

NEXT MEETING

January 28, County Education Building in Independence; entrance at 135 S. Jackson. Time 7:30 p.m. There will be two slide presentations, "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring" by Elizabeth Anderson, and "The Wild Horses of the White Mountains" by Kathy Noland, U. S. Forest Service. Don't miss the "Early Bird" quiz at 7:30.

President's Message:

Greetings for the new year! In order to entice you with a longer program period, with less business at our evening meetings, the Executive Committee will meet before each Chapter Meeting to sift out the important items of business for your consideration. This is not to discourage your input, however, and your suggestions are encouraged at any time.

Emphasis for the year will be (1) to interest children in the plant world around us, and (2) to give special attention to adults who may need help with identification.

May a happy flowering year be yours!

. Doris Fredendall

SYMPOSIUM REMINDERS

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League, is to be January 31 and February 1 at California State University, Sacramento. Be there to gain inspiration as well as to help develop priorities and strategies for action. Call 916/444-8726 for information.

THE MARY DeDECKER SYMPOSIUM sponsored by the University of California White Mountain Research Station, CNPS, and the Bristlecone Chapter, to be April 30 to May 3. The location is the White Mountain Research Station east of Bishop, with a field trip and cookout at the Eureka Dunes. Contact Clarence Hall, Jr., 3805 Geology Building, UCLA, Los Angeles, 90024, or the address of this Bristlecone Newsletter.

D I R E C T O R Y

1987

BRISTLECONE CHAPTER

Eastern California

LOGO: *Pinus longaeva*

Office or Committee	Name	Address	Telephone (619)
President	Doris Fredendall	P.O. Box 146 Big Pine 93513	938-2787
Vice President	Mark Bagley	P.O. Box 1431 Bishop 93514	873-5326
Secretary	Evelyn Mae Nikolaus	P.O. Box 396 Independence 93526	878-2149
Treasurer	Vincent Yoder	P.O. Box 330 Lone Pine 93545	876-4275
Membership-South	K. C. Wiley	P.O. Box 775 Lone Pine 93545	876-5788
Membership-North	Frances Cholewa	Rt. 1, Box K32 Bishop 93514	872-1709
Conservation	(Volunteers come forth.)		
Legislation	(Volunteers come forth.)		
Hospitality	Betty Gilchrist	Rt. 2, Box 89 Lone Pine 93545	876-4517
Sales, Posters	Vincent Yoder	P.O. Box 330 Lone Pine 93545	976-4275
Field Trips	Mark Bagley	P.O. Box 1431 Bishop 93514	873-5326
Rare Plants	Mary DeDecker	P.O. Box 506 Independence 93526	878-2389
Escaped Exotics	Mary Ann Henry	329 Perdue Ave. Ridgecrest 93555	
Publicity	Pat Crowther	3047 West Birch Bishop 93514	873-4565
Newsletter	Mary DeDecker	P.O. Box 506 Independence 93526	878-2389
Historian	Betty Gilchrist	Rt. 2, Box 89 Lone Pine 93545	876-4517
Education	Ann Yoder	P.O. Box 330 Lone Pine 93545	876-4275

CONWAY SUMMIT FIELD TRIP - October 11, 1986.

Mark Bagley led the last trip of the season to Conway Summit and the Virginia Lakes area. For those of us who left a windy Owens Valley, Conway was a pleasant surprise. We stopped there for an overview of yellow, greenish yellow and barren aspen tucked between sage scrub hills topped by a deep blue sky and snow dusted mountains. For closer details we ambled along an aspen lined dirt road leading away from the BLM fire station. Mark pointed out the difference between the genus Populus (aspen and poplars) and the genus Salix (willows). Populus has several scales per bud while Salix has only one. Both are in the same family, Salicaceae.

On our way to Virginia Lake we stopped at a meadow surrounded by lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta var. murrayana). There we saw mountain timothy (Phleum alpinum), yarrow (Achillea), a Potentilla, and several Lupines (Lupinus). At Virginia Lake we had lunch on a grassy slope warmed by sunshine. Later in another meadow the serious botanists were examining the differences between three Potentillas, while others were trying to get positive identification on a bird. A small pool produced northern mudwort (Limosella aquatica). To finish the trip with a flair, Mark took us to a view point in Lee Vining Canyon where thirteen bighorn sheep could be seen grazing.

. Hans Van der Noordaa

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

We will be sharing the year with five new members. Warm greetings to each of you!

Pat Eaton
Route 1, Box 189A
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Mary K. Jacobs
P.O. Box 938
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Rosanne & Tom Higley
P.O. Box 314
Lee Vining, CA 93541

Lisa Jaeger
Star Route 1, Box 37
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Ray and Bette Sisson
Route 2, Box 161
Lone Pine, CA 93545

* * * * *

Y'ALL COME!

Come to a PULLING PARTY at the Eureka Dunes April 21-22 (or April 22-23). We will repeat the project of last May 24, doing our bit toward eradicating the barbwire Russian thistle, *Salsola paulsenii*, which gained a good foothold during the period of ORV activity. Put it on your calendar and watch for more details in the next issue.

BRISTLECONE CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS, 1987 SPRING SCHEDULE

MARCH 7-8. RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK AND THE DESERT TORTOISE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA, NORTHEASTERN KERN COUNTY. Leaders: Mary Ann and Ronald Henry. Saturday we will visit areas in Red Rock Canyon State Park and adjacent parts of the El Paso Mountains. Sunday we'll visit the Desert Tortoise preserve. Camping Saturday night may be in a primitive, dry camp. Meet at the State Park Ranger Station/Visitors Center, just west off of Highway 14, at 10:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Easy to moderate walking.

APRIL 4-5. NORTHERN DEATH VALLEY. Leader: Peter Rowlands, Environmental Specialist and Botanist, Death Valley National Monument. We hope to explore the west side of the Cottonwood Mountains, between Ubehebe Crater and Hunter Mountain. Other areas in the northern part of Death Valley may be visited instead, depending on what the flowers are doing. Be prepared for a primitive, dry camp on Saturday night. Meet at 10:00 am at the Grapevine Ranger Station (near Scotty's Castle), Death Valley National Monument. Easy to moderate walking.

MAY 16. SYMMES CREEK BURN, WEST OF INDEPENDENCE. Leader: Doris Fredendall. This is the area burned in July, 1985. We'll look at regrowth and recovery of the plants at this site in its second season after the fire. Annual wildflowers were abundant in the first season of recovery. Meet at 9:30 am, about 4.5 miles west of Independence along Onion Valley Rd., at its junction with Foothill Rd. Short, easy walks.

JUNE 13-14. 4-WD VEHICLE TRIP IN THE INYO MOUNTAINS. Leaders: Mary and Paul DeDecker. We will go into the Inyo Mountains from Big Pine and return via Independence. Dry camp Saturday night at Papoose Flat. Meet at 9:00 am in Big Pine at the Triangle Campground, junction of US 395 and Hwy 168. High clearance 4-wd vehicles are absolutely necessary. If planning to participate please contact the leaders at 878-2389.

FIELD TRIP POLICIES

Generally, day trips last most of the day while the overnight trips conclude early Sunday afternoon. If you have your own vehicle you can stay as long as you wish, but if you leave the group early please inform the trip leader so there's no unnecessary worrying. Bring a lunch and drinks on a day trip. Often we are near the vehicles at lunch, but always be prepared to carry your lunch on a hike. Bring plenty of water or other thirst quenching beverages (one gallon per person per day if it's hot, plus water for the car and for cooking and cleaning if we're camping), a hat, dark glasses, sunscreen, and sturdy walking shoes. Don't forget to bring along field guides and a hand lens!

Unless indicated, the average car should do fine on our trips. Please use a reliable vehicle, with good tires, and start out with a full tank of gas. Trips will LEAVE at the time announced, so please arrive a few minutes early. Car pooling is encouraged.

Family, friends, visitors, and members from other chapters are welcome to come along, but please no pets.

Contact Mark Bagley, field trip chairman at 873-5326, if you have any ideas for trips or would like to lead one.

RECOVERY OF THE BURN

The Independence Burn, as it is known locally, put on a fantastic floral display during the late spring and summer months of 1986. (See Vol. 4, No. 6, Nov. 1985; and Vol. 5, No. 2, March 1986.) The slopes were a beautiful lavender for weeks. Even more encouraging was the high percentage of recovery of shrubs and oaks. Doris Fredendall made periodic checks and furnished us with plant lists including the following. These range in area from the oak grove along a fault high on the slope to the open alluvial slopes below, including streamsides. Some were early bloomers while others came later and continued through the summer.

<i>Amsinkia tessellata</i>	<i>Linanthus dichotomus</i>
<i>Angelica lineariloba</i>	<i>Loeseliastrum matthewsii</i>
<i>Antheropeas wallacei</i>	<i>Lotus procumbens</i> var. <i>jepsonii</i>
<i>Arabis pluchra</i>	<i>Lupinus excubitus</i>
<i>Argemone munita</i> ssp. <i>rotundata</i>	<i>Melilotus albens</i>
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	<i>Mentzelia congesta</i>
<i>Calyptridium monandrum</i>	<i>Mimetanthe pilosa</i>
<i>Camissonia pusilla</i>	<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>
<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	<i>Mimulus floribundus</i>
* <i>Ceanothus leucodermis</i>	<i>Nama aretioides</i>
<i>Centrostegia thurberi</i>	<i>Nama rothrockii</i>
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i>	<i>Nemacladus glandulosa</i> var. <i>orientalis</i>
<i>Chamaesycea albomarginata</i>	<i>Nicotiana attenuata</i>
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>
var. <i>californica</i>	<i>Phacelia curvipes</i>
<i>Delphinium parishii</i>	<i>Phacelia distans</i>
<i>Dichelostemma pulchellum</i>	<i>Phacelia fremontii</i>
<i>Emmenanthe penduliflora</i>	<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>
* <i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	var. <i>salicifolium</i>
* <i>Ephedra viridis</i>	* <i>Prunus andersonii</i>
* <i>Equisetum laevigatum</i>	* <i>Purshia glandulosa</i>
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i>	* <i>Quercus kelloggii</i>
<i>Eriogonum</i> (many annuals)	* <i>Rhamnus californica</i> var. <i>cuspidata</i>
<i>Eriophyllum pringlei</i>	<i>Rumex salicifolius</i>
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora</i>	* <i>Salix lasiolepis</i>
<i>Gilia brecciarum</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i>	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>
<i>Gilia malior</i>	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>
<i>Gilia ochroleuca</i> ssp. <i>ochroleuca</i>	<i>Stephanomeria parryi</i>
<i>Hulsea heterochroma</i>	<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>
<i>Layia glandulosa</i>	<i>Tauschis parishii</i>
<i>Lepidium fremontii</i>	<i>Tricardia watsonii</i>

*Plants which are crown sprouting or come up from rootstocks.

Some of the above should be in bloom for the May 16 Field Trip.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENT: A Lassen College Outreach Class, Botany 50, will be taught by Mark Bagley this coming spring. It is entitled NATIVE PLANTS OF THE EASTERN SIERRA and will be held on 7 Saturdays, every other week, beginning March 14 and ending June 6, plus 3 additional mid-week evening sessions. (2 units, \$10 fee) Call Terry Rose, Career Counseling Service, 619/873-7000 for preregistration. For more information call Mark Bagley at 873-5326 or Connie Vincent at 872-1451.

Public Comment Needed on Inyo National Forest Plan

The long awaited Inyo National Forest Proposed Land & Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement was finally issued in mid-October. These hefty documents (more than three inches thick, plus maps) will provide the management direction for all Forest lands and resources for the next 10 to 15 years. As such, they are very important in determining the future of our forest. Your comments on the draft plan are needed. Because of the holiday season and the complexity of the documents, the Forest Service has agreed to extend the public comment period to March 15, 1987. Send your comments to: Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514.

Friends of the Inyo

Fortunately for the forest, a coalition of concerned local citizens and environmental organizations, the Friends of the Inyo (FOI), was organized and ready to tackle the weighty plan when it came out. In addition to Inyo area residents and out-of-the-area forest users, FOI's present membership includes our own Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS, the Eastern Sierra Chapter of the Audubon Society, Wilderness Society, California Wilderness Coalition, Desert Protective Council, Desert Survivors, and the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter and Eastern Sierra Nevada Committee.

This group of conservationists, from various organizations and walks of life, has reviewed the draft plan and put together comments and suggestions to help make the final plan one that the Forest Service and conservationist can both live with. FOI is putting together a newsletter which should be ready by late-February and will be widely circulated. It will be mailed to all Bristlecone members. Tell your friends to look for it in the Bishop and Mammoth newspapers.

The Inyo Draft Forest Plan

Like most forest plans, the Inyo draft plan is neither as good nor as bad as it might be. Unfortunately, as with most (if not all) of the draft plans for California forests already released, the Inyo draft plan places an emphasis on increases in commodity outputs, such as timber harvest, livestock grazing and developed high-density recreation. This is at the direct expense of fish, wildlife and the native plants and plant communities that support them, and at the expense of dispersed recreational values based on them.

Some of the goals and standards and guidelines proposed in the draft plan could greatly benefit native plants and wildlife on the forest, but often these goals are in conflict with other goals. The draft plan does little to identify these conflicts and to propose solutions. It is conspicuously lacking in specific

management directions that would inform us how their conflicting proposed goals will or can be achieved.

Before commenting on the plan you will, of course, want to know a few particulars about it. The best way to become informed about the plan is obviously by reading the plan itself. Copies of the plan are no longer available, but you can look at one at any of the libraries in Inyo and Mono counties or at any Forest Service Office. Or arrange to borrow a copy by calling 873-5326 or 876-5807 (before 8:30 pm).

If you haven't the time to go through the plan yourself (it is rather long), the next best way to become at least modestly well-informed may be to look for the FOI newsletter in late-February. The newsletter will briefly outline the plan's good/bad points, the Forest Service's preferred alternative, and FOI's recommendations.

Key Management Issues

As you review the draft plan (i.e. -the Preferred Alternative), please keep in mind the following eight management issues that FOI has identified as being in need of special attention: grazing and range manipulation, timber, energy development, ORV use, alpine skiing development, roadless areas, riparian habitat/watershed, and wildlife/habitat/diversity.

The management actions that the Forest Service decides to take on each of these issues will have a large impact on forest ecosystems, on native plants, and potentially on rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species.

Following are very brief statements of the FOI position on each key management issue.

Grazing and Range Manipulation

FOI supports the draft plan statement that it is not possible to meet the Forest Service's national goal of a 46% increase in red-meat production due to arid climate and limited forage. But, the plan calls for an increase in livestock numbers (9% more AUM's) while at the same time rehabilitating range in "unsatisfactory" condition up to "fair" (not good) condition. This requires vegetation manipulation and range "improvements." The plan is completely lacking in any area specific plans for such actions and in identifying area specific management problems. Much other information that should be in the plan is not.

FOI recommends improving rangelands beyond "fair" condition by more cost-effective alternatives to vegetation manipulation and range "improvements," which are expensive and often detrimental to other resources. One of these methods would be reduction in livestock numbers.

Timber

The draft plan states that commercial timber harvesting does not contribute significantly to the Inyo area's economic base or to regional timber targets. It

would keep timber harvest at about current levels and calls for only "high-level" harvesting (clear cutting). The draft plan would cause loss of 65% of the Inyo's old growth timber and much of the snags so valuable to wildlife.

No clear cutting should be permitted anywhere and no commercial timbering at all west of Highway 395 to protect old growth forests. FOI is also considering recommendations to phase out commercial timbering forest-wide or to reduce the commercial timber base to areas where trees naturally regenerate and where no new roads would need to be constructed.

Energy Development

An assessment of the cumulative impacts of geothermal development should be made before additional exploration and development takes place. No further hydro development is recommended because of the importance of riparian habitats.

ORV Use

FOI recommends the plan's management prescription (Man. Rx) #18 "Open Roaded" be redefined and reduced to refer only to ORV "open" areas. The remainder of Man. Rx #18 should be redesignated as Man. Rx #17 "Limited Access." The plan's call for no snowmobile use west of Highway 395 in the Mammoth/June Lake area is supported by FOI.

Alpine Skiing Development

No new ski areas should be permitted until the cumulative impacts have been addressed. The plan's suggested SAOT (skiers at one time) level of 39,000-50,000 in the Mammoth/June Lake area is too high. It should not exceed the currently allowed buildout of 31,000 SAOT at Mammoth/June Lake. Many areas recommended in the draft plan for ski development are valuable wildlands that should not be developed.

Roadless Areas

Of the 18 "Further Planning Areas" in the Forest, FOI recommends all of Table Mt., Tioga Lake, White Mts. and Paiute (Inyo Mts.) as wilderness. The draft plan recommends only the first two and parts of the latter two areas for wilderness designation. The remaining 14 areas and all RARE II (released) areas should be designated Limited Access (Man. Rx #17).

Riparian Habitat/Watershed

FOI supports the plan's statement that "resources dependent on riparian areas (are to) receive priority over other resources where the two come into conflict." But the draft plan does not give specific management directives as to how these areas are going to be protected. Conflicts should be defined and specific management area directions given.

Wildlife/Habitat/Diversity

Management direction again is very vague. Seemingly, development has priority over wildlife, although bighorn sheep may be an exception. In the

most intensely managed and/or developed areas conflicts with wildlife, habitat, and diversity are not even addressed. Concrete statements of direction to resolve conflicts must be written into the plan.

Sensitive Plants

Unfortunately, not much is said about sensitive plant species in the draft plan. An out of date list of sensitive plants is presented in the DEIS with potential conflicts listed for most, but not all species. A Forest "watch list" is mentioned, but no species list presented. The criteria used to place species on the sensitive list or the "watch list" are not given.

Plan goals and standards and guidelines are to manage so that sensitive plants will not eventually require Federal listing, so that they will not drop below viable (undefined) levels, and to permit studies on those species only if the species would benefit. Activities would not be allowed that would cause species on the "watch list" to decline to a "sensitive" status.

These general directions are fine, but the draft plan does not specify any actions beyond the present policy of survey and site avoidance on a case-by-case basis. Sensitive plants are not mentioned in the management prescriptions and management area directions. Instead, the draft plan calls for the development (by 1987) of a Forest sensitive plant program plan "to delineate management priorities and to expand the scope of sensitive plant management..." This plan should have been developed and included as part of the draft Forest plan.

What You Can Do

Write FOI for more information If you'd like to be on FOI's mailing list for more info on the Inyo forest plan, drop a line to Friends of the Inyo, Box 406, Lone Pine, CA 93545. The FOI newsletter will be out in late-February and detailed FOI comments will also be available by the end of February. To see the detailed comments or to borrow a copy of the draft plan call 873-5326 or 876-5807 (before 8:30 pm).

Send comments to the Forest Supervisor. The public comment period ends March 15, 1987. Send your comments to: Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514. If you subscribe to the Bristlecone Newsletter you will be receiving the FOI newsletter with information on the plan, conservation-oriented recommendations, and suggestions on letter writing topics and how to most effectively write your letter.

If you really care about the Inyo, now is the time to participate. This Forest Plan will set management direction for the next 10 to 15 years and most likely for the next 50 years. Our comments could make a real difference.

... Mark Bagley, Nancy Zierenberg and Mike Prather

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is an organization of lay persons and professionals united by an interest in the plants of California. It is open to all. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Varied interests are represented.

Name _____ P.O. or Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Membership Category:

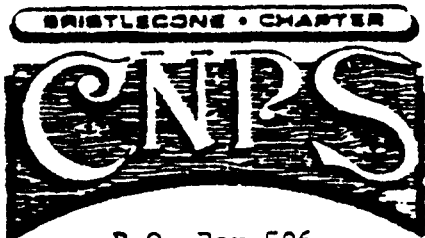
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--|
| _____ Life, Couple | \$500 | I wish to be affiliated with the
Bristlecone Chapter _____ |
| _____ Life, Individual | 450 | |
| _____ Supporting | 50 | Other _____ |
| _____ Household | 30 | Please make check payable to:
California Native Plant Society |
| _____ Individual or Library | 18 | |
| _____ Student or Retired | 12 | |
| _____ Retired Couple | 15 | |

GIFT contribution: Where most
needed _____ Conservation _____

Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS
P.O. Box 506
Independence, CA 93526

The BRISTLECONE NEWSLETTER comes out bimonthly. It is mailed free to members of the Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS. The subscription is \$5.00 per year for others. Editor: Mary DeDecker.

California Native Plant Society



P.O. Box 506
140 West Pavilion Street
Independence, CA 93526

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
INDEPENDENCE
CALIF. 93526
PERMIT NO. 7