Multimedia Library Collection: Earth First! Movement Writings

Earth First!: "The War at Home: Headwaters Forest Still Threatened"



Earth First!

The War at Home:
HEADWATERS FOREST
STILL THREATENED

Big Victory at Board of Forestry Hearing

Northern California activists were able to breathe a well-deserved sigh of relief after the January 9, 1991 Board of Forestry decision to uphold CDF's (the California Department of Forestry) denial of two Pacific Lumber THP's (timber harvest plans) in the Headwaters Forest. The 3000 acre forest is the largest unprotected stand of ancient redwoods left on the planet.

However, the fate of this last unprotected defacto redwood wilderness is far from sealed.

The Battle Continues

MAXXAM Corporation, owner of the Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) made no secret of its wishes to sell Headwaters. At the same time however, the company is revising the two THP's and could resubmit them at any time. Due to cumulative impacts to the watershed, it is doubtful the bureaucracy will approve the plans. And according to Dr. C. J. Ralph, a noted redwood region wildlife biologist, mitigation to protect Marbled Murrelet habitat is impossible. At the Board hearing, PALCO officials also revealed plans for further timber harvest in Headwaters. That "harvest" would decimate the forest by the year 2000.

Hurwitz is Still Free

It will be up to MAXXAM to set the selling price for this forest, and given "owner" Junk bond king Charles Hurwitz' past record, he will likely demand an inflated price. No one knows how much he'll ask, nor has Charlie revealed the amount of acreage he's willing to sell. Hurwitz should not profit from Headwaters! PALCO was acquired in a hostile takeover by MAXXAM in 1986 through means which are currently being challenged by numerous lawsuits. In fact, these legal proceedings, along with the possibility of an indictment may be prompting Hurwitz to sell Headwaters now, while he still has the chance to take the money and run. Paying this criminal a large sum of money for illegally acquired land would be rewarding him for his crimes.

The Bureaucracy is Catching Up

Newly elected governor Pete Wilson has called for the preservation of the Headwaters forest. In January the Governor created a Task force headed by Deputy Director Tay Thomas and Resources Secretary John Atcheson. The Task force is currently in the information gathering phase and seeks to define an "ecologically significant portion" of the Headwaters area. According to Amador, the state views the intact 3000 acre island of old growth as the minimum acceptable for preservation, and that rumors to the contrary are false. Also in Sacramento, Senator Barry

Earth First! Redwood Action Team Newsletter
1988, front page

© Earth First!, All rights reserved

"The War at Home: Headwaters Forest Still Threatened." *Earth First! Journal.* 1988. Republished by the Environment and Society Portal. Multimedia Library. http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8000.

This update from the Earth First! Redwood Action Team reports on the status of the fight to protect the Headwaters Forest, an area containing old-growth redwoods in northern California.

> Headwaters Forest has not been saved! Activists must not allow it to become an isolated island or a developed tourist park. The only future, the only hope for this cathedral, is as wilderness.
>
> —Earth First! Redwood Action Team

No copyright. "Please copy and distribute."

The Rachel Carson Center 's Environment & Society Portal makes archival materials openly accessible for purposes of research and education. Views expressed in these materials do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Rachel Carson Center or its partners.

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/earthfirst_war_at_home-1988.pdf

Websites linked in this text:

- http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/index.html

Earth First! Movement Writings Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
Earth First!: "The War at Home: Headwaters Forest Still Threatened"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8000
Print date: 04 November 2026 08:55:30