

The EPFW Update

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 3 • Winter 2007/2008

Looking Back at the Year: More Challenges and More Successes

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) stepped up its devastating forest practices in the Sierra Nevada in 2007: more than 1,000 additional acres are currently targeted for clearcutting in Calaveras County alone. And more acreage is in their gun sights.

But Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch is increasing its activities to meet the challenge.

2007: A year of Expansion and Outreach

The "Save the Sierra" campaign in alliance with Forest Ethics expanded our efforts against clearcutting and in support of truly sustainable forest practices.

For the past three months, a full-time organizer based in EPFW's Arnold office has helped initiate these activities: hundreds of new signatures have been gathered in opposition to clearcutting and new contacts made; more than 90 businesses have signed on to a pledge opposing clearcutting by SPI; a Highway 4 demonstration in Arnold received front-page newspaper coverage; a community meeting attracted an overflow crowd at the Arnold Fire Station; and more than 80 people demonstrated against SPI in Redding, the hometown of SPI.

In a new phase of the campaign, 50 people demonstrated at a trade show in Monterey. Many of the companies at the show were SPI's biggest customers. A primary purpose of our joint effort with Forest Ethics is to put pressure on SPI's customers to stop buying clearcut wood.

The Community Action Project (CAP), launched by EPFW in 2005, has played an instrumental role in the process of helping to preserve the quality of life in Calaveras County. While EPFW's goal is to stop clearcutting, it is also our mission to

maintain the quality of life in the Sierra Nevada and, therefore, in Calaveras County. The Calaveras Planning Coalition, initiated by CAP, has expanded to 12 community groups and has succeeded in getting a comprehensive update of the county's General Plan on the Board of Supervisors' agenda. The Oct. 26 Calaveras Enterprise headlined "A New Vision for Calaveras: No more sprawl. Supervisors say General Plan should reflect new direction."

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In 2008, CAP will work to ensure that the best possible General Plan is adopted, including provisions for conservation and open spaces to preserve natural resources and protect the environment in the county, as well as strong fire safety provisions.

State Legislators Briefed

Forest Practice Rules are the province of the state, so it is important to focus on changing state rules. In April, EPFW initiated a Legislative Day in Sacramento to educate state legislators on forestry practices. Presentations were made at 25 offices in the Capitol to legislators or their aides.

EPFW also played a key role in having AB 994 withdrawn from consideration. This bill called for state agencies to purchase California timber as a way to support the timber industry. EPFW and other groups argued that the bill should require that the timber be Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified which means the wood comes from well-managed forests with clear standards that require sustainable growing and harvesting practices.

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch... a forest and watershed coalition

PO Box 2862 • Arnold, CA 95223 • (209)795-8260 • www.epfw.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.

(Continued from page 1)

Education Efforts Expanded

EPFW broadened and deepened its educational efforts this year. We increased the number of ground and aerial tours to educate government officials, the media and the public about the effects of clearcutting. EPFW made two presentations to high school teachers from around the state in a forestry issues program. Several new videos were produced on new timber harvest plans in the county. Our two biggest annual events, the Valentine's Concert and the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival were great successes. We continue to give presentations to community and civic groups and had our first presentation in Bear Valley. We have improved our mapping capabilities and are developing a comprehensive picture of the extent and location of clearcuts throughout the Sierra.

New, Old Friends Contributed

EPFW cannot stop clearcutting by ourselves. This year we strengthened our ties to environmental allies such as Forest Ethics, Environment Now, Green Corps, Forests Forever and other groups.

We are expanding our base of support, strengthening our resources and developing new alliances that will help us stop clearcutting. Thanks to colleagues and friends we will succeed. The road ahead is challenging, but the future is bright. Thank you to all of our supporters. We couldn't do it without you.

EPFW Board of Directors and Officers

John Trinkl, President

Ron Szymanski, Vice President

Alice Trinkl, Secretary

Bunny Firebaugh, Treasurer

Addie Jacobson, Kathi Malone,

Susan Robinson, Dale Sanders

Ways You Can Help

EPFW has had many successes this past year (see story above), but we need to build on the momentum that has been established. Among the key projects that need support to continue our work are the following:

- Continued funding of a full-time organizer in our Arnold office.
- Hiring professional help to comment on Timber Harvest Plans.
- Paying for ads against clearcutting and for responsible forestry in the *Sacramento Bee* and other papers.
- Sponsoring community meetings, lectures and workshops.
- Researching and producing documents on the relationships between clearcutting and increased fire danger, on global warming and clearcutting, and other key issues.
- Funding litigation against SPI's clearcutting.
- Funding to support a program to educate legislators about forest issues.
- Funding for educational materials.

In order to continue our ongoing work as well as to implement these important new projects, we need your support now.

Contributions to EPFW Are Tax Deductible

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 support EPFW, please call (209)795-8260.

If you are not a member please consider becoming one: (\$12 a year or \$18 for a family). As a member you will receive EPFW's newsletter *The Update*, monthly email updates, and be eligible to vote for EPFW's Board of Directors. Your membership will broaden EPFW's base of support, and you will be joining a group of committed members who will welcome you into the EPFW family. We need your financial support and we need your ideas, skills and friendship. Come join us.

Whether you are a member or not, please make as generous a contribution as possible to help EPFW protect forests in the Sierra Nevada. (Please use the enclosed form.) Your contributions are fully tax-deductible. The EPFW tax ID number is 68-466959.

Festival Goes Wild for Fourth Time

All work and no play makes everyone dull and EPFW supporters and friends had a chance to go wild with films again this year.

The fourth annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour took place in October. About two hundred film lovers attended the event, which expanded this year from two locations, Black Bart Playhouse in Murphys and Columbia College in Sonora, to three locations with the addition of a new venue, the Bear Valley Lodge.

There were many new attendees at Black Bart and Bear Valley. "The audience characterized the films, speakers and the event overall as excellent," said EPFW organizer Agata Sulczynski. This year the event included workshops with some of the filmmakers and discussions on sustainable living.

For those interested in saving the air and also fascinated by cars and technology, a Miles electric car was on hand to test drive, and in Columbia a plug-in Prius was on display. And, if you had been looking for somewhere to dump your old computer or TV, recycling, focused on reuse first, was provided by Computer Recycling Center (CRC) to do just that. Plus, forest tours were scheduled by EPFW for those who wanted a closer look at clearcuts.

The festival was presented by Patagonia and South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and hosted locally by EPFW, Tuolumne County Citizens for Responsible Growth and Columbia College with organizing assistance from the Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club. Seventy businesses supported the program and sponsored the films.

Of the 20 films that were screened, two attracted the most feedback: *Unforeseen* and *Queen of the Trees*.

Our Wish List:

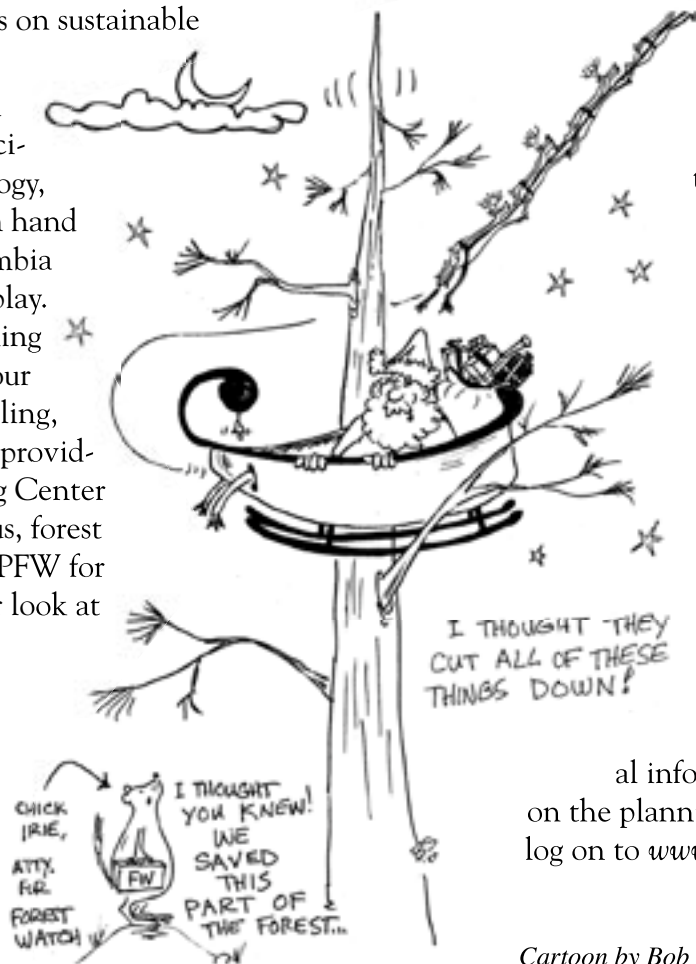
- Recycled 8X11 paper for the printer
- Ink cartridges, HP Officejet Pro L7700 printer:
 - Cyan HP 88(9386A)
 - Magenta HP 88 (9387A)
 - Yellow HP 88(9388A)
 - Black, HP 88 (C9385A)
- Toner for Samsung ML1740 series copier
- Printing calculator
- 6 Grabbers for Highway cleanup

Unforeseen was shown at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and received a rave response from its audiences there. It tells the story of an Austin, Texas, builder and the struggle by local environmentalists to preserve a local waterway, Barton Springs, against a huge housing development.

From the massive to the miniscule, the *Queen of the Trees* filmmakers put their camera inside a ripe fig still hanging from a tree to watch tiny fig wasps in their environment, giving a new meaning to "up close and personal."

The Bear Valley audience also loved the high-definition adventure ski film, *Respect*, provided by Wink Inc. and shot in remote places in North America and Europe.

For more details on this year's festival and additional information in the coming months on the planning for the 2008 festival, please log on to www.sierrafilmfest.org.



Cartoon by Bob Smalling

EPFW Update Staff

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

2007-2008 EPFW Calendar

EPFW General Meetings: On Mondays at the EPFW office above Two Rivers Trading Company, Cedar Center, Arnold, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. December 10, January 14, 2008, February 11, March 10, and April 14.

Valentine's Concert: Saturday, February 16, Black Bart Playhouse, Murphys.

Usual Office Hours: Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM 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 at 10 AM. Meet at the Dorrington Hotel. December 8, January 12, 2008, February 9, March 8, and April 12.

Adopt a Highway: Meet at the Dorrington Hotel on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 10 AM.

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors: Every Tuesday, 9 AM, Government Center, San Andreas.

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



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