



The Log

of the
Central Coast Forest Association

Volume 12, Issue 1

Spring 2012

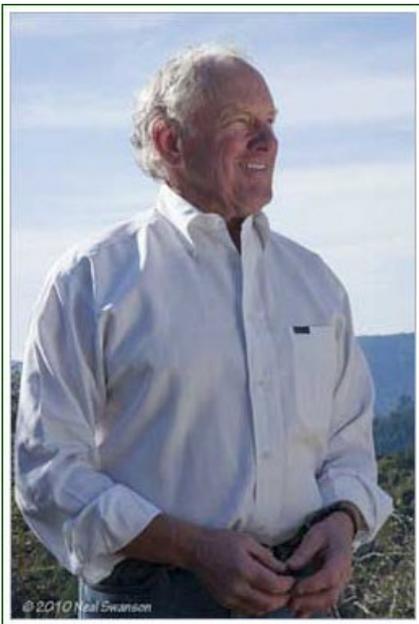
BRUCE MCPHERSON RUNNING FOR 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Interview by Cate Moore and Doug White

The current Fifth District Supervisor, Mark Stone, is setting his sights on an Assembly seat, which has opened up the field to a new array of candidates. Since Bruce McPherson offers something other than the standard Fifth District candidate, CCFCA board members Cate Moore and Doug White interviewed him to find out more about the man and his aims.

Bruce McPherson is a fourth generation Santa Cruz County native from a family who has always been socially and politically engaged. His great-grandfather, Duncan McPherson, was instrumental in the creation of Big Basin State Park, the first park in the state park system, his grandfather was the town attorney for Boulder Creek and his great uncle Harold was an assemblyman who helped get the road over Pacheco Pass built.

Bruce himself spent sixteen years as a reporter for the Santa Cruz Sentinel and ten years as an editor. He is also deeply involved with many, if not most, of the non-profit organizations and charities in Santa Cruz County, serving as chair of the advisory board for the Land Trust of Santa Cruz, chair of the advisory board for the Second Harvest Food Bank, Vice-Chair of the Marine Exploration Center and Honorary Chair of the



Bruce McPherson

Tannery Arts Center. He and his family were instrumental in the creation of the McPherson Art and History Center and he has also served on United Way and the Cabrillo College Scholarship Foundation.

When he retired from the newspaper, he was approached by several people suggesting he enter the political arena. Leon Panetta had recently been tapped for Secretary of Transportation, leaving a hole in the House of Representatives, which

Sam Farr took. This left a hole in the California legislature which Bruce ran for in a midterm election and won. He then

served twice in the Senate and twice in the Assembly, where he built a solid reputation as a consensus builder and a problem solver. This reputation helped him earn the unusual distinction of getting confirmed unanimously as Secretary of State by both the Assembly and the Senate.

He completed his time as Secretary of State six years ago and was once more retired when several people approached him again to consider running for the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

He agreed, and has been spending the bulk of his time since then walking all the precincts of the Fifth District, starting near Castle Rock and working his way south.

He reports no great surprises in the district's largest concerns; people are worried about their jobs and the economy, they want to protect the natural resources, they want the funding for the roads, public safety and education.

He then turned his attention to our organization, asking more details about who we were, what part of the district did we come from, and what are the concerns of the forestry community and how are we currently affected by public policy, both locally and at the state level.

He took notes as we briefly described our history, starting with the zoning war of the late nineties and its resulting lawsuit, then discussed our current activities. He asked our opinion of the SRA fire prevention fees, since it had come up in his precinct walks and in discussion with local fire departments. We discussed how current zoning rules had forced many people to choose between timber and other land uses, thus losing flexibility in their land management and subsequent property value. We talked about the sad state of public land, much of which is overrun with exotic species and so badly overgrown it is a fire hazard to the people around it. In Planning, he understands the desire for a slow growth policy, but believes the implementation methods of restricting water and septic development is wrongheaded and just leads to infrastructure failures. He remarked that the state of the county roads is pathetic and desperately needs to be addressed.

We were impressed by the level of effort he is putting into taking the pulse of the district and his attention to our views. He has a very good grip on the state of the district. We came away with the feeling that our needs would be factored into any decisions he would make and that he was interested in maintaining lines of communication. ■

Disclaimer: CCFCA does not endorse anyone for any political position. We merely present information for our members.

THE COAST REDWOOD FORESTS IN A CHANGING CALIFORNIA

Standiford, Richard B.; Weller, Theodore J.; Piirto, Douglas D.; Stuart, John D, technical coordinators.

The Coast Redwood Forests in a Changing California Science Symposium was held June 21-23, 2011 at UC Santa Cruz with just under 300 registrants in attendance. Participants ranged in background from graduate level students to university forestry faculty, land managers, and conservation groups, public agencies, and land trust members. The symposium was strategically held in Santa Cruz, near the Southern end of the redwood region. Designed to present the state of our knowledge about California's coast redwood forest ecosystems and sustainable management practices, this symposium was built on earlier redwood science symposia held in Arcata, CA in June, 1996 and in Santa Rosa, CA in March, 2004.

The first day of the symposium consisted of two simultaneous field tours, one to the North County and one to the South County. The North County tour focused on active redwood timber management on corporate ownerships operating under the unique policies that dictate decision making on the central coast, and Cal- Poly's forest management and research at its Swanton Pacific Ranch. It also included a brief tour of the Big Creek Lumber Company sawmill and a visit to areas burned in the more than 7,000 acre Lockheed Fire of 2009. The South County tour traversed the range of redwood forest conditions from the old growth of Henry Cowell State Park and the uncut 120 year old young growth of Nisene Marks State Park to uneven-aged young growth stands established by individual tree selection harvesting on non-industrial forestlands.

Opening remarks started the second day of the symposium and began the academic concurrent sessions. Local historian Sandy Lydon spoke about the special history of the redwoods in the region, recounting stories from his boyhood about roaming through the forests and giving a brief synopsis of the settlement of the area. Steve Sillett, Humboldt State University forestry professor, described his experiences climbing the redwoods and his discoveries in the redwood forest canopy ecosystems, as well as his findings on tree growth from dendrochronology measurements. Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director and Secretary of Save the Redwoods League, called on the audience to set "audacious goals and collaborative actions." He maintained that nature does not develop boundaries and that in moving forward, we should focus on a shared set of goals and that public and private land should progress simultaneously. Concluding the session, Ron Jarvis, Home Depot's VP of sustainability talked candidly about the role of environmental sustainability practices and policies as part of the home improvement retailer's business model. He noted that when he began in the sustainability department he undertook a two year long project to understand where every sliver of wood from over 9,000 products originated to ensure sustainable wood practices.

Over 75 concurrent oral presentations were showcased over two days, pertaining to the topics of: Ecology (15 presentations); Silviculture and Restoration (11 presentations); Watershed and Physical Processes (22 presentations); Wildlife, Fisheries, Aquatic Ecology (10 presentations); Forest Health (10 presentations); Economics and Policy (6 presentations); Monitoring (7 presentations). In addition, almost 40 posters were displayed during the evening reception, ranging in topic from

post-fire response, to long-term watershed research, and community forestry models. Held outside on the warm Santa Cruz evening, participants enjoyed a strolling dinner and networking with colleagues, making the reception a highlight of the symposium.

The symposium concluded with closing remarks about the future of research in the redwood region from John Helms, UC Berkeley and Mike Liquori, Sound Watershed. In addition, a panel including Dan Porter, the Nature Conservancy, Lowell Diller, Green Diamond, and Kevin O'Hara, UC Berkeley discussed the interface of research, management, and conservation. The overall discussion led to the conclusion that academic research and applied research should be made available to the field as a whole as findings progress and that more opportunities for networking and interactions should be made available to the forestry community.

Overall, the symposium fulfilled its purpose to identify key knowledge gaps, bring together multi-disciplinary teams, and help identify future opportunities for collaboration. Participants were pleased with the presenters and research shown. Many noted that a highlight of the symposium was being able to meet and interact with others whose works they had previously cited in their own research. Of the approximately one half of participants who completed the follow-up survey, 100% hoped to see more events like the 2011 Redwood Symposium.

Read the entire proceedings and all presentations through this link: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr238/

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Submitted by Eric Moore

The Timber Harvest Working Group met in Sacramento on Friday, April 27th. All of the State agencies participating are pushing a timber tax at the wholesale level. If this tax had been in place last year at their desired rate, it would have come to \$89,000 per timber harvest.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) appears to be making a statewide move to require expensive annual 1602 permits for any water use or ditch maintenance, even if it has been done for years. This could affect your water supply or even cleaning your road ditches. A Monterey county farmer has been taken to court for maintaining 40-year-old ditches. In a Siskiyou County case being fought by the Farm Bureau, the DFG alleges that you need an annual 1602 permit to exercise any water right. The DFG appears to be aggressively trying to supplement their budget.

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR CEMEX?

Excerpts from the Santa Cruz Sentinel, May 3, 2012

With additional observations by the Editor of this paper who participated

More than 140 people packed Pacific School in Davenport Wednesday night to offer ideas on what should be done with the former Cemex property located on the North Coast (Santa Cruz County.)

Hiking, biking, camping, and horseback riding were among the most popular suggestions. Many folks said they don't want to see motorized access, hunting, campfires, or smoking allowed. One group was opposed to any grazing by livestock. Questions were raised about lighting, garbage, parking, roads, access points, dogs, and restrooms. No one was in favor of retaining the name Cemex in the new name. It was noted that Cemex was a relatively new presence in the community, even though the cement industry had been in the community for 100 years.

"Most of all, we'd like recreational use with minimal impact on the property," was one quote. Another concern was security and measures put in place to prevent trespassing onto adjacent private properties.

The 8,500 acre property was purchased for \$30 million in December by several conservation groups—a collaborative effort by the Living Landscape Initiative that includes the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Save the Redwoods League, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), and Sempervivons Fund.

Cemex closed its doors in 2009, in part due to the downturn of the economy. The plant itself remains for sale.

The community forum involved people breaking into small groups and writing down their concerns and ideas on large sheets of paper. When the groups disbanded, a leader in each group presented a synopsis of its main issues.

One recurring theme that should be pleasing to CCFA is the intention presented by the four conservation groups of maintaining the existing forestry management on part of the 8,500 acres. Cemex had already hired Nadia Hamey, a registered professional forester, to lay out their THPs and to manage their forestland. A certain amount of harvesting has already taken place over the years. Nadia was introduced publicly as Cemex's land manager and she will be retained as such. One of the groups stated that any revenue realized from timber sales must stay within the property, rather than being syphoned off to buy other properties.

There was no outcry against managing certain portions of the forest, and the concept and practice was actually supported. Other ideas included protecting sensitive habitat and rare plants and animals. Conservationists say the land will remain in a natural state, free from housing and development.

The property is closed to the public while the conservation groups work on a management plan for site security, maintenance, exotic plant removal, and logging. The land likely will stay closed through the end of the year until a management plan is finalized. Public access and recreation definitely will be included in any final plans.

One of the main concerns is security. The existing roads have been used illegally for years by motorcyclists who run rampant over the remote areas of the property, even crossing lines into neighboring properties and ranches. Considerable planning needs to take place to deal with damage caused by the cycles ridden at high speed and over steep terrain. Some sort of security must be put into place to prevent trespassing.

The one suggestion that hit a sour note was the idea of reintroducing grizzly bears and wolves to the area. We're not sure if this was a facetious suggestion or not. ■

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES RELATED TO THE RESTORATION OF OLD GROWTH FOREST CHARACTERISTICS IN COAST REDWOOD FOREST FROM THE REDWOOD SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM (#29)

Submitted by Eric Moore

It is understood that there are major problems faced by the owner of an old growth forest. Just one local problem is you will be punished by regulatory agencies if you have Marbled Murrette habitat. There are however, some good reasons to consider restoring some old growth characteristics to your land other than aesthetics. It should lower the need for water by your trees and it will be more fire resistant. However one of the biggest reasons is that the mills will pay a good price for larger high quality logs.

Gregory A. Giusti of the UC Cooperative extension gives some simple steps toward this goal in his paper "Management Practices Related to the Restoration of Old Growth Forest Characteristics in Coast Redwood Forest."

- First, know what you can and cannot achieve.
- Have a policy or plan of what you want to do.
- Use commercial thinning
- The goal is fewer, bigger trees; harvest more of the younger smaller trees now.
- Keep any trees with old growth characteristics.
- Know that you won't accomplish this in your lifetime.

A true old growth forest takes over 1000 years to develop, however with proper management you can enjoy some of the benefits of such a forest much sooner. ■

The Central Coast Forest Association has recommended to our members in the past to boycott the Climate Action Reserve [CAR] Carbon Credits scheme. A recent study conducted using Cal-Poly's Swanton Pacific ranch strongly confirms this.

Natural resource Professors, Richard Thompson and Steve Auten asked, "Is it economical to manage jointly for wood and carbon under the Climate Action Reserve protocol?"

They found that carbon sequestration already occurs in forests managed under the Southern Subdistrict rules. The CAR protocol requires that sequestered carbon does not count in an inventory unless it is acquired by means over and above normal operating procedures. CAR calls this "Additionality" and it is used against you. There are also other substantial discounts you are required to give under the protocol. The Lompico Forest had measured carbon of over 300 tons per acre. They were credited with 26 tons per acre.

The costs of complying with the protocol are akin to a Non Industrial Timber Management Plan [NTMP] which is currently in excess of \$30,000.

The easements that are required will have a negative effect on your property value.

As an example the Chicago Climate Exchange [CCX], the open market standard for carbon credit purchases in the United States, was offering 50 cents a ton just before they folded.

The Professors concluded that it is "Not now possible in the Southern Sub-district."

We stand by our recommendation to our members. ■

MYTH-BUSTING SCIENTIST PUSHES GREENS PAST RELIANCE ON 'HORROR STORIES'

Paul Voosen, E&E reporter

Greenwire, Tuesday, April 3, 2012, <http://www.eenews.net/gw/2012/4/3>

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Peter Kareiva had come to answer for his truths. Settling at the head of a long table ringed by young researchers new to the policy world, Kareiva, chief scientist of the Nature Conservancy, the world's largest environmental organization, cracked open a beer. After a long day mentoring at the group's headquarters, an eight-story box nestled in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, he was ready for some sparring.

The scientists had read Kareiva's recent essay, which takes environmentalists to task. The data couldn't bear out their piety, he wrote. Nature is often resilient, not fragile. There is no wilderness unspoiled by man. Thoreau was a townie. Conservation, by many measures, is failing. If it is to survive, it has to change.

Many around the table were unconvinced. Some were disturbed.

How could this be coming from the Nature Conservancy?

"We love the horror story," Kareiva said. He was dressed in New Balance running shoes, a purple sweater and rumpled tan trousers. "We just love it. The environmental movement has loved it. That, I think, is ... [a] strategy failure. And it's actually not supported by science."

This is not some vague hypothesis, he added to murmurs. He's seen it in the data.

"The message [has been that] humans degrade and destroy and really crucify the natural environment, and woe is me," he said. "The reality is humans degrade and destroy and crucify the natural environment -- and 80 percent of the time it recovers pretty well, and 20 percent of the time it doesn't."

One of the visitors, Lisa Hayward, an ecologist working on invasive-species policy at the U.S. Geological Survey, spoke up. How can that be so? "I feel that does not represent the consensus of the ecological community," she said.

"I'm certain that it doesn't represent the consensus of the ecological community," Kareiva shot back, with a smile and flash in his eyes. A circle of nervous laughter swayed around the room. "I'm absolutely certain of that! Wait two years."

Kareiva has never feared following the data, or dragging others with him. Already a respected ecologist, for the past decade he has shoved the Nature Conservancy toward a new environmentalism. The old ways aren't working. Inch by inch, for better or worse, conservation must, he says, enter the Anthropocene Epoch -- the Age of Man.

For most of the conservancy's history, the old way meant one thing: buying and protecting land from human development, through any means necessary. "Saving the Last Great Places on Earth," the old Nature Conservancy motto went. And it worked. Backed by wealthy donors and corporate deals, the conservancy has long been one of the largest landowners in the United States. Worldwide, it has protected more than 119 million acres.

But not all of its trends point up.

The average age of a conservancy member is 65. The average age of a new member is 62. Each year, those numbers creep upward. Only 5 percent of the group's 1 million members are younger than 40. Among the "conservation minded" -- basically, Americans who have tried recycling -- only 8 percent

recognize the group. Inspiration doesn't cut it anymore. Love of nature is receding. The '60s aren't coming back.

It's a problem confronting all large conservation groups, including the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Quietly, these massive funds -- nicknamed the BINGOs, for "big nongovernmental organizations" -- have utterly revamped their missions, trumpeting conservation for the good it does people, rather than the other way around. "Biodiversity" is out; "clean air" is in.

"In fact, if anything, this is becoming the new orthodoxy," said Steve McCormick, the Nature Conservancy's former president. "It's widespread. Conservation International changed its mission, and it's one that Peter Kareiva could have crafted."

For these groups, it's a matter of survival. But for ecologists like Kareiva, it's science.

The conservation ethic that has driven these groups -- the protection of pristine wild lands and charismatic species into perpetuity -- has unraveled at both ends. American Indians dramatically altered the environment for thousands of years, paleontologists have found; even before then, climate shifts followed the planet's wobbles. And in the future, no land will be spared man's touch, thanks to human-induced global warming.

The desire to return to a steady-state baseline, before European settlement or human influence, will never work, these scientists say. Many species won't be saved; some that are saved will not thrive, lingering in a managed existence like the California condor. There is no return to Eden. Population will rise. Triage is coming.

"Conservation is at a crossroads," said John Wiens, who served with Kareiva as a lead scientist at the conservancy for several years before joining the nonprofit PRBO Conservation Science. "That's where we are. And we're likely to be there for some time."

Kareiva was not the first to see the crossroads. But unlike those of many writers and scientists, his message has come from the inside. And there is every reason to suspect the movement will push back, said Stewart Brand, the environmentalist best known as the editor of *Whole Earth Catalog*.

"To be the first going somewhat public with this kind of critique from [inside] an organization framework, it's not only pioneering and important, but brave," Brand said. "He's a guy who's risking his job."

'Bomb thrower'

From his earliest academic days, Kareiva hasn't been shy about cutting his own path.

"Peter is, first of all, a bomb thrower," said Dan Simberloff, an ecologist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who has known Kareiva for decades. "He's pretty impatient with old ideas that he thinks aren't any good. He likes to bring people together and start them talking with some preposterous proposition."

He began bringing scientists together even before his doctoral work. Simon Levin, the renowned Princeton University biologist, still remembers the letter he received from a young zoologist conducting environmental assessments out in California.

"I'm sitting on a hilltop here watching ants swarming," Kareiva wrote, "and I've also been reading your theoretical work, along with Dick Root." Levin and Root were then at Cornell University and loomed large in the field. But they had never collaborated. One was a theoretician, the other an

experimentalist. That divide needed to end, Kareiva wrote.

How? Naturally, the two would serve as his Ph.D. advisers, he said. And so they did.

Kareiva was at home in partial differential equations and fieldwork, a rarity in the 1970s. He was struck by how ecology had built up 40 years of theory on how animals and plants spread, while rarely bothering to test it. His experiments, limited to two dimensions by plant rows, were among the first to ever test these theories.

"His papers are still classic today," Levin said.

Kareiva ended up at the University of Washington, an ecology powerhouse. There were experiments with pea plants and ladybugs, and deep dives into modeling. He befriended Bob Paine, the legendary ecologist who first described the apex predator theory. (They remain close, meeting for dinner -- "bourbon and blood" -- several times a year.) For 15 years, the two taught a grueling course for undergraduates.

"About 10 percent of the students loved it," Paine said. "Fifty percent tolerated it. And the remainder were pissed off the entire time because we tried to make them think."

As he's cut an ever-larger wake in conservation, Kareiva has garnered a similar reaction. But his provocation has never been about vanity, or gaining stature, his admirers say. It's about debate.

"He is never vulnerable to orthodoxy, even his own orthodoxy," said McCormick, the conservancy's former president. "He's constantly challenging himself, and therefore it gives him legitimacy in challenging those he works for."

Nearly all of Kareiva's peers say he never seems to sleep; he used to get by on doughnuts and Jolt, an energy drink. He's shy at first but will tease friends mercilessly. (Posing as Paine, he once proposed to University of Washington leaders that the school adopt a brown alga for its fundraising logo.) He's a gifted cartoonist and writer, with his email away messages passed around like samizdat. He's widely agreed to possess one of the finest minds in ecology.

No other scientist has crossed into the nonprofit world while retaining so much credibility, Levin said. Last year, Kareiva joined the National Academy of Sciences, a rare accolade for a scientist at an environmental group. And he's used his academic ties to pull top-flight scientists into conservation work.

Luminaries like Levin and Paine would have rarely collaborated with nonprofit groups in the past, fearing a taint to their academic purity. It's a tension that's not entirely dissolved. Levin, for one, remains doubtful whether Kareiva can ever really change anything.

"He's chosen to try and influence people who I think are hopeless," he said.

'Conservation hero'

Kareiva was not always an environmental apostate. Once, he was a rock star.

While at Washington, Kareiva was one of the lead witnesses in the spotted owl trial, an iconic battle between industry and environmentalists. He had only recently come to conservation then, working before as an agricultural and theoretical ecologist, studying the dispersal of insects and the spread of biotech crops. One of his students began studying the owls' habitat, developing models, and encouraged Kareiva to teach a course on the subject. He was hooked. He later testified at the spotted owl trial in Seattle, his adopted hometown, eviscerating the government and

corporate studies, which he found bogus.

"I thought I was a conservation hero," he said.

While testifying, though, Kareiva noticed loggers planted in the federal court's back row. They had children, the same age as his own, on their shoulders. The loggers never said a word, never violated protocol. But the children could not help their mewls or shuffles.

It was a devastating protest.

The men harked back to his father, a landscaper who chased jobs up and down the East Coast. He had been to these loggers' taverns, driving back from fieldwork at Mount St. Helens. The menus often listed "spotted owl" as a dish.

"Those were the bars that my father used to go to," he said. "I felt aligned with it."

That working-class background has never left Kareiva; he has clung to it. It's in the accent never abandoned, the deep love of sports, the dishevelment of his day-to-day clothing. (A student once complained about his dress. Kareiva stuck the note on his file cabinet.) He came from the fields of agricultural ecology to the wealthy man's world of conservation, and he would not pay fealty. Not without looking at the data.

This underdog mind-set and scientific adherence have often left Kareiva disappointed, especially with environmentalists, whom he sees drowning in credibility problems.

"We all know corporations lie to us and distort things, but so do environmentalists," Kareiva told his visitors, policy fellows from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, earlier this year. "And conservationists. Just as much."

Take the salmon incident, he said. By the late 1990s, Kareiva had joined the National Marine Fisheries Service as a senior ecologist. The Pacific Northwest was then embroiled in a controversy over salmon and dams. The service needed Kareiva's modeling talents to save its analysis, which he did in short order, according to Mary Ruckelshaus, Kareiva's former postdoc, who had lured him to the service.

Most environmental groups ignored his work, though, which found that dams weren't the problem for a number of runs. Instead, they published a full-page ad in the New York Times claiming that, by 2017, Chinook salmon would be extinct in the Snake River.

"I knew that was garbage, scientific garbage," Kareiva said. "I knew the data. I knew market-capture stuff. They made that statement up. And I knew it wasn't true."

Just like the owl, it had come to down to conservation versus people. Desperate to win, environmentalists had pushed science way past its bounds. And while these battles were waged by elites, it was often his people -- his father's people -- who found themselves pitted against nature. Did it have to be this way?

"Don't respect authority or institutions," his dad had taught him. "Be loyal to people."

When Kareiva joined the Nature Conservancy in 2002, he was determined to find a better way.

Shifting targets

At that time, conservation was primed for direction. American society was changing, and the scientific foundation of the movement was eroding. Man's touch was all around.

Conservation has existed, in various guises, for more than a century. During that time, it has featured a debate between those seeking to protect land for its use to man (the Theodore

Myth Busting (Continued on page 6)

Myth Busting *(Continued from page 5)*

Roosevelts) and those who wanted to preserve wild places from any development (the John Muirs). And while the Roosevelts had an early lead -- witness the national parks -- the modern conservation movement has been, largely, about preservation.

"Historically, the push behind conservation has been a love of nature," said Wiens, the former conservancy scientist. "Translated, there's a sort of religious underpinning to that. It's our moral obligation to protect all living creatures. And it's still a strong feeling in the movement, that everything is important."

A decade ago, though, the Nature Conservancy saw this love of nature fading. Young, mostly city-dwelling Americans don't go hunting, fishing or camping as they did in the past. Between 2004 and 2009, the group saw a 10-point drop in self-identified environmentalists. Teenagers, when asked whom they pictured as a "conservationist," described a blond woman who was "preachy" and "not much fun."

The conservancy was also running out of land to buy, at least in the United States. Its Washington state chapter recently reported that there was little ecologically significant area left for it. Preservation would always be part of the group, but there isn't enough land free to stop biodiversity loss. Some 13 percent of the world's land is protected. It might be time, they thought, to look at the other 87 percent.

As this demographic crisis washed up, conservation's moral clarity was also undermined. Conservation groups had often evoked the loss of pristine wilderness. Contingent in that was a sense of static, immutable nature, said John Robinson, chief scientist at the Wildlife Conservation Society, the smallest of the BINGOs.

"You were trying to preserve and protect ecological systems," he said.

But even as modern conservation got under way in the 1980s, two strands of research began coming together to undo this sense of permanence, in the past and for the future.

With refined tools, paleoecologists began to track the shifts of pollen and plant life. Their results made clear that humans had been influencing large stretches of the world for thousands of years before the industrial era. American Indians regularly set massive fires to manage their forests. And few systems are less natural than agriculture.

Even without humans, the creeping wax and wane of the climate was a constant.

"There's a huge ongoing change that hasn't finished yet," said Erle Ellis, a geographer at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. "The earthworms are still moving north ... And then you put people into the picture, and it becomes kind of a mess."

Virtually no land-based ecosystem familiar to humans has existed for more than 12,000 years, less than a blink in the Earth's life. Most ecosystems are even younger. It's clear that life on the planet has faced change, even rapid change, before, said Stephen Jackson, a paleoecologist at the University of Wyoming.

"Restoration to a historic [target] is in some cases appropriate," Jackson said. "But in many other cases, it's restoring to a target that's no longer sustainable, or will no longer be sustainable to the future. In one paper, we called it 'managing anachronisms.'"

Alongside this nuanced understanding of the past, scientists only expect the human footprint to grow. People already manage half the world's annual plant growth. Humanity has hunted most

of the major predators to extinction. It has reshaped mountains and coastlines. By one estimate, only 17 percent of the world's land has escaped our direct influence. And even those tracts, including the land already set aside by conservation, will change under the influence of man-made global warming.

Human influence has become so pervasive that it's now trendy for scientists to call nature "domesticated," and to see the planet entering a new geological epoch, an Age of Man. They call it the Anthropocene.

Given these realities, conservation "has had to do a double take," Robinson said.

New slogans

Before Kareiva could influence conservation, he had to start with the Nature Conservancy.

In 2002, the conservancy's former CEO, McCormick, recruited Kareiva as a lead scientist, working alongside Wiens and M. Sanjayan. The trio's first task was an upgrade of scientific ambition. At the time, the conservancy's work was mostly stewardship, essentially counting species, often on already purchased land, to justify its ecological value, said Knoxville's Simberloff, a longtime adviser to the group.

"I wouldn't say TNC at that time was a hotbed of scientists sitting around," he said.

It's easy for conservation managers to go out of date. For example, in conservation science there was once a rule of thumb called the 50/500 rule, which said that 500 members of a species are needed to prevent its extinction.

"That's from the 1980s, and NGOs are still using that rule of thumb," said Ruckelshaus, Kareiva's former postdoc. "He's getting the academic scientists much more connected immediately with scientists on the ground."

As he burnished his scientists' resumes and practices, Kareiva also began talking with McCormick about the shortcomings of site-based conservation. By even optimistic projections, only something like 5 percent of the world's species would be captured in protected areas, he told him. In McCormick, he found an eager collaborator.

"His foresight and early advocacy shaped my thinking," said McCormick, who now leads the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the charity of the famed Intel founder. "I still regard him as a go-to adviser, and a wise person on what the future looks like."

Kareiva needed the support, as he would start annoying just about everyone.

With a former postdoc, Michelle Marvier, he published a piece questioning the primacy of "hot spots," regions like the Amazon, flush in diverse forms of life, to conservationists. What about the "cold spots," areas like vast boreal forests or the empty zones of the ocean? There are a lot of underdogs in the ecological world, they said, and they all provide important ecological services for humanity.

The article outraged Conservation International (CI), and many others. One of the group's executives called up McCormick and asked him to reprimand Kareiva. Never let him publish a piece like that again, he demanded. McCormick demurred; he knew the essay was coming. And Kareiva was right, he added.

"Today, CI has abandoned hot spots," McCormick said. "Check out their website."

With the backing of McCormick and Mark Tercek, the Nature Conservancy's current CEO and a former Goldman Sachs

executive, Kareiva and his peers have pushed out conservation in multiple ways. For the conservancy, that means promoting sustainable farming, even if that may include biotech crops; setting up protected areas internationally that allow active use by locals; getting corporations to adopt more sustainable practices; or even working in the urban jungle of cities.

The Nature Conservancy is no longer in the business of "saving the last great places on Earth." Its new slogan? "Protecting nature. Preserving life." It's a mind-boggling and welcome shift, said Brand, the environmentalist and author.

"The idea that the world's largest and most successful and most trusted environmental organization would move its mission from protecting wild lands from people to protecting wild lands for people," he said, pausing for a moment. "Every word and concept in there is different, except 'protecting.'"

All of the major conservation groups have charted a similar path, McCormick said. He would be hard-pressed to tell their mission statements apart. Humans are here to stay.

"There is a realization in the conservation community that conservation is really about people," said Robinson, of the Wildlife Conservation Society. "The actual implementation is about working with people."

'The perfect world -- gone'

With the conservancy evolving, Kareiva is bringing his message to the broader public. But to build up a new environmentalism, he first has to tear down its myths.

"There's a certain amount of going after standard images and shibboleths and sentimental notions that people have built a lot of personal philosophy and behavior and policy on," said Brand, who had Kareiva speak recently at his Long Now Foundation.

It's something he's done with glee. In recent talks and essays, he has chided some heroes of environmentalism: While Henry David Thoreau was living on Walden Pond, his mother lived close enough to do his laundry. John Muir evicted the Miwok Indians from Yosemite. A more recent icon, Edward Abbey, was periodically visited by his wife and newborn during his wilderness exile, a fact never mentioned in his books.

These figures propagated a false sense of wilderness, he says. "The wilderness so beloved by conservationists -- places 'untrammelled by man' -- never existed, at least not in the last thousand years, and arguably even longer," he wrote in one recent essay.

Reading declarative statements like this, it'd be easy to cast Kareiva in caricature. He's the agitator, the rumbler, swaggering once more into the ring to start a fight.

That would be selling Kareiva short, though, McCormick said.

"We often joke about Peter being an iconoclast and a provocateur," he said. "It implies he likes slings and arrows. I'm not sure about that. I think the criticism stings. It's an underestimation of Peter. I think he feels a compulsion to do it."

Most recently, that compulsion has pushed Kareiva to take on the myth of fragility. He's seen how the plant life around Mount St. Helens has rebounded. He's talked to the conservancy scientists on the Gulf Coast, in awe of its recovery from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. And as an ecologist, he knows the demise of individual species, even abundant species, can be inconsequential to the overall function of an ecosystem.

Not content with anecdote, though, Kareiva is spending his free time assembling an index of several hundred case studies to

compare the permanence of human insult. His first analyses were on coral reefs and oil spills; results varied widely. This points toward the likely conclusion of his study: There will be no simple answer, no universal truth. It will always depend. But it will not always be disaster.

"The reason that's significant, when the conclusion is 'It depends,' is that the policy question is then, 'Let's understand how it depends,'" he said. "Let's understand which are the fragile places, and which are the tolerant places."

As often happens, poke a provocative Kareiva statement, like his resilience spiel, and nuance will pop out. At times, in public, Kareiva can sound overly optimistic, like Voltaire's Dr. Pangloss reincarnated, said Robinson of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Deep down, however, his scientific peers know that's not the case.

"He's a very good thinker," Robinson said. "He's pushing these ideas forward. He's pushing certain ideas hard because the arguments need to be made. Is his argument outside the mainstream of conservation? Yeah, a little bit. But it's a logical extension of where the conservation movement is going."

The Washington ecologist Paine, for one, has been wholly swayed.

"This is totally realistic," Paine said. "The perfect world -- gone. Gone forever."

Outraged TNC members

For scientists and conservation leaders, the new orthodoxy seems set.

But the conservancy's own members have not been so easily sold. Last year, the group's in-house magazine published a long feature about Kareiva and his views. Soon, outraged letters were pouring into the Arlington headquarters.

Kareiva's ideas were "better suited to the Chamber of Commerce, Exxon or General Electric," one member wrote. "Dr. Kareiva is part of the problem, not its solution," said another. "The conservancy is compromising its core values and betraying its membership," lamented a 20-year member. Referring to Kareiva's early education, another warned: "Beware of Jesuit-educated know-it-alls."

Some of the conservancy's staff have also bucked at Kareiva's advocacy. "There was and there still is, I'd say, an antibody resistance to some of his ideas," McCormick said.

Earlier this year in Memphis, at an internal meeting, Ruckelshaus sat on a panel with Emma Marris, author of "Rambunctious Garden," a book documenting the "post-wild" world; both are Kareiva disciples, and echoed his call for human-centered conservation.

Afterward, Ruckelshaus was surprised to hear that there had been a Twitter hashtag tied to their panel: #OccupyTNC. Some of the conservancy's scientists feel, it's clear, that "Peter is trying to steal [their] conservation vision," she said.

While the Nature Conservancy and other BINGOs have changed their missions, they have not found a new story to tell. Their marketing still features gorgeous scenery, along with charismatic pandas and tigers. Younger, more diverse members may respond to human-centered conservation, but there are many older, existing members who will not want to change their worldview, Brand said.

"They're not going to welcome rethinking their whole frame for why they love the organization," he said. "It's going to be a

LEGISLATION PROGRESS

Support/ Oppose	Bill	Title	Intent	Analysis	Committee	Status
Support	AB 1506	State Responsibility Areas: fire prevention fees	Repeal the SRA fire prevention fees	There were a large number of loose ends and inequities on 2011's SRA fee legislation, including double-taxation of properties who are served by a local fire district. This bill repeals the fee.	Appropriations Committee	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, referred to APPR suspense file
Watch -	AB 1532	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account	Creates and defines a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account within the Air Pollution Control Fund	This bill defines how the money collected from fees and cap-and-trade transactions are to be gathered and what projects they may be used to finance. I expect this is not going to generate as much revenue as they are anticipating, given that just about everyone outside of California has figured out it is a non-starter and bailed out.	Appropriations Committee	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Support	AB 1635	Forest resources: Timber Harvesting Plans	Extends the exemption from requiring a full THP for thinning land for fire safety		Assembly Natural Resources Committee	
	AB 1860	Water: regional water quality control boards		Currently a placeholder		
	AB 1924	CEQA: environmental impact reports		Currently a placeholder		
Oppose - paperwork too onerous	AB 1961	Coho salmon: habitat	Provides a mechanism for expedited approval of small Coho habitat restoration projects	Interesting idea, but given the amount of preliminary paperwork required to apply for one of these small projects, I doubt many smaller private landowners are going to willing to try it on their lands	Appropriations Committee	Passed ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE, referred to APPR suspense file
	AB 1977	Timber harvesting plans		Currently a placeholder		
	AB 2052	Environmental quality: CEQA		Currently a placeholder		

LEGISLATION PROGRESS (CONT.)

Support/	Bill	Title	Intent	Analysis	Committee	Status
Neutral	AB 2063	Ex parte communications	Prohibits ex parte communications within the water board		Appropriations Committee	Passed Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Support - forms interdisciplinary review teams	AB 2168	Forestry: timber harvesting plans	Formalizes the pre-harvest inspection invitation and coordination procedures for THP's to ensure all needed reviewers are present at a PHI at the same time.	This could either tighten up the laxness of PHI scheduling or endorse extended PHI's depending on how it is implemented.	Appropriations Committee	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, amended 4/25/12
Support - provides appeal process to review actions	AB 2170	Forest resources: Nonindustrial Timber Management plans	Requires the Board of Forestry provide an appeal procedure in the event CDF cancels a previously approved NTMP		Appropriations Committee	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
	AB 2284	Irrigation	Imposes an additional civil penalty for cultivating marijuana within a state park, and allows law enforcement to stop any vehicle transporting agricultural irrigation supplies into a state park without a warrant.	This tries to provide a tool for law enforcement to intercept and question growers coming into public lands before they can establish a grow site. It may run into problems with the 4th amendment (unreasonable search and seizure).		Passed ASM WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
	SB 1565	Environmental quality: California Environmental Quality Act		Currently a placeholder	Senate RLS Committee	

LEGISLATION PROGRESS (CONT.)

Support/ Oppose	Bill	Title	Intent	Analysis	Committee	Status
Watch -	AB 2404	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Local Emission Reduction Program	Creates and defines a Local Emission Reduction Fund within the State Treasury, seeks to ensure use of the funds include smaller local greenhouse gas emission reduction projects.		Appropriations Committee	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Oppose - "balanced" does not mean "equal"; also overstepping bounds of public intrusion into private affairs	AB 2424	Forest resources: timberlands	Gives equal consideration to all aspects of "public interest" in evaluation forest management plans on private land		Assembly Natural Resources Committee	
Support - better balanced structure for fee	AB 2474	Fire prevention fee: State Responsibility Areas	Redefines the parameters of the SRA fire prevention fee to incorporate local fire districts and local fire histories into the formula. requires breakdown report of fire prevention and response in urban vs. rural areas	This is a thoughtful approach to readdressing the SRA fees without eliminating them. The goal is to apportion the fees so that the areas that drain the state the most pay their proper share.	Assembly Natural Resources Committee	Amended 4/25/12 - upgraded to urgent to take effect immediately upon passage.
Support	SB 1541	Timber harvesting plans	Extends the THP exemption for fuel load reduction projects		Senate Appropriations	Passed Senate Natural Resources 1/10/12, passed the Appropriation s Committee 1/19/12, passed the Senate Floor 1/30/12, passed to Assembly

LEGISLATION PROGRESS (CONT.)

Support/ Oppose	Bill	Title	Intent	Analysis	Committee	Status
Oppose - paperwork too onerous	SB 0455	Forestry: watersheds: timber harvesting plans The 20 year Watershed THP Bill	<i>The bill would enact the California Watershed and Timberland Conservation Act of 2012, which would authorize a person to file a watershed timber harvest plan (WTHP), as defined, for the purpose of conducting timber operations. The bill would require the WTHP to be prepared by a registered professional forester and filed with the department in writing and would require the forester to certify and provide a report describing the inspection of the WTHP area.</i>	Enables the creation of a THP which would cover an entire watershed and be used to coordinate all properties within the watershed. The data in the master document would be available to all properties. As currently amended, the new program is so unwieldy that no one will want to use it.	Assembly Natural Resources Committee	Passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee 1/10/12, passed the Appropriations Committee 1/19/12, passed the Senate Floor 1/30/12, passed to Assembly
Neutral	SB 0965	State Water Resources Control Board and California regional water quality control boards: ex parte communications	Prohibits ex parte communications within the water board		Senate Environmental Quality	Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Oppose - dogs often used in rural areas to drive off other animals that threaten lives and property	SB 1221	Mammals: use of dogs to pursue bears and bobcats	Prohibits a person from permitting a dog to chase a bear or bobcat	Many forest workers who are not public officials take dogs into the forest with them to serve as bear and cougar alarms. Dogs are protective of their companions and may choose to chase a bear if it believes it is a threat, making the forest worker, by default, a criminal.	Senate Environmental Quality	

Myth Busting *(Continued from page 7)*

delicate balance in a large, membership-driven organization. It's one of the hardest things that you can do."

Many resist Kareiva's message not just because it's complicated. Some worry that it could be used by corporate interests to justify all sorts of exploitative behavior. It's a fair point, Marris said.

"It gives folks ammunition, but they haven't seemed to need that clip," she said.

Even Kareiva's peers cringe, at times, at how his ideas could be abused.

"I would hate to have Rick Perry read it," Knoxville's Simberloff said of one essay.

Beyond fears of corporate abuse -- nothing new at the Nature Conservancy -- Kareiva is asking members to adopt a different moral system. Gone is the bright line saying that all species must be saved. It's replaced by acceptance that some species will go extinct, said Michael Nelson, an environmental philosopher at Michigan State University.

"I kept wanting [in Kareiva's rhetoric] the recognition that this is a trade-off," Nelson said, "the idea that this would create a context that allow species to go extinct. I wanted the recognition that that's a tragedy."

Kareiva also tends to ignore the Theodore Roosevelt side of conservation, creating a straw man that's easy to bat down, said Tavis Forrester, a graduate student and ecologist at the University of California, Davis, who, with his advisers, wrote a critique of Kareiva's work.

"There's a big difference between ecologically functioning and pristine," he said. "We're looking to protect ecologically functioning places" -- like the Rocky Mountains -- "but not because they aren't going to change."

Yes, conservation has failed to stop the mounting extinction rate, but that's not because its ideas have to change, Forrester said. It's because many preserves in the developing world are protected in name only, and still are routinely exploited. Reserves that have teeth, like in the United States, work well.

In the end, the Age of Man shouldn't necessarily lead to a different conservation.

"The Anthropocene should stir us to greater conservation," he said.

Ecosystem services

At the heart of conservation's new, human-centered wave, there remains a void.

If all life must not be saved, how does humanity know what to save, and what to sacrifice?

"We have to make some value judgments," Wyoming's Jackson said. "And that's something that scientists don't like. And that's something that conservationists and managers don't like. We just have to own up to that and say there are legitimate values that we have to own and justify."

With a small group of senior scientists, Kareiva has bet that these values stem from the services -- like clean water or air, or even bird watching -- that ecosystems provide for humans, the types of value even his "cold spots" can provide.

Over the past decade, the field of ecosystem services has grown like a weed, pulling together ecological models, social science and economics. It's the science at the heart of the Natural Capital Project, a scientific skunk works founded by Kareiva and researchers at WWF, Stanford and the University of Minnesota.

The tools made by the group should allow managers to pragmatically decide how to act, Kareiva said.

"It's not about biodiversity," he said. "It's about having a forest so you don't get what happened in Haiti. It's about having vegetation so water doesn't get overloaded with nutrients. Having oyster reefs to reduce hurricane storm surges."

These services have become the new coin of the conservation realm.

"It's the only pragmatic way to do it," Princeton's Levin said. "And it's the only way to sell this to decision makers who otherwise won't pay any attention to nature."

The Nature Conservancy has begun to apply these tools. On the Gulf Coast, for example, it recently planned a mile and a half of oyster reef. Rather than just scouting for the most ecologically vital spot, though, the conservancy also accounted for low-income towns that could most suffer from a storm surge and gain from having a reef to help block it. One of those vulnerable regions got the reef.

On a much broader scale, the conservancy is copying the model used by New York City to protect its water supply -- limiting development in the Hudson River watershed -- and applying it throughout Latin America. Rather than build treatment plants, Colombia bought up land around Bogota's watershed, paying sugar growers and soda companies to sustainably manage their properties. And if biodiversity is protected, too? Well, all the better.

"[The conservancy] has this huge platform, and they're going to fast-track 30 more water funds throughout Latin America through the next five years," said Ruckelshaus, who now serves as the managing director of the Natural Capital Project. "They're going to standardize it and make it much quicker."

Ecosystem services are no panacea, though, said Wiens, the former conservancy scientist. It's a recipe that can easily miss the nonmonetary values of the environment. And it won't necessarily help managers make the hard choices on what species to save. How will this triage be decided? There are no tools, no paradigm, that can do that yet.

"We don't have, right now, the framework to think through those cost-benefit calculations," Wiens said. "And I think that's partly because people have been avoiding this notion of triage."

For now, at conservation and ecology conferences, many young scientists speak exactly like Kareiva, said Marvier, his former postdoc. These are the future conservation managers and agency leaders. A generational dynamic is being played out. Kareiva's team seems to be winning. Team Biodiversity may soon leave the court.

Back at the conservancy's headquarters, meeting with the young scientists, Kareiva had finished his beer, an India pale ale from Heavy Seas-branded Loose Cannon. It was a good talk. There would be many more like it. Move conservation into working landscapes like farms, he had said. Value nature's services. Let go of the ideal. And bring in a base beyond affluent, educated whites. Let Thoreau go.

"Broaden the constituency to those loggers," he said. ■

Central Coast Forest Association

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The forests must be, and will be, not only preserved but used, and the experience of all civilized countries that have faced and solved the question show that the forests, like perennial fountains, may be made to yield a sure harvest of timber while at the same time all their far-reaching beneficent uses may be maintained unimpaired.

John Muir
 Founder of the Sierra Club in 1895

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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 wildlife 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.