



# HEADWATERS

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

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## Friends of the River

is a political, research and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of our remaining free-flowing waters and to the conservation of our water and energy resources.

Annual membership dues are \$15.00

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Hurry back, John!

## LETTERS

Dear Friends of the River:

I've been receiving my copy of **HEADWATERS** extremely late. I just received the January/February **HEADWATERS** today—March 20th. Since these are bulk mailed items, I suspect that the problem lies somewhere within our beloved postal system. In any case, I hate to miss the notifications of crucial deadlines that often appear in these publications.

T. R. Torbutt, Moraga

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*We apologize for the confusion. HEADWATERS does come out six times a year, and does arrive in your mail every eight or nine weeks. But over the last two years, our schedule has slipped behind by about two months.*

*Our last issue was completed and mailed out March 5th, but by force of habit, we dated it January/February.*

*You'll notice this issue is dated May—when it hopefully will arrive. We'll try to get you Volume 6, No. 6 before New Year's Eve!*

## Senators Alter Grand Canyon Plan

Dear **HEADWATERS**:

In the closing days of the 96th Congress, Senator Orrin Hatch, R.-Utah, with assistance from Barry Goldwater, R.-Arizona, added an amendment to the 1981 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior. This rider, which passed by voice vote, withheld funding for the implementation of the Colorado River management plan in the Grand Canyon. The plan, backed by six years of intensive research and authorized by Congress, was to have eliminated all motorized travel on the river by 1985, increased the use levels, reapportioned the use between commercial and private sectors from 92%-8% to 66%-33%, and required education and safety programs for all passengers.

The new situation is still confusing. But motor rigs will not be phased out. The plan called for 60 commercial passengers to leave Lee's Ferry each day in the summer but limited to two trips. Now the limit has been changed to 150 passengers per day with unlimited trip numbers.

While the number of private trips has been increased from 33 per year to 220 per year (183 summer/37 winter), the waiting list is now five to seven years long. The new ratio of commercial passengers to private passengers from April 16 to October 15 is approximately 91%-9%!

The inequalities are apparent. Restrictions placed on the private boaters in the Grand Canyon far outweigh those on people who seek the services of a paid

guide. According to the Park Service Act of 1916: "... no natural curiosities, wonders or objects of interest shall be leased, rented or granted to anyone on such terms as to interfere with free access to them by the public..." And the law permitting concessionaires limits services to those that are necessary and appropriate. A well qualified, experienced boater does not need the services of a commercial outfitter; they are not appropriate for that individual. As of February 3, 1981, there were 1,550 names on the waiting list.

Though the present political climate is unfavorable, letters should be written to your elected officials and the Park Service about the Grand Canyon dilemma. The Park Service is revising the management plan once more. Release is scheduled in June 1981. It is possible that public hearings will be held in selected locations throughout the U.S. I urge all interested parties to attend and provide the necessary input from the private sector. Tell these officials that motors do not belong in the Grand Canyon, that the ratio between commercial and private use must be changed to favor public access, and that allocations for total use must be lowered to prevent ecological damage.

I would be most interested in hearing from other rafters who would like to help.

David Schoen

1717 Cedar St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*We invite further comments on this issue (but not so long that we have to shorten them like we had to with this one).*

## CALENDAR

### May, every Saturday and Sunday

One-day raft trips on the Trinity River. Cost: \$20 donation to North Coast F.O.R. For info, call (707) 822-6918 or write to F.O.R., 1091 H St. Arcata, CA 95521.

### May 15-June 4

F.O.R. photographer Brian Fessenden's photo show on western rivers and water development. Capricorn Assunder Gallery, 165 Grove St., San Francisco. Opening reception is May 15, 6-9 pm.

### May 30, August 22

American River Cleanup Days in Sacramento, sponsored by F.O.R. and the Easter Seal Society.

### June 16, 17

Pickle Family Circus benefit performances for F.O.R., Crocker School, Sacramento (see article at right).

### October

The fifth annual Wild Rivers Confluence will gather in the San Francisco area. Date and location to be announced.

# STANISLAUS

by Alexander Gaguine

## U.S. vs. California Case: Another Decision

On February 27, U.S. District Court Judge Dean Price in Fresno ruled that the federal Water and Power Resources Service has to abide by the state's limitations on filling New Melones Reservoir for irrigation, fishery and water quality purposes. The state had already set a limit of elevation 844' for the reservoir until there are signed contracts for the irrigation water. And the state said the level could only be raised then if the uses proposed for the water outweigh the values of the Stanislaus Canyon upstream.

But Judge Price also ruled that the feds could totally fill the canyon behind the dam for power production purposes.

F.O.R. researcher Betty Andrews, who has kept in close contact with the State Water Resources Control Board on the case, said: "Unless the ruling is changed on appeal, it is a limited victory for the state, and a defeat for the canyon."

The State Board has taken the case to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Board also promises to ask that court for an injunction to stop the filling if the reservoir should be ready to rise past elevation 844' later this spring.

## Inundation Process Slows

The murky water of the reservoir once again covered the roadbed of the historic Parrott's Ferry Bridge over the Stanislaus in March, and may soon cover the railings. Upstream, Wino's Swim rapid is gone, as are Chicken Falls and Chinese Dogleg. Banks of wildflowers are underwater, showing their bright colors before decomposing. "Manhattan Beach" on river left (the left bank as you look downstream) is gone—the most popular swimming beach on the river. So are the campgrounds just upstream from the bridge on river right, where hundreds of commemorative medallions were hung in December.

The reservoir may well be held to this level, or even lowered, for this year or for many years. On April 13 Betty Andrews computed that there was a 70% chance that the reservoir would remain below elevation 844' this year—only slightly higher than the March level. The reservoir should begin receding by July.

The ultimate level will be decided by current and future courses of events—and by our participation in them. The eight miles of river from Camp Nine to below the South Fork are certainly deserving of everyone's continuing efforts. (continued on page 4)

## A Look Back

For the moment, let's look at the planet's—and everyone's—loss in the canyon. Parrott's Ferry was to be "the limit," or so we had hoped. Yet it went under. Before that we lost the lovely six miles of river downstream—the digger pines and grassy meadows, the ruined railroad trestle, the petroglyphs and the town of Melones, which was inhabited from 1849 until its burial two years ago. Before that we lost Iron Canyon—the damsite itself, which few of us ever knew. The transformation of that area is so complete that it is difficult to imagine that anything ever lived there. Between 1975 and 1979 came the big bridges, first at Highway 49. Then Camp Nine was torn up to make way for its bridge, still unneeded today. Next came the huge road cuts, fills and retaining walls for the new Parrott's Ferry bridge, and the closure of the old route across the river where not just recreationists but almost everyone travelling between Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties slowed or stopped to gaze at something beautiful.

Watching whole trees disappear—first the trunks, then the branches, then the tops, has not been exactly like witnessing a bomb exploding, but it has been, and is a powerful picture of killing and death. Watching animals swim for their lives has been equally powerful.

Wendell Berry, in *The Unsettling of America*, writes:

*Generation after generation, those who intended to remain and prosper where they were, have been dispossessed or driven out by those who were carrying out some version of the search for El Dorado. Time after time, in place after place, these conquerors have fragmented and demolished traditional communities, the beginnings of domestic cultures. They have always said that what they destroyed was outdated, provincial and contemptible. And with alarming frequency, they have been believed and trusted by their victims, especially when their victims were other white people.*

Some people were actually driven from their homes next to the river. And the rising water also crushes parts of the spirits of (continued on page 5)



Photo: Tyler Childress

# South Fork American River

## "No Dams" Bill Offered by Berman

Assemblyman Howard Berman of Los Angeles has introduced A.B. 1354 prohibiting dams on the South Fork of the American River between Chili Bar and Salmon Falls. Berman, a self-professed rafting enthusiast, is one of the most powerful Democrats in the legislature. He introduced the bill on behalf of the Environmental Planning and Information Center of El Dorado County.

Berman said, "The popularity of rafting has grown tremendously during the last decade. Rafting seems to have struck a responsive chord, especially among city dwellers who enjoy getting out into nature on occasion." The stretch of the South Fork included in the bill is one of the three or four most rafted rivers in the nation, and probably in the world. If you visit its canyons at the right times, it can offer an amazing degree of solitude and wilderness only a few miles from U.S. Highway 50.

Earlier this spring, the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) dropped their plans to build two hydroelectric dams on the stretch (one at Coloma and one at Salmon Falls) in order to concentrate their efforts on their dam proposals upstream (see below).

But the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District applied for permits to build the lower dams after EID dropped out. Georgetown's manager, Charles Gierau, said, "There's going to be a dam there someday—our need for energy will see to that. Our directors feel it might as well be County people who own it." The district says it serves 300 irrigation and 1500 domestic water customers.

Assemblyman Norm Waters (D.-Plymouth), who represents the river area, is trying to get the upper dams moving by pushing his own resolution in the legislature supporting them. He has made attempts to bring all parties involved in the controversy together, possibly in hopes of arranging a trade: protection of the lower river for development of the upper stretches. When told of the Georgetown applications, Waters said, "I wish they wouldn't do that... I hope it would not be necessary to develop a project on the lower river."

Letters urging your state assembly members and senators to support A.B. 1354 are needed. There are no compromises in this bill—just protection of the lower South Fork American from dams.

**(Note: A.B. 1354 passed in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee April 22 by a 5-4 vote.)**

## SMUD Hearing on Upper "SOFAR" Dams

F.O.R. helped create another packed-auditorium meeting at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District on April 2, when the SMUD Board of Directors took up whether to back dams on the upper South Fork of the American. The Board heard several hours of testimony for and against their becoming involved in EID's so-called "SOFAR" dams. But they put off making a decision until a firm proposal for an agreement with EID could be brought before them, probably in early May.

EID wants SMUD to front over \$6 million for engineering studies for the "upper mountain" dams on the South Fork near Kyburz and on Alder Creek, Silver Fork, Plum Creek and Weber Creek. Doug Linney, testifying for F.O.R., pointed out to SMUD Directors that EID had not yet received a state water rights permit or a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit. He said 23 parties were already protesting the granting of the former permit. Linney argued that the permitting agencies were likely to insist on substantial changes in the project, and thus any money for engineering studies for the dams as now proposed could be wasted.

EID ultimately wants SMUD to purchase 75% of the project's hydroelectric power. PG&E wants 25%. EID hopes to come away from the deal with a new supply of water developed at someone else's expense. Final project cost estimates run from \$560 million (EID) to \$690 million (Department of Water Resources) to \$794 million estimated by Bill Center, President of the American River Recreation Association (ARRA).

ARRA has brought a lawsuit challenging the adequacy of EID's environmental impact report on the dams, another variable which has SMUD worried. Center testified at the SMUD hearing that no mitigation had even been discussed for the de-watering of the South Fork below Kyburz, an increasingly popular boating stretch. While not opposing the dams outright, he said proponents should consider diverting something less than 95% of the river.

SMUD Director Don McClain (the only remaining member from the 1976 Board which backed off a similar proposal to join in dam plans on the North Fork Stanislaus) angrily asked river supporters the classic simplistic question: "Which would you rather do—drink water or go rafting?"

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## STANISLAUS *(from page 3)*

### Battle Not Over

Mark Dubois, who over the last ten years has inspired thousands of people to work for the Stanislaus, acknowledges that the odds, always tough, are even tougher now. But Mark believes that the payoff from a victory would be correspondingly higher. "A victory," says Mark, "would keep alive a living river and canyon which can continue to awaken tens of thousands of people every year to its incredible beauty and to the magic of the planet. And even more importantly, we can still awaken our society to the fact that by using our creativity we can have both—rivers and a healthy environment, and a strong economy with ample water and power.

"The Stanislaus has been an amazing forum, teaching people a lot about how we treat our land and water. We still don't have to complete the mistakes of the past. Every time we help one more person to better understand land and water issues, we win a small victory. There's nothing to lose and everything to gain by keeping up the Stanislaus fight."

### Clearcutting and Protest

Army Corps of Engineers contractors moved into Parrott's Ferry the week of April 13 and cut down a wide band of trees on either side of the old road on the Tuolumne County side. Corps officials and the contractor, the John Frank Company of Summit City, earlier had

claimed that Parrott's Ferry would not be cut for many more months. According to the Corps, no more clearing will be done around or upstream of Parrott's Ferry.

The cutting of trees and brush still proceeds in the canyon below Highway 49, at elevations higher than the storage levels allowed by the state. Although this violates the state's conditions, state attorneys backed off from asking Judge Price for an injunction against the activity after mere mention of their intent to do so provoked an angry response from the judge.

Seven people have been arrested over the winter in non-violent sit-downs and blockades at the clearcutting site and at the WPRS building in Sacramento, in attempts to draw attention to the Corps' illegal clearcutting and WPRS's stated intention to illegally fill past the state's maximum level. Four of the seven served jail sentences in Tuolumne County for their acts.

Five other people, three of them disabled, gained coverage by the national media in January, when they chained themselves, hidden by the edge of the rising reservoir, in a last ditch effort to get President Carter to look at and support a Stanislaus National Monument proposal. WPRS halted the filling and made no attempt to find the five. But despite moments of optimism spurred by rumors from Washington, a Carter White House official finally told Congress members pressing for the river's protection, "No way." Last summer, Carter had publicly called the Stanislaus "one of the most beautiful rivers on earth." But he spent his last days in office working for the release of the hostages in Iran.

# WASHINGTON VISIT

F.O.R. President Mark Dubois and publicist Dick Roos-Collins spent the last half of March lobbying in Washington. While there they attended the sixth annual Conference on Rivers, Dams and National Water Policy.

After literally scores of meetings with Congress members, aides, agency bureaucrats and environmental leaders, the two came away pleased that everyone is still willing to talk and listen. Among Dick's comments were these:

"Mark and I solicited Congressional support for a letter to the Administration about the operation of New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus. The letter recommends that the Administration restrict filling to the level approved by the state, and assess the past and future costs of the dam so that prices for electricity and water can be set accordingly. Mark was particularly pleased that so many of the Republican members were concerned that the feds were still attempting to usurp state control.

"Every Congressional office which we visited knew of the controversy. We made a lasting impression in 1979 and 1980. Most Congress members agree, in principle, that Federal subsidies for irrigation should be reduced—or at least that prices should be raised. On the other hand, few have announced their support for Rep. George Miller's bill which does just that.

"Most of the California delegation are condescending about Secretary of Interior Watt. Watt is following orders, but in so abrasive a fashion that he may become a major embarrassment to the Administration.

Concerning the conference, Dick reports:

"Three basic messages: participate in electoral politics in a big way; propose better ideas than dams or expect to be beaten; and expect the 1980's to be an era of dam building pressure like none before, so get strategic.

"Some of the best information: so far in 1981, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has received 600 applications for construction of new projects, up from 500 in all of 1980, and 70 in 1979. Hydroelectric is becoming cheap by comparison to oil, gas or coal-fired generation."

At the conference, F.O.R. presented photos of the Stanislaus and specially printed copies of a Stanislaus poem to Washington groups and individuals who were especially helpful to F.O.R. and the Stanislaus last year: the staff of American Rivers Conservation Council (who were also the conference hosts); Brent Blackwelder and Pete Carlson of Environmental Policy Center; Ed Osann and the National Wildlife Federation; the staffs of Friends of the Earth and Sierra Club; and irrepressible water reform activist Dave Weiman. The poem was composed during the 1978 walk from Parrott's Ferry to Sacramento.

## A LOOK BACK (from page 3)

many more people, American people from cities and towns who are no longer in a position to transport their whole lives out of urban areas, but who took joy in the fact that our nation still made available to everyone parts of the public domain.

This group of people, constantly expanding over the years, were and are joined in a spoken or unspoken community, based on mutual knowledge of and love for the Stanislaus. They are also joined in friendship with each other. Even though fear of loss has caused many to try to disengage their spirits from the canyon, there is still a strong sense of belonging to the place and to the community.

There was never really an issue of competing uses for the Stanislaus. Some people visit, appreciate, and take certain things away with them. Others would devastate the place completely, removing it from the maps forever without appreciation or apology.

Are we, like the smaller animals of the canyon, swimming for our lives? What has been the impact on people of the burial of the canyon? F.O.R. and *HEADWATERS* would like to receive your letters on this, so we can all share this loss and take strength from each other, rather than each going through it alone. Comments on the strength we have gained from the river, and from our shared work for it, would also be welcomed.

## Suit on Wild River Designations Postponed

On April 13, Federal District Judge William Ingram in San Jose put off until June 15 hearings on a suit challenging the legality of the recent National Wild and Scenic designation for portions of five California rivers. Three timber companies plus Humboldt and Del Norte Counties are suing to overturn the national protective status of the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Eel and lower American Rivers and some of their tributaries. Former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus granted the protection the day before he left office (see Jan./Feb. *HEADWATERS*).

The new team at Interior, headed up by Secretary James Watt, requested the court delay in order to determine how or if to defend Andrus' action. It seems unlikely that they will put up the strongest defense against the challenge. But environmentalists were cheered that Judge Ingram allowed the State of California to enter the suit on behalf of the designations. Andrus made the designations at the request of the Brown administration in the first place, and the State Attorney

General's office is expected to fight hard to retain the rivers' federal protection. All the rivers were already in the State Wild Rivers System.

There are lots of other players as well. The Environmental Defense Fund has filed to intervene in the case on behalf of itself, the Sierra Club, Cal Trout and Save the American River Association. Earlier, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties dropped their support of the challenge. In early April, the L.A. Metropolitan Water District and the major water agencies filed another challenge. Two other federal suits on the issue have been filed: one in Fresno which is no longer active, and one in Portland. The latter case includes among the plaintiffs Oregon counties and timber companies who claim that the designation of the Smith and Klamath in California will affect activities upstream in Oregon. The Portland and the water agencies' cases are expected ultimately to be combined with the San Jose suit. The Association of California Water Agencies is also suing in state court.

## Legislature Bills Attack State Wild Rivers

Two bills have been introduced in the state legislature which threaten these same rivers.

A.B. 392 authored by Richard Lehman, (D.-Fresno) would remove all segments of the Eel from the State Wild Rivers System. Prop. 8, passed by the voters last November, requires that two-thirds of the legislature must approve taking a river out of the system. But Prop. 8 will only go into effect if the voters approve the Peripheral Canal in the upcoming referendum (see page 11).

A.B. 1349 by Doug Bosco (D.-Occidental) would restrict the Wild Rivers Act to protecting just the water of a river and none of the surrounding watershed or even stream banks. Passage would allow greatly increased logging in the corridors of "protected" rivers. The bill would also remove enforcement of the Wild Rivers Act from the Resources Agency and turn it over to the more timber-minded Board of Forestry. The bill may have been heard on April 28 in the Assembly Energy and Resources Committee. Letters opposing both bills should be sent to your legislators.

# It's Time To Speak Out

Reprinted from the Sierra Club National News Report

The plans of the Reagan Administration do not bode well for the environment. Reagan's appointments to significant positions show no sensitivity to the complexities of environmental issues; his budget changes penalize the public and the environment; the proposed gutting of environmental regulations, and of the regulatory process itself, seem designed to subsidize industry to the detriment of the public.

Enough. Enough. It's time we got busy and let our elected representatives know what we think about all this. The honeymoon is over -- if it ever began.

What is the real motive of the extreme environmentalists, who appear to be determined to accomplish their objectives at whatever cost to society? Is it to simply protect the environment? Is it to delay and deny energy development? Is it to weaken America?

-James G. Watt

## The People

In the aftermath of the furor over appointment of James Watt as Interior Secretary, the administration continues an unbroken pattern of anti-environment appointees:

ANNE GORSUCH, nominated as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is a Colorado attorney and former state legislator who has virtually no background in environmental matters and no administrative experience. Like Watt, Gorsuch is a protégé of energy and brewery magnate Joseph Coors, and she is "eminently disqualified" to head EPA, says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael McCloskey. "Environmentalists must vigorously oppose this nominee, whose obvious lack of qualification blatantly demonstrates a thorough disregard for the deep commitment of the American people for protection against environmental pollution," he says.

JOHN CROWELL, nominated as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture supervising the Forest Service, is the General Counsel of the Louisiana-Pacific timber company. "A more glaring instance of conflict-of-interest would be hard to imagine," commented Brock Evans, Sierra Club Associate Executive Director. "Crowell has been a leading antagonist in industry lobbying efforts to overcut the national forests, and is an outspoken opponent of wilderness." The Sierra Club will join other groups in actively opposing Crowell. It is extremely

important that conservationists voice their objection to this nomination in particular. Mailgrams of protest are needed to all members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture: Helms, Dole, Hayakawa, Lugar, Cochran, Boschwitz, Jepsen, Hawkins, Andrews, Huddleston, Leahy, Zorinsky, Melcher, Pryor, Boren, Dixon, and Heflin.

RAY ARNETT, nominated as Assistant Secretary of the Interior with control over the National Park Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service, is former director of the California Fish & Game Department under Reagan. Although a traditional wildlife management advocate, Arnett is a vocal opponent of wilderness, and has not demonstrated an appreciation for broader conservation concerns.

ROBERT BURFORD, nominee for Director of the Bureau of Land Management, is a Colorado rancher and former colleague of Anne Gorsuch in the Colorado legislature. A rancher who utilized federal grazing permit lands in Colorado, Burford has been a proponent of the so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" and can hardly be expected to exercise the tough management needed to restrain exploitative pressures from grazing and mining interests.

It is likely that all of these nominees will be approved by the Senate. That political reality does not diminish the importance of expressions of public concern, not only to senators, but also to representatives. Indeed, public concern is vital to urge Congress to closely question each nominee, to extract policy commitments, and to keep a watchful eye on them once they are in office.

## The Money

The key for environmentalists in reviewing the Reagan Administration's proposed budget changes is the contrast between what is to be cut and what has been left intact. "The coming three months will be crucial as to whether Congress accepts the administration's proposals or works out a more acceptable package," says Doug Scott, Sierra Club Director of Federal Affairs.

• While the administration has proposed sweeping cuts in solar programs and an astounding 77% cut in programs for energy conservation (for a total of \$822 million cut from these programs in FY '82), no cuts have been announced in the Department of Energy's nuclear programs. The enormous ongoing federal subsidies for research and development of breeder technologies and

magnetic fusion will apparently continue or even expand. Meanwhile, OMB Director Stockman has backed away from earlier promises of substantial cuts in federal subsidies for the development of synfuels. Early announcements put these cuts as high as \$5 billion; they have now been scaled back to under \$800 million.

(continued)

● The administration wants to cut Land & Water Conservation Fund spending by \$475 million in FY '82. Under current rules, this fund must be used for park acquisition, but the administration proposes to ask Congress to allow the money to be spent for national park operation and maintenance as well, a change environmentalists oppose. At the same time, the administration wants to increase offshore leasing, which feeds this fund, and to curtail the urban parks program that benefits city-dwellers.

● The administration proposes to cut funding

The OMB claims that by these cancellations, relaxations, and deferrals, hundreds of millions of dollars would be "saved." Environmentalists maintain, however, that if the accounting is done properly, regulatory costs involved are more than outweighed by the millions of dollars saved in human health costs and in overall economic well-being.

The Reagan Administration is poised to propose that manufacturers, and the users of the goods they make, should no longer be asked to pay for pollution control, or be pushed by modest regulations to conserve energy. Instead, they maintain that the public and the environment should bear these costs, and that goals for corporate responsibility established by Congress should be abandoned.

To this end, David Stockman, Director of the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), has with his colleagues assembled a preliminary "hit list" of regulations they would like to see abandoned. More such lists are promised for the near future. The goals of the first hit list are to:

● Waive Carbon Monoxide Emission Standards for '82 autos;

● relax rules concerning inspections of auto emission controls;

● eliminate EPA emissions controls over small industrial power plants, a major step backward since collectively these add significantly to air pollution;

● delay or relax EPA's proposed rules re-

quiring industries to treat wastes to be discharged into municipal sewage systems;

● And while the administration has proposed only minor cuts in spending for water projects, Interior Secretary Watt suspended the rules proposed by the Carter Administration to end the give-away of low-cost water from federal water projects to California agribusiness. Indeed, Watt recently proposed a massive new water projects program in his department.

● cancel Department of Energy regulations designed to increase the energy-efficiency of home furnaces, refrigerators, and other appliances; and

● modify Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for asbestos, chromium, and cadmium.

The new administration is also making a major pitch to "reform" the regulatory process. Already, the president has signed executive orders requiring that "cost/benefit analysis" be included in all regulatory rulemaking procedures, and that the "least cost" alternative be mandated for selection. Stockman and OMB will set the rules for how "cost/benefit analysis" is to be performed -- thus invading the independent role of such agencies as EPA and OSHA. This Stockman/OMB/White House

sign-off requirement poses a basic threat to these heretofore "independent" regulatory agencies, which were given their independence by Congress precisely to avoid political interference. Congress ought to halt this massive Executive Branch power-grab, which will seriously curtail effective congressional control of regulatory implementation of such basic statutes as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

Anti-environment currents are at flood-tide in Washington, D.C., this spring. Given the nominations of poorly qualified people to key conservation posts, proposed weakening of environmental regulations, undesirable proposed modifications of the regulatory process itself, and debate on the Reagan-Stockman budget cut proposals, it is most important that your representative and senators hear of the priority concerns of environmentally-minded constituents. A continuing flow of public concern is needed through (1) letters to members of Congress, (2) meetings this spring with elected officials when they are home, and (3) letters to the editor of local newspapers.

● Express your concern about the pattern of anti-environment appointees, particularly those discussed here.

tioned. Your governor should know how you feel, too.

● Hit hard on the theme of the inconsistency of key Reagan-Stockman budget cuts -- and the things they are not proposing to cut. These are only proposals; Congress has the responsibility for the final budgetary and appropriations decisions. Right now, the tide of public opinion is being heavily influenced by the Reagan-Stockman media blitz, giving members of Congress the impression that these particular cuts are popular at home and ought not to be ques-

● Protest the Executive Branch power-grab, which would rob Congress of its independent power to prescribe important public health and environmental regulatory measures. A veto-power in the OMB and White House imposition of pseudo-economic calculations demand a strong public protest.

● Urge your members of Congress to fight the proposed dismantling of environmental regulations.

The Rules

The Process

... And You

## GRAND CANYON

# WPRS Proposes Further Flow Manipulations in Colorado River

The Colorado River and its tributaries cut through a vertical mile of rock to form the Grand Canyon, a feat which took 10 million years. The scope and duration of the process boggle the human imagination despite the fact that the canyon is the world's most famous study in geology.

The river cuts through rock layers very little these days. Glen Canyon Dam, upstream from the beginning of the Grand Canyon, holds back powerful flood flows whose loads of sand, silt and boulders did most of the scouring and cutting. The river used to fluctuate from a comparative trickle, when there was little snow left in the five state watershed upstream, to spring peaks of 200,000 or 300,000 cubic feet per second and more. But since the dam gates were closed in the sixties, the flows in the Grand Canyon rarely go outside the range of 5,000 to 33,000 cfs. It's still a big river, but sapped of the awesome strength for which it is famed. Moreover the flows, turned on and off at will by the U.S. Water and Power Resources Service, have almost totally changed the biology of the river and its riparian life zone. The river, which in the past was frequently thick with sediment and debris and was seasonally warm to very warm, now comes from the dam very cold and clear all year round. The nutrients in the water, the fishes, the streamside vegetation and the animals, birds and insects all have changed.

Glen Canyon Dam still probably edges out all competition as the most despised dam ever built, not only for its effect on the Grand Canyon but also for its obliteration of Glen Canyon upstream. Now WPRS is proposing to further artificialize the flow regime through the Grand Canyon. They want to add new turbines at the dam and use the power plants for peaking power rather than base load production.

If the powerplant capacity is increased from 1150 to 1400 megawatts, as is being studied by WPRS, peaking power would be produced from flows of 40,000 cfs, with much longer minimum flows of as little as 1000 cfs. "Incredibly, the maximum and minimum flows might occur on the same day," says Paul Pritchard of the National Parks and Conservation Association. NPCA is supporting the alternative which recommends no additional turbines and keeping the current dam operation, and F.O.R. agrees.

Impacts of the proposed changes would include: accelerated erosion of camping beaches; stack-ups of boats waiting for adequate water to pass through the more difficult rapids; increased dangers of camping by the river; destruction of habitat for bank beavers and other riparian zone creatures; and even further impact on trout and threatened species of squawfish and chub.

Even though WPRS (then called the Bureau of Reclamation) got away with diminishing the grandeur of one of our greatest National Parks 20 years ago doesn't mean they should be allowed to increase the damage today. Too many of our wild rivers already fluctuate with bizarre and unnatural rhythms.

**WPRS will recommend their preferred alternative** in June, with public hearings in July. The final EIS is planned for 1983. Write: Commissioner Robert Broadbent

WPRS

Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

State your views on further regulating the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, particularly if you have visited or hope to visit the Park. Ask to be kept informed of the status of the proposals and of opportunities for public comment. Send additional letters (or a copy of your letter to WPRS) to your U.S. Senators (Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510) and Representative (House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515). For more information contact NPCA, 1701 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, or American Wilderness Alliance 4260 E. Evans #8, Denver, CO 80222.



Photo courtesy of Fund for Animals

## The Luckier Burros

Burro rides from rim to river have long been a part of the history and color of Grand Canyon National Park. In recent years, feral burros (domesticated animals which escaped or were released to the wild, and their progeny) have been increasingly in the news. These hardy animals felt quite at home in even the hottest parts of the Canyon, and reproduced plentifully. But the balanced desert ecosystems were badly disrupted by the burros' intrusion. Overgrazing caused serious damage to vegetation, and native species of animals, particularly the desert bighorn sheep, were suffering in the competition for food.

The necessity to separate the burros from the Grand Canyon was agreed upon, but the method—trapping and transporting them elsewhere, or shooting them—was hotly debated. But on March 19th, the removal from the Canyon of 580 living burros—the total population according to the Park Service—was completed. The story included champion cowboys, pontoon rafts, helicopters with cargo nets and a heroic fundraising effort by Fund for Animals to pay the \$500,000 bill for the operation. The burros were relocated on a parcel of land in Tyler, Texas, where they were put up for adoption. Only 300 are left. The Fund for Animals has set the price at \$200 and says the burros are eminently trainable.

The painful footnote to this story is that during the same weeks the rescue was going on, 648 burros were shot in two separate incidents 200 miles to the west in the China Lake Naval Weapons Center in California. After the first 381 burros had been shot with no prior notice, the Fund for Animals reports that they offered to conduct another rescue operation. The Center then killed the additional 267, later denying that any rescue offer had been made.



# Hayakawa's Anti-Wilderness Bill

Senator S. I. Hayakawa (R.-CA) has introduced S. 842—"The RARE-II Review Act of 1981." The bill represents the timber industry's most radical attempt so far to "release"—that is, open to logging—roadless National Forest lands still being considered by Congress for wilderness protection. Sen. Wallop of Wyoming scheduled the bill to be heard in the Public Lands Subcommittee on April 22 and 23, during the Congressional recess!

The RARE-II process began during the Carter Administration by inventorying all roadless areas in the National Forests. After lengthy studies and much public input, the administration made its recommendations for each area: protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964, non-wilderness designation, or "further study" before determination. Yet these were only recommendations, and all the RARE-II areas have to be treated as wilderness awaiting decisions by Congress on their final status. Congress has made decisions on over one-third of the acres involved in the last two years. Development of many of the areas designated non-wilderness has begun.

Despite this seemingly orderly legislative process, Hayakawa and his timber and senatorial allies want to open up areas which were recommended for non-wilderness or further study immediately—before Congress considers them. But they do not propose any new wilderness designations. Furthermore, S. 842 would prohibit the Forest Service itself from ever considering wilderness designations during their forest planning processes.

Letters to your senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) are needed opposing S. 842 and supporting a continued state-by-state disposition of RARE-II lands. A bill resolving the status of California's RARE-II lands passed the House last year, but was blocked in the Senate by Hayakawa and others. It has been reintroduced again this session.

A mining-in-wilderness bill is now being prepared by the minerals industry and is expected to be introduced soon. Secretary of Interior Watt has previously supported the concepts expected in this bill, as well as the Hayakawa bill.

## MORE LEGISLATION

**Reagan Administration proposals** to Congress for recovering costs of Army Corps inland navigation projects and deep-water port maintenance. Proposed legislation would force shippers to pay higher fees for the use of federally funded canals, locks, dredged harbors, etc. This will help assure that projects touted for their economic benefits really are economical, and will stop some destructive, porkbarrel projects. F.O.R. supports strengthening and passing such a bill, which will face strong opposition. For more information, contact: Coalition for Water Project Review, 1412 - 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

### State Legislature

S.B. 37 (Ken Maddy, R.-Fresno) - **Agricultural Water Conservation.** This bill, supported by conservationists and the Farm Bureau, extends the maximum tax credit for farmers from \$500 to \$5000 for the purchase of efficient irrigation equipment, or allows the farmer to amortize such equipment over a period of five years instead of 10 to 20 years.

Write Senators and Assembly members at: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## Lease 53 Revisits

by Cheryl Miller

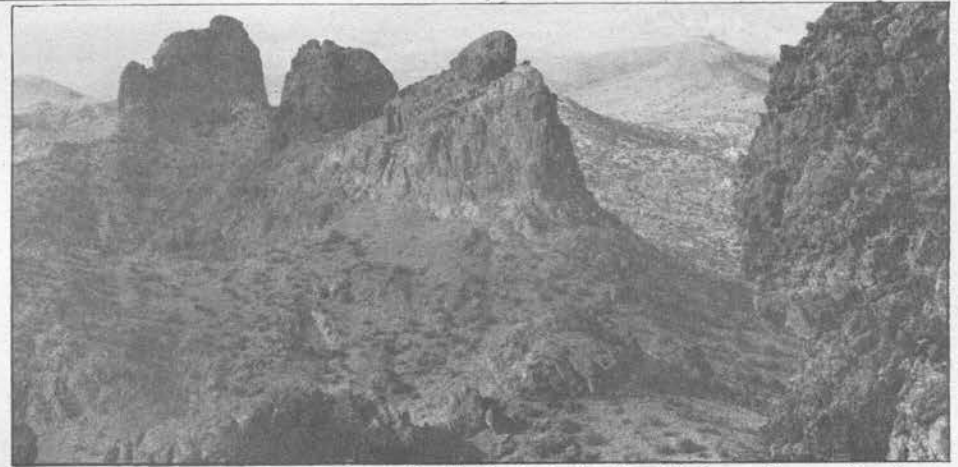
In mid-February, Interior Secretary Watt proposed including in a Notice of Sale four areas off Northern and Central California previously closed to offshore drilling. The four basins—Eel River (off Humboldt County), Point Arena (off Mendocino), Bodega (off Sonoma and Marin) and Santa Cruz (off San Mateo and Santa Cruz)—were found by the previous Administration to contain insufficient oil and gas to justify risks to the environment and to the fishing and tourism industries.

Lease Sale 53, as the group of areas is called, includes one more basin—the Santa Maria off Santa Barbara County—estimated to hold 85% of the oil and gas of the entire lease. The proposal for its leasing was expected. But the inclusion of the four northern areas was not, and the response in California was immediate and united. I talked to some of the participants in the opposition campaign:

Representative Tom Lantos (D.-San Mateo) initiated an investigation into the matter by a House subcommittee with hearings in California and Washington. Secretary Watt is scheduled to testify late in April. The public is encouraged to comment by writing:

Rep. Toby Moffett, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy,  
Environment and  
Natural Resources  
Government Operations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Assemblyman Leo McCarthy is playing a key role in informing and developing legislative strategies in Sacramento. A peti-



Castle Peaks in the East Mojave. Photo: Jim Eaton

tion being circulated from Mr. McCarthy's office had 100,000 signatures in mid-April. People interested in signing or circulating it can get one from his office at 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Governor Brown's office is consulting with city and county governments about the State's position while awaiting formal Interior Department announcement of its decision on the leasing. Legal action is among the options—possibly with a list of *amicus curiae* stretching from Patrick's Point to Cardiff-by-the-Sea.

The "Coalition on Lease Sale No. 53" was formed several years ago to insure citizen participation and environmental considerations in the leasing of these publicly-owned areas. The Coalition recently began work on a new set of leasing proposals, Lease Sale No. 73, scheduled for 1983; the oil industry's nominations include areas off Big Sur. People can learn more about the Coalition by writing Connie Parrish at

Friends of the Earth, 124 Spear Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 or calling (415) 495-0770.

On April 10, Watt opened the entire Santa Maria Basin to exploration, only 24 hours after the governor asked him to delete 34 of 81 tracts because they were environmentally sensitive. He is leaning toward leasing the remaining four areas as well, saying "No one knows exactly how much oil or gas may lie off the California coast. This can only be determined if exploration is allowed." Write to him and the President, with copies to your Senators and Representative. The decision is expected in May.

Secretary James Watt  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

## F.O.R. to Sponsor Pickle Family Circus in Sacramento

Looking for fun? The Pickle Family Circus is the answer! Clowns, acrobats, music and juggling—the Pickle Family will do it all June 16 and 17 in Sacramento as a benefit for the F.O.R. Foundation. Showtimes on these Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are 5:30 and 8:00 pm. An old fashioned circus midway of food and games operated by Sacramento community and environmental groups will open one hour before each performance.

The circus will be located at Crocker School off Land Park Drive at Vallejo St. Plan to come! Bike riders will have a protected parking area nearby.

The troupe is San Francisco's own travelling circus extraordinaire, recreating the traditions of early European circuses and then some. Expect a skillful and thrilling array of juggling, tumbling, wire-walking, balancing and high-flying trapeze along with the antics of zany clowns Mr. Sniff and Lorenzo. The action is accompanied by tunes and songs from the Pickles' 5-piece "circus-jazz" band.

Tickets at the door are \$2 for children under 12 and seniors, and \$4 for general. Advance tickets, \$1.50 and \$3.50 respectively, are for sale at Alpine West stores, or you can order four or more from F.O.R.'s Sacramento office.



Mariposa  
Lily

## L.A. UPDATE

Monica Larenas, our staffer in the Los Angeles office, is organizing visits of Friends of the River members to congressional offices to lobby on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and other issues. Contact her at (213) 477-5754 if you are interested. Monica also invites area friends to "volunteer evenings" the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in our office at 1355 Westwood Blvd., #2.

F.O.R. L.A. is also gearing up to sponsor a 10 kilometer fundraising run on October 31st. Race director Bud Coffey reports that the race will be held at Zuma Beach on a course which is flat, asphalt and smog-free. "Any assistance in the search for sponsors would be appreciated. We'll be trying to get donations of T-shirts, refreshments, P.A. systems, printing, trophies and ad space, so let us know your suggestions and we'll follow up on them."

The L.A. crew is also preparing a much-needed educational slide show on rivers and water issues.

## Peripheral Canal Update

The Peripheral Canal referendum will appear on the ballot no later than the next scheduled election in June 1982. But Governor Brown is still holding out the option of calling for a special election on the matter this November. Lots of politicians, including Brown, would rather not have to choose sides on the issue at the same time that they are running for re-election.

Brown, a Canal proponent for the last four years, shocked other supporters of the project in March when he said: "I may not inject myself into the bitter controversy about to unleash itself on the state."

We've always wondered how Brown, who has, effectively worked to promote technology of the most appropriate type and scale, could have stuck with the Canal so long.

Recent polls show voters evenly split for and against the referendum.

## New Water and Power Commissioner

Here are more of the new administration leaders in areas affecting rivers and resources (others are listed on page 6).

**Commissioner of Water and Power:** Robert Broadbent of Boulder City, Nevada. Recently a commissioner of Clark County and a director of the Las Vegas Valley Water District; former campaign manager for Reagan ally Senator Paul Laxalt. Broadbent is a pharmacist. Chosen by James Watt to head up agency which, according to Watt, "we shall always regard as the Bureau of Reclamation."

## EBMUD Proposes Dams for the Mokelumne

A number of counties and utilities are showing renewed interest in building additional dams on the Mokelumne River in the central Sierras. The Mokelumne's watershed lies between the American River drainage on the north and the Stanislaus on the south.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to study the feasibility of dams, particularly for power generation purposes.

In February, F.O.R. gave the only public testimony when the EBMUD Board of Directors considered allocating funds to study the projects. F.O.R.'s Tom Huntington changed the mood of the meeting considerably when he outlined the myriad of problems encountered by similar recent attempts to build dams in the Sierras.

One of EBMUD's proposals is for a 440 foot high dam at Middle Bar on the main stem of the Mokelumne. Like many such proposals, the dam would be built just above an existing reservoir (Pardee) and would flood upstream to the next water project (PG&E's Electra Powerhouse, which would be inundated). Lost would be 5 to 8 miles of river canyon including a fine beginners' boating stretch, beautiful swimming and picnicking areas, and one of the few remaining places where scenic Highway 49 crosses a river rather than a reservoir. A 130 foot dam is also being considered for Middle Bar.

The other half of the proposal is for a 300 foot dam at Railroad Flat on the South Fork Mokelumne, just below its confluence with Licking Fork. This project would flood 3 to 4 miles of canyon.

The combined projects could generate 105 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year, approximately .04% of California's annual energy use. EBMUD's current estimate of the cost of the dams is \$143 million.

Issuance of a preliminary permit by FERC would allow a three year period to study the feasibility of the projects. Calaveras and Amador Counties have filed a competing application, and other entities have expressed interest as well.

Anyone interested in helping monitor these projects should contact Tom Huntington at the Bay Area F.O.R. office.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:** Charles Butler III. Former assistant to Senator John Tower of Texas. Ed Rothchild of Friends of the Earth describes Butler as having "no consumer orientation." This agency gives out permits for new hydroelectric dams.

**Council on Environmental Quality:** A. Alan Hill, of San Rafael, California. Worked in State Resources Agency for Governor Reagan; John Zierold of the Sierra Club legislative office says, "He tried pretty hard to do some good things. He was a reasonable person." Hill will preside over a drastically reduced agency, which Reagan had actually considered abolishing altogether.

## NEW CVP PRICING: More Talk Than Action

by Dick Roos-Collins  
and Betty Andrews

In meetings held February 27th by the Water and Power Resources Services (WPRS), Friends of the River testified that the Central Valley Project would soon be in the red, and might stay in the red for the next fifty years.

F.O.R.'s comments were given by researcher Betty Andrews. Key points were:

"We commend WPRS for proposing a new pricing policy. As the largest supplier of water and a major generator of electricity in California, the CVP helps determine how well—or poorly—these supplies are used. If this proposal is adopted, for the first time the CVP will have a clear, uniform, pricing policy for new contracts. And new contracts will be reviewed every five years.

"However, the CVP's financial picture remains bleak. In violation of the intent of Congress, the revenues from the sale of water and electricity have not even covered the cost of the project's operation and maintenance since 1972.

"Regardless of this proposal, the CVP will be in the red at least until 1995. Most of the present contracts will not be subject to review until then. Moreover, the proposal does not raise the price of electricity. And there is no assurance that the prices for new water will be set sufficiently high to cover real costs.

"The Office of Audit of the Department of the Interior estimates that the CVP will be at least \$10 billion in debt in 2038, despite WPRS' prediction of a surplus of \$351 million. The public should not trust WPRS to raise its prices enough to recover the real costs of the CVP.

"The Reagan Administration advocates fiscal integrity and a reduction of excessive and unwarranted subsidies. The CVP is a good place to start."

To receive a copy of F.O.R.'s complete statement at the CVP Water Pricing Policy Hearings, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Betty Andrews, F.O.R., 401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, CA 95819.

## Bottle Initiative in 1982?

Californians Against Waste is trying to raise the funds necessary to place a Can and Bottle Initiative on the 1982 California ballot. F.O.R. strongly supports passing a law requiring five cent deposits on all beer and soft drink containers. Oregon and six other states already have such laws, which have resulted in conserving energy and resources, reducing litter and solid waste, and causing a net increase in jobs. Send your donations or requests for information to CAW, P.O. Box 289, Sacramento, CA 95802. Each dollar gets you a raffle ticket for a trip to Hawaii. Drawing May 30.

## Friends of the River "Thank You's"

To all members and new members who have already responded to our 1981 fundraising appeal. We've been in tight financial times, and you're coming through—again! We're sending F.O.R. info immediately to all the names you suggested, and this *HEADWATERS* to all for whom you donated Gift Memberships. And thanks for all your thoughtful ideas, suggestions and words of encouragement. Keep them coming!

To David Peterson of Stockton, who donated 500 frisbees with the F.O.R. logo on them, which he ordered on his own initiative. Get one at our offices for \$1.50—they fly well and make great plates on river trips!

To Joe Ball, CPA, who volunteered for the last year getting and keeping our financial records in smooth running order. Joe left for Atlanta to finish his training as a chiropractor—we wish him the very best.

To Will Fudeman for organizing a benefit concert for F.O.R. in April at the Sleeping Lady in Fairfax.

To all the outfitters who donated their equipment, and to the guides who volunteered their time for the highly successful Stanislaus benefit raft trips on April 4th and 5th. And especially to Claudia Ayers, chief organizer of the event.

To everyone who donated items or helped at Bay Area F.O.R.'s gigantic garage sale in April.



## F.O.R. Job Openings

### Liaison with River Guides

Guides come in contact with a great many potential river supporters. This job entails: making and keeping contacts with guides; assuring that they have up-to-date information and literature on the Sierra rivers, the dam battles and F.O.R.; encouraging them to solicit letters and involvement from raft passengers; and attending some strategy meetings with F.O.R. staff. Plan to spend time near Stanislaus, Tuolumne and American Rivers. Volunteer or possible salary.

### F.O.R. Raft Trip Coordinator

Responsible person with guiding experience needed to gather equipment and coordinate logistics and guides for trips arranged by F.O.R. for public officials, media representatives, volunteers and donors. Go on trips with interesting folks! Stanislaus River area. Salary negotiable.

### T-Shirt Manager

F.O.R. T-shirts sell briskly, and are a major source of our income. Person needed part-time in our S.F. office to process incoming and outgoing orders, keep the books and develop new locations to sell shirts. \$4/hour; 15 hours/week at most.

## JOIN Friends of the River

"Please sign me up for the fight to protect our remaining rivers and creeks! Send Action Alerts, event announcements and *HEADWATERS* six times a year."

- Regular Annual Membership  
\$15 or more (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)
- Low-income membership - \$10

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# Our First Book!

A 230 page mile-by-mile guide to the history, geology and plant life of the three most popular whitewater rivers in California, including the answers to such questions as:



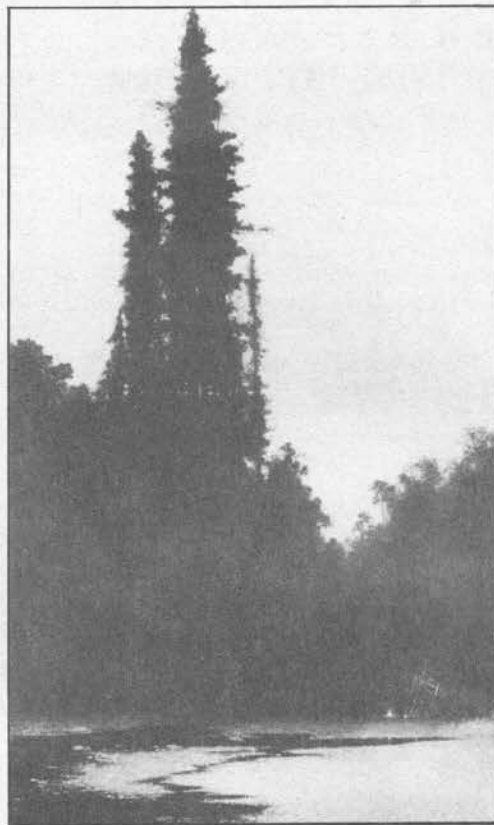
Was Melvin Belli really the first guy to float down the Tuolumne?



The One Hundred Slavonians: they built what river canyon engineering marvel?



Did Black Bart really end his life of crime on the Stanislaus?



Which river canyon was home to a 1905 sky-tram for 500 lb. slabs of slate?



Is it possible for 22 Canadians to row a 24 foot scow down the South Fork of the American? In 1899?



How many battles of the Spanish Civil War were fought in the Tuolumne River?

I've got to know! Send me my copy of *Three Rivers*. I understand it won't be shipped until **July 10th**, but since I'm ordering early, I want it for only \$5.00, (post-publication price \$7.95). My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
*Friends of the River*  
401 San Miguel Way  
Sacramento, CA 95819

## **A GUIDE TO THREE RIVERS:**

The South Fork of  
the American, Stanislaus  
and Tuolumne.

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