

From: georje holper [girlgeorje@asis.com]
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To: Richardson, Michael
Subject: GPU/ TPZ's

Imagine this..... Barnum Timber owns approximately 71,000 acres of land in Humboldt County, much of it in the South Fork of the Eel River and the Mattole river. Two very important, very impaired, salmonid streams. Imagine the Sproul Creek neighborhood of Southern Humboldt with a few thousand new houses, and marijuana grow scenes. As my understanding goes, Barnum Timber could chop up their holdings into small 80 acre parcels and sell them off, probably to industrial marijuana grows. That is potentially 7,100 new marijuana grow scenes, houses, rampant new road building to these new subdivisions, and perhaps as many as 14,000 houses with conditional use permits. Though I suspect Barnum Timber is the main drive behind being allowed to subdivide timber lands, what if the Humboldt Redwood Company and Green Diamond Industries, the other large land holding timber companies, that combined own over 400,000 acres of Humboldt County, choose to sell off and subdivide their land? That would be 40,000 potential new marijuana grows, houses, thousands of miles of new road building etc.

According to the Ca. State Water-board, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, scientists and other agencies, the South Fork of the Eel River is already over allocated for water and severely impaired, as is the Mattole.

After talking to Estelle Fennel the other day she assured me she doesn't want Humboldt county looking like another Sonoma, Napa, or Santa Cruz county, but that is exactly what Humboldt County will eventually become if the large timber holdings are allowed to be subdivided.

Forests are a public trust, an asset, as is water and all the wildlife that dwells in a forest. Granted the big lumber companies have been poor land stewards in many cases but at least they are not sucking the watersheds dry. Small private landowners are quite often poor stewards too.

Logging can be done sustainably and perhaps we should consider acquiring all the privately held large tracts of timber land and start sustainable community forests. Once timber lands are subdivided into small 80 or 100 acre parcels there will be no going back and a valuable resource will be lost to us forever.

The subdivision of TPZ land will benefit a relatively small handful of people, realtors, contractors, subdividers and large Marijuana growers on a short term basis where as timber revenues can benefit the community for centuries.