



A NOTICE OF INTENT TO FINISH OFF THE FOREST

With family members, I have stopped at the first bridge over the **Cottoneva Creek*** on my way via Highway One to the Mendocino Coast every month for at least 15 years. The Highway goes **up up up** 9 miles from Leggett to the top of the ridge that drains back into the South Fork. Once reached, the Highway extends another 9 miles, **plummeting down** into the valley of the Cottoneva which parallels the Pacific until it exits into it.

Before the bridge is a great place to rest. Me and my son, Gabe, always picked our way down to the bank of the running water, so beautiful and serene. I would smoke a doobie and he would sit on a convenient log and **take in the scene**. Gabe was Down syndrome and, in his twenties, not given to excessive conversation. In the last few years my partner Kathy would come with us to **enjoy the moment** and take photos of me and Gabe on the banks of the Cottoneva. She was happy for a break. The twisting ride, and my driving, made her seasick. She was glad for a place to pee, as well, usually on the other side of the road where a gated dirt road led to a "Hunting Preserve." I would on most occasions end the visit by walking to the bridge to stare down into the clear stream, murmuring to it as it was murmuring to me.

Gabe has died, and Kathy before him, but the spot is **more precious** than ever. I have often grieved for Gabe and Kathy here in this place where they seem to be uniquely present. Grief becomes "welcome" as a medium that brings them closer to me. Grief indeed seems more than **ever appropriate** to many facets of my experience as we come closer to the end of a world once so essential and so precious to us.

During my stop this June, although my praying has always been quite explicit in praise of the Cottoneva -- breaking into song, **avowals** of love and affirmation, pretty weird in the unlikely event you were listening -- yet this time I had the special sense that in particular Gabe's spirit was somehow **invested** here. I picked my way back up the slope to my car feeling spiritually possessed by, and in possession of, this place.

Well, after such a moment, I saw across the highway two sheets of "literature" pinned on the gate. Innocent of negative thoughts, no shit, with nothing but idle curiosity, I took a quick hike to the gate to read the message there. And there the adventure began:

Timber Harvest Plan 1-19-00083-MEN. It was The Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber, 583 acres of "timber" to be exact, mostly west of the Cottoneva on steep ridges over the Pacific. It stunned me. A Warrant of Death on this small watershed in which the Cottoneva set the southern boundary as it disappeared into the sea. It was just beyond the protection of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The Warrant was dated June 10, the very week, and the earliest date of approval was July 2. My stomach took me on a different ride than the exhilarating ride I just taken down into the Cottoneva Valley.

Recently I had a **communication** with a circle of ancient Redwoods, **standing among them** in someone's paid-for grove. Their beautiful **alienness** spoke to me of their possession of a world which trumped mine. I felt willing to release myself from any **narcissistic** and **exclusive** focus on *Humanity*. This Redwood world showed itself as almost another dimension and had an immediate effect on my experience of the forest along Highway One. Abruptly, I saw how **very young** these Redwood Trees were -- how this was a forest **not much older** than me perhaps. My Cottoneva forest diminished in stature for the next few trips until I recovered my appreciation. After all, here along the Cottoneva, the Redwoods were re-establishing themselves. I had a vision of a healing forest, **even now** living in the glory of its re-establishment.

Continues on Page 16



SEQUESTER CARBON
Delete the Rich

A British academic, Dario Kenner, has created the Polluter Elite database. It identifies the leadership of fossil fuel companies **directly** and accounts for **their role in climate** and environmental crises, and just how much they have to lose. Kenner said his goal for the database is to demonstrate how *"these people are blocking you and your grandchildren from having a future. ... Do they get to continue profiting and dominating our politics and our chances of survival, or do we stop them?"*

A study released by Oxfam found that the **richest 10 percent of people in the world are responsible for 50 percent of consumption-based carbon emissions, while the poorest 50 percent of people account for just 10 percent**. Kenner wanted to more deeply understand who precisely some of the worst offenders were. For that, he wanted a picture that included those individuals' **responsibility** for the production of fossil fuels, a figure he calls **investment emissions**. This excludes privately held firms like Koch Industries which have different regulatory reporting requirements.

Accounting for his \$145 million worth of shares in Exxon Mobil circa 2015, then-CEO Rex Tillerson was **responsible for 52,442 metric tons** over the same time period -- well over **3,200 times** that of the average American! Besides Tillerson, who's ranked third among energy CEOs, other heavy hitters include Chevron head John Watson, whose 0.11 percent share in the company accounts for **77,562 metric ton of CO2**. In the top slot is Glencore CEO Ivan Glasenberg, whose 8 percent of shares in the U.K.-based commodities trading firm is valued at around \$1.5 billion and a **whopping 2 million metric tons of CO2**. Kenner said *"What I've done is intentionally gone the next level down, from a faceless company to the individuals running it and to make more tangible who the people are that are really contributing to climate change through their decisions."* His main aim is compare them and their carbon footprints to ordinary people.

What's also key, he said, is to get a sense for just **how much political weight** these companies expend to keep the energy status quo going. It is well established that the top brass of the fossil fuel industry wields enormous political power, Kenner says, and his project builds off the already existing research on that relationship. As fossil fuel companies and their trade associations continue to cozy up to national delegations at U.N. climate talks in order to shape policy made there, the report should cast doubt on the idea that they're negotiating in good faith. *"We really need to destabilize these companies while simultaneously increasing renewable energy. They will keep on coming back and back like zombies to resist progress,"* Kenner said.

Continues on page 16

RAINBOW RIDGE CONTINUES:

A couple weeks before Humboldt Redwood Company began felling trees on Rainbow Ridge, in the Mattole watershed, a spotted owl nested in Unit 2 of the Long Ridge Cable Timber Harvest Plan.

July 4th a tree-sitter, Pasqual, nests in Unit 1 of the Long Ridge Cable THP to prevent the felling of Douglas fir trees and in solidarity with tree-sitter Rook.

Contact (707) 382-8005 (in-town support) or (707) 382-0260 (tree-sit)

check out @blockade.babes

For the Mattole! -Vervain

Why is it that Humboldt Redwood Company owned by the Fisher Family has the right to destroy the last unprotected old growth Doug Fir forest in Humboldt County? This is preposterous! It is common knowledge that a healthy forest is a diverse forest. As we speak roads are being cut through virgin forests. Ancient trees felled. Forest defenders arrested.

Humboldt Redwood Company is not logging sustainably. They are slashing and poisoning hardwood trees. This area should be protected! Not destroyed. Legal actions have been taken but the destruction continues.

Money drives this destruction, those that are most concerned are the ones without the capital to stop this. Is not this area special? I feel like it is one of the most unique ecosystems in the world. And here we are letting it be destroyed right before our very eyes.

Have we not learned from our previous actions? We logged nearly all the Redwoods that once lived in this area. We have tapped into and depleted so many of our ocean and river creatures. We have harvested and brought to near extinction many animals for their valuable hides. Our actions have changed the way our rivers flow and where the wildlife once roamed free.

Rainbow Ridge must be preserved. It is our duty, our responsibility to stop the destruction. Industry will kill our planet which will of course destroy us which I guess would be the best thing for the planet to heal. Instead we need to continue preserving our wild lands. It's all that we have left.

David Grant

Brazil:

Huge Rise in Amazon Destruction Under Bolsonaro

Deforestation in Brazil's portion of the Amazon rainforest rose more than 88% in June compared with the same month a year ago, the second consecutive month of rising forest destruction under the rightwing president Jair Bolsonaro. Deforestation in the world's largest tropical rainforest totaled 920 sq km (355 sq miles). In the first 11 months, deforestation has already reached 4,565 sq km (1,762 sq miles), a 15% increase over the same period in the previous year. The rainy season through April appeared to have held off a spike in deforestation that subsequently came with the dry season starting in May. Deforestation rose 34% in May compared with the same month a year ago.

Environmentalists have warned that Bolsonaro's strong support for development in the Amazon and criticism of the country's environmental enforcement agency for handing out too many fines would embolden loggers and ranchers seeking to profit from deforestation.

The surge in deforestation comes as Brazil faces more pressure to protect its environment under the terms of the free trade deal between the European Union and South American bloc Mercosur agreed to last week.

Paulo Adario, a Greenpeace forest strategist, said "all indications" were that deforestation will worsen under Bolsonaro, but he hoped news of a large increase would put pressure on the government to take action. "When they have the final numbers, if it is really a lot, this will be a nightmare for Bolsonaro," Adario said. "This is something that is really important from an international and Brazilian point of view because the Amazon is an icon."

independent.co.uk