

Forest Prof Offers New Redwood Plan

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Professor-forester Rudolf W. Becking has unveiled a new Redwood National Park plan featuring continued state control over existing parks, utilization of U. S. Forest Service timber, \$40 million in acquisition along Redwood Creek and a federal-state-local industry board to administer a vast recreation area of private timberland.

Dr. Becking, an instructor at Humboldt State College and a forester, outlined his plan to the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation this week. Upon his return from Washington he explained more details of the proposal.

"I think everyone can live with this proposal," Becking said. He added that his plan can serve as the nucleus for a regional master plan, which he states is necessary to achieve the full recreational and industrial potential of the redwoods. Becking says his plan can be handled for \$60 million. As outlined to the Senate committee, the proposal includes:

A Northern unit, encompassing Jedediah Smith State Park and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park plus acquisition of a 4,300-acre corridor strip between the parks, now owned by Miller-Rellim Redwood Co. Some \$4 million would be provided as a grant-in-aid to the state.

"The State of California should retain title of all lands, thereby avoiding problems and delays in transfer of state lands to the federal government," Becking said.

For the remainder of the Mill Creek drainage, Becking proposes legislation to enact a Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit between the Miller holdings in Mill Creek and the Northern Redwood Purchase Unit of the U. S. Forest Service near Klamath. Access to 14,000 acres of federal timberland cutting would permit Miller-Rellim to give up 3,000 more acres of virgin timber on the Smith Park boundary for state access.

"All lands will remain thus on the tax rolls with 25 per cent rebate taxes, and the Rellim milling facilities do not need to be relocated while all lands will be managed in multiple use and public access will be warranted," he added.

--The central portion of the Becking plan calls for spending \$40 million to acquire a virgin timber block in the Redwood Creek valley. Acquisition of 17,141 acres of timberland and 5,393 acres of prairies and oak groves includes 9,025 acres of Arcata Redwood old growth, 6,390 acres of Georgia-Pacific old growth and 1,388 acres of Simpson Timber old growth. Arcata Redwood would be most seriously affected, losing 40.9 per cent of its lands.

--Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the plan is the southern unit, where a board of federal, state, and local government and private industry officials would administer a zon-

ed recreation area of private timberland.

Becking asks \$16 million for intensive recreational development in this southern unit of 73,900 acres. The recreation authority would be responsible for planning and regional development, but all lands would remain on the tax rolls and in private ownership, with 25 per cent of taxes going to local school districts and road projects. (This is the formula used for forest Service stumpage revenues).

This vast unit would stretch from Dry Lagoon State Park on the north to Highway 299 on the south, and would include the Maple Creek, Little River and Lindsay Creek drainages, which Becking says could be utilized to create three lakes.

In addition, the forester proposes development of a national conference center, and inclusion of the Klamath River in the Wild River System.

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