

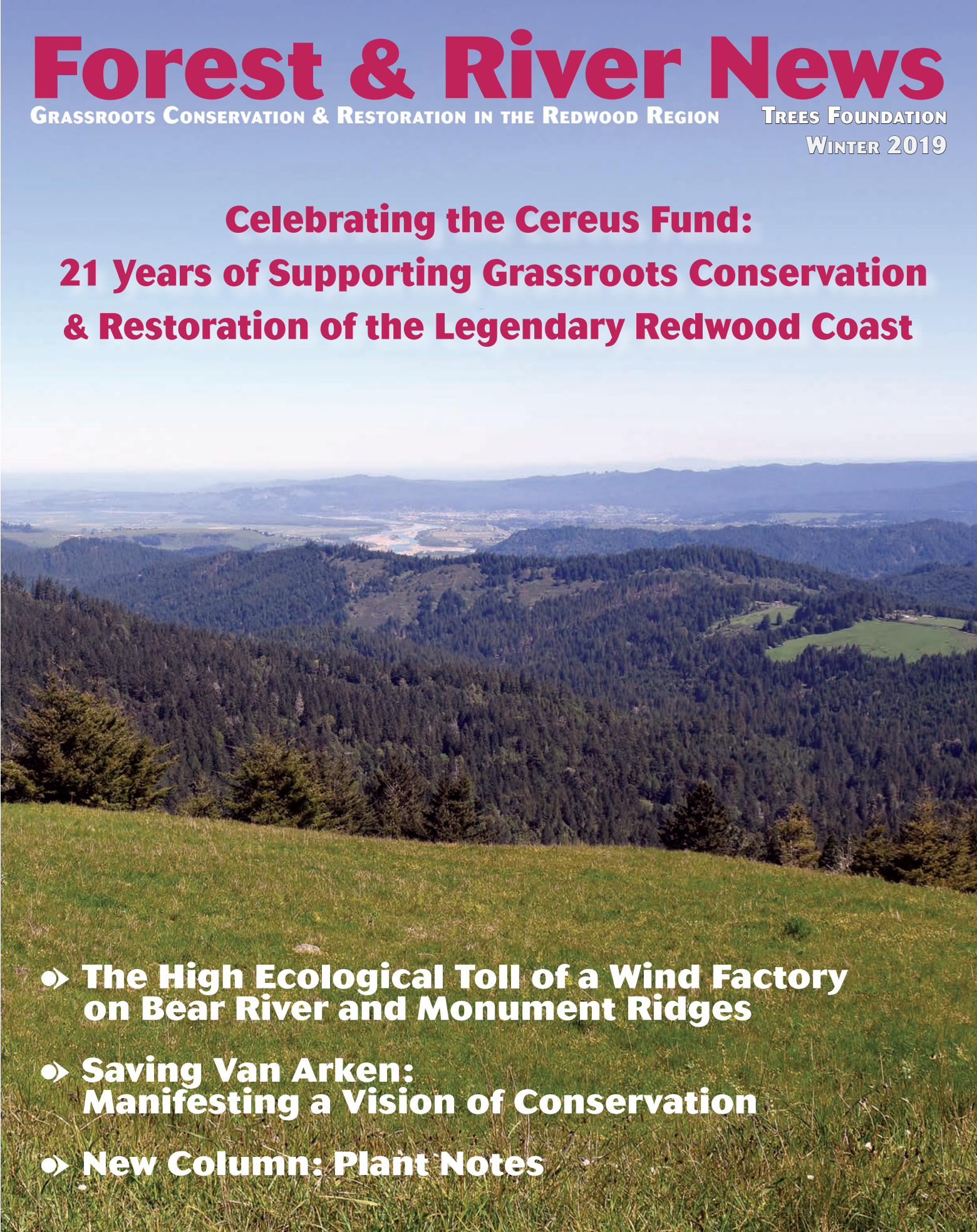
Forest & River News

GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION & RESTORATION IN THE REDWOOD REGION

TREES FOUNDATION

WINTER 2019

Celebrating the Cereus Fund: 21 Years of Supporting Grassroots Conservation & Restoration of the Legendary Redwood Coast

- 
- **The High Ecological Toll of a Wind Factory on Bear River and Monument Ridges**
 - **Saving Van Arken: Manifesting a Vision of Conservation**
 - **New Column: Plant Notes**



Editor's Note

In this issue of *Forest & River News* we are happy to celebrate a great win for Sanctuary Forest's (SFI) ambitious Van Arken Community Forest Project. Over three years ago, SFI recognized a rare conservation and ecosystem recovery opportunity in a property that encompasses the entire Van Arken Creek watershed from its headwaters to its confluence with the Mattole River. Their original goal was to raise funds to purchase the land themselves, but they adapted and sought new solutions as it became clear that time was running out. Luckily, they found an amenable partner—Lost Coast Forestlands LLC (LCF)—that is open to SFI's vision. This October, LCF closed escrow and purchased the Van Arken Creek property, and granted SFI the five years they need to purchase an innovative conservation easement that will allow them to manifest their dream of a Van Arken Community Forest. You can read the entire exciting story on page 8.

Then just to the north of that conservation victory, there is a potential for great ecological loss if a controversial proposed wind power project is granted permission to move forward as planned. Pictured on our cover is the view atop Bear River Ridge, part of a unique coastal prairie grasslands and Wiyot high prayer site located south of Ferndale, CA. Along with its neighboring Monument Ridge, it is the proposed site for 60 wind turbines that would transmit energy across 25 new miles of high voltage power lines. One of our longtime partner groups, Salmon Forever, lays out the significant impacts and drawbacks of this proposal, while offering solar energy alternatives.

You'll also read about an abundance of grassroots conservation, restoration, and environmental education programs that are blossoming on the North Coast thanks to the Cereus Fund, a donor-advised fund administered through Trees Foundation since 1998. We are SO grateful for the Cereus Fund and all our donors!

Cover photo: A view to the Pacific ocean from Bear River Ridge, the proposed site for a windmill factory. PHOTO BY THE WIYOT TRIBE

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The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of Trees Foundation.

Standing With the Wiyot

The High Ecological Toll of a Wind Factory on Bear River and Monument Ridges

By Salmon Forever

Terra-Gen's Humboldt Wind Energy Project proposal for Monument and Bear River Ridges is tearing our community apart and pitting environmentalists against one another. Yet the misguided proposal is also fostering a community appalled by the cultural, ecological, and financial havoc that would inevitably result from this industrial wind factory.

At the birth of international climate accords in Rio in 1992, nations all agreed "not to carry out any activities on the lands of indigenous peoples that would cause environmental degradation or that would be culturally inappropriate."

Yet Humboldt County is welcoming Terra-Gen to construct a massive industrial complex on the unique prairie grasslands of ridges managed and held sacred by the Wiyot people for countless generations. The Wiyot Tribe opposes this sacrilegious project.

Permitting the wind factory would not provide electrical power during public

safety power shutdowns, but it would open the door to other colonizing multinational corporations to exploit Bear River Ridge, a Wiyot high prayer area that the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) has identified as the most commercially viable wind site in the County. The industrialized wind power factory also serves as a gateway to piecemealing the industrialization of other ridges further south.

The Wiyot have alerted us to the distinctive habitat at risk (see the article by Wiyot biologist Adam Canter in the May 16, 2019 edition of the Lost Coast Outpost, and "The Terra-Gen Wind Project: Feeding to the centralized and fire-prone PG&E Grid," on the Wiyot website www.wiyot.us) including over 80 different vegetation communities, 50 percent of which are rare or sensitive. More than 100 plant and animal species important to the Wiyot Tribe would be impacted. (Terra-Gen has mapped 83 drainages in the project area, including 16 perennial waterways.) Many are listed as critical



Old-growth forest dependent marbled murrelet adult incubating an egg.
PHOTO FROM MEDIA-CACHE-AKÖ.PINIMG.COM

habitat under the Endangered Species Act and support species such as Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, snowy plover, and yellow-billed cuckoo, to name just a few.

These Cape Mendocino grasslands encompass one of the largest expanses of increasingly rare coastal prairies. Situated at 3,100 feet elevation at the crossroads of terrestrial and aerial migratory pathways, the area is a flyway connecting the Pacific Ocean and the Eel River. One hundred fifty affected species are listed in the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), all struggling to recover from the last 150 years of intensive logging, habitat fragmentation and overgrazing to grow their populations from severely depleted gene pools.

This ecosystem that Terra-Gen will obliterate has no parallel anywhere on the planet. These vast and beautiful pacific coast ridges ripple out between stream-forged valleys, surrounded by mixed forests dotted with residual old growth. The ridges and their



Bear River Ridge art by LARRY EIFERT



Researchers at Imperial College London, Edinburgh University and SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden report that while an average of 11.7 turbine fires are reported annually, more than 117 fires actually occur worldwide. At present there are an estimated 200,000 turbines in operation around the world. This equates to a 1 in 1709 chance of a turbine catching fire in a year. Terra-Gen proposes 60 turbines, which equates to a 1 in 28.5 chance that there will be a fire during the project's lifetime.

winds connect the ocean to the Eel River. It is no wonder that the Wiyot recognize this area as a high prayer place. (For drone views of Bear River Ridges, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPoXGzuQv8I>)

Destroying it with a wind factory would only perpetuate nearly two centuries of destruction that these people, and their lands, have endured.

The animals and flora of these ridges have adapted unique behaviors in tune with the winds, which is why a unique population of hoary bats that winters here is so special, and so vulnerable. The bats but represent a much broader ecological universe. Here, terrestrial, aerial, and migratory pathways connect Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Headwaters Forest and surrounding "lesser cathedrals" of old-growth redwood, Grizzly Creek State Park, Pamplin Grove and Gilham Butte, and other rich and diverse habitat islands to the Eel River and the Ocean. This is a living, fragile ecosystem, at the heart of which we find Monument and Bear River Ridges.

The iconic marbled murrelet population is on an extinction trajectory, having lost 85 percent of its inland nesting habitat, resulting in a 90 percent reduction in their population. Our local population of approximately 2,000 birds will be forever threatened by as many as 60 wind turbines up to 600 feet into their aerial flyways, where breeders fly up to eight times daily into old growth islands. Neither they nor their habitat have ever encountered such forbidding machinery, which, combined with climate change, could bring the species to extinction. Oregon's up-listing the marbled murrelet last year to endangered is being challenged in court, as murrelets flee from Oregon and Washington due to increasing loss of inland habitat from logging and wildfires.

"Of the 114 Pacific Northwest bird species analyzed, the marbled murrelet had the highest climate-sensitivity score", states the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's January 2018 Status Review of the marbled murrelet.

Terra-Gen's so-called mitigation for killing murrelets is to cover garbage cans in Van Duzen and Cheatham County Park: a symbol if not symptom of the subterfuge that constitutes the basis—and most of the content—of the Environmental Impact Reports.

This project is a poster child for cumulative impacts. Advocates like to minimize the impacts of the proposed project by suggesting that the landscape is already "managed," therefore this project is just another use. But the landscape is managed in part by public trust agencies that regulate the forestry and grazing activities in order to sustain ecological functions, for the public benefit. It is because they are so heavily managed that they cannot tolerate further insult, especially one so unimaginably large and impactful as an industrial wind factory.

Jonathan Franzen says it best in his March 2015 New Yorker essay, "Carbon Capture": "Carbon emissions have rendered meaningless the ideal of a wilderness untouched by man; the new

ideal is “wildness,” which is measured not by isolation from disturbance but by the diversity of organisms that can complete their life cycles.”

Advocates of this project insist that we must do our part to alleviate the climate emergency, that climate change will kill millions of critters. But this project is not “doing our part.” It only adds to, rather than ameliorates, the impacts of climate change by front-loading at least five years of carbon emissions in the construction, transport and installation of the turbines, and by perpetuating an annual loss of vegetative and soil carbon sequestration. Under this project the biodiversity of this ecosystem will be fragmented and forever degraded, depriving whatever the future climate may bring of having any influence over extirpated species that might otherwise evolve accordingly.

Terra-Gen would wreak general havoc over a wide range, as each turbine blade sweeps an aerial surface of 4.5 acres at tip speeds of 200 mph, creating

massive turbulence while warming and drying vegetation for as far as 15-20 kilometers downwind

In the 2018 research paper “Climatic Impacts of Wind Power,” published in the research journal *Joule*, David Keith writes “The direct climate impacts of wind power are instant, while the benefits accumulate slowly...if your perspective is the next 10 years, wind power actually has—in some respects—more climate impact than coal or gas.”

Add in 25 miles of new high voltage transmission lines surrounded by vegetation and the fire danger alone should halt this project.

But of course there is much more to rue, including 17 miles of new roads, some over 220 feet wide (freeway lanes are 12 feet wide), through the highly erodible Franciscan soils of Jordan Creek, more than 11,000 cubic yards of concreted ridges, 3 million cubic feet of soil disruption, and the 25 miles of transmission lines to Bridgeville, which will bleed sediment into the Eel River forever, further

threatening aquatic species on the brink of extinction. We have already lost 30 percent of birds worldwide over the last 30 years. Placing giant wind blenders in their pathways is the worst thing we can do.

“To prevent extinctions in the future, it’s not enough to curb our carbon emissions. We also have to keep a whole lot of wild birds alive right now. We need to combat the extinctions that are threatened in the present, work to reduce the many hazards that are decimating North American bird and wildlife populations, and invest in large-scale, intelligently conceived conservation efforts, particularly those designed to allow for climate change,” wrote Jonathan Franzen in his March 2015 *New Yorker* essay, “Carbon Capture.”

Our environmental community’s response to the Terra-Gen project has been influenced by the perception that it will be approved no matter what. This has led some groups to create a coalition letter* that supports a “mitigated” wind factory, thereby assuring the County and wildlife agencies that they will not challenge the project.

Not all members of these organizations agreed with the preposterous notion of mitigating the effects of this gargantuan project, but few expect Terra-Gen to agree to their demands. Many are quite upset by it, and by their organizations’ ignoring the opposition of the Wiyots and other Tribes, the towns of Scotia and Rio Dell, and many residents in the Eel



Rice root fritillary (*Fritillaria affinis*) is an important Wiyot cultural plant and edible bulb growing on the Bear River Ridge roadside. It will be impacted by wind project road expansion and development. PHOTO BY WIYOT TRIBE

* Editor’s Note: The coalition letter mentioned states opposition to the placement of wind turbines on Bear River Ridge. The full letter can be found at <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2019/sep/12/local-enviro-groups-demand-changes-proposed-terra/>

River Valley. The tragic irony is that we could do something now that would dramatically reduce our carbon footprint very quickly, create hundreds more jobs than the 15 from Terra-Gen, and provide us with critical resilience during grid shutdowns and emergencies.

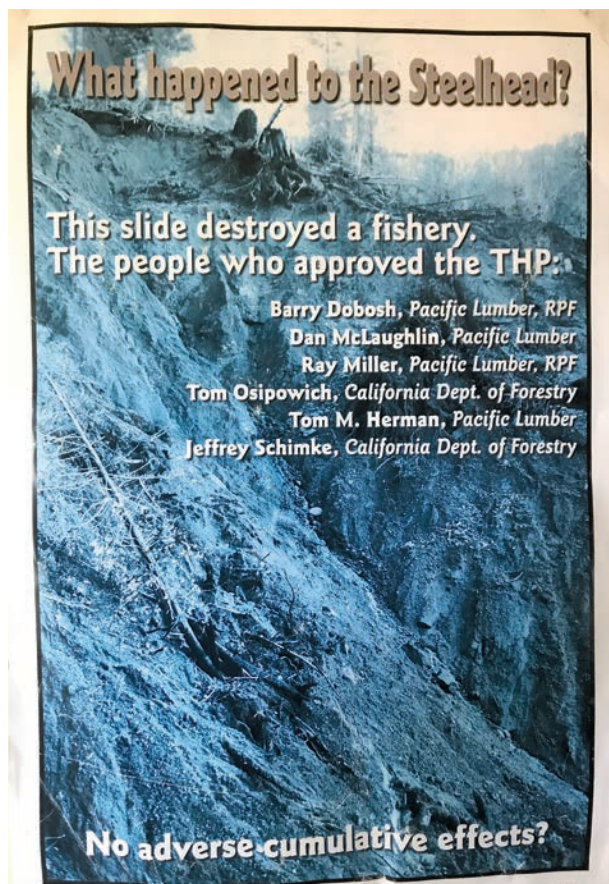
Incredibly, thousands of gas and diesel generators have been sold county-wide in response to the recent power outages. These generators pump out enormous quantities of greenhouse gas emissions and ruin neighborhoods with noise pollution. Use of them also ignores the phenomenal opportunities to develop, distribute and sell solar generators, for the same cost, to power essential appliances like refrigerators and medical equipment.

Widespread distributed onsite solar electricity from rooftops and mini-arrays is the long-term path to resilience, security and wealth, without the incendiary transmission lines, which is why they are being implemented by municipalities around the country and world. For more on this, check out the Oct. 28th article on *vox.com* "Wildfires and blackouts mean Californians need solar panels and microgrids." (<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/10/28/20926446/california-grid-distributed-energy>)

Solar minigrids are popular because they generate affordable, reliable electricity as well as fuel for electric vehicles (EVs), resulting in a payback time of a few years, at which time we—the people, not PG&E, not Terra-Gen—own the systems. The Terra-Gen turbines would only feed the grid expensive electricity via fire-prone transmission lines.

Transportation accounts for over 70 percent of Humboldt's carbon

This 1997 photo illustrates how Jordan Creek—part of the proposed site of Terra-Gen's 100 foot wide access road—is extremely prone to land-sliding following single lane road construction or timber harvest.
PHOTO BY JESSE NOELL, POSTER
DESIGN BY CHIVO FELLION, POSTER
WORDS BY BOB MARTEL



emissions. We must electrify it. Onsite solar is the best incentive, especially in rural areas like ours where other incentives, such as use of the commute lanes and reduced tolls, are not applicable.

Electric vehicles last three times longer than internal combustion cars, and are virtually maintenance free. Vehicle to Grid (V2G) is an increasingly available technology that allows EVs to connect to a micro-grid, and either charge or supply electricity. This technology allows EVs to be mobile electricity suppliers during emergencies. At night, and when deployed community-wide, V2G goes a long way towards solving the storage problem of solar.

Wholesale, distributed, resilient onsite solar energy is rapidly attainable, and affordable, and shares our energy wealth while honoring our Wiyot

and Eel River neighbors, protecting sacred biodiverse places, creating jobs, and avoiding the emission of greenhouse gases. We can buy cleaner and less expensive wind power from established sites with no new impacts, but there is no cleaner, safer, or more affordable power than solar, and the secure resilience is priceless.

The Wiyot teach us that climate change has itself been caused by our disregard for the impacts of our behavior on biodiversity. They tell us that the wind is not "ours," but belongs to the birds and ridges themselves, and they compare the Terra-Gen factory to a dam on the Smith River. We should listen, and heed their wisdom.

For more information:
www.treesfoundation.org/partners/safo





November 11, 2019

Dear Friend,

Here at Trees Foundation we are honored to support over thirty grassroots partner groups that are leaders of community-based efforts in preservation and restoration of our forests. They stand in defense of the coastal temperate rainforest region of the legendary Redwood Coast.

As our partner groups continue to organize, educate, and advocate on behalf of our region's forests, rivers, and wildlife, we are proud to know that Trees Foundation plays an important role in their success.

Here are a few words about Trees Foundation from the founder of Eel River Recovery Project, a partner group that we fiscally sponsored to give them a foothold before they became their own 501(c)3 nonprofit in 2016.

"Trees Foundation's support of grassroots groups is of enormous benefit to the North Coast community, as it serves as an incubator for projects like Eel River Recovery Project. For nearly five years we had little red tape, so we were able to focus on projects and build a foundation for our organization. Trees Foundation keeps their grant administration overhead for sponsored groups low and often renders services supporting grantees far beyond those covered by these fees." ~ Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project

It is *you* our donors that make our work possible. Your generosity allows us to provide our partner groups with professional graphic design and GIS mapmaking services at no cost to them. Your donation empowers us to run a robust fiscal sponsorship and partner outreach program; administer donor-advised grants to our partner groups; and publish the *Forest & River News* magazine— a publication that helps our partners get the collaboration and sustained community support they need to achieve success.

Your gift will also support our current website upgrade, which will make *Forest & River News* articles easier to find and share online on any device, thereby reaching and engaging more people who can bolster regional environmental successes.

Trees Foundation relies on individual donations for over 80% of our annual budget. We ask for your support just once a year, and that time is now. Your support keeps Trees Foundation standing strong!

Thank you,

All of us at Trees Foundation

Saving Van Arken: Manifesting a Vision of Conservation

By Galen Doherty,
Sanctuary Forest Inc.

An important milestone in the Van Arken Community Forest Project has been reached! On October 10th, 2019, Lost Coast Forestlands LLC (LCF), closed escrow and purchased the Van Arken Creek property (~1,320 acres) from Boyle Forests (i.e. the Barnum Family). This purchase was the result of almost 18 months of negotiations between Boyle Forests, LCF, and Sanctuary Forest; and 3+ years of project development, fundraising, community organizing, and the first public capital campaign ever undertaken by our organization.

Over the past three years we have been engaged in a concerted effort to prevent the fragmentation of the Van Arken watershed into as many as 22 separate parcels, and preempt another round of industrial timber harvest under the Van Auken THP (THP 1-16-081 HUM, Van Auken). Our goal was to buy the entire ~1,650 acre property, and implement an array of projects including instream salmon habitat improvement, groundwater recharge, forest thinning and fire hazard reduction, and light touch commercial forestry. In addition, we recognized the strong desire of our local community for public open space for walking,

hiking, biking, etc. Subsequent tours with representatives from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Sinkyone Intertribal Wilderness Council confirmed that this was a very rare conservation opportunity, and its success was of the utmost importance to the continued recovery of the Mattole headwaters ecosystem, and its keystone species, the salmon.

“If the Van Arken property were managed as a refuge, the outcome would be restoration of habitat and ecosystem processes, and prevention of further degradation. If the land



Van Arken Creek PHOTO BY JOAQUIN COURTEMANCHE

were instead developed, for example for agriculture or monoculture forestry, increased sediment loads, diminished dry season flows, high water temperature, and riparian destruction would likely result. Such habitat degradation would only serve to exacerbate the plight of Mattole salmon and steelhead. Preservation and restoration of the land as a refuge would achieve the best outcomes for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, and for their ecosystems; therefore, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) strongly supports such preservation and restoration efforts.” -Julie Weeder, Recovery Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries

Recognizing this incredible opportunity to permanently protect an entire watershed from its headwaters all the way down to its confluence with the Mattole River, Sanctuary Forest was determined to achieve a conservation outcome. Working closely with the landowner, Boyle Forests, we first focused on the acquisition of 300 acres in the headwaters of the McKee Creek watershed, located immediately north of the Van Arken Watershed. Thanks to the generous support of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) via the Proposition 1 Water Bond, we were able to purchase the entire 300-acre McKee Creek property outright in December of 2018, and starting in summer 2020 we will be implementing instream salmon habitat improvements and streamflow enhancement projects on the property. However, despite that success, we faced increasing pressure to perform on the Van Arken property. After nine months of back and forth negotiations and several failed grant proposals, it became clear that we would not be able to secure the funds needed to buy the property



A black bear and two deer in Van Arken. Photo captured by a trail cam, courtesy of CDFW. Other animals captured during a 4-month period include bear cubs, bobcat, coyote, Douglas squirrel, flying squirrel, gray squirrel, gray fox, ringtail cats, striped skunks, spotted skunks, and more.

in the timeframe we were given. At this time, we began conversations with several potential bridge funders—groups with the capital to come in and purchase the property from Boyle Forests and then give Sanctuary Forest the time needed to secure grant funding for the acquisition of the property or the purchase of a conservation easement (CE). One of these groups was Lost Coast Forestlands, who was an instrumental partner in the Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative—a multi-year effort to consolidate and conserve fragmented and degraded forestlands in the headwaters of the Mattole River and Indian Creek (tributary to the South Fork Eel). These efforts resulted in several working forest conservation easements held by Sanctuary Forest and North Coast Regional Land Trust (NRLT) (see map page 11). The easements offset the acquisition cost of the property by compensating LCF for dissolving of subdivision and development rights, using increased setbacks in riparian areas, and other protections of the ecosystem services these forestlands provide.

For the Van Arken watershed, we needed to bring about a change in land

ownership to a partner willing to work with us to manifest the vision of the Van Arken Community Forest: forestry restrictions, streamflow enhancement, public access, etc. Thankfully, LCF was interested in partnering with us and was open to our vision for the property. LCF entered into negotiations with Boyle Forests for purchase of the property, giving us the time we needed to continue fundraising for the purchase of a CE on the Van Arken property. Thanks to the incredible success of Sanctuary Forest’s Fund An Acre campaign, we have raised nearly \$700,000 in private donations (including outstanding pledges), and have secured \$1.5M from WCB’s Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, and \$1.85M from CDFW’s Proposition 68. Over this period we have also received ongoing support from several foundations including Weeden, Grace Us, Bella Vista, and Firedoll; each helping with direct acquisition support or to defray project development costs. With this incredible boost to our momentum, it began to feel like we might actually pull off one of the most challenging projects our organization has ever tackled.



Van Arken Creek PHOTO BY GRANT JOHNSON

However, changing land prices, a fluctuating timber market, and several other interested buyers were making reaching a purchase agreement with Boyle Forests challenging. In addition, Green Diamond's purchase of the Sproul Creek tract (~9,800 acres) immediately to the east of Van Arken from Boyle Forests only further highlighted our tenuous position, and the very real possibility that if LCF could not strike a deal with Boyle Forests we would be looking at working with another landowner that would likely not be open to the goals of our project; forcing us to turn down the funding awards we had worked so hard to secure.

Despite these factors, in the spring of 2019 a purchase agreement was reached! In the months that followed,

SFI and LCF negotiated the terms of a very innovative working forest conservation easement (WFCE), as well as a five year option agreement to purchase the CE that will go into effect following LCF's acquisition of the Van Arken Property.

Under the final draft conservation easement terms, 21 of the 22 subdivision and development rights will be dissolved; streamflow diversions will be severely limited and subject to seasonal forbearance measures; and new road building will be limited. Forest management activities will maintain and restore the long-term capacity of the property as a working forest, including the long-term sustainable harvest of high-quality timber and related uses that contribute to the regional economy, and in a manner that is consistent with maintaining and enhancing the ecological integrity of the property while not impairing the conservation values. This includes limits on the rate of harvest, requirements to always leave a percentage of the largest trees, expanded riparian buffers, retention of snags, retention of true oaks, 300 acres of Late Seral Reserve (LSR's have more restrictive terms resulting in next generation of old growth forests), and

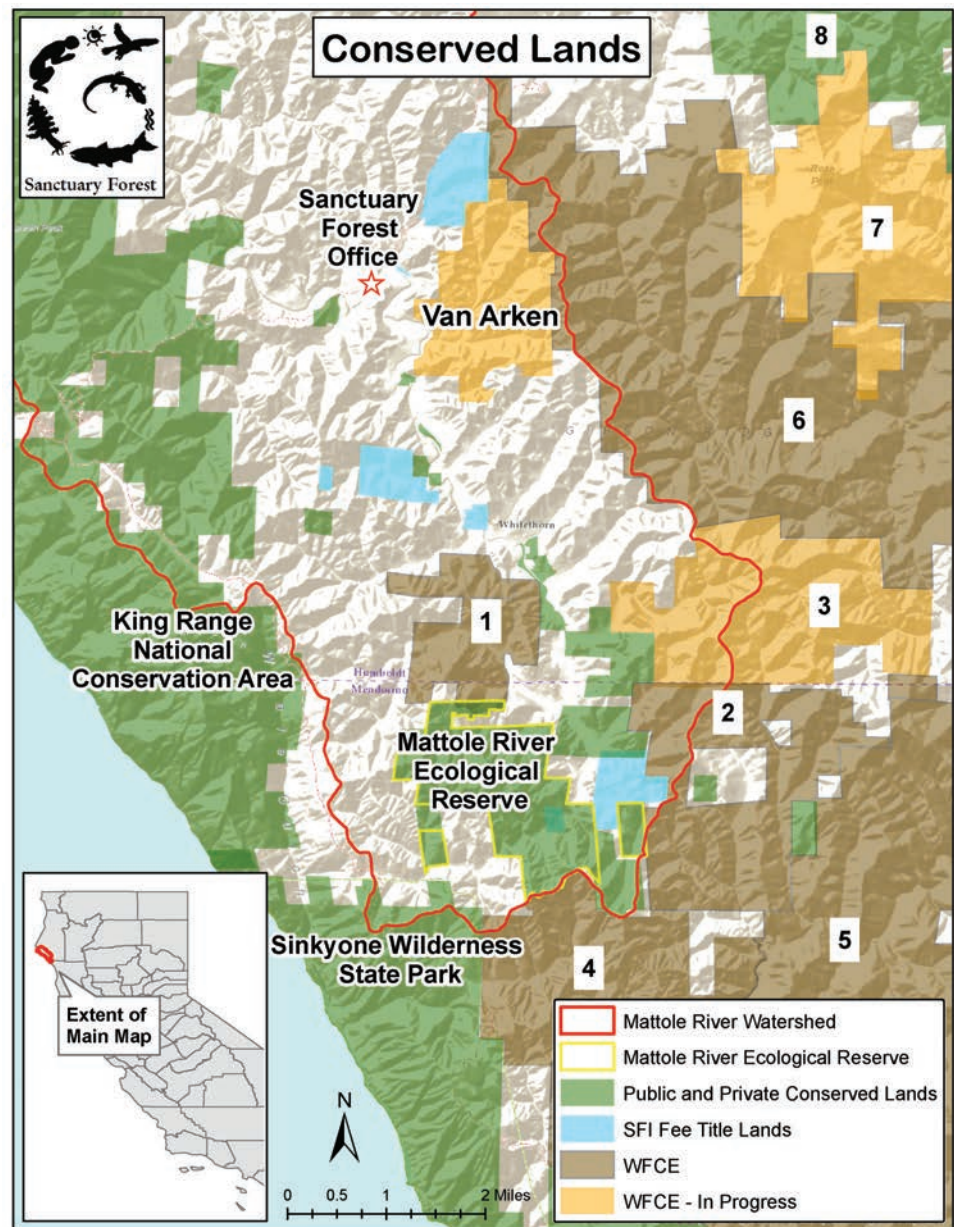


Chinook pair in Van Arken Creek
PHOTO BY THOMAS B. DUNKLIN

the creation of a seven acre Meadow Conservation Area at the heart of the property. Furthermore, Sanctuary Forest will be granted the affirmative rights to implement groundwater recharge and streamflow enhancement projects on 100 acres of the property (along the riparian zones and alluvial terraces), conduct non-commercial forest management in the LSR—including fuel hazard reduction, forest health improvement, and prescribed burning projects; and develop a low-impact public access program on portions of the property. All of these rights are not typical of most CEs as they essentially grant Sanctuary Forest a managing interest in portions of the property. However, it is in this way that we have upheld our vision and goals for the property, and have forged a partnership that meets both the economic needs for private ownership, and the ecological needs for public conservation and stewardship.

Our task is not yet done. Now that LCF has purchased the land from Boyle Forests, we have five years to purchase a CE from LCF. While we have ~95% of the funding secured we are counting on the remaining pledges (\$100K+) to the Fund an Acre Campaign, as well as additional grant funding to meet the estimated CE purchase price of \$4,135,000 (an updated appraisal of the conservation easement will determine the final purchase price).

The Van Arken Community Forest Project is occurring in the context of a concerted effort to conserve and restore the historically productive timberland in northern Mendocino and southern Humboldt Counties (see map). Over the past 20 years, thousands of acres have been protected from ongoing rural residential development and dedicated for forest management. How these holdings are managed varies by



Conserved lands in and around the Mattole River headwaters.
1. EAST UNIT (SFI) LCF; 2. WEST UNIT (SFI) LCF; 3. BAKER CREEK (SFI) LCF;
4. INDIAN CREEK (NRLT) LCF; 5. USAL REDWOOD FOREST (RFFI); 6. SPOUL CREEK (NRLT) GREEN
DIAMOND; 7. WAGNER FOREST (NRLT); 8. MARSHALL RANCH WORKING LANDS CE (CRT).

ownership, and the specific restrictions of each conservation easement. Past mismanagement has left our generation with a heavy burden—overstocked forests, disproportionate amounts of hardwoods dominating historic conifer stands, poorly designed roads—all legacy impacts from the previous timber boom. In order to restore economic resiliency and ecologic vitality it is essential to form partnerships that foster long-term

health for both people and place. As we enter the final stretch of the marathon effort to conserve Van Arken, we look to the future with eagerness to begin to address the stewardship needs of this ecosystem and create a public space for learning and recreation in the Whitethorn Valley.

For more information: sanctuaryforest.org



Cereus Fund

Many of the conservation and restoration projects you read about in every issue of *Forest & River News* receive grant funding through the generous support of the Cereus Fund. Established in 1998, the Cereus Fund is a part of Trees Foundation's Donor Advised Program which allows individuals to donate and direct funding to projects of their choice, which Trees Foundation administers on their behalf. The following pages highlight some of the successes and work supported by the Cereus Fund in 2019. To learn more about these projects or to start a Donor Advised Fund of your own, please visit www.treesfoundation.org.

On behalf of Trees Foundation and our many Partner organizations, we once again extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of the Cereus Fund.

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) operates as a media consultant, an advocate, and a strategy collaborator. It is our niche to gather support for the issues, the campaigns, and the grassroots movement carrying those issues forward. The support we've received from the Trees Foundation's Cereus Fund is part of the

wind at our backs, and our appreciation is great and sincere.

Our media workshops have unfolded onsite at action locations, over the phone, at large gatherings, and over kitchen tables. Workshops often include sharing of BACH's electronic and physical resources—like media outlet and reporter lists, tips sheets, and templates—in the context of in-depth discussions



of appropriate strategies for various circumstances with the goal of getting a campaign story out and affecting the problematic spin of corporate media. That corporate media—whether you love them or hate them, stand as a megaphone reaching people and institutions that our passionate social media tirades will never reach.

We define ourselves as being based in the Bay Area with our heart in the forests of the North Coast and elsewhere, standing with our fellow species in all habitats. That heart drives us to seize on outreach and advocacy opportunities in the Bay Area for issues like the Mattole Forests, the nexus of forest and climate advocacy, and native forest everywhere and their denizen species. Organizing and participation in events, and nuts and bolts media outreach have kept BACH very busy this summer and fall.

Besides our grassroots media training, collaboration and direct campaign participation, we served on the media committee (and in many other roles!) of the North American Forest and Climate Movement Convergence that took place in October of this year, reported on elsewhere in this issue of *Forest and River News*.



We go where the issues are: A high altitude (9,000') Grassroots Media Workshop location.
PHOTO BY KAREN PICKETT

If you would like to talk to us about media resources or trainings or otherwise collaborate, please find us at bach@headwaterspreserve.org.

Eel River Recovery Project

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) is pleased to report that the successful completion of the 2019 grant awarded by the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation to promote the concept of an Upper Eel River Salmon Parkway (UERSP). The concept is to fix the salmon habitat between the Potter Valley Project (PVP) dams and to get a hiking and biking trail along the south side of the upper Eel River. ERRP held field trips to see the elk above Pillsbury Lake (April 16), to picnic on the beach (June 15), to see fish under water (August 17), and to participate in the 34th annual Upper Eel River Clean Up project (October 5).

Mendocino County needs more places to play, and the Mendocino National Forest could help create a recreational Mecca. In a June meeting, Forest Supervisor Ann Carlson and District Ranger Frank Aebly expressed willingness to lead such an effort, if they are given the authority and budget by Congress. PG&E owns 5,500 acres within the PVP and a bankruptcy proceeding mandates that they use their lands for “conservation, recreation, and restoration.” Since the company wants to divest, the UERSP concept is to have their land transferred to the Forest Service and for a budget to be provided for restoration, trail, and campground construction, and on-going support of recreation. The Potter Valley Indian Tribe strongly supports the UERSP and wants to develop a campground at the Pioneer Bridge end of the trail as part of their economic development strategy. They were deeded 855 acres of their ancestral territories within the PVP as part of the settlement process. Congressman Huffman’s office has taken interest in the UERSP and it has widespread support



ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins and Upper Eel River Clean Up organizer Bob Wear at Monkey Rock on June field trip.

from stakeholders. This concept works whether PVP dams remain in place, or if some or all are removed. Dam relicensing and/or decommissioning takes a lot of money, and legislation associated with the process could bring tens of millions of dollars for recreational infrastructure within the PVP. Watch for the UERSP to be considered around April 2020 after the big decisions on dam removal have been made.

Friends of the Van Duzen River

Thanks to the generosity of the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, Friends of the Van Duzen River was able to serve students in grades K-4 at Loleta, Cuddeback, Hydesville, and Bridgeville Elementary Schools. It is critical for younger students to gain an early respect for the natural world and to learn to share their ecosystem with other living things. Working with K-4 students also completes the cycle in our local K-8 elementary schools as our other grants served older students. Combining

grants from Trees Foundation, Rose Foundation, Kiwanis Club, and the Humboldt County Office of Education, Friends of the Van Duzen River was able to reach and teach over 500 students in the 2018-2019 school year.

Working with artists Abbie Perrott and Virginia Wood, students in Mr. Rasmussen’s 1st/2nd grade class in Loleta gained a working knowledge of the five parts of a tree doing drawings and labeling the parts. Abbie also did scientific art at Cuddeback Elementary in Mrs. Reback’s 1st grade class and Mrs. Bravo’s 2nd grade class. All of the students got the opportunity to do leaf prints, design a redwood tree, add the prints, and embellish the tree with squirrels and birds. A good time was had by all!

Continuing our water quality monitoring, two high school students AJ Wyland and Brian Feuerman, as well as Zooey, Keenan, Brodie, and Clyde from each of the elementary schools in the Van Duzen Watershed, were part of the team to place 20 temperature probes in the Van Duzen



Dr. Bill Shapiro and the Young Scientists at Wolverton Creek
PHOTO BY FRIENDS OF THE VAN DUZEN RIVER

Watershed. During the probe placement, Clyde, a 5-year-old boy was asked “What is a hypothesis?” His answer, “It’s an idea you can test.”

Pat Higgins from the Eel River Recovery Project and Sal Steinberg from Friends of Van Duzen River placed probes in the far reaches of the Van Duzen Watershed. Data from these studies are critical to being able to analyze the temperature changes during this critical time in the Earth’s history. Temperature is a key factor for the migration, spawning, and survival of the endangered salmon, and we now have eight years of data collection. In addition, placing temperature probes with students follows the goal of Friends of the Van Duzen River to train the next generation of scientists and to witness the salmon cycle.

Completing this Cereus Fund grant aimed at younger students, three kindergarten classes once again took a field trip to the Sequoia Zoo to see the Watershed Exhibit of salmon, otter, and eagles. One of our traditions is to visit the

Flamingo area, and then stand on one foot to experience this unique creature. Students did their yogic Flamingo standing poses to perfection!

Special thanks to the Cereus Fund for helping to make all this possible.

Humboldt Baykeeper

Humboldt Baykeeper offers kayak and motor boat tours of Humboldt Bay and Elk River to a variety of community groups from May to October. Our Bay Tours Program (Explore the Bay / Explora la Bahía) connects people to Humboldt Bay who would otherwise not be able to experience being out on the water. Many residents simply cannot afford the equipment and maintenance costs associated with boating.

This year, we led eight community group tours with a wide variety of partners, including English Express, a non-profit English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) school; Camp Cooper, the City of Eureka’s summer day camp for youth;

Canvas + Clay, an art program for adults with varying abilities; Gaining Ground and Butler Valley, residential and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities; the Humboldt County Library Summer Reading Program; the Community Access Program for Eureka; and Serenity Inn, a transitional housing facility in Eureka.

For our motorboat tours we partner with the owners and operators of the H/V Madaket, a historic vessel that offers public natural history tours, sunset “Booze Cruises,” and private charter tours of Humboldt Bay. For kayak tours and trash cleanups on Tuluwat Island, we work with the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, which supplies kayaks, all the necessary gear, and certified guides who provide paddling lessons and accompany the group for a safe and fun outing.

We also organized two volunteer kayak-based trash cleanups on Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup Day in partnership with the Wiyot Tribe and Coast Seafoods Company. The Earth Day cleanup was unfortunately cancelled due to high winds. In September, nearly 30 volunteers (including Coast Seafoods’ employees) removed hundreds of pounds of trash from Tuluwat Island, including tires and other debris that wash up with high tides or fall from the Samoa Bridge.

One of the greatest rewards of implementing this program is being able to provide an experience of a lifetime for many people who have never experienced Humboldt Bay from the water. Developing relationships with community groups has built trust, encouraging people to join tours in a safe environment that may not exist for them at public tours and events.

Thanks to the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, California Coastal Conservancy, and Humboldt Area Foundation for funding the Bay Tours Program, which makes these tours



Baykeeper partners with the Wiyot Tribe and Coast Seafoods Company to organize paddle-based volunteer cleanups on Tuluwat Island for Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup Day. To volunteer, email us at tours@humboldt-baykeeper.org. PHOTO BY HUMBERT BAYKEEPER

possible, along with our community partners who make our Bay Tours Program a success!

Lost Coast Interpretive Association

The Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation has been funding Lost Coast Interpretive Association's invasive plant programs since 2016. Since that time we have worked to strengthen our partnership with California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the community of Shelter Cove, and other partners in order to address the problems invasive plants cause on public and private land. The loss of native habitat and ecosystem services, increase of fire threat and degradation of sense of place is now better understood by our public land managers and much of the community, and efforts at eradication are advancing! In 2019, we used the Cereus Fund award to forward community outreach and provide opportunities for service work to the community of the Lost Coast Region. We are grateful to the Cereus Fund for providing important funding to help us advance this work.

Most recently, we held a broom pull on October 27 at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. We had 14 people come out to enjoy a beautiful day of service work as we cleared about an acre of broom that was taking over the coastal prairie. This was the third and best attended broom pull we have held there. Thanks to our



Volunteering is a fun and satisfying way to spend time out in nature and make new friends
PHOTO BY CHERYL LISIN

ongoing efforts over the last three years to bring them in, State Parks personnel are now involved and want to partner on even more events!

Just north of the Sinkyone lies the King Range National Conservation area and the community of Shelter Cove. We are very active with the BLM King Range management and the Shelter Cove community in providing resources to stop the pampas grass invasion happening there. Through our partnership in the Shelter Cove Invasive Plant Project, SCiPP, we held an Earth Day event involving 60 volunteers (please see our article in *Forest & River News* 2019 summer issue), two school field trips which brought 80 elementary students out to pull invasives through our bounty program, had community members cut 17,000 pampas seed heads to prevent spread, and are piloting a landowner rebate program to help landowners remove large pampas plants.

All in all, our volunteers have logged over 1,200 hours pulling invasive plants in 2019. We are a small organization with a small budget, but through volunteerism we have

a large impact in bringing environmental education and stewardship to the Lost Coast Region. Thank You to the Trees Foundation's Cereus Fund for making our work possible!

Mattole Restoration Council

With Trees Foundation's Cereus grant funding, the Mattole Restoration Council's (MRC) Forest Practices Program has been tracking forest practices in the Mattole watershed. Forest practices include timber harvest and other forest management by both industrial and residential land managers. Having an approved harvest plan can provide income to the landowner but it can also encourage a conservation purchase such as the purchase by Lost Coast Forestlands of most of the Van Arken watershed (See Sanctuary Forest article on page 8). This year Sudden Oak

Death (SOD) increased in size in forests in the Ettersburg area, affecting over 1600 acres of standing tanoak which threatens the safety of residents should a wildfire occur. Meanwhile Humboldt Redwood Company is currently the only industrial timber company actively harvesting in the Mattole watershed.

Non-Industrial and/or Residential Timber Harvest Plans

There was one proposed Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) in the Mattole watershed on 538 acres that drained into Honeydew Creek. Forest Practices Program looked into the plan documents as part of our review. According to these documents harvests would not happen for another 10 years and would be using Selection silviculture. Plans proposed by non-industrial timber landowners happen for a variety of reasons: the need to manage forests

for wildfire resiliency, or to meet state requirements in applying for a cannabis permit, or provide an income from the land, or to increase the value for conservation buyers, or any combination of the above.

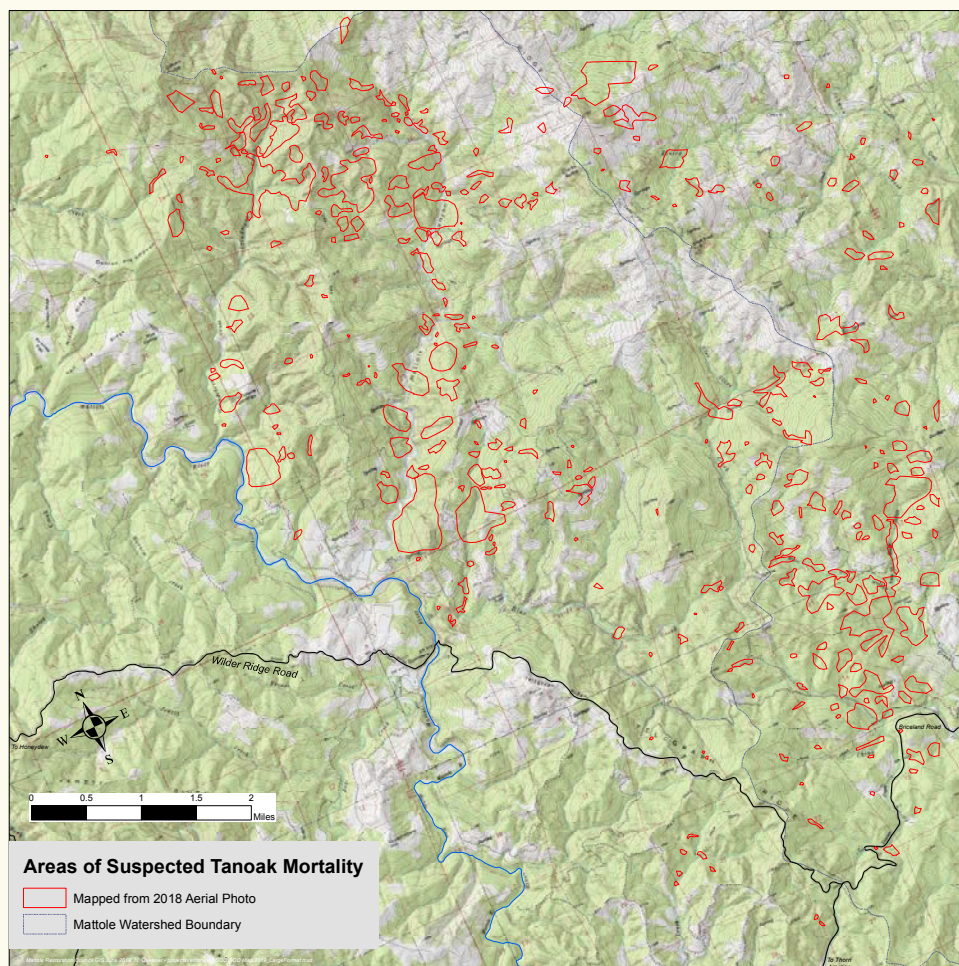
Sudden Oak Death

The increase in SOD from the wet winter and spring consequently raised the danger for residents in the area. Standing dead tanoaks not only elevate the fire danger but are public safety hazards, in particular alongside access roads. Attempting to fell the trees is dangerous as well because they break and fall inconsistently. Using heavy equipment such as masticators to grind them down or other heavy equipment that can safely push them over will help to ensure road safety. Unfortunately, once a tree is affected, SOD remains in the root and will continue to sprout SOD-infected sprouts. Replanting with conifers is a proactive step to nurturing future forests.

Humboldt Redwood Company

Over a year ago, Forest Practices Program was told that we could only converse with one person, John Andersen, at Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) about their practices in the Mattole watershed. Limiting our engagement this way has been detrimental to continuing what we used to have, a regular dialogue about their management. But we persevered. In particular, we took issue with him about his official response to our concerns over the application of herbicides in unmanaged stands. For almost an entire year we set date after date to try and have the herbicide conversation in the field believing he did not understand what he was responding to, only to have the date cancelled every time. So, although he publicly states he will take anyone out into the field interested in witnessing their management, the reality of this happening has been entirely difficult.

Meanwhile, both the Long Ridge and the Long Reach timber harvest plans in the



Lower North Fork of the Mattole were harvested between June and September despite forest defender protests. A field trip with a dozen people who wanted to witness the harvest was cancelled two days prior because of the fire/energy shutdowns. Most recently an approved plan in the Upper North Fork of the Mattole has been activated.

Mattole Salmon Group

This June, in response to a petition from the Friends of the Eel River, the California Fish and Game Commission initiated a status review to evaluate whether Northern California summer-run steelhead should be listed as a state endangered species. Currently both summer-run and the much more numerous winter-run steelhead in the region are listed as threatened.

On July 12th and 13th of this year the Mattole Salmon Group (MSG) conducted its 24th annual volunteer-based adult summer-run steelhead survey. Volunteers from all over the state gathered to snorkel the river from the headwaters to tidewater, counting adult steelhead as well as juvenile salmonids and other native and invasive aquatic species. This year marked an all-time low count for adult summer steelhead, with only six adults seen over 57 miles of river surveyed, well below the average of 22.3 adults/year (only nine adults were seen in 2003, the second lowest total). The highest count recorded was 56 adults in 2013. Accounting for the number of miles surveyed—which have generally increased over the history of the survey due to changes in property access and the availability of volunteers—in 2019 we saw 0.11 adults/mile surveyed, also the lowest in the history of the survey (the average is 0.41 fish/mile). While counts are quite variable year to year, the overall trend in abundance is decreasing.

Summer-run steelhead enter riverine systems in the spring and early summer



These divers are suited up to brave the chilly headwaters of the Mattole River.
PHOTO BY SUSIE SHIMAMOTO

as sexually immature adults. They over-summer in freshwater during the driest and hottest months in deep water pools until spawning when the rains come in the fall. The petition for an endangered listing was inspired in large part by recent research indicating that summer-run steelhead populations are more closely related to summer-run fish in other watersheds than to winter-run fish in the same watershed. Thus, if summer steelhead in a particular watershed are extirpated, that life history would be unlikely to evolve from existing winter-run fish. We hope to be involved in a research effort in 2020 that will help us better understand the genetics of the Mattole run and the relationship with other populations in the region.

Many thanks are due to the 35 volunteer snorkelers who made this year's dive possible, as well as the landowners who generously granted us access to dive reaches. And a big thanks to the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation for continued support which makes it possible to

organize and execute a successful survey! This year additional support was also provided by the Bella Vista Foundation and the Arcata office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Each summer, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) hosts the Klamath-Siskiyou Outdoor School (KSOS). This overnight summer experience is designed for local mid-Klamath youth, and is cost-free for participants due to the generous support of community members and organizations like Trees Foundation, who provided grant funding from the Cereus Fund.

This summer's KSOS involved 21 youth, ages 12-14, all who live in the rural communities along the Klamath River, located in the ancestral territories of the Karuk and Yurok peoples. Participants learn about the natural history and ecology of the Klamath area from camp counselors, special presenters,

and fellow campers; and participate in hands-on habitat restoration projects. Junior counselors, who were campers in previous years, practice and improve their leadership skills by guiding fellow participants in educational and team-building activities.

KSOS begins with a raft trip down the Klamath River with the Klamath River Outfitters. During the trip, youth participated in a juvenile fish passage project at the mouth of Sandy Bar Creek with MKWC fisheries professionals. Participants learned about fish passage problems during times of low flow, and moved rocks to increase flow and deepen pools that will ease the passage of juvenile fish to cold water holding areas during the hot months to come.

Throughout the week, the group participated in many hands-on activities, such as taking a natural history walk with a Forks of Salmon local, seine netting with the Karuk Tribe's fisheries technicians, learning basic wilderness first aid skills, painting bandanas with a local artist, and star gazing with an astronomy enthusiast. Additionally, participants learned how to pack for

a 3-day backpacking trip into the wilderness and how to cook communal meals over a campfire. This year's KSOS was the coldest to date, with Marble Mountain Wilderness nighttime temperatures reaching the low 30s, with rain intermittently. Though conditions were challenging, the group worked as a team to stay safe, healthy, and happy during their week away from home, and ultimately felt very proud of their endurance.

By providing challenging and memorable outdoor learning opportunities, especially during the summer, youth build friendships, interact with adult mentors, and develop career and leadership skills. These youth have increased self-esteem and a clearer understanding of how they can attain sustainable livelihoods in their communities.

Trip organizers feel like KSOS improves each year, as we build on our past lessons learned and implement feedback from campers, parents, and counselors. Evaluations from KSOS 2019 showed that all of our 21 youth participants and all of our counselors would like to participate again.

Restoration Leadership Project

The salmon runs in the Mattole and South Fork Eel Rivers were not as strong as in the 2017/2018 season, but were still substantive. A highlight was viewing videos of a lot of coho spawning in upper Anderson Creek—a tributary of Indian Creek, mostly in Redwood Forest Foundation Incorporated's (RFFI) Usal Redwood Forest (URF)—and distributing them to a wide range of fisheries experts and the public. These videos were taken by an old friend and survey/restoration partner, Marco Stanley. Our first work was in the Mattole, South Fork Eel, and coastal streams in 1979. It was also exciting in 2019 to finally have road decommissioning and instream work happen in Moody Creek, another key tributary of Indian Creek in the URF. In the latter part of 2019, Restoration Leadership Project's Richard Gienger was pleased to be part of a team working to put together some paired watershed studies, monitoring, and implementation of recovery work in Standley Creek, a key URF salmonid stream tributary to the South Fork Eel River. Gienger was among those working with the Salmon Habitat and Restoration Priority Program of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife & the National Marine Fisheries Service for the South Fork Eel River.

Related involvement continued with monitoring of both the Usal Road (CR 431) and the Needle Rock section of Briceland Road (CR 435), and advocating corrective measures with landowners, Mendocino County, California Department of Parks and Recreation and others. A fire that started from fireworks on the beach at Usal, and landslides on the Needle Rock Road—and subsequent public awareness, is resulting in long overdue corrective measures being planned and funded on those roads. This should help to both prevent damage to watersheds and provide safe public, as well as, emergency access. Some progress



One of the KSOS fish passage improvement crews proudly posing after a job well done on Sandy Bar Creek.

PHOTO BY WILL HARLING

is also being made for correction of adverse coho habitat impacts from three short-sighted Diner Creek crossing replacements on Briceland Road.

Gienger's involvement with the California Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration (TRFR) Program and the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) continued. The work and report on the first Planning Watershed Pilot Project was very disappointing even though it could be argued that some progress was made. The expected specific and broad facilitation of restoration opportunities using information from logging plans, and the serious upgrading of the cumulative impact process, was frustrated by a variety of circumstances including lack of transparent and effective integration of public participation. There are supposed to be two more of these pilots, and the lessons to be learned and practices to be implemented are essential for not only forest and watershed recovery, but also to address fire issues.

Gienger has either been at, or on the webinars, for most of the meetings of the FMTF, and two of the seven committees/working groups: Forest Management & Restoration, and Regulation. Gienger's consistent message is that standards need to be set for truly healthy forests with larger and older trees, and that incentives need to be applied to make that happen. There's a lot of money for programs springing from the recent catastrophic fires, but the real needed long-term reforms are not being adequately implemented for either forestland or human communities.

Gienger's columns in *Forest & River News* and programs on KMUD, like the 4th Monday version of Monday Morning Magazine, enable serious focus on the issues above and wider public knowledge and positive actions. Work with partners like Forests Forever, Why Forests Matter, the Lost Coast League, the Salmonid Restoration Federation, the Institute of



A tour during the 22nd Annual SRF Coho Confab, "Horse Creek Tour: Can't Keep a Good Creek Down! Restoring Coho Populations in Horse Creek After Severe Impacts from Mining, Channelization, Human Development and Fire." PHOTO BY RICHARD GIENGER

Sustainable Forestry, and others are all a part of the Leadership Project outreach.

The Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation makes so much of this work possible. Thank you.

Salmon River Restoration Council

Empowering our river communities to become dedicated stewards of the ecosystem has been a main tenant of the Salmon River Restoration Council since its inception. Our Community Restoration Program is built around the belief that actively engaging our community, from youth to elders, in experiential learning and hands-on restoration of the landscape builds a stewardship ethic and sense of place that will sustain this watershed into the future. In addition to encouraging community members to get their hands dirty and their feet wet, by doing things like digging noxious weeds and counting fish, we also try to provide high quality education and outreach products and experiences, and

invite community members to share their own expertise.

This year we published a newsletter entitled *River Renewal: Restoring the Dynamic Balance of Water, Wood and Sediment*. It's full of great articles about habitat restoration and the reasons why it is so important. The ultimate goal of our restoration work is to address the root causes of degraded habitat conditions and prevent their reoccurrence. We can do this by restoring the processes that create and maintain habitat in the hope that we can help return the Salmon River to the state of natural variability to which our salmon are adapted. You can read the newsletter online at srrc.org/publications/newsletters/2019. We also reach our community and the greater public through our monthly e-newsletter, *Salmon River Currents*, which this year included topics such as noxious weeds management, spring Chinook salmon populations, and our watershed education program.



SRRC, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and Karuk Tribe crew members enhancing fish passage at the mouth of Stanshaw Creek. PHOTO FROM SRRC COLLECTION

A portion of our Cereus Fund grant award was used to help implement our Community Restoration Program workdays and educational events. This year we've held over 45 workdays and workshops that the community was invited to participate in. These events included river and roads clean-up, noxious weed management (without the use of toxic chemicals), fisheries monitoring and restoration, water monitoring and watershed education, amongst other things. Some highlights include our annual Salmon River Spring Chinook Dive, an Earth Day Scotch Broom Pull, and a South Fork Salmon River Clean-up. Events such as these help to increase knowledge and cooperation between diverse stakeholders, while getting community members out into the environment actively participating in ecosystem conservation and restoration.

Support from Trees Foundation's Cereus Fund go a long way to making this important work possible. It provides the foundation for accomplishing the on-the-

ground community restoration work that has and will continue to be one of our overall goals.

Sanctuary Forest

Sanctuary Forest (SFI) frequently collaborates with other watershed groups to further our goals and share knowledge within and outside the Mattole River watershed. In 2019, the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation grant supported our efforts to work closely with our Mattole partners, Mattole Salmon Group, and Mattole Restoration Council, and with our neighboring watershed partner Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF).

Sanctuary Forest contributed three articles to the *Mattole Watershed News*, a watershed specific newspaper that highlights current projects, issues and upcoming events from the three Mattole River watershed groups. SFI reported on our recent streamflow enhancement and groundwater recharge project in McKee Creek, discussed our plans to

acquire a conservation easement in the Van Arken Creek watershed, and had the opportunity to recognize our community members for their commitment to working together on pressing water conservation issues. SFI also wrote three articles for *Forest and River News* about the McKee Creek water project, our hike and scholarship programs, and an update on the Van Arken Community Forest Project (see page 8). Outreach to our community and supporters near and far is a top priority and these two publications plus Sanctuary Forest's quarterly radio hour on KMUD are great opportunities to keep people engaged in our work. Visit our website www.sanctuaryforest.org to read these articles (*News*) and listen to our radio shows (*Programs/Education/Radio Shows on KMUD*).

Sanctuary Forest also collaborated with SRF, with Tasha McKee, our Water Program Director, presenting at the annual conference in April, and co-hosting a pond planning and groundwater recharge workshop and field tour in August. At the SRF conference Tasha presented "Addressing Land Use Impacts to Restore Dry Season Flows" in the Strategies for Improving Streamflow session. Tasha also presented at the workshop in August and followed up with a tour to Baker Creek, focusing on two streamflow enhancement pilot projects representing two strategies including addressing channel incision resulting from logging and instream wood removal impacts; and addressing reduced upslope infiltration and groundwater storage caused by logging impacts and loss of wetlands. Both of these opportunities resulted in sharing practical and innovative solutions to enhancing streamflows with local and regional scientists, resource conservation districts, HSU personnel, and agencies to create a rich learning experience for all. Sanctuary Forest graciously thanks the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation for helping us further



Following the Pond Planning and Groundwater Recharge Workshop at Beginnings in Briceland on August 17, the group went on a Field Tour of Sanctuary Forest's Baker Creek Terrace Ponds Project. PHOTO BY RICHARD GIENGER

our mission through education, outreach, and collaboration.

Salmonid Restoration Federation

In 2019, support from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation enabled Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) to participate as a steering committee member in both the Eel River Forum and the newly convened North Coast Salmon Project (NCSP). SRF also was a key stakeholder in the Salmon Habitat and Restoration Prioritization (SHaRP) meetings for Redwood and Sproul Creek, tributaries to the South Fork Eel that have intrinsic habitat value.

The North Coast Salmon Project is a pilot project spearheaded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to prioritize restoration and recovery strategies for selected watersheds in Northern California. These watersheds include the South Fork Eel River, Lagunitas Creek, and the Russian

River. Since a large portion of SRF's streamflow enhancement planning work is in the South Fork Eel River, this initiative dovetails well with our water conservation efforts.



Low water photo: Flows in the smaller tributaries that feed Redwood Creek were all below 5 gpm by early September. These diminished flows disconnect pools that support juvenile salmonids, impede migration, and affect water quality.

PHOTO BY KATRINA NYSTROM

SRF is working on developing streamflow enhancement pilot projects that can be replicated in other coastal watersheds that are grappling with water and fire security.

Although SRF is a statewide organization, we are located in Humboldt County and have an ongoing program in Redwood Creek, a critical coho salmon tributary to the South Fork Eel as well as Sproul Creek, a relatively unimpaired watershed in the South Fork Eel. SRF currently has three planning grants in this watershed that will allow for us to develop a suite of water storage projects to enhance streamflow and improve salmon habitat.

SRF's work to build capacity for community-based water conservation programs has led to other statewide cooperative efforts including the development of a *Collaborative Water Management* report that SRF produced with The Nature Conservancy and the Mendocino Resource Conservation District. The report provides a framework and the key elements for building a successful collaborative effort including a communication outreach strategy, transparently sharing ecological data, engaging stakeholders, and establishing



High water photo: In 2019, SRF began flow monitoring in early May to capture the spring recession in this unusually wet spring. May 11 flows for Redwood Creek were over 6,000 gallons per minute and plummeted to 25 gpm by September. PHOTO BY KATRINA NYSTROM

criteria for project selection. The report also explores regulatory obstacles to restoration planning and offers solutions that could streamline permitting and incentivize landowners to work collaboratively. SRF contributed chapters on existing resources, policy issues, collaborative agreements, water rights, and legal mechanisms to conserve flows as well as helpful templates for forbearance agreements, water management plans, tributary charters, and water planning resources.

SRF is excited to be working with restoration partners to make this *Collaborative Water Management* report into a guidebook that will be printed and distributed in California to advance other streamflow enhancement efforts in coastal watersheds that provide refugia to salmon.

To see the report, *Collaborative Water Management—A Stakeholder-driven Approach to Enhance Streamflow Streamflow and Water Supply Reliability in Northern California Coastal Watersheds*, please visit www.calsalmon.org.

Save California Salmon

This year a grant from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation contributed to Save California Salmon (SCS) hosting events in Orleans, Arcata, and Weitchpec, a section of the Run4Salmon, and a youth camp, to promote dam removal and fish passage on California's salmon rivers.

Our efforts were focused on community efforts to remove antiquated dams on the Klamath and Eel Rivers, and to support attendance at public hearings related to dams, such as Klamath dams removal and Shasta dam hearings. The abandoning of the relicensing of the Potter Valley Project by PG&E has also helped dam removal efforts on the Eel River this year.

We also highlighted the threats to fish passage and restoration efforts from the Trump administration's push to divert more water from California's rivers and efforts to build new reservoirs.

Humboldt County will take up the Trinity River issue at its December 10 Supervisors meeting. Information on this

meeting and a petition to the governor can be found on our facebook page or our website californiasalmon.org.

On September 14th and 15th Tribal families and youth, and other salmon dependent people converged in Weitchpec, CA to discuss how to protect, and honor, salmon.

Trainings and discussions focused on ways to advocate for clean water and Tribal rights, community organizing, and media skills. Families learned traditional skills such as processing salmon and stick carving, along with skills such as sign making, t-shirt screening, and river rafting.

The Yurok Tribe said these camps are a way to involve more native families in river protection work. The Tribe also joined us in a forum on Eel and Klamath Dam removal in Arcata last winter.

Hosting events like these were part of our statewide effort to engage communities depend on healthy fisheries populations in policy decisions. Please contact us if you want to work with us on an event.

The Women's Forest Sanctuary

In 2019, The Women's Forest Sanctuary and its supporters celebrated the debt retirement for The Sacred Grove. One donor wrote, "What an honor to be part of a circle of women and men who understand that protecting this ancient redwood grove is a sacred commitment requiring long-term dedication. It is profoundly satisfying to know that The Sacred Grove will continue to flourish for generations to come."

During a storm this past winter a tree fell, collapsing the grove's foot bridge. Several neighbors volunteered to rebuild the bridge and constructed an elegant and sturdy "rainbow" bridge with old and new redwood planks. Trees Foundation's Cereus Fund grant award was used to purchase the materials. At the grove, we thanked our neighbors, enjoyed a pot luck meal, and shared stories about our affinity with this forest land; our connections deepened.

It is profoundly satisfying to know that The Sacred Grove will continue to flourish for generations to come.

At the grove we continued to ask how we can care for the web-of-life. We recognized that wisdom exists, and we opened to guidance. Messages conveyed included, "I am here, always; a knowing, a feeling, a felt movement. Feel me more. Look to more than what you know, empty your cup, peel away judgment. You are part of everything." When we live in connectivity we are more receptive to information that serves the whole of life.

In July, we collaborated with Youth Spirit Artworks in Berkeley for our Youth Nature Program. Youth created art about



Trees of The Sacred Grove
PHOTO FROM WFS

memorable experiences in nature. Enera wrote, "Remembering a feeling of water brushing against my skin, it felt clean and pure. I want more of that in my life, a silent moment that lasts Forever."

After a daylong immersion at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland, some of the youth commented: "Felt good to slow down and be in tune with my senses", "I felt at ease", "I need to learn to be comfortable being alone with my self", "I need to spend more time within my self."

We are grateful for Trees Foundation's Cereus Funds that support our stewarding The Sacred Grove and

facilitating the Youth Nature Program. In 2020 we plan to convene a visioning among longtime supporters to discuss how to expand our forest preservation efforts. We are thankful to be a part of this North Coast community that is devoted to our sacred connection with Earth.





Diggin' In

The Richard Gienger Report

It seems we are in a time of “deep payback” on multiple scales. I have recollections of references during my life to “fire next time” connected to either biblical passages, or perhaps memory of a Malcolm X speech? Refreshing part of my memory, I was reminded that James Baldwin wrote a book with two powerful essays titled *The Fire Next Time*. Wikipedia states that “The book’s title comes from the couplet ‘God gave Noah the rainbow sign / No more water but fire next time’ in ‘Mary Don’t You Weep,’ a Negro spiritual.”

On the California scale, and in California reality, we are seeing over a hundred and fifty years of bad choices resulting in over-population in the wrong places, depletion of natural resources, and irresponsible social/economic/environmental relationships that jeopardize our future. One can, and many of us do, extrapolate this problem to earth-scale. I am just going to delve into an assortment of problems that have come to my attention in a mostly regional perspective.

To continue first with the fire theme, I would suggest you run a search for “The Great Fire of 1910” and get a grasp on the causes and impacts of a three million acre fire in the Northern Rockies. The Great Fire of 1910 did most of its damage in two days—and set the stage for human responses for most of the next 100 years. There is also a five-part series that you should experience entitled “California Burning—Preventing Catastrophic Wildfires”—link at <https://beta.prx.org/series/38854> You might go to the KMUD archives starting with 9 am

Thursday, 24 October for part one, with the other four parts in subsequent weeks in the same time and day slot.

The Kincade Fire started near Geyserville, apparently from a faulty Pacific Gas & Electric transmission line, the evening of October 23rd. On October 30th, the fire was at 76,285 acres (120 square miles) causing the evacuation of 180,000 persons (about the same as were evacuated in 2017 in fear of the failure of the Oroville Dam). Containment on the 30th was at 30% and 246 structures had been destroyed with 80,000 homes at risk. Due to the stellar work of CalFire and an incredible team of partners, the fire was prevented from crossing Highway 101. Their heroics and expertise saved untold lives, homes, and communities.

There were many other concurrent fires all over the state, with millions

of homes and businesses cut off from electricity as PG&E flailed around with power outages that compounded the crises. The bankrupt pseudo-public company, in multiple ways, continued to terrorize the “rate-payers” and people of California. One obvious thing that should have been done decades ago was the undergrounding of high hazard transmission lines. The public and the politicians are screaming for reform. Of course the reforms that are needed are multiple and complex—going deep into broad cultural change—not just finding a scapegoat or two. The whole wave of fear and panic can perhaps promote the needed changes. What seems more likely, however, is the persistence of problematic, dominating relationships—with the ostensible “too big to fail” powers calling the shots.



Linwood Gill (URFC Head Forester), Brian McFadden (NCRWQCB), Tom Leroy (Pacific Watershed Associates), and others in the heavily impacted Kline Gulch discussing a potential paired watershed evaluation and treatment project.

ALL PHOTO THIS ARTICLE BY RICHARD GIENGER

I am going to hit on some other “out-of-whack” situations, with some hope here and there, now and then, if only we can move the change. One “small” example of “out-of-whack” is a small landowner near Carlotta on the Van Duzen River. Last winter, with the thalweg (deepest part of the channel) aimed directly at their home, the middle of a protective bank of rock and large willow, put in place in 1995, was compromised. Efforts were made to take appropriate action based on plans suggested by a number of the top experienced practitioners for such a situation. At least one state official claimed that 4½ to 5 years of analysis were necessary before anything could be approved. And, from what I understand, nothing was approved that was appropriate to the situation. Aside from solving their specific plight, the big picture of the condition and needed corrective measures for the Van Duzen River are not being considered or implemented. Huge, high, and vegetated gravel bars are pushing the river into failing banks, threatening not only homes, but also threatening a three-foot diameter gas line that runs from the Central Valley to the Humboldt Bay Power Plant that still has nuclear waste stored there.

Usal and the Sinkyone Wilderness Coast

Ahh, fools and fireworks on Usal Beach ignited a fire this past summer. This turned out to be a ‘good fire’ and did not spread into forested canyons and destroy recovering forests. It did point out the complete inadequacy of the Usal and related road networks when it comes to enabling emergency access and evacuation of the public.

More “Out-of-Whackness”

The worst of the landslide-impaired Needle Rock/Briceland Road locations made the Mendocino County list proposed for funding by the Federal



Tour of the Green Diamond Sproul Creek acquisition showing significant road and drainage upgrades of the road system.

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It was selected for funding, which prompted a short-term fix by the County pending the FEMA one million dollar fix—tacking the outside of the road with pilings onto the inner gorge, like we’ve seen recently on Highways 101 and 1.

The original purchase of the Georgia-Pacific 7,500 acres in 1985 that were added to the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, Sinkyone State Wilderness, and InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness cost a bit over \$3.4 million. Oh, and the latest is that the County wants a new bridge over Usal Creek that will cost \$5 million. All so strange, and despite some good work the County has done on some parts of the Usal Road, the road remains a hazard to the public, to emergency responses, and to important natural and cultural values.

Purchase by Green Diamond of 9,000 acres of the Sproul Creek Watershed:

This is pretty hard to take, with the battle against herbicides in that watershed that resulted in the

founding of the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in the mid 70s. In the subsequent years, Barnum Timber Company, using herbicides, created an ideal locale for Green Diamond to practice a 35-acre clearcut and herbicide silviculture with harvested trees reaching an age of only 45-55 years—hardly a forest, yet ostensibly compliant with certification standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council, attained on other Green Diamond North Coast properties. When asked on a recent Green Diamond tour of the new Sproul Creek holding about what incentives it would take for them to actually grow older, higher quality trees, spokesmen weren’t able to come up with credible examples. To their credit they are embarking on serious road upgrades, and hiring skilled local young contractors for that and for logging operations.

For a Couple of Positive Notes:

Lost Coast Forestlands has purchased the Van Arken Mattole River tributary near Whitethorn Junction. The 400+ acre watershed has been an important



Upstream view of aggraded reach showing land-use impacted Lost Man Creek on ISF Creek Walk.

project of Sanctuary Forest, and the Chinook, coho, and steelhead habitat and public values are to be emphasized.

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) continues to pursue forest and watershed recovery in its Usal Redwood Forest—currently and notably Soldier and Moody Creeks. A serious look is being taken at conducting a paired watershed/forest study that emphasizes hydrological recovery in two tributaries of Standley Creek. The second annual “Usal Hopper” mountain bike races happened recently, and the riders were enthusiastic about what RFFI’s goals and practices mean for the forest.

The Institute for Sustainable Forestry is continuing with their workshop tours, the latest being a Creek Walk, led by renowned geologist Mary Ann Madej, to pristine Prairie Creek; impacted Lost Man Creek; and very impacted Redwood Creek. We are all thrilled that Tim Bailey, who has been a large driving force behind those tours, recently was hired to be the Watershed Forest Health Coordinator for Marin, Napa, Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt Counties, by the Resource Conservation Districts and the North Coast Resource Partnership.

Getting Back to the Less Positive:

The forest stewardship possible and necessary for California continues to go unrealized—with the Jackson Demonstration State Forest being a rare example of “how it is supposed to be.” While CalFire and the Forest Management Task Force have increased the scope and scale of thinning and prescribed fire, the

necessary standards and incentives for real healthy and high quality forests continue to go unaddressed. Why Forests Matter, led by former CalFire Director Richard Wilson, and Forests Forever continue to try and change that.

Again I’m going to have to postpone going deep into the critical shortcomings of Forest Certification



Mary Ann Madej, retired USGS research geologist, and emeritus adjunct HSU professor, teaching on the ISF Creek Walk with Nonae Sears to the right in the foreground.

and the failure of Humboldt Redwood Company to follow legal mandates to actually recover forests and watershed from the massive historical “legacy” impacts. The Lost Coast League and Rainbow Ridge are being abused by a company that was once thought to be the salvation of the old Pacific Lumber/Maxxam lands, as well as by a non-transparent mockery of what “certification” is supposed to be about. I’m giving you my response to a piece by John Andersen, the director of forest policy for Humboldt Redwood Co. and Mendocino Redwood Co., called “Come See for Yourself” in the *North Coast Journal* of August 1st, 2019.

For the *North Coast Journal*’s “Guest Views”:

“Come Think for Yourself

I think the spun yarn tapestries that John Andersen presented in defense of the great and good Humboldt Redwood Company have other stories to tell when the intricacies, intrigue, and reality are revealed on the flipside. Don’t get me wrong now; I think John is an earnest and intelligent man doing what he thinks is the right thing, in the right light, for the company. He brings forward all the safety and security concerns, the multitude of compliance hurdles presented by the Forest Practice Act and Rules, the California Environmental Act (CEQA), other legal requirements, and certification

of higher standards under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)—and all those tours, just get in touch and ask us.

It is important for people to put all this in a long and short-term context and perspective. The long term of course requires that you read key chapters of *Two Peoples, One Place: Humboldt History, Volume 1*, by Ray Raphael & Freeman House, Humboldt County Historical Society, 2007. For two aspects of recent history, you should be well acquainted with the incredible development of meaningful, ‘boots on the ground’ commitment to restoration and conservation in the Mattole Valley; and the depredations of PL/Maxxam from the takeover in 1985, through the 1999 Headwaters deal, and the bankruptcy court transfer of PL/Maxxam in 2008 to Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC2). This is so you will not confuse MRC1, the Mattole Restoration Council, the largest employer in the Mattole Valley founded in 1983, with Mendocino Redwood Company. MRC2 purchased the Mendocino and Sonoma County holdings of Louisiana-Pacific (LP) in 1998, holdings there adding up to around 230,000 acres. Now Mendocino has combined with what became Humboldt Redwood Company as HRC/MRC having over 400,000 acres of some of the most productive Redwood land in the world. There are no Redwoods on the 18,000 acres of

the rugged heritage Douglas-fir and hardwood forests in the Mattole.

One thing to keep in mind for the end of this Guest View, is that the Mattole PL/Maxxam holdings and Rainbow Ridge were fiercely in contention to be included in the Headwaters deal protections. Citizens like the Lost Coast League’s Michael Evanson brought in *propria persona* cases against PL/Maxxam’s merciless THPs. A main case of Michael’s was in Sulphur Creek, adjacent to Rainbow Ridge, which still needs protection and recovery, with legacy clearcuts in steep landsliding inner gorges.

When what is now HRC/MRC took over PL/Maxxam there was joy in Mudville. Why, the new manager was Mike Jani, a forester trained and raised in Santa Cruz County, strict all-aged management with larger trees and an engaged public on watch. I have a soft spot for Mike. When he was still with Big Creek lumber at a Board of Forestry committee meeting, must have been the mid-1980s at some cabin in a forest locale as I recall, I was forcefully pressing on the industry folks present that they damn well need to take evaluating and responding to cumulative impacts seriously—the damage from the *ad valorem* period (1946-1976 a yearly tax on standing timber until you cut 70%) was (and remains) horrific. Those timber folks were, at best, rolling their eyes. Mike Jani piped



Lower Redwood Creek above Orick showing extreme aggradation from heavy past logging and severe flood events.

up, “I think Richard’s right.” Ho, that was seismic for everyone. Having him as the new manager of the former PALCO lands, and even visiting an old-growth tree-sit and getting choked-up telling the sitter it was safe to come down now—had positive resonance, with broad reverberations and hope.

Now, there are lots of details since then that I’m sure of and some less so. One I am sure of is that a fraud suit, led by former CalFire Director Richard Wilson, was brought against Pacific Lumber in 2007 for using tanoak timber volumes illegally to pad their estimates of what sustainable levels of harvest were. It ended going to settlement for a variety of financial and strategic problems. Another certainty was that the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), after 10 incredible years of litigation against the approved Sustained Yield Plan (SYP), prevailed when the California Supreme Court ruled in their favor against PL and CalFire. The court also chastised CalFire for approving a document that did not actually exist. There are certain factors facing HRC-MRC I’m not as sure of, like did the bankruptcy judge tack on another \$50 million to the cost to be paid to certain creditors? One way or another the degree of forest depletion and purchase price seems to have created an internal crisis.

Jumping to the last several years: Anybody notice that for the most part the log decks at Scotia and elsewhere are almost entirely 6” to 16” in diameter? Liquidation logging is alive and well, and is the industry’s business plan. Some folks now call the HRC-MRC owners the Gap Bros, and the Bros ushered Mike Jani off to emeritus status and brought in Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) management, Bob Mertz and Dennis Thibeault to damn well get the cut out. Mike was kindly brought out of retirement to take Mike Miles’ HRC-MRC seat on the Board of Forestry.

Now, doing the Reader’s Digest condensed form: In 2014, there was, in retrospect, a hell a good HRC/MRC meeting led by then Manager Mike Jani. Probably were 30-40 folks from the company/public spectrum. At the end of the meeting we were assured that we would start with a day-long scoping session with their Mattole Watershed Assessments as a first step to putting together a true restoration-recovery plan for the 18,000 acres in the Mattole. Never happened. Jani’s gone and the SPI management doesn’t have “public” in their normal vocabulary.

Now, shorter than short: The whole FSC current song and dance needs a Guest View all its own. The initial formative vision came out from supporters of sustainable working

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 CalFire
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 Forests Forever
www.forestsforever.org/

 Institute for Sustainable Forestry
www.instituteforsustainableforestry.com

 KUMD
kmud.org

 Sanctuary Forest
sanctuaryforest.org

 Why Forests Matter
whyforestsmatter.org

forests for the people of the North Coast. One of the principles of certification is harmony with the mores of surrounding communities. We are not talking total protection or total eradication—we’re talking generational recovery partnership into the future with Mattole Restoration communities, the Bear River Band, the UC Natural Reserve System, and yes, working forest interests (with the fresh 2008 perspective in mind). Bless the activists—think for yourself and work together.”

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.—rg



Green Diamond clearcut and herbicide silviculture with trees harvested to be no older than 45-55 years. Green Diamond forester in the silver hard hat gesturing, with Bob Froelich and Robert Sutherland (Man-Who-Walks-in-the-Woods) to the right.

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.



PLANT NOTES

Toyon

By Cheryl Lisin,
Lost Coast Interpretive Association

The toyon is beautiful this time of year, with its bright red berries adorning the shrubs in fall and early winter. Berries provide food for birds and bears, and eye candy for humans! Toyon is a large shrub or small tree with evergreen leaves that are sharply toothed, has grey bark splotted with white, and reddish new twig growth. Bees visit the small white flowers, which are borne in clusters and bloom in early summer.

Toyon is a host plant, providing larval food and shelter for several species of butterflies and moths. The shrub also provides cover for birds and mammals. For humans, the berries are edible, but are tart and bitter when fresh. They taste better cooked and were roasted and eaten by Yurok and Karok peoples, and boiled with a little water to make something tasting like applesauce by

the Chumash. Either way, they provide an excellent winter food source. Tea made from the bark and leaves can be used for aches and pains.

Growing in habitats ranging from sandy soils near the coast to rocky soils in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, toyon grows in chaparral, scrub, forest edges, and rarely, in the deep dark forest. It prefers full or part sun and ranges from the Southern Oregon border into Northern Baja California.

Toyon is the state shrub of California. It once grew abundantly throughout its range, its berries inspiring the name of the town, Hollywood. Toyon populations have been reduced through development, agriculture, and people's proclivity to landscape with exotic plants.

In the landscape, toyon is a fast growing shrub, reaching 10 feet in



Toyon berries PHOTO BY ROBERT PERRY

five years. Very old plants can grow to 25 feet tall or more and make excellent small, multi-trunked trees. Toyon is a good plant for screening out roads or unwanted views. It is a great habitat plant and is relatively fire resistant, being less flammable than other shrubs. Once established, it needs no supplemental summer water. When desperate, deer will browse the lower leaves, preferring plants that are watered.

Like tiny apples, toyon berries are pomes and are botanically similar. Along with apples, toyon is in the rose family, *Rosaceae*, which is a large family containing stone fruits, blackberries, strawberries, and, of course, roses. If you look closely, each individual toyon flower looks like a miniature simple rose. *Heteromeles arbutifolia* is the scientific name. The species name, *arbutifolia* refers to the similarities toyon leaves have to young madrone leaves; *arbutus* being the Latin name for madrone and *folia* meaning leaf. As seedlings, the two plants can be difficult to tell apart.

Cheryl Lisin is a native plant enthusiast, landscape designer, and President of Lost Coast Interpretive Association (LCIA), whose mission is to inspire passion for nature in the Lost Coast Region. She is currently working on a native plant garden for LCIA at the King Range BLM office for the education and enjoyment of all. You can contact her at Cheryl@lostcoast.org.



A fully laden toyon in Northern California, with common names Christmasberry and California Holly FROM ARCADIANABE.BLOGSPOT.COM



LIVING WITH FIRE

Changing the Fire Culture: Let's be Provocative

This story originally appeared on the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network blog. Type <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/changing-the-fire-culture-lets-be-provocative/> into your browser to access the original post. To have stories like this delivered to your inbox weekly, visit bit.ly/FACNetSubscribe.

By Lenya Quinn-Davidson

I love words. I love flowery, superfluous words; I love pithy, intense words; I love concise language, florid language, scientific language, love language—I love language. And I remember the moment I learned the word hegemony: a word that packs culture, politics, social norms and power into four soft syllables. Hegemony, the idea that the powerful can elevate their ideologies to the point where they become cultural norms—and justify the status quo as natural and inevitable. What a word.

I was reminded of this word during a recent lunch stop on my way south. The old Mendocino Brewing Company building in Hopland, CA—the original home of Red Tail Ale and Eye of the Hawk—has recently reopened under the leadership of a guy named Ron, who has worked in the beer industry since the early 80s. Over pints of his all-time favorite beer—Lagunitas IPA—we talked about the cultural change he's observed in his career, from the early 80s when small breweries were practically non-existent, to now: a world so full of beer—hazy, sour, hoppy, Belgian, Korean, light, strong, double, trippel, incredible—that it's actually overwhelming. I loved hearing



him muse on how, in so few years, the country went from drinking only mass-produced light beer to craving a product that's objectively unpleasant—strong, bitter, more expensive—and yet sooooo good.

In my usual fashion, this conversation got me thinking about fire. In some ways, IPA reminds me of other things that may seem distasteful at first but become addictions once you've tried them: stretchy skinny jeans, for example, and prescribed fire. The likeness had me wondering: could it be that we now live in a time with some alternative form of hegemony? That we now live in a world where hegemonic opportunities exist outside the historical guise of political power, and we have opportunities to influence culture by appealing to pleasure, comfort and passion rather than just the status quo? In this time of ideological proliferation—where

anyone with an internet connection can have at least some sort of voice—who are the powerful? Let's just say PG&E isn't influencing culture, but Lagunitas is.

I'm bored with the fire discourse. Is it just me, or is it increasingly rare to find an article about prescribed fire—popular or academic—that's provocative in any way? Don't get me wrong; I'm as guilty as the rest of you. We all feel the need to hit the major talking points: the hundred years of fire suppression; the political, operational and social barriers; etc. But do you know what I want to read? I want to read the honest, uncomfortable truths in fire: reflections on how and why we're boxed into the status quo, both personally and societally. I wish it were as simple as social acceptance and liability, but I think we all know deep down that one of the biggest influences on prescribed fire is our own passion around it, or lack thereof. We need bolder thinkers and leaders. Even the political barriers, like the ones we faced last week in northern California with the blackouts, are ultimately based on the values and vision of someone somewhere. I want to hear about that.

A few days ago, my husband ran his first marathon. This comes after two decades of rock climbing, some dabbling in biking, and any number of other physical endeavors. So in our house, physical fitness, and endurance are everyday conversations: his strained hamstring, carb loading, foam roller technique, the new trad route, or the X-Games that our son is now

gravitating toward. But what compels me is not the adventure or training itself, but the steady progression of these sports through time—the fact that human performance is evolving at a rate that is tangible at a yearly or, at most, a decadal scale. The things that climber Alex Honnold is doing now would have been unimaginable when Honnold was born—likewise for Allyson Felix, who recently broke Usain Bolt’s record in running, or Eliud Kipchoge, who just ran a marathon in less than two hours. How are those fields advancing so rapidly when ours—fire—seems so stagnant? While they continue to evolve and push the boundaries of physical achievement, we continue to make a mess of what for millennia came so naturally: the human relationship with fire. As the saying goes: in fire, we have 50 years of tradition unimpeded by progress.



ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY LENYA QUINN-DAVIDSON

I think athletes advance their sport not through physical improvements but by advancement of their mental game. The breaking of an athletic record is a shattering of a glass ceiling—a growth in the personal vision, and therefore potential, of the athlete. And with each individual accomplishment comes a growth of the entire sport—a collective expansion of what we think is possible. The human body has not evolved in these short years, but the mindset of the athlete evolves all the time, and with it, our societal understanding of human ability. To stagnate is to drop out.

When it comes to fire, I think we’re still drinking Budweiser. We’re still climbing 5.6 and running slow relays. We still think we’re competing with the

powers that be, rather than competing with ourselves. But here we are in this new time, with this new power: decentralized hegemony, skinny jeans, prescribed fire, IPA. The onus is on each of us to advance ourselves, and thereby advance our field. We have everything we need.



Trees Foundation Board Member Lenya Quinn-Davidson is an Area Fire Advisor with University of California Cooperative Extension, in Eureka and the Director of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council. She works on a wide range of issues, including research, outreach, and policy related to prescribed fire and fire management more generally. Feel free to contact her at lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu.

The Resurgence: The North American Forest and Climate Movement Convergence

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

In the summer *Forest and River News*, we announced the October 2019 Resurgence: the North American Forest and Climate Movement Convergence, planned for mid-October. We recently returned, and it proved to be a momentous event.

The Convergence took place October 11 – 14, and converge they did—from Indigenous territories in British Columbia, South Dakota, the Four Corners Area; from the L'eau Est La Vie camp and campaign on the Gulf Coast; from forest and climate grassroots groups in Montana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Oregon, New York, Ohio, and many other places; activists from the Dakota

Access Pipeline campaign; students from So. Illinois University; Indigenous youth, and many more. There were a couple of us representing the campaign to protect Mattole forests on our north coast, and other Californians.

We were 250 – 300 strong in the beautifully diverse deciduous forest in the Shawnee National Forest of southern Illinois. Youth, Indigenous, forest, and climate activists got together to strategize and plan: to move forward with a deeply strategic, radical and action-centered agenda. The talking was non-stop and the pundit egos were absent as grassroots activists filled sheaves of flip charts, paid homage to the full moon and worked incredibly hard. We also danced to the hip hop music of MOVE's Mike Africa Jr. and the political songs of David Rovics. The 4-day convergence had few breaks, and lots of passion, knowledge, experience and enthusiasm.

Shawnee elder Barney Bush welcomed us all to the convergence, and early discussions took a hard look at the intersections of forest destruction, climate chaos, and race, gender and class injustice, as we explored root cause remedies and strategies. Deep thinkers, movers, and shakers populated the panels with a healthy range in age, geography and cultural diversity. The panels and speakers early on laid the foundation for the rest of the gathering. Unlike most conferences, this event was not full of “expert” talking heads speaking at the front of a room full of squirming people in chairs. The bulk of the time, energy and focus was given over to the “Strategic Action Sessions,” in-depth strategy discussions, participants sticking with their topic throughout the convergence.

By and large, the event brought together deep thinkers ready to challenge the status quo, the power structure, and each other. We weren't there to talk about how bad things are or debate whether we've arrived at the tipping point. We came to wrestle radical solutions to the ground while looking at the networks needed to move forward collaboratively.

The themes for the Strategic discussions were

- **Industrial Infrastructure** projects like pipelines, refineries, mining, and road-building;
- **False solutions** like industrial-scale “renewable energy” solutions, geoengineering, and biofuel projects;
- **Greenwash Capitalism** schemes like commodification of forests and other natural resources and the carbon market;
- **Forest Health** schemes like salvage logging, current “habitat restoration” schemes and other forms of industrial logging, GE trees;



Panel – I to r: Cherri Foytlin, Bayou Bridge Pipeline Resistance; Winnie Overbeek, World Rainforest Movement; Rachel Smolker, Biofuelwatch; Brenda Jo MacManama, Indigenous Environmental Network; and Anne Petermann, Global Justice Ecology Project

PHOTO BY KAREN PICKETT

- **Building Youth Movements** How we build real solutions like ending use of fossil fuels, establish legal rights of nature, and ensure forest and Indigenous Peoples' rights of free, prior and informed consent.

Not easy topics, but it's time to face these issues head on, and think outside the proverbial box. The Convergence is not an end unto itself—it is the beginning.

With that in mind, I was part of a Strategic Action group that discussed organizing a western regional convergence in early spring, possibly as part of an international day of action against monoculture and plantation forestry. Groups in the west are primed to follow up, particularly in light of the deficit of activists from the west in So. Illinois. Please contact the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) (see below) if you are interested. Many more stories and action plans are coming out of this event. To view videos from the Convergence (strategic discussions were not recorded) see: the Convergence Facebook page (facebook.com/pg/nafcmc) or Convergence vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/365925474>).

🌲 To receive other report-backs and updates contact BACH at bach@headwaterspreserve.org.

EPIC in Court to Stop 7,000 Acre Timber Sale On the Mendocino National Forest as Forest Service Attempts to Bypass Federal Law

Environmental Protection Information Center

By Tom Wheeler

www.treesfoundation.org



Mendocino National Forest dozer lines are linear clearcuts, harmful to wildlife and ecosystems and ineffective at stopping fires. PHOTO BY EPIC

EPIC is back in court, this time to stop a 7,000 acre timber sale on the Mendocino National Forest that skirted environmental laws to fast-track logging. Taking a page from the Trump playbook, the Mendocino National Forest is calling this timber sale “road maintenance,” which is not only an attempt to hide environmental impact, but also a way to shortcut public participation in the management of public lands. EPIC has filed a lawsuit and is seeking a preliminary injunction to stop logging and to preserve the public’s right to disclosure of impacts and participation in decision making.

All Forest Service timber sales are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The core of NEPA is a requirement that agencies take a “hard look” at the environmental impacts of their proposed actions. This is typically accomplished through an environmental impact statement or environmental analysis. The timber sale was approved using what is called a “categorical

exclusion.” Categorical exclusions do not require environmental impact review or public comment, because they are only intended for activities that have a very low risk of causing a significant impact—things like mowing the lawn or painting a building.

Here, the Forest Service argues that a commercial timber sale is “road maintenance” because the logging would remove dead and live trees affected by the 2018 Ranch Fire along roads, reducing the odds that the trees may fall and block the road. A separate categorical exclusion exists for post-fire logging, although that is limited to 250 acres, as anything larger in scale is assumed to be able to produce significant impacts to the environment. All timber sales in this proposed project are larger than 250 acres.

Furthermore, many of the roads proposed for logging are closed to motor vehicle use; much of the logging would remove living trees that are not at risk

Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

for falling onto the road; and logging areas include trees downhill from roads, where they cannot block a road when they fall. In other words: the Mendocino National Forest is exaggerating safety risks to fast-track logging.

EPIC has been on the ground to document this fraud. What we saw shocked us. Green trees that survived the fire marked for harvest; slash piles chock full of green limbs; and exposed mineral soils churned and compacted by heavy earth machines. Clearly the intent is to log and not remove safety hazards as large, fall-resistant trees were removed but small trees, which are more likely to topple in the imminent future, were left standing.

Science has widely recognized that post-fire logging is especially impactful, as logging adds an additional disturbance on top of the effects of the fire. Post-fire logging often results in degraded water quality, the spread of invasive plants, and loss of habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species. It can also increase the risk of high-severity fire since logging leaves behind a buildup of slash and finer “fuels”—something particularly on the minds of Californians after the Kincadee Fire in Sonoma County. If agencies are allowed to use a categorical exclusion instead of an environmental impact statement, these impacts may never be adequately examined, and measures to reduce harm through better project design will not be incorporated.

The Mendocino National Forest is not alone. This practice of mislabeling timber sales to avoid public scrutiny is now widespread. 2019 saw similar projects on the Klamath National Forest and Shasta-Trinity National Forest. If left unchecked, we expect this practice to only continue to grow. EPIC hopes that our lawsuit will

put an end to this practice, not only in the Mendocino National Forest, but in all National Forests, by setting precedent that this mislabeling violates the law.

EPIC is represented by René Voss of Natural Resources Law and Matt Kenna of Public Interest Environmental Law. The case will be heard in the Northern District Court of California.

For more information:
wildcalifornia.org

Trapping Banned in Rare Humboldt Marten Habitat!

Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Every once in a while, there is a bright spot in the thorny struggle to conserve wildlife and wild places along the Redwood Coast. Wildlife conservationists experienced a beautiful ray of sunshine in early September when the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to ban trapping in Humboldt Marten habitat. The Humboldt Marten is extremely rare and at risk, and has already been banned in California, so it was encouraging to finally see a trapping ban put in place in Oregon as well. After all, there are only about 200 Humboldt Martens that survive in Oregon in two populations- one along the Oregon-California border, and one in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

A rare forest carnivore about the size of a small house cat, the Humboldt marten (*Martes americana humboldtensis*) is a genetically distinct subspecies of the American marten. Like the Pacific fisher, the Humboldt Marten's decline matches the decline of ancient coastal forests. It is known to live only in the old-growth forests and dense coastal



A endangered Humboldt marten
PHOTO BY T. GETTELMAN

shrub of northern California and southern Oregon. Due to trapping and old-growth logging, the Humboldt marten has lost 95 percent of its historic range.

Last year, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, EPIC, KS Wild, and Oregon Wild petitioned the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to help the struggling Humboldt marten by banning trapping in their southern Oregon coastal habitat. The Commission shapes policies on the management and conservation of fish and wildlife throughout the state. Despite Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff's pro-trapping recommendations, the Commission did the right thing and made an effective rule to ban trapping in Humboldt marten habitat.

Recent publications identified trapping as a significant threat that could cause the loss of the remaining Humboldt marten in Oregon. There is also quite a bit of mortality from vehicle strikes, especially in the Central Oregon coastal population. In October of 2018, the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the Humboldt marten for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. The final listing is expected by the end of 2019. The federal listing proposal and the federal species status assessment both specifically identify marten trapping in Oregon as a threat to the survival of the species.

A trapping ban in all Humboldt marten territory is an important first step. We also need to make sure that the conservation strategy for this species deals with habitat restoration and conservation, and removal of poisons from its habitat. Additionally, climate changes expected to alter this species' coastal habitat must also be considered.

We are grateful to our partners and the concerned residents that helped in this effort. It is up to all of us to give a voice to the voiceless.

🌲 For more info: www.kswild.org

One Family Working to Save Fish Habitat Is Asking for YOUR Help

Mad River Alliance

There is an exciting salmonid habitat preservation and restoration project on the Mad River that is in need of community volunteers! Mad River Alliance's newest board member, Tim Broadman, and his family are spearheading the project that is located approximately five river miles from the confluence of Lindsay Creek and approximately six river miles from the mouth of the Mad River. Located on the north end of Fieldbrook Valley—along an old railroad logging road which now serves as a residential and timber harvest roadway—it is about a half a

mile from the intersection of Murray Road and Old Railroad Grade Road.

The goal of this project is to create an educational park and creek path to promote preservation and conservation of salmonid habitat, as well as to provide a community site for elementary school classes to gather and learn about the forest ecosystem and the essentials that salmonids need to survive. It will also be a beautiful spot for community talks, as well as a place for community members to walk a pristine trail system and enjoy the peace and quiet of the forest.

The project started in 1988 when the Broadman family bought the parcel and halted the harvest of second growth trees on the parcel. In 1990, redwoods were planted along the creek. In 1992, a shotgun culvert was replaced with a bridge on the road crossing the creek, allowing improved fish passage. Current work is being done to improve the trails and build a small raised platform for people to gather on. Eventually, the Broadman family hopes to build a small open structure, such as a gazebo, to house stream gauges and other stream monitoring and data gathering equipment, as well as to provide a sitting area and a place to hang water proof placard posters that depict the salmon life cycle and the carbon cycle.

Mad River Alliance is looking for six volunteers for three half days of trail building; and one or two carpenters for four half days of structure building. The Broadman family will have wood and supplies, but needs the expertise to start work on the structure and to install the stream monitoring and gauging instruments.

This project will benefit the communities of Fieldbrook and McKinleyville by adding an all-weather nearby destination

to view spawning fish in the winter. Everyone, especially the local schools, will be able to use it as an easily accessible learning site and outdoor classroom.

This site, located near populated communities, will demonstrate that recovery of Mad River's endangered salmonid populations is possible through habitat restoration. The site will also help showcase nature's majesty and instill in young minds the importance of protecting the planet.

The Broadman family appreciates the past assistance from Kernan Construction and California Department Fish and Wildlife, and they will continue to organize community volunteers to work on the project through completion and then management. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Caroline Hall at caroline@madriveralliance.org!

🌲 For more info: madriveralliance.org

Lagunitas Creek Floodplain & Riparian Restoration Project Transforms Second Marin Ghost Town into Coho Salmon Habitat

Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

This October, the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network, or SPAWN, completed the second phase of our floodplain and riparian restoration project at the ghost town of Jewell, in Northern California. Our work re-creating floodplain wetlands along Lagunitas Creek will help recover key populations of endangered Central California Coast coho salmon.

Conservation Partner Organizations at Work



SPAWN staff and interns at the completed site.

The first step in restoring Jewell's floodplain was to remove remnants of abandoned structures and haul out 6,000 cubic yards of fill to carve out new channels. The next step was to install large woody debris at strategic locations. By mid-September we were seeding native grasses and perennials along with installing erosion-control fabric. And finally, when the rains begin, SPAWN staff, interns, and volunteers will be joined by students at partner schools to plant several thousand native plants and plugs grown at SPAWN's Native Plant Nursery.

Native plants provide multiple benefits to aquatic species. Water temperature is one of the most critical factors in salmonid incubation and development, and trees provide shade to keep temperatures cool in the summer. Vegetation also helps to stabilize banks and prevent fine sediment accumulation in the stream. This is another critical factor for coho because adult females need gravel beds to spawn (lay their eggs).

Many native plants such as willows attract insects—the dietary staple of

juvenile coho—to the water. Vegetated corridors also improve water quality by filtering pollutants from stormwater before it flows into the nearest body of water. Other benefits of vegetated corridors are that they protect against flooding by slowing water velocity down, and they help recharge groundwater by infiltrating water back into the ground.

SPAWN began the first phase of the Lagunitas Creek Floodplain & Riparian Restoration Project in August 2018 in the Marin ghost town of Tocaloma. By digging and hauling out 13,000 cubic yards of dumped fill from the Tocaloma floodplain we were able to create new seasonal and perennial side channels. The channels held up well during the stormy winter months, and spring began with the sight of meadow barley spreading across the floodplain. It was rewarding to see scores of juvenile fish in the new channels by spring, as well as endangered California freshwater shrimp in our custom-designed shrimp structures.

In addition to growing plants that provide bank stabilization, SPAWN's nursery also focuses on growing plants

that provide direct benefits to all wildlife species that utilize the riparian corridor. Many of the plant species selected for both Tocaloma and Jewell provide benefits for multiple species of wildlife.

For example, creek dogwood has adventitious roots systems that provide food and cover for the endangered California freshwater shrimp; flowers that provide nectar for a variety of pollinators; and berries that are coveted by many bird species. Creek dogwood is also the host plant for the spring azure butterfly and many species of moths. Other plants added to the Tocaloma floodplain such as California aster, yarrow, and grass-leaved goldenrod provide nectar to many species of butterflies, including the endangered western monarch.

The Lagunitas Creek Floodplain & Riparian Restoration Project has been made possible through funding and support by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Protection Agency, State Coastal Conservancy, the National Park Service, and members of Turtle Island Restoration Network, which is the parent organization of SPAWN.

The project has also benefited from the support of hundreds of dedicated volunteers and students who have helped to both grow the plants in the nursery, and plant and maintain the plants at the restoration sites. More volunteer help will be needed starting this November to plant out the Jewell site. Planting events will be held on at least two Saturdays per month throughout the winter. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact SPAWN's Native Plant Nursery Manager Audrey Fusco at audrey@seaturtles.org.

For more info: <https://seaturtles.org/our-work/our-programs/salmon/>

Klamath-Trinity Salmon Runners Join Winnemem Run4Salmon in 50-Mile Trinity Connection Run Days Before Governor Vetoes Bill to Protect Salmon

Save California Salmon

By Dan Bacher and Regina Chichizola

As Governor Gavin Newsom was getting ready to veto a bill that would protect California salmon from Trump administration attacks, runners from the Run4Salmon on the Sacramento River watersheds and runners from the Klamath and Trinity rivers joined together on September 25 to run on the first-ever Trinity Connection Run for the Winnemem Wintu Tribe's Run4Salmon.

"This run was a statement on bringing the salmon people together and on bringing the salmon back to where they need to be," stated Yurok Tribal member Richard Myers. "We ran from one nation to the other, as salmon are a common denominator for Indian people. It needs to be recognized that we are connected through the waters of life, which provide for the people. This run was a way of doing this."

Members of four local Sacramento, Klamath, McCloud, and Trinity River Tribes ran in the Trinity Connection. The Trinity River is the largest tributary to the Klamath River and over 50% of it is diverted to the Sacramento River to irrigate corporate mega-farms growing almonds, pistachios and other export crops on drainage-impaired land on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

Over 80% of the river was diverted until a major agreement to restore the river — the Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD) — was made between the Hoopa Valley Tribe and Department of the Interior. This occurred right before the Klamath River fish kill in September 2002, when over 38,000 salmon died from disease spurred by low, warm water conditions. Trinity River releases beyond this agreement are now used to avert Klamath River fish kills in low water years.

The Trinity River is also threatened by the projects that threaten the Sacramento River and San Francisco Bay Delta including the Sites Reservoir, Shasta Dam raise, Delta Tunnel proposal and new Trump Biological Opinion (Trump Water Plan) for the federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

"Physically connecting to the lands that the creator bestowed to my people by foot on routes we have traveled for trade and communication for centuries

was an honorable experience I'll never forget," stated Thomas Joseph, a Hoopa Valley Tribal member and representative for California Kitchen, a sponsor of the run. "Through using these traditional methods to bring awareness of our community struggles to other communities we can find the strength and healing to combat the chaos of today's challenges be it environmental or social struggles. We need to look back at traditional practices for our answers."

Trinity Connection Runners ran by three dams and four reservoirs on their 50-mile run. They said that the run "helps bring attention to the fact that the majority of the Central Valley's water supply comes from the areas within their run." However, local Tribes and rural people that are suffering from lack of salmon are rarely consulted in water decisions, they said.

Instead, major irrigators, such as the Westlands Water District that is hundreds of miles away, controls the north states



Thomas Joseph and Jese Naomi run over the Shasta reservoir.
PHOTO BY REGINA CHICHIZOLA

Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

water. They pointed to the fact that Westlands' lawyer and lobbyist David Bernhardt is now running the very agency that controls decisions that impact California's water decisions and Tribes. Bernhardt has been accused of numerous ethics violations since taking office.

The runners joined the Winnemem Wintu Tribe in a rally against the Shasta Dam raise at the Shasta Dam after their run.

"We are a salmon state and we should be a salmon state again," said Chief Caleen Sisk of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, which organized the run. "It is time for us to come together."

In a op-ed in the Sacramento Bee on September 20, Chief Sisk strongly urged Governor Gavin Newsom to sign Senate Bill 1, legislation that would provide new tools to resist the rollback on the Endangered Species Act protections for salmon and Bay-

Delta fish populations that the Trump Administration is planning to release soon.

"Trump's policies to destroy the salmon will also destroy us," Chief Sisk wrote. "They are a modern iteration of the 'depredation and prejudicial policies' of genocide that Gov. Newsom pledged to remedy. For the sake of the salmon, for the sake of my people and for the sake of the people of California, Gov. Newsom must sign SB 1."

Unfortunately, Newsom vetoed SB 1 on Friday, September 27, saying he disagreed with SB 1 proponents "about the efficacy and necessity of Senate Bill 1." Newsom's veto of SB 1 is no surprise, considering that the total contributions from the agricultural industry in his 2018 campaign for Governor were \$637,398.

Save California Salmon is very disappointed in the governor's lack of a backbone when it comes to fighting the

Trump administration's environmental rollbacks. Newsom has once again favored corporate agriculture interests over Californians that rely on healthy fisheries, clean drinking water and labor protections. It is particularly disappointing he vetoed this bill on California Native American Day just days after being asked by Tribes to sign SB1. We urge the governor to change course when it comes to water.

More information about the run:
www.run4salmon.org and
www.facebook.com/run4salmon

Salmon Protectors Youth Camp Brings Together Elders, Youth for The Klamath River

Save California Salmon

On September 14th and 15th Tribal families and youth, and other salmon dependent people from all over Northern California, converged at the Bluff Creek Resort near Weitchpec, CA to discuss how to protect, and honor, the Klamath and Trinity Rivers' salmon.

Trainings and discussions focused on ways to advocate for clean water and Tribal rights, community organizing, and media skills. Families also were able to learn traditional skills such as processing salmon and stick carving, along with skills such as sign making, t-shirt screening, and river rafting. The Klamath River Renewal Corporation also gave an update on the Klamath dam removal process and timeline at the camp.

The Yurok Tribe, a co-host of the event, says the camp is a way to involve more native families and youth in their work to protect the Klamath River. "Seeing how much passion our youth have



Winnemem Wintu, Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu, Hoopa and Yurok runners, and supporters at the Shasta Dam after completing the new Trinity River arm of the Run4Salmon.

PHOTO BY SAVE CALIFORNIA SALMON

for protecting the river fills me with optimism for the future. We have fought for our salmon since European contact and we will continue to fight until our rivers are filled with fish,” stated Joseph L. James, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. Chairman James spoke during the camp’s salmon dinner.

The Tribe has been fighting for dam removal and water for fish on the Klamath for decades, and is one of California’s only Tribes that has established fishing rights. Despite these efforts, bad water management has led to dismal salmon returns over the last five years. This has led to issues such as poverty, food insecurity, and high suicide rates on the Yurok reservation.

Save California Salmon, the co-host of the event, says the camp is part of a statewide effort to engage Tribal youth and others that depend on healthy fisheries populations in policy decisions that impact California rivers, including climate change decisions. They say all of Northern California’s Tribes should have the right to clean water and robust fisheries.

“Some of Northern California’s Tribes have established rights to a harvestable surplus of salmon and some have not,” said Morning Star Gali, the Tribal Water Organizer for Save California Salmon. “All of them should, however no California Tribes are actually able to catch a harvestable surplus of salmon, and most do not have clean water either, due to policies that favor irrigators and polluters. Most of Native Californians live many hours from where the decisions that impact us are made and are not included in decision making. We aim to change this dynamic by supporting communities that want to organize for rivers and salmon and by empowering new leaders.”



Yurok and Karuk families raft after the Klamath Salmon Protectors Youth and Family Camp
PHOTO BY SAVE CALIFORNIA SALMON

Gali said that in places like Washington DC and Sacramento, decisions are currently being made that will decide the future of California’s water and fisheries. She said the Trump administration is gutting key laws like the Endangered Species and Clean Water Act, while also rewriting the plans that decide how much water goes down the Klamath, Trinity, and Sacramento Rivers and Bay Delta tributaries for fisheries. She says California has publicly vowed to fight this attack on the environment, and has apologized for its treatment of native people, however they are still moving forward with harmful new water diversion, dam, and oil development projects. They ignore the fact that it is predicted that the water in the Central Valley will be too polluted to be usable within 50 years, and that 45% of fish populations in the state are facing extinction.

“It is time for California to change course and really respect the basic human right to clean water and a livable planet, along with California Tribes’ rights to healthy abundant fisheries,” said Gali “It is time to think about future generations.”

Gali said Save California Salmon is hoping to work with the Klamath River Tribes to make the camp an annual event, and hopes to help host similar camps in the Sacramento River watershed and on and North Coast next year.

For more information:
www.californiasalmon.org



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—Jane Goodall

Bear River Ridge, Humboldt County,
the proposed site for a windmill factory.

PHOTO BY WIYOT TRIBE

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