


Forest & River News

GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION & RESTORATION IN THE REDWOOD REGION

TREES FOUNDATION

WINTER 2022/23

Building a Forest Health Economy

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- ✂ **Honoring our Cereus Funder**
 - ✂ **Building a Local Workforce for the Restoration Economy**
 - ✂ **Endangered Coho Salmon Finally Secure Habitat Protection in Marin County**
 - ✂ **Marshall Ranch Flow-Enhancement Implementation Project Gets Green Light**
 - ✂ **Remembering Dave Foreman, 1946–2022**



Editor's Note

What is a healthy forest?

To the untrained eye, any forest with green trees might appear healthy.

However, it takes knowledge, skills, and experience to see the forest through the trees, to see past what the forest is now to what it was, and most importantly, to what it is becoming.

So, what does make a healthy forest?

The answer to this question is not a simple one, but multi-faceted and nuanced. Most of all it challenges us to fundamentally change our relationship with the forests, to recognise and rediscover our role as part-of rather than adjacent-to. It also depends on who you ask; in this edition of *Forest and River News* you'll find stories from those delving deeply into the question, each a flourishing tree in a forest in the midst of a rejuvenation.

As rural economies throughout the Redwood Coast face challenges, multi-year forest health projects funded by California Climate Investments hold the potential to foster a forest health economy that can deliver multiple benefits to both local ecosystems and human communities. In this issue you will find a number of stories that explore the excitement and challenges of this historic opportunity.

In our human forest, we are saddened by the succession of several of the great trees, moving on to the next part of the cycle—our anonymous Cereus Fund benefactor for 24 years, grassroots organizing legend Dave Foreman, Wailaki Elder and advocate for Indigenous Peoples Fred “Coyote” Downey, and local community treasures Nancy Peregrine and Lon Mulvaney. Under their canopies grew many individuals, organizations, and movements whose good deeds and accomplishments will be celebrated for many years to come.

For the grassroots,

Jeri Fergus, Mona Provisor, Kerry Reynolds,
and Mitchell Danforth

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40th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference April 25-28, 2023 at the Fortuna River Lodge

Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is excited to host the 40th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference in Fortuna, CA, where participants will have the opportunity to explore innovative restoration projects and participate in technical workshops. The conference will highlight various estuary projects, dam removal, process-based strategies, and a wide range of restoration techniques to enhance recovery efforts. For more info, please visit www.calsalmon.org

Building a Local Workforce for the Restoration Economy

By Cheyenne Clarke and Will Emerson,
Northern Mendocino Ecosystem
Recovery Alliance

Extraction-based economies boom and bust. Resources run out. Industries collapse. Therefore, extraction is not a viable form of economic growth for the future. So, what is?

Restoration, regeneration, and renewal.

The restoration economy can fill the void left behind by extractive industries. To quote Storm Cunningham, author of *The Restoration Economy* (2002), this term “refers to economic growth that is based on repurposing, renewing, and reconnecting the natural, built, and socioeconomic environments.” To continue to grow economically we must pivot our focus to the regenerative development of our watersheds, forests, and local economies.

Extractive economies created a tremendous need for regeneration, and there is no shortage of work to be done in healing damaged ecosystems. The landscape of Northern Mendocino



Crew break and check-in with the crew boss on the Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) portion of the Northern Mendocino County Forest Health Collaborative project.

ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY WILL EMERSON, NORTHERN MENDOCINO ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY ALLIANCE

and Southern Humboldt is marked by overly dense forest stands and excess fuel loading—conditions that continue to degrade the quality and health of the region’s water and forests. Such conditions increase susceptibility to catastrophic fire, compromise forest carbon sequestration, and threaten the safety of neighboring communities. Remedying unstable conditions requires commitment and

coordination for landscape-scale action that targets forest health across public and private ownerships.

Major Forest Health Collaborative Grant Initiates a New Business Model

The \$4.9M Northern Mendocino County Forest Health Collaborative grant* awarded to the Mendocino Resource Conservation District (RCD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI)/Usal Redwood Forest Company (URFC), and Piercy Fire Protection District is a prime example of our regional restoration economy emerging. Below is an excerpt from the Northern Mendocino County Forest Health Collaborative Grant:

This project will treat 1,358 acres on BLM and RFFI properties in Northern Mendocino County. Proposed actions include forest health treatments, shaded fuel break construction, and biomass



Forest example on the RFFI portion of the project after the crew has been through

* Editor’s Note: This Forest Health grant is part of the California Climate Investments (CCI) program, and is administered through CAL FIRE. For more on the CCI program, see page 7.



Cheyenne Clarke interviewing crew leader Ben O'Neill on a field visit to RFFI.

utilization. Planning includes outreach in Mendocino and Humboldt counties to prepare for the critical expansion of fuel reduction work in Phase II. Targeted benefits include enhanced forest health and carbon storage potential, mitigation of wildfire risk, and support for community safety and local employment.

With a triple bottom line accounting for environmental health, social well-being, and a just economy, this grant requires that the workforce employed to perform the work be local. This grant has been a catalyst for building a forest health team that is locally embedded and available to partner with and bid on grant projects. A new form of work in our region is emerging: it isn't logging or tree service, but rather a forest health hand crew focused on reducing forest fuels and enhancing forest vitality.

"Like any type of employment, it isn't there until we have the need. Now we have the need. Now we have the funds," said Linwood Gill, the Forest Manager for URFC and the 50,000 acres of Usal forest owned by RFFI.

Is the Timing Finally Right for Long-Term Vision?

Timing may be the most valuable element of the equation that is bringing these restoration partnerships and projects to fruition. Compounding ecological

imbalances coupled with economic downturns create high demand for land care and jobs.

In November of 2021 when the founding members of the Northern Mendocino Ecosystem Recovery Alliance (NM-ERA) first met, it was due to the Northern Mendocino County Forest Health Collaborative grant and the possibility of regional forest health jobs. Helping to establish a local workforce for restoration projects became a central focus for the newly formed NM-ERA. The group addressed how to build the bridge (or business) to employ local people for regional restoration grant projects.*

The group met online and in person throughout the winter and spring, deliberating how to build local workforce capacity and mulling over the barriers of insurance, licenses, workman's comp, and potential partnerships. The non-profit served as a sounding board and support system for an alliance that has emerged as a for-profit entity. Vernon Wilson of Wood's Tree Service, Ben O'Neill with a former fire career, and Willie Grover of Elk Ridge Landscaping Inc partnered together to form a locally embedded fuel abatement workforce under Grover's

*On nm-era.org you can find a Workforce survey to join the workforce database and be notified about job opportunities.

contracting license. It is through collaboration that this team has been able to build the workforce bridge and begin work on RFFI's portion of the Forest Health Project—a shaded fuel break along the major trending ridge of Usal Forest and Highway 1.

"Everyone at RFFI has been really helpful in getting our business going and establishing ourselves as a workforce that is capable," said Willie Grover.

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. started as a bridge between logging and environmentalist communities in order to acquire a large piece of forested property and manage it for the benefit of the local community, thereby keeping profits in the community and providing well-paying jobs while managing the property in a long-term, regenerative manner. We need to have a long-term view, pivoting our perspective from sustaining to regenerating; ensuring the future of the forests and forest communities.

Forest Manager Linwood Gill of URFC/RFFI shares the long-term vision of a regenerative industry that can be carried into the future through multi-aged stand management. The URFC property has four ridges that split the area into four sections, and there are plans for each ridge to become a shaded fuel break in the next seven years. The ridges tend to be dominated by tanoak. By removing brush and trees under a 6-inch diameter, a shaded fuel break is created that promotes habitat and traditional usage of tanoak forests as the ridges become more accessible. After the seven-year shaded fuel break project is complete, it will be time to start maintenance back at the beginning.

The Importance of Partnership and Collaboration

Linwood shared that RFFI had initially applied for this project as a single entity but was denied and given guidance to form regional partnerships for landscape-level restoration projects. Independently

planned projects by BLM and RFFI/URFC have been sewn together to create a large-scale forest health and fuels-reduction project (phase I), which will lay the groundwork for an upcoming project phase that will expand landscape-level impact (phase II) into surrounding forested regions. A project of this size is strengthened by the combined investment, experience, and commitment of multiple partners. Partnership is a primary tool for fortitude and resilience in the restoration economy.

Building a regional alliance to work in the woods is challenging, yet it has been supported by forces much bigger than any one individual involved. The emergence of a vital restoration economy requires partnerships, vision, and demand for a new way forward. Grant funding has its trade-offs. NM-ERA founding member Ben O'Neill shares the sentiment that funding is a good thing, but he is also wary of grant projects ending, work being periodically (un)available, the variability of labor budgets, the outsourcing of labor, and the strenuous nature of this work. Still, the demand for work and the need for restoration are glaringly present.

"The workforce is there," said O'Neill. "I have a list of 20 people who want to come work with us right now. They wanted to come work with us yesterday. So, as soon as we have more projects to deploy that workforce, we will."

With phase I work on the Red Mountain portion of the project becoming available this winter, the workforce leadership hopes to start another crew. This part of the project will create shaded fuel breaks on over 900 acres of BLM land east of Piercy. There is also potential for a crew to be focused on residential projects and 100-foot home clearances in the future. Overall, the workforce leadership (Glover, O'Neill, and Wilson) hope to establish a business model that is based on long-term growth that can mirror the restoration economy and

meet our regional needs, economically and ecologically.

Getting to Work

Starting a new workforce, as crew leader Ben O'Neill shared, has been a significant learning curve with regard to acreage projections. Terrain and density strongly influence how much ground a six-person crew can cover each day. Averaging about 1 acre per day, the current crew has been trained through the process of building a new crew. With his previous experience in CAL FIRE, O'Neill has implemented a safety and training structure that is grooming all members of the current crew (five full-time employees and five part-time alternates) to step into crew leader and assistant crew leader positions on future projects.

According to O'Neill, "Not only was this project amazing as far as what it provided us financially, but it also provided us with the overall training to get this project (building a workforce) off the ground. Regardless of terrain and fuel type, you can see us getting better and better. The crew that we have working right here are the future leaders of our crews. This was an outstanding opportunity to get our baseline figured out—where we are and where we should be—and everybody knows what the standard is now, which trickles down from here on out."

Each day starts with a safety briefing, and another after lunch. Skills are shared and passed on. Good work habits start from the ground up. It's one thing to cut a little brush at home. It's another to do it safely for six hours a day, five days a week in all sorts of conditions, slopes, and fuel types surrounded by other roaring chainsaws and falling branches. It's vital to find the balance between speed and longevity, to keep tools and bodies functioning well and showing up every day.

Beyond the guys and gals with chainsaws, there will be opportunities for other roles as the work expands: saw technicians,

mechanics, quality control specialists, workforce trainers, safety officers, surveyors, forest technicians, foresters, biologists, fire bosses, bookkeepers, grant writers, donut makers, etc. It's important to build paths upwards so people can stay in the field and share their hard-won skills long after their bodies can no longer take the daily grind of running a saw.

This is Economic Development even if it doesn't look like it. There are so few good jobs in our region, and they have always been involved in selling off our resources cheaply—a repeated "boom and bust" economy. A lot of people hoped that the cannabis industry would change that, but it too was just another gold rush boom to be followed by a hard bust. So now it's time to rebuild our economy based on taking care of the land around us and restoring the natural abundance that the native people cultivated here. Yes, it will take outside money like grants to get this going. Yes, there is a lot to learn and mistakes will be made. Yes, there are many challenges ahead, but stop and listen for a moment: that's the sound of the forest growing every day.

Our region needs viable futures, meaningful jobs, and widespread restoration. The Northern Mendocino Ecosystem Recovery Alliance aims to continue to build capacity as a regional organization to support the development of the restoration economy through grant funding, partnerships, project planning, administration, and training. The NM-ERA plans to help with training people and finding work for them. The first training opportunity will be at Tan Oak Park later this fall. Stay tuned for details.

🌲 For more information visit www.nm-era.org and join the mailing list. The organization is recruiting community members who support the vision and have the skills, energy, and experience to add to our committees. To join the organization and the movement, please reach out to contact@nm-era.org.

State Awards \$5 Million Grant for Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience in Southern Humboldt

By Southern Humboldt
Forest Health Collaborative

CAL FIRE has entered into a nearly \$5 million grant agreement with the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) to implement the Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project across 1,022 acres of forest and grasslands near the southern Humboldt communities of Petrolia and Salmon Creek by early 2026. The project is designed to enhance forest health at the landscape level in the Mattole and South Fork Eel watersheds, ensuring that the areas treated will help meet emissions offset targets of the California Climate Investments program while critically reducing wildfire risk and contributing to the safety of local residents. [For more on the California Climate Investments program, see the end of this article.]

This project is a collaboration of state and local agencies, non-profits, and private landowners. The team includes CAL FIRE, HCRCD, Mattole Restoration Council, Humboldt Redwood Company, Trees Foundation, Mattole Salmon Group, Chapman Ranch, Valley View Ranch, Cisco Benemenn, 7B Ranch, 3030 Ranch, and California State Parks.

"HCRCD is honored to administer this grant and facilitate this important work on behalf of the Southern Humboldt community," said Jill Demers, HCRCD Executive Director.

"CAL FIRE Forest Health funding has created an incredible opportunity for us to implement landscape-scale ecosystem restoration projects in the Mattole and Eel River watersheds," said Hugh McGee of the Mattole Restoration Council,

who led project design and will manage project implementation. "This project will address ecological issues across multiple ecosystems while building a local restoration workforce. Treatments will occur on ridgeline forests, grasslands, and oak woodland all the way down to riparian and in-stream areas. It's unique to have one funding source address so many issues across different ecosystems, and we are really excited about that."

Enter the Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative

Mattole Restoration Council worked with several landowners over the years to develop plans for forest treatments on Apple Tree Ridge and adjacent ridgelines on Humboldt Redwood Company property in the Mattole River watershed that aim to restore late-seral forest conditions to the project sites. The Salmon Creek shaded fuel break portion of the project centers on a forest treatment plan on the Chapman Ranch that was developed over a decade ago. The two projects were ultimately brought together under one grant proposal through a collaborative process that began in the fall of 2021, when the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF) teamed up with Trees Foundation to host a series of online meetings of Southern Humboldt-based stakeholders to explore potential projects for a regional CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program application.

This stakeholder group, now known as the Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative, continues to convene to support the development and implementation of future projects that will benefit forest health and wildfire resilience in Southern Humboldt. The

list of participants is still growing and has included CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, Chapman Ranch, HCRCD, ISF, Mattole Restoration Council, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council, Trees Foundation, Salmon Creek Working Group, Southern Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association, The Watershed Center, Redwood Community Action Agency, several Volunteer Fire Departments, and interested community members.

"This is an exciting opportunity to promote forest management that contributes to the long-term ecological and economic well-being of our forested communities," said Chip Tittmann, President of ISF. "I'd like to thank Tim Bailey of The Watershed Center for strongly encouraging us early on to pursue a CAL FIRE Forest Health grant."

"In addition to promoting fire resiliency, California's investment in forest health will benefit the economy," said Gail Eastwood, Chair of the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council. "We can expect local workers and contractors to have ongoing employment in this satisfying work."

"This grant is a major investment, not only in strategic forest treatments, but also in community planning and capacity-building that will support more southern Humboldt landowners to plan, fund, and implement fire resilience and ecosystem restoration projects on their own lands," said Kerry Reynolds, Organizational Development Director of Trees Foundation.

Funding will be used for:

- ◆ Completing over 600 acres of restorative forest thinning on Apple



MRC Saw Crew poses for photo on their first official day at the Chapman Ranch. The crew will later perform falling operations in Sudden Oak Death territory on steep slopes to start repairing the damage done by the Canoe Fire, 2003. (From left to right: Shira Brown, Samuel Keener, David Liming, Wyatt Leach, Bill Leach, Miles Oliart, Liam McPhee, Sam Epperson, Jordan Anderson). PHOTO BY ELEONORE J. ANDERSON

Tree Ridge and adjacent ridgelines on Humboldt Redwood Company property. Small-diameter timber will be thinned on more than 200 acres and sold to their Scotia mill for biomass utilization, with proceeds offsetting project costs. The project also includes removal of encroaching trees from historical grasslands and oak woodlands, and installing logs with a helicopter in McGinnis Creek for in-stream salmonid habitat. In addition, the project features invasive-plant removal, native plant installation, and over 120 acres of prescribed fire in grasslands and forests.

- ◆ Completing a 200-acre shaded fuel break on the Chapman Ranch in the footprint of an emergency unshaded fuel break created by CAL FIRE during the 2003 Canoe Fire. The Canoe Fire burned more than 13,000 acres in California State Parks and encroached onto the Chapman Ranch, threatening the community of Salmon Creek.
- ◆ Completing surveys needed for State Parks to meet environmental compliance requirements to implement a future fuel break on the southern portion of their property that borders Chapman Ranch and the Salmon Creek watershed. As a

project match, State Parks staff will assist in coordinating the necessary surveys and will implement Phase I of their Watershed Resilience Project (also referred to as Panther Gap) which includes 150 acres of restorative forest and ridgetop thinning occurring largely in Middle Creek (middle Mattole River watershed).

- ◆ Community planning and project development in southern Humboldt County to foster local workforce capacity to implement forest health projects and support continued community engagement in strategic project development, ensuring that the impacts achieved under this grant will continue to expand across the southern Humboldt landscape into the future.

“Never before in our history have we had the opportunity to restore fire-suppressed landscapes at this scale,” noted Kyle Keegan, a member of the Salmon Creek Working Group. “I believe we can act accordingly and with care to utilize these grant funding opportunities to help build a lasting relationship to the land through the process of restoring forest health and fire resilience.”

About the California Climate Investments Program

The Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade Program dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade Program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. CCI projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35% of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across the state. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

🌱 For more information:
organize@treesfoundation.org

Musings on Forest Health

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, Healthy Comebacks

PG&E's Line-Clearing, Why We Need More than Memes, and Some Key Definitions of Healthy and Forest

By Jeff Hedin,
*Institute for Sustainable Forestry,
Commissioner, Piercy Volunteer
Fire Department*

This article has been edited for length. For the whole "poetic song" and its long email response thread, visit instituteforsustainableforestry.com/articles/forest-health.

In asking, "What is forest health?" I have struggled to compose this scrambled query. At a Redwood Forest Foundation Inc. annual meeting, Jerry Franklin warned, "If you want to reach everyone, keep it simple."

Simple is not my great skill. But I know that simple is not simplistic. Please consider this a begging start. Simplify it. Add to it. Let's talk.

The Ravages of PG&E

About a year ago, while at my desk working on a grant proposal to create shaded fuel breaks on ridges around Piercy, a shaking plum tree in my orchard grabbed my attention: "A bear? This time of year?" I dropped my pencil, ran out, and found a PG&E vegetation management* employee in the tree readying a chainsaw.

"Hey, what are you doing in my plum tree?"

"It's too tall. Have to cut it."

"Too tall?"

"Yah, I have to cut the forest back to more than 18 feet from the wires."

Downhill from my plum tree cutter I could see a large uniformed crew laying waste, with righteous fury, to a lot of important vegetation

* See Mattole Restoration Council's Cereus Report on pg. 22 for more on PG&E's Vegetative Management program.

"Are you the boss of this crew?"

"No."

"Well, get down there and get your boss. You are not going to cut this tree. Can't you see that every tree for 150 yards on both sides of this power line and road is pruned to the same height? Around here we don't call this a forest. We call it an orchard."

They were from Alabama. They didn't know they were clearcutting a swath up a semi-dormant landslide that moved with every earthquake, or that the tree roots held the soil. They didn't know which stumps would sprout and keep their roots alive, and which would not.

"In Alabama we don't have trees and mountains like this..."

These were hard-working men. If they were my neighbors, they'd probably volunteer with me at the fire department. But they were too frenzied for polite conversation. They seemed to consider my orchard and me just a problem impeding their effort to save California and all of us from imminent wildfire. Their resistance to logic and friendliness was staggering. But they agreed to skip my orchard.

Later that day I woke up from a nap dreaming that I was swarmed by smug news bites concluding that "Americans just want their lives back to normal." I was contemplating the proposed legislation to fund CAL FIRE to hire 1,000 more firefighters and wondering how PG&E had turned hundreds of men from Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Mexico, and Laytonville into a messianic fuels-reduction army.

At my desk, I was no longer chuckling at CAL FIRE's audacity to label fuel-reduction funds as a "Forest Health" program. My amusement was not because I think firestorms are good for the forest; I wanted to reduce fuel, and I wanted fuel-reduction funds. I was amused by our U.S.A. cultural tendency, especially by our promoters, to give our projects and programs all-inclusive, wide-appeal, "who could object" titles that tend to obscure issues and processes more than to reveal them.

Too often these wide-appeal captions, titles, catch phrases, lyrics, sayings, and slogans become memes, go viral, and worm their way into our languages—humanity's most important survival tool—and dull them. A dull tool takes pleasure and joy out of work, and sows frustration. Frustration is always unproductive, discordant, and divisive. I feared "Forest Health" becoming a meme like "War on Drugs" or "Make America Great Again" that would make people see a forest as trees and brush and believe that whacking down biomass would create a brushless, "healthy forest."

I worry that this has already begun. How could PG&E so quickly organize this many people from so many different regions and dialects, with no knowledge of local terrain and no shared commitment to the local community, to such a focused fervor. The organizing of all these "king's men" could not have resulted from a long, passionate study of biospheric intricacies and how to enter a forest community as one who enhances its sustained vigor. This group had to be organized around a small litany of simplistic, reductive memes.

A War on Fire that Blames the Forest Is Not the Prescription for Forest Health

This forest is not unhealthy. It is making an amazing recovery from the biggest catastrophic event in its evolutionary history: the arrival of European Industrial Culture with its awesome tools, its belief that the apex of human achievement is building and defending cities, and its total unfamiliarity with terrain being shaped by tectonic subduction.

If we let our governance simplify our response to this problem with sound bites to assuage fears that wildfire might reduce “normal human comfort,” then the verdant “collide-o-scape” of the Triple Junction—a fascinating region of rumpled ridges and twisty streams with its mosaic of microbiomes on various soils crunched into abrupt aspect changes—will continue to be reduced to humps of dumps.

We need a serious conversation. Let’s put our minds together to define forest health so robustly that it cannot be degraded into a simplistic, reductive, life-threatening meme. To be quiet risks subjecting our biosphere to another misguided war, a tactic from the age of conquest: beat everything into submission to our urges.

A Little Etymology (word study)

“Forest” and “health” are words with long and ongoing evolutionary histories in our language.

Etymologists trace “health” from *kaillo*, an Indo-European word that becomes *hale*, *whole*, *heal*, and *health* in current English. Our dictionaries tend to define “health” as free from injury or disease. The etymologists say “forest” comes from the Indo-European *dhiver*, which became “door” in Old English, and in Old Latin became *forum* [enclosed], *foras* [outdoors], and plurally *foris* [outside all enclosures, akin to our “wilderness”].

As the Germans and the Vikings moved into Gaul and became

Latinized, *foris* became *foristis*, the uncommercialized land belonging to the king, his hunting grounds.

In 1066, after the Battle of Hastings when William of Normandy defeated King Harold of England, William brought the word and the concept to English. It has evolved to conjure all the images and associations “forest” has for us today. Previously, what we now call forests were called woods or woodlands.

Our dictionaries tend to define “forest” as land dominated by trees. But we extend the term to apply to a kelp forest, urban forest, aquatic forest, food forest, commercial forest, riverine forest, etc..

My personal image of our geo-biosphere is an undulating web of continuums: waters to deserts, mesic to xeric, abyssal to sea level to glaciated peaks, tropical to arctic—and I prefer adjectives to nouns to describe types of terrain. Similarly, my image of biospheric health is another undulating continuum in which each member of a biotic neighborhood affects the health of all others as it adjusts to daily, seasonal, and epochal shifts in weather and geology.

Since our current funding programs do not make discussing these images for forest health easy, I searched CAL FIRE’s website for their definitions. I found that the California Forest Improvement Program considers or defines any tract of land that is a minimum of five acres and at least 10% shaded by tree canopy to be eligible for funding.

Some Suggested Measures of Forest Health

I would include the following to assess forest health:

1. A healthy forest is creating and retaining soil as fast as or faster than it is losing it.
2. A healthy forest has evolved and maintains a chaotic bio-structure capable of surviving the apex catastrophes of its chaotic geology and weather.

3. A healthy forest is diversifying fast enough to adapt to the long-term climate and geologic shiftings of its locale.

4. A healthy forest’s seed distributors and pollinators are maintaining consistent population cycles.

5. A healthy forest’s composters [its herbivores, carnivores, detritivores, and saprophytes] in and on its soil and on its foliage digest and sequester sloughed biomass before it can support catastrophic wildfire, but leave a duff layer providing erosion control, water absorption and retention, and a buffer of soil temperature fluctuation.

6. A healthy forest has enough standing and fallen dead trees to sustain the populations of beings dependent on them for shelter, stored water, and energy.

7. Fire has a role in the ecosystem, whether natural or prescribed.

8. A healthy forest has a healthy human community around and within it.

What Is a Healthy Human Community? A Few Ideas

1. Understands humanity is a social way of life in which each human is infinitely unique.

2. Knows that every human helps us to understand what is going on, what and who we are, and what we should do next.

3. Accepts that humanity lives by its cumulative genetic genius and its cumulative linguistic genius, and nurtures its children’s development in both.

4. Knows that all the energy of our moment shares an evolutionary process, moving through the possibilities that emerge in our dance of life.

5. Knows that all biomes are communities.

6. Knows that our planet’s photosynthesizers provide 99% of the energy animating our biospheric life, treasures their genetic genius, and enhances their being.

7. Knows that each plant and animal is a geo-engineering entity, and every act affects biospheric habitat.
8. Provides the immersion in natural settings that each member needs, including the incarcerated.
9. Values eco-services and compensates those who provide them.
10. Manages its landscape for all age classes, with mid-seral domination.

We need to take the creative initiative. We need to develop appropriate visionary tools and procedures, and apply them.

Wildfire Is a Symptom

Wildfire is not the problem. It is a symptom—glaring, costly, frighteningly dangerous, but a symptom. California's pre-Columbian communities managed this terrain to maximize their access to food, water, shelter, clothing, and commerce for thousands of years. Living this way involved geo-biospheric intimacy. The toolkit they created is now recognized as Tribal Ecological Knowledge [TEK]. Eventually they became the dominant keystone presence in their environment.

Their management stopped with the hegemony of European Industrial Civilization [EIC]. Long-managed floral species are now sprouting in territory where they were suppressed during the TEK period. During EIC management, some areas have been planted inappropriately, and invasive non-native species, some of them pathogens and/or highly flammable, were introduced and spread.

Furthermore, EIC, with its full toolkit [mechanical, social, financial, innovative], had no experience operating on seismically active landscapes. We still haven't adjusted our toolkit to them. Our logging, mining, transportation, and agriculture have disrupted the landscape. A lot of soil has been lost.

There is a need to restructure California's entire landscape from industrial leftovers

to a vibrant, healthy, fire-adapted arena for joyful life. Appropriate forms of agroforestry must emerge. We need to include in our EIC cultural mosaic a plant-by-plant intimacy equivalent to TEK across the landscape.

Unfortunately, with EIC mechanization, virtually none of us make our living searching the landscape, walking it, collecting from it in deep intimacy to get the materials to feed, shelter, and clothe ourselves. Establishing this level of landscape intimacy in California's version of EIC entails massive cultural change. In a community of 40 million people, this is a slow bell-curve crescendo.

We need to proceed with deliberate efficiency, and with care. Loving care. Rest and food and loving care—and housing, clothing, and celebration for all.

We need to reduce fire risk while increasing landscape vitality. Planting and tending are as important as trimming excess fuel. Maintenance is necessary.

Enlisting All of California

In California, a one-size-fits-all program will not work. California is designated as an island of diversity, a hotspot of genetic variety. Above all, we must engage local care across the state. We cannot be alienating and dividing local neighborhoods. They need to be trusted, funded, encouraged, and given access to information, training, and tools. They cannot be treated as if they are simply in the way. If they are not engaged, we fail. We are not talking about an industrial or military adjustment. We are talking about a way of life. A way of life that recognizes our dependency on photosynthesizing botanical beings and cares for them—recognizing their well-being as the primary infrastructure for life on Earth.

Eventually this may require a semi-mobile middle-management organization on the scale of the CCC or the WPA. Okay, but we don't need to start there.

I refer to California as a chaotic archipelago of island biomes, big and small. Each island needs its own appropriate care. Caring for the landscape of California will be as individuated as caring for all the kindergarteners in a school district. It will not be like servicing a fleet of 1/2-ton Chevrolet trucks.

Eventually we have to coordinate all our state agencies that have large-scale landscape effects. CAL FIRE, CalTrans, CPUC, Parks and Rec, Dept. of Ag, Water Quality, and Air Quality all have to be working together. Federally we must include BLM, Forest Service, National Parks, and Army Corps of Engineers. It's a long way off, but they have smart people. Loop them in.

Finale

Do we consider the Earth as our launching pad or our destination? We have been gathering here from the space around us for 8 billion years. Go out at night and watch more of us arrive, meteor by meteor. Or go to the structures housing the edges of science where they measure the cosmic dust trickling on board, tons every day.

Have we gathered here, cuddled up, melted in our core, floated out our lighter elements to form our lands and waters and atmosphere and biosphere.

Have we listened to our planetary sounding off, our deep ancestors sounding along until we evolved our languages.

Just to launch off back into the space from which we gathered to become this planet?

Did we gather just to bicker, fight, and go to war? Or did we come to party? To make life nice! To triumph individually? To conquer? Or to love, to enjoy, to feed, clothe, house, comfort; to care for life, and celebrate the joy that brings? What a show! Why go? Let's stay and play for keeps.

🌲 For more information:
JeffAtStandish@gmail.com

Remembering Dave Foreman, 1946–2022

Earth First! Co-Founder and Iconic “Redneck for Wilderness”

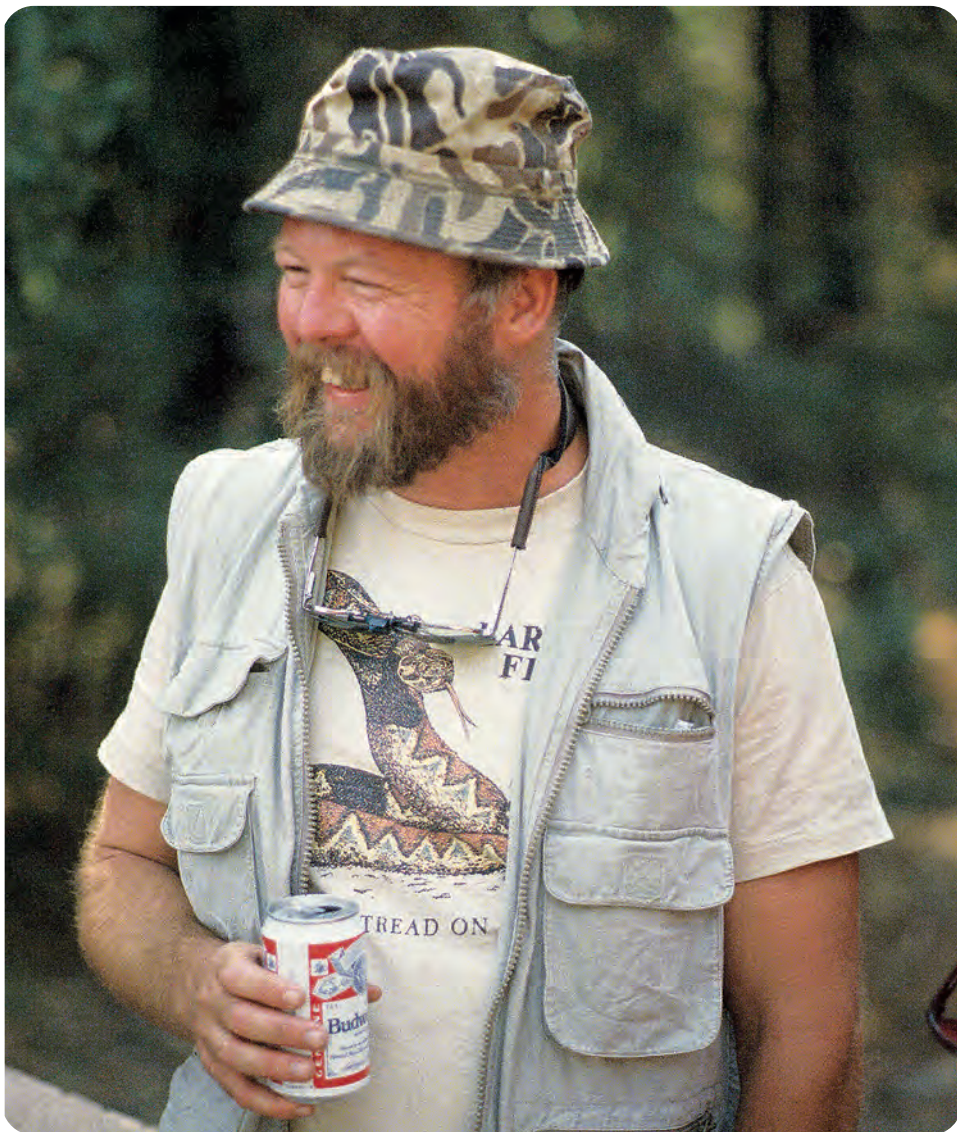
Dave Foreman: Father of the Modern Environmental Movement

By Darryl Cherney,
Environmentally Sound Promotions

Dave Foreman, one of Earth First!’s most visible spokespeople for nearly a decade from 1981 to 1990, passed away Sept. 19, 2022, just before he would have turned 75. While controversial, Dave, a self-proclaimed “Redneck for Wilderness,” was, for a time, perhaps the most brilliant thinker and wild orator the environmental movement had ever seen. He would tell stories, click up his heels on stage, and inspire thousands of people to put their bodies on the line for Mother Earth, including this writer. He pioneered and popularized the notion of biocentrism—that biology must be the center of our environmental concerns, as opposed to, say, political expediency.

Foreman’s most famous book is *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching* (1985), where the concept of sabotage in defense of life on this planet is presented as a valid tactic. He was a friend of Edward Abbey, who earlier wrote *The Monkeywrench Gang* (1975), a must-read. In fact, right there on the copyright page, Abbey predicts the formation of a group like Earth First! based on his book.

What made Earth First! different from all other environmental groups was and is a non-hierarchical structure that fostered leadership among the grassroots. Anyone could form an Earth First! chapter, be an Earth First! spokesperson, organize a blockade, tree-sit, or other protest without going through a board of directors. A



Dave Foreman during the 1989 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico.

large amount of trust made this possible. To this day, Earth First! considers itself more of a tribe than an organization. And what bonds that tribe together is the notion that we are wild!

In 1989, Foreman was targeted and arrested by the FBI for giving \$100 to some folks who fell for an FBI sting operation to take down a power line in Arizona. That

bust was the beginning of the end of his glory years, and in 1990 he resigned from Earth First! and his role as publisher of the Earth First! Journal. Foreman served no jail time but did plead guilty to avoid a messy trial.

Foreman went on to continue his environmental work with a number of organizations he founded. However, his

legacy truly lies in the creation of Earth First! and the scores of biocentric-based environmental organizations in addition to Earth First! that now populate the country and the world. He redefined how we think about the Earth. The world is very much a better place for his being here. Dave Foreman provided vision, direct-action tactics, and a sense of the possible for those of us who remain true to putting Earth First!

Dave Foreman's Legacy

By Karen Pickett,
Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

Dave Foreman, who advocated for, wrote about, and fought for wild nature his entire adult life, died at (nearly) 75 on Sept. 19 in New Mexico, where he lived. Along with an enormous legacy of work and writings, he left a large impact on the modern environmental movement over the course of half a century.

After working for and becoming fed up with the Washington DC-based environmental groups, he and several people including Mike Roselle, Howie Wolke, Susan Morgan, and others, co-founded Earth First! in 1980. Deliberately



The wedding of Dave Foreman and Nancy Morton at the 1986 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous in Idaho. PHOTO BY KAREN PICKETT

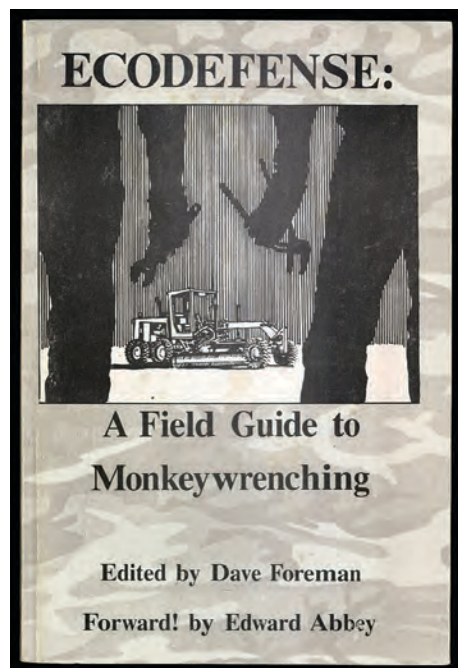
radical, the direct-action group would change the face and tactics of environmental advocacy.

Foreman laid out his intentions in a 1981 *Progressive* article. In order to set a radical philosophical and tactical tone that would avoid the pitfalls of compromise, the co-founders crafted an agenda of throwing the blankets off the conservatism of the mainstream groups like the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society et al., to bring “vigor, enthusiasm, and joy” to the tired environmental movement, to provide a “productive fringe,” and to inspire acts “straight from the pages of the book *The Monkeywrench Gang* and fight with uncompromising passion for Mother Earth.”

In 1985, Foreman published *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*—a how-to manual that created an uproar and likely contributed to Dave being arrested by the FBI in 1989 when undercover agents set up a group of activists in the desert of Arizona with equipment, funding, and encouragement in an act of sabotage to a transmission tower that was part of a project bringing water to the

golf courses of Phoenix. Dave was not part of the action, but he was charged with conspiracy nonetheless because of his notoriety and the *Ecodefense* book. This “Arizona 5” case was the first of what later became known as “The Green Scare.”

A controversial figure, Dave Foreman could be a crusty SOB and was not always enlightened socially in the way young activists of today would see it; instead he was a product of the 1970s and '80s in a time of rapidly changing cultural mores and awareness. He held anti-immigration views and had famously public arguments with EF! and labor activist Judi Bari and social ecologist Murray Bookchin. He recognized that “Leftists often talk a little different language than me. That doesn't mean we have to fight; it just means we start out emphasizing different things. I actually think we have a lot to learn from each other. I don't necessarily consider myself a leftist. I don't want to tar that movement with my association, for one thing. But I do have a great deal of sympathy for these movements and I continue to learn from my sometimes clumsy dance with the left.” [Editor's Note: This quote is from *Defending the Earth*:



A Debate, which transcribes a Nov. 1989 debate between Foreman and Murray Bookchin.]

He was also one of the most motivating orators and passionate people to speak out on behalf of other species. He did not coin the term “biocentrism,” but he turned countless people on to the concept by way of thinking outside the anthropocentric box. Dave had the style of a preacher, and his religion was biocentrism, his church the wild outdoors.

Dave and Earth First! parted ways into its second decade, and he went on to found the Wildlands Network in 1991 and the Wildlands Institute in 2003, with a mission of preserving and restoring wild nature by identifying and protecting wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.

One of Dave’s closest friends said to me in 2021, after Dave’s partner Nancy died, **“In the end, I think we old EF!ers all share nearly all of the most important goals, even if our styles were different.” True, that.**

Dave went on to further define his ideas and explain his perspective on the environmental movement’s history, the philosophy of biocentrism, and wilderness defense strategy in his autobiography, *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, published in 1991. He also published *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century* in 2004 and wrote or co-authored several other books.

Dave is recognized for popularizing the concept of Conservation Biology. He was incredibly well-versed on natural history and species extinction in the face of expanding human consumption, and always thought big, in terms of protection and restoration of wild areas and wild predators.

Dave’s proposal for a statement of principles for the nascent Earth First! in 1980 defined his ideas:

👊 Wilderness has a right to exist for its own sake

👊 All life forms, from virus to the great whales, have an inherent and equal right to existence

👊 Humankind is no greater than any other form of life and has no legitimate claim to dominate Earth

👊 Humankind, through anthropocentrism, industrialization, excessive energy consumption/resource extraction, state capitalism, father-figure hierarchies, imperialism, pollution, and natural area destruction, threatens the basic life processes of EARTH

👊 All human decisions should consider Earth first, humankind second

👊 The only true test of morality is whether an action—individual, social, or political—benefits Earth

👊 Humankind will be happier, healthier, more secure, and more comfortable in a society that recognizes humankind’s true biological nature and which is in dynamic harmony with the total biosphere

👊 Political compromise has no place in the defense of Earth

👊 Earth is Goddess and the proper object of human worship

Dave Foreman Taught Me to Think BIG

By Lynn Ryan,
Ancient Forest International

The first time I heard Dave Foreman speak was in Del Norte County (northwestern California) in 1982. I was with a HSU classmate heading into a backpacking trip on the South Fork Smith River, but seeing an interesting-looking group of people, I walked over and listened to Dave Foreman talk. He spoke of the Earth as a functioning being to be revered, thanked, and defended. Apparently, nearby Bald Mountain in Oregon was in need of direct



action. So too was a proposed road linking Willow Creek and Crescent City. I learned about affinity groups and functioning as a group, connected and respecting each other. These people spoke my values and wanted to do something positive.

The Bald Mountain situation improved, so we young activists turned our attention to a South Fork Eel River Bureau of Land Management timber sale that needed a louder voice and direct action. The timber sale didn’t happen, and that forest in 2006 became the heart of the South Fork Eel Wilderness.

Now back to Dave Foreman. He was an inspiration for me for decades, a spokesperson, visionary, and teacher. Dave Foreman got us thinking about connectivity. Earth First!, California Wilderness Coalition, EPIC, the Sierra Club, so many groups stood up for Mother Earth in the years that followed Dave’s advocacy. Dave Foreman encouraged everyone to think BIG: big swaths of healthy ecosystem connecting bigger chunks of functioning forest. Connectivity was a new concept for me back then. Earth First! was the motto that motivated me to enjoy the big outdoors, joining positive people who were actually doing something in defense of Mother Earth. He is missed.

See other thoughts about Dave at
<https://rewilding.org/dave-foreman-omit/>

Endangered Coho Salmon Finally Secure Habitat Protection in Marin County, CA

Two Decades, Multiple Lawsuits, and Creative Grassroots Persistence Was the Key to Success

By Todd Steiner,

Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

Forest Knolls, CA—This is a story that begs to begin with the proverbial “once upon a time,” as it has all the classic elements of a captivating, decades-long tale. The endangered coho salmon is a keystone species of the Lagunitas and San Geronimo Creek watersheds, swimming 20 miles upstream each winter to spawn in natal creeks in the San Geronimo Valley, the county’s most important undammed headwaters for coho salmon. Here, the last 10% of the historic salmon run lay their eggs to regenerate the population. Sadly, redwood trees—which improve water quality, protect creekbanks, support healthy salmon, and sequester climate-changing carbon—have been reduced to just 5% of their range and are listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The plights of the charismatic salmon and the iconic redwood are a stark illustration of the impact of historically poor protection of watershed habitats.

The Recent Victory:

A Stream Conservation Ordinance

In July 2022, the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network (SPAWN, a program of Turtle Island Restoration Network), compelled Marin County Supervisors to finally pass a science-based Stream Conservation Ordinance. It’s a vital victory in SPAWN’s comprehensive strategy to protect and restore the coho population of the 100-square-mile Lagunitas Creek watershed, providing a much-needed boost to efforts to



Projected “Virtual” Banner Hanging on Marin Civic Center get front page news coverage.

ALL GRAPHICS THIS ARTICLE COURTESY SPAWN

eventually obtain a happily-ever-after ending.

Once numbering about 5,000 returning spawning adults annually, the current Lagunitas Creek coho population averages about 500, with a low of 52 fish in 2008–09. Over the course of this battle, Central California coho went from a threatened to endangered listing under the Endangered Species Act. The current federal Recovery Plan sets a recovery target of 1,300 redds (nests) or about 2,600 adults.

The local causes of decline mirror the issues found throughout the coho’s range: loss and degradation of habitat from ranching, deforestation, and urbanization causing incised waterways, loss of floodplains, poor water quality, and increased stream velocities from runoff from impervious roads and

houses. In a nutshell, 200 years of poor land-use decisions drove the local salmon population to the brink of extinction.

Despite alarming scientific data that the population was continuing its downhill spiral, lobbying of County Supervisors that began in the early 2000s fell on deaf ears, while approved housing continued to sprawl along streambanks.

A 20-Year Grassroots and Legal Battle

In April 2003, SPAWN filed suit in Marin Superior Court against the County of Marin, which had just approved a 4,400-ft² single-family home adjacent to important spawning habitat. With the help of attorney Michael Graf, SPAWN argued that the County illegally exempted the project from the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approving one house at a time without considering the “cumulative” impacts of past and future development as required by CEQA. In November, the Court agreed and placed an injunction on further creekside development until a Stream Conservation Ordinance was enacted.

An important legal precedent was set—declaring that single-family homes, normally exempt from CEQA review, were not exempt when proposed in “sensitive habitats” such as creekside and wetland habitat. (SPAWN is delighted to report nearly 20 years later that it is now working with the current property owners to restore and improve habitat.)

The County appealed the judge’s decision to enjoin any future development, and while the Appeals Court upheld the failure of proper environmental review, it ruled that the lower court overstepped its authority when it issued an order stopping development until the County passed a Streamside Conservation Ordinance to clarify creekside development rules for landowners and salmon protection. The County went back to approving development, which was met by new and successful legal challenges by SPAWN.

This situation was unsustainable, time-consuming, and expensive for everyone.

A Long Time Coming: Perseverance Pays Off

This story is more than a historical legal account—it is a real-world tale of perseverance, community, and inspiration.

Keep in mind that intricately woven between each and every legal action presented here was a series of concerted grassroots maneuvers designed to organize and mobilize resistance to the powerful influence of the real estate industry and “property rights” extremists. These maneuvers included running full-page ads that highlighted the community of scientists and civil organizations, organizing a coalition of 30 community and environmental organizations to testify at public hearings, launching a “virtual” banner projected on the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Marin Civic Center—making headlines with the help of the San Francisco Projector Department, creating a photo-petition garnering the support of more than 5,000 Marin residents and people beyond the Bay Area, and instilling steadfast passion in everyone who cares about a future for the endangered salmon.



Photo of news clipping from first Court ruling in 2003

In 2007, the County released its draft County Wide Plan, allowing more creekside development than scientists believed the salmon could withstand. SPAWN again challenged the adequacy of CEQA analysis and the County’s proposed mitigation—the passage of a still-undefined ordinance at some vague time in the future.

Recognizing SPAWN’s past successful legal challenges and the thousands of dollars the County was expending on attorneys’ fees, the County agreed to “toll the statute of limitations” on filing the suit to allow time for negotiations to reach settlement and avoid more losses in court. A two-year moratorium on development was approved while a “Salmon Enhancement Plan” and “Current Conditions Report” were completed by mutually agreed-upon scientific consultants.

Countering Powerful Development Interests

Once reports were completed, the County set out to develop an ordinance that would keep Marin’s real estate lobby and property rights devotees happy and somehow meet the legal requirements to protect salmon habitat.



Youth activist testifies at Marin County Supervisors hearing on SCA ordinance.

Supervisor Kinsey: Save Salmon Streams – Not Pave the Way for Bigger Houses

There's something fishy going on in Marin and we need your help.

They're salmon. Wild coho salmon. Right here in Marin. In fact, the Lagunitas Creek watershed is one of the last strongholds in California for wild coho salmon—yet even here they're critically endangered.

We once had thousands of coho salmon spawning in Marin's streams. But today those numbers have dropped by more than 90 percent.

Experts warn we're at a tipping point. One hundred thirty leading scientists sent a letter calling on Marin to strengthen stream conservation measures. Failing to do so, scientists warned, could spell extinction for Marin's coho salmon.

Yet Supervisor Kinsey is pushing for the opposite. He wants to weaken the county's commitment to protect our streams—protections that are vital to endangered salmon and native wildlife.

The proposed streamside conservation ordinance will allow many houses to grow bigger (by as much as a third in size) on small creekside parcels along coho streams in the San Geronimo Valley—and without requiring that salmon habitat be restored or set aside to offset any that is destroyed. Development here is already jeopardizing salmon survival, according to the county's own studies. Scientists do not believe Marin's salmon can withstand the continued loss of critical habitat if they are to survive and thrive.

Protecting Creekside "Riparian" Habitat:

- Protects endangered salmon.
- Provides habitat for 235 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.
- Reduces flooding.
- Improves water quality.
- Protects against creekbank failures.
- Improves property values.
- Is supported by the scientific community.

Just six years ago, the county spent over \$1.6 million to develop the Marin Countywide Plan—which guides development while protecting Marin's amazing beauty, wildlife and natural resources.

But now Supervisor Kinsey wants to weaken the Countywide Plan in order to appease a small, well-financed group of property owners in his district—and developers and realtors who want more development along creeks.

Even worse, the California Fair Political Practices Commission recently found that Supervisors Kinsey, Karlo Rier and Susan Adams have economic conflicts of interest in the ordinance because they own homes within 500 feet of the streamside conservation areas. These conflicted supervisors should not vote on the ordinance. Instead, an independent panel of scientists should ultimately craft a new and more protective streamside conservation ordinance.

Weakening the Countywide Plan weakens taxpayer dollars, threatens the survival of coho salmon, and sets a dangerous precedent that could unravel decades of environmental protections that have preserved the beauty of Marin and our quality of life. Tell Steve Kinsey and the Board of Supervisors to Save Salmon Streams, Not Pave the Way for Bigger Houses!

We Need You to Convince the Supervisors to Change Course

- Call your supervisor (817-499-7331) and demand science-based streamside protections. Tell your supervisors not to change the Countywide Plan, which would cost taxpayers and roll back hard-won protections.
- Sign a petition at: www.SaveMarinSalmon.org asking the Marin supervisors to pass science-based rules to protect Marin creeks.
- Attend the Marin Board of Supervisors hearing on Monday, October 29, when they will discuss the fate of the Countywide Plan.
- Make a tax-deductible contribution to support the campaign to Save Marin's Salmon at www.SaveMarinSalmon.org.

Please take action NOW to save Marin's coho salmon!

Full-page newspaper AD published in the Marin Independent Journal

Not surprisingly, they failed.

In September 2010, with no meaningful action to protect salmon habitat in sight, SPAWN and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed the long-delayed lawsuit challenging the sufficiency of the EIR. One year later, SPAWN filed an amended petition adding a cause of action challenging the County's failure to adopt a Stream Conservation Ordinance within the time frame prescribed as a mitigation measure in the 2007 County Wide Plan.

The County did float draft regulations that always favored development over endangered species. For example, in 2013 the County actually passed an ordinance that provided little protection for salmon habitat. While it purported to include

a 100-foot creek setback rule, the fine print concealed so many exceptions and exemptions that it impacted very few parcels. It also included a "poison pill" provision that made the ordinance null if it was challenged in court, trying to place blame on SPAWN for killing it if challenged. SPAWN and CBD called their bluff and the ordinance was immediately annulled.

In 2014, the Courts again ruled in SPAWN's favor, ordering the County to do more environmental analysis and complete a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), costing the County another \$300,000.

Continuing to drag their feet, in 2019 the County finally released a new SEIR, which found significant impacts from new development but said the impacts could be mitigated: primarily by the adoption of a new science-based Streamside Conservation Area Ordinance—exactly what SPAWN asked for 15 years earlier.

Failing to learn from its past, the County, illegally, did not spell out what the "expanded" ordinance would include, making it impossible to know if it actually could mitigate future development; and furthermore, the County illegally granted itself another five years to write and implement it, unless it unilaterally decided it would need more than five years.

In response, SPAWN and CBD filed another lawsuit challenging the inadequacy of the new SEIR. Facing yet more expensive litigation, and with virtually no chance of successfully defending these illegal deficiencies, the County accepted SPAWN's final offer to re-enter settlement discussions. Having squandered over \$1 million on additional studies and attorney fees and facing another expensive and embarrassing defeat in Court, the County and its counsel seemed to undergo a sea change in attitude as negotiations began.

Salmon Habitat Protection Finally in Place

In July 2022 the County at last passed a science-based Stream Conservation Ordinance that protected salmon habitat and provided adequate enforcement methods including:

- 35-foot "no exception" streamside and ephemeral stream development setback
- 100-foot streamside development setback for tiny parcels with no other options limited to 300 ft, and requiring 2 to 1 native plant replacement
- Anonymous complaint system and strengthened enforcement
- Voluntary county inspection for compliance prior to sale at the request of property owners
- Requirement of a permit and site assessment before clearing vegetation or making any alteration within the 100-foot setback
- Creation of any impervious area within the 100-ft setback is subject to permit review and mitigation.

THE END or rather A New Beginning

As with any fairytale, there are elements that must comprise the story: the moral lesson, enduring characters, magic, obstacles, and happily ever after. With the grassroots magic of thousands of passionate individuals, great obstacles have been overcome to brighten the future for coho salmon on the central coast. But the ultimate ending has yet to be penned, as more work is needed to restore this once-thriving population. SPAWN, the community, and all of us as watershed stewards will continue to strive for that (once-)endangered-species happy ending we and they deserve.

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

2022 Cereus Reports

In 1998, a generous individual contacted Trees Foundation with the desire to support local grassroots environmental activism. Shortly thereafter, the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation was created. Her desire was to give annually, not only to Trees Foundation, but also to our many Partner groups.

For 23 years, with direct input of the Cereus Funder, Trees Foundation has granted around one million dollars to our Partner groups. This has helped them to protect the wildlife, forests, and rivers, as well as begin the arduous task of restoring

them throughout the redwood region and beyond.

Additionally, the Cereus Fund donated to Trees Foundation, helping us to stay in business so that we could continue to support over 40 Partner groups over the years.

Earlier this year, our beloved donor passed away. We are so very grateful to her for her generous support of the wildlife, forests, and rivers all of these many years.

We are also grateful for an endowment she has left Trees Foundation. We will be researching

the best way for us to continue her legacy over the coming months.

As we grieve her passing, we look to the future with hope, for it is true, one person can indeed make a difference.

The following pages highlight some of the work supported by the Cereus Fund's dedication and generosity in 2022. To learn more about any of these projects or groups, please visit www.treesfoundation.org/partner-groups/



The Cereus Fund takes its name from the spectacular night-blooming cactus known as the cereus, Queen of the Night, and *Peniocereus greggii*. The cactus blossoms for one night only. It is a rare image of nature's magnificence, and fortunately for all of us on the North Coast, our "cereus" has bloomed many times in the form of much-needed funding. Thank you to the Cereus Fund for helping our projects "flower" and come to fruition!

PHOTO BY SUSY BARSOTTI, TREES FOUNDATION'S BOARD PRESIDENT

Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters

As is our mission and work, the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters (BACH) collaborates with North Coast activists working on forest, habitat, sovereignty, and climate issues. We broadcast news, information, photos, and interview opportunities to our media contacts, activist networks, and the wider Bay Area public—all as we help grow critical campaigns for species and habitat, in partnership with our dedicated allies. Our campaign support has been supported generously by the Cereus Fund. The Cereus Fund has always recognized the value of grassroots campaigns, and for that we at BACH are so very grateful.

While keeping an eye and an ear to the ground on a multitude of issues percolating in the area to the north of us, much of our energy this year was focused on Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JSF). BACH is privileged to be working on behalf of and within a well-engaged coalition of groups and individuals bringing a cross-section of skills and knowledge to the table. The Coalition to Save Jackson is a broad coalition—from

“We want to honor the donor’s wishes to empower small groups of passionate people to do extraordinary things. Her priorities were the protection of wildlife, their habitats, and ancient forests.”—Barbara Ristow, Trees Foundation

long-time agency-watchers to high school climate activists to elders from the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

Our multi-faceted campaign aims to change the state’s mandate from commercial logging to preservation, in recognition of its role in carbon storage in the face of climate crisis; and achieve co-management with Native Pomo people, in recognition of the forest as their ancestral homeland.

Please sign this petition to show your support: tinyurl.com/SaveJackson

The long-running campaign has come to a head with recent announcements from CAL FIRE that it plans to return to the forest with chainsaws, rather than return to the table with an open mind toward promised co-management in JSF, a re-worked Management Plan, and a new

mandate for this publicly owned forest. Yet the Coalition’s steadfast organizations and individuals have already laid the groundwork for a strong response to CAL FIRE’s upending of the negotiating table. That the agency would turn tail on its language about pausing logging until there is an agreement with the Tribe, as promised, is beyond outrageous. Key to any agreement is protection of sacred sites, and there are sacred sites within THPs that CAL FIRE now intends to restart. [For more, see page 34]

As folks in the Bay Area tiptoe toward social normal, opportunities have recently arisen for BACH volunteers to have a presence at public gatherings with our Jackson Forest fact sheets, postcards, and sign-up sheets. We continue to build targeted media lists, and we have cultivated and nurtured a number of relationships at Bay Area media, particularly at 59,000-watt Pacifica KPFA radio, certainly one of the most valued and far-reaching outlets with a progressive audience. We are finally seeing familiarity with the issue manifest. Other colleague organizations that BACH has worked with for years are now part of an effective springboard onto Twitter feeds, podcasts, and listservs. Onward!

Friends of the Lost Coast

Friends of the Lost Coast (FOLC) would like to thank Trees Foundation’s Cereus Fund for their years of support! In 2022, FOLC was awarded a \$2,000 grant for increased staff time to enhance our social media presence and administrative duties in support of our outreach efforts.



Standing up for Jackson State Forest PHOTO BY KAREN PICKETT

In the time since receiving this grant, our online profile and user engagement have increased significantly. We've grown our presence and reach month after month, nearly doubling our Facebook "likes" since the start of 2022 and seeing a nearly 10-fold growth with our new Instagram account. We also greatly expanded the diversity of our posting topics, boosted the quality and use of our photographic and video assets, and increased our recognition of and support for BLM King Range and other partner organizations.

Most importantly, we amplified the promotion and online visibility of our own programs, including an epic six-week run of photos and stories from Summer Adventure Camp. Many posts highlighted the cool lessons and creative projects that our Lost Coast Environmental Education Resource offers to local classrooms and via field trips; a promotional splash for the annual *Wild & Scenic Film Festival*; fun photo/video reels from Earth Day and National Public Lands Day; and colorful follow-up reports from our summer hikes and public interface events like Trailhead Hosts' volunteer service days in Shelter Cove, recognizing the impact of our invasive-species removal efforts and Trail Steward outings. We also used social media as a portal for viewing our Zoom lecture series and to showcase an incredible variety of offerings at the Lost Coast Education Center and Native Plant Garden in Whitethorn.

To achieve these ends, we built on the financial support received from the Cereus grant in 2021 to overhaul and upgrade our website, lostcoast.org, utilizing 2022's award to primarily support our growing social media needs. These funds paid for approximately 1.5 hours of additional staff time per week for Environmental Education Coordinator Taylor Faye Benedict to manage our social media accounts, plus a small amount of time for Administrative Coordinator Justin



A screen shot of some of the Social Media that the Cereus Fund helped to get started for FOLC

Crellin to support this work and keep the website current.

Taylor Faye's social media duties include management of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; graphics, video, and photo projects; plus other tasks related to our social media campaigns.

In reflection, it is amazing to see the impact this \$2,000 grant made possible. Thanks again to Cereus Fund and Trees Foundation for their multi-year support of Friends of the Lost Coast!

Friends of the Van Duzen River

Friends of the Van River (FOVDR) is grateful for to have been a multi-year recipient of Trees Foundation's Cereus grant and the opportunity these funds provided to work with K–8 students in the Eel River Valley. Biology is the study of life, and FOVDR actively teaches respect for the natural world with trips to the Sequoia Zoo, the Scotia Aquarium, and fish release events in the Mad River,



Mrs. Riggs Hydesville 3/4th grade class explore and draw trillium in the Redwood forest.
PHOTO BY SAL STEINBERG

for example. With an emphasis on plants, salmon, and water quality, we combine classroom lessons with water-monitoring field studies of the Eel, Van Duzen, and Mad rivers. 2022 was a remarkable winter and spring working with five elementary schools: Scotia, Hydesville, Bridgeville, Loleta, and Trillium Charter.

One of our most effective teaching techniques was developed by a fellow FOVDR member, Barbara Domanchuk, combining art and nature. Ecology and the Arts allows students to connect the powers of observation, a key science technique, with their own inner nature through drawings, poetry, and movement. Our two books of student poetry, *Van Duzen Voice* and *Eel River Expressions*, can be found and purchased on our website, www.fovdr.org

Movement is vital to life for all living things! At Bridgeville School and Loleta School we developed the Salmon Dance, **Be the Fish!!!** (For viewing, go to the top-left section of our website, www.fovdr.org)

In Katie Dunn's 3rd to 5th-grade class at Trillium Charter School, we added poetry to salmon drawings. Here was an excellent acrostic:

Salmon
Anadromous
Lovely
Magical
Outside
Navigate

In Kurt Rasmussen's 1st-grade class we did leaf prints and salmon drawings. Special thanks to Abbie Perrott, art instructor, and Luz Espinosa, teacher assistant, for their guidance and encouragement. Several years ago, Kurt's class did an ink project with salmon, and this was used as a backdrop to our finished pictures this year. Students also studied leaves that I brought from the redwood forest and others found on the Loleta campus. A good time was had by all!

FOVDR is dedicated to preserving the salmon run and to training young scientists. In Emily Parshall's 3rd-grade

Loleta class, we helped to manage the salmon tank and participated in the fish release at Mad River. It was wonderful to see students observe the salmon growth. Students were attracted to and adopted individual salmon fry. We also carried out water monitoring/testing of the Mad River.

Last spring, Rachel Rigg's 3rd-grade class observed and did an intensive study of the magnificent trillium plant that take seven years to blossom. For me, living in the redwoods during the spring trillium season is one of the major highlights of the year. I am always glad to share the magic of nature with local students living and studying along the Van Duzen River Basin. Watching the students in the woods walking on the back trails by my Carlotta house, observing the beauty of the trillium, and watching them manifest remarkable drawings was a highlight of the 2022 school year.

With Rachel's class I was invited to participate in Barbara Domanchuk's Save the Redwoods project at Pamplin Grove old-growth park. Here we were able to identify and study leaf structure. We also learned to measure the height of a redwood tree. It was an exciting time!

Students become scientists when they study the rivers with monitoring equipment like turbidimeters, pH meters,



Steelhead illustration by 1st grader in
Kurt Rasmussen's Loleta class
PHOTO BY SAL STEINBERG

and temperature and oxygen probes. Data collection goes a long way to determining the health of our rivers. With Mark McCuen's 6th-grade class, Scotia students added the study of macroinvertebrates and flow at the Eel River in Scotia. With Heather Nyberg's 5th/6th grade class, we studied the Eel River at Worwick toward Ferndale. We were joined by young scientists from the Fortuna Creeks Project, a nationally renowned high school project led by Mark Thom and Gloria Valdez.

2022 proved to be a banner year for the Friends of the Van Duzen River, working with five schools exploring the natural world and gaining appreciation for Mother Earth.

Humboldt Baykeeper

Explore the Bay / Explore la Bahía is Humboldt Baykeeper's bilingual outreach program that provides fun, safe, educational access to Humboldt Bay for a variety of community groups while promoting awareness of the

"Clearly [the anonymous Cereus funder] was a champion for protecting the planet and our communities, and helping to support small NGOs working to make a difference for current and future generations. She supported our work for many years and we are truly grateful."—Jen Kalt, Humboldt Baykeeper

bay's wildlife, its history, and current environmental issues.

Each year between April and October, we offer free motorboat tours aboard the historic M/V Madaket for people of all ages and abilities in partnership with a variety of organizations, including Centro del Pueblo, Humboldt Asian and Pacific Islanders, and English Express, the non-profit English as a Second Language (ESL) school with campuses in Eureka, Redway, and Fortuna. Members of Cal Poly Humboldt's Indian Natural Resources, Science, and Engineering Program joined us on a kayak trip across the bay led by HumBoats and featuring a visit to Hog Island Oyster Company's new farm in North Bay.

These tours include many participants who have lived near the bay for years but have never been on the water. With 20% of the City of Eureka's population living below the poverty level, many residents simply cannot afford the equipment and maintenance costs associated with boating and other water sports.

We at Humboldt Baykeeper believe that Humboldt Bay is a public resource that should be accessible to everyone in Humboldt County, not just those with the financial resources to do so. To this end, we are grateful for financial support from Trees Foundation's Cereus Fund and the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail grant program for underwriting the 2022 tours.



Humboldt Baykeeper chartered the Madaket for a bay tour for Humboldt Asian and Pacific Islanders. PHOTO COURTESY HUMBOLDT BAYKEEPER

Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Each summer, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council brings youth from the region to participate in a week-long overnight adventure: the Klamath-Siskiyou Outdoor School. This year we involved 20 youth, ages 12–15, from the rural towns along the Klamath River to participate in rafting, backpacking, team building, and outdoor learning activities.

We kicked off the week with a rafting trip with local guides from Klamath River Outfitters. We broke the ice by playing rafting bingo, where each boat searches for plants, animals, and river features in an effort to get five squares down, across, or diagonally. While the disappointment is palpable when you hear another boat holler "bingo!" before the others, the



Some of the KSOS youth participants enjoying the sunset by the lake. PHOTO COURTESY MKWC

hope for a “blackout” (when every item is spotted on the grid) keeps the competition alive throughout the entire river journey. We stopped for lunch at the cool waters of Rock Creek, and the kids donned masks and snorkels to practice fish identification and help improve juvenile fish passage at the creek mouth.

After a day of sun and fun, we headed up the winding Salmon River Road to sleep in the Forks of Salmon. The next day we busily got ready for our backpacking journey. We outfitted everyone with backpacks, handed out headlamps, stuffed extra layers into packs, and doled out water filters, camping stoves, dehydrated meals, and all the essentials. We then ventured up higher into the mountains, camping first at Carter Meadows and then heading deeper into the wilderness for a three-day backpacking trip.

Throughout our time together, counselors and junior counselors led team building and outdoor learning activities and games, with the goal of increasing

camaraderie, building self-confidence, nurturing friendships old and new, and increasing awareness of the natural processes around us. Youth participants learned about friction fire, wilderness medicine, shelter building, fishing, cooking, art, and so much more. Our time was divided between planned activities and unstructured time in the wilderness guided by the kids and their own curiosities.

This was the first full Klamath–Siskiyou Outdoor School we have offered since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and the energy of the youth participants reverberated throughout the forest. Feedback from youth and parents was positive and constructive, and we look forward to building on these experiences in future KSOS adventures.

The Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation specifically supported one counselor stipend and three junior counselor stipends. Thank you!

Mattole Restoration Council

The Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation has given critical support to the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) for years, helping safeguard the forests of the Mattole watershed and beyond. It has been an honor to be a recipient of the Cereus Fund for so many years.

With Cereus funds in 2022, the MRC’s Forest Practices Program tracked the few proposed timber harvest plans in the Mattole watershed and was witness to the continued destructive aftermath from the many contractors under Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s line-clearing projects. There have been several efforts to stop the onslaught of the so-called Enhanced Vegetative Management under lines, which disregards sensitive habitats and landowner concerns. Petitions and letters have conspired to change some things. PG&E is now planning on undergrounding lines in the Willow Creek area, for example. Contractors are told to be more open to landowner concerns. A threat of herbicide under lines has since been dialed back to “only if the landowner opts in.” It is very important if you have PG&E lines running across your land to be proactive by informing the utility company of what you will not accept.

Some residents took the path of filing a formal complaint, complete with their signed agreements and post-work photos. Here is an email quote from a resident in Petrolia we received in October:

“I filed a formal complaint in February about the fire risk from what they left in Fall 2021. I was assigned a Veg Manager, Jonathan Lockwood, in May and after continual phone calls and emails with key words: Defensible Space and Hazardous Fuels, a company named Greentek came from the Bay Area last week with a crew of four, and trucks, fallers, and a skid steer, they cleaned it ALL in 2 days.”

A regional person to contact is Eric Haggerty: eric.haggerty@pge.com

Biochar-eating Sheep and Goats

Continuing with upbeat news, MRC purchased our first biochar kiln at a discount from Kelpie Wilson: wilsonbiochar.com. It is called the Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln, which is her trademark for a remarkable stainless-steel kit that fits into the bed of a small pickup for ease of transport. With grant monies from the Cereus Fund, we advertised and held our first biochar kiln workshop in the spring of 2022. It is really a highly effective and safe way to burn material around homesteads and in the forest while capturing the carbon and not releasing toxic particulates. It burns clean and efficiently. You just need a flat place, a water source, a rake, and some eager people. The funny thing about this first-time kiln use was that the landowners also run sheep and goats. Though they had planned on transporting the biochar to the garden, the livestock ate it all! According to a quick Google search, research shows that biochar improves livestock health by absorbing toxins, increasing nutrient intake, and helping with digestion. But it is also great

“We wouldn’t be in business if it weren’t for the Cereus Fund. That kind of generosity is so moving.”—Jeri Fergus, Trees Foundation

for veggies and flowers in the garden! One of the reasons that the MRC was interested in a biochar kiln (other than for homestead use) was to understand its applicability when doing forest health treatments. Being near a usable water source is the challenge, but we hope to try it.

Another very positive activity has been working on preparing our Lower Mattole communities for wildfire. We had a well-attended meeting in April that coalesced a lot of volunteer energy to raise money for an alternative emergency communication system that would work with our Neighborhood Emergency Service Teams. The idea is to account for your neighbors during a large wildfire or earthquake. The community raised more than \$7,000 for this effort.

Many thanks again to the Cereus Fund for helping to protect forests, find alternatives to burning, and support wildfire preparedness. We express our condolences on the loss of the Cereus Funder.

Mattole Salmon Group

In 2022, with financial support from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, the Mattole Salmon Group hosted our 26th annual Summer Steelhead Dive. This event joins community members and fish enthusiasts to census the length of the Mattole River in search of the elusive summer-run steelhead. This year 38 volunteers donated over 500 hours to snorkel-survey more than 55 miles of stream in just two days.

The Mattole and Eel Rivers host the southernmost summer-run steelhead populations in the world. Summer steelhead populations are dangerously susceptible to the effects of climate change due to their reliance on cool refugia during the summer. These fish take refuge in deep, cold pools through the hottest and driest months of the year. As fall rains arrive and rivers rise, summer-run steelhead will be the first anadromous fish to spawn. There were only seven adults observed in 2022, tying 2019 for the lowest counts of Mattole summer steelhead since 1995. The average count over 26 years of surveys is 22 fish, with a high count of 56 individuals in 2013. In contrast, the population estimate for the much more numerous winter-run steelhead in the Mattole watershed is between 2,000 and 5,000 adults returning to spawn annually.



The Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln in action: clean-burning, sequesters carbon. PHOTO COURTESY MRC



Snorkelers move carefully through a boulder-filled reach of the Bear Creek canyon, checking deep pools and undercut banks for large fish. PHOTO COURTESY MSG

There were more encouraging observations from this summer's survey. Water temperatures were cooler than average for early July, allowing the abundant juvenile steelhead observed by divers the ability to actively feed throughout the river. In warmer, drier summers such as 2021, by early July steelhead parr in the mainstem Mattole are primarily restricted to thermal refugia during the day, only dispersing for prime feeding opportunities at night. Abundant new willow and alder growth was also apparent throughout the river, indicating that the last few dry winters have allowed riparian vegetation to become established, without being scoured away by winter

flows, on many gravel bars that five years ago were barren. While an epic flood could wipe these young thickets away, they are already having a positive impact on the river, resulting in the development of more cool-water alcoves and more channel meandering.

Cereus funding also supported Mattole Salmon Group surveyors snorkeling 766 pools in smaller streams counting juvenile coho salmon; and it allowed MSG staff to spend two days with five teenagers enrolled in the Nick's Interns program, working on instream structures in a small Mattole tributary and learning the basics of snorkeling and fish identification. Thank you Cereus and Trees Foundation!

Salmon River Restoration Council

This year was the Salmon River Restoration Council's 30th anniversary. We marked the occasion with our first big in-person event since the pandemic began, bringing together people from our local and restoration communities with food and music, in a joyful celebration of this place and the people who've dedicated their lives to it.

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

In 2022, we published a newsletter entitled *River on Fire: Impacts and Adaptations in a Fire-Prone Landscape*. It's full of great articles about our complicated relationship to fire and how we live with and manage it. You can read the newsletter online at srrc.org/publications. We also reach our community and the greater public through our monthly e-newsletter, Salmon River Currents, which this year included topics such as native plant and seed collection, the status of spring-run Chinook, and success stories from our fisheries habitat-restoration projects.

A portion of our funding from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation was used to help implement our Community



The Scott River Youth Environmental Summer Studies crew joined SRRC for a week of improving fish passage into tributaries and doing manual noxious-weed removal.

PHOTO FROM SRRC COLLECTION

Restoration Program workdays and educational events. This year we held more than 35 workdays and workshops that the community was invited to participate in. These events included road clean-ups, noxious weed management (without the use of toxic chemicals), fisheries monitoring and restoration, water monitoring and watershed education, and more. Highlights were our annual Salmon River Spring Chinook Dive, a bird ID walk with representatives of the Klamath Bird Observatory, and a hand tool restoration training with a long-time USFS trail crew boss. Events such as these help to increase knowledge and cooperation among diverse stakeholders, while getting community members out into the environment actively participating in ecosystem conservation and restoration.

Support from generous advocates such as the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation goes a long way toward making this important work possible. It provides the foundation for accomplishing on-the-

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

Salmonid Restoration Federation

Trees Foundation's Cereus grant helped Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) track, research, and submit public comments regarding the Nordic AquaFarms' proposed Samoa land-based aquaculture project on the Samoa Peninsula near Eureka. Initially, SRF's work focused on participating in Nordic AquaFarms' community outreach meetings (called "office hours") and initiating discussions regarding potential fish diseases resulting from farmed salmon and toxicants in commercial fish feed.

Since our last report, Nordic AquaFarms confirmed that the company would be raising Atlantic salmon, so we are particularly concerned about viral escapement and the risks associated with discharge and effluent in land-based

aquaculture operations. During public meetings and in SRF's public comments, we expressed our concern about the proposed operation's toxicity, discharge, effluent, and carbon footprint. Please see our public comments submitted in the last year regarding this proposed project.

Links of interest:

SRF Comments to Humboldt County Planning Department in response to the Nordic AquaFarms DRAFT EIR: https://www.calsalmon.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/SRF_comment_letter_NAF_2.17.22.pdf

SRF Appeal of the EIR decision to the Coastal Commission: https://www.calsalmon.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/SRF_CalCoComm_Appeal_on_Nordic.docx.pdf

Primers:

Nordic AquaFarms Salmon Feed Sourcing Information Graphic: https://www.calsalmon.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/Fish_Food_Graphic.pdf

Nordic AquaFarms Water Quality Primer: https://www.calsalmon.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/NAF_Water_Quality_primer.pdf

Salmon Protection Watershed Network

With the support of the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, Salmon Protection Watershed Network (SPAWN) was able to continue its Residential Internship Program in 2022 and provide meaningful, hands-on restoration experience to recent college graduates. Over the grant period, SPAWN recruited, trained, and mentored eight recent college graduates who might not have otherwise been able to afford to participate in this career-building opportunity. The SPAWN interns received a frontline educational experience in salmon conservation and watershed stewardship as they developed the necessary skills to advance their



At SPAWN's recently-completed Roy's dam removal site at the former San Geronimo golf course, Interns collect data on stream invertebrates. PHOTO BY AYANO HAYES

careers in biology and watershed ecology.

Throughout the grant term, interns played a crucial role in achieving our mission to address significant threats to endangered salmon in the Lagunitas Creek watershed. Under the direction of our restoration biologists, the SPAWN interns participated in restoration projects on National Park Service land as well as former commercial land, by placing in-field irrigation to promote increased survival rates of the salmonids. Additionally, the interns worked in our native plant nursery, where they gained hands-on experience in propagating native plants and hosting school engagement events in which they demonstrated proper plant care to local children. The interns were an important part of our research and monitoring efforts, testing water quality, documenting riparian habitat diversity, and conducting salmonid counts to monitor the overall health and vitality of the watershed.

As advocacy and litigation continued this year, the interns had the opportunity to participate in organizing grassroots campaigns and testifying in public hearings. In fact, the interns played a key role giving public comments during a hearing to secure the passage of the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, which establishes critical protection of the habitats of coho salmon and steelhead trout. (See related article, page 14.)

Financial support from the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation allowed us to provide stipends to our interns, increasing our capacity to recruit and retain interns. This support was vital to the overall success of our residential internship program this year and had a direct impact on inspiring and training the next generation of conservationists.

Sanctuary Forest

Special thanks to the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation, which for over a decade has supported Sanctuary Forest, Inc. (SFI) and has helped us achieve our collaboration efforts to develop, maintain, and strengthen formal partnerships with other conservation groups and agencies, and build relationships with our community, to better achieve our shared conservation goals. Notably, SFI has been in position to implement many projects to protect and restore the health of the Mattole River watershed in large part because of its partnership with the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) and Mattole Salmon Group (MSG). Known collectively as the Mattole River and Range Partnership (MRRP), these non-profit groups have worked together to improve forest and stream health for threatened salmonids and wildlife, while striving to engage and empower residents of our community to unite in a shared goal to develop solutions to water scarcity and land use impacts.

In 2009, the "Mattole Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan – foresight 2020" (hereafter referred to as the Plan) was created to guide the MRRP's overarching conservation and restoration goals. Intended to serve as a 10-year guide, MRRP partners are committed to assess accomplishments and shortfalls of the previous ten-year plan and go forward with an updated plan for the next ten years and beyond. The Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation provided funding to update the Plan along with other funds from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the McLean Foundation. While there are many steps to updating the 190-page Plan, this combined funding has enabled us to start with the initial task of outreach and communication with our community. A community survey was included in the 2022 edition of the Mattole Watershed News and sent to all landowners in the Mattole. This survey

mirrored a survey that was conducted in 2009 and asked residents of the Mattole to provide their input on priority issues and challenges, and the goals and strategies to address them. Survey responses are being compiled and the next steps going forward will be centered around more community input. A cornerstone of the past, present, and future has been and will always be our cooperative emphasis on working with local residents and those who interact with the Mattole watershed. MRRP partners are working with Trees Foundation to organize and host community meetings throughout the watershed to listen to the needs of the people and help guide our efforts to restore balance to the Mattole River watershed.

Women's Forest Sanctuary

The Women's Forest Sanctuary (WFS) is grateful for life-giving exchanges with the forest and our forest allies. Our care of the Sacred Grove in 2022 involved heightened attention to balancing land conservation with human access to the land.

In June, a fallen tanoak crushed the footbridge over Raven's Creek. The loss of the bridge revealed logs buried in the creek bed as part of an old "Humboldt crossing" for logging access. (This involved logs placed directly in the creek bed and covering them with dirt.) While neighbors readily offered to rebuild the bridge, we spent months discerning whether the bridge aligned with care for the land. We ultimately decided to rebuild the bridge.

Our 2022 annual community gathering in the grove included the co-directors of Friends of the Lost Coast Summer Adventure Camp. Earlier in the summer, they brought children to the grove. We delighted in their stories about how the children explored and learned respect for the forest.



Being nourished by forest, friends, and food. PHOTO COURTESY WFS

While camping on the land, we received messages of guidance from the trees, such as: "The intelligence of the heart is strong and subtle. Listen closely. Humanity and the Earth are awakening to a much greater truth; all that is not essential is being composted." During a ceremony beneath the Grandmother trees, we remembered the lives of loved ones who have passed and felt a timeless unity with their essence.

In 2023, we will hold a ceremony on the land acknowledging grief for the loss of old-growth redwood forests, and gratitude for tenacious efforts of local forest-preservation activists. This ritual will recognize the destructive impact of systems of domination on Earth and people, and the fervent movement to safeguard our biodiversity.

This year we drafted a land acknowledgment respecting our presence on Sinkyu-ne (Sinkyone) ancestral territory. We are exploring ways to connect with the local Indigenous community. In October we honored WFS's genesis in 1993; our founders shared what called them

to preserve the land. Historian Joan Marler spoke about archaeologist Marija Gimbutas, highlighting the sacred living world and women protectors of sacred groves of Old Europe.

WFS facilitated an outing to Redwood Regional Park with Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA). One participant said, "In the redwood forest I connected with my truest self, freed my mind, and felt ecstatic being with nature." WFS supported YSA's Tiny House Empowerment Village to receive a grant from Save the Redwoods League, which the youth used to initiate and enjoy redwood forest outings.

We thank the Cereus Fund of Trees Foundation for supporting diverse organizations to effectively restore California's North Coast environment.





Diggin' In

The Richard Gienger Report

Time moves fast, stalwarts in mirror reflections, and we anxiously wait—while trying to prepare—for what Winter and Spring will bring. I feel daunted, almost swept away, in the layers of complexity of “all the relations,” the history and realities we face.

Remembering Influential Community Members

Along with the joy of life-returning rains in September has come grieving over recent sad losses. There have been three passings of persons this year with deep ties to this and broader communities: Nancy Peregrine (earlier this year), Fred “Coyote” Downey (in Sept.), and Lon Mulvaney (early Oct.). All three of them were direct defenders of the Sally Bell Grove.

I am hard pressed and feel unable to say what needs to be said—and also to respond to what is cascading all around us. Nancy, Coyote, and Lon all need deep, in-depth reflections on each of their lives. I can't do this here, today. Maybe this can happen from many that have connected with their lives. The honoring of Nancy is well underway. Each of them has been so closely intertwined with my life and that of so many others.

Nancy Peregrine: The kind and indomitable will to do what is right for community, for individuals, for family, schools, and households. She was there on the spot, whether it meant responding to emergencies, loaning essential tools, stepping out to defend land, sharing advice and her multifaceted knowledge about health, stepping out to mentor and inspire generations for fire and emergency service. There will be a big celebration of her life in March of 2023.



Nancy Peregrine was an integral part of the Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company since its inception. PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA VANARSDALE

Fred “Coyote” Downey: Can't remember exactly when we first crossed paths, but whenever it was, it was a real beginning. He had a full and complex life, only a small part that I know. He became a Wailaki Elder and advocate for Indigenous People, saying, “We know who we are.” He served in both the Marines and Army, survived Round Valley, Eureka, and choker-setting with Schusters during the logging “boom” in South Fork Eel tributaries. He was present at various times in both South and North America in support of Indigenous People. He led the way, with others like Bill Wahpepah, to bring the International Indian Treaty Council as co-plaintiffs with EPIC against Georgia-Pacific and CA Dept. of Forestry over the Sally Bell Grove. He was an individual plaintiff. He worked for years in many places to try to enforce that decision. He helped to catalyze the formation of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council through Ricardo Tapia in 1985. He stressed the

vital importance of Natural Law. He attended the first UN Conference on the Environment, as security for Oren Lyons, in 1972 in Stockholm. Too much to try and relate here. There was a real connection between him, many people, and communities. So many stories, he was Coyote. The yearly gathering of Youth and Elders was so precious to him. He was interviewed by Beth Bosk (NSI@mcn.org) of The New Settler Interview. Most if not all of his interviews with her can be found in *The New Settler Interviews: Volume 1: Boogie on the Brink*. The Willits Mendocino County Museum has a complete selection of the magazine. Coyote had a sharp sense of humor and irony—and you needed to listen carefully! I'll always remember him saying that: “First there were the Spanish, then the Russians, and then the Americans.”



Coyote giving instructions and perspectives on a tour of Redwood Forest Foundation's Usal Redwood Forest in 2008.

PHOTO FROM FOREST & RIVER NEWS, WINTER 2008

Lon Mulvaney: Always a staunch and stubborn brother standing by what he felt was right and deeply principled—from Ohio to The Farm in Tennessee to the fight against the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California to family raising and homesteading in the Mattole Valley. He was an inspiring and tireless defender of the Sinkyone Wilderness Coast, at

We had an Elder from Round Valley by the name of Fred Downey also known by many as Coyote. Coyote was an Elder whom many sought out to talk with and get spiritual guidance. Coyote was active in the annual trail of tears march, also known as The Nome Cult Trail.
—Elizabeth RedFeather, Trees Foundation Board member

great hazard, and loved direct-action watershed restoration. Always could rely on Lon, and pull together through thick and thin. He was thinking and reflecting and searching through whole realms of knowledge and experience pretty much all the time. He was a quite accomplished musician. He put intense care into living lightly and being responsive to detail. Lon and I were so happy helping with firewood and later this summer joining those visiting, listening, and honoring Coyote as he continued his years-long unbowed battle with cancer. Within a week of Coyote's passing, Lon got a terminal diagnosis and in several weeks was also gone, lovingly cared for by close family and friends. Shock on shock, and memories to recall and cherish.



A collage featuring Lon Mulnaey
BY KAREN PICKETT

October 8th Celebrations

We try desperately to make sense that can free us to act amidst all the rancor that confuses and overwhelms. That said, it was a very positive day on Saturday, October 8th: Priscilla Hunter and Polly Girvin were honored with the Sempervirens Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual EPIC celebration, this year held at the Southern Humboldt Community Park. On that same afternoon local Wailakis held a gala Land Access Celebration on 5 acres of coast at Shelter Cove—celebrating a re-connection.

Priscilla has been the Chair of both the Coyote Valley Pomo and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. Her activism has been phenomenal—her steadfast persistence was essential for the realization of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness. Her activism, joined with Polly's for years, continues today in the Pomo Land-Back, Co-Management, and Protection issues with Jackson Demonstration State Forest—and in California.

Related to the people I am remembering here is a movement that is building and getting stronger regarding Land Back and co-management with tribes and Indigenous people. California even has laws, administrative proclamations, and policies that now specifically support this. Over half of the land wrested away from Georgia Pacific between Bear Harbor and Usal went to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (ITSWC); that came to fruition in the 1990s. Priscilla has been

the head of the ITSWC since its beginning, 37 years ago. She, and her leadership, and many others are directly involved today in making things right with Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Here's a Partial Sketch of Actual and Potential Protections & Stewardship Along the Mendocino Coast Largely Thanks to Indigenous Leadership

160 acres at Four Corners, 523 acres from Indian/Anderson Creeks to Bear Harbor, 3,800+ acres between Bear Harbor and Usal (all ITSWC); 3,000 acres purchased by Save-the-Redwoods League between Usal and Rockport, which may be passed on to Tribes (Coast Yuki ancestral lands); and several hundred acres of CalTrans land at "Blues Beach," a spectacular coastal area south of Westport where Chadbourne Gulch meets the ocean, now shared by Coyote Valley, Sherwood Valley, and Round Valley Tribes. Negotiations and issues are hot and heavy over the 50,000 acres of Jackson. [See pages 18 and 34 for more on Jackson.]

A Few Spontaneous Thoughts

A presenter at the recent 24th Coho Confab asked why the coho aren't making serious recovery, given all the substantive restoration work we've been doing. The spontaneous answer was: The problem is cultural!

An explicit implied too-close regional reality: Confusion Hill—two bridges too far!?

In these columns, much of the effort is carried out to inform myself and others of what are thought to be positive opportunities to work together to find some real measure of "right livelihood" and social/cultural/environmental recovery. Of course, the now-classic "Triple Bottom Line" seems to dominate, in the triple-E version currently used by all manner of organizations, with even the biggest corporations claiming that



A beautiful example of a decommissioned and recontoured road healing and growing back.
PHOTO BY ASH BROOKENS

environment and equity have equal value as economy. Some of that claim may be valid in isolated examples, but it is so overwhelmed by a history of displacement, killing, and stripping the lands and waters in a mad conversion into money, wealth, and power that an intertwined path forward is only faintly discernable and is untenable given both public and private dominant paradigms of “compete and suffer.” Abatement in Humboldt County, eh?

I distinctly recall once being in the glorious throes of multi-community joy, music, and achievement of a classic Reggae on the River and feeling strongly disturbed by the history deeply etched between the Coast and that South Fork Eel flood terrace where the festival was held. This is a history that, to me there at the time, we all really seemed quite oblivious to, despite any and all positive sentiments. But of course, we must not despair: 30+ million dollars and 3,000 coastal acres bought between Usal and Rockport could potentially be part of a conservation model and direction? Do you really suppose that could happen?

Read *The Man Who Went Away*, by Harold Bell Wright. This is a compelling 1941 novel set between the South Fork Eel River and Bear Harbor.

Haul road gouging, whether historical, or done recently, like a steep mid-slope road in Mill Creek (tributary of the South Fork Eel near Leggett), or a particularly vicious road cut on steep virgin prairies of the Mattole’s Rainbow Ridge set healing way back. There is great loss. Even the hard and earnestly won protections for the Sally Bell Grove have been violated by vandals cutting burls out of old-growth Redwood for depraved desperate dollars.

Don’t forget the “new” Berkeley Rausser College of Natural Resources, renamed for a 50-million-dollar donor, and the reminted and newly named California Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildland Resilience, ready to spin in a location near you (with a Zoom option, register now). Or gather them grants and get on the 30 X 30 road. Now how do we get “elemental” with 40 million people, way over carrying capacity in drought- and fire-ridden California?

Off-the-Cuff: Quick Response to Proposition 30

Proposition 30—A measure to increase taxes by 1.75% on individuals and married couples to give boosts to and incentives for zero-emission vehicles (80%) and help wildfire response and prevention (20%)

Yep. Heard of this a few days ago—was taken aback by an email from California Environmental Voters. I think this points directly to the need to actually set and act upon forest stewardship standards, and to separate the stewardship from the Emergency CAL FIRE functions. Maybe that’s not what the dominant industry has in mind with its opposition to Prop 30, but I think that’s the facts. Prop 30 gives the public the impression that forests are only a public hazard to be depleted and “tamed,” increasing fire prevention, fire fighting, and capacity throwing in the electric/climate-change caveat to appeal to high-end liberal ability to do their part (via Lyft). Outside of that, it’s a mega-boost for CAL FIRE to be even more of a hyper-dominant fire-centric paramilitary force with social license to do whatever they want “and not waste time arguing over forest management with the public.” That’s pretty close to a direct quote and concept attribution to former CAL FIRE Deputy Director for Resource Management, Helge Eng—new link: www.akbizmag.com/right-moves/eng-joins-dnr-as-new-state-forester-for-alaska/.

Prop 30 seems like a suddenly surfacing high-profile controversy being aired to the public and the voter. The tax increase for entities earning over 2 million dollars a year, as well as further government empowerment, may have something to do with Mendocino & Humboldt Redwoods Company, Red Emmerson’s Sierra Pacific Industries, and Green Diamond opposition. Governor Newsom seems to be backing those boys and opposing any “climate action” that isn’t his. Haven’t got the “inside skinny” about the whole Prop 30 history and “players.”

And don't forget about the great PG&E ongoing battle, the low media coverage of the defeat of SB 396 (which would have made PG&E even more unaccountable, and failed on a no-vote in the California Senate), and what must be done now and in the coming year.

Jackson State Demonstration Forest Recommendations Ignored—Again

Here's a small bit I submitted as input to the annual regulations and policy review of the Board of Forestry that folds in critical problems regarding CAL FIRE and Jackson Demonstration State Forest:

Dear Board of Forestry & Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, and CNRA [and the Governor and Legislature of California]

There is an essential need for you all, ASAP, to really give substance to “modernization” of management at Jackson Demonstration State Forest and implementation of co-management. The decision to push forward business-as-usual, THP by THP—basically derailing the necessary respect and process to achieve that modernization and co-management—is wrong and must be changed. The latest example of this comes from a Jackson CAL FIRE letter of 26 September 2022 proposing negotiating piecemeal and inadequate co-management on a single THP rather than taking on essential broader reform. This is in the context of many, many past, present, and potential future THPs and applicable considerations for real stewardship on multiple levels.

The groundbreaking report and recommendations written by the Tribal Relations Subgroup of the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) are being ignored. The process necessary to actually determine the standards for healthy forests as graphically described on page 19 of the LAO's April 2019 “Watershed Management in California” document is being

ignored. California certainly has the capability to settle existing contracts in Jackson to allow the chance for the realization of modernization and co-management to start NOW.

Contrary to the rosy conflicted disingenuous picture painted at the August 19th JAG meeting and associated “visioning” statement and press release, the subsequent sordid press release restarting Jackson operations showed the grim reality of suppression and control. I would point out that the appeals court decision of 1985 in EPIC and International Indian Treaty Council v Johnson (CDF) & Georgia-Pacific has never been implemented and particularly as applied to Jackson: There still is no adequate consideration and response to cumulative effects, no adequate consultation with Tribes and Indian people, and no assurance that the Native American Cultural Heritage is being protected.

On top of that is the, should we say, uneven and inadequate policy reform and action over many years: from the

modern era's formation of the Native American Heritage Commission, through crude inadequate and late application of archaeological and cultural oversight processes for California forestlands, to the most current claimed reforms involving apologies, land-back, co-management, and 30 x 30.

It's not a perfect example, but a version of the Scientific Review Panel report of the 1999 process applied to Jackson would be several steps up from what is obviously impossible with CAL FIRE/BoF. Link: www.krisweb.comwww.krisweb.com/biblio/cal_nmfs_ligonetal_1999_srp rept.pdf

“The Scientific Review Panel (SRP) was created under the auspices of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Council, as required by the March 1998 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and The Resources Agency of California. Under this agreement the state agreed to organize an independent panel of scientists to



Tom Leroy, long-time geologist for Pacific Watershed Associates, a key partner since 2007 in the Usal Redwood Forest and watershed instream restoration, with Tasha McKee. In center of photo is a remanent post that supported the railroad that went from Bear Harbor to South Fork Eel River. PHOTO BY ASH BROOKENS

undertake a comprehensive review of the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), with regard to their adequacy for the protection of salmonid species.”

Such a panel must be put together, with strong Tribal representation, for a comprehensive review of the pressing issues of Jackson with corrective measures, and that will apply in a broader scope to forests of California. The SRP team that went through a process that developed the 1999 Report was Frank Ligon, Alice Rich, PhD, Gary Rynearson, RPF Coordinator, Dale Thornburgh, PhD, RPF, and William Trush, PhD. This was a mix with a wide range of abilities that certainly included commercial forestry interests but was not controlled by CDF/CAL FIRE/ Industrial Forestry.

Note that the most striking deficiency was determined to be the evaluation and response to cumulative impacts. Also note that JDSF was/is NOT the major factor in Forest Practice Rule improvements, as has been erroneously claimed. The forces that made any improvements possible

were from a broad array of persons and organizations aware of both the unacceptable damage done and the need for protection and recovery.

With a similar and higher level of expertise and expanded “bandwidth” reflective of the policies and proclamations described in the Tribal Relations Report, including the unimplemented sections/intents of AB 1492 (forest and watershed recovery, ecological performance measures, public participation, and transparency), a credible process to achieve the obvious necessary reforms could actually be realized.

Sincerely, Richard Gienger
And on behalf of Forests Forever

To Close on a High Note

Twenty persons had a day-long tour of coho refugia streams during the recent 24th Annual Coho Confab sponsored by the Salmonid Restoration Federation. Many other good sessions were conducted also, but this was an incredible look at recovering habitat that had been adversely affected since the 19th century, especially between 1946 and 2007, and

To Get Involved

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 EPIC
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 Forests Forever
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 Mendocino Trails Stewards
mendocinotrailstewards.org


 Pomo Land Back
www.pomolandback.com

 Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.
www.rffi.org

 Sanctuary Forest
sanctuaryforest.org

 Save Jackson Coalition
savejackson.org

is now in recovery mode with significant instream and upslope restoration. Most of Anderson Creek is in RFFI's Usal Redwood Forest. Adjacent and upstream is a recent acquisition of 523 acres by the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council enabled by the StRL that includes vital coho salmon habitat and prairies over Bear Harbor. Fourteen spawning coho were present during 2021 Christmas in Anderson Creek. There are actually some small remnants of old-growth redwood with burgeoning second growth riparian that are steadily improving, along with recovery efforts, high-quality coho & Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat.

 Please help out where and when you can on all the issues before us. Check out the work of and other information for Sanctuary Forest, the Institute for Sustainable Forestry, EPIC, Forests Forever, and Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. Thank you, Trees Foundation!

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, 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.



On left of photo is an 8' diameter broken lower section of an old-growth redwood tree covered with ferns and moss. This models the type of large-wood, instream habitat improvement that stream-restoration people are trying to emulate today with much smaller wood.

PHOTO BY TASHA MCKEE



PLANT NOTES

Coyote Brush, *Baccharis pilularis*

Coyote brush is an evergreen shrub that blooms in late fall and early winter, a time of year when there are few sources of nectar for small butterflies, predatory wasps, and flies. This makes coyote brush a valuable plant, ecologically speaking, as it supports thousands of insects that in turn support birds, other insects, small mammals, and on up the food chain.

Coyote brush plants are either male or female, a condition called dioecious. Male plants have only male flowers, which are yellow and not as showy as female flowers but smell sweetly floral. Female plants are covered in fluffy, showy white flowers that bear the seeds of the species. The fluff, called pappus, is similar to that of the dandelion and helps disperse the seeds in the wind. Both male and female flowers are in heads that have bracts (called phyllaries) at their base and look somewhat like miniature artichoke leaves. Like artichokes, coyote brush is in the aster family, *Asteraceae*, along with dandelion, thistle, daisy, sunflower, calendula, marigold, and many other genera.



Flowers of the female coyote brush plant (above), the male coyote brush plant (below)



Female coyote brush in bloom, growing along the Mattole River

ALL THE PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY CHERYL LISIN

The leaves of coyote brush have a somewhat sage-like smell due to the chemical compounds they contain. The aroma, enhanced by warm weather, is pleasing to some, unpleasant to others. Early Californians used coyote brush topically to treat poison oak and other skin problems, and swelling. It was also used for stomach problems and as a general remedy by those with knowledge and experience, as the active compounds can be toxic if taken internally.

Coyote brush is a pioneer plant, being one of the first to grow after fire, clearcut, or other disturbance. As a pioneer, it sometimes serves as a “nurse” plant—providing shade and protection to give a head start to seedlings of other shrubs and trees. Once the other shrubs and trees are established, coyote brush becomes shaded out. This succession is sometimes but not always desirable, especially as it

can encroach on and displace grassland habitats. In the absence of periodic fire on the landscape to reset succession, coyote brush can be considered invasive.

Coyote brush grows from right along the coast, where it is sometimes a dwarf form, to the Sierra Nevada foothills, and from Oregon into Northern Mexico. It grows in many habitats—coastal, chaparral, prairie, and woodland—but it does not do well in the shade of the forest. Other common names are coyote bush and bush *baccharis*.

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.



THE DISQUIET REPORT: Missives and Musings from Chad Swimmer

Broken Treaties & Broken Promises

Fresh Assaults On Jackson State Forest Belie Official Statements of Intent to Cooperate With the Public's Wishes

“California Native peoples have not forgotten the true history of the State of California, and we hope that our reexamination of the historical record is the first of many steps towards restoring the balance between California Indigenous people and the State.”—Yurok Tribal Vice-Chairman Frankie Myers in response to the establishment of California’s Truth and Healing Council

**“For in addition to healing the soil, we must also heal our history.”
—Dineh Ecologist and Activist
Lyla June**

On June 18, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-19, which apologized for the historical “violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of tribal communities” and established a Truth and Healing Council. (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/6.18.19-Executive-Order.pdf>) Just over a year later, Newsom signed “A Statement of Administration Policy on Ancestral Lands,” reiterating that Native Americans occupied California long before statehood and were coerced through violence and deceit to flee from their homelands. The Policy’s stated purpose is to “partner with California tribes [for] co-management of State-owned or controlled natural lands

Author’s note: I am writing not as an Indigenous person, but as an ally and as a forest and climate activist.

and to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands in excess of State needs...” (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.25.20-Native-Ancestral-Lands-Policy.pdf>).

This was a noble and overdue statement indeed, but fatally flawed: “in excess of state needs...” How, we may ask, is this so different than 1860? The reservations that Native Americans were forced onto were always considered carefully to be places not needed by the state or likely to be coveted by settlers. However, what was desirable can and invariably did change—many times over the years. Of the hundreds of treaties negotiated in less than a century¹, not a single one was an honest effort. Many were never taken to Sacramento or Washington, never seen by legislators, never ratified, certainly never read by the resource managers who stepped in afterwards to pillage the land.

When the Mendocino Trail Stewards was founded in March 2020, we didn’t ponder the deeper implications of the word “steward.” We didn’t consider how language shapes thought shapes behavior,

¹ From 1774 to 1871, a minimum of 368 treaties were ratified between Native American tribes and the United States. <https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/treaties/viewing-treaties> However, an unknown number of documents were negotiated and never ratified, though the tribes party to the agreements were rarely notified that the treaties had been abandoned (The Secret Treaties with California Indians, Miller, Larisa, US Archives, 2013). <https://uofupress.lib.utah.edu/american-indian-treaties/>



A protestor at a Pomo Land Back rally holding a picture of a the 2018 South Fork Matrix timber harvest, barely recovering at all three years after the fact.

or how the English language had evolved hand-in-hand with a Judeo-Christian philosophy which held that the Earth and everything on it, from women to rocks to ribs to redwoods, was there to serve men.

In a corporate state, with industry-captured agencies harboring no hint of doubt that each and every resource is theirs to manage, tribal co-management faces the deepest of challenges. CAL FIRE, the ostensible steward of all our state forests and overseer of the Forest Practice Rules, is steered by a cadre of Registered Professional Foresters trained in schools funded by industry. Kevin Conway, Mike Powers, Julia Rhoads, Jason Serna, Erik Wahl, Tori Norville, Lynn Webb,

Thom Porter, Pam Linstead, Matthew Reischman, Helge Eng, Robert Horvat... the list goes on. Each of these CAL FIRE officials is on the record that their job is to “manage every square foot of Jackson.” Their thinking exhibits a cult-like uniformity. Their compulsion to actively manage—read “log”—forests is on the level of an obsession.

Meanwhile, Indigenous peoples across the world, in different ways to different degrees, did not traditionally “steward resources.” Their form of management much more resembled a partnership. Their coexistence with a vast and diverse world is encapsulated in the Lakota saying Mitakuye Oyasin (All My Relations). When a tree is your grandmother, you don’t cut it down. When a salamander is your friend, you don’t stumble blindly through the ferns and worts with a chainsaw. When you must kill for food or warmth, you acknowledge the spirit’s journey to another place. Resource managers, on the other hand, are intrinsically bound by doctrine to a bottom line and to a diminished vision



Pomo activists and allies from the Coalition to Save Jackson, protesting inside the halls of the California Department of Natural Resources, September 28, 2022.



One of the scores of large Douglas-fir and redwood trees felled in the Red Tail timber harvest plan in the two months since CAL FIRE declared that they would spare all trees over 48”.

ALL PHOTOS THIS ARTICLE BY CHAD SWIMMER

of forest health—obligated to consider the profits of faraway shareholders above the welfare of ancient trees or those poor creatures in the bulldozers’ path.

How can these two world views coexist? What are we to make of this latest promise of tribal co-management? Government-to-government consultations between the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo and the State of California were initiated in early 2021 and continued laboriously for 18 months with some promise. At a public meeting on August 19, 2022, Jessica Morse, California’s Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildland Resilience, unveiled the state’s new vision for forest management. Standing by the banks of the nearly dry Noyo River, she stated that “...all of your activism and engagement is not going unheard.... We have been engaging at the highest levels of the state to really think through how



Bare compacted soils in the 23 Gulch timber harvest, 220 acres of trees which sold for over \$3,000,000.

do we balance the community needs, the tribal needs....” (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hf0ou4642npuyee/Jessica%20Morse.mp3?dl=0>) The Vision Statement itself sums it up: “Communication and public engagement will remain a top priority... This includes important Tribal partnerships....” (<https://srp-prod-public-pdfs.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/gVMa0r4gjPTdidllYaNI11X0Ugc.pdf>)

Yet three days later the state’s prevarication became obvious: CAL FIRE unilaterally announced that logging was to restart on four disputed timber harvest plans: Chamberlain Confluence, Soda Gulch, Red Tail, and Parlin 17—all of which have sacred sites in danger of being desecrated by the industrial-scale operations. They didn’t notify the Jackson Advisory Group. They stated that they tried to reach Coyote

**“The Redwoods tell our stories.
The Redwoods know our stories.”
—Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Tribal
Chairman Michael Hunter**

**“No more broken promises.”
—Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Elder Priscilla Hunter**

Valley Band of Pomo Tribal Chairman Michael Hunter, but “couldn’t get a hold of him.” As I write, trees are being cut and trucked off, herbicide is being sprayed, silt is poised to run off into salmon pools, sacred sites are again being excavated to make way for logging roads. Whose grand vision was Morse actually referring to?

At issue is honesty and competing views of the universe. When your mindset compels you to mine, frack, log, dam, even to split atoms, you cannot be honest—with your negotiating partners, with your constituents, with your grandchildren, or with yourself.

The extraction economy and our survival are not compatible. Our Mother is bleeding. Our children are wheezing, our forest families are thirsty, and our ocean is acidifying. From Pine Ridge to Noyo, from so-called Fort Bragg to Sacramento, competing visions of our place in the universe are again facing off. Will co-management be more lip service, yet another unratified broken treaty? Or will this be the moment when we as a species actually grow up and open our ears to the cries of those that went before? **Meanwhile, the clock is ticking, and this cycle is drawing to a close. What will be our legacy?**

Please sign this petition to show your support: tinyurl.com/SaveJackson

Chad Swimmer is an activist, educator, naturalist, musician, and gardener who has lived on the unceded land known as the Mendocino Coast since 1986. He co-founded the Mendocino Trail Stewards, the Coalition to Save Jackson, APAN-Mendo Needle Exchange, Touchstone Soup Kitchen, and is now the Chief Organizer of Disquiet Media, with three monthly radio shows originating from KZYX, Listener-Powered Community Radio for Mendocino County and Beyond. All of his radio shows can be accessed at www.disquietmedia.blue

Marshall Ranch Flow-Enhancement Implementation Project Gets Green Light

Innovative water storage and release plans aim to connect and cool Redwood Creek in late summer

Salmonid Restoration Federation

South Fork Eel residents may enjoy a seemingly endless summer, but this long dry season impairs water quality for aquatic species and water reliability for landowners. Since 2013, Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) has been monitoring flows in Redwood Creek and developing flow-enhancement strategies to protect fisheries resources.

SRF is excited to partner with the historic Marshall Ranch, the largest contiguous landowner in the Redwood Creek watershed. The Marshall Ranch is fully protected under a conservation easement, and the ranch bridges Redwood Creek, Somerville Creek, and Sproul

Creek. This working ranch that has been in the Marshall family ownership since the 1800s is now protected in perpetuity, with restoration opportunities such as a flow-enhancement project that includes 10 million gallons of winter water storage between two off-channel ponds and 100,000-gallon water tanks that will be plumbed for fire-fighting emergencies. The purpose of this project is to release cool water into Redwood Creek during the five-month dry season to benefit threatened salmonids and other aquatic species. The flow releases will benefit the mainstem of the creek from the Marshall Ranch all the way to the confluence with the South Fork Eel River.

This project was developed by several restoration partners, including Stillwater Sciences, the lead technical consultants; the Marshall Ranch General Manager David Sanchez and the Marshall Ranch family representative Elizabeth Marshall Maybee, who had the vision to preserve the ranch through conservation easements; and Hicks Law, who oversaw the Appropriative Water Right and

provides expert legal guidance to the project team. SRF's Executive Director Dana Stolzman stated, "SRF is the project proponent, but this project could not have evolved without the ongoing support of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the hard work of the project team. In this era of extended drought conditions, climate change, and intensified fire risk, innovative projects like the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement are needed to improve instream flows."

The California Water Action Plan ranks the South Fork Eel River as one of the highest-priority watersheds in the state for flow-enhancement projects. Similarly, the Salmon Habitat and Restoration Prioritization Project in the South Fork Eel River recognizes that although Redwood Creek is densely populated and suffers from legacy impacts, it still retains high habitat values for salmon.

After years of outreach, monitoring, and a Redwood Creek feasibility analysis, SRF and Stillwater Sciences have developed a variety of flow-enhancement opportunities ranging from groundwater recharge in the headwaters of Redwood Creek to flow-release projects in the mainstem on the Marshall Ranch, storage and forbearance projects downstream, and eventually a forest-thinning component.

Recent project milestones include:

- In January 2022, the Marshall Ranch Flow-Enhancement Implementation Project was unanimously approved by the Humboldt County Planning Commissioners. Humboldt County Planning Department is the lead agency for CEQA for this exciting project, and it adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.
- Concurrently, the State Water Board completed a final review of the Marshall



The flow enhancement project includes two off-channel ponds, one on this upper terrace and the other on a lower terrace adjacent to Redwood Creek.

PHOTO COURTESY SRF

Conservation Partner Organizations at Work

Ranch Appropriative Water Right application and approved it in June 2022. This is an exciting milestone because the off-channel ponds will be filled during the coming winter season for metered cool-water flow releases throughout the next five-month dry season.

- The Wildlife Conservation Board's Streamflow Enhancement Program will fund the implementation of the project, which will begin during the summer of 2023. SRF will also receive funding through the North Coast Resource Partnership to identify, design, and implement five water storage tanks as part of a storage and forbearance program that will help ensure that the dedicated flows from the Marshall Ranch remain instream and to improve water availability for landowners who may not have sufficient water storage in this under-served region.

 For more information:
calsalmon.org

Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement in North Fork Lost River

Sanctuary Forest

By Ash Brookens

In the fall of 2021, Sanctuary Forest was awarded \$2 million in funding by the Wildlife Conservation Board to implement a multifaceted project on the North Fork of Lost River, a Class I tributary to the Mattole River, with the goal of improving conditions for native coho and their supporting species within the headwaters ecosystem. Through continued monitoring of our previous stream-enhancement projects throughout recent drought years, we've garnered keen insights about what's working well and where a

"stacking" approach is needed to restore ecological processes (see our previous *Forest & River News* article *Stacking Restoration Strategies*, Summer 2022).

Terrace Ponds

In order to address urgent low-flow conditions within the Mattole River watershed, we're integrating strategies in the North Fork Lost River Flow-Enhancement Project that will be familiar to many who've been following our work in McKee Creek and elsewhere in the headwaters: instream channel-spanning structures with subsurface clay restrictive layers and strategic grading that reconnects incised channels to adjacent floodplains. We're utilizing a new strategy in constructing terrace ponds. Though guided by lessons learned in constructing the String of Pearls ponds in nearby Baker Creek, these terrace ponds in the North Fork Lost River differ in that they aren't designed for groundwater recharge so much as to store surface water for direct augmentation of streamflow. Instead of building them to catch, hold, and slowly release water to the adjacent stream, they're designed to hold water until late summer, when stored water will be delivered directly to the stream by pipe-and-valve infrastructure. As Tasha McKee explains, "This adaptation is necessary because flow benefits from the slow-release method only lasted until early August, and did not solve the problem of low flows with disconnected pools and trapped salmonids." The North Fork Lost River will be the first location where Sanctuary Forest utilizes this "metered-flow" strategy.

This exciting work in the North Fork began mid-summer and is currently underway, with several of our region's most skilled implementation subcontractors—

McCullough Construction, Mattole Salmon Group (MSG), Edwards Excavation, and Stillwater Sciences—working concurrently with Sanctuary Forest to mitigate the impacts of legacy logging while creating new opportunities for water storage and flow augmentation. In September, McCullough Construction completed the shaping of a northern and southern terrace pond, which have the capacity to store 750,000 and 450,000 gallons, respectively. Like the Baker Creek ponds, these are not plastic-lined but rather sealed by a bentonite keyway that prevents water from flowing under and/or through the berm. The upslope sides of the pond are not sealed, which allows for storage and seepage of cool groundwater back into the pond as water levels drop. This helps keep water temperatures low, particularly in the deepest area of the ponds from where streamflow augmentation water will be drawn. As of this writing, Sanctuary Forest and Mattole Restoration Council staff are preparing to seed the pond sites with native vegetation.

Re-grading and Installing Large Woody Structures

McCullough Construction also worked alongside the Mattole Salmon Group on installation of valley- and channel-spanning log weirs that incorporate subsurface weirs and clay barriers. As described in the project's Basis of Design Report (Stillwater Sciences, May 2022): "While grade control structures (log and boulder weirs) typically are tied into the [streambed] and banks to reduce undercutting and flanking during high-flow events, the intent of the restrictive barrier is to go a step farther and reduce underflow and flanking by groundwater." The "modified Stage-0" restoration technique readers may recall from our previous article has been implemented;



One of two streamflow augmentation ponds constructed this summer. Revegetation of the pond sites with native grasses and sedges will occur this fall and winter. PHOTO BY ASH BROOKENS


and farther downstream, Mattole Salmon Group has reshaped the streambed, connecting it with its historic floodplain. In both places, this re-grading reverses the deep channel incision characteristic of streams lacking large and plentiful wood in their channels. Both McCullough and MSG are installing additional large wood structures throughout the project reach. By this autumn's rainfall, about half of these structures will be in place, set to store winter water in the stream banks and create complex habitat for fish.

Moving Forward, with Gratitude for a Talented Team of Restoration Implementers!

Even as new strategies are being put into action in order to hold more water, upgrades to existing infrastructure are underway. Culverts are scheduled for replacement to improve fish passage; and an existing road (which was too close to the stream) has been removed, with improvements made to enable use of an alternate access road. There's much more on the slate for next implementation

season, but the transformation thus far in the North Fork of Lost River has been impressive. We'll be monitoring this project as the rains fall and processes unfold—and planning for a new phase of restoration work using these techniques in the South Fork of Lost River. We'll keep our community updated!

Responding to the challenges created by extractive or imbalanced land-use paradigms requires integration of multiple strategies, but it also calls for the creative vision, experience, and skill of a diverse and dedicated group of people. Sanctuary Forest holds great appreciation for our funders, Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of Water Resources, our community supporters, and our implementation partners: Stillwater Sciences, McCullough Construction, Mattole Salmon Group, Mattole Restoration Council, and Edwards Excavation. Thank you for continuing to prioritize this unique and irreplaceable watershed.

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Cover Image

View from Chapman Ranch in Salmon Creek, CA, where work has begun on a 200-acre shaded fuel break, which is part of the Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project.

Photo by Eleonore Jordan Anderson

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

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