



The Watershed

Volume 1, Number 2

The newsletter of Forests Forever

Summer, 1997

Miller soon may introduce strong ESA- upgrade bill

The Endangered Natural Heritage Act (ENHA) will be introduced into Congress this month by U.S. Reps. George Miller (D-CA) and Bruce Vento (D-MN), both members of the House Resources Committee, according to Miller legislative aide Karen Steuer. She said the bill will be introduced with some modifications.

Forests Forever is the sole organization working on ENHA through direct-contact citizen outreach, activating members everyday to call, FAX and e-mail Miller. About 5767 Forests Forever supporters committed to call Miller since the campaign began on Jan. 2. According to Stacey Shull, Endangered Species Act (ESA) activist, Miller initially had expressed skepticism about whether to introduce ENHA but now has changed his mind.

"We've seen a marked change in George Miller's attitude towards ENHA," Shull said. "I think Forests Forever can take a lot of credit for it. The work that Forests Forever does has had a noticeable impact on Miller's office."

see "ENHA" story, p. 2, col. 1

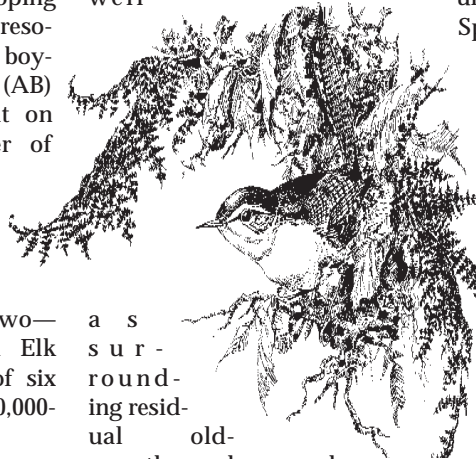
Dollar signs stand in the way of protection for ancient redwoods

Public pressure to protect the Headwaters Forest has mounted through numerous recent efforts—public scoping hearings, a shareholders resolution, a redwood lumber boycott and Assembly Bill (AB) 1313—keeping the heat on Charles Hurwitz, owner of Pacific Lumber Co. (PL).

The proposed "deal" to protect Headwaters, announced Sept. 27, 1996, would save only two—Headwaters Grove and Elk Head Springs Grove—of six ancient groves in the 60,000-acre Forest.

Headwaters activists are contesting Hurwitz's land man-

agement of the four ancient groves in the Forest not covered by the "deal," as well



as a surrounding residual old-growth and second-growth habitat. These

lands are home to the Marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl, both listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as the recently listed (threatened) Coho salmon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the California Department of Forestry (CDF) and other government agencies jointly conducted hearings to receive public input on issues to be addressed in a combined federal and state Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and

see "Headwaters" story, p. 3, col. 1

Grassroots initiative would slash timber dole

The Grassroots Forest Appropriations Initiative (GFAI) is a nationwide effort to enforce accountability and bring oversight to the U.S. Forest Service by amending federal appropriations to the agency.

Forests Forever has been generating calls, FAXs, letters and e-mail on GFAI since early April. Canvassers distributed 2079 action alerts to supporters and 70 letters were collected and mailed to both Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

The Forest Service is not being held accountable for protecting its holdings. In fact, the Forest Service has demonstrat-

ed a determination to log as much national forest land as possible. California is home to 18 national forests.

California forestry activists learned a difficult lesson from the Recissions Act Logging Rider, which expired last December. Under the rider millions of board feet of timber were harvested from green, healthy forests under the guise of "salvage" at a tremendous cost to American taxpayers. This "Salvage Logging Law" is widely considered to have been among the most-destructive pieces of public lands legislation in U.S. history.

GFAI would prohibit any further road-building in nation-

al forests by cutting government funding for new roads and abolishing the use of purchaser road credits. These credits are reimbursement for companies who build logging roads with their own funds. Our national forests already contain over 370,000 miles of logging roads—more than eight times the number of miles in the interstate highway system. Congress has the opportunity, through elimination of the Forest Service road-building budget, to save \$50 million annually.

GFAI also would end logging and road-building on

see "GFAI" story, p. 3, col. 4

CalPERS assails Hurwitz's logging plans

The board of California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) voted unanimously on Apr. 14 in favor of a MAXXAM shareholder resolution that would encourage Charles Hurwitz to consider a debt-for-nature swap for the Headwaters Forest.

CalPERS is the second-largest institutional investor in the stock of MAXXAM Group, the parent company of Pacific Lumber. CalPERS owns 318,400 shares, or 3.7 percent, of MAXXAM stock.

James Burton, CEO of CalPERS, warned Hurwitz in a letter that logging Headwaters would undermine the value of MAXXAM's stock and tarnish its corporate image.

The resolution asks the company to *sell or trade all*

its properties within the 60,000 acres of Headwaters Forest, and to explore a debt-for-nature swap. MAXXAM's annual shareholder meeting was scheduled to vote on the resolution May 22.

From Apr. 10 through 14 Forests Forever's field and phone canvasses began distribution of an alert "Key CalPERS Vote Due Monday." Canvassers generated 395 commitments to call two to four of the targeted CalPERS officials. William Crist, the primary object of Forests Forever's action calls, stood strong against opponents of the resolution.

Outcome of the CalPERS board action on the 14th:

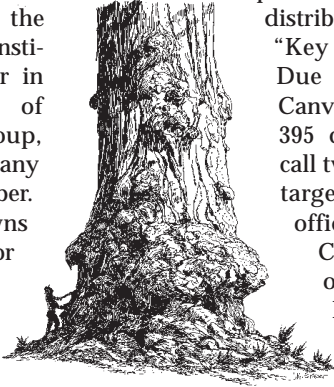
- A CalPERS staff recommendation against the resolution did not prevail; the resolution survived.
- The board voted unanimous-

ly to work with Oakland-based Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment to modify the resolution so it does not require that MAXXAM be a willing seller of all 60,000 acres. And the board voted to add language stating that Headwaters should be sold or traded for "fair market value." Debt-for-nature will be retained as one possible alternative to providing relief from MAXXAM's liabilities.

MAXXAM is a bad investment for CalPERS. Currently there are more than \$4 billion in potential liabilities against MAXXAM related to its role in the 1988 failure and \$1.6 billion taxpayer bailout of MAXXAM-controlled United Savings Association of Texas.

The CalPERS Investment Committee was scheduled to vote May 19 in Sacramento on whether to support the MAXXAM shareholder resolution.

— L.S.



"ENHA"
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"We're working on (ESA) right now," Steuer said. "It was very clear to us in 1996 that nothing was going to happen (with the ESA). There will be an ESA reauthorization with this Congress."

Steuer said Miller's staff is working through the details of the bill's language and consulting with various environmental groups including Defenders of Wildlife, which drafted ENHA late last year. The bill has been endorsed by almost 200 other groups including Forests Forever.

Because listed species inhabit Headwaters Forest ENHA would play a critical role in providing further protection for the Forest. Under the ESA, listed species' critical habitat must be protected. The

ESA must be strengthened and expanded to ensure adequate recovery of these species and to provide healthy ecosystems for the future.

Despite the ESA's intended protection of species, Headwaters, the largest stand of unprotected ancient redwoods in the world, is slated for logging by corporate raider Charles Hurwitz. Hurwitz owns Pacific Lumber Co., which owns the Headwaters lands.

Currently timber companies may find it cost effective to illegally log an area and pay the small fine levied under ESA if caught. ENHA would increase penalties for such violations and step up monitoring the logging operations, especially in or near areas designated as critical habitat for listed species.

ENHA also would address

current problems with Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). An HCP is an arrangement between the government and a company or individual allowing destruction of a listed species' habitat in one area, in exchange for purported habitat creation or enhancement in another area.

Instead HCPs have contributed to the accelerated decline in species. ENHA would require federal agencies to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to oversee habitat-impacting activities and minimize harm to recovering species.

ENHA would close loopholes in the current ESA.

— Kristin Kirk

see Action Rolodex, back page

Volunteer program now underway

On Feb. 4 Forests Forever launched its Volunteer Staff Program to support and enhance our already thriving public-outreach efforts. Volunteers provide much-needed assistance to the paid staff and help involve the public in the behind-the-scenes operations of Forests Forever.

Although the program began with just one volunteer, the staff steadily increased to seven. To date volunteers have logged 186 hours worked.

Our first volunteer was Karl Humbarger, Volunteer Office Assistant. Also with us are Susi Snyder and Charlie Hoffman, Volunteer Data Entrists; Kareem Yahoubi, Volunteer Communications Assistant; and Jo Gentry and Kara Weimer, Volunteer Administrative Aides.

The Volunteer Data Entrists and Volunteer Office Assistant are key players in a database-updating project, which began this year. Kareem has been organizing newspa-

Although the program began with just one volunteer, the staff steadily increased to seven.

per-clipping files and archives. Volunteer Administrative Aides handle a variety of tasks—such as writing reminders and receipts and assisting with bulk mailings.

see "Volunteers" story, p. 4, col. 1

"Headwaters"
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Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Headwaters proposal.

At six public scoping hearings held throughout California this winter outraged citizens condemned the "deal" to pay Hurwitz's MAXXAM Group—parent company of PL—\$380 million in public land and cash for only 13 percent of the Forest.

The Watershed

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To protect and enhance the forests and wildlife habitat of California through educational, legislative, and electoral activities.

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At the Jan. 16 Oakland hearings on the EIS / EIR, 22 of Forests Forever's staff attended and eight spoke. Three staff attended the Sacramento hearings on the EIS / EIR on Jan. 30 and all three spoke. Forests Forever mailed detailed written comments to the FWS before a Feb. 18 deadline.

The California Public Employees' Retirement Fund (CalPERS) board of directors on Apr. 14 unanimously approved a shareholder resolution, which requests that MAXXAM become a "willing seller" of its Headwaters properties. CalPERS, the nation's largest public pension fund, is the second-largest institutional investor in MAXXAM (see "CalPERS" story, page two).

As PL continues to submit timber harvest plans to log in Headwaters, activists urged businesses and consumers to boycott old-growth redwood products. The nation's largest home-improvement chain, Home Depot, recently decided to take the Redwood Pledge to refuse to buy or sell ancient redwood. Since the campaign began in February more than 900 stores across the country have accepted the pledge.

Assemblyman Ted Lempert (D-Palo Alto) introduced in the state Assembly a bill, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Information Center, to prohibit salvage logging in ancient redwood groves. AB 1313 recognizes that the notion of "dead, diseased and dying" trees does not apply to healthy redwood forests, which are resistant to fires and disease. On May 5 Lempert placed the bill on inactive status, but may reactivate it as soon as sufficient support is mobilized.

PL's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for its entire 200,000 acres of forest land is

scheduled to undergo review about mid-June. This HCP is required as part of the "deal." If approved by federal wildlife officials the HCP would exempt the timber company from any further environmental review of its logging operations. Hurwitz retains the option to call off the "deal" at any point if he says the government has placed too many restrictions on his logging operations under the HCP.

Environmentalists criticized the Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) PL submitted this winter to the CDF. The SYP would enable the timber company to log all its old-growth forests within 20 years, including the four unprotected groves in Headwaters. State wildlife and water quality agencies rejected PL's SYP as inadequate, prompting the CDF to put off its ruling until mid-June.

Resistance from both sides to recent "deal"-related developments has led to a deadline extension for the "deal" until Feb. 17, 1998, to complete the HCP and environmental review.

— L.S.

see Action Rolodex, back page

PDF puts web site out front

The Watershed is now downloadable from Forests Forever's web site in Portable Document Format (PDF). Both the Summer and Spring issues are posted.

PDF represents a significant improvement on current and past text-only methods of viewing on-line versions of print publications. Text-only

see "Web site" story, p. 4, col. 4

Donations sought

Forests Forever is expanding rapidly, which means we need many items. If you or anyone you know has extra tables, chairs, bookshelves, printers, recycled paper or office supplies please contact us at 415/974-3636.

"GFAI"
continued from p. 1

steep or potentially unstable slopes in national forests. Recent landslides in the West have gravely demonstrated the disastrous effects of logging on unstable slopes.

The initiative also seeks to end Forest Service off-budget slush funds. The Forest Service maintains three off-budget

Harvesting timber in our national forests cost taxpayers nearly \$1 billion.

funds totaling nearly \$1 billion. The funds are supplied entirely through receipts from national forest timber sales, thus creating a strong incentive to allow as much logging as possible.

Harvesting timber in our national forests cost taxpayers nearly \$1 billion between 1992 and 1994 due to taxpayer subsidies to timber companies. And, of course, because of over-cutting in our national forests, citizens lose many natural wild places.

GFAI would put an end to money-losing timber sales.

— Sara Goltz

see Action Rolodex, back page

Action Rolodex

ENHA campaign:

Contact U.S. Rep. George Miller. Tell him the Endangered Natural Heritage Act is imperative for stronger protection of endangered species. Saving imperiled wildlife provides medicinal and agricultural stock and maintains the integrity of the ecosystems on which all life depends.

Headwaters deal:

Contact President Bill Clinton and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Let them know all 60,000 acres and all six ancient groves of Headwaters Forest must be preserved. No ancient forests are to be included in land trades

with Hurwitz and PL.

Grassroots Forest

Appropriations Initiative:

Contact Sens. Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Ask them to support GFAI and remind them that California is home to 18 national forests.

President Bill Clinton
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phone 202/456-1111
FAX 202/456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

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senator@boxer.senate.gov

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gmiller@hr.house.gov

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"Web site"
continued from p. 3

versions are generally dull to look at and often carry no graphics or artwork.

The software needed to view PDF files, Adobe Acrobat Reader, is freeware that can be downloaded to the viewer's hard disk. Acrobat allows a person to view the newsletter in on-screen format identical to its appearance in print.

In viewing the newsletter, the reader can scroll and zoom in or out on selected sections. *Printing the newsletter from PDF yields a hard copy indistinguishable from the printed version.* This of course can save Forests Forever the cost of mailing *The Watershed* to members who are on-line.

Jon Stahl of ONE / Northwest in Seattle said, "You are definitely in the first 10 (environmental organizations) in the region to use PDF to publish documents on-line."

— L.S.

"Volunteers"
continued from p. 2

Forests Forever has been very fortunate to have the services of these folks as volunteers.

Several Volunteer Staff positions currently are available:

Receptionist

A new volunteer position. We are looking for someone to

come in three mornings per week for about three hours each day to answer phones, schedule interviews, greet visitors and assist with administrative tasks.

Data Entrist(s)

Our field canvass is doing such a great job recruiting supporters that we need help

keeping up with the resulting volume of data entry. If you can volunteer between 10 and 12 hours weekly and enjoy working with computers, this is the job for you.

Archivist

Forests Forever is seeking a detail-oriented person who would enjoy the important pro-

ject of archiving our collection of newspaper and magazine clippings. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Headwaters Forest campaign and to help staff organize information for easier access and distribution.

Please call 415/974-1503 if you can help out.

— Cayenne Harris

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