

Ukiah

Earth First!

No Deal, Assholes

Earth First! wasted no time in denouncing the so-called Timber Pact for the fraud it really is. The very next weekday following its announcement, 75 EF!ers stormed Eureka in a roving demo that targeted all three complicit legislators -- Bosco, Keene and Hauser.

At Bosco's office a few EF!ers who managed to get in were literally shoved out, while the crowd chanted "No More Closed Doors!" An aide who came out to talk to us at Keene's office found herself arguing with a bear. And at Hauser's office we instituted our own Open Door Policy by taking his door off its hinges.

(continued page 3)

Cahto Wilderness Declared Unnatural

The BLM has its greedy little gaze fixed on the Cahto Wilderness again, trying their best to get out of preserving one of the last significant stands of old growth in Mendocino Co. They have recently completed their review of the area, and have concluded that it is not suitable for protection as a Wilderness Area. Why aren't we surprised?

Their reason for denying Wilderness status is that they say the area is not natural because small portions of it were logged 20-40 years ago. This is an interesteresting rationale, because they used to admit that the area was natural,

(continued page 3)

The Scam What Am

When five enemies of the forest get together behind closed doors to hammer out a "compromise" on forestry issues, you can be sure they're up to no good. So it's no surprise that the "Timber Pact" reached by Hurwitz, Merlo, Bosco Keene and Hauser is nothing more than a cynical ploy to delude the public so the corporations can continue to liquidate the forest. What is surprising is that anybody gives them any credence at all. So, for the benefit of those who may have mistaken any of these forest rapers for honest men, we present this short course on How To Recognize Corporate Lies. This is what the timber lords and their legislative lackies really agreed on:

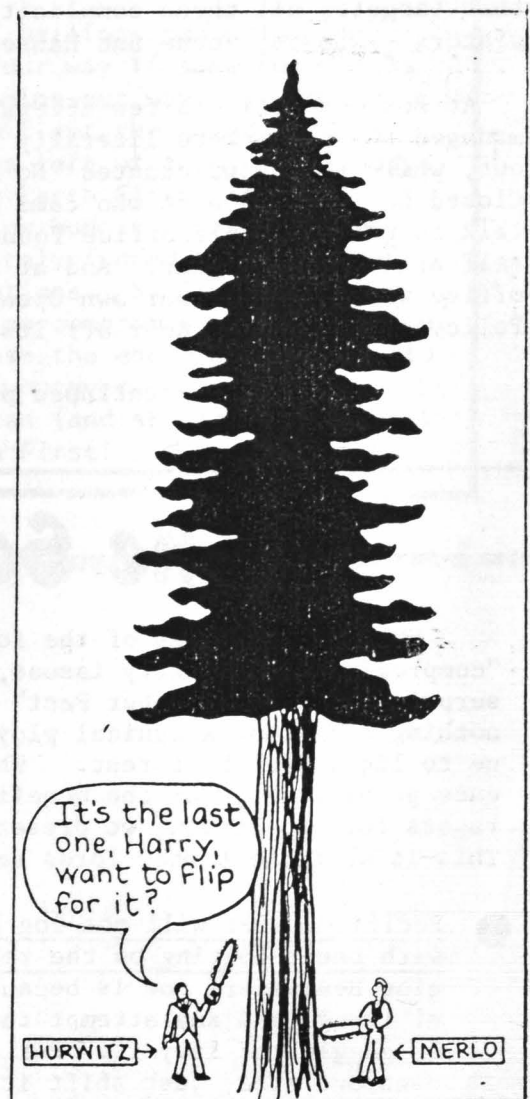
● Pacific Lumber will not log Headwaters Forest for two years, if no one interferes with their logging on the rest of their land. The only reason they're not logging Headwaters now is because they can't get away with it. It's become a national issue, and any attempt to log it will be met by hundreds of eco-warriors backed by gaggles of lawyers. P-L did not agree to slow down their rate of slaughter by even one tree, just shift it around to less controversial groves. And the whole "deal" is off if we challenge their illegal THP's.

(continued page 2)

The Scam What Am (continued)

- P-L will not clearcut old-growth redwoods. They rarely use direct clearcuts anyway. Instead they use methods like "shelterwood removal", which is a two-stage clearcut and results in the same devastation.
- P-L will allow an audit of their forest lands to verify that their cutting rate is not more than twice what it was before the takeover. Pacific Lumber was cutting at a greater than sustained yield rate before the takeover, and we're in pretty sad shape if we think that "only" doubling the cut is any concession.
- P-L will not export whole logs. This is a non-issue, because P-L does not export any significant amount of whole logs anyway.
- Louisiana Pacific will not ship whole logs or cants to Mexico. They will only ship roughsawn, green redwood lumber, not chips or other wood products. L-P only has the planing mill completed in Mexico so far anyway, so roughsawn is all they can handle right now. Later they plan to build a whole, 1000-employee complex down there, including sawmill, chipper, etc, and you can bet they will ship whatever they damn well please when the time comes.
- L-P will not overharvest to supply its Mexico plant. They will support the concept of sustained yield by planting five trees for every one cut. They don't have to start overharvesting to supply their Mexico plant because they are already overharvesting by at least 225%. They may support the concept of sustained yield, but certainly not the reality. They have to plant 5 trees for every one cut to comply with Calif. forestry laws, but they do not have to ensure those trees' survival.
- No local jobs will be lost due to the Mexico deal. L-P has already closed three mills in N. Calif. in the last year, including Potter Valley, whose equipment was shipped to Mexico. In order to supply a 1000-employee plant in Mexico, L-P has to either increase their rate of cutting or decrease their rate of local processing. It's simple arithmetic.
- L-P will support private and public local economic development projects. This is the scariest one of all. After L-P strips the redwood forest bare, they will support plans for other industries to come in and buy out their ruined land for yuppie subdivisions or industrial parks. In other words, says Merlo, "Adios, suckers, We're outa here!

The moral of the story is clear. Beware of corporate millionaires bearing "compromises". There's no point in meeting these liars in the back rooms. We have to meet them on the front lines.



Cahto (cont.)

but they said it wasn't large enough. Now, having been forced to include the already designated Wild and Scenic River in the study area, they admit that it's large enough, but they say it's not natural enough. Sounds like a bureaucratic shell game, with the object being to find a way to pull off the Elkhorn Ridge timber sale to Eel River Sawmills.

The BLM has announced a March 10 deadline for public comment on their latest Cahto decision. Please write to them at 555 Leslie St, Ukiah CA 95482, and let them know that there are certainly the necessary 5000 acres of unspoiled land in the Cahto/Brush/Elkhorn area. And considering how fast L-P and G-P are devouring the rest of the forest here in what used to be the heart of the Redwood/Fir ecosystem, we can't let them destroy the little bit of unspoiled public land that is still left.

Cahto Lawsuit

Meanwhile, the Cahto Wilderness Coalition's lawsuit is still pending and does not just depend on the wilderness issue. It halts the timber sale because the area is spotted owl habitat and because there is no River Management Plan to protect the Wild and Scenic South Fork Eel River. A further lawsuit may be filed on BLM's general unwillingness to protect unspoiled areas and old-growth dependent wildlife. And the Cahto area will be included in a proposal to Congress for permanent protection.

Of course we know better than to put all our faith in legal and legislative remedies. This area would be stumpland by now if it hadn't been for direct action -- lawyers or no lawyers.. And, if they try to take Cahto again, we'll meet them on the logging road, just like last time.

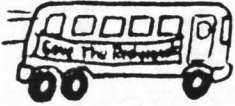


No Deal (cont.)

The next day it was Maxxam's turn, as we ambushed a truck loaded with huge old-growth redwood logs, heading for the Pacific Lumber mill in Scotia. When the truck stopped at a stop sign, 5 EF!ers ran out and quickly climbed the truck, chained themselves to the straps on the logs, and unfurled a banner reading "Save Ancient Forests." Before the driver could figure out what was going on, 50 more EF!ers appeared out of nowhere and surrounded the truck.

It turned out to be a double bulls-eye. Not only were they Maxxam logs that we stopped, but the truck belonged to Nolan Trucking. Mr. Nolan recently distinguished himself in the San Francisco Examiner by defending his right to cause the extinction of other species, and by saying "I think I own this land. My ancestors protected it from the Indians and the bears." Nolan himself soon appeared, hopping mad, and told his driver to drive on, with the EF!ers still chained to the truck. Fortunately the cops wouldn't let him do this, even though they sympathized with the sentiment. Traffic was backed up for an hour before the chains were finally cut and the five EF!ers arrested.

We made our point with these demos. The slaughter of the redwoods continues in spite of the timber pact. We hit four of the five participants, missing only L-P's Harry Merlo. But don't sleep too easy, Harry. You're just as guilty, and you're next!



Mississippi Summer In The California Redwoods



It's going to be a long hard summer in Northern California. The public is outraged over the timber companies' policy of exterminating the forest for short-term profit, and the corporados know they're not going to get away with this for much longer. Whether it's Forests Forever or something weaker, it seems inevitable that some restrictions will soon be passed.

This summer will be a race by L-P, G-P, and Maxxam to take every tree they can as fast as they can before any regulations can take effect. It looks like a total blitz -- over 2500 acres of timber harvest plans have been filed here in the past two weeks alone. And it doesn't seem like we can stop them by ourselves.

Back in the early '60's, the Civil Rights Movement found themselves in a similar situation in Mississippi, unable to break the stranglehold of the powers-that-be, but backed by substantial public support both locally and nationally. What they did was to put out a nationwide call for people to come ride the buses to Mississippi and help challenge the rule of racism. We need to do the same thing here now to save the forest. We are putting out a call for Freedom Riders for the Forest to come to Northern Calif.

this summer and defend the last of the redwoods with nonviolent civil disobedience. This will be a major project, and will require the support of local people to help feed, house, and guide out-of-town demonstrators. There will be a meeting at the Mendo. Env. Ctr. (106 W. Standley, Ukiah) on Sunday March 18, 2PM, to begin planning for it. Please come to the meeting or call Judi (707-485-0478) Pam (707-523-1229) or Darryl (943-3788).

Usual Disgusting Plea For Money

If we just had a few corporate millionaires like Hurwitz and Merlo on our side, we wouldn't have to keep asking you for money. But since their fat profits never seem to end up in our checkbook, we have to depend on your meager resources to keep the struggle going. Please send any surplus funds to: Earth First!, 106 West Standley, Ukiah, CA 95482



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