



Sequoia champion mourned

The Sequoia Ecosystem and Recreation Preserve Act (SERPA), H.R. 2077, officially was reintroduced by its original author, U.S. Rep. George Brown, Jr. (D-San Bernardino), on June 8.

On the night of July 15, however, Brown died due to complications resulting from a post-operative infection. At age 79 he was the oldest member of the House of Representatives and was serving his 18th term.

Brown was the senior Democrat on the House Science Committee. He was a strong environmental advocate for cleaner air and water and worked toward protecting the national forests from logging.

SERPA was scheduled for reintroduction as soon as the number of House bills in the new session reached 2076. This approach would allow SERPA to retain the same bill number it held in 1998.

SERPA had accumulated 24 co-sponsors last year. Forests Forever and other activists were concerned when the bill was sent to Congress June 8 with none.

see "SERPA," p. 5, col. 1

Battle looms over Keeley bills to close timber industry loopholes

Two major pieces of forestry-reform legislation authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz) cleared crucial legislative committees this spring.

But the bills' major battle yet looms as each must pass a do-or-die floor vote by Jan. 31, 2000.

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 717, the "Closing the Logging Loopholes" bill, passed out of the California Assembly Appropriations Committee May 26 on a vote of 13 to 6. This was a slim margin of victory as 11 votes were needed to move the bill. The measure is co-authored by Assembly-member Ted Lempert (D-Palo Alto).

On the same day, Keeley's other landmark bill, A.B. 748, the "Timber Harvesting Plan Fee" bill, also cleared the Appropriations Committee on a 13-to-7 vote.

Forests Forever had campaigned vigorously in favor of both measures since February. Key observers credited Forests Forever's campaign work as playing a major- perhaps decisive- role in passing these bills out of Appropriations.

These important votes took place about one month after similarly close victories in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. On Apr. 19 A.B. 717 and A.B. 748 cleared their first major hurdle when they each were approved by a vote of 6 to 4, the minimum margin

needed to pass the bills out of Natural Resources.

In the case of both committee votes, grassroots support from constituents of committee members proved crucial in defeating heavy timber industry lobbying.

"Both votes- and especially Appropriations- were by no means certain," said Paul Hughes, Forests Forever's Executive Director. "We surprised most observers, frankly,

for 6627 letters, phone calls, FAXs and e-mails. In addition, 141 constituents contacted on the phone by Forests Forever committed to visiting their Assembly members' local offices in support of the bills.

Responding to specific concerns of the timber industry and environmentalists, Keeley had amended A.B. 717 extensively from its original Feb. 24 version. (See Spring 1999 issue of "The Watershed.") The bill



Tree to be spared for wildlife habitat is marked with a blue-painted "W" in Mendocino County

photo by Bill Young

by helping to organize sufficient pressure to pass these bills. All the Forests Forever supporters who took action deserve heartfelt thanks."

In May alone Forest Forever canvassers picked up 1681 letters from constituents in support of A.B. 717 and A.B. 748 and obtained commitments

now no longer requires the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to deny approval of a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) located in a watershed designated as impaired or degraded.

A.B. 717 now would require

see "A.B. 717," p. 5, col. 1

from the Executive Director...

Forest restoration not only brings back trees but also resurrects pure, free-flowing water

In the story "The Man Who Planted Trees," (1955) by Jean Giono, a Frenchman recounts an unusual experience he had while wandering in a remote area of Provence prior to World War I. In this windswept deserted region the man comes upon an old shepherd who, while his flock is grazing every day, methodically plants oak trees on the barren highlands.

Over the shepherd's lifetime, during which the wanderer stays in close touch with him, the old man succeeds in replanting an entire forest, 33 square kilometers. (It was known the area had been forested in ancient times.) This act of relentless self-sacrifice over many decades, the storyteller explains, restored long-abandoned villages in the area.

The animated video of this story, narrated by Christopher Plummer, won an Academy Award for Best Animated Film. The quiet shepherd's name was Elzéard Bouffier.

"I never counted up the setbacks and disappointments he met with," says the author. "But inevitably so great an achievement must have had to surmount some adversity, and such passion couldn't have won through without some struggles against despair."

One scene may strike the listener as fanciful, however. In it the narrator stops beside a formerly dry creek, which the old peasant's surrounding plantings had caused to flow again. Surely, we think, this must be sentimental exaggeration: We can imagine the forest's restoration bringing fragrances, animals, the sound of breeze rustling leaves, happy children, even a reason for living. But how could a dried-up stream flow again Lazarus-like because of the return of a surrounding forest?

It turns out this really can happen.

In a healthy forest the soil acts as a sponge. Filled with organic matter, leaves and bits of wood and air pockets, the sponge soaks up water, then slowly releases it to the aquifer and nearby streams.

But when the trees in this forest are

cut down and removed a certain amount of the soil washes away in the ensuing rains— the sponge becomes thinner as its most absorbent upper layers are stripped away. Removal of the protective forest canopy accelerates this process. Without treetops to break their fall raindrops plummet directly onto the exposed soil, often causing splash erosion.

Tree trunks formerly slowed the rate of flowing water too. Tree roots held the soil. Leaves and litter that had lain on the

***Continue to
deforest the land
long enough and
you have a
desolate country
depopulated and
forlorn. And dry.***

forest floor, now washed downhill, cannot shield the underlying bare dirt from rainfall. Snowpack formerly melting languidly in shade now vanishes rapidly under direct sunlight.

A sudden higher volume of faster-flowing water increases erosion. Profuse woody debris left behind from the logging scours out stream beds, sending a torrent of mud downstream. The soil sponge, now covered with a fine-grained silt deposit, is more impervious to water than before the trees' removal; this increases runoff and lessens the absorption of water to recharge the subsurface supply. This cascading effect continues until it reaches some equilibrium.

Continue to deforest the land long enough and you have the scene depicted in Giono's story— a desolate country depopulated and forlorn. And dry.

Many places in the world have wit-

nessed this cycle. At least as early as the Bronze Age, deforestation of parts of ancient Greece washed away deep soils and exposed rocky hardpan. Streams that once flowed remain dry some 3000 years later (with help from sheep grazing and such ongoing abuses as the depleted land still will sustain).

But restoring forests can reverse this damaging process and, as if miraculously, bring flowing water back again.

Forests Forever's current campaign is to pass two pieces of tough forestry-reform legislation (see article, page one). But it might surprise some to realize this is a campaign as much about water as about trees.

We all know about the loss of wildlife and natural splendor that results from destructive logging. Less well understood, however, is that most of our water supply comes from forests. With rangelands, forested watersheds are the source of more than 90 percent of California's annual runoff. And again groundwater, depended on far too heavily these days, is recharged by infiltration.

When passed the Keeley bills will make logging happen in a manner more protective of water and soil. The place to look first for improvements from these new laws will be in the quality and quantity of surface water.

Since the latest issue of "The Watershed" the amended legislation has passed two major committees in still-strong form, thanks in large part to an assist from Forests Forever and its supporters. The floor vote is coming up in January. As we are opposing very powerful and determined foes, organizing effectively until then will test the stamina and saintliness of many forest advocates.

It is a challenge Elzéard Bouffier might have appreciated.

— Paul Hughes



New science reveals numerous shortcomings in Forest Service plans for Sierra Nevada logging

The U.S. Forest Service currently is planning to log large tracts of Sierra Nevada forests while ignoring a critical study of the entire Sierra forest ecosystem. The study was intended as a guide for any such logging.

In 1998 legislation known as the Quincy Library Bill was passed by the Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

This forestry scheme— sold by its advocates as a compromise between environmental groups and the logging industry— actually could double or even triple current rates of cutting in federally owned Sierra forests. The Quincy bill was opposed by many environmental organizations in California, including Forests Forever.

The Forest Service now is considering various options for proceeding with the logging prescribed under the bill. The Quincy Act covers the Plumas, Lassen, and part of Tahoe national forests near Lake Tahoe. But environmental advocates warn that the Quincy model may soon be applied to many other national forests.

Meantime the Forest Service is disregarding the findings of a Sierra range-wide environmental survey released in 1996. The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report paints a comprehensive picture of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem.

“(The SNEP report) is the best available science on the Sierra system as a whole,” said Scott Hoffman Black, director of the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign (SNFPC). Black’s group is a coalition of conservation organizations, among them Forests Forever.

“Pristine forests are a rare public resource and should be managed carefully,” Black said. “If the best science is out there,

why not use it?”

The SNEP report calls into question much of the projected logging activity in the Quincy plan.

Although the Forest Service has received much public comment calling for use of this study as a guide for Sierra forest management, the agency has remained mostly silent in response.

Among other revelations, the SNEP study and other surveys show that populations of California spotted owls in the Sierras continue to decline sharply. SNEP also shows that the Quincy plan would further harm the owl’s chances of survival. The California spotted owl is not yet listed under the Endangered Species Act but conservationists are petitioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare the owl as “threatened.”

Forests Forever and other groups, armed with the Sierra study and environmental laws, have called upon the Forest Service to greatly decrease proposed logging under Quincy.

In July Forests Forever, in conjunction with SNFPC, mailed out over 16,000 action alerts to its contributors to generate public comments to the Forest Service concerning the Quincy Act. In addition the SNFPC coalition placed a full-page ad in the national edition

of The New York Times to further publicize the pending plight of the Sierra forests.

July 26 marked the end of the Forest Service’s public comment period on various scenarios the agency had developed for logging under the Quincy plan.

Neither of the two alternatives preferred by the Forest Service would adequately protect Sierra forests. Under the best of these, 40,000 to 60,000 acres of public forest would be logged— largely in quarter-mile-wide strips deceptively labeled “fire breaks.”

Such strip logging would create small islands of habitat, breaking up a now-contiguous

“The ‘group selection’ logging that also would be allowed under the plan is just another Orwellian way of describing a small-scale clearcut,” said Black.

Conservationists charge that the real reason for the strip clearcuts and group selection cutting is not fire prevention. Rather, they say, these harvesting strategies provide timber companies with a respectable-sounding pretext to cut deeper into increasingly sensitive and protected areas.

Thus under Quincy, business considerations may prevail where science and the public good should have set the standard for management of the Sierra wilderness.

At press time Forests Forever and other groups now are urging the Forest Service to create a new set of guidelines based on the SNEP report. These groups are pressing the Forest Service to adopt a conservation option— Alternative 5— that would:

- protect all old-growth forests;
- fully protect all stream-side areas;
- protect all roadless areas of over 1000 acres;
- eliminate the plans for strip and clearcut logging, which form the core of the Quincy plan;
- follow sensible small-scale fire control strategies, such as low-intensity controlled burns. These would not interfere with wildlife and critical habitat; and
- require that all forest management and logging under the Quincy Library plan be based on the emerging findings of the SNEP report, which views the Sierra as a single contiguous bioregion.

“The Sierras and California’s water supply,

see “Quincy,” p. 7, col. 2



California spotted owl
in Sequoia National Forest

photo by Kristin Kirk

bioregion. The cuts would encroach upon areas where endangered species live. Worse yet, say activists, the strips would become long wind corridors that actually could increase the possibility of large uncontrollable fires.

Field trip to the ancient giants:

Forest activists explore sequoia ecosystem

At the middle of the slope one tree stood out the most due to its pale cinnamon-colored bark and fuzzy texture that helped illuminate the trunk in the bright sunlight.

Most of the group already had continued down the hill. While I was being careful not to take too many photographs of everything we saw, this was a shot I could not resist.

Upon framing the image and focusing on the contour of the trunk, I noticed two lozenge-shaped silhouettes perched on a branch in the shade beside the tree.

When I lowered the camera to see what the shapes were I could not believe my eyes. About 12 feet directly in front of me sat a pair of California spotted owls perched on the branches!

I froze. Fortunately one person had lingered with me and I quietly gasped for her attention while pointing straight ahead. Nothing could wipe the grins from our faces. As the owls sat very still, one slightly shifted its head toward one shoulder to get a better look at me. I just stood there for a few moments, thrilled.

When I realized they were not going to fly away, very slowly I inched toward them. As I approached I could see one was smaller, most likely the female, nestled about 10 feet above me. The other, slightly larger, bird sat about five feet over my head. (see photo, page three).

Pausing, I looked up into their big dark eyes and could not detect even an ounce of fear... just a trusting gaze of curiosity, almost with a glint of kindness mirrored back. It was as if they had never seen a human before and had no reason to be afraid of anything. To them I was not so different from the fox who dashes by, the squirrels who chatter about, or the mountain lion who slinks across the ground at night. I was just another funny creature who happened to cross beneath

their path. For them I hope this view of humans will never have to change

My encounter with the owls took place over Fourth of July weekend, when Forests Forever staffers journeyed to the Sequoia National Forest in the southern Sierras. There we witnessed first-hand the magnificent beauty of these giants and the effects of destructive logging practices on the forest ecosystem.

The trip provided an opportunity to explore the terrain with Martin Litton, a long-time sequoia activist and a former editor of *Sunset Magazine*, and Ara

River. There we encountered the McIntyre Grove, a magnificent expanse of giant sequoias, many 1000 to 2000 years old. We spent about an hour walking through the forest cathedrals, in an area that was one of the best examples of a fully intact ecosystem some of us had ever seen.

The forest was complete with naturally occurring saplings and a mixture of mid-aged trees ranging from a few decades to several centuries old. Also abundant were other conifer species such as sugar pine, the most sought-after timber tree; ponderosa pine; Jeffrey pine and incense cedar; to name a few. For some of us it was our first peek at these giants after spending so many years on campaigns for their redwood cousins on the North Coast, in Headwaters Forest.

Here the problem is quite different from the issues at Headwaters. Timber companies are not after the old-growth sequoia wood as it is very dry and brittle. They are after the "standing inventory" of pine and fir distributed around and among the groves of sequoias. The logging operations leave the sequoia groves overexposed to wind, resulting in blowdown, reputed to be the primary cause of death to these relics.

Both Litton and Marderosian have employed many strategies to prevent this kind of destructive logging practice in these fragile zones. But it is increasingly obvious to them and other supporters that we must achieve a more lasting solution. Legislation such as SERPA, H.R.

2077 (see SERPA story, page one), would create a 410,000-acre preserve that would encompass almost all of the still-unprotected giant sequoias, shielding them and the surrounding buffer of forest from logging.

The need for federal protection was



Lone sequoia standing in a cutover field

photo by Kristin Kirk

Marderosian, a Sequoia Forest defense advocate who has successfully blocked timber sales through the federal appeals process.

After arriving at our campsite, Quaking Aspen, we met the two activists and set out on a three-mile hike on Nelson Trail. This path is etched into the canyon along the middle fork of the Tule

see "Field trip," p. 8, col. 1

"A.B. 717"
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the state Board of Forestry (BoF) to adopt regulations for analyzing timber operations' cumulative impacts on fish and wildlife species and water quality. Cumulative impacts are the significant adverse environmental effects of past, present and anticipated timber harvesting in a given area. A detailed cumulative impacts analysis would be necessary for each THP filed.

In addition the amended A.B. 717 would require the CDF to respond in writing to the comments and recommendations of other responsible agencies and the public regarding a THP. This written response would become part of the public record and help keep CDF accountable for any departure from such recommendations.

The bill also would increase current criminal penalties for violations and would authorize CDF, for the first time, to impose civil penalties.

The state Forest Practice Act currently allows the CDF to seek a maximum daily criminal penalty of \$1000 per violation. A.B. 717 would raise fines for misdemeanors, such as cutting trees designated as "nesting trees" or felling trees within wildlife buffer zones or watercourse and lake protection zones.

These fines would increase by up to \$2000 per tree plus 200 percent of the "stumpage value" (the market value of the cut tree), with no reduction afforded for harvesting costs.

A.B. 717 as amended would authorize the CDF to seek up to \$50,000 per day in new civil penalties. The agency would be empowered to impose administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 for each violation or each day of continuing violations.

These new penalties would reflect the magnitude of the crimes and allow the department and other responsible

and the phone number and website address to locate the complete text of both bills, see sidebar on page six.

After the May 26 Appropriations Committee hearings there was very little time to garner the 41 votes needed for passage on the 80-member Assembly floor before the June 4 deadline.

So Keeley moved both bills to a two-year status. This

surely tough and intact by delaying floor action until January.

He and the supporting environmental coalition including Forests Forever will focus in the coming months on building increased backing for the legislation.

To find out what you can do to help, see our Action Rolodex on page eight.

It has been a busy time on other fronts for advocates of California forest preservation. The Scientific Review Panel (SRP), an independent committee of scientists assembled during the Wilson administration, published its findings in June. The purpose of the SRP was to study the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) and their effect on the protection of salmonid species.

Prepared for the Resources Agency of California and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the SRP report concluded that the FPRs do not protect salmon and steelhead habitat.

The SRP found that the rules' inadequacy is due to "lack of a watershed-analysis approach capable of assessing cumulative effects attributable to timber harvesting and other non-forestry activities on a watershed scale."

The SRP report recommended, among other solutions, comprehensive watershed analyses in salmonid watersheds, stronger enforcement and/or modification of the rules regarding timber

The Scientific Review Panel found that the California Forest Practice Rules lacked a "watershed-analysis approach capable of assessing cumulative effects attributable to timber harvesting and other non-forestry activities on a watershed scale."

agencies to recover THP review and enforcement costs.

A.B. 748 also was amended before the committee votes. In response to timber industry and some landowner objections Keeley capped the filing fee at \$1000 per THP.

The bill now also would establish the THP Review Fund, which would receive these filing fees and distribute the monies annually to CDF and the other relevant agencies involved in the THP review process.

For the state Legislative Counsel's digest of A.B. 717

means the measures retained their official bill numbers, and their progress to date is fully preserved, but the floor vote will be held over until January 2000.

The bills must pass this vote by Jan. 31, 2000, or they will die. Once past the Assembly A.B. 717 and A.B. 748 would be taken up in the state Senate.

Just prior to June 4 Keeley faced a dilemma. Instead of weakening the bills to increase their chances of immediate passage— or risking likely defeat in their current strong form— Keeley chose to keep the mea-

"SERPA"
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Upon further investigation we discovered that Brown had been hospitalized for heart surgery about the time of reintroduction. As a result he, and presumably his staff, had been unable to contact legislators to renew their support for the cur-

rent session.

Brown originally introduced SERPA in June 1997. This August marked Forests Forever's one-year anniversary of campaign work on the bill.

"He wanted to save some of the wonder of our nation... and our earth," said Martin Litton, a SERPA advocate and Forests Forever Advisory Council

member. Litton worked closely with Brown and led him on trips through the Sequoia National Forest.

A special election will be held to fill Brown's seat, coveted by Republicans.

"He was a valuable advocate for the forest," said Ara Marderosian, Sequoia forest activist. "Hopefully someone

else will pick up the ball and finish what he started."

Forests Forever currently is working to obtain a new author for SERPA.

— Kristin Kirk

see "A.B. 717," p. 6, col. 1

operations and road maintenance, and the establishment of a state scientific panel to study the need for timber harvest limits.

Earlier this spring two Forests Forever staff members got a first-hand view of the FPRs in action. Hughes and Bill Young, editor of "The Watershed," on May 21 accompanied CDF inspectors and Mendocino Redwood Co. (MRC) representatives on a pre-harvest inspection of THP 1-99-135 MEN. The 59-acre MRC harvest plan is located about 12 miles west of Ukiah.

At the BoF's emergency rules hearing on Feb. 3 in Sacramento (see Spring 1999 issue of "The Watershed") CDF

Deputy Director Ross Johnson publicly called on Hughes to attend a pre-harvest inspection to see for himself how well current forestry regulations are being implemented. Hughes

Mendocino Redwood purchased all of Louisiana Pacific's (LP's) Mendocino County timberlands last year. Forest-protection advocates have attacked MRC as continuing the liquida-

aimed at Mendocino Redwood's logging plans.

THP1-99-135 MEN is made up of cutover Douglas fir, redwood and tanoak. The plan generally could be described as occupying a slope of up to 65 percent in places, adjacent to the South Branch of the North Fork of the Navarro River. The site had been logged around the turn of the century, then stripped of its most-merchantable trees in the '50s or '60s.

We spent the entire day walking the THP site while John Ramaley, the Registered Professional Forester who wrote the plan, responded to questions and concerns of CDF officials Bruce Strickler and Jim Purcell, and state Division of Mines and Geology geologist

see "A.B. 717," p. 7, col. 2

"What's most important is the context within which CDF does its job— a regulatory environment inadequate to protect and restore damaged forests."

readily accepted.

We traveled to Ukiah on May 20 and spent the evening studying the 60-page THP document.

tion logging practiced by LP. MRC is owned by relatives of the directors of GAP Inc. Currently there is a very active "Boycott the GAP" campaign

BILL NUMBER: AB 717

INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Keeley (Coauthor: Assembly Member Lempert) FEBRUARY 24, 1999

An act to amend Sections 4582, 4582.6, 4582.7, 4582.75, and 4601 of, and to add Sections 4551.9, 4601.5, 4601.6, 4603.5, and 4603.6, 4512.5, 4551.9, 4601.2, 4601.3, 4601.4, 4601.5, 4601.6, 4602.1, 4602.2, and 4602.3 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to forest practices.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 717, as amended, Keeley. Timber harvesting plans: watershed areas.

Existing law, the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, prohibits a person from conducting timber operations, as defined, until the person files a timber harvesting plan with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in accordance with specified requirements.

The act requires that a timber harvesting plan be a public record and include specified information relating to the conduct of timber operations, and requires the department, with respect to a timber harvesting plan filed with the department, to consider all comments and recommendations received from responsible agencies and from the public during the public comment period on the plan.

This bill would require the department to respond in writing to each of those comments and recommendations, and would require a responsible agency to make available to the department any applicable information or documentation it has received pertaining to the timber harvesting plan regarding current conditions in the area potentially affected by the plan, as specified. The bill would authorize the department or a responsible agency to require additional mitigation or monitoring measures, or both, to ensure compliance with rules and regulations of the State Board of Forestry and other applicable laws and regulations. The bill would require the board, on or before November 1, 2000, to adopt regulations pertaining to cumulative impact analyses and impacts on fish and wildlife species and water quality resulting from timber operations, and would require that those regulations include a specified analysis, to be a part of all timber harvesting plans.

The act requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, upon the request of a responsible agency, to consult with that agency, but pro-

vides that the director, or his or her designee within the department, shall have the final authority to determine whether a timber harvesting plan is in conformance with the rules and regulations of the board and with the act.

This bill would provide that the director shall have the final authority to determine whether a timber harvesting plan is in conformance with the rules and regulations of the board, with the act, and with any other applicable laws.

The bill would provide that the violation of any rule or regulation adopted by the board pursuant to the act prescribing any procedural requirement that does not result in, or cause, any environmental damage, and is not a violation of specified provisions regulating forest practices, is an infraction punishable by the imposition of specified fines, as provided. The bill would require the board to designate those rules and regulations that prescribe procedural requirements of which a violation does not result in, or cause, environmental damage.

The act makes any person who willfully violates any provision of the act or any rule or regulation of the board guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

This bill would prescribe certain penalty enhancements, and would prescribe the circumstances under which a penalty enhancement would apply. The bill would require that any penalties imposed pursuant to those provisions be deposited into a separate account in the General Fund, and used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the support of the department and other responsible agencies and to increase staffing and other support for the enforcement of the act and the rules and regulations of the board.

The bill would provide that a person who violates the act or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto is subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for each day that the violation continues. The bill would also authorize the department to impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each day on which a violation of the act or any rule adopted pursuant thereto occurs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

For the complete text of AB 717 or AB 748, call the Legislative Bill Room at the State Capitol: 916/445-2323, or visit the website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

The Watershed

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**"Restore,
Reinhabit,
Re-enchant"**

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"A.B. 717"
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Julie Bawcum. MRC Operations Director Bill Stone also joined us. Much of the THP mitigation, whether proposed by Ramaley or required by the CDF, involved replacing culverts and armoring logging road crossings.

In addition to trees marked for cutting with blue swatches of paint a few trees were marked with a large blue "W" indicating trees to be spared for wildlife habitat (see photo, page one). This occurred in one case, for example, in which Ramaley had found ducts—discarded chewed conifer needles, evidence of red tree vole habitat (see photo at right).

"Overall the day was enormously helpful in understanding what CDF does and how," Hughes said. "Clearly many folks in these agencies take their work very seriously and take great pride in it.

"While some people in the agencies may see environmental activists such as Forests Forever as a threat to their livelihoods, others seem able to see both sides of the issue fairly well.

"In the end what's most important, though, is the context within which CDF does its job—a regulatory environment inadequate to actually protect and restore damaged forest ecosystems. This gross defi-

"Quincy"
continued from p. 3

which flows largely from (the mountain range), must be managed as a harmonious living system," Black said. "It appears that the Forest Service is close to embracing management practices that lack vital scientific information.

"They're leapfrogging over federally required steps for watershed evaluation and allowing untested and controversial fire suppression techniques to be practiced by the

ciency must be corrected."

To help determine how best to accomplish this, the Forests Forever Foundation recently commissioned a research project aimed at developing a comprehensive legislative platform for assessing and regulating cumulative effects.

Now in its early drafts, the project outlines the development of California forestry law, beginning with attempts by the

examine in greater depth the FPA's provisions for assessment and regulation of cumulative effects, and pertinent requirements under the federal Clean Water Act. The document also will include a sampling of cases in California in which permitted forestry operations have had significant adverse environmental effects—especially erosion, sedimentation and flooding—and may



Ducts—discarded chewed conifer needles—are evidence of red tree vole habitat

photo by Bill Young

Spaniards to regulate forest practices as early as 1813. The study proceeds through the Z'berg-Nejedly Act of 1973 (the Forest Practice Act, or FPA), the California Environmental Quality Act, the Timber Productivity Act and 11 pieces of precedent-setting litigation.

The study will go on to

look at other states' and/or countries' forestry policies.

The project will conclude with recommended planks of a proposed platform of reforms, and should provide a guide for campaign activity for years to come.

— B. Y.

logging industry on public lands."

Now that the public comment period has ended, the Forest Service soon is expected to announce key decisions on how to proceed with the Quincy Library plan.

To learn more, contact:

Sierra Nevada Forest
Protection Campaign
phone 916/442-3155 ext. 206
sierra_campaign@
friendsoftheriver.org
<http://www.sierraforests.org>

Friends of the River
<http://www.friendsoftheriver.org>

CaliforniaWilderness
Coalition
<http://www.calwild.org>

— Eric Brooks

Action Rolodex

A.B. 717

In your own words, and in separate letters for each bill, please ask your local Assemblymember to co-author A.B. 717 and A.B. 748.

For the name and contact information of your local Assemblymember visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

Also ask the following legislative leaders to support A.B. 717 and A.B. 748:

Antonio Villaraigosa
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA95814
916/319-2045 phone
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916/445-4633 FAX

Sequoia Bill

Contact your congressperson and urge him/her to support SERPA in Rep. George Brown's memory.

For the name and contact information of your congressperson visit <http://clerkweb.house.gov>

sequoia due to its extremely gnarled and weather-beaten appearance.

According to Litton, Wendell Flint, a retired mathematics teacher and passionate big tree seeker, believes the General Sherman may be in second place. Flint has been measuring these giants since 1975 and has turned his obsession into a side career. He has devised his own technique that reportedly offers greater accuracy to tree measurements.

Using this new technique Flint suggests that the Amos Alonzo Stagg tree, located in the Alder Creek Grove within an hour of our campsite, surpasses the General Sherman in overall volume.

"The lower trunk is larger than the General Sherman, and he thinks the Stagg is now the largest tree in the world," Litton said. Currently the tree's official measurement is 95 feet in circumference at breast height.

As with most of the older trees, the Stagg tree carried many charred marks, and one giant scar running about three stories up from its base.

With such incredible survival capabilities and the necessary government protection in place, this amazing species may continue to be around for a very long time.

- Kristin Kirk

"Field trip"
continued from p. 4

even more apparent on our second day. Thirteen of us piled into Litton's four-seat van and drove up an old bumpy logging road on Black Mountain. This brought us to some of the most infamous vestiges of logging sites in the national forest.

Our first stop was a section of forest that included a rare

meadow with a large stump near its edge. Based on the stump's weathered condition, we guessed the tree had been felled in the early 1900s.

At about 16 feet in diameter the top of the stump provided more than enough space for all of us to stand. The experience was not unlike the images in old black-and-white photographs of pioneers proudly posing atop their freshly cut

trophy.

A new series of measurements recently have been conducted on several giant sequoias, revealing a possible replacement for the record of world's largest tree. Official records list the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park as the largest tree in the world. The Grizzly Giant in Yosemite National Park is thought to be the oldest

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