

50 Years of Environmental News

Arcata, California

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ECONEWS



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Página 6
en español

Honor Mother Earth with Rematriation

CRAFT FOR THE COAST | TOLOWA DEE-NI' SEEK LAND RETURN | WIYOT & HSU COLLABORATION | MAY DAY QUIZ

AUGUST COMPLEX LOGGING FRENZY | ROLLING MEADOWS CANNABIS LAWSUIT | LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

LETTERS TO ECONews

We want to hear from you! Write us a letter 300 words or less that's relevant to EcoNews and we'll consider publishing it! The NEC reserves the right to reject any submitted material for any reason.

Email Carolinenecmail@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

We want to feature your work! Do you have nature art you'd like to share? How about photos of your patio, compost bin, garden, solar array, etc?

Carolinenecmail@gmail.com



Dear EcoNews



Do you have a burning environmental question? Write to "Dear EcoNews" and we'll get a professional in that field to address your eco quandaries, concerns, and queries.

Email Carolinenecmail@gmail.com

Bouquets

Sincere Gratitude To:

- 2021 Trash-a-thon participants & donors! Team NEC thanks you all for your contribution to this annual event. Every piece of trash that is taken off our street is another piece of trash that doesn't end up in our waterways and on our beaches! We couldn't do it without you. THANK YOU!
- Potawot Community Food Garden for offering their Drive-Thru Garden Starts & Seed Giveaway! The Food Garden staff will be providing gardening information, followed by the distribution of organic seeds and organic garden starts from 11:30 - 1:00 PM at the following locations: May 12 @ UIHS Weitchpec Health Clinic; May 13th @ the Redwood Hotel in Klamath; May 14th @ UIHS Taa't'dvn Health Clinic in Crescent City.
- Our wonderful HSU Work Study student, Brittany Kleinschultz. We are so grateful for all of Brittany's contributions - from office assistance to Mindful Mondays, and of course creating our Eco Grief Support Circle, Thrive. We wish her the best of luck with whatever the future holds!

NEC HISTORY

- CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS -

Do you have memories of the early NEC that you'd like to share? Photos, recollections, poems or lessons learned from campaigns? Did the NEC launch you into a life of environmental activism? We want to know what the Northcoast Environmental Center has meant to you over the years, whether you were involved right at



the beginning or anywhere else within this last half-century. Please send your submissions or article ideas to carolinenecmail@gmail.com



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www.rras.org

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Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (SAFE)

www.safealt.org

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

www.wildcalifornia.org

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NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Larry Glass, Executive Director
Carrie Tully, Admin. Director

EcoCide

One of the groups focused on Climate Change that has gotten my attention is the Extinction Rebellion. They recently started talking about the crime of ecocide.

What is ecocide? I first heard the concept in relationship to Vietnam, where over a period of ten years the United States government sprayed 19 million gallons of powerful herbicides, including Agent Orange, across the countryside in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos to deforest the countryside and expose enemy sanctuaries during the Vietnam War. The dioxin-laced chemicals defoliated the jungle and caused cancers, neurological disease and birth defects in villages nearby. While the total number of victims is not clear, Vietnamese groups claim the number to be more than 3 million. In 1970, Yale biologist Arthur Galston invoked that intentional destruction to call on the world to outlaw what he called "ecocide."

Damage to nature has become so extensive and widespread around the world that many environmentalists speak of ecocide to describe numerous environmentally devastated hot spots. Besides Vietnam, prime examples of ecocide include:

- **Ukraine** where the **Chernobyl** nuclear plant exploded in 1986 and left the now-deserted area dangerously radioactive;
- **Northern Canada's tar sands**, where toxic waste pits and strip mines have replaced 400 square miles of boreal forest and boglands;
- **The Gulf of Mexico**, site of the Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 people, spilled at least 168 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean over 87 days and killed countless marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and migratory birds;
- **Brazil in the Amazon rainforest**, where rapid deforestation encouraged by Brazilian President Bolsonaro is devastating the Amazon rainforests.

In December, the Belgian Foreign Minister asked International Criminal Court member-states to examine the possibility of adopting ecocide as a crime. A member of Belgium's Parliament has also proposed a bill to criminalize ecocide. And French lawmakers are working on legislation to make ecocide an offense punishable by fines and prison sentences.

At least ten countries have national ecocide laws already, including Vietnam, which enacted the law in 1990. Now the International Court is considering making ecocide the fifth international crime they would enforce. Maybe it's time to start the discussion in this country.

Nordic AquaFarms

The Nordic AquaFarms project continues to move forward and the developers of this project deserve acknowledgement for reaching out early and often to environmental groups and the public and for their willingness to meet and answer questions on a regular basis. That said, we don't agree with Humboldt County's decision to only require a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is substantial, consequential, and is breaking new ground in California, so the NEC and other groups believe it requires a full Environmental Impact Report.

The NEC and CSH file Lawsuit Against Humboldt County

Speaking of MND's versus EIR's, this same issue has caused the NEC to join with Citizens for a Sustainable Humboldt (CSH) in filing a lawsuit against Humboldt County for not requiring an EIR on the Mega-grow known as Rolling Meadows Ranch near the community of McCann in Southern Humboldt. After filing our case against Humboldt County we became aware that there is a Timber Harvest Project called the "Tickle THP" that is proposed for the same property. The first question that comes to mind is what is the cumulative impact of these two projects?

NEC Staff Operations

Staff are really excited to announce our next big project - Craft for the Coast: Trash Art Contest. We are putting out the call to all trash crafters and upcycling artists! We want you to create a piece of trash art and enter to win prizes! Art submission deadline is July 16. We will have an outdoor art show at the Arcata Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 24. The community can cast their vote online from July 19-31 for the People's Choice Award and help raise funds for the NEC. (1 vote = \$1). We are so thankful to our Coastal Programs Intern, Anneke Fischle, for her help with putting on this event. Anneke brought her passion for marine debris awareness to the NEC last fall and collaborated with staff to create the vision for this event. See page 4 for Anneke's volunteer spotlight. Learn more at www.yournec.org/craft4coast.

We are so excited to divulge all the details of the NEC's 50th Anniversary Summer Celebration on August 21 - and we will soon! For now, just know that this event will be a fun-in-the-sun, activity-filled event that pays tribute to all of the hard work that individuals at the NEC have contributed over the last half-century. More information coming soon.

Tolowa Dee-ni' Seek Return of Reservation Ranch

Caroline Griffith, EcoNews Journalist

Until the arrival of miners in 1852, the Tolowa Dee-ni' lived in harmony with the land now known as the Smith River Plain. In 1853, the land was claimed by those in pursuit of gold, with no consideration of those who had lived on the land for millennia before their arrival. Between 1850 and 1857, multiple massacres in the Smith River Valley (including one at the village of Yan'-daa-k'vt which remains the second most deadly recorded massacre in U.S. history) killed hundreds of Tolowa Dee-ni'.

After being forcibly moved to the Lower Klamath River Reservation at Fort Terwer, and then moved back when Fort Terwer was destroyed by a flood, the Tolowa Dee-ni', as well as Yurok and Wiyot, were moved to the Smith River Valley and what became the Smith River Reservation. It didn't last long, though, because in 1868 the federal government abandoned the Smith River Reservation and moved all of the inhabitants to the Hoopa Valley Reservation. Throughout the next century the Tolowa Dee-ni' were given land only to have it taken away, and lost recognition from the federal government then fought to regain it. The 1983 Tillie Hardwick case restored recognition and the tribal government of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, but despite the treaties that had been signed, much of their ancestral land was already private property.

Now, the land that was at the heart of the original 40,000 acres Smith River Reservation is up for sale and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is working to get it back. Known as Reservation Ranch, this 1,668 acre property is on the market for \$12.95 million. The same family has owned the land for the six generations since Europeans settled the area. The property includes three miles of river frontage and, as the real estate listing boasts, "The ranch is home to an abundance of wildlife, including Roosevelt elk, deer, ducks, and geese. Several sloughs create a vibrant estuary ecosystem. This is a true sportsmen's paradise! Reservation Ranch is truly a multi-dimensional property. Offering an established dairy operation, room to expand into a variety of interests, and in a location that's beyond compare."

Absent from the real estate listing is any mention of the environmental impact of generations of cattle ranching and destructive agricultural practices, including violations of the California Water Code and multiple violations of the California Coastal Act.

The California Coastal Commission has notified the property owners of violations including: unpermitted development of levees and roads directly across tidal sloughs and wetlands; placement of construction waste and cow carcasses in and/or adjacent to tidal sloughs and streams; damming of tidal sloughs and wetlands; dredging and channelizing of tidal sloughs and streams; and removal of major riparian vegetation. Additionally, the business has allegedly blocked public access to the sea, tidal sloughs and public trust lands for decades. Depending on the outcome of the Commission's proceedings, the owner may be subject to fines of up to \$11,250 per day, for a maximum of five years, for each violation.

Water quality issues from lily bulb farming are a major concern on this and neighboring properties (see page 17) as is the possible connection between cattle ranching and Treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD), a novel hoof disease that has plagued the dairy industry for decades and has recently been discovered in elk in Del Norte County. Regardless of the challenges of rehabilitating this property, the Tolowa Dee-ni' feel they are up to the task. As their website states, "The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is hopeful to reclaim this invaluable unceded ancestral land. As the true and rightful stewards of this property the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is passionate and eager to begin environmental restoration and cultural resource protection initiatives. The Tribe envisions great potential for collaborative work with non-profits and colleges and/or universities on the extensive restoration this property will demand."

The Nation is seeking public support and allies in their effort to rematriate. More information can be found at [**www.tolowa-nsn.gov/reservationranch**](http://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/reservationranch)

Earth Day to May Day

Caroline Griffith, EcoNews Journalist

Divide and conquer is a strategy often used by the ruling class to stay in power. From the creation of a racialized slave-class designed to keep indentured Europeans from uniting with African slaves following Bacon's Rebellion in 1675, to the modern Conservative talking point about working-class migrants stealing jobs from working-class Americans, this tactic has been used time and again to keep the majority in competition with each other while a small minority benefits.

One way this manifests is the Environment vs. Jobs argument. Though environmentalists are often accused of being anti-business and pitted against working people (generally by industries looking to shirk their environmental responsibility), there are many historical connections between the environmental and labor community. In fact, labor unions like the United Auto Workers (UAW) were some of the biggest supporters of the first Earth Day, recognizing that a healthy environment leads to a healthy economy and that the forces that exploit workers also exploit the environment.

Labor leaders have also recognized that their members and workers are on the front lines of pollution; Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) organized around pesticide exposure by farm workers. In 1971, a coalition of environmental and labor groups fought to protect the Clean Air Act against deregulation efforts by industry.


This relationship has re-emerged with the Earth Day to May Day movement which seeks collaborative action between workers and environmental and climate activists from Earth Day to May Day, or International Workers Day. Both holidays arose from people taking to the streets to fight industries that saw workers and working class people as expendable in the name of profit. Both are celebrated widely among their respective movements, and the direct-actions associated with them continue to engage activists and influence policy.

Though COVID-19 continues to make it hard for us to take to the streets together, there are still opportunities to practice labor/environmental solidarity. Locally, we can work to form coalitions with workers and labor groups before contentious projects arise. We can also support local labor organizing, like the California Faculty Association's (CFA) efforts to fight the corporate takeover of HSU, United Food and Commercial Workers' (UFCW) organizing of cannabis workers, and the California Nurses Association (CNA) and National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) in their ongoing struggles to keep our hospitals adequately staffed and keep those staff safe. Collectively we can compel corporations to follow practices that protect workers and the environment, and make sure that workers have a seat at the table. A recent poll by the think tank YouGov Blue found that 62% of union members polled favored the Green New Deal. The workers understand that a healthy environment means a healthy economy. It's the CEO's and the shareholders who don't want to change.

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN

EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE

POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **350,000 ACRES** WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA: El Paso COLORADO: Ignacio IDAHO: Leway KANSAS: Burtis Stigler	MINNESOTA: Engom. MONTANA: Crow Agency. NEBRASKA: Macy Santee Washington.	NORTH DAKOTA: Fort Totten. Fort Yates. OKLAHOMA: Anadarko. Cantonment. Colony Darrington. Muskogee, <i>et al.</i> Tuxedo.	OKLAHOMA - Con. See and Post Agency. Shawnee. Wagoner. OREGON: Klamath Agency. Pendleton. Roseburg. Siletz.	SOUTH DAKOTA: Cheyenne Agency. Crow Creek. Greenwood. Lower Brule. Pine Bluff. Rapid. Sisseton.	WASHINGTON: Fort Simcoe. Fort Spokane. Tulalip. WISCONSIN: Omaha.
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WALTER L. FISHER,

Secretary of the Interior.

ROBERT G. VALENTINE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

"Indian Land For Sale" flyer. Image credit: Library of Congress

LETTERS TO ECONEWS



CHAINSAWS FROM THE PAST STILL ECHO IN MY HEAD

Dave Van de Mark's piece on Redwood National Park brought back memories of my old summer job with USGS in summer 1974, which Bob Ziemer made happen. I was an art major at HSU at the time. We commuted to Redwood Creek watershed from the Eureka office collecting feeder stream water samples for the Janda survey. It was a time when the loggers were cutting as much of the watershed as they could, as they had a timeline. If they could get the trees down on the ground by a certain date they could keep them and haul them away later. We had the keys to all the back gates and timber roads and were hated by those loggers who saw us as THE GOVERNMENT in our grey USGS truck. We were not liked in Orick. Of course two long-haired hippie types hiking around with packs full of sampling gear did not help.

Mid-summer we met at the Tall Trees Grove water access road with a D8 operator and loaded a cable car and lots of cable and equipment on that D8 and he took us up river through Redwood Creek to Bridges Creek right through the streambed. He then drove up Bridges a bit to a massive logjam where we unloaded all the heavy gear. We rigged a cable car across Bridges Creek to collect water samples at high water time in winter. We rode that D8 back down Redwood Creek but first we tied lots of downed limbs behind the tractor so the tracks were covered up a bit with the dragging limbs. Leave no tracks so-to-speak.

That summer was a mix of feelings, from the sheer terror as the Earth shook, hearing and feeling old-growth trees fall near us, to the joy of seeing black bears with cubs around Bridges Creek drainage and small fish in the feeder creeks and streams. I loved that job.

-Mark Cortright,
Liscom Hill Pottery

"Thank you to all the Covid-19 Medical staff at St. Joseph's Hospital Eureka for saving my life. Thank you to my friends and family for your love and your prayers." - Anonymous Donor



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ANNEKE FISCHLE, NEC INTERN

What inspires you to volunteer your time?

While I was in college, I discovered the impacts marine debris has on the ocean, sea life, and beach communities. I specifically found it shocking that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an area in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii, is predicted to have at least 79 thousand tons of ocean plastic floating inside an area of 1.6 million km² (or roughly twice the size of Texas), with fishing gear representing more than 46% of the load surveyed. This lost fishing gear entangles many animals and impacts ecosystems, an example would be the whale that was entangled in fishing nets and washed up on Samoa Beach in 2019. Having learned about this, I decided to write my Senior Thesis on the topic of marine animal entanglements within fishing gear along the California Coast, as well as collaborate with nonprofits, like the Northcoast Environmental Center, who are working towards marine debris clean-up and prevention.



What project are you working on at the NEC?

Alongside Chelsea, the NEC's Outreach Coordinator, and Ivy, the Coastal Programs Coordinator, we have created the upcoming summer event "Craft for the Coast." This will provide a fun opportunity to create works of art with found trash! The intention behind this event is to discover innovative, creative, and playful ways to prevent landfill waste and instead give what we consider to be trash a new life. Keep an eye out for more information on this coming soon!

What words of advice do you have for people interested in volunteering at a local nonprofit?

Be intentional. If you have the capacity to work alongside a nonprofit that fuels your passion, give your time and energy in a way that is sustainable. Serious issues that nonprofits are dedicated towards supporting, such as social justice, climate change efforts, and the prevention of marine animal entanglements can often feel overwhelming. Although, through the power of intention, space can be created to move towards a more just world joyously and with the potential to heal ourselves, the Earth, and our communities.

THE ECONEWS REPORT

Recent EcoNews Reports:

Lawless Logging on Six Rivers National Forest

April 10, 2021 – Longtime forest defender Kimberly Baker joins Gang Green to break down what Six Rivers National Forest is proposing and why this lawless logging should concern North Coast residents.

Friends of the Eel River Force FERC to Comply with the Endangered Species Act

April 3, 2021 – There's a proposal to remove the fish-blocking Scott Dam on the Eel River but looming problems still remain. In an important win for salmon, FERC has agreed to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service as required by the Endangered Species Act. Find out what this victory means for salmon and dam removal across the West Coast on this week's EcoNews Report.

Cars, Trains and Automobiles — Transportation Planning in Humboldt County

March 27, 2021 – The Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) is hard at work on an update to the "Regional Transportation Plan," a blueprint for our current and future transportation needs. Oona Smith, Senior Planner with HCAOG joins Gang Green to talk about how good planning helps all road users and how the Regional Transportation Plan will shape our transportation investments in the future.

Learn to Be a Good Activist with the NEC!

March 20, 2021 – The Northcoast Environmental Center is celebrating 50 years of activism, and its staff want to let you in on their secrets to success. They are excited to present two new programs – Activate NEC and Thrive: Eco Grief Circle—to teach you how to be a better, more effective environmental advocate and how to avoid the doom-and-gloom burnout that can plague activists.

The Trinity Alps' Last Glacier

March 13, 2021 – What happens when a group of friends goes on a hiking trip? If they are science nerds (and employees of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife), they document and map a set of quickly melting glaciers (publishing their findings in a peer-reviewed scientific journal) and the nearby flora and fauna.



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Bringing the Forest Back to Health: *Collaboration Between the Wiyot Tribe and HSU*

*Brittany Kleinschnitz, NEC Support Staff
& Carrie Tully, NEC Admin. Director*

During a time when countless social and environmental issues exist in our local and global communities, it can be challenging to know where best to put our activist energy. Many of us know that the most important voices we can be elevating in environmental restoration and sustainability are those of the original inhabitants of these lands. According to Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, Department Chair of HSU's Native American Studies, the number one action we can take to mitigate climate disaster is to give land back to Indigenous communities.

Land return is not new to the Humboldt community. In October 2019 we watched the City of Eureka rematriate Tuluwat to the Wiyot Tribe. Through grassroots fundraising, public awareness and support, and a fundamental responsibility to their sacred lands, the Wiyot were able to reunite with the center of their world. Today they continue to tend the earth and waters at Tuluwat, restoring a place that had been polluted, damaged, and in many ways abandoned. Though Tuluwat represents a vital and inspiring success story, there are more opportunities on the horizon.

In June 2020, through a number of grants and after years of organizing, a parcel of so-called Jacoby Creek Forest was transferred from the City of Arcata to Humboldt State University. This forest land, known by the Wiyot as Goukdi'n, holds untold potential. The newly emerging Tribal Forestry program has many collaborative research opportunities for students to look forward to. Yet in the process, the Wiyot Tribe were excluded from any conversations, planning, and execution of the transfer. The topic of rematriation was never broached until Dr. Risling Baldy posed the question: Why?

This question spurred action by both Dr. Risling Baldy and Environment and Community graduate student Carrie Tully, who brought the Wiyot Tribal Council into the conversation. Since then, the Wiyot are now included in communications regarding Goukdi'n, and the project has continued to evolve. The current goals are now twofold: to create an effective co-management strategy between the Wiyot Tribe and HSU, and to legally return the land to the Wiyot, who currently do not own any forested land within their ancestral territory. Some see these goals at odds with one another, but Tribal Chairman Ted Hernandez has a different vision for the future: "The land was always a part of the Wiyot, no matter what. It was what we were supposed to take care of... to nourish it and



Wiyot Ancestral Territory Boundaries.
Map source: Historic Justice Alliance.

bring it to health. That's what our job was. The reason why this is important to me, is for us to receive this back, is to bring it back to the health that it needs... It needs that love and tender care not just from the Wiyot people but the community that surrounds it. Let's take care of it together."

While most stakeholders are on board for this partnership, the language around co-management continues to regard the Wiyot as visitors invited to work on HSU land, and sees rematriation as a threat to student research and a far off (if at all possible) goal. Initiatives such as this new co-management strategy and the forthcoming Tribal Forestry program seek to embody the university's Strategic Plan to "Strengthen relationships and engage with local Tribal Nations and communities through authentic actions, specific planning, accountability, and true collaboration" - but fall short of these sentiments in neglecting the importance of land return as a fundamental act of relational accountability. Dr. Risling Baldy touches on this in a recent interview with For the Wild podcast: "People want the benefits, they want the knowledge,

they want to be able to invite Indigenous peoples in - come here and we will extract from you this knowledge... How are you working to uphold their sovereignty and self determination?"

In September 2020 Governor Newsom issued a statement of administration policy in regards to Native American Ancestral Lands, imploring state entities to "seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land and under the ownership or control of the State of California, and to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands in excess of State needs." We are seeing significant calls to action state-wide; where land return is not only considered possible, it is part of a growing opportunity to build climate resilient futures. HSU can lead the way in these actions for true co-management practices that value the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous nations.

Not only is land return an authentic action of solidarity with local tribes, it is also a significant step toward the goals of HSU's environmental programs. Mitigating the effects of global climate change does not come from Western academics and sciences alone. It already is, and will continue to be, led by Indigenous communities. As Dr. Risling Baldy summarizes from her research, "Indigenous knowledges are not a backup plan anymore, they are the plan."

Divorcing Indigenous sovereignty from ecological management and restoration has never been an effective strategy for land management. We see the legacy of the colonial project through traditional "American" forestry in fire-suppressed and overcrowded forests, which result in high intensity fires and months of toxic air quality. No longer can we neglect the role of human relationships and social justice in environmental science. It is this relationship that created the conditions for the Wiyot and others to thrive on this land - and for the land to thrive with its people - since time immemorial.

Currently, the Wiyot are working on a co-management agreement with the university, and a new subcommittee focused solely on the logistics of rematriation has been proposed by the Tribe and their HSU partners. We will continue to update the community on further developments regarding this process, but for now we leave you with this question from Dr. Risling Baldy: "What are we going to speak into being and make happen in the future?"

To learn more about the Wiyot Tribe's environmental work, visit www.wiyot.us/101/Natural-Resources. To pay acknowledgement to and support Tribal sovereignty for the Wiyot Tribe, visit www.honortax.org.

Devolviendo la salud al bosque: Colaboración entre la tribu Wiyot y HSU

Por Brittany Kleinschnitz y Carrie Tully
traducción por Jasmin Segura

Durante esta época en la que existen innumerables problemas sociales y ambientales en nuestras comunidades locales y globales, puede ser un desafío saber dónde es mejor poner nuestra energía activista. Muchos de nosotros sabemos que las voces más importantes que podemos estar elevando en la restauración y sustentabilidad ambiental son las de los habitantes originales de estas tierras. Según la Dra. Cutcha Baldy, directora del Departamento de Estudios Nativos Americanos de HSU, la acción número uno que podemos tomar para mitigar el desastre climático es devolver la tierra a las comunidades indígenas.

La devolución de tierras no es nueva para la comunidad de Humboldt. En octubre de 2019, vimos cómo la ciudad de Eureka reubicaba a Tuluwat con la tribu Wiyot. A través de la recaudación de fondos de base, la conciencia pública, el apoyo, y una responsabilidad fundamental hacia sus tierras sagradas, los Wiyot pudieron reunirse con el centro de su mundo. Hoy continúan cuidando la tierra y las aguas en Tuluwat, restaurando un lugar que había sido contaminado, dañado y de muchas maneras abandonado. Aunque Tuluwat representa una historia de éxito vital e inspiradora, hay más oportunidades en el horizonte.

En junio de 2020, a través de una serie de subvenciones y después de años de organización, una parcela de Jacoby Creek Forest fue transferida de la ciudad de Arcata a la Universidad Estatal de Humboldt. Esta tierra forestal, conocida por los Wiyot como Goukdi'n, tiene un potencial incalculable. El programa de Silvicultura Tribal recién emergente tiene muchas oportunidades de investigación colaborativa que los estudiantes pueden esperar. Sin embargo, en el proceso, la tribu Wiyot fue excluida de cualquier conversación, planificación y ejecución de la transferencia. El tema de la rematriación nunca se abordó hasta que la Dr. Baldy planteó la pregunta: ¿Por qué?

Esta pregunta impulsó la acción tanto de la Dr. Baldy como de la estudiante graduada de Medio Ambiente y Comunidad Carrie Tully, quien trajo al Consejo Tribal de Wiyot a la conversación. Desde entonces, las Wiyot se incluyen ahora en las comunicaciones relacionadas con Goukdi'n, y el proyecto ha seguido evolucionando. Los objetivos actuales son ahora dos: crear una estrategia de cogestión eficaz entre la tribu Wiyot y HSU, y devolver legalmente la tierra a los Wiyot, que actualmente no poseen tierras boscosas dentro de su territorio ancestral. Algunos ven estos objetivos en desacuerdo entre sí, pero el presidente de la tribu, Ted Hernández, tiene una visión diferente para el futuro: "La tierra siempre fue parte de Wiyot, no importa qué. Era lo que se suponía que debíamos cuidar... nutrirlo y llevarlo a la salud. Ese era nuestro trabajo. La razón por la que esto es importante para mí, que lo recibamos de



Límites del territorio ancestral de Wiyot.
Fuente del mapa: Historic Justice Alliance.

vuelta, es para devolverle la salud que necesita ... Necesita ese amor y ese cuidado tierno no solo de la gente de Wiyot sino de la comunidad que la rodea. Vamos a encargarnos de esto juntos".

Si bien la mayoría de las partes interesadas están de acuerdo con esta asociación, el lenguaje en torno a la cogestión continúa considerando a Wiyot como visitantes invitados a trabajar en la tierra de HSU, y ve la rematriación como una amenaza para la investigación de los estudiantes y un objetivo lejano (si es que es posible). Iniciativas como esta nueva estrategia de cogestión y el próximo programa de Silvicultura Tribal buscan incorporar el Plan Estratégico de la universidad para "Fortalecer las relaciones y comprometerse con las naciones y comunidades tribales locales a través de acciones auténticas, planificación específica, responsabilidad y verdadera colaboración", pero se quedan cortos al descuidar la importancia de la devolución de la tierra como un acto fundamental de responsabilidad relacional. La Dr. Baldy menciona esto en una entrevista reciente en el podcast For the Wild: "La gente quiere los beneficios, quiere el conocimiento, quiere poder invitar a los pueblos indígenas

a entrar - ven aquí y extraeremos de ti este conocimiento. .. ¿Cómo está trabajando para defender su soberanía y autodeterminación?"

En septiembre de 2020, el gobernador Newsom emitió la Orden Ejecutiva N-15-19, implorando a las entidades estatales que "busquen oportunidades para apoyar la cogestión de las tribus de California y el acceso a las tierras naturales que se encuentran dentro de las tierras ancestrales de las tribus y bajo la propiedad o el control de el Estado de California, y trabajar en cooperación con las tribus de California que estén interesadas en adquirir tierras naturales que excedan las necesidades del Estado". Estamos viendo importantes llamados a la acción en todo el estado; donde el retorno de la tierra no solo se considera posible, es parte de una oportunidad creciente para construir futuros resilientes al clima. HSU puede liderar el camino en estas acciones para verdaderas prácticas de cogestión que valoren la soberanía y la autodeterminación de las naciones indígenas.

La devolución de tierras no solo es una auténtica acción de solidaridad con las tribus locales, sino que también es un paso significativo hacia los objetivos de los programas ambientales de HSU. La mitigación de los efectos del cambio climático global no proviene únicamente de los académicos y las ciencias occidentales. Ya está, y seguirá siendo, liderado por comunidades indígenas. Como resume la Dr. Baldy de su investigación, "Los conocimientos indígenas ya no son un plan de respaldo, son el plan" (Podcast For the Wild, 2021).

Divorciar la soberanía indígena de la gestión y restauración ecológicas nunca ha sido una estrategia eficaz para la gestión de la tierra. Vemos el legado del proyecto colonial a través de la silvicultura tradicional "estadounidense" en bosques superpoblados y extinguidos por incendios, que resultan en incendios de alta intensidad y meses de calidad de aire tóxica. Ya no podemos descuidar el papel de las relaciones humanas y la justicia social en la ciencia ambiental. Es esta relación la que creó las condiciones para que Wiyot y otros prosperen en esta tierra, y para que la tierra prospere con su gente, desde tiempos inmemoriales.

Actualmente, los Wiyot están trabajando en un acuerdo de cogestión con la universidad, y la Tribu y sus socios de HSU propusieron un nuevo subcomité centrado únicamente en la logística de la rematriación. Continuaremos actualizando a la comunidad sobre los desarrollos adicionales relacionados con este proceso, pero por ahora les dejamos con esta pregunta de la Dr. Baldy: "¿Qué vamos a hacer que suceda en el futuro?"

Para obtener más información sobre el trabajo medioambiental de la tribu Wiyot, visite www.wiyot.us/101/Natural-Resources. Para reconocer y apoyar la soberanía tribal de la tribu Wiyot, visite www.honortax.org.

The August Complex Logging Frenzy

Kimberly Baker, EPIC

The 2020 August Complex was the largest recorded wildfire in California recent history burning over 1 million acres on the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. During the fire an estimated 740 miles of ridge tops and hillsides were bulldozed to bare earth with trees and vegetation being knocked aside. This includes twenty miles of bulldozed fire lines in three wilderness areas. Multiple sales from trees cut during the fire have been auctioned off. The cost of fire suppression was well over 230 million dollars. The industrial firefighting complex leaves a wake of destruction that often goes unrecognized.

Lawless Logging – What Has Been Done

Soon after the smoke cleared Six Rivers National Forest, Mad River Ranger District declared an “emergency” and went fast to work cutting down fire-affected forests. This happened with: no environmental review; no consideration of how the fire affected wildlife and water quality; no US Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Tribal or Water Quality Control Board consultation; and no public notice or input. Much of the cutting took place on dead end spur roads. Logging decimated nest cores for northern spotted owls and ripped through streams and creeks, leaving a lot of flammable slash in the aftermath. Contractors, namely the Trinity River Lumber Company, were left unattended with little to no oversight. Tree felling stopped on Feb. 1 to account for northern spotted owl breeding and nesting season, but loud heavy equipment continued to operate, including loading and hauling, well into April.



Six Rivers National Forest, Mad River Ranger District “Emergency” logging on dead end spur road 27N34C through the heart of northern spotted owl nest core. Photo Credit: Kimberly Baker

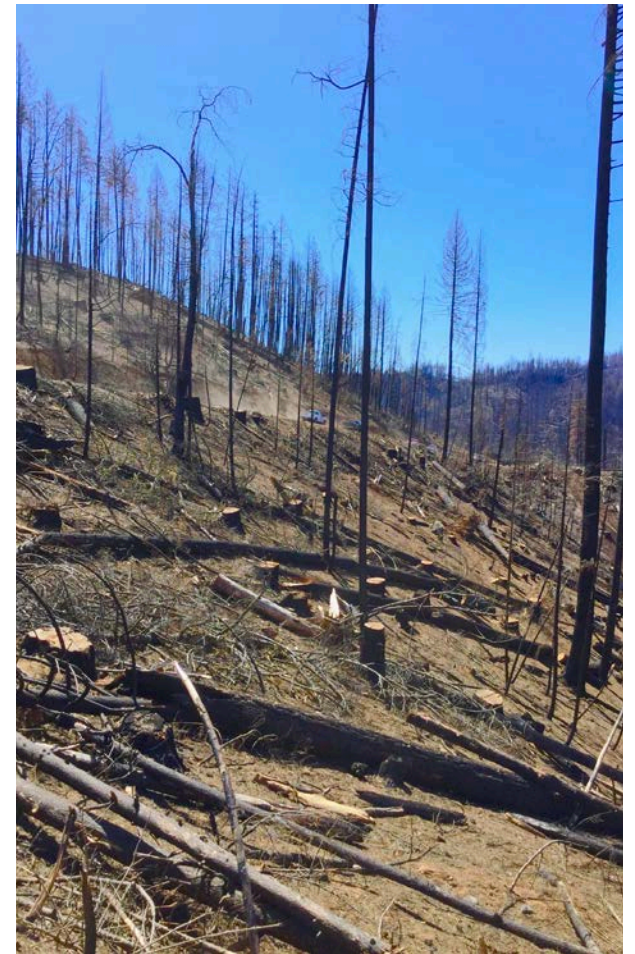
What Is Planned

In the same Mad River watershed where “emergency” logging took place, just south of Ruth Lake Reservoir, Six Rivers National Forest is looking at a Categorically Excluded (CE) project called the Three Forks. A CE is done with little environmental review and curtails public participation. It is meant for projects that will clearly have no environmental impact. The Three Forks project proposes 139 acres of ground based “salvage” and, under the guise of road maintenance, 23 miles of roadside logging. The project would re-open decommissioned roads. While relatively small, the agency estimates cutting 8 - 10 million board feet. That’s up to 2,000 truckloads!

In addition, though public scoping has not yet started, Six Rivers is looking to team up with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on another post-fire logging project on up to 2,500 acres and covering hundreds of miles of roads.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is preparing an environmental analysis for the August Phase 1 timber sale, which is coined as restoration. It proposes approximately 3,500 acres of commercial logging around Forest Glen and the Wild and Scenic South Fork Trinity River corridor, which is impaired under the Clean Water Act. Logging is proposed throughout the Tier 1 key watersheds of Smoky and Prospect Creeks, which are vital in sustaining salmon and steelhead populations. The project is within Late Successional Reserves, Riparian Reserves and matrix land allocations. Much of the area and rivers are in Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl and coho salmon. The stated purpose is public safety, which includes thirty three miles of roadside hazards, expedited restoration and economics. The project proposes eight miles of “temporary” road construction, an untold number of landings and utilization of closed roads.

The Mendocino National Forest is preparing a CE for up to 250 acres of logging adjacent to the Yolla Bolly-Middle-Eel Wilderness and an Environmental Analysis for the Plaskett-Keller timber sale. The Plaskett-Keller project includes up to approximately 2,000 acres of larger units and 1,000 acres of roadside commercial logging. The stated purpose is for public safety, economic value and reduced fuel loading. The project is within the Wild and Scenic Black Butte River watershed, a key watershed, listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act. There are up to 400 acres of treatments in Riparian Reserves. While the project lies primarily within



Six Rivers National Forest, Mad River Ranger District “Emergency” logging. Photo Credit: Kimberly Baker

the matrix land allocation, areas that are recognized for timber harvest, the Mendocino Forest Plan designated this watershed for minimal management, wildlife emphasis and the retention of visual quality.

There are over 10,000 acres at risk. Given the suite of significant issues — the high level of controversy incited by post-fire logging; risk to threatened species and critical habitat; the intensity of impacts on Wild and Scenic River corridors; the uncertainty of risks; and the degree to which the projects may adversely affect cultural resources — full environmental impact statements are appropriate. Better yet, these risks could be avoided by concentrating on removing imminent hazard trees along strategic road systems.

Ecosystem services, such as clean water, and climate mitigation values of these fire-affected forests should be prioritized over the short-term gains to the timber industry. Large swaths of clearcuts along low-use high-risk roads and forest stands are contrary to restoration and recovery. The Forest Service must recognize its responsibility to protect and restore water quality, wildlife and salmon populations.

Be on the lookout for upcoming public comment opportunities.

Burned-Tree Logging: Economics Disguised as Safety

Caroline Griffith, *EcoNews Journalist*

Though the intensity and frequency of wildfires has increased due to climate change and past forest-management decisions, fire has always been a part of the landscape. Post-fire landscapes are important to biodiversity and historically covered much larger areas than they do today. Though they are becoming more and more frequent, fire events are natural and biologically important to the species that rely on them for habitat and food. In fact, fire suppression and exclusion may be contributing factors in the increasing intensity of wildfires. The August Complex Fire of 2020 burned a total of 1,032,648 acres of land, approximately 915,00 of which were in National Forests. As the Mendocino, Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests start to formulate their response to the devastating August Complex Fire post-fire, or salvage, logging will most likely play a part in this response.

Salvage logging has historically been about recouping the monetary value of burned trees to pay for replanting (or what is now called restoration) and support timber economies in rural areas, but now it is also being sold as a way to reduce fuels and prevent the next catastrophic fire, a hypothesis which has yet to be proven and seems to largely depend on how those trees are removed. Some evidence shows that salvage logging without follow-up prescribed burns can actually concentrate surface fuels and increase the likelihood of future fires.

Post-fire logging involves removing dead, or projected to be dead, standing trees (snags) and “hazard” trees (those close to roads or public improvements which may pose a danger to humans when they fall), all of which have ecological and habitat value. Some of the well-documented results of post-fire logging include:

- increased sedimentation in rivers and streams, which directly harms juvenile salmon and stream habitats;
- soil compaction from logging operations, which can reduce regeneration of native vegetation thereby facilitating regeneration of non-native (invasive) vegetation;
- loss of habitat for cavity-nesting bird species like the endangered Northern Spotted Owl;
- and increased road construction which can lead to landslides and can have a negative effect on wildlife populations.

In regards to spotted owls, a study by wildlife biologists Monica Bond and Chad Hanson found that spotted owl occupancy declined from 79% down to



Six Rivers National Forest, Mad River Ranger District “Emergency” logging. Notice the steep skid trail and left over slash. Photo Credit: Kimberly Baker

23% in sites in which more than 5% of the area within a 1500-meter radius from territory centers had been subjected to post-fire logging (Hanson et al. 2018). The Draft Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl states, “retention of all 20-inch DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) snags should be a starting point.”

Further research by Bond has shown that Spotted Owls in Northern California returned to four sites where the majority of their territory had burned, showing that snag retention can provide a basis for forest regeneration that supports nesting, foraging and roosting. Though salvage logging obviously has an economic benefit, the ecological harm of removing these trees, which provide habitat for years before breaking down and helping rebuild the soil, counters that benefit.

As Richard Hutto said in his report, *Toward Meaningful Snag-Management Guidelines for Postfire Salvage Logging in North American Conifer Forests*, “I am hard pressed to find any other example in wildlife biology where the effect of a particular land-use activity is as close to 100% negative as the typical postfire salvage-logging operation tends to be.”

The challenge now before these agencies is to

balance the public safety aspect with the science and to come up with response plans that benefit forest health (and, therefore, human and animal health) in the long-term. These response plans must take into account the ecological and habitat values of the trees, not just the monetary value. So far, it seems that the Six Rivers National Forest is taking some additional precautions that other forests are not, such as not entering riparian zones and taking trees that are completely dead and taking one known spotted owl nesting grove off the table for logging. Whether they maintain this approach with recovery proposals that are due out later this summer remains to be seen. And, of course, this doesn’t cancel out the devastation that was caused by the so-called emergency action described by Kimberly Baker (see facing page.)

These public lands are home to designated and proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers and federally listed endangered species. Their value is much more than monetary and the way we respond to wildfires, both in terms of fire suppression efforts and post-fire response, can have significant impacts on recovery and the impact of future fires. It’s time to take the long view and manage them for future generations, not just the profit and comfort of this one. In order to do that, any proposed post-fire logging projects need to be subject to a public review process and include consultation with local tribes.



MODERN FIREFIGHTING

“Modern Firefighting” by Joel Mielke



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Air Resources Board Offset Task Force Process Marked by Resignations and Recriminations

Gary Graham Hughes, Biofuelwatch

A task force facilitated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to explore establishing new offset protocols for the California Cap-and-Trade Program is laboriously arriving at its conclusion.

The finish line for the process has come into sight after a flurry of winter activity that saw two members of the task force resign in protest and the remaining members issue a scathing public statement repudiating the reasoning behind the resignations.

Arising out of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the Cap-and-Trade Program is a market-based mechanism that is intended to result in declining emissions limits for the states' largest polluters, such as electricity generating plants and petroleum refineries. One of the elements of the market that has created the most controversy is the utilization of 'offsets' which allow for climate pollution at those large facilities to occur under the assumption that those emissions are being mitigated through other activities, such as forest management.

The offset task process began when Assembly Bill 398 was passed in the summer of 2017 to extend the California Cap-and-Trade Program until 2030.

Included in the legislation was a mandate to establish a Compliance Offset Protocol Task Force. The task force was intended to provide guidance to CARB for establishing new offset protocols for the Cap-and-Trade Program.

The task force has been beset by delays from the beginning. CARB issued an initial solicitation in May 2019 to constitute the task force. The composition of the task force was intended to represent a diverse array of stakeholders.

Though representatives of a majority of stakeholder groups were assigned membership after the initial solicitation, the absence of applications for task force membership from representatives of the environmental, environmental justice and labor and workforce stakeholder groups required a second solicitation during autumn 2019. This second solicitation did result in applications for the empty seats.

In January 2020 CARB adopted a resolution to approve the membership of the task force and to confirm the mandate of the task force to provide a final written report identifying potential new offset protocols. In early March 2020 the task force held a first meeting in

Sacramento, one of the last public in-person meetings hosted by CARB before the pandemic hit.

After many months of deliberations, in October 2020 the task force released an initial draft recommendations report. Public comment was opened with a deadline of Friday, November 6, mere days after the general election. While lobby groups such as the California Forest Carbon Coalition, representing major timber industry interests such as Sierra Pacific Industries, Green Diamond Resource Company, the Yurok Tribe, Humboldt Redwood Company, and the Usal Redwood Forest Company, provided comment in support of many of the recommendations from the task force, the draft

13 was a highly attended affair, especially by Zoom standards. After the November workshop the task force again retreated from public view, only to appear again in early February 2021 with a final version of the recommendations.

The final recommendations report was dissatisfactory to two task force members, who immediately resigned. The resignations came from Brian Nowicki of the Center for Biological Diversity, representing environmental stakeholders, and Neil Tangri of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), representing environmental justice stakeholders.

The resignation letter from Nowicki explained that the "recommendations contradict the interests of the environmental and environmental justice communities who seek to ensure that California's climate policies fulfill their promise of improving public health and maintaining the integrity of emissions reductions."

In his resignation letter, Tangri of GAIA flatly stated that the "logic of expanding the program without addressing its serious flaws is lost on me." "Put simply," Tangri continued later in the letter, "to address the needs of California's most impacted communities the offset program needs to be reduced and refocused."

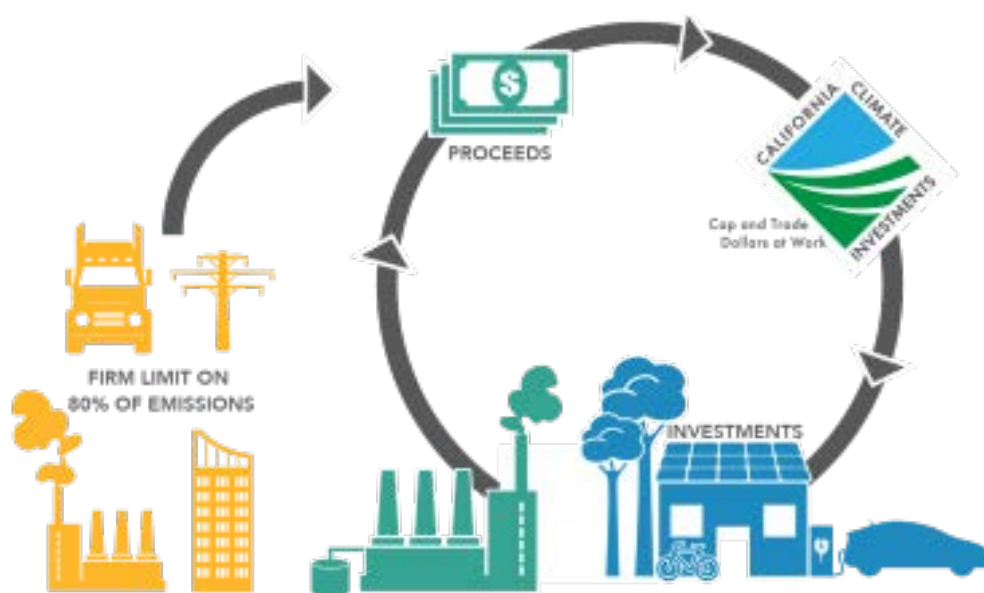
The remaining members of the task force released a public statement categorically repudiating the resignations and the reasoning of Tangri and Nowicki for their actions. Among their concerns

with the resignations was their "waiting for the final report to be released to express their dissatisfaction with the process."

At the final task force meeting in March 2021, CARB officials were adamant in providing assurances that the recommendations were not going to just "end up on a shelf somewhere."

CARB staff are now reviewing the task force recommendations in preparation for presenting the material to the board. A date for that final presentation has not been set. For updates and to review documentation from the task force referenced in this article visit ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/compliance-offset-program/compliance-offset-protocol-task-force.

Gary currently works as the California Policy Monitor with the international organization Biofuelwatch, which you can find online at biofuelwatch.org.uk for updates and to sign up for their newsletter.



Cap and Trade Program, California Air Resources Board. Photo credit: ww2.arb.ca.gov/

set off a firestorm of criticism from environmental justice organizations and their allies.

This criticism was articulated in a strongly worded letter demanding a suspension of the offset program and the establishment of an independent third party review of it.

Highlighting concerns with the environmental justice impacts of offset schemes that allow major polluters to fulfill the requirements of the market-based mechanism without actually reducing emissions at the source, the letter was signed by more than fifty diverse organizations such as the California Environmental Justice Alliance, Greenpeace USA, Indigenous Environmental Network, Asia Pacific Environmental Network, the Environmental Protection Information Center, and the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

A public workshop held by CARB on November

Community Coastal Column

- PENINSULA PRIDE -

Ivy Munnerlyn,
Coastal Programs Coordinator

I'm a newer transplant to Humboldt County, and one of the first things that struck me upon arriving here was just how much the community cares about this beautiful place. There is no shortage of dedicated friends and neighbors ready to come together to make our county safer and more enjoyable for all. That's certainly the impression I got the first time I attended a meeting of the Peninsula Community Collaborative (PCC). For the past 4 years, community members from Samoa, Manila, Fairhaven and other areas of the county have come together to tackle issues that matter to residents of the Peninsula. The group has had great success in improving the feeling of safety and natural beauty on the Peninsula, and has plans to tackle even more issues in the future. In particular, PCC has set its sights on the issues of illegal dumping and dune driving, which have both seen an increase since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. I had a great conversation with group facilitator Carla Avila and PCC core members Betsy Elkinton and Jody Himango about the history of the group and some of the issues they've been focused on.

PCC first came together 5 years ago with the help of the Redwood Community Action Agency and St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund. Their goal was simple: improve safety and enhance the natural beauty and community spirit of the Peninsula. Residents were concerned about tsunami preparedness, walking and biking infrastructure, and issues like illegal dumping and off-road driving. The group has set to work installing speed tables, gravel shoulders, and improving crosswalks -- all of which have made a big impact on road safety for pedestrians and bikers. Several murals and public art pieces brighten neighborhoods and welcome visitors to the area. Tsunami evacuation zone signs now dot the Peninsula, and residents can access information about tsunami preparedness through PCC's Facebook page (link below). A key facet of PCC's mission is to work closely with the community on all of these projects. Peninsula residents have a diverse set of needs, and the group has had the most success by asking neighbors what improvements they'd like to see in the area. PCC has brought the community together

for breakfasts at the Cookhouse, mural painting projects, cleanup events, and more. One thing many residents can agree on is the need for more waste disposal resources, which can be hard to access in unincorporated areas like the Peninsula.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, PCC has increased their efforts to tackle the trash issue. Lately, residents and volunteers have noticed a concerning uptick in the amount of dumped trash bags, furniture, and other large items along streets like Vance Ave. in Samoa. Illegal dumping has increased nationwide since

the start of the pandemic, and residents worry that the Peninsula is being targeted by dumpers from around the county. PCC quickly set to work installing boulders and k-rails to block off roadside turnouts, installing signage, and creating a resource to help people report illegal dumping sites (pictured here). The boulders and k-rails have been particularly effective -- volunteers who monitor Vance Ave. have noticed a decrease in dumping since they were installed. PCC decided to go a step further and paint fun and colorful designs on the blockades to further discourage dumping. The group has also responded to locals' need for accessible trash services with the very popular Dumpster Days program, which gives residents free access to dumpsters for disposing of large items.

Many of the same strategies for combating illegal dumping can also prevent illegal off-road driving. PCC is working to educate the public about the damage driving on the dunes can cause to the ecosystems and communities of the Peninsula. With support from the County and the Harbor District, PCC is moving ahead to secure funding for more boulders to block unlawful OHV access along New Navy Base rd. Driving on the dunes in restricted areas can cause harm to native plants, nesting areas, and fragile dune ecosystems. It's also a community safety issue, as it can destabilize dunes that provide a crucial impediment to tsunami waves. PCC is planning on creating signage that directs drivers to the OHV park at Samoa Dunes, where dune driving is safe and legal.

With an organization as effective as PCC, the question on everyone's mind is "what's next"? The partnership between Redwood Community Action Agency and PCC is coming to an end this spring, and the future of the group will be decided by

the residents of the Peninsula. Moving forward, the group has plans to continue the popular Dumpster Days program, host fundraising events like a hike-a-thon and community paddle, and work on improving and maintaining Manila Community Park. Most of all, PCC looks forward to the day where they can once again hold neighborhood events that celebrate the spirit of togetherness that is so strong on the Peninsula. If you'd like to get involved with PCC or learn more about their work, check out their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PeninsulaCommunityCollaborative

How to Report Illegal Dumping

For unincorporated areas including the Peninsula

If you see someone illegally dumping:

- Please report it to law enforcement immediately at (707) 444-7251
- For your safety, we do not recommend confronting the people who are illegally dumping
- If safe to do so, take pictures of the vehicle license plate and of the people who are illegally dumping

If you see dumped trash in your community please report to one or both of the following:

Humboldt County Public Works:

- Call 707) 445-7421 or fill out the online County reporting form at <http://bit.ly/KeepHumboldtClean>
- Provide as much information as possible including the location of trash and pictures

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office:

- Call (707) 444-7251 or fill out the online crime reporting form at <http://bit.ly/KeepHumboldtClean2>
- Provide as much information as possible including pictures and location of the trash

The more reports that get made the higher the chance that there will be a fast response from the County. The more reports a location gets can also increase monitoring by law enforcement at these problematic locations. Please report illegal dumping in your community and encourage others to report as well! For more information contact Carla at carla@nrscaa.org

Peninsula Community Collaborative **Together we can keep the Peninsula clean!**

A resource on how to report illegal dumping. Created by the Peninsula Community Collaborative.

EPIC Uncovers Mendocino Redwood Company Violations that Endanger the Northern Spotted Owl

Matt Simmons, EPIC Legal Fellow

The northern spotted owl (“NSO”) is an iconic species of the forest defense movement. And because of decades of activism and laws like the Endangered Species Act, timber companies are required to follow certain practices designed to protect the owl. But what happens when a private timber company decides to ignore those rules and CAL FIRE looks the other way? EPIC is there to call them out and make sure the law is followed.

When a private timber company in California wants to conduct logging in NSO territory, the Forest Practice Rules require them to explain to CAL FIRE what measures they are taking to avoid harming or “taking” northern spotted owls. Helpfully, the USFWS has prepared a document colloquially called “Attachment A” which details the best practices for private timber companies to follow in order to avoid take of northern spotted owls. These practices involve

not logging around known NSO nesting and roosting locations, conducting numerous surveys, and leaving enough habitat for NSO to nest and forage in after timber operations conclude. The guidance isn’t perfect, but it gives timber operators rules to follow and does help preserve NSO habitat that otherwise would be logged. Under the Forest Practice Rules, private timber companies are allowed to let CAL FIRE know that they are following Attachment A and then proceed with their timber operations.

However, the Mendocino Redwood Company (“MRC”) has decided to invent their own rules. You see, Attachment A requires timber operators to map “activity centers,” areas of concentrated NSO activity, and protect those areas. Typically, this is a nesting area where northern spotted owls spend considerable time during breeding season. The thing is though, northern spotted owls don’t stay in one place their whole lives. In fact, they have been well documented to rotate between different nest sites and use different ones in different years. Researchers have even documented one NSO breeding pair using five different nest sites over the course of a decade. That’s why Attachment A makes clear that “[m]ultiple activity centers for an NSO home range are possible.” And that “[i]f one core use area does not encompass all known activity centers (current and historical), then multiple core use areas will need to be mapped and protected to avoid the likelihood of incidental take.” That way, loggers don’t harvest near nest sites that are only temporarily not in use or that have been reoccupied since they last conducted their surveys.

But the MRC thinks they know better than the scientists who wrote Attachment A. They have proposed their own alternative practice that protects only the most recent location known to be occupied by NSO. This direct violation of Attachment A has the potential to result in take of NSO because it allows MRC to log in areas that NSO may have returned to. This practice will also cause cumulative negative impacts on NSO habitat. Northern spotted owls do not build their own nests. Instead, they rely on naturally occurring nest sites like tree snags or other raptor’s abandoned nests. Imagine if every time an owl leaves a nest site (with the intention to return in future years) timber harvesters harvest the tree the nest site is in or the area around that tree. Eventually, there won’t be any high quality nest sites left for NSO to use. That means



Northern Spotted Owl. Credit: David Mark from Pixabay

that this practice could seriously reduce the capacity for NSO on Mendocino Redwood Company’s lands to breed and raise young in the future.

Unfortunately, CAL FIRE has decided to look the other way regarding this practice. This is despite the fact that they are the agency responsible for ensuring timber harvest plans have adequate NSO protections. EPIC recently submitted comments outlining why this practice is both illegal and harmful to NSO (you can read the comments on our website). And we are hopeful that, now that they’ve been caught, Mendocino Redwood Company and CAL FIRE will cease this troublesome practice.



Northern Spotted Owl. Photo courtesy of Scott Carpenter

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A Not-So-Common Lesser Nighthawk

By Rose L. Albert

My name is Rose Albert, I am 22 years old and was born and raised in Laguna Niguel, California. As a kid, I had an obsession with learning about animals. As I got older, I realized that my interest in wildlife was the one hobby that I never got tired of. This eventually

led me to study Wildlife Management and Conservation here at Humboldt State University. It wasn't until I took an Ornithology class that I became unbelievably intrigued by birds.

Over the past 2 years, I have made it a part of my daily routine to get out and bird. Being able to identify what you are seeing in nature is very rewarding, and even when I do not know what I am seeing, it is fun to look through my guide and talk with peers – which also helps me grow my knowledge of bird identification.

In Humboldt County, there is such a large community of birders due to the fruitful ecosystems here that provide for a diverse range of bird species. Being a young, female birder, it is my goal to open up this community and make it even more inclusive to all people.

On March 21, I was driving down Lanphere Road in Arcata to watch the sunset when a bird with a white bar on each wrist flew in front of my car. From what I'd learned in Frank Fogarty's Ornithology class, I knew that these markings were a key feature of this bird. A few days later I did some research and decided that the only species it could be was a Nighthawk.

I reached out to a few of my professors but they all thought that this was impossible because the Lesser Nighthawk's breeding range is not this far north or west; instead, it's more in Southern California and throughout

the Central Valley up to Sacramento. Later, my colleague, Jayde Blair, told me he had also seen a Nighthawk that week. Then, more people started to see the bird, mostly off the Hammond Bridge over the Mad River, and my identification was confirmed. It turns out that s/he is a vagrant Lesser Nighthawk; the first confirmed Lesser Nighthawk in Humboldt County.

The Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) is a member of the Caprimulgidae family of Nightjars. This species' range more regularly includes Mexico and parts of Central America. During the breeding season, they can be found in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California.

This bizarre-looking bird can often be seen flying low to the ground, foraging for flying insects. Like most Nightjars, the Lesser Nighthawk forages most actively at dusk or at night. During the day, they can be found roosting most commonly on the ground, but sometimes in trees or shrubs where their intricate feather patterns serve as the perfect camouflage.

In flight, one will notice that the Nighthawk has a white bar close to each wing-tip. This feature is unique to Nighthawks. On the Lesser Nighthawk, the white bars are slightly closer to the wing-tip than on the Common Nighthawk, and males have a white band across the tail. Up-close, one will notice that this bird has unusual, rectangular-shaped eyes and a small bill.

Generally speaking, the Lesser Nighthawk inhabits low elevation, desert ecosystems with short vegetation. Environments like these often fluctuate between extreme heat and cold. Luckily, the Lesser Nighthawk has the ability to enter torpor - a state at which an animal undergoes decreased physiological activity, or in some cases, reduced body temperatures and metabolic rate.

I am very passionate about getting others as excited as I am about nature and wildlife. I hope to show my community that birding is for everyone; you do not need a higher education in wildlife, nor fancy gear. All you have to do is get outside and look around!

Above: Rose L. Albert on Hammond Bridge, by Gisèle Albertine. Below: Lesser Nighthawk over willows, and over the Mad River, by Jeff Todoroff.

NEW! Monthly Bird Watching Trips for Women & Girls – Led by Women Birders!

Starting Sunday, June 6th – RRAS begins a 6-month series of monthly bird watching trips on the first Sunday of the month (June through November), for women and girls; focused on creating inclusive, collaborative spaces for both novice and experienced female birders.

Watch our website and The Sandpiper for more details! Registration will be required, so sign up for any month, with our Field Trips Chair, Janelle – who is leading the first walk in the Blue Lake cottonwoods – at janelle.choj@gmail.com.



RRAS Virtual Program

Please join us on Friday, May 14, at 7pm for a presentation on

Northern Saw-whet Owls, by Ken Sobon

What do you know about Saw-whet Owls? If you're like most of us, probably not much. But these little birds are all around us, year-round, fighting out their fierce lives in our forests and woodlands. Come learn about these neighbors from Ken Sobon, director of the Northern Saw-whet Owl Research and Education Project in Northern California.

Ken Sobon is an avid birder, field trip leader, Vice President of Altacal Audubon Society, and is now the Northern California representative on the California Audubon board of directors. For the past five seasons he has been the director of the Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration monitoring project. In addition, Ken has been a science teacher to middle school students in Oroville since 1995. He has shared his love of science and birding with his students both in the classroom and in the field.

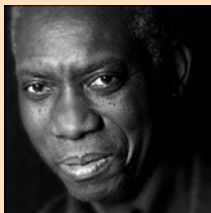
View rras.org for the link to view this program.



Above left: Northern Saw-whet Owl. Right: Ken Sobon with Northern Saw-whet. Photos by Brenda Sobon.

Nighthawks

They scissor edges of twilight, cutting black shapes into sky. The wet silver of quick wings open against eternity, as if to erase an end with a beginning.



By Yusef Komunyakaa
(1947-)

From *Night Animals*
(Sarabande Books, 2020)

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RRAS Field Trips in May!

On the 1st and 4th Saturdays in May, RRAS will be offering two walks at the Arcata marsh. May is a great month for seeing and hearing breeding songbirds. This time last year some of the species observed at the marsh included flycatchers (Pacific-slope, Western Wood-pewee, Black Phoebe), and warblers (Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler), as well as some oriole and grosbeak species with their colorful plumage and gorgeous songs. Trips around Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (May 9), and the Eureka Waterfront Trail (May 16), will also continue this month with some great species to see, including Semipalmated Plovers, and Red-necked Phalarope; and listen at the reedy areas for the unique duet song of the male and female Red-winged Blackbirds. This also is a great time of year to work on identifying birds by song, so see if you can help document for the **female birdsong project!** View rras.org to register.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the National Audubon Society or its local chapters. As editor, my goal is to print a variety of viewpoints, explore new avenues, and initiate healthy discussion.



President's Column

By Gail Kenny

Redwood Region Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization. That means we are only as good as the energy our volunteers put into helping us achieve our mission and goals. We like to recognize our most dedicated volunteers with the *Volunteer of the Year* award. This year it goes to Gisèle Albertine, our newsletter editor!

Gisèle came to us through the Arcata Marsh walks. She was a regular on the walks after catching the birding bug while volunteering at Humboldt Wildlife Care Center. She stepped up to be *The Sandpiper* editor just as we went from publishing 6 to 11 times a year. She quickly picked up the job after working on an issue with the former editor, last summer. Gisèle has professional journalism experience and it really shows in her work. She has a positive attitude, is inquisitive, energetic, and is an effective networker. She is receptive to different ideas which has enabled our contributors to do their tasks well, resulting in a newsletter we are really pleased with. It shows in the variety of *Sandpiper* content over the past year. She has also taken an active role in RRAS as a whole and is a valuable addition to our organization. Thank you so much for your dedication and expertise – congratulations, Gisèle!

Gisèle would like to thank all those who have helped her out over the last year, but the list is too long so – you know who you are, and that includes all the awesome contributors!



We will be hosting an online, AUCTION fundraiser from Friday, May 28 – Sunday, June 6; in partnership with Godwit Days. We have already gathered a wide variety of really nice items and services. I have personally donated a quilted bag I made, and five pints of jam from a variety of berries I grew in my garden. The auction link (www.biddingowl.com/godwitdaysRRAS), will be up and running by the end of the month on our website; in *The Sandpiper* and other local media. This fundraiser is in place of the silent auction we would normally have had at our canceled annual banquet – so I hope you will check it out and do some bidding!

Left: Print by artist, Patricia Sennott; one of the many, great items donated to the auction by generous merchants and community members.

RRAS Volunteer of the Year 2021 Gisèle Albertine



Humboldt County Science Fair Winner!

Redwood Region Audubon Society advocates for protection of birds and wildlife by supporting local education and conservation efforts to protect wildlife and their habitats. Our organization applauds the Humboldt County Office of Education for continuing the Science Fair each year, engaging and encouraging youth in scientific inquiry. This year we honor Miriam Hohl, Jacoby Creek School 8th grade student, for her project, “What Location of Bird Feeder Do Birds Prefer?” We awarded her \$100 and a year's membership to RRAS.

What Location of Bird Feeder Do Birds Prefer?

By Miriam Hohl, 8th Grade, Jacoby Creek School

A bird feeder was hung from a tree on the edge of a wooded location. A second feeder was hung from a house in an area of

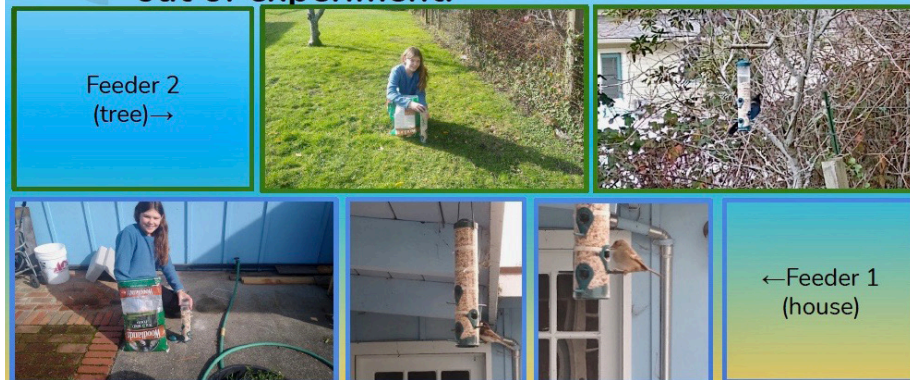
high human activity. The number of birds visiting each feeder and the amount of food eaten were observed. The feeder in the tree received many more visits and had much more food eaten than the feeder by the house.

Abstract:

My project was to determine which placement of bird feeder birds prefer. Two bird feeders were hung up. One from my house and the other from a small tree in my backyard. The bird feeders were identical with the same type and amount of food in each. I wrote down the amount of food that was eaten from each feeder on Mondays and Thursdays and observed how many birds were at each feeder for about three minutes each day. The feeder hanging from the tree had lots more food eaten from it and more birds were seen at the feeder. I concluded that the birds prefer the feeder farther away from the house.

Below: Photos of Miriam and her project, by Jonah Hohl.

Photos that show procedure and carrying out of experiment.





Eating Hay in Transylvania

By Jim Clark

During the summer of 2019 I was on a music and ethnographic tour of Transylvania. Included were two visits to villages in the Bihor Mountains. Upon arrival we were offered the traditional bread and salt and as much *palinca* (local plum brandy) as we dared drink. After appetizers of fantastic local cheese, cured meat, cheese cakes, and cubes of pork fat, we had an opportunity to scythe part of a meadow; which gets me to the hay part. These meadows typically consist of about thirty species of grasses and forbs per square yard, and have been maintained for about two thousand years. Average elevation of this gently mountainous area is four thousand feet, with predominantly Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) forest. The cultural practice of making hay has evolved to the point that preservation of wildflower color in the finished hay is a sign of quality. One could say that it is gourmet hay. The rolling hay meadows are often bordered by spruce forest that can be harvested for logs.

Although different in elevation and climate, the similarity of this area with our north coast prairies surrounded by forest intrigued me. People have lived in this area for at least 2,000 years, trading for salt, metals and wheat with people on the surrounding Transylvanian Plateau. Likewise, local indigenous people also had cultural practices that maintained local prairies in a way that contributed to their sustained survival for much longer than 2,000 years. In both cases the landscape was been altered by humans and sustained them, and other species, for millennia.

The recent (150 years) incursion by modern European immigrants brought different land management practices to our forests and prairies that involved logging forests, grazing prairies with cattle and introducing non-native plants. This has allowed the adaptable Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) to encroach into prairies, altering the hydrology and habitat in ways that are not beneficial to some prairie-dependent wildlife and anadromous fish.

My point is that whether we eat cheese and pork fat in Transylvania or salmon and elk in Humboldt County, we are eating grass and hay.

Our decision on how to manage uplands should be based on a millennial time scale and what is most beneficial to us humans, all other species, and the earth, in the long term.

Below: Woman turning hay in Romania, by Jim Clark.



RRAS is Hosting a New Bird Walk at Trinidad Head!

Join RRAS board president, Gail Kenny and secretary, Andrew Orahoske on Sunday, May 23, from 8 – 11a.m., for a bird walk around Trinidad Head. We will focus on local seabirds, including Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant and more. We may also encounter Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagles along with terrestrial species currently breeding and migrating. Reservations are required and space is limited. Please view rras.org for COVID guidelines, and sign up with Andrew at Andrew.RRAS@gmail.com. Please include the name, phone number, and email address for each participant.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In his April 2021 “Conservation Update,” Jim Clark, RRAS Conservation Chair, argues (correctly) that science, education, and law are all key elements in achieving conservation objectives. Over the years I’ve seldom disagreed with Jim’s judgements, but I do disagree about one element of the ‘science’ mentioned in the April column, which is the assertion that the success of Douglas-fir in colonizing oak woodlands constitutes a fundamentally negative effect on the extent or value of water-dependent and other resources in North Coast landscapes.



It’s now generally known that Doug-fir populations in the Klamath region are adapted to establish in conditions that range from open-canopy ‘bare mineral soil’ (following a fire, for example) to germinating under the canopy of other vegetation like shrubs and hardwoods. Young trees grow slowly until they overtop the canopy of the competing broadleaved vegetation, then accelerate their growth. Eventually Doug-fir will form an overtopping coniferous canopy.

Values are important, of course. If one’s values are shaped by the resources of grasslands and oak woodlands, then the natural dynamic of Doug-fir colonization and dominance will be seen as an issue that needs to be addressed by managing the Doug-fir to prevent the dominance. However, eco-systems don’t actually have a preference for which species are dominant, so ‘science’ doesn’t tell us that we should prefer one outcome or the other. Indeed, it’s well known that forested ecosystems in the Klamath region are among the most dynamic in North America and may well exhibit a natural set of ‘alternative stable states’ where regular disturbances favor both hardwood dominance and conifer dominance (or tree dominance vs. shrub dominance) at different places and different times [e.g., Odion et al./J. Ecol./98:96 (2010); Tepley et al./Global Change Biol./23:4173 (2017)].

Getting a better handle on the relevant science is important for conservation in the Klamath region, never more so than now, as the Forest Service is embarked on updating the Northwest Forest Plan and the individual management plans for the four National Forests in northwestern California. The relative dynamics in different regions within the Pacific Northwest, including California, are synopsized in the Bioregional Assessment of Northwest Forests (available from www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd762774.pdf and www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd762774.pdf).

I encourage RRAS members to engage with this interaction among science, education, law, and conservation.

– Best, Chad Roberts

Conservation Ecologist, Senior Professional Wetland Scientist, Society of Wetland Scientists, Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America.

Responses from Jim Clark, and RRAS Vice President, CJ Ralph:

I generally agree with Chad. My article was focused on a limited geographical, cultural and temporal circumstance. We know the effects of the adaptable Douglas-fir on prairies and related watershed and need to decide what is “good” for all species, and future generations.

– Jim

Chad is partially right on one level. I would say that science can inform us. Once you decide your preferred end point, science can help you get there. So, if you want maximum species diversity of plants, mammals, and birds, (we are in large part a bird organization), you go for a mixed oak woodland. That is also the habitat that the indigenous people preferred for a host of reasons, one being that it was more fireproof. They used fire to manage their forests, of course. If you want timber production, then go for a solid stand of Doug-fir.

– CJ

Public Review of Proposed Fish Factory on Samoa Peninsula!

We urge the public to review this proposal. You will have only 30 days to comment on the proposed massive fish factory on the Samoa Peninsula. As of publication, the Nordic Aquafarms, LLC project’s Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is out for public review. Details and information on how to submit comments can be found here: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/> (search “Nordic Aquafarm”).

There are many concerns with this project that will raise non-native Atlantic Salmon, a species that requires significant inputs of fish oil and fish meal; products that are derived from industrial scale exploitation of forage fish; the small, schooling fish that feed on plankton and are foundational to the marine food web. Naturally, forage fish are the primary food source that countless seabirds and other marine wildlife rely upon for their very survival. It is no secret that forage fish, seabirds and whales are all in trouble, with populations declining throughout the North Pacific Ocean, and worldwide.

This has prompted Congressman Huffman and others to introduce legislation to protect forage fish. (HR 2236, Forage Fish Conservation Act); view www.audubon.org/news/fish-are-legislative-menu-recent-congressional-hearing. Recent studies have shown that 90% of all forage fish that are used for fish meal could instead be consumed by humans directly, revealing the incredible inefficiency of fish farming and the sheer magnitude of this global industry. www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/02/13/515057834/90-percent-of-fish-we-use-for-fishmeal-could-be-used-to-feed-humans-instead. **Watch our website for the comment period dates!**

By Monterey Caid, Lost Foods Nursery, Redwood Acres, Eureka

A man with light brown hair, wearing a tan baseball cap and a white t-shirt with a black 'PORTFOLIO' logo, stands in a garden. He is surrounded by various green plants, including large-leafed ones on the left and tall grasses on the right. A wooden fence is visible in the background. A small inset image in the top right corner shows a close-up of a plant with white flowers.

Above: Downy Woodpecker feeds on insects living off Cows Parsnip stalks. Above: Monty in his family's native plant sanctuary. Top: Painted Lady butterfly on Seaside Daisies. Top right: a pollen-collecting bee on Checkerbloom. All photos courtesy of Monty Caid.



**Next Month –
Create Your Own Native Plant & Wildlife Sanctuary!**



Kid's Corner

WOWZA WILDLIFE!

By Leslie Scopes Anderson

CAN'T CATCH ME!
I'M NO SITTING DUCK!

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Wood Ducks are native to California and can be seen in Sequoia Park pond and sometimes at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. They nest in holes in trees!

FUN FACTS:

Wood Ducks are among Nature's masterpieces! The male has a myriad of gorgeous colors to attract the female. She has more neutral coloration for camouflage while tending the ducklings.

Rolling Meadows Ranch Cannabis Project Lawsuit

Citizens for a Sustainable Humboldt Press Release

Citizens for a Sustainable Humboldt (CSH) and the Norhtcoast Environmental Center (NEC) have filed a lawsuit in the Humboldt County Superior Court, with claims under the California Environmental Quality, the State Planning and Zoning Law, and other laws, challenging the environmental review and permits approved by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

The recent permitting of the Rolling Meadow Ranch project ("Project"), a large industrial Cannabis project near McCann, on the banks of the Main Stem Eel River, has been a great disappointment to us, the neighbors in McCann, local Fire Districts, and many others in the community.

After much consideration of this outsized Project's ramifications for the environment and our community, CSH, NEC, and a neighbor of the Project seek to compel preparation of an EIR that will fully analyze and disclose the Project's impacts and proposed feasible mitigation, and will consider alternative designs that can avoid or reduce the Project's impacts.

The litigation includes the following claims:

- Substantial evidence supports a fair argument that the Project may cause significant impacts to the environment (including unmitigated impacts to wildlife, rare prairie ecosystems, and wetlands), thus requiring an EIR.
- The Project's access roads do not meet mandatory requirements under the County's State Responsibility

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT	
NORTHCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, a non-profit organization; CITIZENS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HUMBOLDT, a public benefit corporation; and MARY GATERUD,	CASE NO.: CV 21005 18 FILE
Petitioners and Plaintiffs,	NOTICE OF PETITIONERS' ELECTION TO PREPARE THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD OF DECISION
v.	[Public Resources Code, § 21167.6(e)]
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, a political subdivision of the State of California; HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, and DOES 1 to 10, inclusive,	
Respondents and Defendants.	
ROLLING MEADOW RANCH, LLC, a Florida limited liability corporation; ROLLING MEADOW RANCH, INC., a Florida Corporation, and DOES 11 to 20,	

Area Fire Safe Regulations; the Project poses a vastly enhanced risk of wildfire, with inordinate response times from emergency services, as well as numerous traffic safety impacts and public safety issues.

- Wells used for irrigation may impact groundwater resources and hydrologically connected surface water features and dependent aquatic habitat and species.
- The cumulative impacts of the Project, in combination with other projects, including impacts to groundwater resources, biological resources, and wildfire risk, were not adequately analyzed.
- The Project's potential to induce growth in a remote rural area was not adequately analyzed.
- The Project is fundamentally inconsistent with

mandatory policies of the Humboldt County General Plan and is also inconsistent with the CMMLUO and other applicable land use regulations.

- The Project's description has been unstable, inconsistent, and uncertain, precluding accuracy in assessing the true scope of potentially significant impacts. Also, development activities (road improvements, well drilling) have occurred on Rolling Meadow Ranch in advance of permit issuance, contrary to CEQA (and County regulations) requiring evaluation of "the whole of the project" in question, resulting in "piece-mealed" analysis.
- The County's failure to follow CEQA and local land use regulations with respect to the Rolling Meadow Ranch Project are part of a larger pattern and practice. Other industrial-size cannabis projects have been approved with wells without investigation of their hydrological connectivity, exploitation of the "Prime Agricultural" loophole, and inadequate road access.
- This case is the first litigation of its kind regarding the Humboldt County cannabis compliance and permitting process as it has unfolded over the last five years. The lawsuit can serve as a local legal landmark, and set important precedent that has the potential to shift legislative policy towards more sustainable management of environmental resources and public trust resources in the context of cannabis cultivation and land use regulation.



Margaret Gainer, Zero Waste Humboldt President

One of the defining characteristics of northern California's Redwood Coast is the strong environmental awareness that has become a part of the region's culture. For such a remote, rural area, there are a surprising number of organizations working for a wide variety of environmental causes. An opportunity for many of these organizations is to increase the diversity of their board and membership.

In 2014, Green 2.0 -- a group of leaders at the center of diversity, inclusion, and equity within the environmental movement -- commissioned a groundbreaking report, "*The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations*," by Dorceta Taylor, professor of Environmental Sociology at the University of Michigan. Taylor's ongoing research indicates lack of transparency in reporting racial make-up in environmental organizations, and of the organizations that report, an average of 80% of board members are white. These statistics consistently show that lack of diversity

Diversity Benefits Environmental Organizations

in the environmental movement is an ongoing problem.

Increasing board diversity and cultural perspectives is important to environmental causes for many reasons. From heat waves to flooding, across the U.S. climate change disproportionately harms communities of color. Environmental organizations can strengthen their outreach to all parts of the community and be more successful in achieving their goals when they are more effective at increasing diversity in their boards of directors and memberships. When individuals from many different backgrounds are represented in environmental organizations' leadership, their diverse cultural perspectives contribute to improved decision-making, planning, and policy development. Widespread support and longstanding relationships with Indigenous, Latinx, Black, and Asian communities strengthen environmental organizations' ability to achieve change.

To address this issue, it is essential that environmental organizations' boards educate themselves and their staffs on recruiting, orienting, and training to achieve the benefits of diversity. This means following practices and procedures such as unconscious bias training for employees and volunteers, transparency about pay and promotions, and setting long-term diversity development goals to create leadership opportunities for people of color. In a 2018 interview with *Yale Environment* 360, Taylor

advised environmental groups to: "Stop being afraid of people of color. Meet them, interact with them, cultivate them, identify students early, and start recruiting them."

For Zero Waste Humboldt, its overarching mission to achieve '0' waste involves everyone in a long-term cultural shift. Its top priority of proactive Waste Prevention at the point-of-purchase, and replacing over-consumption with quality of life, relates to everyone in Humboldt County. It is the only organization on the Redwood Coast that solely specializes in waste reduction solutions.

Since incorporating in 2014, Zero Waste Humboldt has committed to diversity on its board and staff. Zero Waste Humboldt currently has two open positions on its Board of Directors.

ZWH is reaching out to people of color in Humboldt County who are passionate about reducing waste, want to learn more about Zero Waste methods and policies, and have experience in business, community organizing, fundraising, or nonprofit governance. To learn more, please email the ZWH board development committee at zerowastehumboldt@gmail.com.

SEASONAL NOTES FROM A BACKYARD GARDENER

Casey Cruikshank

As the weather warms, many gardeners are excitedly tending to their spring crops and preparing for the upcoming summer season. Here are some ideas and methods for a successful and sustainable summer garden.

COMPOSTING

Composting can take many forms, in our backyard it involves three different bins. We have a tumbling compost for household food waste, which plays an important role in keeping the rats out. For our garden waste we repurposed two DIY pallet garden beds into compost bins. It is important to have a two bin system because as one bin fills you can begin using the other while waiting for the first bin to finish decomposing. Keep in mind that a happy compost consists of about one-third green matter to two-thirds brown matter.

SOIL HEALTH

After reading *Grow Your Soil* by Diane Miessler, I decided to swap to a no-till method and I have been delighted by the results. My garden is more lush and exciting than ever and I've grown to love the meditative feeling of the "chop and drop" process that involves planting a cover crop, allowing it to grow then chopping it down and covering it with mulch to become nutrients for the soil. When your garden soil is in its natural and healthy state, not only are your plants happier but you're participating (even if on a small scale) in the larger collective goal of carbon sequestration. This quote from *Grow Your Soil* explains it well: "The dark color in rich soil comes from humus, the carbon-rich end product of rotted organic matter. Tilling mixes that humus with air, taking carbon out of the soil and mixing it with oxygen to make carbon dioxide. Sheltering your soil keeps carbon in the ground where it belongs, rather than in the air warming up the planet."



Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, Grow Your Soil! and the *Humboldt Kitchen Gardener* are fantastic garden resources.

POLLINATOR SUPPORT

Last season I planted my first eggplant and I was very excited for the upcoming harvest. My plant grew big and as it began to flower I watched excitedly every day for signs of eggplants emerging. For weeks I watched in dismay as the flowers dropped and no eggplants emerged. A few weeks later I saw my first signs of an eggplant, hooray! But I wondered what had changed. Just by happenstance, I had planted borage beside the eggplant and in a major light bulb moment I realized that the borage was attracting the bees which brought them to my eggplant and encouraged them to pollinate the flowers. Needless to say, my garden is covered in borage and other flowers this season.

This garden lesson helped me realize that in order to have a happy and successful vegetable patch, I also need to make ample space for pollinator plants. Here are the top five flowers that I've planted to support and attract pollinators this season: Borage, Bee's Friend, Milkweed, Calendula and Sunflowers.

FAVORITE GARDEN RESOURCES

While I consistently check out gardening books from the Humboldt County Library, there are three books that I've added to my personal collection that I am constantly referencing.

- *Grow Your Soil! Harness the Power of the Soil Food Web to Create Your Best Garden Ever* by Diane Miessler - This is a short, fast and fun read that uses drawings and humor to provide a step by step guide for maintaining soil health in your garden.
- *Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest* by Lorene Edwards Forkner - This title provides you with handy monthly tips and tricks for your garden throughout the entire season as well as specific guidance on all the common crops.
- *The Humboldt Kitchen Gardener: A Concise Guide to Raising Organic Vegetables and Fruits in the Greater*

Humboldt County Region by Eddie Tanner - This 60 page book is cram packed with knowledge and guidance specifically for Humboldt County and all the microclimates within.

- *Planter App* - This free application allows you to plan out your garden ahead of time. It tells you how many plants fit per square foot and which plants work well together and which don't. I reference this every time I plant in my garden.
- *The Modern Fronteerswoman Garden Planner* - If you're looking to take your garden planning and tracking to the next level, this pre-formulated excel spreadsheet is the way to go! With 15 tabs that help manage things like seed packet organization and planting schedules, this garden planner has been my best organizational friend this season.

WHAT TO PLANT IN HUMBOLDT (ZONE 9B) IN MAY

- **Direct Sow:** Carrots, Parsley, Parsnips, Beets, Radishes, Asian Greens, Arugula, Lettuce, Spinach, Cilantro, Dill, Peas, Dry Beans, Snap Beans, Summer Squash, Zucchini, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Winter Squash, Green Onions, Grain Corn, Sweet Corn, Wheat, Potatoes
- **Transplant:** Lettuce, Summer Squash, Zucchini, Cucumbers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Chard, Bok Choy, Leeks

Gardening is a constant learning process and a great space for experimentation. Referencing books, websites and other local gardeners are all great ways to expand your knowledge of your garden space. Happy Gardening!

Photos by Casey Cruikshank



Building a cold frame or hoop house over a raised bed not only allows you to grow hot veggies (tomatoes, melons, peppers, ect.) more successfully in the summer but it also helps you overwinter crops for a year-round garden.

Herb Walk

through the Seasons

with Jane Bothwell & Christa Rose Unger

- May 22 - Eastern Humboldt
- July 10 - Redwood Creek Trail
- Sept 11 - Fern Canyon

Get to know & enjoy local Humboldt plant life across Spring, Summer & Fall in this trio of 4-hour walks.

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LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: GROW LOCAL! GROW NATIVES!

*Monty Caid,
Lost Foods Sanctuary and Native Plant Nursery*

Food Sovereignty once existed all over the world where large, Indigenous human populations thrived. Abundant foods once came from ecosystems that created foods naturally in a food forest, oak woodland, grassland, or wetland kind of ecosystem. These natural, sovereign, local food systems were comprised of diverse native plants and animals that grew together and depended on each other. These native plants and animals were also highly nutritious and very abundant, providing the needed foods, medicines and materials for large, healthy human and wildlife populations to thrive.

Today these ecosystems barely exist and abundant native foods are being lost, along with the wildlife that depends on them. Food sovereignty was lost by destroying native ecosystems and replacing them with monocrops and domesticated, non-native plants and animals which require much more labor, energy and resources to produce less nutritious foods. Because of the lack of native plants and poor land management, agriculture and urban landscapes are leading causes of the extinction crisis, loss of ecosystem functions, invasive species and climate change.

The loss of food sovereignty began when the kings of Europe destroyed the oak woodlands and created conifer tree plantations and monocrops, and took control of the remaining wildlands and made them off limits to the people. People were forced to work in farms and factories to make money in



Pollinator and beneficial insect strip that produces edible native seeds, tubers and medicinals. Credit: Monty Caid

order to survive; their survival was no longer tied to nature. Large areas of land were cleared to grow annual grains that were used to produce bread, beer and beef. Food was no longer obtainable from nature and nature was quickly destroyed, forgotten, and considered unimportant; knowledge of the many uses of native plants was lost or forbidden. Control through the destruction of nature and unnatural food production was forced on the people. This time period marks the beginning of mass extinctions due to destroyed ecosystems and habitats, mass starvation due to lack of access to the food being grown and to traditional hunting and gathering lands, massive wars due to conflicts over land control, massive resource extraction to grow unnatural plants in unnatural ways. Today we have damaged soils, chemical pollution, depleted water sources, low food diversity and nutritional values, invasive non-native species and endangered native species, collapsing ecosystems and climate change. We are still practicing the same ways that were inflicted upon our ancestors by kings and then, in turn, inflict them today upon Indigenous people of the world. Instead of kings it is now large corporations, or maybe they are just different perpetrators of the same idea.

Food sovereignty begins when we incorporate native plants and native foods into our urban landscape and local food producing system. Native

plants and foods can restore the relationship humans have lost with nature. Native food restoration becomes native plant restoration, wildlife restoration, ecosystem restoration and global restoration. Native foods can also restore human health by providing more nutritious and diverse ingredients to our watered down domestic diet. Native plants and native foods can reconnect us to nature and release us from the belief that food comes from farms and nature does not produce abundant foods. Nature was intentionally destroyed to make us believe this; when Europeans arrived in America there were abundant, diverse, delicious, nutritious foods on every square foot of land and water all growing in harmony with the local environment.

Food sovereignty can be achieved by restoring, growing, using and trading local native ingredients that are unique to your region. Native plants can be incorporated into our landscapes as drought tolerant foods, medicines and wildlife host plants for sustaining native bees, birds and butterflies. They can also be used as companion plants to domestic crops to build soil health, increase disease resistance, increase pollination and attract beneficial insects. By restoring native plants, we begin to notice them, know them, appreciate them, protect them, use them and restore our relationship with the natural world as we become a beneficial species to our local ecosystems.

Monty Caid is the founder of Lost Foods Sanctuary and Native Plant Nursery at Redwood Acres in Eureka.

More information at lostfoods.org



Companion planting natives and non-natives for CalFresh garden. (Native miners lettuce or Indian lettuce with non-native fava beans as winter crop). Credit: Monty Caid

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NORTH COAST CHAPTER



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Evening Program

May 12, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. “Serpentine Ecology: Wacky Soils Build Glorious Places.” Where mantle rocks are found on the earth’s surface, you will also find exquisite landscapes, red rocks, and rare plants. Serpentine ecology is the science that describes the interactions between mantle-derived soils (serpentine/ultramafic soils) and plants and animals. In the Klamath-Siskiyou, we are lucky to have significant “wacky soils.” Kristi Mergenthaler will lead a broad discussion while also highlighting some of the special places and plants in Oregon’s portion of the Klamath-Siskiyou. Kristi is a botanist, the stewardship director of Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, and a long-term volunteer with the Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon. **Register** for this Zoom event on our website.



Mouse-ears, a monkeyflower on serpentine. By K. Mergenthaler

Field Trip

May 14-17, Friday-Monday. North Fork Smith Overnight Field Trip. Extraordinary botanizing in the serpentine mountains at the edge of the North Fork Smith River Botanical Area of Six Rivers National Forest awaits us. Our base camp will be at a rustic, off-the-grid, B & B cabin 3 hrs from Eureka, with lots of room for tents. Group size may be limited for overnighing. Day trip option is possible. Register with Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com to learn more.

Where to See Serpentine

by Carol Ralph

This month’s speaker, and speakers at our recent Wildflower Show, extolled the beauty and uniqueness of serpentine soils and their flora. We are lucky to have good examples in our nearby mountains, stewarded by the Six Rivers National Forest. From Eureka the closest place to see serpentine habitat is east on Highway 299 to Berry Summit, then south on Titlow Hill Rd. Shortly after green-gray rocks and Jeffrey Pines announce your arrival in serpentine, a sign announces the Horse Mountain Botanical Area. At a wide intersection with

a kiosk and free-form parking, walking in the forest or down the old mine road is easy. Driving to the left further uphill you find Indian Butte Rd (6N18) on the left, a level, wide walk through dry, west-facing serpentine, then damp, north-facing serpentine, and eventually through Douglas-fir on non-serpentine. Driving farther, you find a saddle at which to park while walking on old mining roads down the east side, or to turn up to the radio towers at the summit. Vistas abound in this landscape dominated by geology and studded with unfamiliar plants.



On the east side of Horse Mountain. Photo by Ann Wallace.

Missed the Plant Sale?

Our native plants are available every day, 12 noon-6 p.m., at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Ave. If you don’t see what you want, contact us at northcoastcnps@gmail.com.

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CNPS welcomes everyone. No expertise required.



Is This the Year We Finally Chart the Course for a Climate-Friendly County?

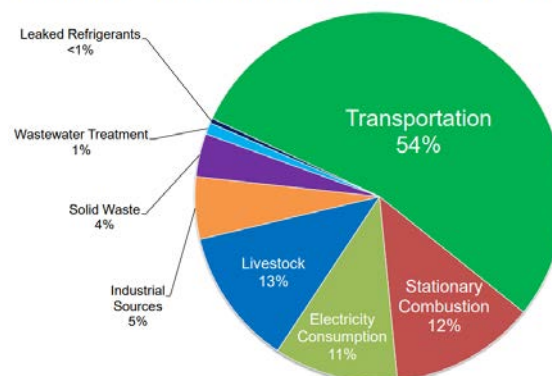
Colin Fiske, Executive Director

Climate-harming pollution is a byproduct of almost every aspect of our modern lives, from heating our homes to disposing of our waste to moving from place to place. The impacts of runaway climate change will be similarly pervasive. So tackling the climate crisis with the full urgency and ambition required will involve a lot of changes to our communities, our economies, and our lives.

We’ve known this for a long time, and local governments in Humboldt County have – to varying degrees – incorporated climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into plans and projects in recent years. But despite the scale of the crisis, there has been no comprehensive effort to plan a transition to a sustainable, resilient, low-carbon future for our region. That may be about to change.

A coalition of Humboldt County and local incorporated cities has been working for over two years to develop a

Humboldt County Emissions Breakdown (2015)



Humboldt County Green House Gas Emission Breakdown from 2015 Inventory. Source: County of Humboldt.

regional Climate Action Plan (CAP), and a public draft is expected soon. The CAP will lay out the ways that local governments can reduce emissions and require them to commit to implementing many of these measures. In order to be of any use as a planning tool, the CAP will have to be “qualified,” meaning that it requires local governments to pull their weight toward meeting the state’s greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Also this year, the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) is updating the county’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP helps determine what transportation projects get funded and implemented. Since transportation is the source of the majority of local greenhouse gas emissions, that means

the RTP is nearly as critical to our climate future as the CAP. In recognition of that fact, and as a result of efforts by the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities and others, HCAOG has broken with the past to develop a set of specific, quantifiable climate-related targets for inclusion in the RTP.

Together, these two plans which are currently under development represent the best opportunity we’ve had so far to chart a course toward a climate-friendly future for our region. But the outcome is far from certain. Our task now is to ensure that the CAP and the RTP, when adopted, are bold and far-reaching enough to address the scope of the crisis. Then will come the even harder work of holding our local governments accountable to those plans from day to day and year to year.

In today’s Humboldt County, it can be hard to imagine how our communities will become genuinely climate-friendly. But we really can create a future for our region in which most of us walk, bike or take public transit to work, to school, and to the grocery store, in which we heat and power our buildings and vehicles with clean electricity and achieve zero waste. The Climate Action Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan offer us the chance to lay the groundwork for these changes. Let’s not mess this up.

You can keep informed about the RTP and the CAP – including how to have your say about what goes in them – by reading the EcoNews, and by signing up for CRTTP’s newsletters and action alerts at transportationpriorities.org/stay-in-touch.

Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA): Waist High in Waste Management

Ali Ong Lee

The Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) receives solid waste and offers a variety of toxic waste and recycling options (often for a fee) to keep materials safely out of the waste stream, but more could be done. Executive Director (E.D.) Jill Duffy is retiring after eight years. Recruitment for a new E.D., to be paid anywhere from \$114,500 to \$139,212 annually to oversee a \$14.4 million budget and staff of 36.5 people, was still in process as of press time. (koffassociates.com/executive-director-2)

In a February 2021 joint letter to HWMA, six local environmental organizations called for HWMA's Executive Recruitment Subcommittee to prioritize candidates who will provide: "bold leadership from the Humboldt Waste Management Authority to divert organic waste in order to comply with state law, reduce greenhouse gas emission, and to build the resilience of our local economy."

The 2016 California Senate Bill 1383 aimed to reduce organic waste incrementally by 50% (by year 2020) and by 75% (by year 2025). Additionally, SB1383 aimed to "Rescue for people to eat at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food by 2025." Organic waste (mostly food, grass, paper, and cardboard) has been found to contribute 20% of the state's total methane gas emissions and pollute the air.

In the letter, Zero Waste Humboldt, the Northcoast Environmental Center, the Environmental Protection Information Center, the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, 350 Humboldt, and Eleventh Hour further stated, "We strongly encourage you to add a community representative with this type of background [a leader who is assertive, collaborative, and knowledgeable about waste and climate issues] to your Executive Recruitment Subcommittee."

HWMA: A Joint Powers Authority

As mentioned in a July 2020 EcoNews article on obscure local governance with undue influence in our lives, HWMA is one of the local Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs). JPAs are entities comprised of two or more local governments or special districts that sign agreements to combine efforts to efficiently exercise common powers. In this case, HWMA's powers—to manage solid waste, control toxic waste, and engage recycling as a waste stream reduction measure—are shared among its six entities: Humboldt County and five cities: Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, and Rio Dell. In Eureka, HWMA owns, operates, and maintains the following four sites:

- Hawthorne Street Transfer Station: 1059 West Hawthorne Avenue, Eureka, CA

- Eureka Recycling Center: 1059 West Hawthorne Avenue, Eureka, CA
- Household Hazardous Waste Facility: 1059 West Hawthorne Avenue, Eureka, CA
- Cummings Road Sanitary Landfill: 5775 Cummings Road, Eureka, CA

HWMA Services

Besides receiving 75,000 tons of solid waste annually at its transfer station, HWMA handles hazardous waste, by appointment, and recycling services. Details can be found at <http://www.hwma.net/disposal-services/solid-waste>

HWMA does not accept "ammunition, explosives, pharmaceuticals, radioactive waste, biological waste, or medical waste" (<http://www.hwma.net/facilities/hazardous-waste-facility>). Furthermore, HWMA does not provide curbside collection services. Those are provided by Recology (Arcata, Eel River, Humboldt), Blue Lake Garbage, Humboldt Sanitation, and Tom's Trash. The majority of Humboldt's trash is then trucked to the Dry Creek Landfill in Medford, OR, approximately 200 miles north, or to Solid Waste of Willits, in Willits, CA, approximately 135 miles south of Eureka.

The North Coast Journal's Iridian Casarez offers a November 21, 2019 overview on "Recycling's New Reality" in Humboldt: <https://m.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/recyclings-new-reality/Content?oid=15732124>. What may be of particular interest is the graphic "Processing Recycling in Humboldt," by Jonathan Webster.

An Offer to Collaborate

Zero Waste Humboldt (ZWH), the only local organization solely specializing in waste reduction solutions "has had a standing offer to assist Humboldt Waste Management Authority with the challenges of complying with California's 46 waste-related laws passed in the past five years," reported ZWH's President Maggie Gainer. "We look forward to working closely with HWMA to deal with the growing problems of food waste, plastics, and the urgent need to develop local end-use recycling markets for the benefits of a circular economy in our region."

Cummings Landfill, a Superfund Site

Before the current practice of trucking solid waste out of our region, HWMA's previous entity City Garbage of Eureka burned garbage at the 33-acre Cummings Road Landfill until 1969. In 1975, the subsequent entity NorCal Garbage, Inc. continued to accept solid waste (including asbestos) at Cummings Road. Eventually, NorCal Garbage became Recology; it began the closing process at the Cummings Landfill, from 2001 until

2012, which included years of controversy regarding its groundwater and geology. Anderson Dragline, Inc., of Gridley, CA, completed Phase 1. In 2014, D&E Construction of Visalia, CA capped the site with a geosynthetic material.

The Environmental Protection Agency named Cummings a superfund site. In 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) held both HWMA and Recology-Humboldt responsible for a Clean Up and Abatement Order. As of 2017, the Cummings site was officially closed but it is still monitored.

HWMA Oversight by the Local Enforcement Agency

In addition to California's EPA, HWMA is overseen by the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health which, in turn, is overseen by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, also known as CalRecycle.

HWMA Board of Directors

There are six members, with alternates for each, totaling 12; two alternates have yet to be named.

- County of Humboldt: Rex Bohn, rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us
- County of Humboldt Alt.: Steve Madrone, smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us
- City of Arcata: Sofia Pereira, spereira@cityofarcata.org
- City of Arcata Alt.: Sarah Schaefer, sschaefer@cityofarcata.org
- City of Blue Lake: Elaine Hogan, ehogan@bluelake.ca.gov
- City of Blue Lake Alt.: Summer Daugherty, sdaugherty@bluelake.ca.gov
- City of Eureka: Leslie Castellano, lcastellano@ci.eureka.ca.gov
- City of Eureka Alt.: (not yet named)
- City of Ferndale: Robin Smith, fnpcare@yhao.com
- City of Ferndale Alt.: Stephen Avis, ferndale1057W@gmail.com
- City of Rio Dell: Frank Wilson, frw3consulting@sbcglobal.net
- City of Rio Dell Alt.: (not yet named)

HWMA Board Meetings (Zoom)

Meeting Dates & Agendas:
www.hwma.net/about/board-calendar-and-agendas

WMA Contact Information

1059 West Hawthorne Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
Main: 707-268-8680 | www.hwma.net
Hazardous Waste: 707-441-2005
Recycling: 707-268-8030

California Environmental Protection Agency

www.calepa.ca.gov | 1-916-323-2514

CalRecycle

www.calrecycle.ca.gov | 1-800-732-9253

Statewide Water Quality Control Plans for Trash

CA State Water Resources Control Board
waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control
info@waterboards.ca.gov

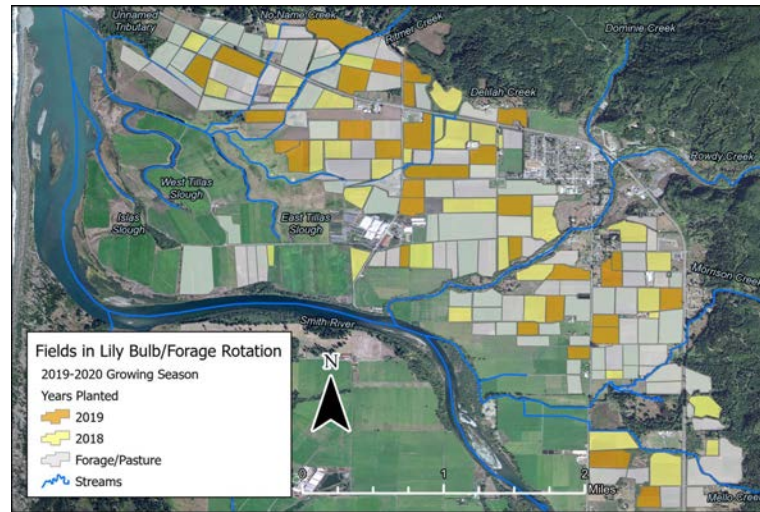
Toward an Effective Water Quality Plan for the Smith River Plain

Felice Pace, Water Chair for North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

The North Coast Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) recently released its Draft Water Quality Plan for the Smith River Estuary Lands known as Smith River Plain for public comment. The Draft Plan discloses the extent to which some lily bulb growers have failed to implement even the most basic best practices while continuing to use large amounts of pesticides multiple times each year, and at times nearly constantly for weeks on end. Basic best practices, like the size of required no-spray stream buffers, are on pesticide labels, yet many lily bulb fields don't have adequate buffers.

For those among us who have been working for decades to get water quality degradation in lands adjacent to the Smith River Estuary controlled, the Draft Plan is a big disappointment. The North Coast Water Board's Draft Plan for rectifying growers' failure to implement best practice is disappointingly vague and general. For that reason, it can not serve as a blueprint for keeping the pesticide and nutrient pollution that plague the area out of our streams, groundwater and the estuary itself. Furthermore, the Plan not only fails to monitor and protect groundwater quality, it actually recommends using groundwater as a place to divert polluted stormwater. Further polluting the groundwater that residents and workers use for drinking and bathing is a major reason the Water Board's plan is disappointing and unacceptable.

What would an adequate Water Quality Plan for the unceded Tolowa Dee-ni' lands adjacent to the Smith River Estuary look like? I believe such a plan would have the following attributes:



This aerial photo from the North Coast Water Board indicates that few lily bulb growers are providing required no-spray buffers. It appears that Del Norte County's Agricultural Commissioner is ignoring the violations.

- First, the plan would not just apply to lily bulb growing but would look at all activities which pollute surface water and groundwater on both banks of Smith River Estuary. Best practices for the other major agriculture activities adjacent to the Estuary, including floral greenhouses, dairies and non-dairy animal agriculture would be included.
- Second, an adequate water quality plan would be spatially explicit. It would show on map figures within it where watercourse no-spray buffers are adequate, as well as where they are lacking. A spatially explicit, map-based plan will show clearly what is expected of growers and operators on each acre and for each field, pasture and confined animal operation. An explicit map-based water quality plan would provide a blueprint for the future and a concrete basis for evaluating progress going forward.
- Third, a good water quality plan for unceded Smith River Estuary Lands will treat groundwater and surface water as the single, interconnected resource that they are. The North Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting both ground and surface water as Public Trust Resources subject to federal and state clean water law and policy. Only an integrated surface and groundwater plan can restore water quality to standard and protect human and ecosystem health.
- Fourth, an adequate water quality plan for the Estuary Lands will deal with the large amounts of stormwater that come off fields and other agricultural production areas, including confined animal operations, when torrential storms sweep in from the Pacific. It is impossible to keep all pollution out of so much stormwater. Therefore, an adequate plan will likely

require restoration or expansion of wetlands on both the north and south banks to collect and naturally clean stormwater before it flows or seeps to the Smith River.

- Finally, an adequate water quality plan for Estuary Lands will be a community plan that is worked out in public meetings with all stakeholders, including workers, involved. The current practice of controlled access to planning groups and meetings out of the public eye is unnecessary and undemocratic. Like the water in Smith River, surface and groundwater on Estuary Lands are Public Trust Resources. Planning and decisions about Public Trust Resources should be made in public. There are good models for community-centered all-party planning.

A sizable chunk of Estuary Lands are the dairy, lily bulb and other operations known as Reservation Ranch. Present ownership has a long history of citations for bad environmental practices and violations (see page 3). The Tolowa Dee-ni' Tribe would like to reclaim control of those unceded ancestral lands. Because these lands were never legally ceded by the Tolowa Dee-ni' People to the US they should never have been claimed by white settlers.

The settler take-over of Smith River Estuary Lands included brutal massacres of Tolowa Dee-ni' people, the ancestors of current tribal members. The Tribe should get control of the Reservation Ranch property as a small modicum of the reparations descendants deserve. If the modern Tolowa Dee-ni' regain control, I hope they will honor their ancestors and the land by making restoring water quality and the health of Estuary Lands a priority.

The opinions expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the North Group on this topic.

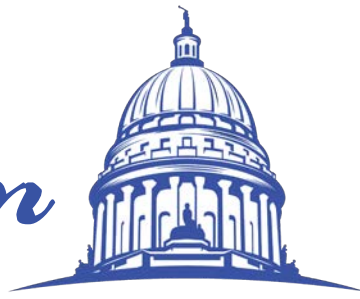


Reservation Ranch dairy cows graze around the Estuary's Tilas Slough. The Smith River Estuary, Tolowa Dunes and the Pacific Ocean are beyond. Photo Source: Felice Pace



Stormwater and irrigation water collect in lily field ditches where they carry pesticides and nutrients into groundwater. Photo Source: Felice Pace

Eye on Washington



Dan Sealy, NEC Legislative Analyst

MORE BIDEN CABINET MEMBERS CONFIRMED

President Biden boasts one of the most diverse cabinets in history. Along with strong black male and female voices, he appointed the first Native American and first openly gay cabinet members in history. Though he chose an African American/Asian American woman as his Vice President, he has met criticism by some in the Asian American communities by losing Neera Tanden's confirmation as director of the powerful Office of Management and Budget.

JENNIFER GRANDHOLM: SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Canadian-born Sec. Grandholm, former Governor of Michigan, was eager to assist President Biden with his energy agenda, though to some it is a little confusing. While Biden placed a moratorium on new drilling on public lands, he has also stated he is not opposed to fracking, much of which is on public lands. Of course, both of these can be true, but moving toward a carbon neutral strategy, fracking is not part of the equation. In a show of strong support for his climate change agenda, Biden appointed Sec. Grandholm, Housing and Urban Development Sec. Marcia Fudge, Labor Sec. Marty Walsh and Commerce Sec. Gina Raimondo to assist Transportation Sec. Pete Buttigieg to maneuver his infrastructure goals through Congress.

With roots in Michigan Sec. Grandholm would seem to be a supporter of the auto industry, but that does not preclude support she has identified to convert America's manufacturing to electric and other sustainable sources. In fact, some predict such a conversion may lead to a much-needed economic boost. Grandholm will also play an important part in accomplishing Biden's desire to boost offshore wind development, something conservationists are keeping a close eye on. If solving the climate crisis is conservationists' primary goal, then wind and solar will see progress in development. A similar dilemma may face conservationists as the nuclear power industry spends more lobbying money to assure nuclear energy is in the Biden energy plan, in spite of the lack of any long-term, safe disposal site. Handing future generations an increase in radioactive waste in order to include new, very expensive nuclear energy to solve the climate crisis is, for some, a "Sophie's Choice," or a "rob Peter to pay Paul" moral dilemma.



PETE BUTTIGIEG: SEC. OF TRANSPORTATION

Former-mayor Pete Buttigieg made it clear during his confirmation hearings that his duty would be to help accomplish the transportation and infrastructure goals set by the President. Sec. Buttigieg's lack of a long legislative history may actually help him communicate bipartisan transportation goals to a congress that has already signaled to the President he should expect little to no support from the Republican members. Some political pundits are predicting a new era of "pork-barrel" politics where Democrats offer locally needed large transportation projects from bridges and highway construction to airport and seaport rejuvenation, to attract individual Republican members of Congress and to keep vulnerable Democrats from opposing Biden priorities. Sec. Buttigieg will have his hands full as he leads the cabinet team to implement what Biden is calling his "American Jobs Plan" to kickstart a damaged economy by emphasizing the retraining of American workers for new jobs based on a sustainable energy system.



BIRDS WIN IN COURT

Perhaps a little faith is regained in the system of regulations, laws and the ability of the public (sometimes represented by national conservation organizations staffed with legal experts) to fight government attempts to abandon conservation principles. The Interior Department is expected to pay legal fees for the Center for Biological Diversity and the American Bird Conservancy who, along with the National Audubon Society, brought a lawsuit to challenge a Trump-era rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Act has protected almost all native species of birds in North American for decades.

Judge Caproni in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York wrote that the Interior Department opinion was "simply an unpersuasive interpretation" of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and was a "sudden departure from long-held agency positions backed by over forty years of consistent enforcement practices."

The government and winning parties have until early June to settle on the court costs, which could equal over \$165,000. More importantly the decision preserves the right of the public to enforce conservation regulations and be fairly compensated for assuring the government does its job.

INFRASTRUCTURE

President Biden placed significant items from the "Green New Deal" first proposed by economist Thomas Friedman, but the \$2.2 trillion cost of the plan is either too large or too small, depending on who you ask. Raising taxes is generally dead on arrival and with a weakened economy and reduced tax income, the federal budget will be squeezed.

Any legislation that resembles that Green New Deal will come under fierce opposition by conservative members of Congress regardless of how popular or needed by the general public. With the passage of bills to immediately address the Covid health crisis and related economic crisis, Biden and the slightly Democratic majority Congress showed they can maneuver political minefields, but as time passes, most Presidents face more opposition and less favorability, making legislation increasingly difficult to pass. With 2022 mid-term elections looming and recent shrinking of the margin of majority in both the House and Senate, both parties will be looking to carve out election platforms across the nation by passing or thwarting legislation.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUPERVISORS

1st District - Rex Bohn

707-476-2391 | rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us

2nd District - Estelle Fennell

707-476-2392 | efennell@co.humboldt.ca.us

3rd District - Mike Wilson

707-476-2393 | mike.wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us

4th District - Virginia Bass

707-476-2394 | vbass@co.humboldt.ca.us

5th District - Steve Madrone

707-476-2395 | smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us

U.S. SENATORS - CALIFORNIA

Senator Dianne Feinstein

www.feinstein.senate.gov/public

Senator Kamala Harris

www.harris.senate.gov

Look up other senators here:

www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 2

Congressman Jared Huffman

www.huffman.house.gov

Look up other representatives here:

www.house.gov/representatives

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

Governor Gavin Newsom

www.gov.ca.gov

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www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/

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CREATURE FEATURE

Ivy Munnerlyn, Coastal Programs Coordinator

CALIFORNIA CONDOR

After twenty years of anticipation, the largest land bird in North America is returning to Humboldt County. The California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), or “Prey-go-neesh” in the Yurok language, hasn’t been seen in these parts for a century. That’s about to change thanks to the tireless efforts of the Yurok tribe, along with the help of the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Redwood National Parks.

A Condor’s wingspan measures around 10 feet, making it one of the largest birds in the world. It’s also one of the longest-living birds, with some individuals living as long as 50 years. This poses a problem for reintroduction efforts—condors take their time maturing and finding a mate. When they do eventually settle down to raise young, they only lay one egg every other year.

According to the Northern California Condor Restoration Program, Condors will be released in Redwood National Parks starting this fall or next spring. Condors feature prominently in the creation stories of tribes throughout California, and can play many different roles. For the Wiyot, the condor is a life-giver. For the Mono, he brings violent destruction. Stories of the Yokut people tell of Condor eating the moon and creating the lunar cycle. For the Chumash, the Condor was once a white bird that turned black when he flew too close to the fire. And for the birders and wildlife enthusiasts of Humboldt county, the Condor represents the hope of returning species from the brink of extinction. Before too long, we’ll all get the chance to say “welcome home!”

Photo: Wendy Miller on Flickr | Sources: NCJ – Prey-go-neesh One Step Closer to Soaring in Humboldt Skies | Wikipedia – CA Condor



STELLER SEA LION

With the arrival of spring flowers and nesting birds, it can be easy to forget the world of life in Humboldt County’s oceans and bay. Today we’ll take a dive offshore and look at a very special marine mammal: the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). These massive mammals are the largest Sea Lions in the world, with some males weighing in at almost 2500 lbs.

Not sure how to tell a seal from a sea lion? It’s pretty simple: sea lions look a little more like dogs, and can scoot around on land using their back flippers. Seals are more tube-shaped and can’t “stand” on their flippers like sea lions can.



Stellers aren’t the only sea lions in Humboldt county. The smaller California Sea Lion is a more common sight hauled out on marinas and rocks near shore. Stellers tend to stay a little farther offshore and can be viewed on rocks off the coast of Redwood National Parks. Stellers and CA Sea Lions can sometimes be confused, but there are a few distinguishing features to keep in mind. Stellers have a blonde coat, and males are much larger with a bulkier head and neck.

The Steller Sea Lion is federally listed as “threatened” due to recent population declines in their Alaska range. Since being listed, Steller populations have almost fully recovered, but the species remains at risk. So if you happen to spot one, consider it a special treat!

Photo: USFWS-Pacific Region on Flickr



Human Chain Blocks Logging in Jackson State Forest - Another Tree Sit Goes Up

Press release, Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters for Redwood Nation Earth First!



JDSF tree sitter. Photo Source: Karen Pickett

Caspar CA--Two hours before sunrise on Monday morning, a group of concerned citizens gathered at the entrance to Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) just outside of the town of Caspar, off Highway 1. Meeting at a place that serves as both a trailhead and logging road, they formed a blockade to protest the commencement of timber harvesting, linking arms to form a human chain across the road, sitting peacefully on the gravel. Others gathered around them in support, carrying signs stating “Protect Old Growth” and “Our Forests Are Our Future”.

This protest is part of the larger effort to protect the state forest from unsustainable logging practices, such as harvesting trees over 48” in diameter—in violation of JDSF’s own management plan. With sitters in the trees and actions on the ground, the community hopes to bring the public’s attention to the potential loss of these heritage trees and stop these harmful Timber Harvest Plans.

Last week, just as CAL FIRE announced they had given the green light to logging on multiple harvest plans in JDSE, a tree sitter named “Greasy Pete” took up residence in a 200-year-old tree known as the Mama Tree. While this tree is one of the biggest, oldest trees in Jackson, she is not alone. A second tree sitter, known as “Bugs”, has occupied a second tree marked for cut. From her platform, suspended eighty feet above the ground, Bugs, who has called the Mendocino Coast her home from home for more than a decade, said she was moved by her deep love of the forests and that “All these trees are worth fighting for”.

Activists hope to forestall operations until dialog can be established and solutions found to save the trees and protect the entire forest, which has been in state ownership since 1949. Timber harvest plans have accelerated greatly over the past four years, increasing impacts to environmental, recreational and cultural values. At a recent public meeting, JDSF’s own officials pointed to low flows in Caspar Creek and the complete absence of carbon sequestration studies in this State Demonstration Forest.



GET ON BOARD FOR THE CLIMATE Wanted: Ideal Sites for Solar Facilities

Martha Walden, 350 Humboldt

Public comment at the Planning Commission hearing on the first day of April revealed much county-wide enthusiasm for the 4 megawatt (MW) solar array proposed for the outskirts of Blue Lake. The locals, however, were more divided on the issue. Mixed feelings were apparent even within individual opponents, many of whom began their remarks with how much they support solar energy, BUT . . .

The most serious objection is about using 26 acres of prime river-bottom ag land. Many of the project opponents asked why the solar developers didn't choose an old mill site or a brownfield. The developer, Renewable Properties, stated that it searched extensively for such a site; however, any place that was suitable was not available. Two of the old mill site owners sent letters to the Planning Commission to confirm their lack of interest.

The owner of the chosen field near Blue Lake currently uses it to pasture cows and will continue to do so on the portion of the land outside of the solar panel enclosure. Inside the enclosure, sheep will be able to graze on the vegetation growing between the panels. Also, the Pollinator Partnership will establish a bee-friendly mixture of plants after the installation of the panels, and a local beekeeper has been invited to keep hives there.

Renewable Properties has a decommissioning plan in place for thirty-five years from project completion. The promise is to leave the place in at least as good condition as it is now. However, the developers may seek an extension at the end of their lease.

The Planning Commission approved the project with only one dissenting vote. Though I'm glad the project got the green light, I agree that using prime ag land for solar development is not a good precedent. The agro-voltaic approach is a substantial compensation, but brownfields and old mill sites seem like better places for large-scale solar. Perhaps the Planning Department should do the research and maintain a list of sites where solar projects could be ideally sited. SOMEONE should. That would be so much smarter than leaving everything up to the roving forces of capitalism.

Even though solar technology is rapidly expanding



Hatchery Road Solar Site. Layout of the 26 acre, four megawatt solar installation off Blue Lake's Hatchery Road. Via County of Humboldt CEQA Initial Study.

and becoming more efficient at a cheaper cost, it furnishes only 2% of the world's energy. It will take a staggering amount of clean energy infrastructure to replace fossil fuels. Also, we have to be more careful about what we use to replace fossil fuels. Wood is a renewable fuel, but it emits more carbon than coal.

Unfortunately, all the solar panels and wind turbines

in the world have yet to decrease the amount of fossil fuels consumed. That's because the global demand for energy keeps growing. In the name of environmental justice, poor countries deserve all the energy they can get, but our goose is cooked if it's not clean energy. As for those of us in the developed countries, we could be most helpful by consuming less.

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Michael D. Pulliam

HUMBOLDT NONPROFITS CONSECRATE FOOD SANCTUARY

At the end of March, a pair of Humboldt County-based social change organizations held a socially distant public ceremony to consecrate their newly-secured community garden as a food sanctuary. Centro del Pueblo and Cooperation Humboldt are co-stewards of the garden lot located at the corner of 11th & F Streets in Arcata, CA. Their aim is to make local food products and home gardening expertise available and accessible to the community.

Cooperation Humboldt is a nonprofit focused on 'solidarity economy,' an economic model geared toward fostering worker-owned cooperative businesses and ecologically regenerative food security for all citizens, among a host of other social goals. Centro del Pueblo is a community activism organization seeking to unite members of the Indigenous immigrant population in Humboldt County and support their social and cultural advancement. Centro del Pueblo is responsible for ensuring Humboldt County's Sanctuary Law of 2018, designating the county as a safe haven for immigrants and their families.

The community garden will host native plants, fruit trees, herbs, and edible perennials, as well as creating "a space of learning, empowerment, nutrition, and regeneration", according to CooperationHumboldt.com. For information about garden access, contact arcata.garden@cooperationhumboldt.com

Sources: NorthCoast Journal, Cooperation Humboldt

FEDERAL RULING FAVORS TRIBES IN KLAMATH BASIN DISPUTE

On March 19th, a panel of federal judges dismissed an Oregon lawsuit, upholding water rights for Indigenous tribes in the Klamath River Basin area. A group of ranchers in Oregon had sued the US Government over claims about the process by which federally recognized Klamath Tribes access water in the region. The suit alleged that the process deprived ranch lands of irrigation water and improperly regulated river flow. The US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected the claim, with a three-judge panel ruling unanimously

that the ranchers did not establish standing to sue.

The Klamath Basin, which comprises parts of two counties in Oregon and five in California, has been increasingly affected by drought conditions, with ramifications for Indigenous communities, farms, ranches, salmon habitats, and more along the Klamath River. Under a treaty from 1864, Klamath Tribes in Oregon hold senior water rights in the basin and may file a "call" with the Oregon Water Resources Dept.; the Dept. then requires irrigators to turn off their pumps and allow water to pass downstream. More severe drought conditions have seen more frequent water calls.

The ranchers' lawsuit claimed that Tribal water calls required Oregon regulators to get concurrent federal approval before water could be released. But according to Federal Judge Judith Rogers, "... no such concurrence requirement exists under federal or Oregon law, and... consequently, the ranchers cannot establish the causation or repressibility necessary for standing."

The suit was rejected by lower courts before being dismissed in the D.C. Circuit.

Sources: E&E News, Leagle.com

DE-ICING ROADS WITH BRINE: SAFER, CHEAPER, GREENER

Numerous regions around the US have embraced the stupendous benefits of using salty liquid brine for de-icing winter roads, rather than traditional rock salts that scatter and wash into freshwater flows. Coupled with a new type of snow plow blade, the results of using brine (which adheres to road surfaces, reducing runoff) include higher efficiency of time and resources, less collateral damage to infrastructure and vehicles, lower taxpayer expense, faster clearing of snowy roads, safer driving conditions, and much less salty drainage disturbing local ecosystems.

The FUND for Lake George, a not-for-profit organization in upstate New York, led an effort to protect their region's waterways from the many damaging effects of rock salt runoff—without compromising road safety. Beginning in 2015, the FUND gathered lots of information from the towns in their area. After mapping the routes and usage of salt trucks and snow plows, the FUND tested alternative methods of de-icing and then invested in "live-edge" snow plows, which replace the standard fixed plow blades with a system of multiple independent spring-loaded blades. The combination of live-edge plows with brine road sprays gradually spread throughout the region, as municipal leadership and road maintenance teams caught wind of the many benefits.

According to numerous sources within the project and its associated agencies, road salt usage around Lake George has dropped by half; New York state taxpayers could save around \$30 million per year if just 50% of cities switched methods. Organizations like ClearRoads.org are helping American cities move in the same direction.

Sources: SolutionsJournalism.org, Undark.org, FUND for Lake George

RESTAURANT COALITION OFFERS STAINLESS STEEL TO GO

A team of young entrepreneurs in Minneapolis, MN, have begun supplying their local restaurants and food trucks with trackable stainless steel takeout containers. Various safety conditions of the coronavirus pandemic have given rise to a significant increase in takeout food orders, and thus single-use disposable containers. Forever Ware, a "clean tech" startup company in Minneapolis, aims to combat this waste pattern by shifting people from single-use packaging (even the compostable kind) to a more far-sighted and sustainable reuse mindset. By March 2021, four Minneapolis restaurants had bought into the network, and the owners and customers alike were praising the results.

"The guests love it," said Jimmy Red Layer, restaurant manager. "It's really easy."

"I've been waiting for something like this," said bakery owner Daniel Swenson-Klatt.

Similar to the system of reusable glass milk bottles, customers can pay a \$5 deposit to have their to-go orders packaged in stainless steel containers; once they're finished, they can return the steel to any participating restaurant or food truck and get their deposit money back. The main difference from dairy packaging is that these containers have tracking technology embedded within them, which allows Forever Ware to collect any items that may be lost, discarded, or abused.

The cost for businesses to stock Forever Ware containers is comparable to that of disposable packaging, and making zero-waste takeout a convenient option is a great recipe for success.

Sources: SolutionsJournalism.org, MN Star Tribune

CORAL REEF SANCTUARY TRIPLES IN SIZE

In early 2021, the US Government formally approved the expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, a vibrant ecosystem of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. Boasting a 200 percent increase in protected area, the newly-expanded sanctuary is home to some of the healthiest and most beautiful coral reefs in the world.

The extended sanctuary borders add fourteen reefs and banks that provide important habitat for many species of fish, as well as threatened or endangered species of sea turtles, corals, and giant manta rays. Protections in these new areas will lessen the destructive impact of human activity like fishing with bottom-tending gear, ship anchoring, oil and gas exploration, and salvaging.

Dr. Tim Gallaudet, a retired Navy Rear Admiral and former Acting Administrator of NOAA, said, "Adding these ecologically significant reefs and banks will protect habitats that contribute to America's blue economy and drive ecological resilience for much of the Gulf of Mexico region's thriving recreation, tourism, and commercial fishing."

Sources: Good News Network, NOAA.gov

May Day Quiz

HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE YOU ABOUT MAY DAY? TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND OUT!

- 1 Which day is May Day?
a. May 1 c. May 15
b. May 5 d. May 31
- 2 True or false: May Day was historically associated with the pagan celebration Beltane, which celebrates the transition from Spring to Summer.
a. True b. False
- 3 What year did May Day become associated with International Workers' Day?
a. 1872 c. 1889
b. 1910 d. 1971
- 4 What inspired the creation of International Workers' Day?
a. Pullman Strike in Chicago, 1894
b. Steel Strike in Pittsburg, 1919
c. Haymarket Riot in Chicago, 1886
d. U.S. Postal Strike of 1970
- 5 Which organization in the U.S. chose to associate May Day with International Workers' Day?
a. Central Labor Unions
b. Democratic Socialists of America
c. Women's Trade Union League
d. American Federation of Labor
- 6 What was the average length of a work day before Int. Workers' Day was established?
a. 5 hours b. 8 hours
c. 16 hours d. 20 hours

- 7 What does International Workers' Day commemorate?
a. The historic struggles and gains made by the labor movement
b. The benefits of free market capitalism
c. A celebration of non-profit organizations
d. The establishment of public education
- 8 In 1886 the American Federation of Labors called for a general strike. What were they fighting for?
a. Prohibition of child labor under the age of 14
b. Federal legislation requiring ventilation and inspection of mines
c. Legislation making employers responsible for industrial accidents
d. Establishment of an 8-hour work day
- 9 How many workers went on strike on May 1, 1886 in the U.S.?
a. 10,000 b. 100,000
c. 300,000 d. 900,000
- 10 In how many countries is May Day an official Holiday?
a. 22 b. 66
c. 88 d. 99
- 11 What is a common way to celebrate May Day around the world?
a. "Green Roots": A celebration of spring (Maypole dance, picnics, flower gardens)
b. "Red Roots": A celebration of worker's rights (rallies, parades, and marches)
c. Both of the above

Sources: May Day Wikipedia; International Workers' Day Wikipedia

Answer Key

1. A 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. D 6. C 7. A 8. D 9. C 10. B 11. C



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