



North Coast Earth First!

P.O. Box 219
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Dear friends and supporters,

Winter greetings from beyond the courtroom, mostly. As you read in the Summer 2006 Newsletter, we have been way in court but as of July this Summer, after five years under the gavel, all but three forest defenders have settled. Those three await the judge's decision on their trials. One activist defendant won a countersuit for assault and battery and received undisclosed cash. One of our lawyers, Stephen Davies, was awarded his legal fees. Meanwhile Marbled Murrelet season ends soon and ancient redwoods go under attack. We need cash quick so we can stop them.

Part of the goal of Pacific Lumber's legal gang was to prove that Earth First! was an organization. This was so the Company could get us busted for conspiracy. Stephen successfully argued in the court that Earth First! is a concept, not a conspiracy. Pacific Lumber even tried to tie in this newsletter, our legal efforts, and media outreach as part of an illegal conspiracy to break the law. In the end, many of the defendants settled with no damages or attorney's fees awarded to either side. Five year injunctions against trespass may keep a few activists from allegedly trespassing soon.

Now that the legal distraction is passing a renaissance has begun. On the HSU campus, a club has formed to back activists. Like wildflowers in the Spring, interest in direct action is budding again in Humboldt County. The campus folks can tell us when ancient trees are threatened by monitoring Timber Harvest Plans. They may also legally make banners, help with media efforts, and do paralegal and publicity work. The University allows this club to poster far and wide on campus to welcome more volunteers.

On March 15th, give or take a few weeks due to assorted regulations and weather, ancient redwoods



face chainsaws from Pacific Lumber. This is because plucky little endangered seabirds called Marbled Murrelets are presumed to have concluded nesting on the broad boughs of old growth treetops. The corporation may not touch the unprotected ancient groves while the Murrelets do their thing. But immediately after nesting season, the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service allows CEO Charles Hurwitz and his logging company to resume profiting from extinction. Consequently, courageous people, in all likelihood, are apt to put their bodies in the way. Nonviolent activists are in the area now and are preparing for Spring.

Your past support has kept the seeds of action alive and sustained us through this legal embroilment. Although we feel well-acquitted through our efforts, our success is largely due to *pro bono* lawyers who guided our *in pro per*, do it yourself defense. Although they worked for free, some of their expenses weigh heavily upon them. In addition to all the costs of a law business, our defense required uncountable copies, as well as maps, videos, pricey legal recorders at depositions, and transcripts. This all added to the cost of transportation to court appearances. The lawyers paid many of these expenses besides having activists sleep in their offices! Besides legal costs we want to look to new actions. When the threat occurs, people act. Your checks and cash defend those people. Your generosity with the enclosed envelope allows us to weather the winter and get ready for Spring forest defense. Protect the ancient trees! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely, **North Coast Earth First!**