

Earth First!

Newsletter

Spring 2003

WHY FRESHWATER FOREST DEFENDERS PERSIST

by Remedy, treesitter in Freshwater Upper Village

Trees are falling in Freshwater Creek watershed, sometimes more than one per minute. Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company's move to clearcut 500 acres is allowed under the grossly misnamed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The 20,000-acre Freshwater watershed is an area suffering serious ecological damage due to the cumulative impacts of more than 150 years of logging. Previously, a thriving redwood forest flourished here for 20 million years. With the introduction of logging, saws and trains that carried the giants out of the forest to the mills suddenly dominated the landscape. Thus began a fast and furious downward spiral that has led us to our current situation.

Now, with the last remnants of mature forest clinging to the hillsides, helicopters have been brought in to extract the giants previously protected by their steep and precipitous locations.

Sediment from the clearcuts is damaging Freshwater Creek, which is now 3-6 feet shallower than it was ten years ago. A mix of automotive diesel fuel and herbicide is being sprayed on the clearcuts. According to Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, 28,376 pounds of pesticides were applied in Humboldt forests in 1999. With these dangerous chemicals making their way back out of the watersheds, it is no wonder rural Humboldt County has the fifth highest cancer rate in the state.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, scientists and local residents agree that clearcutting causes massive floods and chokes rivers with sediment. Currently the law forbids logging waste discharges in Freshwater except

for in four Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) waived by Susan Warner, chair of Water Quality, on December 19, 2002. Here in the McCready-Cloney THP (01-451) no waiver has been issued. However, a crew of Maxxam/PL sub-contractors logged

in unit one of this four-unit THP throughout January. When challenged, Maxxam/PL agreed to move its operations to the waived areas. 22 acres of unit four in McCready-Cloney were clearcut in August and September of 2002.

While just some of the 1,353 THPs in the North Coast are in Freshwater, it

is an important watershed to focus on. Maxxam/PL owns 77% of the Freshwater watershed. Freshwater Creek has been listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as an "impaired and degraded waterway"

Now, with the last remnants of mature forest clinging to the hillsides, helicopters have been brought in to extract the giants previously protected by their steep and precipitous locations.



Freshwater Upper Village treesit (above). Remedy in redwood tree called Jerry (left). Her treesit began March 21, 2002.



since 1997. This degradation is the direct result of the hundreds of acres

of forest that have been clearcut by one company.

The Lower Treesit Village in Freshwater

by Annapurna

Our treesit village on Greenwood Heights Road was started in August of 2002 in preparation for the 13-13-13 action, which involved 13 women in 13 trees for 13 days, lasting from September 23 to October 6, 2002. The village started with three trees and three platforms with walkway traverses in between them.

After the 13-13-13 action, the village began expanding. A “doughnut” platform was built that completely encircles a tree called Poseidon, and is 15 by 15 feet in size. This platform serves as a gathering place for treesitters in the village to meet, cook meals, and play music. It can be accessed from the other treesits by walkway traverses that go from tree to tree connecting all the trees in the village. The village is continually in the process of expanding, and currently has eight platforms and over 20 trees tied in by traverses.

Logging began in this unit of the Timber Harvest Plan on January 2, 2003, just after Maxxam/Pacific Lumber’s yearly limit of 500 acres in the Freshwater Creek watershed was renewed with the coming of the new year. The cutting began approximately 500 feet from the treesit village in the valley at the bottom of the unit, and day by day as the trees fell the fallers worked their way up hill towards the road and the treesit village. Four fallers worked for three and a half weeks, every working day plus Saturday, clearcutting hundreds of trees. Then logging was temporarily halted, as the Water Quality Control Board is in the process of holding hearings about the effect of canopy removal on watercourses.



Living in the middle of a full scale industrial logging operation means waking up each morning to the sounds of chainsaws beginning just after dawn and continuing well into the afternoon. Many of the trees that fell were visible from the treesit village and the chainsaws

The chainsaws always felt close, accompanied by the sounds of the crack, moan, and boom of ancient trees falling, a veritable orchestra of destruction.

always felt close, accompanied by the sounds of driving in the wedge and the crack, moan, and boom of ancient trees falling, a veritable orchestra of destruction.



Lower village treesit in Freshwater (above).

Traversing between treesits in Freshwater (right).



Message on Everstine treesit in Freshwater (left).

Activist and banner on Freshwater old-growth tree (right).



Steel sleeve lockdown in Freshwater treesit.

Two of the fallers were father and son, Big Willie and Little Willie. One of the activists from the treesit village went down to the cutting area to videotape trees falling at close range, and ended up making friends with the Willies. The village always kept open and friendly relations with the fallers, trying to engage them in dialogue and warning them when their cutting got too close to the trees with people in them.

During this time the village was being expanded, as new trees were tied in by traverses and new treesits set, but there was no direct confrontation as we waited for the fallers to get closer day by day. A sit went up farther away from the village in a tree right on the edge of the cut zone the night before it was to be cut. The next morning another faller was engaged in dialogue as activists tried to explain their views to him in between the falling of trees.

The Lower Village is record-breaking in size; it is the largest treesit village in existence and the largest ever created. Combined with the other treesits in Freshwater, the six sits farther up Greenwood Heights Road and four sits on Kneeland Road, this is the largest treesit occupation of an area ever.

A unique feature of a treesit village is its ability to be self-sustainable. During times when the trees are not in immediate danger some of the sitters can come down and go to town for the day to raise funds, gather supplies, and contact media. The support of Freshwater residents and other activists is always welcome and often forthcoming.

To visit the Lower Village or get involved, call (707) 834-2369, 845-5491, or 496-3233, e-mail wesavetrees@ziplip.com or visit www.wesavetrees.org.



Cable yarder.



Contract logger in Freshwater.

Calm green fern songs
 Hemmed in by chains
 Sawing away
 Splintered thuds
 Of another
 Fallen grandfather
 With sap tears
 For so many eyes
 Stuck shut
 On green prairies
 Of what used to be
 Trees trees trees
 Tadger is there
 You can find him
 Traversing
 Lower village
 In Poseidon's arms
 A donut hub
 Lounge
 Feel at home
 There's one spoon
 One pot
 And you
 Sleep
 A lot
 Until
 Those
 Little wisps
 Start cascading into
 Booming tarps of raging fury
 Bringing back
 Hidden fears
 Of the banished
 Neanderthal
 Being harmonies
 Base elements
 Survival's lost
 From the past future
 Ancestral winds
 Poseidon grooved dances
 Awakening aliveness
 Into ground
 Loving storm
 And winds that roll
 Breathing tips of trees
 Without sleep
 Across remembrances
 Of our connectivity
 Thanks be
 Healing trees!

-Nowl

Nonviolent Direct Action at Grizzly Creek

by Cambium

The Grizzly Creek watershed, a tributary of the Van Duzen River, was ravaged by Maxxam/Pacific Lumber in late December 2002, despite a blockade that slowed operations for two days.

Four people were arrested during a bridge blockade in which activists suspended themselves in hammocks beneath the bridge by anchoring around it so that traffic could not cross without seriously

**“We will not go away;
we will defend
this land down to
the last tree.”**

endangering activists' lives.

As loggers arrived for work on Tuesday, December 17, they were greeted by slashpile after slashpile blocking their way up the Grizzly Creek road. After about an hour of chainsawing through slash and moving rocks they arrived at the final obstacle: the bridge pod and about 15 people standing on the bridge to protect the anchor. Realizing that they did not have the means to get their trucks across the bridge, the angry loggers taunted activists and one grabbed at the line and made jokes about activists falling into the creek.

The bridge defenders demanded that Maxxam/PL immediately cease this illegal and dangerous harvest of about 150 acres of old-growth redwood. The area is habitat for many endangered species such as spotted owls, marbled murrelets and salmon, and it is adjacent to Grizzly Creek State Park. The logging plan is part of the final liquidation of Pacific Lumber by its parent company, Maxxam Corporation, owned by corporate villain Charles Hurwitz.

Activists who defended the



Climber Eric, who is paid by Maxxam/PL to extract treesitters, often endangering them in the process.

bridge say they are disgusted by the business practices of Maxxam, which has systematically looted Humboldt County in the last fifteen years. Protesters declared the area a “free state” with all the organisms in it as equal citizens, each with the right to exist free from human destruction.

“This company has ruined every watershed that it owns in the past 15 years, leaving nothing for future generations, nothing for the workers, nothing for the many, many other species that depend on these forests for survival,” said one

pod-sitter. “We will not go away; we will defend this land down to the last tree.”

Some Columbia Company fallers were flown in over the blockade, but Maxxam/PL fallers and roadwork crews went home unable to enter that day. Weather conditions forced activists out of the pod on Tuesday night, and logging resumed on Wednesday. But the trolls returned in force on Thursday and loggers arrived to find two pods instead of one, and the bridge impassable again.

This time high winds kept the helicopters out, and no logging occurred in Grizzly Creek on that day. Unfortunately for the trolls, however, Maxxam/PL security arrived late in the day with the man known as Climber Eric, who is notorious for lowering treesitters using hazardous methods. Eric was able to set a traverse

Tree Time

I want to live
I wake up every morning
and sing to myself
in the pre-dawn
shades of sunlight
just peeking over
the edge of blue mountain tops.
the trees are so big
and I am so small,
I am sheltered by them,
held close by their branches,
safer than ever before
yet putting my life on the line
at every moment,
living in the sky
verticality reality
pure canopy experience
tree life existence
persistence in the struggle
for that which is true
over that which
will fool you
into believing
in anything else
besides yourself,
courageous leaps of faith
are required
to get from
treetop to treetop
and spinning upside down
to the ground
is a peculiar notion
yet I am touched
by emotion
each time I come close
to these ancient beings
wiser than I
by far
I listen close
as they whisper
their secrets
to the wind,
sister moon
illuminating
shimmering foliage
as the fire in the sky
dims once more
into starry nightfall
and the fog
rolls in thick
from the ocean
covering all
in blankets of moisture,
thankful once more
as I drift into
dream spell.

—Annapurna

above the pods and began to climb out towards the podsitters, but sitters decided to forego the risks of being lowered and agreed to come over on their own in exchange for being booked and released.

One troll clipped into Eric's line and surrendered, and while the sheriff's officials were busy taking him off, the other troll rappelled into the creek and escaped. Two loggers and a deputy chased after him, but the nimble troll outwitted them, with bare feet!



The Aradia Treesit on Gypsy Mountain

by Shunka, Raven, Wind and Ewok

Forest defenders get an opportunity to do something that almost no one in the world has done or will ever have the chance to do. Although only three percent of old-growth trees are still standing, and up to 2,000-year-old trees are still being cut down in Humboldt County, there are more astronauts in the world than treesitters. We are lucky to be a part of the forest defense movement, and being part of the Aradia treesit is powerful in an emotional way.

On September 17, 1998, less than a hundred yards from where the tree we call Aradia stands, David "Gypsy" Chain was killed when an enraged Maxxam/Pacific Lumber timber worker began felling trees

what was most amazing was how, like a perfect mirror, the light reflected off of the winding river that spilled out into the ocean. Of all the places in the area, the top of Aradia, twenty miles from the coast—surrounded by clearcuts—was the only spot from which this could be seen.

Each of us



Aradia treesit on Gypsy Mountain.



in the direction of nonviolent Earth First! activists. As a result, a civil suit was filed.

After three and a half years of discovery and depositions, Maxxam Corporation offered to settle out of court, just days before the scheduled trial. The settlement came with conditions, such as two memorial sites and a new policy forbidding timber workers from being physically violent towards nonviolent activists. David died defending Gypsy Mountain, and now, four years later, Maxxam/PL has marked and filed a new Timber Harvest Plan on Gypsy Mountain, just up the ridge from where David was murdered.

Aradia is the tallest tree at the top of Gypsy Mountain. It stands close to 200 feet in height, and the treesit platform is suspended over 100 feet in the air, holding us in the old-growth canopy. The first week I was in the tree, I climbed to the top just before sunset. It had been overcast for several days, but just as the sun hovered above the horizon, a sliver of clear sky opened and the entire sun poked through, painting the clouds orange and pink. But

who live in this tree has moments like this. Often, as a group, we climb to the top at night when the thick fog reaches just below the platform, turning the valley into a river of clouds, and we stare at the clear sky above us. Encircling the treetop, we give thanks to Aradia and to those who have lived and died defending ancient forests. Like most people, we want these last redwoods that have been living for thousands of years to be protected; we won't leave until we know that they are. We are working to save Aradia, and a buffer zone around this ancient tree. The area should be saved as a living memorial to David Chain. The rest of Maxxam/PL's holding on Gypsy Mountain could also be preserved and added to Grizzly Creek State Park, which lies adjacent to Gypsy Mountain.

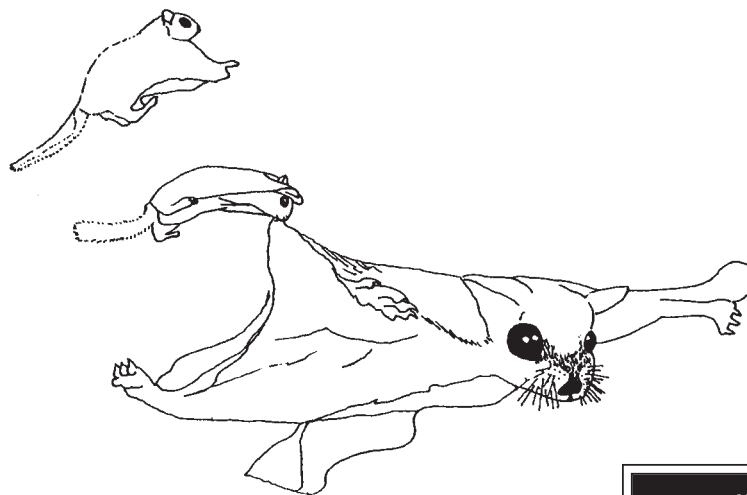
For a short moment in time, Maxxam/PL's latest attack on the

Grizzly Creek watershed has stopped. Once home to endangered marbled murrelets and spotted owls, the giant remains of grandmother trees strewn about the hillside lie hidden but not forgotten from my perch on the Stellarship platform, 100 feet

up in the ancient twisted limbs of a tree called Aradia. Aradia's home is a small yet unentered grove of old-growth redwoods and firs perched precariously between two landslides on top of Gypsy Mountain. If Maxxam/PL is allowed to log this area, most likely the land Aradia lives on will end up in the

tor, Climber Eric, and his team of assistant climbers, both named Jerry, are paid thousands of dollars to forcefully and dangerously evict treesitters so that Maxxam/PL can log these ancient trees. Eric's antics have endangered the lives of dozens of activists. As a result he and executives at Maxxam/PL are the subject of a lawsuit brought forth by some activists he has assaulted and endangered. If Eric is allowed to continue to try to evict sitters, another tragic death may occur here on this mountain named in honor of an activist who lost his life while defending it against illegal logging, or in other forests where treesitters risk their freedom and lives in defense of our ancient forests.

You can help: contact PL's president, Robert Manne; urge him to set aside Aradia and her grove as a fitting memorial to David "Gypsy" Chain. Call the Humboldt County District Attorney's office to express concern about Maxxam/PL's use of climbers against treesitters; encourage his office and the Board of Supervisors to stop this risky practice. If you wish to donate supplies, to hike supplies to grateful sitters, or to sit in



Van Duzen River. The crew of the Stellarship prepares to defend Aradia and her grove of daughter and sister trees from the chainsaws of Maxxam/PL.

The company treesit extrac-

Call the Earth First!
action line to find out
how you can help with
forest defense in Hum-
boldt County: (707) 825-
6598.

The Golden Rule— or, the Gold Rules?

by Naomi Wagner

“He who has the gold, rules...”
—Charles Hurwitz, CEO, Maxxam/
Pacific Lumber Company

On August 29, 2002, forest activists struggling against Maxxam/Pacific Lumber company’s destructive forest practices in Humboldt County received some incredibly good news! Judge John Golden, retired, Lake County, had issued a Stay on all Maxxam/PL’s logging operations authorized under the infamous Headwaters Forest Agreement (aka the “Deal”). The ruling was necessary, Judge Golden declared, to “serve the public interest...in careful management of natural resources, such as forests, wildlife and wildlife habitat.”

The order stemmed from two separate lawsuits filed in 1999 by the Environmental Information and Protection Center (EPIC), The Sierra Club, and the United Steelworkers’ Union. The suits challenged the Deal’s agreements, known as the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the Sustained Yield Plan (SYP, under which Maxxam/PL is allowed to cut while focusing specifically on rates of harvest), the Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) that legalize the killing of previously protected endangered species through habitat destruction, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement, essentially a blanket permit exempting the company from full water quality controls.

The permits apply to all 210,000 acres of Maxxam/PL’s forest holdings in Humboldt and Mendocino counties. Judge Golden’s rule applied to all logging operations carried out under the permits, stating: “...no party to this proceeding shall take any action whose validity depends on the validity of...” said permits, until “further order of the court.”

Why would a judge issue such a sweeping order, three years after the cases were filed? It turns out the usually patient judge had finally tired of the defendants’ strategic stalling during preparation for the cases, scheduled for February 26. State agencies California Department of Forestry (CDF) and Fish and Game (F&G), co-defendants along with Maxxam/PL, while moving quickly to approve new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs), had slowed to a crawl when it came to releasing records critical to the

case. They had refused to release some 400 documents containing thousands of pages of data, claiming they were either “privileged” or simply “lost.”

This last straw apparently pushed even the affable Judge Golden beyond his limits of judicial tolerance since, without documents, the evidence cannot be properly evaluated to confirm or deny the lawsuits’ allegations, namely: that the HCP, SYP, ITP and Streambed Alteration Permit, should be “Vacated and Annulled” because they are “not supported by substantial evidence” and were “adopted without proceeding in the manner required by law.” Also, the per-

Did the chainsaws cease whining,
D8 Caterpillar tractors stand silent, and the sounds
of nature return to the forest? Was it a dream come
true—or the beginning of a forest defender’s
worst nightmare?

mits allow Maxxam/PL to “perform acts on their lands which adversely affect sustained timber yields, wildlife, and wildlife habitat,” activities that would otherwise be illegal under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are having a “degrading effect on natural resources.”

A complete and certified record is essential to a fair evaluation of the merits of key issues in the case. Certification means the agencies must stand by the records they have used as evidence to support their decisions—decisions that may mean millions of dollars for Maxxam/PL, at the expense of extinction for endangered species. In the race between the gavel and the chainsaw, every moment is precious.

So did logging stop on all PL lands? Did the chainsaws cease whining, D8 Caterpillar tractors stand silent, and the sounds of nature return to the forest? Was it a dream come true—or the beginning of a forest defender’s worst nightmare?

By next morning the reverie was shattered as Maxxam/PL’s subcontracted logging crews rumbled into the forest to work, as if the Stay had never happened. Saws gnawed, ancient and young trees fell, and were yarded, loaded and hauled to the mills to be processed for profit. Road-building contin-

ued to alter streambeds, contributing to landslides, mass wasting and siltation of fragile, overcut watersheds. Maxxam/PL’s own court filings showed the company logged around one million board feet or approximately 200 logging truckloads per day.

The company continued logging, claiming the ruling was unclear and did not apply to “active” or approved plans. On September 19, the judge denied Maxxam/PL’s claim, reaffirming his order as “clear... basic and simple language,” applying not only to active THPs, but also to the processing and approval of new logging plans. “What part of ‘stop all operations’ don’t you understand?” Judge Golden asked the defendants.

Before a hushed and packed courtroom, Maxxam/PL’s lawyer, Frank Basik, maintained the company was following the law—just according to its own interpretation! In response, Golden maintained the Stay in effect, but made

Sheriff Gary Philp declined to take action on a civil matter, unless a contempt order had been issued. (However, they’d had no problem enforcing civil lawsuits against protesters recently, including the use of pepper spray against one activist!). With CDF “deferring” to the company’s interpretation of the Stay, and law enforcement turning a blind eye, activists were soon locking down to PL gates, blockading log trucks, and of course, sitting in old-growth trees.

Maxxam/PL lawyers filed a motion to reverse the order and a hearing was set for September 27. Then, instead of addressing the company’s flagrant flouting of the Stay, the hearing focused mainly on the missing paperwork. Complaining of the overwhelming amount of data demanded of them by the lawsuits, F&G admitted on the stand that they had outsourced their job to consultants, giving the subcontractors computer disks containing both privileged and nonprivileged documents, but lacking instructions for telling the difference. Since they hadn’t retained the originals, there was by now no way to know which was which.

At three more hearings last fall, variations on the same themes were repeated as logging and road-building continued and even increased unabated. At each hearing, PL and the agency lawyers bulldozed away at Judge Golden’s original ruling, muddying its meaning and eroding its intent. Finally, the Judge warned that the agencies’ slowdown and the company’s speedup were combining to deprive the plaintiffs of their right to due process, attempting to abort the trial before it began, while simultaneously rendering the outcome mute. Meanwhile, logging spread a crazy-quilt of clearcuts across the land.

At yet another hearing, held in Ukiah, Mendocino County, as a travel convenience to the Lake County magistrate, watershed residents who had traveled from Hum-

boldt County to attend found themselves cooling their heels in the hall, while Judge Golden retreated behind closed doors to confer with the attorneys in private session. But KMUD community radio reporter, Alicia Littletree, was able to slip into the meeting and filed a revealing report: the judge, appearing comfortably casual without his judicial robes, seemed suddenly sympathetic to Maxxam/PL’s arguments of economic hardship, despite EPIC’s showing of “irreparable harm” to the forest. Appearing surprisingly immune to the logic



Join the North Coast Earth
First! Yahoo Group! Go to:
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From there you can learn how
to get involved. The page also
has a link so you can make
credit card donations through
Paypal to

SAVE THE MATTOLE!

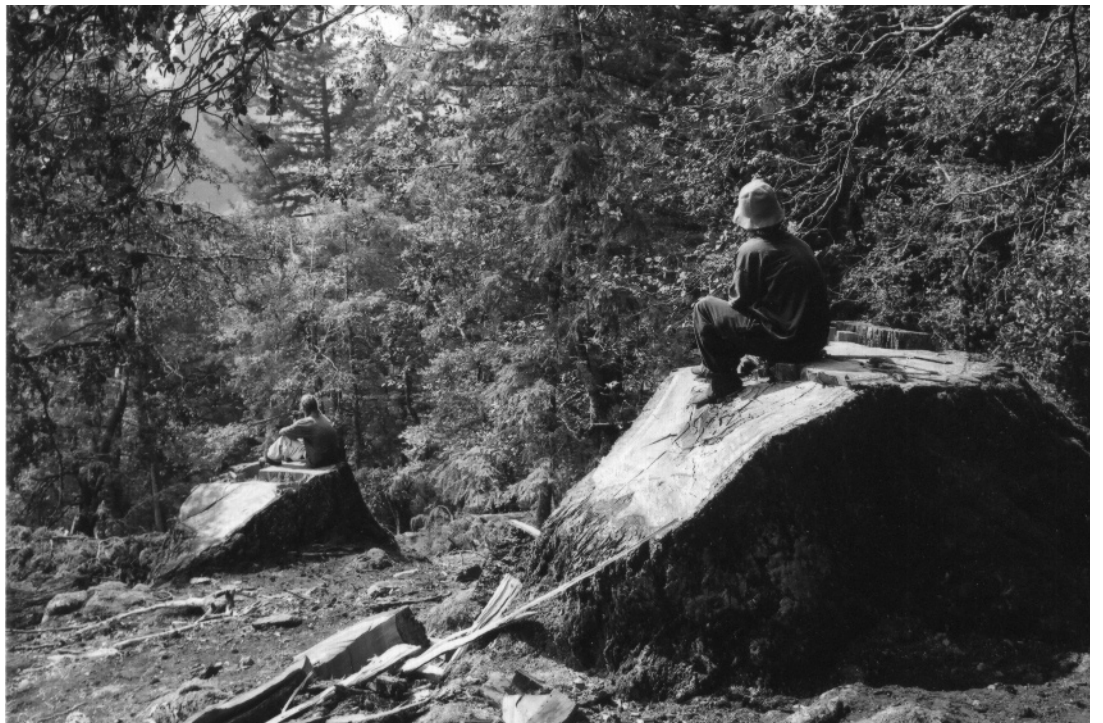
by the Mattole Forest Defenders

This unique but rapidly dwindling ecosystem supplies cold, clear headwaters to endangered salmon, and habitat to many rare and endangered plants and animals.

The Mattole River watershed forms a crucial wildlife corridor between Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the King

Range National Conservation Area. In between these ancient, protected habitats, the Mattole harbors spectacular old-growth Douglas firs and many endangered species that we defend and love.

The Mattole, sometimes called an “orphan” of the 1998 Headwaters Forest Agreement (between Texas-based Maxxam/ Pacific Lumber owner Charles Hurwitz and federal and state taxpayers), comprises over 3,000 acres of pristine Douglas fir forest, 9,000 acres of second growth and 2,000 acres of natural grassland. The “deal” sacrificed this unique but rapidly dwindling ecosystem that supplies cold, clear headwaters to endangered salmon, and habitat to many rare



Stumps on Rainbow Ridge, Mattole River watershed, August 2002.



and endangered plants and animals such as the Northern spotted owl, golden eagle and Pacific fisher.

The lower North Fork watershed, mostly owned by Maxxam/ PL, contains the largest low elevation, coastal, old-growth Douglas fir forest in California. Being near the junction of three tectonic plates, this area is among the most geologically active in the state, making it too steep and unstable for logging, especially clearcutting. The

direct action of the Mattole Forest Defenders aims to stop the theft of public treasures, the loss of irreplaceable ancient trees, extinction of dependent species, and degradation of soil and water, all being sacrificed to greed.

Our nonviolent direct actions will continue in the Mattole until our demands are met. All timber harvesting related activities in the Mattole must be halted at once, until (continued next page)



Protesters at Fox Camp Gate, Mattole watershed, September 30, 2002.

a solution is created to which all stakeholders can reasonably agree. Until this time we demand an end to tree-felling, road-building, and the creation of new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). This does not include legally required surveys. Maxxam/PL must be responsible for compensating employees and contractors whose work is interrupted by conservation efforts.

Lovers of Humboldt can help! Your volunteer help, money, in-kind donations, and climbing gear are greatly appreciated.

Our nonviolent direct actions in the past year have included:

The Peace Pod

While still in “negotiations”

taken down, Maxxam/PL’s THPs in the Mattole began to be approved at an alarming rate by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). They spanned 16 miles down Rainbow Ridge, from Fox Camp Gate to Taylor Peak—eleven THPs, encompassing about 1,000 acres of steep Douglas fir habitat. Some of the log trucks coming out carried only one old-growth log. Douglas fir prices are at an all time low, and the company is said to be selling the raw logs at a loss. But in one hour, over 50 log trucks left the area where the blockade had been. Maxxam/PL hopes to get out of the unsustainable old growth business as soon as possible.

4K6U31Z



about the acquisition of threatened areas of the Mattole, Maxxam/PL started to log on Taylor Peak and Long Ridge. In June, a pod blockade, attached to a car, was raised. That afternoon, the company’s Climber Eric climbed up the pod’s support pole. The podsitter didn’t have a harness on, and Eric used pain compliance techniques to loosen his grip on the pole.

A few days after the pod was



Log Truck Halted on Highway

In July, on Highway 36, a log truck with large Douglas fir logs was stopped in front of the Pacific Lumber mill in Carlotta. Two people locked down to the front axle and another locked to the rear axle. A direct supporter stayed with the rear lock-downer. Meanwhile 40 protesters made music and held signs. The truck driver refused to turn off his engine. The activists were locked down for six hours, while Humboldt County sheriff’s officials and the California Highway Patrol discussed whose jurisdiction it was. The four people under the truck were cited and released.

A Visit to Pacific Lumber’s Corporate Headquarters

After logging began in the Mattole, Maxxam/PL found four people locked down inside a car parked outside the front door of their corporate headquarters in Scotia. Activists had been trying to meet legally with PL’s president Robert Manne to discuss the issue of logging in the Mattole and to bring him a proposal to end the conflict. The car with lock-downers, and 35 other protesters, were outside for six hours. Scotia residents came to watch the Humboldt County sheriff’s officials and Scotia’s Volunteer Fire Department cut apart the vehicle. There were discussions between the logging community families and activists.



Activists locked down to log truck as supporters stood by at the Carlotta mill, four arrests, July 25, 2002.

Loader Lockdown

On Brushy Ridge in the Mattole, in August, a woman locked down to a loader’s metal ladder. A barricade of debris was built on the road. Several log trucks showed up and left. A few minutes later, two more log trucks arrived. The drivers got out

and began throwing debris at the activists. They hit the woman who was locked down several times on the legs with large sticks. They left after clearing the road. The loader operator arrived and had peaceful conversations with the lock-downer and supporters. Several hours later, a Maxxam/PL employee, using a





Loader lockdown, Brushy Ridge, one arrest, August 2002.



cutting torch, cut the bar she was locked to. The sheriff's officials were not present. She screamed as sparks hit her bare legs. While waiting for the sheriff's deputies, she then locked to a branch attached to a log on the log deck. Company employees had to cut the branch off. One sheriff's deputy showed up. The protester was driven to town, cited and released.

Helicopter Endangers People

Putting the treesitters at risk, the double-bladed helicopter (with a long cable) took off and landed more than 20 times...

Occupying Tree

In August, on Long Ridge in the Mattole, six people climbed into a tree next to a landed Columbia helicopter, hoping to prevent it from taking off. Putting the treesitters at risk, the double-bladed helicopter (with a long cable) took off and landed more than 20 times throughout the first day, and at least as many times the next day. No sheriff's officials were on the scene. The FAA said they wouldn't do anything until somebody was seri-

ously injured. Then the helicopter's camp packed up and moved its multiple trailers, trucks, and machines down Rainbow Ridge.

Treesitter in the Mattole Evicted

In September, near Sulphur



Helicopter landing pad on Long Ridge.

Creek, a tributary to the Mattole River, a treesitter on Brushy Ridge was evicted after a week and a half of occupation. A designated "free space" with slash piles on an ATV skid road was cleared out by a bulldozer. Climber Eric went into

the tree, cut traverses, and threw everything out. The fallers dropped trees very close to the treesitter, with sheriff's officials present. The sitter was naked. She came down after climber Eric made threats to her safety. The fallers then cut the

was the day after Judge Golden's first clarification. Hostile loggers arrived. A water truck driver backed up, and tried to dump water on the lock-downers. A supporter sat down behind the truck to protect the lock-downers, and it soaked him instead. Sheriff's officials came and cut the gate. One person was locked to the hinged end, two were in the middle of the gate, and one was where the gate locked. Sheriff's deputies

Our Four Demands

1. No cutting of old growth.
 2. No clearcutting.
 3. No herbicides.
 4. No cutting on steep slopes.
- Hint: Sustainable restoration forestry is the only way to get rid of protesters.

arrested one person for questioning how far away from the "crime scene" the activists had to go. Two people were locked together in the jail for a day and a half. One lock-downer with medical problems was released with no charges.

Mattole March and Treesits

In October, seventy-plus people, accompanied by dogs and horses, marched along a state park road to THP 01-321 in the Mattole, where they viewed clearcuts and logging roads and discussed unsus-

(continued next page)



Car blockade at PL headquarters in Scotia, three arrests, August 2002.



tainability.

With action camp as a support base, three treesits went up in 01-321. Climbers Eric and Jerry evicted two of the treesits, with two sitters in each tree. The company-contracted climbers cut the sitters out of lockboxes, though the sitters had no other safeties on, and then lowered them down. Three sitters in one tree called Gaia were not evicted. More treesits were put up and are still there.

A Dangerous Logger

On October 14, on the road leading to the treesits in THP 01-321 in the Mattole, activists built slashpiles. Two large machines exited the area, and the slash was rebuilt. A third machine cleared the slash again as Maxxam/PL's contracted Steve Wills loggers drove in. Activists followed the trucks in. Once in the active unit, one person, with a lockbox, locked to the trunk of a tree in the fall zone where the logger was working. The logger stopped



March into the Mattole, September 2002.



cutting, and left for the day.

Soon after, the group of activists heard yelling and decided to find out what was happening. A logger was chasing and threatening other activists in the woods. He said things like, "I'm gonna kick your teeth down your throat," and "You'd better not be here tomorrow, 'cause I'll bring my gun."

Humboldt Water Torture

Mattole treesitters had been



raided the previous day. Old-growth Douglas firs were cut and four activists thrown in jail. Supporters expected climbers to come the next morning and evict the three remaining sitters in the tree called Gaia. About a dozen people from action camp

decided to hike out to see what they could do to protect the tree. While walking together down the state park road before sunrise, a car approached them and zoomed past. They sat in the road so that the next vehicle could not pass. That vehicle stopped and the occupants tried to talk the protesters out of there, but they stayed. More trucks arrived carrying loggers, security and

climbers, as well as a water truck.

As the protesters sat watching, Maxxam/PL employees appeared to be making a plan, and soon thereafter the water truck was pulled up to where they were sitting. The truck's sprayer was turned on full blast. The spray smelled like automotive diesel fuel. It was six a.m. and a cold morning. One of the folks get-

against court order, and that they had been tortured using the cold water and diesel blasting machine on the water truck. More treesitters went up later that day.

Anaconda Honda

An activist locked down to a car with a giant lockbox, aka "The Anaconda," the world's longest lockbox, blocking access though Fox Camp Gate, a main haul road to the Mattole. The blockade and supporters were there for a day



Anaconda action, Fox Camp Gate, one arrest, September 30, 2002.

ting hosed had pneumonia, but they all persisted. They stayed and tried to keep each other warm. They were hosed down again two hours later. After that, sheriff's officials arrived and told them to get out of the road. The protesters told them that Maxxam/PL was logging

Call the Earth First!
action line to find out
how you can help the
Mattole Forest Defend-
ers:
(707) 825-6598.

Infamous Pepper Spray by Q-Tip Case Needs Your Help

by Noel Hewitt, plaintiff

After landslide appeals victories all the way to the Supreme Court, the Pepper Spray by Q-Tip civil rights lawsuit (Headwaters Forest Defense vs. Humboldt County, et al.) is swiftly headed for another jury trial, this time to be held in Eureka. The trial date is set for May 12. We hope for a large turnout of supporters for what promises to be an exciting political trial, brought to you by the attorneys who won the \$4.4 million verdict against four FBI agents and three Oakland Police officers for civil rights violations against Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney.

Meanwhile, in response to an order by the judge, we plaintiffs have submitted a letter to the county asking for a mediated settlement discussion about stopping the use of chemical weapons on demonstrators. Attorney Nancy Delaney, who represents Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, former sheriff Dennis Lewis, and current sheriff Gary Philp, said that the county was determined to go to trial in the federal civil rights case. They want to reserve the right to swab activists' eyes with pepper spray in the future—even though the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled the practice “excessive force” and denied Lewis and Philp “qualified immunity” protection, exposing the officers to punitive damages.

This marks the second time the plaintiffs have attempted to resolve the case with an agreement by the county not to use pepper spray; the first was in 1998 before the case

went to trial. Today, many costly court proceedings later, the defendants continue using taxpayer money to defend the police actions, which were seen around the world in video images that made Humboldt County infamous and horrified the public.



What You Can Do

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the other defendants had until the end of February to make their initial response to our offer of mediation. Even if they reject our letter, public pressure will be important all the way to our May trial. People are encouraged to write letters to the editor and contact the county Board of Supervisors and other defendants directly, asking them to stop wasting taxpayers' money defending police torture and to settle this case. The Appeals Court ruling already makes it clear that they are in the wrong under

the law, creating strong case law that will bear on other civil rights cases.

CALL:

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, (707) 476-2384; Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, 445-7251, Eureka Mayor and City Council office, 441-4172; and Eureka Police Department, 441-4044.

WRITE:

Eureka's daily newspaper, the Eureka Times-Standard, 930 6th Street, Eureka, CA 95501. Letter to the Editor online form: www.times-standard.com/Stories/0,1413,127,~2945~,00.html. Phone toll-free (800) 564-5630.

You can read our actual settlement letter, find more points you can make in calls and letters, and get contact information for the defendants and local publications at our new website: www.nopepperspray.org.

Donations (tax-deductible) for the pepper spray case are very greatly appreciated and utilized. Please make checks payable to Trees Foundation, and earmark specifically for the Pepper Spray Fund, c/o Trees Foundation, P.O. Box 2202, Redway, CA 95560, trees@treesfoundation.org.

He goes into the forest at night
to set a line in a tree,
sends up a friend
to face a climber,
touches each tree along the way,
thanks it for existing,
for being around so long,
says goodbye.
wakes up early in the morning,
they start falling just before dawn,
he goes out to the road
to watch the ancient ones fall,
to be a witness to their death
after so many hundreds of years,
feels and hears
the earth-shaking Boom
of their bodies falling,
remembers touching them
the night before,
that one
with the particularly gnarled bark is
the next to go,
incessant buzzing of chainsaw
halts for a moment,
tall tower of living tree
keels over,
hits a smaller tree

on the way down,
shatters it in two,
reaches the ground
with a heart-wrenching thud
that echoes through the valley,
the lumberjack shouts yiiihaa!
with the apparent exhilaration
of destruction,
two people in the top
of a neighboring tree
cry out in mourning,
the cars on the freeway
zip idly by
in steel-plated,
sugar-coated
oblivion.

She drives her van around
all day, all night,
collecting people and supplies
to save the forest,
the inside of the van
is a tangled mesh of
backpacks, ropes, vegetables,
lockboxes, bread, harnesses,
breathing bodies, carabiners,
peanut butter and jelly,

tahini and honey,
surviving on sandwiches
for days on end,
every waking thought
spent manifesting
the ingredients of
forest defense,
catching some sleep
here and there,
waking up early
to see trees fall,
tears
running down her cheeks.

They post a guard
at the bottom
of the tree,
sixteen people come out,
the trees call them,
they dodge to and fro
outnumbering the guards
they manage to pass
food and water
to their friend
in the tree.

—Annapurna



The Heartwood Campaign at Nanning Creek

by Lodgepole

When we first went into Heartwood, in Nanning Creek watershed, it seemed unreal. How could forest like this have survived this long, so untouched, so close to Scotia, Maxxam/Pacific Lumber headquarters? The areas surrounding Scotia are



known for the many clearcuts; hill upon hill are bare of trees, devastated by slides, and choked in slash from a century of logging by PL. Nanning was the only place in the Scotia area that was still standing strong, but not for long. Maxxam/

PL had their eyes on it, and California Department of Forestry gave them the go-ahead.

Nanning is marbled murrelet (endangered bird) habitat. That's one of the main reasons it stood for so long. Maxxam/PL couldn't get approval to go in and log. But

the Headwaters deal brought along the Habitat Conservation Plan, and with it the Incidental Take Permit, which allows Maxxam/PL to log in endangered species' habitat (Class E areas).

The next time we went into Heartwood, we shot several rolls of film.

We needed to document what Maxxam/PL was doing to the last unprotected virgin old-growth forests. Soon after that, we established a treesit in the canopy, and then started expanding. Soon, Ewok Village was built and we were occupy-

ing the trees at all times. We chose to stay in secret, in order to protect our position and maintain the freedom to expand.

Maxxam/PL started working on the plan, but couldn't enter the Class E area, which was our main concern. Most of the rest of the area was second growth with residual old-growth trees. Maxxam/PL fin-

to find the whole village cut from the trees. We didn't have the means to go back up that night, so we went home to see what kind of gear and energy we could round up.

With five other active fronts, we just couldn't get the support we needed. On Christmas, an activist climbed up into one of the tallest trees in the grove, knowing the fall-

Nanning slipped through our fingers and was eaten by the machine. The cycles of untouched life had gone on for thousands of years. All that ended in one month.

ished logging the rest of the unit. Then they pulled out and focused on other Timber Harvest Plans. We followed suit, and made our way to other areas the company had on the chopping block. Nanning was put on the back burner until the Class E area was released for cutting by the Department of Fish and Game.

A few months went by, and action heated up in other areas. We were fully involved in multiple active fronts when we got the call—Nanning had been released. We went out there as soon as possible,

ers would be there the next day. We salvaged the broken platforms and nailed the remaining pieces together with branches from the already fallen trees. After a week, we could no longer sustain the treesit and had to pull out.

Nanning slipped through our fingers and was eaten by the machine. Heartwood was one of the most pristine areas I had ever seen. The cycles of untouched life had gone on for thousands of years. All that ended in one month. While we were all celebrating the holidays,



Nanning Creek watershed before clearcutting in December 2002 and January 2003.



Nanning Creek watershed after clearcutting.

Actions at the Demonstration Forest

by Sequoia

We put a lot of time and energy into the Demonstration Forest at the north Pepperwood exit from Highway 101. This 267-acre redwood, Douglas and white fir forest was like an extension of the Avenue of the Giants to me. Although previously logged, there were still many ancient trees. Maxxam/Pacific Lumber filed two Timber Harvest Plans to log the forest, leaving almost nothing standing—not a sustainable harvest. California Department of Fish and Game has allowed them to destroy this habitat of the endangered marbled murrelet.

Soon after trees started to fall, activists responded. On November 14, 2002, the company found two treesitters at the edge of the cutting in an old-growth redwood tree called Moment. That same day, Climber Eric removed everything except their rope and harnesses. The next day, activists held a protest at the gate. Several people were assaulted by the loggers for standing in the way of the gate. Sheriff's officials arrived to keep the logging gate open. When the folks who had been assaulted asked to file a complaint, the officials responded like robots, saying they were there on other business.

Later that day, when the protest was over, Climber Eric returned to remove the treesitters. The two activists got naked in a creative attempt to evade arrest, but Eric still ziptied their hands and lowered them to the ground. My friends Abstract and Tree were taken into custody by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department on twelve misdemeanor accounts including trespassing, resisting arrest and indecent exposure. Their bail was set at \$100,000. Famous lawyer Tony Serra took on the case for the activists who were mistreated by police.

On November 16, two activists climbed other old-growth redwood trees called Fibula, Tibia and Femur. On November 18, Climber Eric and Climber Jerry tried to remove the two treesitters. One sitter locked to the top of the tree, while the other sitter climbed to the very top with survival supplies. Eric removed all the food, water and raingear, and climbed down. In a tree nearby, The Dude posted watch with a video camera. Eric and Jerry climbed up after him even though that tree was in a no-cut zone. The Dude sat six feet out on the highest branch, since the tree had no top. After putting his life out on a limb, Eric and Jerry took all his gear and left.

Maxxam/PL posted guards under the tree for a week to prevent a resupply and to arrest the treesitters if they came down. Food and

water were delivered anyway, by distracting the guards with an overwhelming number of supporters.

Climber Eric returned in two weeks, on December 2, to remove the platform and ropes that were tied to other trees. The treesitter locked himself to the tree. "I told Eric that if he came any closer I'd s*** my drawers." The nonviolent tactics worked, and soon another platform was set. The treesit continued into the new year.

On January 16, Climber Eric came back for a third try. This time he brought two other treesit extractors, Climber Jerry and Climber Greg. The treesitter, outnumbered three to one, came down. Later that day Ethan J. Coonen was booked and released for suspicion of trespassing.

When I look at the Demonstration "Forest" now, what I see are two big clearcuts. As a person who loves the big tree ecosystems, it's been hard to live in this county. This story has happened before and will continue to happen until we have all learned to work together to protect the ancient forest that remains.



Ancient Douglas fir tree.

Mother Earth says please,
I'm calling out to thee,
Please educate and act,
I'm getting thirsty,
The rain ain't coming,
And the water hasn't arrived.

Down Highway 101,
There sits a mother's son,
Who rose up 13 days ago,
To save a redwood tree from slaughter.

—Dragon



Call the Earth First! action line to find out how you can help with forest defense in Humboldt County: (707) 825-6598.

Maxxam SLAPP Suits Slime On

by Naomi Wagner

In the courtroom, as in the forest, Maxxam/Pacific Lumber has been throwing its weight around, filing SLAPP suit after SLAPP suit against people daring to stand up to the corporate pirates who are looting our watersheds.

In April 2001, after a nine-month protest and nonviolent occupation on Rainbow Ridge in the Mattole River watershed, the company filed a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP). SLAPP suit #1, which sues North Coast Earth First!, Mattole Forest Defenders, 68 individual activists and Mattole residents, as well as 100 other John and Jane Does, seeks unspecified amounts of compensation for Maxxam/PL and its co-plaintiffs, two logging subcontractors, Lewis and Wills, and two neighboring ranch-owners. Alleging damages caused by the protests, it accuses SLAPPees of causing delays, damaging roads, disrupting a lawful business, and conspiring to act in concert with others. While giving lip service to respect for legal protests,

this SLAPP suit casts a broad net, ignoring distinctions between First Amendment rights of free speech, association and assembly, and acts of nonviolent civil disobedience. One longtime Mattole resident, Ellen Taylor, was “slapped” for voicing criticism of company cutting on local public radio, KMUD. She has since won a lower court case against Maxxam/PL, but the company is appealing the ruling.

Maxxam/PL provoked public outcry by drastically increasing its rate of cut in the Mattole, sometimes called the Sacrifice Zone of the infamous 1998 Headwaters Forest “Deal” in which 7,500 acres of ancient redwoods elsewhere on the company’s 200,000-acre ownership were set aside at great expense to the public and to other watersheds. This devil’s compromise has wreaked havoc on critical habitat for recovering salmon populations and many other endangered species.

SLAPP suit #2 was filed against activists protesting logging in the

“Hole in Headwaters” in the fall of 2001. Nine people showed up to talk to loggers before work, and were arrested while standing at a public bus stop near the rural-residential entrance to the forest. This short-lived SLAPP was dropped for lack of evidence. The second-growth and scattered old-growth trees that formed the northern boundary and only remaining buffer around the Headwaters Forest were subsequently cut.

SLAPP suit #3 was filed against activists who locked down in a car outside corporate headquarters in Scotia in the summer of 2002 to protest logging in the Mattole. Trial is scheduled for April 2003.

SLAPP suit #4 was filed late last year against a proliferation of treesitters in Freshwater, the Van Duzen (Gypsy Mountain), the Mattole and the Demonstration Forest. On January 24, 2003, PL obtained a preliminary injunction against the sitters in closed session. On February 5, some of the 18 or so treesitters in Freshwater were served

with notices of intent to seek a restraining order prior to eviction from their lofty perches. However, climbing so many large trees was very tiring for PL’s two climbers and some notices were left tacked to the trees’ massive trunks only twenty feet above ground, causing speculation as to the validity of service.

Among many refusing to be intimidated, SLAPPees Kim Starr and Viron recently spent three and two months respectively in jail for blockading Mattole logging, and Jack Nounan and Mango received contempt charges for breaking the SLAPP suit’s injunction.

The true purpose of a SLAPP suit, of course, is to harass, intimidate, divide and distract the public from the very issues they are protesting. But activists and supporters have remained undeterred in defense of the forests we love and depend upon.



Acting in Concert Rally for the Mattole, Monument Gate overlooking Scotia, September 15, 2002.

Earth First! Videos for Sale

www.earthfilms.org

Treesit — \$20 + 3 shipping

Mattole Resistance 2002 — \$10 + 3 shipping

Mattole Alert! A Call to Action — \$5 + 3 shipping

Earthfilms PO Box 2198 Redway, CA 95560

Checks or US Money orders

Voicemail: 415 820 1635

Call the Earth First!
action line to find out
how you can help with
forest defense in Hum-
boldt County: (707) 825-
6598.

Earth First! wishes to thank Greg B, Garrett, Jo, Naomi, Annapurna and Grizzly Graphics for making this newsletter happen. We also wish to express our gratitude to more than 20 writers and five photographers who provided the content.

Urgent Plea for Help!

Going for broke for the cause of intact ecosystems in the past year has cost a bundle and we are nearly broke! It's been a long time since we hit you up for cash, and with the increased rate of logging we need all kinds of equipment and a lot more rope. This newsletter is intended to inform, inspire and connect you to one of the most vibrant, valiant and nonviolent groups of eco-warriors anywhere, North Coast Earth First! Now, not only do we confront cranky loggers, crazed security guards, corporate fraudsters and corrupt officials, while braving the elements, court and jail, we're also fending off fistfuls of SLAPP suits. This spring and summer we'll be out in the forest doing our best to slow the loss of old growth and the spread of herbicide-soaked clearcuts on steep slopes. If you like what we do and would like to help us put the Earth first, please send donations to:

North Coast Earth First!, P.O. Box 219, Bayside, CA 95524.

Join Us This Summer!

Spend your summer saving the ancient redwood and Douglas fir forests in Humboldt County! Ancient trees are falling fast, and North Coast Earth First! is standing on the front lines of forest defense, from our roots in Headwaters Forest, to seedlings of resistance all over the bioregion. This summer we'll be putting our bodies in the way of destruction. Where will you be? Whether you can commit to a week, a month, a summer or longer, the forest needs you! There are a variety of ways in which you can help us defend Humboldt's ancient forests. If you can hike, talk, drive or just sit, there is a role for you. Nonviolence and direct action trainings are provided. Just bring basic camping gear, your love for the forests and a commitment to nonviolence. Active campaigns in the Van Duzen, Mattole, and Freshwater watersheds. Call the Earth First! action line at: (707) 825-6598.

No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!

name	
address	<input type="checkbox"/> address change if different than the label on the back of this form
email	<input type="checkbox"/> add me to your email alert list
<input type="checkbox"/> I can't afford to give but please keep me on your list.	
We want to make sure that everyone on our list wants to receive our newsletter. Send back this form if you would like to continue hearing from us: North Coast Earth First!, P.O. Box 219, Bayside, CA 95524.	

2002 — YEAR IN REVIEW

2002 was a bittersweet year for forest defenders in Humboldt County. Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company was especially busy liquidating its assets, from selling off their trucks and laying off their workers to cutting the last of their old-growth forests. While many people struggled in the courts and on the land to slow the horrific destruction of our ecosystem and economy, Maxxam/PL successfully cut some of the last of its old-growth stands. While we won an unprecedented victory in the courts, with a stop-work order issued last summer, Maxxam/PL ignored the Stay and went right on doing illegal business as usual. A total of 53 arrests occurred during nonviolent resistance to the destruction.

January Aradia treesit re-occupied, 1/7. Zen treesit set in THP 439.	Mattole THPs approved at alarming rate. Log truck lockdown on Hwy. 36, four cited and released.	Protesters halt logging by being present and talking to loggers in Freshwater. 13 woman sit in 13 treesits for 13 days. 11 treesits up in Freshwater. Rally for Remedy's 100th day in the redwood tree called Jerry. 50 people halt yarding operations by mass spontaneous action in Freshwater, ten arrests.	Freshwater arrests, 11/5 Treesits in Maxxam/PL's "Demonstration" Forest to protest cutting of residual old-growth trees. Climber Eric lowers Tree and Abstract, 11/15. Eric unsuccessfully attempts to lower treesitter; ancient trees Fibula, Tibia, Femur saved!
February North Coast activist Gary Williams, aka Groat, dies of cancer.	August Maxxam/PL headquarters in Scotia car lockdown, three arrests. Mattole THPs continue to be cut. Loader lockdown in the Mattole, one arrest. Six people occupy a tree next to a landed Columbia helicopter. Judge Golden's ruling: Maxxam/PL ordered to halt operations. Company operations continue.	October Activists present in the Mattole stop falling operations, confronting a very aggressive logger in THP-321. Three treesits in the Mattole, Rattlesnake Creek THP 321. 70 people march into the Mattole to THP 321. Lockdown with a 15 foot long, flexible, duct tape covered lock-box, called the Anaconda, at Fox Camp gate, all logging and hauling stopped for 24 hours, one arrest. Climber Eric busts treesits in THP 321, four arrests. One treesit still up in the Mattole, Gaia protected.	December Eric returns to Fibula, Tibia, and Femur, but does not attempt to lower treesitter. Logging starts on Gypsy Mountain. Department of Fish and Game illegally releases THP 439 in Grizzly Creek, Class E marbled murrelet habitat. Logging begins in Avalon, Grizzly Creek THP 439. Nanning Creek watershed logged, also Class E marbled murrelet habitat. Grizzly Creek blockades, activists suspend in hammocks under a bridge, four arrests, 12/17 and 19.
March Ancient trees Jerry and Everstine occupied in Freshwater watershed. Remedy starts sitting in Jerry, 3/21.	September Treesit on Brushy Ridge in the Mattole. Pacific Crest Trail treesits set. Kneeland treesits set. Treesit in the Mattole evicted by company Climber Eric, one cited and released. Rally for the Mattole, 9/15. Action camps and trainings Three lockdowns at Fox Camp gate, a main road into the Mattole, five arrests, one lock-downer released without charges.		
April Forest Peace Alliance Picnic. Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's historic civil rights case against the FBI and Oakland Police goes to trial, 11 years after they were car-bombed and framed.			
May Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney win and are awarded 4.4 million bucks from FBI and Oakland PD!			
June The Peace Pod, blocking a road in the Mattole watershed, taken down by Maxxam/PL Climber Eric, one arrest.			
July			

North Coast Earth First!
P.O. Box 219
Bayside, CA 95524



OUR NONVIOLENT REPUTATION

Earth First! is outspoken in its opposition to violent methods. Because only 3% of the old-growth redwoods remain standing, Earth First! adopted a popular "No Compromise" stance in protection of the last ancient redwood ecosystems a decade ago. Judi Bari's advocacy was largely what led Northern California's Earth First movement to adopt a nonviolence code denouncing tree-spiking and equipment sabotage. Throughout a decade of confrontational timber protests, not a single injury has happened to our opposition. This is despite over a thousand arrests, pepper spray, pain compliance, police brutality, and other forms of violence suffered by nonviolent protesters.

Our nonviolence code:

- Our attitude will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people and the environment around us.
- We will use no violence, verbal or physical, toward any person.
 - We will not damage property.
 - We will not bring firearms or other weapons.
 - We will not bring or use illegal drugs or alcohol.

N O R T H C O A S T
Earth 
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Newsletter

Spring 2003

