

THE *Buckeye*

PROTECTING OPEN SPACE
AND FAMILY RANCH LAND VALUES ON
CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST

CONSERVATOR

Winter 2012

The Newsletter of The Buckeye

2013 Annual Meeting

The Buckeye Annual Meeting is coming right up on January 19th at Fortuna's River Lodge Conference Center. This year's event includes an interesting and entertaining agenda. The Business meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by a 6:00 p.m. Social hour



Paul Wenger - Speaker

The Buckeye is fortunate to be able to present two excellent speakers. Paul Wenger, California Farm Bureau President will be the guest speaker at the Business Meeting portion of the event. He will be talking about current issues and updates that affect our members.

During the Dinner, the keynote speaker is Jeff Fowle. Jeff will share his humorous and educational outlook about empowering farmers, ranchers and foresters to share their stories effectively through social media platforms. He co-founded Just Farmers who utilizes social media platforms and diverse demographics to

complete with a bar hosted by The Buckeye. The BBQ New York Steak dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. A Silent Auction and a Live Auction will give members and guests many opportunities to not only purchase some great items, but also help The Buckeye raise funds for the organization to carry on it's important work.

initiate and foster dialogues with consumers by sharing food stories from the plate back to the farm. Just Farmers primary focus is teaching others how to have productive conversations and successfully engage individuals with opposing points of view.

Andy and Sandy Westfall will be recognized as the 2013 recipients of The Buckeye Stewardship Award in recognition of exemplary care and management of ranch resources – balancing ecology, economics and natural beauty in the finest tradition of family ranching.

The evening will culminate with a Live Auction offering a host of items in all price ranges. Humboldt County 1st District Supervisor Rex Bohn will once again be our Auctioneer extraordinaire.

Thank you to all who have attended, donated auction items and purchased auction items in the past. The event is only successful with your participation.

If you have not received your invitation in the mail or have questions, please call Executive Director Johanna Rodoni at 725-8847.



Jeff Fowle - Speaker

Chairman's Message

I hope this Holiday Season finds you well. As the year draws to an end, it is time to reflect on the activities of the past year and to look towards the challenges and opportunities that 2013 may bring.

In 2012 The Buckeye said goodbye to Ruthann Schulte who had served as our Executive Director for over three years. Ruthann was key in establishing and implementing our landowner-based effort to provide input into the General Plan Update process. With our partner organizations (Farm Bureau, Forest Landowners of California and Cattlemen) we provided the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors meaningful input on the critical sections of the GPU that affect ranch and timberland owners. This work continues with the involvement of The Buckeye BOD member Tom Schultz and our new (well, returning) Executive Director Johanna Rodoni. We were very fortunate to have Johanna rejoin The Buckeye. She was our original Executive Director and her knowledge of our community, the local politics and our working lands provides incredibly valuable insight and support for our organization and to the Board of Directors.

Beside the GPU process, The Buckeye has also been very active working with regulatory issues that could affect landowners. We helped organize a fieldtrip for Water Quality Board members and staff to review examples of working NTMPs. We are looking forward to a successful resolution of the WQ waiver for NTMPs. Along with other organizations we also worked with the USF&WS and Congress Thompson's office to address the new spotted owl survey requirements. While the new survey protocols have not been changed, we

have seen more flexibility exercised by the agencies.

Most recently The Buckeye co-hosted a meeting with landowners, environmental representatives, agencies and a lead staffer to Assembly Natural Resources Committee (chaired by Wes Chesbro) to review the NTMP process and opportunities for expanded acreage. The outcome of this meeting may be legislation that allows larger ownerships (over 2,500 acres of timberland) to use a permitting process similar to the current NTMP.



Chairman Gary Rynearson

As we look forward to 2013, The Buckeye Board of Directors has set increased communication with the membership as a priority. This means not only more frequent newsletters, but monthly email communications about key current issues or meetings that may be important to landowners. In order to accomplish this we will need to obtain current email addresses for the members. We have also just received a grant from the American Tree Farm Association that will result in a series of workshops for landowners.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chair. This is truly a grassroots (and tree roots) organization that is dedicated to preserving our way of life and our working landscapes for the benefit of our families, our community and future generations. Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting and Dinner on January 19th with your family and friends and help us celebrate.

Sincerely,
Gary C. Rynearson, The Buckeye Chairman 2012

“This is truly a grassroots (and tree roots) organization that is dedicated to preserving our way of life and our working landscapes.”

AB 1492 Brings Meaningful Reform

California has the most burdensome, lengthy and expensive review process for timber harvest in the United States. Assembly Bill 1492, signed by California Governor Jerry Brown on September 11, 2012 provides meaningful reform on issues important to rural areas. The bill will go into effect January 1, 2013. According to Governor Brown the measure will "strengthen California's timber industry and protect thousands of jobs by eliminating regulatory fees on California companies, allowing extra time to harvest timber and preventing excessive civil liability for wildfires."

The reform offers a chance to jump-start California's timber economy. AB 1492 gives California timber producers a chance to compete fairly against out-of-state lumber. The bill establishes a 1% Assessment Fee on retail sales of lumber products and engineered wood products. The fee will be used to offset the burdensome governmental review costs of timber harvest plans (THP's). Wood products such as furniture, paper products, indoor flooring, bark or cork products, firewood and other products not typically regarded as lumber products are exempt from the fee. AB 1492 establishes a fund known as Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund to cover the costs of forestry regulatory activities with surplus funds for restoration. AB 1492 requires governmental agencies to review the fees they charge during evaluation of THP's and associated permits thus eliminating all regulatory fees within their departments.

The bill states that the Legislature finds and declares, "A thriving in-state forest products sector provides public benefits, including employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas, and economic development for rural communities" and that, "Enabling continued economically viable production of forest products can help to protect the state's forest lands from conversion to other

uses". It also states, "Current in-state producers of wood products already bear a significant cost of conforming with the state's environmental laws, which economically disadvantages those producers relative to out-of-state production".

AB 1492 ensures continued sustainable funding for the state's forest practice program to protect the state's forest resources and replaces the current piecemeal funding structure with a single funding source. It supports in-state production of timber within the state's environmental standards, and promotes and encourages retention of forests and forested landscapes.

The bill creates a funding source for the restoration of the state's forested lands and promotes restoration of fisheries and wildlife habitat and improvement in water quality.

The measure also includes another important reform – a limit on liability property owners face if a fire starts on their property and moves into state or federal lands. Up to now, this liability sometimes goes well beyond damages incurred and has been used by overzealous government attorneys to extract private property from landowners.

Another important piece of this legislation for timberland owners which The Buckeye advocated for in The Buckeye Forest Project is a longer term THP. THP's approved after July 1, 2012 will be extended to 5 years with a 2 year extension. THP's approved on or after January 1, 2010, AB 1492 provides an additional 2 year extension for a maximum of 2, 2-year extensions.

AB 1492 requires that the state agencies conduct a review of the THP process and report back to the legislature on opportunities for increase efficiency and cost savings. The legislation also establishes an annual report to the Legislature on the activities of all state departments, agencies and boards relating to forest and timberland regulation.

The Buckeye appreciates Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro's efforts in the passage of AB 1492.

Annual Meeting R.S.V.P. Reminder

The Buckeye Annual Meeting is right around the corner on Saturday, January 19, 2013. This is The Buckeye's primary fundraiser for the year. It is always an evening filled with good fellowship, good food and inspirational conversations. Please join us!

Annual Stewardship Award - 2012

The Buckeye presented its 2012 Stewardship Award to Joe and Karen Russ at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

The Buckeye Stewardship Award is presented annually to a farm or ranch family, and recognizes individuals for their exemplary care and management of ranch resources – balancing ecology, economics and natural beauty in the finest tradition of family ranching.

Both Joe and Karen have been active members of California’s ranching community for many years. They both come from strong ranching families. Karen grew up on the Lane Family Ranch in San Joaquin County and Joe is a member of the 4th generation of the Russ Family, ranching pioneers in Humboldt since 1852. He and Karen married in 1963 and have three children Renee, Lane and Kathy.



Joe and Karen Russ with Julie Houtby

Associations. He was named State Cattleman of the Year in 1987.

Joe was instrumental in the formation of the California Williamson Act, helped in the formation of the California Rangeland Trust and was a cofounder of The Buckeye.

Karen served on the Grand Jury, Humboldt State University Advisory Board, and Humboldt County Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee. She was a director for the Redwood Acres Fair for 12 years, and Humboldt County Farm Bureau for eight years, as well as being involved in CattleWomen, Woolgrowers and Republican Women.

Above all else Joe and Karen are most proud of their family. While their ranch operations have expanded in Humboldt, Modoc and San Joaquin counties they have been able to include all of their children in the ranch

business. Their children are continuing the Russ Family

Legacy of community involvement, stewardship of the land and raising quality livestock.

Along with the demands of a growing ranch operation and family both Joe and Karen began to amass an impressive list of community service. Joe served on the California Board of Forestry for 8 years, Humboldt County Planning Commission for over 20 years, Director of the State Chamber of Commerce from 1969 to the present and an office holder in various Cattlemen and Woolgrower

Past Stewardship Award recipients have included Graham and Gloria Cottrell, C. Robert Barnum, Pete and MaryAnn Bansen, the Charles Wagner Family, Mark and Dina Moore and Pete Bussman.

Calling All Members

Our Members are the lifeblood of The Buckeye. If you haven’t already sent in your dues, please take a few moments to sit down and recommit to your support of our organization. And if you are a business or have friends, family or acquaintances who believe in the mission of The Buckeye, we encourage you to invite them to join. We always welcome new members!

If you are receiving this Newsletter and are not currently a member, we hope you will consider joining us. You can find more membership information on our webpage www.buckeyeconservancy.org or call the office at 725-8847.

Humboldt County General Plan Update

The Humboldt County General Plan Update (GPU) has been a lengthy process to say the least. After 12 years of process including years of public meetings and review and recommendations by the Planning Commission, the GPU is currently before the Board of Supervisors for review, public comment and final adoption.

Representatives of The Buckeye have been involved in the review of the Humboldt County draft General Plan Update for the last four years. Participation has been through a collaborative group known as the Humboldt County Resource Lands Working Group (HCRLWG) consisting of representatives of The Buckeye, Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, Forest Landowners of California and industrial forest landowners.

HCRLWG met weekly during the period in which the Planning Commission reviewed the document and provided input and testimony on the chapters of the plan that were of interest or would impact the groups represented. Those chapters consisted of: Land Use which includes Ag and Forest Resources; Conservation which includes Open Space, Mineral, and Biological chapters; Water Resources; Energy; Noise and Air Quality.

As a whole, the Planning Commission did a commendable job in devoting time to the review of the GPU and providing a Draft General Plan Update that was delivered to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) dated March 19, 2012. The next hurdle was for the BOS to decide how they were going to review the work of the Planning Commission. Instructions were given to the Planning Department to come up with a short list of Key Issues for which the Planning Commission did not have consensus or that the County Planning Department (staff) was not supportive of the Commission's recommendation.

The HCRLWG provided a list of some 44 elements that were proposed for further deliberation. Although the HCRLWG appreciated the time and effort that the Planning Commissioners devoted in review of the Draft GPU, the end work product left many elements of which the HCRLWG was not in support. Other advocacy groups also had similar concerns regarding

the Draft GPU and provided their own lists of Key elements suggested for reconsideration by the BOS.

The Planning Department took their list, added elements provided by the individual BOS, and added other elements if there were more than one advocacy group that identified it as needing review. Essentially it became a popularity vote as to what additional elements were added to the final list. Not all is lost, we have been able to meet with individual supervisors and share with them our concerns as to Draft General Plan elements that we feel need reconsideration.

In regards to the BOS's GPU review process, the process has taken several turns in its evolution. An extension of thirty days was added in July to accommodate new Supervisor Bohn in his review of the plan. Deliberations resumed and work began on the Agricultural and Forest Resources elements of the Land Use Element. Short of finishing the Land Use Element; the majority of the BOS asked for the Planning Department to suspend the review and provide additional information to address questions of redundancy, transparency, potential to combine common elements, and identifying of elements that were covered by existing state, federal or regional authority. To keep the process going the BOS moved on to the chapters of Community Infrastructure, Telecommunications, Circulation and Economic Development.

Currently, the BOS have extended the GPU review once again to accommodate the process. A new group has formed that includes members of HUMCPR, Healthy Humboldt, Realtors, Mattole Restoration Council, CA Center for Rural Policy and a representative from Humboldt Area Foundation with a goal of reviewing Circulation and working towards a consensus position that would be shared with the BOS, thus avoiding an in depth review at the Board Meetings. The first input from this group was at the Dec. 3, 2012 meeting. If the group is successful they may continue their work on other elements of the GPU.

In the mean time, The Buckeye continues to participate in the Humboldt County Resource Lands Working Group. This group has devoted hundreds of hours of time working in the hopes that our concerns and carefully thought out suggestions will be well received and reflected in the final version of the Humboldt County General Plan.

Early Appointment for Rex Bohn

First District Supervisor Rex Bohn took office on August 6th, 2012 after being appointed to the seat by Governor Jerry Brown following the early retirement of former First District Supervisor Jimmy Smith. Supervisor Bohn’s appointment seemed entirely appropriate as he had already been elected to the seat in the June 6, 2012 Primary, receiving 63.3 percent of the vote.

Supervisor Bohn has lived in the area for over fifty-five years. His wife Adena comes from a long-standing dairy family that has been in the Eel River Valley more than 100 years. “We live here because we love it here,” says Supervisor Bohn. This is the reason Supervisor Bohn is so passionate about



Supervisor Rex Bohn

representing the First District and the folks of Humboldt County. He loves public service and helping people. This is especially noticeable when you attend many of the fundraising events throughout the community where Rex donates his time barbequing or acting as the auctioneer.

As a County Supervisor, he’s committed to working diligently with his colleagues on the Board to help guide County policy decisions that make proper use of Natural Resources and protection of property values and property rights for all Humboldt County citizens. He believes in a positive and prosperous future for Humboldt County which can only be achieved by the hard work and commitment of its public servants in partnership with the citizens who live here.

Gray Wolf – One Step Closer

Despite powerful testimony by the public and county representatives, the California Fish and Game Commission voted 3 – 0 to accept the petition to list the Gray Wolf as a candidate species for the California Endangered Species Act. This decision will give the Gray Wolf full protection for a year as the Department of Fish and Game reviews and evaluates all relevant scientific data related to the species. Following the one year review, DFG will make its recommendation to the Commission as to whether the wolf should be added to the list of California endangered species.



Wildlife and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center collectively submitted the petition to list the gray wolf.

Although there was a stark lack of scientific evidence in the petition, and against the advice of their legal counsel, the three commissioners present at the meeting voted that DFG should begin their yearlong study.

The potential permanent listing of the gray wolf as an Endangered Species

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Center for Biological Diversity, Big

poses a great threat to the viability of ranching in California.

NTMP Landowner Summit

The Buckeye and Forest Landowners of California teamed up to host Mario DeBernardo, Senior Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, to a NTMP Landowner Summit, Nov. 28 and Nov. 29, 2012. The Summit began with a guided tour of the City of Arcata's Community Forest, led by Mark Andre, RPF and Director of Forestry. He described the evolution of the present multiple forested parcels, most of which the City manages for recreation, water quality, species protection and timber harvest income, under an existing NTMP. The uneven aged management of the forest has proved popular with the citizenry and helped the solvency of the local government.

The second day of the Summit, held at the UCCE office and facilitated by its Director/Farm Advisor, Yana Valachovic, gave an opportunity for various stakeholders to learn about and make suggestions regarding a proposed Working Timber Management Plan ("WTMP") which would provide an NTMP-like regime for larger timbered acreage- in the 10,000 to 15,000 acre range. Using "clickers" to get instant audience feedback, the facilitator found that there was support for a WTMP or similar process for the timberland ownerships over 2,500 acres. There was also overwhelming

support to keep the existing NTMP regime intact and unchanged, should the proposal for the WTMP come to fruition.

The Summit was intended to continue the discussions of the Timber Harvest Working Group, which was created by Assemblyman Chesbro and was active in the last state legislative session. FLC President Jim Little was a member of the Working Group. During the workshop, Jim spoke about the political origins of the WTMP proposal and whether it could meet the needs of non-industrial forest landowners. He has agreed to continue to volunteer his time and expertise in the upcoming CA legislative session. The Buckeye and FLC will continue to actively encourage further



Fieldtrip at Arcata Community Forest

timber reform legislation that offers relief from the costs of the ever-changing, ever-more-complex regulatory matrix within which forest management happens in California.

Ray Flynn retires from The Buckeye

Ray Flynn, long time Buckeye member and past Chairman has retired from The Buckeye Board of Directors. Ray and his wife Nola recently moved to Palm Desert in the Sun City area to be closer to family and to get away from the fog. Ray and Nola have 3 daughters and sons in law and 7 grandchildren.

Life long Humboldt County resident, Ray leaves a rich legacy of service. Ray was born in Ferndale. After graduating from Humboldt State University with a BS in Forest Management, he went to work for the Humboldt County Assessor in their Timber Department. He helped to develop the use of aerial photography as a tool to inventory Humboldt County timber. Ray was instrumental on the committee that developed the TPZ classification. He

spent 25 weeks in Sacramento that year. In 1973 he was elected Humboldt County Assessor where he worked until he retired in 1994.

Ray served as President of California's Assessor's Association as well as on California State Board of Forestry for 4 years. Ray is also on the Professional Foresters Registration board of directors.

Ray's knowledgeable background in Forestry and government were an asset to The Buckeye. He was always very enthused about The Buckeye and the important work the organization does. His expertise and dignified presence will be greatly missed. The Buckeye wishes Ray and Nola good luck, good health and happiness in their new home.

UC Cooperative Extension to hire a Livestock Advisor

UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) announced that they will be seeking candidates to fill a Livestock - Natural Resources Advisor position in the Humboldt office in the spring of 2013. This position which has been vacant since 2009 due to State budget cuts will build on the work of past advisor's Alan Bower and Gary Markegard and will seek to support both beef and dairy producers and address pasture, range and water quality

issues. The Humboldt UCCE office was extremely pleased that this position was selected for hire given the highly competitive process, only 19 positions will be filled out of 100 requested. These new hires begin to fill state-wide vacancies that were created due to severe budget cuts of the last several years. Many local producers wrote letters of support for the position, which UCCE is very grateful for and believes helped to highlight the importance of this position for the north coast.

Newsletter Ideas?

One of The Buckeye's goals for 2013 is to increase member outreach through our Newsletters. Do you have an idea for an article? Would you like to write an article? Human interest, historical and personal reflection stories are welcome.

**If so, please contact:
Johanna Rodoni at 725-8847 or
Email us at buckeye@humboldt1.com**

Good “Owl” News for Landowners

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently announced the final rule for Critical Habitat designation for the Northern Spotted Owl. No private lands were included in the final designation. This will ease the regulatory environment for California’s timber landowners.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a science-based proposal identifying lands in the Pacific Northwest that are essential to the survival and recovery of the northern spotted owl. The final designation, based on the best available science and including feedback from experts, regional stakeholders, land management agencies and public comment, as well as analysis of the economic impacts of potential designations and conservation efforts already in place that could preclude the need for designating some areas, reduces the amount of critical habitat in California, Oregon and Washington that was proposed last February by 4.2 million acres. All private lands and the significant majority of state lands identified in the



proposal have been excluded from the final rule.

The 2011 revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl identified three main priorities for achieving spotted owl recovery: reducing competition from barred owls, actively managing forests to improve forest health, and protecting the best of the spotted owl’s remaining habitat. Today’s action is an important step in the Service’s work with federal and state agencies and other partners to accelerate the owl’s recovery, while supporting active management of forests with ecological timber harvests.

“We applied the best available science to identify the remaining habitat essential to the spotted owl’s recovery and to ensure that our recovery partners have the clarity and flexibility they need to make effective land management decisions,” said

Robert Thorson, Director of USFWS ‘s Pacific Region.

The northern spotted owl was protected under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened Species in 1990. This new critical habitat decision revises a 2008 critical habitat designation in response to a court order.

Look Who is Turning 100

2013 will mark the centennial celebration of three important Humboldt County agricultural organizations: Farm Bureau, UC Cooperative Extension and 4-H. All three organizations were originally founded in California in Humboldt County. Look for activities and events to mark this important milestone for each of these organizations throughout 2013. Of special note is the development of an oral history project that will help to celebrate local producers and Humboldt County’s rich agricultural history. To learn more

about upcoming activities visit the Cooperative Extension and 4-H website <http://cehumboldt.ucanr.edu/> or the Farm Bureau website <http://humboldtfarmbureau.org/>.





EST 2000

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Newsletter Published by
May, Abrahamsen & Barsanti
Certified Public Accountants
McKinleyville, CA

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