



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

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The newsletter can also be found on the website www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org so please direct anyone you come in contact with to see it there if they are not receiving it via email.

In November, four bills were introduced in Congress on Forest Recovery and Reforestation. I will attempt a brief summary of how the bills address CHF issue of restoration after a catastrophic event. This is just a snapshot. Full text can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov> . .

Greg Walden (R-OR) H.R.4200 priority lands: NFS and BLM lands affected by all catastrophic events; Excludes Wilderness and national monuments. 30 day timeline on pre-approved actions; partial or full NEPA required; public involvement required with shorter process; does not mandate tree removal, but allows it with guidelines; requires multiple species, no plantations; requires peer-reviewed research protocols, partnerships, experiments allowed. About 140 members of congress both D's & R's have signed as sponsors.

Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) S2079 priority lands: NFS and BLM and non-federal lands affected by catastrophic events; excludes wilderness and national monuments; timeline, 30 day timeline on pre-approved actions; partial or full NEPA required; public involvement required; does not mandate tree removal, but allows it with guidelines; requires peer-reviewed research protocols, partnerships, experiments allowed.

T. Udall (D-NM) H.R.3973 priority :limited Fed. Land CWPP communities for pilot only; Excludes Old Growth, LSR, road-less and wilderness; 60 day timeline then decision 30 days after public comment period; full NEPA on everything; public involvement, community collaboration, and public comment 30-45 days; full appeal process; remove only small diameter dead trees and natural regeneration. No research component.

Salazar/M.Udall (D-CO) amends HFRA priority, insect infestations on NFS and BLM lands; all exclusions apply; timelines, Gov. request for emergency, then within 1 year, no project deadlines; NEPA only on specific lands; no research component.

In October CHF filled two busses with 80 people on the tour of the Apple and Spring fire sites in Douglas County. This tour updated our information about limited recovery and restoration on federal forests.

CHF budget was supported by funding from Cow Creek Tribes, Unions, Counties, business' and individuals.

The Cow Creek Tribes, Chairman Sue Shaffer generously hosted the CHF Annual Meeting at tribal headquarters in Roseburg December 16. The meeting agenda included a report of achievements in 2005. Bruce Klein, Chairman talked about goals for 2006 as follows: Continue working for rule updating regarding restoration; Expand education to more counties and more states: Increase supporters to 3 million: Gain support from the Governor, state legislatures in Oregon and California: Maintain good contacts gained in 2005.

**Any questions or comments should be directed to
Sue Kupillas, Executive Director ask@opusnet.com**

The CHF Annual Report includes the following achievements:

Number of supporters has risen to 1,564,000 across the United States. The largest single support group is the Forest Products Industry National Labor-Management Committee that represents membership of approximately 1.5 million.

Other support groups include Forest Industry Association Council (140 State, Federal and local forestry associations); Labor, WCIW and MCIW; National Association of Forest Service Retirees and several electric utilities. At least seven counties, many cities, business and individuals make up the rest of the support group.

Over forty educational presentations were made in four states and Washington D.C., and numerous Chambers, Rotaries and Kiwanis clubs.

CHF testified at two congressional hearings on NEPA reform and forest restoration(HR4200 introduced Nov. 2 by Congressman Greg Walden).

We conducted a poll that had statewide coverage. The Davis, Hibbits, Midghall poll showed that 77% of Oregonians support forest restoration and 75% support changes in rules that would allow actions more quickly on forests that have been through catastrophic events.

CHF delegation went to Washington D. C. to talk to CEQ about administrative rule updates and to discuss restoration of forests with members of congress and with several interest groups.