



September 1980

# IF YOU HAVE EVER LOVED A RIVER, PLEASE HELP US NOW.

## THE BURTON OMNIBUS WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS BILL:

- Protects the last of the famous Stanislaus River Canyon in California
- Protects over a dozen other free-flowing rivers around the Nation
- Sets a crucial precedent against wasteful dam projects

**The Burton Omnibus Wild Rivers Bill will be heard in the House and Senate in September. It needs a few minutes of your time today!**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many thousands of people love the Stanislaus River Canyon. Citizens' groups have waged a full-scale battle for the last decade to protect it. The outcome of this battle will affect river and land preservation efforts around the nation for years to come. You can help today by writing or sending a telegram to your U.S. Congress member, with copies to your U.S. Senators, asking their support for the Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill (Phillip Burton, D-CA) and insisting that the Stanislaus remain in the bill (the bill has no number as yet.) With your help, the bill stands a good chance of passage.

But unless it is passed this fall, the federal government will massively enlarge the existing reservoir behind New Melones Dam, and fill the magical Stanislaus Canyon with hundreds of feet of water.



## Proponents of Saving the Stanislaus River

### President Jimmy Carter

"The Stanislaus is one of the most beautiful rivers in the world. If the bill gets to my desk, I would sign it."  
Merced, California, July 4.

### The Los Angeles Times

"The Stanislaus belongs under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers act. We hope Congress will agree."  
Editorial, July 6.

### Congressman John Anderson

Candidate for President.

"This significant legislation represents a good compromise."

### League of Women Voters of California

"The Stanislaus is a unique and precious resource. Its wilderness access for severely disabled Americans is renowned. The League believes wise water management and conservation should be stressed instead."

### Governor Jerry Brown

"The beauty of the Stanislaus River Canyon and the life of Mark Dubois demand your personal intervention."  
Cable to President Carter, May 1979.

**COULD WE REALLY ALLOW THIS PLACE TO BE  
DESTROYED NEXT YEAR?**

# The Stanislaus: A Wild River...

The Stanislaus River Canyon is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between Yosemite National Park and San Francisco Bay. It is probably the most popular wilderness recreation area in history to be threatened with complete destruction.

One of the last wild stretches of the Stanislaus runs through a nine-mile limestone canyon which delights and inspires 100,000 people each year. It is all public land - anyone can come here. The famous whitewater rapids and quiet pools, the forest or wildflower-covered hillsides, the Gold Rush and Miwok Indian archeological sites, the caverns with dripstone formations, and the sculptured tributary creeks all have combined to make the Stanislaus one of the three most used rafting and kayaking streams in the nation. The float trip has also become the most popular wilderness experience for severely disabled Americans. Half the visitors to the canyon come on foot for fishing, swimming, picnicking or gold-panning.

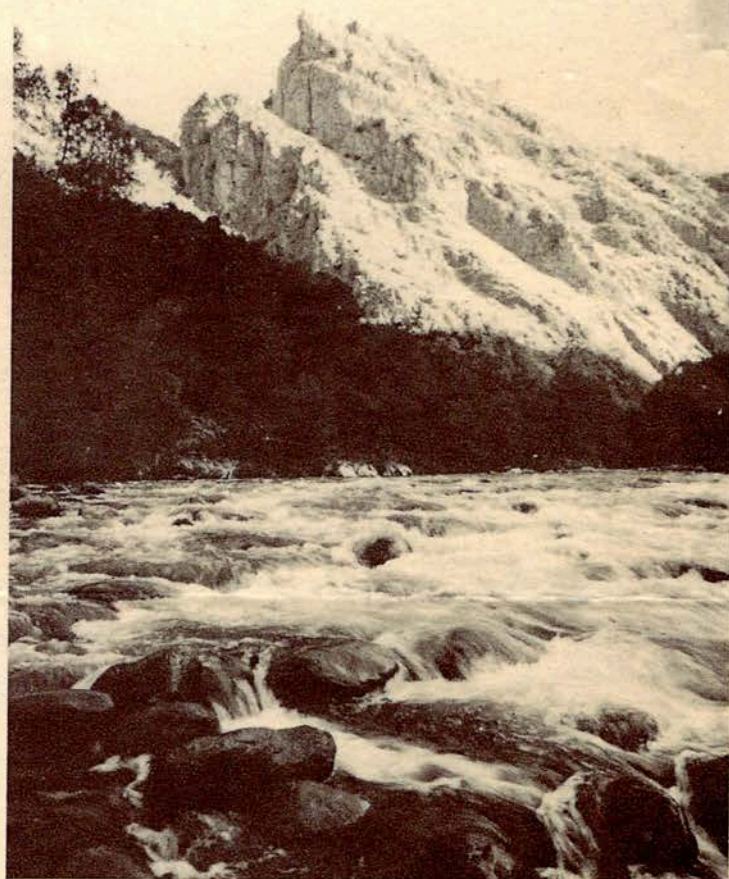
The Stanislaus is a national treasure, and a symbol for all the wild places which we need not, and will not, give up.

## ...And A Working Dam

The federal government's New Melones Dam has been built, and already stores a reservoir extending 16 miles up the canyon to Parrott's Ferry. Storage of this moderate-sized reservoir is the most economical use of the dam. It most efficiently fulfills the flood control, hydro-electric power, downstream water quality and fishery enhancement purposes of the dam. It does not supply new irrigation water. But the additional water which a massive reservoir would supply - 200,000 acre-feet per year - is only enough to produce one "Big Mac" per year per Californian. The agricultural areas which want the water have developed no water conservation plans. And the federal government would sell the water extremely cheaply - for less than 10% of its actual cost to develop.

The moderate reservoir mandated by the Omnibus Bill thus sets a precedent against the water management practices which have ruined many rivers and wasted many tax dollars in the past. But powerful growers and water developers oppose protection for the Stanislaus and will try to delete it from the Omnibus Bill. They want the massive reservoir, regardless of the cost to taxpayers, and despite the fact that it would forever bury the upper Canyon, with all its life and history of human occupation. They don't want a precedent set against more and more, ever larger and costlier dam projects.

Yet there are 14 dams on the Stanislaus already, 1300 dams in California, 50,000 in the nation.



## Other Rivers in the **BURTON OMNIBUS BILL**

A number of other rivers with national significance will be included in the Burton Omnibus Bill. Several were chosen by national fishing organizations for their outstanding trout and salmon fisheries. This list will change somewhat as the bill moves through the committees. Some of these rivers will be proposed for immediate Wild and Scenic designation, and others for Wild River study status.

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| California:  | Stanislaus River, from Camp Nine to Parrott's Ferry, plus parts of Rose Creek and South Fork Stanislaus.<br>American River, from Nimbus Dam to the Sacramento River.  |
| Oregon:      | North Umpqua River, from Soda Springs Dam to Rock Creek, plus parts of Horsehaven Creek.<br>Illinois River, from Deer Creek to the Rogue River.<br>For more information on Oregon Rivers contact:<br>Oregon Wilderness Coalition<br>P.O. Box 3066, Eugene, Oregon 97403 |
| Florida:     | Myakka, St. Lucie and Little Peedee Rivers (all proposed as study rivers.)  |
| Connecticut: | Farmington and Salomn Rivers.   |
| Vermont:     | White River.  |
| Washington:  | North Fork Stillaguamish, Dosewallips, Quillayute and Soleduck Rivers (all great fishing rivers on the Olympic Peninsula.)  |