



The Watershed

Volume 1, Number 1

The newsletter of Forests Forever

Spring, 1997

Welcome to The Watershed

In response to the needs of Forests Forever's members we've created *The Watershed*. We plan to publish *The Watershed* at least three times a year.

Forests Forever's primary role is to inform and activate citizens. These members inevitably then pass their knowledge on to others. Gathering enough public support is how we'll protect California's forests.

So please read this newsletter and pass it on.

— Laurie Smith, Editor

Species act battle heats up

Protection for endangered and threatened species will be made dramatically less effective if Congress enacts the "Endangered Species Conservation Act (S 1364)." Senators Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID) and John Chafee (R-RI) recently circulated a discussion draft of their proposed Endangered Species Act (ESA)-weakening measure.

In part to counter this threat a broad coalition of environmental groups including Forests Forever has endorsed the *Endangered Natural Heritage Act (ENHA)* bill to increase protection for listed and candidate

species. The bill is drafted but still must be introduced in Congress.

ESA has been the strongest single legal tool of forest-preservation activists in the fight to save Headwaters Forest. And ESA certainly will continue to be an indispensable lever for saving California's forest ecosystems.

Under the ESA's current requirements federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to ensure that their activities do not jeopardize listed species. This process is referred to as

see "ENHA," p. 3, col. 4

California salvage sales defeated

It took public outreach and outcry to cancel seven of 13 top-priority Salvage Logging Law sales in California's national forests. With the help of Forests Forever's canvassers and members, President Clinton received the message that California's forests must be protected.

Clinton signed the notorious law in July, 1995. The law allows so-called salvage logging—the cutting of allegedly dead, dying or diseased trees—to include cutting healthy trees. It also exempts the affected timber sales from review under federal environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act.

Lacking these legal tools, activists have been unable in many cases to protect irreplaceable ancient forests, roadless areas and other sensitive ecosystems in our national forests.

Because California is home to 18 national forests, the Salvage Logging Law has caused tremendous harm to ancient forests in this state. Due to public pressure, however, the Clinton administration now has delayed or canceled destructive logging projects that were slated to go for-

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Hurwitz's rejections keep deal at a standstill

Charles Hurwitz on Feb. 4 rejected all the properties the State of California had offered him in exchange for the Headwaters Forest. Hurwitz said the Wilson administration now must come up with \$130 million in cash to complete the recent deal to save the 60,000-acre Forest.

Hurwitz is the chairman of MAXXAM Group, the Houston-based parent company of Pacific Lumber (PL), which owns Headwaters. The state had offered Hurwitz a wide-ranging list of about 50 properties, from San Francisco's Transbay Terminal bus station to forest lands near the Oregon border.

The "deal," announced on Sept. 27, 1996, by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), was intended to protect the world's

largest remaining ancient redwood forest outside of parks. The deal would establish a Headwaters "Preserve" of only



7500 acres in this redwood wilderness located 15 miles southeast of Eureka, Calif. (see Forests Forever's response, page 2). State and federal negotiators worked out the agreement with Hurwitz.

Hurwitz's move leaves the state little option but to come up with the \$130 million, a sum that far exceeds California's annual budget for acquiring new parks. Nevertheless, state officials said they are committed to finding the money and completing the deal.

Hurwitz is considering accepting Central Valley oil and gas leases among 105 properties offered by the federal government. The deal requires the U.S. government to provide him with \$250 million in cash and/or federal property, above and beyond California's \$130 million ante.

Although environmentalists are unhappy with the deal Feinstein claims it is a win-win situation and expressed hope the deal will be wrapped up

see "Headwaters," p. 2, col. 3

1996: Success for FF startup

Forests Forever has just completed an extraordinary, successful year. We can look back on 1996 as the year we went from being a fledgling group to becoming one of the largest grassroots environmental organizations in the Bay Area. It was only the third year of existence for our staff and base of operations.

Political Organizing

Forests Forever's field and phone canvasses in 1996 enabled us to:

- Orchestrate a groundswell of letters and calls, awareness and involvement on the Headwaters Forest issue on a broad scale. We helped force government officials to act, hence announcement of "the deal." We were instrumental in

re-framing the post-deal debate around saving all 60,000 acres of the Forest, not just the 7500 the deal covered. And we helped point out the weaknesses in the deal.

- Play a key role in stopping the "Death Road" timber harvest plan, proposed to cut through the heart of Headwaters Grove.
- Defeat the federal Marbled Murrelet Extinction Rider, which would have destroyed critical habitat for the threatened species.
- Kill seven of the 13 priority Salvage Logging Law sales on California national forests.
- Prevent the ominous Boehlert-Gingrich Compromise Grazing bill from passing. It would have greatly increased taxpayer-subsidized overgrazing on public forestlands in California.
- Help defeat Assembly Bill 1357— the California Salvage

Logging measure— by distributing action alerts and canvassing for phone calls and e-mail.

- Co-produce a 30-second spot "National Treasure" on the Headwaters issue, aired nationwide.
- Sponsor a Sept. 8 Coffee Shop Talk in Berkeley, with Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters.
- Co-sponsor a full-page ad in the New York Times on Sept. 3. Headline: "An ancient redwood can withstand centuries of drought, wind, fire and flood. It's Charles Hurwitz it can't handle."
- Help the Sierra Club win victories on open-space and wetlands in the Bay Area.

In 1996 we completed almost 25,000 supportive conversations with persons who back our position on Headwaters and other state forest-preservation issues. We put at least this many action alerts

into the hands of supporters.

This represents an average of 98 pieces of Forests Forever

The main engines of Forests Forever's organizing are our canvass programs. We declared our field canvass startup— begun in July 1995— a success; we are here to stay.

literature per working day placed into the hands of supportive citizens. We published *see "Looking back," p. 3, col. 3*

Deal leaves Forest exposed

Although Sen. Feinstein declared the Headwaters deal a "win-win agreement for everyone" it is in fact extremely weak, providing no assurance of lasting protection for any of the Forest.

Negotiators arrived at an agreement on protection of the world's largest remaining ancient redwood forest outside of parks. The deal, brokered by Feinstein, was worked out between California and federal negotiators along with MAXXAM chairman Hurwitz.

The preserve proposed in the deal would include the Headwaters and Elkhead Springs Groves and buffer lands totaling 7500 acres. These groves are only two of six virgin parcels within the 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest.

Hurwitz recently rejected the State of California properties offered to him.

If not satisfied with virtu-

ally any aspect of the deal he can veto it on two weeks' notice. This allows Hurwitz to begin logging in any of the groves in the Forest after the allotted two-week period.

Preserving the integrity of the entire 60,000-acre Forest is a *biological necessity*.

If most of Headwaters is logged, threatened Marbled murrelets would face increased risk of predation due to a closer-in forest edge. Riparian habitat of Coho salmon would be destroyed.

Further, a redwood forest island of only 7500 acres surrounded by cutover land stands a doubtful chance of ecological survival. Drying wind and blowdown would encroach deep into such a parcel.

An intact 60,000-acre Forest may be the only structure that could ensure long-term survival of the area's redwood forest ecosystem. ☐

see Action Rolodex, back page

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within weeks.

The proposed preserve includes the Headwaters and Elkhead Springs Groves and buffer lands. *These groves are only two of six virgin groves within the Forest.* Saving only 7500 acres would leave 88 percent— 52,500 acres— of Headwaters immediately vulnerable to further logging.

Indeed, since the deal was announced PL has completed destructive salvage logging operations in All Species, Shaw Creek and Allen Creek Groves in Headwaters Forest. The sixth grove, Owl Creek, remains the only unentered virgin grove. The company has agreed to halt logging for the duration of the remaining negotiations.

In another recent development the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 18 unanimously declined to review PL's final appeal of *Pacific Lumber v. Marbled Murrelet*. Filed by the

Environmental Protection Information Center in April, 1993, this case sets a dramatic precedent for protection of endangered species' critical habitat.

In January and February the government conducted public scoping hearings on the Headwaters deal. Turnout represented age groups from high school students to grandmothers, the overwhelming majority of speakers urging protection of the full 60,000 acres.

Purpose of the hearings was to establish the scope of issues to be addressed in a broad Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering the deal, under the National Environmental Policy Act. California state law requires a similar document, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIS and EIR are combined, resulting in one document.

The EIS/EIR is supposed to assess the environmental impacts of every aspect of the deal, including land trades. ☐

1997 looks bright for FF

by Paul Hughes,
Executive Director

We plan for 1997 to be the year we satisfactorily resolve the *Headwaters Forest* issue.

Regardless of specific developments on *Headwaters*, however, Forests Forever will continue to press hard for protecting the entire 60,000 acres, locking up the six virgin groves, and protecting Marbled murrelet and Coho salmon habitat.

We will be working on other forestry-reform issues this year too. Forests Forever already has kicked off its first *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* -strengthening campaign, of vital importance to *Headwaters*— the *Endangered Natural Heritage Act (ENHA)*. We expect to see ENHA introduced in Congress.

In addition to further work on ESA it seems likely that 1997 will see us campaign to some

Check out our web site

Jump onto our web site at: www.forestsforever.org. Meet the Forests Forever staff and find out more about who we are and what we do.

extent on *public forestlands live-stock grazing*, which is heating up.

To accomplish these goals our *Field Canvass* is slated to swell to over 30 staff per day at its peak by late summer. The *Phone Canvass* is poised for the greatest relative increase in size— to 20 to 26 callers per day by November.

We are now busy preparing our application to set up the *Forests Forever Foundation*. Obtaining the foundation not only would allow us to accept tax-deductible gifts, but also to obtain grants where needed and appropriate.

We aim to be more visible at fairs and festivals by revitalizing the *tabling* we are doing. We have begun work on our first major *special event* in recent years.

To increase our impact still further we are now establishing a *Volunteer Staff Program*, through which our paid staff will hire and supervise unpaid “employees” who will work on specific tasks on a fixed-schedule.

In 1997 Forests Forever is poised to truly become a statewide grassroots organization on the scale we set out to build just a few years ago. We have done well up to now in large part due to the help of the Forests Forever Board of Directors, under the leadership of President Mark Fletcher. The Board has enabled the organization to move vigorously forward.

Most important contributors to our continued success, of course, are Forests Forever’s members. Without you, none of our exciting plans would be possible. So on behalf of the staff, the Board, and the cause to which Forests Forever is dedicated— here’s to a spectacular 1997! □

“Looking back” continued from p. 2

nine separate Forests Forever alerts and flyers. Here are the comparisons with political production totals over the last three years, with percentage increase from the previous year in parentheses:

1996: 24,637 supportive contacts (87%)
1995: 13,168 (19%)
1994: 11,064

The chief reason for this increase in supportive contacts was the growth of our field canvass program (see below).

Organizational Development

Accomplishing the organizing work of 1996 required a strong and growing infrastructure. The main engines of Forests Forever’s organizing are, of course, our canvass programs.

The Field Canvass grew from a seven-person crew at the end of 1995 to a staff of consistently over 20 in the field per day.

We declared our field canvass startup— begun in July, 1995— a success; we are here to stay. Our Phone Canvass surged from a six-person staff at the end of 1995 to about 12 at the end of 1996.

To support our outreach crews we purchased a van and we increased our office space by almost 70 percent, now occupying the entire fifth floor of the Mint Building.

We greatly expanded our popular web site and set up a domain name, forestsforever.org.

Forests Forever attributes the momentum of its campaigns to its members. Thus in 1996 our success resulted from educating and organizing citizens to become informed, active advocates. □

“ENHA”
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agency “consultation.”

The Kempthorne-Chafee bill would allow federal agencies (e.g. U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management) to determine *on their own* whether an action is likely to adversely affect endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat. This change would subor-



ordinate science to politics in the project-review process.

Many subspecies and population segments would lose their protection under Kempthorne-Chafee’s proposed definition of “species.” Opportunities for citizen involvement in conservation plans would be waived.

ENHA would strengthen the ESA by:

- requiring the federal government to decide in no more than four years whether to list a candidate species.
- designating essential habitat at the time of listing, with critical-habitat designation following later in the recovery plan.
- mandating implementation plans along with recovery plans. Criteria for recovery would include healthy population levels necessary for survival.
- restoring integrity to the consultation process by requiring documentation and public access to records of all consultations. □

see *Action Rolodex*, back page

The Watershed

FORESTS FOREVER
54 Mint St., Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone 415/974-3636
FAX 415/974-3664

redvole@forestsforever.org
www.forestsforever.org

Executive Editor
Paul Hughes

Editor
Laurie Smith

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

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Citizen Action Rolodex

• **ENHA campaign:**

Contact Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and tell them to introduce the Endangered Natural Heritage Act. 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 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.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
phone 202/224-3841
FAX 202/228-3954
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
phone 202/456-1111
FAX 202/456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Sen. Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
phone 202/224-3553
FAX 415/956-6701
senator@boxer.senate.gov

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ward under the law. The following sales were canceled:

- The *Saddle* occupies the Eel River watershed in Mendocino National Forest. Eel River's salmon and steelhead fisheries depend on old-growth forest to provide the cold, clear water needed for their survival.
- The *Upper Poor Boy* in the Toiyabe National Forest is home to several threatened animal species as well as ancient forests.
- Near the Kaiser Wilderness Area in the Sierra National Forest, the *Sample* boasts rare

old-growth Jeffrey pines.

- Rare ancient Port Orford cedar groves stand tall in the *Deer Thin*, in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.
- The *Bear* in the Klamath National Forest occupies a watershed which is prime spawning habitat for the threatened Coho salmon and steelhead trout.
- Within the *Treasure* two of four sub-sales, *Summit* and *Jam Packed*, were canceled.

Several sales went through and two are pending. The *Canon* timber sale in the Klamath National Forest was sold. This 2190-acre project would log ancient forest and increase sedimentation to

Kelsey and Clear Creeks.

The *Outside* is sold but pending due to a lawsuit; there is a 45-day delay period. *Jade* and *Pearl*, sub-sales of the *Treasure*, were sold but *Pearl* is pending.

Both sold, the *Pilot Creek / East Helicopter* and the *Pilot Creek North* in the Six Rivers National Forest would cut down over 900 acres of the Pilot Creek Roadless Area.

Clinton admitted that signing the salvage law was the worst mistake he has made. This acknowledgment heightened public awareness and motivated forest-preservation activists to work harder in safeguarding national forests. □

Volunteer opportunities

Forests Forever provides training and education for unpaid staff positions and ongoing volunteer assignments. Please let us know about your unique skills— you may be able to use them here.

Duties include data entry, library maintenance, research, mailings and other administrative tasks.

Volunteers at Forests Forever participate in educational, political and recreational events, e.g. briefings, rallies, day hikes and field trips.

The greater community is an integral component in this struggle, and we want to bring the skills and ideas of the community into our office. We could use your help.

Call 415/974-3636 if you are interested. Ask for Cayenne.

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. □

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Forests Forever
54 Mint St. #500
San Francisco, CA 94103

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