

The EPFW Update

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Newsletter

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EPFW Joins New Effort to Stop Clearcutting

In the battle to stop clearcutting, EPFW vs. SPI has always felt like a David and Goliath situation. But now we have an important ally with the size and stamina of a Goliath—Forest Ethics.

Forest Ethics has been one of the foremost conservation groups in saving endangered forest lands around the world, most recently in British Columbia and Chile. Rather than directly targeting timber companies, they conduct campaigns that focus on the timber companies' biggest customers. Forest Ethics gives a succinct description of their strategy on their website (<http://www.forestethics.org>):

No corporation can afford to have its brand name synonymous with forest destruction. Whether they come to that realization on their own or through the consumer pressure we apply, the result is the same: they no longer want to buy products that destroy Endangered Forests. And the logging companies can't afford to ignore their biggest customers—the corporations we work with—when they demand change.

Forest Ethics organizes consumers to demand that lumber companies' biggest customers—in SPI's case the major home building companies—refuse to buy products from logging companies that use destructive forest practices. Forest Ethics does not seek to demonize the homebuilding industry, but applies pressure to do the right thing. The campaign will not be targeting small homebuilders in the Sierra, but rather the giant corporations that are SPI's main customers. The group works with many companies to adopt and maintain good timber practices. They have an impressive list of successes in working with large corporations.

The demands of the new campaign in the Sierra Nevada are that SPI

- Stop clearcutting,
- Identify and protect Endangered Forests within its logging area,
- Obtain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, the standard for sustainable logging.

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EPFW's Work Continues

EPFW is supporting the Sierra Nevada campaign. We won't be changing what we do to stop clearcutting by SPI, we will just be doing our work in a different context.

Among the projects we will continue:

- Tours of clearcuts, educating people about their negative effects.
- More fly-overs with Lighthawk, a group of pilots who donate their time for environmental causes. Only by flying over the clearcuts can one comprehend the massive scale of SPI's clearcutting.
- Planning a series of speakers on forestry and environmental topics and doing more slideshows about clearcuts and their effects.
- Taking presentations on the road, for example giving slide shows in the Bay Area.

Forest Ethics will be building an organizing campaign throughout the Sierra. EPFW will be assisting, mainly in our usual activities in Calaveras County, but also helping in other areas where we can. We will be ramping up our media and public relations work. We've always done this, but we will be more

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proactive, writing more letters to the editor and guest opinion articles, issuing more press releases, posting leaflets around the county, getting on radio shows and public access TV. And, when Forest Ethics conducts actions at homebuilders events, EPFW will provide speakers when we can.

The coming years promise to be busy and exciting with this new collaboration. The opportunity to make significant progress is before us, and EPFW members are looking forward to working with renewed energy toward what has always been our goal, sustainable and healthy forest practices in the Sierra Nevada.

For an overview of the campaign, see <http://www.savethesierra.org>.

Our Mission

The mission of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch is to protect, promote and restore healthy forests and watersheds to maintain quality of life in the Sierra Nevada.

Your Dollars Will Help Stop Clearcutting

The new year is upon us and with it new opportunities to return to sustainable, healthy forestry practices. As always, we need your support to continue our efforts. Please help with a generous gift to EPFW.

We believe that the Sierra Nevada forests should remain beautiful and healthy, biodiverse forests rather than sterile tree plantations. During 2006, Sierra Pacific Industries continued its clearcutting practices and is now seeking to clearcut even more. You may have noticed the logging trucks with massive old-growth trees of all varieties that poured down Highway 4 last summer. There are, however, many acres to continue to protect, and we are working on some new tactics with renewed energy. (See story page 1)

Gifts for the Future

You may want to make a gift on behalf of your children or grandchildren to show them that you are doing what you can to stop the devastating practice of clearcutting so that there are forests left when they become grandparents. Or you could consider a memorial gift on behalf of someone who loved the

Sierra forests and would have wanted to help in our efforts.

There is much in the world that we cannot influence or control but here is a chance to make a difference.

Where the Dollars Go

EPFW is actively working on several strategies. With your help, we will

- Get further local and statewide visibility on what is happening to the Sierra forests,
- Actively support Forest Ethics in a market campaign to influence Sierra Pacific's lumber customers to stop buying SPI lumber until they stop clearcutting,
- Take active steps initiating changes in forest practice rules and ordinances for Calaveras County through county planning and state rules,
- Further link and coordinate Sierra Nevada communities and environmental groups on clearcutting issues and actions,
- Pay for legal work to support our lawsuit now at the California State Supreme Court asking that cumulative impacts of herbicide use and clearcutting around Big Trees State Park be evaluated,
- Further document the large volumes of herbicides and pesticides applied as part of clearcutting in our watersheds.

EPFW has 501(c)(3) designation (tax ID # 68-0466959) so contributions may be tax deductible. The EPFW website, www.forestwatchers.org, also contains an easy, convenient, secure electronic donation option using your credit card (see donations tab).

Contributions to EPFW Are Tax Deductible

Contributions can help reduce your taxes. The IRS has granted EPFW a 501(c)(3) designation (tax ID 68-466959). If you wish, you may direct your contribution for a specific purpose, such as outreach, legal work, or office expenses. For more information on how you can help the ongoing work of EPFW, call (209)795-8260.

Exciting Film Festival Builds Community

Our third annual Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour opened to a full house in Murphys Friday, October 27. This year the festival expanded to three days. Films ranged from the extreme (flying over Everest in a hang glider), to the practical (saving energy), to the latest in environmental news (the true cost of food), to the unique (U.S. premiere of a French film on the Congo River), to the hilarious (dogs, highway flappers, river tubers).

Adventure films featuring the first hang glider to fly over Everest, the youngest folks to successfully climb El Capitan (10 years old!) and crazy kayakers surviving seemingly impossible waterfalls and rapids left Judi Goglia of Arnold feeling “absolutely terrified! I had sweaty palms the whole time.” “Buyer Be Fair” was a popular film with Frank Rauchschalbe of Sonora, who “found out about certified lumber for the first time, learned new things about the environment, and am moved to check out websites and make energy-efficient changes in my own home.”



After watching “Kilowatt Ours” Judi Goglia loaded up with enough energy-saving compact bulbs to light her entire house.

Thanks to a generous underwriting grant from Dr. Zoe Dorit Eliou and sponsor support from O.A.R.S., EPFW became the first, and so far the only American site to show a new film now touring Europe: “Congo River: Beyond Darkness.” A beauti-

ful and emotionally compelling film, it follows the Congo River along from the ocean to its source, revealing the happiness and hope of rituals, songs and dances that lie beyond the darkness and the tragic and violent history of this continent.

We extended our outreach to the community this year by teaming with two other organizations: Tuolumne County Citizens for Responsible Growth (TCCFRG) and Columbia College. Patagonia provided major funding, the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) managed the tour, and more than fifty local sponsors contributed money, coffee, snacks, and door prizes to make this year’s festival not only self-sustaining, but great fun as well.

Much of the credit for the festival’s success goes to the festival Director, EPFW Board member Agata Sulczynski. She was actively involved every step of the way, gathering support from sponsors, building the website, designing and producing the program, and making sure everything ran smoothly.



Lisa Vaughn of TCCFRG and Jim Toner of Columbia College honored EPFW Festival Director Agata Sulczynski.

SYRCL’s Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Each year, film buffs travel to Nevada City to preview available films at SYRCL’s Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival. If two days and nights of exciting films sounds like fun, perhaps you would like to join our group, January 12-14. If so, check out details of the festival at <http://www.syrcl.org/> and then call or email EPFW, (209)795-8260; epfw@goldrush.com. Don’t wait. Tickets for the festival go on sale December 4 and sell out quickly.

Are Your Dues Due?

Dues are due in January of every year. We include a line on your address showing your status, e.g. "Paid 2007." If there is no year on the label, your dues are due now.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence. With your support EPFW will continue to work toward sustainable forest practices.

Hey! We Need You!

EPFW has been an all-volunteer organization since our founding in 2000. We are fortunate to have many committed members, but we are always looking for new people to join us. The coming year is going to be an active one with several new or expanded initiatives. It will be fun and a great time to get involved.

In each issue of The Update, we will highlight one or two areas we can use help in, but we would welcome your participation in every one of our efforts—including helping with newsletter mailing, attending Board of Supervisors meetings, writing letters to the editor, helping with highway cleanup, and assisting in water monitoring—just to name a few. And, when you join us, you can probably come up with some other things you really want to do.

Top of the wish list for now:

- **Coordinator for a Speaker's Bureau.** One of EPFW's opportunities this year is to work with Forest Ethics on their stop clearcutting campaign. We need to put together a Speaker's Bureau to inform the community and garner support for the campaign. There are some very knowledgeable environmental experts who would be excellent speakers for a series of talks, but we need someone who is willing to work on planning, coordinating and executing these events—with help, of course, from EPFW Board members.
If you are interested in learning about the Sierra, are an organized person and can donate some time, we can use your help. If you see yourself in this position, please call (209)795-8260.
- **Newsletter Editor.** The Update is published 3 to 4 times a year and goes to more than 800 readers through the mail and through distribution to businesses in the area. It is an essential link between EPFW and our supporters and helps keep

the community informed. The current editor and staff have been doing this work for several years; it is time for new ideas and energy. The best candidate for the job would be someone with writing and editing experience and, of course, a love of the Sierra Nevada. If you are interested, please call the current editor, Alice Trinkl, at (415) 826-4616 to talk about what the job entails.

We need your help and we welcome both new and old members to join us in a more active way. The work is fun, challenging and important—and, best of all, the people you will meet are terrific friends and colleagues. Come join us.

EPFW Board of Directors and Officers

John Trinkl, President

Agata Sulczynski, Vice President

Alice Trinkl, Secretary

Bunny Firebaugh, Treasurer

Kathi Malone, Susan Robinson,

Dale Sanders, Ron Szymanski

President's Message

Looking back on the year, EPFW is proud of its accomplishments:

- The Community Action Project (CAP) launched by EPFW more than a year ago has played a leading role in helping foster discussion and debate about the future of Calaveras County in the General Plan revision process.
- EPFW, along with the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, won a legal victory in the Fifth District Court of Appeals against the California Department of Forestry (CDF) concerning clearcutting near Big Trees State Park. The court upheld EPFW's argument that the CDF failed to consider the environmental effects of SPI's herbicide use and that the state agency also failed to adequately assess the cumulative effects caused by SPI's widespread clearcutting.
- EPFW is partnering with Forest Ethics in a major new campaign against SPI's clearcutting. This campaign will amplify our message to a far broader audience than we are able to do alone. (See story page 1.)

Joining Forest Ethics' Save the Sierra campaign offers the strongest opportunity in EPFW's history of stopping clearcutting. For example, Forest Ethics collected over 2,000 signature cards from people pledging to support the campaign at the recent Bioneers Conference in San Rafael.

In addition to these projects, EPFW is also exploring means for establishing County Rules that would limit clearcutting. We also want to find ways to change state laws and regulations concerning clearcutting. The Calaveras County General Plan process will be a long, drawn-out effort to get, among other elements, the best land use and open spaces provisions. We will need expert help from planners, land use experts, lawyers, biologists, foresters and other specialists.

At the same time, the logging trucks continue to barrel down Highway 4 carrying fresh logs from clearcuts. Based on recent Timber Harvest Plans it appears that SPI is planning to increase its clearcutting. So we need to redouble our efforts.

Funding Needed

Although we won in District Court against the CDF's rubberstamping of SPI's clearcutting, CDF has appealed this decision to the California Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decision could set important precedents for herbicide use and put logging companies on notice about the cumulative effects of clearcutting. We will have to raise funds for the legal fees for this case.

I hope you will join with us in supporting these campaigns both with financial support and in volunteer activity. Best wishes to all as we begin a new year.

—John Trinkl

EPFW Update Staff

Alice Trinkl, Editor; Bill Senger, Layout;
Roger Mueller; Penny Sarvis

Meet the Board

Dale Sanders' résumé runs to eight pages. A bachelor's degree in biology and a doctoral degree from UC Berkeley in entomology plus a three-page publication list are impressive and so is his professional experience: from teaching to environmental planning to conservation and resource management.

So, what is Dale, a planner, a conservationist, a teacher, or is he a guy who is really interested in bugs? "I am a naturalist," he says.

How fortunate for EPFW to have this talented new person on the Board. He and his wife live in Stockton and have a cabin in Big Trees Village. Dale became interested in EPFW because "I wanted to get involved with a local group. I saw an opportunity

for a citizen approach to managing the environment. We can do that from a sensible standpoint—healthy forests can mean healthy communities."

Dale has always been interested in nature. He spent many of his summers as a child and teenager in the area around Shaver Lake, where his grandfather was a pioneer logger. "I grew up in a logging family more or less and am not negative about lumbering," he said.

He credits his career interest to his mother, who told him it was okay to love nature and to think and learn about it, even if it wasn't necessarily a lucrative professional choice.

As a Board member, Dale wants to influence the culture to think of lumbering as a resource management issue over a long period, more than 100 years.

"This is not a short term problem. If we plan and implement it well, we can have fire-safe productive stands of timber that have beauty as well."

And what does he hope to see EPFW achieve? "I am cautiously optimistic. I have worked on similar issues in the past, and I fall back on a Traveling Wilburys song, 'The best you can do is try. If I go down in a pile of flames, then I tried my best to make things better.'"



Cartoon by Bob Smalling

2006/2007 EPFW Calendar

EPFW Board Meetings—Open to All

On Mondays at the EPFW office above Two Rivers Trading Company, Cedar Center, Arnold, from 12:30—3:30 PM.

January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

Valentine Concert

Saturday, February 17, 2007, Black Bart Playhouse, Murphys.

Usual Office Hours

Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the EPFW office above Two Rivers Trading Company, Cedar Center, Arnold. Please call before coming to avoid an unnecessary trip (209)795-8260.

Water Monitoring: All on Saturdays, 10:00 AM. Meet at the Dorrington Hotel.

January 13, February 10, March 10, April 28, and May 12.

Adopt a Highway: On Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Meet at the Dorrington Hotel.

March 22 and May 17 (weather permitting).

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors

Every Monday, 9:00 AM, Government Center, San Andreas. (Every Tuesday beginning January 16.)

Board of Forestry

Second Tuesday and Wednesday of the month, Sacramento and other locations to be announced.



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Ebbetts Pass
Forest Watch
PO Box 2862
Arnold, CA 95223