



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.

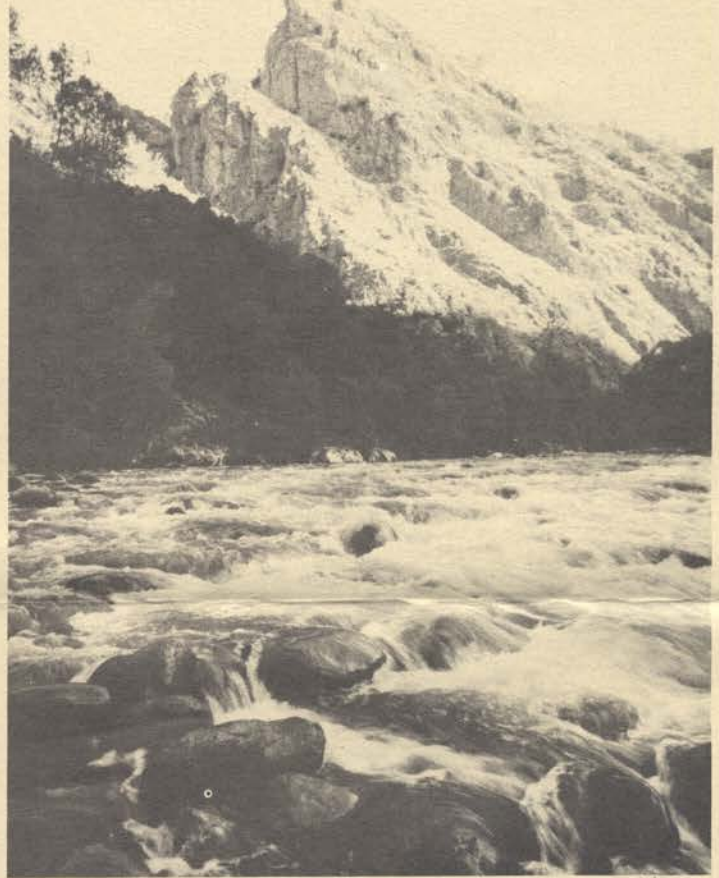
The Stanislaus is a national treasure, and a symbol for all the wild places which we need not, and will not, give up.

...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, hydroelectric 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.

- California: Stanislaus River, from Camp Nine to Parrott's Ferry, plus parts of Rose Creek and South Fork Stanislaus.
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.
Illinois River, from Deer Creek to the Rogue River.
For more information on Oregon Rivers contact:
Oregon Wilderness Coalition
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.)

Why You Are So Important

We sent you this information because the vote of the Congress member - or Senators - from your district is particularly important for the passage of the Omnibus Bill. Your letters will help get the House and Senate votes these rivers need. If you are not sure of your Congress member or U.S. Senators' names, call your town or city hall. Even a few sentences, such as in the sample below, can make a fine letter. But please write or telegram immediately. You can even phone your representatives' local office.

*U.S. Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*U.S. Senator
Senate Office Building*

*Congressman/woman
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Dear Representative
The survival of our nation's river
heritage is of great importance to
us. We can no longer afford to
senselessly destroy the places
people love. Please vote **YES** on the
Burton Omnibus Wild Rivers Bill,
and make sure that the bill
includes California's Stanislaus
River Canyon and the moderate
reservoir compromise.*

*Let us know how you intend
to vote. Thanks.*

*Sincerely,
Salmon, St. Lucie and
Little Pee Dee Dosewallips
#7 Horsehaven
White River, Vermont 01234*

Current Co-Sponsors of Stanislaus Legislation

CALIFORNIA

Phillip Burton
Don Edwards
Anthony Beilenson
George Brown
Ron Dellums
Julian Dixon
Robert Dornan
Paul McCloskey
George Miller
Norman Mineta
Edward Roybal
Pete Stark
Lionel Van Deerlin
Henry Waxman
Charles Wilson

ILLINOIS

John Anderson
Simon

MICHIGAN

Bonior
Brothead
Conyers
Carr

FLORIDA

Lehman
Pepper

NEW YORK

Bingham
Downey
Ottinger
Richmond
Rosenthal
Rangel
Chisholm
Fish
Weiss
Green

OREGON

Weaver

MAINE

Emery

RHODE ISLAND

Beard

MASSACHUSETTS

Drinan
Markey
Conte
Studds

VIRGINIA

Whitehurst

NEW JERSEY

Fenwick
Maguire
Rinaldo
Rodino

MARYLAND

Barnes
Long

PENNSYLVANIA

Edgar
Gray

VERMONT

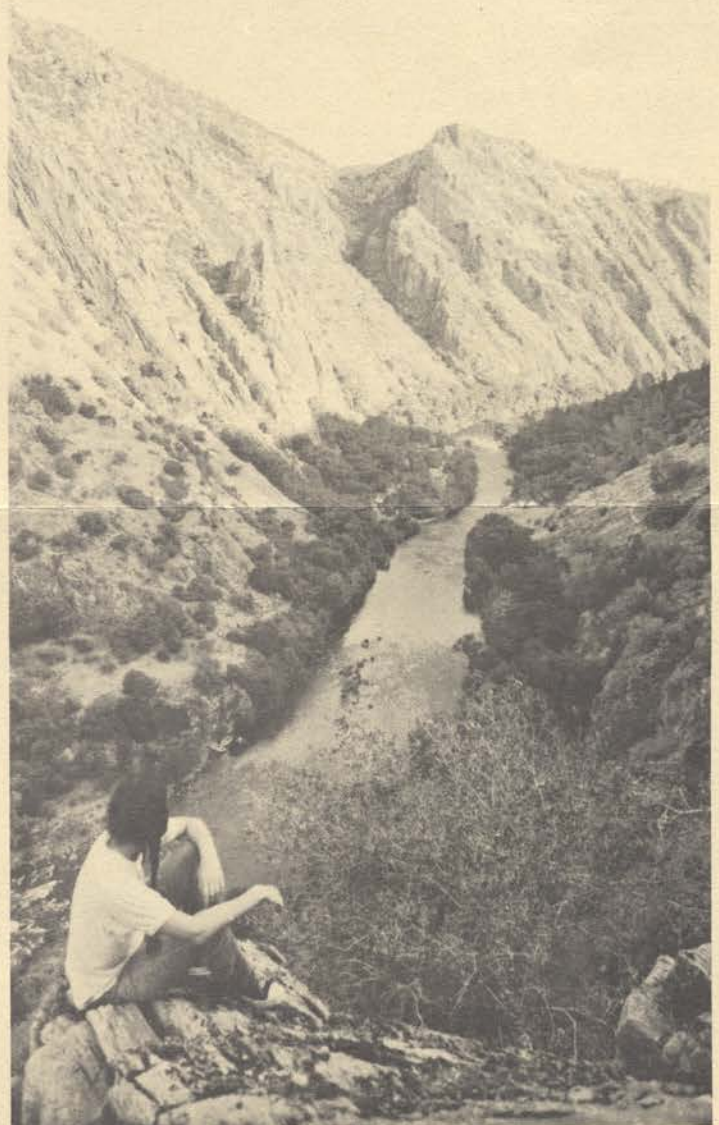
Jeffords

WISCONSIN

Kastenmeier

Your Friends-Nationwide

Get one, five, or ten friends to write also. Write or call friends who live nearby or in other states and ask them, as a personal favor, to write a short letter to their Congress members supporting the Omnibus Wild Rivers Bill - including the Stanislaus. We need broad national support.



More Comments on the Stanislaus River

SIERRA (Magazine of the Sierra Club): "The Stanislaus has joined a distinguished list of conservation battles: Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite, Hell's Canyon of the Snake River, Grand Canyon of the Colorado."

SANTA ROSA NEWS-HERALD: "This is the kind of issue Howard Jarvis should love. The enlarging of New Melones Reservoir not only perpetuates the practice of responding to gluttony with more gluttony, but rips off the taxpayers who have to foot the bill."

HAROLD GILLIAM, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER AND CHRONICLE: "I can testify that a float trip is much more than a search for thrills. To go down a river, particularly the Stanislaus, is to have a very moving experience with the living earth. The result is a deeper feeling for the processes of life on the planet, and a fuller understanding of yourself and your part in them. In these times, that is a need not to be ignored."

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY: "Whitewater rafting in the Stanislaus Canyon is unique. Most trails and organized excursions in other places are not equipped for people with disabilities."

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS NEWSLETTER: "A moderate reservoir maximizes the protection or enlargement of the salmon fishery downstream. Water development projects and other activities have already resulted in a 95% decline in the salmon run in the basin. Yet salmon makes up 40% of this country's fishery exports."

AL ROSSI, PRESIDENT, UNITED TEACHERS OF OAKLAND: "The Stanislaus is a natural classroom, a living museum accessible to all, old and young."

MARK DUBOIS, RIVER GUIDE AND DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS OF THE RIVER: "So many people say this place, and the battle to save it, has changed their lives. History is being made here in the way we treat our precious water resources."



Pro-river lobbying group outside district office of their Congress member.

Contact Friends of the River if you can help further...

F.O.R. Sacramento: (916) 451-9955
401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, California 95819

F.O.R. Bay Area: (415) 771-0400
Building C, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123

F.O.R. Los Angeles: (213) 343-6869
17758 Willard, Reseda, California 91335

F.O.R. Washington, D.C.: (202) 547-6900
American Rivers Conservation Council
327 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003



MEMBERSHIPS AND MONEY

You can help here, too.

- "I have written my Congress member and Senators."
- "Here's a donation of \$ _____ to Friends of the River to help pay for this mailing, inform others and pass the Burton Omnibus Wild Rivers Bill."
- "Here's \$ _____ for membership in F.O.R." We are a low-budget, highly active organization which has worked for over six years on a range of water, river and wilderness issues in California and in coordination with other groups around the nation. Dues are \$15 or more per year, or \$10 for low-income people. Membership brings you our publication, "Headwaters", every two months, action alerts, and invitations to events including our Spring Conference.
- "Here's a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ made out to 'Friends of the River Foundation' to be used for educational and research purposes for our rivers."

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Comments:

Please return in the enclosed envelope to:
Friends of the River, Sacramento, California.