



Redwood Nation Earth First!
PO Box 219
Bayside, CA 95524

- * No Old Growth Logging
- * No Clear Cutting
- * No Herbicide Use
- * No Logging Unstable Slopes

No Compromise

Dear Friends & Supporters,

In Mendocino County, Timber Harvest Plan 01-08-116 is on the brink of approval. Their plan is to cut most of the remaining old growth redwoods in the Noyo River headwaters. This would mean selective logging of 426 acres, 90 acres of which is old growth, trees up to 1500 years old.

Along this amazing area of steep forested slopes, the Sierra railroad, known locally as the beloved Skunk train, loops back and forth for over six miles of switchbacks within the plan boundaries. At present, the train only runs between Fort Bragg and a scenic point halfway to Willits. The whole point of the Skunk train ride, an attraction since forever, has been to see the ancient redwoods.

Now timberland owner Bruce Burton has decided to log the place to smithereens. Burton, who also owns the Willits Redwood Company where the trees would be processed, wants to ship a megaton of logs out to the mill on the backs of the railroad cars. The hillsides are already in danger from slip-outs and landslides due to poor rail maintenance and neglect by Sierra Railroad.

The Plan might once have been considered progressive, since some of the old growth and other trees would be left. But now that the redwood forests overall has dwindled to less than 3% of its' former glory, the loss of even one more of these irreplaceable ancient trees is unacceptable. Local poet Mary Korte who lives on the part of the Noyo targeted for logging, veteran coast watershed monitor, Linda Perkins, and I are watching this plan closely.

A plan in the same area by Hawthorne Timber Company was fought to a standstill some ten years ago by a coalition of EF! activists, the Willits Environmental Center and the Mendocino County Railway Society. At that time, Skink train riders were greeted by the sight of huge banners dangling from the tall trunks of ancient redwoods along the tracks, proclaiming: "Save the Old Growth!" In the face of broad community resistance, Hawthorne backed down and allowed the plan to run out.

Meanwhile in Humboldt County, treesits have been going on for over a year in a forest neighboring Eureka known as the McKay Tract. Tensions have risen recently as Green Diamond employees have begun visiting the tree village on a daily basis. The Tract is part of the 9,500 acre drainage of Ryan Creek, home to an impressive diversity of wildlife including spotted owls, salmon, hawks, bear, deer and mountain lion.

The area has long been coveted by developers who have now joined forces with the landowner. Green Diamond, formerly Simpson Timber Company, is pressuring the county to allow them to subdivide. Shunning less harmful options, they hope to build some 400 units for human occupation in the McKay tract forest, thus displacing the current wild inhabitants forever.

By focusing on Green Diamond, EF! Humboldt is opening a new campaign, calling attention to the unsustainable clearcutting and widespread herbicide use currently practiced by the company. Such practices fly in the face of the principles of good forestry long demanded by EF!. Not so Green Diamond managed to escape attention during the long struggle against Maxxam but now they stick out like a sore thumb! Check out <http://efhumboldt.org> for more on that.

As you know, Humboldt and Mendocino EF!ers have a long history of nonviolent direct action. Like many others, I've been arrested for treehugging, blockading and protesting ... well, too many times already! It's unfortunate that we live in a world where such nonviolent actions of last resort are *still* needed, but the plain truth is, our old growth trees are *still* not protected by law.

Direct action works. Our nonviolent direct action campaign for Headwaters stopped the Maxxam Corporation resulting in the largest acquisition of parkland in American history. In 1996, after thousands of arrests, the state and fed gave \$380 million to create the Headwaters Forest Preserve, protecting six pristine redwood groves and surrounding lands from chainsaws.

In the absence of reasonable laws to protect the forests permanently we must still fight for every ancient tree the hard way, one by one, plan by plan. Until the light of ecological sanity dawns, we still need Earth First!!

Getting arrested and going to court a lot is expensive. Thanks for every bit of your support, in all amounts. Like a person locked to an active logging gate, your donation keeps the spotlight on the trees and the companies trying to cut them all down! Together we can save these last ancient forests.



Naomi Wagner
Media Contact
Earth First!