

Redwood Nation  
Earth  First!  
PO Box 219 Bayside, CA 95524 [www.RNEF.org](http://www.RNEF.org)

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Dear friends and supporters,

Humboldt Earth First! treesits are still up in the McKay tract where Green Diamond wants to cut wide swaths through Eureka's closest forest. The company aims to exterminate spotted owls with "take" permits that allow them to "displace, harass or kill" these endangered raptors. This planned housing development at the McKay tract threatens ancient redwoods thousands of years old. During heavy rains, run-off and pollutants plunge down paved surfaces, eroding unbuffered creek banks and dumping sediment into Humboldt Bay, home to native Coho salmon.

"Right now, Green Diamond is threatening the survival of the Coho salmon in Humboldt Bay, because they want to develop in what's called the McKay tract, where there is a healthy population of salmon, still..." said Humboldt EF!er Farmer in a summer '09 interview in The New Settler magazine. "In the area where we are defending right now, there are no habitat protection areas. They have a full-go permit to just wipe them out. That's the McKay Tract, right next to Eureka," said Farmer.

Green Diamond, the latest incarnation of Simpson Timber Company, is the largest land owner of redwoods, with 430,000 acres to their name, or to one of their names. Like Maxxam/ Pacific Lumber before them, they have various shell companies, such as California Redwood Company, which owns the sawmill in Arcata. Green Diamond supplies the sawmill with logs. In some ways, GD is taking the place of ex-timber giant Maxxam. Although they don't exhibit the sheer forest terrorism, they definitely hold their own in the clearcutting department. They also cut old growth redwood and fir when they can get away with it.

Meanwhile...in Mendocino, despite an avalanche of comments from an aroused public and the objections of the Department of Fish and Games's staff, Cal-Fire approved the misguided Timber Harvest Plan we wrote you about in our last letter, at the end of September. The Plan aims to cut the last old growth along the famous Skunk Train corridor just west of Willits.

Willits Redwood Company owners Bruce Burton and Chris Baldo (they own both the mill and the land) were good to log within 30 days of approval by Calfire, formerly

known as the California Department of Forestry. Thankfully, a lawsuit was prepared by people we know and love but can't tell you about because it's confidential. Without compromising sensitive details of the case we can say that an agreement has been reached to temporarily suspend action by both parties on a month to month basis. Who knows, during negotiations the 'bad guys' might become 'good guys'. It's just possible that an acceptable agreement for all may be reached in which the old growth is protected. We're hoping that direct action won't be needed for once, but we remain ready, more than ready.

Timber Harvest Plan 01-08-116, now dubbed the The Skunk Train THP, calls for selective logging of 426 acres, 90 acres of which contains old growth trees up to 1500 years old. The Sierra railroad, locally known as the beloved Skunk Train, includes six miles of switchbacks within the Plan boundaries, looping back and forth across the unstable forested slopes. WRC owner Burton wants to ship the mighty logs to the mill via the Railroad, even though some areas are considered hazardous due to slip-outs and landslides

In October, a lively group of fifty old growth supporters and train enthusiasts brought together by the Willits Railway Society rode the Skunk Train from Willits to Northspur to view the amazingly tall trees standing like cathedrals on the steep slopes along the route. Although the trees visible from the train are not the ones headed for the mill, they are representative of the old growth marked for cut on the Plan. On the way folks ogled the trees, mingled, chatted and exchanged information about the timber harvest plan and how they could help save them. The riders were delighted by the sight of huge banners still attached to the trunks of ancient redwoods along the tracks, proclaiming: "Save the Old Growth!"

When you write your check to Earth First! this year, you may envision us chaining ourselves to logging gates and treesitting to oppose reckless logging with your money. Our pleas for rope are merely colorfully figurative. Your assistance can help a potentially unknown act become widely known, inspirational, and celebrated. Fair media coverage and a competent legal defense helps protect activists' civil rights. Your support keeps forest defense alive and keeps activism on the front lines strong.

Thanks for thinking of us,



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Earth First!