

Wednesday, August 27, 2003

Sunny, 91°F



# Redding.com

Record Searchlight newspaper

Print Ads

Classified Ads

Subscribe

Home

News

Sports

Outdoors

Currents

DATE

Community

Marketplace

Local | State/Region | National | World | Business | Updated News | Education | Sci/Tech | Editorial page | Obituaries | Police Logs | Vital Statistics | War on Terror | Photo galleries | Weather | Columns | Headlines

## Site Navigation

- ▶ CARS
- ▶ CLASSIFIEDS
- ▶ JOBS
- ▶ MAGAZINES
- ▶ PRINT ADS
- ▶ REAL ESTATE
- ▶ SUBSCRIBE
- ▶ YELLOWPAGES

▶ HOME

▶ NEWS

- AP Wire
- Business
- Education
- Headlines
- Iraq coverage
- Local
- National
- Police logs
- Religion
- Sci/tech
- Special Coverage
- State/Region
- Updated news
- Vital statistics
- Weather
- World

▶ SPORTS

• Golf Caddie

▶ OPINION

- Discussion forums
- Editorial page
- Kelly Brewer

Email this story

News: Local

Print this story

Advertisements

## Modoc plateau future a worry

### Conservation group urges public to attend meeting

Alex Breitler

Record Searchlight

August 22, 2003 — 2:07 a.m.

It's often forgotten way up there in California's corner pocket.

But the Modoc Plateau, a vast land swept with sagebrush and crowned with volcanic spires, is a jewel that possesses unique wilderness qualities, environmentalists say.

The plateau — which extends to eastern Shasta County — could see important changes in coming years as the government replaces land management plans that have been in effect for decades.

One conservation group, the California Wilderness Coalition, has issued an alert asking the public to get involved in the process.

Several scoping meetings have been planned, including one in Redding on Wednesday. Many north state residents travel to the Modoc area for recreation.

(Editor)

- [Doug Soccio](#)  
(opinion)

▶ **OBITUARIES**

▶ **ARCHIVES**

▶ **OUTDOORS**

▶ **FEATURES**

- [Comics.com](#)
- [Currents](#)
- [D.A.T.E.](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Photo galleries](#)
- [Recreation Guide](#)
- [Snapshot in time](#)
- [Special publications](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Welcome Guide](#)
- [Where we live](#)

▶ **COLUMNISTS**

- [Doni Greenberg](#)  
(News)

▶ **COMMUNITY**

▶ **SERVICE CENTER**

Search

[Archives](#)



[Yellowpages](#)

[Google Web](#)

[MyRedding email](#)

[Login](#)

[Password](#)

Conservationists say the region has been overcome by grazing and roads built for miners.

"Northeastern California is downright beautiful," said Ryan Henson of Shingletown, policy director with the CWC. "I would have thought that the age of looking at it as a place merely for the livestock industry should be over by now."

Plans covering about 3 million acres of public land will be rewritten, said Bureau of Land Management spokesman Jeff Fontana.

The land spreads from eastern Shasta and Siskiyou counties to northwestern Nevada.

Plans governing these areas haven't been reworked in as many as 30 years.

"They're pretty outdated," Fontana said. "In some cases they don't even address things that have been put into law since the plans were written," like the 1972 Clean Water Act, he said.

The area is unique since it marks a convergence of the western Great Basin, the northern Sierra Nevada and the southern Cascades.

Deep canyons, steep mountains and caves are found there. Herds of antelope, elk and mule deer roam the land.

The CWC believes parts of the plateau could be worthy of wilderness designation, protecting the land from road building and development.

But an unrelated lawsuit settled earlier this year has thrown into question whether the government will allow BLM to look for and protect wilderness lands in the future.

Conservationists say millions of acres of BLM land nationwide are at risk.

The Modoc Plateau plans will show how receptive BLM might be to studying potential wilderness areas, Henson said.

### Opinion Poll

Are you concerned about the spread of the West Nile virus?

Yes.

No.

I don't care/know.

"This will be a test of, 'Will they?' and 'Can they?' " Henson said.

Plans should be complete by the fall of 2005, Fontana said. Reporter [Alex Breitler](#) can be reached at 225-8344 or at [abreitler@redding.com](mailto:abreitler@redding.com).

Friday, August 22, 2003



[Discuss this story...](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Outdoors](#) | [Currents](#) | [DATE](#) | [Community](#) | [Marketplace](#)  
[Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Usage Statistics](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© Record Searchlight - The E.W. Scripps Co. All rights reserved.