

MENDOCINO ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NEWSLETTER



Issue 9

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Spring 1991

Forestry Update - May 1990

by Joy LaClaire

Following last November's elections and the narrow defeat of Prop 130, the fragile coalition of environmentalists from all across the ideological spectrum fragmented.

Making his move quickly, Hal Arbit (major donor to Prop 130) hired Gail Lucas to negotiate a deal with Big Timber and orchestrate the acquiescence of the major national environmental organizations. The purported goals of these negotiations were to "save the old growth redwoods" and to preclude the need for another initiative.

Excluded from this process was anyone not approved by Arbit. Although vigorous objections were raised immediately by Forests Forever, Arbit-Lucas succeeded in obtaining the reluctant backing of the major national environmental groups.

In early December, grassroots activists from the North Coast formed a coalition



pudding Creek devastation by Georgia-Pacific. Photo by Nick Wilson

tion of over 30 organizations called the Forests and Watershed Council. They united in opposition to this top-down, money-calls-the-shots process of exclusion and the inevitably inadequate compromise that would result.

In early January, 1991, Ms. Lucas declined the invitation to meet with the coalition to address these concerns, and instead began meeting with representatives of the timber industry. Originally, these included Sierra Pacific Industries as well as Simpson Redwood Lumber Co. and the Timber Association of California. However, by early February only Sierra Pacific was willing to continue negotiations.

Ms. Lucas issued a memo to "Environmental Leaders" on Mar. 12, 1991 proposing ratification of the compromise by the "environmental community and the Timber Association of California."

Response from both the major timber corporations and grassroots forest protections organizations were parallel - that they had not participated in the negotiations and therefore would not be bound by them. Furthermore, "Timber" found them "too extreme" and the grassroots found

Forests Forever Plans Visionary Ecosystem Protection Initiative

by Don Lipmanson

Forests Forever, the grassroots forestry activist organization which wrote and sponsored Proposition 130 on last November's ballot, is organizing a new ballot initiative for November 1992. Following the inevitable breakdown of negotiations between large environmental groups and the timber industry, politicians in Sacramento are trying to dictate a legislative

"compromise" aimed at keeping another grassroots forestry measure from reaching the ballot. Faced with cosmetic changes rather than meaningful reforms, Forests Forever organizers from around the state have decided the moment has arrived for local activists to develop a visionary environmental initiative.

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Forestry Update *concluded from front page*

them not protective enough. The ten year transition period for "sustained yield" was felt to be too long, and the "2.2% annual harvest" not truly sustainable. Allowing 20 acre clearcuts and the cutting of 50% of the trees in an ancient forest every 25 year were among other concerns felt by many grassroots environmentalists.

Ms. Lucas succeeded in selling the negotiated agreement to the mainstream groups using such techniques as assuring them that this was the last, best agreement possible, and the only hope to save the forests, because Hal Arbit absolutely would not fund another initiative. However, at about the same time, she began sending out a second draft of an initiative to be submitted April 24, 1991.

All of these concerns became moot when the Timber Association came back with proposals that even the Lucas contingent couldn't accept. She then began the Legislative phase, in which State Senators Barry Keene and McCorquodale, and Assemblymen Dan Hauser and Byron Sher sponsored various sections of the negotiated agreement as separate bills. These are currently moving through the legislature.

Crucial to this strategy is the development of an initiative to be used as a prod for the legislators not to dilute the bills further.

Calling themselves "Initiatives R Us" in a letter of April 23, 1991, Ms Lucas, Connie Best and Kathy Bailey announced that "the ball had been passed to Kathy ...

and ... Connie... to jointly coordinate the process of preparing the final draft [of the initiative] for filing on June 1st. Julie MacDonald [SCLDF] will be providing ... legal work". After calling for input, they suggest "If you have serious disagreements with this initiative process, and you feel that your forestry concerns are not being addressed, we urge you strongly to articulate your own proposals and likewise circulate and lobby for them."

This is just what Forests Forever has been doing. Meeting in Davis in April, local coordinators from the Prop 130 statewide signature gathering campaign consensed on the necessity of writing an initiative that would take an intent approach rather than a reform of the Forest Practices Act approach. Forests Forever's strategy is to articulate whole ecosystems/wildlife habitat protection in language that would include oaklands as well as redwoods. Local input is being taken around the state, with an organizing meeting scheduled in the Sierras in July. Final draft will be submitted in October to take advantage of the full signature gathering period for qualification on the November 1992 ballot.

While all this was going on, the Redwood Coast Watersheds Alliance was pressuring CDF over the issue of too frequent harvesting, the decline of "forests products in perpetuity", and "depletion of the resource" (PRC4513). They succeeded in getting CDF to ask the Board of Forestry to invoke PRC 4555 and request an emergency rule which would clearly dis-

allow continued cutting on such short rotations. The Board, however, found that no emergency existed, and referred the problem to the purgatory of the Forests Practice Committee.

Most recently the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance submitted a petition to Secretary of Resources, Doug Wheeler, at the same time they filed a writ of mandate in Superior Court challenging former Resource Secretary, Claire Dedrick's, finding and certification that the THP process is the functional equivalent of an EIR in fulfilling the requirements of CEQA.

Throughout these various efforts to protect forests and watersheds, groups and individuals seem to have divided into two philosophical camps: those who consider a process of inclusion as being valuable in and of itself; and those who do not. There are good reasons for both approaches, but as an observer and sometime participant, I see tremendous damage that is done to the overall movement when individuals and groups are excluded from a particular effort. Mistrust and resentment are only some of the more obvious results.

It is the goal of the Mendocino Environmental Center to facilitate respectful and harmonious interaction toward a solution to these problems that will lead to actual, perpetual protection of our forests, watersheds, wildlife and their habitat. Being more compassionate to ourselves and each other will enhance our chances of success.

Forests Forever Initiative *concluded from front page*

This time, rather than devising a public buyout scheme or an elaborately detailed set of forests practice rules, we will focus on reforming the intent language which sets the parameters for private forest management. Unless we can persuade the public and the Board of Forestry to view forests as complex ecosystems containing irreplaceable habitat for numerous species of flora and fauna, we will always be fighting over trees rather than preserving biodiversity. Basically, we want to develop broad principles and a few regulations which would promote true multiple use of forests - home for a

broad range of living organisms, sanctuary for human recreation, and source of sustained economic production - rather than give the timber industry carte blanche to destroy nature's work.

Also under consideration are measures to reform the Board of Forestry, to alter or replace the timber harvest plan as the method of review for logging operations, and to reduce consumer waste of forest products. There have been suggestions that our initiative should extend beyond forests, promoting ecosystem and wildlife habitat protection on range and

woodlands, in riparian and desert areas as well.

To insure that the new initiative covers ecosystem and biodiversity concerns statewide, Forests Forever requests written recommendations from the public concerning the focus and language proposal. Starting in June, meetings will be held in various parts of California to debate and discuss the proposed new initiative before submitting the finished version to the Secretary of State this Fall.

For further information, please call Forests Forever at 707-895-2043. END

Earth First! Redwood Summer II

Ecotopia Summer

Once again this summer, Earth First! is putting out a call for non-violent eco-warriors to come to Northern California and join in direct action to stop the slaughter of the redwoods. Tree climbers, tree huggers, blockaders, bicyclists, banner painters, and all kinds of support people will be needed.

Last year over 3000 people came from all over the country to join in Redwood Summer. Before the summer even began, Earth First! organizer Judi Bari was maimed and nearly killed by a car-bomb assassination attempt. Despite our shock and horror at this attack, Redwood Summer went

on. Demonstrators chained themselves to logging equipment, sat in trees, blocked logging roads and marched through timber towns to protest the overcut. Despite high tensions and extreme provocation, we maintained our presence and our non-violence throughout the summer, and made history in the redwood region.

Redwood Summer brought national and international attention to the destruction of the redwoods. It has helped bring about a changed political situation in which both timber industry and government officials admit the need for regulation and reform. But the redwoods are still going down at 200% the rate of growth, and 1000-year old trees are still being cut to pay off junk bonds. We have made a dent in their corporate power, but we need to continue if the forest is to survive.

Conditions in the redwood region are different this year than last, and our actions will reflect that difference. After last year's logging frenzy, the timber companies began massive layoffs, plunging our already desperate communities deeper into poverty. We cannot ignore the economic devastation that comes with cut-and-run logging. So this year, along with our logging protests, we will be emphasizing the Ecotopian concept of sustainable lifestyles. Earth First! will have an ongoing forest restoration project all summer, and we will also sponsor educational

events including alternative living workshops and clearcut tours for the tourists.

So you can come any time if you want to work. We need your help, but we don't want to mislead you. We can set you up with a place to stay, but we can't afford to feed or support people all sum-

We are a small rural community under siege by giant corporations. Both the forest and the people who defend it are being attacked. We still need your help to save one of the most magnificent ecosystems on Earth.

mer. Base camp will only be in operation for Redwood Action Week and Ecotopia Bike Ride.

We also want to emphasize that this is not a picnic. It is a life and death struggle, and the tensions that led to last year's bombing attack (as well as other less publicized attacks) are still here in our communities. If you plan to help us in the redwoods this summer, you must be committed to non-violence. We think it is the only viable tactic if we are to succeed in saving the redwoods without get-

ting hurt or killed.

We are a small rural community under siege by giant corporations. Both the forest and the people who defend it are being attacked. We have made great gains at great expense. But we still need your help to save one of the most magnificent ecosystems on Earth.

If you would like to come to the redwoods this summer, please write or call for more info. We also desperately need funds to pull this all off. Contributions, large or small, can be made out to Earth First!. You can contact us at: Ecotopia Earth First!, 106 W. Standley, Ukiah, CA 95482, phone (707) 468-1660.



Schedule for this year's actions

- June 26 - 30** EF! Northwest Rendezvous, in the Siskiyou Mountains of Southern Oregon. Camping, workshops, music, and basic partying.
- July 5 - 12** Redwood Action Week. Tree-sitting, log-road blockading, and other actions in the forest. Non-violence training and woods action training will be given.
- August 17** Ecotopia Bike Ride from Willits to Ft. Bragg in Mendocino County., to protest the cutting of redwoods along Highway 20, and to promote alternative transportation,
- August 27** International Day of Outrage at Maxxam Corporation, who is destroying both desert and forest ecosystems to finance a corporate junk bond scam.

In between, we will respond to forest emergencies as needed, and work on ongoing forest restoration and education projects.

Masonite Update

by Peter J. Tyson

On March 5, 1991 the Air Hearing Board issued an abatement order requiring Masonite to "cease operations" on its Molded Products line. The line has been the center of ongoing tensions between Masonite, local environmentalists and those suffering adverse effects from the quality of the air within the Ukiah Valley basin. However, the abatement order only takes effect if Masonite fails to implement the following:

1. Install and operate interim control measures. (which in this instance is the venting of the Molded Product exhaust through existing pollution control devices (scrubber) in stacks used to manufacture other product lines.)
2. Evaluate visible emissions from Molded Products line daily, when operating.
3. Conduct stack Sampling of emissions from the equipment on the molded products line.

4. Develop and submit an engineering plan to bring emissions into compliance with State law and District regulations.

The timeline set is that the engineering plan must be submitted by September 5, 1991. If that report is not submitted on time the Molded Products line must be shut down by Sept. 12, 1991. If the engineering plan is approved, the compliance schedule will be revised with full compliance required by March 5, 1992.

According to Mendocino Air Pollution Control Inspector Phil Towle in a telephone interview on May 5, 1991, the interim control measures were installed within a month from the issuance of the abatement conditions. However, it is recognized that this measure did not solve the problem. Complaints about odor and opaque emissions have been received on several occasions. Because of the conditions stated in the abatement order no citations have been issued. Towle indicated that testing sources on the south kiln

stacks showed most problems were caused by the emission of linseed oil constituents and that while the types of emissions were in compliance with the district the emissions were not in compliance with the visual standards outlined in county regulations.

Meanwhile Masonite goes on putting together the engineering plan due on Sept. 5, 1991. Masonite has done extensive testing for particulate size, hydrocarbons and other undesirable discharges. Mr. Towle felt that the Masonite engineering plan would meet the Sept 5th deadline. The kinds of control measures to be instituted are still not certain and will depend on the final conclusions of the engineers' report.

When questioned about Masonite's response to the Toxic Hot Spots Report requirement, Mr. Towle stated that, "it had been recently submitted", and he was in the process of finding time to review the document.

"Only One Ocean"

Scheduled Weekly At Mendocino Art Center

by Flo Ann Norvell - 707-937-4376

"Only One Ocean", the 24 minute computerized slide and sound presentation, by coastal artist, Judith Vidaver, has travelled extensively these past months but will remain mostly at home this summer, where it will show every Thursday evening at the Mendocino Art Center at 8 p.m., June through August.

"Only One Ocean" opens with these startling statistics: "Water covers over 71% of the Earth's surface, circulating, recirculating, changeable in every way but its amount. 362 million cubic miles of water is all there ever was and all there will ever be. Nearly all the water - 97% - makes up the Earth's sea."

"Only One Ocean", full of dazzling images and breathtaking beauty, narrated with eloquent irony by Marco McClean, and edited by Brooks Mencher, winner of a national Lincoln Steffers award for investigative journalism, dramatically illus-

trates the fact that though there are many seas, there is only one ocean, a liquid mantle sloshing around and over the planet, a dynamic process made up of a delicately balanced interacting physical, chemical and biological phenomena.

The ocean is the key component in Earth's life support system. The Interior Department reports that without plankton "...those drifting, floating, microscopic plants and animals - all ocean life, from the smallest shrimp to the largest whale, would perish. If too many plankton die, the oxygen content of the atmosphere would plummet and Earth would become another dead planet." Plankton supply up to 50% of the Earth's oxygen.

Viewers will learn that the ocean abundantly blesses us with over 30% of our protein. Around six billion pounds of commercial fish are landed each year in the United States alone. We consume over 14 pounds of fish and shellfish per person per year. And yet, mankind is using the

ocean as a sewer. We flush over 2 trillion gallons of sewage into the ocean every year. Over 5 trillion gallons of poisonous waste water is discharged by factories around the nation.

Pollution has caused the closing of 42% of all shellfish beds in the United States. Only 1% of California's shellfish beds remain open.

"Only One Ocean" is not all bad news. It brings good news as well. It describes alternatives to trashing the ocean as well as lively shots promoting the concept of Ocean Sanctuary, which had its birth in Mendocino.

Local Mendocino and Fort Bragg residents, Sammy and Gerri Morse and Judith Vidaver, will present the show and open it up to the audience for discussion afterwards. Funds for "Only One Ocean" were raised by the Sierra Club Coastal Committee's "Ocean Aid Boogie" and the "Ocean Sanctuary Gong Show (Give Offshore Oil the Gong)."

The Persian Gulf Environment

Environmental Consequences Of The Gulf War

Report from
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

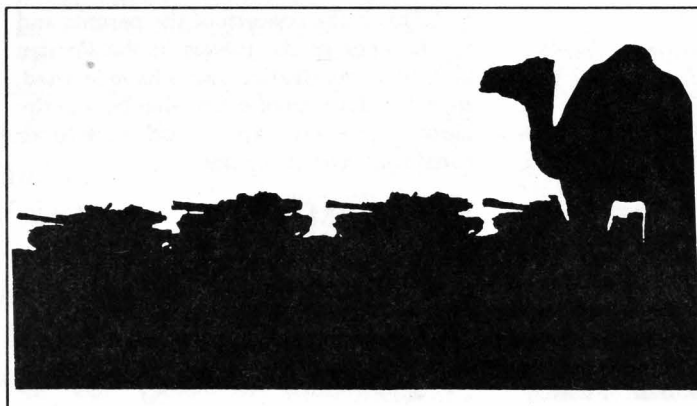
Excerpted from the *Congressional Record*,
April 16, 1991

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an issue and a situation that concerns many families in my district who have children, husbands, brothers, and sisters in the Persian Gulf. Mr. Speaker, while agencies and task forces take samples and analyze data to determine the health risks of Saddam Hussein's ecoterrorism, there can be no doubt that U.S. troops stationed in the gulf are being exposed to an unusually high amount of air pollution. The calls I have received from the families of troops in the Persian Gulf from my district are concerned that the troops are not home yet. Some of them have conveyed to their parents that they will not be home until September, after a long, hot summer in the Persian Gulf, and they are very concerned about the air that they breathe while they are in Kuwait.

Mr. Speaker, thick clouds of black smoke from the well fires have been spewing into Kuwaiti skies for over a month, obscuring the sun with air pollutants estimated at 10 times the amount produced by all the industrial and electric generating plants in the United States combined. Air pollution from oil well

fires is so bad that soldiers stationed in the gulf need flashlights to see in the daytime, and the flags that they fly over the newly liberated Kuwait are streaked with soot.

The Environmental Protection Agency has even detected some air pollutants attributed to the gulf fires halfway around the world at its Mauna Loa sta-



tion in the Hawaiian Islands. Larry Flak, the American engineer coordinating fire fighting efforts, says, "We guess about 520 or 530 oil wells are burning, but surveys are still going on." Douglas Dockery of the Harvard School of Public Health warns that cancer and cardiovascular disease may increase due to the fires, but that it will be years before we know the full extent of the health risk.

From the ground, however, there is uncertainty. Said U.S. Sgt. Mike Poss,

who is serving in the gulf, "We're not stupid. They say the pollution is no worse than New York City. I have been to New York, and it doesn't look like this." Sergeant Poss' remarks were echoed by Mort Lippman of the New York University Medical School, who said, "Nobody has ever been exposed to something like this before."

Atmospheric pollution on this scale has not occurred in our history. We need to be aggressive in our pursuit of data so that we have a better idea of the long-term effects of the toxics overwhelming the air, land, and water of the gulf region. Some of these pollutants may turn out to be carcinogenic.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we provide our troops with whatever medical attention they need, now and into the future, to cope with the health effects of exposure to pollution resulting from the gulf war. We must also increase our commitment to assist in environmental restoration of the gulf area and to protect civilians in the region from Saddam's ecoterrorism.

As we speak tonight, the gulf itself is surging with oil. Three thousand barrels a day continue to pour into the gulf from offshore oil rigs. This amounts to an Exxon Valdez oil spill every three months.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, over 4 million barrels have been spilled into the gulf waters, making this the largest oil spill in the history of the world, between 5 and 10 times that of the Exxon Valdez.

Mr. Speaker, the oil has severely damaged the Saudi shrimp fishery, the coral reefs, and the ecosystems that provide vital habitats for endangered sea turtles and marine mammals. Over 100 small islands provide excellent and internationally significant habitat for sea turtle nesting and for migratory birds. The

King's Stationary to stock recycled products

by Star Carroll-Smith

In the Spirit of Recycling Month, King's Office Products is pleased to mention that we offer several products made of post-consumer recyclables.

Currently available are:

- *Recycled sketch pads
- *Computer paper
- *Blank journals
- *File folders
- *Jr./Letter size writing tablets

- *Hanging folders
- *Post-It notes (3x3)
- *Column pads
- *Copy paper
- *Binders
- *Register paper

Thanks to some friendly networking with Gary Ball, we are also working on sources for recycled copy paper.

HAPPY RECYCLING!

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The Persian Gulf Environment

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northernmost coral reefs in the world are found in the gulf.

There were many warnings about the possibility of oil spills and other assaults on the environment. When we had the debate on the issue of sanctions before this body, these issues were brought before the House of Representatives in the course of that debate.

Headlines across the country warned: "War in the Gulf, an Environmental Perspective," "Wars and Environmental Implications Go Beyond a Simple Desert Storm," "Targeting the Environment: A Casualty No One is Counting - The Earth," "Vital Saudi Water Plant Prepares for Oil Slick," "Environmental Disaster Feared in Persian Gulf," "The Hidden Casualties: The Environmental Consequences of the Gulf Conflict," "Experts Warn of Global Fallout from Warfare." "Damage of Oil Across the Globe." "Saddam Hussein Could Respond to Attack by Unleashing a Massive Oil Spill in Gulf," and well he did. "Waging War on the Earth."

This was a predictable consequence of war. Unfortunately, we were dealing with someone who had no regard for human life, and no regard for the environment, in the person of Saddam Hussein. But now we have no way to deal with the consequences of his ecoterrorism.

Yet, despite these warnings, much of the advance planning needed to address this crisis was nonexistent.

Booms arrived after the oil slick was detected; dikes were not constructed in time to prevent marine areas from being flooded with oil; and critical equipment needs were not addressed early on. Today, there is still no around-the-clock monitoring of the air quality in Kuwait.

EPA has conducted a preliminary study and issued its report on air quality. At this time, EPA reports that there is no danger to human health, although they admit that the jury is still out. This study is inadequate for determining the immediate, as well as the longer term effects of breathing the high sulfur and nitrogen content in the air.

The apparatus for monitoring the area is still not in place. EPA has plans for

more complete monitoring, but the pace to accomplish this basic first step has been slow, due partly to Saudi Government delays.

No research has been done on possible damage to the food chain. Generally, there has been a lack of coordination, a lack of equipment, and a lack of initiative by the U.S. Government to respond to this serious environmental situation.

This is the concern of the parents and the families of the troops in the Persian Gulf from my district, and, I have learned, from the districts of other Members in the House who have also heard from their constituents on this point.

What must we do?

There must be a stronger international environmental code for war, including enforcement mechanisms to be applied against violating nations.

Sophisticated technology has increased the range, speed, and accuracy of war weapons. During the gulf war, oil wells, refineries and chemical plants, and nuclear facilities were bombed, with the potential for emitting poisonous gases into the atmosphere. These pollutants may be detected in soil, ground water, and other areas of the environment for years.

The environment cannot be held hostage; war on the environment is unacceptable.

Because mined oil fields are preventing firefighters from approaching some of the oil fires, military strategies must be put into place to ensure that the mines are cleaned as quickly as possible from the fire areas.

Air pollution cannot be controlled without this strong effort to sweep the area free of mines.

To address the immediate crisis, Congress must take action.

I have called upon the Subcommittee on International Organizations to hold hearings on the environmental effects of the gulf war. Chairman Yatron has agreed to hold hearings next week which will address the issue.

Congressman Gilman and I are circulating a letter to the President urging him

to take quick action to implement section 309 of the dire emergency supplemental for fiscal year 1991. The bill encourages the administration to work toward the creation of an international agreement for environmental monitoring, assessment, remediation and restoration in the Persian Gulf region.

I invite Members to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. Gilman), along with many other Members in the House, and me, in signing this letter to the President.

Because of the unique position of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to help in this crisis, Congress should help by approving a voluntary appropriation to the UNEP "special environmental fund" to address the environmental problems created by the gulf war.

Mr. Speaker, the United States, in conjunction with its coalition partners, has an opportunity to make an important difference. We can and must step up to the task. Our soldiers need medical attention to ensure their future well-being; the people of the Persian Gulf need our help to stave off the health risks and economic hardship that will follow this environmental crisis; and the world community needs an international code of conduct that will strongly punish future military aggressors from using environmental destruction as a weapon of war.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said in the press in the last week and a half and in other areas of debate about the Kurdish situation, and indeed it is a sin against humanity to see what is happening there and our inability to effectively deal with it. But some leadership is being taken on that now, and we must do everything we can to meet the needs of the Kurds who are fleeing Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, while we are doing that, we must also pay attention to the environmental damage which our troops are being exposed to, as well as the other people who live in the region. To do anything less, to ignore what is happening to the Kurdish people and to ignore the damage to the environment, is to dishonor the God who made them all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SMUD Builds Conservation Power Plant

by Jeff Coyle

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has embarked on a twenty-year program to build a "Conservation Power Plant." In the first ten years, it will save 600 MW (600,000 kilowatts). This is about 30% of SMUD's current peak or maximum electrical demand, and will meet the needs of 150,000 homes for electricity. The goal of the program is ambitious: to make every home, school and business in Sacramento energy efficient. The utility district is counting on the program to provide 1200 MW in twenty years.

Conservation is not only the cleanest and safest source of electricity available, it is also the cheapest. It costs SMUD half as much money to acquire power by saving it than to buy it outright, or to build new power plants. SMUD's General Manager S. David Freeman tells SMUD's customers, "I want to buy the power you're wasting. I can buy that cheaper than I can buy another power plant."

Energy conservation has come a long way since President Carter put on a sweater and asked Americans to use less energy. In those days, conserving energy meant "freezing in the dark." The latest energy conserving technologies not only use less energy, they also are often an improvement over current technologies. For example, the Environmental Center's new fluorescent lights not only use less energy than common fluorescent lights, they also give off a noticeably better light and do not flicker or hum. A well-insulated home not only uses less energy than otherwise, it is also less drafty and more comfortable.

The Conservation Power Plant

One emphasis of SMUD's conservation program is on new construction for both homes and businesses. It is much easier to build properly the first time than to go back and retrofit a building. SMUD is working with builders and architects to see that new buildings are constructed in an energy efficient manner.

Another emphasis of the conservation program is to serve the low-income residents of Sacramento. A \$60 monthly electric bill impacts a person making \$1400 a month much more than someone making \$4800 a month. To help the community where it needs the most attention, one of the focal points of SMUD's residential energy program is low-income communities and people.

For people living in homes and apartments, SMUD is concentrating on refrigerators, lights, heating and cooling systems. That innocent looking 10-year-old refrigerator in the kitchen could well be using \$50-

\$60- a year more electricity than an efficient new one. SMUD is giving customers up to \$250 for the trade-in of an old refrigerator and the purchase of a highly efficient new one. In the last seven months, almost 6000 SMUD cus-

tomers traded in old refrigerators. They are lined up near the light rail tracks in Sacramento, and are quite a sight. SMUD is responsibly disposing of the old refrigerators, collecting the CFC's from both the refrigerator and the insulation (which contains twice as many CFC's as the refrigerant). The refrigerators are then sold for scrap. Just for reference, a refrigerator with a loose-fitting door can use \$350 a year worth of electricity. A super-efficient

refrigerator made by a company in Humboldt County uses less than \$20 a year worth of electricity.

SMUD is also providing free compact fluorescent lamps during energy audits.

These lights only use 1/4 the electricity and last ten times as long as a regular light bulb. They seem expensive at first (PG&E is selling them for under \$10, about half the cost other businesses pay for them), but each bulb will save \$40 over its 10,000 hour lifetime. Using one compact fluorescent for four hours a night will save almost \$6.00 a year on electric bills—one light bulb! If all 400,000 of SMUD's customers replace just one light bulb that is lit four hours a night with a compact fluorescent, the equivalent of 4500 homes worth of electricity will be saved.

SMUD is working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to provide free shade trees. Besides making an area more pleasant and cleansing the air, well-placed shade trees can cut a person's air conditioning bill by as much as 40%. In the next ten years, SMUD intends to plant half a million trees; the goal for 1991 is 25,000. Utilities across the country are looking to copy SMUD's shade tree program.

SMUD's Other Sources of Energy

After conserving as much energy as possible, SMUD still has to supply a large amount of electricity to its customers. SMUD is doing its best to supply this energy in a responsible manner, using re-

Conservation is not only the cleanest and safest source of electricity available, it is also the cheapest..The latest energy conserving technologies not only use less energy, they also are often an improvement over current technologies.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPHEN RASKIN

Permaculture Design Course

Sponsors:

Friends of the Trees Society

June 29 through July 14, 1991
Mendocino, California North Coast
at the Old Mill Farm School

Course emphases include:
Breaking the flood/drought cycle.
Permaculture in the Third World.

Instructed by:

Michael Pilarski, Chris Evans, and guests

Old Mill Farm School of Country Living is a communal farm a half-hour's drive from the town of Mendocino. The course will include a 3-day tour of noteworthy farms, botanical gardens and forests in the Mendocino vicinity.

Chris Evans has 6 years of development experience in Nepal. He is presently managing a nursery and several farms

near Jajarkhot in western Nepal. His work with farmers involves long treks in areas with no roads. His application of permaculture design in subsistence villages focuses on improving tree cover, organic gardening techniques, agroforestry, and soil erosion control. He has recently joined with several others to found a new NGO called Nepal Community Support Group.

Michael Pilarski is founder and Director of Friends of the Trees Society. He has been a homesteader for the past 17 years in various locations in the Pacific Northwest and is a networker/organizer on local, bioregional, national and international levels. He has written and taught in the field of permaculture since 1981.

Course fees:

\$450 to \$600 sliding scale.

For further information contact:

Friends of the Trees Society
P.O. Box 1064
Tonasket, WA 98855
509-486-4726



SMUD *concluded from previous page*

newable and clean resources. SMUD is considering several local resources that are now seen as waste, including almond shells, rice hulls, landfill gas and methane from the sewage treatment plant. These local "waste" products will eventually provide SMUD with 225 megawatts of electricity in a sustainable, clean manner within the bioregion. SMUD is also evaluating an additional 225 megawatts from wind, solar-thermal and geothermal resources.

All sources of energy have costs—environmental, societal and monetary. This is the strongest argument for energy conservation; the less energy produced, the smaller the environmental impacts. As anyone with a photovoltaic system knows, it is dramatically cheaper not to use power than to have to produce it. However, light, power, motors, and the other uses of electricity are regarded as necessities in our society. Until very recently, electric utilities were in the business of selling kilowatt-hours of electricity. SMUD and several other utilities have undergone a transformation in their thinking. They no longer see themselves as selling the electricity, but the service that the electricity performs, such as chill-

ing food or lighting a room. Since customers are concerned more with cold food and a well-lighted room than how much electricity they use, utilities are discovering that it is cost-effective for them to meet these needs with the minimum amount of electricity. Because power plants are becoming increasingly expensive to build (as social and environmental costs are included that were previously ignored), it is cheaper for the utilities to "produce" power by saving it somewhere else than to produce it from scratch.

I never would have imagined that I would ever work for a utility, but then I never would have imagined that a utility would give away free trees, compact fluorescent lamps, or honestly try to provide electrical service in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. SMUD has become a national leader in providing responsible electrical service.

(Ed. Note: Jeff Coyle is a MEC member living in Sacramento. These are his views, and not necessarily those of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. You may contact Jeff through the MEC.)

Demand Chlorine Free Paper

GREENPEACE is urging people to continue to demonstrate interest in chlorine free papers by sending written requests to suppliers. Impressing suppliers with the growing determination of consumers to buy not only "recycled" papers, but chlorine free papers "is critical in getting the U.S. industry to abandon its reliance on chlorine intensive bleaching," Greenpeace says, "an addiction that places the industry as the largest water polluter in the world." Send copies of the letters to Shelley Stewart at Greenpeace, 4649 Sunnyside Ave., N., Seattle, WA 98013 - (206) 632-4326. She can also provide further information on recycling and de-inking methods.

Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance Files Lawsuit Against Board of Forestry

(Ed. Note: We received the following letter from the Redwood Coast Watersheds Alliance and are reprinting it for our members' information.)

May 24, 1991

The beleaguered government agencies, having learned to "sleepwalk through the 80's," have placed a great burden upon the informed environmental public. Nowhere is this clearer than in regards to the forestlands of California, our greatest natural resource.

The Redwood Coast Watersheds Alliance is composed of concerned citizens and local watershed groups who have taken on the burden of reviewing the work of the state's various regulatory agencies with responsibility for our forest and watershed resources on the north coast. After many years of forestry reform work behind us, including watershed impact monitoring, testifying at public hearings before the state Board of Forestry, and full public participation in the timber harvest plan review process, the RCWA has come to the end of one road and the beginning of another.

On May 10, 1991, the RCWA filed a

lawsuit against the California Department of Forestry and Board of Forestry alleging the abuse of their public trust duties as mandated by existing law. We also submitted a petition to Secretary for Resources, Douglas Wheeler, seeking to have the timber harvest plan program brought up to date to conform with the requirements of current California law, incorporating full environmental protection as its principle purpose.

Our goal is simple: to achieve true sustainable forestry practices as envisioned by the 1973 Forest Practice Act—a forestry bound by the biological realities of the forest, its species and its soil, not by the demands of the marketplace and the short-term profit dictates of the timber corporations. (The pending compromised forestry legislation does not even address these central issues.)

We are confident that we have a strong case and an equally strong and respected environmental attorney, Sharon Duggan, who has an outstanding track record and working knowledge of the Forest Practice Act and California Environmental Quality Act. Our case goes to the very heart of the problem: the dis-

guised deregulation of timber harvesting in California. Not content to just define the problem, we are developing, with a team of forestry and environmental experts, simple, enforceable remedies.

As a non-profit public interest group, we are urgently seeking your generous financial support. Your tax deductible contribution will go directly into this litigation and its incumbent expenses. We enclose a recent press release and newspaper clippings but if you would like more information on these legal actions or about RCWA itself, please contact us. Donations should be made out to: "RCWA--Forest Practice."

In the final decade of this century, we must take that quantum leap necessary to begin a whole new sustainable approach to our dwindling earth resources. Let us start with the forests and their watersheds.

Won't you join us?

Our thanks,

Richard Hart
Bill Johnson
Stephanie Tebbutt

Sustainable Forests Workshop September 21-22

by John Phillips

Readers of this newsletter know that the north coast communities are in the midst of hard times with the looming possibility that things may get worse. It is no secret that part of the cause for this economic crisis is the decline of our forest ecosystems. Reversing this trend will demand greater attention to the biological aspects of tree health and forest productivity. Coming to Mendocino County this September is a person who has much to offer in this realm.

In 1959 under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. Alex Shigo began research into the decay and discoloration of forest trees. Previous information on the subject was scant and practices dealing with the problems often mythical. By

1970, chainsaw dissections and controlled experiments revealed the basic defense mechanisms of trees. This has led to more complete understandings of how trees grow, die and interact with other forest associates.

These concepts are based upon energy capture, storage and use. Shigo relates health, whether it be of a single tree or a forest, to the complexity of energy and its manifestations. His work has led to sounder practices for tree care and is of increasing value for those involved in the restoration and management of forests.

For the interest of the general public and professionals alike, Willits Friends of the Trees and U.C. Cooperative Extension have organized a two-day conference featuring Alex Shigo. This is a rare opportu-

nity to hear and discuss important issues and information about trees and our future. Shigo's tireless pursuit of the mysteries of trees is surpassed only by his enthusiasm for helping others understand them.

Beginning on Saturday, Sept. 21st at Mendocino College Theater, Ukiah, the theme will be "Sustainable Forests." Sunday the 22nd, at the Fetzer Valley Oaks Center in Hopland, the focus will shift to "Modern Arboriculture." Preregistration prior to July 15th is \$50/day, lunch included. Registration thereafter is \$75/day with space being limited. Registration forms can be picked up at both the Mendocino and Willits Environmental Centers, or call John Phillips, conference coordinator, at (707)459-3015.

Lighthawk Pow Wow Focuses On Unity To Preserve Ancient Forests

by Joy LaClaire

The Mendocino Environmental Center and Forests Forever were represented by Joy LaClaire and Don Lipmanson at the Fifth Annual National Forest Reform Pow Wow near Taos, NM (May 24-27), which was hosted by Lighthawk. Lighthawk is the organization of pilots who have revolutionized forestry protection by distributing aerial photos and videos of forest destruction, as well as flying politicians and other influential persons over clearcuts.

Ned Fritz, author of Clearcutting: Crime Against Nature, led off the Pow Wow with a call for unity in supporting two bills currently in Congress - Rep. John Bryant's (D-TX) "Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Act" and Jim Jontz's (D-IN) "The Ancient Forest Protection Act".

The Bryant Bill would end the devastation of clearcutting and even-age management on all federal lands, including Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as wildlife refuges and military bases. It would permit only selection management, a more ecologically sensitive logging method.

Until 1976, clearcutting was illegal on federal lands. Since then, we have seen unprecedented destruction of our publicly owned forest ecosystems. The Forest Service currently uses clearcutting and even age management on over 70% of its timber sales, clearcutting over 60,000 acres of critical virgin forest habitat per year in the Pacific Northwest alone.

"Most Americans have the same misconception that I once did about the Forest Service mission, which I thought was to protect and conserve our National Forests. In fact, it is a timber plantation management agency. Under its plan, every tree on every acre of National Forest land not protected by federal legislation designating it a wilderness area will eventually be clearcut under current laws," said Bryant.

Ned Fritz helped Rep. Bryant create this strong bill, which will "prohibit clearcutting and other extreme methods of forest management to prevent soil erosion, nutrient loss, reduction of biological diversity, and loss of wildlife habitat, as well as end the degradation of recreation activi-

ties, hunting, and fishing."

The Ancient Forest Protection Act was introduced by Rep. Jim Jontz with well over 100 co-sponsors. The Jontz bill is a regional bill that is designed to protect some of the remaining, unprotected virgin forests on federal lands in Washington, Oregon and California. One of its weak points, however, is that it has no Citizen Enforcement provision, i.e. if passed, but not honored by the agencies involved, citizens may not sue to enforce. We need to lobby Jontz to include such a provision before we can fully support this bill.

Reports from the various regions around the country showed that forestry protection is alive, strong, creative and growing. Mike Bader of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies described the North Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, which would protect 15 million acres permanently, keep 13 million acres roadless, and preserve 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers.

Rep. Pete Cosmire (D-PA) is about to introduce it.

The presentation that Joy LaClaire and Don Lipmanson gave on Forests Forever was well received, although it focused on private and state lands rather than National Forest. Many people approached them afterwards to discuss similar problems in their own regions. As Joy stated to a question from the audience about jurisdictional problems,

"In approaching forests as whole eco-

systems, we acknowledge that a spotted owl doesn't know from private, state or federal boundaries. We must protect habitat, no matter who controls it." She answered concerns about overcuts occurring elsewhere as a result of limiting cuts in the Northwest by saying, "We must just work hard to see that it isn't allowed to happen."

Jeff DeBonis, founder of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, stressed that only 14% of the wood used in the U.S. comes from National Forest land. He said that a 27% increase in usable wood was feasible if efficiency were improved by methods currently used by the Japanese, such as thinner saw blades, double sided copying at the consumer level, more effective use of wood in building, etc. He also said that the Forest Service lost \$500,000,000 in 1990 - 2/3 of all timber sales lost money. He said we must cut the subsidies to the logging industry and create incentives for the FS to manage properly.

The trend towards chip mills in the South East is alarming. Cuts are expected to double. We are working with local activists there, sharing our experiences to help them resist this.

The conference was invaluable for making new contacts, exchanging information and reaffirming our strength and unity in protecting our ancient forests. For more information call Joy or Don at 895-2043.

Roadside Herbicides

Caltrans and Humboldt Want To Spray Again

from the *Drift Dodger*, Spring 1991, Volume 6, No. 3. Drift Dodger is a Publication of Californians for Alternatives to Toxics.

On June 13, 1991, Caltrans is scheduled to release a draft of a first-of-its-kind Environmental Impact Report about the agency's herbicide spraying on 15,000 miles of state highways and freeways. The public will have 60 days to read the draft report and respond to Caltrans with com-

ments about what improvements need to be made in the final report. To be on Caltrans' EIR mailing list call: 916-322-0158.

(Ed. Note: Please call Caltrans and request a copy of the Draft EIR. If you need assistance in interpreting the EIR and/or in forming your comments about it, contact the MEC or Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, 860 1/2 Eleventh Street, Arcata, CA 95521, 707-822-8497.)

California Pesticide Organizing Conference

*Sponsored By Pesticide Watch
And Citizens' Clearinghouse For Hazardous Waste
April 27-28, 1991 At U.C.L.A.*

by Dianne Chocholak

About 30 people from all over the state of California attended this intensive, 2 day conference. Some of the presenters were Penny Newman of Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste; Deb Bruns of CALPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group); Patty Clary of CATS (Citizens Against Toxics); Craig Nerrukees of the National Toxics Campaign; Sheila Darr of the Bio-Integral Resource Center; Joan Clayburgh of Pesticide Watch; and Dave Bunn, a researcher on pesticides.

This close-knit group pooled together their resources in an exchange of ideas for solving the problems in bringing about new attitudes and actions in California regarding use of pesticides and alternatives to them.

For example, Deb Bruns presented methods for community groups to use in promoting legislation against pesticide use. She said that, since pesticides fall under the California Department of Food and Agriculture, they are not strictly regulated; furthermore, pesticide reform in the state legislature is difficult to get passed. Possible steps to take to promote legislation include the initiative process, lobbying, and supporting legislation currently proposed.

Some proposals now being considered by the California State Legislature are SB 926 (Petris) on School Pesticide Use Reduction, SB 520 (Petris) on Phase-out of Acutely Toxic Pesticides, AB 1854 (Connelly) on Pesticide Residues in Food, and Governor Wilson's proposal for restructuring of environmental regulatory agencies by form-

ing a California Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information on what you can do to help with any of these bills, call:

Senator Petris' office (916) 445-6577
Assm. Connelly's office (916) 445-2484

Dave Bunn spoke on the importance of documenting important data to back up claims regarding pesticide use and effects. He said, "In any issue, we should ask: are there any government agencies that regulate the agency we are dealing with? We can find much information from the regulating agency. It is public information (by Community Right-to-know Federal legislation), and with polite approaches a person or team of volunteers can find a wealth of data to support their cause."

Craig Merrilees gave ideas on how to work with the media to effectively get a story out. His principles were:

1. Choose a polarizing issue.
2. Get special interests involved in your cause.
3. Confront legitimate forces.
4. Use celebrities (local, national, etc.), but carefully, because some may steal the spotlight and take attention away from your cause.
5. Have "real news" for the media. This includes documentation and facts with legitimate, expert confirmation.
6. Organize your story well - no typos! Be specific regarding demands and reasons. Target the person who is against you, not the office he represents.

Penny Newman spoke about imagi-

native, fun ways of raising money for a cause. She also outlined how the structure of an organization determines the communication and level of participation by its workers. A good structure, such as a democratic "wheel" structure with a general membership, various committees, and an executive committee at the "hub," is very efficient.

The best presentation was by Sheila Darr, who spoke on methods of Integrated Pest Management and gave many ideas on alternatives to using pesticides in homes, businesses, forests and agriculture. She emphasized the importance of getting to know the pest you are dealing with - its habits, life cycle and habitat - and then deciding how to reduce the enticements for the pests in the least toxic ways. For example, instead of fumigating a home with methyl bromide, it can be "fumigated" with heat to 120° F in the interior wood for half an hour and be just as effective at killing the termite colonies.

This conference provided much helpful information and literature, but the nicest thing was meeting hard working people from all over the state who are fighting an important issue today - the issue of overuse of toxics when many effective, nontoxic, less costly methods (especially in terms of human and environmental health) are being developed and made available. It is a matter of having local groups unite in a concerted cause to bring about changes in our habits and laws. This is how democracy works.

HUMANE SOCIETY for Inland Mendocino County

by Louis Rohlicek
President, H.S.I.M.C.

Some people think the Humane Society is too radical, because it opposes Mendocino County's current policy of selling its impounded dogs to laboratories for research and experiments. Others think it's too sentimental, because it is concerned with protecting domestic ani-

mals from abuse and abandonment. Still others confuse the Humane Society with the tax-funded and hopelessly muddled County Animal Control program.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is a volunteer, non-profit animal protection organization. Its activities range from investigating animal cruelty complaints and providing emergency health care for abandoned animals

to supporting humane legislation that protects domestic and wild animals from cruel exploitation. Like the environmental movement, the humane movement confronts abuse and victimization in order to create a healthier and saner world. Its office is located in Ukiah at 462-1685. Its mailing address is P.O. Box 1342. It needs support. Check it out.

Overview Of Pesticide Reform Proposals California State Legislature 1991

SB 926 (PETRIS) School Pesticide Use Reduction

Bans pesticides with missing health studies from use in schools and homes.

Bans pesticides with inert ingredients known to cause cancer or reproductive harm from use in schools and homes.

Assesses a fee on "high hazard" pesticides to fund demonstration projects on alternative pest control methods.

SB 550 (PETRIS) Health and Safety "Data Gaps" for Pesticides

[also AB 1742 (HAYDEN)]

Enforces the "data gap" deadlines first established by the BIRTH DEFECT PREVENTION ACT (SB 950, 1984) by cancelling the registration of pesticides lacking health and safety tests. Pesticide companies failed to meet the deadlines for 120 of the 200 priority pesticides.

SB 520 (PETRIS) Phase-Out of Acutely Toxic Pesticides

Eliminates extremely toxic poisons from the workplace in order to enhance farmworker safety.

AB 1854 (CONNELLY) Pesticide Residues in Food

Requires the Department of Health Services (rather than Food and Ag) to set tolerances for pesticide residues in food based on children's health and safety.

AB 1715 (HAYDEN) Pesticide Tax

Restructures fees on pesticides based on toxicity and directs money to research on less toxic alternatives.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (Cal-EPA)

Governor Wilson has proposed a restructuring of environmental regulatory agencies. Pesticide regulatory program would move from CDFA to Cal-EPA, but remain separate from other toxic chemical regulatory programs, which may not mean any change from current weak regulation. Risk assessment would be brought under Cal-EPA which has been criticized, because that brings it under the influence of the regulators.

For more information on the status of these bills and what you can do to help: Senator Petris' office, Bruce Jennings or Carrie Lopez 916-445-6577

Assm. Connelly's office,
Susan Strachan 916-445-2484

Assm. Hayden's office, Kip Wiley
916-445-1676

Pesticide Watch, Joan Clayburgh
213-278-9254

California Rural Legal Assistance,
Ralph Lightstone 916-446-1416



Recycle Everything

by Ann Gould

As some of you may know, May was the official Mendocino County Recycling Month around here. Many special events happened during May, under the direction of Mike Sweeney and his crew, but there are also some recycling systems that were already being developed before then.

One group that had already taken recycling on as a major cause is the Student Council at Yokayo School. Their Recycling Committee has been very active. They have set up recycling bins in the classrooms and the teacher's lounge, and have gotten a dumpster from Ukiah Solid Waste for collecting the bond paper they are now recycling. Most of the recycling

that happens at the school now is due to their efforts.

They also videotaped themselves in their roles as champion recyclers. With the camera rolling, the committee visited several garbage cans around the school. At each one, they examined the contents, looking for recyclable items. So, they have a historical reference of what the school was like as all the recycling started.

The most innovative aspect of the Recycling Committee's work was what they called, "RECYCLE IN". This name helped to differentiate it from "RECYCLE OUT," which was what they called the movement of aluminum cans, glass, paper, etc. from the school to the recycling centers.

Recycle In is the "Re-Use" of the credo "Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle". The way it works is simple. Yokayo has become the ongoing recipient of a lot of bond paper that is blank or only printed on one side. The paper comes from several local businesses, and does not contain any confidential information. The latter is known because the bundles of paper are hand-checked by members of the Recycle Everything Club before being given to the Recycling Committee. The students take it around to the teachers at Yokayo, who can use it in the classroom instead of new paper. The paper is also able to be fed through the copy machine, which means the teachers can use it for making math worksheets and other types of copied material.

The Mendocino National Forest Ancient Forest Reserve System

(Ed. Note: The following is the introduction to a plan for the Mendocino National Forest, submitted to the CAFA for possible inclusion in the Ancient Forest Protection Act.)

by Don Morris and Ellen Drell

The following narrative journey through the Mendocino National Forest is one of love, one of great pain, and one of fitful hope.

This is a place that provided for humans abundantly, with every need — food of every description, legendary game herds, salmon and steelhead; shelter; clothing; hot baths, cool showers; from its climax in the South Yolla Bolly Mountains to Snow Mountain and Goat Mountain near Clear Lake.

History of the Mendocino National Forest

The Mendocino's unique ecosystem diversity sustained a wide range of wildlife species including elk, grizzly bear, gray wolf, and wolverine. The north and northeast portions of the Forest were dominated by dense stands of mixed conifers, while white and red fir forests prevailed at higher elevations. The drier southern slopes supported a rich blend of oak and chaparral with mixed conifers on north and east-facing slopes. The central core of the Forest, marked by magnificent north/south trending ridges, was once a lush perennial grassland - with mixed oak and conifer forests sloping off in all directions. The Forest streams were graced with abundant salmon and steelhead runs.

This was never a wilderness fortress. The gentle eastern foothills and the broad river canyons of the Eel, Grindstone and Thomes Creeks mingled with the surrounding valley farms and ranches.

But it is obviously a mistake to be so accessible. The indigenous Yuki, who had lived exclusively in the valleys of the Mendocino National Forest for at least 5,000 years, were virtually exterminated by the first white settlers within two decades. Herds of sheep, goats, and then cattle brought in by ranchers attracted to the areas's legendary rangeland, decimated the forest's extensive perennial grass-

lands. Vast areas of what has been called the world's finest summer range are now "erosional pavement" with no vegetation at all.

In the early 1900's small scale logging began. By the 1950's, the Forest Service, under pressure from large timber companies, began to road and log the best timberlands. Today, logging roads invade nearly every corner of the Forest that supports even marginal timber stands. Once majestic forests are now described as "open areas with clusters of pole-size

The only biologically viable conservation strategy for protecting the fragmented ancient forest ecosystems is to preserve most of the remnant old growth and associated forests in large ecologically diverse core reserves connected by riparian and ridgetop corridors.

trees." The Draft Forest Plan describes the "poorly stocked stand condition that now exists over much of the Forest" and attributes this to the "cumulative effect of past timber harvesting practices."

Despite this plundering, the Forest Service, again at the reckless urging of the timber industry, plans continued logging of the remaining unprotected old growth, even while faced with the shattered ruins of this bankrupt practice.

The bitter irony is that National Forests were originally set aside as reserves specifically to wrest them from the shortsighted, exploitative practice of the large timber companies, so they could be used and enjoyed by the general public in perpetuity. Through political maneuvering, deceit, and ignorance, these forests are now managed almost entirely to benefit the timber industry.

The Ancient Forest Reserve System

The Ancient Forest Reserve System encompasses three fourths of the Mendocino National Forest. We are proud of this bold recommendation and feel that it reestablishes the spirit of the National Forest Reserve System as it was originally

conceived 100 years ago. The boundaries of the Mendocino National Forest, established in 1907, protected the naturally shifting mosaic of its varied and interdependent ecosystems. Those boundaries made sense then, and they make even more sense today.

This naturally shifting landscape mosaic on the Mendocino is the result of broad variations in elevation, moisture, exposure, and soil types. The old growth conifer stands, in particular, were naturally fragmented by these conditions, and so rarely stretched ridge after ridge. Forty years of accelerated logging and road building has so disrupted this forest cover that no large intact old growth conifer stands exist outside of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness. Old growth is now an extremely rare successional stage of forest type on the Mendocino, and its many dependent wildlife species are in danger of extinction.

The only biologically viable conservation strategy for protecting the fragmented ancient forest ecosystems on the Mendocino is to preserve most of the remnant old growth and associated forests (however small) in large ecologically diverse core reserves connected by riparian and ridgetop corridors. These corridors will allow for the migration and dispersal of native wildlife and vegetation. We submit this proposal with the optimism that these remnant ancient forest, along with the Wilderness areas and the roadless areas, protected and nurtured, will be the germ from which this once magnificent forest can be restored.

Effect of this plan

The Forest Service was unable to provide timber volume figures affected by this proposal in part because of the newly designated HCA's. Undoubtedly this proposal would dramatically reduce the amount of logging allowed on the Forest. Mills in the surrounding community, and in fact whole communities, were built around unrealistic and downright deceitful promises of "sustainable" flows of logs from our National Forests. We can either continue to supply those

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Alert: Radioactive Dumpsite Down To The Wire

(Ed. Note: As many of you are aware, the government is now working to locate a "Low Level" radioactive waste dump in Ward Valley near Needles in the Mojave Desert of California. They are so anxious to get a site for rad-waste approved that they are "fast tracking" this issue through channels. Our assistance is needed to help prevent the desert from becoming a nuclear waste dump, as the article below describes.)

"Don't Waste Us", a citizens' group opposed to nuclear pollution and dedicated to a sustainable energy future, has been informed by sources within the Bureau of Land Management that a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued on the Ward Valley "Low-Level" Radioactive Waste dumpsite on June 1. This means that a land transfer from BLM to the state—in rapid-fire approach to licensing and site development this summer—will take place in the interval between June 10 and June 30. This decisive material action will take place at the state level rather than at BLM's national headquarters. Never before, to their knowledge, has a land transfer of such significance been delegated to the state level.

Opposition groups are planning to enter an immediate appeal of the ROD. However, at this time, very few opponents have received their long-requested copies of the Final EIR on the site from California Division of Health Services (DHS). Accordingly, they are requesting BLM to extend the comment period on the ROD by

at least 30 days. They urge all of us to join in this effort to keep BLM from ramming the Ward Valley transfer through with minimal public oversight.

Please send a request for a 30-day extension to Ed Hastey, California State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, with a copy to Douglas Romali, California Desert District BLM, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507. For daily updates, contact Charles Butler, President, People Against Radioactive Dumping (PARAD), Rt. 4 Box 161, Needles, CA 92363, (619) 326-4318. For biweekly updates on the fast-moving events of the national radioactive waste controversy, you may subscribe to their publication, "Atoms & Waste", for \$20 per year.

There are many disturbing features of the Ward Valley situation that should urgently be brought before newspaper editors and legislators. It seems that, as a matter of regulation, all landfills in the state of California are required to have plastic liners (for what little good they do), - except landfills that contain radioactive waste. The Final EIR apparently confirms the California Division of Health Services' (DHS) position that liners aren't really needed at Ward Valley. This is at a location beneath which there are 8 to 16 million cubic feet of pristine drinking water - an underground Lake Tahoe.

Finally, California DHS has received written requests from 17 states nation-

wide to participate in the disposition of their radioactive wastes at Ward Valley. Most other "host" states in the national radwaste system mandated by Congress in 1985 are years behind the out-front siting process in California. State officials in Michigan and Massachusetts have openly expressed their wish to see Ward Valley nationalized for the 120 nuclear reactors presently operating coast-to-coast. These are some of the frightening trends in the siting process that brought the radwaste workshop at a large Chernobyl weekend conference in Washington to the unanimous decision that Ward valley is the number 1 national radioactive dumping issue at the present time.

For the nation's dumpfighters, the imminent BLM action is a part of the continuing speed-up of the siting process that has put California far out ahead of the other states. This action cheapens the public role in our national radioactive waste policy in the same way that the shallow trench design features planned for Ward Valley will cheapen our generation's investment in responsible waste management nationwide. The California agencies seem determined to move at "damn-the-torpedoes" speed through this crucial decision-making period. The problem is that these radwaste torpedoes are timed to explode below the soil long after our lifetime—into the world of our children.

For more information, please contact DON'T WASTE U.S., 2311 - 15th St., NW, #101, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Ancient Forests

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mills and communities for another five or ten years, and utterly eliminate the remaining old growth and reasonable sound residual forests before facing mill closures, or we can face mill closures now while there is still a chance to restore and preserve our National Forest heritage. It is simply a question of courage. We either pass the buck to some future Congress, or we deal creatively and sympathetically with loggers, mill workers, and their families now by providing retraining programs, funded restoration programs, and the like. Waiting will not make it easier—not on Congress, not on workers, and especially not on the forest.

Willits Environmental Center Simplifies Recycling

Thanks to the Willits Environmental Center, it is now easy to figure out where to take your recyclables. They have created a handy one page guide entitled "Recycling Options for Central Mendocino County." It lists various materials along the vertical axis and recycling centers in Willits, Laytonville and Ukiah along the top line. All one needs to do is locate the

material to be recycled and look across the page to see which centers accept it, will pay cash for it, or charge a fee to accept it.

Copies are available at the Mendocino Environmental Center or the Willits Environmental Center at 42 S. Main, Willits, CA 95490. 459-4110.

Thanks for the good work, WEC!

Federal Forestry Legislation

(Ed. Note: The following is a summary of pending and proposed federal forestry legislation which needs support and input from the environmental community.)

by Save America's Forests

The Ancient Forest Protection Act:

Introduced in 1990 by Rep. Jontz (IN). Would create an Ancient Forest Reserve System: some established immediately, the remainder based on recommendations of a scientific study commissioned by the Act. Limited to forests of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. AFPA language addresses primarily the significant stands of old-growth forest and limited younger associated forests deemed necessary to preserve the old-growth ecosystem. The phrase "significant stands of Ancient Forest" may be a loophole; it is essential that this be interpreted to include all biologically viable old-growth independent of acreage size.

The Wild Rockies National Lands Act:

To be introduced in March, 1991. An ecosystem protection bill that protects a majority of the remaining roadless area and de facto wilderness in the Wild Rockies Bioregion, including Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, E. Oregon, and E. Washington. Wilderness Area, Parks, National Wildland Restoration and Recovery Area, and Wild and Scenic River designations are made to protect wildlife and maintain biological diversity, according to the needs of ecosystems and biological connectors.

Clearcutting Restraint Act:

Introduced by Rep. Bryant (TX) in 1989, to be reintroduced in 1991 in improved form. Would ban clearcutting (even-age management) and the associated practices of slash burning and herbicide/pesticide use, on all federal forestlands nationwide managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of

Indian Affairs, and the Armed Services. Allows continued logging on federal lands with the less ecologically harmful technique of selection management: by removing only single trees or small groups of trees, selection management protects and enhances biological diversity.

Native Forest Protection Act:

To be introduced in April, 1991. Would protect virgin (never logged) and native (if logged, naturally regenerated and diverse) forests on federal lands nationwide. Would ban clearcutting by including provisions of Clearcutting Restraint Act. Deals with related economic issues (protects jobs, stabilizes and diversifies economies) by stopping exports on minimally processed timber, providing economic assistance to workers, and creating incentives for paper recycling.

Save America's Forests can be reached at:

Main Office
4 Library Court, SE
Washington, DC 11803

New York Office
Box 396
20003 Plainview, NY

202-544-9219

516-618-2081

Emergency Action Alert!!!

Derail The Johnston-Wallop Energy Bill Now!

The environmentally destructive National Energy Strategy is alive and well ... and being railroaded through the Senate as S. 341, the Johnston-Wallop bill. And it could succeed - unless we call on our U.S. Senators to support a filibuster against it.

Bennett Johnston (D-LA), the powerful chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, is attempting to fast-track S. 341 through the full Senate. Co-authored by Wyoming Republican Malcolm Wallop, this disastrous bill takes the same misguided, oil-and-nuclear-based approach as the White House energy plan.

We must move now to derail it. If approved, the Johnston-Wallop bill would:

- Destroy the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by allowing massive oil exploration
- Threaten hundreds of miles of sensitive coastline - including areas President Bush has promised to protect from offshore drilling

- "Streamline" the construction of more nuclear plants through "one-stop" licensing and restricted public participation

- Increase taxpayer subsidies to the nuclear power industry by \$20 billion

- Destroy free flowing rivers by eliminating environmental reviews of proposed dam projects

- Deregulate the nation's utilities - among the worst environmental offenders

The Johnston-Wallop bill would also weaken acid-rain provisions of the Clean Air Act, eliminate state's rights to conduct environmental reviews of dam projects, allow the federal government to grab private property for a natural-gas pipeline, and violates Congress' own rules designed to prevent taxpayer ripoffs.

The built in dangers of this bill may explain why Johnston is moving it at such a rapid clip - so fast that committee staff must review videotapes to keep up with the action. The Energy Committee has

also refused to make legislative changes available to the public. And Johnston - as chairman of the Senate Democratic Task Force on Energy - is now trying to block consideration of the Bryan bill, which would help America kick its oil habit by improving auto fuel efficiency.

Ask your U.S. Senators to put the brakes on Johnston-Wallop by supporting a filibuster against it. We must act now to stop this attempt to railroad the Congress and the American public.



UCB Professor Responds

by Louise Fortmann

I am pleased to have this opportunity to correct the serious inaccuracies that misrepresent my work in the article, "UCB Department of Forestry Election Fraud", written by Lily Phoenix in volume 8 issue 12 of this newsletter. The article contains many serious inaccuracies. However, for reasons of space, in this response I address only major inaccuracies which pertain directly to the text of my speech to which the article refers.

The article states: "Dr. Louise Fortmann has appeared at numerous timber industry conferences with variations on her theme of the endangered and maligned loggers greeted enthusiastically."

Correction: The speech discussed in Ms. Phoenix's article has been presented exactly once at the meeting of The Concern for Sustainable Forests in Sacramento, October 3, 1990. The Concern for Sustainable Forests is a consortium of environmental activists, timber industry representatives, forest landowners, natural resource agency personnel, and university faculty and students who tried to find common ground on the issue of forest management. The October 3 meeting was attended by staff of state and federal natural resource agencies, environmentalists, environmental consultants, one timber industry lobbyist and one logger. I have never presented this speech, in whole or in part, at a timber industry conference or timber industry gathering of any kind, formal or informal. The last time I spoke to a timber industry conference was in 1987.

The articles states that the so-called "Fortmann Report" "had no basis in scholarly research or fact"

Correction: The speech was based on results from scholarly research on community well-being which had been in progress for 18 months at the time of the speech. What the author called "The Fortmann Report" was clearly identified at the beginning of the text as a presentation to the Concern.

The article states: "Not one source was identified for its conclusions and no methodology of any type was indicated."

Correction: A brief description of

the methodology, appropriate for the lay audience, was provided in the speech as follows:

This paper is based on field research in 9 counties spanning forest communities in the entire state. The work began in July, 1989 and is still in progress. We interviewed loggers, truck drivers, environmental activists, mill workers, timber industry executives, county and city officials, business people, and just about

"Many loggers repeated stories about 'Earth Firsters' suddenly springing out of the woods, armed variously in different stories with stones, tire irons and baseball bats who had attacked loggers on a landing."

anyone else who would stand still. In the timber industry alone we interviewed at least 100 people.

Sources of quotes were not provided because protecting the confidentiality of interviews is a major ethical principle of sociological research. The University of California at Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects requires all researchers to specify how they will ensure that the names of their respondents will remain confidential. To have identified the sources of quotations would have been a gross violation of a basic tenet of sociological research ethics.

The article states that Northern California environmentalists were interviewed by people who did not identify themselves or their purpose and who did

I stand by
my article

Lily Phoenix

not keep any record of the interview.

Correction: In accordance with standard procedures all interviewers were carefully trained and directed to identify themselves to all respondents and to explain why they were conducting the interviews. Written notes or tapes were kept for all interviews.

The article states that interviews with Northern California environmentalists were "thrown away."

Correction: No interviews were discarded.

The article states: "Only interviews from the timber industry were included in the report ..."

Correction: The speech included views from a cross section of people including local environmentalists and environmental activists. The following are some examples

of the views of environmentalists in the speech :

- "Local environmentalists see themselves as stewards of the land—people who plant trees, struggle to prevent their being cut, and bring poor forest practices to a halt."

- "We met many environmentalists who worried about the potential loss of local jobs and the destruction of a way of life that had been sustained for generations. And most important, almost all local people on both sides of the struggle wanted the forest to remain as forest, not to be turned into condos or toxic waste dumps."

- "Local people with environmental concerns also feel a lack of control. They feel that timber corporations are ruining the land and the towns where they have worked hard to establish a livelihood and home for their children. They also feel that environmental organizations like the Sierra Club are not responsive to their needs and often make things worse. They are upset when their town is invaded by Earth First activists who stir up resentment that they have to live with. They feel that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is answer-

The MEC's Response to the Fortmann Article

by MEC Staff

Whatever Dr. Fortmann's protestations, our concern remains that her report was biased in the extreme towards the side of the timber industry and was released at a time to influence press and public opinion towards the plight of timber workers just before the Forests Forever Initiative was to be voted on. Although we share Dr. Fortmann's concerns about the plight of the timber workers and work to find solutions to their concerns (an entire section of the Forests Forever Initiative was devoted to timber worker compensation and retraining), the question is one of balance.

As one illustration of this bias - out of the 24 direct quotes cited in the study, every single one was from timber workers or their family members. The few environmentalist opinions are merely paraphrased. Other examples are more subtle, such as the use of the word "many loggers repeated stories about Earth Firsters! suddenly springing out of the woods --armed...(see full text in Fortmann's rebuttal).-- and attacking loggers on a landing" vs. "some environmentalists feel equally threatened." Ignoring easily documentable cases of actual violence against environmentalists, she relies on unsubstantiated feelings of what she characterizes as many loggers. To the best of my knowledge, threats of violence came en-

tirely from the logging community side. One would never guess this from Dr. Fortmann's report.

Bias in research is one thing. Releasing a biased report as scientifically valid just before an election is quite another. Our criticism derives from the fact that our own experience of these issues is very different from what is stated in her report. It is difficult for us to accept the unsubstantiated feelings of timber workers as being scientifically valid. To us, it seems more like gossip. More importantly, Dr. Fortman's report seems to be entirely motivated by its political, NOT its scientific, impact.

ing only to the needs of the timber industry and that the process for dealing with the Department is difficult and usually futile. They are frustrated that their tax dollars are assisting in the destruction of their local environment..."

The article states that the views of timber industry respondents were "often given as fact rather than opinions."

Correction: The text clearly states that stories were being reported and why the use of stories was appropriate:

"A good way to understand any group is to look at the stories it tells. We saw polarization in the stories about violence that circulated on both sides."

The article then states: "For example, the report cites timber workers being harassed by wealthy and well-dressed outside agitators."

Correction: The exact text, which followed immediately after the two sentences on stories quoted above, is:

"Many loggers repeated stories about 'Earth Firsters', suddenly springing out of the woods, armed variously in different stories with stones, tire irons and baseball bats who had attacked loggers on a landing."

Later in the speech the following text appears:

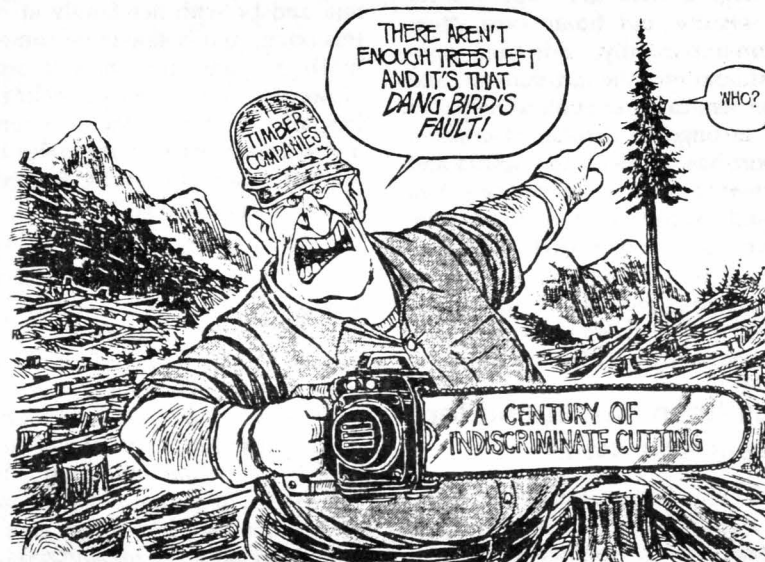
"They see people who appear to be

wealthy vandalizing their equipment, endangering their lives and trying to put them out of work."

The phrase "outside agitators" does not appear anywhere in the speech. Readers should note carefully that it has long since been observed that "things that are perceived to be real, are real in their consequences". The quotes above are what timber workers perceive to be real.

A final point: it is very important that not only the speech on which the article is based but that my work more generally (and the work of others working

to protect the environment) be understood because it raises a vital issue which environmental activists in Africa, Latin America and Asia have long ago understood and acted upon. That is, if we are to protect and preserve our environment, we must also ensure the well-being of communities located in the areas we wish to protect. As communities slide into poverty and despair, the degradation and eventually destruction of the adjacent resources are very likely to follow. To perpetuate the idea that we can save the environment without saving the people is to imperil both.



Thanks From Judi And Darryl

(Ed. Note: The following is a reprint of a letter sent to the donors of the Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney Trust Funds. It is reprinted here because many who contributed to Judi and Darryl after the bombing, did so anonymously. It is hoped that this thank you letter will reach all those who gave so selflessly at that critical time a year ago.)

Judi Bari Trust Fund

106 West Standley Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-1660

May 24, 1991

Dear Donor:

On the one-year anniversary of the bombing of Judi and Darryl, the officers of the trusts would like to thank you for your generous contribution(s) to the Judi Bari and/or Darryl Cherney Trust Funds. Originally, there was only one trust fund which was set up for both Judi and Darryl. However, for administrative and legal reasons, this trust was soon divided into the Judi Bari Trust Fund and the Darryl Cherney Trust Fund. Seeing that Judi's medical needs were far more serious, Darryl accepted a small portion of the donations for his needs and the bulk of the funds were placed in Judi's trust.

Your contributions have helped pay for some of Darryl's medical and legal expenses. Your donations have also helped to meet Judi's medical and legal needs, as well as helping with her expenses for housing, security and home care attendants. More importantly, aside from monetary considerations, the fact that you and so many others cared enough to help and to create an ongoing display of concern and support has boosted their spirits and aided in their recovery in more ways than words could express. Both of them were deeply moved by your showing them so much love. It is your concern and caring that have made it possible for Judi to return to her home community and live there independently with her children.

Judi has been nominated for Earth Laureate Award

Despite the violent attacks on Judi, she continues to call for nonviolent actions around peace and environmental issues. It

is because of her unyielding spirit, her effectiveness in organizing and her commitment to nonviolence that the Earth Island Institute has nominated Judi for the Earth Laureate Award, scheduled to be presented at the United Nations on World Environment Day, June 5th. Cited in the nomination were Judi's "contributions in building coalitions between timber workers and environmentalists" and bringing the redwood forest issue to national and international attention.

The fact that you and so many others cared enough to help and to create an ongoing display of concern and support has boosted their spirits and aided in their recovery in more ways than words could express.

Update on Judi and Darryl

For many months after the bombing, it seemed that Judi would not be able to sit or walk for any length of time. With the support of many committed friends, Judi showed tremendous courage by refusing pain medication and testing her physical limits. Eventually, she had the strength to leave the medical support system and be with her family at home. At this point, Judi is able to do some singing, fiddle playing and political organizing. However, her bones are displaced, she has an unstable pelvic structure, nerve and bone damage in her lower back and leg, restricted movement, limited energy and frequent bouts with pain.

The trust funds continue to lend support for Darryl's ongoing medical needs and continue to pay expenses for Judi and her two children. Judi's request for SSI has initially been denied, and during this past year she has relied heavily on your generosity via her trust fund. Consequently, the trust funds have been largely depleted and it is obvious that the trusts will not be able to continue their present level of support throughout the coming year unless the funds are replenished.

Lawsuit filed over the bombing

In addition, over the past year it has become increasingly obvious that the best defense for Judi and Darryl may be for them to take the legal offensive. After one whole year, the FBI and other police agencies have, at best, dragged their feet in conducting an investigation and are now no closer to finding the perpetrator of the bombing than they were last May. Moreover, the FBI and other police agencies have deliberately lied to the media regarding the placement of the bomb in Judi's car and about finding matching nails from the bomb and from Judi's house. For these reasons, Judi and Darryl have filed a lawsuit against the FBI and other police agencies for spoliation of evidence, misrepresentation by police officials, cursory investigation of the death threats and cursory

investigation for the bomber, withholding of evidence, false labeling as suspects, deceptive publicity and invasion of privacy. Helping to pay for the costs involved in preparing and in litigating this lawsuit would be a legitimate and important use of the trust funds, but this is not possible now as the small amount of remaining funds in the trusts must be preserved for meeting more immediate physical needs.

Hire a private investigator

Finally, it has become increasingly apparent over the past year that we are not likely to see a police investigation which results in the apprehension and conviction of the bomber. This comes at a time when acts of violence against environmentalists are increasing at an alarming rate. Surely, catching and convicting the perpetrators of these violent acts would help to prevent further such incidences. However, we see instead these crimes going unpunished and an atmosphere developing which encourages further acts of violence against environmental activists. A private investigator was hired for a short time, thanks to funding from Greenpeace, to find Judi and Dar-

Thanks From Judi And Darryl

ryl's bomber. This investigator mounted a serious investigation and made significant strides towards finding the bomber, but funding was too small and the time was too short to bring the investigation to a conclusion. Funding the continuance of this investigation would be another legitimate and important use of the trust funds, if adequate funds were available.

Continued funds are needed

We, Judi and Darryl's trustees, as well as Judi and Darryl themselves, wish to thank you once again for your generous contributions of concern and money. Your efforts have made an important difference in Judi and Darryl's recovery during the first year after the bombing. But, as described above, they have ongoing needs which can only be met by your continued generosity.

Find the Bomber reward fund

In addition, we are trying to establish a special fund which will be used as a monetary reward for anyone who gives evidence which leads to the apprehension and conviction of the bomber. Won't

you please help Judi and Darryl overcome the terrorizing physical and legal ordeal through which they are being put by sending another donation this year?

Sincerely, Judi Bari, Darryl Cherney and Trustees, Susan Crane, Don Cameron, Gary Ball

Where you can send money

Checks should be made payable to the Judi Bari Trust Fund or the Darryl Cherney Trust Fund and returned to the Mendocino Environmental Center in the enclosed envelope. Please indicate on your check whether you prefer your donation to be available for general use as needed or whether you prefer your donation to be directed specifically towards medical expenses, the Police Powers lawsuit, a private investigator or the Find The Bomber reward fund.

RAIN IS LOVE

Rain is love, it kisses the trees.
The trees love the rain,
and so do the seas.
The seas love the rain,
of course, of course,
because the rain helps the water
return to its source.

Ezra Ekman, age 14

Mendocino Environmental Center Membership Application Form

JOIN THE MEC!

Your MEC Membership allows the MEC to expand the facilities and services it can offer, and: 1) entitles you to use the MEC's facilities and services; 2) ensures that you will receive all MEC mailings during the year; 3) will automatically include you on the list of people to be contacted when crucial action alerts are necessary; 4) entitles you to run for the Board of Directors and vote in all MEC elections.

(Memberships are on a yearly basis)

Name & Address	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - 19	Nature Nut
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	Habitat Hero
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	Wilderness Warden
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Forest Fanatic
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Earth Enthusiast
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	Bioregional Benefactor
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	Planet Preserver
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

There are memberships being requested in this application. Each member is entitled to vote in MEC elections and there will be one ballot issued for each membership. Please be sure to include the name of each person who is to receive a ballot on this application. MEC memberships are on a sliding scale, with \$20.00 or more per member suggested for those who can afford it.

Other names to receive ballots, if any:

Note: MEC donations are not tax deductible at this time. Please contact us if you want to make a tax deductible contribution for a special project.

Please Join the MEC

The Mendocino Environmental Center (MEC) was established in March of 1987 in response to the growing need for a central networking and coordinating facility for the many small grassroots efforts in this region. Beginning with only a small desk, a chair and a telephone in a low rent storefront across from the courthouse in Ukiah, it has grown into a thriving center providing resources, information, networking, coordination and support services to groups and individuals working on environmental and peace issues.

Funded entirely by membership dues and donations, the Mendocino Environmental Center now provides meeting and office space, phones, computer time and/or computer services, a copy machine, coordination and information dissemination to a growing number of groups and individuals.

The need for the MEC is re-confirmed on a daily basis, as more and more people use its services. People know they can call the MEC to find out, or be referred to the latest information and developments, how to get involved in on-going environmental work, or for support and assistance in beginning a new effort. **Just having a central facility where people know they can find each other and share ideas, information**

and resources has increased the effectiveness and magnitude of everyone's efforts.

The MEC also regularly presents a variety of educational programs and events, such as forums on forestry, which allow local people to participate in educational discussions on issues which tend to polarize communities.

Virtually all of the environmental groups in the county - groups concerned with protecting the ocean, forests, air and water quality, as well as those concerned about land use, development, recycling, toxics and pesticides, etc. - work with and rely on the MEC for information sharing, networking and coordination of efforts. A

growing number of students and concerned citizens come to the MEC to utilize our constantly expanding library of information.

The MEC is "action central", for this area. We are open at least 10 hours a day, five days a week, and most weekends. With awareness of the environmental crisis growing as fast as it is, and as people seek to become more well informed and look for ways to put their growing awareness into action, our work load is only going to get heavier,

In order to sustain this work and expand our efforts, we need to expand our funding base. We appeal to you directly.

Please consider becoming a member of the MEC or making a donation.

This land is too complex for the simple processes of "the mass-mind" armed with modern tools. To live in real harmony with such a country seems to require either a degree of public regulation we will not tolerate, or a degree of private enlightenment we do not possess.

Aldo Leopold (1933)

This newsletter is a publication of the Mendocino Environmental Center, a non-profit organization which began in March 1987 with the purpose of promoting the conservation, restoration, and wise use of the Earth's natural resources and to provide a facility where the public can work together to achieve this purpose.

Mendocino Environmental Center

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