

# **Cedar Roughs**

*CA-050-331*

CEDAR ROUGHS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

(CA-050-331)

1. THE STUDY AREA ————— 6,117 acres

The Cedar Roughs WSA is located in Napa County immediately west of Lake Berryessa, California. The San Francisco Bay area lies about 100 miles to the south. The WSA contains 5,875 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and one parcel of private land totaling 242 acres (see Map 1 and Table 1).

The WSA is surrounded by private land, nestling between Lake Berryessa to the east; Pope Valley to the north and west; Chiles Valley to the south and southwest; and, Elder Valley to the south. The boundary follows property lines.

The Cedar Roughs landform is generally a rounded ridgeline extending northwest to southeast. Iron Mountain, located in the southern portion of the study area, rises to over 2,200 feet in elevation. The only two perennial stream drainages, Hardin Creek to the west and Trout Creek to the east enter the WSA for a short distance. The most dominant natural feature is the Sargent cypress stand which comprises about 50 percent of the WSA, with most of the remainder either mixed chaparral or chamise-chaparral.

The area is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC/Research Natural Area (RNA) to recognize and manage the area's two special features—a small resident population of black bear and the Sargent cypress stand.

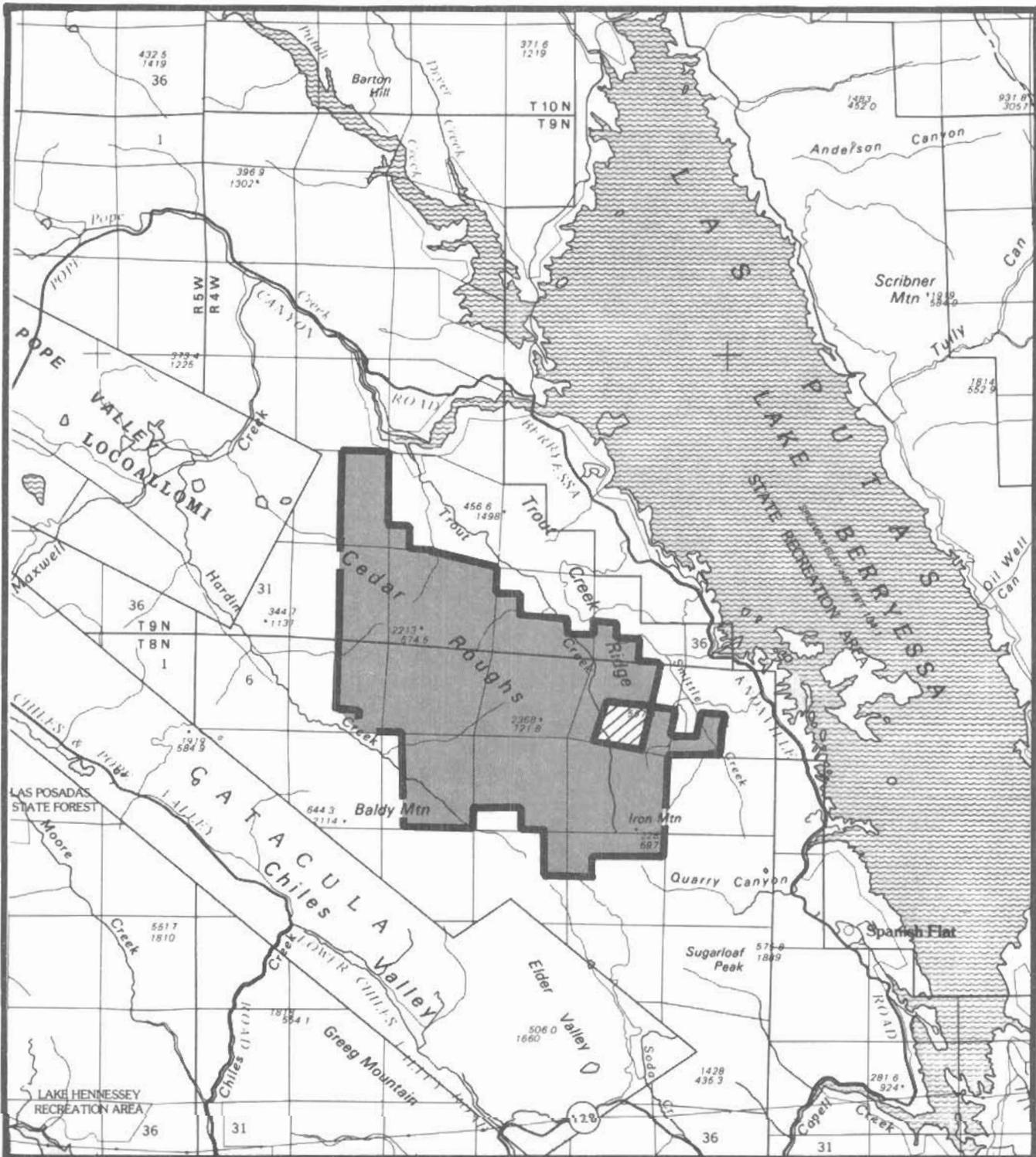
The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLEMA), and is an amendment to the Clear Lake Resource Area Management Framework Plan. Two alternatives were considered in the EIS: all wilderness and no wilderness.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE 0 acres recommended for wilderness  
5,875 BLM acres recommended for non-wilderness

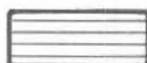
No wilderness is the recommendation for this WSA. The entire acreage in this WSA is released for uses other than wilderness. The all-wilderness alternative is considered to be the environmentally preferred alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long-term. The no-wilderness alternative will be implemented in a manner which will use all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

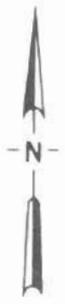
The WSA is recommended unsuitable because its overall wilderness characteristics are considered to be of low quality. The dense vegetation restricts human use to the outer fringes of the WSA, where the sights and sounds of outside activities will be more evident.

The management area's special features--the Sargent cypress stand and black bear population--are addressed in the ACEC activity plan. The plan prescribes management actions that provide adequate protection of these two species. The 2800-acre cypress stand is the largest example of this species and is unique in that it has not hybridized with other species of cypress found nearby.



-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

-  SPLIT ESTATE
-  STATE
-  PRIVATE



**Cedar Roughs  
Proposal  
MAP-1**



050-331  
JUNE, 1988

TABLE 1 - Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area

<u>Within Wilderness Study Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	5,875
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
<u>Inholdings</u>		
	State	0
	Private	242
Total		<u>6,117</u>
<u>Within the Recommended Wilderness Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(within WSA)	0
BLM	(outside WSA)	0
Split Estate	(within WSA)	0
Split Estate	(outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness		<u>0</u>
<u>Inholdings</u>		
	State	0
	Private	0
<u>Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	5,875
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	<u>0</u>
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness		5,875

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Naturalness: This WSA meets the minimum standards for naturalness. The four miles of old Jeep trails are the only intrusions that reduce naturalness, and with no use are revegetating.
2. Solitude: The WSA meets the minimum requirements for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The vegetation on Cedar Roughs allows opportunities for seclusion. At present, movement through the area is limited by the dense nature of the vegetation. Sights and sounds from the Lake Berryessa area (boats, motor vehicles, etc.) might intrude occasionally, but, at two to three miles, would have only slight impacts.

This WSA is periodically overflowed by military aircraft as part of the national defense mission taking place in approved military operating areas and flight corridors. The visual intrusions and associated noise create periodic temporary effects on solitude which are deemed necessary and acceptable as a part of the defense preparedness of the nation.

3. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: There are few opportunities for primitive and unconfined forms of recreation on Cedar Roughs. The uniform vegetation cover and mild topography do not offer interest or challenge for most users. Sport wildlife populations are relatively low, and there are no lakes and streams for fishing or boating. The unique cypress stand is of botanical interest, but only to a relative few.
4. Special Features: The Cedar Roughs WSA contains only two special features: the Sargent cypress stand and a resident black bear population. However, the black bear population is not significant enough to be noticeable by most visitors to the area. The Sargent cypress stand, comprising some 2800 acres, is the largest existing stand within California.

B. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

1. Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems: This WSA contains 5,875 acres of the California Chaparral/Chaparral ecosystem. Wilderness designation of this WSA would not add an ecosystem to the NWPS.

Table 2 - Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification Domain/Province/PNV	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>NATIONWIDE</u>				
California Chaparral/Chaparral	17	462,256	10	81,335
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>				
California Chaparral/Chaparral	17	462,256	10	81,335

2. Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a days driving time (five hours) of major populations centers. The WSA is within a five-hour drive of twelve major population centers. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population centers.

Table 3 - Wilderness Opportunities for Residents of Major Population Centers

Population Centers	NWPS Acres		Other BIM Studies	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>California</u>				
Chico	16	1,286,873	13	430,833
Merced	33	3,957,550	25	348,753
Modesto	36	4,126,963	81	1,722,326
Redding	14	1,236,503	11	344,633
Sacramento	46	5,001,817	87	2,479,541
San Francisco/Oakland	39	4,473,002	39	565,614
San Jose	27	3,765,512	29	352,748
Santa Rosa/Petaluma	10	888,579	12	134,167
Stockton	35	4,061,833	46	601,496
Vallejo/Napa/Fairfield	44	4,832,667	74	2,100,862
Yuba City	44	4,951,805	85	2,459,500
<u>Nevada</u>				
Reno	39	4,647,230	175	6,904,809

3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: The Cedar Roughs WSA would not contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Snow Mountain lies some 60 air miles to the north, and the National Park System Pt. Reyes National Seashore Wilderness lies some seventy air miles to the southwest.

C. Manageability

The Cedar Roughs WSA is manageable as wilderness. There are no intrusions that would preclude management of the area as wilderness. There is one parcel of private land in the eastern portion of the WSA with little likelihood of development.

Military overflights in this WSA must be considered to maintain the integrity of the existing and future national defense mission as well as the wilderness resource.

D. Energy and Mineral Resources

1. Summary of information known at the time of preliminary suitability recommendation: The Cedar Roughs WSA has low potential for mineral resources. There are no mining claims or evidence of mineral exploration or development in the WSA. There are no geothermal or oil and gas lease applications in the WSA. The U.S. Geological Survey on February 9, 1967 classified the lands in the area, which include the WSA, as being prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. This classification was based

upon the geology of the area. The potential for geothermal, based upon this USGS classification, is considered to be low. There is no present production of any mineral or geothermal resources in the WSA.

In summary, all mineral and geothermal potentials are low in the WSA.

2. Summary of significant new mineral resource data collected since the suitability recommendation which should be considered in the final recommendation: No U.S. Geological Survey or U.S. Bureau of Mines mineral surveys were conducted for the Thatcher Ridge WSA because the area was recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Because the mineral resource potential for the entire WSA is considered low, no map depicting mineral potential was prepared. As of January 23, 1988, there were no unpatented mining claims recorded in the WSA. There are no known salable mineral deposits in the WSA. As of February 11, 1988, there were no oil and gas lease applications in the WSA.

#### E. Impacts on Resources

The following table summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for all alternatives considered including designation or non-designation of the entire area as wilderness (for a full explanation of this summary, refer to the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement).

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (NO-WILDERNESS/NO ACTION RNA/ACEC Designation Remain)	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Wilderness Values	Loss of naturalness and solitude on less than one percent of the WSA from the water and access development. The opportunity for primitive recreation would be enhanced by the new foot trail. Losses to the Sargent cypress stand would amount to less than one acre and the black bear population would be unchanged.	Naturalness and solitude would be enhanced on about two percent of the WSA by the closure and reversion to natural vegetation of four miles of jeep trails. Otherwise impacts would be essentially the same as under the Proposed Action.
Sargent Cypress	Loss of less than one acre of the 2,800-acre Sargent cypress stand.	Slightly less direct loss of the stand than under the Proposed Action (because no research-related access would be constructed) and more secure long-term protection.
Black Bears	Offsetting small negative impacts from improved hunter access and small positive impacts from water developments would result in no change in the bear population.	Small positive impacts from water development and reduced hunting pressure coupled with increased long-term security from wilderness designation could result in a 5% to 10% increase in the bear population.
Recreational Use	50% increase (to 300 visits per year) in recreational use (hiking and hunting) from the improved foot trail access.	The creation of foot trail access for the general public would be offset by the loss of vehicle access by local landowners, the result being no change in overall recreational use levels.

F. Local Social and Economic Considerations

No local, social or economic considerations were identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Therefore, no further discussion of this topic will occur in this document.

G. Summary of WSA - Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the inventory process and early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and various alternatives for the ultimate management of these lands.

Sixteen people at the hearing testified with regard to the Cedar Roughs WSA. Of these, one supported the BLM's proposal for non-wilderness, and fifteen supported wilderness designation.

The Napa County Board of Supervisors supported the all-wilderness alternative, citing the lack of natural undeveloped public land in Napa County.

The State of California Resources Agency expressed support for all wilderness in the DEIS, but expressed support for no wilderness in the FEIS.

Other local, State and Federal agencies expressed no preference in their comments.