



## COMMUNITIES FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

**Mission:** To realize the prompt restoration and recovery of the conifer forest in the aftermath of fire and other catastrophic events ensuring the presence and vitality of forest lands for future generations.

[www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org](http://www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org)

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Starting this month see the newsletter on the website [www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org](http://www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org) and please direct anyone you come in contact with to see it there if they are not receiving it via email.

### CHF Delegation Hot but Successful trip to DC in July

Communities for Healthy Forests visited 15+ congressional offices and met with key officials of the Department of Agriculture and Interior. Also the delegation met with the Office of Environmental Quality under the White House. Bruce Klein, Chairman, Lee Paterson, Jeannie Weakley, Doug Robertson and executive director, Sue Kupillas completed an ambitious schedule, with the objective of informing congressional offices about CHF, explaining the broad national and Oregon support for the project, and inquiring about possibility of administrative rule changes to expedite forest restoration.

The meeting with CEQ revealed that they were under the impression that Healthy Forest Restoration Act solved the problem. When we pointed out the limited success of restoration efforts on all the 2002 fires, and what was impeding progress, they were willing to listen. However, other offices indicated that CEQ might be part of the problem. With visits to Interior and Ag departments, we tried to more clearly define solutions. The meetings with the Department of Interior were particularly interesting. We were given some more creative ways to try to solve the problems we are seeing.

Notable was the fact that we met with many Members of Congress and even more notable was their interest in our organization and the timing of the proposed changes. Most recognize that the 2002 fire sites have limited restoration. Some are hesitant to jump into the political fray again, after fighting the battles over HFRA. However, some very significant players are showing support. The Senate offices visited were, Oregon Senators Smith and Wyden; Senators Craig (R) Id; Murray (D) Idaho; Representatives visited were: Walden, DeFazio and Blumenhauer from Oregon; Kildee(D) Michigan; Cannon(R) Utah; Peterson (R) PA; McMorris (R) WA; Cunningham (R) CA; Udall (D) New Mexico; Duncan (R) Tennessee and Herseth (D) SD. The group also met with others interested in the issue, including the American Farm Bureau Federation's Rick Krause. CHF goals are within the stated goals of Farm Bureau. There were other visits that were very productive. CHF believes we might have to send another delegation in the fall to follow up with our agenda.

New supporters of CHF include: Tillamook County, Klamath County in Oregon, and Trinity County Board of Supervisors in California.

Next month e-newsletter includes excerpts from testimony to the NEPA Task Force in Rancho Rio, New Mexico and some new information about Oregonians who support restoration in our forests.

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On July 30 the Medford Mail Tribune reported that Federal Magistrate, John Cooney Recommended dismissal of the appeals on the sale of dead trees in the Siskiyou National Forest, more commonly called the 2002 Biscuit Fire. So far only 67mmbf have been recovered, and after three years, most of the value of the remaining dead wood has diminished so recovery is doubtful. No old growth trees have been logged to date and none are purposed.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Sue Kupillas, Executive Director  
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