EPIC WIN FOR RICHARDSON GROVE

FEDERAL COURT SENDS CALTRANS BACK TO DRAWING BOARD
News from the Center

Larry Glass, Executive Director, and Bella Waters, Admin & Development Director

Climate

Climate scientists have now set 2030 as the point of no return when it comes to the effects of climate change. Even if we could drastically reduce carbon emissions right now—today—it is unknown if the momentum that is already underway can be reversed in time to mitigate the worst climate effects. Even with these worrisome odds, we must try to take action. Doing nothing or continuing down the path we’ve been on will certainly lead to our extinction.

Wilderness Bill

After incorporating community input and ideas from across the region, our congressional representative, Jared Huffman, reintroduced the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act in April. The bill would guard communities against wildfires, provide local jobs, restore lands impaired by illegal marijuana growing operations, and permanently protect many of northwest California’s spectacular wild places and pristine streams. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) also introduced companion legislation in the Senate. This is the legislation that the NEC and other conservation groups have been working on for over six years. Extreme right-wingers are already ramping up false narratives around the bill. The tactic of lying about what the bill contains and what possible effects it may have seem to be borrowed straight from the current administration in Washington. Wilderness advocates go to public meetings and correct the record, only to have the same lies and misrepresentations voiced again and again. No, the bill does not take private land. No, the bill does not affect existing water rights. No, it does not prevent hunting. It does not close off access to people’s homes. And last, but certainly not least, it does not increase the risk of wildfire.

CalTrans

CalTrans has been spotted spraying for invasive weeds along highways in Humboldt County and is threatening to resume roadside spraying and invasive weed treatments in Trinity County. After decades of complying with the wishes of citizens of both counties that they remain spray-free, CalTrans, flush with SB 1 money, seems intent on going back to the 1970s with chemical treatments.

On another CalTrans note, it is projected that “improvements” to the 101 corridor between Eureka and Arcata are going to cost nearly 60 million dollars! What?! You read that right. As of print, the project is currently scheduled to go before the Coastal Commission not at their meeting in Humboldt County this summer, but two months earlier in San Diego—virtually eliminating the ability of local residents to have a say in the decision-making process. There remains a possibility that it will be delayed until August. (Read more on page 13.)

Trinidad Hotel

The California Coastal Commission hearing for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Trinidad Rancheria regarding a proposed multi-story, 100-room hotel has been postponed until its June meeting, at the request of the BIA. Once again, this decision prevents local residents from having a say in the decision making process. For more information, visit our website.

Around the Office

April and May were busy months at the Center. NEC staff tabled at the annual Godwit Days festival, educating the community about the 5th Annual Tim McKay Memorial Birdathon; organized a successful Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Mad River Beach, resulting in the removal of 50 pounds of trash from the area; and entertained people of all ages with our watershed model at the...
...Sequoia Zoo’s Party for the Planet—all in one weekend! We also worked with Friends of the Dunes to bring the Climate Action Roadshow to Humboldt and with Humboldt Surfrider to bring Hands Across the Sands (a global, silent solidarity event organized to say no to fossil fuels and yes to renewable energy) to Moonstone Beach. We continue to present at the Redwood Environmental Education Fair, this year located at HSU. This two-day event allowed the NEC to educate over 200 school kids on plastic pollution, tactics for prevention, and cleanup options.

Bittersweetly, Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson has moved on from the NEC and is now working full time with our member group EPIC. Congratulations on your new position, Rhiannon!

Our new Office Assistant is Chelsea Pulliam. Chelsea’s environmental education background, plus her wealth of fundraising and outreach experience, will be a great asset to the NEC. Please be sure to say hi when you see her! (See below.)

We’re also in the midst of interviewing for our summer interns. Our interns provide us with additional energy, passion, and commitment to our local environment. We provide them with training on a variety of necessary career skills and opportunities to expand their connections in the community. Do you know someone who might be interested in interning with the NEC? Visit the Get Involved section of our website or contact us for more information!

New Lease
We will be staying in our current convenient and visible location for at least the next five years! We just signed a five-year lease and were able to negotiate the placement of solar panels on our roof. This is great news for our staff and board, who dreaded the idea of having to move our headquarters yet again. Thanks again to all our members who donated and supported our solar panel efforts!

Linen Lending Library
The NEC is now the facilitator for the Linen Lending Library, through which nonprofits and local government agencies can borrow tablecloths and linens for free, helping to reduce event waste. You can find more information about the Linen Lending Library on the Community Resources section of our website at www.yournec.org.

Zero Waste Cleanup
We’re revamping Coastal Cleanup Day to incorporate zero waste principles and say NO to single-use plastics for this event! Our Coastal Programs Coordinator is working with local businesses to collect reusable materials and even collaborating with local thrift stores to obtain shirts to reuse as our Coastal Cleanup Day team captain shirts. Fast fashion is the second most polluting industry in the world, second only to oil! (Read more about our Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup on page 10.)

Mark Your Calendars
Plans are underway for our annual Summer Patio Party on Sunday, August 25! This relaxed social event will take place at a lovely private residence, and will feature music, guided walks, lawn games, and a variety of food and beverages. Be sure to mark your calendars for this “don’t miss” fun and delicious event! www.yournec.org/patioparty2019

Letters to the Editor
Letters should be 300 words or less, be relevant to EcoNews readers and material covered in EcoNews, and must include the writer’s address and phone number. Letters may be edited and shortened for space. The NEC reserves the right to reject any submitted material for any reason (e.g., size, content, writing style, etc).

Send to editor@yournec.org

Check out our Volunteer Spotlight on page 21

In This Issue

1. EPIC Victory for Richardson Grove
2. North Coast Rail Legal Settlement
3. Wilderness Bill Reintroduced
4. UN Report on Species Extinction
5. Oregon Says No LNG
6. Student Strike for Climate Action
7. Organized Labor & Environment
8. Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Threats
9. Eye on Washington
10. Casey’s Coastal Column
11. Kin to the Earth: Goldman Prize Winners
12. Humboldt Baykeeper
13. EPIC
14. Sierra Club, North Group
15. California Native Plant Society
16. Zero Waste Humboldt
17. Humboldt Baykeeper
18. Center for Responsible Transportation Priorities
19. Creature Feature: Hoary Bat

Welcome our new office assistant
Chelsea Pulliam
Chelsea Pulliam moved to Arcata in 2011 and graduated from H.S.U. with a degree in Environmental Education. Her time in Humboldt has cultivated a deep love for California’s unique landscapes, and a passion for ecological sustainability. She has worked for several environmental nonprofits allowing her to channel her passion of connecting the community to sustainable living. Chelsea is honored to be part of the Northcoast Environmental Center team, and hopes to contribute to their mission to conserve, protect, and celebrate ecosystems of the North Coast.

Chelsea Pulliam. Submitted photo.
EPIC Victory for Richardson Grove

Judge rules against highway widening project in state park. Old growth redwoods safe from bulldozers again... for now.

Tom Wheeler
Executive Director,
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

On Friday, May 3, Judge William Alsup of the Northern District Court of California ruled in favor of EPIC and other plaintiffs in the most recent round of litigation on the controversial Richardson Grove Project. The project would widen the highway through the iconic Richardson Grove State Park, requiring the removal of some trees and potentially damaging the roots of many more. The project would purportedly allow for a larger type of truck—so-called “STAA heavies” by Judge Alsup—to move through the grove. These extra-long trucks are currently prohibited due to high risk of crossing the double yellow lines on this section of highway.

This decision is déjà vu all over again. Caltrans first proposed the highway widening project in 2007, and the project engendered controversy from the outset. The first lawsuit against the project was filed in 2010 which led to a 2011 injunction after the judge found numerous critical errors concerning impacts to old growth redwoods in Caltrans’ analysis. After modifications were made to the project intending to correct these errors, Caltrans again approved it. This time, in 2014, the project was halted in state court, with an appellate court finding that the agency again had failed to take an honest accounting of the project’s impacts on the trees.

Fast forward to 2017, Caltrans again approves the project. Again, a lawsuit is filed in opposition. The court’s recent decision finds fault in four important places:

First, the Judge recognized that the agency never looked at the impact paving over shallow root systems of old-growth redwoods would have on root oxygen levels. Roots need oxygen to survive; without it, they are at increased risk of root rot.

Second, the judge questioned why the agency had ignored guidance from State Parks that urged avoidance of construction in the “Structural Root Zone” of the old growth. While the judge noted that Caltrans wasn’t bound by this guidance as a separate agency, Caltrans still had an obligation to explain its departure from these standards.

Third, Judge Alsup found that the agency had failed to look at the disturbance extra truck traffic would cause through the grove. The judge noted that the project would likely increase truck traffic through the grove and that Caltrans had done an insufficient job considering the impact of these additional lumbering trucks.

Lastly, Caltrans failed to consider the risk to old-growth redwoods from truck collisions. More (potentially heavier) trucks mean a greater risk to the redwoods from an out-of-control truck colliding with a tree.

The ball is now in Caltrans’ court, so to speak. The agency has lost legal battles over this project three times, wasting public money in the process. The “slap-dash” work of the agency—Judge Alsup’s words—is disappointing and has played an important role in engendering public opposition to the project. At time of press, the agency is still weighing its options, including whether to file an appeal.

Take Action! The project is currently on the ropes—now is the time for the knockout blow! Please write to Caltrans to ask that they shelve this controversial project for good.

Write to: Matthew Brady, Caltrans District 1 Supervisor, California Department of Transportation, P. O. Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502-3700 or matthew.brady@dot.ca.gov.
North Coast Rail Legal Settlement to Protect Health of Eel and Russian River Watersheds, Advance Great Redwood Trail Project

Settlement between North Coast Rail Authority, Friends of the Eel River and Californians for Alternatives to Toxics ends decade-long dispute, upholds bedrock environmental law and advances rail-to-trail project

Press Release

Friends of the Eel River
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics

The North Coast Rail Authority (NCRA) agreed in late April to a legal settlement with non-profit organizations Friends of the Eel River and Californians for Alternatives to Toxics that ended an eight-year legal battle that included issues brought before both the California and U.S. Supreme Courts. The NCRA Board of Directors voted unanimously on April 10 to accept the settlement agreement that was then approved by the Marin County Superior Court on April 22.

The settlement that brought this protracted legal battle to a close will protect the fragile Eel River Canyon, conserve native fish habitat and bring economic benefits to five North Coast counties. Pursuant to the settlement, NCRA withdrew its 2011 environmental impact report for its rail line repair project, which Friends of the Eel River and Californians for Alternatives to Toxics had challenged as inadequate. The settlement opens the way for the creation of the Great Redwood Trail, which was recently approved by the California State Legislature and which will allow for public use and enjoyment of the rail corridor.

"After nearly a decade of conflict, all parties have finally agreed to work together to build a positive and healthy future for our North Coast communities," said Stephanie Tidwell, Executive Director of Friends of the Eel River. "This settlement is an important step towards ending the ongoing harm to native fish and contamination of northern California's water and soils caused by the rail line in the sensitive Eel River canyon. We also now have a phenomenal opportunity to build the Great Redwood Trail, which will provide sustainable recreation and transportation opportunities not only in the remote and rugged Eel River Canyon but also for rural communities along the 300-mile-long route."

The NCRA, a state agency, partnered with a private enterprise, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, to make repairs and begin re-operating a defunct freight rail line from Novato into Humboldt County in 2006. This rail line, dormant since 1998, passes through the environmentally sensitive and geologically unstable Eel River Canyon. Prior to its closure, rail operators routinely dumped large amounts of rock and debris that fell from canyon walls into the Eel River, harming water quality and blocking fish passage for the river's native salmon and steelhead.

Toxic materials such as dioxin, creosotes and heavy lubricants have contaminated the soil and wood infrastructure along the defunct rail line and polluted the waters of the Eel and Russian Rivers and many creeks of the north coast. The line continues to degrade today, and the threat of ongoing contamination continues. One challenge still ahead is to provide a plan and funding to remediate the erosion and contamination.

“After nearly a decade of conflict, all parties have finally agreed to work together to build a positive and healthy future for our North Coast communities,” said Stephanie Tidwell, Executive Director of Friends of the Eel River. “This settlement is an important step towards ending the ongoing harm to native fish and contamination of northern California’s water and soils caused by the rail line in the sensitive Eel River canyon. We also now have a phenomenal opportunity to build the Great Redwood Trail, which will provide sustainable recreation and transportation opportunities not only in the remote and rugged Eel River Canyon but also for rural communities along the 300-mile-long route.”

The NCRA, a state agency, partnered with a private enterprise, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, to make repairs and begin re-operating a defunct freight rail line from Novato into Humboldt County in 2006. This rail line, dormant since 1998, passes through the environmentally sensitive and geologically unstable Eel River Canyon. Prior to its closure, rail operators routinely dumped large amounts of rock and debris that fell from canyon walls into the Eel River, harming water quality and blocking fish passage for the river’s native salmon and steelhead.

Toxic materials such as dioxin, creosotes and heavy lubricants have contaminated the soil and wood infrastructure along the defunct rail line and polluted the waters of the Eel and Russian Rivers and many creeks of the north coast. The line continues to degrade today, and the threat of ongoing contamination continues. One challenge still ahead is to provide a plan and funding to remediate the erosion and contamination.

“After nearly a decade of conflict, all parties have finally agreed to work together to build a positive and healthy future for our North Coast communities,” said Stephanie Tidwell, Executive Director of Friends of the Eel River. “This settlement is an important step towards ending the ongoing harm to native fish and contamination of northern California’s water and soils caused by the rail line in the sensitive Eel River canyon. We also now have a phenomenal opportunity to build the Great Redwood Trail, which will provide sustainable recreation and transportation opportunities not only in the remote and rugged Eel River Canyon but also for rural communities along the 300-mile-long route.”

The NCRA, a state agency, partnered with a private enterprise, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, to make repairs and begin re-operating a defunct freight rail line from Novato into Humboldt County in 2006. This rail line, dormant since 1998, passes through the environmentally sensitive and geologically unstable Eel River Canyon. Prior to its closure, rail operators routinely dumped large amounts of rock and debris that fell from canyon walls into the Eel River, harming water quality and blocking fish passage for the river’s native salmon and steelhead.

Toxic materials such as dioxin, creosotes and heavy lubricants have contaminated the soil and wood infrastructure along the defunct rail line and polluted the waters of the Eel and Russian Rivers and many creeks of the north coast. The line continues to degrade today, and the threat of ongoing contamination continues. One challenge still ahead is to provide a plan and funding to remediate the erosion and contamination.

This settlement ends litigation which was successful in exposing a corrupt agency of the state and preventing it from undertaking environmentally harmful activities on its decrepit rail line where former activities have left a trail of pollution,” said Patty Clary, Californians for Alternative to Toxics. “Looking to the future, we envision a smarter approach to using and protecting the environment of this rail corridor which runs through some of the most spectacular country in the nation.”

The Great Redwood Trail Act, SB 1029, was approved by the state legislature in August of last year to begin an effort to convert the defunct rail line into a recreation trail. This 320-mile hiking, cycling, and horsetrack riding path could attract tens of thousands of visitors a year to the north coast. Outdoor recreation in California generates more than $90 billion a year. The state legislature is... Continued on page 21
'Ominous' UN Report Warns Human Activity Has Pushed One Million Species to Brink of Extinction

"NATURE IS COLLAPSING AROUND US AND IT'S A REAL WAKE-UP CALL TO HUMANITY."

Jake Johnson
CommonDreams.org

A United Nations report described as the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment of global biodiversity ever published found that human exploitation of the natural world has pushed a million plant and animal species to the brink of extinction—with potentially devastating implications for the future of civilization.

Conducted by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and released in May, the report warned that species extinction rates are "accelerating" at an "unprecedented" rate due to the human-caused climate crisis and economic activity.

"The overwhelming evidence of the IPBES Global Assessment, from a wide range of different fields of knowledge, presents an ominous picture," said Sir Robert Watson, chair of the IPBES, in a statement.

A United Nations report described as the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment of global biodiversity ever published found that human exploitation of the natural world has pushed a million plant and animal species to the brink of extinction—with potentially devastating implications for the future of civilization.

"The overwhelming evidence of the IPBES Global Assessment, from a wide range of different fields of knowledge, presents an ominous picture," said Sir Robert Watson, chair of the IPBES, in a statement.

The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health, and quality of life worldwide.

While the report’s findings—compiled by a team of hundreds of experts from 50 nations—are dire and cause for serious alarm, Watson said, there is still a window for action.

"It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global," said Watson. "Through transformative change, nature can still be conserved, restored, and used sustainably—this is also key to meeting most other global goals. By transformative change, we mean a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic, and social factors, including paradigms, goals, and values."

Eduardo Brondizio, co-chair of the IPBES, echoed Watson, saying, "business as usual has to end."

The IPBES report comes as youth-led movements across the globe are organizing and taking to the streets en masse to pressure political leaders to take climate action in line with the urgency demanded by the scientific evidence.

Andrew Wetzler, managing director of the nature program for the... Continued on page 22

As of April 2019, the EcoNews Report is no longer airing on KHSU. The NEC and our show hosts are working to find a new home for the show. Stay tuned for updates on our website!

Past shows are archived on our website and are available on iTunes as a podcast.

www.yournec.org/econews-report

Oregon Agency Says NO to Jordan Cove LNG Project

On May 6, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) delivered a potentially fatal blow to the Jordan Cove LNG project and the Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline which has faced fierce opposition for more than a decade by a grassroots coalition of impacted landowners, anglers, small business owners, tribal members, health professionals, and many more Oregonians and Northern Californians.

Oregon DEQ denied the Clean Water Act Section 401 permit because the massive LNG export terminal and pipeline could not demonstrate that they would meet Oregon’s clean water standards. Jordan Cove LNG and the Pacific Connector Pipeline cannot be built without the state permit. With their denial, DEQ released 200 pages of detailed findings about how the project does not meet Oregon’s water quality standards.

DEQ notes that “DEQ does not have a reasonable assurance that the construction and authorization of the project will comply with applicable Oregon water quality standards.”

This decision follows a record-breaking public comment period that closed last August in which 42,000 people submitted comments raising concerns about the impact the Jordan Cove LNG project would have on fishing, recreation, public drinking water, and the economy of southern Oregon.

"Oregon’s decision shows that when we come together and speak out, we can win," said Hannah Sohl, Director of Rogue Climate, one of the organizations involved in a broad coalition opposing the LNG project. “For years, a record number of Oregonians have urged [Oregon] to put the public interest over the special interests of Canadian fossil fuel corporation Pembina. It is great to see Oregon DEQ do just that."

“We are pleased Oregon DEQ followed the law and the science,” said Andrew Hawley, staff attorney for the Western Environmental Law Center. "This decision shows that the Clean Water Act still works in Oregon to protect our citizens, our rivers, and our fish."
Global Student Strike for Climate Action

Morgan Corviday
EcoNews Editor

In one of the largest environmental actions in history, a massive school strike took place on Friday, May 24 demanding governments take urgent action to address the climate crisis. An estimated 1.5 million students—more than 4000 events in over 125 countries—walked out of schools and colleges and took to the streets on the premise that the only way to ensure the planet has a liveable climate in the future is to disrupt their daily lives now.

The inspiration for these strikes came from Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who began picketing on her own in front of Sweden’s Parliament in August 2018, first protesting for two weeks, and then on every Friday since. Her protest first took hold with students across Sweden and then spread across Europe and around the world under the banner #FridaysForFuture.

On March 15, an estimated 1.6 million people participated in a coordinated global student strike in 133 countries, including students in Arcata.

The growing school strike movement has attracted the attention of leading scientists, academics, authors, critical thinkers, and activists such as Naomi Klein, Bill McKibben, and Bill O’Reilly.

“We, children and students, don’t feel like we have a choice: it’s been years of talking, countless negotiations, empty deals on climate change, fossil fuel companies being given free rides to drill beneath our soils and burn away our futures for their profit. We have learned that if we don’t start acting for our future, nobody else will make the first move. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.” - Greta Thunberg

Margaret Atwood, and Noam Chomsky. Sixty of these supporters were signatories on an article published by the Guardian on May 24 supporting the movement.

The date of the next coordinated global climate strike has also been announced—September 20 (which happens to be the day before another important environmental day of action, International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21). The strike is not just for students, however. Everyone is encouraged to participate and show solidarity by walking out of homes, schools, and workplaces to demand urgent action on climate change. This will lead off a week of actions around the world, in the hopes that the tide will turn and governments will start taking the threat of climate change seriously.

Thunberg was recently featured on the cover of TIME magazine, along with nine other activists. “This is not about truancy or civil disobedience, this is about the climate and the ecological crisis,” said Thunberg. “People need to understand that.”

What we do now matters. The younger generations know that their futures and the futures of those yet to come are dependent upon adults behaving as if climate change is an urgent emergency, right now—because it is.

Why Plastic Free July?

Casey Cruikshank
Coastal Programs Coordinator

Plastic Free July was initiated by the Plastic Free Foundation in 2011 to “build a global movement that dramatically reduces plastic use and improves recycling” and “raise awareness of our growing plastic waste problem and support behavior change by helping people avoid single-use plastic.” The NEC invites you to take the pledge to reduce your plastic waste for the month of July and hopefully carry new, reusable habits into your daily life on an ongoing basis.

As of 2015, an estimated 9.1 billion (U.S.) tons of plastic had been produced since the 1950s, which is the equivalent weight of 45.5 million blue whales, or 227.5 million loaded 18-wheeler trucks. To help visualize the scale, if those 227.5 million trucks were lined up end-to-end, they would wrap around the earth nearly 130 times. That’s a lot of plastic!

It’s estimated that less than nine percent of that 9.1 billion tons has ever been recycled. Eighteen billion pounds of plastic waste flow into our oceans every year, breaking down into micropastics that are then consumed by sea life. Plastic particles have been found in the deepest parts of the oceans, the highest mountain ranges, and in our own bodies.

Still, plastic production continues to increase exponentially. Recent numbers indicate that a million single-use plastic bottles are purchased around the world every minute, and this number is expected to increase to half a trillion by 2021.

So where do we start? We have begun a social media campaign to raise awareness for alternatives to single-use plastics to help ease you into more sustainable consumer habits. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/yournec) and Instagram (@your_nec) for tips and to stay updated on our Plastic Free July Campaign, as part of our zero waste, plastic-free education campaign leading up to our first ever Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day! Read more about this effort on page 10.

To learn more about ways to reduce your plastic use, visit plasticfreejuly.org and plasticpollutioncoalition.org, Zero Waste Humboldt (www.zerowastehumboldt.org), or contact Casey at the NEC at casey@yournec.org or 707-822-6918.
NEXUS Where human rights, the environment, social justice, and the economy intersect.

Organized Labor & Environmentalists Need Each Other SEPARATELY, WE LOSE. UNITED, WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

Mario Fernandez
Union Organizer, SEIU 2015
Eureka City Schools Board Trustee

Climate protection is the nexus that can bind the current prevailing social justice movements together. Corporate America is an invasive injury to our ecological/environmental balance and to the working class. Organized labor and the environmental justice movement share more in values than is generally acknowledged and as we face the challenges of global climate change, an ongoing permanent relationship between the two is necessary for the common good.

Unions owe a duty to their members to advocate for better wages, working conditions, and job security. As organized labor, we must also recognize the importance of a healthy environment. THERE ARE NO GOOD JOBS ON A DEAD PLANET.

Despite efforts to separate us, there is a history we can build upon. The AFL-CIO (the largest federation of unions in the U.S.) was critical in advancing anti-pollution and conservation efforts, long before the term “environmentalism” became a catchphrase. George D. Riley, AFL-CIO legislative representative, argued before the 1958 U.S. Congress that a bill to create a National Wilderness Preservation System would benefit the American people much more than commercial exploitation by a greedy few.

Andrew J. Biemiller, AFL-CIO director of legislation, years later stated before the U.S. Congress that they had “a vital interest in protecting the purity of the air around us, just as they have an interest in protecting the up purity of America’s water supply.” Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1963, and the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964.

In the following decade, however, “Corporate America” began an attack on organized labor that started with the Powell Memorandum. In it, Lewis Powell, a former corporate lawyer and future Supreme Court Justice, stated, “it is essential that spokesmen for the enterprise system—at all levels and at every opportunity—be far more aggressive than in the past. There should not be the slightest hesitation to press vigorously in all political arenas for support of the enterprise system. Nor should there be reluctance...

Continued on page 22

Union leaders and activists from AFGE, the largest government employees union, and other union members and environmental activists held a rally in Washington, D.C. on March 15, 2017 in support of EPA employees and their work to protect our environment. Photo: AFGE, Wikimedia Commons CC.

Navy Testing: Comment in Support of Tribal Issues

Press Release

Since 2005, Tribes in Mendocino & Lake Counties have opposed Navy training and testing in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) range. For countless generations, the Tribes have maintained deeply significant cultural and spiritual ties to the coastline and ocean waters adjacent to Mendocino and Humboldt Counties, California.

The Tribes have commented on earlier reviews of the environmental impacts of the training and testing, and are now requesting the public to submit comments on the Navy’s current Draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS) to support the Tribes’ position. The comment deadline is June 12, 2019.

Please include in your comments to the Navy your support of the following Tribal issues, along with any additional concerns you may have:
- Ask that the Navy work meaningfully with Pacific coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes’ cultural ways of life.
- Urge the Navy to expand prohibitions in the 50-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.
- Request that the “best available science” referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge.
- Request that the Navy’s monitoring program be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause.
- Urge the Navy to expand its list of environmental “stressors” to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.
- Request that the cumulative effect of ocean acidification should also be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosions byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. This conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.

For more details on the Draft SEIS, and how to submit your comments, go to: https://www.nwttseis.com.

Jun/Jul 2019 EcoNews
Locals Weigh in on Offshore Wind

Jennifer Kalt

An informative hearing was held May 3 in Eureka on the proposed offshore wind energy leases that are being considered by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Although BOEM has held many local meetings over the past year, this was the first time that environmental advocates and commercial fishing representatives had a chance to express their views on what could be the first offshore wind development on the West Coast of North America.

Jennifer Savage of Surfrider Foundation said that while "renewable energy is obviously the right thing, we still have to do the right things the right way.

Other speakers included Noah Oppenheim of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association, Anne Hawkins of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, Chet Ogan of Redwood Region Audubon Society, and representatives of the California Coastal Commission and other state agencies. Several speakers emphasized the need for the best available science to choose a site for offshore wind development, rather than choosing the site based on wind speed and technical feasibility alone.

Thanks to State Senator Mike McGuire and Tom Weseloh, Chief Consultant to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, for organizing this local hearing that welcomed important voices from near and far.

For more information, visit the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture website under the 2019 Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture hearing.

Planning Needed Now to Prevent Future Infrastructure Damage Around Bay

Aldaron Laird

Is Humboldt Bay vulnerable to sea level rise from climate change? Yes, absolutely. Within several decades, it is likely that impacts from sea level rise to diked former tidelands, such as flooding from emerging groundwater, backwater flooding during stormwater runoff, and tidal inundation from overtopping or breaching of dikes, will become common.

However, the agricultural lands and transportation and utility infrastructure located on the diked former tidelands around the bay are at risk from tidal inundation now.

Seventy-five percent of the 102-mile-long shoreline around Humboldt Bay is artificial. Dikes (barrier-like earthen structures) comprise approximately 41 miles (53 percent) of the artificial shoreline. Diking off salt marsh began in 1890 and converted thousands of acres of salt marsh to agriculture land. Since then, critical transportation and utility infrastructure has been built on these lands including Highway 101, Highway 255, municipal water lines, PG&E gas lines, sewer lines and lift stations, and optical fiber lines. If the diked shoreline is compromised (overtopped or breached) during a king tide or by storm-induced wind waves, such infrastructure could be inundated.

There are 23 diked hydrologic sub-units on Humboldt Bay—all of which are vulnerable and at-risk unless protective measures are employed to increase the resiliency of these structures to rising tides. Several of these diked sub-units have already been breached by king tides or storm surges in the last 15 years. Today, king tides occur on average four times a year. In the future, with 1.6 feet of sea level rise, tides could equal or exceed breaching elevation 125 times a year. With 3.3 feet of sea level rise, breaches could exceed 355 days a year.

There are also 62 tide gates designed to drain stormwater and tides from the diked former tidelands. With increased low tide elevations from sea level rise, the effectiveness of these gates would be reduced, impairing the ability of stormwater to drain.

Groundwater in diked former tidelands is generally within 3.3 feet of the surface. Eventually, regardless of the condition of dike structures, low-lying former tideland areas are therefore also vulnerable to flooding from emerging groundwater and saltwater intrusion in response to sea level rise. These modes of flooding will begin as nuisance flooding during winter and spring storms and king tides, then increase in frequency as the seas rise over time until the flooding becomes chronic. Ultimately, diked low-lying former tideland areas will become continuously inundated.

On Humboldt Bay, transportation and utility infrastructure on diked former tidelands will have to either accommodate sea level rise or be relocated from this hazard area. We need to begin planning now for adaptation strategies to protect, accommodate, and relocate this critical transportation and utility infrastructure. These strategies will be expensive to implement, but are not optional. We likely need to employ a phased approach spanning many decades. It is critical that all Humboldt Bay stakeholders become involved and address sea level rise as a region and collaborate, plan, and build resiliency together.
Summertime, Expectations are Low

Dan Sealy, NEC Legislative Analyst

Members of Congress will be out of D.C. and back in their home districts for the week of July 4 and again from August 5 – September 6. There will be plenty of time for bills to move through the legislative machinery but, in reality, the primary activity over summer months is posturing. Every seat in the House of Representatives will be up for grabs in 2020, while 34 seats in the Senate are up for filling. Therefore, the summer of 2019 will be steeped in election fundraising—especially with the presidential campaigns ramping up. Members of both chambers will try to please their home constituencies and funders with popular legislation, regardless of whether or not those bills have real potential for passage. Some legislation will be introduced and debated to force vulnerable members to take a public position on controversial matters, also whether it is likely to pass both chambers or not. Conservation organizations and members of the public must consider whether or not to expend effort on that posturing when so much time and energy are already being taxed by the daily onslaught of disturbing headlines.

How will legislation get passed? Consider the recently passed “Public Lands” package (see EcoNews April–May 2019). The bill was a compromise that included significant victories for conservation such as new wilderness designations and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The bill avoided, however, some of the most important and controversial issues put on hold by this administration, such as climate change, the shrinking of National Monuments, and weakening laws and policies that protect the environmental health of our public lands. Congress tacks unrelated legislation onto “must pass” legislation, such as the upcoming budget authorizations and deficit ceiling. The foundational budget bill may end up with riders or “ornaments” on topics such as gun laws and education as well as new wilderness areas and clean water measures. This “Christmas tree” effect can result in a tree that could be beautiful or scary.

Of particular interest is the budget for the Department of the Interior (DOI), which includes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA—which enforces the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS—which administers most of the Endangered Species Act), the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (both agencies permit oil and gas leasing on public lands in coastal waters), and the National Park Service. The back-and-forth negotiations between the President’s budget versus the more generous congressional budget has begun. Newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt has started off on the wrong foot with an embarrassing portfolio of corporate conflicts of interest. As Bernhardt’s House hearing to support Trump’s weak conservation budget approached in May, Congressman Huffman (our North Coast representative), assured the Secretary disagreements regarding focus and mission would be on the hearing table. “With [former Interior Secretary] Ryan Zinke, we could certainly talk about policy disagreements, but he didn’t bring with him an entire professional career loaded with conflicts of interest and all of these red flags about ethical violations after he came back into public service.” Huffman said. The DOI appropriation bill proposed by Congress would increase the Interior budget by $833 million over the current 2019 budget and would devote more funds to conservation, public lands, and wildfire management. Congress would give the DOI $13.8 billion in fiscal 2020, which is $1.2 billion more than the Trump administration requested.

New Offshore Oil Deflected for Now

Thanks to a court hearing that indefinitely delayed the proposed offshore oil and gas exploration in the U.S. portion of the Arctic Ocean and a portion of the Atlantic coast, the Trump administration decided to withdraw new offshore oil exploration leasing activities for now. These leases could have opened more than 90 percent of all federal waters to offshore drilling. “Given the recent court decision, the department is simply evaluating all of its options to determine the best pathway to accomplish the mission entrusted to it by the president,” wrote an Interior spokeswoman. With the new DOI Secretary’s strong ties to the oil and gas industry, this will not be the end of this battle and if President Trump is re-elected in 2020 a second go at offshore oil exploration would not be a surprise. A potential firewall to stop oil and gas exploration off the coast of California and other parts of the U.S. are the two bills introduced by Congressman Huffman prohibiting new drilling off U.S. coasts by this or future administrations. Passage and signature of the bill will require loud and unrelenting opposition to counter the big-dollar lobby for the industry.

In related news, just after the ninth anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the Trump administration in May dismantled Obama-era offshore oil drilling safety regulations intended to help prevent such disasters. The oil industry had criticized the regulations as too costly to comply with.
Tribe Establishes Rights of the Klamath, Dam Removal Closer

Press Release
Yurok Tribe

Dam removal on the Klamath River is one step closer to reality. The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), which is the entity charged with removing the lower four dams on the Klamath River, announced in April the selection of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (Kiewit) as the prime contractor for this project.

The Yurok Tribe began its efforts to remove the lower four dams on the Klamath River in 2000, and an agreement was reached for their removal in 2010 and modified in 2016. Working with a broad alliance of partners, including other Tribes, environmental groups, and supported by various Federal and State agencies, the Yurok Tribe worked tirelessly for this restoration project. The removal of the Klamath River dams will be the largest dam removal project in the history of the world.

“Dam removal cannot come soon enough. I look forward to the day when we will never again have to worry about there not being enough fish to feed our elders or if it is safe for our children to swim in the river,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "I commend the KRRC for its thorough and deliberate approach to choosing Kiewit and we look forward to working with them."

Kiewit was responsible for performing the highly publicized emergency repairs on the Lake Oroville spillway, as well as many other endeavors that are applicable in terms of scale and complexity.

“Now that a prime contractor has been selected, it’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to work” said Frankie Myers, Vice-Chair of the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribal Council voted unanimously in May in favor of a forward-looking resolution to establish the rights of the Klamath River.

The resolution “establishes the Rights of the Klamath River to exist, flourish, and naturally evolve; to have a clean and healthy environment free from pollutants; to have a stable climate free from human-caused climate change impacts; and to be free from contamination by genetically engineered organisms.”

With the adoption of the resolution, the Tribal Council seeks to secure the highest level of protection for the Klamath through the recognition of legal rights.

Casey's Coastal Column
Saturday, September 21 - the NEC Celebrates 40 Years of Coastal Cleanups by Going Zero Waste!

Casey Cruikshank
NEC's Coastal Programs Coordinator

This year the NEC is celebrating its 40th anniversary of organizing coastal cleanups! From its humble beginnings here on the North Coast, Coastal Cleanup Day has changed a lot to become the international event that it is today. This Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday, September 21, we’re initiating an ambitious change and putting principle into practice by actively encouraging zero waste principles during this year’s cleanup.

In 1979, Joe Abbott and his wife Anne Morrissey began a project called the “Beach Beautification Project” which became a Humboldt County success and later morphed into both the Adopt-a-Beach program and Coastal Cleanup Day. The California Coastal Commission, having heard about our overwhelming success locally, started organizing the official statewide Coastal Cleanup Day in 1985. The Ocean Conservancy began its Coastal Cleanup program in Texas in 1986, eventually expanding worldwide.

Plastic production and pollution has increased exponentially in the decades since, as single-use plastic products became more and more commonplace. Only nine percent of single use plastics is typically recycled (read more on page 6), and with the recent changes to its Coastal Cleanup Day supplies from the California Coastal Commission. This year we are choosing to lead by example by no longer accepting single-use plastic bags and gloves for our cleanups, nor will we be condoning sponsorships from large single-use plastic bottle corporations. We believe that beach cleans are about more than just removing trash from the beach, and we must move forward to make changes necessary to stop the flow of plastics into our ocean.

As this is our first year of attempting a completely zero waste Coastal Cleanup Day, we are figuring out how to support local businesses and not add to the waste stream through our cleanups. We are asking that our participants bring their own cleanup supplies if they have access to them (ie. gloves, buckets, trash pickers, etc.). To those who do not have access to cleanup supplies, we will be lending out bags and buckets that have been generously donated from the North Coast Co-op for our cleanup efforts. These bags and buckets are bulk food containers...

Continued on page 21

The NEC is encouraging the use of reusable buckets and other non-disposable tools for beach cleanups. Photo: Megan Bunday.
2019 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners

Goldman Environmental Prize recipients focus on protecting endangered ecosystems and species, combating destructive development projects, promoting sustainability, influencing environmental policies, and striving for environmental justice. Prize recipients are ordinary citizens who choose to take great personal risks to safeguard the environment and their communities.

Morgan Corviday

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Goldman Environmental Prize, awarded annually to celebrate grassroots environmental activists from around the globe. Each year, grassroots environmental activists from each of the six inhabited regions of the planet are selected and honored for their significant and sustained efforts to protect the environment.

The 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize winners were honored on April 29. The six 2019 award recipients are as follows:

Alfred Brownell—Liberia, Africa

Alfred Brownell is an environmental attorney in Liberia. Under the threat of violence and intimidation, he successfully stopped palm oil plantation developers from clearcutting 513,000 acres of primary tropical Upper Guinean rainforest considered as the “Lungs of West Africa.” Brownell is currently living in temporary exile in the United States for his safety.

Bayara Agvaantsereen—Mongolia, Asia

Bayara Agvaantsereen was instrumental in convincing the Mongolian Government to create and set aside the 1.8-million acre Tost Tosonbumba Nature Reserve in the South Gobi Desert, and to cancel all 37 government-authorized mining leases within the boundaries of the Reserve, to protect habitat for the snow leopard—a species considered to be “vulnerable,” by the ICUN Red List of Threatened Species.

Ana Colovic Lesoska—North Macedonia, Europe

Ana Colovic Lesoska spearheaded a seven-year-long campaign that successfully cut off international funding for two major hydropower developments within Mavrovo National Park (North Macedonia’s largest National Park) situated near the borders with Albania and Kosvo. The cancellation of the international funding for the hydropower developments meant the protection of the last vestiges of remaining undisturbed habitat for the near-extinct Balkan lynx.

Jacqueline Evans—Cook Islands, Islands and Island Nations

Jacqueline Evans was instrumental in orchestrating a successful five-year campaign to protect the Cook Islands’ coastal and marine biodiversity. Thanks to Evans and a grassroots campaign, the Cook Islands enacted legislation in 2017 to sustainably manage and conserve over 763,000 square miles of the country’s ocean territory—including the designation of Marine Protected Areas within 50 nautical miles around each of the 15 small islands that comprise the Cook Islands—and protected 125,000 square miles from large-scale fishing and mining operations.

Linda Garcia—United States, North America

Linda Garcia organized local residents near Vancouver, Washington to successfully combat the planned construction of the Tesoro Savage Oil Export facility, which would have been used to move 11 million gallons of oil per day from North Dakota to West Coast refineries for foreign export. Garcia was instrumental in organizing residents in the Fruit Valley neighborhood to prevent the construction of the export oil export terminal and prevent the transport of oil through North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and into Washington through the Columbia River Gorge. If constructed, the route to the terminal was estimated to have five-times the environmental impact of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Alberto Curamil—Chile, South and Central America

Alberto Curamil, an indigenous activist of the Mapuche, the largest indigenous group in Chile, successfully organized the people of Araucanía to stop the construction of two major hydroelectric projects on the Cautín River in Central Chile. These two projects—which would have diverted hundreds of gallons of water per-day from the river, in a region of Chile where over one-third of the population already lives below the poverty-line—were cancelled by the Chilean Government in 2016. In August 2018, Alberto Curamil was arrested by the Chilean authorities on grounds of his conducting “suspicious activities.” Curamil’s colleagues unanimously believe he was arrested for his activism in stopping the hydroelectric projects. Curamil remains imprisoned. He was represented at the awards ceremony by his daughter Belen Curamil Canio.

The 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize winners at the San Francisco award ceremony. From left to right: Belen Curamil Canio, representing her father Alberto Curamil (South and Central America), who remains imprisoned; Jacqueline Evans (Island Nations); Alfred Brownwell (Africa); Linda Garcia (North America); Bayarjargal Agvaantsereen (Asia); Ana Colovic Lesoska (Europe).

What will your Legacy be?

www.yournec.org/legacy-giving/
Tree Plantations Store Less Carbon

Rob DiPerna

There’s little doubt that California’s forests are under siege; the problem is, we are told that California’s forests are under siege from things like wildfire, “pests,” pathogens and mortality. However, the reality is that the biggest threat to California’s forests has been and continues to be logging, the logging industry, agency enablers of logging, and the lies and misconceptions these folks spin.

Earlier this year, a report produced by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana provides an assessment of carbon storage in forest ecosystems in California and of carbon storage in wood products produced in California.

While the report indicates that California’s forests are sequestering (storing) carbon dioxide at approximately 27 million metric-tons of carbon dioxide per-year, a closer look at the numbers shows some alarming trends.

According to the report, over half of the carbon being stored in California’s forests is stored on our Federal lands, in our National Forests, Wilderness Areas, and in our BLM lands. Our wood products, however, are storing less carbon dioxide, and are being thrown into landfills—resulting in additional carbon dioxide storage losses.

What’s happening to our harvested wood products, why are they not storing carbon, and why are we throwing them away? Logging of native forests and the creation of even-aged, monoculture, short-rotation industrial tree plantations on private industrial lands and on our National Forests, means harvesting of increasingly younger forests in an unnatural plantation setting that translates into quick growth of fiber, but not carbon dioxide-storing heartwood.

The majority of the harvested wood products from our private industrial timberlands in California are young, even-aged, mono-culture and plantation grown for the quick production of wood fiber—most of which turns out to be sapwood. The trees simply are not allowed to grow long enough, slowly enough, or under the most optimal conditions to produce heartwood fiber, tighter growth rings, and thereby store greater amounts of carbon dioxide.

These young, plantation-grown, sapwood harvested wood products are far less structurally sound and far more prone to rot, decay, mold, and to eventually, end up in the neighborhood landfill.

As always, the timber industry and its apologists would have us pay attention to anything, and everything other than the men behind the chainsaws.

EcoNews Jun/Jul 2019

Where are they now?

Former EcoNews Intern Rebecca Staub

Rebecca Staub

I joined the Northcoast Environmental Center when I was nearing the end of my studies at Humboldt State University. As a journalism major focusing on environmental communication, my experience at NEC not only provided an opportunity to practice environmental writing, it helped me stay committed to my passion for protecting the earth.

From January 2016 to June 2018, I helped EcoNews Editor Morgan Corviday publish EcoNews by writing stories, helping with layout, and proofreading content. While still a student, I also served as the editor of HSU’s student-run newspaper and magazine, and after graduating worked at North Coast Co-op in the marketing department.

My favorite task at NEC was proofreading EcoNews content in the office on the weekends, because it gave me the opportunity to connect with volunteers who dedicated time from their busy lives to help make EcoNews as polished as it could be. It’s always fun seeing input from others, and each time I felt like I was part of something that was truly making a difference.

Another aspect of EcoNews that impressed me was how the NEC provides other environmental organizations in the area—such as Humboldt Baykeeper, Zero Waste Humboldt, and EPIC—their own pages in the paper to share their own content. I appreciated the cooperation and encouragement each organization had for one another.

This past October, I did what I never thought I would do: move out of Arcata! I relocated to Petaluma, and spent the whole drive south fretting that I would not be able to find a job for a company that cared about the environment, or at least in the non-profit sector. Thankfully, I was hired as the Communications Manager for Turtle Island Restoration Network, an ocean conservation and advocacy non-profit headquartered in Olema. In addition to protecting sea turtle nesting beaches worldwide and advocating for international marine protected areas, Turtle Island Restoration Network restores habitat for endangered Coho salmon in Marin County. A lot of the work involves raising and planting native plants, including rewilding lands that once supported forests of redwood trees.

Rebecca Staub making native plant seed balls with a young friend. Photo: Harry McGrath.

In my current position, I recently received a letter that hundreds of organizations had signed in support of the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2018. The legislation would help protect and restore America’s native wildlife and create more resilient landscapes by establishing wildlife crossings on federal public lands, as well as provide funding for states, tribes, and other entities to enhance habitat connectivity.

When I scanned the list to ensure Turtle Island Restoration Network was included, I was excited and a little bit surprised to see the Northcoast Environmental Center had signed the letter as well. Perhaps it never occurred to me while I was pouring over EcoNews pages in the NEC office that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of small, grassroots organizations all over the nation who all support the same thing: the protection of our planet. The fact that there are people and organizations all over the world that are raising awareness about our relationship to the earth, who are willing to work together toward common goals, and that have supporters who believe in the work they are doing is why I am fully committed to advocating for better protections for our environment.

No matter if I am decorating protest signs or fact-checking the latest newsletter, I will always have the NEC to thank for keeping me on the path to being a steward of the earth. If you ever get the chance to intern or spend time as a volunteer with the NEC, I can guarantee you will feel the same. Thanks, NEC!

Do you know a former NEC intern, work-study student, volunteer, or employee who continued on an environment-related path after leaving the NEC? Contact the editor at morgan@yournec.org.
Every Saturday: Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. These are our famous, rain-or-shine, docent-led field trips at the Marsh. Bring your binocular(s) and have a great morning birding! Meet in the parking lot at the end of South I Street (Klopp Lake) in Arcata at 8:30 a.m. Trips end around 11 a.m. Walks led by: Jude Power (June 1); Christine Vertical (June 8); Larry Karsteadt (June 15); Carol Wilson (June 22); and Tracy Walker (June 29). If you are interested in leading a Marsh walk, please contact Ken Burton at shriekethree@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 1: Potawot Gardens Tour. Tour a gentle 1.2 miles through pastureland that has been transformed into a native-plant garden by United Indian Health Services. Meet leader Susan Penn at 1600 Weeot Way in Arcata at 8 a.m. and expect the trip to take approximately 2 hours. For more information about this unique venue, please visit http://unitedindianhealthservices.org/cultural-resources/ku-wah-dah-wilth-restoration-area.

Sunday, June 2: Blue Lake Cottonwoods and Hatchery. Meet at 9 a.m. at the bridge over the Mad River on Hatchery Road; park along the road. After about an hour we’ll move to the hatchery. Walk ends around 11 a.m. Contact Amaya at amayabechler0@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, June 8: Willow Creek Bird Walk. Meet at Studio 299 (75 The Terrace, Willow Creek) starting at 9 a.m. We will depart promptly at 9:30 for our destination; carpooling available. Walks generally run 2-3 hours. All ages, abilities, and interest levels welcome! For more information, please contact Birgitte Elbeck at willowcreekbirdwalks@gmail.com or 707-267-4140.

Sunday, June 9: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This is a wonderful, 2-to 3-hour trip for people wanting to learn the birds of the Humboldt Bay area. It takes a leisurely pace with emphasis on enjoying the birds! Beginners are more than welcome. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Contact Alexa DeJoannis (707-826-7031) for more information.

Saturday, June 15: Southern Humboldt Community Park in Garberville. Meet leader Jude Power at 8 a.m. in Tooby Park, one mile out Sprowl Creek Road on the right. The walk is an easy 2- to 3-hour stroll. If you are late you can easily catch up by walking towards the barn. Organic, shade-grown coffee and extra binoculars are usually provided. No dogs, please. A Porta-potty is available on the trail. Contact Jay Sooter at 707-923-2695 or Jaysooter10@gmail.com. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, June 15: Horse and Grouse Mountains. This annual trip will focus on birding high-elevation Humboldt County from Horse to Grouse Mountains on Forest Service Route 1. Target species will include Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Pileated and White-headed Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dusky and Hammond’s Flycatcher, Townsend’s Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, Thick-billed Fox Sparrow and maybe even a Northern Goshawk! Meet at 7 a.m. near Jitter Bean Coffee, 4950 Valley West Blvd. in Arcata. Bring a lunch. The trip will finish early afternoon. Limited to 15 people, reserve your space by contacting leader Rob Fowler at migratoriusfwr@gmail.com or 707-616-9841.

Sunday, June 23: Butterflies at the Humboldt Botanical Garden and Butterfly House. Meet Gary Falxa at the Garden entrance at 10 a.m. for 2-3 hours examining butterflies and their associated plants. This is a good trip for newcomers to butterflies. Take the Tompkins Hill Rd exit for the College of the Redwoods, and take the first left for the Garden. Bring binoculars and any pocket guides you have. The Garden will offer a special rate of $5 per person for this trip, which includes entrance for the day. HBG members get in free (bring your membership card). Space is limited; contact Gary (garyfalxa@gmail.com or 707-476-9238) to reserve a place.

Sunday, July 6: Blue Lake Cottonwoods and Hatchery. See June 2.

Friday–Sunday, July 26–28: Mt. Lassen Campout with the Wintu Audubon Society. Larry Jordan of Wintu Audubon has reserved Campsite 3 at Lost Creek Group Camp for anyone interested in going. This yearly trip is a great chance to interact with members of other Audubon chapters in the Northern California Council and to see some cool high elevation birds. To confirm, please contact Larry Jordan by emailing the LarryJordan@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 13: Willow Creek Bird Walk. See June 8.

Sunday, July 14: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. See June 9; Gary Friedrichsen will lead (707-822-6543).

Southern Humboldt Community Park and Eureka Waterfront walks are on vacation for the summer but will resume in September.
Thinking of Joining the National Audubon Society?

If so, please use the coupon below. By sending in your membership on this form, rather than replying to solicitations from National Audubon, $20 is sent directly to RRAS. This is how NAS rewards local chapters for recruiting national members. (Otherwise, the RRAS dues share per new member is only a couple of dollars.) Thank you.

Yes, I’d like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for $20 is enclosed (introductory offer).

NAME
ADDRESS
EMAIL

Local Chapter Code: C24. Please make checks to the National Audubon Society. Send this application and your check to: National Audubon Society, Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194.

RRAS Sponsors 15th Annual Science Fair Awards

By Sue Leskiw

In 2019, the judges decided to award first prizes in both a Junior and Senior Division to the best project related to birds or their habitat at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March.

The Senior Division winner was Amaya Bechler, an 11th grader at Northcoast Preparatory Academy. The title of her project was “How Is Bird Abundance and Diversity Affected by Invasive Dense-flowered Cordgrass in Humboldt Bay Marshes?” She investigated how the presence of Spartina densiflora (non-native Chilean cordgrass) affects bird use in low-elevation salt marshes. Her hypothesis was that the highest number of birds would be found in the completely restored marsh, where more mudflat habitat would be available. She took point counts in three locations that were at different stages of restoration: fully restored (Jacoby Creek Marsh), intermittently restored (Arcata Marsh), and unrestored (Mad River Slough). Amaya found that the average bird count for the fully restored salt marsh was 54% higher than the intermittently restored and 86% above the unrestored marsh. She concluded that areas where Spartina has been completely removed showed significantly higher numbers of birds, especially shorebirds. Amaya was selected to compete at the state science fair held in late April. She won fourth place and was chosen to speak at a luncheon for VIPs, State Science Fair Board members, and supporters.

The Junior Division winner was Tatum Dick, a 5th grader at Alder Grove Charter School. Her project, entitled “Scaredy Cat?” looked at whether birds are affected by the presence of scary-cat pictures near their feeder. She hypothesized that birds would not come to the feeder when scary cat pictures were taped to a nearby window, based on most birds being afraid of cats. Tatum observed the bird feeder daily for one week without the cat photos mounted, then one week with photos within clear sight of the feeder. She logged the number of birds that landed on the feeder, how many ate, identified the species, measured weather conditions, and noted any other variables such as noise or animal intrusion near the feeder while the data were being collected. She found that her hypothesis was not completely accurate. When the pictures were mounted, fewer birds came and ate (15% vs 4.5%), but there was still activity, despite the presence of photos. Tatum suggested changes to the protocol (e.g., longer observation times, refilling the feeder daily, spreading out laminated photos outdoors, using a 3-D stuffed cat rather than flat photos) that would better test her theory.

RRAS Science Fair Award winners Tatum Dick, grade 5, and Amaya Bechler, grade 11. Photo courtesy of Humboldt County Schools.

Bony McKnight, Coastal Grove Charter, Townsend’s Warbler

Lily Bazemore, Union Street Charter, Red-breasted Nuthatch
Results of 16th Annual Student Bird Art Contest

By Sue Leskiw, Contest Organizer

Some 910 local K-12 students pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Sixteenth Annual Student Bird Art Contest, held in association with the 24th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in mid-April. Redwood Region Audubon Society and Friends of the Arcata Marsh cosponsored the competition.

All entries were displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival, and copies of the first-, second-, and third-place winners, as well as Best Bird in Habitat awards, are hung at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center through June. A downloadable booklet containing the artwork, as well as group photos of the winners taken during the awards ceremony, is posted at www.rras.org and www.arcatamarshfriends.org.

Prizes totaling $650 were given out: 41 monetary prizes plus 31 honorable mentions. The winners were:

Kindergarten
First Place: Cassidy Lloyd, Kneeland School, Peregrine Falcon
Second Place: Isabelle Graham, Dow’s Prairie School, Spotted Owl
Third Place: Ruby Hall, Jacoby Creek School, Anna’s Hummingbird

Grade 1
First Place: Story Mintey, Freshwater Elementary, American Robin; Ender Guthrie, Fuente Nueva Charter, Spotted Owl
Second Place: Phoebe Rogers, Jacoby Creek School, California Quail; Soren James, Redwood Coast Montessori, Pileated Woodpecker
Third Place: Gunnar White, Trinity Valley Elementary, Barn Owl; Fiona Frazer, Fuente Nueva Charter, Common Loon

Grade 2
First Place: Bony McKnight, Coastal Grove Charter, Townsend’s Warbler
Second Place: Josie McKelvy, Trinity Valley Elementary, Wood Duck; Sebastian Bunz, Garfield School, Belted Kingfisher
Third Place: Taalin Brown, Fuente Nueva Charter, Spotted Owl; Kiera Alves, Dow’s Prairie School, Anna’s Hummingbird

Grade 3
First Place: Jade Fremdig, Fuente Nueva Charter, Northern Flicker; Na’omi Heitchler, Trinity Valley Elementary, Bald Eagle; Isla Davison, Redwood Coast Montessori, Bald Eagle
Second Place: Aubrey Lloyd, Kneeland School, Peregrine Falcon; Aubrey Waxler, Morris Elementary, Common Loon
Third Place: Maxwell Collins, Garfield School, Black-crowned Night-Heron; Kyla Benzinger, Garfield School, Great Blue Heron

Grade 4
First Place: Sarah Coyle, Ambrosini School, Bald Eagle; Nichole Cook, Morris Elementary, Marbled Godwit
Second Place: Rose Callahan, Union Street Charter, Red-breasted Nuthatch; Violet Cook, Freshwater School, Great Blue Heron
Third Place: Zoe Roemer, Pacific Union, Belted Kingfisher; Malia Hilleary, Northern United Charter, Wood Duck

Grades 5&6
First Place: Ruby Soto, Green Point School, Belted Kingfisher; Lily Bazemore, Union Street Charter, Red-breasted Nuthatch
Second Place: Saanvi Virmave, Sunny Brae Middle School, Common Ravens; Meta Bee Nave, Fuente Nueva Charter, Varied Thrush
Third Place: Flora Shaw, Redwood Coast Montessori, American Avocet; Josie Klawitter, Green Point School, Western Tanager

Grades 7-12
First Place: Jasmine Rudin, Eureka High, Purple Finch
Second Place: Christina Smith, Eureka High, Northern Flicker
Third Place: Madai Cruz, Eureka High, American Wigeon

Best Depiction of a Bird in Its Habitat Awards
Kilani Goodrich-Brinckhaus, Grade 1, Alder Grove Charter, Western Gull; Lilia Mendes, Grade 2, Dow’s Prairie School, Tufted Puffin; October Mintey, Grade 5, Freshwater Elementary, Buffleheads; Anna McLaughlin, Grade 5, Fuente Nueva Charter, Snowy Plover; Jayna Kline, Grade 12, Eureka High, Western Meadowlark

Honorable Mentions

Kindergarten
Mya Edson, Dow’s Prairie School, Varied Thrush; Anayal Graves, Dow’s Prairie School, American Robin; Hayden Ham, Dow’s Prairie School, Spotted Owl

Grade 1
Wyatt Sessoms, Dow’s Prairie School, Belted Kingfisher; Nimmach Richardson, Trinity Valley Elementary, Hummingbird; Auroral Tracy, Trinity Valley Elementary, Hummingbird; Echo Kimball, Trinity Valley Elementary, Barn Owl

Grade 2
Rosie Aguierre, Blue Lake School, Common Loon; Nikki Davis, Dow’s Prairie School, American Goldfinch; Caleb Harris, Dow’s Prairie School, Great Blue Heron; Ruby Moreno, Dow’s Prairie School, Anna’s Hummingbird; Emelie Cabodi, Trinity Valley Elementary, Bald Eagle; Coral Morris, Fuente Nueva Charter, Spotted Owl

Grade 3
Fisher Bjorkstedt, Fuente Nueva Charter, Belted Kingfisher; Lillian Pinnegar, Homeschooled, Wood Duck; Jersi MacDonald, Garfield School, Spotted Owl

Grade 4
Zeke Lee, Redwood Coast Montessori, Forster’s Tern; Brooke Weeks, Morris Elementary, Cedar Waxwing; Elana Dens, Union Street Charter, American Goldfinch; Iris Quinlan, Union Street Charter, Bald Eagle; Lucas Vandermeer, Union Street Charter, Black-crowned Night-Heron; Oni Orcutt, Trinity Valley Elementary, Steller’s Jay

Top: Madai Cruz, Eureka High, American Wigeon; Center: Kiera Alves, Dow’s Prairie School, Anna’s Hummingbird; Bottom: Sarah Coyle, Ambrosini School, Bald Eagle
Coastal Commission Calls for Local Hearing on 101 Interchange at Indianola Cutoff

Jennifer Kalt, Director

The “Eureka-Arcata Route 101 Corridor Improvement Project” is on track for a local hearing in August, despite CalTrans’ insistence that it must be held in June in San Diego. At its May hearing in Oxnard, the Coastal Commission unanimously recommended a two-month delay to allow for local input on this massive highway project adjacent to Humboldt Bay. CalTrans had insisted that the project’s funding would be at risk if the hearing was delayed just two months, but has since admitted that the timeline can be moved forward.

In process for over fifteen years, the project would include an interchange at Indianola Cutoff, a left-turn signal at Airport Road, and closure of all other median crossings between Arcata and Eureka. The project would significantly alter the character of the major route travelled between the two largest cities in the County, increasing the current speed limit of 50 mph that was enacted in 2002 for safety reasons.

The last time the public had a chance to weigh in on this project was in 2013, when the Coastal Commission met in Eureka before a packed Wharfinger Building. After hours of public testimony, the Commission directed CalTrans to analyze sea level rise and redesign the project accordingly; plan for the Bay Trail; remove all of the billboards within the safety corridor; and develop a wetland mitigation plan. These conditions must be met prior to CalTrans’ permit application, although some are clearly still in process.

Humboldt Baykeeper and the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities submitted a joint letter asking for the delay, which will allow time to review the project plans once they are finalized. Thanks to Jennifer Savage of Surfrider Foundation, who spoke on our behalf at the hearing in Oxnard, the Coastal Commission recognized the need for a local hearing. Although several draft documents are available on CalTrans’ webpage for the project, the plan has not yet been finalized.

A major concern is the plan’s (lack of) adaptation for sea level rise, which is projected to flood the highway regularly by 2040 unless the corridor is elevated. Although the Coastal Commission required a sea level rise analysis in 2013, CalTrans has not made any changes to the project, saying that this is a future planning issue separate from the project. The entire project area also lies within the tsunami run-up zone and the 100-year flood zone, posing potential hazards to travelers.

Other concerns include traffic in Manila and Bayside during construction, as well as bike/pedestrian access at the Bayside Cutoff and between the Bay Trail and the KOA Campground, which is frequented by touring cyclists. This route is designated as the Pacific Coast Bikeway, so planning for safe bike access during construction will also be important.

Billboard Removal

Despite the 2013 condition that the billboards be removed, CalTrans revealed its plan in April to allow twelve billboards to remain along the 101 Corridor, including three that were built within Humboldt Bay wetlands. Humboldt Baykeeper applauds CalTrans’ removal of ten billboards from public lands since 2013, but will continue to insist on removal of the remaining billboards, particularly these three, since they are in submerged wetlands that are designated public trust lands by the State.

For Baykeeper news, action alerts, and other updates, visit our website at humboldtbaykeeper.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @HumBaykeeper. You can sign up for e-news by emailing us at alerts@humboldtbaykeeper.org.
Proposed Wind Project Presents Alarming Impacts

EPIC urges greater efforts to minimize impacts to the environment

Tom Wheeler
Executive Director

There is a proposed wind energy project for the hills just southwest of Scotia, California. This project has given me untold heartburn as I try to develop EPIC’s position on the project. Some points are obvious: renewable energy is necessary to limit the harm of global climate change, and many species will be harmed from climate change, hastening the pace of the Anthropocene.

Still, renewable energy is not without its environmental costs, and here the proposed project has many worrying impacts. Poorly conceived or developed projects have tarnished the reputation of wind power in the past.

The project is proposed in a precarious location—along Monument and Bear River Ridges between the Eel River and the ocean, and overlapping in part with the Cape Mendocino Grasslands Important Bird Area. Due to its location, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife warned in a letter to the County that the location was one with “High or Uncertain Impacts to Wildlife” or was “Inappropriate for Wind Development.”

Concerns from the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- Operational impacts to nonraptor birds are “potentially significant,” particularly to a population of horned larks which are reproductively isolated from other populations and may represent a unique and distinct evolutionary lineage. (DEIR from 3.5-124 – 126.)

- Impacts to raptors are “significant and unavoidable” as the DEIR projects, with potentially over 100 raptor deaths per year.

- Hundreds of bats are likely to be killed per year, with reason to suspect that this project—owing to its close proximity to a known bat migratory “hot spot”—could cause species-level impacts to the hoary bat. (For more on the hoary bat, see the Creature Feature on page 20.)

- An estimated 20.86 marbled murrelets, a species protected by the Endangered Species Act, would be killed throughout the life of the project.

- Bald and golden eagles are expected to be killed in the operation of the project, although there is no estimate yet on the total number.

And so on. Renewable energy should be an answer to the Anthropocene, not a further cause of it. As a friend said recently (see the offshore wind article on page 8), we need to do the right things in the right way.

But there are ways to limit the operational impacts of wind energy on wildlife. Many of these, however, have been left out of the project—at least for now. For example: considerable research has been conducted to learn how to minimize harm to bat species. Limiting operation during high risk periods—such as low-wind periods during migration—has been shown to be effective, reducing fatalities by 44-93 percent with only minimal impacts to power generation.

Other techniques, from the sensible (ultrasonic acoustic bat deterrent devices) to the seemingly silly (painting turbine blades purple), offer the potential to reduce impacts further. The project, however, does not adopt these mitigation measures. Instead, the project proposes to convene a “technical advisory committee” to recommend mitigation measures after the project has already started.

Until all feasible mitigation measures have been exhausted, there will still be work to be done. EPIC expects that further refinement of the project will occur to minimize harm and we decline to take a position—in favor, neutral, or against—until we see the project in its final form. But EPIC’s ultimate position will heavily depend on whether or not the project developer engages in a good faith attempt to minimize impacts to the fullest extent feasible. We should not have to make a choice between renewable energy and bird and bat deaths.

To stay up to date on this project and others, go to www.wildcalifornia.org
Science Projects Receive Awards

Sue Leskiw

For the 13th year, North Group sponsored an award for the best project relating to environmental issues at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair in mid-March. (The projects were so competitive in 2019 that second and third prizes were given.)

The first-place award went to John Gerving, an 8th grader at Jacoby Creek School, for a project entitled “Predicting Wildfires with Neural Networks: An Approach to Preventing California Fires.” He investigated whether it is possible to train a neural network—a machine learning algorithm that can perform some tasks better than humans—to predict whether a wildfire will occur in a given area within a given month, by giving it the temperature, amount of vegetation, and evapotranspiration value retrieved from satellites. John hypothesized that the neural network would be able to predict wildfires with 75 percent accuracy, a rate that would increase with the addition of more data to the network. Despite running 18 iterations (epochs), the accuracy stayed around 76 percent, with a validation accuracy (percentage the network predicts on a set of data it hasn’t seen) in the 55-65 percent range. This means that the network did not generalize very well from overly specific training data, thus predicting inaccurately for new data. John that he may not have had enough parameters in his data. His project was among the fewer than 20 selected to represent Humboldt County in the state science fair competition held in late April.

A second-place prize was awarded to Meadow Pinto, a 6th grader at Northern United Charter School. Her project “HAY! What’s the Scoop on Oil Spills?” examined three types of hay—alfalfa straw, rice straw, and alfalfa grass mix—to determine which would be best to use in an oil spill emergency. Meadow, who lives near the Trinity River where cotton pads or oil spill diapers likely aren’t available for a spill, predicted that alfalfa grass mix would collect oil from water the best because it has more area coverage than regular hay and has a finer structure. Her hypothesis was not born out, however, as the grass mix absorbed 97 percent of the oil from water in 1 minute, vs. 98 percent for alfalfa and 99 percent for rice straw. But she did demonstrate that any of the three hay types represent a reliable, sustainable, and available resource to clean oil spills near a river.

A third-place prize was awarded to Josiah Rojo, a 7th grader at Redwood Prep. His experiment, entitled “Now That’s What I Call High Quality H2O,” looked at whether a homemade water filter made with common materials could purify undrinkable river water. Josiah used water samples from a creek in Fortuna and the Eel River to test his filter made of sand, charcoal, gravel, small rocks, and fabric in a plastic bottle. He measured pH, alkalinity, chlorine, hardness, iron, copper, two forms of nitrate, and harmful bacteria in the control samples and filtered ones. Filtering changed the pH of the creek and the river water to 6.5, decreased alkalinity, removed nitrate, and allowed the samples to pass a harmful bacteria test.

Spring Chinook Endangered but Fishing Continues

Felice Pace

On February 6, the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC) declared Upper Klamath-Trinity River spring Chinook salmon a candidate species for listing under provisions of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Subsequently, the Commission closed the Klamath and Trinity Rivers to sport salmon fishing from February 28 to August 14 in order to protect spring Chinook returning to these rivers.

On May 6, however, the Commission voted to allow sport fishing for salmon in the Pacific Ocean from Horse Mountain north to the Oregon border, the area known as the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). From May 25 through September 2 sport fishermen can keep two salmon per day in the KMZ. Commercial salmon fishing is also allowed in the KMZ from June 1 to June 30 with a limit of 2,500 Chinook and from July 1 until July 30 with a 2,500 Chinook quota.

Meanwhile, the Yurok Tribe has modified its fishing regulations to only allow gill net fishing on weekends during the spring Chinook migration period. Tribal members can, however, continue to take spring Chinook via dip net or hook-and-line throughout the spring migration period.

The Hoopa Tribe also allows fishing for spring Chinook. However, as confirmed by Department of Fish and Wildlife data, most of the spring Chinook returning to the Trinity River are hatchery origin fish. According to DFW’s Klamath-Trinity Spring Chinook Megatable, 6,438 spring Chinook salmon returned to the Klamath and Trinity Rivers in 2017 (the last year that data was published). Of that number, almost 4,000 returned to the Trinity River with the vast majority being hatchery origin fish. Hoopa Tribal Harvest in 2017 was 420 spring Chinook while Yurok Tribal harvest reported 889; in-river sport fishermen took 557 spring Chinook in 2017.

It is unknown if the amount of Klamath River spring Chinook take authorized by the F&GC for 2019 together with take by tribal fishermen will bring the fish closer to extinction. A better approach might be to close the Klamath Management Zone to all salmon fishing during the spring migration period and only allow subsistence tribal fishing in-river before August 15.

Another proposal would mark all hatchery fish with a fin clip and only allow take of hatchery-origin spring Chinook. With so many native, sport and commercial fishermen eager to take Klamath springers and a Fish and Game Commission eager to accommodate them, however, the path to recovery for Klamath-Trinity spring Chinook appears uncertain.

Please Join Us!

The North Group’s Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the first floor conference room at the Adorni Center on the waterfront in Eureka. The meeting covers regular business and conservation issues, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Members and non-members with environmental concerns are encouraged to attend. When a new person comes to us with an environmental issue or concern, we often place them first or early on the agenda.
Plant Sale
Right: Shoppers with their lists made use of informative signs and enjoyed the huge array of native plants during the Native Plant Sale at the chapter’s nursery at Freshwater Farms Reserve on May 4 and 5. Photo: Gura Lashlee.

If you missed the plant sale...
A selection of our chapter-grown native plants is available to buy every day, 12 noon-6 p.m., at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Glen Farm Stand at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle.

Prior Field Trips
Left, below left: Giant purple wakerobin (Trillium kurabayashi) under the winter-bare alders along Horse Linto Creek and giant white wakerobin (Trillium albium) on the road bank under oaks. These and western trillium (Trillium ovatum) were seen on a field trip March 24 to Horse Linto Campground in Six Rivers National Forest north of Willow Creek.

Right: April field trip attendees enjoyed lunch in the vernal greenery under a deciduous oak. One condition that creates prairies among the woodlands and forest is land that doesn’t sit still long enough for trees to grow. The undulating hillsides showed this instability.

Spring Wildflower Show
Left: Poison delphinium (Delphinium trullifolium) delighted visitors to the Wildflower Show May 3, 4, and 5 at Jefferson Community Center.

This delphinium was abundant, though not blooming, in the oak woodland near Lyon’s Ranch, site of our April 28 field trip to Coyote Creek Basin, Bald Hills, Redwood National Park (below). The spring sunlight, summer shade, and rich humus under these deciduous Oregon white oaks foster a diversity of wildflowers and native grasses.

Used Botanical Book Sale
At our September evening program we will be selling used, botanical books! Everything priced to sell, proceeds benefit the chapter. If you have books to contribute, ready for the next person to enjoy, contact Carol at theralphs@humboldt1.com or 707-822-2015.

Beginners and experts, non-members and members are all welcome at our programs and on our outings. Almost all of our events are free. All of our events are made possible by volunteer effort.

Field Trips & Plant Walks
June 2, Sunday, 1-3 p.m. Wildflowers on Hikshari’ Trail. Join us on Eureka’s Hikshari’ Trail to see wildflowers, both native and non-native. Blue-eyed grass, yarrow, twinberry, Douglas iris, and the rare Humboldt Bay owl’s-clover will be in bloom along this 3/4-mile section of the trail. Experienced interpreter, gardener, and Hikshari’ Volunteer Trail Steward Coordinator Wanda Naylor will point out what is native and what is not and why we care. Meet at the Elk River Slough Parking area at the end of Hilfiker St., Eureka, a few blocks south of Bayshore Mall. Rain or shine. Children welcome when accompanied by an adult. For more information call 707-502-5793.

June 9, Sunday, 1-3 p.m. Grass Appreciation Walk with Claire Brown. Grass flowers are intricate and beautiful, especially when you learn where to look. Get your grass in gear and join us for a slow walk to learn to recognize and appreciate our local grasses. Grass anatomy, terminology, and ecology will be discussed and admired, and species encountered identified. Meet at Arcata Marsh parking lot at the end of I Street. For information write Claire: mycorrhizal@gmail.com.

June 14-16, Friday-Sunday. Four Lakes in the Klamath Mountains Field Trip. Our all-day hike will be on Saturday from Fish Lake near Orleans to Blue Lake via Red Mountain Lake, about 4 miles. Friday and Sunday additions will visit Divide Lake and possibly Onion Lake. We will camp at Fish Lake Campground of Six Rivers National Forest, or lodging is available in Orleans area. Tell Carol if you are interested: theralphs@humboldt1.com or 707-822-2015.

July 12-14, Friday-Sunday. Scott Mt. and Trinity Alps Field Trip. Our all-day hike Saturday will be into the Trinity Alps (possibilities are Tangle Blue Lake, Stoddard Lake, Swift Creek Trail, or Lake Eleanor). Friday and Sunday additions will be in the Scott Mt. area. We will camp at Scott Mountain Campground, or lodging is available in Trinity Center or Weaverville. Tell Carol if you are interested in all or part: theralphs@humboldt1.com or 707-822-2015.

Evening Programs will resume on second Wednesdays, starting September 11.
Evening programs are free, public events at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., near 7th and Union, Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m. May your summer travels include some botanical discoveries!
Progress Toward Manufacturer Responsibility for Waste

Margaret Gainer

Following the implementation of China's stricter regulations regarding the types of recycling it would accept from other countries for processing, most recycling is currently ending up in landfills for lack of an alternate domestic destination.

It will take some time for U.S. communities to develop more local end-use markets for recyclable materials and strengthen the economics of recycling conventional bottles, cans, paper, and plastics. Improving the price-per-ton paid for recycling collection and processing would ensure viability of recycling processing and help clear up current confusion about what is and isn't recyclable. (A material isn't actually "recyclable" if there is no market for the material.)

However, the good news is that progress is being made toward addressing manufacturers' responsibility with regard to wasteful, excessive packaging, and toxic waste materials.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and product stewardship were first advocated by environmental and consumer groups in the 1980s, but for decades recycling systems took the public spotlight and government resources. These progressive approaches to sustainable materials management are now re-emerging as top priorities. Local governments, consumers, taxpayers, and ratepayers are demanding that manufacturers take responsibility for and bear the costs of their waste. California, Vermont, and Maine are currently the states with the most EPR legislation.

Renewed focus on manufacturer responsibility is being driven by growing concern about e-waste, carpeting, household cleaners, plastic packaging, batteries, and many toxic or difficult to recycle materials. Del Norte County Waste Management Authority Director and California Product Stewardship Council board member Tedd Ward explains, “For the past decade, recycling in California has been expanded primarily through new product stewardship programs. In Del Norte, we now have recycling programs for mercury thermostats, paints and stains, carpeting and carpet padding, mattresses, and household batteries. In a few years, we will be rolling out additional product stewardship programs for pharmaceuticals and home-generated sharps. These new recycling programs are paid for when new products are purchased, and administered by the manufacturers.”

This year, the California legislature has several bills proposing manufacturer responsibility including such industries as carpet waste, household hazardous waste, tobacco, mattress recovery, right to repair, microfiber pollution, and lithium batteries.

What can you do now?

• Have frequent conversations with your store managers to emphasize that you want more convenient take-back and returnable programs, more durable products, and less wasteful packaging.
• Write letters and emails to your local, state, and federal elected officials urging them to support bills that require manufacturer responsibility for waste.

Email contact@zerowastehumboldt.org to learn more about alternatives and to join this environmental consumer movement!

To facilitate development of policies, legislation and other initiatives, the Product Stewardship Council clarifies these terms:

• Product stewardship is the act of minimizing the health, safety, environmental, and social impacts of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages, while also maximizing economic benefits. The manufacturer, or producer, of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.

• Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the manufacturer’s responsibility for its product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the manufacturer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to manufacturers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.
Colin Fiske, Executive Director

The modern concept and practice of “zoning” dates back about a century. For almost all of that time, the dominant form practiced by United States cities has been single-use or “Euclidean” zoning (named after the town of Euclid, Ohio, which was involved in a groundbreaking Supreme Court case on the issue). The premise of Euclidean zoning is that different types of land uses—residential, commercial, industrial, and so forth—aren’t compatible with each other and should be physically separated.

The problems with Euclidean zoning are too numerous to fully describe here. However, one of the central problems has to do with the technology that allowed this system to take root in American cities: the car.

These days, we recognize that cars spew health-harming pollutants and greenhouse gasses, they’re dangerous to operate, and they’re unaffordable for many low-income families. But when cities separate housing from areas designated for various types of employers, shops, schools, institutions, and other important destinations, it’s because planners assume residents will be driving by default—not walking, biking, or taking the bus. It’s no surprise that Euclidean zoning codes generally require large amounts of parking—which means new development takes up a great deal more space than the structures themselves. The result is further separation of land uses from each other and reinforcing car culture.

One relatively modest way to address some of the problems inherent in traditional Euclidean zoning without completely overhauling the zoning system is to simply create a “mixed use” zone. That is, a city or county may keep its traditional system of separating uses by zone, but also add a new zone that allows multiple types of uses to coexist in designated areas. This is exactly the approach that Humboldt County is currently taking in its “town center” areas.

The County recognizes that town centers—most notably in McKinleyville, our largest unincorporated community—work best when they are a dense mix of housing and other uses, allowing people to walk to some of their most-visited destinations rather than using a car. Humboldt is proposing to zone many town center areas “mixed use,” which is a big step forward. However, County staff and the majority of Planning Commissioners have so far not accepted the logical corollary—that in these future dense, mixed-use and walkable areas, providing large areas for vehicle parking will be less necessary and less desirable.

In fact, as CRTP pointed out to the Planning Commission recently, abiding by the County’s existing parking requirements will make it virtually impossible to build the desired dense, pedestrian-oriented town centers in new mixed-use zones.

Unfortunately, Commissioners did not take our suggestion to dramatically reduce parking requirements. However, they did insert language into the mixed-use zoning regulations to allow future town center community plans to reduce parking requirements—a small but significant victory for CRTP and our county’s many unincorporated communities, and a step toward more vibrant town centers in the future.
Comment Period for Proposed Wolf Delisting Extended

Dan Sealy

On May 18, lovers of wolves and all things wild howled and stirred up a pack of action to thwart the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Trump administration from delisting the native gray wolf. The Center for Biological Diversity delivered 35,000 letters and nearly a million digital signatures to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 14 in opposition to the removal of wolves from Endangered Species Act protections.

In March, the Service announced plans to strip gray wolves in the contiguous U.S. of federal Endangered Species Act protection. If finalized, the plan will allow trophy hunting and trapping of wolves in some areas and essentially end wolf recovery in the lower 48 states.

More than 100 scientists sent a letter on May 7 to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt objecting to the proposal to remove Endangered Species Act protections, explaining that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal "does not represent the best-available science pertaining to wolf conservation. Delisting wolves at this time would be an inappropriate shortcut."

“This overwhelming opposition shows that the Trump administration’s anti-wildlife agenda is out of touch with the values of most Americans,” said Collette Adkins, carnivore conservation director at the Center for Biological Diversity. “The science and law are clear that wolves still need protections, and the American people are with us in this fight. We don’t want imperiled wolves to be shot and trapped.”

Also on May 14, the Trump administration formally announced a 60-day extension on the comment period. The new deadline for comments on the proposed delisting is Monday, July 15.

Take Action! Mail your comments opposing the delisting of wolves to:

Public Comments Processing
Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0097
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPC 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.


Federal-Tribal Partnership to Bring California Condor Back to the PNW

Press Release
Yurok Tribe, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The majestic California condor once soared the skies over western North America from British Columbia to Mexico. However, by 1985, the condor had spiraled down to the brink of extinction, with only 22 birds remaining. These remaining birds were taken into captivity in a last ditch effort to save the species. That effort paid off. Today, thanks to three decades of dedicated work by a range of partners, 290 condors now fly free in the wild, all in the Desert Southwest and northern Baja Peninsula.

Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Yurok Tribe of Northern California, and National Park Service (NPS) are taking the next big step in the condor’s recovery with a proposal to reintroduce America’s largest land bird to parts of the Pacific Northwest, where it has not been seen for over a century.

Building on a decade’s worth of preparation initiated by the Yurok Tribe, the USFWS is proposing to establish a collaboratively managed new California condor release facility in Redwood National Park, within the Tribe’s ancestral territory. Like the southwestern population, this new population would be given the special status of "Nonessential, Experimental" under the Endangered Species Act, which would provide protections to the released birds while also allowing flexibility to landowners and other stakeholders potentially affected by the reintroduction of this federally listed endangered species.

“For ten years, we have been laying the groundwork to bring the condor back to Yurok Country,” said Joseph L. James, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “I am excited about the prospect of seeing the sacred prey-go-neesh soaring over Yurok skies. The Yurok Tribe is sincerely grateful for the USFWS’s and Redwood National Park’s recent partnership in this effort to fill a crucial ecological niche and restore balance in our world.”

“This is an exciting time in the condor’s history. After more than a hundred-year absence, this magnificent bird could once again fly high above the Pacific Northwest,” said Amedee Brickey, USFWS California condor coordinator. “The successful reintroductions in southern California, Arizona, and Mexico have taught us a great deal, and while challenges remain, we believe we have a model for success with these northern reintroductions.”

“This reintroduction is another chapter in the story of hope and perseverance that exemplifies condor recovery,” said Steve Mietz, Superintendent of Redwood National Park. “The Yurok Tribe, USFWS, and NPS have built a broad coalition of support for condor recovery which will serve as a model for collaborative restoration of a wide-ranging species.”

With a wingspan of almost 10 feet, the California condor is the biggest soaring land bird on the North American continent. It is a scavenger, feeding on dead animals—nature’s original recycler. Native people throughout their historical range revere them, and the Yurok people have incorporated fallen condor feathers into sacred ceremonial practices since time immemorial.

The foundation of the successful condor reintroduction program in the Southwest has been strong, diverse and durable partnerships. Similar partnerships will be pivotal in the northwestern reintroductions. The USFWS, Yurok Tribe and the NPS are among 16 partners teaming up in this effort, including California Fish and Wildlife and local community groups.

The science behind the return of the California condor to its native range in the Pacific Northwest is strong. The reintroduction sites provide prime condor habitat, with redwood forests and mountain ranges that can provide ample roosting and nest habitat. Inland valleys and mountain top prairies, along with coastline will provide a mixture of land and marine food areas and food resources.
Tom Wheeler

The hoary bat (Lasiurus cinereus) is one of North America's largest bats, boasting a solid 5.9 inches in length. Named for its “hoary” fur—meaning silvery or grayish-white—the bat’s body is encased in cinnamon brown fur tinged in frosty silver. Its tiny face is surrounded by a furry golden halo, making these bats even more recognizable and adorable. The hoary bat is widespread throughout the U.S., found in 49 of 50 states.

Out of the thirteen species of bats that live in Humboldt County, the hoary bat is particularly unique due to the fact that it migrates and hibernates, when most bats do one or the other. This has befuddled scientists, but one potential possibility for this behavior relates to their roosting habits. Hoary bats are a tree roosting species, meaning they sleep and live outside in trees rather than caves, like many other bats, and they are one of the only species of bats that hibernate in the open. This could explain why they evolved for hibernation but choose to migrate in large numbers from the eastern states to northwest California in autumn to roost in the warm, moist, and sheltered redwoods.

Locally, Humboldt Redwoods State Park appears to be an important migratory hot spot for the hoary bat, with a seasonal concentration of mating bats not seen elsewhere on the planet. So many hoary bats, in fact, that Humboldt Redwoods may be drawing bats from all over western North America!

Hoary bats are important insect predators, with a diet consisting primarily of moths, but can include other small insects such as dragonflies, mosquitoes, flies, crickets, and beetles. In a single meal the hoary bat can eat up to 40 percent of its weight. Their prime foraging time occurs in the late evening and due to their low frequency echolocation, most of it occurs over wide, open areas. Unlike other bats, hoary bats appear to fly with a very low echolocation frequency—think of a human with a strong glasses prescription driving at night without them.

This has come at a cost to these bats. Since they prefer open, wide hunting grounds and rely on poor senses while flying, they are easily obstructed when there are artificial objects in formerly open areas (such as large wind turbines in high meadows). Sadly, hoary bats are the species most frequently killed by wind turbines in North America, and make up 38 percent of bat fatalities at wind energy facilities in North America.

The proposed wind project outside Scotia presents obvious concerns, given its location near Humboldt Redwoods State Park (read more on page 14). Among the worst case scenarios: the project would have the potential to create a “population sink” for the western North American population of hoary bats. According to one recent study, impacts from wind energy projects are so great that the hoary bat population is expected to dip 90 percent in just 50 years.

Luckily there are measures that can be taken to reduce the risks posed by wind energy development on the species. Key among these is to curtail energy production during high risk periods, such as during migration or during nights with low wind speeds. Curtailment alone has the potential to reduce fatalities between 44–93 percent. Additional measures, such as acoustic deterrence, could further reduce potential fatalities.

Left: A hoary bat hangs from a branch. Photo: Tom Benson, Flickr CC.

The NEC will be sponsoring a sculpture as part of the new North Coast Otters project, coming soon to our area! Find out more at www.otterart.humboldt.edu.

The NEC will be sponsoring a sculpture as part of the new North Coast Otters project, coming soon to our area! Find out more at www.otterart.humboldt.edu.

**Have You Seen a River Otter?**

River otters are important top predators in the North Coast aquatic food chain. You can help track ecosystem health by reporting sightings of river otters in Humboldt and Del Norte counties for an ongoing study. Record date, time, map location, # of otters, and submit your observations to: otters@humboldt.edu or 707-826-3439.

---

**ADOPT-A-BLOCK**

Help the NEC keep our streets clean and prevent debris from entering our stormdrains by adopting a block near you! Contact us to sign up and get involved!

707-822-6918 • WWW.YOURNEC.ORG/ADOPTABLOCK
Volunteer Spotlight

Sue Leskiw
How long have you been volunteering with NEC?

I’d describe my volunteering as lengthy but sporadic. I became a founding member of the Friends of Clam Beach ad hoc committee back around 2004. I worked closely with Tim McKay, Diane Beck, Scott Greacen, and others to keep vehicles off of Clam Beach, through testifying at meetings, writing letters to the editor and government officials, and community organizing. Since then, I have volunteered for special events: an All Species Ball, the yard sale when NEC left the big white house in Northtown, Audubon banquet auctions that split proceeds with the NEC, and baking goodies for NEC Pints for Non-profits and Spaghetti Fun(d)raisers. I also deliver EcoNews to the Mad River Brewery.

What inspired you to volunteer?

Since I moved here in 1998, I have volunteered for several environmental/conservation groups: Friends of the Arcata Marsh, Redwood Region Audubon Society, North Group Sierra Club, and Godwit Days. Helping out the NEC is a natural extension of my service to these other organizations.

Words for future volunteers?

As my experience shows, there is a range of ways that you can help the NEC. You can short-term volunteer to pull off a special event or you can make a substantial time commitment to a particular environmental issue.

Sue Leskiw with a statue of the Lorax. Submitted photo.

Zero Waste Cleanup
Continued from page 10

...that we are repurposing for our cleanups! We will also be lending out reusable garden gloves to interested parties to eliminate the use of single-use gloves.

In the past we have accepted free Coastal Cleanup Day t-shirts from the Coastal Commission for our site captains. Instead, this year we will be distributing thrifted t-shirts to avoid contributing to the second highest polluting industry—fast fashion. These thrifted t-shirts will be locally printed with custom artwork featuring the work of a local artist!

Now that we are no longer accepting these free supplies from the Coastal Commission, Coastal Cleanup Day sponsorships will be more important than ever! Sponsors will be given special recognition for their generosity in Coastal Cleanup Day publicity, in EcoNews, and on our website. If you or your business are interested in sponsoring Coastal Cleanup Day, please email our Coastal Programs Coordinator at casey@yournec.org, or call the NEC office at 707-822-6918.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates on our progress toward a Zero Waste Coastal Cleanup Day! Visit us on Facebook (Northcoast Environmental Center) and Instagram (@your_nec) to learn more about the NEC’s Zero Waste initiative and stay updated on all of our events.

For more information about Coastal Cleanup Day, visit us online at www.yournec.org/coastalcleanupday

Eel River Rail
Continued from page 4

...now working to appropriate funds for the Great Redwood Trail. Planning the trail is expected to take two to three years.

Legal Background

NCRA initially prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its plan to reopen operations of the freight rail project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires public agencies to disclose a project’s environmental impacts and minimize them to the extent feasible. But after Friends of the Eel River and Californians for Alternatives to Toxics each filed suit in 2011 to remedy the grossly inadequate EIR, NCRA argued that CEQA was preempted by federal law.

The lower courts agreed with NCRA, but in 2017 the California Supreme Court reversed the decision, agreeing with the petitioners. The court ruled that federal laws that govern railroads do not preempt California’s bedrock environmental statute. NCRA petitioned for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court, which was denied. The California Supreme Court remanded the case to the trial court to hear the merits. The parties agreed to settle before the trial court proceedings concluded.

“This has been a long, hard legal battle,” said Amy Bricker, an attorney with Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger, the law firm representing Friends of the Eel River. “It’s encouraging to see both sides work together to reach a solution that will benefit the entire North Coast region.”

Sand Sculpture Festival - Saturday, June 29

The NEC team won best in show in 2018 - come out and vote for us!

www.friendsofthedunes.org/sandsculpturefestival

US Redwood

Lorelei Lane, Arcata
OldGrowthTimbers.com 707-834-5340

PCI
Patterson-Conners
Insurance

Carol Ann Conners
707-725-3400
654 Main Street, Fortuna
carol@pattersonconners.com
CA License #0E79262

www.yournec.org
**Wilderness Bill**  
Continued from page 4

- Protect over 370 miles of some of our wildest remaining rivers from new dams and water diversions;
- Promote forest restoration and fuel-reduction work across 700,000 acres of public land. This will help to improve the ecological health of forests that were clearcut in the past while reducing fire danger along roads (where most fires start) and near communities by providing potential control points;
- Authorize the construction of over 295 miles of new trails open to horses, hikers and mountain bikes;
- Begin to help fully restore the thousands of sites on public lands affected by illegal cannabis cultivation.

As Adventure’s Edge owner Jennifer Johnson said, “In my role as a local business owner and parent, I see the many benefits of these protected places, because of the money they bring to our community and the physical well-being of those who access and enjoy these places.”

Registered Professional Forester Kenneth Baldwin stated: “This bill has important components for public safety. Shaded fuel breaks near communities and along roads would increase fire protection and would benefit local residents.”

“I started backpacking in the 1970s after returning from the Vietnam War,” said U.S. Navy veteran Steve Robinson. “Like many veterans, the adjustment back to civilian life was difficult. Backpacking was and still is my therapy. I believe we all need to spend more time in parks and wilderness, but public land is especially important for those of us with PTSD or other forms of trauma. I am very grateful to Rep. Huffman and Sen. Harris for recognizing the importance of public lands for all of us to heal and connect with our wild lands.”

Larry Glass, Executive Director of the NEC, says “The Northcoast Environmental Center is proud to support the “Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act” reintroduced into Congress this week by both Representative Jared Huffman and Senator Kamala Harris. The NEC and our member groups have been a strong local voice for sustainable management and protection of our public lands and rivers for over 40 years. We recognize the importance of these irreplaceable resources to our local environment and economy. We only have a few opportunities in our lifetimes to make such a large positive impact on what we leave for future generations. This is one of those times.”

Information and updates on this bill can be found here: www.mountainsandrivers.org.

---

**Extinction**  
Continued from page 5

...Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), told the Washington Post that the IPBES assessment shows “that nature is collapsing around us and it’s a real wake-up call to humanity.”

According to the report:
- The average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20 percent, mostly since 1900;
- More than 40 percent of amphibian species, almost 33 percent of reef forming corals, and more than a third of all marine mammals are threatened;
- The picture is less clear for insect species, but available evidence supports a tentative estimate of 10 percent being threatened;
- At least 680 vertebrate species had been driven to extinction since the 16th century and more than 9 percent of all domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture had become extinct by 2016, with at least 1,000 more breeds still threatened.

Andy Purvis, professor at the Natural History Museum in London and one of the report’s main authors, said the findings show that the “society we would like our children and grandchildren to live in is in real jeopardy.”

“This is the most thorough, the most detailed and most extensive planetary health check. The take home message is that we should have gone to the doctor sooner. We are in a bad way,” Purvis said. “I cannot overstate it. If we leave it to later generations to clear up the mess, I don’t think they will forgive us.”

This article was originally published on CommonDreams.org

---

**Nexus: Unions**  
Continued from page 7

...to penalize politically those who oppose it.”

As the 1970s gave way to a corporate offensive and attack on labor, unions retreated inward, focusing on their members and immediate needs of wages and job security. As a result, the decade witnessed the formation of the modern environmental movement.

The anti-nuclear movement was at its peak in the 1970s, and a litany of federal legislation can be found that passed and established guidelines for drinking water, air quality, and liability for pollutants. Despite these similar nascent beginnings and victories, neither movement has fully embraced the other—allowing Corporate America to flourish in the face of any regulation.

The recessions only put greater pressure on workers to make a living while the union-busting and anti-environmentalism of the Reagan administration put both movements on the defensive.

What we have seen in decades since, however, is all but a cohesive social justice movement. The 1999 World Trade Organization protests—look up Teamsters and Turtles—or the 2017 People’s Climate March are the most recent examples of organized labor and the environmental justice movement coming together. However, those events are simply too far apart given the condition of our planet’s climate and the experiences of our working class people.

The solution to the problems of justice for workers and their environment is not one of being loud and intractable with demands. Rather, it is about collaboratively defining our goals in each other’s movements.

Labor demands living wages and growth in jobs in secure industries; meanwhile, the environmental justice movement demands climate protection—less reliance on carbon fuel—access to healthy food and sustainable housing. In both there are demands for equity, security, and sustainability.

Stated simply, social justice means a higher standard of living.

At stake is the health and safety of every person in this country. Adequate far-sighted motion could protect the U.S. Climate change is a threat, and so are the day-to-day realities faced by the impoverished working class. The lower classes are also the ones that will likely suffer the most from climate effects. The term “climate justice” is a newer term that combines the principles of social justice with the specific challenges and inequity of climate change.

We will survive and prosper only if we look out for one another. In my world, we call that solidarity. It is the understanding that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” It is recognizing that environmental justice is as essential as economic justice. I invite environmentalists to consider the importance of social justice in all activism and advocacy efforts.

Separately, we will lose. United, we are unstoppable.