

Redwood Nation Earth First!

Hey folks! We just got slammed by the Man, again, and among other places they hit us in the coffers. Help! We're sorry to hit you up so soon, but CalTrans hit us ten times this season! As we mail you this newsletter featuring fearless feats of forest defense, all Hell is breaking loose! Frankly, it's been a roller coaster of cops, carabinieri, judges, posters, press releases and handcuffs. Well, here's what happened:

13 of us have been arrested so far supporting Warbler, a local farmer who has been treesitting for a month. This has effectively halted construction for a month. We need to hold them off until a lawsuit, being heard in June, is resolved. There are three treesits along the footprint of the Bypass, with four persons permanently aloft.

A huge crowd of people testified against the proposed Bypass at the Board of Supervisors meeting. While we were there we heard the contested oaks were being cut! A local resident called me during the meeting; I held up the little phone and everyone heard the sounds of chainsaws, bulldozers, and protestors. We ran out back to the "construction area." Immediately the workers stopped operating when they saw us.

That day four of us were arrested. Eight others got arrested earlier when CalTrans gated Warbler under heavy CHP guard. The thirteenth arrest was of a young woman taking photos who was grabbed by six CHP - that was her second arrest. She had just been arrested for trespass during the "gating." On the second arrest she was charged with trespassing on State property, resisting arrest, and "felony assault on an officer not involving his weapon." She was held for three days and all the charges were dropped!

We were treated well in jail. Over CHP wrangling, Allman, the Mendocino Sheriff succeeding in getting us held at County Jail. I was held overnight. My citation is a "602k trespass" entailing a fine of some kind - kind of like a parking ticket.

Warbler has declared a hunger strike to the media. CHP confiscated the food she lowered.

We think this is an especially important time to put our bodies between the North Coast and CalTrans' national trucking companies. We support local truckers - and they pass through Willits just fine. We welcome you to join us in this valiant struggle. At this stage in our nonviolent campaign we think of Gandhi who wrote: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they crack down, then you win." We are noticing that for us, crack downs are expensive! The enclosed envelope helps committed activists who are doing what it takes to prevail at a moment when a lot is being lost. Sometimes winning legal efforts require some nonviolent direct action. Thanks for thinking of us. May the forest be with you.

Yours for the forest,



Naomi Wagner
Redwood Nation Earth First!

