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The newsletter of Forests Forever

Summer, 2000

Sequoia monument picture fuzzy

Only a few months after President Bill Clinton proclaimed a new national monument protecting the Giant sequoias, some environmentalists question whether the "saved" trees are truly safe.

An apparent victory for conservationists also has been dimmed by uncertainties clouding the new monument's management plan.

A Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM) of 328,000 acres was created Apr. 15 by the president.

Speaking from a podium in the Trail of One Hundred Giants area in Sequoia National Forest, Clinton established the monument by exercising his powers under the Antiquities Act of 1906. As with all presidential national monument

designations, Congressional ratification is not needed.

The monument is composed of two parcels in the Sequoia National Forest in the southern Sierra Nevada.

Although the designation protects many acres of sequoias to a great degree, the president specified that timber sales authorized before Jan. 1, 2000, within the monument boundary would continue for up to three years. The Forest Service estimates



Peyrone Grove, GSNM

photo by Martin Litton

this would strip another 30 million board feet from within GSNM's boundaries.

Further, many uncertainties about the exact characteristics of the new monument have thus far gone unnoticed amid glowing press reports about the proclamation.

Although some environmental groups have highly praised the GSNM announcement, activists such as Forests Forever Advisory Council member and veteran sequoia preservationist Martin Litton are less enthusiastic.

"Forest Service maps of the monument are fairly accurate but nearly impossible to read and do not really show enough detail," said Litton. He said that some already-protected federal lands were included in

see "Sequoia," p. 6, col. 1

Gov. Davis bows to timber industry pressure, balks at forest-preservation legislation

As Assembly Bill (AB) 717 moves through its final phase in the state Senate, Gov. Gray Davis has positioned himself as an apparent enemy of this landmark forestry reform legislation.

"It is essential that Gov. Davis support AB 717 to have the strongest forestry regulations possible," said Mark Fletcher, president of Forests Forever's board of directors.

"Yet to many in the environmental community Davis appears to be bowing to the influence of heavy timber industry lobbying."

Davis in recent months has been pushing his \$6.9 million North Coast Watershed Assessment Budget Change Proposal (BCP).

"The BCP would fund a program collating landowner- and industry-generated data

which the CDF (California Department of Forestry) could use to approve future watershed analyses," Fletcher said.

"The data would be inadequate, so the administration's watershed assessment program could be used as a basis for approving bad timber harvest plans."

Watershed assessment, or analysis, focuses on the study of entire stream basin ecosys-

tems to set standards for proposed land uses in such regions.

On May 10 an Assembly budget subcommittee headed by Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin (D-Duncan Mills) passed budget control language that would have required that the governor's BCP funding be released only upon passage of a strong AB

see "AB 717," p. 5, col. 1

from the Executive Director...

The ship of meaningful forestry reform faces stormy weather with Gov. Davis at the helm

There are places on the North American continent where two raindrops can strike the ground a centimeter apart and one drop will flow to the Pacific Ocean, the other to the Arctic.

The destinations of the two raindrops lie thousands of miles away from each other. Still, only a whisper of breeze or an intervening tree branch can change the trajectory of each drop enough to thus greatly alter its fate.

As this newsletter goes to press we seem poised at a similar watershed concerning Assembly Bill (AB) 717. Any amount of added public pressure right now could make a big difference to the bill's outcome.

AB 717 over the last seven months passed the California Assembly and one committee of the Senate in strong form. With this bill's passage timber harvesting plans would undergo scrutiny through scientific peer and public review. The plans would have to pass muster based on their potential environmental impacts, such as excessive stream temperature, sedimentation, and destruction of wildlife habitat.

But this spring 717 collided with a tempest of industry lobbying. Prudently, the bill's supporters evaded this onslaught. They stripped 717 down to its current contents, a temporarily empty vessel, "intent" language only.

Then, while some of the opposition's political thunder rolled away overhead, we steadily organized, gaining support for the bill in its original strong form. The measure still can finish as the strongest forest-protection law since the Forest Practice Act of 1973, which stripped the timber companies of their franchise to self-regulate.

In a few days the bill will receive its next major amendment and the industry uproar that recently halted the bill will intensify.

For as much as a year and a half Forests Forever and other groups have guided a stormfront of public outcry in favor of a strong 717. Californians are indignant about industrial forestry's con-

tinued pounding of dwindling salmon populations, about sediment-laden drinking water and the ugliness of slash-strewn clearcuts and hillsides running with mud. Sept. 30 is the deadline for Gov. Gray Davis to sign or veto.

If 717 is on the cusp, though, Davis already may have crossed a watershed himself — leading to a loss of support from the forest-protection community.

In March, 1998, he promised to guar-

If AB 717 is on the cusp, though, Davis already may have crossed a watershed himself — leading to a loss of support from the forest-protection community.

antee that, "all old-growth trees are spared from the lumberjack's ax." But since then he has done little to fulfill this promise and much to belie it.

In recent months the governor has put forward a forestry rules package insufficient to protect threatened salmon and other forest-dependent wildlife; he caved in to timber industry pressure to weaken that package still further, rolling out with milder regs that sunset Dec. 31. Then he started circulating a set of rules, to kick in on Jan. 1, that would usher in a new era of timber industry self-regulation.

On June 30 Davis deleted state budget language that would have aided passage of an environmentally strong AB 717.

Forest protection issues have been something of a bellwether for the envi-

ronmental movement historically, especially on the West Coast. Davis might do well politically if he better heeded this bit of environmental lore.

For example, in the early part of the 20th century California naturalist John Muir was leading the battle to save the Giant sequoias, while William Kent and Andrew P. Hill respectively crusaded for the ancient redwoods that became Muir Woods National Monument and Big Basin State Park.

These forestry efforts helped popularize the environmental cause with the broader public. In doing so they smoothed the way for conservationists whose names most folks recognize today, such as activist President Teddy Roosevelt.

More recently, of course, the battles for Headwaters Forest and Redwood National Park were some of the most emotional environmental tempests in the state's history. In many ways they helped reinvigorate the conservation cause.

A suggested motto for politicians like Davis: "As the forest-preservation community goes, so goes the environmental movement."

But lately reports circulate of Davis' campaign contributions from the timber industry — \$129,000 from a soiree last July hosted by timber giant Sierra Pacific Industries. His credibility with Lorax lovers is quickly eroding. Davis' ongoing answers to California forest questions will of course determine how much trust and support he can bank on from us next election.

While Davis may have made up his mind on 717, however, many legislators still may be open to persuasion. As it reenters the flow of the legislative process the boost each of us can give the bill will determine its course.

— Paul Hughes



Sierra Framework draft plan offers weak ecosystem protection

The U.S. Forest Service has revealed its plan for the future ecological health of the California mountain range that John Muir called "The Range of Light."

On May 2 the agency released its long-awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for its management plan for the Sierra Nevada range. The Sierra Nevada Framework for Conservation and Collaboration would guide future logging policies for 11.5 million acres of 11 national forests, from the Sequoia to the Modoc.

Environmentalists contend that the DEIS has no clear vision for the future of the Sierra and demonstrates a lack of direction by the agency.

"The Forest Service has produced a plan that fails to protect the Sierra Nevada ecosystem and promotes logging under the guise of fire prevention while ignoring the impacts on fish and wildlife and evidence that logging increases fire risk," said Steve Holmer, Campaign Coordinator of the American Lands Alliance.

"Instead of more logging, protection and restoration are what is needed in the Sierra Nevada," Holmer added.

"(This means) protection and restoration of declining species, of water quality by removing roads, of natural fire regimes by prescribed burning, and of old-growth forests by letting the trees grow old instead of logging them all."

The DEIS actually presents eight alternative plans, each one describing a different approach to Sierra ecosystem management.

The Sierra Framework

plan's goal is to protect and restore wild places by managing the forests of the Sierra Nevada as a unified ecosystem rather than many fragmented parcels.

The plan is supposed to benefit forest health and habitat for dozens of imperiled species, including the California spotted owl and the Pacific fisher, a fish-eating mammal of the marten family.

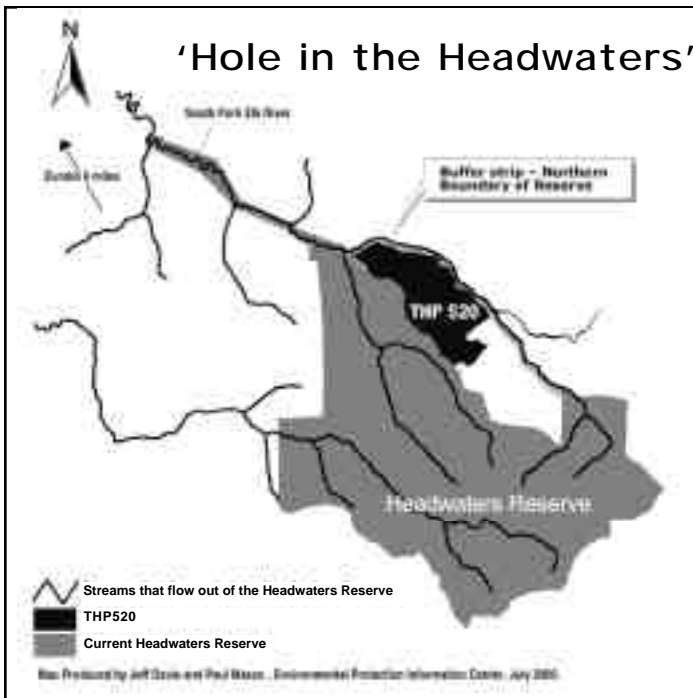
But among the eight alternatives the Forest Service describes, the environmental community opposes both of the agency's two preferred plans: Alternatives 6 and 8. Critics of the DEIS say neither of these options would ensure forest health.

They maintain that Alternative 6 actually would increase logging while weakening spotted owl protections. And Alternative 8 would provide no protection for native fish.

"Neither preferred alternative addresses the effect that high-intensity industrial logging has on wildlife and water quality," said Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign (SNFPC). "Nor do they address the habitat fragmentation and worsening water quality associated with the large network of roads in Sierra Nevada national forests."

Conservation groups such as SNFPC — of which Forests Forever is a member organization — believe that none of the eight alternatives fully protects the Sierra ecosystem. They say, however, that Alternative 5 represents the best long-term strategy presented by the

see "Framework," p. 6, col. 1



Headwaters Reserve map showing the "Hole"

map courtesy of EPIC

'Hole in the Headwaters' gets stay of execution

A judge's ruling recently prevented the felling of ancient redwoods in the "Hole in the Headwaters" area, a controversial Humboldt County logging plan within Headwaters Forest.

On July 10 Superior Court Judge Quentin Kopp granted a temporary injunction stopping Pacific Lumber Co. (PL) from logging the area until the court hears a lawsuit on the plan.

Brought by the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) and Sierra Club, the suit challenges the California Department of Forestry's (CDF's) approval of the timber harvest plan (THP). The trial will be scheduled later this summer or next fall. The temporary halt came as activists mobilized to block the anticipated logging.

In his ruling Kopp stated, "There is a reasonable probability that petitioners will prevail at trial and obtain a per-

manent injunction." The judge spared the forest from logging — at least for the time being. But as a condition of the preliminary injunction he required that the plaintiffs post a \$250,000 bond to cover PL's costs in the event the plaintiffs lose the case. Fortunately some forest advocates, reportedly including musicians Bonnie Raitt and Don Henley and actor James Garner, put up the needed funds, clearing the way for the court action to proceed.

The CDF designated the Hole in the Headwaters plan as THP 520.

The proposed logging has sparked controversy because it is set to occur completely inside the newly created Headwaters Forest Reserve. Last year taxpayers spent nearly half a billion dollars to acquire the 7400-acre reserve.

see "Headwaters," p. 8, col. 1

Public backs protection for roadless areas

Forest Service comment period tallies record response

Recently the public submitted a record one million comments to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the agency's roadless areas draft plan.

This deluge underscored the important role of public response in guiding national forest policy.

The comment period for the proposal ended July 17.

Environmentalists say it is now up to the Forest Service to create a management plan providing full protection for the precious remaining roadless areas in our national forests.

Conservationists call for strengthening the agency's proposed rules for these last wild places, thereby fulfilling a recent mandate by President Bill Clinton.

Forests Forever Field Canvass Manager Gabe Zingaro on June 28 attended a public comment hearing in Sacramento for the Forest Service's Roadless Areas Proposal.

"Considering the public response so far, roadless areas protection can arguably be called the most-popular idea the federal government has ever put forth on the topic of forest use, or even public land use," Zingaro said.

Comments at the hearing were, "a hundred percent in favor of strong environmental protections, while disappointed at the Forest Service's weak proposal," he added.

During the public comment period Forests Forever garnered over 1000 letters and postcards supporting increased protection for national forest roadless areas.

Recent public opinion polls conducted in California, New Mexico, Colorado, Tennessee, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon have shown widespread support for Clinton's roadless areas mandate.

A California state poll conducted by the Fairbanks, Masslin & Maulin firm revealed 72 percent of the state supports the president's idea.

Roadless area protection is popular across political and geographic lines as well. A recent survey by Republican pollster Linda DiVall found 62 percent of Republicans, and two-thirds of those living

in western states, in favor of the administration's roadless areas idea.

Last October Clinton made the announcement, staged on a Virginia mountaintop, instructing the Forest Service to create a policy that would protect all roadless areas in national forests. The areas placed under consideration total 60 million acres.

After months of developing a variety of alternatives, the Forest Service released its results in two policy proposals: the new



Ventana Wilderness roadless area

photo by Bill Young

roads policy, unveiled in March; and the Roadless Areas Proposal, put forth in May. An accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued for each proposal.

The former would end new road construction in most currently roadless national forest areas. The latter lays out guidelines for management of these areas.

Considering the sweeping goal announced in October, the Forest Service's resulting plan greatly disappointed many environmentalists. The Pacific Rivers

Council submitted a comment letter, to which Forests Forever was a signatory.

The letter defined the plan's central problem as the agency's failure "to put ecosystem needs first," and to revise resource extraction objectives to reflect ecological limits.

The letter points to three specific design flaws in the roadless areas proposal.

First, the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, one of the nation's most environmentally sensitive areas, is not included in the proposal. The Tongass, at 8.5 million acres, contains the single largest national forest roadless area. The Tongass' status would be revisited in 2004.

Critics of the proposal say the second major weakness is that it limits protection to roadless areas of 5000 acres or more.

Virtually all environmental groups weighing in on the issue, including Forests Forever, Sierra Club, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Pacific Rivers Council and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics agree that the threshold should be lowered to 1000 acres. This would significantly increase protected acreage and provide crucial wildlife migration corridors.

Environmentalists claim that the third, and most damaging, concession of the management plan is its failure to prohibit resource extraction.

Because of this omission the Alliance for the Wild Rockies describes the entire proposal as simply "a helicopter logging plan" and questions the motives of the Forest Service.

After the comment period ended, the Forest Service reported that most of the speakers at its public hearings advocated strengthening the proposed rule to ban new roads in roadless areas. Public comments also heavily favored banning ORVs, logging, and mining, as well as including the Tongass National Forest in the plan.

Now the public must wait until the end of the year to see the final substantive result of all this sound and fury.

— Steve Nystrom

717.

That meant a 717 coupled with strong interim watershed prescriptions, which would safeguard salmon and water quality while watershed analysis is taking place.

A Senate committee headed by Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto)

ence-based watershed analysis process with adequate scientific peer review and public input," Fletcher said. "He also hurt our efforts to prevent weakening amendments to AB 717."

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 propos-

surfaced during the EPIC et al v. Andrea Tuttle (CDF Director) U.S. District Court case in June.

In his declaration to the court on June 21, Joseph Blum, liason to the State of California, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region stated, "the California Forest Practice Rules with the recently adopted (Davis-backed) interim changes are inadequate to protect anadromous salmonids or provide for properly functioning habitat conditions."

Blum added, "Every (CDF) timber harvest plan that NMFS has reviewed has been found to have disparities between what was written in the timber harvest plan and what NMFS staff found to be occurring on the ground during pre-harvest inspections."

Blum concluded with testimony he said he had given many times to the Board of Forestry and officials at CDF: "The state may be liable under the ESA (federal Endangered Species Act) for promulgating a regulatory scheme which they are fully aware results in take of

recently was stripped to its current temporary "vehicle" form. In the upcoming weeks the conservationist coalition will work to reinstate the former strong watershed protection language in preparation for the bill's final push.

For the updated text of AB 717 call the Legislative Bill Room at the State Capitol: 916/445-2323 or visit: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

During the first six months of this year Forests Forever canvassers collected 8892 letters from constituents in support of AB 717 and obtained commitments for 30,858 letters, phone calls, FAXs and e-mails.

In addition Forests Forever set up tables at Bay Area Earth Day events, and festivals such as the Mountain Aire music festival in Angel's Camp over Memorial Day weekend. The tablers brought back over 1200 letters in support of the bill.

For more information on Forests Forever's campaign for AB 717 visit our website at: <http://www.forestsforever.org> Currently there is a great

'The BCP data would be inadequate, so the Davis administration's watershed assessment program could be used as a basis for approving bad timber harvest plans.'

had passed identical budget control language just prior to the action by Strom-Martin's panel.

Forests Forever and its AB 717 core coalition group composed of Audubon California, California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG), Citizens For Responsible Forest Management (CRFM), the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), the Planning and Conservation League (PCL) and Sierra Club California on May 11 sent Strom-Martin and Sher a thank-you letter for their action.

It read, in part, "We continue to appreciate your ongoing concern for the survival of California's native fish populations... thank you very much for your support of this significant step in our effort to ensure adequate protection of California's threatened public trust resources."

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

"The language he deleted would have guaranteed a sci-

al, to address logging related impacts to salmon and water quality." He stopped short of specifying how he intended to follow up this commitment.

Environmentalists hope that Davis soon will fulfill another one of his verbal commitments — a March, 1998, campaign promise to ensure that "all old-growth trees are spared from the lumberjack's ax."

AB 717 potentially is the strongest forest protection bill in 30 years. It moved from the state Assembly to the Senate in January, then passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Apr. 11.

Currently the bill is stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The last day the legislature can pass the measure is Aug. 31. The governor has until Sept. 30 to sign it into law.

Nicknamed the "Closing the Logging Loopholes" bill, AB 717 is authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz).

The need for forestry reform legislation once again

'The only action the Board of Forestry has taken to address these issues is the adoption of the inadequate interim changes to the California Forest Practice Rules.'

listed salmonids and adverse modification of critical habitat.

"The only action the Board of Forestry has taken to address these issues is the adoption of the inadequate interim changes to the California Forest Practice Rules."

As a result of heavy timber industry lobbying and planned negotiations on AB 717 involving Keeley, Davis and the timber industry, the measure

distance between the environmental community and the Davis administration on this issue.

Said Fletcher: "In order for AB 717 to succeed, it needs all of Davis' support and influence to guide it through the legislature. Constituent pressure is still a key element to winning this battle."

— B.Y.

the GSNM acreage as well.

Tom Henry, Sequoia National Forest Giant Sequoia Specialist, confirmed the acreage overlaps — some 4900 acres in the already-saved Golden Trout Wilderness (in Sequoia National Forest), 24,000 acres in Kings River Special Management Area, and 9,400 acres in Monarch Wilderness were included in the GSNM's 328,000 acres.

Henry said that when the Forest Service delineated watersheds containing Giant sequoias for the new monument, parts of those watersheds fell within already designated Wilderness areas.

"Wilderness boundaries do not always correspond to watershed boundaries," Henry said. "These areas were included in GSNM so any wilderness management and monument planning would consider the ecological needs of the Giant sequoias, and their relationship to the watersheds. There is nothing in the (GSNM) proclamation that would compromise the wilderness designation or regulation of the sequoias included in GSNM."

"Their excuse for these acreage overlaps is 'we had to put it in (the GSNM figures)

because it has sequoias in it,' " Litton said. "They did it to pad the acreage."

Litton added that the Golden Trout Wilderness already is more protected as a wilderness than as a national monument.

Carla Cloer, a respected sequoia activist and co-founder of Sequoia Forest Alliance added, "These already-protected lands will be little affected by the monument designation because the president does not

Earth prior to Clinton's edict, with some 38 of them unprotected by it. The media reported Clinton had saved 35. But lately there has been some debate as to the proper definition of "grove," which makes it unclear which "groves" now remain unprotected.

"This is not necessarily a devious plot because some of the groves were close together and have been recently lumped into one larger 'complex' by the Forest Service," Cloer said.



The Charlene Little Tree, Apocalypse Grove, GSNM

photo by Martin Litton

have the authority to change or set aside designations made by Congress."

Most forest advocacy groups, including Forests Forever, have been saying 75 sequoia "groves" remained on

"This can confuse those trying to count groves. It all depends on who is defining what a grove is."

GSNM has left some groves largely unprotected and/or on private property. The Alder

Creek grove is a prime example. It is home of the Amos "Alonzo" Stagg giant, which some believe may be the world's largest tree. The Stagg tree stands in the privately owned portion of the grove.

As for determining accurate acreage of protected and unprotected sequoias, Litton said the figures are still pretty fuzzy and need further investigation. The number of sequoia trees on any given acre can vary a great deal.

Cloer sees potential problems in the vague wording of the monument proclamation, which allows logging and road-building in the name of protecting monument resources. She said every destructive timber sale approved since 1990 ostensibly has been okayed for the "protection" of the forest.

"The key will be the science advisory panel," Cloer said. "This panel will guide the development of the monument management plan and I anticipate that there will be a lot of rhetoric about needing to log to reduce fuels to protect sequoias, citing the years of fire suppression, etc."

"So, job one is to ensure that true scientists with experience in managing sequoias, watersheds, integrated wildlife ecosystems, fire ecology (not firefighting), from outside the

see "Sequoia," p. 7, col. 2

Forest Service.

Alternative 5 would provide the most protection and restoration of Sierra ancient forests, wildlife and watersheds. It also would encourage prescribed burns for reducing forest fire danger.

Said Black: "Alternative 5 would restrict logging to small trees in areas where forest thinning would reduce fire risk. Its top priority is the ecological

health of the Sierra Nevada's national forests.

"Logging and other extractive uses would be allowed only to the extent that they are consistent with restoring and maintaining healthy, natural forest conditions."

Even Alternative 5 does not go far enough for many Sierra Nevada environmentalists. They believe that the DEIS fails to provide for effective protection and restoration of the region's forest ecosystems.

Critics also charge that Alternative 5 still ignores evi-

dence linking industrial logging to increased fire risk. They call for additional safeguards for declining species and water quality, more prescribed burning, and less logging and potentially erosive road-building.

Ara Marderosian, a resident of Weldon and a leader of the Sequoia Forest Alliance, has been active in the public comment process.

Marderosian conducted research on forest fire reduction measures. He then submitted comments on behalf of himself,

other local residents and groups including Forests Forever, suggesting a new approach to Sierra fire management.

Marderosian said the Framework DEIS lacks "an alternative that analyzes the benefits of a fuels-treatment method which includes cutting the lower branches of ladder fuel trees and brush, followed by chipping and scattering of those fuels as a nutrient mulch that would inhibit the growth

see "Framework," p. 7, col. 3

The Watershed

FORESTS FOREVER

973 Market St., Suite 450
San Francisco, CA94103
Phone 415/974-3636
FAX 415/974-3664
mail@forestsforever.org
www.forestsforever.org

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Contributing Photographers

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Reinhabit,
Re-enchant"**

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"Sequoia"
continued from p. 6

Forest Service will comprise the bulk of the panel."

Forests Forever began working on the campaign for the federal Sequoia Ecosystem and Recreation Preserve Act (HR 2077) in August, 1998. This campaign helped create the groundswell of public awareness and support that made Clinton's proclamation possible. From 1998 through April, 2000, Forests Forever garnered 21,473 collected/mailed letters and commitments to write, call, FAX or e-mail on the sequoia issue.

Conservationists expect that the GSNM designation will make it more likely the Pacific fisher will be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Litton said the fisher — a furbearing mammal resembling a large Pine marten — has its only viable population in the world in Sequoia National Forest.

"There are only about 400 Pacific fishers left, all in the southern Sierra," Litton said. "Their populations are in steady decline because of habitat loss. This is due to 100 years of aggressive Forest Service-sanctioned logging and road-building."

The primary goal of the monument management plan should be to restore the sequoia forest ecosystems, Litton added. "Public attention and guidance should continue through the planning and management process.

"We can't let complacency set in, a false sense of victory. We haven't 'saved' anything. It's always vulnerable, it's always there to be destroyed."

— B.Y.

"Framework"
continued from p. 6

of surface fuels."

Marderosian suggests that the "cutting, chipping, and scattering" treatment should be added as an alternative that includes prescribed burning but does not include logging. Then the impacts of this treatment can be compared to those of the seven other alternatives that include both logging and prescribed burning.

Forest Service policies in the Sierra Nevada have resulted in high-intensity timber harvesting and road-building, making the range one of California's primary timber-producing regions.

The Sierra Nevada Framework plan evolved from a range-wide environmental survey released in 1996. That study exposed the shortcomings of the Forest Service's aggressive timber harvesting strategies. The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report painted a comprehensive picture of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem and called into question many of the agency's activities.

The congressionally authorized SNEP report revealed, among other things, that California spotted owl populations in the Sierra continue to

decline sharply. The owl is not yet listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Conservationists are petitioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare the owl "threatened."

The SNEP report also states, "Timber harvest, through its effects on forest structure, local microclimate, and fuel accumulation, has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity."

Although the Forest Service received much public comment calling for use of the SNEP study as a guide for Sierra forest management, the agency remained mostly silent in response, apparently choosing to ignore the SNEP findings.

You can find the Sierra Nevada Framework plan at the Forest Service website: <http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/snfc>

The Sierra Framework plan's public comment period ended Aug. 11.

Next the Forest Service will assess the submitted recommendations and, in Black's words, "select a plan that will determine whether or not old trees are protected, wild places are spared from development, and streams and rivers are buffered from disruptive activities."

— B.Y.

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 now 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 (650/755-4776) 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.

Action Rolodex

AB 717

In your own words, write to Gov. Gray Davis and urge him to support AB 717.

Now is the time for Davis to demonstrate his commitment to work with the legislature on this issue. Remind him of his March, 1998, campaign speech in which he promised to ensure that "all old-growth trees are spared from the lumberjack's ax."

Demand that Davis keep his promise by supporting AB 717, to protect our forests, fisheries and water supply.

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA95814
916/445-2841 phone
916/445-4633 FAX
graydavis@governor.ca.gov

"On Feb. 11, 2000, CDF approved a number of changes to THP 520 as a minor deviation or amendment," said the formal complaint filed by the two groups. "Among these changes, CDF authorized PL to conduct operations using helicopters. Helicopter use will in turn require PL to use a logging road that traverses a major landslide into the South Fork of the Elk River.

"Both the helicopter operations and road use have the obvious potential to significantly affect the environment. Yet CDF never even mentioned their impacts in approving the minor deviation. We will show that CDF's approval of the minor amendment violated CEQA and the FPA, because it was not based on any evidence at all, let alone substantial evidence."

THP 520 is located within the most pristine portion of the Headwaters Forest Reserve. It is composed of 705 acres located on a steep slope directly above 2.5 miles of the Elk River. This waterway contains one of only five remaining spawning grounds in California for the endangered Coho salmon.

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

— Eric Brooks

"Headwaters"
continued from p. 3

It was created to save the ancient Headwaters Grove and other patches of old-growth redwoods within the greater Headwaters Forest ecosystem.

In June activists blockaded a road to halt logging prepara-

tions for THP 520. Confrontations between PL and protesters ended in the arrest of three activists.

Shortly thereafter PL announced it would suspend preparations for logging THP 520.

The company said it delayed operations because of a threatened June 19 permanent

court injunction against the harvesting. EPIC and Sierra Club are seeking the injunction on grounds that the planned logging would violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the state Forest Practice Act (FPA). Thus, the lawsuit asserts, CDF should not have approved the harvest.

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