

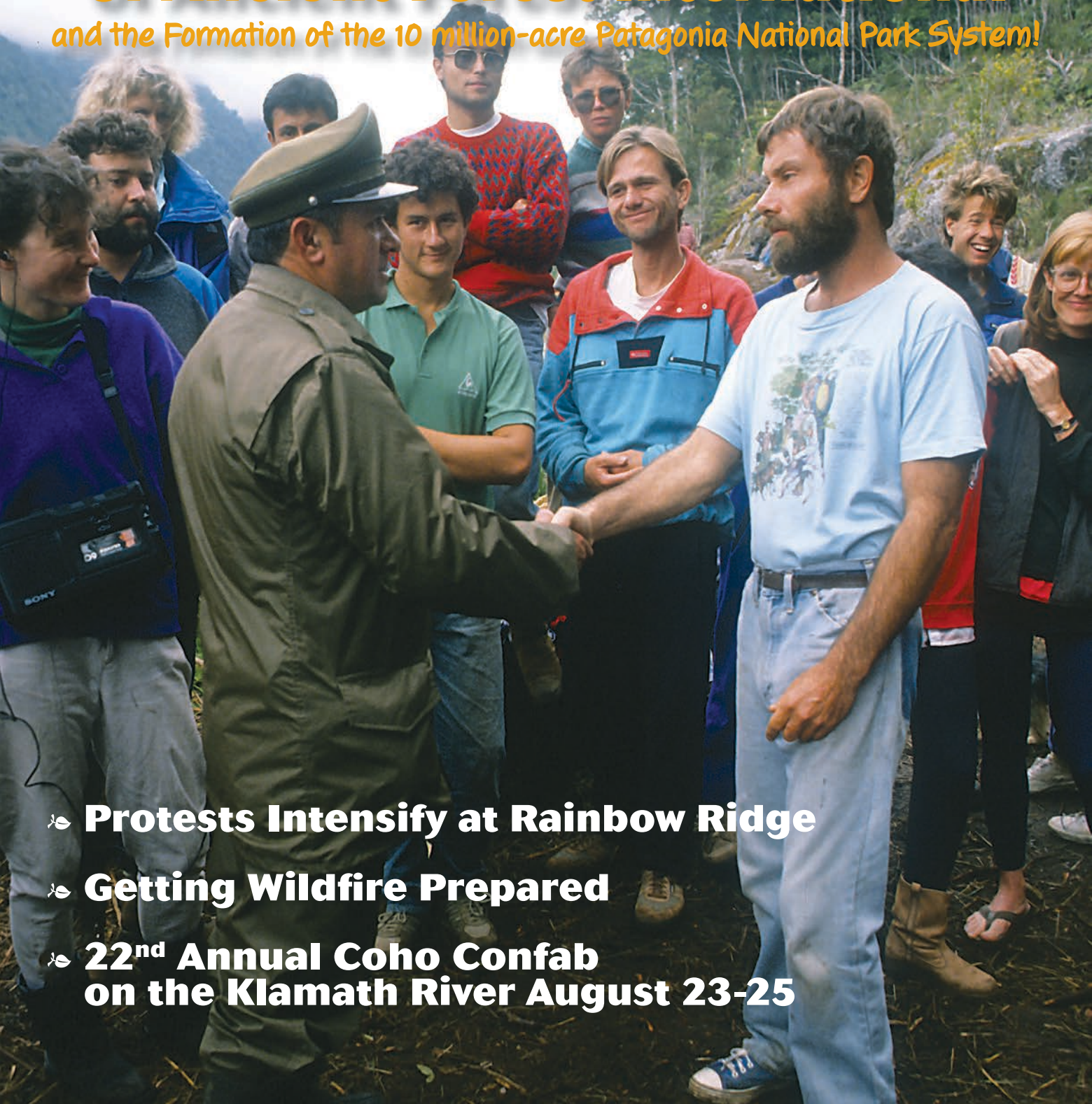
# Forest & River News

GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION & RESTORATION IN THE REDWOOD REGION TREES FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2019

## Celebrating 30 years of Ancient Forest International

and the Formation of the 10 million-acre Patagonia National Park System!



- **Protests Intensify at Rainbow Ridge**
- **Getting Wildfire Prepared**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coho Confab  
on the Klamath River August 23-25**





## Editor's Note

This issue celebrates the remarkable achievements of Ancient Forest International (AFI), a group of Southern Humboldt activists who 30 years ago leveraged the tremendous momentum of the Headwaters campaign to expand forest protection efforts into South America. You'll read about how the majestic Alerce inspired AFI, and AFI in turn helped to inspire the protection of Pumalín Park, a key component to the formation this April of the 10-million acre Patagonia National Park System. This is celebration worthy, and as Douglas Fir describes it, the biggest "WOW" he's ever had a direct connection to.

While we celebrate the past, this issue also leans into the grave challenges we face today, and provides many ways that you can join in and be a part of the solutions.

As we go to press, the Lost Coast League and many partner groups are engaging in direct action to halt Humboldt Redwood Company from logging Rainbow Ridge (see page 16). You can also read about EPIC's concerns over Green Diamond's acquisition of key salmon habitat in the Sproul Creek watershed, and ERRP's description of forward movement towards creating Salmon Parks along the Eel River. Richard Gienger digs into how increased wildfire threats highlight the importance of healthy, high quality forests, while Bill Eastwood provides a breakdown of important steps everyone needs to take to prepare for this fire season.

Please enjoy, and finds ways to get involved!

Cover photo: In 1989, during AFI's second Expedition to the Pumalín, Chilean Lieutenant Vargas (an amateur gold hunter and an avid nature lover) presents AFI Founder Rick Klein with a small vial of gold as a symbol of the importance of AFI's work. PHOTO BY STEVE GILROY

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**CORRECTION!** Trees Foundation apologies for two erroneous edits made in the print edition of our Spring 2019 *Forest and River News*. The errors were corrected in the online version. On Page 20 (Briceland Road Stream Crossing Update, Diggin' In, The Richard Gienger Report) Gienger points out design flaws in the stream crossing designed by NOAA Fisheries, California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), and Humboldt County. In the print edition, we mistakenly changed CDFW to CalFire. On Page 4 & 6, Sanctuary Forest refers to McKee Creek Restoration Strategy permitting and funding from CDFW that we mistakenly changed to CalFire in the print edition. We regret the errors and apologize to CalFire, Richard Gienger, Sanctuary Forest, CDFW, and our readers.

# 30 Years of Ancient Forest International

In this issue we celebrate 30 years of Ancient Forest International (AFI) and its instrumental participation and outreach on behalf of various endangered forestlands in Chile, Ecuador, and Northern California.

AFI was inspired by South America's majestic Alerce, the "redwoods of the Southern Hemisphere" and their rich temperate rainforest ecosystem. Rick Klein first learned of the Alerce in 1970, and his goal of experiencing them, coupled with anti-war pragmatism in steering clear of the Vietnam War, led Rick to become a park ranger in Chile in 1971. At that time, he didn't find the giant Alerce trees that he had read about, but Rick and his pal Douglas Fir succeeded in hunting down and photographing Alerce in 1988.

Around that time Rick also led—and nearly killed—a different Doug into a different Alerce forest called Pumalín. According to Rick, when he took Doug Tompkins to see his first Alerce, the famed adventurer and philanthropist



Original and current AFI Board members gather to celebrate 30 years of AFI. L to R kneeling: Steveau Millard, Fred Bauer (OB), Rick Klein (OB), Douglas Fir (OB). L to R standing: Suzelle (OB), Jared Rossman (OB), Tim Metz, Lynn Ryan, Dave Walsh, Charlie Custer, Peter Childs (OB), Andy Barnett (OB). OB= original board member.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS FIR

could have met his demise scaling down a giant granite wall, or from dehydration when an indispensable water supply along the trek turned out to be dried up. When they made it out alive, Rick recalls Doug Tompkins

turning to him and saying, "That was fun, how much is it?" Rick replied, "\$25 an acre", and Doug went out and purchased his first large chunk of Pumalín.

Rick and AFI would continue to cheerlead and support Doug's massive acquisition of wildlands for conservation in Chile. This was the start of a truly remarkable conservation achievement that just occurred. On April 25, 2019, Chilean president Michelle Bachelet and Kris Tompkins (who started Tompkins Conservation with her husband Doug Tompkins) finalized an agreement that completes the world's largest transfer of land from private to public hands, and expands Chile's national parkland by 10 million acres. The Tompkins Conservation donated slightly more than one million acres—largely consisting of Pumalín—and the Chilean government, for its part, contributed nearly 9 million acres of federally owned land.



AFI founder Rick Klein hugging an alerce tree in what is now the Alerce Andino National Park. Douglas Tompkins would introduce Rick at fundraisers as a "world champion alerce-hunter".

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS FIR





Doug Tompkins was a founder of The North Face and Esprit, as well as an accomplished skier, climber, and paddler. From the early 1990s on, he devoted the fortune he accumulated in business toward creating future national parks in some of Patagonia's last wild places. He purchased altogether 2.2 million acres in Chile and Argentina for conservation. Tompkins died in 2015 at the age of 72 from severe hypothermia when his kayak capsized and he was subjected to two hours of icy waters in Chilean Patagonia's General Carrera Lake. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMPKINS CONSERVATION

## AFI was Spawned from a Spirit for Trees

By Rick Klein

Ancient Forest International was born in 1989, at a time when the greatest standoff ever undertaken over a forest took place in the Headwaters Forest in North Coastal California. It consisted of 3,000 acres of the last great swatch of privately-held old-growth coastal Redwoods. Sit-ins, blockades, hostile confrontations, protester arrests, legal battles, prayer vigils, tree sits, occupations, and even deaths occurred. Times were intense!

Douglas Fir and I had just returned from a trek high into the pristine fjords of Chile. He was arguably the first to photograph the majestic Alerce, the "redwoods of the Andes", and presented his slideshow to a cadre of forest defense activists gathered in Garberville, California.

The slideshow focused on the giant Sequoia-like Alerce and its ecosystem, which was being pushed to the edge of extinction. Since 1531, this southern redwood has been extirpated from low

lands, retreating only higher up along the Andean rocky slopes.

"What a lark!" these old-growth forest defenders thought. To find ancient, huge, unsung trees high up in Chilean fjordal mountains. What a positive and badly-needed jaunt to travel to see them! This was the very first of many expeditions that spawned Ancient Forest International as well as dozens of Chilean NGO's, all dedicated to native forest appreciation and protection.

## Alerce-hunting with Rick

By Douglas Fir

It could be said that the seed that would become Ancient Forest International was planted in the twilight of a late austral summer day in 1988 on a little flat stretch of trail descending out of Southern Chile's Alerce Andino National Park. Rick Klein and I were emerging from our second plunge into primeval old-growth alerce forests, recently protected by the aforementioned park.



AFI's second expedition in 1989 that took ecotourists deep into the heart of Pumalín.  
PHOTO BY HAROLD SCHLANGE

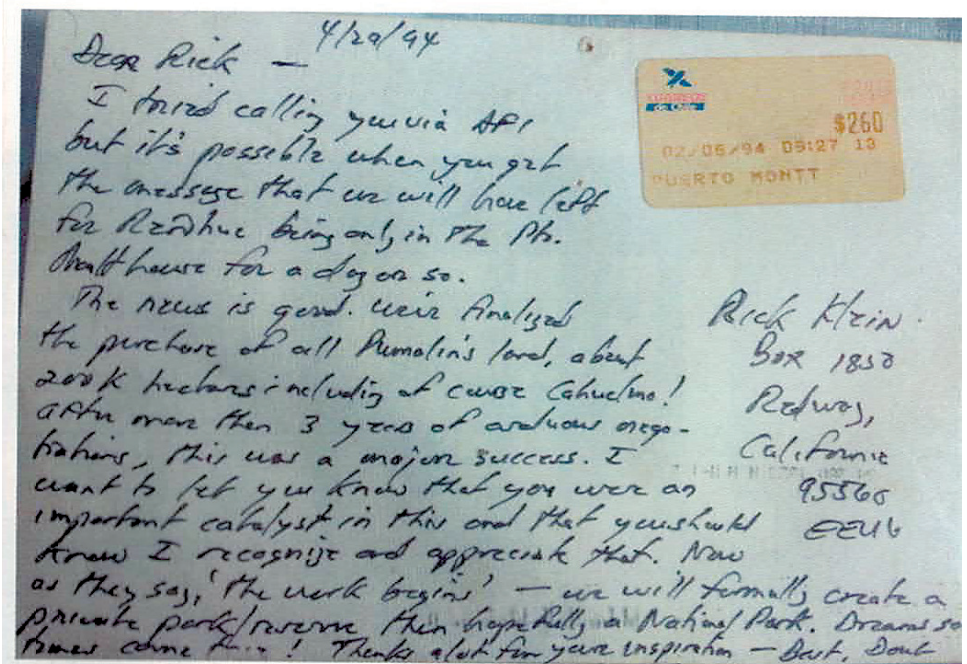


We had lingered reverentially among the ancient cathedral trees, picked our way gingerly over the litter strewn forest floor (sometimes eight feet of moss coated, jack-strawed, entwined fallen branches tangled above solid ground), and attempted to capture the definitive photograph of these little known evolutionary pinnacles of the botanical world (in this I failed). Our guide on the first trip had told us that we were likely among less than a dozen human beings to experience these groves. But now on our way out we had plum run out of light. A slim rivulet of water paralleled the trail at that point, and so it seemed as good a place as any to stop if we didn't want to stumble onward in the on-rushing darkness.

Rick was flushed with excitement as we bivouacked on this flat spot on a mostly descending ridge. In the previous month he had manifested a long-held dream, entering cathedral alerce forests twice here in Alerce Andino.

As we reflected over the past month's experiences (which included being shanghaied on a 100' sloop for nine days), Rick mused about the fate of the alerces, the lack of knowledge in North America of the existence of these forests, and the threat facing existing alerce groves outside of the protection of the national park system. What if there was an entity, an organization, a non-profit devoted to bringing these forests to the attention of the world and possibly raising money to purchase unprotected tracts? Could we effectively organize such an effort from our remote Humboldt refuge?

When Rick returned to Humboldt he forged ahead, inspiring a coterie of environmental activists whose energies had been focused on domestic issues to internationalize their scope. Paying initially out of his own pocket,



The postcard dated April 29, 1994 was mailed from Doug Tompkins in Puerto Montt, a city north of Chile's Pumalín Park, to Rick Klein's PO Box in Redway, CA. (In April, 2019, Pumalín Park was officially transferred from the Tompkins Conservatory to the Government of Chile to become a National Park, making it the largest transfer of land from private to public hands in the history of conservation.)

"Dear Rick, ...The news is good. We've finalized the purchase of all Pumalín's land, about 200K hectares, including of course Cahuelmo! After more than three years of arduous negotiations, this was a major success. I want to let you know that you were an important catalyst in this and that you should know I recognize and appreciate that. Now as they say, "the work begins" - we will formally create a private park/reserve then hopefully a National Park. Dreams sometimes come true! Thanks for all your inspiration. Best, Doug"

he collected a staff made up of myself as Project Coordinator; Ami Goldberg as Administrator; and a host of volunteers. Rick attracted a number of local noteworthies to serve as AFI's first board of directors including: Peter Childs, Fred Bauer, Suzelle, Andy Barnett, Lloyd Hauskins, and Jared Rossman. Jared's brother Michael also was brought on as science advisor.

At Rick's urging, the board authorized AFI's first project: Expedition Alerce. Rick reasoned that in order to bring attention to the facts and plight of the southern forests, an international

expedition splashy enough to attract major media attention was in order. Expedition Alerce was essentially a reprise of our earlier discoveries in Alerce Andino, but pushing beyond to terra incognita. Forest ecologist Dr. Paul Allaback signed on, giving the effort scientific credibility. Rick engaged Scott Holmquist (later to go on to create a number of projects that seek to memorialize the SoHum experience, notably the art/archive piece, *chronic freedom*) to organize a film crew to document the trek, which he did, landing the documentary,



*Expedition Alerce: Lost Forests of the Andes*, on The Learning Channel, where it aired repeatedly in 1990.

The energy and excitement generated by the first expedition was contagious

and garnered AFI its first funding stream and its first acquisition project, Santuario Cañi, ironically not an Alerce forest. It was, however, Chile's first private park and its premier forest education project. It was through the

Cañi that the introductions to Yvonne Chouinard (founder of Patagonia clothing company), Doug Tompkins (founder of The North Face, and Esprit) and Alan Weeden (New York financier) occurred. These three would be AFI's primary sources of support for the initial years. AFI would go on to organize expeditions into the Chilean wilderness for the next several years as Doug Tompkins dug into southern Chile at the beginning of his effort to protect vast quantities of Patagonian wilderness, the culmination of which we currently are celebrating.

## AFI Inspired Protection of "The Yosemite of South America"

By Douglas Fir

The Cochamo Valley sits near the top of Chile's Reloncaví Sound, a long slender finger of briny sea some 70 miles from open water, a picturesque sliver of the ocean slotted between verdantly forested, steep slopes dropping precipitously 3-4000' from the often-snowy heights lining the sound. The valley's floor has been cleared and grazed for 140 years but the granite walls and domes, the primary alerce forests, and the crystal clear river provide an extraordinary wilderness experience.

Following AFI's first expedition in the area in 1993, we began calling the glacially carved Cochamo Valley "The Yosemite of South America." Now, when you do a web search for Cochamo, two out of three sites say something similar, including the Chilean sites, the owners of which have probably never been anywhere near Yosemite. So, amongst AFI's lesser accomplishments, we created a meme (even if that word didn't exist when we did it).

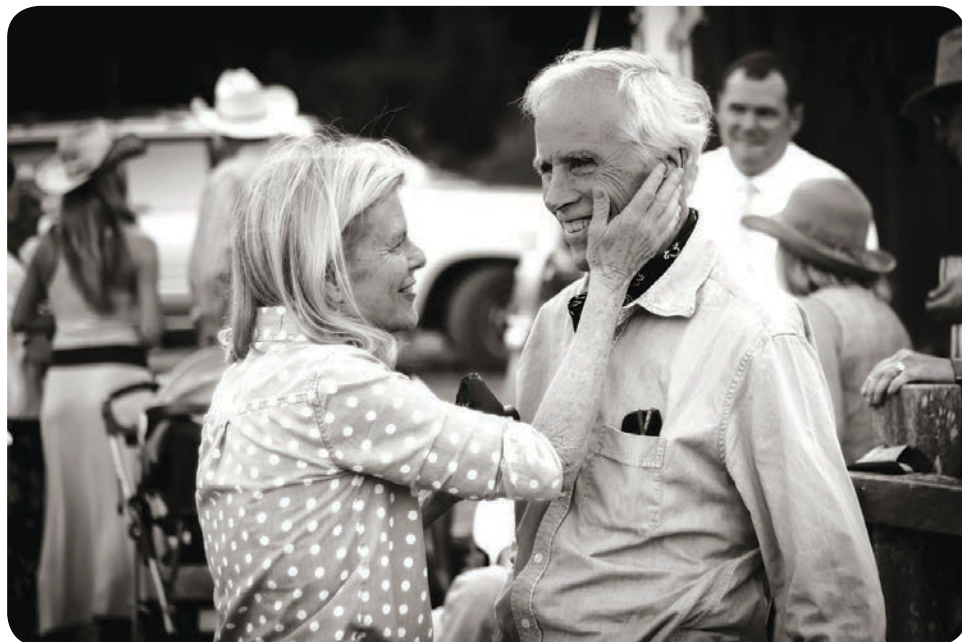


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMPKINS CONSERVATION



PHOTO FROM NEWS.MONGABAY.COM

Doug Tompkins and Kris McDivitt Tompkins were the ultimate eco-power couple. They were both worth millions when they fell in love in the early 1990s. His fortune came from cofounding two giant outdoor-clothing companies, North Face and Esprit. Kris made her fortune as the first and only CEO for 20 years of billion-dollar outdoor clothing company Patagonia. In the early 1990s they both cashed in their shares and uprooted from California to live in the real Patagonia, and each set up conservation charities to purchase and protect millions of forested acres. Since Doug's death in 2015, Kris has run both charities, and this year concluded a long negotiation with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet's administration that created a 10 million-acre Patagonia National Park system.



The comparison with Yosemite works when it comes to the 3,500-foot sheer granite walls topped by magnificent domes and cut by waterfalls, providing breathtaking visuals and numerous technical climbing challenges. But the analogy ends there. First, the valley is in private ownership as opposed to being part of Chile's extensive national park system. The fact that landowners have chosen to protect their land and create income-generating recreational opportunities testifies to the fact that when locals recognize that their region has amenity and resource values that also yield economic benefits, they can be encouraged to preserve them.

AFI can claim some credit for this. In 1994-95 I lived in Cochamo for four months. Along with organizing a guide training program, a large part of my work consisted of helping people understand the extraordinary resource that they had, one that would serve them without exploiting and degrading their environment. A few years later, AFI secured funding for a brilliant Chilean activist and environmental scientist, Elisa Corcuera, to develop a management plan in conjunction with the community of Cochamo. That effort served to consolidate the community's dedication to preservation and tourism.

Another way that the Cochamo Valley and the Yosemite differ is that the road only penetrates four miles from the Valley's mouth. To arrive at the heart of the valley where the great, great walls ascend, one needs either to walk or ride a horse. Construction of the road by the military engineers began in the last month of my stay. Because I learned that the military had not taken out the required environmental permits, I filed a protest with the newly organized equivalent of the U.S.'s EPA. Subsequently, AFI was instrumental in

finding the funding for the community to mount a successful legal challenge that has permanently prevented further extension of the road.

The Wikipedia article on Cochamo includes the comment: "Recently, ecotourism has become a constantly growing activity in the area." Inevitably, the valley would have been discovered, but AFI's work and expeditions into the area really put it on the map and helped create what is maturing as a sustainable ecotourism economy.

## **AFI Helped Protect Key Biological Corridor in Ecuador**

By David Walsh

The transfer of Pumalín Park into the Chilean national park system is not the only victory AFI is celebrating on this 30th anniversary. In February of 2019, we successfully negotiated the sale of the Pañacocha Lodge to a private tourism company, culminating almost 20 years in the leadership role of establishing and defending a 140,000-acre primary tropical forest reserve in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Like many activists in Humboldt County, I cut my baby teeth during the Headwaters Forest campaign, opening the Arcata Action Center in 1989 to support Forest Forever signature gathering. That same year, as a member of the Rainforest Action Group at Humboldt State, I was involved in very successful fundraising events to purchase primary forests on the western slope of the Ecuadorian Andes as part of Los Cedros Cloud Forest Reserve. It was around this time that I heard about Rick Klein and the work AFI was doing in Chile.

Then a project in 1992 with the Centro de Investigaciones de Bosques Tropicales engendered my lifelong affinity to the jungles of Ecuador. To assist in physically demarcating a million acres that had recently been adjudicated to Ecuador's Huaorani contacted and un-contacted bands, we spent months in the Amazon bushwhacking with machetes and living off of the land. As a backdrop, Ecuador was in the grips of World Bank and IMF deregulation of the oil industry, and plans were on the table to build the Maxus Road into



The top of the fjord of Cochamo Valley, where AFI led expeditions and dubbed the area "The Yosemite of South America." AFI assisted in the development of a management plan in conjunction with the community of Cochamo, and helped block the extension of a road into the ancient wilderness. PHOTO BY HAROLD SCHLANGE





AFI's third expedition in 1990, posing on a temporary tidal flat while the tide in the bay was receding in front of the fjord of Cahuelmo in the Pumalín wilderness of Chile.

PHOTO BY DANIEL DANCER

the heart of the Yasuni National Park. This road was eventually built, causing horrendous fragmentation, colonization, and pollution.

Around 1998, AFI partnered with Earthways Foundation, Rainforest Concern, and Rainforest Information Centre in fundraising to acquire the Pañacocha Lodge, a 137-acre (55-hectare) property with a backpacker-style lodge. The coalition succeeded in purchasing the lodge in 1999-2000.

The strategic in-holding of the Pañacocha Lodge in the Bosque Protector Pañacocha positioned AFI as a central player and advocate to influence petroleum development policy in the western Amazon. During our tenure, the Bolivarian revolution saw Ecuador nationalize the oil concession known as Block 15 from Occidental Petroleum, and take a lead role in managing their own natural resources. In gold mining and other sectors, due mostly to Chinese investment, this has not worked out very well. But our advocacy during this transition most certainly led to the minimization of impacts on this pristine Amazonian frontier.

The Pañacocha Lodge is located in the narrow gap between Ecuador's two largest protected areas in the Amazon: the 982,000-hectare Yasuni National Park and the 600,000-hectare Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. The Bosque Protector—a land status in Ecuador that restricts timber harvesting—was established in Pañacocha in 1995 by grassroots efforts to protect the area's important values as a Biological Corridor. Without a Management Plan and strong advocacy, however, this designation did little to prevent fragmentation and unbridled colonization.

AFI helped fund the creation of a Management Plan for the 56,000-hectare Reserve and shepherd the Management Plan through the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment. As a result, Ecuador adopted what are called "Best Management Practices" for the first time in history. AFI also helped gain recognition for the conservation of Yasuni-Pañacocha-Cuyabeno biological corridor in the Ecuadorian Oriente.

The only way to truly understand the full scope of the conservation victory this represents is to Google Earth

the area. Just north of the Pañacocha lagoon you can see the fine cleared line of a pipeline cutting south and east through the reserve. There are no roads, no clearings, no colonization, or oil palm plantations in the heart of the reserve. While there is some oil development conducted by the national oil company, it is nevertheless the first example of minimal impact development ever carried out anywhere in Ecuador, including in national parks. This is a direct result of AFI's work within the Ministry of the Environment to advocate regional planning, starting with Pañacocha.

The Correa government closed thousands of non-profits in 2010. We were forced to sell the Pañacocha Lodge or have it nationalized. The reserve will very likely experience future threats such as road building by regional entities and colonization. AFI will continue advocating to make sure that doesn't happen to this vital Biological Corridor.

## AFI in California

By Lynn Ryan,  
*AFI California Program Coordinator*

From the Oregon border south and from the Pacific Ocean east, Ancient Forest International works across a fragmented yet still-viable landscape

In 2000, I wandered into the Ancient Forest International (AFI) office in Redway looking for volunteer opportunities. AFI and Save the Redwoods League had just raised \$7 million to purchase, transfer to Bureau of Land Management, and preserve 3,800 acres of second and old-growth forest, along with neighboring conservation easements, in order to protect an intact wildlife corridor connecting two large protected ecosystems on either side of the Mattole river valley. This was the



Redwoods to the Sea Project, and the nation's first wildlife corridor initiative to hit the ground.

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club and local watershed group Friends of Gilham Butte had successfully litigated to designate Gilham Butte lands as a Late Successional Reserve that anchored the project between the Eel and Mattole rivers. These critical BLM stepping stones protect connectivity between Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the King Range National Conservation Area, and have since doubled in size.

Shortly after, in response to a threatening timber harvest plan, the Stable Slopes campaign added around 700 acres to the DeWitt Redwoods State Natural Reserve right across the Eel River from the town of Redway. Currently, community interest is rising in extending hiking and biking trails through the Stable Slopes forest addition to the Dewitt Redwoods State Natural Reserve, located across the South Fork Eel River from the town of Redway. AFI and residents who brought about that acquisition 10 years ago are starting to explore possibilities for the town's scenic backdrop, also known as Redway Ridge. Stay tuned!

Empowered by the success of Redwoods to the Sea, AFI wrote grants and jumped into the California Wildlands Project, part of a nationwide connectivity campaign. We helped coordinate efforts of place-based groups like LEGACY—a coalition of The Landscape Connection, Map-Rap, Lost Coast League, Mattole Restoration Council, Friends of the Eel River, Willits Environmental Center, North Coast Environmental Center, Siskiyou Wildlands, Friends of Del Norte, and others—to permanently

protect hundreds of thousands of public acres as Wilderness. This included the organizing of hundreds of public hikes out of the AFI office: forest treks where we searched for old trailheads, fixed flat tires, got lost and found, laughed a lot, and slept under the stars in the middle of nowhere.

We educated legislators in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. over the following years, culminating in the 2006 Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, federal legislation that added 273,000 North Coast acres to the Federal Wilderness Preservation System. Areas permanently protected into the Federal Wilderness Preservation System along the Eel River include Red Mountain, Elkhorn Ridge, Cahto Peak, Yuki, Sanhedrin, and additions to the Yolla Bolly and North Fork Eel. The King Range Wilderness was designated.

Following that victory, AFI devoted time and energy to supporting a multitude of other California projects. Our first comments to CalTrans on their Richardson Grove project date back to 2005, as do our efforts to preserve ancient forest habitat in Rainbow Ridge along the northeast boundary of the Mattole watershed. Ongoing AFI efforts include promoting a public trail rather than a railroad along the Eel River; saying no to offshore oil drilling; coordinating efforts with EPIC and other local and statewide groups to stand up to egregious timber harvest plans; and preserving roadless areas, critical habitat, and their animal species. AFI may have numerous accomplishments to celebrate over the past 30 years, but we aren't done yet!

🌲 For more information:  
[www.ancient-forests.org](http://www.ancient-forests.org)



Araucaria trees in Santuario El Cañi, which was AFI's first completed acquisition and community-based native forest project, aided by wildlands philanthropists Doug Tompkins and others. An araucaria tree can live for 1,800 years and grow more than 8 feet wide and 185 feet tall. The species is also known as "the Monkey Puzzle Tree" (because an Englishman remarked in the 1800s that it would be a puzzle for a monkey to climb). Araucaria forests were widespread on the Earth alongside dinosaurs in the Jurassic period (carbon records date back at least 180 million years); the tree's armor of daggerlike leaves was designed to thwart the appetite of 80-ton herbivores. To maintain maximum protection, Santuario El Cañi does not permit roads, tree cutting, or permanent structures, and only allows human access by foot. Santuario El Cañi is believed to be Chile's first private park and ecotourism project.

PHOTO BY DANIEL DANCER



# Time to Celebrate Eel River Salmon —Time for Salmon Parks!

By Eel River Recovery Project

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) has organized volunteers throughout the watershed to assess the population of the magnificent wild fall-run Chinook salmon since 2012, and we have discovered that the population is showing signs of resilience. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for more northern stocks of Chinook salmon, which have plummeted in population since 2015. This makes the relative importance of our Eel River population rise in terms of over-all species recovery. In order to foster further recovery of the Eel River population and make them a more central part of our culture, ERRP promotes the creation of Salmon Parks as places where people can connect with the river and the fish so they feel inspired to be a part of the river and help heal it.

In mid-May, ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins visited Portland, Oregon to present on Eel River Chinook at the International Year of the Salmon conference. Participants included scientists from Japan, Russia, South Korea, and Canada, as well as Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. The conference was hosted by the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC), an inter-governmental organization established in 1993 to promote the conservation of North Pacific anadromous fish, meaning fish that migrate up rivers from the sea to spawn. NPAFC members include Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States. The focus of discussion was what scientists had learned about why Chinook salmon stocks were

Upper Eel River  
between Potter  
Valley Project dams



collapsing from Oregon to Alaska. It turns out that warm water conditions in the Gulf of Alaska from late 2015-2016 caused ocean life to produce fewer planktonic organisms rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, which lead to the starvation of juvenile fish. A warm water mass passed through northern California near-shore ocean waters in 2015 and was referred to as “the Blob”. This water continued north and lodged in the Gulf of Alaska.

Conference attendees really appreciated the ERRP presentation as it represented one of the few bright spots on Chinook regionwide. Since Eel River Chinook salmon graze off the northern California coast, where there is more consistent upwelling

and tremendous productivity due to numerous ocean canyons, their juveniles had a better fate. Although not discussed at the conference, another factor playing in favor of our salmon is that the Eel River has a much lower level of pollution from pesticides and herbicides that are quietly killing juveniles in basins with extensive industrial agriculture.

The result is that Eel River Chinook salmon are now more important than ever for the survival of the species over-all. So, let us celebrate the salmon, make them more a part of our culture, and let’s reconnect people to the river and work together to recovery it. It’s time for Salmon Parks!



## Lower Eel River Salmon Parkway

While the idea of Salmon Parks has been kicking around ERRP since 2012, the Rose Foundation greatly assisted advancement of this concept with a grant from August 2018 through January 2019 which allowed ERRP to root the concept of a Lower Eel River Salmon Parkway with local agencies and entities. The purpose of the project was to promote both the creation of a trail along the river and the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) right-of-way, as well as the restoration of lower Eel River adult Chinook holding habitat and safe fish passage.

The City of Fortuna has picked up the ball and is now running with it, submitting and winning a River Parkway grant from the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire seven acres along the current River Walk trail north of the River Lodge for the creation of a park to connect the



Fortuna City staff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Agency staff, and ERRP volunteers. ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY ERRP, UNLESS NOTED

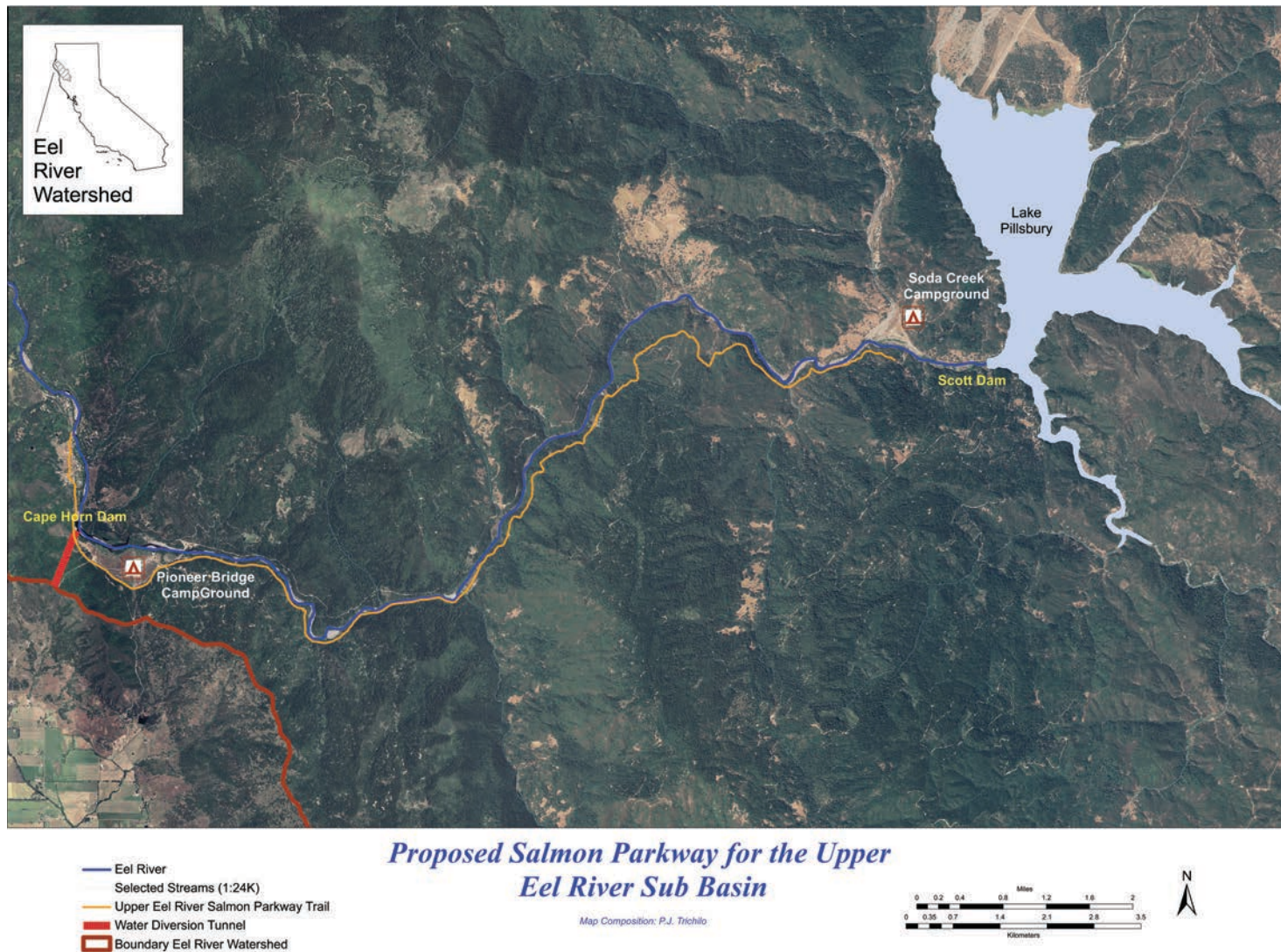
people of the city with the river and to anchor the trail. City Manager Merritt Perry sees opportunity to connect with parts of the Great Redwood trail route to the north and south, and the John Campbell Trail that extends through

Fortuna and east to Headwaters Forest. ERRP has also been working closely with the Wiyot Tribe and proposes that information signs along the trail provide information on the Salmon People, as well as the salmon. Most



International Year of the Salmon conference attendees with Pat Higgins in front row, right of center.





Map of Upper Eel River Salmon Parkway Trail route MAP BY PAUL TRICHILO

Fortuna residents no longer go to the river to fish as they once did. The Lower Eel Salmon Parkway would provide another means of connecting the community with the magic of the salmon. ERRP will continue to assist folks in Fortuna and neighboring communities in organizing to help make this vision a reality.

Factors that hugely helped make this project a priority and move it forward was work by river guide Eric Stockwell, as well as watershed educator Sal Steinberg. Eric watched the lower Eel River and the fish daily from August to November and reported that pools

were filled and that salmon were in peril of stranding in long shallow riffles. He arranged to float agency and county staff to make sure they understood the problem. Sal worked with Loleta Elementary School students on river education, and also organized meetings with agencies, non-profits, and Tribes to increase their awareness of a potential fish kill. Largely thanks to these efforts, the National Marine Fisheries Service has increased the priority of lower Eel River restoration, and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is poised to take the lead on an important project to stabilize the

eroding bank upstream of Fernbridge through bioengineering and to help rebuild the Worswick Pool there that is critical habitat for holding salmon.

### Upper Eel River Salmon Parkway

The Upper Eel Salmon Parkway concept is being explored with the help of Trees Foundation's Cereus grant. Once again, the emphasis is on salmon habitat restoration and recreation. The reach of the Eel River between the Potter Valley Project dams has been altered by 100 years of artificial flow levels which created a narrow willow riparian corridor that isolates flood terraces. This problem



is similar to the Trinity River below Lewiston Dam, and the solution is the same as practiced there by the restoration program: feather edging. By strategically removing riparian willow, flood terraces can be reconnected. This will greatly increase entrainment of spawning gravels and allow Chinook juveniles access to slower edge-waters and improve their survival. This project is needed whether dams remain in or are removed, but is even more important if dams stay in. An added benefit of the riparian removal will be improved viewing of Chinook salmon spawning from a trail that ERRP envisions along the south side of this reach of the upper Eel River along the route of an old logging road.

Stunning beauty abounds along the reach of the Eel River between Scott Dam, that forms Lake Pillsbury, and Cape Horn Dam, where water is diverted to Potter Valley. North facing slopes are covered with old-growth Douglas-fir forests that extend across the canyon within the river's inner gorge. Mendocino National Forest (MNF) and the Pacific Gas and Electric



Looking downstream at the upper Eel River Gorge from Monkey Rock between the PVP dams. PHOTO COURTESY NORTH AMERICAN ANADROMOUS FISHERIES COMMISSION

Company (PG&E) own most of the road right of way and National Forests have a mandate to accommodate recreation. PG&E is party to a Settlement resulting from earlier bankruptcy proceedings and the company has signed a Conservation Easement that stipulates that the 5,500 acres they own surrounding the Potter Valley Project will be used exclusively for conservation, recreation, and restoration. Plans for salmon habitat restoration and the trail proposed by ERRP are compatible with the latter

objectives, and would bind any party acquiring the Potter Valley Project.

ERRP has found that local business owners in the upper Eel River watershed and Potter Valley favor the Upper Eel River Salmon Parkway concept, as does the Potter Valley Indian Tribe (PVIT). The Tribe is party to the Settlement and will receive land, including near Pioneer Bridge. The PVIT economic development plan envisions recreational development within their Potter Valley Project holdings, and they are considering development of a campground that could be a jumping off point for trail enthusiasts. ERRP will be exploring the receptivity of Mendocino National Forest to this concept at a June meeting. Preliminary contact with Congressman Huffman's office indicates that the Upper Eel Salmon Parkway concept could be considered for funding as part of Potter Valley Project's relicensing and/or decommissioning.

**Get Involved: ERRP is running field trips to the Upper Eel Salmon Parkway this summer!**

🌲 For more information: [www.eelriverrecovery.org](http://www.eelriverrecovery.org), check out ERRP or Eel River Recovery Project on Facebook, or call (707) 223-7200.



ERRP volunteers Philip Buehler (l) and Jesse DeWolf (r) during Upper Eel Salmon Park reconnaissance on Memorial Day.



# Tenmile Creek Water Conservation and Watershed Restoration Project Progress

By Eel River Recovery Project

In August 2018, the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) was awarded a grant by the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) from Proposition 1 funds to assist Tenmile Creek watershed residents in restoring stream flows and improving watershed health. Two community meetings have been held, 740 landowner surveys mailed, dozens of responses received, and now free technical assistance is being rendered in the field.

The SCC grant provides free consulting services to landowners basin-wide



The Boat Pool, where Tenmile Creek flows all year.

for riparian restoration and for gully erosion abatement, but water conservation technical assistance is being offered in only two key sub-basins. The SCC requested that ERRP narrow the focus geographically for a “pilot project” to improve the likelihood of success for near-term flow improvements. Streeter Creek joins Tenmile Creek at the Black Oak Ranch and Big Rock Creek flows in from the west just upstream. These

creeks were chosen because they share headwaters with undisturbed Elder Creek on opposite sides of Cahto Peak. The rainfall is equivalent and the watersheds have similar bedrock geology, so flows of these streams were likely similar historically. Thomas Gast and Associates Environmental Consultants (TGAEC) is calculating historic flow versus current and will work with consultant Hollie Hall to estimate how much more storage is needed so that water users can forebear in late season and stop water withdrawal to get both creeks flowing perennially again.

Residents of the Streeter and Big Rock Creek watersheds can have access to free technical consulting services on water conservation, water permitting, and farm practices that decrease runoff and increase infiltration. Hollie Hall, PhD, is one of the foremost authorities on water permitting, water rights, and water conservation, and she can help farmers understand their water rights and file permits, if they so desire, as well as calculate their needed additional water storage.



Group photo after Community Water Workshop in Laytonville at the new ERRP Office on 1/23/19. ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY PAT HIGGINS





Coho juvenile in Big Rock Creek pool.



Transparent bluegill in Big Rock Creek.

Free consulting services will also be available from Anna Birkas of Village Ecosystems who has similar expertise to Hollie, but can also advise on farm planning that minimizes pollution and run-off.

All data or information collected by ERRP best practices team is proprietary and confidential. While ERRP is state funded, we do not necessarily promote adherence to regulations but rather want to help the community coordinate water use, to devise a plan for augmented storage, and to help them get their creeks flowing perennially again. When additional water storage needs are calculated, ERRP intends to pursue grant funds so that farmers can get water security and also forebear from stream diversion in summer and fall.

A flow assessment in the first year of the project was assisted by the State Water Resources Control Board. They set up stream gauges in April in the Tenmile Creek watershed at locations planned under our grant because our contract did not open until August. Our first season results found that Tenmile Creek lost surface flow near the Black Oak Ranch and that lower Streeter and Big Rock creeks were also underground. Lower Tenmile

Creek just upstream of the South Fork Eel River, where another gauge was maintained, had surface flow all summer and fall, as did a reach north of Laytonville just upstream and downstream of Tenmile Creek Road.

Biological assessment is part of the SCC grant, but the project started too late for deploying automated water temperature sensors in 2018. However, stream surveys and dive observations lead to some very interesting discoveries. There were steelhead trout rearing in the perennial reach of Tenmile Creek above and below Tenmile Creek Road, when other reaches upstream and downstream were dry with isolated warm pools that often harbored bullfrogs. The most surprising find was the fish diversity in isolated cold pools in Big Rock Creek. Not only were steelhead present, but also coho salmon juveniles that require water temperatures under 62° F. California roach and stickleback were noted, but a novel find was a blue gill. Washed down from a farm pond and stuck in a cold dark pool instead of a warm sunny pond, they stunted and had almost no skin pigmentation—see-through sunfish!

BioEngineering Associates, based in Laytonville, can provide services free

of charge to Tenmile Creek watershed residents on riparian restoration or gully erosion control; several projects have already been identified. Several locations with failing banks, that are major sources of erosion, will be bundled into a grant request this fall so that needed work can take place in 2020. Tenmile Creek watershed residents wanting riparian or gully assistance can call Philip Buehler at (707) 513-6010.

The Tenmile Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) has been a loosely affiliated grassroots group, but is now getting more organized and on a path to become their own 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. They now share an office with ERRP and BioEngineering Associates at 44935 Highway 101 in Laytonville, just south of Geiger's Market. ERRP contractors will assist the TCWC with water conservation and restoration tasks, but the group also wants to explore projects in the realm of forest health. Anyone interested in knowing more about the pilot project can call Kristen Garringer at (413) 329-9530.

🌲 For more information:  
[www.eelriverrecovery.org](http://www.eelriverrecovery.org)



# Efforts to Protect Rainbow Ridge

## Direct Action at Rainbow Ridge

Despite decades of effort to protect the spectacular conservation landscape of Rainbow Ridge, the Lost Coast League reports that logging operations commenced on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> on Unit 4 of the Long Ridge Timber Harvest Plan (THP). Since that time the Lost Coast League and partner groups have organized direct actions in efforts to halt the logging and bring public notice to the fact that HRC's sustainable certification requirements are being bypassed as they log in a High Conservation Value Forest. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, four protestors—longtime local residents Ellen Taylor, David Simpson, Jane Lapiner, and Michael Evenson—were arrested blocking access to the site. Four more protestors were arrested on June 17<sup>th</sup> after a 40-foot mono-pod with a tree sitter in it was erected that blocked off the main gate. The protest sign atop the mono pod read, "Leave Rook alone! Protect Rainbow Ridge!".

The sign referred to a woman going by the name of Rook who began a tree sit in an old Douglas-fir in the early hours of June 8<sup>th</sup> within the grove being logged. Lear security guards, hired by HRC, have not tried to physically remove her, but they have tried in many ways to get her to leave, including employing a tree climber who cut down her food and

water supplies above her—which sent large water jugs whirling by her. Since then Lear guards have sporadically provided her with small amounts of water, and she reports eating about 300 calories a day—carefully rationing food she was able to save, or retrieve from branches where it got caught on the way down.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, an HRC contractor felled small trees immediately adjacent to Rook's tree sit, one of which struck the branch she was sitting on, and another small tree which brushed

Rook on the way down. That same morning the area being logged gained further proof of being a High Conservation Value Forest when a rare species of rodent, the Sonoma Tree Vole (*Arborimus pomo*) visited Rook's tree. She was able to capture several photos of it (see back cover). The vole is found in mature forests, and considered a species of special concern, an "indicator species" of forest health, as well as the favored prey of the Northern Spotted Owl, a state and federally listed threatened species. Earlier this year the Northern Spotted Owl was determined to reside in the THP units that HRC intends to log in early September.

## Rainbow Ridge History

By David Simpson  
and the LCL Rainbow Committee

The Lost Coast League is comprised of Mattole Valley and Humboldt County residents who have been seeking for over 40 years to protect the forests and unique landscape that lies above the north forks and tributaries of the Mattole River. This rare, powerful landscape surrounds Rainbow Ridge, with its proximity to the great old



Rainbow Ridge looking northwest toward the Pacific. PHOTO BY THOMAS B. DUNKLIN



Longtime local residents Jane Lapiner, David Simpson, Michael Evenson, and Ellen Taylor being arrested after attempting to block loggers from accessing the Rainbow Ridge High Conservation Value Forest.

PHOTO COURTESY LCL



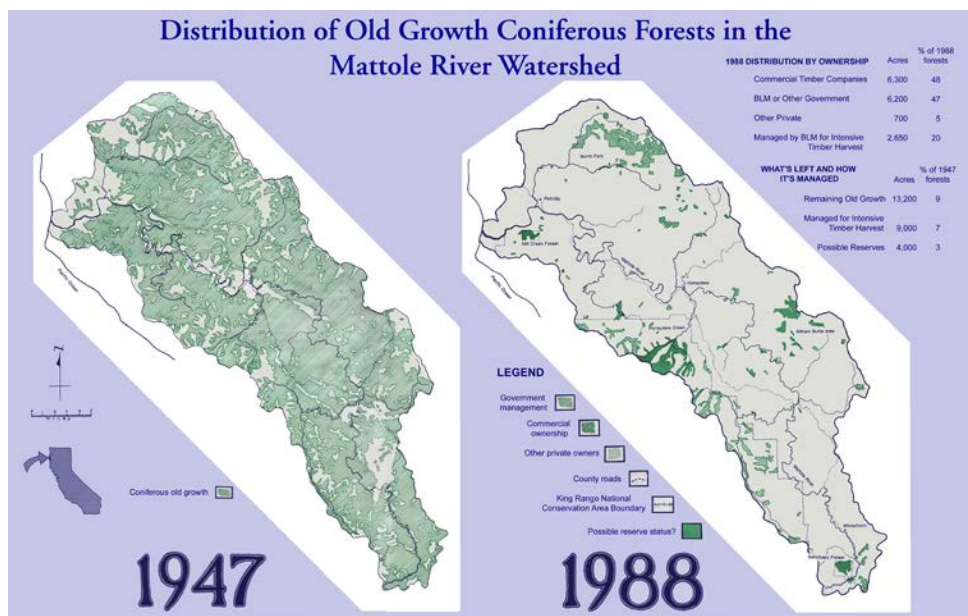
redwood stands in the adjoining Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the Redwoods to the Sea corridor to the south. Collectively, it might be best understood and valued in the context of being one of the last places where the natural barriers to human activity allow evolution to actually perpetuate itself—even after having endured the havoc of past logging. There are species still inhabiting this landscape that exist in fewer and fewer places.

Most recently, in an effort to protect Rainbow Ridge, the Lost Coast League (LCL) spent nearly four years attempting to create a meaningful dialogue with the relatively new owners of Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) and Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC)—the Fisher family, San Francisco real estate moguls who also own the clothing retail giant Gap, and its several subsidiaries. The 18,000 acres of Rainbow Ridge is a small portion of the total 420,000+ acres of timberlands held in northwestern California by the family. This recent overture to company managers followed 25 years of often herculean efforts to secure the Rainbow properties against further pillage by its former owner. Sadly, permanent protection has yet to be achieved for even a small part of the incomparably high value forests still remaining there.

When long though fairly amicable discussions with mid-level HRC

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\*FSC is a non-profit corporation created in the early 1990's as a means of providing market-based incentives for improving forest practices. Timber producers seeking to increase market share or price for its products volunteer to operate under a set of principles and standards, which, in concept, minimize negative impacts of timber operations on forests and forest soils. Millions of acres of forestland worldwide have, since that startup, been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council or one of its surrogates.



Maps of the old growth, before and after logging, an indication of how important it is to save what is remaining!. BY MATTOLE RESTORATION COUNCIL, 1988

management produced little common ground and no assurance that logging in critical stands would not proceed, the League grew to understand that other leverage in the situation might be needed. One previously unexplored avenue was to challenge HRC's claim that their kind of forest management was indeed 'sustainable'. In the Fall of 2018, the Lost Coast League resolved to dispute the basic legitimacy of HRC and MRC's claims to ecologically sound management practices throughout its holdings.

The 'sustainable practices' claim has been widely incorporated into HRC/MRC's company image and made into an integral element of their marketing strategy. Home Depot, for instance, has a substantial line of HRC/MRC forest products in some stores, mostly redwood and Douglas-fir, which are sold to consumers, often at a premium, as "certified" sustainable. This claim was ostensibly guaranteed through the process of 'certification' under the standards and principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC\*).

HRC/MRC has recently had its certificate of compliance under FSC standards renewed by the FSC-accredited certifying agency, SCS Global Services (SCS). It is Lost Coast League's conviction that these claims of sustainability, as they play out on Rainbow Ridge, are highly questionable. We are no longer allowing the company to make these claims uncontested.

In November 2018, the Lost Coast League initiated a formal grievance against SCS's certification of HRC/MRC. We claimed that the certification, and recent renewal in the case of HRC/MRC, is flawed. The basic contention is that HRC/MRC's widespread use of highly toxic herbicides and its lack of clarity in designating those stands that constitute High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF), as well as its failure to unequivocally state how those stands ought to be protected, effectively rules out SCS's certification—or should. This, in turn, should negate what amounts to a modest financial reward for achieving certification. We also suggested that the Company's

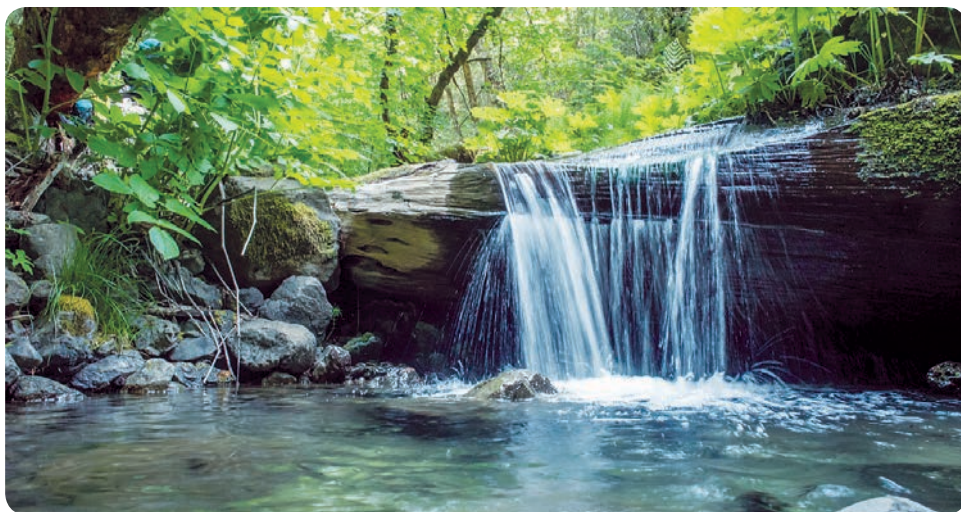


practices fell short of FSC Standards in yet a third area—outreach to and dialogue with the local community.

External, but closely related to this grievance process, is the admission by SCS's Dr. Robert Hrubes that FSC plans to make significant modifications of its certification process in the future. These will specifically reflect new understanding of climate change impacts on forestlands. Central to any vision of responsible forest management in the time of climate change is an understanding of how essential volumes of carbon stored by forest systems are, and what management practices optimize or deplete such storage.

In December 2018, SCS responded to the LCL's grievances with the determination that our first two areas of concern—herbicide use and the lack of rationality in making the HCVF designation—"had merit". This response is potentially momentous. It moved us forward in this acronym-burdened process to stage 2, a formal appeal to Accreditation Services International (ASI). ASI is an organization originally spun off FSC. Indeed, ASI's website states it is wholly owned by FSC, in what could seem a matter of the fox watching the hen house.

It is painful to report that a third large Timber Harvest Plan (THP), this one above Rattlesnake Creek in the upper North Fork drainage, has been filed by HRC with CalFire. (The plan was moving rapidly through the review process up until CalFire's taking issue with the herbicide use the Timber Harvest Plan calls for, as well as the grave fire danger that would result.) Both the plan itself, as well as its FSC certification, will be examined extensively and, if we believe it necessary, fiercely contested. Neither



Alwart Creek on Rainbow Ridge PHOTO BY LAURA RECHNAGEL

herbicide use nor determinates of High Conservation Value Forest has yet been adequately redrawn by HRC/MRC to meet FSC standards for renewal of certification.

The LCL's working of the levers of the grievance process has apparently served to at least help keep the trees on the two lower North Fork THP's still standing—for the moment. We believe it should be of utmost concern to our neighbors, partners, and supporters throughout the North Coast that the third point of challenge—outreach to the community—was not found by SCS to have merit. We will continue to seek involvement at every stage of possible development.

Another complication in our efforts to protect the Rainbow Ridge ecosystem is a massive project planned for Monument Ridge, the next ridge over. It calls for constructing up to sixty 600 feet high wind turbines. (HRC's Fisher family owns a significant area of the Monument Ridge land involved). The disturbances that this level of industrial construction and audible imprints will cause to diverse and rare wildlife populations—as well as to humans—must be, at the very least, calculated into the trade-offs and/or

into mitigation measures that might be contrived. While reduction of carbon emissions enabled by the wind project may be of the utmost concern, resulting losses to biodiversity should not necessarily be deemed of secondary importance.

In the meantime, the Lost Coast League will continue to offer the benefits of a partnership with HRC/MRC, the Bear River-Rohnerville Band, and the Mattole and regional restoration community. The goal as always is the protection and restoration of high conservation value forests along Rainbow Ridge and the tributaries that flow from them. We are also, at this point, intensifying fund-raising efforts in preparation for the time when the company might determine that offering its Mattole properties for sale to a conservation buyer or partnership is the preferred outcome.

Calculating where and how to move ahead in efforts to save our forest and help protect our civilization in the process is a complex business. Developing clarity about what lies ahead is of utmost importance as the existential stakes mount.

🌲 For more information: [lostcoastleague.org](http://lostcoastleague.org)



# Show Your Partners You're Listening. Literally!

*How We're Using Values-Based Spatial Planning to Visualize and Prioritize Collaborative Forest Restoration*

*By Will Harling and Jill Beckmann*

*Originally posted on the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Blog: [bit.ly/SpatialValuesPlanning](http://bit.ly/SpatialValuesPlanning)*

The first meetings of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP) felt like going on a blind date ... with 60 people! As our facilitator, Mary Huffman, divided us at various tables, she made sure we were sufficiently separated from our affinity groups. "Divorce" seemed imminent. Instead, tenuous bridges based on each other's truths started to form.

Bill Estes, the preacher from Happy Camp who tended a congregation ravaged by underemployment, envisioned a return to the "golden years" (the logging boom).

"When the logs were flowing and the schools were full, this town had a soul and there was almost no drug use," he remembered. "Now half the town is shuttered and the remaining families are just hanging on..."

"Yes, but that clearcutting claimed a majority of our old-growth forest

habitat," mused Klamath Forest Alliance executive director Kimberly Baker. "Isn't there a way to have a vibrant community without sacrificing the things we love?"

"The land is sick right now. When our people managed this land with fire, the rivers were full of fish and the forests were open and healthy," offered Karuk Tribe cultural biologist Ron Reed.

## **From Stereotypes to Shared Values**

Although the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership officially launched in 2013 with that "blind date" meeting, the conflicts surrounding the issues we're trying to address are decades, and in some instances centuries, old. From timber wars to the genocide of indigenous people, the stakes couldn't have been higher when we first started. It was easy to categorize, or stereotype, everyone at the table: "the tribal member," "the logger," "the environmentalist." But as we took time to get to know one another, we began to realize how nuanced, and often overlapping our values actually were.

Some members of the Karuk Tribe worked as loggers. Environmentalists weren't all "preservationists" by default, and supported Traditional Ecological Knowledge and mechanical thinning in roadside plantations. Loggers expressed a deep connection to fishing and restoring rivers. Seeing people for their entire selves, rather than assuming that they fit into one simple category revealed where our values overlapped, and quite literally, where we could work together.

## **Merging Multiple Values into One Vision**

Through a series of meetings, we created a list of what WKRP partners individually cared about. Then, we put those values on a map. Sometimes the data layers already existed, such as past wildfire footprints, but other times, we had to create and digitize this spatial data manually. In those cases, partners always had the opportunity to participate in collecting the data, so they felt comfortable with its integrity. Each value essentially became a data layer, or multiple layers. People's eyes



Tucked away in northwestern California, the community of Orleans experienced significant loss due to a wildfire in 2013. Since then, they've been using spatial fire planning to chart a better path toward wildfire resilience, including leveraging the wildfire footprint to create additional fuel breaks around our community.

PHOTO BY THOMAS B. DUNKLIN



lit up as their “layers” appeared on our project prioritization map, or what we called our “overlay assessment.” Then, we designed WKRP pilot projects based on these prioritized treatment areas. Each partner knew that our project plans accounted for what they cared about.

## The Magic Beyond the Map

The more values that are present on a given parcel of land, the redder the parcel. For example, an area that contains a home and critical elk habitat (so two values at risk) is deemed redder than another area that contains only a home.

As we added more and more “values” (i.e., data layers\*) to the map, priority restoration areas morphed. The areas displayed in red on the final map, “All,” visualized where we collectively agreed to work; those were the areas with the most values present that would benefit from restoration.

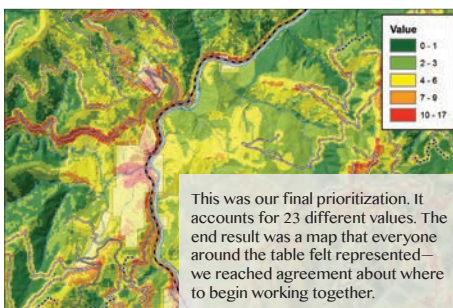
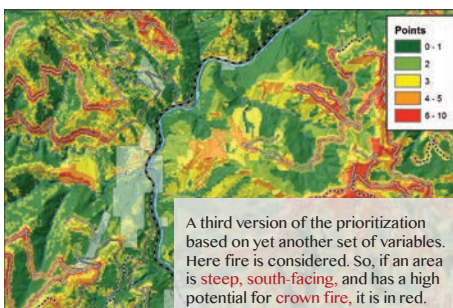
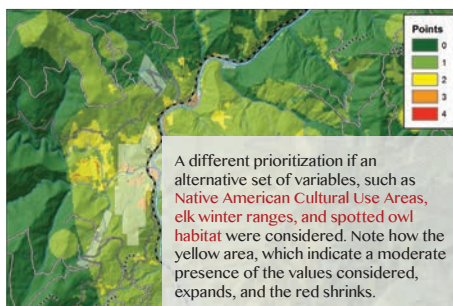
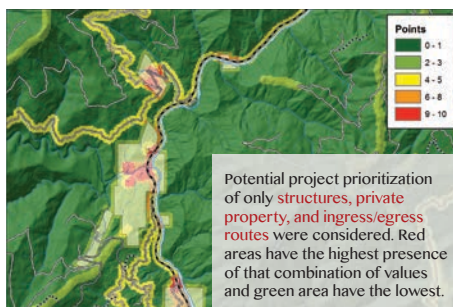
## So, What’s Happening as a Result?

This process helped our collaborative write specific prescriptions for what is now known as the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project. Project implementation will begin this spring and will involve mechanically treating 809 acres as well as manually treating 1,500 acres, in preparation for applying prescribed fire to 5,500 acres.

## Want to Share Our Approach?

If you’re looking to share this approach with partners, check out the printer-friendly PDF-version of this story at [bit.ly/SpatialFirePDF](http://bit.ly/SpatialFirePDF).

\*As you read through these various datasets, you might be inclined to subconsciously group them with certain stakeholders (i.e., “Oh, Map X must be the layers the Fire Safe Council advocated for.”) If you find yourself doing that, reread the section on “From Stereotypes to Shared Values.” Many of our partners care deeply about layers included in each sample map displayed above. Email [will@mkwc.org](mailto:will@mkwc.org) for more information on the geospatial analyses we conducted.



MAPS CREATED BY WESTERN KLAMATH RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

**Author’s note:** The examples listed in red on maps 1–3 are not exhaustive. Several additional variables, or values, were included in each map. See four tables above, for a complete list of the values mapped.

The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network publishes stories like this weekly. Subscribe at [bit.ly/FACNetSubscribe](http://bit.ly/FACNetSubscribe) to have them delivered to your inbox.

Data Layers Included on Map “1”	Points
100 ft. buffer around structures	1
500 ft. buffer around structures	2
200 ft. buffer around private property	2
0.25-mile buffer around private property	1
300 ft. buffer on critical access/egress routes	2
300 ft. buffer on existing/historic fire lines	2

Data Layers Included on Map “2”	Points
Highest / high elk winter range restoration potential	2 / 1
Historic nest sites for northern spotted owl	1
Lower montane-serpentine biophysical setting	1
Black oak or white oak biophysical setting	1
Native American cultural use areas	1

Data Layers Included on Map “3”	Points
300 ft. buffer on all public and private roads	1
Fuels treatments completed in last three years	1
Fuels treatments completed 3–10 years ago	2
Fuels treatments completed more than 11 years ago	1
Upper third slopes	1
300 ft. buffer on historic trails	1
High insolation	1
South/southwest aspect	1
Managed stands	1
Midmature dense stands	1
97 <sup>th</sup> percentile for crown fire potential	1
Fire footprints less than 10 years old	1

Data Layers Included on Map “All”	Points
100 ft. buffer around structures	1
500 ft. buffer around structures	2
200 ft. buffer around private property	2
0.25-mile buffer around private property	1
300 ft. buffer on critical access/egress routes	2
300 ft. buffer on existing/historic firelines	2
300 ft. buffer on all public and private roads	1
Fuels treatments completed in last three years	1
Fuels treatments completed 3–10 years ago	2
Fuels treatments completed more than 11 years ago	1
Upper third slopes	1
300 ft. buffer on historic trails	1
High insolation	1
South/southwest aspect	1
Managed stands	1
Midmature dense stands	1
97 <sup>th</sup> percentile crown fire potential	1
Fire footprints less than 10 years old	1
Highest / high elk winter range restoration potential	2 / 1
Historic nest sites for northern spotted owl	1
Lower montane-serpentine biophysical setting	1
Black oak or white oak biophysical setting	1
Native American cultural use areas	1

TABLE: DATA LAYERS USED IN SAMPLE MAPS ON LEFT.

*The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network is supported by a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service, and agencies of the Department of the Interior through a sub-award to the Watershed Research and Training Center. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

For more information: [www.mkwc.org](http://www.mkwc.org)



# Planet Humboldt—a Summit of Inspiration for Community and a Vital Earth

September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sequoia Center in Eureka, CA

By Andy Barnett

Humboldt County was named for Alexander von Humboldt, the enlightenment polymath, world explorer, and arguably the first ecologist and chronicler of climate change. His dictum: “All living systems are interconnected and mutually dependent on each other.”

Alexander von Humboldt’s daring exploits and scientific rigor inspired Darwin, Emerson, and Muir. From it’s inception, Trees Foundation has furthered the essence of his message.

Everyone is invited to celebrate Humboldt’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, sponsored by the Abundant Earth Foundation, an Arcata-based 501(c)3.

The event has three elements:

- 1) A Resiliency Fair where skills and resources will be shared
- 2) An Ideas Summit with local, national, and international presenters all linked through video conferencing
- 3) The Fire of Life Gala will honor those who embody Planet Humboldt guiding principles

## The Planet Humboldt Mission

🌱 Highlight the life and works of those who exemplify the mutual dependence of living systems.

🌱 Honor the people and land of the North Coast Redwood Region (and beyond) as living examples of the vision of Alexander von Humboldt on his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

🌱 Generate action steps for individuals and organizations to further vibrant human and natural habitats.

🌱 Bring notoriety to the Redwood Region for leadership in the human-nature bond.

## Planet Humboldt Guiding Principles

🌱 The Gaia Principle: The earth in it’s entirety is a closed system, clearly exemplifying the characteristics of a single living organism.

🌱 Alexander von Humboldt’s world influence (1769-1859): His dictum : All living systems are interconnected and mutually dependent on each other.”

🌱 The Rotary International 4 Way Test for service to humanity:

🌱 Is it true? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build friendships and better relationships? Will it be beneficial to all?

With these guiding principles in mind, consider addressing these topics:

- ◆ How does your work demonstrate the mutually dependent connections between human and natural systems?
- ◆ In what ways does your work express fairness and benefit to all?
- ◆ What action steps can be taken to build friendships, service to humanity and a vital earth?



Alexander von Humboldt (September 14, 1769–May 6 1859) was a Prussian polymath, geographer, naturalist, explorer, and influential proponent of Romantic philosophy and science.

PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA

Visit [planethumboldt.org](http://planethumboldt.org) for details about participating, information on Von Humboldt’s work, and beautiful videos featuring Humboldt landscapes and conservation pioneers. And everywhere you can, share the Humboldt essence.

🌱 For more information: [planethumboldt.org](http://planethumboldt.org) or contact Andy Barnett, Coordinator, (707)223-1626

Humboldt Bay  
PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA





## Diggin' In

# The Richard Gienger Report

So I've made a little list of what I'd like to cover: ten or more 'stand alone' and inter-related topics—each of which could fill one "Diggin' In" column. I'm going to have to use some short-hand and postpone a lot of in-depth coverage. I'll be mixing category labels like 'the-way-it's-supposed-to-be', disillusion, salvage, reality, rearrange, and persevere. Two things I'd recommend to you for context are *Timefulness—How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World*, by Marcia Bjornerud; and, the 2018 John Lennon and Yoko Ono movie, *Above Us Only Sky*. The book takes you through the immensity and impact of 4.5 billion years in understanding our situation today. The

movie, among other things, makes horrifyingly vivid the catastrophe and hubris of U.S./Vietnam and human wars in general.

A really exciting and exhilarating experience has been the abundant May rains which swelled streams and rivers to winter flows. I've heard reports of late runs of Steelhead in some of the local streams and rivers. Unfortunately, Red Flag fire danger persists in large areas of California, with the recent Sand Fire in Yolo County being one example.

On page 16 of this issue, you will find some riveting accounts of the continuing decades-long struggle

over Rainbow Ridge which extends to 18,000 acres of rugged and invaluable forests, streams, and meadowlands of the Lower and Upper North Forks of the Mattole Valley. The threats are compounding with an out-of-control industrial wind farm development of sixty 600 foot tall generator towers proposed for the adjacent Bear River and Monument Ridges. Additionally, not just perfidy by Humboldt Redwood Company is going on, but also the public trust in the credibility of the certification process of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The grievances over herbicide use and high conservation value forest successfully brought by the Lost Coast League to FSC for Rainbow Ridge's 18,000 acres in the Mattole have been basically shined on, and the League has been excluded from participation in grievance corrections as logging operations recommenced. This has led to long-time Mattole Valley restoration stalwarts, David Simpson, Jane Lapiner, Michael Evanson, Ellen Taylor, and others being held for arrest on the road to the new operations and related adverse impacts. Only 200 out of those spectacular 18,000 acres have been granted permanent protection.

### Following Up On Some Other Continuing Issues:

🌿 Looking forward to seeing how the significant, but avoidable impacts to listed coho salmon habitat in the Dinner Creek tributary described in several of my recent columns will be addressed at a two day restoration session for the Redwood Creek (Briceland) watershed held by NOAA Fisheries and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Harry Vaughn and Bill Eastwood, with decades of survey and restoration work, will have



Looking upstream from CR 435 County Bridge, the top photo shows the winter-like swollen Mattole River headwaters on May 17, 2019; lower photo shows pre-winter flow on November 10, 2018.



a thing or two to discuss. Please note that there were some misprints in the last *FRN* about the three culverts up & downstream adverse impacts which have been corrected in the online edition. One was that CDFW played a role in project design, not CalFire. (See Page 2 in this issue for the correction.)

🌿 The Final Report of the initial Planning Watershed Pilot Project, done as part of the Timberland Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund/Program of the CA Natural Resources Agency, has yet to come out for comment and approval. This has been a topic in this column for many years. Some changes seem to have been made in the first draft report, but nothing that corrects serious deficiencies and acknowledges the vital importance of following up in the 2nd and 3rd Pilots on two other Planning Watershed forest types. The California 2.2 Planning Watershed scale is the scale almost always used for the evaluation and response to cumulative watershed impacts, and often other impacts. I will have to bear down soon and give you a summary with links to a more thorough description and response.

🌿 The latest on Needle Rock Road: It is still closed with an additional road-closing slide during the May rains located just before the bluff plateau/meadows south of Low Gap Creek, and north of Needle Rock. The Usal Road gates north of Usal and south of Four Corners are now open. Emergency grading and drainage work by Mendocino County just before winter hit actually did quite well. There are still many issues, of course, but a lot of gullies were graded out (for now) and serious water bars and rolling dips were installed above many of the problem areas to prevent further road deterioration. The draining of pond and quagmire areas done two years ago continues to be effective and a major improvement.

🌿 Why Forests Matter (WFM): This Richard Wilson founded non-profit organization is trying to actually have the intended high quality forests and wood products described in the 1973 Forest Practice Act be realized—as opposed to current tree liquidation at 16" diameter or less, with no standards or incentives



Here's the reality on Needle Rock Road . . . ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY RICHARD GIENGER

for larger, older, and higher quality trees. A specific goal is better forestry education regarding evaluation and response to cumulative impacts and higher standard forests. Unfortunately this goal, which should be non-controversial, is hampered by lack of leadership at several levels, as well as the current low-bar for cumulative effects. Many foresters that practice good forestry seem wary of public support for positive changes for fear of alienating persons in their profession and their employers, by even gently supporting some basic improvements.

🌿 Forests Forever, led by Paul Hughes, continues to support good forestry and forest protection for Rainbow Ridge, by pressing for a saner approach to burned areas. Paul recently was on a large-scale field tour of the 2013 Rim Fire that burned over 200,000 acres and got into Yosemite National Park. There are huge issues over heavy salvage impacts and natural recovery. Please read *The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature's Phoenix*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, by Dominick A DellaSala and Chad T. Hanson, as well as other books by these authors.

🌿 I'm going to wrap up with another 'educational run' at California's Forest

Management Task Force (FMTF). Please check out their website and delve into the organizations and missions that will be dominating fire and forest issues for years to come, with enough funding to have large impacts, and some high potential and attendant difficulties. The horizontal and vertical integration of efforts is a huge logistic and cultural leap. There's too many persons and communities in high fire risk settings, many but not most in 'classic' forestlands, with vast areas of fire ecology brush expanses—with the seasonal and extreme high wind conditions. There is confusion between what needs to be done to protect human communities, and what needs to be done to create fire resistant/fire resilient expanses of forestland. Thinning and increased prescribed fire are important tools, but there's a push and focus on streamlined, ministerial approvals to the exclusion of the 'big picture' attainment of healthy, high quality forests.

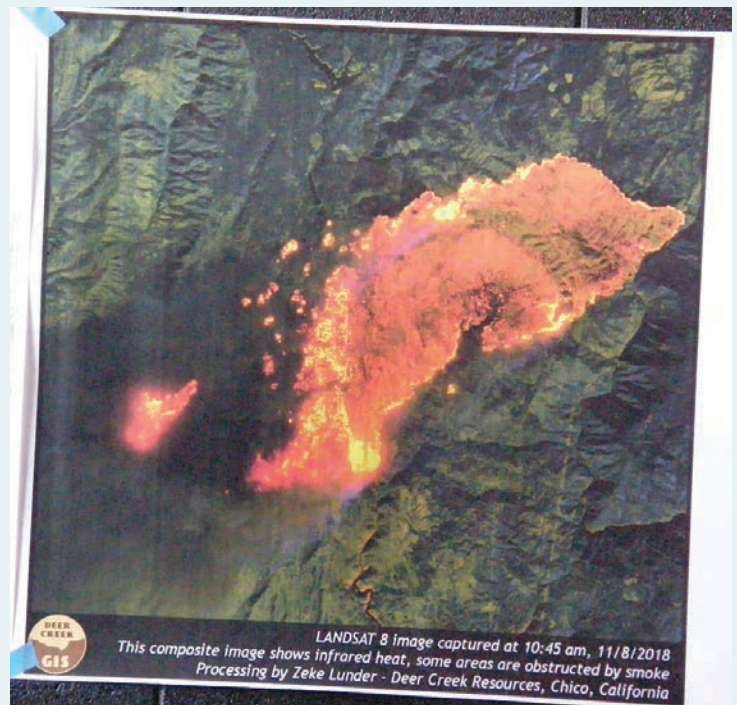
🌿 For North Coast folks looking for project funding, please pay attention to the FMTF and their committees and regional groups. At the June 10<sup>th</sup> FMTF meeting it was pointed out that the Regional Prioritization Groups will be taking the lead in prioritizing projects



for funding. The Northern area includes Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, and 14 other counties. They meet the second Thursday of every month from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. with the conference call # 707-576-2048 (no passcode). You can find more information on the FMTF website about members, the mission, and direct contacts.

🌲 At the Salmonid Restoration Conference in April, I was lucky to be on a tour of the Nun and Tubbs Fires areas from 2017. Similarly, on May 8<sup>th</sup> I was lucky to be on a Board of Forestry tour of the Camp Fire and some of the areas tragically burned. Sonoma County is bustling to rebuild. Areas of Paradise seem half like Pompeii after the eruption—like the fire had just passed. There also seemed to be hundreds of excavators, hazmat workers, and dump trucks hauling toxic waste, as well as untouched sections of forest and scattered homes. We went to where schools and hospitals were evacuated, and to fuel breaks (not shaded fuel breaks) that looked to have saved whole neighborhoods. Southern Humboldt fire and emergency crews were given kudos for their role in a successful back-fire that saved the town of Sterling.

Photograph of a LANDSAT (infrared photography) map showing the Camp Fire, which spread twelve miles in about four hours, from the source near Pulga (upper right corner of fire). Paradise can be seen already burning (central part of photo between main fire on east edge and spot fire on west edge of Paradise).



🌲 I'm appending here two talks: One a short one by me to the FMTF at their April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting; and one, a longer one, by Jessica Morse, Governor Newsom's recently appointed Deputy Secretary for Forest Management in the Natural Resources Agency, to the Board of Forestry on May 9<sup>th</sup>. She is

young, smart, and earnest with a lot of experience to gain—fifth generation Sierra foothills, but was unaware of the huge impacts of the ad valorem tax between 1946 and 1976 on the depletion and conditions of our forests today. Lots to take in—including her mission to change the culture by the next century—eliminating the 'silos' and transcending the limitations of jurisdictions and ownership. I don't think Trump wrote her speech.



ONE OF THE 15 TRAILER PARKS IN PARADISE—MOST OF WHICH WERE LIKELY DESTROYED

rg: Thank you. I'm with the partner "public" agency. My name is Richard Gienger. I represent Forests Forever, and we've been involved with this, all this forest thing, for many years. Congratulations to you two for your appointment [Jennifer Montgomery, new Director of the FMTF, and Jessica Morse, new Deputy Secretary for Forest Management in the Natural Resources Agency]. This [FMTF & the hundreds of moving parts] is a big deal. And the work people are doing here is very, very important. It's just—it's a big change to bring this much energy into forest action—so-called forest health. And I spoke here once before, a few months ago. It's really important to bear in mind—we don't have a standard of what a healthy forest is yet—all this work. We





Greened up view of Mount St. Helena, Mark West Creek, & the Tubbs Fire area before it blew into Santa Rosa and across Hwy 101. Photo taken at a SRF Conference field tour.

need to have foresters, scientists—too bad scientists didn’t do a scientific evaluation [of forest decline] since the ad valorem tax in 1946 [yearly tax on standing timber until you cut 70% of it—replaced with yield tax in 1976]. These are really serious problems to deal with. We need to get foresters to agree [about] the different standards of health in different forest types in California, because [in] the drawings about a healthy forest there’s large trees [See the April 2018 report on Managing California’s Forests & Watersheds by the Legislative Analysts Office (LAO)]—and there’s no standards or incentives for landowners to come up with a portion of their forest that actually reaches [culmination] of mean annual increment [Over 100 years for most commercial species]. It’s like very important to have that faith—that the public to have faith—to set those kind of standards.

And a couple other quick comments: About the archaeology, about non-secret archaeology—increasing [the number of] archaeologists is not necessarily the answer. I don’t think there’s a representative here of the [California] Native American Heritage Commission. There needs to be some kind of bridge because that’s important. I was on the EPIC versus Johnson case. One part of it was cumulative effects need to be considered. The other two [CA Appeal Court rulings 1985] were adequate consultation with Indian People and adequate assurances that heritage

would be protected. So I think you need to keep that in mind as you go forward

...

And so—there’s a lot of science that needs to be followed up on, whether you consider the Little Hoover Commission Report [#126] in June of 1994 to be science, or the Dunne Report—the cumulative impacts [“A Scientific Basis for the Prediction of Cumulative Watershed Effects” UC June 2001]. All these things need to be rolled in and acted upon to make the kind of changes that will benefit the people. And the forestry needs to have forestry experts. You’ve got the communities at risk with a different . . . **There’s two different aspects there, with the emergency affecting communities-at-risk and the long-term standards of forestry moving forward.** Thank you.

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*Deputy Secretary for Forest Resources Management Jessica Morse @ Board of Forestry Meeting—9 May 2019*

Jessica Morse: Morning. Thank you for having me today, and thank you for facilitating that really sobering tour yesterday, incredibly helpful. One of the things that Paradise really shows us is a sobering reminder of the work we have ahead. And what’s helpful statewide is that it’s been a reminder for everyone. You know it’s on the Governor’s mind. It’s on the Legislature’s mind. It’s on the

public’s mind. And the severity of these megafires that we’ve been facing year after year and everyone’s recognition of the compounding impacts of a century of fire suppression and on top of now, climate change, that we have to act. And so we have this opportunity now that only comes around once in a century to act, and we have to make sure that we are designing our strategies and our programs with the resources, the political will and the public support we have in a way that will actually set up the next century, effectively—that we have an opportunity that’s not presented often to plan for forests, and not just in terms of budget cycles and political cycles, but in terms of the ecological cycle of the forest.

And we have the political will to do that now and there’s interest in big picture thinking, out of the box ideas, larger strategies and efficiencies. But before we often faced a lot of political and public headwind to getting things done. And so we are wanting to take advantage of this moment that we have to really do a serious reset on scaling up forest health and strategies. We recognize that forest health is part of a larger public safety strategy around fire mitigation. We recognize that we need to solve the insurance problems and we need to solve home hardening and long range development and how people live and engage in the WUI [Wildlands Urban Interface]. And our piece of that puzzle is this question of how do we scale up forest treatments and forest health projects that will help



to mitigate, not only the immediate dangers in the WUI, and build firebreaks and fuels treatments like we saw yesterday, but also do that landscape level, that landscape level work, because we recognize that when you build a fuelbreak, and you do forest treatment typically whoever is leading that charge is looking through one silo. You know when you're talking with CalFire they are obviously focused on public safety. When you're talking with water boards they're looking at watershed quality and yield. When you're looking at land conservancies they are often focused on habitat. And yet, we all recognize that science tells us that we can actually hit all of these markers with one project. That when we do a fuels treatment correctly that it is actually improving watershed yield and quality. There's a chance for better biodiversity and habitat. There's improvement of carbon sequestration—potential. And so when we're looking at forest health projects, we're asking groups to start breaking down those silos and start managing for all of these outcomes rather than managing for one outcome and mitigating negative impacts on the rest.

...

And so we're starting to see typical silos breaking down and we really want to position ourselves to encourage that and support that effort. So we are looking at this broader strategy that says: How do we scale up forest health to the target set by the Forest Carbon Plan of 500,000 acres a year? You know it's a good marker that helps us build an infrastructure behind it. And it helps us identify where the gaps are. And I've only been on the job a month, so we don't have a strategy yet, but we're getting there and looking for insights and feedback, and input into this to assure that we do get it right. So when we're looking at how do we scale up forest treatment to 500,000 acres a year over a 20 year strategy—how do we do that? What are the missing links? One of the big pieces that we're needing is exactly what you were talking about a few minutes earlier, which is this concept of a statewide mapping strategy. How do we really map and know where we are doing landscape level treatments,

watershed level treatments, and identify where the gaps are? Then so that we don't allow things like jurisdiction and landownership to get in the way, then when we have a twenty year plan that says: Hey, we know what we're doing this year. We know what we're doing in 5 years and we know what we're doing in 10 years. Suddenly the project that's 5 years out, you know exactly when you have to start your spotted owl searches, and you know exactly when you have to start your CEQA process and the filings you'll need. And it suddenly makes the entire process much more proactive rather than reactive and allows us to identify where the gaps are and where the partnerships are that we need to get on board to make sure that we're not doing a great fuels treatment in one area and suddenly on BLM land next to it nothing got done and suddenly there's just—there's an entry point for that fire. And so we are wanting to make sure we are building [filling] those gaps, and a long-range strategy that has this real plan behind it that can show what we're doing when and where and why will help us have this more wholistic approach, and allow us to be proactive rather than reactive.

One of the other gaps that we're seeing is workforce development. You know that's across-the-board, everything from traditional handcrews and masticators, and foresters. There seems to be a big gap—you are all aware of this, but the foresters are retiring. And also, where are the women? So we need to start thinking about how we are recruiting and encouraging more foresters. Specifically this is a task for the Board [of Forestry & Fire Protection]. And how do we encourage more women? Because it's a lot easier to recruit when you are recruiting the entire population. And so, making sure we are setting up our programs in a way that is encouraging people to join, that's making it appealing for them to stay. And that's going to be a collaborative effort between all of us, to make sure that these jobs are enduring. And obviously workforce development has a much broader spectrum. We need to be focusing on community colleges, high school programs. We need to also start investing in secondary wood markets and ask ourselves how



we also expand traditional wood markets. Where is that investment in capital going? Where is, where's this source of people that can actually get their little micromills into these neighborhoods and start taking out logs. I don't know why there's not high demand for hazard trees from Paradise. I mean you'd think people from San Francisco would be delighted to have a dining room table with a burn scar through it that came from Paradise. I mean there'd be a niche market for that. ...

**That's it folks, food for thought. Please help out where and when you can. Check out the workshop tour programs and other information for Sanctuary Forest, the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF), and EPIC.**

*Since arriving in the Mattole Valley of Humboldt County in 1971, Richard Gienger has immersed himself in homesteading, forest activism, and watershed restoration. Richard's column covers a range of issues including fisheries and watershed restoration and forestry, plus describes opportunities for the public to make positive contributions in the administrative and legislative arenas as well as in their own backyards.*





# Getting Wildfire Prepared:

## What Homeowners Can Do About the Scary Wildfire Situation

A few thoughts from Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council member and veteran wildfire practitioner, Bill Eastwood.

The conflagrations in Northern California of the last two fire seasons have seriously amped up the fire concerns of homeowners in this region. Global climate change and a serious buildup of fuel is making the wildfire picture more threatening and unpredictable. We are experiencing longer fire seasons, higher temperatures, and more prevalent, hot and dry, Santa Ana-type fire winds. This situation is probably going to get worse rather than better. So, what to do? It's clear that we need to get seriously busy and greatly increase our level of preparation for wildfires by:

- ◆ Increasing the fire resistance of our homes and immediate surroundings
- ◆ Practicing fire prevention
- ◆ Developing effective evacuation plans
- ◆ Reducing hazardous fuels in the wildlands
- ◆ Supporting our local volunteer fire departments.

There is a lot of literature out there about fire preparation. A good place to start is the free publication, *Living with Wildfire in Northwestern California*, the third edition of which was recently published under the guidance of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) in partnership with several other agencies and organizations.

The magazine is available at most CAL FIRE stations and many other places and is also available online at:

<https://humboldt.gov.org/livingwithwildfire>. This

publication provides many useful strategies for preparing your home and property for wildfire. It also highlights many organizations in Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and Siskiyou counties that are working toward fire resiliency in their communities.

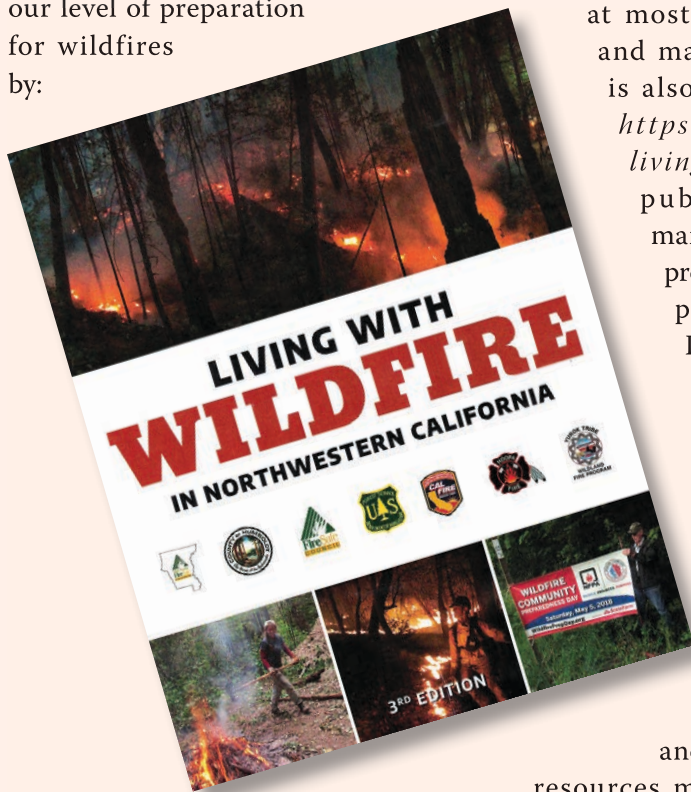
Their projects, programs, and community-specific resources may be of interest to

readers from those areas. HCFSC deserves a lot of credit for supporting the publication of *Living with Wildfire* as well as recently taking on the monumental task of updating the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (<https://humboldt.gov.org/FirePlanFinal>), a county-wide risk assessment and 5-year plan of action to better prepare Humboldt County for wildfire. The Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan is a separate chapter in the CWPP that can be used as a tool to guide and inspire action (and help leverage funding) for projects in the Southern Humboldt area.

Take the fire threat seriously and build fire preparation into your life. Don't be the person who starts the next megafire because you weren't prepared to put out a tipped over barbeque fire.

### Increasing the Fire Resistance of Our Homes and Immediate Surroundings

There is a lot written about "fire hardening" homes and defensible space (see *Living with Wildfire* for a start). Most rural homes are difficult to make fire resistant overall. Lumber and all sorts of stuff are often stored under houses on piers. Firewood piles and flammable landscaping close to the house are another problem. The area within the first five feet of your home is the most important and needs to be clear of all flammable material. In really big fires, ember ignitions are a big problem. However, there may not be embers and the important factor then, is protecting the home from the





flame front. If you have done a good job of making defensible space, your home will be much better protected. Don't forget that in evacuation situations there may not be any fire personnel present to protect your home when the fire passes through. It's equally important for residents of towns to organize to do fire hazard reduction of neighborhoods to limit spot fires that could result in house to house ignitions.

Follow defensible space guidelines, and if you have the energy or money, go larger, especially if the area is heavily forested or the home is on a steep slope. Make it a priority to maintain the clearance around your home at least yearly. This work can usually be done with hand tools such as pruners, loppers, and pole saws.

If, for some reason, evacuation is impossible, taking shelter in a home that has been fire hardened and has good defensible space may save your life. See *Living with Wildfire* for more details about what to do if you get trapped by a wildfire.



A 1 1/2 inch standpipe with a 1 1/2 inch fire hose connection and two 3/4 inch hose valves on top. The bucket has two 50 foot lengths of 1 1/2 inch fire hose, nozzles and adapters. PHOTOS BY BILL EASTWOOD

## Practicing Fire Prevention

During critical fire weather times, be especially vigilant about anything that could possibly start a fire, including, power tools, vehicles, electric appliances, smokers, etc. Instruct visitors in fire safety. Carry a fire tool or two around in your vehicle. Check that your water tanks are full and accessible to firefighters. Make sure that your home's fire tools are in order.

What sort of tools should be found at every homestead? First, realize that most fires start small—a tipped over barbeque fire, a neighbor's house on fire, a nearby lightning fire during a thunderstorm—and, if contained quickly, can be kept small. Usually evacuation is not required for these fires. Often any fire suppression that takes place before fire personnel arrive is up to local residents who will need firefighting tools to be successful. Of course, it's also good to know which of your neighbors have put in a stint with the local VFD and/or have the needed firefighting tools. Ideally every rural home should have:

- ◆ **Water access.** Homes should have hose bibbs located in key places, and at least one hose near a door to the house that can be instantly grabbed and is long enough to reach anywhere in the house or around the back. During fire season, hoses with nozzles should be hooked up and ready to go.
- ◆ **Dedicated fire water.** See *Living with Wildfire* for more information. A buried 1 1/2- or 2-inch water line coming down from a fire water tank and hooked into a metal standpipe with a 1 1/2-inch valved fire hose adapter. See photo of the standpipe and fire hose storage bucket. The two 3/4-inch valves on top are for attaching 3/4 inch garden hoses, which for small fires, usually will be the first choice.
- ◆ **Hand tools.** A shovel and a

McCloud is a bare minimum.

- ◆ **A small chain saw.** This can be used to clear a fallen tree blocking an evacuation route and for trimming and limbing trees and bushes near your home.
- ◆ **Perhaps a 5-gallon backpack fire pump** for small fires beyond the reach of hoses.

Not feeling qualified or capable of putting out a small fire? Get some training from your local volunteer fire department. Better yet, join up. A little training will not make you a firefighter, but it will enable you to do some basic suppression safely. Be careful. If you are unable to use fire tools yourself, you should still have fire tools available that can be used by neighbors or fire department personnel.

## Developing Effective Evacuation Plans

During really big fires, effective evacuations have been challenging to achieve. There have been problems with notifying residents in a timely and effective manner, creating traffic jams on escape routes, automobile accidents, and miscommunication between agencies. The Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is working hard to plan for more effective evacuations. You can do your part to stay informed by signing up for emergency notifications at: <https://humboldtgov.org/alerts>.

There are lots of recommendations for how to prepare for evacuation that most homeowners do not do. What most people don't realize is that it takes longer than you would ever believe to do a good job of getting ready to evacuate. Very often there is little warning and people have to leave with the clothes they are wearing and perhaps a pet. Go bags with critical items are highly recommended to help with leaving in a hurry. Wise



landowners plan their evacuation route and check out alternate escape routes. Rural neighborhoods are beginning to get organized to make sure everyone has been notified and anyone who needs help evacuating gets it. This is happening in the Petrolia area, Telegraph Ridge, Palo Verde, and other neighborhoods.

What happens when you can't evacuate? You start out and around the first corner, a large tree is across the road. Some people blindly start walking down the road and may or may not make it out. Having more information, you realize that your best bet is to return home and prepare to shelter-in-place in your home, which is fairly ready for a fire and is surrounded by really good defensible space. Hunkering down in the house as the fire approaches and roars past is scary. Small ember-caused fires are getting started in the yard and even on the house. The flame front passes by in a relatively short time and it is then possible to go outside and put out the small, ember caused fires with your fire hoses. Your home may burn to the ground but you will have given yourself a chance to survive. In this scenario, survival is not guaranteed. Sheltering-in-place should be used as a last resort, when evacuation is not possible.

Homeowners in towns are realizing that they are more vulnerable to wildfire than they thought. Add a wind event to a small fire and it doesn't take long to have a major fire that can rain embers down on homes located up to a mile in advance of the flame front. This burning pattern can cause a leap frog effect that makes control and evacuation very difficult. Towns don't do well in such a situation, with multiple fires springing up in weedy backyards and in leaf concentrations on roofs. House to house ignitions



A standpipe and hose arrangement built by an Ettersburg resident

are common. Fire suppression efforts can be quickly overwhelmed in this situation and evacuation becomes a must. For this reason, it is important for neighbors to work together, with local Fire Safe Councils, OES, or other groups to plan potential evacuation routes and reduce fuels along those roads.

### Reducing Hazardous Fuels in the Wildlands

Usually, the first fuel reduction project most rural homeowners take on after defensible space is cleared around their home is to build a shaded fuel break along their driveway to facilitate access and egress during a wildfire. This can be a big job and few homeowners take it on themselves, instead many opt to hire a professional contractor. In some cases, the work can be partially funded by cost share money from CAL FIRE, the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), or local Fire Safe Councils. Talk to the resource professionals in these organizations for recommendations about managing your forests and rangelands.

Prescribed burning is another up and coming way to reduce hazardous fuels in this region. It can be a valuable and cost-effective tool but may not be suitable for all properties. Visit

[NorCalRXFireCouncil.org](http://NorCalRXFireCouncil.org) or the Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association on Facebook, to learn more about prescribed fire. You can also contact Kai Ostrow, Southern Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association Liaison, at [kaiostrow@gmail.com](mailto:kaiostrow@gmail.com) for information on prescribed burning resources in Southern Humboldt or email Lenya Quinn-Davidson, the University of California Cooperative Extension Fire Advisor, at [lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu).

### Supporting Our Local Volunteer Fire Departments and Fire Support Organizations

All the work that you do to harden your home, maintain your defensible space, ensure safe access, establish adequate and accessible firefighting water sources, and learn about your local fire environment will help firefighters help you. If they cannot access your home or are unable to safely defend your homestead, they cannot do their job. Local fire focused organizations are also always in need of volunteers—from firefighters to fundraisers to board members to people who help clean and put away hoses after a fire. There's a place for everyone to help.

🌲 For more information: contact Bill Eastwood at 707-923-9109

*The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council meets monthly. Also check out the HCFSC Photo Library at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/147180090@N06> for more photos. Please credit the photographer (see photo details) or the HCFSC. Thanks!*

*Trees Foundation board member Bill Eastwood is a geologist with 35 years experience in various aspects of watershed restoration and sustainable forestry. As co-director of the Eel River Salmon Restoration Project he has been involved in a wide range of fish, habitat, erosion control, and educational projects. Bill is a founding member of the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF) and served on the staff for ten years. He's a board member of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and is also on the staff of the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council where he is helping develop a regional fire plan and various fire hazard reduction and education projects.*



# Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

## A Convergence for Movement Resurgence!

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

By Karen Pickett

There's lots on our horizon, locally, regionally, and nationally. On the national level, we've been promoting the 2019 North American Forest & Climate Movement Convergence, and we want to let readers of *Forest and River News* in on this exciting event coming up!

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) is conducting outreach to groups and individuals in the Pacific Northwest. We are working in collaboration with the Convergence's conveners: The Global Justice Ecology Project, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and Shawnee Forest Defense.

The national gathering, set to take place October 11 to 14 in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, will bring together activists, Indigenous people, and groups to create strategies to address the biodiversity and climate crisis.

### The Call to Action States:

*Forests, communities and the Earth are under attack. Governments, corporations and elites in North America are collaborating with others to consolidate power, profit and control on a global scale. Their actions are driving climate change and destruction of forests, causing mass-extinction of species, devastating communities, and threatening whole peoples and the entire biosphere.*

*We will bring together our diverse experiences and backgrounds to build a radical movement that unifies efforts to protect forests and land with those dedicated to social, environmental and climate justice to create a resurgence*

TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE  
SHAWNEE, KASKASKIA AND  
CHICKASAW PEOPLE

CULMINATING ON  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' DAY

## THE RESURGENCE: 2019 NORTH AMERICAN FOREST AND CLIMATE MOVEMENT CONVERGENCE

THIS IS NOT ANOTHER  
CONFERENCE, THIS IS A  
CONVERGENCE,

*powerful enough to achieve the  
systemic change we need to survive.*

*Forests are intricately intertwined  
webs of life. The more intact and  
diverse forests are, the better they can  
withstand stresses like climate change.*

*Forests will be the model for our organizing.  
The more diverse our movements, the more  
interconnected, and the more focused on  
the roots, the stronger and more resilient  
we will be to withstand the stresses of  
the massive effort we undertake.*

If we can glean any single thing from the recent releases of stunning (but not new) findings in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (that estimated a dozen years was what we had to turn

things around) and the UN Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (the "extinction report"), it is that the time is now. Not to plan for doomsday or author reform measures, but the time is now for action. That is central to the impetus behind this Convergence. I hope you will become as excited about it as I am, and look around our robust forest advocacy community. I invite you to help figure out how California and the Pacific Northwest can be well represented so this gathering will achieve as much as the potential predicts.

More information including Strategic Action Sessions can be found at The Resurgence: 2019 North American Forest & Climate Movement Convergence



website. Registration recently went live at [forestclimateconvergence.org/action](http://forestclimateconvergence.org/action)

### Additionally

Besides this work, BACH is also tracking threats and organizing on the Mattole Forests, Caltrans projects in forest ecosystems, and other campaigns in the Bay Area. We continually bring news of the North Coast to the Bay Area population, and maintain media resources for outreach collaboration with active advocacy and action campaigns on the North Coast.

For more information: 510-548-3113 or [bach@headwaterspreserve.org](mailto:bach@headwaterspreserve.org)

## History and Richardson Grove Update from CRTP

### Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities

#### Greetings from the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP).

CRTP advocates at the policy level for mass transit, walkable city centers, and healthy, active modes of transportation as part of the effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change. Speaking of driving, I'm sure you are all aware that the transportation sector is the greatest driver of greenhouse gas emissions.

CRTP began its evolution as a group working to oppose the Caltrans Richardson Grove highway-widening project. Caltrans announced the project in 2007 to promote the passage of Interstate-size trucks through Richardson Grove's tight curves on Highway 101. Caltrans claimed there would be NO increase in truck traffic resulting from the project. This made no sense to the opponents. Why was Caltrans

proposing a multimillion-dollar project if it would NOT increase truck traffic?

This question led to the forming of a small group to study the effects of big-rig truck traffic and transportation policy. It became apparent that advocating on the policy level to promote better transportation alternatives would ultimately be a more effective strategy than litigation alone. This became the CRTP's mission: to advocate for better transportation policy, particularly at the local level.

Introducing new transportation modes as policy initiatives, particularly in a rural area, is a considerable challenge. Resources are scarce, distances are long, car dependency is entrenched and alternatives are few, especially for the elderly and mobility impaired.

For example, take the case of the Arcata Plaza. Ideas for making the Plaza a friendlier, more family-centered community space have been solicited. One concept that has been put forward (not just by CRTP alone) is to reduce the amount of vehicle traffic and parking surrounding the Plaza. The walling-off of the Plaza by parked cars gives it an isolated, unsafe feel. Think about how lively and welcoming the Plaza feels on Farmers Market Days when folks can freely walk the streets surrounding the Plaza without dodging traffic. Think what this area could become as a pedestrianized area with the businesses able to set out tables and chairs where there used to be parked cars. While the idea may be new to car-centered Californians, many European city centers are car-free and business does not suffer. Of course options for the mobility-impaired need to be included in the planning.

Other cities in California are experimenting with increasing car

alternatives in city centers such as bike rentals and electric scooter options. Promoting increased use of mass transit has to include better frequency and timing, better routes, and interchangeability with last mile methods of getting passengers from bus stop to home.

### Update on Richardson Grove

In the most recent litigation in Federal Court regarding the Caltrans Richardson Grove highway-widening project, Judge Alsup's current ruling found four major areas of inadequate analysis by Caltrans:

- effects of paving over half or more of the root zone of certain trees;
- effects of construction in the structural root zones of certain trees;
- effects on public enjoyment of the park, particularly the noise factor;
- effects of damage from Interstate-size trucks colliding with trees;
- and, importantly, an additional missing analysis of why Caltrans claims there will be no increased traffic through the Grove as a result of the project.

It's hard to believe that since the announcement of the project in 2007, and since litigation began in 2009, that Caltrans has generated almost 18,000 pages in the Administrative Record of the project and not managed to adequately analyze these important aspects! As an aside, the Judge commented that mastering the Caltrans incomplete and confusing Administrative Record was "awful" and "resembled decoding hieroglyphics".

However, the struggle continues because it is possible that Caltrans will decide to either undertake a full-blown EIS analysis or try another EA/FONSI to correct the defects. Meanwhile, the taxpayer dollars spent on their inadequate efforts is estimated to have doubled, if not tripled,



# Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

the cost of the project. In addition we are awaiting Judge Neel's decision in our companion State Court lawsuit under CEQA. We'll keep you posted.

🌲 For more information: on Facebook or at [transportationpriorities.org](http://transportationpriorities.org)

## Meet the New Neighbors—Green Diamond Acquires 9,400-acres of Timberland in the Sproul Creek Watershed

Environmental Protection Information Center

By Rob DiPerna, EPIC

Green Diamond Resource Company, formerly Simpson Timber Company, acquired 9,400-acres of timberland in the Sproul Creek Watershed of Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino County from Boyle Forests, LP, the Successor-in-Interest to Barnum Timber Company, in late 2018. The Sproul Creek property acquisition by Green Diamond occurred after Boyle Forest, LP, had donated a Conservation Easement on the property to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. The Conservation Easement terms prohibit sub-division, parcelization, and development of the multiple individual patent parcels on the ownership but does not address or constrain forest and timberland management in any way.

The vast majority of Green Diamond's nearly 400,000-acres of industrially-managed California timberlands are situated in Northern Humboldt and in Del Norte Counties, with isolated tracts in Mendocino and Trinity Counties. Green Diamond's acquisition of the

Sproul Creek property raises immediate and serious concerns for the fate of one of the South Fork Eel River's last and best coho salmon refugia watersheds, which is also one of the least disturbed or developed corners of Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino Counties.

What's the worry, some may wonder? That's an easy one: based on past and current evidence of Green Diamond's timber management, it seems clear all the company knows how to do is clearcut on a maximum 45-year rotation, meaning clearcuts and plantation planting of the same pieces of ground over and over again every 45 years, at most. And, as we know, where there are clearcuts, there will be herbicides—likely multiple applications for each clearcut unit between the phase of the harvest and the establishment of plantation seedlings.

Worse still, Green Diamond and its smooth operating public representatives have managed to broker multiple sweetheart long-term deals. These include a property-wide coverage for timber harvest related waste discharges; a property-wide agreement to cover all its road-related waste discharges; and two different Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs): one for northern spotted owl, the other for fish and aquatic species.

In addition, they have procured a Master Agreement on Timber Operations, to cover all its stream and watercourse alteration activities associated with timber harvest activities; and most recently, a Safe Harbor Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, giving the company a free pass on protecting the critically-endangered Humboldt marten during its clearcutting operations.

Very little viable spawning and rearing habitat for the state-endangered coho

salmon occurs in the South Fork Eel River sub-basin, aside from that in Sproul Creek, where extensive investment of time, money, and effort has been expended to recover conditions for coho in the hopes of affording a much-needed refugia in the system for the fishery and other aquatic life.

Green Diamond's Aquatics HCP sets in stone measures for riparian protection in its Riparian Management Zones—protections and retention measures that are arguably not even as protective as current baseline California Forest Practice Rules for Watersheds with Listed Salmonids, Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rules, a.k.a "ASP Rules." When these marginal riparian management protections and restrictions are coupled with multiple adjacent clearcuts in a watershed vital for the maintenance and recovery of critically-endangered coho salmon, as is the case here, it seems only bad things could be foreshadowed to come.

EPIC has taken a pro-active approach to the Green Diamond acquisition in Sproul Creek, holding two public community meetings in Garberville to inform, educate, and mobilize the local citizenry and our membership with a singular goal in mind—to change what might seem like an inevitable outcome in Sproul Creek under Green Diamond's timber ownership and management, that being, more short-rotation clearcuts; and instead work together to produce a sustainable management plan that protects the watershed and those that rely on it.

Want to help? Want to get involved? Contact us!

🌲 For more information: [wildcalifornia.org](http://wildcalifornia.org)

## A Fun Earth Day Celebration

### Lost Coast Interpretive Association

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than to come together as a community and take care of our corner of the earth here on California's North Coast! The second annual Shelter Cove Earth Day Celebration, hosted by Lost Coast Interpretive Association and our partners in SCiPP, the Shelter Cove Invasive Plant Project, created an opportunity for volunteers to get out and pull invasive plants together as a community, and then enjoy festivities, celebrate the earth, and take in a kid's poster contest.

The community of Shelter Cove is located at the southern gateway to the King Range National Conservation Area in Humboldt County. Both areas have growing populations of Pampas grass and other invasive plants, which can create a monoculture. Monocultures cause a host

of problems, such as reducing genetic diversity by reducing native habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Coastal areas are especially prone to invasive plants due to their mild climate. In an effort to stem the tide of invasive plants moving into the King Range, Lost Coast

Interpretive Association, with support from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, has gathered together a group of partners to form SCiPP. Together we have come up with several ways to raise awareness and get the community involved, the funniest of which is the Earth Day Celebration!

On the morning of April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday following Earth Day (which fell on a Monday this year), 60 eager volunteers showed up to the Community Clubhouse in Shelter Cove. Volunteers were divided into groups and sent out to various locations, each group with a lead from local non-profits, businesses or the BLM King Range. The respective groups pulled Pampas grass by the Cape Mendocino Lighthouse at Mal Coombs Beach; fennel from Black Sands Beach; non-native grasses at the monument by the Black Sands parking lot; and Chilean ice plant at Abalone Point—all locations within the King Range National Conservation Area. In addition, volunteer groups picked up trash on Shelter Cove Road and at Mal Coombs Beach, where a recent sailboat crash left fiberglass shards strewn all along



Winning Earth Day poster for 1-2 graders. ARTIST: MAHAYLA ROBINSON



Winning Earth Day poster for 5-6 graders. ARTIST: LIVITY SALUS



# Conservation Partner Organizations at Work



Volunteers having fun while removing Chilean ice plant in the King Range National Conservation Area  
PHOTO BY SANDY MILES

the tidal zone. After a satisfying morning of service work, volunteers returned to the Clubhouse to enjoy a lunch funded by donors and prepared by the Cape Mendocino Lighthouse Society. This delicious lunch was served up free for volunteers and for a charge for community members who did not make it out to work but wanted to join in and celebrate. Beer, donated by nearby Gyppo Ale Mill, and wine was on hand, and a five piece band of local folk musicians kept us entertained.

As part of the celebration, local school kids created Earth Day posters earlier in the week for our poster contest. 60 beautiful and creative posters were submitted, with grassroots messages about littering, loving the earth, invasive plants, and more. Posters were displayed at the celebration for all to see and appreciate. Contest winners, ages 5 to 12, won either a scholarship to LCIA's Summer Adventure Camp or a cash prize.

Other ways our SCiPP program works to address invasive plants is to offer Shelter Cove residents a bounty on seed heads when the Pampas grass starts to bloom in

late summer; and a property owner rebate program for those who hire contractors to remove large plants from their properties.

Our partners in SCiPP are the BLM King Range, Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District (RID), Southern Humboldt Business and Visitors Bureau (SHBVB), and the King Range Alliance. SCiPP funders include the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, Conservation Lands Foundation, and the Shelter Cove RID.

🌲 For more information: [www.lostcoast.org](http://www.lostcoast.org)

## Updates from MRA

### Mad River Alliance

Mad River Alliance (MRA) is a community driven group working to protect clean local water and the ecological integrity of the Mad River watershed for the benefit of its human and natural communities. MRA is a 501(c)3 (Humboldt County, California).

### Science and Monitoring Committee Update:

Mad River Alliance continues sampling on the Mad River to identify trends and/or abnormalities at each of our sample locations. Our Citizen Water Quality Monitoring study is intended as a community outreach and educational opportunity to engage volunteers in the pursuit of scientific knowledge about the Mad River. Data collected is intended to engage other stakeholders and community members in pursuit of high-quality scientific data collection. The efforts conducted to date should be viewed as a platform from which a dedicated water quality monitoring program can continue. In May, we released our first report on the data collected in this study to the Rose Foundation.

### Conservation Committee Update:

Mad River Alliance's bi-monthly river clean-ups have been well received and attended by community members. Our volunteers have removed over 800 cubic yards of trash, 500 automobile tires, 200 appliances, hundreds of syringes, and more. Community members now have the option to recommend clean-up sites on our website under our conservation tab. If you have seen areas in the Mad River watershed that need to be cleaned up, go onto [madriverralliance.org/conservation/river-clean-ups/](http://madriverralliance.org/conservation/river-clean-ups/).

### Restoration Committee Update:

The Powers Creek Riparian Enhancement project is still in progress, and will be followed by the installation of an interpretive foot bridge in Blue Lake. Invasive plant removals will take place throughout the Summer and then native planting on the creek will begin in September. This project will increase habitat for native salmonids; increase visibility of the creek; and encourage use of local trails. We are seeking volunteers to come and join us on our work days. Come join us anytime, for any amount of time. All help is greatly appreciated.

### Education and Outreach Committee Update:

Mad River Alliance participated in the Environmental Heroes Fair with Blue Lake Union School on April 19th. Our naturalists engaged students from participating schools in environmental topics pertaining to their watershed, local drinking water, and the salmon life cycle. The fish painted by the students can now be seen in the City Hall office and along Glendale Blvd. in Blue Lake!

As Summer begins, so does the MRA Outdoor Education program. If your club,

camp, or school program is interested in a hands-on, educational fieldtrip on the Mad River, contact [caroline@madriveralliance.org](mailto:caroline@madriveralliance.org) to schedule.

Interested in volunteering? Let us know! Contact our Programs Manager, Caroline Hall for more information about our programs and how you can get involved.

For more information:  
[madriveralliance.org](http://madriveralliance.org)

## Creating the Future

### Sanctuary Forest

*By Marylou Scavarda and Anna Rogers*

In 1987, Sanctuary Forest, Inc. (SFI) was founded by 15 people who dreamed of an ecological reserve in the headwaters of the Mattole River, located in northwest California. These visionary community members understood that promoting appreciation, understanding, and respect for the unique Mattole temperate rainforest was vital to their success.



Sanctuary Forest's Birds of the Lost Coast hike 2019 was held this year in the Southern Humboldt Community Park.

This article will focus on the origins of its hike and scholarship programs.

### Hike Program

Soon after SFI began working to conserve Mattole forestlands, Will Bell, an early board member, told us, "People from Whale Gulch, Ettersburg, and Whitethorn started asking about the virgin forests they had been hearing about." The untouched forests were not visible from the road. Will and Rondal Snodgrass, SFI's founding Executive Director, invited folks to join them on hikes where there were no trails, to places where they could experience the forest as a complex process of interconnected beings, rather than simply trees. Once they saw nature in this way, these folks began sharing SFI's vision. This was the beginning of what would later become SFI's public hike program.

When SFI began offering public hikes, our local business community became underwriters for the program. Experts on a variety of subjects, along with docents trained by SFI, volunteered to guide hikers. These generous community members make it possible for more than 200 children and adults to learn about and enjoy our rivers, forests, grasslands, and coastline each year. Many are locals, but people also come from elsewhere in California, as well as other states and countries. They express gratitude for their experience and a renewed commitment to conservation.

### Scholarship Program

Our scholarship program began in 1996 with one \$500 scholarship. "It was Will's idea to award a scholarship, the first presented anywhere in the U.S. by an environmental organization," Rondal said. "We realized that an environmental group has a responsibility beyond



Sanctuary Forest's 2019 scholarship winners, clockwise, from top left: Kylie Messenger, CJ VanMeter, Agustin Gercinuno, Haley Hutchinson, Nathaniel Mills, and Paige Lyons

conserving land. We want to create a future." He and Will had recently met Tom Dimmick, Sr. whose family was a local producer of timber for three generations. They discovered that they shared a commitment to sustainable forestry as well as education. For the past 23 years, the Dimmick family has partnered with Sanctuary Forest by underwriting an annual \$1,000 scholarship.

In 2000, Jimmy Friel, a new SFI board member, expanded the program. A local businessman himself, Jimmy reached out to other business owners. Since then, more than 30 scholarships have been underwritten by businesses partnering with SFI. In 2002, when Rondal retired as SFI's Executive Director after 25 years, friends expressed their gratitude by establishing an annual scholarship in his name. In 2014, the Robert & Maria Kelly Stewardship began to underwrite two annual scholarships, and a year later the Humboldt Redwood Company began underwriting one as well. Sanctuary Forest now awards six



# Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

\$1,000 scholarships each year—with over \$91,000 having been awarded since 1996.

We ask scholarship winners to check in with us now and then. Their ongoing commitment to environmental work inspires us! Jamie Albin, a 2002 winner, told us in 2007, “I am part of Colorado’s growing solar energy research initiative.” Kristopher Buihner, a 2006 winner, told us he has worked for California State Parks, and attended HSU’s teacher preparation program with Credential in Earth Science. Kai Neander, a 2011 winner, became an alumni advisor to Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots program and travelled to Doha, Qatar as an international ambassador for that organization. Will Bell said it best when he presented a scholarship in 1997: “While on a hike with renowned forest ecologist, Chris Maser, I asked him, ‘What is the best thing we can do now to help sustain our environment?’ He said, ‘Give the forest to the children.’ So that’s what I’m here to do!”

🌲 For more information: [sanctuaryforest.org](http://sanctuaryforest.org)

## State Grant Will Help Improve Salmon Habitat on National Park Lands

### Salmon Protection and Watershed Network

The Salmon Protection And Watershed Network (SPAWN), a program of the national environmental organization Turtle Island Restoration Network, was awarded a competitive grant this summer to improve habitat for endangered salmon on Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands along Lagunitas Creek.

The award, totaling \$593,040, was one of 38 grants awarded statewide, and the only grant awarded for work



The first phase of SPAWN’s floodplain project saw the removal of more than 13,000 cubic yards of dumped fill and abandoned structures from the ghost town of Tocaloma.

PHOTO BY MEL WRIGHT

in Marin County for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects under California Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 round of grant programs.

The award is for the ‘Lagunitas Creek Floodplain Restoration for Coho

Recovery, Phase II’ project, designed to reconstruct destroyed floodplain wetlands in the ghost town of Jewell, located just downstream of Samuel P. Taylor State Park between Lagunitas Creek and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The project builds off the successful first



Volunteers help care for native plants in SPAWN’s native plant nursery that provide much needed shade for young salmon in Lagunitas Creek. PHOTO BY HARRY MCGRATH



phase of the project, which occurred a mile downstream in 2018 and saw the removal of more than 13,000 cubic yards of dumped fill and abandoned structures from the ghost town of Tocaloma.

“The goal of this project is to ensure Coho salmon remain part of our landscape for generations to come,” said Preston Brown, SPAWN’s watershed conservation director. “In addition, the project will restore the wild and dynamic nature of Lagunitas Creek and provide benefits to several endangered species and improve water quality.”

The project aims to recover a lost floodplain that has been buried under dirt that was dumped in the creek corridor decades ago to build the village of Jewell. The project will remove 6,000 cubic yards of fill, concrete, and construction rubble, add several pieces of large woody debris, replace non-native invasive plants with native species, and create critical side-channel habitats for coho salmon and other endangered

species. The derelict buildings from this site were removed by the National Park Service in 2016.

“We are excited to add several thousand native plants to the area that we have been growing in our native plant nursery, from around 100 species which we have chosen specifically for this amazing spot on Lagunitas Creek,” said Audrey Fusco, SPAWN’s plant ecologist and native plant nursery manager. “Our plants are healthy and ready to go thanks to the volunteer power of thousands of community members that have nurtured the plants for the past few years. Many of these students and volunteers will help with the planting this upcoming winter. This project will improve habitat for many species of wildlife in addition to Coho, and it will fight climate change and protect biological diversity.”

“Restoring the floodplain along the creek will re-create the large, dynamic wetland with off-channels, alcoves, and numerous large woody debris structures—all

elements that Coho salmon critically need for recovery,” said Todd Steiner, executive director of Turtle Island Restoration Network. “These habitats will create slow off-channel areas that are commonly seen in undeveloped pristine waterways that provide spawning, feeding, and rearing habitat for fish and other threatened wildlife including California freshwater shrimp and California red-legged frog.”

For more information: [seaturtles.org/our-work/our-programs/salmon](https://seaturtles.org/our-work/our-programs/salmon)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coho Confab on the Klamath River

### Salmonid Restoration Federation

#### Coho Habitat Restoration in the Era of Dam Removal and Megafires, August 23-25, 2019

Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is coordinating the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coho Confab that will take place August 23-25 in the mid-Klamath region in Humboldt County. The Coho Confab is a field symposium to learn about watershed restoration and techniques to restore and recover coho salmon populations. The Confab provides an ideal opportunity to network with other fish-centric people and to participate in field tours that highlight innovative salmon restoration practices. This year, SRF is collaborating with several groups to produce this educational event including Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program, the Karuk and Hoopa tribes, and Fiori GeoSciences.

The Coho Confab will open Friday evening, August 23<sup>rd</sup> with a community dinner and inspiring keynote presentations from Will Harling, Executive Director of Mid-Klamath Watershed Council,



SPAWN’s Habitat Restoration Intern Skylar Lipman, left, and Watershed Conservation Director Preston Brown measure flow rates in the main stem of Lagunitas Creek.

PHOTO BY HARRY McGRATH



# Conservation Partner Organizations at Work



The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coho Confab will take place at Sandy Bar Ranch on the banks of the mid-Klamath. PHOTO BY MARK DUPONT, SANDY BAR RANCH

who will give a presentation about what the Klamath community has learned after a decade of restoration. Toz Soto, Karuk Fisheries Program Manager, will expound on coho ecology studies in the Mid-Klamath in this time of climate change and creating cold-water habitats with groundwater. Additionally, Amy Cordalis, General Council and Mike Belchik, Senior Scientist, both with the Yurok tribe will share a Yurok Perspective on the Science and Progress Made Toward Dam Removal on the Klamath River.

On Saturday, Mid-Klamath Watershed Council will feature two full-day tours including a tour of in-channel and off-channel projects in Seiad Creek and a tour of coho salmon recovery efforts in Horse Creek to address the cumulative impacts of mining, channelization, human development and fire. In the morning, Justin Alvarez from the Hoopa tribe will lead a stream and valley floor restoration in Klamath tributaries and there will be an afternoon tour of BDA planning projects and thermal refugia in Boise Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River.

When participants return from an exciting day seeing exemplary field sites, there will be Klamath Dam Removal Open Forum at Sandy Bar Ranch to discuss the status, timeline, and restoration opportunities. The Open Forum will include representatives from the Yurok and Karuk tribes as well as a representative of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation.

The last day of the Confab will include two concurrent field tours including a tour to explore the use of Beaver Dam Analogues as a restoration tool in McGarvey Creek in the Lower Klamath led by geologist Rocco Fiori and Sarah Beesley from the Yurok Fisheries Program and a tour of Trinity River Restoration Projects sites from Lewiston to Junction City.

🌲 To register for the Confab or to view the full agenda please visit our website: [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org).

## Redwood Creek and Marshall Ranch, SF Eel Flow Enhancement Efforts

### Salmonid Restoration Federation

Since 2013, Salmonid Restoration Federation has been conducting low flow monitoring in Redwood Creek and analyzing the feasibility of creating a suite of flow enhancement projects that would enhance instream flows for salmon and provide water security for rural landowners. In 2018, the



Will Harling (third from left), Executive Director of Mid-Klamath Watershed Council and an advocate of prescribed burns, will be providing one of the keynote addresses at the Confab about what the Klamath community has learned after a decade of restoration and will be leading the Seiad Creek tour. PHOTO FROM MKWK PHOTO ARCHIVES

Wildlife Conservation Board awarded SRF two planning grants that have greatly advanced our planning efforts.

Redwood Creek is a critical tributary for juvenile salmonids in the South Fork Eel watershed. For over five years, Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) has been conducting low flow monitoring in order to understand low flow patterns and prioritize water conservation efforts in this impaired watershed that is home to hundreds of residents as well as threatened species like coho salmon.

SRF recently began our 2019 low-flow monitoring season and with late rains, flows at the end of May were approximately 30,000 gallons per minute (GPM), one week later they were approximately 14,000 GPM. From previous data collection years, we can anticipate that flows may be less than 100 GPM in July and potentially less than 5 GPM in August when we usually observe disconnected pools with stranding juvenile salmon.

SRF will continue our outreach campaign in Redwood Creek in an effort to identify and provide assistance to landowners who are interested in building sufficient water storage to be able to forbear from diverting water in the summer months when flows are critical for aquatic species. Water storage opportunities include ponds, tank farms, rainwater catchment, and groundwater recharge.

A feasibility study and engineering design is currently underway on a large flow enhancement project on the Marshall Ranch near the town of Brice land, in Southern Humboldt County. Stillwater Sciences is the technical lead on the project with support from SHN Engineers and Geologists (Geotechnical Engineering and Water Conveyance Infrastructure),



SRF began monitoring on May 11<sup>th</sup> this year to capture the flows in this unusually rainy spring as well as the spring recession. This flow was nearly 30,000 gallons per minute. One month later flows were less than 5,000 gpm. PHOTO BY KATRINA NYSTROM

William Rich and Associates (Cultural Resources), and Hicks Law (Water Rights and Legal Consulting).

At this time, the project has been advanced through a feasibility study and alternatives analyses with a selected preferred alternative of a 16.3 million gallon pond on an upper terrace and infiltration gallery on a lower terrace with the objective of delivering approximately 50 gallons per minute of flow augmentation to Redwood Creek during the 5-month dry season. One hundred percent of this flow augmentation is intended to benefit fish and wildlife. Water from the pond will be piped to the infiltration gallery with a control valve regulating flow releases. The pond will be filled from direct rainfall (~6 million gallons), hillslope runoff (~1.3 million gallons), one small tributary (~1.1 million gallons), and water pumped into the pond from Redwood Creek during the wet season (~7.9 million gallons).

In February 2019 a Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held with agency staff from CDFW, NOAA Fisheries, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control

Board, and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). All agency staff was supportive of moving the preferred alternative forward to subsequent design phases and the project team is currently working on technical details to advance the project design. The project team aims to submit an implementation grant to WCB in September 2019 to secure implementation funds for the project. The earliest possible construction start date target is June 2021.

This would be the largest flow enhancement project of its type in the South Fork Eel watershed and could ultimately enhance instream flows in Redwood Creek to allow for salmon migration.

SRF is currently participating in the South Fork Eel Salmon Habitat Restoration Priorities process initiated by NOAA Fisheries and CDFW. Despite cumulative impacts that have impaired sections of Redwood Creek, it still ranks as a priority tributary to the SF Eel for biological importance, habitat condition, and optimism and potential.

🌲 For more information: [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org).



# Trees Foundation


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## Direct Action at Rainbow Ridge

Logging operations began on June 5<sup>th</sup> in a portion of the Mattole watershed's revered Rainbow Ridge that is owned by Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC). The logging sparked protests and direct action, including blockades and the installation of a treesitter into a Douglas-fir within the area slated to be logged (See Page 16). The Lost Coast League and partner groups contend that HRC's FSC-certification requires it to create a management plan for the area due to the evidence of "indicator species" of forest health—such as the Sonoma Tree Vole.

### From Forest Stewardship Council Guidelines:

**Principle #9: Maintenance of high conservation value forests**

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.

9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.



Treesitter Rook, and the rare Sonoma Tree Vole who has visited her—proving that the area of Rainbow Ridge being logged is a high conservation value forest. This, according to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines, requires a management plan which maintains or enhances the forest's defining attributes. PHOTOS BY ROOK

To support the printing and distribution of this news magazine, please send your tax-deductible contributions to Trees Foundation, 439 Melville Road, Garberville, CA 95542