

# Redwood Nation Earth First!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What with BP'S catastrophe of underwater oil in the Gulf from their exploded drilling rig, abetting the melting glaciers, thawing tundra, and rising oceans already in progress, it's easy to get discouraged from time to time. Yes, ecosystems and economies are collapsing all around us. It's easy to be overwhelmed and just stop working to protect the earth. But here in the forests of Humboldt and Mendocino counties, bands of dedicated EF!ers continue to prove the adage that action is the antidote to despair. Here's an update on what's been going on.

Tree sitters are still occupying the mostly second growth forest near Eureka known as the McKay tract. A few old growth trees, spared from the chainsaws of an earlier era, are still scattered throughout. Part of the Ryan Creek watershed, the area contains potential Marbled Murrelet habitat and is a fresh water source for spawning salmon connecting to Humboldt Bay. A group of tree sitters keeps watch in case owner Green Diamond gets a green light for their timber harvest (aka development and forest destruction) plan. Green Diamond has filed Timber Harvest Plans on nearly 2000 acres, over half the plans in the Northwest region this year. Many are clearcuts, likely to be doused with brush-killing herbicides if allowed.

This spring, EF! Humboldt activist Farmer offered his expertise to help train the Klamath Justice Coalition, a group of Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk tribal members opposing a Forest Service logging plan in Six Rivers National Forest. Activists and tribal elders shared special meals and held ceremonies before practicing tree climbing and nonviolent civil disobedience skills, in case they're needed. In December of last year, a group of Klamath Justice Coalition activists successfully blockaded a logging road into the contested area to protect spiritual trails.

In the "almost saved" category... negotiations with Willits Redwood Company (WRC) over the Timber Harvest Plan in the Noyo River headwaters to cut old growth redwoods along the steep and winding Skunk Train route have resulted in some breathing room. WRC signed a legal document on March 31 agreeing not to log for one year while actively seeking a serious conservation buyer for the property. We've been doing all we can to push the "serious buyer" and WRC into each other's arms and are about 99% sure the acquisition will take place as soon as a final sales contract is signed. Protecting these trees in perpetuity, with their amazing aerial habitats, mosses, lichens, newts and voles intact, is truly thrilling. But it's still too soon to celebrate.



More bioregional threats are now coming from CalTrans. To the north, in Humboldt County, CalTrans wants to widen Highway 101 at Richardson Grove State Park so bigger, longer trucks can get through faster, yippee. To do this, they plan to cut trees and disturb the delicate root systems of ancient redwoods in the park along the route. Old growth trees along the nearby Avenue of the Giants already show damaged and dead tops from past disturbances of a similar kind.

To the south, in the heart of Mendocino County, the Willits Bypass Project would reroute traffic over an elevated concrete span on the east side of the freeway across sensitive wetlands. Studies show that rare plant communities could be threatened while congestion in the town would not be relieved. EF! is part of a coalition of groups and individuals who vigorously oppose these eco-wrecking expansions and bypasses. We need fewer oil-fired vehicles, not more outdated freeways! EF! provides support and nonviolence training. It is not unknown for us to chain ourselves to the opposition when all other avenues have been exhausted.

May 24<sup>th</sup> marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney on that date in 1990. Events commemorating the assassination attempt and honoring the work of Judi and Darryl were held in Garberville, Ukiah, Berkeley, and Oakland on successive weekends starting May 15<sup>th</sup>. Judi and Darryl were on a college campus tour organizing for EF! Redwood Summer protests

against the liquidation logging taking place in Northern California, when a pipe bomb exploded under Judi's seat. The blast almost killed her, leaving her severely injured and impaired for the rest of her life. Darryl was temporarily deafened and permanently affected by the trauma. While still in the hospital, both were put under arrest and charged with carrying an explosive. After weeks of being slandered as terrorists in the media, charges were dropped for lack of evidence.

Before her death from breast cancer in 1997, Judi organized and filed what was to become an historic lawsuit against the FBI for violations of Darryl's and her First Amendment and civil rights. Lead attorney Dennis Cunningham and paralegal Alicia Littletree recounted to packed audiences of supporters the eleven hard-fought

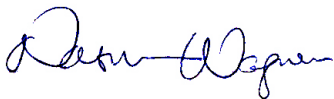
years of pressing forward in the case. Their efforts culminated in an unprecedented win at trial called Judi Bari vs.USA but more aptly named Bari vs FBI..

Evidence uncovered during the trial showed that the FBI agent who arrived first on the bombing scene had recently been teaching a “bomb school”, (as the FBI called it) on timber industry land owned by the company Judi was opposing. At bomb school, cars were literally blown up to simulate scenarios closely resembling the real bombing that occurred later in Oakland. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Federal Judge Claudia Wilkins was not amused and awarded Judi and Darryl \$4.5 million.

It turns out that saving trees and forests was a good idea all along and now even more so, with so few left and so much at stake! Living trees, especially old growth, are paragons of carbon sequestration and climate moderation.

Your generous donations and continued support help nonviolent activists keep trees standing and forests intact. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts to the bottom of your pocketbooks. Every little bit makes a big difference and is appreciated greatly.

Viva Judi! In solidarity,



Naomi Wagner

PS. Due to our limited budget we ask you to please send back the enclosed envelope to keep receiving these updates. You are on this list because you either got arrested in 1996 or because you contributed something sometime or another. In the past we have sent updates to everyone on the list whether you sent back anything or not. This was our policy for a long time. This last year, for the first time, we sent only to current givers and got a lot more financial support for activists. If you are struggling, we understand, send us a stamp and we won't scratch out your name, promise. We have never clipped the list before so it would be sad to see you go... thanks again and may the forest be with you!

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Save  
Richardson  
Grove!