

# Stronger Together

*Trees Foundation's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## Forest & River News

GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION & RESTORATION IN THE REDWOOD REGION

TREES FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2021

 **Jackson State Forest Campaign:  
Perspectives from Priscilla Hunter,  
Polly Girvin, Vince Taylor, and Chad Swimmer**

 **California's Prescribed Fire Movement:  
A Decade of Inspirational Change**

 **Julia Butterfly Hill: Then & Now**

 **Full Directory of Trees Partner Groups**



## Editor's Note

The Trees Foundation turns 30 this year! To celebrate the many amazing people that have put their heart into Trees over the decades, we brought back the activist photo collages that were a mainstay of our annual reports from 1998-2004. Please know that for every person pictured in these pages, there are dozens more.

This issue also features a *Then & Now* section, where we republish partner groups' articles from decades past, followed by updates today. Read how the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest— a Trees partner that halted logging in Jackson from 2001-2008—has reengaged after a ten-year hiatus, inspired by a fast-growing coalition that includes The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians (page 37); Mendocino Trail Stewards, one of our newest partners (page 14); and longtime Trees partners EPIC and Restoration Leadership Project (page 26).

You can also read about a fast-growing grassroots movement to return Indigenous cultural burn practices and prescribed burning to the landscape as key elements of healthy land stewardship (page 32).

In the many environmental struggles we face, we are *Stronger Together*. This is the theme of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering (back cover). Your contributions, through volunteering or giving, is essential. You can find a directory of our partner groups at the back of this issue—please support them!

Lastly, we want to give a special shoutout to Kathy Glass for her amazing editing assistance—thank you Kathy! For the Earth,



The current Trees collective (from top to bottom):  
Mona Provisor,  
Jeri Fergus,  
Kerry Reynolds.  
PHOTO BY  
DARRYL CHERNEY

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Cover photo: A Redwood tree PHOTO BY RANDY LAMORTE

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

# The Early Days of Trees Foundation

By Leib Ostrow, co-founder and current Board Treasurer of Trees Foundation

Ah, tracing the roots of Trees Foundation. For me its starts with fleeing my birthplace, as industrial a place as you can find, Detroit, Michigan. I had witnessed some of the worst of what humans could do to our Mother Earth and was searching for another way. Through some mysterious workings of the universe, I found myself in Humboldt County in 1976 at the age of 25. I fell deeply and madly in love with the area and scraped together all I had for a down payment on 120 acres of cutover land overlooking Redway.

The term Mateel (combination of the two rivers flowing through, the Eel and the Mattole) was being coined, and our watersheds here in southern Humboldt County were filling up with many like minded “back to the landers,” many of us having very little knowledge of the workings of this magical coastal rainforest. But we saw the remnants of some of the most majestic forests that ever existed, we knew they were sacred and that they had been very badly abused and were continuing to be treated as a commodity instead of one of nature’s miracles.

It was hard to know where to start, how to help. We started learning about stewardship, about our own pieces of land and bringing them back to health, but it wasn’t enough. We continued to see the wanton destruction of the remaining 2% of the old-growth forests, the degradation of our streams and rivers, and the struggling wildlife that depended on these things.

Finally, Richard Gienger, one of the most passionate forest lovers of our tribe, called a meeting of desperation. Our precious remaining coastal ecosystem was under siege. In the old Needle Rock house in what is now know as the Sinkyone Wilderness, we mapped out a strategy to save the surrounding forests. We came with our children, our anger, and our passion and we climbed trees, we confronted loggers, we made lots of noise and in the end we prevailed. Thousands of acres were protected. It was an amazing victory and I believe it inspired us all to realize we could make a difference, and it strengthened our resolve to move forward.

Many of my peers took their skills and ideas and started groups aimed at restoring and preserving our ecosystem

I was invited to be a member of the Trees Board by Linda Dillon and Leib Ostrow. I was honored, naive, and enthusiastic about being of service to the hard working and passionate activists in our county! Cecelia Lanman, Richard Gienger, and Bob Martel to name a few...So I said yes! The first board meeting was in a hot, dusty office upstairs from the old Open Circle. Ideas were flying, passion was high, and Anarchy reigned...I was the first President...

Nobody else wanted to do it!!

The services that we began to give to support the activist community: office, tech support, financial, and creating a 501(c)3 to act as an umbrella for small but amazing groups! I remember our first overnight board retreat, when we hammered out our mission statement!

Pam Wellish kept us on point, Tracy Katelman brought knowledge and passion, my main jobs were feeding Tracy and the crew (who never seemed to take time to eat!), and listening and trying to be a peace keeper! My deepest gratitude to all the wide spreading Trees Community for so many years of work caring for our Mother Earth!

—Holly Sweet, Founding Board President



Trees Foundation's first logo, by Holly Sweet

here in the Mateel. EPIC specializes in litigation and recourse through the court system, Sanctuary Forest is focused on buying lands for protection, Earth First! is known for direct action and civil disobedience, while Institute for Sustainable Forestry develops and teaches good forest practices. They all have their place in our “David vs. Goliath” struggle against the strong arm of special interest logging concerns. It’s inspiring that our tiny community has sprouted so many diverse and powerful environmental organizations.

Linda Dillon and I had taken a different path, creating a company specializing in music for families. We had grown it and had now sold half of it to Warner Brothers Music. We wanted to tithe some of the money we have received and give it back to the local environmental community. Yet, so many friends involved in so many different groups, we didn’t know how to disperse it.

We realized that many others who wanted to support the good work were in the same position. Also, many of the

groups were all having to “reinvent the wheel”, needing to incorporate, get their 501(c)3 non-profit status, learn desktop publishing skills, GPS skills, bookkeeping skills, etc. So with the help of many friends we created an “umbrella” non-profit to help support all the groups, assist with fundraising and communication, and create an infrastructure that could be used for the various needs of the groups.

These are the roots and a bit of the history. Now it is up to all of us to shape the next growth of the Trees Foundation.

Wow, 30 years. I was there at the beginning. Jared [Rossman] and I at Leib’s request wrote the paperwork that created the foundation. I remember a bargain Leib and I made. I would help him with his dream and he would help with mine. So the story I tell is that not only did the foundation get created but we simultaneously created an organization to assist the homeless as advocates. Rainbow Mountain Walker became that organization’s spokesperson.

In 1991 the big issues were about redwoods and salmon. The first actions of Trees Foundation were to write grants for whatever we could imagine. The first one allowed us to train a group in public relations and publishing.

One day I was looking for Cecilia [Lanman] at EPIC. We talked outside in the alley on the side door stoop. Out of the Trees Foundation office came a woman, shaven bald, freckled like only a redhead can be. She walked by me as Cecelia tried to introduce me to her. “Bob have you met Grasshopper?” By the time she had finished her sentence, Grasshopper was past us and on the street. “What’s her name?” I asked. Cecelia answered, “Her forest name is Grasshopper.”

Grasshopper and I live on a farm in Northern Michigan. We have a beautiful kid, Jack. Best thing I ever did. Thank you, Trees Foundation for attracting the love of my life.

—Bob Martel, Founding Board Member





Trees Foundation Board and Staff in 2003



Trees Foundation Board and Staff in 2008

## A History from a Co-Founder

Who could imagine the Trees Foundation still growing and going strong, protecting our forests and watersheds for 30 years? Thankfully, a whole lot of incredible people! In the beginning—back in the '80s in Southern Humboldt—there were so many environmental issues surrounding logging ancient forests, unsustainable forestry practices, and contamination of our watersheds, to name a few. It took a lot of committed people giving so much of their time and energy to try to protect our ancient forests and ecosystems, and all of them needing funds to accomplish their goals. So where to start?

The seed that started it all for me was Richard Gienger. For the longest time, he always had to go around trying to get enough gas money to get to Sacramento or wherever there were negotiations going on. It honestly was a heartache to see this devoted person as well as others having to always scrounge around for funds!

For me, being a part of starting a foundation could be a way to help provide the means for people like Richard to be given the funds to be active and to get support to go to these important meetings, etc.

The rest is 30-year-old history now! Thanks to all of you who have given and continue to give your precious time, energy, and funds to protect our ancient forests and ecosystems everywhere. I am in awe and forever grateful for the generosity of spirit given from everyone who continues to be part of this journey.

— Linda Dillon, Trees Co-Founder

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”**  
—Margaret Mead



Dates are hard for me to pin down, but I think I recall Leib [Ostrow] and Linda [Dillon], Bob Martel, and Kathleen Martin working to establish Trees around the time that the EPIC office was in a small building of the Sherwood Forest behind Milt's Sawshop in Garberville. Somebody told me that a purpose of Trees Foundation would be to help support the work of Cecelia Lanman (still Gregori at that time), Woods (Robert Sutherland) & me. Organization of Trees seemed to go in fits and starts, but Bob Martel repeatedly advised me to keep checking in with Kathleen Martin, which I did for a very extended period of time. Once Trees got going its role became vital to more and more persons and organizations! Quite a crew over the years. I'll fall down if I try to name all that were key—Tracy Katelman, Kate Crockett, Barbara Ristow, Jeri Fergus, Bill Eastwood, and of course, Leib Ostrow, and many more. Tracy (Bear) Thiele helped start Restoration Leadership Project with me in 1998 and enabled us to carry on a fair number of In Propria Persona lawsuits, including the Stable Slopes case. She also played a key role in cases against Georgia-Pacific and Pacific Lumber/Maxxam; petitions to the Board of Forestry; and achieved some serious rules changes regarding watershed and cumulative impact regulations. Thank you Trees Foundation!

—Richard Gienger



Trees Foundation's Board & Staff on a Zoom meeting in 2020 during the pandemic.

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Trees Foundation family! Congrats on providing 30 years of ongoing support and essential services, and for broadcasting the important work and messages of our local conservation and restoration groups up and down the North Coast! Similarly, thank you for continuing to provide the best historical record of the conservation community and environmental movement of northern California through the inspiring pages of *Forest & River News*. For as long as we have forests and rivers and a need to protect them, Trees Foundation will always be a valuable resource to our community. Viva La Trees Foundation! Love the Trees family and am proud to be a part of it!

—Tryphena Lewis, past Collective and Board Member



# How Does Trees Foundation Support Your Work?

The support of Trees Foundation—both its expertise and its spirit—has allowed Friends of Elk River to expand from a Facebook page, mostly reacting to logging plans and the agencies that are supposed to regulate them, to an organization dedicated to building long-term bonds between watershed and community.  
—*Friends of Elk River*

By providing access to funding, excellent graphic arts services, and an outlet for our voice through the *Forest and River News*.  
—*Friends of the Lost Coast*

Trees has supported BACH in many ways: with fundraising, website development, newsletter and flyer design, access to other partners, technical support, and dissemination of information about our work and campaigns in the publications Trees produces.  
—*Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters*

Trees has supported our work immensely by providing fiscal support, access to photo archives, and a tremendous amount of graphic design work for our newsletter, event agendas, and Conference Proceedings.  
—*Salmonid Restoration Federation*

Trees provided the sponsorship needed for 501(c)3 status.  
—*ReLeaf Petaluma*

Trees Foundation has supported the Mattole Salmon Group with Cereus Fund grants that have provided long-term support for one of our most popular efforts, the Summer Steelhead Dive. Trees Foundation's publications have been great sources of information about other similar efforts, as well as a way to publicize MSG's efforts.  
—*Mattole Salmon Group*

When we started, Trees provided us with fiscal sponsorship. Trees has also assisted us with poster production and printing, grant funding, and graphic design.  
—*Environmentally Sound Promotions*

Trees Foundation has provided a media outlet for MKWC to share information with regional restoration groups and the public.  
—*MidKlamath Watershed Council*

We were not quite prepared for support of our cause to grow so quickly. Luckily, Trees was there to lighten our load with bookkeeping and all kinds of advice for

citizens of a grassroots organization with no experience running a nonprofit. They also help us with outreach and graphic design.  
—*Mendocino Trail Stewards*

Trees Foundation has supported our group with its donor-advised funds for many years. We appreciate your support!  
—*Salmon River Restoration Council*

Trees administered just over \$100,000 between 2011 and 2016, when ERRP was incorporated. Tryphena supporting us in Water Day 2012. Amazing posters by Jeri. We could “just do it” as a sponsored group. When we started bringing grants larger than feasible for Trees to administer, Barbara kicked us out of the nest. We needed to rise and fly.  
—*Eel River Recovery Project*

Announcing C-SALT's founding and putting us in the environmental network; awarding us a grant for computer equipment; and including us in the environmental restoration community. THANK YOU!  
—*Coho Salmon Land Trust*



Trees Foundation has been a perfect match for FOVDR, with similar environmental goals. Trees has been an integral part of our programming activities over the last decade, providing significant financial and moral support to our organization and our community. Also, *Forest and River News* is very informative and well produced.  
 —*Friends of Van Duzen River*

Becoming a partner of Trees Foundation inspired our organization to focus on defining who we are, to identify activities that further our mission, and to become more visible and connected to community. We benefitted from Trees Foundation's technical assistance in creating our website and receiving donations via credit card. With Cereus Funds, we amped up our fundraising, completed the purchase of The Sacred Grove, and created an annual Redwood Forest Program for urban youth. Trees Foundation staff readily and enthusiastically respond to our questions. We especially appreciate receiving guidance related to our 501(c)3 status and to protecting the land we steward. We appreciate being included as a partner organization and linked to collective

efforts that strengthen our purpose. We love to read about the projects of partner groups in *Forest and River News*. Trees Foundation values and supports the unique contribution of each partner group and harnesses the collective wisdom and energy of the community.  
 —*Women's Forest Sanctuary*

Trees Foundation has provided grant opportunities, allowing us to broaden our ability to reach out to the local community and beyond. The staff has been extremely helpful and easy to work with, responding quickly to email and voicemail queries, providing us with a beautiful graphic for a possible logo and paying vendors promptly.  
 —*Ten Mile Creek Watershed Council*

Financially, by providing us with a regular column in *Forest and River News*, and by helping us with design work.  
 —*Environmental Protection Information Center*

Enabling access to funding sources and providing incredible opportunities and skilled services for communication.  
 —*Richard Gienger, Restoration Leadership Project*

In the early days of the MRC, Trees Foundation helped with large graphic-design projects until we built the capacity in-house. Trees has always been there for us in advertising events or job opportunities. *Forest and River News* has always welcomed articles from MRC, giving us another voice for our restoration projects. Last summer Trees' GIS contractor, Cullen Cramer, really helped us in a pinch with getting the Mattole Fire Atlas update done. (Since then we have hired Cullen!) But perhaps the biggest support has been through the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation that has financed the MRC's Forest Practices Program for at least a dozen years. That's a dozen years of actively reviewing and commenting on Timber Harvest Plans that are proposed in the Mattole Watershed. The support of this small, otherwise hard-to-fund program has gained the respect of all involved, from the agencies that review timber harvest plans to the land managers that harvest the forests. In a nutshell, Trees has really helped MRC advocate for the health of our forests and thereby our watershed. Thanks, Trees Foundation, for helping us do what we do!!  
 —*Mattole Restoration Council*



# Then & Now! Ancient Forest International

A Few of Our Partners Revisit Projects From Years Past and Share Where They Stand Today

## Then

Excerpt from: “The Alerce Odyssey, A Journey to the Hidden Rainforests of Chile,” *Earth Island Journal*, Fall 1989

By Rick Klein

### An International Crew Puerto Montt, Chile, 1989

I looked out over the small city where the transcontinental Panamerican Highway ends and the frontier begins, contemplating the deep, black mountains with the sea at their ankles— just lovely and mysterious enough to be home to perhaps the oldest trees in the hemisphere...

Soon 44 people from six countries began arriving to begin a unique trek into a region where no human is known to have stepped. Twenty of us came from the US, 19 from Chile and the rest from Spain, Germany, Austria and Canada. There were foresters, cooks, paramedics, musicians, botanists, stream ecologists, biologists, a film and video crew, photographers and horticulturists.

Our last member joined us on the evening of our departure. Ivan\* came up to our cafe table and simply asked if he could come with us. He represented the new Chile— hopeful, adventurous and proud...

I wasn't prepared for the number that set out that bright February morning:

\* This introduction is how Ivan Klocker eventually met his future wife, Aiyana Gregori. They raised their daughter Wayra together in Southern Humboldt, California (with frequent visits back to Chile) until Ivan died in October, 2020.

44 trekkers with bulging packs and 500 pounds of food. The thought nagged at me: What right did we have to intrude on a million years of solitude? But then on the second day of the trip, standing alone on the trail, I heard the world fall silent and I seemed to hear a cry rising from the far-off forest: “Halloooooo out there...” It was the distant voice of Jared Rossman, calling out to the forest. As the birds resumed their chirping, I realized it hadn't been an unpleasant sound; it came from a creature with a heart full of grace. I stopped second-guessing our mission and started having fun.

## Now

Excerpt from: “30 Years of Ancient Forest International,” *Forest & River News*, Summer 2019

AFI was inspired by South America's majestic Alerce, the “redwoods of the

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

Around that time Rick also led—and nearly killed—a different Doug into a different Alerce forest called Pumalín. According to Rick, when he took Doug Tompkins to see his first Alerce, the famed adventurer and philanthropist could have met his demise scaling down a giant granite wall, or from dehydration when an indispensable water supply along the trek turned out to be dried up. When they made it out alive, Rick recalls



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



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

Rick and AFI would continue to cheerlead and support Doug’s massive acquisition of wildlands for conservation in Chile.

This was the start of a truly remarkable conservation achievement that just occurred. On April 25, 2019, Chilean president Michelle Bachelet and Kris Tompkins (who started Tompkins Conservation with her husband Doug Tompkins) finalized an agreement that completes the world’s largest transfer of land from private to public hands,

and expands Chile’s national parkland by 10 million acres. The Tompkins Conservation donated slightly more than one million acres—largely consisting of Pumalín—and the Chilean government, for its part, contributed nearly 9 million acres of federally owned land. (To learn more: [sc.org/Kris-tompkins](https://sc.org/Kris-tompkins))

## Then & Now! Mattole Salmon Group

A Few of Our Partners Revisit Projects From Years Past and Share Where They Stand Today

### Then

From Trees Foundation’s *Branching Out*, Spring 2000

The Mattole Salmon Group is marking its 20th anniversary of working to rescue salmon runs in the Mattole River. Salmon Group crews undertook their first efforts to trap adult Chinook salmon for their hatchbox and rearing program in 1980. In the intervening decades, they have augmented their original initiative with a wide variety of projects and techniques directed toward improving freshwater habitat that salmon and steelhead need to survive. While salmon have not yet recovered their former abundance, both Chinook and coho are hanging on in the Mattole, the last remaining runs of natives of either species to the south between here and the Sacramento.

The Salmon Group is currently training landowners around the extensive new Gilham Butte forest reserve in the skills necessary to make long-term stream assessments and restoration prescriptions. Similar future work is planned in other Mattole sub-basins. These will be



2019 Annual Retreat Photo of MSG Board and Staff—From left to right: Gail Lee Wread, David Simpson, Richard Sykes, Chad Paul, Gary (Fish) Peterson, Campbell Thompson, Michael Evenson, Sungnome Madrone, Lindsay Merryman, Nathan Queener, Ray Lingel, Josh Madrone, Rob Yoshi, Michelle Dow, Kate Cenci, David Buxbaum

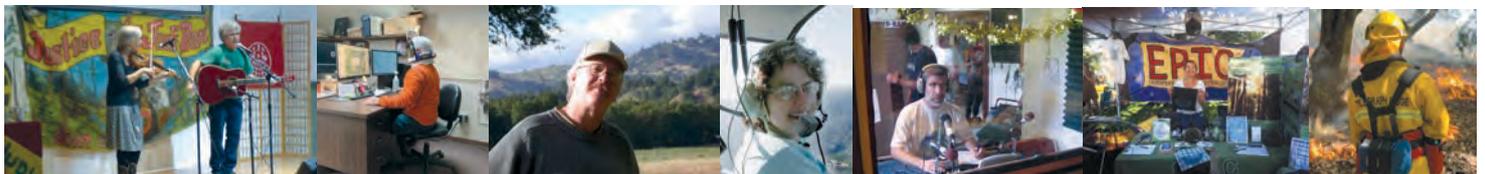
accomplished cooperatively with Mattole Restoration Council’s upslope erosion evaluations and prescriptions.

### Now

By Richard Sykes,  
*Mattole Salmon Group Executive Director*

With widespread resident involvement, the Mattole Salmon Group is entering its fifth decade of work to support the recovery and sustainability of the salmon and steelhead fishery in the

Mattole River. Since 1980, the Salmon Group has been monitoring salmonid populations throughout the watershed and implementing projects to remove barriers to fish passage, improve stream habitat, and take other actions as needed to support fish populations. While no longer performing a hatchbox and rearing program, the Salmon Group is considering a project to supplement the coho salmon population by relocating adult fish with compatible genetics from nearby watersheds to spawn in the



Mattole watershed. This would provide additional numbers of fish and much needed genetic diversity, considering the low numbers of coho in the Mattole River. An experimental plan for this project is currently under way.

Much of the Salmon Group's efforts in recent years has focused on the estuary where historic slough channels have been

restored, riverbanks have been stabilized with wood and willow structures, and riparian planting has provided much-needed shade. The other focus has been on improving habitat in spawning and rearing areas in the headwaters sites with the installation of rock and log weirs and large wood structures. The wood deficit in nearly all tributaries in the watershed is a significant issue affecting habitat

health. Projects in the past two years have included placement of hundreds of trees in key tributaries. Planning and design efforts are underway to continue this over the next several years. The Salmon Group continues to conduct much of this work in collaboration with its long-time partners Sanctuary Forest, Inc., and the Mattole Restoration Council.

## Then & Now! Sanctuary Forest

*A Few of Our Partners Revisit Projects From Years Past and Share Where They Stand Today*

### Then

From Trees Foundation's *Branching Out*, Winter 2007

Sanctuary Forest's Mattole Flow Program continues to lead the way for our community and the land trust movement in the area of rural water conservation and protection of instream flows. The goal of the Mattole Flow Program is to maintain healthy instream flows for fish and people during the critical dry season. Since 2000 the Mattole watershed and many other North Coast rivers have experienced a prolonged pattern of extreme low stream flows threatening the survival of endangered salmonids and the water supply of rural communities.

This summer the Mattole Flow Program reached a major milestone with installation of the first two of what will be a total of eighteen large capacity water storage tanks installed in the Mattole headwaters. Participating landowners who receive these tanks enter into binding long term legal agreements not to pump from the river during the critical low flow season. Participants use the stored water instead, maintaining water in the river



Sanctuary Forest Staff & Board members on Annual Retreat, May 2021—left to right, from front row: Matt Knoedelseder, Eric Shafer, April Newlander, Renee Crowley, Anna Rogers, Victoria Shafer, Ash Brookens, Denise Dills, Rena Lourie, Mike Torbert, Stuart Moskowitz, Janice Parakilas, Tasha McKee, Betsy Watson and Cam Thompson. (Not pictured: Walker Wise, Bryce Howard.)

when fish need it the most. This program of "storage and forbearance" addresses the fact that human use accounts for 20-80% of the headwater's flows depending on the severity of the dry season. Through installation of these tanks Sanctuary Forest expects to make significant

improvements to summer flows in two critical salmon habitat reaches of the river that now normally run dry.

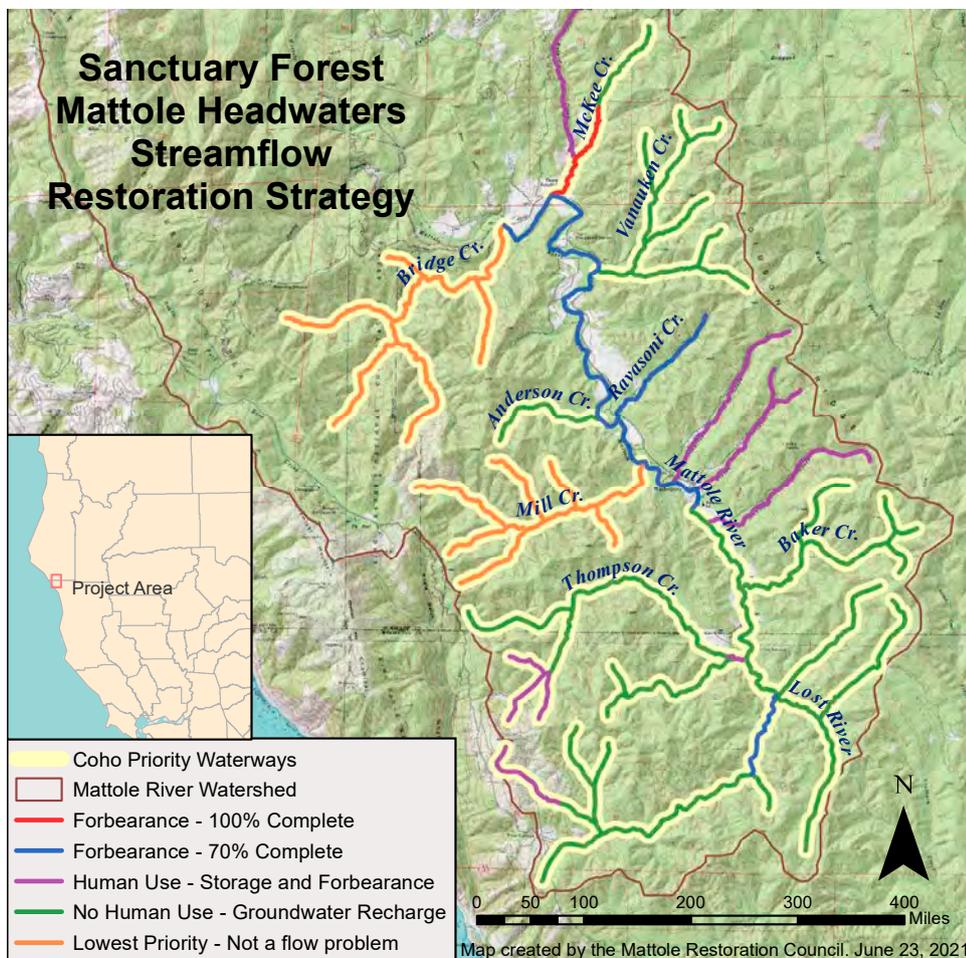
Monitoring the river's flow and continuing to study the causes, effects and potential solutions to the low flow crisis



are important aspects of the Mattole Flow Program. Two such studies initiated this past spring and summer included a salmon survival study and a ground water monitoring study.

Despite the obvious connection there is little scientific literature on the survival of salmon under low flow conditions. For this reason Sanctuary Forest initiated a fish survival study in collaboration with UC Berkeley graduate student Ted Grantham and the Mattole Salmon Group. This study made repeated population counts of fish throughout the dry season, documenting mortality under various habitat conditions. Up until now we could only speculate on how many fish are lost because of the low flows. Through continuation of this study we hope to demonstrate the ongoing need and effectiveness of the Mattole Flow Program in restoration of native salmon.

Sanctuary Forest has been monitoring stream flows in the Mattole headwaters each summer season since 2004. What's new for 2007 was the beginning of our program to monitor the flows of groundwater. Like the relationship between a tree and its roots, you cannot understand a river without studying what happens to the vast amount of water stored underground in soil and rock. Preliminary ground water monitoring indicates ground and surface water in the Mattole are very connected and that summer instream flows are highly dependent on the flow of ground water. For this reason Sanctuary Forest is preparing a ground water management plan for the Mattole River headwaters and studying the potential to help increase summer flows through ground water recharge projects.



Sanctuary Forest recognizes the importance of water to maintaining the health of our forest ecosystem. Through the Mattole Flow Program we are making significant strides in addressing our own low flow problem as well as developing innovative tools that other communities and land trusts can use in addressing the widespread need for water conservation.

In recognition of Sanctuary Forest's innovations as a land trust working in the area of water conservation, we were invited to make presentations about the Mattole Flow Program to the California Council of Land Trusts and the National Land Trust Alliance Rally.

## Now

### Mattole Flow Program in Place Since 2007

By April Newlander,  
Sanctuary Forest Executive Director

Sanctuary Forest's Mattole Flow Program focuses on two main strategies for restoring healthy instream flows for fish and people in the Mattole River headwaters—changing human use through storage and forbearance, and groundwater recharge in areas with no human use (see map). In the face of climate change and worsening drought conditions, these actions are critical to secure water for threatened salmonid



species and for the rural community members who depend on the Mattole River for their everyday needs. In 2007, Sanctuary Forest was installing the first two of what would be a total of 34 water storage systems—marking the start of our Storage and Forbearance Program. **Thirteen years later, 1,935,000 gallons of water storage tanks have been installed for landowners in the headwaters, not including the number of other voluntary participants practicing storage and forbearance.** We have seen an increasing awareness among the community, as demonstrated by community members responding to our streamflow alert signs and practicing storage and forbearance. However, there are still many barriers, starting from complicated water-rights processes to having the financial resources to install water tanks and to pay the property taxes associated with owning water tanks. As we confront the ongoing drought, we need to be working together to balance the needs of humans with that of fish and wildlife. You cannot make that happen by poking with a stick, but rather leading with a carrot. Incentives to store water and resources to achieve that goal are

needed to come up with solutions to the climate change crisis.

Changing human use is one solution to the problem, but it is not enough to maintain healthy instream flows during extended dry seasons. Past land-use impacts have led to severely diminished groundwater storage and thus streamflows. Tasha McKee, Sanctuary Forest's Water Program Director, has dedicated the past 20 years to improving streamflows for fish and people in the Mattole headwaters. She leads with innovative ideas and collaborates with scientists, hydrologists, restorationists, tribal members, etc., to learn from nature and to design projects that will store more water and create a more drought-resilient landscape. Since 2007, a considerable amount of planning and permitting has gone into getting projects started.

In 2017 the first groundwater recharge ponds were installed in Baker Creek. The "String of Pearls," as Tasha named it, is a series of three ponds constructed on terraces above the Baker Creek tributary, one that historically supported abundant coho salmon and has experienced

extremely low streamflows in drought years, causing fish to perish. Sanctuary Forest has implemented various instream habitat projects in Baker Creek that have improved habitat and encouraged the return of coho, but the ongoing drought calls for innovative solutions to maintain pool habitat even in the most severe drought years. **The Baker Creek String of Pearls Project aimed to increase ground and surface water storage by approximately 10 million gallons, and the estimated total flow benefit computed from 2020 streamflow data is 16.8 million gallons!** We now look to another dry season ahead, waiting to see when the ponds will go dry, and if there will be enough water to sustain fish populations until the fall rains arrive. Sanctuary Forest is learning from the Baker Creek Project and will use this knowledge to implement more groundwater recharge projects in other key tributaries in the Mattole headwaters. Our hope is that someday there will be reserves of water in streams and ponds that will revive fish populations and sustain all life in the Mattole River watershed.

## Then & Now!

# Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest

*A Few of Our Partners Revisit Projects From Years Past and Share Where They Stand Today*

## Then

### Why I've Rejoined the Battle to Restore Jackson State Forest

By Vince Taylor

Starting in the mid 1990s, I began working to change the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF)

away from its single-minded focus on commercial timber operations. Initially, I focused on providing argument, evidence, and analysis to management. All efforts were disputed and ignored.

In 2000, I formed the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest (the Campaign). For

the next 11 years, I spent the major share of my energy and time on the Campaign. Our first effort was to develop a set of moderately improved goals for JDSF. When we took them to management in Sacramento, their response was, "We are already doing all that you want!" I was to learn that this is always their attitude.



Having learned this lesson, in June of 2000, the Campaign filed suit to halt all further logging in JDSF on grounds that their management plan was badly out of date. After the suit was filed, management halted further logging pending outcome of the suit. We won that suit and four more follow-on cases challenging the adequacy of their environmental analyses in support of their logging plans.

The legal actions halted all logging in Jackson Forest for nine years. Without these actions, JDSF would have been cutting 38 million board feet of timber per year, focusing on the oldest and biggest trees, often using various types of clearcuts.

In 2006, while JDSF was still tied up in court, for the first time ever, the Director of the California Department of Forestry (CDF, now Cal Fire) invited me to talk. He had been recently appointed, brought in from a municipal fire position, and had no ties to timber or JDSF. We quickly reached agreement to attempt to develop a long-term plan for management of JDSF that

would satisfy all interests—recreational, environmental, research, and the Mendocino timber interests.

In 2008, after the consensus planning process was well underway and CDF had agreed to a continued halt on new THPs until the process was completed, I agreed to settle the current lawsuit and allow (significantly modified) logging of the two THPs that had been enjoined since 2002. In retrospect, I should not have given up this leverage.

To make a long and arduous story short, an advisory group with leaders from every JDSF-related interest group met over the next five years, intensively for two and one-half years. Almost miraculously, the advisory group reached complete consensus on a plan that allocated significant parts of the forest to be logged only in ways that would enhance return toward old growth, required all other logging to be done in ways consistent with future restoration of old growth, reduced all types of clearcutting to very low levels, required that timber operations done for research purposes needed to be tied to a specific, well-developed, peer-reviewed research project, and provided for greatly enhanced recreation opportunities.

After the final votes were taken by the advisory group, in my naiveté, I thought I had accomplished what seemed unimaginable 11 years prior. All factions were in agreement. I and the Campaign's supporters celebrated.

I was to be taught another lesson. The Department of Forestry is not a monolithic organization. Although the then-current leadership was committed to the consensus process when it began, the Director changed before it ended. The old guard at JDSF and the department had

always been outraged over losing their control to a bunch of tree huggers. In the end, they had their way.

For the consensus plan to be adopted and legal, the Board of Forestry had to approve it, which I thought was a mere formality because all parties had come to consensus agreement. The old guard had other ideas. Working in secret with a forester member of the Board of Forestry, devastating amendments were made to the consensus plan. The amended plan was brought before the Board on July 13, 2011, with no warning to any of the parties to the consensus. Without any opposition, the Board approved the amendments. I learned the meaning of perfidy.

On September 11, 2011, I resigned from all connections to JDSF and CDF and walked away from the forest that I had devoted so much of my life to. It was too painful. I did not look back for ten years, until a new group of citizens of the coast, led by Chad Swimmer and John O'Brien, organized the New Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest. Gradually, they reengaged me, and now I am fully committed to assisting the New Campaign. In my prior years of engagement, I collected a wealth of information and experience. I made CDF face up to hard truths before. I expect to help do this again.

## Now

### The Mendocino Trail Stewards: When Does a Struggle Become a Movement?

By Chad Swimmer

I am on the phone explaining why the Trail Stewards have not yet filed a lawsuit to stop the Mitchell Creek timber harvest plan. "You see, officially there is a limited



The beginning of Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest (CRJSF). CRJSF was a Trees Foundation Partner Group for many years, publishing regular updates from Vince Taylor in *Branching Out*. You can read the full history of the campaign at [www.jacksonforest.org](http://www.jacksonforest.org).  
PHOTO TREES FOUNDATION ARCHIVES





The Mama Tree, site of a treesit since the beginning of April, 2021, as well as a gathering place for community, resistance, and young artistic talent.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MENDOCINO TRAIL STEWARDS

window to initiate litigation. We can't submit before Cal Fire approval and then we have only thirty days to..." I am interrupted by my seven-year-old, who sticks his gap-toothed face in mine to exclaim knowingly: "Blah blah, blah blah... blah." He has heard this all before, is nearly an authority on the subject, but he'd rather talk fighter planes and knock-knock jokes, not to mention the 729-piece Mendocino Trail Stewards Legos set he'll be designing soon. And he'd really prefer that I take a break from trying to save the trees. But he knows, and my wife does as well, that I can't step back now, at this uncertain threshold. Will the Trail Stewards make any headway with the state? Can we save Jackson? Have we inadvertently rekindled a movement?

The struggle to change the legislative mandate of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) has certainly consumed the lives of many of us.

When the Trail Stewards was founded last March, fear of the oncoming pandemic held the whole nation in thrall. Meanwhile, we were safe in our little corner of the republic, with next to no cases, literally worried as much about losing access to our favorite mountain bike trails as about dying from SARS-COVID-2. We weren't oblivious to the problems that define us now—logging, climate, wildfire, water scarcity—but we had been spared from seeing the worst of Cal Fire's forest management practices, partly by Vince Taylor's successful lawsuit, which shut down logging from 2001 to 2008. Just as important, the size of JDSF has allowed the bulk of the operations since then to occur miles away, a couple ridges over. Our entire objective then was a 5,000-acre recreation-priority reserve.

Fifteen months later, in the midst of another record-breaking heat wave, the entire state mired in drought emergency,

we have become a whole different creature. The Caspar 500 THP, with famous mountain bike trails right in my backyard has become the site of an iconic tree sit. The Mama Tree grove has become a place where children have immersed themselves in nature, community has gathered, and music has been played—that is, until the second week of June when logging operations started, activists stepped forward, and this became yet another front in the international struggle to change human beings' abusive relationship with the natural world.

The Trail Stewards are now part of two coalitions: the Mendocino Environmental Action Collaborative and the Coalition to Save Jackson State Forest, groups that include the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Mama Tree Mendo, the Mendocino Institute, Redwood Nation Earth First!, the Grassroots Institute, Families for the Forest, the Pacific Alliance for Indigenous Environmental Action, and the Environmental Protection Information Center, among others. Nearly every state official with any connection to forests or natural resources is aware of our existence and has been forced to consider our cause.

Large trees, unfortunately, are falling now, but no longer in some far corner of California, light years away from Sacramento. Mendocino County is in the spotlight. Where fifteen months ago we didn't know how to read nor submit comments on a timber harvest plan, we are now instrumental in disseminating the information that makes this movement possible. Our target is now the entire 50,000 acres of JDSF—and more: we want to change the management of the state forest system, to get Cal Fire out of forest management so they are free to do what they do best: fight fires.





Young activist Amari Fishman at a June 2021 protest organized by Mendocino Trail Stewards. PHOTO BY ISAAC FISHMAN

More importantly, we are not alone. The struggle to save Jackson has captured the imagination of children as young as five. We have received donations from places as far away as Maine and Florida. If we were to close up shop today, others would continue onward, setting their lives aside for this gem of a forest.

We have gone beyond the tangible. Saving JDSF has become central to the very identities of many people we have never met, all over California. We are

standing on the shoulders of the First Campaign to Restore Jackson, but we have tapped into a greater store of energy, uncorked a genie's bottle. These grand redwoods, understated trillium, delicate wine-colored agarics, and diminutive but garrulous Winter Wrens have wormed their way into the hearts of many who now embrace them as their own. We are now the New Campaign to Restore Jackson State Forest, and we welcome you all with open arms.

## Then & Now! Luna

A Few of Our Partners Revisit Projects From Years Past and Share Where They Stand Today

### Then

from Trees Foundation's *Branching Out*, Winter 1998/99

#### Butterfly's Occupation Reaches One Year

As winter storms began to descend upon Humboldt County and the longest night of the year approached, a lone vigil continued, high atop an ancient redwood that has come to be known to the world as Luna. A vigil, slowly yet determinedly moving past full circle, touched by each of the seasons in turn—is now again visited by winter's snows and cold. A vigil that has left many wondering how long; how much longer will our sister endure.

Julia Butterfly Hill awoke to the morning sun of December 10, 1998, having lived in her platform among Luna's branches for exactly one year. While the community on the ground below prepared for the celebrations marking this event, and protests to

follow over the course of the next few days, Julia made a simple affirmation: "My feet will not touch the ground until I feel I have done everything in my power to make the world aware of this problem and to stop the destruction," quietly stated the woman who would soon find herself at the center of a world-wide media spotlight. And her feet did not touch the ground.

Hundreds gathered at the Mateel Community Center on the evening of December 10 to celebrate and share in the music of Mickey Hart, Bob Weir, KVHW, and Alice DiMichele, while Julia listened in from Luna through a live broadcast of the concert on KMUD community radio. Joining those in attendance, as she has so many times before in both spirit and via cell phone, she sent an inspiring message to the crowd before joining Hart, Planet Drum, along with Weir as a part of the performance. Julia's poem "Offerings to Luna" had been set to music by the former Grateful Dead members. Their

sound crew linked Julia to the show through a microphone and monitor. It was a moment that none of those who experienced it will ever forget as Butterfly's beautiful and haunting poem was delivered from the top of an ancient tree 30 miles away. The performance was repeated again on New Year's Eve in Oakland—this time before 8,000 people gathered at the Henry J. Kaiser auditorium to celebrate the turn of the year.

Media attention to the Luna tree-sit and the fate of the Headwaters Forest grew to a tremendous level, with Julia and the action's media and ground-support persons getting little sleep and keeping up a frenzied pace in the days surrounding the anniversary. Hour after hour was filled with dozens of radio and print interviews conducted over the phone from the tree. Ground-support hiked up TV crews, photographers, and writers from sometimes two different outlets at a time to climb into Luna's



heights and interview Julia, on a daily basis for three solid weeks. During this time Luna Media Services scrambled to coordinate the effort and facilitate (with the assistance of Headwaters Action Video Collective), international distribution of a video news release. In the end, people on literally every continent (except Antarctica) became aware of the situation in our forests through the front pages of newspapers, magazines, television features, and radio interviews.

Community activity on the ground peaked on December 12, in what was to become one of the largest trespass actions onto Pacific Lumber land to ever occur. At noon that day, more than 800 people gathered in the small North Coast town of Stafford; site of the New Years Day 1997 mudslide that originated in a Pacific Lumber clear-cut and destroyed seven homes in the town below. The rally was a day of celebration for the one-year occupation of Luna, and a protest of the highly contested Pacific Lumber Habitat Conservation Plan—a plan that if approved will certainly guarantee that Stafford will not be the last town to experience the effects of PL's forest mis-management. The plan would also sacrifice thousands of acres of trees as magnificent as Luna, which is located directly adjacent to the devastating slide's origin. Highlighting the rally was the award of an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities to Julia by the New College, one of the nation's leading alternative institutions of higher learning; speeches by a number of residents and activists from local communities, and musical



This 2020 photo of the chainsaw cut made by a vandal in 2000 shows Luna growing over the cut. Luna is healing! PHOTO BY STUART MOSKOWITZ

entertainment provided by both Darryl Cherney and Jim Page. Throughout the day people began slowly trickling up the road leading into the PL holdings above Stafford and onto the steep trail that leads to Luna. By rally's end that trickle turned into a flood as more than 400 people risked arrest to visit Julia, celebrate together, and pack in two months' worth of supplies to sustain the tree-sit. Ground support and Julia worked well into the night, long after the crowd had departed, hauling food and equipment into the tree. Pacific Lumber's response to the local press regarding the rally and mass trespass: "No comment."

The busy days for those involved in the Luna tree-sit have now moved away from a focus on the anniversary and its related efforts, but still remain as filled with activity as ever. On the evening of the winter Solstice,

Luna was illuminated with dozens of flashing lights, all donated by supporters and clearly visible from US Highway 101, again garnering international media attention.

*"On this, the longest and darkest night of the year, Luna will shine as a beacon of hope for our forests, communities and our children," said Julia*

*"This tree will stand bright and tall, reminding each of us that in this time of sharing we must come together to find solutions."*

That message to the world from high atop an ancient tree in Humboldt County continues to spread. Luna remains a beacon of hope, standing tall, yet her future is uncertain as we move closer to the Millennium. The time of celebration has begun and must continue to evolve toward a focus on the plight of our ancient forests.



Julia Butterfly Hill continues to play her part in this endeavor—giving protection to Luna and filling her days strategizing, organizing, and calling out to people far and wide. But her, and our, actions are not limited to one tree or one individual. The Luna tree-sit is about all of us doing everything that we can to protect wild places everywhere, to become responsible inhabitants of this planet, and to support all efforts to this end. Each of us has our own personal ‘tree’ to sit in, and individually and as a community we must take action to protect that ‘tree.’ In our acknowledgement of this, Julia Butterfly will have achieved her greatest victory—and the spirit of Luna will permanently inhabit our hearts and the forest.

## Now

**By Stuart Moskowitz,**

*Sanctuary Forest Board of Directors*

In December 1999, Julia Butterfly Hill entered into an agreement with Pacific Lumber Company creating a conservation easement protecting Luna forever. It ended Julia’s two-year treesit, where Luna served as her microphone for speaking to the world about sustainable forestry. In 2008, the easement transferred to the Humboldt Redwood Company.

Sanctuary Forest, a land trust, monitors this easement. My name is Stuart. I serve on Sanctuary Forest’s board of directors. Twenty-two years ago, I volunteered to take the lead monitoring this easement. This Luna story took a dark turn in November 2000 when a vandal chainsawed halfway through her trunk. Experts predicted that Luna would die from the top down within 2 to 5 years.



Stuart Moskowitz at base of Luna in 2019 with, from left to right —Sanctuary Forest Board Members Janice Parakilas, and Women’s Forest Sanctuary members Susan Werner and Robin Reiss. PHOTO BY SUSAN PARSONS

While some dieback did occur at the very top, Luna has thrived and grown.

Luna continues to serve as a microphone. Photographers, authors, researchers, and filmmakers, among others, still hear her call from around the world. Four detailed updates can be found at the bottom of this webpage: <https://sanctuaryforest.org/programs/land-conservation/luna/>. The last one was written in 2015. This short fifth update focuses on the people who, since 2015, have kept Luna’s story alive through books, movies, theatre, lectures, and more.

The German weekly, *Die Zeit*, in 2016 sent science editor Fritz Habekuss to Luna. His story, *Die Frau Im Baum (The Woman*

*in the Tree)* was published the following year. [www.zeit.de/2018/01/julia-hill-mammutbaum-baumbesetzung-abholzung-kalifornien](http://www.zeit.de/2018/01/julia-hill-mammutbaum-baumbesetzung-abholzung-kalifornien)

In October 2016, Camera Lucida Productions sent a film crew from France. They filmed Luna for five days for a documentary titled *Survivors, the story of two ancient trees and their caretakers*. Interestingly, Luna was paired with a 500-year-old Japanese potted Bonsai. The film aired on European Public Television but has not been released in the United States. A 3-minute trailer, with beautiful drone footage, can be seen at <https://sanctuaryforest.org/programs/land-conservation/luna/>



In 2017, National Geographic featured Luna in a story not about big or tall or old trees, but about wise trees. It's written and photographed by Len Jenshel and Diane Cook. A book called *Wise Trees*, published by Abrams Press, soon followed. <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/04/remarkable-trees-earth-day-pictures>.

Lauraine LeBlanc told her story *For The Love Of Luna* in the *Mad River Union* in November 2017. <https://madriverrunion.com/for-the-love-of-luna/>

2017 also welcomed the children's book *Julia Räddar Skogen (Julia Saves the Forest)*, written by the Swedish author Niklos Hill. Telling the story to children keeps it alive for future leaders! This is the second children's book; Jenny Sue KostECKI-Shaw wrote *Luna And Me* in 2015.

Children telling the story strengthen the movement even more. Zoe Macknicki, age 12, accompanied me to Luna in November 2017. Zoe was researching Luna for her History Day project, which won prizes at local and state 2018 competitions; she was awarded "Best Junior Exhibit on California History."

Nobody tells the story better than Julia herself. In November 2017, she did two interviews on KHSU radio with Geraldine Goldberg as part of a series called "Through the Eyes of Women." Both interviews can be heard at <http://khsu.org/post/julia-butterfly-20-years-later-part-ii>

Elizabeth Mozer, a theatre arts professor at Binghamton State University of New York, includes the Luna story in her current project, a play called *Natural Causes*. It focuses on people risking their lives for environmental causes, especially tree sitters. Elizabeth visited Luna in June 2019.



Stuart Moskowitz, the documenter, gets documented. PHOTO COURTESY STUART MOSKOWITZ

In 2020, George Ella Lyon wrote *Voices Of Justice: Poems About People Working For A Better World*. Beautifully illustrated by Jennifer Potter, it introduces children to some of the biggest voices advocating making the world a better place. Julia Butterfly Hill's message appears alongside Nelson Mandela, Jane Goodall, Greta Thunberg, and others. Putting Julia in the company of these immensely respected activists elevates all their messages and makes Luna's microphone even stronger.

California State Park interpretive rangers told their version, *Lunchtime At Luna*, live via Facebook feed, in October 2020. Watch it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCHss05672c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCHss05672c)

A graphic novel version is currently in the works at <https://risingeartheducation.org/graphic-novels-1>

I suppose, as caretaker of the easement, I have a story, too. Besides writing these "Luna Updates" these past five years, I've given many presentations. I've presented in classrooms, museums, libraries, and

the Eureka Zoo. I've told the story for the Global Organization of Tree Climbers, and I talked remotely to more than 130 treetop camps in 25 countries around the world via Zoom and Instagram for their 2020 Big Canopy Campout. The link to my PowerPoint presentation is at <https://sanctuaryforest.org/big-canopy-campout-2020-interview-with-stuart-moskowitz/>.

The story continues. The cables and brackets supporting the tree have been weathering for 21 years; maintenance will be needed. Sanctuary Forest and Humboldt Redwood Company anticipate working together on a strategy that's best for Luna. These cooperative efforts bring environmentalists and loggers together, creating space for other topics, too. Working cooperatively helps bridge our differences.

In closing, the 2020 photo of the chainsaw cut (page 17) shows Luna growing over the cut. Luna is healing herself!

🌲 For more information:  
[stuart@humboldt.edu](mailto:stuart@humboldt.edu)



And many more!

# Julia Butterfly Hill

## Then & Now!

Julia Butterfly Hill ascended Luna—a giant 1,500-year-old redwood tree near Stafford, California—in December 1997. She lived in Luna for 738 days, until finally descending in December 1999 when an agreement was made with Pacific Lumber Company that protected Luna and a 200-foot buffer zone surrounding the tree.

*Julia Butterfly Hill was interviewed on June 23, 2021 by Trees Foundation's Director of Development and Outreach, Kerry Reynolds.*

**Kerry Reynolds:** It's been over 23 years since you ascended Luna in December of 1997, beginning your two-year treesit. We're interested in hearing how you've been doing and how your work has carried on.

**Julia Butterfly Hill:** Yeah, it's amazing how much time has flown by. It's like, I recently have had to sort through some old files and photos and things, and seeing myself grow up and I do not look like such a baby, and now I have all grey hair. [laugh]

For the first seven years after I came down from Luna, I averaged 250 events a year, so I pretty much hit the ground running. People are always shocked that I'm an introvert, but I'm an extreme introvert. I remind people, like, how long do you think an extrovert would have lasted by themselves in a tree in the middle of nowhere? Only an extreme introvert could do what I did, but then the trees told me when I was up there, they said, "Julia, just like when you go to a new country, you need a translator, nature needs translators...We've been communicating since the beginning of time, and people have forgotten how to listen, and they're going to listen to you, so we need you to do this."



Julia in Luna in 1998. ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE FROM TREES FOUNDATION'S ARCHIVES

Honestly, in many ways, becoming a public person was much, much, much harder than all the other stuff I went through in the tree, from them trying to kill me, to nature almost killing me, and everything else—it was becoming public and learning how to communicate. I never even used to talk for years—I could go for hours and hours and hours without saying one word. But because of the attention and energy that came at me, I felt responsible to do something with it.

That's actually why I started Circle of Life, and part of why I'm so grateful for Trees Foundation. I had a few different opportunities that were going to bring in money, and finally I had a way to try and build a team to help take the energy that was coming at me and project it back out into the world. Because if it just stayed on me, it was the Julia Butterfly show, and I was never interested in that. That's not why I went through what I went through. I would have come down on day 100 or something. [laugh] I wanted to take that spotlight and all the energy and power,

perceived or otherwise, that came with it and use it to make a difference in the world.

So Trees Foundation was actually our first incubator, to help us build and grow. I came from the business world, I had never done non-profit anything, so it was a really big learning curve for me. Without Trees, I wouldn't have had that capacity to start building upon and leveraging all that stuff that was coming at me.

While I was in Luna, I learned that every issue we're facing is the symptom, and the disease is the disease of disconnect. When we're disconnected from the Earth and we're disconnecting from each other, we make choices and don't realize how it's truly impacting all of us, and that means all the beings, everything, and the future generations. I wanted to try and help weave that together for people, that if...we're working on the symptoms, if we don't work also at the disease, we'll never be able to get to the healing that our world and our planet needs.

**KR:** So looking back in 2021, we have such challenges still, and the climate crisis... What would your advice be to someone today who is wanting to protect what we have and restore the ecosystems that are falling apart?

**JBH:** Well, I would say probably the same thing I've been saying for years, which is number one, thank you...If you wake up in the world today for the last long, many years, and you ask yourself, "What can I do today to make the world a better place?" and you care about the world, that's an act of courage right there. I mean, that is the salmon swimming upstream. [laugh]

I've always talked about how the word "courage," the root word for courage is *coeur*, from the French, which means

“heart.” So any time we are willing to wake up in the midst of all these challenges we are facing and ask ourselves: What would my heart guide me to say, think, and do today about whatever it is—whether it’s the global climate instability, to how we’ve become so disconnected as a human family, where we’re all picking sides and setting up camps and tents and choosing who’s right and who’s wrong.

Whatever it may be, if we wake up and ask ourselves that, we will find a way to sustain, versus if we’re just like, “I hate the corporations” or “I’m mad at the government.” Because that’s how I started in Luna. When I got to the top of Luna for the first time, and I looked and I saw the Maxxam Pacific Lumber Company, no joke, the first words out of my mouth were, “Wow, what I could do with a good rocket launcher from here.” That was my thought, that if we could just take that [the lumber mill] out, the scenery would completely change. Of course, that’s not true, but that was my first reaction, and over time that anger was eating me away, and I also saw it eating away a lot of other activists.

That kind of anger is a candle burning at both ends, and it consumes us and really doesn’t affect or change anything or anyone else but ourselves. So I started telling people—it’s still true for me today—that if you’re not angry at the world, you’re not awake. But do we choose to do what we do out of our anger, or do we choose to do what we do out of our love?



Anger is actually the defense mechanism for us feeling pain about something, someone, or somewhere that we care about that is being hurt, violated, destroyed, or threatened. So when we feel that anger, if we can go beneath it to our heart and put our heart or love into action, then no matter what the outcome, we will be able to sustain because we don’t really know the outcomes.

We protected Luna and the grove around it, and then some angry people, because Luna was a symbol, went and attacked Luna. Even after I came down, I had to have a lot of security for a long time because of how many threats of attacks and attempted attacks that were on me. So ever since I’ve come down, I’ve been able to be a part of a lot of wins, but I’ve also given a whole lot to some things that we’ve lost, and if it wasn’t my heart generating my actions unattached to outcome, I would be depleted and exhausted and not willing to participate any more.

**KR:** We know that you went through a lot of challenges and trauma while in Luna, and that you’ve also had some real challenges in the last few years. Can you talk about some of the challenges you’re facing, and maybe some of the projects that you are interested in or are working on?

**JBH:** Well, unfortunately, I’ve not been able to do as much as I would like because ever since 2014 I’ve basically gotten clobbered by one thing after another. My way of dealing with difficulties is humor and it is oftentimes twisted. So I tell people that not only does the universe keep ripping the rug out from underneath me, but then it rolls it up and beats the crap out of me. [laugh]

So I was living in the tropics, which I love. I had so many injuries from before Luna that being in the warmth next to the sea is one of the few places where my body doesn’t hurt... I have severe asthma that got worse after all the inhaling of all that smoke up in Luna from the clearcut



burning. But I was getting more and more sick and couldn’t figure out why, and I came back to the United States in 2014 and ended up getting rear-ended twice in two weeks at the end of 2014. I had been hit by a drunk driver and it totaled my body in 1996, which was part of the path that led me to Luna. So the next two [car accidents].... I had spent all these years building support systems around all the injuries, and so the first hit kind of took the support systems down, then the second hit totaled me. And it did no damage to the car, so no lawyer would take my case, and so the insurance of the woman who hit me paid for the ER visit, and that was it, and it took four and a half years and two hip replacements to be able to move free of pain again.

And so insurance covers doctors’ visits, or physical therapy or prescription medication, but it doesn’t cover chiropractic, it doesn’t cover sports medicine, massage, it doesn’t cover all those things that I had to do to be able to function again. At the same time, my sickness went through the roof, and I figured out (because I’d been misdiagnosed like 10 years earlier) that the illness I had was late-stage Lyme disease. It severely damaged me, gave me a heart attack, made my brain really foggy

and messed up for quite some time. There were days where I couldn't even lift this glass of water. I couldn't trust that I'd be able to even lift it and not drop it. It was really, really severe.

Then finally, I was starting to get better. I was doing a few projects, I helped with a really cool project in Alabama with a nonprofit rebuilding the downtown area in Greensboro, Alabama. It's built through community ownership so that it can't get gentrified and bought out. They're taking buildings that are literally falling apart and using almost all reclaimed and reused and repurposed materials, and winning awards, and building houses for people who don't have them—incredible work.

So I've done a few things there. I just have been a little bit more from behind the scenes because of all my injuries and illness. Then I finally started feeling better, and then I inadvertently, without ever meaning to or expecting to, met my soulmate. And it blew my heart wide open in a way that's only comparable to Luna, and six months later, they were dead from cancer. And then I was just stuck for a long time, I just was lost, I could barely get out of bed....

I started doing some odd jobs (I'm very good as a plant-based chef, and I'm good at gardening, designing, and things like that) and then COVID hit. Because of my Lyme disease, I'm a big target for COVID, so I laid low for a long time. Then I came back to the Bay Area where the woman

I call my sister lives. I bought a van and was going to convert it as kind of my new living space, but...I was driving my little car, and I was at a stoplight and I got rear-ended for the fourth time, this time in a hit and run. It will be a year ago July 15th, and I still can't walk longer than 10 minutes without being in pain, and I cannot drive longer than 45 minutes without being in pain. The doctors had said, we've done everything we can, it's just gonna take years of physical therapy and all those things that I've been doing for years to get to some point where I won't hurt as bad. So unfortunately, the news since 2014 has been freaking brutal, but I've still been able to help projects that I care about.

**KR:** Is there a fund or website where people can make donations to support your recovery?

**JBH:** There is a support button on my website [[www.juliabutterflyhill.com](http://www.juliabutterflyhill.com)] to support my work, but if they need a tax write-off, it would need to go through Circle of Life, and there's not an email or anything on that website. We closed the public face of [Circle of Life] years ago, because basically it had become the Julia Butterfly Hill fan club, and everybody wanting and needing me and nothing coming in. I was working my butt off to generate the income as well as be everything to everybody. And finally I was like, 'Why am I doing this?' I think it's my heart longing to serve, but the rest of you is like, 'Girl, you have got to stop.'

[Editor's Note: To inquire about making a tax-deductible donation through Circle of Life, you may email [trees@treesfoundation.org](mailto:trees@treesfoundation.org)]

So we closed the public face and then we did a lot of thought and research, and we decided to keep the [nonprofit] status, and it's been great because we've been able to help launch many different projects...We're fiscally sponsoring a couple that have to do with regenerative farming with Indigenous people and People of Color. One of the things I've been passionate about...with the climate is regenerative farming, where we're actually farming to put carbon back into the soil and create healthy food for communities in need. So we've been able to do a lot of really cool things behind the scenes, and that feels like the next stage in the life of Circle of Life.

**KR:** When you look back on your time in Luna, what are the things that you are most grateful for?

**JBH:** Well, the one thing I want to make sure and say right now is how grateful I am to the various [members of the] ground support team—especially the last nine months [in the tree], we had a really solid team—and the folks who were working in the office. In all of my talks, I've always told people that I might be famous for what I did, but all that means is more people are up in my business. [laugh] But the truth is, without my ground support risking arrest to bring up food and supplies, and pack out waste; and without the people answering the emails and the phone...like now we have phones [that] I could have answered the emails from the tree, but back then, NO. [laugh]

Without each person, we wouldn't have had the success we had. And I also use that as an example, whenever I've done talks, workshops, interviews, anything... people will sometimes look at what I did and say, "Well, I could never do that" and I always tell people, number one: neither



Julia, with Tryphena Lewis (l) and Nancy Waters (r), on the day she came down from Luna.  
PHOTO BY DALE HILL



could have I. You know, if you had told me on the day that I was standing at the base of that tree, you're gonna go spend the next two years and go through all this stuff, I would have laughed, I would have screamed, and I would have run back down the mountain, you know? [laugh]

So the first thing I tell people is, our mind is the biggest obstacle. But secondly, I tell people that support team is crucial! So if you're not the person meant to be in the tree, you are someone who's meant to support some kind of energy, whatever that may be—for the animals, around nuclear, around climate change, around our children, our elders, whatever it is—every position on the team is vital! Because without it, you don't have the same strengths.

So that's what I want to make sure and say thank you to. Just like, thank you to Trees [Foundation] because without Trees [Foundation] being that bridge for me, all the attention and energy was coming at me, and we would NOT have been able to do the same kind of work we were able to do with the help of Trees.

Every single person was vital to the success and continues to be. Stewart [Moskowitz] is the ongoing angel of Luna;

Sanctuary Forest is holding the covenant agreement—like, the team continues! [laugh] And who knows what that team will be like in 100 years...There's a million things I could be grateful for, but I think the thing that's most important for me to say is thank you to this team and how important team is, and how there is a role on EVERY team for EVERY one.

**KR:** It's hard for people today to understand even just how diverse that network of groups was. There was Trees Foundation, there was Earth First!, Sanctuary Forest, EPIC, others I'm sure, all working all together. It couldn't have been easy.

**JBH:** The diversity of people involved created some real challenges, but it was also one of my greatest teachers. It's like, if nature needs diversity in order to be beautiful and healthy and strong, then we need the same thing for our movements. And even if we don't all AGREE, we have to find a way to be different and still be okay with that, and find ways to support one another in our growth, and our beauty, in our health for our communities.

It was a really special time. Clearly, the universe and Luna called me at just the right time. If there hadn't been all that

work done up to the point where I came along, who's to say what would have happened? If there hadn't been all the work done by all the different groups while I was in the tree, who's to say what would happen?...We don't even have a way of calculating—this line goes with that, that line goes to that one—it's a ripple that spread around the world and continues to.

The story continues—it's taught in classrooms—it just has a life that is so much bigger than me, and in part it's because of the "we"... We can't put in a chart or graph how important our work was and is, but it is clear that it was all important. [It's like] when you have a really healthy soil, everything that grows out of it is going to be healthy, and a bird can fly by and drop the seed and it will grow... .

All of us together built this soil that all this stuff continues to grow from. Even when Luna got cut, incredibly diverse people from all walks of life came together to save Luna because Luna had become the symbol of what it means to be connected to one another, even when it's challenging. To me, that is a beautiful legacy of both. If the disease is the disease of disconnect, then the healing is all the ways that we can, and do, connect.



Julia during this Zoom interview on June 23, 2021.



# ing Healthy Land Stewardship





# Diggin' In *Then & Now*

## The Richard Gienger Report

### *Then*

from Trees Foundation's *Branching Out*, Winter 1998-99, first Diggin' In

It's hard to know where to start in the midst of so many pressing issues about the forestland watersheds and people of California's North Coast. Perhaps it is best for me to go back to some of the personal perspectives that I and others brought here in the late 1960s and early 1970s — perspectives that have been tempered by about 30 years of living and loving, trials and tribulations, sharing and caring, pain, loss, and gain in Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

Of course, it would take a book and more to adequately cover all of that, so I'll just hit some of the highlights, and lowlights, to provide some background for this column's focus on the necessity for establishing a viable and sane future for the North Coast; an economy firmly grounded in conservation rather than none-sustainable extraction. The boom is over. The incredible volume and rate of removal of the North Coast's forests after World War II—was essentially over by the end of the 60's for most of the region.

The boom rendered the bust. New settlers, mainly 'back-to-the landers', and the remnant 'old timers', shared a landscape

devastated by the uncontrolled tractor-logging and huge floods of 1955 and 1964. The designated 'hippies' were consciously searching for perspective and models on which to base a sustainable life for themselves and their children. The model before them, with a skid trail every 50 yards, ravaged hillsides and streams, and ghost town junctions, didn't seem to be it. A lot of time was spent searching out elders and their perspectives. Ray Raphael's book, *An Everyday History of Somewhere*, was a manifestation of that need. Copies of Gladys Ayer Nomland's *Sinkyone Notes from the Briceland Book Store* were commonly found on homesteaders' bookshelves and gave both hope for restoring some ancient balances, and a horrifying glimpse at the genocide perpetrated by a colonial mentality...

The current effort to protect the precious remnants of the original forest, to restore the damaged watersheds, and to establish a truly sustainable forestland economy persisted and persists. For example, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) of Garberville, founded during the aerial herbicide-spray wars in the 70's, continues its efforts with special focus on coho salmon, marbled murrelet, and the Headwaters Forest. The Institute for Sustainable Forestry carries on Jan Iris' vision of smallscale restoration forestry applied on a regional basis. Community-based watershed groups, including commercial salmon fishers and Tribes, seek and carry out contracts for road repair and watershed and fisheries rehabilitation. There are hundreds of such organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest...

In summary, we are at a crossroads. The coho salmon are listed as threatened



This was taken during a tour involving UC Extension and Cal Fire, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, and other public and government persons. Shown is some fairly recently cut-over land in the foreground with some of the recovering "real forest" beyond. Note the large old-growth redwood stump near the center of the photo. Several controversies are raging. How much recovery is enough given current conditions and imperatives? How can the situation and decisions be transparent enough, with truly qualified multidisciplinary and public equity participation, to make a clear set of alternatives, and to select the best given the historical, cultural, climate imperatives? The needed standards have been failed to be set for JDSF and for all of California's forests. In the battle for the implementation of the 1973 Forest Practice Act, the industry strong-armed the legislators to avoid enforceable standards and give sway to "professional discretion." This led to the continued depredation of the forests allowing for the adverse conditions that will not be corrected with lower quality forests, massive thinning feeding biomass plants all over the state, with "professional" claims that the massive amounts of CO2 produced will all be removed and piped into underground strata.

ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY RICHARD GIENGER

or endangered in California. At least 19 water bodies, including the Eel River system, the Mattole, Elk River, and Freshwater Creek, are listed as impaired by the Environmental Protection Agency, with a schedule established for achieving corrective measures in the coming months and years for each watershed. The industry-dominated Board and Department of Forestry have failed, for over twenty years, to establish adequately implemented procedures for protection and restoration of timberland productivity and the beneficial uses of water... The residents of Elk River and Freshwater Creek are suffering 20-year or larger flood events due to increased filling of channel capacity, with sediment and increased runoff from depleted forest cover resulting from Pacific Lumber's (PL) liquidation logging. Most Humboldt County residents are left with three options for livelihood: work as minions of the extractive model for PL and other large companies, work for some form of the government, or work as an 'outlaw'—not a good set of options.

The upshot: A viable alternative—one that gives people the choice and chance to earn a livelihood based on conservation—must be established. A conservation model is already available if current laws and regulations were adequately implemented. Thousands of people should and can be employed in the arts and sciences of watershed recovery, and in the implementation and monitoring of recovery measures. Thrashed timberland needs to be acquired for long-term stewardship. Enforcement of adequate conservation measures should range from heavy penalties for continued blatant excesses by companies like PL, to meaningful incentives for small landowners, like large tax breaks and large cost shares that enable adequate assessments, recovery plans, implementation, and monitoring. The creation of small businesses that

contract for watershed recovery measures is an important part of the change that needs to be made. We must be inspired to a team effort that unites the people in conserving and sustaining the forestland resources that support us and future generations. We need a new process now, and we need your help!

## *Now*

### **The Saga Continues Richard Gienger's Diggins' In 2021**

The Board of Forestry continues to suppress the public and pretty much pander to the plantation industry on everything. One example is failing to implement the promised reforms of AB 1492 since its passage into law in 2012 that funds "Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration" from taxes/fees paid by the public for retail lumber products. There has also been failure to implement the standards for quality timber products and forests called for by the 1973 Forest Practice Act. They have presided over the change from a broader oversight of forestry to a top-grade emergency and fire-fighting entity with standards for forest stewardship lost in the panic and scale of catastrophic fires.

The general California State focus is on huge scale and technology while slighting real solutions on the smaller local scales that make a difference and can reconnect human rural communities to long-term forest relationship and recovery.

The public is mobilized through the cutting of large second growth in Jackson to make the reforms that have been continually bypassed but are necessary NOW. Pacific Forest Trust snappily put it in a short video: "Keeping the Forest in Forestry."

Following is a letter I wrote on behalf of Forests Forever and Why Forests Matter regarding Jackson Demonstration State Forest. People are standing up for the

forest on many levels as I write. A hellacious coalition is coming together. People talk about the so-called timber wars being all about old growth. They weren't just over that then and they certainly aren't now. The contention is over the whole forest. Go to Mendocino Trail Stewards for starters.

27 April 2021

Some Perspectives on Forestry in California and the Immediate Crises Facing Forests in Jackson Demonstration State Forest and in California

To the Department & Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Sacramento & Fort Bragg, California

Dear ALL

I have had some direct overview and experience in North Coast and California forest and watershed issues since 1971, and have read and listened extensively to a wide range of relevant stories and accounts covering a much wider amount of time. A lot of this overview and experience has involved direct evaluation of conditions, including planning and implementation of forest and watershed recovery measures. Other overviews and experiences include administrative, legal, and legislative contention over forest practices and restoration, as well as helping to raise three, now adult, children mostly on a windswept ridge over the Pacific.

Some may think this is a rash thing to say, but I think people need to step back a bit and take the time to get a long view on suitable care of the North Coast lands and peoples that is not continued blind, heedless, and harsh application of the dominant paradigm of search and destroy. It greatly impressed me seeing a photo some years back in a Laytonville calendar showing the smoking town of Fort Bragg back in the 19th-century days, the stumps larger than the houses, which seem to be on the order of the "earthquake shacks" shown in a SF Chronicle story last week.

This is not to belittle the immensity of the effort that transformed the vibrant forests, rivers, and millennial living relationships into squose [pragmatic-utilitarian] communities mainly dependent on monetized and obliterated forests. The book is called *Big River Was Dammed* by W. Francis Jackson.

This is not to discredit the many examples of “civil society” that evolved, some of which were essential to bring protection to a few remnant areas of original forest and to enact conservation measures to some forested areas. I would strongly recommend the books, articles, and presentations by forester, industry, and government historian Tobe Arvola. There are others who need to be paid attention to like Emmanuel Fritz and Woodbridge Metcalf: incredible lifetime experiences and examples to pass forward.

I was told by the brilliant conservationist Richard Wilson, who was a major player in preventing the flooding of Round Valley with a dam at Dos Rios, and also was the

Director of the California Department of Forestry during the 1990s, that the legendary Emmanuel Fritz spoke to the leaders of the timber industry, and probably some legislators, toward the end of WW II. They were expecting him to lavish praise on them for their supportive role in WW II, and he may have, but his main message was for as much of the cutover and burned-over land as possible to be placed in a state forest system. There was huge resistance that prevented this from happening, although Jackson Demonstration State Forest was able to be established.

I am going to have to go to an oversimplified outline to take us from the ad valorem boom times from post WW II to its end in 1976 after the modern Forest Practice Act (FPA) of 1973. Then there are the complex and difficult changes that continue today, changes that are necessary to bring a true long-term conservation ethic for application to forested watersheds and elsewhere. It is very relevant of course to point out that the ravaged forest that was Jackson

Demonstration State Forest in 1947 now has at least three times more board footage per acre than comparable commercial-industrial managed forestlands. The State of California has a big role in this, both for restraint in Jackson (often requiring strong public action) and the cruel policy of the ad valorem tax that required annual taxation on standing timber until 70% was cut.

One of the biggest changes from the 1973 FPA was the actual incorporation of oversight and professional planning and approval of Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). All previous boom times from Atlantic to Pacific just required the capability to cut and haul logs from forest to market. Now a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) was required for THP approval. Not only that, but after the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was brought to bear, diluted down to a “functional equivalent” of an Environmental Impact Report (log trucks circling the State Capitol), other multidisciplinary involvement was required. Talk about a huge change! One of the most important disciplines that became engaged was/is geologic review. There is a much more detailed evolved process, under pressure from industry and Cal Fire.

What I do want to do is show how the California Department of Forestry (now Cal Fire) has had a very uneven record in being responsive to basic and essential aspects of public trust and regulatory and legal mandates. A lot of the problem has been lack of process transparency and true public engagement and participation. There has been some improvement from time to time, usually only after intense and difficult effort. There are too many examples to describe them all here, including the current issues at Jackson.

I'll give a few examples that I am personally familiar with. Some are part of the Sinkyone Wilderness Coast struggle and some are related to the Headwaters Forest saga. Off the top, note that CDF/CalFire is



Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) and Usal Redwood Forest (URF) Forester, Linwood Gill, gestures toward the clogged and hazardous stand of mainly Douglas-fir in the Standley Creek watershed. Standley Creek along with three other creeks in the URF that are tributary to the South Fork Eel River have been designated as high priority by CDFW and NOAA Fisheries for restoration of the vitally important coho & Chinook Salmon and steelhead refugia of the South Fork. RFFI and URF hope their proposed project for comprehensive forest and watershed recovery for Standley will be successful and implemented. Already there have been over 3 million dollars invested in a successful 6-stage, multi-year, multi-partner, road impact removal, and reduction project. The stand in this photo illustrates the typical mismanagement effects on northcoast forests since WWII that lays us open for catastrophic wildfire and drought.

the lead agency approving actions that were overturned by the courts in these examples. The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) won in California Appeals Court over what had become the Sally Bell Grove. In 1985 the Court ruled that CDF had failed to consider cumulative effects, failed to adequately consult with Indian Tribes and persons, failed to ensure that the Native American Heritage was being protected, and had violated required administrative procedures. One could make a fair argument that the same failure exists today over the current set of approved and submitted THPs. Prior to that ruling CDF had denied that the Grove and the THP constituted an Indian issue. At the Superior Court level, CDF plan approver Johnson, when asked whether he felt that CDF was required to consider cumulative impacts, replied, “No, but if they are, we did.”

In one of the many cases brought by EPIC and the Sierra Club against CDF PL/Maxxam over essential information required to evaluate significant adverse impacts, CDF sided with Maxxam in claiming that information about the actual existence of listed Marbled Murrelets in and their use of the THP area in question was not necessary.

A third egregious example was CDF claiming that there was no significant cumulative impact from a THP submitted before a 300,000-cubic-yard torrent ripped down the stream habitat-restored Bear Creek into the Eel River during the 1996-97 New Year’s storms. It was approved by them with the same claim in mid 1997. The Humboldt County judge backed them up—CDF is the lead agency, and if they say it’s OK, it’s OK.

I’m sure there are plenty of substantive allegations backing a halt and reset with the current operations approved or being proposed. Is Cal Fire trying to liquidate a major amount of large second-growth trees? Are these trees and other major

forest components a basic element for addressing climate issues into the future? Has planning gotten behind? Jackson is an essential model for the future—a model of great importance for achieving the long-term standards needed in all the forests in California—going way beyond a stepped-up scale of thinning and prescribed burning.

It behooves all involved parties to step back from logging in these recovering redwood areas containing large second growth—catch up with planning and appropriate actions for the multifaceted present and future. A double blue ribbon panel, with the best and broadest representation possible, should be selected ASAP. The panel should have up to two years, with adequate staffing and public review, to do the necessary work to come up with the right model and alternatives for Jackson. These must fulfill the promise of the healthy forest with a preponderance of older and larger trees shown on page 19 of the LAO California Forest and Watershed Report of April 2018. The obvious incentives exist for Jackson. The standards and incentives coming from this effort can be applied to the forests, watersheds, and future generations in California.

Sincerely,

Richard Gienger and on behalf  
of Forests Forever and  
Why Forests Matter

### **And here’s a couple of links for you**

One from John D. O’Brien, climate scientist, and one from Laurie Wayburn of Pacific Forest Trust with her perspective on the 7-million-acre North and Northeastern California project getting underway. This project is formally called “California FORESITE” implementing AB 2551 from 2018 legislation by Jim Wood. The official link below should get you conversant on multiple levels.

- <https://ucanr.edu/sites/california-Foresite/>
- [www.propublica.org/article/what-](http://www.propublica.org/article/what-)

## To Get Involved

 **Richard Gienger**  
[rgrocks@humboldt.net](mailto:rgrocks@humboldt.net)  
707/223-6474

 **EPIC**  
[wildcalifornia.org](http://wildcalifornia.org)

 **Forests Forever**  
[www.forestsforever.org](http://www.forestsforever.org)

 **Mendocino Trails Stewards**  
[mendocinotrailstewards.org](http://mendocinotrailstewards.org)

 **Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.**  
[www.rffi.org](http://www.rffi.org)

 **Sanctuary Forest**  
[sanctuaryforest.org](http://sanctuaryforest.org)

 **Why Forests Matter**  
[whyforestsmatter.org](http://whyforestsmatter.org)

*happened-when-a-public-institute-became-a-de-facto-lobbying-arm-of-the-timber-industry*

- <https://calmatters.org/commentary/my-turn/2021/06/watershed-restoration-is-key-to-a-climate-smart-future/>

One heartening bit of news, similar to what occurred this Spring in the Garcia River (see page 30), is that a surprise late surge of spawning Steelhead made it up the Mattole to lower spawning habitat in late April and even early May. Word has also come that the habitat improvement work in Sholes and Four Mile Creek last year seem to be now used by increased numbers of salmonid juveniles.

Please help out where and when you can. Check out the work and other information for Sanctuary Forest, the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF), EPIC, Forests Forever, Why Forests Matter, and Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. Thank you, Trees Foundation! – rg

*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.*

# The Garcia: A River in Strong Recovery After a 30-Year Effort

By Craig Bell

The strong recovery we are witnessing today in the Garcia River is thanks to a 30-year effort that began in 1991 when Mendocino County Supervisors approved the Garcia River Watershed Enhancement Plan (GRWEP, Caldon, Monschke, Higgins 1991). The GRWEP was the first watershed plan in the county (and maybe the state) that was produced by community stakeholders.

The Garcia River has benefited from the involvement of some of the best restoration practitioners and planners in California. This includes several groups in the Trees Foundation network—Mattole Restoration Council, the Salmonid Restoration Federation, and the Eel River Recovery Project led by Pat Higgins—as well as Pacific Watershed Associates, Bioengineering Associates, Jack Monschke, Mendocino Watershed Service, Trout Unlimited, Kier Associates, Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, Friends of the Garcia, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Soil Conservation Service, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Americorps Watershed Stewards, Northern California Association of River Guides, and others I have likely forgotten.

The GRWEP approved in 1991 spawned many subsequent plans produced through community-based meetings. These include:

- ◆ “Garcia River Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan” (Manglesdorf 1997). This plan, with its enforceable timelines, has been a game-changer for Garcia River recovery.
- ◆ Trout Unlimited’s North Coast Coho Project (Trafton, Bell 1998)
- ◆ KRIS Garcia (Higgins 2001), the most comprehensive source for Garcia River information
- ◆ “Evaluation of Garcia River Restoration with Recommendations for Future Projects” (TU Bell 2002)
- ◆ “Aquatic Recovery Strategy” (Bell 2006), part of the Conservation Fund Integrated Resource Management Plan (Griffin 2006)
- ◆ “Garcia River Watershed Planning and Coordination Plan” (Bell 2007).

When I first started fishing the Garcia River 40 years ago, the lower river was choked with mud and very fine sediment. If you walk the lower Garcia and the lower Gualala River, you can see how far the Garcia has recovered and how far the nearby Gualala River has to go.

For many years while guiding anglers I have been observing the recovery of healthy spawning gravels and pool depths in the lower 10 miles of the Garcia main stem. In response, increasing numbers of steelhead are choosing to stop their migration and spawn there, even in flows high enough to go anywhere in the watershed. I verified this drifting after each good-sized storm, when I could see that a new batch of chrome-bright steelhead were actively spawning. It is my opinion that they are recognizing the more than suitable gravels and that their juveniles are successfully rearing, out-migrating, and returning as adults. It is also my opinion that the lower main stem of the Garcia will be the driving force for steelhead production and recovery. Folks are under the impression that steelhead are those fish that spawn high up in watersheds. I believe that it was high levels of sediment pollution in the lower main stem(s) of coastal rivers that forced steelhead to upper reaches to find suitable gravels, and that their offspring survived and returned.

In his book *Salmon Without Rivers*, Jim Lichatowich chronicled how in virtually undisturbed rivers in Russia, salmon exhibited seventeen distinct life histories:



Before restoration of lower main stem erosion site (l).  
After Bio Engineering Associates restoration (r).  
PHOTOS BY CRAIG BELL



lower main stem/tributaries spawning, middle main stem/tributary spawning, upper main stem/tributary spawning. This is coupled with different run timing: summer run, late summer run, fall run, winter run, late winter run, spring run provided for spawning success in any storm/flow pattern. Some of the life histories would be successful every year, providing for robust populations. I think we are now seeing and that ongoing monitoring will show the re-emergence of the lower Garcia generally and of a steelhead late-spring run and successful life histories.

### Build It and They Will Come

I can point to no other reason for the recovery of healthy spawning gravels and improved pool depths and steelhead populations in the lower main stem than the comprehensive implementation of the Garcia River Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan that addressed sediment pollution. Not only are there numerous, long reaches of healthy steelhead gravels, there also are increasing reaches of unembedded Chinook spawning gravels. There are increasing sightings of large Chinook now spawning in the Garcia main stem.

The Garcia now has the southernmost small coastal river Chinook run. Additionally, coho salmon were observed this winter spawning in the lower, mid, and upper main stem and three tributaries. Landowners large and small have “buttoned up” over 80% of controllable sediments. In the upper watershed the effort focused mostly on roads. In the lower river landowners agreed to fence cattle out, and bio-engineering projects repaired all erosion sites coupled with extensive riparian planting.



Craig Bell with a 20 + pound steelhead that was safely released. The Garcia River has potent wild steelhead genetics.

### Some Proof

On April 6, 2020, CDFW Warden Don Powers floated the lower 10 miles of the Garcia after a storm. He observed 1,500 adult steelhead spawners. In December 2019 Warden Power spotted 30 large Chinook holding in one hole.

In early May 2021, I received a report from a local fisherman friend that a fresh run of steelhead had entered the Garcia and were spawning in the lower main stem. I decide to try and document this with a spawning survey. Luckily Pat Higgins was in the area with his dive gear and underwater cameras. We counted 150 steelhead redds in seven miles of the lower main stem. The effort began on May 23 and was completed on May 28. We got video footage of adult steelhead actively spawning and many juvenile coho.

### Conclusions

- 📌 The lower 10 miles of the Garcia River are showing strong signs of physical and biological recovery.
- 📌 The regulatory approach of the Garcia River Clean Water Act TMDL Implementation Plan with enforceable timelines has been a success.
- 📌 Based on my surveys, the Garcia

main stem now has larger amounts of healthy spawning gravels and complex habitat than its tributaries.

- 📌 I recommend a yearly spawner survey of the lower 10 miles of the Garcia main stem to document spawner use and recovery.
- 📌 It will be important for regulatory agencies to maintain vigilance to prevent future sediment inputs.
- 📌 The restoration of estuary floodplain and historic “oxbow” channel habitats would benefit all salmonid juveniles and adults.
- 📌 The recovery of the Garcia River is the product of 30 years of effort that started with a community-based recovery plan. State and Federal politicians and funders often ask for proof that the millions of dollars being spent on salmon recovery are working. The Garcia River offers both physical and biologic examples of success.

🌲 Craig Bell is a Garcia River Watershed Planner, as well as past President of the Salmonid Restoration Federation, Former Logger, Commercial Fisherman, and River Guide. He can be reached at [acenlil@mcn.org](mailto:acenlil@mcn.org)



## Living with Fire

# California's Prescribed Fire Movement: A Decade of Inspirational Change

By **Lenya Quinn-Davidson**,  
Area Fire Advisor, University of California  
Cooperative Extension, and Director,  
Northern California Prescribed  
Fire Council

*The following was transcribed from a presentation given on May 11, 2021, as part of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Fire Workshop. It has been edited for length.*

I was asked to talk a little bit today about some of the neat stuff that's going on around the state related to Prescribed Burn Associations and cooperative burning, and I decided to call the talk "California's Prescribed Fire Movement" because I really see that as what this is. This is a grassroots movement that has just spread like crazy all over the state, and people are empowered and excited and leading in ways that we haven't seen until now.

I think it's such an exciting time for prescribed fire, especially within the private sector and with cultural burning and all of these local community-based efforts that are just kicking ass all over California. So I plan to talk about that, and that will segue well into what Margo [Robbins] will share, which is a little bit of a deeper dive into the work that she's doing there in the Mid Klamath.

So I wanted to start by sharing a timeline I put together today, which I'm calling "A Decade of Inspirational Change"...it shows how far we've come, just in the last decade in California. I put this funny picture of Morgan Varner on the left. I was thinking recently about that first Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium where

Morgan gave that great talk about fear versus hope, which he titled "Lessons from a frequent fire landscape" in Florida, and how we were doing everything wrong here in California, which [laugh] at that time was true.

At that time, you in the Mid Klamath were some of the only people really leading on this local prescribed-fire work. And in 2009, we formed the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, from some of the conversations that came out of that first Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium. And in 2013, we hosted California's very first TREX [Prescribed Fire Training Exchange] event, and then here we are in 2021, and across the state, there have been 32 different TREX events, and we have about 13 different Prescribed Burn Associations that have formed just in the last couple of years....

So I think one of the big questions that's come up in this decade of inspiration has really been about who has access to fire. [Who has access to] fire decision-making, to using fire, to being involved in the discussion and the discourse around fire? And really, the question is whether fire users need to be fire professionals. Does everyone who's using prescribed fire need to be someone who also works in fire suppression?

I think for a long time in the Western US, that has been the status quo—that if you wanted to be involved in prescribed fire, you had to be working for a fire management agency that was actively involved in fire suppression. I think we're really questioning that now, and we're changing that conversation, and we're

saying no, fire users don't need to be fire professionals. Fire users are stewards, they're local community leaders, they're landowners, they're cultural practitioners, and they're the people who are connected to place and to the land. So we're opening that up and really making it a more inclusive conversation, and empowering a different future around prescribed fire.

### **Prescribed Burn Association Philosophy**

I wanted to share some of the core philosophies of this Prescribed Burn Association model, which we in California...have borrowed and adapted from the model in the Great Plains, of all places. I'm sure many of you have heard me talk about going out to Nebraska and learning about Prescribed Burn Associations, and then bringing that back to Humboldt County and California. But there are some philosophies there behind that model that I just think are so powerful. The very first one is that idea of inclusivity, that everyone's welcome, and that people—any kind of person—has something to bring to the table when it comes to prescribed fire. It doesn't all have to be operational, it can be different skills. We have a lot of different skills that we employ when we plan burns, or when we implement them. There should be a spot for anyone who wants to be involved, and every burn is a training burn. I feel like our work on Prescribed Burn Associations in California has really been inspired by TREX, by the idea that everyone's both a student and a teacher, and that there's always something more to learn...That idea of cooperation and collaboration and training is really key to all of this.



In early 2020, California's PBA leaders came together in Hopland for a two-day meeting. PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY LENYA QUINN-DAVIDSON.

Now, I think the next one is really important. Prescribed fire does not have to be expensive or bureaucratic. It is a fundamental tool that people have been using forever, and it still is, and we shouldn't always just be chasing money or getting bogged down in permits and bureaucracy. At the end of the day, we can go out and use fire, and it's a beautiful, simple tool that costs nothing. So if you have communities working together, and people willing to volunteer and show leadership, prescribed fire is not expensive, and sometimes it's actually just totally free. So we need to remember that: don't default to thinking that you need money for this.

I think it's really important to remember that fire is a land management tool, it's not just a fire management tool. And this is something that came up for me when I was spending some time in Florida burning. I really noticed that the culture there on prescribed fire is that anyone who's a land manager is using prescribed fire. It's not just something that the fire management agencies are using. It's just a core stewardship tool such that anyone who's managing a piece of ground is going to have fire in their tool box. So [we're]

really trying to bring that notion back here to California.

### **PBAs Spreading across California**

I want to share some of these amazing groups that have formed around the state in the last few years. There are a lot of groups that are actually calling themselves Prescribed Burn Associations or PBAs. We have the one in Humboldt, we have one in Mendocino, there's Siskiyou, the Central Coast just formed one. We're seeing a lot of these PBAs popping up all over the place. But we're also seeing groups that are calling themselves something different, even though they really are in essence a Prescribed Burn Association or a community cooperative. We've got the Good Fire Alliance down in the North Bay (Sonoma and Marin counties); Sasha Berleman, whom I'm sure many of you know, is with Audubon Canyon Ranch and they've taken the lead on the Good Fire Alliance. It's a group of a lot of NGO folks and community members and landowners who are getting together and burning together and doing a lot of really awesome work down there, not in an easy location either.

There are also Range Improvement Associations, which were really the

early concept behind Prescribed Burn Associations. There are groups down in the South Central Coast (Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo) that are led by the ranching community and formed in the early to mid-1900s, and then had a long period where they were stagnant and weren't really doing much, and have now been reinvigorated because of all this movement around Prescribed Burn Associations. So it's been pretty neat to see that, and they have a very specific focus and kind of just a different vibe than some of the other groups up here, but really interesting.

There are also some other groups on the east side. The Plumas Underground Cooperative is another PBA that's up in Plumas County, and they're unique because they're burning mostly in timber, they have a lot of forest units, some added complexity there, and they're using the Cal-TREX events to build capacity, skills, and confidence among their PBA members. So it's been neat to watch them because they're taking a little bit of a different approach.

Then there's a group down in the southern Sierra, the Sierra Sequoia Burn Cooperative, which is really focused on



The first California State-Certified Burn Boss class was hosted in Eureka in mid-May 2021.

cultural burning and tribal engagement and on the ancestral territory of some of the groups they're working with. It's a broad, large region, I think four different counties are involved in this group.

Then of course there are some of these longer standing efforts that aren't really Prescribed Burn Associations but have been an inspiration for more than a decade in some cases. We'll hear from Margo [Robbins] on the Cultural Fire Management Council—some of the Karuk family-based burning that's going on out there is super inspiring. Of course [also inspiring are] the Klamath TREX and the Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership with The Watershed Center in Hayfork, and all the cool work that Don Hankins is doing. I think these are all just points of light, and we're all working together to change the whole conversation around prescribed fire in California.

A couple of years ago, we hosted an event to bring all the leaders of these different groups together. We all convened in Hopland...and spent two or three days talking about laws and regulations and liability, and insurance and PBA formation, and all the kinds of nuts and bolts of how we were going to get these things off the ground in all of our different places. We've continued to connect the different leaders. We have an online space

where we're all sharing and talking, and we've hosted some events, and...webinars, just to keep building the conversation and the capacity of all these different people. A lot of these folks are new to prescribed fire in some ways, but they have some organizational support or just some passion and interest to lead. So we've been trying to create as many opportunities as we can to bring those folks together.

We also developed a website that's more of a public interface but also useful for folks who are trying to start a Prescribed Burn Association, so I recommend checking that out. It lists all the different groups that have formed around California and kind of helps you tie in and connect with those groups if you're interested. You can find it at [www.calpba.org](http://www.calpba.org).

### **Burn Boss Program**

Now, another piece that I wanted to bring up that isn't directly related to these Prescribed Burn Associations, but could contribute in some really meaningful ways, is this new California State Certified Burn Boss program. It was mandated by Senate Bill 1260 in 2018, and it has been in an ongoing curriculum development and approval process since then. It just finally got fully approved and finalized this Spring. And as I speak, I am hosting the inaugural course of this class here in my office in Eureka.

So this week, I have 19 people here from across the state, all really experienced prescribed fire practitioners, a lot of old friends. It's a class that's covering burn planning, smoke management, laws and regulations, a bunch of different elements like that. These folks will be certified as burn bosses and able to bring that certification home with them to build capacity and do more good work on their home landscapes.

What's the benefit of the certification? I think that's an important question, and we're still kind of uncovering that...we're learning as we go. But according to the legislation that mandated the program, these state-certified burn bosses will have the opportunity to share liability with Cal Fire on specific projects through a cooperative agreement process. It remains to be seen what that process will look like. It doesn't change the liability standard, but we are working on that [laugh] and I'll talk about that during the policy section.

I also think one of the big benefits of the state certification will be recognition by NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service). Currently in California, NRCS will only work with federally qualified burn bosses, so you need that RXB2 qualification in order to write burn plans or to lead burns that are funded by NRCS. That's a huge bottleneck for those of us who are trying to implement on the

ground, because there aren't very many private burn bosses who are willing to do this work for hire, or who are insured to do this work for hire.

So now with the state certification, NRCS has been doing some revisions to their state policy, thankfully. They are going to include the state certification in that revised policy, so that's a big deal. I think it will really open up a lot more opportunity for us locally.

Then there are some things in the works to deal with the insurance issue for prescribed fire burn bosses. Nothing's resolved yet, but there's potential that

there could be some kind of state-backed Claims Fund for prescribed fire, and if that were to happen, this certification would probably be recognized in that, so I see that as another benefit if and when we're able to create those insurance solutions.

I just wanted to finish by...letting you ponder...how much has changed in the last 10 years. I mean, when we formed the Prescribed Fire Council in 2009, no one was used to sitting in a room and talking about prescribed fire with other people. People were very siloed. It was not a conversation that was happening, and now it's all we can talk about. So I think it's important to reflect on this decade

of amazing stuff that's happened and to thank all of you for being leaders in that. So with that, I will conclude; feel free to email me if you want any more information or want to become more involved in any of this. Thank you so much.



*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@ucam.edu](mailto:lquinndavidson@ucam.edu).*

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coho Confab to be Held on the Navarro River

*Evolving Strategies to Enhance Coho Salmon Habitat*

Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is coordinating the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coho Confab that will take place August 20-22 on the Navarro River in Mendocino County. This year's Coho Confab will be held at River's Bend Retreat Center in Philo which is nestled in the redwoods.

The Coho Confab is a field symposium to learn about watershed restoration and techniques to restore and recover coho salmon populations. The Coho Confab will feature opening talks about life cycle monitoring in Mendocino, flow enhancement strategies in the Navarro, and a special keynote talk by Brock Dolman titled *Ridge to River, Rethinking and Retrofitting for Rehydration*.

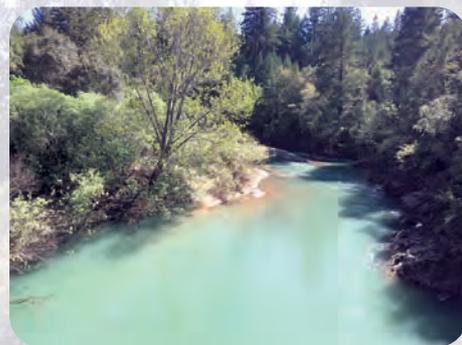
The Confab weekend includes a flow enhancement workshop that will highlight the California Environmental Flow Framework, evolving flow enhancement techniques to address climate change, community-based water storage and forbearance efforts, water transactions to protect flows, and forest

evapotranspiration implications for forest management.

Saturday field tours include large wood installation projects in the North Fork of the Navarro and the Mendocino Coast, and a tour of water storage projects in the Navarro to restore stream flows to benefit fish and people. The flow tour will meander along the middle reach of Mill Creek and visit off stream storage and rainwater catchment, and large wood projects. This tour will end at Husch Vineyards where participants can see the catchment pond, native plant/pollinator rain demonstration garden, and sample Husch's delicious wines.

The Open Forum on Saturday evening will focus on flow enhancement strategies for climate change resilience and will feature a roundtable discussion with some of the presenters from the morning flow enhancement workshop.

The last day of the Confab will include a tour of Ten Mile River Estuary/ Floodplain Restoration Project including



The Navarro River PHOTO FROM SRF

three construction phases geared for coho and steelhead recovery on the Mendocino Coast. Concurrently, there will be a tour in Sonoma County: *Realtering the Laguna: Restoring Lost Habitat and Improving Water Quality*, where participants can learn about restoring the largest freshwater system in Northern California.

SRF's partners in this Confab include CDFW, the Mendocino Coast RCD, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

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



## California Fescue

Of the more than 300 grasses that are native to the state, California fescue is among the most beautiful. With its gray-green leaves, it is a bright spot in shady woodlands. A perennial bunchgrass, it forms dense, arching clumps about two feet tall, and in late spring it sends up flower spikes up to four feet tall. Flower spikes are loose and open, starting out the same gray-green as the leaves and maturing to a lovely soft tan color.

California fescue often grows on north-facing slopes, preferring the partial shade this aspect provides. It also likes to grow in the shade of trees, particularly deciduous oaks, where it forms dense stands interspersed with native bulbs, such as brodiaea. It is interesting to notice that when growing as an understory plant beneath oaks, California fescue stops growing right at the tree's dripline, where the grass component changes, usually to weedy non-native annual grasses. Grasslands, chaparral, and serpentine habitats are other places where you can find California fescue.



California fescue in bloom.



Oak woodland with an understory of California Fescue. PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY KYLE KEEGAN

A wildlife superplant, California fescue hosts at least eight species of moths and butterflies. Kyle Keegan, Permaculture and wildlife expert, says, "Of all the North Coast grass species, California fescue may provide the highest value of habitat for wildlife, mostly due to the massive size that they can attain. California Quail, Dark-Eyed Juncos, Spotted Towhees, Wild Turkeys, and other ground-nesting species commonly use mature plants for nesting cover. Oak woodland reptiles like Alligator Lizards and Ring-necked Snakes will overwinter in rodent burrows at the base of California fescue safely protected from temperature extremes due to the dense thatch the grass provides. Coyotes are often seen hunting colonies of California fescue knowing that they harbor populations of Voles and other rodents. And the plants produce large quantities of seed most years, feeding rodents, birds and even harvester ants."

California fescue has deep roots, which sequester carbon. It can resprout after a

fire, due to a thick buildup of thatch that protects the roots.

In the home landscape, this evergreen grass makes a beautiful specimen in planting beds. It also looks fantastic planted in mass under trees and needs no water once established.

California fescue occurs in the Coast Ranges from southwestern Oregon to San Luis Obispo County, the Cascade Range, and the north and central Sierra Nevada. There is a variety that occurs in the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. The scientific name is *Festuca californica* and it is in the grass family, *Poaceae*.

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

# Pomo Perspective

## Priscilla Hunter and Polly Girvin on Jackson Demonstration State Forest Logging

Transcript of April 19, 2021,  
KZYX Public Affairs show hosted  
by Alicia Littletree Bales

*Alicia Littletree Bales:* [Following radio show's intro music] That was Holly Near and Emma's Revolution performing "Listen to the Voices." I'm Alicia in the Ukiah studio, and I'm here with Priscilla Hunter, who's an elder and former Chairwoman of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Chair of the Sinkyone Tribal Wilderness Council, and Polly Girvin, human rights attorney and long-time environmental and Indigenous rights activist. They're both founding members of PAIEA, which is the Pacific Alliance for Indigenous and Environmental Action, and members of the SEIJ affinity group. (Social Environmental Indigenous Justice) We're going to be talking about Coyote Valley's opposition to logging plans proposed in ancestral Northern Pomo and coast Yuki territory that's now called Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Cal Fire has half a dozen proposed plans to log in the redwoods there, and at least one is approved and ready to start operations. Last week, tree sitters climbed up two of the largest trees in the cut area, and the Mendocino Trail Stewards have been organizing to bring attention to the plans for months. Coyote Valley recently requested government-to-government consultation with the state of California to discuss the logging. So Priscilla, welcome. Polly, welcome. I'm turning it over to you.

*Priscilla Hunter:* Thank you. Such a beautiful song. Every time I listen to it, I hear more what the words are. Well, I'm honored to be here. And first of all, be thankful for ancestors, and Mendocino was a real tough struggle for our ancestors, and I'm really thankful for them to be able to survive because they knew how



Priscilla Hunter and Polly Girvin celebrating the filing of a lawsuit in 2015 against Caltrans to protect sacred sites in the Willits Highway Bypass Project. Photo by Kim Bancroft

to take care of, this land, and lived on what was here. And didn't go out and cut every tree down they can see to make some money. You know, going up to the [Jackson Demonstration] state forest, I couldn't believe what I saw. People were telling me that they were cutting there, and I was like, No, that must not be it, because it's state forest, right? So I always thought it was all protected. So then I went up and saw total destruction of the trees, and the scattered trees that were left over, and learned about how many cultural sites they were destroying. You know, our ancestors and people ran up to get away from being killed, raped, kids taken away from them, slaughtered, really slaughtered. Slaughtered. And then they ran up in the mountains and the thing is, they went over to the ocean too, traveled there, lived there. They lived there, and sometimes brought fear, thinking they

were gonna be raided or attacked at any moment....And you think that's not gonna happen—but yet it continues. They're attacking our ancestors... When I went up there [Jackson State Forest], I can feel the spirit, a cry of our ancestors. I'm telling you, you could feel that. And it's very disturbing, very disturbing. And they put the village sites as a small place [on their maps], we only went 100 feet or whatever? We went all *over* those places. Our ancestors traveled all over, and they [state officials] are like, 'Well, we can only go this far, that's how far the site went.' I'm like, Heck No. That whole place is a village site, cultural site. The whole place. And they put the roads in, kill all the animals. Kill all the trees. All the fish, water. Who cares? I want that wood. I want that tree.

You know, it's a state forest. That means it's the people's forest. That doesn't just mean the loggers' forest for cutting...

We want to preserve it, put it in a reserve and have a moratorium at this time, with no cutting until we have a time to do our studies or research to prove to the Governor. We have to call in the Governor, we can't go to Cal Fire. I think there's a little conflict there, I would say. We want to do it gracefully and carefully because we're working for the protection of our ancestors and believe it's a sacred place, and so we have to do it spiritually and...in a good way. But a lot of times it makes you very angry, very angry. As an Indian person, I get very angry at times. I'm not saying I don't, because the history is repeating itself with the Indians still. We need to return for all our artifacts, get cultural things back and all of our burial sites and even...the remains that are in museums. And until that's all complete and done with, this world will not be good. That's what I believe. And that's what the disturbance is [that's] happening too. I believe that the Spirit is unrest, and we have a hard struggle with the whole world...This one cousin of mine in Tennessee told me that they had this dream catcher, and this one guy had an Indian scalp in the middle of it, yes. I was like, What? Things like that, the [Native American] Heritage Commission I would like to see become strong here....

We want to preserve the whole [Jackson State Forest], over 40,000 acres, and have a moratorium on this [logging] until we can work this all out. That is one of our main objectives, and it's a top priority. So there you have it.

**Alicia Littletree Bales:** Alright, that was Priscilla Hunter. She's the former Chairwoman of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and currently the Chair of the Sinkyone InterTribal Wilderness Council. And now, Polly Girvin is here to talk more about the government-to-government consultation and Jackson State Forest.

**Polly Girvin:** I'd like to first say that it's my great honor to work with the Coyote Valley band of Pomo Indians, a

tribe that, since I have known them, has historically taken the courage to stand for their sovereignty to the fullest extent possible. So what we're involved in here, and why we have a special avenue of being able to compel the state to listen to our concerns, is that there are executive orders both at the federal and state level that acknowledge the sovereignty of tribes, acknowledge the tribes are nations within a nation, going all the way back to the Worcester vs. Georgia seminal case in the Supreme Court that determined that Indian nations are distinct political communities. They're not just...minority-status citizens, but indeed nations....

Thirty years ago, we were advocating for the government-to-government consultation process between state and federal governments and tribes. We encountered Ronald Reagan's resistance—he wanted to put all funding to tribes through state block grants. We resisted at the national level and said no. Under the Constitution, treaties, and executive orders, we have a status higher than states and must be dealt with accordingly.

It often takes a while for policy arguments to be implemented, but Coyote Valley is currently at the table in five government-to-government consultations to protect the environment, to protect their cultural resources and their artifacts. At the state level, more and more tribes are beginning to utilize this mechanism. So we are happy to be amongst that group, because remember the dishonor of the State of California and the federal government and how they negotiated with Indians historically. There were good-faith trade negotiations in both Hopland and in Lake County, Scotts Valley. The Indians were in those good-faith negotiations, were promised all of the acreage around Clear Lake for the extinction of their Aboriginal title up here. But of course, those treaties were never honored.

The State of California in the gold rush years (when people thought gold was everywhere) objected to treaties, and they

were hidden under seal for 50 years. So this is the history, a long legacy of dishonor at the state level, that this executive order that we're now currently operating under was a part of trying to rectify the past terrible dealings between the state and tribes. So this is the mechanism we're using. We are not just negotiating with CalFire, we're not consulting with Mike Powers, forest manager. We are discussing with the top brass of every agency that's directed towards protecting our cultural resources, which includes CalFire, which includes the State Office of Historic Preservation, which includes the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This is a consultation between an Indian nation, Coyote Valley, and the State of California. We in these proceedings will be looking at a host of issues. As Priscilla said, our top priority is to protect the trees, and we are. As members of PAIEA, we kept the word "Action" in the description of our organization because we do support and respect non-violent direct action where necessary to protect Mother Earth.

So we are very happy the tree sitters went up, and to quote Priscilla's great-granddaughter, my beloved Courtney, when she was asked by her cousin, "Well, what is a tree sitter?" she goes, "They're babysitters for the trees."

We hope to train our children in our tribe that we do listen to the ancestors cry, we never turn away. And that we hope to heal in what we're doing. It's a big undertaking, but in all sincerity, we are trying to create a historical rebalancing because at the same time Priscilla's ancestors were being slaughtered up here, so too were the old redwoods being ravaged. We have so few old redwoods left in this region, maybe like 3%, just like 80% of the local Indians were eradicated by disease and state-sanctioned genocide. So I call these local tribes the remnant survivors of a state-sanctioned genocide—just like the ancient trees, the few left are the remnant survivors of the brutality of the

logging industry up here—and we will be looking clearly at the history of this park. We'll be looking at their alleged studies—they keep on saying they're studying forestry by cutting down these trees. They are alleging the clearcuts are scientific research! Well, we just have a different world view. And I hope that the state will listen to us and will know that we're doing this in a sincere fashion, and that Priscilla feels compelled to do this to balance, to heal for the ancestors, for the forest, and for the future generation of Indian children.

It's a sacred place out there, and they're actually sacred sites. They have been trashed by road building, slash debris going off the side of roads. We will be emphasizing restoration and conservation...and meeting the 30 times 30 standard that the Governor has articulated for carbon sequestration purposes. These old trees are greatly necessary in the climate change struggle that we're facing. So we're there for the environment, we're there for our ancestors, and we're there for the children, and we want to thank the environmental movement, particularly EPIC, the Environmental Protection Information Center, Matt Simmons and Tom Wheeler, who have been very helpful and collaborative with the Tribe. They are our regional experts on the Forest Practice Act. We go back a long way with them, all the way to the *EPIC vs. Johnson* decision, where the Indian Treaty Council, of which Priscilla was on the board, and Sharon Duggan litigated. You can't just go timber harvest plan by timber harvest plan, you have to involve the whole watershed in your analysis—it's called a cumulative impact now. It was a completely important case, and I'm proud to say that Priscilla was involved in that one too. So we have a long history of collaborating with the environmental movement, and we are continuing with great respect for the tree sitters, for the environmental lawyers, for the [Mendocino] Trail Stewards association.

We hope to keep a strong united front, and that is, we are joining all the forest defenders of Mendocino County. It's a long history, and we said, "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth." And we proudly have lived our lives under that slogan and motivation, and it's just lovely. Circles of life—you know how we all reconnect.

**Alicia Littletree Bales:** Well, thank you. Can you talk about the cultural sites out there and what is known about the traditional uses of Jackson State and the relationship that Pomo people and other Northern Tribes had and have with the place?

**Polly Girvin:** Well, we can definitely say that there's ancient trails that were used by Priscilla's ancestors for thousands upon thousands of years. The ridge runners ran those ridges. And there are sites on the [Betts Report\* of] 1999—they had to inventory the sites, they came up with 22. I'm sure there's been more discovered by bulldozer since then. They have failed to do the work they were required to do under state law; they were made to do an inventory of our sites, but then they were supposed to take proactive measures to protect them, which includes having them listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Heritage Places, which gives them an enhanced protection level. Even their very study they commissioned to say, What should we do now? They never did the follow-up work, so there's a lot of work we have to do under federal and state law to get these places further protected.

I would say, basically, the treatment of the ancestral sites has been destruction. They in their own commission study admit that most of them have been seriously impacted by road building and debris being shoved over onto them; and in that

commission study (it's called the Betts Report of 1999), the state commissioned it, and the people who did the field surveys recommended that a road study be made, particularly in reference to the protection of the ancestral sites. They had to come up with modifications in road building, laying some roads to rest to protect the sites.

We will find out in government-to-government consultation, but my idea is they did nothing. So basically the inventory—and that's all that I can see—was done by the state with no follow-through. So we feel that to mitigate and to heal this, they better come forward with some really helpful solutions on protecting our sites because they have been derelict in their duties, and those duties do include the protection of Native American cultural resources. And maybe they're not as obvious as a building in DC that they're arguing for—this is an entire landscape of sites—and under the National Historic Preservation Act, also under state law, archeological sites can be deemed districts, entire districts, not just one site by one site. We're arguing that Jackson Demonstration State Forest is an archaeological district, and that as mitigation for the ravaging of the forest and of the sites, I think ongoing years of destruction of sites under bulldozers, they must heed our concerns. We were not at the table. The tribes here were struggling to restore themselves after illegal termination when all these laws—pro-timber industry, pro-archeologists—were being crafted. This may be one of the few times, at least locally, where we're at the table saying, "We're here, we want some policy changes, we want some amendments to the Forest Practice Act, and we intend to get them."

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\* [Editor's Note: The Betts Report, written by archaeologists commissioned by JDSF, recommends that the entire JDSF be deemed an archaeological district under the National Historic Preservation Act.]

# Meet our Fish & Waterways Restoration Partners

## Coho Salmon Land Trust

Founded 2019

Contact: Gail Seymour

[Gyseymour@gmail.com](mailto:Gyseymour@gmail.com)

[www.cohosalmonlandtrust.org](http://www.cohosalmonlandtrust.org)

The Coho Salmon Land Trust (C-SALT) acquires and stewards property to permanently preserve land for the protection of coho salmon and for ecological restoration and conservation. Our mission is to conserve, restore, and honor lands to ensure the future of coho salmon ecosystems. We envision a place of resilient biodiversity protected by a community whose actions support the recovery of native species for the benefit of all.

## Eel River Recovery Project

Founded 2011

Contact: Pat Higgins

707/839-4987

[phiggins@humboldt1.com](mailto:phiggins@humboldt1.com)

[www.eelriverrecovery.org](http://www.eelriverrecovery.org)

[www.facebook.com/EelRiverRecovery](http://www.facebook.com/EelRiverRecovery)

ERRP helps people take the pulse of the Eel River, connecting them to the Wild in the hope that we can get in Harmony with Nature in the tradition of Native Americans. If the ecological trend is in the wrong direction, then we help the community identify solutions and acquire resources to work together as neighbors to fix problems.

## Eel River Salmon Restoration Project

Founded 1983

Contact: Bill Eastwood

or Harry Vaughn

707/923-9109

[mrvhvaughn@gmail.com](mailto:mrvhvaughn@gmail.com)

Eel River Salmon Restoration Project (ERSRP) aims to restore the health of salmon and steelhead populations in the Eel River watershed through the use of habitat-enhancement projects,

biological and physical monitoring programs, and public education. We also provide support and expertise for fuel reduction and other fire preparedness projects in the Eel River watershed.

## Humboldt Baykeeper

Founded 2004

Contact: Jennifer Kalt

707/499-3678

[volunteer@humboltdbaykeeper.org](mailto:volunteer@humboltdbaykeeper.org)

[www.humboltdbaykeeper.org](http://www.humboltdbaykeeper.org)

[www.facebook.com/HumBaykeeper](http://www.facebook.com/HumBaykeeper)

Humboldt Baykeeper aims to safeguard our coastal resources for the health, enjoyment, and economic strength of the Humboldt Bay community through education, scientific research, and enforcement of laws to fight pollution.

## Mad River Alliance (MRA)

Founded 2011

Contact: Tim Broadman

or Dave Feral

707/382-6162

[tim@madriverralliance.org](mailto:tim@madriverralliance.org)

[dferal@madriverralliance.org](mailto:dferal@madriverralliance.org)

[www.madriverralliance.org](http://www.madriverralliance.org)

[www.facebook.com/MadRiverAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/MadRiverAlliance)

Instagram: @madriverralliance

The Mad River Alliance works to protect clean water and restore the ecological balance of the Mad River watershed for the benefit of its human and natural communities.

## Mattole Restoration Council

Founded 1983

Contact: Sarah Vroom

510/862-9695

[vroom@mattole.org](mailto:vroom@mattole.org)

[www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org)

[www.facebook.com/MattoleRestorationCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/MattoleRestorationCouncil)

Instagram: @mattole restorationcouncil

The Mattole Restoration Council works on restoration projects on the up slopes of the Mattole watershed and King Range

Conservation Area. Our big projects for this year focus on riparian restoration in the Mattole Estuary, grassland restoration on Prosper Ridge, invasive plant removal in the King Range, native plant propagation for public contracts and private sale, youth environmental education, a week-long field course for HSU students, a landscape-level fuel break running from Wilder Ridge to Gilham Butte, and the creation of defensible space around homes from Garberville all the way to Arcata.

## Mattole Salmon Group

Founded 1980

Contact: Richard Sykes

[rsykes@mattolesalmon.org](mailto:rsykes@mattolesalmon.org)

[mattolesalmon.org](http://mattolesalmon.org)

The Mattole Salmon Group (MSG) works to restore native salmon populations to self-sustaining levels in the Mattole watershed. MSG has been monitoring salmonid populations in the watershed for over 40 years. This includes adult spawner surveys, juvenile surveys, and our popular summer steelhead dive. We also conduct habitat restoration projects and population support efforts such as rescue relocation of stranded salmonids during low-flow or drought periods.

## Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Founded 2001

Contact: Will Harling

530/627-3202

[will@mkwc.org](mailto:will@mkwc.org)

[www.mkwc.org](http://www.mkwc.org)

[www.facebook.com/MidKlamathWatershedCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/MidKlamathWatershedCouncil)

MidKlamathWatershedCouncil

Instagram: @

mid\_klamath\_watershed\_council

MKWC facilitates and supports restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Klamath watershed, including aquatic, riparian, and upslope habitats. Members work to



Mid Klamath Watershed Council staff visioning meeting 2015. PHOTO COURTESY OF MKWC

increase understanding of and inspire action in the Klamath River region and beyond. Community resilience is promoted by encouraging cultural and economic activities that sustain our natural resources.

### Piery Watershed Association

Founded 1997

Contact: Jeff Hedin

[jeffatstandish@gmail.com](mailto:jeffatstandish@gmail.com)

Piery Watersheds Association (PWA) provides a public forum and organization to stimulate a vibrant and wild environment for the eleven Piery watersheds. This includes no clear-cutting, tree-by-tree management, restoration forestry, and community standards.

### Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN)

Founded 1990

Contact: Todd Steiner

415/663-8590

[tsteiner@tirn.net](mailto:tsteiner@tirn.net)

[www.spawnusa.org](http://www.spawnusa.org)

[www.facebook.com/SalmonProtection](http://www.facebook.com/SalmonProtection)

SPAWN was initiated as part of Turtle Island Restoration Network in 1997. Each year, we engage hundreds of people to see and learn about the majestic endangered salmon, restore watershed habitat, raise native redwood trees, and study salmon health. Our programs span the Lagunitas Creek Watershed and include projects to protect salmon, redwoods, and amphibians from a myriad of threats like

dam-building, vegetation removal, urban encroachment and the threat of climate change from fossil fuel projects.

### Salmon River Restoration Council

Founded 1992

Contact: Lyra Cressey

530/462-4665

[srrc@srrc.org](mailto:srrc@srrc.org)

[www.srrc.org](http://www.srrc.org)

[www.facebook.com/SalmonRiverRestorationCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/SalmonRiverRestorationCouncil)

SRRC aims to enlist community members in a cooperative approach to protect and restore the Salmon River ecosystem, to increase public awareness and good stewardship through education and outreach, to create economic stability in the community by diversifying restoration-based job opportunities, to promote the collaborative stakeholder partnerships needed for the restoration of the Salmon River, and to work to increase ecosystem resiliency in a changing environment through program implementation.

### Salmonid Restoration Federation

Founded 1986

Contact: Dana Stolzman

707/923-7501

[srf@calsalmon.org](mailto:srf@calsalmon.org)

[www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org)

Facebook: Salmonid Restoration Federation

Salmonid Restoration Federation promotes restoration stewardship, and recovery of California native salmon,

steelhead, and trout populations through education, collaboration, and advocacy.

SRF provides affordable technical and hands-on trainings to the restoration community; and conducts outreach to inform the public about the plight of endangered salmon and the need to preserve and restore habitat to recover threatened salmonids.

### Save California Salmon

Founded 2015

P.O. Box 142 Orleans, CA 95556

541/951-0126

[klamathtrinityriver@gmail.com](mailto:klamathtrinityriver@gmail.com)

[californiasalmon.org](http://californiasalmon.org)

[www.facebook.com/SaveCaliforniaSalmon](http://www.facebook.com/SaveCaliforniaSalmon)

SaveCaliforniaSalmon

Instagram: @californiarivers

Save California Salmon is dedicated to restoring clean and plentiful flows into the Klamath and Trinity rivers. We work to support a restored salmon fishery through policy work, advocacy, community organizing, and collaborative actions with salmon-dependent communities.

### Ten Mile Creek Watershed Council

Founded 2018

Contact: Dennis Hogan

[pbuehler@bioengineers.com](mailto:pbuehler@bioengineers.com)

Facebook: Ten Mile Creek

Watershed Council

The Ten Mile Creek Watershed Council is a nonprofit group of community volunteers that seek to restore Ten Mile Creek, its tributary streams, and associated riparian corridors. These uses include habitat for riparian flora and fauna including endangered or threatened salmonid species, agricultural water supply, and recreational opportunities for local residents. These goals will be accomplished through community outreach and education and by creating partnerships with local landowners and other community groups to implement projects to restore the Ten Mile Creek watershed to its former beauty, hydrologic function, and biological abundance.

# Meet our Environmental Advocacy Partners

## Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

Founded 1993

Contact: Karen Pickett

[bach@headwaterspreserve.org](mailto:bach@headwaterspreserve.org)

[headwaterspreserve.org](http://headwaterspreserve.org)

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

BayAreaCoalitionForHeadwaters

Twitter: @kp4redwoods

The mission of the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters is to educate and build support in the San Francisco Bay Area and other urban areas for the preservation of biologically viable forest ecosystems on California's north coast. BACH works in collaboration with grassroots activists and organizations in Northern California that use diverse tactics and strategies to advocate for ecologically sound solutions for the forest ecosystems, with real solutions for forest workers and communities.

BACH engages in strategy development, direct media support, and other types of support, as well as consulting with grassroots groups, primarily on California's north coast, working on a variety of environmental issues. BACH often joins with Alliance and Coalition partners in campaign discussions and trainings in preparation for campaign work. We also serve as a conduit to many media outlets and to the population centers in the Bay Area and beyond, to amplify our colleagues' and partners' messages.

## Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities

Founded 2015

Contact: Colin Fiske

[www.transportationpriorities.org](http://www.transportationpriorities.org)

[colin@transportationpriorities.org](mailto:colin@transportationpriorities.org)

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

ResponsibleTransportationPriorities

Our mission is to promote transportation solutions that protect and support a

healthy environment, healthy people, healthy communities, and a healthy economy on the North Coast.

CRTP envisions a North Coast region with vibrant local communities where walking, biking, public transit, and other socially and environmentally positive modes of transportation are the norm. We are passionate about creating a world where these modes are equitable, safe, and comfortable for people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, income levels, genders, ages, and abilities.

## Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

Founded 1977

Contact: Amber Jamieson

707/822-7711

[epic@wildcalifornia.org](mailto:epic@wildcalifornia.org)

[www.wildcalifornia.org](http://www.wildcalifornia.org)

[www.facebook.com/WildCalifornia](http://www.facebook.com/WildCalifornia)

Instagram: [epic\\_wildcalifornia](https://www.instagram.com/epic_wildcalifornia)

Twitter: @EPIC\_ARCATA

TikTok: @epicforthewild

EPIC advocates for the protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests, using an integrated, science-based approach combining public education, citizen advocacy, and strategic litigation. Our vision is to achieve protected and connected forests, watersheds, and wildlife species in Northwest California.

For more than four decades, EPIC has held public agencies accountable by upholding environmental laws to protect Northwest California's native biodiversity. EPIC has filed more than 70 lawsuits on behalf of imperiled wildlife species and their habitat, many of which led to the permanent protection of some of the region's most biologically significant, carbon-dense, intact ancient forests.

## Environmentally Sound Promotions

Founded 1997

Contact: Darryl Cherney

[ensopro@asis.com](mailto:ensopro@asis.com)

Our mission is to promote music, arts, and media for the Earth, and our vision is that music can save the world! We advocate and fundraise for environmental causes (including raising funds for ailing activists), we promote concerts and town hall meetings, publish literature, provide logistical support for other groups (such as sound and hall management), and produce musical recordings.

## Friends of Elk River

Founded 2008

Contact: Jerry Martien

[jerrymartien@gmail.com](mailto:jerrymartien@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/FriendsofElkRiver](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofElkRiver)

Friends of Elk River advocates for a healthy forest and a clean Elk River, with the restoration of beneficial uses—good for people, good for fish—to 1987 pre-Maxxam conditions.

Friends of Elk River began as two decades of Maxxam Corporation logging were ending. New ownership by Humboldt Redwood Company, overseen by California's Regional Water Quality Control Board, promised improved management. But over the next dozen years we realized that the agencies that permitted and presided over the watershed's destruction were not going to be its salvation.

While Friends of Elk River continues to engage the state's flawed regulatory process, with the support of Trees Foundation we are expanding towards building community awareness of our watershed and its history. **Our first venture into this new/old territory will be Elk River Heritage Days, to take place in October 2021.**

## Friends of the Lost Coast

Founded 2000

Contact: Cheryl Lisin

[www.lostcoast.org](http://www.lostcoast.org)

[info@lostcoast.org](mailto:info@lostcoast.org)

[www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheLostCoast](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheLostCoast)

FriendsoftheLostCoast

Instagram: @FriendsoftheLostCoast

Friends of the Lost Coast aims to inspire a passion in students, visitors, and the community for understanding and preserving the natural life of the region. We provide opportunities for people to connect with nature through programs like Summer Adventure Camp, Native Plant Garden, Hikes, Lectures, and volunteer stewardship on public lands.

## Friends of the Van Duzen River

Founded 1995

Contact: Sal Steinberg

707/768-9208

[steinberg.sal@gmail.com](mailto:steinberg.sal@gmail.com)

[www.fovdr.org](http://www.fovdr.org)

FOVDR teaches students in the classroom, and in the Van Duzen and Eel rivers. Specializing in water monitoring education, FOVDR places temperature probes in 18 locations with youth and partners. With Trees Foundation grants, we have been able to take more than 500 students to see salmon spawning and hundreds of kindergarten kids to the Sequoia Park Zoo to see the Watershed Heroes. Our mission is to preserve the salmon run and to train young scientists. Our vision is to educate our youth so that they develop respect for Mother Nature, they share their habitat and ecosystem in a symbiotic way, and they preserve the health of the Planet Earth for future generations.

## Human Nature

Founded 1980

Contact: Jane Lapiner

707/629-3670

[janelapiner@gmail.com](mailto:janelapiner@gmail.com)

[www.humannaturetheater.org](http://www.humannaturetheater.org)



EPIC staff PHOTO BY CLARY ZULETTE

Human Nature is a touring theater company dedicated to addressing crucial societal issues related to the environment, especially climate change and social justice, through original theatrical productions. The company was launched with a major dance production, Human Nature, from which we took our name.

## Humboldt Permaculture Guild

Founded: 1999

[humboldtpermacultureguild@gmail.com](mailto:humboldtpermacultureguild@gmail.com)

[humboldtpermaculture.com](http://humboldtpermaculture.com)

[www.facebook.com/HumboldtPermacultureGuild](http://www.facebook.com/HumboldtPermacultureGuild)

Humboldt Permaculture Guild

The Humboldt Permaculture Guild is a group of food producers, business owners, builders, educators, and permaculture designers. We all share a belief in resilient communities, regenerative lifestyles, education, stewardship of natural systems, local seed development, natural building, conservative water, and energy use. Our focus is on resiliency, adaptation, basic needs fulfillment (food, water, shelter, community), natural patterns/systems/relationships, and providing models for others to follow.

## Mill Valley StreamKeepers

Founded 1998

Contact: Betsy Bikle

415/388-4187

[www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org](http://www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org)

[inbox@millvalleystreamkeepers.org](mailto:inbox@millvalleystreamkeepers.org)

[www.facebook.com/MillValleyStreamkeepers](http://www.facebook.com/MillValleyStreamkeepers)

Mill Valley StreamKeepers is a community action group with a purpose to restore, enhance, and protect Mill Valley's watershed, to educate the public about the importance of creeks and the life inhabiting them, and to encourage community interest in watershed protection issues.

## Restoration Leadership Project

Founded: 1998

Contact: Richard Gienger

(707) 223-6474

[rgrocks@humboldt.net](mailto:rgrocks@humboldt.net)

Restoration Leadership Project (RLP) works to bring both history and positive solutions for adverse conditions in front of as many persons and organizations as possible. This is done through a variety of media in an array of venues from field tours, to workshops, to public and private gatherings and processes. A lot is done in partnerships with organizations that are integral to the accomplishment of RLP's mission and vision.

The mission of RLP is to heal the damage that has been inflicted on the land and the people, and to examine, record, and share the impacts and potential effective actions for corrective measures and paths of recovery.

The vision of RLP is a recovered respect and direct nurturing relationship between humans and the forests and watersheds that support life. This vision rejects monetization of all values and resources, and seeks pathways that support natural law and conservation ethics that are valid to enable life and 'right livelihood' for many generations into the future.

### **Salmon Forever**

Founded: 1995  
Contact: Jesse Noell  
707/445-9555  
[noelljesse@gmail.com](mailto:noelljesse@gmail.com)

Salmon Forever is dedicated to encouraging enlightened public debate on issues related to forests, watersheds, and the protection of beneficial uses of water.

### **Siskiyou Land Conservancy**

Founded 2004  
Contact: Greg King  
707/498-4900  
[www.siskiyouland.org](http://www.siskiyouland.org)

Siskiyou Land Conservancy is dedicated to protecting biological diversity and promoting sustainable living.

### **Willits Environmental Center**

Founded 1990  
Contact: Ellen and David Drell  
707/459-4110  
[www.willitsenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.willitsenvironmentalcenter.org)

The Willits Environmental Center was established in 1990 to provide a physical hub in Willits for its active environmental community. WEC offers environmental education opportunities for the community and advocates for the restoration and preservation of local and regional natural environments and habitats.

## **Deepest Gratitude to Our Major Supporters and Grantors**

### *Lifetime Giving over \$10,000*

Anadromous Fund  
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Patagonia, Inc.  
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The Rockwood Fund  
Tides Center

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Carolyn Canonico  
Cars 4 Causes  
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Environmentally Sound Promotions  
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The Tides Foundation  
Usal Redwood Forest, LLC  
Vintage BMW House  
Florence Wallace  
Alan White  
Elizabeth Who  
Laure Woods

# Meet Our Forest Protection Partners

## Ancient Forest International

Founded 1989  
Contact: Rick Klein  
707/498-9744  
[www.ancient-forest.org](http://www.ancient-forest.org)

Ancient Forest International works to safeguard biological diversity in primary forests in temperate and tropical bioregions.

## Institute for Sustainable Forestry

Founded 1990  
Contact: Chip Tittman  
707/244-4584  
[contact.newforestry@gmail.com](mailto:contact.newforestry@gmail.com)  
[www.instituteforsustainableforestry.com](http://www.instituteforsustainableforestry.com)

We promote forest management that contributes to the long-term ecological and economic well-being of forest-based communities in northwestern California. ISF's main programs include forest and watershed stewardship, community economic development, and sustainable forestry certification support. To learn more about sustainable forestry, check out our Sustainable Forestry Journalism Project's radio programs archived on our website.

## InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

Founded 1986  
Contact: Hawk Rosales  
[www.sinkyone.org](http://www.sinkyone.org)  
[info@sinkyone.org](mailto:info@sinkyone.org)

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a nonprofit Tribal conservation consortium of ten federally recognized Northern California Indian Tribes that retain ancestral and cultural ties to the Sinkyone Tribal territory in southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties. The ITSWC works to reestablish local Indian peoples' stewardship in the Sinkyone region of the North Coast through culturally informed land conservation, restoration of the

redwood ecosystem, management of traditional resources, environmental education, Native land and water rights advocacy, and partnerships with various conservation organizations and agencies. In 1997, the ITSWC established the first-ever InterTribal Wilderness on 3,845 acres of Sinkyone ancestral land acquired from The Trust for Public Land.

## Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Founded 1997  
[info@kswild.org](mailto:info@kswild.org)  
[www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)  
[www.facebook.com/KSWild](https://www.facebook.com/KSWild)

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center is an advocate for the forests, wildlife, and waters of the Klamath and Rogue River Basins of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We use environmental law, science, collaboration, education, and grassroots organizing to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities. KS Wild fights for protection and restoration of the incomparable ecological riches of the southwest Oregon and northwest California region. We monitor public lands in the Rogue River/Siskiyou,

Klamath, Six Rivers, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests, and the Medford and Coos Bay Districts of the Bureau of Land Management.

## Lost Coast League

Founded 1972  
Contact: Ellen Taylor  
707/629-3500  
[lostcoastleague@gmail.com](mailto:lostcoastleague@gmail.com)  
[www.lostcoastleague.org](http://www.lostcoastleague.org)

The Lost Coast League works to protect and preserve the public trust resources of northern California, and specifically along the Lost Coast of Humboldt County. Our goals include the protection of Rainbow Ridge and greater incorporation of Indigenous people in resource decisions on the North Coast.

## Mendocino Trail Stewards

Founded 2020  
Contact: Lynne Paschal  
[lynnepaschal@gmail.com](mailto:lynnepaschal@gmail.com)  
[www.mendocinotrailstewards.org](http://www.mendocinotrailstewards.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MendocinoTrailStewards](https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoTrailStewards)  
Instagram: @mendocino\_trail\_stewards

MTS is a watchdog for the public relating to the management of the Jackson



Youth visit Redwood Regional Park in Oakland as part of Women Forest Sanctuary's annual Redwood Forest program. PHOTO BY SUSAN WERNER

Demonstration State Forest. We inform the public on happenings in the Forest, and we teach citizens how to take action. We also educate people on the unique qualities of this forest, and we host trash pick-up days.

Our mission is to change the mandate of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest to demonstrate wildfire resilience, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem restoration in a context of enhanced recreational opportunity.

Our vision is to pass legislation to make Jackson Demonstration State Forest a reserve, with a mandate for non-motorized recreation, habitat restoration, and ecological regeneration.

### Mid-Eel Watershed Stewards

Founded 2020

Contact: Mickey Bailey  
[mickeybeez@gmail.com](mailto:mickeybeez@gmail.com)

Mid-Eel Watershed Stewards (MEWS) works with private landowners throughout the Mid-Eel River watershed to improve forest health utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge in order to reduce catastrophic fire risk, foster oak woodland restoration, improve grassland health, increase biodiversity, and help restore base streamflows. We

also work with our neighbors on water security and water conservation issues, and to reduce erosion and pollution in the Eel River watershed.

### ReLeaf Petaluma

Founded 2020

Contact: John Shribbs  
[jshribbs@comcast.net](mailto:jshribbs@comcast.net)  
[www.releafpetaluma.org](http://www.releafpetaluma.org)

ReLeaf Petaluma plants native trees in the Petaluma watershed. Our mission is to engage the community to plant and steward native trees and shrubs to improve the environmental health of the Petaluma watershed. We envision a Petaluma valley and watershed where native trees and shrubs thrive, enriching our lives by providing native wildlife with shelter and habitat, our ecosystem with rich biodiversity, our river with soil-stabilizing riparian plant systems, and our community with a cooling tree canopy. We see a community in which biodiversity is venerated and trees are respected for the benefits they provide to all of the planet's life cycle. By doing so, we can conceive of a community that actively stewards the health of native plant species, rewarding us with active participation in the health of our planet.

### Sanctuary Forest

Founded 1987

Contact: April Newlander  
707/986-1087

[april@sanctuaryforest.org](mailto:april@sanctuaryforest.org)

[www.sanctuaryforest.org](http://www.sanctuaryforest.org)

Instagram: @sanctuary.forest

[facebook.com/MattoleSanctuary](https://facebook.com/MattoleSanctuary)

Sanctuary Forest is a nonprofit land and water trust with a mission to conserve the Mattole River watershed and surrounding areas for wildlife habitat and aesthetic, spiritual, and intrinsic values, in cooperation with our diverse community.

### The Women's Forest Sanctuary

Founded 1993

Contact: Susan Werner

510/898-2104

[info@womensforestsanctuary.org](mailto:info@womensforestsanctuary.org)

[www.womensforestsanctuary.org](http://www.womensforestsanctuary.org)

The Women's Forest Sanctuary's mission is to purchase, protect, and conserve forests and provide education about nature and the environment. We engage in land conservation and sustain the protection and maintenance of a 14-acre redwood grove on the Mattole River in Southern Humboldt County. We provide outreach and education about redwood ecosystems and facilitate an annual Redwood Forest Program for urban youth.

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**Starting from the very reasonable, but unfortunately revolutionary concept that social practices which threaten the continuation of life on Earth must be changed, we need a theory of revolutionary ecology that will encompass social and biological issues, class struggle, and a recognition of the role of global corporate capitalism in the oppression of peoples and the destruction of nature. —Judi Bari**

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*Save the Date!* **Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021**

# Meet our New Fire Resilience Partners

In recognition of fire management as a vital part of healthy land stewardship, Trees Foundation recently expanded to include the fire adaptation community in the grassroots environmental groups that are eligible to apply to become Trees Foundation Partners. We introduce our new Fire Resiliency partners on this page.

Due to the urgent need many regional fire departments have for more accurate maps, Trees Foundation has waived the requirement of applying for partnership status to Volunteer Fire Departments to receive free and reduced cost GIS mapmaking services. To date, we have produced updated GIS maps for Piercy Fire Department and Leggett Volunteer Fire Department. We also recently purchased a new plotter for printing GIS maps!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our GIS specialist, Cullen Cramer. Cullen brings not only his GIS mapmaking

skills to Trees Foundation, but also a keen awareness as to the importance of accurate maps for fire responders as he is a volunteer firefighter with Briceland VFD and a technician for Humboldt County's Fire-adapted Landscapes & Safe Homes program (FLASH).

## Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Founded 2002  
Contact: Gail Eastwood  
[sohumfiresafe@asis.com](mailto:sohumfiresafe@asis.com)  
[www.sohumfiresafe.org](http://www.sohumfiresafe.org)  
[www.facebook.com/SoHumFireSafe](https://www.facebook.com/SoHumFireSafe)

Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council educates the community about fire preparedness and collaborates with other organizations to create strategic fuelbreaks and defensible space.

The mission of the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council is to promote community awareness of fire prevention and preparedness; educate and assist

the community in implementing fire-safe practices including defensible space and fire hardened buildings; promote cooperation between government agencies, fire safe councils, landowners and residents, volunteer fire organizations, and other fire safety stakeholders; and restore the historical beneficial role of low intensity fire to the landscape through prescribed burning.

## Piercy Volunteer Fire Department

Founded 1957  
[piercyvfd@gmail.com](mailto:piercyvfd@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/PiercyVFD](https://www.facebook.com/PiercyVFD)

Our mission is to promptly and professionally protect and preserve the life and property of our community with pride and dedication to the people we serve. We are committed to never failing to deliver the highest level of integrity, teamwork and quality emergency services in the area of fire suppression, first responder and medical aid.



Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council tabling at 2019 Embracing Fire event at Mateel Community Center.  
PHOTO BY BILL EASTWOOD



Cullen Cramer and Darryl Cherney bring in the new plotter! (l) Jeff Hedin of the Piercy Volunteer Fire Department at the Trees office with an updated Piercy Fire Protection District map produced by Cullen Cramer, Trees Foundation's GIS specialist.(r)  
PHOTOS BY KERRY REYNOLDS

## Trees Foundation

PO Box 2202  
Redway, CA 95560

RETURN  
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Our mission is to restore the ecological integrity of California's North Coast by empowering and assisting community-based, regional projects that promote healthy land stewardship.

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Trees Foundation is located at 439 Melville Road, Garberville, CA, 707/923-4377, [www.treesfoundation.org](http://www.treesfoundation.org)

# *Save the Date!*

## **Sunday, October 3, 2021**

### **SoHum Community Park Barn Garberville, CA**

# *Stronger Together!*

## *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering for Trees Foundation*

**Doors open at 4pm**

**Speakers, Food, Drink**

**Live Music, Awards Ceremony**

**Affiliate Circle, Video Story Collecting, Kidzone**

**Volunteers needed! Email [organize@treesfoundation.org](mailto:organize@treesfoundation.org) for more info**

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