The Pipe Vine

January, 1986

JANUARY MEETING

6 January, Monday, 7:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 p.m. Program 8:00 p.m.

This month we will have a potluck followed by an informal discussion of Butterfly Valley and the surrounding forest, located in Plumas County. Slides will be shown of plants represented in the area and we encourage all who have slides of Butterfly Valley or the nearby forest, to bring them and share them with us. We will also discuss the Forest Management Plan and the future of the Botanical Area. Please bring your favorite potluck dish and your own tableware, and let's have an enjoyable first meeting of 1986.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

BUTTERFLY VALLEY TO GET A MANAGEMENT PLAN by Pat Kelly, Conservation Chair
Bob Wilcox, Ranger, Plumas National Forest and Linnea Hanson, Botanist, Plumas National Forest, met with the Mount Lassen Chapter Executive Board on November 30. Ranger Wilcox stated that the Forest Service has recently acquired 160 acres of private land adjacent to the Butterfly Valley Botanical Area. This acquisition has now made it possible for the Forest Service to institute a management plan as had been proposed when the Botanical Area was established. As CNPS had been strongly in support of the creation of the Botanical Area, he asked that we now participate in the formulation of a management plan.

Currently, a timber sale is planned for portions of the forest surrounding the Botanical Area, including a number of regeneration cuts (clear cuts). This timber sale is under appeal to Washington due to the concerns of some area residents. Some of our members are also concerned that this may adversely affect the plant life. Ranger Wilcox is giving us the opportunity to address these concerns by providing input on a plan which will be satisfying both to the Forest Service and the public.

Ranger Wilcox has indicated he would like to hear from us by June, 1986, and would like to be involved in a field trip to look over the area and discuss management opportunities. Unfortunately, the Forest is unwilling to set aside money to study the area and resolve some of the questions which require professional expertise. This is particularly a problem with respect to the hydrology of the area, and what effects logging may have on the water table. If we do not respond to their requests for assistance in formulating a management plan, we may not be able to protest future actions the Forest Service may take.
What role should the Mt. Lassen Chapter play in this affair? The CNPS State Board was made aware of the situation at their December 7 meeting. I fear, however, that unless we present a prompt course of action to the State Board, that this opportunity may slip us by.

FORKS OF BUTTE HYDRO PROJECT UPDATE by Pat Kelly
It appears that the final decision on whether this project will be implemented or not will be made in the next several months. The proposed project, to be constructed along what we call the "Butte Creek BLM Trail" will consist of a diversion dam 15 feet high and 90 feet long, an intake area, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ foot diameter pipeline running 16,500 feet downstream to the existing P.G.&E. DeSabela powerhouse. The proponents of the project say that "most" of the pipeline would be below ground. There would also be an access road built to the dam site.

The objection to the project by those of us who know and use the area is that the trail traverses a wild and scenic area supporting a rich and varied flora. The trail, although it meanders up and down along the side of the canyon, is suitable for the most casual hikers. On weekends one will always find families with small children, or older people out walking and wading in the beautiful creek. The hydro project would destroy this aspect of wilderness which we now enjoy as well as some of the plant life which we cherish.

A public hearing is scheduled for March 17-18 at the Water Resources Control Board Building in Sacramento. Butte Environmental Council is protesting that no public hearing is scheduled for Butte County.

Written comments on the project may be sent to Doug Albin, California Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, P.O. BOX 2000, Sacramento, 95810. Deadline is January 4th. If you choose to comment, copies of the EIR are available to help you at both the Chico and Paradise public libraries. Ruth Cunningham and myself will be attending the hearing in Sacramento. Anyone wishing to attend, let us know.

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