EPIC uses science, law, and public education to secure the viability of species, ecosystems, and natural processes in the wildest big corner of the West Coast. In 2007, our 30th year, EPIC continues to deliver significant conservation outcomes, maintaining an indispensable position in the community as advocate and educator on critical environmental issues.

Highlights

Industrial Forestry Reform

EPIC seeks to protect old-growth forests and endangered species habitat on private industrial timberlands, and to improve forestry practices and policies. We monitor timber harvest plans and review regulatory and policy changes from by the California Board of Forestry and Fish and Game Commission.

Key achievements in 2007 include:

• Following Pacific Lumber Company’s Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing in January 2007, EPIC served as the initial chair of the unsecured creditors’ committee. Working on this committee, EPIC has worked to bring historically adversarial stakeholders together to support a sustainable management framework for the Pacific Lumber timberlands that can support both human and natural communities on the North Coast.

• In the face of dramatic declines in coho and other salmon returns, EPIC and the Sierra Club filed suit in December 2007 challenging new policies from the Departments of Forestry and Fish and Game which fail to protect coho from logging impacts.

Public Lands

EPIC monitors policies, plans, and actions on or affecting public lands in our region. In addition to more than five million acres on the four national forests of northwestern California, EPIC monitors other federal, state, and county lands with important public values.

Successes in 2007 included:

• Winning our challenge of the East Fork Timber Sale, halting logging on the most remote and sensitive areas of this 2,000 acre project in the South Fork Trinity River watershed on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Through our appeals and advocacy, we’ve made significant progress in convincing the Forest Service to modify the proposed Browns Fuels Treatment project, east of Weaverville on the Shasta-Trinity NF, to protect big trees and bar new roadbuilding. We’re hopeful that the project will be managed by Trinity County Resource Conservation District, which has already done a good job managing area BLM land as the Weaverville Community Forest.

• In part to further encourage the Forest Service to focus its fuel reduction projects on areas around human communities, EPIC has helped to convene a collaborative group centered in Hayfork, California – the Trinity Forest Restoration Collaborative (TFRC).

• EPIC is also working to end grazing and off-road vehicle abuses on both federal and state lands.

(over, please)
Biodiversity

The goal of this program is to protect imperiled, native species of the North Coast by establishing and maintaining Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings and improving the implementation and interpretation of the regulations governing species and habitat protection.

Successes in 2007 include:

- EPIC and our allies won the first battle in an effort to force the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Siskiyou Mountain and Scott Bar salamanders by listing these rare, old-forest dependent creatures under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). In a parallel action, we’re working to ensure that the California Department of Fish and Game does not succeed in its efforts to deprive the salamanders of protection under the state ESA.

- Working closely with allied groups in both the Pacific Northwest and California, EPIC helped to call attention to the bogus Draft Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl, which the Bush administration cooked up to loosen restrictions on logging in the owl’s old forest habitat.

- EPIC and seven other groups from the Pacific Northwest successfully intervened in a timber industry lawsuit in a Washington DC district court, which attempted to force delisting of the Marbled murrelet under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The California population of Marbled murrelets is particularly imperiled, having declined by nearly 70% in the last decade, and is likely to be extinct within 50 years per a 2005 peer-reviewed status review.

- We have also been plaintiffs in a successful series of challenges to attempts by the Forest Service to change the rules governing wildlife and resource protections on national forests, and have worked with many other groups across the region to help craft proposed legislation that would permanently protect old forests from northern California to the Canadian border.

Financial Statement

Thank You to Our Foundation Supporters in 2007 (over $5K)
Cereus Fund
Scott Raymond Evans Foundation
Environment Now
Klamath Environmental Law Foundation
Klein Foundation
Patagonia
Wild Woods Foundation

*Certified that the statements below were prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation.
-Bobbie Todd, Treasurer