

Redwood Nation Earth First!

Dear Supporters,

Here's what's been happening since we last contacted you. Caltrans killed some 1,200 old oak and ash trees, trashed salmon bearing streams and native American historic sites, and placed thousands of wick drains 85 feet down to drain hundreds of acres of wetlands. In response, we put up six tree sits, locked ourselves to heavy equipment, blockaded construction, and hung giant banners. This resulted in 50 arrests for nonviolent civil disobedience so far.



Activist/journalist Will Parrish climbed and occupied a wick drain tower shutting down work for 11 days. To make his point atop the tower, Parrish alternately froze and sweltered in the wildly fluctuating June weather while heavily armed CHP massed below, refusing him food or water for days until a daring climber successfully resupplied him.

Our actions have clearly not stopped the bypass, but they have exposed Caltrans' deplorable practices to the broader public eye and we have slowed the project considerably.

Caltrans' public relations henchman Phil Frisbee claims our direct actions delayed the bypass for 245 days!

We are now working to protect the 30 acres of wetlands that were spared due to these delays. Caltrans was only able to spread about three feet of fill material over the wick drains before their winter deadline, far short of the 30-foot height and mega-tonnage needed to activate the drains. Meanwhile, a preeminently sensible alternate design for a roundabout has officially

landed on the North Coast Regional Water Board's table and in our State Reps' and the Governor's offices. Compared with the massive super-freeway northern interchange as currently designed, the two-lane roundabout would avoid both wetlands and archeological sites, significantly reducing costs and environmental boot print. Awesome!

We have learned the fill and possibly the wick drains themselves could be removed in the event Caltrans saw the light and downsized the plan. Fat chance you say? We'll never know unless we do the work. 30 acres of wetlands in these days of draught and climate change is nothing to sneeze at. Can we keep the fill off till the light dawns? Only time will tell, but right now we sure need all the help we can get!

Caltrans originally demanded \$495,000 from wick drain sitter Will Parrish as "restitution" for the wick drain climbing caper, but many

court dates later Caltrans has dropped it's demand to \$150,000. We think Caltrans is the one who should be paying for the unmitigated environmental damages they've wrought in the wake of their forced 4-lane freeway route. Will's restitution hearing is July 17th at the Ukiah courthouse. He will be represented by attorney Omar Figuerora pro bono.

Tree sitter Falcon will be in court on May 29, hauled up on trespass charges. So far it's taken the Mendocino county D.A.'s office forever to come up with the barest shreds of evidence to keep this case alive. Falcon perched in an oak across highway 101 from Warbler's tree as an observer. He identified nesting birds to Caltrans' biologists, whereupon both his and the bird's trees were cut down. Falcon is demanding a jury trial. Garberville activist and attorney Eugene "Ed" Denson is representing Falcon pro bono.

Thank you, to each and all of you for continuing to support this effort with your donations, large and small, and for your time, our heartfelt thanks. It's not only the checks we appreciate, but also the little notes of love and encouragement you often scrawl in the margins that really keep us going.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Global Green Power Weekend of June 6, 7, & 8th.

For the forest and the wetlands,

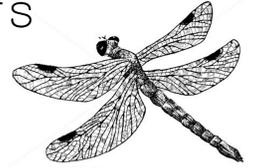


Naomi Wagner (707) 459-0548
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100%



Upcoming Events



Rally at Ukiah Courthouse
for Tree Sitters Will Parrish &
Falcon Thursday May 29th at Noon

Action Camp Friday June 6th - 8th
For info and directions
Contact Ellen Faulkner 707 485 5867
cell 707 272 8061



Benefit Dance Boogie Your Bypass
Blues Away with Ed Reinhart + Band
Saturday June 7th at 7pm
at the Willits Grange

Ceremony To Protect the
Wetlands Led by The Covelo
Feather Dancers
Sunday, June 8th in Little
Lake Valley. Park at the Willits Library to
shuttle, bike, or walk to site at 3 pm

