



**Central Coast Forest Association**

**CCFA's Mission**

The Central Coast Forest Association is a non-profit alliance of small forestland owners, forestry professionals and forest-oriented businesses with close affinity to the woods, mountains, streams and wild-life of the Central Coast. Our purpose is to uphold and preserve our values, our property rights and our way of life. To advance this objective CCFA will:

- Interact with community, political and environmental interests as a voice for forestland owners.
- Understand the news, law and technology of forestry and apply this knowledge for the benefit and protection of forestland owners.
- Inform members of matters affecting their lands and forests.
- Take political and legal action to defend the rights and property of all Central Coast forestland owners.

**TIMBER FIRMS OVERWHELMED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND REGULATORS**

**COSTLY REGULATIONS, INTRUSIONS AND LEGAL ACTIONS ARE DEVASTATING THE WEST COAST TIMBER INDUSTRY**

California timber companies are shutting down, moving out of the state and even out of the country because of the high cost of complying with the avalanche of regulations, timber executives told the State Board of Forestry at its May first meeting. "What we're doing is exporting demand elsewhere.", Dan Tomascheski, V.P. of the state's largest timber company, Sierra Pacific Industries, told the regulators.

In an April 27 landmark, special report entitled "State of Denial" by reporter, Tom Knudson, the Sacramento Bee reported that California continues to consume 9 to 10 billion board feet of wood a year. Of this, 80% comes from other states and nations. The cost to the state is incalculable when lost jobs, lost tax revenue, lost skilled workers, lost capital and the increased price of lumber are added up. The Wall Street Journal reported a 25% cost increase in wood products related to the listing of just one species, the spotted owl. Thus, the nation, not just loggers are impacted by this questionable listing.

See *Timber Firms* - p. 4

**ENVIRONMENTALISTS FEAR THAT SALMON RECOVERY DUE TO NATURAL CLIMATE CYCLE "WILL BREAK THEIR RICE BOWL"<sup>1</sup>**

One of the most notable characteristics of salmonids, particularly Coho Salmon, is the wide swings in populations and fish size in response to ocean conditions. A major climate cycle known as the "decadal oscillation" (an ocean temperature swing that alternately cools Alaskan water while warming California's then reverses) is a dominant marine variable. The result is that the since coho thrive in cold water they are alternately plentiful in Alaska while scarce here, and when, after a decade or two, the oscillation flips, plentiful here and scarce in Alaska. It has just flipped in our favor and salmon and steelhead are more plentiful and healthy from here to Washington than anyone can remember.

Reported coho runs in Oregon have increased from 22,000 in 1997 to 268,000 last year. Oregon environmental activists however, proclaim that there should be no letup in their work to "save" the coho. "Our job of stream restoration is not yet finished" they shout.

The picture to the right is the result of CCFA's extensive research project<sup>2</sup> that confirms the improved size and population of Chinook salmon in Pacific Coast waters. The fish held by Burton (on the left) weighs in at 32.4 lb. The project is ongoing and will be further reported at a later time.



CCFA researchers, Dick Burton and Bob Bertage present experimental proof of recent salmon ocean productivity increase

1. Old Chinese expression meaning to threaten one's income.  
 2. No government grants were used to conduct this important scientific research.

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## CALIFORNIA FOREST BUSINESSES ARE A THREATENED SPECIES

In the last issue of "the Log", we reported the demise of Rough and Ready Lumber Company, the last lumber mill in southern Oregon. In the adjacent column, we sadly present the obituaries of the two latest California mill closures each taking its toll on its community, its workers the economy and our industry.

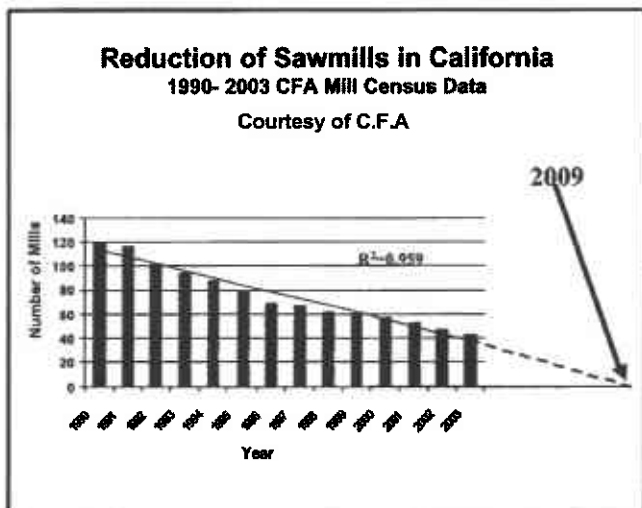
The graph below, courtesy of California Forestry Association, foretells the imminent demise of the California timber business. The graph is consistent with these comparisons of present industry figures with those of 1997, only six years ago.

THP Costs +97%

THPs approved -30%

Acres harvested -50%

These statistics show the success of the attacks on our industry and are the reason that your Association, CFA and others on the west coast need the support of all of our members. CCFA has picked a few specific battle fronts on which to take our stand, but obviously, we are not winning the war.



### REPORT FROM THE COURTHOUSE

The waiting game on our legal appeal continues. All written briefs have been submitted to the sixth circuit court of appeals and we are waiting for a date for the oral presentations in our action against S.C. County and the State Coastal Commission.

Perhaps the judges should hurry while there still is a Coastal Commission. It has been a couple of years since the Commission was ruled to be unconstitutional, but it keeps on like nothing has happened. More recently, the See Courthouse on p. 4 Courthouse, continued from p. 2

## OBITUARIES

### CALIFORNIA CEDAR PRODUCTS PERMANENTLY CLOSES

It is with deep sorrow that the "Log" reports the June first, 2003 demise of the last sawmill in Siskiyou County, that of California Cedar Products of McCloud. Jim Nile, retired forester calls it "a shame for many reasons". "Not only will people lose their jobs and the economy of the town suffer, but now the closest place for logs to be milled will be in Medford Oregon or Redding.. Local log sales, which had been contingent upon taking products to the McCloud mill, will be impacted because transporting logs the extended distances makes these sales cost-prohibitive."

Lifelong McCloud resident Mike Summers is quoted as saying, "I know exactly who is to blame for this: the environmentalist whackos and tree huggers that have set up residence here in Siskiyou County and the northwest".

We extend our deepest sympathy to the mill owners, workers and the people of Siskiyou County.

**R.I.P. California Cedar Products**

### MENDOCINO FOREST PRODUCTS WILL CLOSE FORT BRAGG SAWMILL ON AUG. 1

Mendocino Forest Products Co. announced on June 2, 2003 that it will permanently close its sawmill located in Fort Bragg, California, sometime around August 1 of this year. The closure will impact 59 company employees. The mill has been in operation at the same location since the early 1950s and has recently produced primarily Douglas-fir lumber. During the past three years, the biggest challenge for mills has been to secure dependable supply of local logs.

Company President, Richard Higgenbottom, commented: "It has become particularly difficult in our region to maintain an adequate constant timber supply. Some nearby mills even import logs from Washington and British Columbia, but this is not an economically possible solution for our Fort Bragg operation. Therefore, we have been placed in a corner that forces us to discontinue operating the mill."

**R.I.P. Mendocino Forest Products**

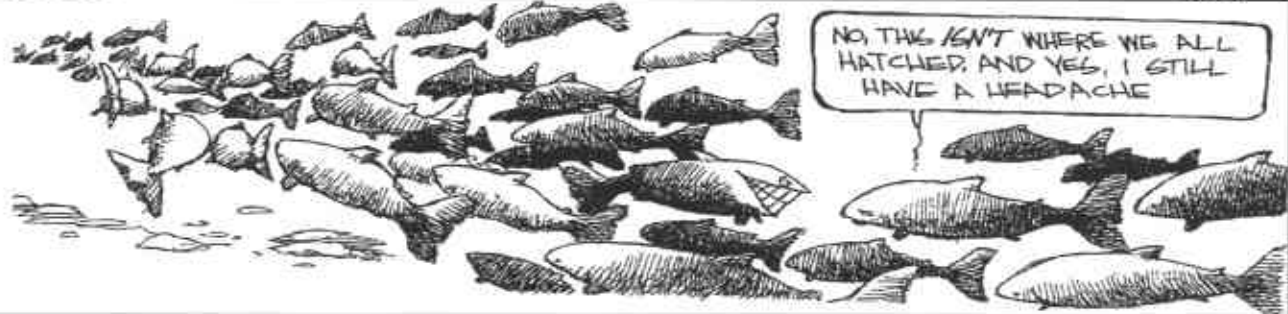
*When buying and selling are controlled by politicians, the first thing to be bought and sold is politicians.*

*P. J. O'Rourke*



# Notes From the Nut-House

Or, why I feel like an alien around here.



*The Nut-house Research Institute (NRI) finds that coho salmon population problems have nothing to do with logging.*

## STATE GOVERNMENT DISCOVERS AMAZING NEW CONCEPT IN TREE-AGE CLASSIFICATION

Guest speaker Andrea Tuttle, head of CDF, told the Forest Landowners of California conference in Eureka that the Jackson State Demonstration Forest is under protest because "you can't cut down 'virgin second growth trees'". Some of the sane forestland owners thought this was an amazing oxymoron but here at the Nut-house, we think it's great.

In follow-up conversations, the equally amazing term *unintended second growth* was introduced.

Since we don't understand how you could have either virgin or unintended second growth, maybe we should all use the term "*third growth*" and stay one step ahead of them.

Eric Moore, Nut-house staff reporter

I wonder what the numbers would be like if Columbus had stayed home.

From Steven Cox, Liberty Magazine, April, 2003

## ENVIRONMENTALISTS MAY SUE TO BAN USE OF FIRE RETARDANT

Grant's Pass Oregon

An environmental group says the U.S. Forest Service is destroying wildlife by using fire retardant chemicals to extinguish forest fires. Andy Stahl, a spokesman for *Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics* says his group is prepared to file a lawsuit on the issue. Stahl says that some of the retardant falls into creeks and kills threatened and endangered fish, shellfish and crustaceans. In an incident last summer, he reports, 21 fish were killed in Fall River, possibly from a deadly application of fire retardant on a flaming forest. Stahl also reports suspected death of bull trout near Lake Billy Chinook from the same inexcusable use of the chemicals to save blazing forests.

Perhaps the Forest Service should designate a buffer zone around water bodies and extinguish fires only if they are outside the buffer???

## WHY CAN'T YOU EVER FIND AN EXTINCT SPECIES WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE?

We all "know" that plant and animal species are constantly going extinct at a "*rapidly increasing rate*". Right? Ok, ask yourself, What's the most recent species to go extinct? Huh? You don't remember? Aren't the environmental organizations supposed to let you know when species go extinct? (Unless, maybe, species go extinct so rarely that the environmentalists just don't want to talk about it.)

Well, of the 20,000 species of plants native to the U.S., approximately 200 have gone extinct since 1492. During the same period, 25 species, quasi-species or pseudo-species of mammals have gone into extinction. And during the past 25 years it seems that there have been only two real or supposed extinctions: the hot springs cotton tailed rat and the Penasco chipmunk. Information on both of these is fuzzy and contradictory.

**Government is the great fiction through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.**

Frederick Bastiat, 1801 - 1850

## RMC PACIFIC MATERIALS TIMBER HARVEST PLAN FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY PUBLIC

Foresters, regulators, environmentalists, neighbors, and RMC management argued the merits of RMC's recently filed THP application at a CDF hearing in the County Supervisor's auditorium the evening of July 10. The preponderance of opinion favored the THP and lauded RMC as a valuable, responsible neighbor, employer, taxpayer and supplier of needed products.

Foresters affirmed that historically, RMC harvests responsibly, cuts only a fraction of the timber growing on its North Coast land with the result that the stand has increased throughout the past century. RMC was criticized for causing stream turbidity, but no valid supporting evidence was presented and convincing eye witness testimony reported the contrary. The usefulness of the a proposed turbidity measurement program was questioned by environmentalists and foresters alike on technical grounds.

One neighbor pointed out the many services performed for the community by RMC in its role as a good neighbor. These include, providing land for the Davenport Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team fire station, aiding both the Davenport and Bonny Doon schools, providing domestic water and sewage disposal for Davenport residents and aiding the community in times of disaster. Nevertheless, considerable hostility was expressed by representatives of the Sierra Club the Rural Bonny Doon Association and the Lompico Conservancy. No conclusion was reached.

## SUDDJIAN'S TEN-YEAR FIELD STUDY OF CENTRAL COAST MARBLED MURRELETS FINDS MINIMAL LOGGING IMPACT

Concern over the possible negative impact of logging on marbled murrelets has long overshadowed the Central Coast forest industry. With the recent reporting of a ten year study, the basis of this concern is significantly reduced.

A wealth of information on the impact of logging on Marbled Murrelet populations is detailed in a report, "10 years of monitoring marbled murrelets at the south fork of butano Creek, San Mateo County, California, 1992-2001", that was released June of this year. It presents the data, analysis and conclusions of an in-depth field-study by Wildlife Biologist, David L. Suddjian of Capitola, CA whose research was sponsored by Big Creek Lumber Co.. Suddjian also observed and reported on other species that coexist with and prey on murrelets, their eggs and their nestlings such as ravens, Peregrine Falcons and Steller's Jay.

Suddjian concludes that the forest under study can be logged without adverse impacts to murrelets.

This report deserves considerable attention by the forest community and we will try to present a more complete commentary in a future issue of the "Log".

*Reviewed by: Robert O. Briggs*

State legislature has debated eliminating the Commission by de-funding its \$10.7 million annual budget in order to help save the State from bankruptcy.

CCFA president, Peter Twight, made this comment to our reporter: "Although usually a government commission is the nearest thing to immortality that we can think of, we just hope this one lasts till we get our crack at it."

## Timber Firms , Continued from p.1

And while this has been and is going on over the entire west coast, more draconian regulations and intrusions are being planned for California forest folks.

- ◆ A California bill is being considered that would impose a new fee on wood products -- to pay state regulatory costs and fund more regulators.
- ◆ Another proposal would levy a per-acre tax on TPZ land for the same purpose.
- ◆ Legislators propose demanding more analyses of cumulative impacts of logging
- ◆ Senate President John Burton (no relation to CCFA directors Dick and Charles Burton), would require logging companies to comply with Regional Water Quality Control Board plans as well as those of CDF. (The legislature has previously placed all regulation of timber harvest under the Board of Forestry.) "We can't continue to allow out-of-control logging to destroy water quality," Burton said in a news release.

The bills and regulations are promoted by the usual environmental groups such as Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife. Your legislators need to hear from you.

*(see "Obituaries" on page 2)*

## Did You Know?

- ◆ Although 100 lb (11 cu. ft.) of fresh conifer wood contains only about 55 lb (6.8 gal.) of water, the tree removes from the ground and transpires about 90,000 lb (11,250 gal.) of water in the process of growing the wood!
- ◆ Annual water consumption by a forested watershed in the Central Coast is equivalent to about 15 inches of rainfall. If the watershed were deforested, dry season stream flow would increase by the amount that would result from an additional 15 inches of rain!

Water system managers should think about this when they look for ways to increase their water supply.