

# The EPFW Update

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 • June 2003

## **SNEP and the Framework**

The Sierra Nevada Framework is a regional plan affecting 11 national forests in the Sierra Nevada. In part, it incorporates and builds on the recommendations contained in the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP), an impartial, scientific assessment of the Sierra Nevada ecoregion requested by Congress in 1992 and completed in 1996. The overall goal of SNEP was to provide an accurate picture of the area in order to develop sustainable management procedures.

SNEP called for the restoration of the old growth forests. Historically, an estimated 55% of the mixed conifer forests in the Sierra Nevada were old growth. At the present time, only 13% of national forests in the same area remain as old growth.

The 2001 Sierra Nevada Framework identifies 4.25 million acres as old forest reserves which will be managed to promote old growth forest conditions by 1) protecting all remaining old growth, 2) protecting all trees 12 inches in diameter or more, 3) establishing wide buffers along rivers and streams, 4) emphasizing prescribed burning to reduce fire danger, but allowing the cutting of trees 12 inches or less in diameter where there is high wildfire danger.

Recognizing the potential for major forest fires, SNEP called for planning by federal, state, and local agencies and the public to develop plans that would 1) limit development which does not mitigate fuel hazards in flammable wildlands, 2) establish defensible space/fuel reduction zones around communities, 3) support prescribed fires where practicable, and 4) develop strong fire prevention and suppression capability.

Together, SNEP and the Framework represent 14 years of planning, scientific analysis, peer reviews by independent scientists, public com-

ments by more than 47,000 people, and a cost estimated at \$25 million. During the summer and fall of 2001 nearly all the major daily papers in California recommended the Framework decision be upheld.

You can find out more about SNEP at <http://ceres.ca.gov/snep/>

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## **More Smoke, More Fire as Forest Service Amends Framework**

On March 18, 2003 Regional Forester Jack Blackwell announced the results of his review of the Sierra Framework. In short, his plan will more than double timber harvests and allow the cutting of large trees. Opponents of the plan charged it was a give-away to timber companies and would endanger old growth areas. Blackwell responded that he is trying to save the government money.

The public will have an opportunity to respond to Blackwell's plan soon. An abbreviated draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is due out in late May and will have a 90-day comment period.

Whatever steps are taken to reduce fire danger, Sierra Nevada communities can periodically expect smoky air for the indefinite future because any clearing of trees and brush will produce slash piles that must be burned. And once fire breaks are cleared, they must be kept clear with fire or herbicides. "The Sierra Nevada will never be smokeless. It never was. Fires were always a part of the natural regimen. The trick is to reintroduce fire safely, and that means thinning and brush removal in the community zone must be increased," Jay Watson, Regional Director of the Wilderness Society, told EPFW.

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch...a forest and watershed coalition  
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## Large Trees to Fall

Blackwell's plan is controversial because it calls for the cutting of trees up to 30 inches in diameter in old growth areas. Under the current Sierra Nevada Framework, trees of this size can be cut only if they are within the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI), a one and a half mile buffer area around settled communities. In the 4.5 million acre General Forest area, the Framework limits cuts to trees 20 inches in diameter or smaller. In the Old Forest area, trees up to 12 inches can be taken. However, Blackwell's plan calls for trees up to 30 inches to be cut in all three of the areas as a way to make the thinning operation more appealing to timber companies, which can make more money cutting the larger trees.

Watson says the Forest Service is taking the Framework—a flexible fuel reduction plan employing a wide variety of tools—and substituting a one-size-30-inches-fits-all strategy: “The Forest Service plan weakens the protective elements of the Framework, especially the protection of old growth forests. The Wilderness Society supports the protective components of the Framework as much as we sup-

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artificially expand the definition of the WUI and wrongly include more remote lands in their maps.

port the thinning components because both were arrived at scientifically.”

Although 75% of the proposed thinning is in the WUI, Watson notes that the Forest Service designation of WUI has increased substantially. By providing no consistent guidance or parameters for each forest, the regional office allowed individual forests to

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

As an example, he cites the Framework, which identified 450 nesting sites for the spotted owl in the WUI. Current Forest Service maps now show more than 900 nesting sites in the WUI. It's not that

there are more owls, according to Watson, it's that the definition of WUI has been so abused and expanded that local foresters can designate the area surrounding a cabin, a barn, or even a rock dam as Wildland/Urban Interface.

## Big Trees = Bigger Profits

Blackwell claims his proposed changes will make fire prevention work more palatable to

timber companies, for whom larger trees mean bigger profits.

Echoing a privatization theme heard more often these days as the federal budget sinks deeper into debt from tax cuts and defense spending, Blackwell said the treasury could not afford thinning only small trees to reduce forest fire danger.

Watson questions the need to cut more trees and larger trees, noting that the Forest Service has not produced any evidence of economic problems if the Framework were to be carried out as originally planned. “We are not drawing a line in the sand; we are not saying ‘Don't change anything,’” Watson asserted. “But the Forest Service has chosen to dismantle the Framework in favor of something entirely different, when they could have taken steps to make changes, adjustments, and modifications to address problems of implementation and avoid a lot of controversy.”

## Make Your Voice Heard

The Forest Service plans to release a draft EIS on Blackwell's proposed supplement by the time you read this. The public will then have 90 days from the time the statement is released to comment on it. Two sites carry information on the proposed amendments to the Framework, the environmental impact statement, and how you can make your voice heard: [www.californiawild.org/SierraCampaign/SierraCampaignUpdate](http://www.californiawild.org/SierraCampaign/SierraCampaignUpdate) and [www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa)

The original Framework documents can be viewed at the latter site by scrolling down to “Original SNFPA Site.” The Wilderness Society is at [www.wilderness.org/](http://www.wilderness.org/).

## It Must Be Spring??

The logging trucks are thundering down Highway 4 again. Is clearcutting still a big issue in Calaveras County? Oh yes! The big jump in clearcutting that galvanized us occurred in 1999. That year, Sierra Pacific Industries significantly increased the proportion of its land that it clearcut. From 1996-1999, clearcutting had averaged about 12% of SPI's timber harvesting. In 1999 that figure jumped to nearly 80%; in 2000 to 85%.

Not surprisingly, there was a major public outcry. Citizens protested at meetings, along the highways, in letters to the editor. The Calaveras Enterprise ran a "Timber Tally" of letters addressing the clearcut issue. Of the 78 people who responded, 75 opposed SPI's jump to a cut-'em-all-down form of logging. Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch arose to embody this community concern.

What is left is  
no longer  
forest. It is not  
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a tree  
plantation.

One of the successes of our action is that SPI changed its procedures. Citing the public's expressed rejection of clearcutting, SPI began leaving some trees in most areas of its timber harvesting.

That's the good news. The bad news is that what has been substituted is,

"clearcutting lite." As SPI reduced clearcutting it ratcheted up its use of what it calls "variable retention." Variable retention retains a few trees in each 20-acre timber harvest area. Sometimes the trees are scattered and sometimes they are grouped. Five to eight trees per acre. Imagine 15 football fields (about 20 acres), each with about six trees on it, or imagine that whole area with one or two clumps of trees. You can see some of these areas for yourself at [www.forestwatchers.org](http://www.forestwatchers.org).

The only downside to clearcutting that SPI has ever acknowledged is that it is ugly. The only purpose of variable retention is to improve the view. It does improve the view (barely). But the other elements of clearcutting remain: the use of herbicides to clear brush, the cutting of nearly all trees, the removal of wildlife habitat, the drying out of the soil, the danger to water quality.

Jerry Franklin, the scientist who developed the process of variable retention, intended that between 10 and 40% of the trees be left, and that they include all the structural elements of a natural forest: different ages and sizes of trees, animal habitat, snags, and downed logs. The forest would be severely reduced, but still remain forest.

SPI's version involves cutting about 95% of the trees. What is left is no longer forest. It is not intended to be forest. It is intended to be a tree plantation. New trees will be planted, of uniform size and species. The forest will be a farm. Whether the initial chop is clearcut or variable retention, the goal is the same: forest removed; tree plantation installed. It is called even-aged management.

Most of SPI's harvesting is designed to replace forests with tree plantations. On the other hand, EPFW advocates selective harvesting, where individual trees are cut, many trees are left, and the forest remains essentially intact. Studies have shown that over time, selective harvesting can yield as much wood as more extreme methods. SPI's timber harvest plans in 2002 identified 30% of its harvesting as selection. But the goal of that selection is not to leave the contours and elements of forest; it is to thin the trees so the remaining ones will grow better. Then those will be clearcut.

As clearcutting, variable retention and selective logging are all intended as precursors of tree plantations, that means that in 2001 and 2002, 70 to 80 percent of SPI's timber harvesting had the same goal as clearcutting. So if you are biking or hiking or driving and see tracts of SPI land that have been cut but still have a few trees standing, enjoy the green. But understand that what you are looking at is "clearcutting lite."



Cartoon by Patty Payne

## **SPI Chooses Not To Bid on Darby Fire Biomass Removal**

In early April, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) laid off 37 millworkers at their Chinese Camp mill near Sonora, blaming the layoff on a lack of enough wood from the national forests. On April 14, SPI failed to submit a minimum bid (and there were no other industry bids) on the six million board feet of salvage timber from the Brown Darby fire salvage sale.

Thus, the huge fire salvage sale failed to gain even a single bidder—even at the minimum bid—and it did not sell when first offered.

According to Forest Service officials, the reason given for no industry bids was the fact that the timber sale included three units of biomass treatments (6,000 green tons of biomass). The small trees making up the biomass are fuels that lie downslope below private property spread along the Highway 4 corridor. Those small tree fuels do create some level of fire risk for private lands, and yet the timber industry would rather pass on purchasing six million board feet of sawlogs than have to deal with the biomass materials.

Forest officials had attempted to avoid causing any economic problems by combining the biomass with the sawlog salvage sale. Even more, they had allowed the sale contract to enable the timber industry either to truck the biomass to a facility where chips would be converted to electricity, or the timber purchaser could simply deck the small non-sawlog trees on landings and let them be cut up for firewood by the public. With those options, the purchaser wouldn't have to pay to transport the wood. Neither SPI nor any other potential timber purchaser chose to deal with the biomass fuels.

During the one and a half year long preparation of the Brown Darby salvage sale, environmental groups such as the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) worked closely with the

Forest Service to ensure that the large fire salvage project went forward with the least amount of controversy. Only dead trees are being removed from the vast majority of the burn area, and proposed road construction was dropped due to environmentalists' concern.

Forest Service officials took out the biomass requirement when they readvertised the sale. They reoffered the sale with strictly sawlogs (the six million board feet of sawlog-size trees). SPI's bid on the revised offering was accepted.

The Forest Service will need to find appropriated dollars at some point in the future to get the biomass materials treated. If the sawlog and biomass work could have been combined, it would have saved money for taxpayers, because equipment

would already be on the hillsides removing sawlog trees, so it would cost far less to do the biomass removal work.

"If Congress and the Bush Administration claim that logging small trees is the answer to removing fuels in the national forests, they may want to first convince the timber industry to at least show a tiny interest in bidding on the removal of such fuels," said John Buckley of CSERC.

Although biomass removal was not included in the second sale,

Buckley says he's glad the timber finally sold, biomass removal or not.

### **Contributions to EPFW Are Now Tax Deductible**

The IRS has granted EPFW a 501c3 designation (tax ID 68-466959), so your contribution can now help reduce your taxes. If you wish, you may direct that your contribution be used for a specific purpose, such as outreach, legal work or office expenses. For more information, call (209)795-8260.

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## **EPFW Chooses a Mascot: Meet "Sierra" the Chickaree**

Guided by nationally known naturalist and nature photographer Verna Johnston, EPFW has chosen the chickaree (a.k.a. Douglas squirrel) as our mascot. This small, noisy, hyperactive, lovable animal, about half the size of a gray squirrel, depends on conifers such as the Ponderosa pine for its survival.

## **EPFW Board of Directors**

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 Addie Jacobson, Vice President  
 Penny Sarvis, Corresponding Secretary  
 Tami Rakstad, Treasurer  
 Bruce Castle  
 Dete Kraus  
 Judi Goglia, Alternate

The chickaree is the perfect creature to help convey the message that responsibly managed forests, not industrial tree plantations, are the key to maintaining healthy populations of wildlife in the Sierra Nevada because it's one of the species most impacted by clearcutting. John Muir called the chickaree "the most interesting and influential of the California squirrels, surpassing every other species in force of character, numbers, and extent of range, and in the amount of influence they bring to bear upon the health and distribution of the vast forests they inhabit."

Our chickaree, named "Sierra," will debut at the Arnold Independence Day parade, July 5. Come join our marching unit as Sierra, bigger than life and oh so huggable, greets the crowds. Check out the EPFW website for parade details.

If you have elementary school children or grandchildren, or if you sew, quilt, paint, or write, you can put your talents to use as Sierra becomes the star of a puppet show and a children's book.

Call us at 209-795-8260 if you'd like to be part of this creative project.

## **Sourgrass Fire Update**

The Sourgrass fires of November 2002 on land owned by Sierra Pacific Industries cost a minimum of \$600,000, according to a preliminary analysis by the California Department of Forestry. However, the process of auditing the total cost has not been completed said CDF Battalion Chief Rich Imlach.

The fires burned 807 acres on SPI land near Arnold before the CDF crews could contain the conflagration. The fires spread from burning slash piles on SPI land to surrounding wildland.

"There are three levels of auditing we must complete," Imlach said in a recent interview with EPFW Update. "We haven't gotten to level three, when the audit goes to Sacramento, due to a big backlog of cases."

Imlach said this case, like others of similar magnitude, can take several years to settle. "SPI hasn't received the bill yet," he said, "When they do, they can dispute it. The case could end up in the courts."

Imlach gave no estimate of when the audit would be completed.

## **Message from the EPFW President**

EPFW will be starting its fourth year this month. The last year has been very busy and full of new projects.

The Outreach Committee has been especially busy scheduling speaker training, strategy sessions and upcoming presentations. Roger Mueller produced a great video "Where have all the forests gone?" I hope that everyone has or will have the opportunity to see it and see the aerial views of the clearcuts.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference will be held in Arnold on August 15, 16 and 17, 2003. We are very excited that they have decided to meet in our area. Many panels and tours have been planned. Check their web site at [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org) for the agenda and activities.

We are continuing our community involvement by sponsoring a Little League Team appropriately named "Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch;" we had a booth at Earth Day in Murphys Park; and we are still picking up litter on Highway 4 through the Adopt-A-Highway program.

We hope you will pay us a visit at our office in Cedar Center above The Two Rivers Trading Company. Love The Forest,

Bunny

## **Office Wish List**

Folding chairs ▪ 8 x 11 file folders  
 Power strip ▪ Rolodex  
 Book shelf—tall, not too wide  
 Cork board/bulletin board  
 Speakerphone & Fax machine  
 Tape recorder (and a recording secretary to take minutes at meetings!)

## Cumulative Impact Bill Proposed by Rep. Simitian

Assembly Bill 47, which would require the Department of Forestry to look at the cumulative impacts of proposed timber harvest plans, has been presented to the California Assembly by Rep. Joe Simitian (D) of Palo Alto.

Simitian wrote the bill in consultation with the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter Forest Protection Committee.

As of this writing, the bill had passed in committee and was being presented to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote. Timber industry representatives appeared before the Board of Forestry on May 7 to oppose this and other proposed legislation designed to protect wood, water and wildlife in the state.

### Excerpts from Simitian's presentation to his colleagues:

Early in Ronald Reagan's political career, he was credited with such environmental witticisms as, "You know, a tree is a tree—how many more do you need to look at?" And of the redwoods, he once said, "I saw them; there is nothing beautiful about them, just that they are a little higher than the others."

Today, of course, we know that we have to think about more than a single tree, or even a single forest.

Reagan's remarks—even at the time—were considered rhetorically excessive; but happily, they do illustrate how far we've come in expanding the boundaries of environmental debate. Today, of course, we know that we have to think about more than a single tree, or even a single forest.

The dialogue now encompasses a much greater sphere. It's about the *cumulative impact* that results from individual actions.

Certainly, it comes as no great surprise that cumulative impact matters. Changes that happen over time and across terrain can have a lasting impact on our environment. Individual actions today—whether it be a timber cut, a dam construction, a wetlands development, or a mining practice—will affect our air, our water, our forests, as well as species and subspecies, tomorrow, and for many tomorrows to come.

What is surprising, however, is that in California we still lack a consistent approach to the consideration of cumulative impacts when we evaluate and approve timber harvest plans (THPs). We don't fully consider the impact that one plan may have on another plan—even though they may be implemented on opposite sides of the same stream over the course of a few short months. And where has this led us?

Since 1985, more than 1.4 million acres of private forestland have been clearcut, according to the California Department of Forestry. That's the equivalent of nearly 10 acres per hour, 365 days per year for 17

...In California we still lack a consistent approach to the consideration of cumulative impacts...

years. Because we consider each individual THP individually, we look over our shoulder and we see that, acre by acre, we've lost our forests.

And it's not just our forests we've lost. In the process, we also impaired our water quality, destroyed whole habitats, increased our flood risk, and contaminated drinking water for rural communities.

Of course we didn't *mean* to do this. It was simply the unintended consequence of failing to consider the cumulative impact of seemingly "isolated" activities. Isn't it about time we took a look at the big picture? I think it is.

To help us look at that big picture, I've introduced Assembly Bill 47, to bring our State timber harvest policy into the modern era. The measure is supported by the Sierra Club, Planning and Conservation League, National Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, and California Native Plant Society. It's a common sense look at the cumulative impact of the Timber Harvest Plans granted by the Department of Forestry. It's more or less the *same approach* the State has used for decades to understand and manage the impacts of development in our built environment.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Forestry to look at the cumulative impacts of a proposed timber harvest plan before it approves that cut. It also requires more stringent reporting requirements within a timber harvest plan.

Under AB 47, timber harvest plans must include information on adverse effects of past and present

projects on the planning watershed, on riparian forest conditions, and on sensitive species, and on any mitigation required for those impacts. The plan must also provide information on all pesticide applications approved for treatment within the planning watershed in the past five years. The result of AB 47 will be healthier forests and thriving ecosystems that can be managed for the long-term good of the community—and the planet.

Managing forests for the long-term benefit of the environment will ensure that industry thrives in the long term as well. Forests, and all that they contain, are our collective assets. We can squander them today, or we can ensure that they will be there, providing all kinds of economic and health dividends, for a long time to come.

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## **Calaveras County Supervisors Nix Boxer Bill**

*By Keith Hearn, Editor, Foothill Conservancy Focus*

As Senator Barbara Boxer prepares to re-introduce federal legislation to create the “California Wild Heritage Act,” the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has voted to oppose the bill.

The many projects in the wide-ranging legislation include adding nearly 17 miles of the Mokelumne River’s North Fork to the National Wild and Scenic River System, a stretch known as “Devil’s Nose Reach,” between Salt Springs Dam and the Tiger Creek powerhouse.

This segment is eligible for federal designation due to its many high-quality cultural resource sites, but it also features rare wildlife, beautiful forests, fine fishing, unique geologic features, great scenic beauty and outstanding whitewater.

Designation would permanently protect the stretch from new dams and diversions while allowing camping, fishing, kayaking and other activities in the river corridor. It would not affect the existing system of dams, powerhouses, water diversions and reservoirs on the Mokelumne, or the use of nearby private lands.

Boxer’s legislation also would give wild and scenic status to 25 miles of the Wild Heritage North Fork Stanislaus River—from Highland Creek at New Spicer Dam downstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Stanislaus. The resolution putting Calaveras County on record against the legislation was adopted March 24 by a 4-1 vote. Only Supervisor Merita Callaway voted against the resolution.

Four members of the audience spoke against the resolution and none spoke in favor.

When Board Chairman Paul Stein claimed the bill would keep the public out of these areas, Callaway countered: “That’s simply not a true statement. The public can go in there.”

She’s right. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, camping, whitewater boating, canoeing and similar activities are allowed in wilderness areas, but not logging, roadbuilding, mountain bikes, motorized vehicles or new mining and drilling operations.

Callaway added that the bill could create additional tourism and its resulting revenue for the county: “In my district people go into the wilderness and up into Alpine County all of the time. Eco-tourism is big business.”

Curiously, the action was taken at the request of the Chamber of Commerce—not of Calaveras County but of El Dorado County. The Amador County Board of Supervisors briefly discussed the bill last year but did not take any action on it.

Before the Calaveras vote, Foothill Conservancy President Katherine K. Evatt urged the board to support the legislation “as a benefit to local residents and our diversifying local economy. Your grandchildren, and theirs, will thank you for it.”

In a letter to the board, she said “it is important to set aside other public lands and rivers in perpetuity to protect their natural features, geology, wildlife, beauty, cultural resources and quiet recreation opportunities for present and future generations to use and enjoy.

“Many of your constituents, as well as second homeowners, are wilderness users and live in this area or own property here because beautiful wild places are found nearby,” Evatt said.

She said federal wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers, attract people who spend money on food, lodging, gasoline and services. The bill would

...Support the legislation “as a benefit to local residents and our diversifying local economy. Your grandchildren, and theirs, will thank you for it.”

fund county promotion of tourism related to wilderness and wild river areas, and pay for related law enforcement.

Boxer introduced the legislation last year as S.2535, but it did not clear the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by the time the session ended. She plans to re-introduce it later this spring with a new bill number.

The North Fork Mokelumne and North Fork Stanislaus are among 22 California rivers that would have portions designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers by Boxer's legislation.

Also, the bill would expand California's 14 million acres of wilderness areas by 2.5 million acres, including more than 100,000 publicly owned acres in the Sierra.

Locally, the bill would create the Caples Creek Wilderness (22,360 acres north of Highway 88 near Silver Lake) and the Meiss Meadows Wilderness (19,380 acres north of Carson Pass). Also, it would add approximately 60,000 acres to the Carson-Iceberg and Emigrant Wilderness Areas.

*Reprinted with permission from the Spring 2003 issue of the Foothill Conservancy Focus (Amador County)*

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## Meet the Board

A serendipitous combination of networking and a sense of outrage brought Bruce Castle to Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch in 2001.

Bruce is a long time Sierra hiker, backpacker and mountain bike rider. He led backpacking trips in the Sierra Nevada four times every summer over a period of 27 years and started coming to the Ebbetts Pass area in 1985 for skiing and biking. He and his wife, Gay, moved to Arnold when he retired in 1994 and, subsequently, to Forest Meadows in 1999.

Forced by health reasons, Bruce took a break from his mountain bike riding for two years. When he returned to his beloved bike trails in June 2001 he was "flabbergasted, astounded and angry" to see the devastation that Sierra Pacific Industries had created in clearcutting the San Antonio Creek area.

"I couldn't believe a timber company would do that or why the approving authorities would allow this so close to Arnold and Dorrington," he said.

Through his work with the local Mac User Group, Bruce Met EPFW VP Addie Jacobson. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Bruce is now one of EPFW's most active and committed members, becoming well known to other environmentally concerned residents, elected officials, and the staffs of governmental agencies.

"It has been a real eye opener and a very rewarding experience to be engaged in this effort. I have strong feelings, particularly about how the California Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry formulate and interpret the rules," he said.

Bruce has worked to educate himself on forestry issues and the players involved. He recognizes that the issues are complex and that, while the main problem is clearcutting, there is the need for timber companies to be economically sustainable and exemplary forest stewards.

"I think that part of the problem is that people don't really understand what is going on in our forests. Education is a way I can draw attention to forest management issues," he said. He believes, in the long run, that we need home rule in Calaveras County to provide the civil authorities a binding voice in the approval of timber harvest plans and timber operations.

Bruce has been instrumental in taking groups to see sustainable forestry practices at the Collins Almanor Forest in Plumas County and in taking officials and reporters on flyovers of the clearcuts in Calaveras County and those next to the South Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

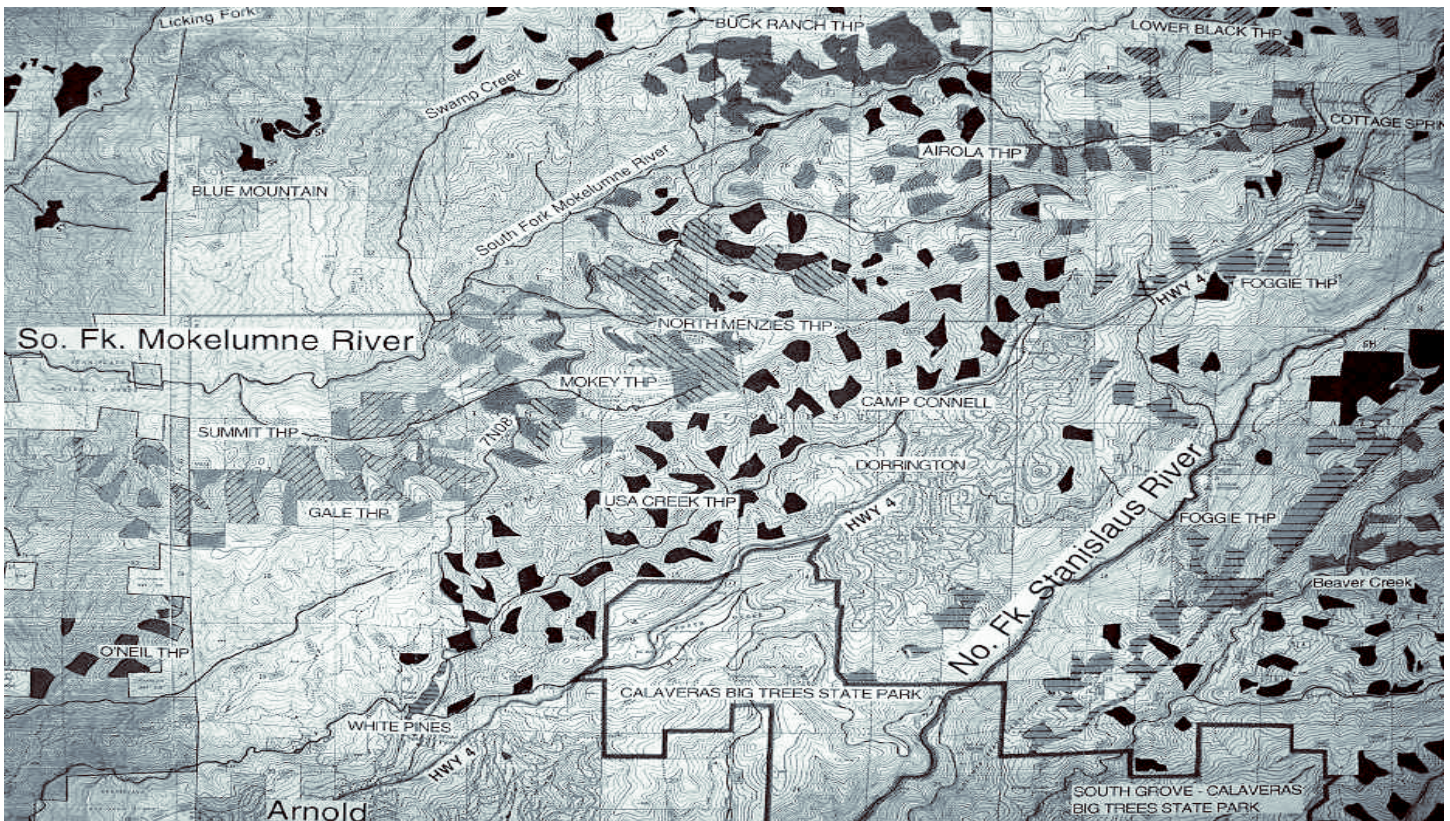
As he educates himself, he becomes more concerned with the larger issue of the depletion of the world's natural resources and the lack of a sustainable culture. "We need to think about how we can modify our lives, to advocate a different lifestyle, to start right here at home and make small changes. Somehow we think technology will bail us out—it won't. We are not in a state of balance with nature."



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The USA Creek THP from White Pines to Camp Connell near Hwy 4. Virtually all of the 51 units in this THP were clearcuts. This THP energized the local residents to form EPFW in 2000 when the logging trucks began rolling down the road past White Pines Lake and Arnold.



The USA Creek THP near Hwy 4, seven THPs along the South Fork Mokelumne River, and several more near the South Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. These numerous THPs, many of which are clearcuts, threaten the watersheds, i.e., water quality and wildlife resources.

## 2003 EPFW Calendar

### **Meeting with Mokelumne River Forest Watch**

June 1 Sunday, 10 AM, West Point Youth Center

### **EPFW General Meetings**

June 2 Monday, 6 PM, EPFW Office, Cedar Center, Arnold

### **Fourth of July Parade**

July 5 Saturday, 9:30 AM, Hwy 4, Arnold. Meet at Cedar Center

### **Meeting with Mokelumne River Forest Watch**

July 13 Sunday, 10 AM, West Point Youth Center

### **EPFW Annual Meeting**

July 14 Monday, 6:30 PM, Potluck Dinner, 791 Marilyn Way, Blue Lake Springs  
[Call (209)795-4305 for directions]

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

July 24 Thursday, 9:30 AM, Dorrington Hotel, lunch at the Lube Room after

### **Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference**

August 15-17 Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Independence Hall, Arnold

### **Rally on Hwy 4 on Behalf of Forests**

August 29 Friday, 4:30-6:30 PM, Rally in front of the Blue Coyote

### **Labor Day Fair**

August 29 Friday 6:30 PM, Set up booth next to Office stairs

August 30-31 Saturday & Sunday Fair



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Forest Watch  
PO Box 2862  
Arnold, CA 95223

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Help protect our forests, water, and wildlife. Renew your membership in Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch today. Annual dues are \$10.

Stopping the rampant destruction of forests in the Sierra Nevada costs money. Every day, more acres are clearcut, treated with herbicides, and turned into tree plantations. Your additional contribution beyond the annual dues will help bring an end to this practice. Lend a helping hand to Mother Nature. It feels good.

Bring your talents and join a dedicated, energetic group of local volunteers as we work to educate the public about responsible forest management. We need people to help staff phone trees, raise funds, help with this newsletter, review timber harvest plans, and more.

Please call Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch at (209)795-8260. Thank you for your support!

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To renew your Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch membership, please complete the following form and return it with your member dues and whatever additional contribution you can afford.

**Membership:**  \$10      **Contribution:**  \$15     \$25     \$50     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Help us save trees and money. We prefer to communicate with you via e-mail if you have it.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please leave a message at (209)795-8260. All donations are tax-deductible. Please complete and mail to: EPFW, PO Box 2862, Arnold, CA 95223

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Help protect our forests, water, and wildlife. Renew your membership in Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch today. Annual dues are \$10.

Stopping the rampant destruction of forests in the Sierra Nevada costs money. Every day, more acres are clearcut, treated with herbicides, and turned into tree plantations. Your additional contribution beyond the annual dues will help bring an end to this practice. Lend a helping hand to Mother Nature. It feels good.

Bring your talents and join a dedicated, energetic group of local volunteers as we work to educate the public about responsible forest management. We need people to help staff phone trees, raise funds, help with this newsletter, review timber harvest plans, and more.

Please call Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch at (209)795-8260. Thank you for your support!

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To renew your Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch membership, please complete the following form and return it with your member dues and whatever additional contribution you can afford.

**Membership:**  \$10      **Contribution:**  \$15     \$25     \$50     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Help us save trees and money. We prefer to communicate with you via e-mail if you have it.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please leave a message at (209)795-8260. All donations are tax-deductible. Please complete and mail to: EPFW, PO Box 2862, Arnold, CA 95223