

FORESTS FOREVER 2012 Accomplishments Highlights

January, 2013

Forests Forever has made significant strides in its campaign to protect and restore California's forests! Here are a few of our most significant achievements since 2011 — all part of our *California Statewide Sustainable Forests and Watersheds Campaign*:



Photo by Paul Hughes

✓ **Stepping up the fight to ban clearcutting!** Forests Forever partnered with Sierra Club California and other groups to advocate a ban on clearcutting. This practice, hidden from public view by "beauty strips" of trees lining highways through forest country, continues apace. *It causes irreparable harm to environmental and economic values.* We have launched a petition campaign to convince Gov. Jerry Brown to support legislation that would end this unwarranted practice once and for all.

✓ **Changing a bill for the better!** Forests Forever and allies scored a big victory in 2012 by getting hotly contested provisions for Watershed Timber Harvest Plans (WTHPs) stripped from S.B. 455. The bill's sweeping provisions would have effectively reduced government oversight on logging activities across huge tracts of land for periods of up to 20 years, increasing the threat of environmental harm enormously! *Forests Forever was alone among forest-advocacy groups in Sacramento actively organizing a "Vote no on S.B. 455" ground campaign.*



✓ **Breakthrough for A.B. 380!** We took a giant leap last year in our long-fought battle to get the state to address the cumulative effects of multiple timber harvests in California watersheds. We sponsored Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro's A.B. 380, which advanced to the Senate Appropriations Committee. *The bill would have provided for public participation in the design and monitoring of two forestry pilot projects aimed at addressing cumulative impacts.* In the new year, we expect to take up the battle with renewed vigor.



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✓ **Defending hard-won forest-defense funds!** We played a role in thwarting an effort by the lumber retailers lobby to siphon off millions of dollars from a newly enacted lumber tax that had been set up to pay for timber-harvest inspections. In setting up a one-percent tax on lumber sold in the state A.B. 1492 created a revenue stream of roughly \$35 million a year toward restoring the previously de-funded inspections and other environmental safeguards. *We were successful in convincing the state Board of Equalization to reserve these funds for their intended purpose—to enable watchdog agencies to make sure the timber companies are complying with environmental laws.*

✓ **Big wins for our candidates!** Congratulations are in order for seven Forests Forever-endorsed candidates who won their elections in November! **Hannah-Beth Jackson** trounced her opponent for state



From left: Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fran Pavley, Bill Monning, Cathleen Galgiani, Jared Huffman, Lois Capps, and Ami Bera.

senate in Santa Barbara's District 19. **Fran Pavley**, greatly admired for her landmark

laws on global warming, returns to the state senate with a win in the greater Long Beach area. **Jared Huffman** won decisively in vast Northern California Congressional District 2. **Lois Capps** won in Congressional District 24, covering Ventura and inland Santa Barbara counties. In Congressional District 7, covering Solano and much of Contra Costa counties, physician and educator **Ami Bera** unseated incumbent Dan Lungren. **Cathleen Galgiani** garnered a close 50.5% to 49.5% win in Senate District 5 covering the Sacramento River Delta area. In Senate District 17 **Bill Monning** got a huge win in the multi-county swath of territory north of Los Angeles. Kudos too to **Betsy Butler** for a hard-fought run in Assembly District 50. She lost narrowly (49.5% vs. 50.5%) to Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom.



✓ **A good man on our team!** Forests Forever Legislative Advocate **Luke Breit** secured a seat on the Timber Harvest Working Group (THWG) convened by Assemblymembers Wesley Chesbro and Roger Dickinson. The group's aim is to achieve consensus on how to fund state-mandated timber harvest reviews long term, as well as how best to regulate the watershed-scale adverse environmental effects from logging. The THWG is comprised of representatives of the timber industry, the environmental community, and state agencies.

✓ **Up with the numbers!** *Forests Forever's membership expanded from 9,000 to 16,000, thanks to committed phone and field canvass teams.* This enabled us to galvanize our supporters into generating many thousands of personalized letters to sway the legislators.

✓ **Showcasing our "New Testament"!** Throughout 2012 we continued to actively promote **John J. Berger's** *Forests Forever: Their Ecology, Restoration and Protection*, a critically acclaimed work dubbed by Arnold Newman, Ph.D., as the "New Testament" for the forest industry. Published by Forests Forever Foundation and Columbia College Chicago, the book has been stocked by *more than 800 libraries* across North America and around the world.

