



PO Box 12 • Cazadero CA 95421 • 707.632.6070

# Forest Communiqué

The Voice of Forest Unlimited

Spring 2009

## Redwood Reforestation Project

On January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Forest Unlimited planted approximately 1,440 two-year old 18-30” bare root redwood seedlings for reforestation and erosion control at two Sonoma County regional parks, Shone Farm (the agricultural educational facility of Santa Rosa Junior College), and St. Dorothy’s Rest above Camp Meeker. On each day, over 75 volunteers helped plant the trees.

Friday’s planting focused on St. Dorothy’s Rest, a large Episcopal retreat that caters to children living with cancer. Intrepid volunteers received a lesson in redwood tree planting and then headed into the woods equipped with buckets of seedlings, shovels, and marker flags. Between the morning and afternoon sessions, participants were served a free lunch, including drinks and snacks, in St. Dorothy’s Rest’s dining hall.

On Saturday morning, volunteers gathered at Shone Farm (at the intersection of East Side Road and the Trenton Healdsburg Road) and then fanned out to three locations. About half the volunteers planted at two county parks: Steelhead Beach Regional Park near Mirabel, and Sunset Beach Regional Park near the Hacienda Bridge. The remaining volunteers remained at Shone Farm to plant in the campground area. After another hearty lunch at the Shone Farm Dutton Pavilion, everyone joined in planting at Shone’s forested campground area.

All of these sites will be protected from logging. We welcome new sites for next year’s plantings. If you have a site to be considered, please contact one of our project managers, Carl or Bob, at [mcwahl@poetworld.net](mailto:mcwahl@poetworld.net).

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## Boho’s New Logging Plan

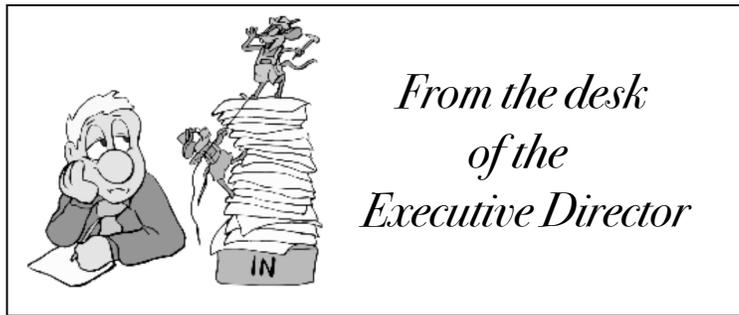
It was back in May 2006 that the Bohemian Club filed an application for a Non-industrial Timber Management Plan with the CA Dept of Forestry to permit intensive logging of its Bohemian Grove property outside Monte Rio. That was almost three years ago. Since that time, the Bohemian Club has been unable to convince decision-makers to approve this proposal and opposition from the environmental community and local residents has continued to grow.

At this point, a major rewrite of the NTMP (1-06-NTMP-011SON) by Grove forester Nick Kent is expected any time. To date, Kent has not demonstrated neither that the Grove qualifies for an NTMP because of its large acreage nor that the proposed timber harvest intensity meets the sustainability requirements of the NTMP.

Within its own membership, the Bohemian Club continues to push a discredited theory that the proposed logging operation is designed only to reduce fire hazard, in spite of numerous letters from experts saying that thinning redwood stands will increase fire danger.

The Bohemian Club is currently thinning tanoaks on certain parts of the property, particularly where they have died from Sudden Oak Death. This activity is generally viewed as reasonable because thick stands of tanoaks - in contrast to conifers - can be a fire danger. It can also be undertaken without an NTMP. However, some Bohemian Club members have expressed concerns that the tanoak removal project is too aggressive and is causing erosion in the backcountry.

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## Collective Insanity

By now I would expect that most of the educated in our fair county know the basics of global climate change. Surly they understand that it is the production of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that is causing the planet to warm. That means more heat must be moved from the northern hemisphere to the southern and back again with the seasons. Heat can be transported two ways: convection and weather. If more heat is moved by convection, there will be hotter, drier, longer summers. Drought! If more heat is moved by weather, there will be more extreme weather events, heavier flooding, heavier snows, wilder hurricanes and tornados. And of course weather patterns will change dramatically. Millions (yes millions of humans as well as other species) will die from the side effects.

By now I would expect that most folks in Sonoma County understand that autos and trucks spew a large portion of the excess carbon dioxide into the warming atmosphere. I assume they also know that trees remove huge quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Autos are part of the problem. Forests are part of the solution. So why in the name of sanity are we as a County, as a State and as a nation creating more habitat for cars and trucks while destroying forests with clear cuts? A species increases its population when you create more of its habitat. When you widen freeways, add parking and build garages you make possible the spawning of more traffic, more fender-benders and more auto deaths.

Yes, we need transportation but there are safer, less polluting and potentially more convenient alternatives if we remove the tremendous subsidies from autos and use them to create habitat for trains, bikes and public transportation. It was so at the turn of the century when one could travel by train from my home in

Cazadero to San Francisco in 3 hours through some of the most beautiful country on Earth. Now I must travel to San Francisco via automobile, risking my life, depleting my energy and bank account, spewing carbon dioxide, staying constantly vigilant unable to enjoy the scenery (what isn't yet covered by sprawl that the automobile nurtured). And it still takes 3 hours. That's progress?

So why in the name of sanity did we allow the local growth mongers to convince us that it is sensible to massacre stately, mature, carbon-dioxide-breathing redwoods to widen highway 101? Could it be a case of collective insanity?



Forest Unlimited is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose purpose is to protect, enhance, and restore the forests and watersheds of Sonoma County. Forest Unlimited educates the public about logging plan review, forestry law, and regulation.

[www.forestunlimited.org](http://www.forestunlimited.org)

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## Redwood Planting *(cont'd from page 1)*

We extend a special thanks to our Project Managers, Carl Wahl and Bob Nelson, who planned and organized the event and to Margaret Gerner, Margaret Wahl, and Elmarie Hutchinson who prepared the food. Special thanks also go to Kasey Wade, Environmental Conservation Program Director for SRJC, Ben Evenbeck, Director of Programs at St. Dorothy's Rest, Joe Kase and Ken Tam, Park Planners for Sonoma County Regional Parks, Laura Wunderlich of Marmot Mountain LTD, and Davin Cardenas and Christina Zapata of the Graton Labor Center. And, of course, a warm thanks to all our hard-working (but fun-loving) volunteer tree planters, including SRJC students, Marmot Mountain staff, and Graton labor volunteers.

## Boho Logging *(cont'd from page 1)*

The Bohemian Club has informed the CA Dept of Forestry that its proposed easement donation to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been finalized and will be officially recorded with the Sonoma County Recorder's Office. We continue to feel that this proposed conveyance is a misuse of a conservation easement because the acreage it purports to protect is already off-limits to logging.

What you can do: At this point, we are concerned that the Bohemian Club will use its political and legal muscle to push this plan through the Department of Forestry in spite of its many flaws. We need to amass a war chest for potential litigation. Contributions of any amount are very helpful. Please send a check to Forest Unlimited designated for Bohemian Grove.

Thanks so much! And stay tuned.

### ***Sustained Support How? The Smart Card!***

Using your smart card costs you nothing but sustains the work of Forest Unlimited. If you already have one, don't forget to use it at many of the merchants where you already shop. If you don't, call 887-7433 to get yours.

## **Become a Member of Forest Unlimited**

Your tax deductible contribution will help fund forestry education programs and forest preservation, protection, and enhancement projects. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, notification about special events, workshops and logging in their watersheds.

*Please let me know when the next **Forest & Watershed Protection Workshop** will be in my area \_\_\_\_\_*

**YES! I would like to join Forest Unlimited to further your work!** (Dues are tax-deductible as permitted)

\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ \$35    \_\_\_ \$15    Other \$ \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** (for alerts & future e-newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City./State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Your watershed \_\_\_\_\_



Contact **Forest Unlimited** at PO Box 12 Cazadero, CA 95421 707.632.6070 [www.forestunlimited.org](http://www.forestunlimited.org)

## Win for UWMP Lawsuit!

Judge Nadler decided in favor of the Sonoma County Water Coalition, of which Forest Unlimited is a member, challenging the Sonoma County Water Agency's Urban Water Management Plan. The judge ruled the plan had several deficiencies, including unsupported water projections and inadequate consultations with knowledgeable agencies required by law. Nevertheless, the Sonoma County Supervisors, the decision makers for SCWA, decided to spend the county's funds to appeal rather than fix the plan.

## Battling the Bulldozer

Cumulative impacts from county development approvals are at the center of the new legal challenge by Forest Unlimited, Town Hall Coalition, NOWWE, Coast Action Group, and Jack Stuppin. The case is represented by the law office of Stephen Volker and raises claims of violations of the California Environmental Quality Act.

If interested in supporting this important environmental litigation, write your check to Forest Unlimited with Grading Lawsuit in the memo. Thank you.

## Salmon vs. Logs: A Letter to the Editor on Sheephouse Creek

In the small Sheephouse Creek watershed west of Duncans Mills, multiple timber harvest plans have been proposed to log 20 percent of its area. The creek's headwaters are part of the acquisition of the Jenner Headlands and an ongoing taxpayer-funded captive coho broodstock program initiated in 2001.

Designated by the California Coastal Commission as a special treatment area, partially based on its support of silver salmon and steelhead trout, this watercourse has been proposed for multiple restoration projects. The National Marine Fisheries Service has determined Sheephouse Creek to be a core restoration area for coho recovery. Its waters are important in the development of the summertime fresh lagoon proposed for the lower Russian River to create a healthier nursery for young steelhead and salmon.

If all these organizations see the importance of saving what is a vital watershed in the restoration of our fisheries, why are timber harvest plans being considered by a state agency? Does one side know what the other is doing? We need to protect wetlands, estuaries, old-growth salmon-producing forests and healthy river ecosystems or the salmon, the fishing industry, and the communities that depend on them will all become extinct.

Mike Keller, Windsor

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Forest Unlimited  
PO Box 12  
Cazadero CA 95421

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