REDWOOD REMNANTS HAVE A BIRTHDAY:
A Regional Perspective on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the
Establishment of Redwood National Park.

October 2 of 1988 marked the 20 anniversary of the creation of Redwood
National Park and March 27, marked the tenth anniversary of the expansion of
this coast redwood preserve, but the natural range of the largest trees and the
most ancient groves is now restricted to isolated parts of Humboldt and Del
Norte Counties. Redwood National Park is centered on Redwood Creek and a
swatch of coast north to the Smith River. What is the future of this
temperate rainforest ecosystem, this old growth ark shrouded in the mists and
winter storms that rise from a sometimes blue Pacific?

Rather than a just a collection of the Earth's tallest trees, these
redwoods and their conifer allies are also the foundation for many millions of
years of evolution in the life history of fungi, plants, insects, amphibians,
birds and mammals. These lifeforms, though often unseen, form links in the
many chains of elements that cycle through the ancient forests' ecosystems.
The park, and the struggle for its creation, speaks to the destruction of the
great rainforests of western North America and the ongoing fragmentation that
threatens their function as an ecosystem.

Today a person can stand in the National Park above Redwood Creek and look
down on forests with roots that stretch back more than 125 million years to a
time when the landscape upon which they now stand did not exist. Layers of
bark, branches, needles, even dead wood suspended in the wet sky, these coast
redwoods rise in excess of 360 feet in the air. The ancient redwoods once
shared the earth's surface with pterodactyls and brontosaurs, and though the
great reptiles are gone, shards of these great forests remain. Did some great
comet or asteroid collide with Earth and wipe out the dinosaurs or did the
climate of their once tepid habitat simply get colder and drier as the continents drifted apart or into polar regions? The cone bearing coniferous trees began their evolutionary ascent of the geologic time scale more than 250 million years ago, and they have survived while the great reptiles became extinct 65 million years ago.

Like the dinosaurs the ancient trees have left a rich record of fossils across the face of the planet. Floods, eruptions and landslides have left fossil deposits of redwood species similar to the three existing species all over the northern hemisphere. Today the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), giant Sierra redwood (Sequoiadendron gigantea), and dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) occur naturally only in their limited ranges, the first two in California and the dawn redwood, rediscovered in China, by the West, in 1947. In California one of the most extensive groves captured in stone, with trunks of thousand year old trees, was buried in a volcanic eruption just five million years ago. What creatures found refuge among these big trees, giant dragonflies, now extinct amphibians, marbled murrelets or even spotted owls?

The moist temperate climates that had supported the extensive boreal redwood forests dissipated with the onset of ever cooler temperatures that culminated in four ice ages during the last one million years.

The high number of different cone bearing tree species found in the Klamath-Siskiyou Region of California's northwest today leads many of the plant ecologists, whose studies are centered there, to believe that for the trees the area was a refuge from the ice that swept away all else over much of North America. As the sheets of ice drew back Douglas-fir, true firs, hemlocks and many kinds of pines and cedars followed to reclaim the land, some of the biggest of these trees are also found in Redwood National Park.
The redwoods cling to a thin strip of coast ranges, on uplifted marine sediments from long eroded landforms. Geologists call it a melange of sediment with occasional chunks of stone thrown in, some of those have literally wandered the globe. Redwood National Park's overlook, above the mouth of the Klamath River, almost rides atop a giant glob of pink chert that was laid down as sediment millions of years ago, some 20 degrees south of the equator. Since then it's inexorable drift in geologic time has brought it to the edge of the "Redwood Curtain," of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties—the heart of the redwoods, that guard the enigmatic forests and canyons of the Klamath-Siskiyou Region. A symphony of great forests, sprung up like like reefs in the sky—occupied by myriad insects, murrelets, swifts, bats and conceivably species of things as yet unknown to humans, all creatures that fly, crawl or glide from branch tip to tree top, or wander the trunk to the earth and back, and some even enter into the waters below. A empire where with the seasons, bears roam the streamsides, hillsides, and meadows in search of the salmon, or berries, foraging for roots, grass or acorns, or just looking for a hollow log to pass the ravages of a wet and hungry winter.

PREHISTORY

Migratory humans did follow the bears and other creatures from Asia to North America during interglacial periods of lowered sea levels and land bridges, yet known archaeological sites in the Redwood National Park region are quite young. Point Saint George I, north of Crescent City, is believed to have been occupied from 2,000 BC to 300 BC and then to have been uninhabited for 1800 years.

Indian tribes representing highly divergent linguistic stocks entered northwestern California around 900 AD, during what is called the late Pacific
Period. These peoples developed salmon and ocean fishing, food preservation and permanent settlements. Their societies became highly complex with elaborate systems of property, public ownership, social stratification and spiritual beliefs. The abundant salmon and steelhead fisheries sustained continued development in the redwood and mixed conifer forest country of northwestern California's lower Klamath River. These Karuk, Hupa and Yurok tribes, that all survive today, were culturally similar, but linguistically speaking their tongues each are respectively descended from the distinctive Athapaskan, Hokan and Algonkian language families, and they all share the "Deerskin" and Jumping" dances as part of their cosmology.

The riverine and coastal Yuroks, seem to be descended from Kepel, just below the confluence of the Trinity and Klamath Rivers, and their villages were composed of extended family groupings that ranged downstream and along the coast to places like Requa, Espa Lagoon, Orick, Stone Lagoon, Big Lagoon, Patrick's Point and finally at Tsurai on Trinidad Bay, which is believed to be the most recent Yurok village site, established in about 1620. The village eight miles to the north, at what is now Patricks Point State Park, is believed to have been occupied in 1300.

The Yuroks built redwood canoes, used by all three tribes, from the abundant drift logs that washed up over the centuries and came to rest along the river banks and beaches of their realm. They fashioned the wood with tools of fire, stone and antler. These craft were used for river travel but larger canoes were carved out for plying the ocean waters as well. The boats were sold to the Hupas and Karuks, who probably paid for them with some combination dentaillium, woodpecker scalps or other items of value. Though the waters were the main artery of commerce among these Indians, well-worn trails also linked
villages on the coast and lead across the mountains to river valleys in the interior. At a planted grove of redwoods in the Hoopa Valley, where they do not naturally grow, trails converged from many places, Hupas traded with the coastal Yuroks for salt, seaweed, smelt and other things coastal origin. These Indians spent their lives at the water's edge during the monsoons that stike these temperate rainforests at anytime from the beginning of September onward, sometimes even well into May. Annual rainfall in the vicinity of Redwood National Park can range from 50 to more than 250 inches annually. The seasonal torrents of water brought fallen trees and drift logs from the ancient forest and the people gathered logs of redwood and Port-Orford-cedar to split into planks that they then fashioned into houses and sweat lodges to keep out the inclement weather.

Whether gathering boards, mussels, salmon, acorns, berries or the many other necessities of life from this estuarine and riverine rainforest environment, there was an abundance that allowed some of these natives to place great emphasis on personal wealth. Some anthropologists have compared Yurok aristocracy to that of Europe, and have found in both that value was placed on family treasure, that they lived in named houses and that they traveled their realm to gain knowledge.

The coastal Yurok people travelled to ceremonial dances at "upstream" coastal villages, at places like Big Lagoon, and beyond up the Klamath River to Kepel, the site of a salmon weir on that river and the annual reconstruction of the weir was a major ritual of world renewal--myth and ritual are the stock and trade of this Northwest California culture. A myth told by Jim of Tsurai early in this century could easily have been a parable of the impact on this riverine world due to lust for wealth and the coming of the whites. In it a person of
Hewoli, a southern "suburb" of Tsurai, is fishing at in Trinidad Bay and he fished all day, finally catching a creature that he keeps alive in his house. The fisherman becomes lucky at hunting, fishing and obtaining wealth, but when no one watches, the creature takes the Yurok's child away into the ocean and with it his luck.

THE COMING OF THE EUROPEANS

June 9, 1775 was the beginning of a ten day visit to the open harbor at Trinidad Bay, less the 20 miles from Redwood Creek by the Spanish ships Santiago and Sonora, out of San Blas (Mexico) and commanded by Don Bruno de Hezeta and Juan Francisco de La Bodega y Cuadra. The ships were on a voyage of exploration to counter the Russian fur trading and exploration down the northwest coast, and these Europeans "carefully set about observing the society of the inhabitants [at Tsurai]," and five diaries remain as a record of the encounter. From the beach some 250 -- 300 Indians gathered to observe the sailors. Reports of other earlier visits as far back to Francis Drake (1577-1580), are very sketchy on detail and open to much conjecture.

The Spaniards found that a few of these Indians had knives of iron, instead of the traditional stone. The metal could have been obtained in trade with other Indian tribes, and the Yuroks were eager for more: "of all the things that were given them nothing attracted their attention more than iron, whether in the rough on the form of cutting arms."

Bodega thought that these Yuroks, "Must be considered richer than many of the tribes," and Hezeta wrote of their "well ordered economy." Their fire warmed houses were found to be "well-constructed of thick [redwood] planks," with flat clean floors and "sturdy enough to protect the inhabitants from predatory animals." The alien observers took notes about the plants and
wildlife of the surrounding area as well as the prospects for colonization. A
t真理 that feeds Trinidad Bay, where they marveled at the size of the logs that were
strewn about its flood plain. They saw riches in the landscape...

"The land asks only to be cultivated to produce in abundance the same fruits, more or less, as the countries of
Europe. Its mountains are covered with tall pines which form a thick forest centuries old; its residue continually
improves the soil, which supports fragrant green growth...plants that would be precious finds for a botanist
are produced with inconstant disorder with which nature knows how to divert the eyes of the observer and forms the
most pleasing and agreeable garden possible."

Hezeta claimed it all, "in the name of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit..." as well as King Charles and the Spanish Empire and called
the place "Puerto de la Trinidad." At the point of proclamation a cross was
raised to stand monument to the event and the Indians were told not to disturb
it.

Other recorded visits to Trinidad Bay missed finding Humboldt Bay until an
American, Jonathan Winship who was in the employ of the Russians, sailed the
O'Cain into the bay in the summer of 1806. The O'Cain was fitted for hunting
and trading for sea otter pelts and carried fifty-two bidarkas and more than
100 Aleuts. Winship stayed for 11 days and during that time much trading was
done for furs and the Aleuts were employed to fish and hunt, though the Yuroks
expressed so much hostility towards the Kodiak hunters that field pieces were
put ashore to protect the ship. Winship managed to find Humboldt Bay only
about five miles south before he had to return to other business. After 1817
the otter trade collapsed due to the depletion and decline of the species and
perhaps as a result there are no other known visits to Trinidad Bay by sea
until 1850.
By this time California was awash with prospectors, many of whom had been heaved out of Europe by the shock waves of change during the decades that encompassed the coming of the industrial revolution, the emancipation of serfs, the emergence of the Luddites, labor unrest, the Irish potato famine, war and revolution, and other such "trifles." This population influx reached up though California's Central Valley into the Trinity River gold country, much of which is now contained in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, so that by the fall of 1849 a direct route for supplies and communications to and from those mines via the sea was in great demand. Dr. Josiah Gregg, and his band of would be explorers set out on a westerly course down the Trinity River for what they hoped was Trinidad Bay, at the mouth of the Trinity River. When they set out on November fifth they hoped for a swift journey so they only took food for a ten day trip, but the trip, that now takes little more than two hours by car, lasted 38 days! Moving the horses through the redwoods proved to be the greatest challenge of all, axemen had to cut the trail ahead and their progress was slowed to as few as two miles per day. Had Gregg and his party followed the Indian trails they would have reached the coast much sooner but Gregg was plotting a compass course for Trinidad Bay that cut through one of the most dense and immense redwood forests within its natural range. The explorers fought among themselves over their privation and Gregg himself died before returning to San Francisco.

The American Period

By late March and early April of 1850 many ships laden with fortune hunters were exploring the coastal waters off Trinidad Bay, Point St. George, Humboldt Bay and the Mouthes of the Eel and Klamath Rivers, in an effort to
reach the inland mines. Beachheads were established at Trinidad Bay, Klamath City, Humboldt City (Eureka), and Union Town (Arcata) and from those places trails to the mines were born that lead off to the interior avoiding the dense redwood forests as best they could.

With prefabricated houses imported from San Francisco, a settlement rose quickly at Trinidad Bay, where developers thrived on reports in the San Francisco papers of gold by the bag full from the Trinity Mines.

A Frenchman, Ernest de Massey, came with the gold rush and chronicled his more cynical views of situation, noting that "Rumors spread like lightning, with the help of speculators and charlatans, that this county contained immense riches." He saw a wilderness and unknown perils surrounded by the sea and virgin forests, which he predicted "will soon fall before the axe of the American Settlers."

The news of another "gold strike" right on Gold Bluffs Beach brought thousands of new people in quest of riches, after the Alta Californian reported the assertions of promoters that each member of the Pacific Mining Co. would get $43,000.000, in the winter of 1850 and spring of 1851. Such reports brought the population of the outpost on Trinidad Bay to 3,000 by 1852.

The Yurok Indians at Tsurai on the bay and other villages up the coast and river must have made the best of a bad situation as they were overrun by the mostly single minded gold seekers. Environmental historian William Cronon provides insight into how different the concepts of property were between the invading Europeans and Native Americans; the Indians didn't claim the land but rather the right to claim things on the land or in the waters at certain times of the year. The Yurok customs of property also extended to wrongful death and
personal injury which seemed to inevitably to afflict the Indians as waves of sometimes ignorant miners passed roughshod over their usufruct rights.

A naive Thomas Gihon, another argonaut to write of the landing at Trinidad, who almost lost his life on the trail up the coast to Redwood Creek remarked that the Yuroks "were perfectly friendly and good-natured, but eternally begging," or were they simply trying to defend their concept of property rights from the invaders?

Ernest de Massey, who arrived on the same sailing vessel with Gihon, saw the Yuroks as "fishermen, hunters and sneak-thieves, waiting for a chance to steal," and went on at length as to his revulsion for these idigenous peoples.

The accounts of Hans Friedrich von Loeffelholz and his son Karl paint a different view of life at Trinidad Bay. A German aristocrat on the run from the political turmoil in Saxe-Coburg, he brought a sawmill outfit and a stock of Swedish spruce lumber to capitalise on the wave of settlement that was coming to this far away redwood coast. Both the father and the son left journals as to their experiences from their five years with the Indians, miners, packers and homesteaders.

They wrote that the Yuroks at Tsurai "were a simple and honorable lot [who] never stole from us or gave us any cause of complaint, on the other hand the whites did not always deal with us honestly...The American's least virtue is consideration for and protection of strangers or original inhabitants of the places to which he comes..."

Karl carried fond memories of hunting and fishing with the Indians and his father trusted them so much that he left the 14 year old alone there for six-months--"I admit I was more afraid of unpleasantness for my son from the whites than from the Indians." The Loeffelholz farm became a haven for the
Yuroks, where their women were safe from the "frequent attacks of drunken whites."

The fortunes of the Loeffelholz family declined with the rise of Arcata and Crescent City as the dominant supply points in the multi-million dollar trade with the inland mines. A flood in 1854 wiped out small Loeffelholz sawmill, Trinidad Bay was beginning to look deserted and so the family returned to their native land.

Two small hill tribes of Indians, the Chilula and Whilkut, related by language to the Hupas, and who lived on the bald elk prairies and slopes above Redwood Creek suffered extinction at the hands of the new force that came into the land. Trails crossed Elk Prairie on the way to Martin's Ferry on the Klamath River, and soon the elk were gone to market hunters and the prairies were gone to stock and pack animals. The Indians efforts to harvest the new animals and sustain their lives, lead to the Eureka papers call that "the Indian race must be exterminated from the mountain prairies," a reality that came to be in little more than a decade!

The Coming of the Timber Barons

Rapid change was coming to many places on the Earth, primarily due to the "ecological imperialism [and] the biological expansion of Europe," that Alfred W. Crosby, in his book by that name, portrays as global phenomenon.

After the Gold Rush, colonial expansion continued to expand all around the Pacific Rim, with: plantation agriculture in Hawaii, sheep raising and mining in Australia, railroad building in China, Chile, and Peru. These "few" factors, combined with the frequent fires in San Francisco and the completion of the Trans-continental Rail Road in 1869, stimulated lumber demand coast
wide. Rot resistant redwood was highly valued in the moist tropics to help sustain developments that included the beginnings of deforestation there.

But in the main, from 1850 to 1881 the redwoods were too big to be handled easily in the forest or the mill. The coastal Sitka spruce was cut relatively quickly, while smaller sized chunks of the great redwood logs were made into rail road ties or shingles. Teams of oxen, mules or horses were used to skid logs into the creek bed or down skid trails to bayside mills, soon small rail roads were built to move the fallen giants. In some streams a "splash dam" was constructed and logs were rolled down hill and stored in the stream channel behind the dam. When the fall rains floated the logs the dam would be blown away unleashing a wall of water, logs and debris that would race towards tide water where those logs, that weren't left buried in the channel or left in adjacent meadows or pastures, then could be taken to the mill by raft or rail. Even with such dramatic techniques, the effects of which can still be found today, in 1861 the annual cut for Humboldt Co. had reached only 15 million (board) feet, closer to the size of an average Forest Service timber sale in this region today. Little more than a decade later, in 1874 the cut had risen to only 48 million feet—less than a third of a percent of the annual cuts to come. Mining declined throughout this "Six Rivers" region behind the "Redwood Curtain," where in many areas water power had been used to wash the streamside flats for gold leaving rocky wastelands behind.

Trinidad, both epitomized the pattern of settlement and logging in this region and was on the "outskirts" of the industry centered on Humboldt Bay. It also was a unique beachhead supporting a series of small coastal farms on the bluffs and in the marshes of the four lagoons between Trinidad and the mouth of
Redwood Creek. A thin edge between the sea and a wilderness of dense coast redwoods and the sometimes drier forests beyond.

In 1867 the Hooper brothers of San Francisco began buying timberland about Trinidad Bay, and two mills opened there in 1869. The Hoopers had come to San Francisco in the 1850s from New England—those who established logging and milling in the redwoods of the Humboldt Coast were typically Bluenoses from Maine and Nova Scotia. At that time, lumber imports to the bay were chiefly from the Atlantic Coast—white pine milled in Maine and western New York. The demand for wood was high in the mines and for growing boom towns.

Their Mill in provided a new source of jobs for Trinidad which had a population of about 200 in 1869. Lumber milled there was shipped out by sea, sometimes on the Hoopers' lumber schooner, Newport, which would sail down the coast to Southern California's Newport Bay. There the redwood lumber was bartered for various types of merchandise and hardware, that then would be sold in Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Francisco on the voyage north. All during these years the Hoopers expanded their lumber and shipping interests throughout the state and even into Arizona.

Life at their Mills was described, in part, in a diary that Humboldt County pioneer photographer A. W. Ericson kept during 1871 and 1872. He noted in his journal that after edgeing "heavy lumber and railroad ties" all day his hands would be very sore, or he wrote of the many dangerous accidents in the woods or mill. Once he remarked that "many Indians have been around the mill today." Elsewhere in California, logging was noticable enough that Taliesin Evans wrote in an 1871 issue of Overland Monthly that, "The present selfish and moneymaking generation is given to look at our existing forests as so much
stored up wealth, requiring to be utilized, and whose intrinsic value is only
developed by felling, trimming, and shipping."

A decade later in 1881, the invention of the "Steam Donkey" revolutionized
the logging of the redwoods. Basically a boiler and winch on a sled, the
machine could pull itself into the woods, and there anchored, it was used to
pull the big logs, tearing through the soft earth over hill and dale to waiting
rail cars. This technology was also exported around the world and assisted in
the colonial deforestation of far away places, like India and the Philippines.
Bigger and more powerful "bull donkeys" were developed later and continued in
use into the 1940s, when they were gradually replaced by tractor logging.

More rail lines were extended to bring the "donkeys," loggers and their
camps further into the redwood forests where towns, with names like
Bullwinkle, Crannell, Falk, Luffenholtz, and Riverside flowed and ebbed and
disappeared all together as a function of supply and demand. As technology
allowed bigger and more powerful equipment, logging the big trees more quickly
became commonplace. Fictionalized accounts of the real timber barons,
reflected in such works as Peter Kyne's Valley of the Giants, emphasized the
struggle of entrepreneurs against each other and the environment—literary
romance for social darwinists. The local newspapers, ever bullish on
development, saw "lumber and fuel for a thousand generations..." in "these
grand old hills," and predicted that deserted logging camps would become dairy
farms and that "once nomadic tramps, who swung the axe..." would settle down on
a path to opulence.

Big machines advancing logging deeper into the grand old hills, meant big
money, and now various groupings of capitalists endeavored to control larger
and larger tracts of redwood timberland. Money came from far away places, even
Scotland. One such group the California Redwood Company (CRC), also known as the Scotch Syndicate, bought the Hoopers' Trinidad holdings in 1883. From the passage of the Timber and Stone Act in 1878 until 1886, vast tracts of redwood timberland were claimed fraudulently from the public domain. The CRC that had purchased three mills and 100,000 acres of timberland including as much as 64,000 acres of timber that became the focus of extensive civil and criminal proceedings, which involved many family names prominent in Humboldt County history. Much of the land subject to these fraud investigations is now part of Redwood National Park.

The old Hooper property reverted to a partnership of other Hooper brothers, and Joseph Russ and David Evans. Evans was indicted by a federal grand jury for his part in the scandal but later acquitted, later he also served two terms as mayor of Eureka. Litigation over clouded title to the land continued until 1897 when the federal government won back title to some 42,000 acres, land that was quickly disposed of again. In all the trials and hung juries only a poor Trinidad homesteader, Charles Beach, who recruited "dummy entrymen" at Coffee Jack's Boarding House and Barnum's Saloon, went to jail, and that for subordination of perjury. While Humboldt's papers were largely silent about these affairs the New York Times opined in December of 1888 that the President-Elect Benjamin Harrison was being lobbied to show sympathy to Beach, who the Times said was "one of the conspirators who undertook to steal from the government and the people...land on which was standing timber worth $11,000,000."

In 1886, John Muir happened to pass through these forests of redwoods and other species with the "National Forestry Commission" that was created by the National Academy of Sciences and chaired by Charles Sprague Sargent. Enroute
from Grants Pass, Oregon, Muir noted that the cool calm morning of the four September found them in a "spacious Yosemite-like spot in the mountains 500 feet above the sea." Muir found the 25 mile trip to Crescent City down the Smith River to be a "glorious" one through the Douglas and grand firs, Port-Orford-cedar, western red cedar, madrone, redwood and wax myrtle. But where the plain, on which Crescent City perches, was reached they came to the "charred ruins of a forest" of Sitka spruce--later they visited a redwood logging show "and saw the work of ruin going on."

The ambience improved for Muir on the next day when he and the commissioners had a "grand drive" south through the fog and the redwoods. Muir wrote that, "On top of a ridge...the heavens opened lake like bits of lovely blue through the diaphanous mist. All around us towered the wonderous columns of redwood feathered with saplings, and maple and hemlock, the ground covered with fine rhododendron and red huckleberry. Then the sun, sending long shafts of radiance down through the columns, fell in luminous patches on the boles and flat plumes of hemlock and on the green mossy, ferny ground..." The next day there was another "grand drive" through the redwoods Douglas-firs and Port-Orford-cedars, and at Trinidad Muir found the bay to be spacious and picturesque and he observed that the Indians were catching and drying "large patches" of smelt at the edge of the bay and they "seemed happy and well fed, "but that the "redwood has all been cut here-about, and is a desolate rugged expanse of black stumps, some few growing again." Trinidad was by then a dull and dead lumber camp according to John Muir.

Such is the nature of the timber industry, and even when the Trinidad mills did have jobs for mill hands, employment often fluctuated with nationwide economic conditions. J. A. Hooper looked upon depressions, that occurred with
more or less intensity, "as the ebb tide following the flood stage." By 1889 Humboldt's production scaled 120 million feet of lumber, and then 160 million was produced in the following year. Production of lumber in Humboldt County continued to grow until 1894 when output and prices took a five year dive. From the turn of the century production continued to rise steadily until 1913 when 370 million feet was produced.

After 1914 the industry was again affected by weak markets that didn't recover until 1921. By 1924 a spike in the statistics reached 609 million feet but sluggishness returned and output sank to 486 million feet by 1929. During the depression, output levels were 405, 136, 331 and 433 million feet for the years 1930, 32, 35, 36, respectively--note that output in 1932 was lower than that of the year 1890!

The Coming of the Conservationists

Change continued in a new century, and by this time there had been proposals for a Redwood National Park that had met with little success, especially due to the fact that in the 1880s and 1890s the redwoods essentially went from all public to all private ownership, but in 1900 the rapid formation of the Sempervirens Club led to its success in persuading the state to establish Big Basin State Redwood Park near Santa Cruz in 1902. In Marin County, close to the Golden Gate, the 510 acre gift of Congressman William Kent in 1907, established the Muir Woods National Monument--the only federal redwood preserve until 1968.

In far away Humboldt County, the timber industry was becoming consolidated in the holdings of the so-called Big Three producers of Humboldt County, that included Hammond Lumber Company, Pacific Lumber Company and Northern Redwood Lumber Company--Hammond and Northern are the genetic antecedents of today's
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation and Simpson Timber Company. Between them, the companies held 64 percent of the timberland and some 60 percent of the lumber mill plant capacity in the county. Daniel A. Cornford, historian and author of *Workers and Dissent in the Redwood Empire* says of A. B. Hammond that "nobody played a more important role in in shaping the antilabor policies of the county's lumber industry." Policies that included studiously mixing foreign born workers of various origins (especially Italians, Scandinavians and Austrians) to inhibit union organizing.

It was Hammond that ultimately acquired the redwood lands that the Hooper's and the Scotch Syndicate had held—dense redwood forests from the Little River watershed on Trinidad Bay, north into the Redwood Creek watershed, where someday the federal government would condemn remnant redwoods for a national park.

In 1918 the Save-the-Redwoods League (SRL) was founded to aid in the preservation of representative examples of primeval forests and to aid governments in establishing national and state redwood parks. John A. Hooper was among those who supported the League in 1920, becoming a member at the age of 82 years. During the 1920s the SRL successfully lobbied the state legislature to pass bills into law that established the State Park Commission and the Division of Parks, independent from the Board of Forestry. Other bills provided for $6 million in state park bonds to match funds from private donations to acquire parklands, and for a survey of suitable park sites.

The survey was conducted by the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. and his report seemed to recommend establishing a string of redwood parks along the "Redwood Highway," also much in its infancy in 1928. The League's popular support and wealthy contributors enabled it to acquire groves of
redwoods on the Eel River (Humboldt Redwoods), at Prairie Creek and on Mill Creek (at Del Norte Redwoods). The Congress also instigated a study by the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to recommend possible sites for a redwood national park. Their recommendations included the lower Klamath River, even lands within the "extension" of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation; Bull Creek Flat on the South Fork of the Eel River; Prairie and Redwood Creeks; and Big Lagoon.

But the national park concept languished in Washington, D.C., while the Save-the-Redwoods League continued to purchase groves as best they could up and down the Redwood Coast. The League's direction at that time looked towards acquisition of superlative groves, rather than forests that contributed important watershed function services, a tragic mistake as it was later learned in 1955 when a torrent of flood water roared off the clearcut upslope areas of Bull Creek, carrying so much power and scouring debris that its force toppled many of the finest giant redwoods on the Bull Creek Flat.

The League continued to negotiate title to redwood groves through the 1930s, a time when lumber production plummeted with the advent of the Great Depression. A 1935 strike in the redwood lumber industry ended when police shot and killed three strikers in Eureka and wounded several others. With World War II, the nation's energy focussed exclusively on the war effort and the dream of a Redwood National Park had to wait.
Rising out of the eastern edge of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties thick coastal redwood belt were vast tracts of Douglas-fir, true firs, pines, cedars and hardwood species found gracing the Coast Ranges and the slopes of the Siskiyou, Marble and Trinity Mountains. Some of these slopes are topped with "balds" or high prairies, areas where the Indians and elk had roamed, areas claimed by pioneering ranchers who found that the surrounding Douglas-firs got in the way of cattle ranching, but they were seen, by and large, as being too uneconomical to log, but after the war all of that changed.

Among the key advances in logging during this period was development of tracked vehicles like tanks and bulldozers, the latter set the stage for the extraordinary growth in logging following World War II. The Second World War not only continued the deployment of tracked vehicles but it also caused a tremendous shift in population to the West Coast, the staging area for the Pacific Theater. Aircraft factories and shipyards were bustling and military bases were opened or expanded coastwide.

By 1946 hundreds of thousands of troops had returned home and the post-war boom had begun. On the North Coast, new mill construction, population and lumber production of both redwood and whitewoods (like Douglas-fir and pine) soared. Few think of the GI Bill veteran's benefits as being a subsidy to the timber industry, but its provision for low interest fixed rate mortgages had that functional effect; and by 1950 at least 176 mills were busy boosting the annual cut in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, collectively, over one-billion board feet. Air pollution from sawdust now became rife, and the Arcata paper, which had once made fun of Eureka, by calling it "Sawdust City," found that it was now crying to the state authorities for relief. Also of interest in 1946
was a bill in Congress, sponsored by Congresswoman Helen Gahagen-Douglas. H.R. 6201 called for establishing four memorial forests in honor of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, that together totalled almost 370,000 acres, and in addition to the memorial units other timberlands of more than two-million acres were to become part of the National Forest sysytem. A hearing in Eureka was typically onesided in its opposition to the plan. University of California, at Berkeley, Forestry Professor Emanuel Fritz went on at great length as to his opposition concluding that federal administration from Washington "begins to get dictatorial and that is the danger of bills of that kind, not that they regulate, but the possibility that they become dictatorial." The auditor, the Farm Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and other familiar opponents to be of parks, wild rivers, protection of wetlands or enforcement of environmental regulations of any kind just said no to the plan. The Del Norte Miners Association opposed it because surveys by "federal mineralogists tell us that we have vast resources of chrome, gold, uranium, and many other strategic minerals, that are yet undeveloped." A letter from the Save-the-Redwoods League was read that stated that the League had never supported the Douglas bill, which died and the logging continued. The tragedy of the flood ripped redwoods at Bull Creek caught the attention of Ed and Peggy Wayburn in 1955, when Peggy was commissioned to write an article for the Sierra Club Bulletin on the disaster. Subsequent trips to the Humboldt County redwoods further concerned the Wayburns who raised the national park issue with Stewart Udall, President John Kennedy's new Secretary of the Interior in 1961. Udall was very interested in a redwood park and later sent an assistant to visit potential park sites. The potential Klamath River site from its confluence with Blue Creek down to the sea had been much logged since the park
service had looked it over in 1920 and though lower Blue Creek was as yet uncut its forests too soon fell before the saw. By 1959 the timber boom in Humboldt peaked at 1.57 billion board feet of lumber, and Arcata had the highest levels of particulate pollution in the United States, spewing from 100 "tepee burners" that caused the sawdust to rain from the sky day and night—the chances for saving ancient watershed forests were rapidly being whacked to bits. The forces looking at a watershed park were beginning to focus on Redwood Creek. Udall was concerned that the fight to create the park might be too big, but public sentiment for the redwoods was beginning to rise with both the publication by the Sierra Club of Francois Leydet's, The Last Redwoods in 1963, and the announcement by the California State Highway Commission of its plans to reconstruct and reroute portions of Highways 101, through state parks at Prairie Creek and Del Norte Redwoods, and 199 through Jedediah Smith State Park, on the Smith River.

The plan for a freeway to whiz over the heights above Gold Bluffs Beach drew much opposition. Lucille Vinyard, a Sierra Club activist from Trinidad who was on the cutting edge of the fight to save the redwoods, recalls the first time she saw the spectacular Fern Canyon in Prairie Creek Redwoods, it was 1964 and the slope stakes and flagging had already been laid in, charting the course for the pavement that was soon to follow. The opposition to the road plans grew from the Sierra Club, the Save-the-Redwoods League and even the White House. The plans died after the U. S. Department of Commerce tied federal highway funds to a requirement that public parks be given full consideration in highway planning.

In June of 1964, President Lyndon Johnson directed the Department of the Interior to develop alternatives for a redwood national park proposal;
following in July, National Geographic published its article on the discovery of the world's tallest trees on Redwood Creek, where one coast redwood soared to more than 367 feet. Within two months the Park Service released its plan for a national park in Redwood Creek with alternatives ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 acres in size. The Sierra Club launched its campaign for 90,000 acre national park with its famous full page newspaper ads, which in turn generated thousands of letters to the White House in support of a large park. What followed lead to a major disappointment for park advocates, the Save-the-Redwoods League threw its own proposal for a 45,000 acre national park in the Mill Creek tributary to the Smith River into the debate. Again it became a question of flats of superlative giant redwoods versus protection of watersheds for the moisture loving species. The split played into the hands of the opponents of any park: the lumber companies, the tax assessors, the chambers of commerce, the farm bureaus and cattlemen's associations; resulting in their gaining some momentum in Congress. The resulting compromise that was signed into law on October 2, 1968 went badly for the ancient forests, with the "redwoods to the sea" plan that took private timberland from both lower Redwood Creek and Mill Creek. The two unit park called for acquisition of only 28,000 acres by the Park Service but did envision surrounding and eventually absorbing the 27,500 acres of existing state parks. Of those private lands added to the new national park less than 11,000 acres were of old growth redwoods while the remaining acres were composed of cut over or coastal scrub lands. Much of the old growth was to be found in a corridor, which came to be known as "the worm," that ran upstream along Redwood Creek to contain the Tall Trees Grove and the Emerald Mile.
The timber interests also attempted to get legislative assurances out of the Park's creation that would increase logging on the nearby Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests. Then Forest Service Chief, Ed Cliff told the House Interior Committee in 1967 that the highly unstable landforms in the Siskiyou Mountains, at the headwaters of the Smith River and the Klamath River tributaries of Blue and Clear Creeks, which had been in a deferred status, could now be logged with the advent of new technology—Forest Service completion of the so-called Gasquet-Orleans (G-O) road, connecting the Klamath and Smith Rivers, was touted as a trade-off made to get passage of the compromise park bill as well.

The Sierra Club's supporters in Congress said that they had done the best that they could and that park proponents would have to come back for more in the years to come. The Club reissued The Last Redwoods in 1969 and the struggle to expand the Redwood National Park was underway. By this time the annual cut for Humboldt had been in decline but hovered near 1.2 billion feet until 1969 when another decline set in, and by 1975 output had slid to 955 million feet. As old growth jobs disappeared and jobs in the second growth economy were automated away, other changes were beginning to shape the politics of the redwood region. An in migration of people to the area seeking simpler lifestyles and environmental amenities was beginning (and continues) to diversify the commodity dependent timber based economy, and the once onesided debate over preservation and exploitation intensified. For the first time the North Coast's environmental movement began to broaden and diversify, as well. Where there had once only been a Sierra Club group and the Boot 'n' Blister Club, now there were chapters of the Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, the California Native Plant Society, Friends of the River and purely local
committees like the Friends of Del Norte County, the Northcoast Environmental Center, the Siskiyou Mountains Resources Council and the Emerald Creek Committee. The Arcata based Emerald Creek Committee began in late 1972 with the express purpose of protecting that 1900 acre subwatershed of Redwood Creek from logging, only 50 acres, where the stream meets Redwood Creek were in the Park at that time. While 1,000 acres of old growth redwood remained in Emerald Creek, Arcata Redwood Company had cut 350 acres there since 1969. The local committee with the help of other groups launched an ambitious national campaign, raised funds to make a film, and helped to instigate litigation against the timber companies filing Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) for logging shows upstream from the park. The issues of cumulative effects from logging and road building stung the lumber companies when the state courts ruled that the Forest Practices Act was not exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and that a THP could require preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR). The Sierra Club approached the issue from another angle and sued the Park Service, on the grounds that it was violating both its organic act and the act that created RNP in 1968, for failing to protect the park from upslope erosion. While the lumber companies argued that the erosion was minor and unrelated to their ongoing clear cutting, the federal court ruled that the Park Service was negligent for failing to protect the park from the cumulative effects of logging, which encouraged the Park Service to study the problem more aggressively. Now the state and federal officials appeared to be in general agreement that the logging related erosion was a threat to the downstream redwoods including the Tall Trees Grove. In 1976 the same federal court that had found the Park Service negligent, ruled that the Interior Department had
done all that it could to protect the park short of getting more funds from Congress to apply to the problem. As well, the state, which had been aloof from the park expansion effort, now spoke in favor of protective additions when Congressman Leo Ryan held hearings before his Conservation, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on the issue in September of 1976. On the eve of the November General Election, presidential candidate Jimmy Carter said that he would ask the timber companies to adopt a one year moratorium on cutting operations in sensitive areas outside the park. The redwoods were on a roll, public sentiment was running against clear cutting but it would still be almost a year and a half before the park was expanded. With the election of Jimmy Carter to the White House, the Brown Administration's support in Sacramento and Congressman Phil Burton's appointment to chair the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, park expansion was in the cards.

The timber industry's last public hurrah on the issue began at Eureka on April 13, 1977, when Congressman Burton's subcommittee held a hearing on his expansion legislation. It would later contain language to direct rehabilitation of cutover slopes and provide some stimulus to the local economy for the loss of old growth to the mills. Thousands of industry supporters turned out at the Eureka Veterans Memorial Building. There were trucks, kids with plastic chainsaws, tougher types with switch blades and axes and chamber of commerce boosters in blue suits. A truck convoy delivered Eureka Mayor Sam Sacco to the hall to rail against the park. Brave souls like Arcata Mayor Alex Stillman and Emerald Creek Committee Founder John Amodio braved a hail of debris, hoots and spitwads to support the Burton bill. Buoyed by the turn out in Eureka, the loggers and truckers went on to make an impression at a hearing on the park measure in San Francisco, and hence across the nation with 23 logging trucks,
to deliver an 8,000 pound redwood peanut to President Carter. Much to the 
disappointment of the loggers, the Carter Administration rejected the gift as 
an inappropriate use of old growth redwood, a sentiment apparently shared in 
many of the towns through which the convoy passed, if editorials and cartoons 
are any guage. From there it was only a short time before the park expansion 
bill was signed into law on March 27, 1978. A short review of the these events 
does no service to the rich detail and interplay between the politicians, 
mills, organized labor and the environmentalists, which is rendered in Susan 
Schrepfer's the Fight to Save the Redwoods. While many people are recognized 
for their effort in achieving the remarkable and costly effort to retake this 
former public domain of coast redwoods; Edgar and Peggy Wayburn, Michael 
McCloskey, Lucille Vinyard, Dave Van de Mark, Linda Billings, John Amodio, 
Steve Lau, and of course, Congressman Phil Burton deserve special mention for 
their brilliance, skill, determination and sheer perseverance in the face of 
all odds. Burton once again made a reputation for achieving the impossible. 
Not only did his legislation provide for expanding the park by 48,000 acres 
(containing less than 9,000 of old growth) in Redwood Creek, it provided 
authorization for $369 million in compensation for the timber companies (though 
ultimately this number would soar), $33 million for watershed 
rehabilitation—money to pull hundreds of miles of logging roads off of the 
land and out of the creeks, and for the first time major provisions to 
compensate workers for the loss of jobs that might be induced by the park's 
expansion. The timber interests also prevailed to get a special study 
conducted on alternatives for increasing the amount of old growth available for 
annual logging on the adjacent Six Rivers National Forest. And a $189 million 
freeway project to take Highway 101 up and away to the east around Prairie
Creek Redwoods State Park, was thrown in to sweeten the pot. Phil Burton understood the maxim "Make no small plans because they don't have the power to inspire people!"

The freeway project today, a 12 mile swath in its fourth year, crossing the uplifted sediments and landslides of the Franciscan formation, has some environmentalists and several highway engineers scratching their heads, eight major slides and several smaller ones have already occurred. John Muir understood that "When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world." And so it is with Redwood National Park as it lays beyond the "Lost Coast" and the "Redwood Curtain" at the confluence of its complex biological and cultural histories. Attached by threads to The Klamath Knot of David Rains Wallace, an enigma of rocks, forests, water and people. A region of mystery: one face a fading colony with an inexorable appetite for old growth trees, another of fragmented forests and yet another of wilderness and hope for the future.

Since the expansion of the park in 1978, other changes have added to the biological reserves in the region. In 1981 the Six Rivers of this country were made part of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System by an eleventh hour decision of then Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, they include portions of the Smith, Klamath, Salmon, Trinity, Eel and Van Duzen Rivers. And in 1984 (again largely due to the remarkable talents of Phil Burton, who tragically did not live to see its being signed into law) the California Wildernesses Bill included a new Siskiyou and Red Buttes Wilderness, additions to the Marble Mountains Wilderness, creation of a 500,000 acre Trinity Alps Wilderness and other small wildernesses and additions in the south towards the Yolla Bolly Wilderness. All these magnificent fragments and still the disfunction spreads:
the spotted owls decline, the salmon and steelhead populations continue far below historic levels, the sediment and debris continues pollute the waters, and even the endemic Port-Orford-cedars die from an exotic and ever fatal root rot that is most often spread by contaminated logging equipment. And where is Redwood National Park in this patchwork of pain and promise? As with many of the National Parks, there are internal management problems, a lack of money, deteriorating facilities and conflicting visions of what is natural and what is wild. A constellation of external problems swirls like a cyclone around the borders of RNP.

There are two big external non-timber commodity issues that could result in some jeopardy to the park. One is the uncertain future of offshore drilling for oil and gas in North Coast waters--large scale development could result in either oil spills, air pollution or even impairment of the long string of gray whales that plies the waters within sight of the park during much of the year. The other commodity issue, that has reared its head for a decade, involves the strip mining for, and the processing of, so-called strategic minerals. Low grade deposits of chromium, nickel and cobalt are found in the weathered lateritic soils in the uplifted peridotites and serpentine formations above the North Fork of the Smith River. The California Legislature actually took Hardscrabble Creek, a tributary of the Smith River out of the state wild river system to facilitate the California-Nickel Corporation's proposed Gasquet Mountain project. The Canadian company spoke fondly of its proprietary process to refine low grade ores and to date local, state and federal agencies have collectively spent hundreds of thousands of dollars attempting to analyze the environmental effects of the project. Many environmentalists saw that the mine plan was to create a favorable subsidy in the reauthorization of the Defense
Production Act, to underwrite the domestic production of cobalt, and then be standing in line with a project KIready to be funded. Those efforts have yet to bear fruit and during the summer of 1988 the company's stock dropped down very close to a nickel per share! The Park Service estimates that the proposed plant, less than ten air miles from the park's northern boundary, will emit more than 1,000 tons of sulfur oxides annually. The exact constituents of potentially toxic tailings are unknown, and the possibility of mine runoff polluting downstream wild and scenic waters is distinct.

Within the small and isolated population of Del Norte County some of the pioneering spirit of mining is alive and well, the lumber boom doubled the population there up to almost 14,000. Its commodity economy has been based almost solely on logging and fishing that have been on the skids for several years with unemployment levels averaging 14-18 percent. A mine promising 1,000 jobs looks a lot like a lake of gold. As did the opportunity to land a 2,200 bed maximum security state prison, which is under construction just north of Crescent City and has brought boom times once again. The Department of Corrections plan to discharge treated wastewater from this enforced tourism facility into infiltration ponds on the banks of the Smith River has KIbeen taken to court over possible violation of water quality rules--will infiltrating wastewater degrade the quality and beneficial uses of a federal wild and scenic river, one that produces the biggest salmon and steelhead in California?

Tourism has also grown in Del Norte, but much of what has been developed privately has been oriented towards the RV segment of the tourism market. There are thousands of hookups for RVs in the County but the State Parks have the corner on the low key campsites in the woods, those that bring back some
memories of a simpler life. The park has developed some wonderful back country campsites and the youth hostel at false Klamath Cove is a boon to the carless traveler, but the kinds of campsites that many people expect to find in a national park have yet to be established, to the rancor of some.

Perhaps Redwood National Parks most visible external threat, though not the most serious, is what can only be described as a veritable Recreational Vehicle "Be In" on an island of what has become a sort of no-agencies' land across Highway 101 from Freshwater Lagoon and on the Pacific Ocean. This the southern entrance to the $2 billion national park, can be the habitat for more than 300 RVs looking for a "free ride" from the state on a single midsummer's night. The strip of fill by the beach is within the Congressionally mandated park boundaries and title is held variously by the State Lands Commission, Caltrans, and the Department of Fish and Game. The Park Service did develop a plan to reform this visual circus, that almost obliterates the view of its new visitor's center, but the Orick merchants, feeling that a reduction in RV habitat might adversely affect their sales, have to date successfully lobbied local politicians and Park Service officials to do nothing.

Visually grand, the visitor center is located in the dunes overlooking the Redwood Creek estuary, which is in itself a problem for the park. Lower Redwood Creek was diked and channelized by the Army Corps of Engineers following the flood that roared through the Orick Valley in 1964, resulting in a much diminished estuary. In the summer low flows combine with wave action to close off the mouth of the creek forming a small lagoon. In this lagoon baby salmon called smolts grow and become better able to survive a life in the ocean, but as the waters rise behind the sand bar they now back up in the adjacent farmers' pastures leaving driftwood behind and can ruin the oat
crops. So the habit of the farmers is to breach the dike and relieve the pressure sending the baby fish into the sea before their time. The Park Service would like to protect the fish and restore the estuary but some of the farmers, some perhaps who have always hated the park just don't want to cooperate.

Another external/internal problem for the park is the rebounding population of Roosevelt elk. Once exterminated over their former range in Northwestern California these big ungulates have been reintroduced have had an expanding population for decades. Dairy farmers don't get along with the elk either—the elk have no respect for their fences. In fact the elk will sometimes just knock the fences down to get to the same pastures the farmers want to be luxuriant for their cows—direct competition for forage. Some have suggested that a $2 billion park might be able to afford to pay the few farmers involved to raise elk rather than having the Department of Agriculture paying them to raise milk. As it is several agencies are called in to remove the offending herds, which can mean transplanting elk to other parts of their former range among the redwoods. A costly project that doesn't always deter the animals from turning around and trying to come home. On the bright side of the equation, visitors to the prairies on Bald Hills can now find elk once again on Elk Prairie—now it's the cows that are fenced out! And for more problems, maybe the now extinct state mammal should be introduced on these prairies—the grizzly bear!

The wildlife won't be fenced in or out and that is a problem in any small park and this park is no exception. Mountain lions are creatures of great territory that can reputedly roam as much as 50 miles or more in a single day. Since California is trying to end a 15 year moratorium on hunting lions, and
any sheep or cattle rancher with stock losses can easily get a depredation permit, it is possible that big cats living in the park could wander off and get shot outside the official boundaries.

This is an even bigger problem for the black bears that often have hungry lives that lead them on a continual search for food. The bruins also have long memories and the rangers know that when the acorns on certain favorite oaks are becoming ripe that some of the same bears who checked the ripeness last year will be checking it again this year. And in the spring, some of the bears know that the sap is beginning to rise in the conifers, and that if the bark is peeled away there's a sweet taste to be found in the cambium layer. Since the foresters on the adjacent industrial timber lands don't like to find their trees girdled, they have often relied on the Department of Fish and Game and Animal Damage Control to solve their problem. Much to the chagrin of the biologists at Fish and Game, the laws governing "depredation" are clear that where property damage occurs the agency "shall" issue depredation permits, and with permits in hand Animal Damage Control, also funded with tax dollars, is dispatched to kill bears. At least one forester was heard to remark that one dead tree due to bears is one dead tree too many! No matter that these bears were here first, if you've seen one dead tree you've seen too many!

Lumber execs. know that there's no good publicity in killing bears but that there is good news in having your land condemned for a park, and while we've said little about the modern timber companies that came to be in Redwood Creek, no discussion of the park could be complete without passing over the calculus of payments, appeals, interest formulas or court of adjudication. The park acts are unique in that they transferred the title to the timberlands directly to the government upon the acts' being signed into law. Payments were
made based on the best guess of Congress as to the value of the properties taken, and from that point forward interest begins to accrue on the unpaid balance. That balance has to be determined by a court, and the longer it takes to adjudicate the unpaid balance the more interest there is accruing on it. Congress estimated that $92 million would be adequate to pay for the creation of the Redwood National Park in 1968. The major recipients of payments were Arcata Redwood Company (that had descended from Weyerhaeuser interests), Simpson Timber Company and Georgia-Pacific Corporation (G-P). Arcata was the most affected of the companies in 1968 and it received the biggest compensation. Collectively the settlement came to $250 million, about $40 million of that sum was an "in kind" payment of federal old growth from the Northern Redwood Purchase Unit.

In 1978 the company that lost the most and got the most was the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (L-P) that had been "spun off" from the G-P in 1972 as a result of an antitrust settlement. The expansion bill allocated $359 million for acquisition and $225 million of that was quickly given to L-P for its 26,500 acres taken for park expansion, but a final settlement announced in 1988 granted the company another $139 million, plus $301 million in interest, for a grand total of $665 million.

Arcata Redwood, that had done so well at funding its diversification with the creation of the park, also had 10,700 acres taken for the expansion. Arcata was paid $110 million immediately and then settled in the spring of 1988 for another $115 million plus interest for a total of $560 million. As of June 30, 1988 the remaining Arcata Corp. timber assets were sold to Simpson Timber Company, based in Seattle, for an undisclosed amount. The Arcata National
Corporation, now out of the timber business, is now the nation's third largest printing company with annual sales of $500 million.

Simpson "contributed" the least land to the expanded park in 1978 and was only paid $22.4 million at the outset for that, and has yet to settle on the balance due it, which is estimated to be about $27.5 million with an additional $60 million estimated in interest for a sum of about $110 million. In all the "major players" will receive nearly $1.585 billion dollars for the 75,000 acres taken for Redwood National Park. The land that was worth little more than $1.25 per acre, when some of it was literally stolend in the 1880s, averaged more than $21,000 per acre and much more if it was covered with old growth redwood in 1988--not a bad hedge against inflation! When other smaller ownerships within the larger acreage are taken into account the price tag grows even further, add a $190 million dollar freeway and it grows still more.

This most expensive parkland to date it remains a center of controversy to some, in a region where many would cling to a belief that the commodity economy of the past could be maintained forever, but for the preservation of the forest fragments in the National Park and the nearby wilderness areas. And yet, when the Pacific coastwide timber depression hit the industry in the early 1980s it was the Redwood Employee Protection Program (REPP), provided for in Section II of the park expansion bill that fueled a stable economy in Humboldt County while elsewhere in the Pacific-Northwest 10,000 timber jobs were lost forever. The average annual volume of timber cut in Humboldt County during the first five years of this decade was lower than the county's output in 1936, when it was 433 million feet! As of August 1988, more than 5,000 people had received some part of the $103 million (exclusive of administrative costs) in
benefits that have been paid out in REPP benefits since 1978. Here again the courts played a role and determined the breadth of eligibility and thus the scope of the payments. In the end the major requirement only was having been employed by an affected employer, which meant that some workers as far away as southeastern Oregon received REPP benefits. Some even applied for REPP benefits during the bitter two year strike against L-P that ran through 1985, which ultimately lead to the breaking of the 45 year old Lumber Production and Industrial Workers union local 2592.

Also consider the broken land and that in all of the 75,000 acres of Redwood National Park that less than 20,000 acres has not been logged. The rehabilitation program has been the least expensive component of the park expansion bill to date, with annual expenditures of one to two million dollars over the last decade. In this program zealous young researchers, hand laborers and heavy equipment have combined to work apparent miracles in the pulling of many miles of logging roads off of the face of the land and "putting them to bed." More than 20 technical reports, scores of research papers and student projects, in conjunction with Humboldt State University, have made RNP the major research laboratory on land rehabilitation western United States, if not the whole nation. Not all rehabilitation projects are so clear cut however, and as it is with some the issues common to many parks and preserves in the latter twentieth century, the question arises as to "what is natural and what is wild?" Some specialists and land managers like to point out that we've mucked up the earth too much to just let it be anymore and that management must be more proactive and manipulate the land to achieve the desired goals. The legislation directing the establishment and expansion of park directs the Park Service to establish a park of primeval redwoods, and to affect that end some
ongoing projects have been carried out to thin "dog hair" stands of Douglas-fir that resulted from aerial seeding some clear cuts in the pre-park past. Other Douglas-firs have been logged off at the edges of the prairies where the trees survived, because the Chilula Indians themselves did not survive to burn the grasses and and the invading trees at the prairie's edge. Some of the problems seem to be lodged in a gray zone, researchers eager to rehabilitate and conservationists concerned about the arrogance of management.

Perhaps the most symbolic of these management versus what is wild issues, has to do with the fate of little Marshall Pond near the Klamath River. Internally some of the park staffers call it "Walden Pond," and they have been directed, by what they call the "high command," to study the restoration of the roughly ten acre site to something more like a coast redwood environment. Birders in particular, who are also concerned with the rarity of coastal fresh water ponds and marshes, are less concerned that this pond, now maintained by the beavers, was once a log pond for a now long vanished sawmill. To them the wood ducks, the great blue herons, the ring-necked ducks, and many other lifeforms are a symbol of hope that some sites disturbed by human intervention, can in fact become wild and natural again without having to resort to the best laid plans of bureaucrats. Even those conservationists, who are less persuaded by baby wood ducks, wonder if the money allocated to planning for the draining of "Walden Pond" couldn't be better spent.

The solution to problems like the pond, or what to do about "redundant and confusing" management of state and federal parklands, whether or not to provide more campgrounds, or how to deal more effectively with local park opponents remains a conundrum; and the external regionwide threats to the ancient but now
fragmented old growth forest of species and biosphere functions represent problems of an even greater magnitude. Striking a balance between natural function and our more abstract notion that we humans improve things through intensive management will perhaps require a miracle. But until the timber industry is an equal partner in North Coast culture rather than "first among equals" the social and biological fragmentation will continue to be a devastating side effect of its "enlightened" self-interest.

Federal legislation is needed to provide a regional framework to foster this change. Legislation on the order of that that created the Tennessee Valley Authority for example (hold the dams and nukes please!), is needed to alter the infrastructure that drives the inexorable destruction. The in-lieu-tax money formula that creates a de facto payoff to local officials, who then turn their backs on the plunder of the public forest lands near the National Park, must be changed to one that promotes rehabilitation and the unfragmentation of the ancient old growth. A successful model for change can then be applied elsewhere. Conservationists in the trenches throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou and Redwoods region who fight absurd individual timbersales or try to halt projects of "marginal utility" from being committed on sacred ground (like the perennial drive to build the G-O Road), are beginning to think about this dream. Some visions of a better biologically and human based forestry have been explored in Ray Raphael's Tree Talk, that chronicles the ideas of people who see a need for a holistic forestry that has yet to be put into practice.

In 1960 the thought of getting the federal government to spend what will surely soon amount to more than two billion dollars, for a handful of ancient redwood trees, was so far fetched that it probably went unthought. Those who launched the campaign for this impossible dream for watersheds of old growth
redwoods, fought for it with their eyes wide open and their heads held high, and their success points the way for all who would follow them.

Congressman Phil Burton brought equity not just to for the timber companies, they can usually be counted on to look out for their own interests, but also to the workers and to the trees and the land. Now Burton's brilliance must be extended upon to bring equity to the biology of this region (even for the bears); to the Native Americans, who in the face of all odds have survived here; and to the environmentalists who have lived with the scapegoating, ridicule and general abuse ("Sierra Club, kiss my axe") for decades. The time to remember and act upon the maxim "Make no small plans because they don't have the power to inspire people," is critical and it is now--it's the miracle that Northwestern California sorely needs to check the desertification that seems to be underway. This place is among the last of those on Earth to be discovered, exploited and "civilized," perhaps with some irony it will be among the first to show a new way of bringing us into harmony with the forest.