



The Watershed

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HR 1494 would save forests, taxpayer dollars

Do you believe that the U.S. Forest Service protects our national forests?

If you are like most Americans you do.

But unfortunately, instead of preserving our national forests, the agency too often has been using taxpayers' dollars to facilitate destruction of U.S. natural resources.

In October, 2000, Forests Forever began a new campaign to pass the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (H.R. 1494).

Authored by Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and lead Republican co-author Jim Leach (R-IA), H.R. 1494 would

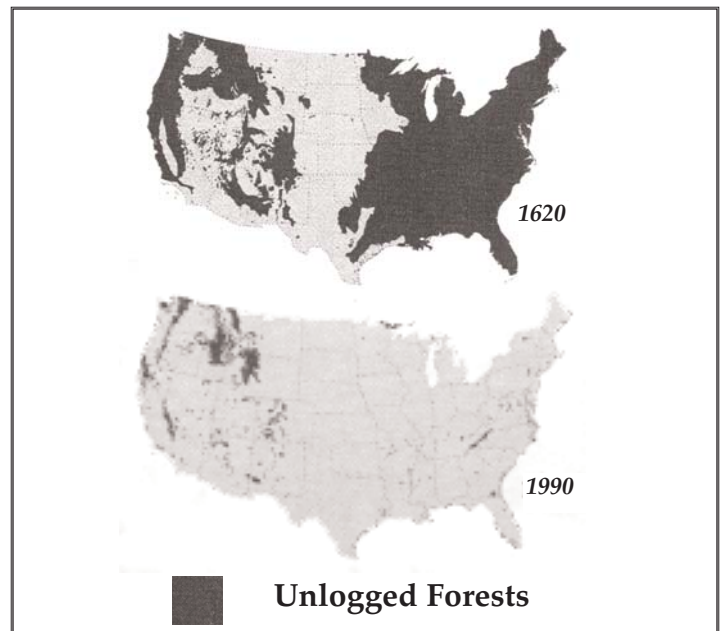
eliminate the commercial logging program on federal public lands and assist communities dependent on this program with economic recovery and diversification.

If enacted the bill not only would help protect and restore America's natural heritage but also would save taxpayers' money by cutting corporate welfare.

"H.R. 1494 is the most far-reaching forestry reform bill at the national level in decades," said Paul Hughes, executive director of Forests Forever.

Hughes said the bill prevents the Forest Service from

see "HR 1494," p. 11, col. 1



map courtesy of Forest Conservation Council and Save Our Public Lands

Bush Cabinet threatens environmental gains

With Gale Norton at the helm of Interior, Ann Veneman leading the department of agriculture, and Christine Todd Whitman heading up the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), conservationists are bracing themselves for a potential environmental disaster now that the Bush administration is in office.

"It's already started," said

Robert Perez, communications director of the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV).

"Shortly after the energy crisis in California went public, President (George W.) Bush announced he was willing to relax environmental standards to get power on line and push oil exploitation."

Over the past eight years

President Bill Clinton gained a reputation among many conservationists as being one of the more environmentally friendly presidents in recent times.

In December, however, then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush was elected to the presidency and brought with him a truckload of anti-green leaders to serve in his Cabinet.

The CLCV is only one of

many environmental organizations that have opposed Bush's most toxic Cabinet choices.

Many conservation groups say Norton is the most distressing choice among the new agency heads.

"We're particularly concerned with Gale Norton,"

see "Bush," p. 9, col. 1

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New Bush administration adds new urgency to ever-mounting deforestation problems

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world."
-Thoreau

Why should Californians be concerned about saving forests, in the midst of an electricity crisis, an economic slowdown and a welter of other national and world problems?

The overarching answer is, the rampant destruction of forests here and around the world poses threats as basic to human survival as the need for air, water and the beauty that makes life sweet.

We have seen much in recent months about victories for the forests of California and the U.S. To name two, in January then-President Bill Clinton announced his historic roadless areas policy placing 58 million acres of national forest lands off limits to road-building. This affected mainly the building of roads for logging access.

Also of note to California, which is home to 18 national forests— in the same month the U.S. Forest Service unveiled its Sierra Nevada Framework land-use plan governing timber harvesting, road-building and other activities on national forests in the Sierra Nevada.

Both moves were by-and-large welcomed by forest defenders. But while these and other developments have been heartening, conservationists have learned all too well that apparent forward gains usually end up looking a lot less impressive on closer inspection.

The environmentally well-regarded Sierra framework plan, for instance, still contains loopholes that would allow excessive grazing and logging in the northern Sierras and other areas.

Moreover, both the January decisions face threats to their implementation.

So this is another reason to move forests up everyone's priority list: In relatively good times we have a tougher-than-normal fight convincing the public that there is really a problem left to address.

But now there is something much bigger to deal with than prior to

January: The George W. Bush Administration is bearing down like a running crown fire— that's a really big, fast-moving one— about to race through the forests of this land.

Bush's Cabinet appointments remind most folks of James Watt, former President Ronald Reagan's retrograde interior secretary. Worse, however, Bush *files* seems to have picked more-media-friendly lieutenants than did Reagan.

The forestry reform movement must not allow itself to be placed on the

If we can eliminate subsidies to Big Timber on our public lands we will have made enormous headway for forests elsewhere.

defensive. During the Reagan years we fought many battles to mitigate bad policy initiatives. While overall we were surprisingly successful in turning aside the Great Communicator's anti-environmental blitzkrieg our tactics chiefly were defensive. We longed for a few more offensive moves.

We have one right now. The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, HR 1494, represents a sweeping change in U.S. forest management. (See our page one article.) And the bill is picking up more and more support in Congress all the time, thanks in no small part to Forests Forever and other groups organizing behind the measure.

But the best point to mobilize con-

stituents on with regard to HR 1494 is the removal of subsidies— our tax dollars enriching for-profit persons and corporations. Seldom can such subsidies be justified and even rarer does the public really support such policies.

Yet in many extractive industries— ranching/grazing, mining, road-building, and development, to name a few— enormous out-of-view public subsidies sustain and accelerate ecosystem degradation. Logging is another such activity. If we can eliminate subsidies to Big Timber on our public lands we will have made enormous headway for forests elsewhere.

Is it too much to suppose that deforestation could lead to broad-based social upset in our times? Well, deforestation contributes enormously to decreases in water quantity and quality; given that an estimated 85 percent of California's water supply originates in forested watersheds, is over-cutting a serious threat to our social fabric?

How about deforestation's destruction of irreplaceable biological diversity— of which forests are our richest storehouses, our data banks for new pharmaceuticals and foods?

How about adverse impacts to strong and relatively clean recreation and tourism economies? The potentially apocalyptic effects of global warming? And what about spiritual refreshment in an increasingly crowded and stressful world?

The integrity of our atmosphere and water and the mesh of life evolved over billions of years all represent real survival issues for the world's industrial civilization and the America of George W. Bush.

And California, as many times in the recent past, is where the pertinent public policy debate may well play out first.



Roadless policy wins, but is it a short-lived victory?

Heralded by most forest-protection groups as a major victory for conservation, 58 million acres of undeveloped national forest will be protected from logging and road building thanks to a policy approved in January by former President Bill Clinton.

The final roadless areas policy not only will spare these roadless tracts from timber cutting, but also will protect water quality and biodiversity for future generations.

"It's a better policy than we ever dreamed of," said Tina Andolina, Conservation Associate for the California Wilderness Coalition. "We were thrilled. We were just asking for a ban on road building, but it turned out to be so much more."

Under the final roadless plan, practices such as road building, logging, mining and ski area development are banned in large areas of the public forests.

Especially gratifying to preservationists was the inclusion of vast areas in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

The approval of the policy was long in coming. The original document compiled

last May by U.S. Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck—the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)—was widely criticized for failing to fully protect wild forests.

Clinton initiated the plan in October, 1999, to "protect priceless, back-country lands" in the national forests.

The first draft of the policy, however, only banned road building, while allowing logging and mining to continue.

After much public outcry the DEIS was extensively revised. The forest service held over 500 public hearings and received nearly two million comments. A majority of those comments denounced the DEIS and supported full protection of national forests, said Andolina.

The revised plan, called the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS),



photo courtesy CDF

was presented in November, 2000, and includes a ban on logging and mining in the forests. Logging for habitat restoration and fire prevention, however, remains legal.

According to Andolina, the biggest surprise with the final draft was the protection of the Tongass.

see "Roadless," p. 14, col. 4

Clinton designates monuments that Bush may try to rescind

In the final weeks of his presidency, former president Bill Clinton used his executive power to create seven new national monuments.

These new monuments protect over one million acres of federal land from commercial use, including 200,000 acres in California

"There are few wild places left, rugged reminders of our rich history and nature's enduring majesty," Clinton told the Associated Press.

"Because they are more important than ever, after careful review and extensive public input, we protect them today by establishing them as national monuments."

Aside from California, the other sites reside mostly in the western U.S. including Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Proposed in December by former

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt the sites are expected to include bans or restriction on off-road vehicle activity, mining and oil drilling.

According to the New York Times in order to become a national monument the designated land must have at least one nationally significant resource that is to be preserved.

In California, the Carrizo Plain—made up of some of the last rolling grasslands in the state—is one of the newest monuments.

Located between San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield, this

see "Monuments," p. 13, col. 1

America's newest monuments

- **Carrizo Plain**— 204,000 acres of savanna in central California. It hosts endangered species and American Indian tribal sites.
- **Upper Missouri River Breaks**— 77,000 acres along 149 miles of river in Montana. It is the only portion of the Missouri river to be protected in its natural, free-flowing state.
- **Pompeys Pillar**— 51 acres along the Yellowstone River in Montana along the Lewis and Clark trail.
- **Mindoka**— part of a WW II-era Japanese-American internment camp, located in Idaho.
- **Sonoran Desert**— 486 acres of desert ecosystem, mountains, valleys and a saguaro cactus forest.
- **Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks**— a 7-million-year-old volcanic rock formation near Santa Fe, N.M.
- **U.S. Virgin Islands Coral Reef**— 12,000 acres of submerged lands off St. John.

Sierra Nevada framework approved, appeals pose threat

In a move that could help to reverse years of ecological destruction in the Sierra Nevada, the U.S. Forest Service unveiled a new management plan in January that calls for a sharp reduction in logging and stronger protections for watersheds and endangered species.

The Sierra Nevada Management Plan covers over 11 million acres of national forests in the Sierra Nevada range.

Of that amount, 4.25 million acres have been designated "old-growth emphasis areas," which will be managed to promote old-growth forest conditions.

The final draft of the plan will come after the review of appeals, in May. Although the record of decision was issued in January, the plan will go through an extensive appeals process because it is controversial, officials say.

Other highlights of the new Sierra Nevada framework plan include:

- Preservation of all remaining old-growth stands five acres or larger.

- Protection of all large trees (20-inch diameter or greater), though trees up to 30 inches diameter could be removed in proximity to residential or other developed areas where it is neces-

"The changes were better than expected because the plan was science based."

sary to reduce the risk of spreading wildfires.

- Designation of wide management buffers along rivers and streams.

"We are incredibly happy," said John Buckley, director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resources Center in Twain

Harte, Calif.

"The changes were better than expected because the plan was science based. Some great improvements will be made because the Forest Service relied on scientists to help make the decision."

According to Buckley, the forest service's planning efforts for what eventually became the framework plan were drafted in the early 1990s. The goal of the plan was to protect the California spotted owl. But that first blueprint broadened to include several other endangered species and their habitats.

An early draft of the framework plan was withdrawn after a federal advisory committee identified it as having "critical shortcomings" including "inadequate protection for the spotted owl." It also reportedly posed an unacceptable risk of extinction for the Pacific fisher.

The plan then took a different route and was revised according to science-based research. "It really became a plan to

see "Framework," p. 13, col. 3

Hole-in-Headwaters cut okayed, logging looms

On March 6 the California Department of Forestry (CDF) gave Maxxam Corp./Pacific Lumber Co. (PL) the green light to move forward with Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) 520 and cut in the "Hole-in-the-Headwaters," area.

Logging, however, will not begin until PL completes a formal consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding Northern spotted owl nesting sites and buffers on the parcel, said Rob DiPerna, THP review director with the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC).

"They are not logging yet," DiPerna said. "They won't until they get a formal consultation."

This present incarnation of the highly controversial THP was in direct response to an EPIC/Sierra Club lawsuit, which resulted in an injunction halting the logging last July.

EPIC and the Sierra Club are looking into continued legal challenges to stop the Hole-in-the-Headwaters cut, but according to DiPerna there will be no further

legal action on this latest approval of THP 520.

The logging in the Hole-in-the-Headwaters has sparked controversy because it is completely inside the newly designated Headwaters Forest Reserve.

Two years ago taxpayers spent nearly half a billion dollars to acquire the 7400-acre reserve.

The "Hole" parcel is not part of the preserve, but is bordered by it on every side. It was created to save the ancient Headwaters Grove and other patches of old-growth redwoods within the greater Headwaters Forest ecosystem.

The land inside the "Hole" and across the South Fork Elk River from it—some 7000 acres of forest—were traded to Maxxam/PL as part of the Headwaters deal in March, 1999.

This 7000 acres of forest was identified in the state law that funded the deal as a priority for acquisition with whatever funds remained after the purchase of the Owl Creek grove. Eighty million dollars were allocated for the purchase. The state

recently announced that it is buying Owl Creek for \$67 million, potentially leaving \$13 million for this acquisition.

These new logging plans pose a serious threat not only to the proposed acquisition area, but also to the biological integrity of the new Headwaters Forest Reserve itself.

New logging on the South Fork (except on THP 520) currently is constrained by a moratorium imposed by the CDF in January, 1998.

In the nearby Freshwater Creek watershed, however, a similar moratorium has been lifted under a substantially weaker standard than that originally imposed by CDF.

The Hole-in-the-Headwaters issue first arose on Mar. 1, 1999, when state and federal officials reached agreement with PL to establish the Headwaters Reserve.

The deal culminated a heated 10-year controversy, sparked in large part by the 1990 Forests Forever initiative, Prop. 130.

see "Headwaters," p. 15, col. 3

Gov. Davis fails to act, AB 717 dies in Senate

A wave of frustration swept over environmentalists when Assembly Bill (AB) 717 died in the California legislature last August, allowing clear-cut logging to continue throughout the state.

"We were extremely disappointed because we believe the California forestry regulations to be extremely inadequate," said Elizabeth Barclay, legislative aide for Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz), author of AB 717.

Drafted nearly two years ago, the bill would have banned clear-cutting until independent scientists completed a statewide study of the effects that this harmful logging practice has on forest ecosystems, endangered species and water quality.

Clear-cut logging has produced devastating impacts on

California's forests, watersheds and fisheries. These effects have been felt from the redwoods of Northern California to the Giant sequoias of the Sierra Nevada.

AB 717 also would have required that the legislature take action on new forestry laws based on this research. AB 717 was the most environmentally progressive forestry bill to go through the legislature in over 30 years.

"We fear the salmon are on the edge of extinction in Northern California, plus to clear-cut huge numbers of acres in the Sierra Nevada is irreparable," Barclay said.

"To change the forests is likely to cause extreme negative impacts in the Sierra Nevada ecosystem."

In its turbulent end game AB 717 faced its biggest challenges: the Senate Appropriations committee vote and the Senate and Assembly floor votes.

Ultimately the bill bypassed the Appropriations committee but was not called up for a vote on the Senate floor before the legislature adjourned on the evening of Aug. 31, 2000.

Gov. Gray Davis, in apparent response to timber industry pressure, withheld his endorsement of AB 717 throughout its life in the Capitol. His failure to actively support the bill— as well as other actions he took in the months prior to August— were

key reasons the bill was killed.

In the months before the bill died Davis had been pushing for a \$6.9 million North Coast Watershed Assessment Budget Change Proposal (BCP).

The BCP would have funded a program collating landowner and industry-generated data,

which the California Department of Forestry would have used to approve future watershed analysis. Forests Forever and other environmental groups expressed strong concerns that this data would carry a pro-logging bias.

Last May, the Assembly budget subcommittee headed by Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin (D-Duncans

Mills) passed budget control language that would have required that, in effect, the governor's BCP funding be released only upon passage of a strong AB 717.

Conservationists, of course, supported this budget control

Assembly to the Senate in January, 2000, then sailed through the Senate Natural Resources committee in April of that year.

According to Hughes, AB 717 was important because it would have taken a giant step

"Davis played a political shell game with 717 last year... His tactic was to let the bill die through willful neglect."

language, which would have effectively eliminated the pro-logging bias.

A Senate committee headed by Sen. Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto) passed identical budget control language just prior to the action by Strom-Martin's panel.

But on June 30 Davis "red-lined," or deleted, the budget control language passed by Strom-Martin and Sher.

The governor stated, "Although I am deleting this language, I wish to express my commitment to work with the legislature during the remainder of this session on the development of a watershed proposal, to address logging, related impacts to salmon and water quality."

He stopped short of specifying how he intended to follow up this commitment.

"Davis played a political shell game with 717 last year," said Paul Hughes, executive director of Forests Forever.

"He wanted the best of both worlds— environmentalists' support and timber industry backing and contributions. His tactic was to let the bill die through willful neglect. By running out the legislative clock there were 'no fingerprints' on a dead bill."

AB 717 moved from the

toward making sure logging is done with an eye to science— to measuring the devastating impacts and potential impacts of many timber projects.

From January to August, 2000, Forests Forever canvassers collected 16,197 letters from citizens in support of AB 717 and obtained commitments for 42,427 letters, phone calls, FAXs and e-mails.

Upon hearing of AB 717's death, it was clear that citizens were outraged with Davis for not taking action to assist AB 717.

Forests Forever staff collected 933 letters from people angry with Davis and garnered 2886 commitments to write, phone, FAX and e-mail him.

Forests Forever was one of four core groups that worked on AB 717 in a coalition of about 10 groups

"At Forests Forever we were disappointed because we had birthed the bill and were key in getting it all the way to the Senate floor," Hughes said. "But the steps that come next will build on that progress... we will explore reintroducing the bill next session and are looking into a possible ballot measure."

— M.H.

Clear-cutting:

Forest devastation for short-term profit

You've seen the pictures or experienced it yourself— a lush, pristine evergreen forest with a large hole, exposing bare dirt, carved out of the middle. It resembles a nuclear bombsite— there are no signs of plant or animal life. Everything just looks dead.

This destruction results from a forestry practice called clear-cutting, and it is the most popular method for timber removal on national forests in the U.S. today.

Clear-cutting, also known as even-aged management, occurs when several acres or more of trees are cleared from a site. Then, if conditions permit, a new, even-aged stand of timber grows back.

Since the 1960s clear-cutting has ignited a fight between conservationists and the timber industry. Although all logging typically causes adverse effects to the for-

est ecosystem— such as soil erosion, decreased aesthetic value and habitat fragmentation— conservationists argue that clear-cutting especially worsens these impacts.

Not surprisingly, many in the timber industry defend clear-cutting. They say it is an effective and successful silvicultural technique that has been used for centuries.

Some proponents say it's a cheaper form of harvesting, and allows for faster re-growth. They argue that growing under shade does not allow the trees to grow as fast as if they were completely under sun. Other clear-cutting advocates say that clear-cuts provide the best conditions for certain species to grow, such as the highly merchantable Douglas fir. They say some species do not re-grow in shady conditions.

Environmentalists, however, say clear-cutting is the logging method of industry choice because it generates short-term profits, even though it leaves degraded land and water quality behind.

According to Dale Thornburgh, professor of silviculture and ecology at Humboldt State University in Arcata, clear-cutting has been practiced in California for over 150 years. The state's native redwood forests were some of the first tracts to be logged, he said, and the cutting began in the late 1880s when there was no real management system in place.

Today 95 percent of the redwood region has been cut at least once, he said.

"Back then loggers would just go in and cut trees they wanted," Thornburgh said.

"Whatever old-growth looked more valuable they'd cut since their purpose was

to cut trees for dollars— so in some areas it looked like clear-cuts."

Clear-cut logging began to boom after World War II, when returning soldiers qualified for homebuilding funds under

"We already know a lot about the devastating results of clear-cutting: mudslides, siltation, loss of large-area habitat, dispersal of pesticides and herbicides into our waterways."



Clear-cuts in sequoia old-growth

photo by Martin Litton

the GI bill. By 1970 clear-cutting was the most common form of timber harvesting in national forests and by the mid-1970s it was public knowledge that this form of harvesting produced significant harm to the environment.

In November, 1973, the U.S. District Court rendered a landmark decision concerning clear-cutting in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. The court struck down the practice on all national forests.

In August, 1976, the same court found clear-cutting illegal under the Multiple-Use Sustainable Yield Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. But later that year Congress effectively overturned the clear-cutting ban.

Since those days, California has led the country in forestry regulation by enacting laws to reduce logging and enforce better timber management.

Unfortunately, conservation groups including Forests Forever point out, this leadership role does not necessarily mean good forestry is being practiced— only forestry better than in other states.

Last August, state Assembly Bill (AB) 717, which would have banned clear-cut-

ting on California's private forestlands, was shot down by the legislature and Gov. Gray Davis. Forests Forever had initially proposed the bill.

AB 717, the "California Clear-cut Moratorium" bill, would have banned clear-cutting until independent scientists completed a statewide study of the impact of this logging practice on forests. The study would have assessed the effects on the forest ecosystem, watersheds, fish and wildlife, and rural economies, as well as the impacts to human health and safety from clear-cutting-induced fire risk and flooding.

When a tree is cut down the ecosystem around it sacrifices much more than wildlife habitat and aesthetic value. The soil around the base of the tree loses nutrients. Without a canopy the ground dries out. Disturbed soil loosens and erodes in the next rainfall.

After a forest is logged and harvesters are cleaning up, small trees are often uprooted, further destabilizing the soil. Mud and sediments wash into nearby rivers and streams, polluting the water and harming aquatic wildlife.

The exact causes and effects of clear-cutting damage are not fully known, but according to Kristin Kirk, canvass supervisor at Forests Forever, this study would have monitored and assessed the harmful results.

"A study on the effects of clear-cutting would reveal the negative impacts this type of logging has on the environment, based on science," Kirk said. "We already know a lot about the devastating results of clear-cutting: mudslides, siltation, loss of large-area habitat, dispersal of pesticides and herbicides into our waterways. An actual study, however, would quantify these ill effects in concrete terms that would be hard to argue with," she said.

According to Tim McKay, director of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata, the thing that makes clear-cutting most alarming in 2001 is the frequency at which it occurs.

"The problem with forestry is that there are a lot of elements— it's very complex," McKay said. "Clear-cutting every 200 years is vastly different than if we're talking about clear-cutting every 35 years."

McKay said that over the years clear-



Sequoia National Forest clear-cut at Apocalypse Grove

photo by Maribeth Sherwood

cutting has become a problem because it is practiced on many sites every 30 to 40 years. This is a relatively fast rotation if viable re-growth is to occur.

Because clear-cutting aims to produce relatively high volumes of wood fiber on a quick turnaround, the quality of the lumber produced suffers dramatically along with the health of the forest, McKay said.

Longer rotations and more-selective cutting creates higher-skilled jobs, higher-quality lumber and more benefits to communities without cutting off the supply of

water supplies.

According to the Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter, 85 percent of California's annual water runoff originates in its forested watersheds. Much of Los Angeles' water derives from the forested areas of the Sierra Nevada. And because California's population is increasing rapidly this is all the more reason to protect a quality water supply.

In many areas of the state, though, communities suffer not only from job losses, but also from depletion of timberlands when distant investors decide to "cut and run."

In 1973 the California legislature adopted the Z'berg-Nejedley Forest Practice Act (FPA). This act sharply changed forestry practices in the state.

According to Jerry Ahlstrom, chief of the forest practice program for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), unlike other states, California's FPA requires that any timber harvest on private lands must have a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) prepared by a registered professional forester (RPF) and submitted to CDF for its review and approval.

"Washington is probably the closest state in the West to having laws like ours," said Ahlstrom. "Most other states, like

"I think there's a basic premise that we need to be building with new wood instead of recycled material, but that's not true."

wood coming from the forests. A slower harvest cycle also means better preservation of wildlife habitat, and cleaner water for both native fisheries and community

see "Clear-cut," p. 14, col. 1

Martin Litton: a conservation legend

Saving Mother Earth is not easy, but after more than 60 years fighting for the environment Litton has won many battles. Still, he continues to fight harder with each year and each new problem.

Call legendary activist Martin Litton an environmentalist and he's quick to correct you.

"I'm not an environmentalist, I'm a conservationist," smirks the 84 year-old.

"If I were an environmentalist I would not have driven my car 300 miles to get here today; I would have walked. I'm a conservationist. I like to conserve."

And that he does.

For over 60 years Litton has been a crusader for conserving natural resources in California and throughout the western U.S.

The late environmental movement patriarch David Brower referred to Litton as his "conservation conscience," saying that if anyone understood and was educated about conservation it was Litton.

With little fear, Litton has made more than a few waves. His unconventional views have spurred him to challenge governments, activist groups and the general public.

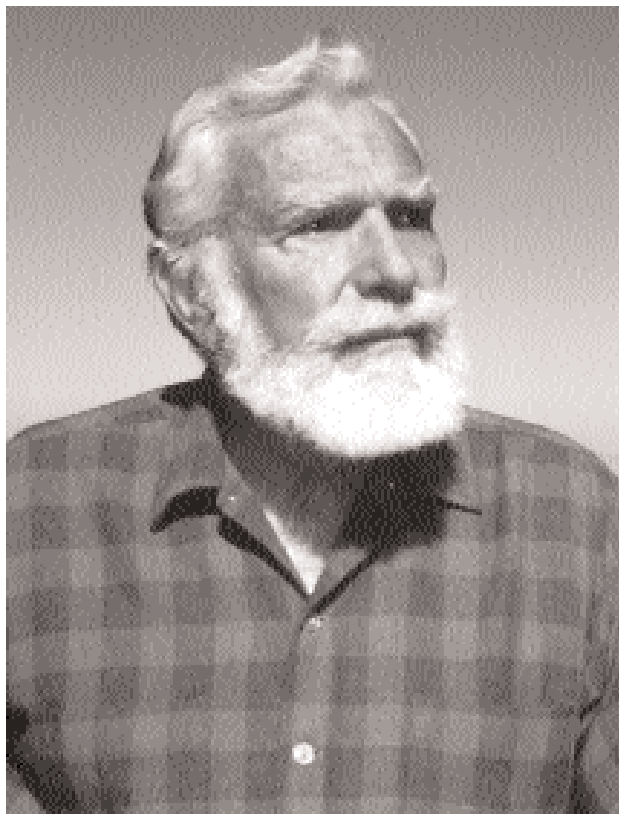
Throughout his lifetime he has been a photographer, journalist, pilot, husband, father and grandfather. But all along he's been a conservationist, and his goal has been simple: to safeguard Mother Earth— a daunting task, but one in which he has been successful.

It's no wonder Litton's credits include playing key roles in the creation of Redwood National Park, saving the Colorado River (which runs through Dinosaur National Monument and the Grand Canyon) and, his most recent fight, defending the last unprotected stands of Giant sequoias in California's Sequoia National Forest.

"There's more to do now than there ever has been before— there's more to do every day," said Litton, who has been rallying for the environment since he was a teenager.

In recent months actions on behalf of U.S. national forests have grabbed headlines— former President Bill Clinton proclaimed several new national monuments,

ex-U.S. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck approved an historic roadless areas preservation policy, and a bill to end commercial logging on national forests gained significant support in Congress. But Litton, a former travel editor at "Sunset" magazine, is hesitant to call these and similar events a victory for Mother Earth. Especially upsetting to him is the Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM), located in the southern Sierra



Activist Martin Litton

photo by Esther Litton

Nevada. For the past 14 years Litton, who has served on numerous conservation groups' boards and advisory councils, including the Sierra Club's and Forests Forever's, has made protecting the Giant sequoias his number one cause.

In April, 2000, Clinton declared 328,000 acres of the Sequoia National Forest a monument.

As expected, the GSNM was applauded by many conservationists, but not all, and especially not by Litton.

According to Litton, the GSNM is

phony because the monument excludes critical areas needed for protection and includes many rocks but not many trees.

Litton said Sequoia National Forest personnel, on behalf of the Clinton Administration, drew up the areas chosen to be part of the monument. The monument's designers included the Sequoia National Forest's timber sales planner. Hence the plans were made to benefit the forest service, not the forest.

"It was a half-baked plan," Litton said.

When the GSNM was created, the arrangement was that the timber sales within the monument that were already sold or slated for sale could go forward until logged, thus allowing more damage to the forest rather than protecting it, said Litton.

"It allows for every loophole in the book," Litton said of GSNM. "It does not protect the sequoias. It will increase logging, actually the logging will quadruple."

In the late 1980s Litton began lobbying Congress and helping to file lawsuits to halt the Sequoia National Forest timber harvesting.

Along with other logging opponents Litton helped slash the timber harvest from 85 million board feet a year in 1989 to 7 million in 1999.

Litton says commercial logging inside the GSNM will surge to 28 million board feet in the next year and a half.

When Litton first proposed a monument to protect the sequoias he lobbied the elder George Bush's administration, but the president never did anything but get a tree named after himself, says Litton.

But even though Clinton established 18 national monuments during his time in office, Litton says he wasn't much better than the elder Bush or the newest Bush.

"Clinton makes you think he accomplished things, but a lot of it was just baloney," Litton said. "If he had guts his presidency would have been a truly great one. Clinton was too poetic, and with Bush, well, there are not any hidden

see "Litton," p. 16, col. 1

Perez said. "Having been a protégé of James Watt— easily the worst interior secretary in history— and combining that with her own environmental history, it's very worrisome. She's capable of doing a lot of damage."

"Forests Forever's view is that Norton, Veneman and Whitman are capable of doing great harm to the environment rather than helping it," said Mark Fletcher, president of the Forests Forever Board of Directors.

Here is a closer look at these three new officials:

GALE NORTON

Despite a lobbying crusade by environmentalists to stop the appointment of Gale Norton, in January the U.S. Senate approved the former Colorado attorney general as Secretary of the Interior on a 75-24 vote.

This powerful position allows Norton, who has a long track record of anti-environmental actions, to administer half a billion acres of federal land and natural resources.

"What is most worrisome," Fletcher said, "is that Norton has indicated she favors oil drilling and other development of public lands, ahead of protecting these lands."

Norton's environmentally dubious acts began in 1979, when she worked under Watt, who was President Ronald Reagan's highly controversial interior secretary from 1981 to 1983— one of the most turbulent

nicknamed "the litigation arm of the Wise Use movement," represents loggers, mining and oil companies, ranchers, snowmobile interests, hunters and others in their legal battles for unfettered access to public

"It's no exaggeration to say that Gale Norton is a chip off the James Watt block. The only difference is that she will have learned from Watt's unpopularity, so she'll couch her position in gentler terms."

periods of natural resource abuse efforts in U.S. history.

In the days leading up to her appointment as interior secretary she worked as an attorney at the Denver-based law firm Brownstein, Hyatt and Ferber (BHF) representing developers and oil companies in Colorado.

In addition to serving as a registered lobbyist with BHF she was a key lobbyist for N.L. Industries of Houston, a defendant in cases involving children's exposure to lead paint.

In the late 1970s Norton worked at the Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF) under Watt. The MSLF, often

lands.

Most concerning to environmentalists, however, is Norton's stance on key conservation legislation and issues she will be forced to tackle during her early months in office.

The newly resurfaced proposal to develop oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is one subject that has environmentalists anxious. From 1985 to 1990 Norton was assistant solicitor for conservation and wildlife at Interior, where she fought to allow oil drilling in the ANWR.

"It's no exaggeration to say that Gale Norton is a chip off the James Watt block," Fletcher

said. "The only difference is she will have learned from Watt's unpopularity, so she'll couch her positions in gentler terms."

As Colorado's attorney general in the 1990s, Norton instituted environmental "self-audits" for polluting industries. This allowed corporate self-policing on environmental regulations— an action that was frowned upon by the federal EPA.

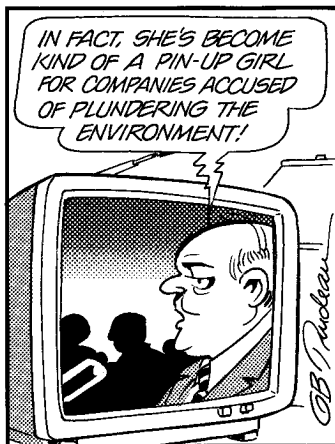
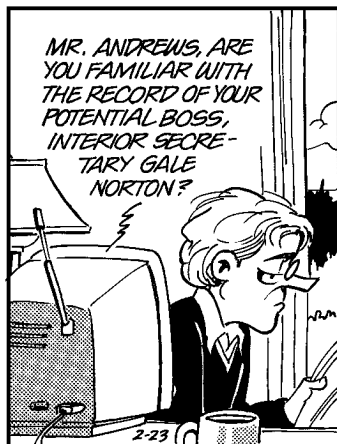
In Colorado she is perhaps most famous for failing to levy penalties against a Hayden, Colo., power plant that a federal judge had ruled violated the Clean Air Act 19,000 times. Norton's office did not hold the power plant accountable for its unlawful actions. Finally a private attorney sued the plant on behalf of the Sierra Club and won a \$130 million clean-up settlement.

Similarly, Norton failed to place criminal penalties on a Summitville, Colo., gold mine. It was determined that the gold mine had caused cyanide poisoning of the Alamosa River, deadening 17 miles of the river's ecosystem.

ANN VENEMAN

Ann Veneman, the new Secretary of the U.S.

see "Bush," p. 10, col. 1



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Department of Agriculture (USDA), sailed through her confirmation hearing. As the former California agriculture secretary, Veneman's environmental history is a cause for concern to groups such as Forests Forever because her new position gives her jurisdiction over the U.S. Forest Service.

"Veneman's environmental responsibilities have much to do with California's forests," Fletcher said. "The Forest Service is within the USDA and this state contains 18 national forests."

Veneman's environmental record, associations and tactics include:

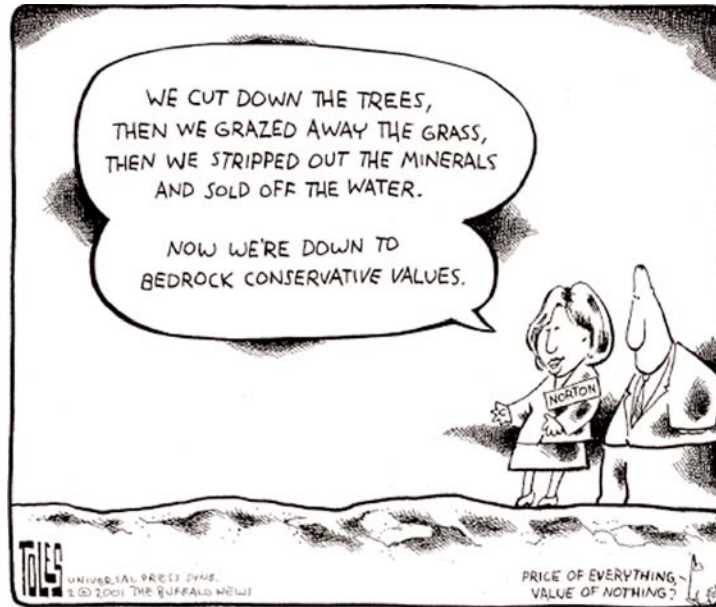
- As California secretary of agriculture Veneman opposed efforts to ban the dangerous and ozone-depleting pesticide methyl bromide.

- During the 2000 presidential campaign the Sierra Club reported that Veneman told farmers and ranchers they would no longer be subjected to "unnecessary and burdensome" environmental and safety regulations under the Bush administration.

- She has a history of promoting free trade agreements such as NAFTA, which lack adequate environmental safety, labor and human rights safeguards.

As a lawyer in Sacramento, Veneman represented clients whose positions run counter to environmental protection.

For example, according to the Sierra Club, Veneman represented the Sierra Nevada Access,



Multiple Use and Stewardship Coalition on the issue of the Sierra Nevada Environmental Program. This group defends the interests of loggers, miners and off-road vehicle enthusiasts who pushed for fewer protections for wild forests and wildlife.

"Depending upon what her priorities are, Veneman can have a dramatic impact—positive or negative," said Michael Newman, political representa-

tive for the national Sierra Club in Washington, D.C.

Newman said given Veneman's history she has the potential to make ecologically sound decisions on agricultural issues. But her background as an attorney worries him.

"She has represented clients that have positions that are consistent with the Wise Use movement's," Newman said, noting that Sierra Club neither opposed nor endorsed

Veneman.

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN

Although ex-New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman may not appear to be as ominous as Norton, she too has conservationists doubting her promises to protect Mother Nature.

Most concerning to green groups is her inconsistent environmental record. As governor of the Garden State, according to the Sierra Club, Whitman's actions included:

- Eliminating the position of Environmental Prosecutor at the state and county levels and the Office of Public Advocate.

- Weakening state oversight of pesticide use and failing to implement farmworker health and safety protections.

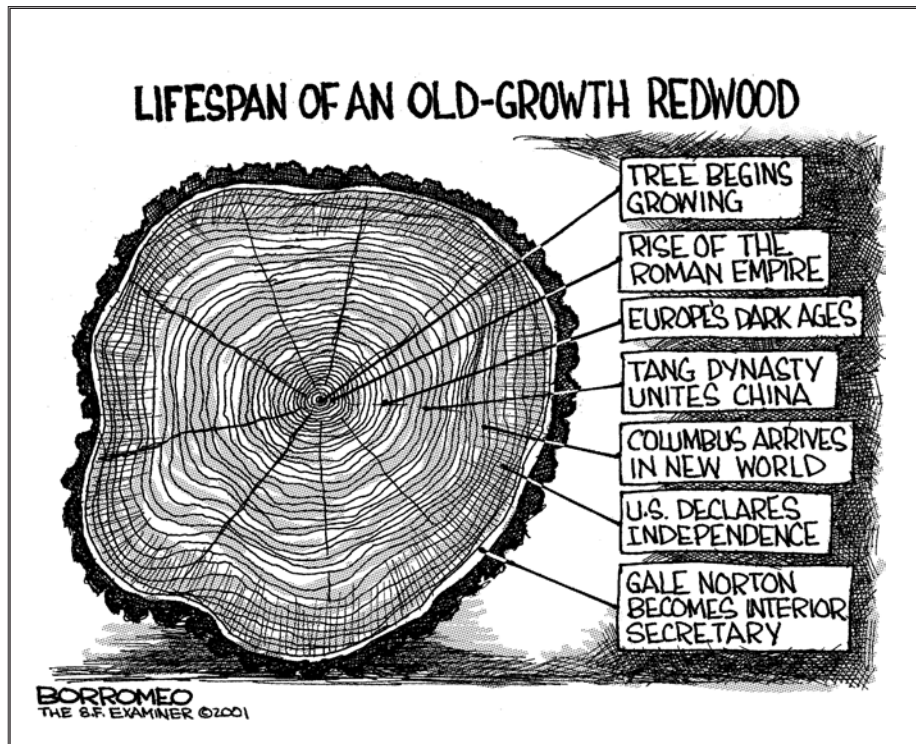
- Trying to abolish the state Clean Water Enforcement Act.

- Eliminating a more protective state hazardous waste program in favor of a weaker federal program.

- Failing to adequately monitor water pollution in the state, which led to the federal EPA imposing sanctions.

"The one thing we're concerned about with Whitman is her enforcement of environmental laws—she has a bad record of cutting funding for enforcement," Newman said.

"(Her job at the EPA) will be a real test for her. There are some things we're happy about and others



see "Bush," p. 15, col. 2

bending over backward for the timber companies and the members of Congress who are backing them.

"It's wrong that taxpayers should be footing the timber companies' bills," explained Hughes. "We're paying for building and maintaining the logging roads, and much of the surveying and preparation costs, as well as virtually all the damage to streams and wildlife."

Currently U.S. taxpayers shell out over \$1.2 billion a year to subsidize the timber industry's logging on the national forests. According to Hughes, the present system is nothing less than mismanagement of our public trust resources.

As a result national forests

"The obstacle facing this bill is primarily the current make-up of Congress— here is a lot money and many backers of corporate business. That doesn't always bode well with public restoration."

are over-cut and excessively carved up by logging roads—enough miles of road to stretch to the moon and back four times, he said.

By enacting H.R. 1494,

subsidies that currently underwrite timber company road building in national forests would be eliminated. The bill then would channel part of the savings into a program to restore the health and ecological integrity of damaged national forest lands.

H.R. 1494 also would fund the development of alternative fibers for paper and building materials, create jobs by starting a scientifically based forest restoration program, and replace any lost timber revenues to counties for schools and roads.

According to a 1999 study conducted by the federal General Accounting Office (GAO), Forest Service personnel "tend to," "(1) focus on areas with high-value commercial timber rather than on areas with high fire hazards, or (2) include more large, commercially valuable trees in a timber sale than are necessary to reduce the accumulated fuels."

GAO also found that, "current incentives in the agency's fuel reduction program are acreage driven, not hazard based, and incentives in its timber program are largely driven by commercial rather than safety considerations."

Last year, when H.R. 1494 went before Congress it gained 100 co-sponsors, said Jeanette Russell, network coordinator for the National Forest Protection Alliance (NFPA), of which Forests Forever is a member group.

"Our goal for this year is to increase the number of co-sponsors," Russell said. "We are also hoping to get a Senate companion bill, so we are working hard to get someone to champion it. We don't expect it to pass this year but we are committed to making progress so that it does pass—probably next year."

On the western front, conservationists are asking California Sen. Barbara Boxer to step up and introduce this companion Senate bill. A

National Forest Protection & Restoration Act (H.R 1494)

- Protects federal forests by ending the timber-sale program.
- Saves taxpayers at least \$300 million annually in reduced subsidies to industry.
- Funds the development of alternative fiber for paper and building materials.
- Creates jobs by starting a science-based restoration program.
- Replaces lost timber revenues to counties for schools and roads.

companion bill will give the act more substance so that Congress doesn't just see H.R. 1494 as an isolated issue, said Steve Nystrom, field canvasser director at Forests Forever.

Forests Forever began its campaign for H.R. 1494 in October, 2000, and since then has generated 3177 collected and mailed letters from California constituents to Boxer and 9106 additional commitments to contact her.

"Boxer has a strong pro-environmental record and there certainly aren't any other Senators we can turn to," Nystrom said. "She fought very hard to oppose Gale Norton's nomination as interior secretary."

According to Russell, with new political leaders in Washington she expects H. R. 1494 to hit a few speed bumps before it is passed.

"The obstacle facing this bill is primarily the current make-up of Congress— here is a lot money and many backers of corporate business. That doesn't always bode well with

public restoration," Russell said.

A majority of Americans believe in keeping profit-making activities off public lands, said Russell. One way to ensure this is for the public to elect officials that truly care about the environment, she said.

"I'm confident that this bill will gain momentum this session. We need to move forward with this so that it has a significant presence on the Hill."

Another goal for this congressional session is to build support in the U.S House of Representatives on a hearing for H.R. 1494, Russell said. Specifically, support from western states and their representatives are needed.

"We need to gain a critical mass of public support to push this through. That's why working together with other politically active conservation groups is important— we're all working together in this."

— M.H.

Loose Leaf Briefs

Bahia housing plan up for grabs

NOVATO— Approval of a much-debated 424-unit housing development will be left up to voters at a special election May 22. Conservationists say the proposed Bahia development northeast of town is expected to destroy nearly 70 acres of Blue oak forest—over 3000 trees, and historical baylands (including 18.4 acres of wetlands) and harm critical wildlife habitat that is home to several endangered species.

In addition, the subdivision would add 4000 cars a day to Hwy. 101 and local roads, and add roughly 240 children to the already-crowded schools.

Scientists say the area is the only one left in the state where a Blue oak forest and a salt marsh exist as one intact ecosystem.

Local activists are urging residents to vote no on Measure A to stop the housing plan from being approved.

For more information contact Citizens to Save Bahia at 415/897-8298 or www.savebahia.com.

Mattole valley in danger

PETROLIA— State Sen. Wesley Chesboro (D-Arcata) has proposed a plan to allocate \$13 million left over from the Headwaters purchase agreement to buy 3000 acres of endangered land in the Mattole River valley.

If action is not taken before July 31 this funding opportunity will expire. Public support is needed to ensure this does not happen.

Currently Maxxam Corp./Pacific Lumber Co. (PL) owns 14,000 acres in the Mattole and is logging 350 acres of old-growth Douglas fir.

Chesboro's plan, formerly Senate Bill 907, is now a line item in the state budget. His proposal, now called the Mattole Funding Provisions, asks for the money to be handed over to the state Wildlife Conservation Board and used to purchase the remaining 3000 acres of old-growth in the Mattole.

Conservationists say the land is not suitable for logging because of its unique geography, including tall peaks and steep hillsides. It is also one of the most seismically active areas in the continental U.S. because it is positioned on top of three tectonic plates.

The Mattole valley is a rare type of California ecosystem and is home to several endangered species, including the Northern spotted owl and Coho salmon. The Mattole is one of the last rivers to host native Coho, which have recently been listed endangered.

A few links to save the forests:

- www.ecologyfund.org
- www.rainforestweb.org

FTAA threatens forests, environmental laws

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA— On Apr. 22, 34 Western Hemisphere countries met here for the Summit of the Americas. The countries agreed to move forward with a trade pact known as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

This deal was made despite the fact that hundreds of environmental and social justice groups including Forests Forever had demanded that this plan not be culminated until the public has a say in the decision making process. Up to now, decision making has been kept secret from all but large corporations and government trade representatives.

The deal threatens to eliminate all border taxes and pest restrictions on the import and export of forest products. This could raise deforestation rates in the Western Hemisphere by hundreds of thousands of acres per year. It also would give corporations the power to sue and cancel out federal, state and local laws protecting the environment, public health and labor rights if corporations can prove that such laws interfere with their ability to make profits.

This deal is set to be fully ratified by the year 2005, but will not move forward if President George W. Bush cannot convince Congress to give him the trade negotiating authority known as 'Fast Track.'

This power would enable the President to negotiate trade deals without the input of the Congress. This gives our representatives a final yes or no vote on such agreements without being allowed to amend them. In May Bush asked Congress for this authority.

Public comments are needed to let senators and representatives know how their constituents feel about the FTAA and Fast Track.

Save the redwoods, boycott The Gap

SAN FRANCISCO— The Fisher family of San Francisco, founders and shareholders of The Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic clothing stores, bought and are heavily logging 235,000 acres of redwood forest in Mendocino and Sonoma counties.

In 1998 the Fishers purchased the already overharvested forestland from Louisiana Pacific Corp. (LP) and under the newly formed Mendocino Redwood Co. (MRC) are cutting at a faster rate than LP ever did.

When the Fisher family took over, it promised to be an excellent steward of the land. LP had removed most of the old-growth, harmed the area's watershed and put endangered species at risk. The Fishers said they would log in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. This has not happened, as clear-cutting seems to be MRC's preferred method of logging.

Neither government nor industry has responded to local communities and environmental groups calling for a halt to the logging.

Forests Forever and the Save-the-Redwoods / Boycott the Gap campaign are asking that consumers boycott Gap, Inc., products so the Fisher family feels direct consumer pressure to change its behavior.

The Forest

Curing madness
Peaceful, and without
sadness. A beautiful
place which shall
never be erased. Rich
without money, as alive
as you and I.

- Monet Lane,
age 10
Palo Alto

delicate savanna is home to several endangered species, a handful of American Indian tribal sites and part of the San Andreas Fault .

"We're quite happy to have it be a national monument," said Larry Mercer, public affairs director for the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Bakersfield. "We're quite confident in our management plan. Aside from a few more protective measures because of it becoming a national monument, our existing plan will remain in effect."

The Carrizo Plain is just the latest monument in California. Out of the 18 monuments (or 5.6 million acres) Clinton declared during his eight-year term, four new monuments and one monument expansion were established in the Golden State.

In January, 2000, Clinton named the entire California Coast a national monument.

The protected area covers all 840 miles of California coast, including thousands of islands, rocks and exposed reefs. The preserve extends 12 nautical miles out from the shoreline and is full of rich biological and geological value.

At the same time, Clinton also expanded the 92-year-old Pinnacles National Monument, a unique rock formation area located 65 miles south of San Jose.

The protection of this area was deemed crucial to the continued preservation of the monument, which was established by former president Theodore Roosevelt in 1908.

According to the BLM the area was expanded because it is threatened by ex-urban development and watershed degradation.

Another conservation victory came in April when the Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM) received

approval.

Although the sequoia trees themselves have been protected by a U.S. Forest Service policy, other tree species in the forest have been available for logging.

This logging has had an adverse effect on the ecosystem. The GSNM expansion now helps to protect all nearby groves and forests, but allows many destructive timber sales to proceed.

Lastly, California's Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains were legally declared a national monument in October, preserving close to 500 plant and animal species.

Clinton selected the nation's newest treasures for their historical value. Pompeys Pillar, located near Billings, Mont., consists of a 150-foot sandstone column that William Clark carved his name into in 1806 while on his historic trek with Meriwether Lewis.

Another area preserved for its rich history is the new Minidoka National Monument in south central Idaho. At one time this land housed a WWII-era Japanese-American internment camp.

Although Clinton established the new monuments before he left office, several proposals unfortunately were denied such status.

A proposal to protect the delicate Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion in northern California—a mecca of biodiversity—never was carried out.

The region suffers every day from timber sales, grazing, mining and construction.

A similar scenario happened with an attempt to create an old-growth national monument in national forests.

Environmentalists say it is a travesty that Clinton did not grant lawful protection to these endangered areas especially because new Vice President Dick Cheney has been quoted saying that the Bush administration will chal-

lenge Clinton's actions and rescind the declarations.

According to the Antiquities Act, however, Bush cannot single-handedly reverse Clinton's actions. This would have to be act of Congress.

— M.H.

"Framework"

continued from p. 4

protect the environment," Buckley said. "We'll see how long it lasts, though."

The 1800-page document is the forest agency's first forest management plan to incorporate former President Bill Clinton's policies on old-growth forests and roadless areas (see related story, page 3).

The Forest Service estimates that the plan allows for removal of 187 million board feet of timber per year in the Sierra Nevada.

This represents a reduction

"If roadless areas are opened up the whole framework plan will crumble."

of about 40 percent, compared to timber sale offerings in recent years.

The framework plan went through the necessary legal processes, including an extensive National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

It received more than 47,000 public comments and peer reviews by independent scientists.

Members of the timber, livestock and off-road vehicle

industries are appealing the approval of this plan, Buckley said.

It will, however, be up to new forest service chief Dale Bosworth to make the final decisions on appeals.

Bosworth, a 35-year career veteran of the national forest service took over after former Chief Mike Dombeck resigned in March

"I don't think (Forest Service executives) will overturn the decision, but through the appeals process they are likely to change key restrictions on logging, mining and grazing," Buckley said..

"The essential restrictions will either be ratcheted down or completely gutted."

Although the conservation plan is good for wildlife and old-growth forests, it does not include sufficient restrictions on livestock grazing and outdoor recreation vehicle activity, Buckley said.

The document has loopholes that still allow for high levels of grazing and logging in the northern Sierra and in other "adaptive management areas," he said, adding that the result may adversely impact critical habitat for imperiled species.

"Right now we're just trying to protect the framework plan and make sure it is not undermined by the Bush administration," said the Sierra Club's Barbara Boyle, who is also with the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign.

"If roadless areas are opened up, the whole framework plan will crumble."

Boyle said that one of the Campaign's first priorities is monitoring logging projects that do go forward.

"We want to make sure that no increased logging is put into the final plan," she said.

— M.H.

Idaho, just have guidelines. If a person wants to do some timber harvesting all they have to do is just fill out a piece of paper and start harvesting."

In Washington State a clear-cut may not exceed 160 acres, he said. According to the CDF's forest practice rules, a

CLEAR-CUT FACTS

- Less than five percent of the original forest cover in the continental U.S. remains.
- Less than half of the Earth's original forest cover remains; most was lost in the last three decades.
- Clear-cuts in California are limited to 40 acres under state forestry regulations.
- Clear-cutting began to boom after WWII, when returning war veterans could obtain home building funds under the GI bill.
- Total volume cut from national forests in fiscal year 1997: 3.28 billion board feet.

clear-cut in California can be no larger than 40 acres, said Ahlstrom. "Forty acres is the maximum amount allowed and you have to have special permission and justify your reason for cutting that much."

Ahlstrom said a space as large as the area harvested, or at least 20 acres, must be left standing next to a clear-cut and cannot be harvested for another five years.

In 1973 the forest practice rules were only about 15 pages long, but now there are nearly 200 pages of rules which are tightly enforced by the CDF, according to Ahlstrom.

But Kent Stromsmoe, a Forests Forever Advisory Council member, disagrees and said the rules contain many loopholes.

Buffer zones between clear-cuts are only mandatory if the clear-cut is within the same ownership, Stromsmoe said. A clear-cut can adjoin a property line and the two adjacent owners could cut against this line, effectively creating an 80-acre clear-cut, he said.

After a harvest is complete, loggers are required to restock the cut area. According to the CDF, loggers have to plant 300 trees per acre. If the

seedlings that are planted die, loggers are required to plant again. But after a second failed attempt, the harvester is let off the hook and is no longer responsible for restoration, Stromsmoe said.

"Even more disturbing is that if the land is already damaged before the cut—say a fire comes through—the stocking can be waived," he said.

The forest practice rules also allow each county in the state to set its own rules, but these local rules must be ratified by the timber-industry-controlled state Board of Forestry (BoF). For example, in Santa Cruz County clear-cut harvesting is banned. The county also restricts timber companies from logging a site to no more than once every decade.

But even though there are laws and regulations governing logging in California, clear-cuts are still popular and the debate on how to halt the undue exploitation of forests continues.

"We need to use wood, and in terms of sustainability we need to concentrate on logging in just a few acres instead of all the forests,"

Thornburgh said.

But according to Stromsmoe, intensive harvesting in one relatively small area is not the answer.

Stromsmoe said reusing old buildings instead of knocking them down, requiring new construction to include non-wood materials, and using recycled wood to build new homes, schools and shopping malls are all ways to reduce clear-cutting.

"Each clear-cut, big or small, is disturbing," Stromsmoe said.

"There is plenty of wood in circulation already. I think there's a basic premise that we need to be building with new

"Roadless"
continued from p. 3

This addition to the policy increased the federally protected acreage from 40 million to 58 million acres.

Although Clinton approved the FEIS, President George W. Bush said he is ready to challenge Clinton's action and eliminate the document entirely.

"The entire environment is facing a threat (under the Bush Administration)," said Andolina. "But I think it will be tough for Bush to eliminate this policy. It's incredibly popular with the public."

At press time Andolina said Bush has until spring to take action. If Bush tries to rescind the policy it still would have to go through a public review process. Because the public has shown overwhelming support for the policy, a reversal is likely to be opposed by citizens, she said.

"If he reverses the policy then it would go directly against public sentiment," said Andolina, adding that the Congress probably will take a whack at eliminating the policy too.

"The public really wants strong protection for national forests," she said. "It's going to be hard to fight."

— M.H.

Forests Forever now accepts bequests and gifts of stock

Donors to the Forests Forever Foundation now can help in two new ways. Those who wish to leave a lasting legacy toward our work can establish a tax-deductible bequest to the foundation.

We also now can receive deductible gifts of appreciated stock.

For information on bequests please call our accountant, Russell Stanaland, CPA (650/548-1700), and mention your interest in a "charitable remainder trust" to the Forests Forever Foundation.

For stock gifts phone the Foundation office and ask for Paul Hughes, Executive Director (415/974-5927).

As ever, the Foundation greatly appreciates the generosity of its donors!

The Watershed

A publication of Forests Forever, Inc.
and the Forest Forever Foundation

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Reinhabit,
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"Bush"
continued from p. 10

that we're not happy with," Newman added. "On the whole she has a mixed record, but I think she is someone we can work with," he said, referring to some positive contributions she made for the environment while she was in New Jersey.

Whitman advocated protection of nearly one million acres of open space in New Jersey, Newman said. In addition, Whitman joined other northeastern governors to demand that Midwest utilities clean up their air-polluting coal-fired power plants.

"We'll expect Whitman to carry out the spirit and letter of the Clean Water Act and protect public health and safety," said Fletcher.

"It's a particular problem on account of logging activities."

Newman said the issues on the horizon have conservationists watching closely. "We're going to have to step up and hold the foot to the fire," he said.

Other conservationists are trying to look on bright side.

"We're all watching and organizing around this," said CLCV's Perez. "It's really motivated our members. When we talk with them, they like to talk about these politics. Our members show a really strong concern."

"I think when any community is up against a wall they unite to fight the common enemy. I think (Norton's appointment) is having that effect— we'll all be monitoring their every move."

— M.H.

"Headwaters"
continued from p. 4

In executing the deal the timber company pulled off what many conservationists believe was an underhanded land swap.

Under an earlier version of the deal, relatively strict logging stipulations would have prevented cutting in areas such as the one in THP 520.

During deal negotiations, however, PL saw to it that such strict rules would apply only to forests it owned at the time of the deal's signing. It was well known that a different logging company, Elk River Timber Co., owned the land in question.

The purportedly sneaky move came when PL demanded that, as part of the Headwaters deal, it receive ownership of THP 520 through a trade with Elk River Timber and that this trade take place after the deal was approved.

This land transfer went through and PL got hold of the valuable timber stand free of the stronger logging restrictions in the overall deal.

THP 520 is an important part of the larger 7000-acre "Hole" and is located in the most pristine area of the Headwaters Forest Reserve. THP 520 is composed of 705 acres located on a steep slope directly above 2.5 miles of the South Fork Elk. This waterway contains one of only five remaining spawning grounds in California for the dwindling Coho salmon.

If PL logs THP 520 the resulting damage could well destroy this precious salmon spawning stream.

Thank You !

The Forests Forever Foundation enthusiastically thanks "Dancing Swimmer" for her recent generous contribution.

— M.H.

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HR 1494

In your own words, write U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and urge her to introduce a Senate companion bill to HR 1494, the *National Forest Protection and Restoration Act*.

Now is the time for responsible forest management that would protect our public trust resources and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires brought on by logging operations. Taxpayers should no longer be forced to foot the bill for the destruction of our national forests by timber companies.

We have nothing to lose and our national forests have much to gain by *ending timber company welfare*.

Sen. Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
phone: 202/224-3553
fax:415/956-6701
senator@boxer.senate.gov

been cautious."

As for the roadless initiative (see related story on page 3), Litton said it does not stand much of a chance of being implemented. He says that since the policy's two champions have departed— Clinton (the president to approve the policy) and Dombeck (who drafted the policy)— the policy does not have someone to protect it. He said the policy is subject to change for the worse with the Bush Administration.

"I hope it's not doomed," Litton said. "If so, I think people will see the character of our so-called government in Washington and all of the enemies of the Earth and America."

But don't get Litton wrong. He believes the conservation movement has made some great strides.

"The conservation movement has gotten a lot of notice. But it's taking more and more strides to get noticed, and it's not close to the rate at which we are losing our Mother Earth."

— M.H.

"Litton"
continued from p. 8

secrets." Litton said he is praying for a Democrat party-dominated Congress for the next time around.

"We're stuck with Bush for a while, but if we can get a Democratic Congress then we might not have to worry about our government being totally corrupt."

Litton says that he was disappointed to see Dombeck give in to the new Bush Administration and quit.

In March the conservation-minded Dombeck resigned, citing conflicts with the incoming administration. Dombeck had led the way since 1997 helping national forests remain intact.

"He still had a month or two to make a lot of noise, "

Litton said. "He could have pulled every lever until then."

Calling Dombeck's resignation foolish, Litton said he had at least hoped Dombeck would have disclosed information about the forest service's practices after his departure.

"He could have said anything," Litton said. "Why doesn't he tell the truth now— tell the public what is really going on? But I guess he's always

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