



## Central Coast Forest Association

### LEADING SCHOLARS DEFEND FELLOW FOREST SCIENTIST AGAINST ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTALIST ATTACK

Ten well-known university scholars signed an open letter in response to criticism by four UCLA faculty environmentalists of Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen, for his advocacy of responsible forest management.

Bonnicksen, Professor Emeritus of Forest Science from Texas A&M and author of the landmark book, "America's Ancient Forests" (See book review, *Fall, 2002* issue of "The Log") is the unusual combination of an insightful scientist and practical forester. For the past two decades, Dr. Bonnicksen has been an articulate critic of the Federal and State forest policy and academic theory that blindly rejects active management of forests. Bonnicksen has deep concern for forest that have become so overgrown that they are guaranteed catastrophes when the next accidental spark or swarm of insects finds them. He has advocated intervention to thin choked forests in order to save them from fires, bark beetles and other disasters and restore them to viable ecosystems, action that would pay for itself by yielding commercial lumber rather than costing taxpayers billions of dollars in damage and fire control.



Dr. Thomas M. Bonnicksen

Dr. Bonnicksen, in a recent talk, said:

*"I understand, as should everyone, that when you have 10 times more trees than is natural in a forest, many of those trees have to be removed to make it healthy and diverse, and to prevent catastrophic wildfires that are destroying lives, property, wildlife and our forests. Harvesting selected trees is the only way we can restore our overcrowded forests to a more natural state,"*

This self-evident truth has drawn the hostile fire of activist academicians. In an open letter widely circulated to national news media, four UCLA faculty members, lead by Environmental Science Professor, Phil Rundel, disparage Dr. Bonnicksen with deceitful, personal and professional attacks, accusing him of falsifying his credentials and accepting financial payoffs from the nefarious timber industry to push their propaganda. Their letter urged professional journals to boycott Bonnicksen's publications.

We empathize with Professor Bonnicksen since we know the frustration of attempting to advocate facts and logic against the agenda-driven environmentalists and their academic and bureaucratic fellow travelers. We know from recent, personal

### INTRODUCING FRANK AND LORETTA ESTRADA, RANCHERS AND TIMBERLAND OWNERS

Frank and Loretta Estrada live in Watsonville on the ranch that has been in his family since 1854. They were married in 1961 and have two sons, Grant and Greg, both of whom live on this Spanish land grant ranch with their families, including four grandchildren, ages 7 to 20, making them the sixth generation of Estradas to live there.



Frank and Loretta Estrada

Over the years, love of the land that Frank regards so highly can be seen in his preservation of the Estrada Bros. cattle and timber operations.

Frank, a native of Watsonville, has served as an officer in many organizations and is still on the Fish & Game Advisory Board for Santa Cruz County, as well as the board of directors of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. He was named the Farm Bureau "Farmer of the Year" in 1994. He loves hunting in Oregon with his sons and grandsons.

Loretta, born in Visalia, but raised in Watsonville, has been a Director of the Santa Cruz County Fair since 1989, serving as Vice President for several years and President for one. A member of the Watsonville Women's club, she was also one of the founding members of the Agriculture History Project. She retired from the Pajaro Unified School District after 28 years and has held the position of secretary and director of the Santa Cruz County Cattlemen's Assn. In 2002, she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and served as chairperson of the Rodgers House, which has become a landmark of the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. Loretta loves being involved in the community. Her passion is extensive worldwide traveling.

Over the years, these two active people have organized many functions at their ranch for different fund raising projects.

Their home is a living museum of the western heritage of the Pajaro Valley, where the past is preserved and the ranch is one the Estrada family is proud to say is in better condition now than it has ever been in the past, due in part to careful selective timber harvesting, ongoing road maintenance and brush control.

They hope the new generation will continue to preserve the past and improve upon the future. ■

**Bonnicksen** (Continued from page 1)

experience that they have no regard for truth or fact if it conflicts with the agenda. It is gratifying to see that others in the forestry profession and academic community have come to his defense in the form of a letter signed by ten well-known forestry leaders, from eight different institutions, refuting the defamations of Dr. Bonnicksen. Maybe respect for truth isn't dead after all. ■

## AL GORE WEIGHS IN ON LOCAL LOGGING

Edited from *Santa Cruz Sentinel*  
November 30, 2006

Foes of a controversial logging plan in the Santa Cruz Mountains have enlisted global warming crusader Al Gore in their fight to save a 1,000 acre patch of redwoods and Douglas fir. Gore lent his voice to the campaign of Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging (NAIL), which is using it to promote opposition to San Jose Water Company and its intention to log near the Lexington Reservoir.

Gore has said deforestation will hinder the planet's ability to regulate heat-trapping carbon dioxide. "Forests like these are worth fighting to save," Gore said in a released statement.

Officials from Davenport-based Big Creek Lumber, the water company's logging partner, says it's presumptuous for Gore to make an attempt to assess the logging plan without taking a look in person.

"We're pleased that Mr. Gore is taking an interest in the Santa Cruz Mountains," said Big Creek spokesperson Bob Berlage. "It's good that he's had a chance to look at this project digitally, but we really want to get this guy out to the woods for a guided tour." Gore had viewed a Google Earth virtual fly-over, arranged by Rebecca Moore, a software developer for the company who works on Google Earth and who also belongs to NAIL.

Though San Jose Water Company could not be reached for comment, Berlage said his company's logging practices are well regarded for being more sensitive than others in terms of maintaining forest health. "Gore would be impressed, considering his past record in sustainable management of resources," Berlage said.

"This proposal is deeply flawed—the commercial logging of these trees simply makes no sense," Gore said. ■

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

By Alfred E. Carlson

I was amused to read the article reporting that Former Vice President Al Gore offered the citizens of Santa Cruz County his expert opinion of the plan to harvest and manage 1000 acres of forest owned by the San Jose Water Company. His observations stating that this is a healthy forest contributing to a reduction in global warming arrived apparently bereft of first hand knowledge. Considering the fact that Mr. Gore is a lifelong politician, ask me if I am surprised. I wonder if he engaged in more research than this before he made his movie "An Inconvenient Truth."

A previous editorial in *Santa Cruz Sentinel* contained an arti-

cle written by Dr. Carlton Yee who addressed this subject in considerable detail. Dr Yee holds a doctorate in forest engineering and hydrology is the former chairman of the California State Board of Forestry, professor emeritus of forestry at Humboldt State University and a registered professional forester. He serves on the Oregon Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds appointed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Dr. Yee was authoritative and informative in sharp contrast to the predictable negative views of many environmental activists regarding logging in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Big Creek Lumber Company is often the target of misinformation and unsupported allegations about the impact of their forestry management practices. As a member of the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout project I can attest to the fact that it is those very practices that insure the pristine stream environment required to successfully propagate salmon and trout year after year.

My son is a park ranger and he is in complete agreement with the views of Dr. Yee and the forestry practices of Big Creek Lumber. He patrols a section of his park where Big Creek thinned overgrown redwoods and after only one year this area is considered to be a showplace of modern forest management practices and their beneficial impact on the environment. The forest is now robust with vegetation and wildlife flourishing. Many public agencies do not have the will or resources to manage their lands with the goal of keeping them healthy. Many are allowed to become overgrown and over mature leading to declining food supply for wildlife and increasing fire hazard. We have certainly seen our share of destructive wildfires in California over the last few years.

I urge everyone to ignore uninformed comments uttered by unqualified luminaries and, instead, support good environmental practices based on sound science and common sense. Our very well being depends on the health of our forests, streams and wildlife. ■

## TRYING TO CORNER NOAA FISHERIES, AKA NMFS

Faithful readers will recall that CCFA, in addition to suing the County, the State Coastal Commission and the State Fish and Game Commission, is also legally pursuing the National Marine Fisheries Service for their mishandling of our petition to de-list the non-native local Coho salmon. We filed our first petition to de-list with this agency in September 2002.

Federal law requires that they respond to a petition within 90 days, but we have received no (that is ZERO) response - ever. Having strengthened our scientific basis significantly, we teamed with Big Creek and filed a new, more complete petition in November of 2003.

Again, NMFS ignored our petition, but finally, after months of pushing and lots of help from our attorney, James Buchal, NMFS submitted its 90-day finding in only 868 days. The find-

See NOAA (Continued on page 3)

## PRIVATE ROADS SYNOPSIS

By Lisa Rudnick  
11/10/06

On August 20, 2002 the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted to leave the grading ordinance regarding private road and driveway standards "alone" except to make the changes of adding the word "rural" and deleting the section on bridges. This passed unanimously.

The Minute order for that item on that day, however, states that the ordinance was "adopted" with those additional changes. Most of the proposed ordinance amendments are not included within the version shown in the minute order, except for changes found in section (h) which addresses surfacing requirements based on gradient.

The following is wording found on the county website for current county codes, and shows the same wording as prior to this hearing, including the absence of the word "rural" and the presence of the section on bridges. However, the newer ordinance may still be absent from current code due to the years it sometimes takes to get approval from the CA Coastal Commission and then re-approval from the Supervisors.

County Code currently found online:

### 16.20.180 Design standards for private roads, driveways and bridges.

- (a) All private road and driveway construction requiring a grading approval shall conform to the provisions of this section. These requirements may be modified for emergency access, temporary roads, or roads leading to an agricultural building or well site if approved in writing by the Planning Director.
- (b) Width of roadbed for a roadway shall be 16 feet minimum; width of a driveway shall be 12 feet minimum. Where it is environmentally infeasible to meet these criteria (due to excessive grading or tree removal), a 12-foot wide all-weather road with 12-foot wide by 30-foot long turnouts located approximately every 500 feet may be approved with the approval of the fire department. The distance between turnouts may be adjusted at the discretion of the Planning Director if deemed appropriate for reasons of topography, environment or emergency access.
- (c) Minimum centerline radius shall be 35 feet. (EXCEPTION: Driveways which serve as access to any habitable structure and which are 150 feet or less from the main road.)
- (d) The maximum grade of the road or driveway shall not exceed 15 percent; however, grades of up to 20 percent are permitted for up to 200 feet at a time.
- (e) The structural section shall consist of a minimum 5 inches of base rock, Class II or Class IV. Class IV aggregate base should have a minimum R value of 50, and not more than 10 percent of the aggregate shall pass the number 200 sieve.
- (f) Where the subgrade is designated as an expansive clayey soil, the structural section should be determined using the California Design Procedure.
- (g) The aggregate base required by these design standards can be omitted if the Planning Director determines that the native material provides sufficient bearing capacity for all weather use.
- (h) In all cases, where road gradients exceed 15 percent, 1-1/2 inches of asphaltic concrete shall be provided. (EXCEPTION: aggregate base and asphaltic concrete may be omitted if a structural section of 4 inch concrete is used.) Where road gradients

exceed 10 percent and a high erosion hazard has been identified by field review, oil and screen may be required at the discretion of the Planning Director.

- (i) Asphalt or concrete berms or their equivalent may be required to control drainage. Discharge shall be at points of natural drainage courses with energy dissipaters installed where necessary to prevent erosion.
- (j) Entrances from private roads or driveways into private roads shall be limited in gradient as shown by Figure 4.
- (k) Any roadway or driveway which is more than 300 feet long and a dead end shall have a turn-around area with a minimum of 32 feet radius, or equivalent.
- (l) A horizontal clearance of 16 feet and a vertical clearance of 14 feet shall be maintained on all roadways, driveways, and turnouts.
- (m) Where a private driveway will connect to a county-maintained road, an Encroachment Permit shall first be obtained from the Public Works Department.
- (n) Bridges shall be at least 16 feet wide, and shall be designed by a civil engineer for a H-20 loading. If the bridge crosses a stream or drainage channel, hydraulic calculations based on a 100-year storm shall be submitted showing hydraulic adequacy of the spanned cross-section of the stream or drainage channel. (Ord. 2500, 11/8/77; 3321, 11/23/82; 3599, 11/6/84)

The following excerpt is from the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Minute Order for 8/20/02 item # 31, which is 113 pages in length. The ordinance adopted, 4678, is found on pages 3 and 4 of this minute order. It appears that at least the 18-foot width didn't get sneaked in, but Section (h) deals with surfacing standards, and this differs from the county code found above.

#### Adopted ordinance:

- (h) Road surfacing shall meet the following standards, based on road gradient: 0 to 10 percent gradient - 2 inches of drain rock compacted into a 4-inch sub-base of Class II baserock; 10 - 15 percent gradient - oil and screenings; greater than 15 percent gradient - 1- 1/2 inches asphaltic concrete (EXCEPTION: aggregate base and asphaltic concrete may be omitted if a structural section of 4-inch concrete is used.

So, it appears that section (h) has been reworded by someone. ■

#### NOAA (Continued from page 2)

ing was, of course, a rejection of our petition, so we sued them.

Our suit against NMFS, demanding that they give our petition proper evaluation, was filed on March 20, 2002 in Sacramento. The defendant filed a motion for a change of venue to Los Angeles for very flimsy reasons. We objected, since this is twice as long a commute for our Oregon-based attorney and much less convenient for us. The Sacramento judge split the difference and assigned the case to the Oakland court and they quickly passed it off to the San Jose court. The judge to whom our case was assigned, James Ware, is a colorful jurist with a history of making dramatic, personal news. We know very little about his judicial history or political leanings.

We are now exchanging written briefs, but with the history of our defendant, NMFS, we can expect the progress to be slow. Don't expect any news this year. ■

## THE PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION AND THE ALSEA II LAWSUIT

By Bob Briggs

CCFA is one of over a dozen co-plaintiffs in the Alsea II case against NMFS contesting the bogus claim that hatchery Coho and "natural" Coho are different species. This case began with the wanton clubbing to death of Northern California and Oregon hatchery Coho by government agents in order to reduce their population below the endangered threshold and force the listing. That episode was reported in the Summer, 2002 issue of this publication. We updated the activity in the most recent (Spring 2006) issue of The Log, but since things have moved a bit, this new status report is appropriate.

The two sides are now trading briefs, motions and other legal things. Pacific Legal Foundation will file a summary judgment motion for our side before Nov. 13 and the Court will probably hear oral arguments in Eugene, Oregon next spring or early summer.

In the new development, a lawsuit initiated by an enviro group, *Earth Justice*, demanding more protection of Oregon Coho and restriction on timber, farms, etc. will probably be combined with Alsea II and heard together in the Eugene district court. I don't know how this will work, but we'll keep you posted.

The real work on this case is being done by Russ Brooks, the attorney in charge of Pacific Legal Foundation's Seattle office. This is good because it places very few demands on CCFA's limited resources. The PLF people, who do all their work pro-bono, are (in our judgment) real present-day heroes. CCFA is privileged to have a close, cordial working relationship with PLF, their president, Rob Rivett and several of their top attorneys. ■

### OCTOBER SURPRISE

#### Watch your mail (and backside)

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is implementing (requiring) revision in waivers that they have previously issued. The changes this writer has seen are fairly benign. The concern is that requirements are not fused; they are being changed on the fly. The good news is that the water board seems to be learning how to act on the waiver applications. As above, there is concern that they may "go easy" on the original waiver and then change requirements later on. Stay tuned... ■

### PROPOSITION 90 TANKS

Prop 90 was defeated at the polls November 7. The results were:

3,922,132 For      4,315,938 Against

The state voter map indicates a clear party-line vote. In order to get this issue through next time, supporters will need to get the facts across to the voting public. There was a huge amount of misinformation aired about 90 by opponents. Fear tactics were invoked and in some cases fabrications presented and false comparisons to Oregon's measure 37. This fight is not over. ■

## CCFA offers two books and reprints of a blockbuster publication

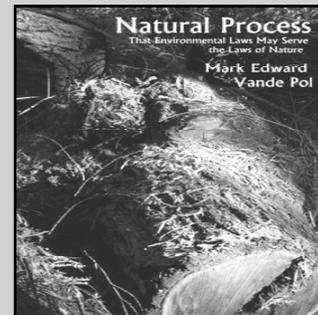


### "The Great Salmon Hoax"

An Eyewitness Account of the Collapse of Science and Law and the Triumph of Politics in Salmon Recovery

by James Buchal

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### "Natural Process"

That Environmental Laws May Serve the Laws of Nature

By Mark Edward Vande Pol

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### "Assessment of the Southern Range of North American Coho Salmon: Difficulties in Establishing Natural Range Boundaries"

by V.W. Kaczynski and Fabian Alvarado

Price \$5

Please contact CCFA president Cate Moore for your copies

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phone 831-335-4764

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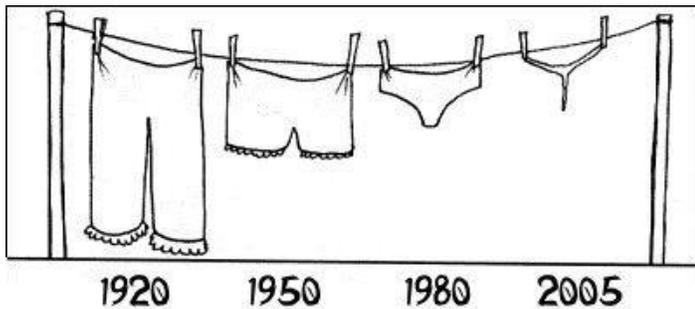
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## Notes From the Nut-House



### Proof of Global Warming



### Noah (NOAA?) in 2006

In the year 2006, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the United States, and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of everything along with a few good humans." He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, "You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for forty days and forty nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down on Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah!", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord, " begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed a building permit. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbors claim that I've violated the neighborhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision. Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us,

but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed to wood to save the owls - but no go! When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the EPA ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm suppose to hire for my building crew. Immigration and Naturalization is checking the green-card status of most of the people who want to work.

The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it."

### **Political Correctness:**

A doctrine fostered by a delusional, illogical liberal minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a cow-pie by the clean end.

We're on the web!  
www.ccfassociation.org



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Capitola, CA 95010



**IMPORTANT NOTICE: HELP US COMMUNICATE!**

Occasionally we need to rally the membership to respond to abrupt government actions. We must be able to contact you in a hurry in such circumstances. Please submit your current e-mail address to us via our website, [www.ccfassociation.org](http://www.ccfassociation.org) or by e-mail to: [ccfa@ccfassociation.org](mailto:ccfa@ccfassociation.org). We will keep it strictly confidential at all times.

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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*

**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.*