

North Coast Earth First!

Friends,

It has been one year since we last contacted you. We usually send word every six months. Please forgive us for not being in touch during summer. Since last year, Pacific Lumber, the principle culprit in the case of the missing redwoods, has been driven to bankruptcy. Most of the grueling lawsuits against us have now been settled. In their last hoorah, the company and their henchmen lashed out at us, requiring our undivided attention and subsequent exhaustion. As we write letter this to you, the fallen giant is still trying to cut ancient trees before being snuffed out by the courts. Please fund us so that we may assist the folks blocking the chainsaws with their bodies. Surprisingly, the IRS and the judges tell us that your support is completely legal.

During the trials, Maxxam and their shifty lawyers failed to prove that a conspiracy exists to break laws among the arrested Earth First!ers. It's not that the company wasn't trying. They subpoenaed madly and dragged local forest defenders to court relentlessly. Through years of countless depositions the company could find no evidence of conspiracy. Their fishing expedition didn't end with the alleged trespassers and blockaders. The year before last we went to a local accountant asking her to consider reviewing our books for the newsletter project and she was promptly subpoenaed. The guy that filed for an EF! business name through the county was dragged to trial by the company hoping could they could sue him for a decade of blockades. The judge ruled that these people were not responsible or connected to the alleged Earth First! lawbreaking. The IRS tells us that we may finance detailed explanations that inspire what folks are doing to stop the company from logging ancient trees, even if actions we describe would involve possible misdemeanors.

When you wrote your last check to Earth First!, you may have imagined us spending the money on armored handcuffs, tree sitting platforms, or rope. Our pleas for rope were merely colorfully figurative. Maxxam has spent almost a decade trying to prove an illegal existed among Earth First!. One redwood treesitter who faced conspiracy charges from the Headwaters campaign explained to his judge how he ended up in the tree. He said he was walking along in the forest and he saw a rope. When he climbed the rope he found a pleasant platform and fell asleep. Kind people he met in the morning came and offered him food. The judge exclaimed that he lived in Oregon. The tree sitter replied that he considered the redwoods Baha Oregon. He was found innocent of conspiracy. An Each Earth First! direct action is an individual act of conscience. There is no conspiracy. When someone nonviolently breaks the law to protect ancient redwoods in this region, we get the word out while we swoop in to help that person with press releases, jail support, and legal assistance. All perfectly legit.

We have been told by Greenpeace direct action campaigners that during the 1990's they got regular updates from their legal team on RICO, the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization law that was designed to bring down organized crime. RICO was never used against Greenpeace despite the fact that their organization was clearly and intentionally breaking laws. The Bush Administration made the first attempt to prosecute Greenpeace as a criminal organization in 2002 but was overturned by the judge due to insufficient evidence. Earth First! is more RICO-proof than Greenpeace. We are not organized as a top down corporation. We have no directors telling who, what, when, or where to blockade. We leave it up to individuals to impede the region's wayward corporations as they see fit. Earth First! steps in and gives these local heroes a hand. RICO was successfully used to prosecute abortion protesters. The presiding judge in that case stated that RICO was only used because those people were linked to violence. Earth First! in Redwood Nation is entirely nonviolent. We renounced sabotage long ago in favor of alliances with workers and unions.

Should you ever feel the desire to feel the wind in your face as you stop a multinational corporation from wrecking nature, contact us! You may be the lucky winner of an all expense paid vacation to the canopy of the redwood forest. We would love to educate you in nonviolence as well as blockade history and methods. The IRS assures us that we may also hire whomever we want. What those folks spend their money on is up to them. If our contractors are rushing out to buy armored handcuffs, tree sitting platforms, and rope with their own money and blockade Pacific Lumber, we are not liable. But we will be there to help.

Unlike other environmental groups we are a movement, not an organization. This means that when you write a check to Earth First! to support direct action, you can rest assured that you will not get busted. Of course we can not make that promise for everyone involved in Earth First!. Ancient trees are still falling in Humboldt County. Someone has to stop them.

Solidarity, Redwood Nation Earth First!



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