

Citizens For A Redwoods National Park

BOX 713, ARCATA, CALIFORNIA 95521

April 1, 1967

Dear member or friend:

It is difficult to express in words all that could or could not happen this month on Redwoods. Things are popping in Washington, D.C. - and in Sacramento. Hearings have been announced by the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs committee (Chairman, Henry M. Jackson) to be held on April 18 and 19. The House plans no hearings yet --- Aspinall is stalling. CRNP will send back two representatives at great expense - \$500 for transportation alone. Years of exploration, analysis, and conclusions will be laid on the line. Evidence supporting Redwood Creek is overwhelming, but this battle has produced its share of politicians. There are others with good intentions, but with goals set far too low for us to accept. Often due to subjective whims or just plainly a lack of knowledge of Redwood Creek, they have been led astray.

The Save-the-Redwoods League has done this by endorsing the Administration's park plan centered on Mill Creek, a tributary of Smith River, in Del Norte County. No one who has seen it will discount Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park as being one of the loveliest we have. Lower Mill Creek is protected inside this park. Just about all the fine redwoods on Mill Creek are preserved here. The unprotected portion (73%) is owned by the Rellim-Miller Redwood Companies, and has been extensively logged.

Some people think all redwood logging is deplorable, and in ways they are right. But there is still considerable difference in the treatment various companies give their land and also variation in the land's response to this logging (erosion, regeneration, etc.). The Rellim Redwood Company is not destroying upper Mill Creek. The Mill Creek drainage is blessed with a superb geology for the most part, and the soils are stable and productive. Erosion is low; there is no sign that a Bull Creek disaster will occur there. Examination on site and glances at maps show how the structure of the lower Mill Creek canyon eliminates the flood problems. High water on lower Mill Creek's small, inner gorge is still far below the superlative groves found on the elevated flats and benches which give Jedediah Smith State Park its character (this is where the gravelled Howland Hill Road is found, passing through the best which Mill Creek can offer).

Is there logical reason to add what little is left uncut of upper Mill Creek to two state parks (Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast) and change the name to "National Park", all of which would ultimately bring masses of people which those two State parks (or subsequently the National Park) could not accommodate without great loss to their primeval beauty? CRNP believes not --- especially when there are better forests elsewhere in Redwood Creek (taller, larger, and more varied and represented on a major watershed, not a small tributary).

The Save-the-Redwoods League has justified their proposal on the basis of impending doom by erosion for lower Mill Creek, which is not reasonably justified; by calling Mill Creek the "all American forest" with "trees of Alaska and trees of California" mixed together. By this definition Redwood Creek becomes a super all American forest. Properly protected by the Cohelan-Metcalf bills, etc., the 22 miles of lower Redwood Creek's canyon would include 10 named tributaries and many unnamed tributaries --

from which the many park visitors would be able to experience a greater aesthetic range of redwood forest, finding their "redwood cup of tea" in a less crowded and primeval setting. the League's proposal by comparison has only Mill Creek and very small Cedar and Clarks Creeks flowing into Smith River.

Since expenditures for the upper Mill Creek watershed will be high, and since funds are not abundantly available, why not buy the best forests first? Upper Mill Creek by quality and variety is not the best we have left. (We ask anyone to prove otherwise -- on site.)

A quote in the League's fall bulletin, 1966, "But Mill Creek is the only major basin left". This is simply untrue. In another recent one page (9" x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") handout, one side in color showing the Stout Grove, the other side with 3 small pictures and a map, show further the League's attempt to distort the issue. The map is grossly out of proportion, overplaying the size of the State parks and the League's intended acquisitions. On top of the page, two photos show a forest edge. The trees are huge. Some have been cut; the stumps are huge too. The implication is that this spot would be protected in the Administration's plan. This is not true either. The forest pictured is on Bald Hills. Trees found here growing at over 1000 feet elevation are superior in size to similar ridgetop forests in Mill Creek. The Bald Hills' ridgetop separates Little Lost Man Creek -- an almost intact small gem of exquisite and virtually unknown beauty -- from the intact slopes of much of Redwood Creek. These two extremes, side by side, outrank Mill Creek in redwood variety, and obviously, should outrank Mill Creek in acquisition priority.

Why has the Save-the-Redwoods League resorted to these distortions found in their latest bulletins to further their cause? In what could have been their finest hour, the half century of magnificent achievements behind them, the League has lost sight of the forests which deserve protection now on Redwood Creek. We're sorry.

CRNP plans to go to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to clarify these issues. We hope to have color photos of many of the lesser known areas; by that time, our 12 page black and white photo booklet will have reached both you and members of Congress. Use the enclosed newsletter and past newsletters for information and write as many people as you can. Ask them - "why not the best redwoods?" If you cannot appear at the hearings to testify in person, then send a written statement to the Chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Henry M. Jackson, and ask that your statement be entered into the record. And press Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, to follow quickly with hearings in the House so this issue can be resolved in this session of Congress. On the State level, the new Governor favors Representative Don Clausen's proposal (see enclosure for details), and it is important for us to let him know we disagree.

We ask again for all the support possible, to counteract all the politicians and those who have been led astray. Support for Redwood Creek must continue to grow stronger.

Dave Van de Mark

Dave Van de Mark,
President, CRNP

CITIZENS FOR A REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK - APRIL 7, 1967 - ARCATA, CALIF.

THE POLITICS OF CONSERVATION - It is naive for anyone any longer to presume that a national park battle (or any other conservation issue) can be won on ideals alone. More and more politicians are engaging in conservation--because it is politically expedient. But how much are conservationists becoming involved in politics? We have a suspicion that economics, with all its political implications, will have a large part to play in the decisions relating to a national park. It becomes the obligation of all citizens to get involved in politics if scenic or scientific America is to be saved in any semblance of its primitive state. Additionally, it becomes even more important for biologists to get involved in issues such as the redwoods which are of great biological concern. The politicians will not come to us, so we must go to them. And they are not necessarily informed until the good citizens have informed them, either personally or by letter. So ultimately the burden is upon the citizen to become informed--first--and then to pass his views on to our governmental officials at whatever level. An "informed electorate" presumably is the key to success of the democratic system. But the informed must become informers if there is to be any real progress.

We suggest then that you keep hounding the legislators or other "politicians" with letters if you can do no more. And support the organizations that support the cause--there is power in numbers. Contribute information even if to you it is trivial, when you have it. Facts in an "age of science" may ultimately be as important as ideas. Read and learn--so you can better inform others. PRIMITIVE AMERICA is going fast and we shall not save it by procrastinating.

REQUIRED READING FOR THOSE WHO CARE: Future Environments of North America, ed. by F. Fraser Darling & John P. Milton, the Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y. 1966, 767 p. (\$12.50). This is the record of a conference convened by the Conservation Foundation in April of 1965 at which over 40 scholars of many disciplines met to consider the subject. The Conservation Foundation (1250 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) "is a nonprofit organization without endowment, chartered for the following purposes: to promote knowledge of the earth's resources--its waters, soils, minerals, plant and animal life; to initiate research and education about these resources and their relation to each other; to ascertain the most effective methods of making them available and useful to people; to assess population trends and their effect upon environment; finally, to encourage human conduct to sustain and enrich life on earth."

"The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis" by Lynn White, Jr., Science, vol. 155 (1967); 1203-1208. This is the antithesis of the reference above, telling us how the mess started. It is the text of a lecture delivered December 26, 1966, at the Washington D.C. meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The author is professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles.

PUBLICATION COMPLETED - The illustrated brochure on Redwood Creek-Lost Man Creek is now at the printers. It contains all new photos, some of areas not previously seen in publications. Its distribution will include all members of the CRNP, members of Congress, certain State and other officials. Dave Van de Mark is the editor.

CRNP NEWSLETTER

"THE ECOLOGICAL CONSCIENCE"

O complex web that links green leaf to lung,
 which binds the eagle to the grassy plain
 Herein all things must ever look again
 to life around, and to the lasting sun
 For life itself. And once it has been spun,
 this fragile web, then if one strand should snap,
 A thousand others, too, would feel the slack,
 till nature can re-weave the damage done.
 With slow and certain hands, she strives to mend
 the myriad threads that lustful man attacks.
 Can we, in understanding her, then lend
 our helping hands? Or must there be collapse?
 We hang upon the thin and silken strand;
 only by serving her can we command.

....Franklin Fitz, CRNP Contributor; Oct. 1965

NEW BOARD ELECTED - Elected as new members of the CRNP Board of Directors are Dr. S. R. Rutz (M.D.) of Eureka, Dr. Peter Burgess (M.D.) of Eureka and Dr. Glenda Richter, language professor at Humboldt State College. Incumbents are Dave Van de Mark of Eureka and Dr. William Vinyard of Crannell.

SAN FRANCISCO TAKES STAND ON PARK - Not seen by many readers of the S.F. Examiner on March 11, 1967 (p. 5) is the announcement of Resolution No. 167-67 of the S.F. County Board of Supervisors "Urging Establishment of a Redwood National Park in Northern Humboldt County."

ECONOMICS AND A NATIONAL PARK - In December of 1965 the Weyerhaeuser Co. announced sale of its holdings in Humboldt County...and many employees went on welfare just before Christmas. In December of 1966 the U.S. Plywood Co. sold their holdings and some 175 employees were out of jobs. Now curiously the opponents of a national park insist that the loss of jobs resulting from a 90,000 acre park in Humboldt County (which includes, mind you, 13,000 acres in Prairie State Park) would "bankrupt" the county. The estimated employment loss of the timber companies affected is less than 300 men.

Meanwhile in Humboldt County the unemployment rate continues to rise --even without a national park--and is now 15.7% (over twice the national average). Incidentally, the permanent employment of a 90,000 acre park is estimated at 235, and seasonal employment would run much higher. For comparison it should be noted that employment in the timber industry is a seasonal thing too.

STATEMENT TO THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION,
FEBRUARY 21, 1967.

SUBJECT: REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK —

The Citizens for a Redwoods National Park (CRNP) understands you are considering climbing on the bandwagon and endorsing a so-called "livable" park plan. But livable to whom? Hopefully not just long enough so the remaining virgin forests can be cut to liven up a few Hoo-Hoo's and protect the status quo pall which locally is called prosperity. We already have fine state parks, and as long as sand is worth less than trees, our beaches will be safe too. Yet this is the ethic behind Don Clausen's park plan: connect all the state parks together with logged-over "conservation corridors", and throw in the beaches for good measure.

The real essence of a truly worthy redwoods national park would be the virgin forests primeval, nationally significant, scientifically unique, and aesthetically a beautiful portion of the American landscape which should be considered for its own sake, let alone the value and experiences it would provide us. Yet Don Clausen's plan adds nothing more of significance--and leaves out the best we have left.

Set aside your persistent drive to cover up for the industry and take a hard look at what a national park is for. Not only have we failed to protect enough of the variable redwood forests, but the approach has been a short-sighted one.

There remains today the opportunity to preserve the total ecological range of redwoods as found on a major sized drainage, Redwood Creek. This is a new concept which is not represented in our present state parks. Virtually all environments are represented here: flood plain groves, the finest ridge top stands left anywhere, and superlative slope forests with fine redwood specimens.

Twenty two miles upstream from Orick, the redwoods are just beginning to appear as noticeable parts of the coniferous flora on Redwood Creek; 14 miles upstream the river makes a remarkable transition from a tumbling rocky river to a quiet, placid stream with trees 10 feet in diameter lining the banks--this is the Emerald Mile; 8 miles upstream even bigger trees and the tallest may be found; and the lower four miles completes the redwood story with nearly pure stands of giant 300 foot tall specimens. All this as a unit remains in a more natural state than can be found anywhere else.

CRNP could tell you more: the incomparable Lost Man Creek drainages, or geologically unique Skunk Cabbage Creek, or Mussel point close by; wildflowers in spring on Doleson Hill Prairie or the very remote R53 stands on Devils Creek.

If R53* is confusing, check with your friendly tax assessor, or get reassuring glances from big brother timber that up to 17 ft. diameters for slope-type redwoods are not "park-type"--at least not after they are cut, and then it really does not matter.

A quick glance at a map of northern California will show that most of the 28 state parks preserve small goves on the alluvial flats of various rivers. Three of our largest state parks do have nice blocks of timber, but even then, not a whole drainage of any consequence is protected. Bull Creek, Prairie Creek and Mill Creek are only partially protected in their primeval condition.

Yet it is imperative for a National Park to take in whole drainages of substantial size, each one with ecological subtleties we yet do not understand. Lost Man, Little Lost Man, Skunk Cabbage, McArthur, Elam, Bridge and Devils Creeks are just a few which would be protected in a park in the lower Redwood Creek basin as proposed by Jefferey Cohelan and over 50 other Congressmen.

CRNP'S own explorations of the various park proposals include more than two dozen aerials, four boat trips, complete exploration of every major public and private road known, and more than 1,000 miles of hiking. We have done more than just glance at maps and determine park priorities in an armchair.

CRNP has studied this situation, not from the standpoint of which park can benefit us personally, but which one would offer the American people the chance to see all varieties of the redwoods in their natural state, to enjoy and study them in a manner in keeping with present National Park management policies.

Don Clausen's park plan only begins to do the proper job. We hope you give thorough consideration to the impact of any endorsements you make for a redwoods park. We especially hope you can justify your choice. As we see it now, this is not possible.

*R53 is Humboldt County symbolism showing a forest site type which happens to represent a superb old growth forest. The variety of geographical locations in the Redwood Creek area given this classification is remarkable. More details are in exhibit "F": Type Classification Criteria and Map Information available from the friendly assessor.

David Van de Mark, Director

CITIZENS FOR A REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK