

THE *Buckeye*

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

CONSERVATOR

Summer 2011

The Newsletter of The Buckeye

The Buckeye Hosts Tour for NCRWQCB

In May the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board (NCRWQCB) held their meeting in Eureka. Taking advantage of having the whole Board together in Humboldt County, The Buckeye invited the NCRWQCB Board Members for a tour and barbeque. One of the issues that The Buckeye is involved with is the proposed NCRWQCB changes to the timber waiver. The timber waiver discussions are currently focused on Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs). Landowners and NTMP holders Pete Bussman and Claire McAdams & Ben Luckens graciously allowed us to tour their properties. The event was very successful in bringing NTMP holders, staff, and NCRWQCB Board members together to discuss the goals for the waiver as well as current NTMP practices and challenges. The tour was followed by a barbeque grilled up by Pete Bussman at Camp Bauer where everyone had a chance to chat in a casual environment. The Buckeye Chair Julie Houtby and Andy Westfall also presented NCRWQCB Chair Geoff Hales and Executive Officer Cat Kuhlman a copy of Andy Westfall's *Humboldt Heartland*.

Part of the follow-up to the tour and the next step in the process is for the

NCRWQCB staff to review NTMPs in the field. Some of the partners that The Buckeye has been working with on the timber waiver issue are the California Farm Bureau Federation, the California Licensed Forester's Association, and the Forest Landowners of California.



Tour stop with the NCRWQCB

NCRWQCB is currently seeking volunteer NTMPs for staff to inspect. Staff's goal is to assess how the 2009 timber waiver could affect those NTMPs and how the timber waiver process could be improved. As part of this sampling effort NCRWQCB staff is also inspecting NTMPs with open NTOs.

NCRWQCB staff will be looking at the following: watercourse

crossings, shade retention levels, erosion control plans, and road management plans. If you are willing to participate, work with your forester to contact Mark Alpert (malpert@waterboards.ca.gov) or Matt St. John (mstjohn@waterboards.ca.gov)

). These inspections are part of the process which staff is using to assess the current timber waiver and hopefully develop a more "user friendly" version. The Buckeye and several of its partners have been working toward this for over two years. Please show off your work with pride so that the NCRWQCB will see that the NTMP is a useful and worthy permit and NTMP holders are working toward a common goal of resource protection.

Portions of this article reprinted from a California Licensed Forester's Association article.

Introducing New Director Tim Renner

We would like to welcome Tim Renner to The Buckeye Board of Directors. Tim Renner is a native of Humboldt County. He grew up on his family's ranch (Diamond R Ranch) of which he is now a partner. The ranch is located between Ferndale and Rio Dell where they own two dairies, beef cows, timberland and do contract logging.

Tim is the manager of the timberlands and logging operation. He conducts logging operations on their own property and also contract logs for other small timberland owners as well as large timber companies.

Tim is on the Board of Directors for the Humboldt County Fair and is the Vice President of the Associated California Loggers (ACL). He is Chapter Chairman of the North Coast Chapter of ACL as well.

ACL is an association made up of family-owned logging companies from all over Northern California.



Tim Renner on the Ranch

The organization is very active in the process of reviewing regulations that affect timberland owners. Their goal is to try to minimize the regulations to the greatest extent possible. Tim says that he looks forward to helping The Buckeye in its efforts to do the

same for the family owned ranches in Northern California.

Welcome Tim

A New Choice for Working Lands?

The Buckeye is involved with the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) and Forest Landowners of California (FLOC) in an effort to improve the utility of the Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). Currently, the NTMP is limited to ownership less than 2,500 acres, which excludes many thousands of acres of family forestland.

At present, a draft WFMP -- Working Forest Management Plan -- is circulating and feedback is being received. The WFMP template leaves the existing NTMP process entirely unchanged, and is exclusively focused on nonindustrial acreages from 2,500 to 15,000 in size.

The WFMP effort is a work in progress. Later this summer we could see a second draft which

would be circulated more broadly. Also, there is discussion about scheduling a field event, or events, in the Humboldt County area to help build understanding and support. Whether the coalition chooses to introduce legislation next year is yet to be determined.

General Plan Update

The Humboldt County General Plan Update (GPU) continues. The Buckeye has been very active in participating in the process with the Planning Commission. Along with the Humboldt County Farm Bureau we are coordinating the Humboldt County Resource Lands Working Group. Planning Department staff project that the Planning Commission will be finished with their portion of the process by the end of the year and that the GPU will then move on to the Board of Supervisors. The Environmental Impact Report should also be released by the end of the year. For more information see the website at: <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/>

State Budget Items

The first version of the State budget that was sent to the Governor included \$10 million in THP fees translating to roughly \$50,000 per THP. The Buckeye weighed in on this issue voicing the concern that this action would have a severe financial impact on timberland owners. Thankfully, that fee was not included in the final budget. However, there is another fee in the State Responsibility Areas called a "fire prevention fee" of up to \$150 per structure. It is unclear how the term structure will be defined and whether this fee is "double" taxation to rural landowners who already pay into a fire protection district.

Save the Date for a Buckeye Mixer

The Buckeye is planning a mixer for Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Scotia Inn. In addition to having updates on timely issues the Film Commissioner Cassandra Hesseltine will also talk about her endeavor to connect with landowners for future projects (see related article).

Spotted Owl Survey Changes

This past year the United State Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) made changes to the Spotted Owl surveys protocols. The Barred Owl has been moving into Spotted Owl territory, making contact with Spotted Owls more difficult. Among other changes, the new protocol will require two years of surveys. The Buckeye weighed in on the difficulties this would present to landowners who have not harvested in quite some time due to the weak wood products market. The international sector of the market strengthening at the same

time that the new protocol was put in place may have prevented landowners from taking advantage of the opportunity to sell their logs this year. Representative Mike Thompson's office stepped in and helped figure out a transition period to alleviate this problem. The Buckeye is coordinating with other organizations to see if there are opportunities to address some of the concerns with the new protocol.

Opportunity for Landowners

The Film Commission has contacted The Buckeye in an effort to connect with landowners who might be interested in having their property used for various filming projects. The Film Commission is a nonprofit organization that is here to assist production companies while in Humboldt County.

When a film, television show, or print ad is on the hunt for a location, it is often the Commission who they call to find out about where best to film, how to get permits, and help for other filming needs.

The Commission never knows what production companies will need. It is always great for them to know of a variety of locations in Humboldt that are film friendly so when they receive a request for a location type they can quickly jump on the opportunity to connect the landowner to the production company

The Film Commission would love to connect with landowners that are serious about filming on their property. If you are interested and want to learn more please contact:

Cassandra Hesseltine
 Film Commissioner
 707/825-7600 office
 707/502-0018 cell
 1385 8th Street, Suite F
 Arcata, California 95521
www.filmhumboldt.org
filmhumboldt@gmail.com

What's The Buckeye Doing?

This is a question we hear from time to time. The answer is A LOT. However, with a half time Executive Director and volunteer Board of Directors there is seemingly no shortage of issues to track and provide input on for our membership. As a result, we have not produced as many newsletters as we would like. In an effort to get more information to the membership on a more frequent basis we are going to try to do this by utilizing e-mail updates. This should be easier and less costly than producing and sending out a paper newsletter, so this electronic process will allow us to send items out on a more frequent basis.

Please send an e-mail to buckeye@humboldt1.com with the words "Buckeye e-mail list" in the subject line and we will add you to the list.

In addition to the items discussed elsewhere in the newsletter, here are some other issues that The Buckeye is inputting on, tracking, or doing:

- Septic Tank regulations at the SWRCB
 - Dairy regulations at the NCRWQCB
 - Elk River TMDL
 - Mad River Watershed project
 - Booth at Redwood Region Logging Conference, Humboldt Made Fair, and Humboldt County Fair
 - Letter voicing opposition to State proposed THP fee
 - Letters to North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on timber waiver and other issues.
 - Letters to Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
 - Letters regarding the County Ag building use
 - Invited Dr. Frank Mitloehner as speaker for the Buckeye Annual Meeting. If you missed his presentation you can see a similar one online at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mitloehner-Lab-at-UC-Davis/213610515318936>
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Canoe Extravaganza 2011

The Second Canoe Extravaganza was auctioned off at the 2011 Annual Dinner. Ken and Jackie Fulgham with their granddaughter Nanea from Hawaii and friends Tom and Judy Osgood from Redding, joined fearless leader George Brightman and Executive Director Ruthann Schulte for the adventure on June 29th and 30th. Despite the questionable weather – especially for this time of year!—fun was had by all. Weather conditions actually held pretty well and all participants were good sports for the trip down the Eel River from Alderpoint to Fort Seward Ranch. Fred and Marnie Nunnemaker were wonderful hosts and fired up the Blender Blaster for Margaritas. In the meantime George was firing up the grill for one of the best New York strip steaks I've ever had.



The group enjoyed a restful evening, breakfast in the morning, and then was on their way. I did hear, however, that Nanea enjoyed the event so much she wanted to stay another day!



Win this Kayak



This kayak is a beautiful work of art AND functional sports equipment.

Handmade in Humboldt by Don Brown of Don Brown State Farm Insurance.

Raffle Tickets \$10 Each Available at

Fortuna ACE



Drawing to take place January 21, 2012 At the Buckeye Annual Dinner

This is fundraiser for The Buckeye



707-725-8847 ~ www.buckeyeconservancy.org

Kayak Donated by Don Brown

The Buckeye was the fortunate recipient of a generous donation of a beautiful handmade wooden kayak from Don Brown of Don Brown State Farm Insurance. The Board decided to use this opportunity as a fundraiser for The Buckeye. The winning raffle tickets will be chosen at the Annual Dinner on January 21, 2012. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Fortuna ACE Hardware or by contacting the Buckeye office at 707-725-8847 or buckeye@humboldt1.com.

The kayak is constructed of Western Red Cedar. The strips of Cedar are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and 20 feet long. "It's kind of like building a boat out of spaghetti," says Don. This boat took him about 225 hours to build, fiberglass, and finish. The boat was made in Don's shop using only hand tools.



Don Brown enjoying a spin in the "Cadillac" kayak.

Paddling this boat is like driving a Cadillac vs. a Subaru. The boat weighs only 39 pounds. This light weight boat easily slices through the water with each paddle stroke. The design of the boat makes it a perfect flat water river boat or the perfect Bay boat. The boat has a layer of fiberglass on both sides giving the boat it's waterproofing, and very durable strength.

Newsletter Ideas?

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article?

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter?

If so, please contact:

Ruthann at 725-8847 or

Buckeye@humboldt1.com



EST 2000

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