

CSPRA

NEWSLETTER



June
1985

FIRE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Fire ecologists, managers and other experts on Coast Redwoods will meet in a second annual conference this November. The Central Coast Region's Resource Division will host the conference at the Regional Headquarters in Monterey.

At an organizational meeting sponsored by the National Park Service last year, experts from the private sector, academic institutions, and public agencies gathered to discuss interests they share in fire management of the Coastal Redwood ecosystems.

The emphasis of these meetings will be to organize research efforts, gather data on fire history, and organize a data base for the resource managers to utilize. The theme of this year's meeting will be to decide on consistent field monitoring techniques and reporting methodologies.

Facilitating this year's meeting will be the Central Coast Region's ecologists, Gary Strachan and Jason Greenlee. Presently, 28 participants are expected to attend from the National Park Service, California Department of Forestry, Department of Parks and Recreation, and private timber interests.

In organizing and sponsoring the conference, the Department of Parks and Recreation is taking on yet another professional role in the field of statewide natural resources management.

TAHOE LAND PURCHASES

The 1986 Federal acquisition plan for environmentally sensitive lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin, mandated by the Santini-Burton Act of 1980, is underway, according to Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Zane G. Smith, Jr. of the USDA Forest Service.

The Forest Service established this year's acquisition list of 818 parcels involving 1,729 acres after consultation with Tahoe Basin property owners and state, regional, and local agencies, Smith said. He said that offers will start being made to land owners in early 1986 following appraisals to determine fair market value.

Environmentally sensitive properties which are eligible for acquisition that are not listed for purchase in 1986 will be considered for acquisition in subsequent years, Smith said.

Since the program began, offers have been made on 800 parcels of land involving about 7,600 acres with a value of \$27.6 million. To date offers have been accepted on 623 parcels, totaling 6,240 acres and valued at \$21.5 million.

DPR STAFF SHORTAGES

Early this year CSPRA undertook an effort to gather information about the effects of staff shortages on the operation of the State Park System. A letter was sent to each member requesting information; requests were printed in the February and March newsletters and DPR officials were asked for information. No information was made available from the Department and only 20 responses were received from members.

The most significant and detailed responses from members described staffing problems in the Anza-Borrego, Diablo, Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Cascade districts.

The CSPRA Board evaluated the responses and decided that, although there is widespread

concern among members about staff shortages, we had insufficient detail to build a case for significant increases in DPR's staffing levels.

The Board was considering the possibility of funding a campaign to bring public pressure to bear on the administration and the legislature to fund more staff in the fiscal 85/86 budget. CSPRA had received a proposal from a communications consulting firm to undertake such a campaign.

The CSPRA Board will be keeping this proposal on hold and consider funding such a campaign next year if more information becomes available or the staffing shortage situation becomes worse. If you have an interest in this matter, please contact a CSPRA Board member.

KILLER CAPTURED FAHEY REWARD STILL INTACT!

by John Mott

More than a year ago Shawn Fahey, a Big Basin Redwoods State Park Aid, was murdered in a remote area just north of Big Sur. On April 11, 1985, sheriff officers arrested Nathan W. Seaman, 21, charging him with Fahey's kidnap and murder.

Seaman, a former U.C. Santa Cruz student, was arrested as he entered an ice cream store at Ghirardelli Square where he worked.

The warrant for Seaman's arrest was issued as a result of painstaking cloth-fiber analysis by FBI criminalists. Although Seaman had been the prime suspect early in the case, physical evidence linking him to the crime had only been recently verified.

Last March the CSPRA Board had decided to transform the \$2,800 reward fund into a \$2,800 memorial fund. Fortunately details of the transfer had not been finalized. In early April, CSPRA learned that the arrest of Shawn's killer was eminent. Contrary to the March, 1985 Newsletter, the CSPRA Shawn Fahey Reward Fund is still intact and in effect.

The fund will remain until we are certain that monies will not be needed to encourage more witnesses to come forth. Should the reward fund not be needed for prosecution, CSPRA will, as stated in the March 1985 Newsletter, donate the reward money to Sempervirens Fund for a memorial grove and ongoing Historic Building Preservation Fund at Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Shawn Fahey, an art history graduate from U.C. Santa Cruz, was the daughter of William and Elaine Fahey (Klamath District). Shawn disappeared Nov. 26, 1983 after leaving work at Big Basin. Her abandoned car was found six days later in Watsonville, Ca. Hikers found her uniform-clad body on March 10, 1984 in isolated Palo Colorado Canyon, south of Carmel. She appeared to have been strangled at that location.

You may still donate to the Shawn Fahey Reward Fund by sending your tax deductible check to:

Shawn Fahey Reward Fund
c/o CSPRA
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

CSPRA Newsletter

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REDWOODS NEED WATERING

Want to help a redwood forest grow? Area residents are invited to join two sponsors, Sempervirens Fund and the Trail Information and Volunteer Center, for tree watering activities in Big Basin Redwoods State Park on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each summer, Sempervirens Fund, the Los Altos-based non-profit land conservation organization, and the Trail Information and Volunteer Center, the Palo Alto-based trails clearing-house, sponsor a series of tree waterings. Volunteers water hundreds of young trees planted during winter as part of the Santa Cruz Mountains reforestation program.

Planted in compacted picnic and campground areas, young redwoods, huckleberry shrubs and ferns must be watered throughout their first two summers in order to survive.

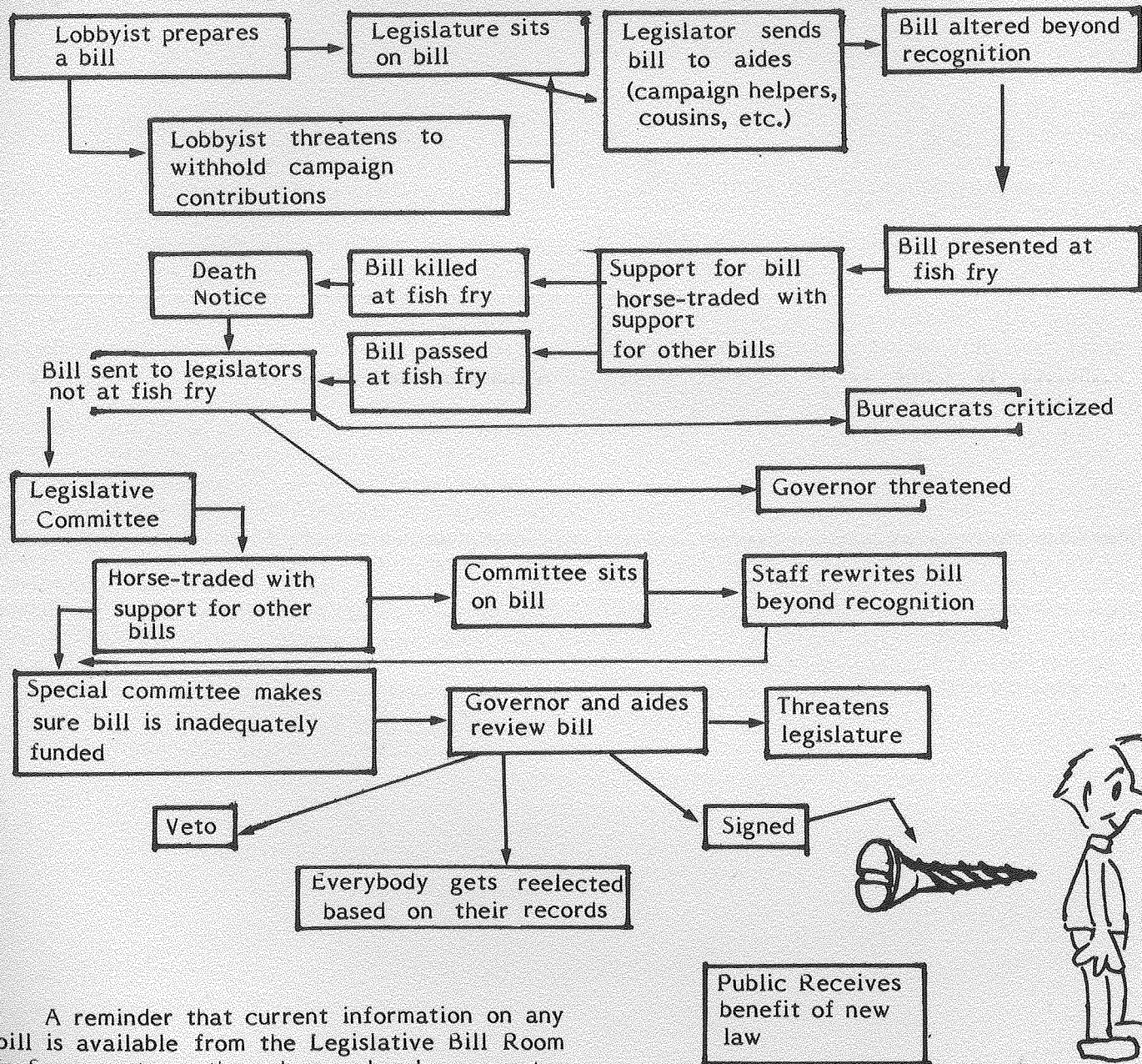
Future waterings will take place July 6 and 27, August 10 and 24, and September 7 and 14 in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. All begin in mid-morning, which leaves afternoons for hiking in the beautiful area.

Those interested may contact the Trail Information and Volunteer Center at (415) 968-7065 for more information.

LEGISLATIVE MONITOR

by Mike Whitehead

With deadlines approaching for current bills to become active, many bills featured in past columns have been ammended, altered or have been effectively removed from contention. In the near future, this column will feature articles on the legislative process, both within DPR and without. This month I have included one version of the legislative process, not necessarily the official one. You be the judge...



A reminder that current information on any bill is available from the Legislative Bill Room in Sacramento or through your local representative. All choices of subjects, errors in interpretation and comments are the author's responsibility.

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