

Earth First!

The War at Home: HEADWATERS FOREST STILL THREATENED

Big Victory at Board of Forestry Hearing

Northern California activists were able to breathe a well deserved sigh of relief after the January 9, 1991 Board of Forestry decision to uphold CDF's (the California Department of Forestry) denial of two Pacific Lumber THP's (timber harvest plans) in the Headwaters Forest. The 3000 acre forest is the largest unprotected stand of ancient redwoods left on the planet.

However, the fate of this last unprotected defacto redwood wilderness is far from sealed.

The Battle Continues

MAXXAM Corporation, owner of the Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) made no secret of its wishes to sell Headwaters. At the same time however, the company is revising the two THP's and could resubmit them at any time. Due to cumulative impacts to the watershed, it is doubtful the bureaucracy will approve the plans. And according to Dr. C. J. Ralph, a noted redwood region wildlife biologist, mitigation to protect Marbled Murrelet habitat is impossible. At the Board hearing, PALCO officials also revealed plans for further timber harvest in Headwaters. That "harvest" would decimate the forest by the year 2000.

Hurwitz is Still Free

It will be up to MAXXAM to set the selling price for this forest, and given "owner" /junk bond king Charles Hurwitz' past record, he will likely demand an inflated price. No one knows how much he'll ask, nor has Charlie revealed the amount of acreage he's willing to sell. Hurwitz should not profit from Headwaters! PALCO was acquired in a hostile takeover by MAXXAM in 1986 through means which are currently being challenged by numerous lawsuits. In fact, these legal proceedings, along with the possibility of an indictment may be prompting Hurwitz to sell Headwaters now, while he still has the chance to take the money and run. Paying this criminal a large sum of money for illegally acquired land would be rewarding him for his crimes.

The Bureaucracy is Catching Up

Newly elected governor Pete Wilson has called for the preservation of the Headwaters forest. In January the Governor created a Task force headed by Deputy Director for Planning and Research John Amadio. The Task force is currently in an information gathering phase and seeks to define an "ecologically significant portion" of the Headwaters area. According to Amadio, the state views the intact 3000 acre island of old growth as the minimum acceptable for preservation, and that rumors to the contrary are false. Also in Sacramento, Senator Barry

Keene and Assemblyman Dan Hauser are preparing to introduce legislation based on the final report of the Task force.

Assisting the task force are representatives of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Planning and Conservation League.

Although these groups are maintaining a stance supporting watershed preservation and

creation of adjacent wildlife corridors for the area, they will still need to overcome resistance from the politicians and MAXXAM.

Speculation at this time is that purchase

of the forest will most likely come in the form of a state bond measure to be decided by the voters in 1992.

Taking into account the current recession and what happened in the last election, the possibility of the voters passing a very costly measure is questionable.

All of this adds up to a high probability of an extremely compromised proposal for preservation based more on politics and economics than on ecosystems.

A proposal which leaves the Headwaters forest an isolated island within a fragmented ecosystem, for the sake of the mainstream groups retaining their policy of compromise, and the politicians, as usual, seeking the easiest solution, is unacceptable.

The RAT Response

The Earth First! Redwood Action Team (RAT) has recently forwarded the **Headwaters Wilderness Complex Proposal** (details in the March 20, 1988 EF! Journal) to the Governor's office and task force. The proposal, based on whole watersheds, calls for the preservation and restoration of 98,000 acres of land. It encompasses the watersheds

of four rivers and creeks, as well as creating a wildlife migration corridor between Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and inland ancient redwood forests.



***Headwaters Forest has not been saved!
Activists must not allow it to become
an isolated island or a developed
tourist park. The only future,
the only hope for this cathedral,
is as wilderness.***

What can you do to protect Headwaters?

*Write
Governor Pete Wilson
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

John Amadio, Deputy Director
Office of Planning & Research
1400 10th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sen. Barry Keene and Assemblyman Dan Hauser
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tell them you're worried about Headwaters and urge them to meet the following demands:

1. Adopt the Headwaters Wilderness Complex Proposal as a guideline for preservation of Headwaters.
2. Base preservation on a *whole watershed, intact ecosystem* approach to meet the goal of preserving an "ecologically significant portion" of Headwaters.
3. Preserve as wildlife habitat conservation/wilderness area, not a developed tourist park.
4. Explore alternatives to an expensive bond measure, including a donation by PALCO. Consider eminent domain purchase of land which PALCO does not wish to sell.
5. Work to introduce legislation which incorporates the above demands.
6. Allow representatives of grassroots groups, including Earth First!, to directly participate in all negotiations and talks concerning Headwaters.

*It is also important to express your concerns to the following people, who are playing an important role in developing the Governor's final proposal:

Jim Owens
The Sierra Club
4877 Jacoby Creek Rd.
Bayside, CA 95524
(Jim wants to hear grassroots input.)

Jerry Merrill
The Planning and Conservation League
909 12th St. #203
Sacramento, CA 95814

Joan Reese
The Wilderness Society
116 New Montgomery #526
San Francisco, CA 94105

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***Drop a line to the Redwood Action Team.** Give us your input and get involved. Get on our mailing list. You'll be kept up to date on Headwaters and notified of upcoming actions, and occasionally receive our favorite homebrew recipes. For a copy of the Wilderness Proposal send a business size SASE, with 52¢ postage to: RAT, POB 358, Miranda, CA 95553. And don't forget to include a donation. Money is desperately needed to fight the war on the forests. The EF! Direct Action Fund is supporting this campaign, and would also welcome your donations.

Remember -- the fate of Headwaters depends on YOU finding the time and energy to get your letters in the mail.



Earth First!

ACTION PLEDGE

- Yes, I'll be there to stop the bulldozers!
- Sorry, can't make a woods action, but I still want to help. I can:
 - Here's some cash to help with actions \$ _____
 - I can donate backcountry gear, food, and/or money. Send me a wish list.
 - Definitely keep me on your list! Here's \$ _____ to cover postage and copying costs.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____



EARTH FIRST! REDWOOD ACTION TEAM
POB 358
MIRANDA, CA 95553