



Central Coast Forest Association

LETTER FROM CCFA PRESIDENT, PETER TWIGHT

Dear CCFA Members and Friends,

As you can see, this is not a regular issue of the Log. It's just a note to fill you in on recent activities. We are behind on our objective of publishing the Log four times a year, but we have an excuse. The officers and directors have been over our heads in several major projects (battles). Leading the top ten list are our lawsuit against the County and the Coastal Commission and our effort to persuade the federal and state governments to de-list the "endangered" non-native coho salmon. As you know, we have no paid staff so the officers, directors and volunteers do everything by hand. Here's a quick summary and we will resume our regular publication schedule as soon as we get our deck cleared of some of the most demanding things.

Your Board and I thank you for all of your patience and support.

*Sincerely,
Peter Twight*

LATEST FROM THE LEGAL ARENA

On November 20, a three judge panel of the California Sixth Court of Appeals heard oral argument on our lawsuit appeal (Big Creek Lumber and CCFA vs. the County of Santa Cruz and the California Coastal Commission). This landmark lawsuit will determine the future of forest business in the County and will likely have repercussions throughout the state. Attorneys for each of the four litigants presented their position, but only 30 minutes were allowed for each side, so the comments were mostly confined to clarifications of the previously filed written arguments. We are now waiting for the court's decision that is expected within the next month or so

The presiding judge had read and understood the written arguments. His questions were direct and sharp. Queries concerning the authority of the Coastal Commission in the management of timber operations resulted in the usual claim to speak for God, and got a discrete laugh. Those of us who attended the hearing were encouraged, but with the courts, you never know. We'll put out a flash bulletin to members as soon as we receive the decision.

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.*

NMFS Misplaces CCFA's Petition to De-list Coho Salmon South of San Francisco

The comedy of "endangered" coho salmon in the streams of the Santa Cruz Mountains continues to provide a good laugh for all and a flimsy excuse for government's curtailing of logging, farming, recreation, etc. around Central Coast streams.

In the early 1990s, Santa Cruz County bureaucrat Dave Hope wrote a totally bogus petition to State and Federal governments to list Central Coast coho as an endangered species. Both the federal government (NMFS) and the State (CDF & G) went along with the charade and listed them. However, common sense (and coincidentally the law) says that to be endangered, the species must be native to the habitat and an important linkage in the genetic heritage of the species. The historical and archeological records prove conclusively that coho salmon are not native to these streams and were never present until artificially introduced in 1906 by the

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