieved our goal of protecting Sinkyone. The InterTribal Park represents the first time on this continent that several tribes have come together to create an intertribal park and save a large piece of land as a traditional native-use wilderness. Also unique is the alliance that has evolved here between native people and local environmentalists. Both are very dedicated to the Sinkyone movement, and that is how we have come this far.

On September 9, 1996, the InterTribal Council bought from the Trust for Public Land a \$100,000 option for purchasing the 3,900-acre Upland Parcel. While the option technically gives the Council 18 months to come up with the \$1.3 million balance of the total \$1.4 million purchase price, we expect to complete the purchase no later than early 1997. Along with the \$100,000 raised by the Council through public donations and foundation grants, a commitment from the Lannan Foundation for the \$1.3 million balance will enable us to gain title to this land.

We were prepared to do whatever it took to save the land and this was the key. Priscilla Hunter, founder and current chairwoman of the Council, was involved in this effort long before the InterTribal Council was formed. She and others had experience and expertise in organizing communities, identifying needs for programs and funding, and negotiating successfully with state agencies and others who had a stake in the Sinkyone. Hawk Rosales, executive director, started with the Council in 1990 as a volunteer. He has had training in administration, management of a nonprofit organization, and grant writing by working with the Council.

Each successive step toward our goal has brought more people into the effort. The Council sponsors gatherings on the land, where the people can come together and enjoy the beauty of our Mother Earth, sing and dance the traditional ways, and bring a healing spirit and smiles to our elders and youth. At these gatherings everyone can learn what is happening and how to become involved. People have begun considering what their role will be in the park. Local

tribal members are also visiting the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park more frequently.

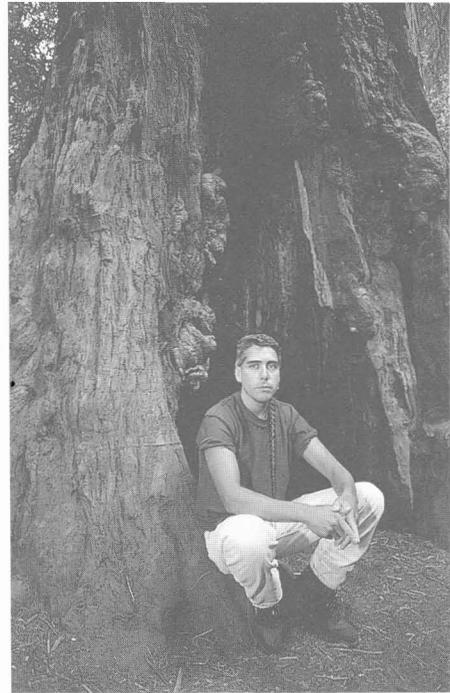
Our elders tell us what they remember about Sinkyone. Edna Guerrero, Potter Valley Pomo, related how every summer, after hops had been gathered, her family's wagons would go to Usal to gather abalone and seaweed, to catch salmon and smoke it right there in their camp. Waikiki Elder Della Womach, though very young, drove a team of horses. Ira Campbell, Edna's nephew and chief of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, recalls that the fishing at Usal was beautiful and that he especially liked the way people fished for everyone, not just themselves: the Indian way.

Della Womach remembers using grinding rocks to smash acorns for making soup and bread. She remembers the dances and the good times. She also remembers Sally Bell, who as a five-year-old child saw her entire family massacred at a place called Needle Rock, and who lived into old age in the Sinkyone forest. Della's parents cared for Sally Bell in her last years.

Around campfires by Usal Creek, people still talk about the ruthless attacks on our giant redwood elders that accelerated in the 1950s when heavy machinery was brought in for clear-cutting. The resulting soil erosion and fisheries degradation continues even now, ten years after logging was stopped.

At our gatherings and many meetings, we have discussed the real work that lies ahead. Some of it is staring us in the face: everyone can see that salmon and steelhead are gone from the silted-in streams. Therefore we pursued and obtained funding from the Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service to assess the land's current condition and begin stabilizing slopes and stream banks, put in stream barriers to hold back the silt, and build jumps and pools for salmon. Two years ago the Department of Fish and Game determined that coho salmon were again present in Wolf (Jackass) Creek.

In one large ecosystem assessment we plotted areas in which trees were counted and their species, sizes, and conditions recorded. This information has been digitized for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) computerized mapping to be used for future land planning. In the last five years we hired more than 35 people, Indian and non-Indian, for Sinkyone projects on InterTribal Park land and in the state park. We know that our



PHIL SCHERMEISTER

Hawk Rosales





RASA GUSTAITIS

Cooking breakfast

strong ties to the land have helped us to accomplish our landmark success.

The forest is growing back, but brush and hardwood species, rather than redwoods, are dominant. We will work to reestablish the original balance. Our elders have told us that "you could see through the trees" in the old days, that the redwood forest wasn't dense with undergrowth. Our people managed land with controlled burns to allow certain medicine and basketry plants to emerge and grow. They manicured tan oaks for maximum health and productivity, acorns being a staple food source. We have to look at the relation our people had with the land and try to reestablish this relation for future generations.

Future Sinkyone restoration projects will depend on a broad spectrum of funding sources. The Council currently depends on grants and government contracts for operating its programs. In the future we will develop appropriate enterprises that will help to cover the cost of park management. Eventually, reliable long-term sources of funding can support the park.

Some income will come from projects we undertake on the land. We will construct a native plant nursery and use local seeds for replanting because of their genetic integrity. Some seedlings will eventually be available for sale as well. People are now seeking out manzanita and other beautiful native bushes and trees that are drought-, fire-, and disease-resistant and suitable for landscaping. We can grow these. But we will also propagate some plants for cultural uses only, and these will not be for sale.

Some income will come from guided

tours of the land and from meal-provision, but we must be careful not to impact any areas negatively. Llamas and horses will be used to pack in people and their supplies, but only in certain zones and along certain trails. The park will be open for camping to local people who are members of the Council through their tribes, but there will be no permanent occupancy. We are developing a management plan that will set forth the uses and activities allowed within the context of restoring the natural balance of Sinkyone's very complex ecosystem.

Three public trails will traverse the width of the property and connect with the state parks trail system. Beyond these the public will be allowed on the land only at the Council's discretion. This is a California Indian cultural preserve. The public trails provision is part of the Coastal Conservancy's requirement for our purchase of the land, as is limited hunting. Twelve hunting permits will be issued annually, through a blind lottery system, to Mendocino County residents. There is a proviso that if hunting interferes with the health and well-being of the natural resources, public safety, or cultural activities, it will be suspended until those matters are resolved.

We have worked to create an intertribal park that will be a living wilderness area where we can practice our traditional culture in a traditional environment. We have succeeded, and others can too. To share the good news of Sinkyone we have traveled widely, even to the island of Hokkaido, Japan, in 1993 at the invitation of the indigenous Ainu people, to participate in benefit events that raised money for our land.

Mother Earth is home to all people, so all people have a responsibility to protect some part of the natural world from destruction before it is too late. Sinkyone is an important part of our heritage, as are Headwaters Forest and all other wilderness areas where some of the natural world is still intact. The beauty of these places speaks to us, and the land asks for our help because we are a part of it. ■

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council can be reached by mail at 190 Ford Road #333, Ukiah, CA 95482. Tel.: (707) 463-6745. A 46-minute documentary video about the Sinkyone land struggle, "The Run to Save Sinkyone," is available from the Council for \$30.



Is California Starving the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg?

RASA GUSTAITIS

MENTION CALIFORNIA anywhere in the world and what comes to mind are wide sandy beaches, mountains plunging into the ocean, redwood forests in the mist, and people at play in the surf and sun. Californians tend to dismiss this mythic image of their state as a cliché, but they assume they have an inalienable right to enjoy all it describes, especially their coast.

As the number of Californians and visitors keeps growing, however, and inventing ever more ways to enjoy parks and beaches, signs of trouble are mounting:

- Agencies responsible for coastal recreation are pushed to their limits by increasing demand, while budgets fall far short of needs.
- Recreational facilities are deteriorating.
- Intense recreational use is straining the carrying capacity of some coastal parks and preserves.
- Funds to acquire new recreational lands are depleted.
- New forms of recreation have intensified user conflicts.
- After state park fees were raised in 1990, attendance dropped. In 1995 it was still below 1987 levels.

Considering the importance of coastal recreation to its citizens' well-being and to the state's economy, it seems that the goose that has laid the golden egg for California is now malnourished.

The magnificent coast has shaped both the state's culture and its economy. It is the foundation of the state's multi-billion dollar

travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation industry. The California Department of Tourism reports 48 million visitors from other states, plus 9.1 million from abroad, plus 232 million trips of 50 miles or more by California residents in 1995. Most head for the coast during at least some of their vacations, there spending money and thereby supporting jobs and businesses by the ways they relax and play. A huge outdoor recreation industry looks to California as a trend setter. Now, however, all this is being undermined by insufficient attention to the needs of coastal recreation facilities today and in the future.

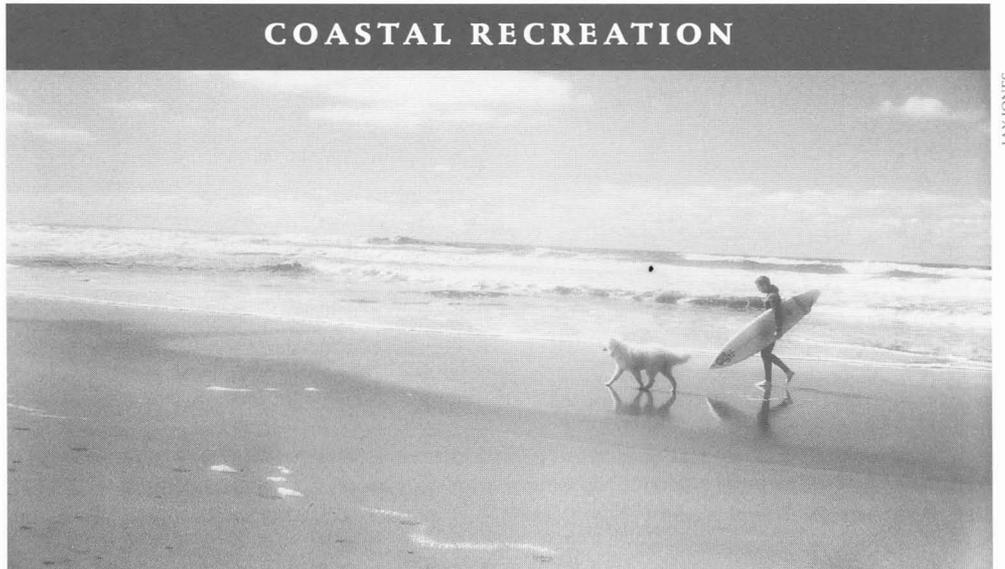
STATE PARKS IN DISTRESS

The agency most directly responsible for coastal recreation is the State Parks Department, which owns about 250 miles of the state's 1,100-mile coast. Others include the Department of Fish and Game, which has a



Huntington Beach

COASTAL RECREATION



JAY JONES

Ocean Beach, San Francisco

COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



Left: Deep Flight is a personal submarine, designed to be as easy to operate as a car. It's a prototype, designed by Deep Ocean Engineering, in San Leandro. Eventually, submersible vehicles for one or two people may make the deep ocean much more accessible. Right: Paragliding off coastal bluffs is increasingly popular.



network of coastal wildlife refuges, the National Park Service, the Coastal Conservancy, and local governments. All are straining to do more with diminished budgets.

Five years ago, after the legislature sharply cut the State Parks budget, the department began to charge entry fees in areas that had been free of charge, and raised fees elsewhere. The fee increases failed to bring in as much income as had been projected, and were followed by a drop in attendance. It appears that they have made the parks less accessible to some citizens. The department's current budget (about the same for the past two years but smaller in terms of buying power) is insufficient to provide for basic maintenance such as replacing old restrooms and electrical systems, and repair of parking lots and roofs. Neglect now translates into higher replacement costs later. For acquisitions, the Department has only \$3.1 million this fiscal year, and most of that is restricted to habitat conservation.

Only the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division is well-funded: it gets a percentage of the gasoline tax, and that money pot has been filling with every new car on a California road. The OHV Division, which operates seven parks, has \$10.4 million in 1996-97 for acquisitions and capital outlay—roughly the same amount as the state park system has for all 261 other parks.

To keep its head above water, State Parks is now looking into possibilities of corporate sponsorship. Director Donald Murphy would like it to be near-invisible. He says sponsors will not be permitted to put up any signs in parks with their names or logos. Others warn, however, that once the door to commercialization is cracked open, it tends to open wider. They point to the

Olympics, to the sale of the name of San Francisco's Candlestick Park, now 3-Com Park, and to the way sponsors of the Public Broadcasting System have assumed an ever higher profile, until it is hard to tell the difference between their PBS messages and TV commercials.

A bill to permit corporate sponsorship in National Parks failed to pass in Congress this year, but is sure to resurface. Arguing against the concept, 21 major environmental organizations stated that this "inherently commercial activity . . . is inconsistent with the fundamental idea behind America's National Park System." They also warned that financial gains thus produced could easily be offset by decreased appropriations. Opposing the bill in an editorial, *The Washington Post* noted that "it's precisely to escape the world of corporate logos that people go to the parks." A better way to raise money might be to require park concessionaires to submit to competitive bidding, suggested Mike Clark, executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and Michael Fischer, president of the Yosemite Restoration Trust.

In an effort to cut costs, State Parks is now reviewing its policies on concessions, and is looking for ways to team up with other agencies and citizens groups, as well as with business organizations. Murphy has launched the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, which includes representatives of recreational manufacturing industries, user groups, and public agencies. Its purpose is to promote "quality, sustainable recreation" cost-effectively. Yet none of this will make up for the lack of adequate public funding, which is causing California's irreplaceable parklands to slide downhill.

That Californians value their parks was shown by a telephone survey conducted for State Parks in June 1996. Of 600 people interviewed, 94 percent agreed that state parks were a valuable public resource, 78 percent said they had visited a state park in the past year, and 75 percent thought it was important for government to fund parks. Murphy stresses that the parks' true value far exceeds their economic value (see interview p. 24). Still, an economic argument is helpful when competing for funds. The department therefore conducted a study to assess the impact of non-local visitors on local economies. The study showed that 66 million non-local visitors to the park system's 268 units spent over \$1.6 million during 1990-93, and that these expenditures generated \$4 billion in sales, or \$2 billion in total income, or fiscal support for the equivalent of 62,000 full-time jobs.

NEW WAYS TO PLAY

Some of those new jobs are in industries spawned by new forms of recreation, including mountain biking, personal watercraft use (Jet Skiing), and the use of assorted boards towed by personal watercraft. Such sports have a larger impact on natural resources than, say, hiking and birdwatching, and they place new demands on coastal parks. They are also backed by industries, whose demands might be more powerful (as were the demands of OHV users) than those of hikers and birdwatchers, many of whom require nothing more than binoculars, windbreakers, and comfortable shoes.

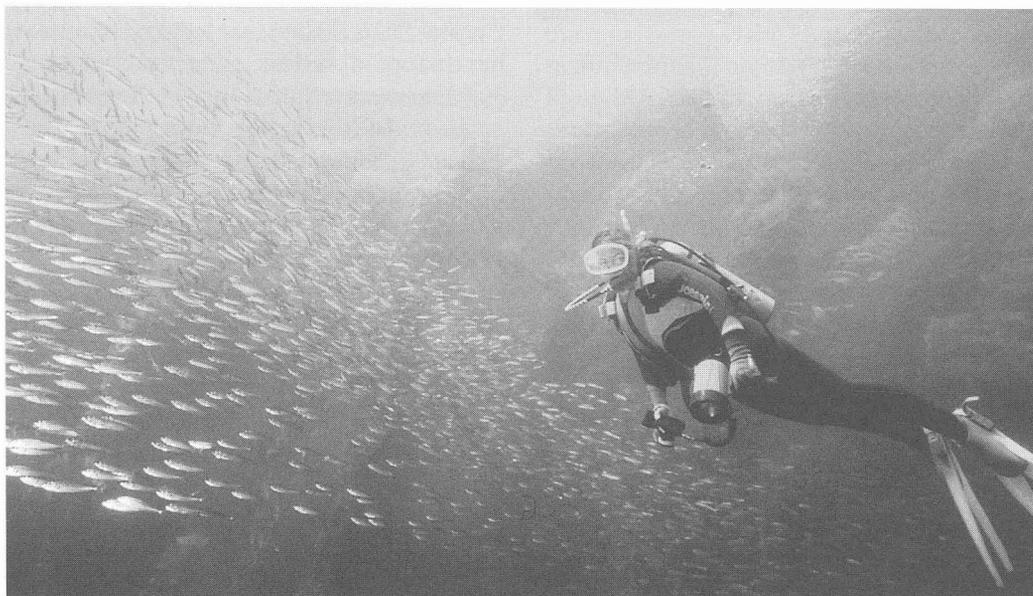


DONALD HILBUN

Mountain biking started in the 1970s with a few people in Marin County tinkering with bicycles to adapt them to trails on Mt. Tamalpais. It is now a popular form of recreation around the world, backed by a \$4 billion industry of bikes, tires, parts, accessories, clothing, other gear, at least a dozen glossy magazines, other publications, and a voice in public policy-making. Some 40 cycling clubs in California are affiliated with the International Mountain Bicycling Association, which works to expand access to trails, to educate members about proper trail behavior, and to resolve conflicts with land-management agencies and other trail users, especially hikers and equestrians. Tim Blumenthal, executive director of the association, says "We consider IMBA to be a conservation group, much like Surfrider Foundation."

Windsurfers off Crissy Field, on San Francisco Bay

Controversies raised by users of personal watercraft are more difficult to resolve. According to Mark Denny, government



KENNETH J. HOWARD

Diver with schooling mackerel, Channel Islands

affairs supervisor of the International Jet-sports Boating Association, these small power vessels are a \$1.1 billion industry (not counting parts and gear), the most rapidly growing segment of the boating industry. Between 1989 and 1995, the number purchased in the United States rose from 29,000 to 200,000. Some resemble aquatic scooters, but most now being sold are designed to carry two or three people. The larger models can tow waterskiers or various boards (kneeboards, wakeboards) that use the wake of the craft to get airborne and do stunts.

Not only are these new powertoys loud, they frighten swimmers, disturb fishers and kayakers, and scatter wildlife. "They move so fast they can be upon you in no time;

many for Elkhorn Slough or Tomales Bay? What is the parks' carrying capacity?

As new sports compete for the special access they need, the cumulative impacts of other, less assertive users, are mounting. Paragliders fight for the right to use take-off points that work for their sport, sometimes to the annoyance of hang gliders, while skateboarders from near and far flock to California's urban waterfronts, annoying people who don't like to see chipped concrete. Dog walkers exercise their pets under the censorious eyes of birdwatchers who know that having to take flight repeatedly during feeding time disturbs already stressed shorebirds. Californians continue to invent new ways to enjoy their coast, and to value its wild nature, but there is only so much coast there for all to share.

Back in 1972, when citizens noticed that private development was blocking off public access, they initiated and passed Proposition 21, the "Save Our Coast" voter initiative, which created the California Coastal Commission and led to the drafting of a Coastal Plan. This plan was embodied in the landmark 1976 Coastal Act, which provides that "oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development" wherever a present or future recreational need is perceived.

"I have wondered what, exactly, this statute means," comments Mark Massara, an attorney specializing in coastal issues and the Sierra Club's coastal program chair. "What does it require of developers and citizens?"

If there is an answer, it lies in the Local Coastal Plans (LCPs) that local governments have adopted, as directed by the Coastal Act. Each was required to provide public access and address recreational needs. The Coastal Commission reviewed these plans one by one, but has not compiled the information they contain into any major coast-wide overview of recreational needs.

Will Californians continue to enjoy the coastal pleasures they now have available, and to support one of the state's biggest industries? That depends, in large part, on who gets into the action and wins the resource distribution battles now under way. ■

Hal Hughes, Nelia Forest, and Karen Rust contributed to this article.

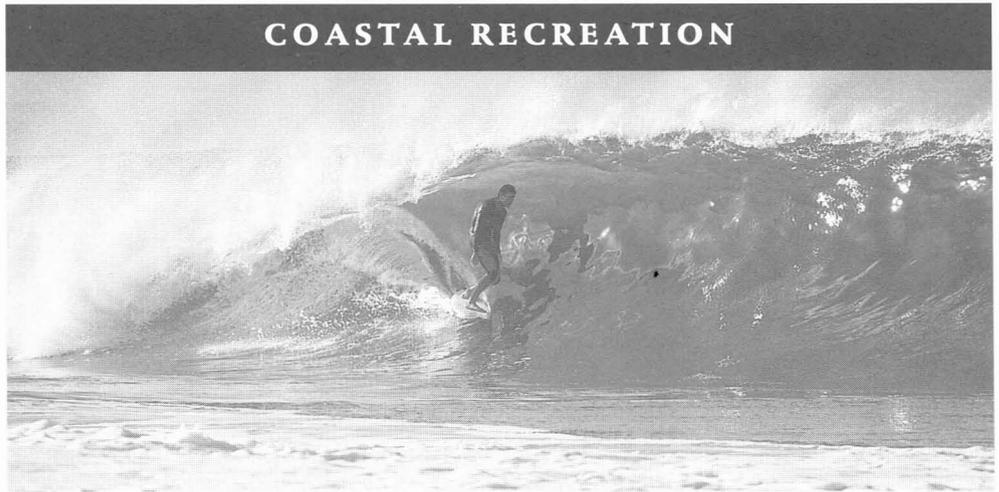
JULIA McIVER



Coastal travelers along Big Sur will soon have a new spot to stop, picnic, and watch wildlife. The Coastal Conservancy has acquired 24 acres 50 miles south of Carmel, west of the town of Gorda, and is funding access improvements along with habitat protection. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is about to build public access facilities on four acres next to the highway. From here, visitors can try to spot nesting peregrine falcons and look down on beaches where elephant seals lounge.

you're not sure they see you," said a San Francisco rough water swimmer. Although they make up only 13 percent of registered vessels in this state, personal watercraft were involved in 42 percent of all boating accidents and 46 percent of the injuries in 1995, according to the Department of Boating and Waterways. A bill by Senator Mike Thompson to make unsafe and reckless use of these vehicles a misdemeanor has been vetoed by Governor Pete Wilson.

How to accommodate personal watercraft users without destroying the coastal experience for others? Should artificial reefs be constructed to accommodate the surfers that now crowd the breaks? How many kayakers—no matter how careful—are too



MIKE BALZER

A Matter of Wave Rights

GARY TAYLOR

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED project ready to unfold in Los Angeles's South Bay, an artificial reef is to be constructed for the sole purpose of improving surfing conditions. If, as its sponsors hope, it becomes a prototype for more of the same, that never-ending search for the perfect wave could someday require little more than a drive to the home beach.

"It's the fantasy of every surfer," says Dave Skelly, lead engineer for the project, which is sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation with funding from Chevron USA, Inc. "So far, nobody in the world has built a submerged breakwater in the surf zone with the sole intention of creating a surfbreak."

More important, this manmade surfbreak may emerge as a monument to surfers' power to wield significant influence over coastal development decisions in California and beyond. The working title of the project is Pratte's Reef, in honor of the late Tom Pratte, cofounder of the Surfrider Foundation. Pratte spearheaded the successful campaign to require the oil company to mitigate damage to surfing conditions attributed to an underwater construction project in El Segundo. Known for his relentless missions to protect surf-related coastal resources, Pratte was "the Ralph Nader of surfing," says Jake Grubb, former executive director of Surfrider. He believed that waves favored by surfers should be considered natural resources and be subject to legal protection.

In 1983, when Pratte heard Chevron was planning to build a groin and backfill it with sand to protect pipelines exposed by severe winter storms in 1982-83, he knew the popular surfing area at the foot of

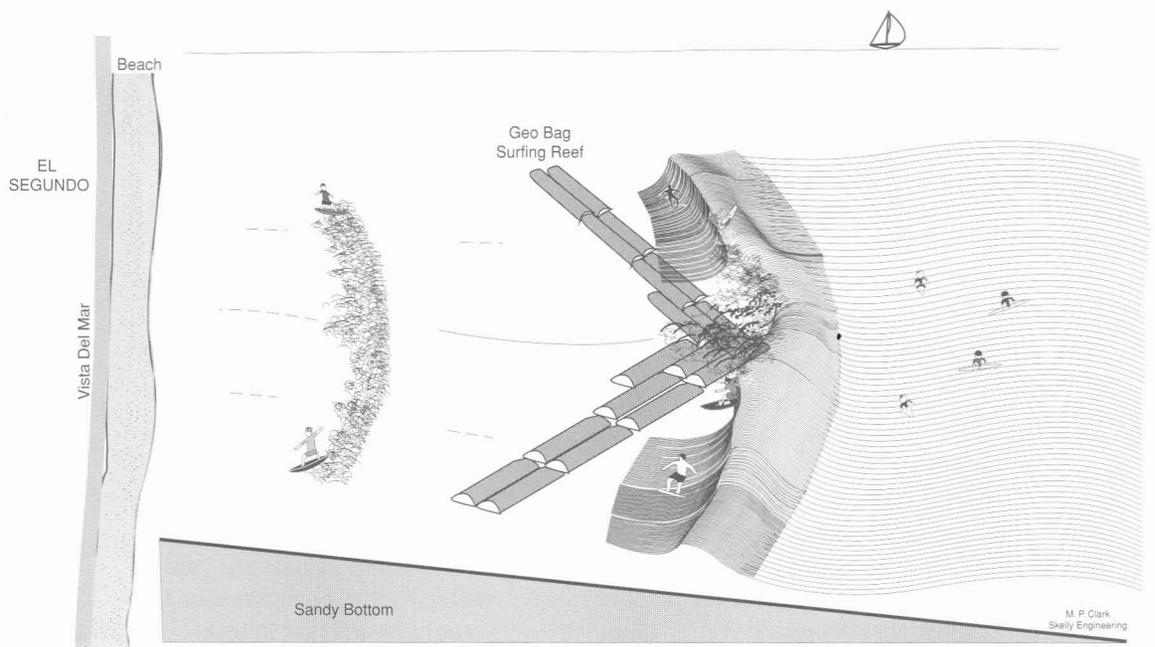
Grand Avenue would be affected in some way. He persuaded the Coastal Commission to attach two important conditions to Chevron's permit: a three-year monitoring program to gauge the effects of the groin project on local surfing conditions; and, if these conditions were found to be adversely affected, a requirement that the oil company propose techniques to mitigate these impacts. The form this mitigation would take was to be determined at the conclusion of the monitoring program. In 1986 Chevron returned to the Coastal Commission for an emergency permit to repair storm damage to the groin. Granting this permit, the commission extended the surf monitoring program to 1989.

MANMADE WAVES ARE NOT NEW

The South Bay is not exactly a surfer's paradise, but the waves breaking in the heart of the area, between the Hyperion sewage treatment plant and the neighborhood of El Porto, nonetheless are among the most surfed waves on earth. Ironically, the best spots were inadvertently created by manmade structures, among them the Grand Avenue Jetty (technically a groin) and the old Standard Oil Pier, which by 1983 had been removed. Despite being near a sewage treatment plant, an oil refinery, and one of the densest urban areas in the world, the waves around the Grand Jetty prior to the Chevron groin were considered excellent at times, especially during strong winter swells. A nearby parking lot offered easy public access, and various spots served to accommodate overflow crowds from El Porto, which had developed into a prime

At Hammerland, a fourth of a mile from the foot of Grand Avenue, a great wave such as this might break perhaps three times in a good year.

Computer drawing shows how waves would break on the artificial reef.



M. P. CLARK, SKELLY ENGINEERING

surfing destination known for its hard-breaking waves.

Ten years after the Chevron groin project was completed, Pratte and the Surfrider Foundation convinced Coastal Commission staff that the Chevron project had “reduced the quality and extent of surfing at El Segundo . . . and that mitigation would be needed,” according to a memo by Peter Douglas, the Commission’s executive director.

As part of the monitoring study, 24 expert local surfers had been interviewed about surfing conditions before and after the Chevron project. The unanimous conclusion was best summed up by one respondent: “Ruined. It doesn’t break anymore, very rare. They buried the Grand Jetty.”

Chevron officials maintain that forces other than the groin project played a major role in degrading surfing conditions in the El Segundo area. “The survey gave no consideration to whether or not there were other things at play,” says Rod Spackman, manager of government and public affairs for Chevron USA, Inc. He pointed to a sand replenishment project and to the influence of storms and drought. “All these things came into play, but in strict terms the focus was only on the [Chevron] groin,” Spackman said.

Chevron and Coastal Commission staff proposed a \$100,000 study to determine ways to protect and enhance surf resources throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, but surfers scoffed at the idea. Nick Carroll, editor of *Surfing* magazine, declared in a letter to Thomas Gwyn, then chairman

of the Commission, that such a study “has nothing whatsoever to do with mitigation for the surfing community at El Segundo.”

After further negotiations, a mitigation measure was agreed upon: an artificial reef to be built at the foot of Grand Avenue, with \$300,000 from Chevron. At the request of the Coastal Commission, the Coastal Conservancy established a special fund to receive and disburse this money.

“[Until now,] nobody has intentionally gone out and gotten permission to build a surfing reef,” said Skelly. “I do know of people clandestinely going out and dropping stuff in the water, or blowing up reefs to improve surf spots. But nobody has done it in an organized and approved fashion.”

Although Skelly considers coastal Southern California to be “one of the most bureaucratically oppressive areas in the world,” the project has been moving forward through the regulatory process. In the design, Skelly has used techniques and data compiled by Pratte and several engineers in a study for Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, the clothing manufacturing company. That study, which examined the feasibility of building an artificial reef in Ventura County, provided a comprehensive look at the logistics and cost of such a project. It concluded that a Patagonia Reef was feasible, but would cost \$2 million.

SOME WORRIES LINGER

The mood surrounding the El Segundo project is generally upbeat, but even surfers are unsure what creating the perfect—albeit artificial—wave will mean. The Surfrider

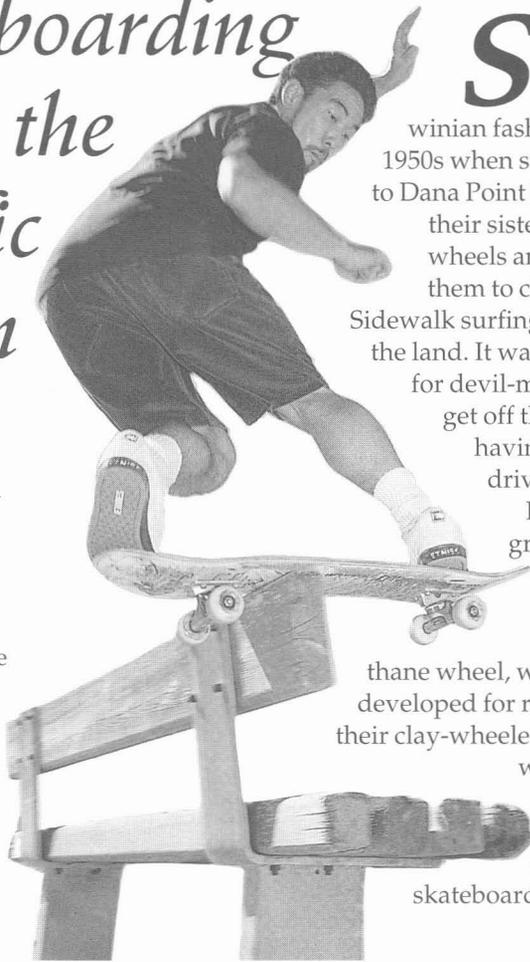
continued on next page

Skateboarding the Pacific Rim

KEVIN
THATCHER

Photographs by
Luke Ogden,
Thrasher Magazine

Maco Urabe on a
San Francisco Marina
bench



SKATEBOARDING crawled out of the sea, in true Darwinian fashion, in the early 1950s when surfers from Malibu to Dana Point began stealing their sisters' roller skate wheels and hammering them to chunks of 2 x 4.

Sidewalk surfing took off across the land. It was the way of choice for devil-may-care youth to get off the block without having to wait for a driver's permit.

In the early '70s a group of adventurous surfers (naturally!) adapted a softer urethane wheel, which had been developed for roller skates, to their clay-wheeled skateboards—with magic results.

No longer at the mercy of the smallest pebble, skateboarders took to every

wave of asphalt and concrete with a new cry of "skate or die!" New terrain was being poured every day. From the drainage canals and empty swimming pools of southern California to the majestic hills of the biggest skateboard park in the world, San Francisco—and on every suburban driveway, schoolyard, and parking lot in between—skateboards gave bored teenagers the means to fly.

A subculture with a style and language all its own, "skaters," like surfers, tend to be nomadic adventurers whose quest for new "spots" keeps their sport fresh. Around every corner, behind the supermarket, down that killer ribbon of mountain road, on the granite blocks in front of the bank—if you can wheel it, ollie it, slide on it, or fly off it, you skate it.

In the late '70s a spate of skateboard parks sprouted across America, with the California cities of San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, and San Jose leading the way. These were commercial, pay-to-play facilities that took the fun out of skating by requiring

continued on next page

Waves, continued

Foundation has always cast a wary eye on any project that alters the natural environment, even if it promises to improve surfing conditions. Besides, using an artificial reef as a mitigation tool could set a dangerous precedent.

"If we build this reef, will we be opening the door to developers who say, 'let's just destroy this surf break because for \$300,000 we can build another one somewhere else?'" wonders Skelly, who is also a consultant for Surfriider. "Can we use mitigation as an excuse for doing things we possibly shouldn't be doing?"

He tempers his concerns by explaining that the Chevron project is an experiment with a limited lifetime, and that its main goal is to find out whether humans can manipulate ocean swells into waves ideal for surfing. Skelly

plans to fill large geotextile (woven plastic or polyester) fabric bags with sand, then take the "cottage-sized" bags (about 400 tons each) to the site and drop them in a predetermined formation. That part of the project can be done in less than a week, he figures. The biggest, most time-consuming part is getting all the necessary permits. Skelly expects that it will be a year or more before construction begins. Meanwhile he's envisioning more artificial reefs taking shape, in places where environmental regulations are not so burdensome—Cabo San Lucas, for instance. He imagines boogie board breaks, and for learners, gently rolling waves like those at Waikiki. Fantasy could be turned into reality, he says, then checks himself: "It's important to control expectations."

If Pratte's Reef proves successful, it may alleviate the growing problem of overcrowded surfing areas, while consummating a strange-bedfellows relationship between surfers and a multinational petroleum company. "We're sharing a mutual enthusiasm for the project today, and clearly it required some dedicated effort on the part of everybody involved," says Chevron's Spackman.

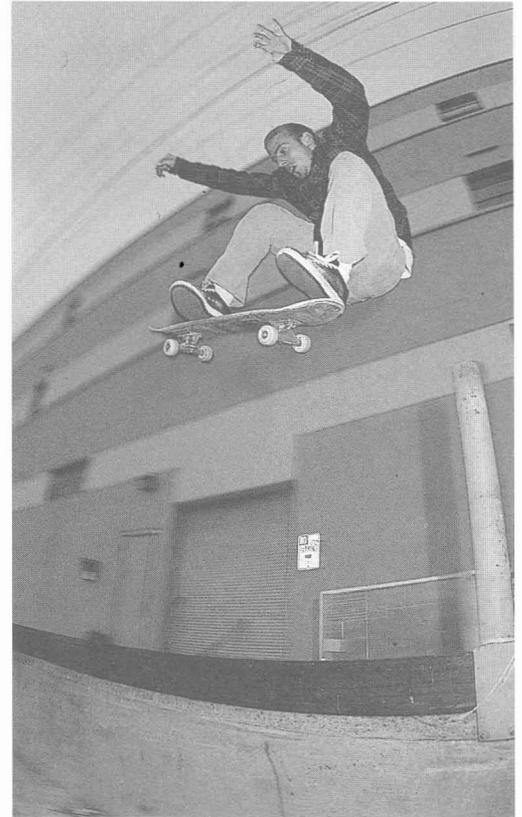
Another way to look at Pratte's Reef is as the first structural recognition of Tom Pratte's concept of wave rights. ■

Gary Taylor is editor of Beach News, a weekly paper covering the north coast of San Diego County. He spends most of his free time surfing waves created by a natural bedrock terrace at Swami's Beach in Encinitas.

full safety equipment and imposing a Ten Commandments-like list of rules drawn up by litigation-fearing, non-skating park owners. Most had been hastily designed (by non-skaters), ending up as ugly, "kinked," rough-troweled pits, more dangerous than the pools, ditches, and concrete the skaters generally used. Of over 200 skateparks built between 1977 and 1981, only one remains: Kona Skatepark, in Jacksonville, Florida. The rest were either abandoned by the skaters, or fell under heavy insurance premiums, or had been built only to generate revenue from property soon to be used for condos or shopping malls. By the late '80s skaters had returned to their old turf, only this time with more emphasis on street skating. That's where we are today.

Meanwhile, down at the beach, a new generation of surfers has brought skateboard tricks like aials and 360's back into the water. On flat surf days, four-wheeled longboarders mix it up with curb-grinding street skaterats in beach parking lots from Eureka to La Jolla. With over 40 years of history, skateboarding survives in its rawest form. It is still done on a plank with four wheels, and the terrain starts at your front door. It's a sport that has transcended social, racial, and city limits. It's still as fun at 40 as it was at 14, and if you skate you're always a friend to other skaters.

There is a rub, however, in the modern skateboarding picture. Yes, in the eyes of the non-skating public and property owners, and of the politicians and police who get the earburn, skateboarders are literally rubbing... and grinding, and scraping, and chipping... the surfaces that they skate upon to ruin. Skaters, of course, look at things differently. They may be chipping some edges here and there, and leaving some scratches, but let's just turn and look around a minute. Where once was a wetland, a creekbed, or a field to



Right: E. Fowler, airborne
Below: Jovantae Turner near Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco



play in is now a marble block, cement curb, or parking lot to play on. Who is damaging what?

Some institutions are adapting to the changing ways of our children. The Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA in Encinitas has operated a skatepark and summer skateboard camp with great success. In Portland, Oregon, the Burnside Project is now considered the finest skate terrain in the U.S. It was started by local skaters fed up with the lack of facilities and increasing anti-skateboarding pressures. In a sort of Gold Rush-style land claim, they made a space for themselves in a vacant lot under a bridge near downtown. They shaped the dirt to their liking and persuaded willing cement truck drivers to dump their leftover loads there. The mayor of Portland eventually embraced the idea, and what was once a dangerous place to be now is *the* place to be.

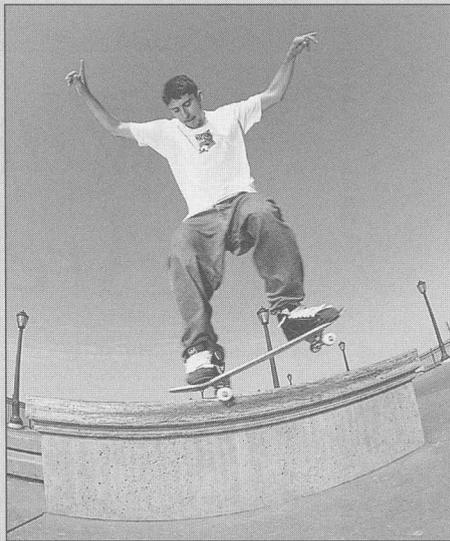
Some California cities, to their credit, are extending the olive branch by offering public skateparks to take the heat off the rest of the civic architecture. Unfortunately, they tend to build parks without consulting the skaters about their needs. The cities of Santa Cruz, Huntington Beach, Palo Alto, and Napa seem to be replicating design mistakes of commercial skateparks of the '70s.

As difficult as it may seem, city planners

One Hundred Percent Dopeness

PROS OF THE SKATEBOARDING circle gather at the foot of San Francisco's Pier 7 alongside local newcomers. Hardly a word passes among them as they wait to take a turn on the blocks of "The Ribbon." This place is perfect for tricks, with its clean sidewalk and eclectic arrangement of stairs, ramps, and knee-high concrete blocks. As they attempt tricky humps they often fail or fall, but that's all part of skateboarding. It offers challenge, camaraderie, and a chance to be creative in motion to anyone who cares to go for it.

Colil, 20, came all the way from Marseilles, France, to try his board here. "Skateboarding is big all over Europe, but not as big as it is here," he says. Like many skaters, he began in his early teens and has been adding to his repertoire ever since. "You're always



Mike York doing a Nosegrind at Pier 7 in San Francisco

progressing. You create your own style and learn every day," he says. That's so, echoes Karl, 19, of Oakland. "You work on a trick every day, and you're very happy when you finally get it perfect."

"Most skate parks are weak," says

Uri, 21, of St. Petersburg, Florida.

"Most are made out of wood, not hard surfaces." Asked how he feels about the damage skating does to city streets, he says, "the concrete's there, so you might as well use it." Silas, 14, who recently relocated from Mendocino County to San Francisco, says, "I guess skaters ruin stuff—but what else are people going to use these blocks for?"

The passion for skating is no easier to explain than any other. Those who share it need no explanation, the others won't understand. Shawn, 20, of Cincinnati, puts it this way: "Skating is 100 percent dopeness, with no bullshit involved." To clarify, he adds: "You know, it's fresh. It has real validity to it. It's got all its minerals and vitamins. It's not whacked. Some people are oblivious to the facts, they're out there drinking and smoking. Skateboarders keep their style dope. They're positive role models, informed and aware of things."

—Mike Blanding

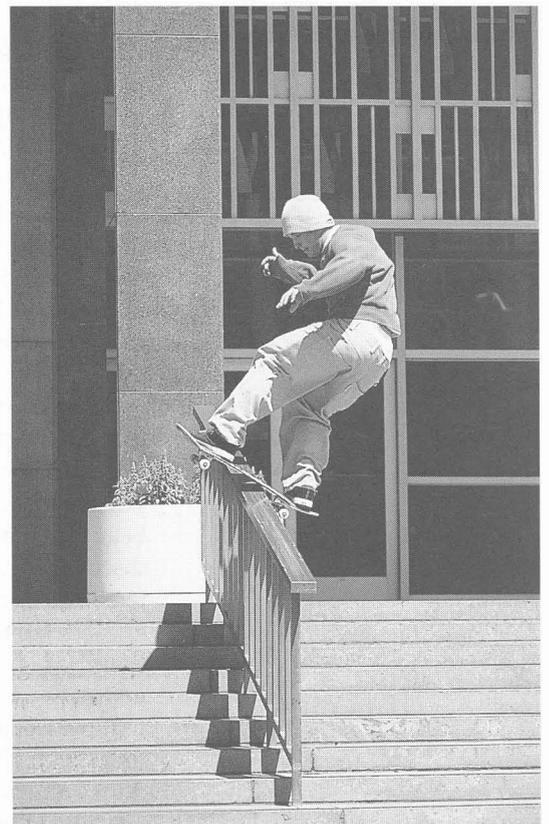
and politicians must get together with the skaters and pick their brains. Look at what the kids are skating! Find out why some spots are favorites. In San Francisco, what is it about "The Ribbon," the low concrete blocks, inlaid with glass, along the new Embarcadero promenade that skaters love so much? What is it about the steps of the new main library?

One of the best things to happen to skateboarding was the invention of the wheelchair ramp. Imagine a bigger wheelchair ramp, but only for skateboarding. A great idea (that is obviously "too radical" for serious consideration) would be to cordon off some areas that skaters have adopted and call them skateparks. They did that in San Francisco when the sea lions took over part of the yacht harbor at Pier 39, and now tourists flock to see them. Hey, skateboarders can also be tourist attractions; a good skatepark in a popular public place might even help nearby merchants.

Let's be realistic. Even the best skateparks won't ever get all the skaters off the streets. Kids will skate every spot they see between the bus stop where they get off and the

skatepark. Skateboarders are like pigeons: you can scatter them for a time, but they'll come to roost elsewhere. Consider that there are ways to attract skaters where they won't be seen as pests but may be appreciated for their skills and the mastery of their chosen sport. Skateboarders are not malicious vandals, they're not drug addicts, and not homeless. They are creative individuals, artists, musicians—active youths who look to the streets for adventure, not as something to be afraid of. Most of all, skaters just want to have fun. ■

Kevin Thatcher, who was born in San Francisco, has been publishing Thrasher magazine for the past 16 years. He recently designed a public skatepark, the largest in the U. S., for Temecula, California.



Kris Markovich at the Federal Building, San Francisco

What Good Are Parks?

A *Coast & Ocean* interview with State Parks Director Donald Murphy

STATE PARKS DIRECTOR Donald W. Murphy had just come home after a seven-day hike along the northern coast, having walked 81 miles from Pelican Bay Beach in Del Norte County to Patrick's Point in Humboldt County with some intrepid Coastwalkers bound for the Mexican border. He was back home to spend the last days of his vacation writing and reading, and was in a reflective mood when he sat down to talk with *Coast & Ocean*. Among the memories he had been mulling over was a remark by hiker Bill Kortum that the coast was the commons for all the people of California's. It led him to "a significant insight," he said, and he was to draw upon that insight during our talk.

—RG



BILL DEWEY. COURTESY TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The last wild stretch of Santa Barbara's coast, the Wilcox property, has been acquired by the joint effort of thousands of citizens, the Trust for Public Land, the Coastal Conservancy, and others. Bluff, meadows and oak woodlands on 70 acres are now protected as the Wilcox Preserve.

C&O: What are some of the major challenges you see ahead?

DON MURPHY: We have to get people out of the current mode of taking their natural and cultural resources for granted. State Parks' 1.3 million acres represent the best of California. The population as a whole, and our political leaders, have to understand the inherent value of these parks. We have this reverse idea that something is of value to society only if it is linked to dollars. But it's exactly the reverse: the inherent value of our parks gives value to the dollar.

Many mathematical physicists believe that beauty points to truth, or ultimately reveals some aspect of truth. Well, parks, you know, were set aside because they are beautiful places. Soon from that beauty we discovered all sorts of truths about ecosystems and biological diversity. We were attracted to these places by their tremendous beauty, and then discovered underlying truths, not the least of which have to do with who we are and our sense of place in the world. Now that is a value, a tremendous value to society, and it doesn't get articulated by politicians and people associated with government in a larger context.

To use a biblical analogy, when people were raving about how beautiful the temple was because it was inlaid with gold and silver, Jesus said to them that it wasn't the gold that sanctified the temple, it was the temple that sanctified the gold. So yes, we can talk about the fact we serve tourists, and millions of dollars are generated by the state park system, and it creates jobs; all that is wonderful, but the biggest challenge is to get people to understand the fundamental values of the parks and why they as citizens need to continue to support the park system.

C&O: Many people agree with you, but don't think that's a persuasive argument politically; that only economic arguments will sway those who allocate public funds.

DM: Some of the services we provide should have a certain level of self-support: camp cabins, boat ramps, bathrooms with showers, concession opportunities. We are trying to define, down to the smallest unit possible, what it costs to provide these services, at the same time asking our superintendents to manage as efficiently as they can. Then, when I go back to the legislature I can say: This is the money we need, and

this is what it costs to provide our core function, protecting the fundamental resource. That ought to be supported by the taxpayers, and it's probably about 35 percent of our budget.

C&O: *Only 35 percent?*

DM: Currently we get 25 percent from tax dollars. We're different from the National Park Service in that we keep all the money that comes to State Parks—the entry fees, concession rental fees, and other special funds make up close to 75 percent of our budget. Frankly, we like it that way because the money comes back to us, into the State Parks and Recreation Fund, with no strings attached. Another challenge we face comes from the way we do budgets. We can't budget and operate beyond one year. This is absolute insanity. We ought to have five-year budgets, so we can plan ahead.

C&O: *Since fees were established, some people go to state parks less often.*

DM: Just before I became director in December 1991 there was a push to find places, particularly along the coast, where we could charge fees and were not doing so.

There has been some rethinking. We backed off on some places on the north coast, and we now allow our superintendents to lower fees, or to eliminate them altogether, especially during nonpeak seasons. We have tried to focus our fees on areas where some service is provided.

Of course, people who walk into parks [instead of driving] don't have to pay anything.

C&O: *Do you foresee further fee increases?*

DM: No, I don't think so. We recently raised some fees selectively: for RVs, and to bring a dog into a park. We also raised entry fees for prime times of the year because we have all these people coming in the peak season and missing the tremendous opportunities during the shoulder seasons, the beginning



RICHARD NICHOLS

of spring to Memorial Day, and after Labor Day. Many people have children in year-round school now, but they still plan their vacations in the summer.

C&O: *I understand you may soon have corporate sponsorship for parks.*

DM: The ideal thing would be for corporations, especially California corporations that benefit from the beauty of the parks, to

Left to right: Rick Sermon, supervising ranger, Crescent State Beach, Del Norte County; Andy Ringgold, superintendent, Redwood National Park; and State Parks director Donald Murphy

I try to remind people that this isn't the Justice Department . . .



Point Lobos State Reserve

support and sponsor what we do without any great need for recognition. Wells Fargo [Bank], for example, has just been great in that way. PG&E has given lots of money to State Parks and you'd never know. The sponsorship would make us more self-sufficient in time. One hundred

percent support from the taxpayers is not on anybody's agenda, nor is it on mine.

C&O: *Would corporations be allowed to have signs in the parks?*

DM: The legislation we got last year for doing sponsorship expressly forbids that. There would not ever be any signs in parks. An organization could say in its literature and advertising that it is a sponsor of State Parks [or some State Parks program]. But it

can't say that within the parks. The legislature also gave the director ultimate veto power. The director can veto all sponsors, or particular sponsors. It definitely will be a challenge, dealing with corporate sponsorship. It will require careful attention to assure that it helps, rather than in any way harms, the parks' purpose.

"Modern information technology is leading many to understand that we are being shaped by information. . . information in all of its forms: the twinkle of a star, the feel of wind rushing past your face, the emotion of being in love for the first time, the tug of a fish on the line, or the sight of a cluster of monarch butterflies. These all shape us in ways that we do not fully understand. . . . Park professionals and conservationists are in the business of preserving this mysterious process. . . . Just as we do not place a monetary value on our families or our freedom, we should not place a monetary value on our parks."

"The True Value of Our Parks," Donald W. Murphy, San Francisco Chronicle, July 22, 1996.



Point Lobos State Reserve

C&O: *Have you had to cut back a lot on services and staff?*

DM: Five years ago we went through draconian cuts. We eliminated all our regions and many mid-level supervisors. But that was an efficiency move. Having five regions plus 57 administrative districts was the epitome of bureaucratic redundancy. We now have 22 administrative districts, no regions, and a smaller headquarters staff. As for rangers, that's complex. In many areas we used to hire seasonal rangers. The minute we required that rangers become peace officers also, in the 1970s, the costs went up tremendously. Nobody wanted to hire a seasonal ranger and pay all that money to send him to cop school, and that high salary. We are now suffering the consequences.

C&O: *Many rangers quit at the time because they didn't want to carry a gun.*

DM: Some did. We've put together a team to evaluate all our classifications to clarify roles and responsibilities. A culture has grown up around people being peace officers. I try to remind people that this isn't the Justice Department, this is a resources agency.

C&O: *So you would have also gotten a different kind of person, over time, who wanted to be a ranger?*

DM: That's the problem. I have complained and written about that, but for a long time we were getting people who had a criminal justice background. They'd get an A.A. [degree] in criminal justice and think they were qualified to be rangers. But what about interpretation, resources management, and all the other things that make up our jobs?

C&O: *What are some major changes you have seen in the parks since 1976, when the Coastal Act was passed?*

DM: One of the biggest changes came with the decision to get into law enforcement to the degree that we have. It built in a conflict between our ranger service and our maintenance service. We used to have a kind of homogenous group, and now we have ranger peace officers and maintenance people. And the maintenance people were treated like second-class citizens, I'll be honest with you. I think we became less effective in giving our interpretive programs, our campfire programs, hikes, and tours. Some rangers started feeling: I've got to be on patrol, and to the degree I have these law enforcement duties, I can't do these other things.

C&O: *Quite a few new parks were opened in the past two decades, thanks to bond funds provided by voters earlier, right?*

DM: Even these last four years, with the residual bond funds and working with private entities, we acquired a tremendous amount of parkland. But there has been a sharp decline in the past decade. The crisis now is in maintenance. We now need bond funds for deteriorating facilities. System-wide, every single park has a backlog of maintenance, from putting roofs on restrooms and visitor centers to repairing roads, worn-out campgrounds, and deteri-

orated parking areas. Surprisingly, we don't get a lot of complaints. Daily maintenance keeps things patched up. But that takes a tremendous amount of time and money, and eventually things will fall apart and we will need entirely new facilities.

C&O: *There are citizen support groups that try to help?*

DM: They help. They do a tremendous job, but the problem is so enormous.

C&O: *With the population continuing to grow and no bond money to keep up with the pressures, what should Californians expect for their parks 20 years from now?*

DM: Even if we bought every piece of land that was available and desirable, the population increase would still outrun the need. We will have to manage the land differently. It is already happening in Yosemite [National Park], they're talking carrying capacity—limiting the number of people who come in.

C&O: *Are any parks underused?*

DM: Sure. Campgrounds in the north coast redwoods generally don't get the same kind of pressure as the beaches of southern California, San Onofre, the Sierra parks, Folsom Lake. The rural counties need the economic help; the campgrounds can take more people. It's a matter of working with the Department of Tourism to profile these parks, letting people know the best times to go camp there.

C&O: *Turning back to 1976 again, where were you then and what were you doing?*

DM: I was on the coast. In the latter part of 1976 I was a graduate student in a Ph.D. program in biochemistry at [the University of California] Irvine. I had graduated from the University of California, San Diego, in 1975 and gone into the physiology/pharmacology program at La Jolla. I was a research assistant at the Salk Institute. It's right on the ocean. The Torrey Pines State Reserve is right next door. One early morning I was coming up from the laboratory after doing radio immune assays all night and I just decided that this wasn't what I wanted to do the rest of my life, I wanted to be a ranger. I started out right there, figuring out how you get on the state civil service list. I got on the list and stayed on it until I finally got picked up in 1979. In the meantime I transferred to Irvine.

C&O: *Has your biochemistry background been useful to you?*

DM: Absolutely. Most of life's processes are rooted in molecular and cellular biology. When people began to be concerned about biodiversity and species protection and degradation of the environment, I immediately thought in terms of the whole system. The single species approach never made any sense to me. People are coming to understand now that you have to deal with whole systems.

C&O: *Many people feel much more at home in an artificial environment now than in nature.*

I was coming up from the laboratory after doing radio immune assays all night and I just decided that this wasn't what I wanted to do the rest of my life, I wanted to be a ranger.



Sonoma Coast State Beach

DM: Yes, and that's dangerous. During my time with Coastwalk, when I saw people in the campgrounds again, I was thinking that folks who interact with the natural environment are healthier than citizens in society as a whole. A bonding takes place because they're out there. George Foreman, the boxer, was on the radio the other day, saying that he was headed for a life of crime in Houston, where he was growing up, but he joined the Job Corps and was sent to Grant's Pass, and, he said, "It changed my life . . . for the first time I saw there was another part of the world."

I've been listening to the Republican Convention and I'm really in despair over the

fact that there is no talk whatsoever of the environment. There's no talk of the world as a whole, or the biological world, or even the cosmic world. There's this narrow focus on jobs, the economy. It's really disturbing that we don't have leaders who understand things in a more holistic context and communicate to people in that way. It's really scary.

C&O: *The only way we can keep a healthy park system is if everyone owns it. What is happening to encourage that sense of common ownership? Demographics are changing. I don't see a diverse population in many of our nonurban parks.*

DM: We have a project called Fam Camp, one in the north, one in the south. We do it with the California Conservation Corps and

it's wonderful. We used to do school programs and bring children out to have a camping experience. They enjoyed themselves, but when they asked their parents to take them out again, the mother or father would say, "We don't have the time, or the money." Now we go into recreation centers, help leaders recruit *families*, families who have never had a camping experience. We orient them right there. We got a several-hundred-thousand-dollar grant from Great Western Bank—another sponsor who did not ask for any recognition—to buy trailers. The Coleman Company gave us all the camping equipment. We get the families together, allow them to camp for free. They have to come as a family. Rangers come out and give programs specifically designed for people who have never camped before, on everything from holding a snake to identifying a fish to identifying poison oak. The Conservation Corps helps set up tents, stoves, cook fires. The families provide their own food and transportation. That is their contribution. Then we turn the program over to the recreation center. This has been going on for four years.

We have to do more of that kind of thing. Some of our conservation groups, and especially some of the larger foundations, need to become a lot more active in funding these programs. The other day I saw a story on PBS on this woman who gets kids out on river rafting programs. She's been doing it for 15 years or so and is associated with the Sierra Club. That's marvelous. There are little programs here and there but we need more. Coastwalk needs to reach out more.

C&O: *You mentioned a Coastwalker's remark about the coast being a commons. I always thought of the parks as a commons also. Yet parks are being privatized in many communities. And driving up here—the ultimate irony—I saw a new shopping center going up, with a big sign: Vacaville Commons.*

DM: A whole generation is growing up for whom the commons is the mall. But originally the mall was an outdoor commons, like the Mall in Washington. So it's kind of interesting we call a shopping area a mall. We're redefining those concepts. When I was growing up everyone went to the beach. Now kids go to the air-conditioned shopping mall. For many kids, the mall is their life. I hope that in the future people will at least still be able to choose. ■



"It's good to know about trees. Just remember nobody ever made any big money knowing about trees."

DRAWING BY SAXON; ©1983 THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE, INC.

M·I·L·L·I·O·N·S O·F S·T·E·P·S for the Coast-Long Trail



Requa Overlook, at Klamath River

CAN YOU IMAGINE walking all the way from Oregon to Mexico? The very idea would seem exhausting, not to mention unnecessary, to most of us. And yet, now and then people do it for reasons of their own (to prove their ruggedness, to write a book) or for some larger cause. In the early '70s Don Engdahl, a newspaper reporter, took the walk to call attention to the beauties of the coast in hopes of winning legislative support for its protection. His articles, printed in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, fueled the movement that led to the passage of the 1972 Coastal Initiative, Proposition 21, and to the 1976 California Coastal Act. That landmark legislation embodied the vision of a healthy coast open to public enjoyment. It included provisions for a state-long Coastal Trail.

On June 1 this year, 12 people set out from Pelican Bay State Beach in Del Norte

County, heading for the Mexican border along the route of the Coastal Trail, which is now about half completed. Their purpose was to drum up support for this trail, and to check out the condition of coastal parks and other public access. Five of the 12 arrived at Borderfield State Park in San Diego County on September 20. They had walked 1,156 miles, about one-third of that distance along roads and highways because no alternative passage existed. During the 112-day journey (96 days hiking, 16 days resting) 21 others joined them for some of the distance. Many others participated in supporting roles: 30 local hike leaders, numerous cooks, drivers, and various hosts.

The whole-coast hike was organized by Coastwalk, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the completion of the Coastal Trail and to improving public access to the shore. It was co-sponsored by the Coastal

Photographs by
Richard Nichols

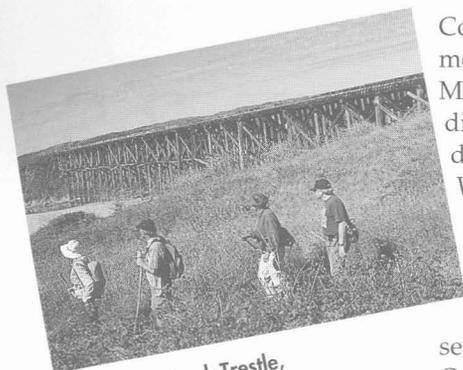
Notes from Barbara Johnson's Journal

June 8, Day 8.

Trinidad, Humboldt County

Del Norte County is behind us . . . whales spouting on the horizon, hundreds of seals basking on shore . . . the silence of the redwood parks . . . the muffled crunch of our boots, the plunk of our walking sticks . . . South of Crescent City we discovered we were on the old Highway 101, now an asphalt trail carpeted with pine needles. Coming into Orick, fences compelled us to move onto a road, for the first time meeting automobile traffic. . . . ten young adults from the AmeriCorps/California Conservation Corps biked with us on trails the Corps had built . . . Mark Kenney, natural resource coordinator for the Corps, and his wife Lisa Sorensen cooked a spaghetti dinner. We have gone 82 miles.





At Pudding Creek Trestle,
McKerricker State Park

Conservancy and the State Parks Department. "There were no crises," said Tom McFarling, who with his wife Vivian coordinated the event. "No injuries, no breakdowns, and we were right on schedule. We were amazed."

The McFarlings founded Coastwalk in 1983, at the suggestion of Bill Kortum, long-time coastal activist and a veterinarian in Petaluma. The genesis was a seven-day, 60-mile hike along the Sonoma County coast, which proved so popular it became an annual event. In the years since, the length of the annual Coastwalk has kept growing. The hope is that this year's valiant organizational and personal effort will inspire others to help build the state-long trail.

At this point the Coastal Trail consists of many separate coastline trails and a plan for the missing links. The links are forged one by one, as local governments, citizens, and public agencies join in the effort. The Coastal Conservancy has spent nearly \$39 million on 225 Coastal Trail projects in the past two decades.

Who needs to walk the whole coast, some people ask. "Long trails capture the imagination," responds McFarling. "Think of the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail. You may never hike the whole trail but it's

something you can dream and think about." Michael L. Fischer, executive officer of the Coastal Conservancy, puts it this way: "It throws your mind forward along a path that your feet can slowly follow. It allows you to embrace a larger landscape."

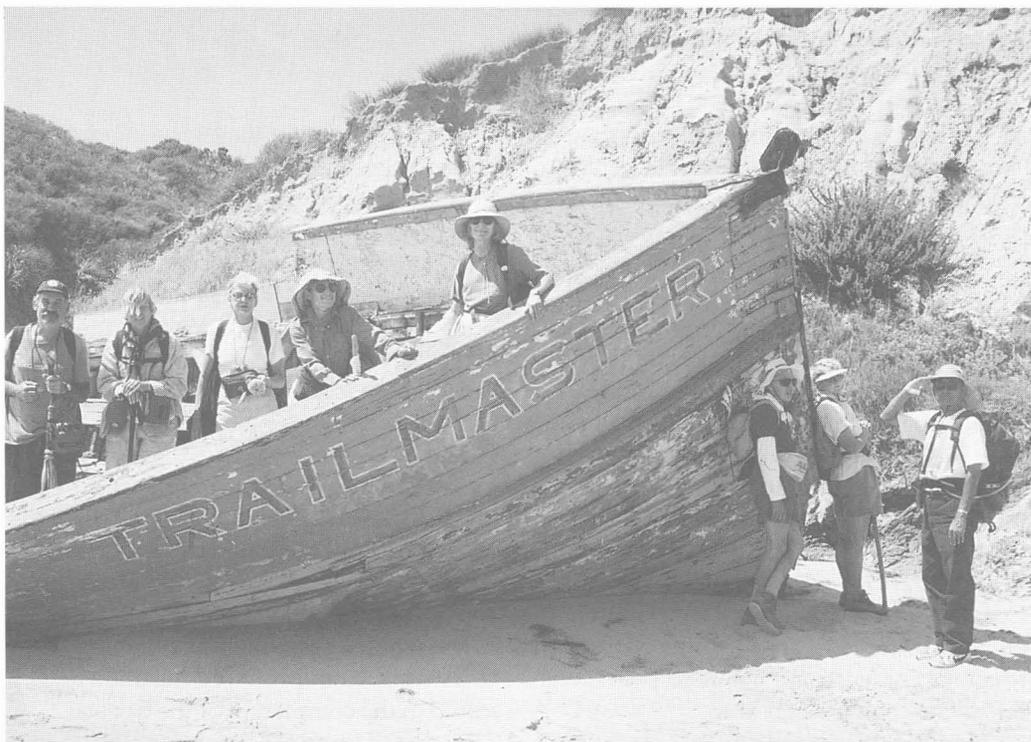
The Coastwalkers started in the temperate rainforest of the redwoods and eventually arrived in the desert; they moved from the quiet, sparsely populated north to the very crowded south. It was the adventure of a lifetime. They covered an average of 12.4 miles a day. They were escorted by a series of guides, each of whom knew a certain stretch of coastline intimately. Special arrangements were made to allow them through private lands that are closed to the public, thus reducing by 75 miles the road-walking anyone else would have to do.

They enjoyed seven miles of blufftop trail in Sea Ranch, Sonoma County; about the same on the property surrounding the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant in San Luis Obispo County; 37.5 miles of beaches and dunes on Vandenberg Air Force Base; and 14 miles across the private Bixby and Hollister Ranches in Santa Barbara County. To take them across river mouths, harbors, and marinas, arrangements were made for kayaks, canoes, and pontoon boats. Friends and allies prepared their dinners, and a van

June 21, Day 21.

Little Jackass Creek Camp,
Mendocino County

Summer Solstice celebration on the black sand beach of a secluded cove, with curious sea lions bobbing in the surf and a pelican family in its nest high on a ledge. The last rays of the setting sun illuminated the waves crashing through the seacave. "It's my favorite spot on earth," said Bob Lorentzen, author of The Hiker's Hip Pocket Guide to the Mendocino Coast, and our guide through this county. Jimmie Renner found a mouse in her boot one morning, and Lorentzen discovered that a wood rat had given birth inside his backpack. Bobcats and mountain lions screeched at night. This is the last primitive site on our 112-day hike. The night sky is brilliant, but we already see the lights of Ft. Bragg, about 30 miles to the south.



Staying dry on Little Cojo Beach, Hollister Ranch, Santa Barbara County



Montaña de Oro State Beach, San Luis Obispo County

lent by the Ford Motor Company carried their gear. The hikers stayed mostly at State Parks campgrounds, but also at five youth hostels, in a luxurious rented house in Sea Ranch, and in a cow pasture south of Half Moon Bay.

"The high points were innumerable—every day was unique. There were some low points too, such as walking along the edge of two-lane Highway 1 next to speeding traffic," said Coastwalk executive officer Richard Nichols.

The discoveries they made ranged from wondrous to dismaying. The coast is amazing, but half of it remains inaccessible to the public. Parks are beautiful and much appreciated, but are rapidly deteriorating for lack of maintenance funds.

"The biggest access problems are in Mendocino and Monterey Counties," Nichols reports. "In Mendocino a lot of blufftop land is subdivided and there is no access to about 50 miles of the shore. In Big Sur we had maps that showed some ridgetop trails in the Ventana Wilderness, but found these trails overgrown and almost obliterated by erosion. The Forest Service lacks funds for trail work, so, for the most part, we walked the road in Big Sur.

"My most striking image during the trip was of 'For Sale' signs on land that should be in the public domain, but nobody's buy-

ing. We have stopped expanding parks while the need for them is growing."

Defunding has forced state parks to privatize in a few places. "Wherever you see this, it's discouraging," Nichols says. The recently acquired Limekiln State Park in Big Sur is leased to a private company. Camping fees were higher than elsewhere (\$22 a night, instead of \$16 to \$18), campsites were too close together, and sanitation was poor, the hikers found. Two toilets did not work, and the campground staff, when told, responded rudely, Nichols said.

They noted a big difference between parks that include uplands as well as beaches, such as Fort Funston in San Francisco and Torrey Pines Reserve in San Diego County, and beach-only parks with houses on the bluff. "When you walk on a beach with private homes on the bluff you often walk between the surf and a wall," Nichols said. The natural character and beauty of California's eroding shoreline is gone, replaced by shoreline armor. Beaches appeared to be well-used along the entire coast, "but if you're willing to walk, you can find remote beaches even in southern California," he discovered.

On September 20, the Coastwalkers arrived at Border Field State Park and the wall that separates Alta and Baja California,

June 28, Day 28.

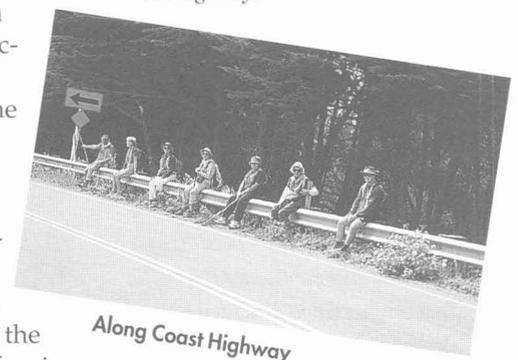
Elk, Mendocino County

Mendocino County's 130 miles of coastal beauty made Marilyn Goeller feel "like a child with nose pressed to the window of a candy store." Few trails lead to the flower-bedecked bluffs or to the shore, which is punctuated by blowholes, sea caves, and fjordlike inlets. We had to walk along the shoulder of Highway 1 for 50 miles. The neon-orange vests we wore for safety did not deter RVs and logging trucks from whipping by much too close. Our feet blistered, walking on the hard surface and gravel. South of the Navarro River mouth a stretch of abandoned Highway 1 offered relief and a vision of what could be. We lunched on the old road, high above a shimmering seascape. Breezes swept the fog away, and as we looked north we recognized mountains and beaches where we had been.

July 11, Day 41.

Point Reyes, Marin County

During the slide show we presented at the Bodega Bay Grange Hall, Richard Charter, executive director of the Sonoma Land Trust, spoke of the Coastal Commission's two decades of effort to protect the coast. "Because of their work you don't see a four-lane highway here," he said. "You don't see condos or a golf course." In this county, where almost all of the coast is in public ownership, we did not once have to walk along the highway.



Along Coast Highway

The Coastside Trail

THE COASTSIDE TRAIL along the shore of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County began with a community crusade to get bicycles off Highway 1. Now, thanks in part to Coastal Conservancy funding, the six-mile-long trail is a vital link in the California Coastal Trail. (Although the trail has a few gaps, plans for completion are in place.)

The award-winning trail skirts Half Moon Bay from Pillar Point to Miramontes Point and shows off the best of the Coastside, including the fishing fleet at Pillar Point Harbor, protected tidepools and marsh lands rich in bird life, and sandy Half Moon Bay State Beach. Trail users can also observe native plants reconquering abandoned artichoke fields and, during winter storms, the ocean eroding the shoreline near the harbor breakwater. Even foggy days are special as Pillar Point and the coastal hills drift in and out of view.

With its flat, hard surface, the Coastside Trail appeals to a variety of recre-



ational users from walkers to joggers and from bicycle riders to horseback riders to wheelchair users. Sunny weekends bring out hundreds of residents and visitors who reach the trail from several points along Highway One. After a pleasant stroll, many head for Pillar Point Harbor to enjoy a bowl of clam chowder at one of the fine local eateries.

In July, when California Coastwalkers hiked the San Mateo County coast on their three-month trek from Oregon to Mexico, it became obvious that a lot needs to be done to complete the county's Coastal Trail. The Coastwalkers encountered not only private lands, but also Montara Mountain, which pours steeply into the Pacific Ocean. A good inland trail took them over the

mountain between the towns of Pacifica and Montara and through McNee Ranch State Park. But a coastal trail would have been nicer.

An opportunity exists to reroute part of the mountain trail closer to the shore, along the Devil's Slide section of Highway One, once Highway One itself is rerouted. Such a trail would connect to the 246-acre San Pedro Point Headlands, which was recently acquired by the Pacifica Land Trust, with Coastal Conservancy assistance. Caltrans has been trying for over three decades to build a 4.5-mile-long highway over Montara Mountain, but has encountered strong opposition from local residents and environmental organizations. A voter initiative passed this month requires that Caltrans build a 4,500-foot tunnel through the mountain instead. The resolution of the Devil's Slide controversy will open the way to add one more piece to the Coastal Trail.

Barbara VanderWerf is the author of The Coastside Trail Guidebook (1995, Gum Tree Lane Books). She serves on the Pacifica Land Trust and the San Mateo County Historic Resources Advisory Board.

August 5, Day 68.
Lime Kiln State Park,
Monterey County

Nine miles along the road—and not just any road. This was the infamous stretch of Highway 1 snaking through Big Sur. Sometimes the choice was between a narrow strip along the southbound lane, atop a sheer cliff dropping to a the rocks, and clinging to an equally narrow strip beside the northbound lane, trapped between the mountainside and oncoming traffic. Coastal Commission staffer Lee Otter made two bright orange signs, "Slow" and "Pedestrians Ahead," to be worn by the last single-file biker. The first biker carried a smaller version on a stick to thrust out toward the traffic. One camper came so close that it dented the stick.



Andrew Molera State Park, Big Sur



Prairie Creek State Park, Humboldt County

the United States and Mexico. These five made it all the way: Beverly Backstrom, 65, of Santa Rosa; Marilyn Goeller, 58, of Walnut Creek; Barbara Johnson, 67, of Atascadero; and Fay Kelley, 59, of Benicia. Richard Nichols, 52, missed six days but was counted.

Tom McFarling, who walked the last seven miles, describes the scene: "We came around the bend and there, in the distance, was the bullring in Tijuana. Donald Murphy met us to walk the last mile to the cast-iron fence that comes down the hill. The girders are four to five inches apart to allow water to wash down, and Mexican people on the other side reached through to shake hands. We had brought some sand and seawater from the Oregon border and we dumped that on the Mexican side in a symbolic gesture. Donald Murphy had said, 'Trails connect people; they connect communities. They're an excellent way for people to get in touch.' We would very much like to see this trail continue."

Back home in Sebastopol, Sonoma County, reflecting on the journey, Richard Nichols concluded that weaving the coastline together with a trail is a viable vision,

but may take even longer than Coastwalk had figured. He also concluded that if others, in the future, are to have the opportunity to enjoy the places this group visited, citizens have to work for much more support for State Parks, the Coastal Conservancy, and other resource agencies. ■

—RG

August 23, Day 84.
El Capitan State Beach,
Santa Barbara County

Isolated beaches and bluff trails at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Base ecologist Mike McElligott escorted us through the northernmost 17 miles. Colonel Don Petkunas, who had climbed Mt. Whitney the previous week, took over for the second day. . . beach coves, a train trestle across a canyon. . . Next day, the 27,000-acre Bixby Ranch, a cattle ranch, is another Lost Coast: it has pristine beaches, no people. But there's no public access.

To walk through the Hollister Ranch, a locked-gate subdivision of very large lots, we were told we had to come before dawn, so as not to disturb the residents. We saw two people and a car. . . sea caves, sea stacks, rocks, coves, and bluffs, all natural. . . more seashells than I have ever seen.

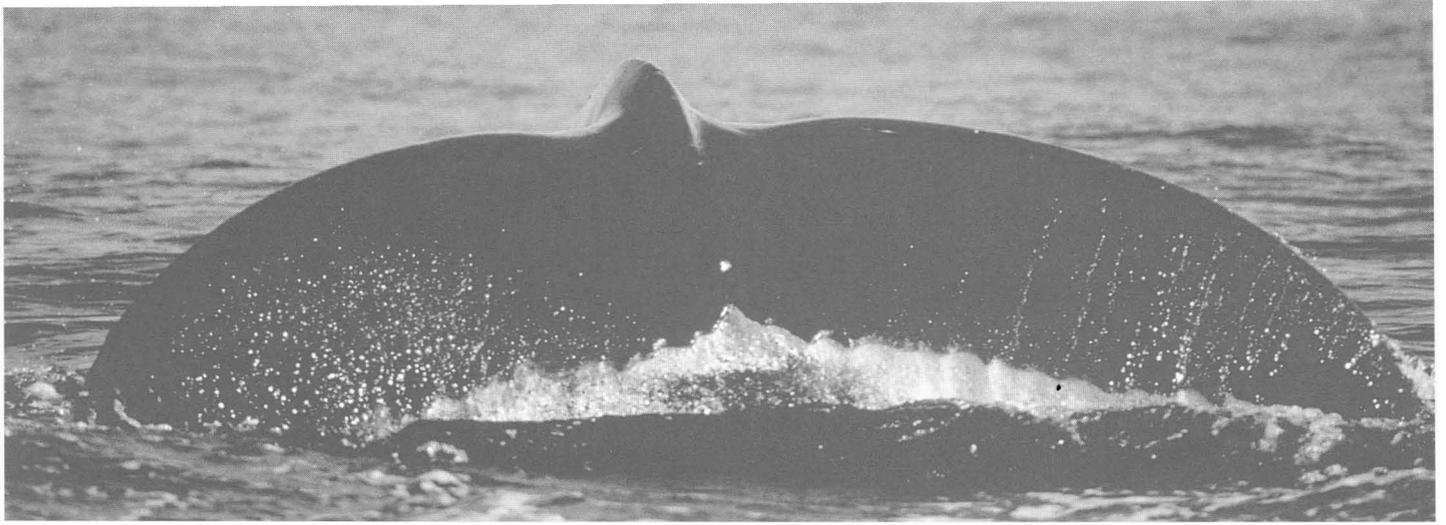
September 4, Day 92.
Gladstone's Restaurant at
Malibu Beach,
Los Angeles County

We walked toward a banner planted in the sand: "One Thousand Miles."



Border Field State Park—the Mexican border at last!

RICHARD RETECKI



MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY

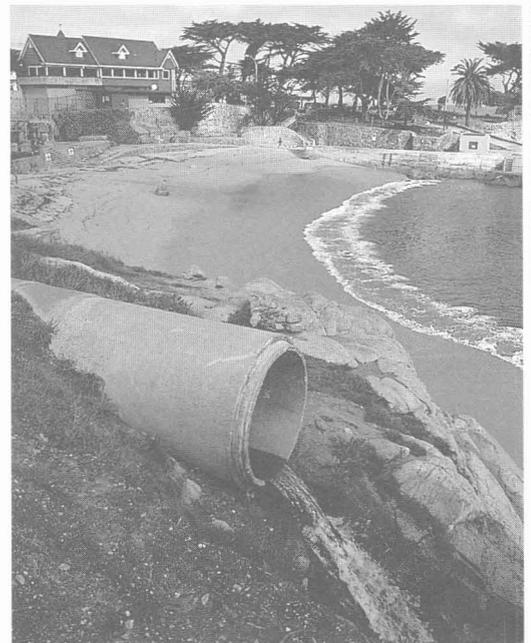
Ocean Protection Springs from the Watersheds

KIP EVANS

THE 1995 NESTING SEASON was a disaster for Caspian terns in the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve, which is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Only seven fledglings survived in 160 nests, compared to 150 in 188 nests the previous year.

"Some chicks hatched and did all right, some hatched and died a few days later, but only seven fledged. At least half the eggs did not appear to have hatched," said Jennifer Parkin, a graduate student at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, who has studied this tern colony for four years. She collected eggs and dead chicks and sent them to the California Department of Fish and Game. Tests showed high concentrations of DDE, DDD—chemicals associated with the breakdown of long-banned DDT—toxaphene, another pesticide, and PCBs, used for various industrial purposes in the

Above: Humpback whale
At right: Lover's Point Beach
Below: Elkhorn Slough



past and still present in transformers.

These "old" compounds "have been detected in shellfish near river mouths and in sediments of harbors, like Moss Landing, for decades now," says Holly Price, director of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program. They had washed down from cities and farms in the watershed and been buried by sediment, yet had continued to leech out slowly and get into the food chain. But why were they present in tern chicks in such high volumes this particular year?

The answer lay in the severe floods of 1994–95. Heavy agricultural runoff and river flows had released toxins long buried in sediments, setting them free to be

absorbed by organisms on which terns feed. At the Sanctuary, the spring calamity was one more signal that coastal marine life could only be afforded the protection it was legally due if land-based pollution sources were reduced. It was a further catalyst for the work already under way in the 11 watersheds that drain into the sanctuary's waters, which include Elkhorn Slough, a federal reserve since 1980.

Established in 1992, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary extends along 360 miles of coast, from Cambria in San Luis Obispo County to Rock Point in Marin County, from the mean high tide line to 40–50 miles offshore. It is the largest of 12 marine sanctuaries administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and is the steward of vast natural resources. Expansive kelp forests provide habitat for myriad sea creatures; one of the deepest underwater canyons in North America harbors life forms that have only recently been discovered, and probably many more that are yet unknown. Some 26 marine mammal species reside in or use the sanctuary.

The protection of these treasures depends not only on activities in the water, but also those on land. Oil, paint, and pesticides flowing through storm drains and streams toward the ocean affect mussels, oysters,

and sea otters, notes Price. Although the Sanctuary has federal authority to regulate discharges and their impacts within its boundaries, as well as the power to fine polluters, it has opted for a different path: stewardship and enforcement through agency cooperation.

At the time the Sanctuary was designated, several federal, state, and local agencies

Elephant seal



KIP EVANS

Citizen Stewards Spread the Word

TO PREPARE CITIZENS to educate others about issues vital to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Save Our Shores (SOS), a local nonprofit organization, offers the Monterey Bay Stewardship Certification Program.

The training is intensive: 16 weekly three-hour night classes, several field trips, and 50 to 100 hours of outreach work, such as presenting slide shows, staffing interpretive displays, and leading students in beach cleanups. So far, 22 people have completed the training, including a lawyer, a pediatrician, graduate students, a registered nurse, a corporate executive, and a retired NOAA official. Another group of 20 has completed the class work and is expected to graduate next fall. They have heard from experts about watershed issues, water quality and pollution, oil spill preparedness, natural and cultural history of the region, marine biology, and other sanctuary issues.

Eleanor Sinclair, a retired occupational therapist, found that the training has deepened her sense of the Monterey Bay landscape as home and prepared her to play a part in

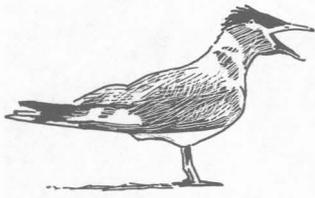
its future. Anne Hershey, another graduate, said, "the program provided the information I needed to go out and get more citizens involved."

"We have created real momentum in making the public aware of the Sanctuary and teaching them how to protect it, and we are proud of that," said SOS director Vicki Nichols. "The stewardship program will continue, and we are developing other volunteer training programs."

SOS was formed in 1978 as a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization to fight against oil development along the Central Coast. After that battle was won, the group turned to the broader goal of designating the region as a national marine sanctuary. Since that was attained in 1992, SOS has worked to raise public awareness of issues that affect the sanctuary, including harmful coastal development, inappropriate motorcraft use, poaching, and water quality.

—Jenny Carless

For more information call (408) 462-5660 or write to SOS at 2222 E. Cliff Drive #5A, Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Caspian Tern

signed a Memorandum of Agreement that has since served as the basis for what has become the watersheds-wide Water Quality Protection Program. The Sanctuary serves as coordinator, working with 27 agencies and organizations in drafting and implementing plans designed to improve water quality and prevent pollution. So far, five areas of concern have been mapped out: urban runoff, marinas and boating activities, agriculture, wetland/riparian issues, and point source pollution. Detailed action plans have been developed for the first two areas. These plans are expected to be used in various ways by more than 150 federal, state, and local programs that have been set

up to deal with water quality issues on the central coast.

Working in partnership is really the only way to go, not only because cooperation is more efficient and effective than piecemeal efforts, but also because the Sanctuary's budget is tiny. It has only \$900,000 a year—considerably less than the salary of many corporate executives—for safekeeping the vast natural treasures within its boundaries. NOAA's budget for all 12 national marine sanctuaries is only \$12 million—6 percent of its total budget or 0.000733 percent of the federal budget.

Synergy is therefore essential. And much depends on public education. The Water

Helping Farmers Helps the Slough

HECTOR GRACIA, who grows strawberries on 34 acres just inland of Elkhorn Slough, was troubled by the way his soil was eroding. Each winter, a brown river would wash onto the road, laying down a thick layer of sand. None of his attempts had solved the problem.

The sand was a potential hazard both to traffic and to the habitat at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, downslope from Gracia's farm. Such runoff can release pesticides that have lain dormant for years, and carry them down the watershed.

A government advisor had developed an elaborate drainage system, but it did not fit with Gracia's idea of good sense. A small strawberry farm is not very lucrative, and the Gracia family supplements its income by running a bakery in Watsonville.

Then last year David Robledo dropped by and offered: "We can come up with a solution that matches your needs." After talking comfortably about the problem in Spanish, he and Gracia worked out a much

simpler system, requiring only some strategically placed plastic pipes and the building of a berm at the bottom of the field, so that water collected instead of running off. "This year there was no damage," Gracia says.

Robledo is a member of the technical assistance team of the Elkhorn Slough Watershed Project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service. Team members work with farmers to develop solutions that make sense for all concerned. Many farmers have been reluctant to avail themselves of USDA assistance because they found the paperwork frustrating and the design solutions too rigidly imposed. The Watershed Project team is working to change that.

When word got around about the successful erosion control on Gracia's field, more farmers applied for assistance. "This year we have 20 applications; earlier we had three or four a year," said Daniel Mountjoy, coordinator of the Watershed Project. Gracia, meanwhile, was so pleased with the results that he invested in even more erosion-control.

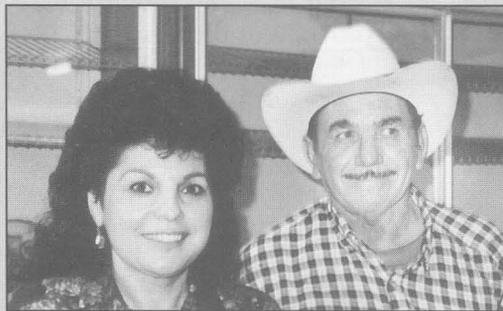
Although less than one-fourth of the land area in the 70-square-mile Elkhorn Slough watershed is in agricultural use, this land accounts for most of the soil erosion. Each year, an average of 33 tons of soil per acre is lost from strawberry fields—as much as 145 tons in wet years.

Because berry growing is labor-intensive and requires less land than many other crops, it has provided a rare opportunity for former farmworkers to become independent family farmers. More than 80 percent of the strawberry growers in this watershed are of Mexican ancestry. During the past 15 years they have expanded strawberry and raspberry production, providing jobs and incomes for

hundreds of people. These growers do not, however, have access to high-paying markets, so their income and investment potential is limited. They spend countless hours trying to control runoff, but often fail because they lack the necessary funds, time, or technical information. Many do not know about, or lack confidence in government programs that have long served their counterparts of Anglo and Japanese ancestry.

Mountjoy says he and his team are working to develop "erosion control systems that are compatible with the growers' concerns, motivations, and abilities." They expect to show that agriculture and the protection of Elkhorn Slough can be compatible.

—RG



Hector and Jenny Gracia

Quality Program is working with schools and other organizations to enable watershed residents to understand how the separate actions of many individuals affect the shore and the ocean. A Watershed Web Group, formed by teachers, links education institutions that work on water quality issues and provides a way to share information on the Internet. "I think we are expanding the notion of what a sanctuary is all about these days," says the Sanctuary's manager, Terry Jackson. "We need to look up into the watershed as well as out into marine waters."

Meanwhile Jennifer Parkin reports that no chicks survived this year in the Caspian tern colony she continues to study. In late May she saw 30 nests at Elkhorn Slough, but a predator, probably a raccoon or red fox, ate all the eggs. Some terns moved to the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, built 21 nests, and hatched 12 chicks. A predator, probably an owl, took them all. ■

Kip Evans is education coordinator for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program. He is also a research diver and underwater photographer.



Elkhorn Slough

ANNE CANRIGHT

Kayakers in the Slough

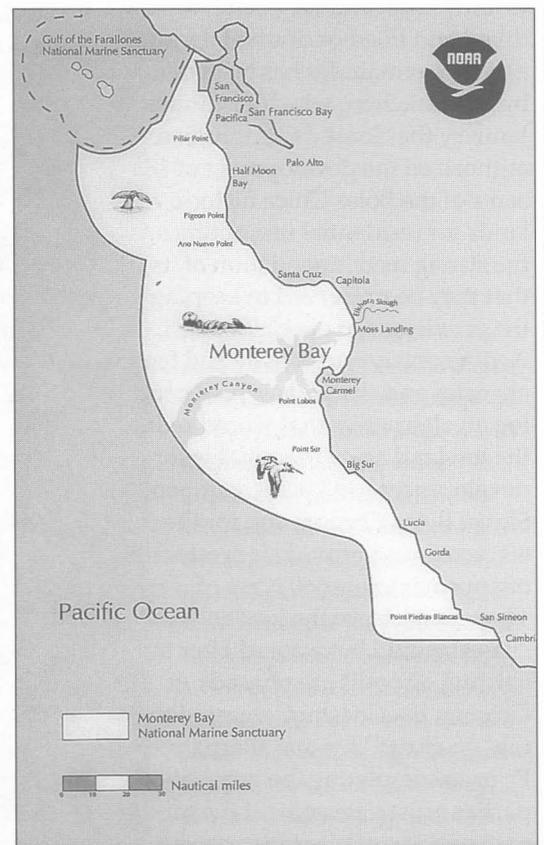
THE NUMBER OF KAYAKS out on Elkhorn Slough has doubled in the past ten years, as more and more people have discovered the delights of watching wildlife from the water. Though kayaking is a gentle way to travel, the sheer increase in their numbers has caused concerns for the well-being of the wildlife and plants for whom the Elkhorn



Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is a sanctuary. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation and commercial kayak operators, led by Monterey Kayaks, have taken steps to ease the impacts. They put together guidelines for kayakers ("Remember:

Seals are in the slough to rest") and built a wooden dock for boaters, so they can tie up and step out on land without slogging through pickleweed. The dock is on piers, about half-way up the slough. More such landing sites may be built later, as funds permit. Will this solve the problem? For now it helps, but "all this is a matter of increments," says Mark Silverstein, the Foundation's executive director. At some point the number of visitors—no matter how careful—may have to be limited here, as in some other popular coastal wildlife preserves.

—Linda Locklin



Eleven watersheds drain into the Monterey Bay Sanctuary

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

SEA TREK OCEAN KAYAKING

RECENT CONSERVANCY ACTIONS

Orange County Wetlands to Be Restored

The largest coastal marsh restoration ever attempted in southern California may soon begin in Orange County, bringing to a close two decades of controversy over the future of the 1,200-acre Bolsa Chica wetlands. With \$67 million from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, plus \$1 million from the Coastal Conservancy, 880 acres of these wetlands will be purchased, enhanced, and protected. The ports have agreed to provide funds for this project to offset adverse impacts from proposed improvements in San Pedro Harbor.

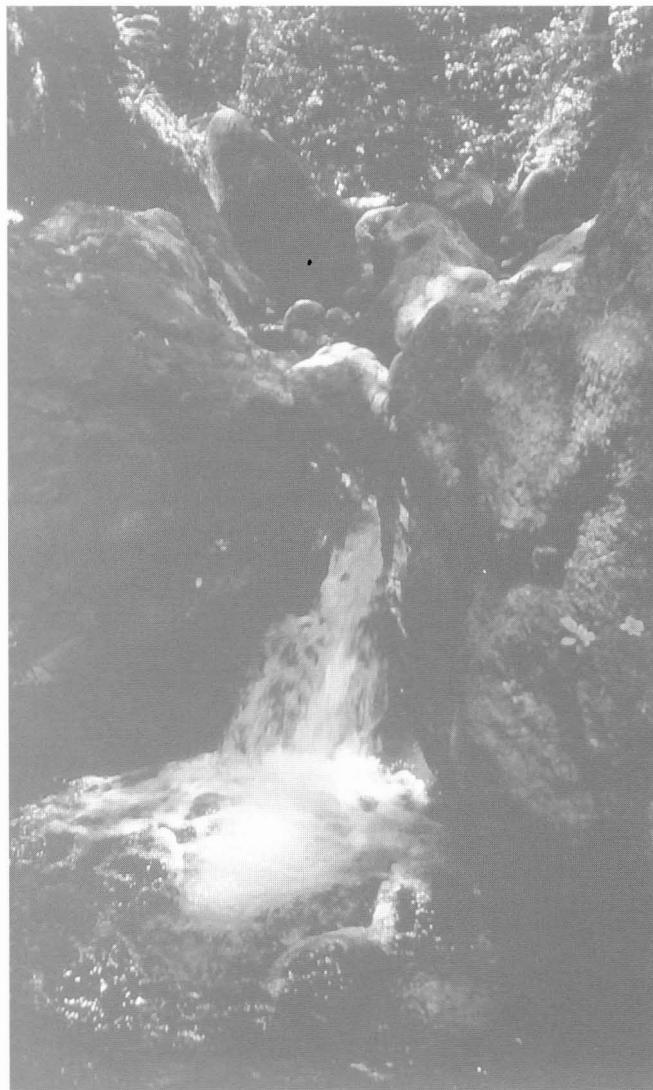
The Bolsa Chica wetlands are the remnant of the vast marshes that once stretched along much of the Orange County coast and far inland. Most were diked and filled or drained decades ago. The remainder has been damaged by oil extraction, which continues. In January the Coastal Commission authorized the development of 180 acres of the Bolsa Chica historic wetlands for residential use, acting against the strong recommendation of its staff that they be preserved in keeping with the provisions of the California Coastal Act. A consortium of state and federal agencies and the ports is now proposing an alternative that would reduce the lowland acreage available for development to 42 acres, compensate Signal Bolsa Corporation for the sale of 880 acres, and provide for restoration of approximately 600 acres of wetlands. The remainder of the lowlands purchased would be restored after the existing oil wells are phased out. In October, the Coastal Commission gave the "go-ahead" for this alternative. Prior to completing the acquisition, the parties must determine if the funding gathered is sufficient to carry out the project and how the project may be

affected by the presence of any contaminants. An extensive field investigation to determine the distribution and concentration of any contaminants has just been completed, and several agencies are analyzing the data.

Other agencies working to acquire and restore Bolsa Chica wetlands include the California Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, State Lands Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Humboldt County Forest to Be Saved

Ten years of negotiations between the Eel River Sawmills of Fortuna and a coalition of government agencies and nonprofit organizations have concluded in an agreement that will protect the 515-acre Mill Creek Forest on the Mattole River near Petrolia, in Humboldt County. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which owns the adjacent King Range National Conservation Area, will contribute almost \$2 million toward the purchase and will own the property, most of which is now owned by the timber company. The Coastal Conservancy will contribute \$468,000, and the California Department of Fish and Game will contribute \$72,000, filling the gap between the BLM contribution and the full value of the property. The purchase will permanently protect more than 200 acres



In Mill Creek Forest

of old-growth Douglas fir, tan oak, and madrone, spawning grounds for coho and silver salmon, and nesting sites for the northern spotted owl. A trail will be built, enabling hikers to travel from the Mill Creek Forest over Prosper Ridge to the ocean. The local nonprofit Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy has been working to accomplish this purchase for more than a decade. The complex details were orchestrated by the American Land Conservancy, which plans to close the deal in November.

Protection for Estero de San Antonio

In August the Conservancy committed \$200,000 to reduce erosion along Stemple Creek and protect the environment of Estero de San Antonio on Bodega Bay. The fjord-like estero is surrounded by ranches and is accessible to the public only by boat. It is part of the Gulf of



A visitor center was opened October 13 on Highway 1 in the City of Guadalupe, Santa Barbara County, to assist local residents and visitors in finding their way to the wonders of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve. The center, which will be staffed by volunteers, is a collaborative effort of the Coastal Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Guadalupe Historical Society, People for Nipomo Dunes, Guadalupe Redevelopment Agency, and Guadalupe Chamber of Commerce.

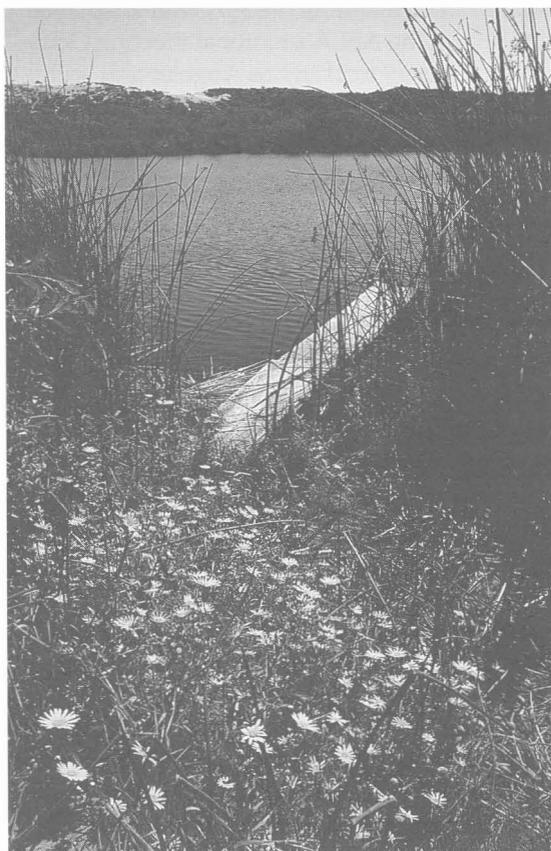
Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The Coastal Conservancy's funds will be added to over \$500,000 worth of grants and services already spent or committed by other agencies and local landowners to reduce erosion and restore habitat of sensitive species.

The Marin County and the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation Districts will use the Coastal Conservancy's funds to stabilize stream banks, reintroduce native species into stream corridors, and restrict cattle from stream channels. Also working in this watershed is the Shrimp Club, a group of local 4th and 5th graders who have been helping to restore the habitat of the endangered California freshwater shrimp.

Rare Coastal Habitat on Carmel Mountain to Be Purchased

In September the Conservancy approved a loan of \$2 million to the City of San Diego to help purchase and protect the 80-acre "Mesa Top property" on Carmel Mountain, east of Del Mar and near Torrey Pines State Beach. The City has \$7.5 million available for the \$9.5 million purchase and will reimburse the Coastal Conservancy within five years of the acquisition.

Carmel Mountain, which offers spectacular views of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the coast, contains coastal sage scrub habitat and the largest remaining block of southern maritime



chaparral. The property connects with other protected habitats, including the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

The Coastal Conservancy will work with the City and other agencies and organizations in preparing a management plan for the property. The plan will include measures to improve wildlife habitat and allow limited public access.

The City's funds for the property's purchase will come from a hotel surcharge tax approved for this purpose by voters in 1996. Funds immediately available to the City are limited, however, and so the Coastal Conservancy's bridge loan is needed to acquire the property. Purchase of the Mesa Top property is part of greater local and state efforts to protect endangered habitats while providing for continued economic development. Protection of the habitat is called for in the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program, which, in turn, is a component of the state's Natural Community Conservation Planning Program for southern California. ■

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve grew by 1,692 acres in October as the Coastal Conservancy acquired the Dune Lakes Limited property with funds set aside by Proposition 70. Coastal dune scrub and freshwater lake/marsh communities on the property are among the highest quality remaining in California. The Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy negotiated the complex \$2.1 million acquisition. The property interests, including both fee-title and conservation easements, have been transferred to The Nature Conservancy, San Luis Obispo County Land Conservancy, and the California State Parks Department for management.

Greening a Concrete River

IMAGINE a Los Angeles River Greenway, connecting natural areas, parks, trails, and communities, inspiring civic pride the way Central Park does in New York. Impossible?

A proposal to create such a greenway was first presented in the 1930s by the landscape architectural firm of Olmsted & Olmsted. Following in the footsteps of their father, Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Central Park, the two brothers laid out an inspiring plan that has become the seed of a new effort by the Trust for Public Land in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Coastal Conservancy, and many others.

True, the 51-mile river has been greatly altered since the 1930s. It is hard to even think of it as a river. Much of it has been confined to a huge concrete channel designed to carry floodwaters at great speed to the ocean. The only water flowing in this channel most of the time is discharge from waste-

water treatment plants. Yet life persists along the edges, especially along the 13 miles with a soft river bottom and at confluences. A trail is taking shape on the riverbanks, with eight miles already completed, 15 more miles unofficially in use.

The ASLA asked members to envision what could be done at 10 typical locations along the river so that someone visiting all of them would get a good idea of the entire river, its current condition and its history. Twenty members volunteered, each taking on a separate concept. The resulting designs were displayed at the ASLA's national meeting October 19 to 21 in Los Angeles and will be used to market the greenway vision to local public agencies and private interests. ■

For a map and description of the concepts and vision for the Los Angeles River Greenway, send \$2 and a self-addressed envelope to Trust for Public Land, (Attn: LA River map), 10951 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 204, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Phone: (310) 474-4466.

Put a whale on your tail

INVEST IN THE CALIFORNIA COAST by buying a California Coastal Protection License Plate. As a California driver, you can support many coastal protection and improvement activities by purchasing the license plate featuring the tail of a whale diving in misty waters. Half the funds will go toward programs of the Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission, the two agencies charged with safeguarding coastal resources. The rest will go to environmental education projects throughout the state.

Beneficiaries will include the Coastal Commission's annual Coastal Cleanup Day, which in 1995 mobilized 38,000 people to remove mountains of trash from beaches, wetlands, and waterways; the Commission's year-round

Adopt-A-Beach cleanups and school environmental education programs; and to the Coastal Conservancy for beach access projects and coastal habitat protection and restoration programs.

The plate, designed by Wyland, costs \$50 above the usual registration fee for the first year, \$40 for renewals. Consider getting a Coastal Protection Plate for yourself, and another as a special gift for someone else. ■



The Coast Is Yours. Take Ownership!



- *Find out what's really going on.* Rediscover the coast and help shape its future. *Coast & Ocean* offers you an intimate look at our magnificent coast, its watersheds, and nearby waters. We present fresh viewpoints and important news about trends that demand our attention **now**, the challenges we face—and the solutions at hand.
- *And you won't want to miss* the next issue, featuring a searching critique of the successes—and failures—of the Coastal Act of 1976. We examine its impact upon the past 20 years. What did we win? What did we lose? What do we need?

Invite your friends and family to enjoy the coast!

Gift subscriptions to *California Coast & Ocean* are now available at tremendous savings! The first one-year gift (or your own order) is \$18. And each one after that is just \$15—that's 24% off the cover price!

You already appreciate *Coast & Ocean*, and they will too. Keep them informed of the key trends and conservation challenges with our in-depth news and reviews. Just fill out the attached card, or send your gift order to:

California Coast & Ocean
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Make your holiday shopping easy! Order your *Coast & Ocean* gift subscriptions today!

- *If you have not subscribed yet*, now is the time. One year (4 issues) is just \$18—a **9% savings** off the cover price! Subscribe today and we'll be sure to keep you informed and encouraged. We'll also let you know what you can do for your great coast.
- Just send \$18 in check or money order made out to **Coastal Conservancy** to:

California Coast & Ocean
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1100
Oakland, CA 94612



Coastal
Conservancy

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY

1330 BROADWAY, SUITE 1100

OAKLAND, CA 94612

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 2
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

