



WHAT IT'S / LIKE CONTINUED

shortly after that I dropped out of high school. Eventually everyone was evicted and my mom was on the run. By the end of summer 2009 both of my parents were being held captive in the California prison system for simple drug crimes while I was just barely an adult. This created issues that I had trouble dealing with. Prison in my eyes did not help, the same issues still exist and even though addiction hurts the user more than anyone else I still wouldn't say I am completely sympathetic with the situation. The resulting prison sentences have put a lot of strain between my parents and me and the rest of our family because of their forced isolation we could not come together and heal. I think the response by law enforcement was particularly ineffective and was heavy handed resulting in a lot of extra stress being thrown at an already stressful situation. It should be realized that this is only my account and that these methods of policing negatively effect families.

Editors Note: For further reading why imprisonment and police harassment not only don't help oppressed people they make things worse: DR. Gabor Mate In The Realm Of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction illustrated that trauma, poverty and police harassment create the conditions for addiction to take hold of people families and communities.

"Treat the reason people turn to substances to feel okay with themselves and their world and you'll find a lot of addicts can stop using on their own." - Dr. Gabor

Inspiration From Common Ground

Scott Crow, the author of Black Windmills, is an inspiring person, who I heard speak at the San Francisco Anarchist Book Fair. I caught the part where he talked about surviving repression. He gave inspiring words on the fear, stress, and doubt activists face under the threat of state violence. One of thing that stuck with me that Scott said was something like "stick with your comrades, those you love, and your principles and you will get through it." That meant so much to

EARTH FIRST VICTORY LEADS TO NEW CAMPAIGN

Earth First! Humboldt kicks off direct action campaign against Sierra Pacific Industries

Just months after bottom-lining a four-year tree sit that ended with a deal that will protect two thousand acres of sensitive habitat area, Earth First! Humboldt is setting its sights on Sierra Pacific Industries. Archie Aldis "Red" Emmerson, owner of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), is the largest private landowner in California and third largest in the United States. Most of that land is in northern Californian forests, forests that SPI has been clear-cutting at astonishing rates. Many of SPI's timber harvest plans (THPs) involve cutting stands of old growth.

One such THP, #1-12-032, which was recently approved by the California Department of Forestry, is located on the North Fork of the Mattole and Bear River watershed region. The plan here, which is not unusual for SPI, involves clear cutting hundreds of acres of forest which is comprised primarily of second growth Douglas Fir, Oaks and Madrone, but also contains residual old growth Douglas Fir, something that Earth First! Humboldt has documented during their scouting missions to the area.

In response to SPI's destructive plan, Earth First! Humboldt hosted an action camp in early August. During this time, dozens of activists from around the country took part in non-violent direct action workshops, climbing skill-shares, back woods blockade trainings as well as banner makings sessions.

Then, on Monday, August 6th, two banners were hung off of different overpasses Highway 101 in the Humboldt Bay Area. They both read, "Sierra Pacific logs old growth". During this action, one activist was handcuffed and detained, the banner taken down by a CHP Officer. The other banner remained untouched for the remainder of the day. Later that same Monday, 35 protesters gathered outside SPI's Arcata mill, which just happens to be SPI's first and oldest mill and is also the location in which many old growth trees are milled into lumber to be sold and shipped globally. A small group headed to the mills office to see about talking with a public relations representative, but was turned away by the company who immediately called the cops. The rest of the group stayed outside and blocked log trucks from entering the mill with banners and signs that read things like "Stop old growth logging", "SPI logs old growth, certified by SFI" and "SFI is a scam".

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certifies SPI's logging practices sustainable. This industry-regulated certifier, originally created by the American Pulp & Paper Association, approves practices such as clear cutting and old growth logging. As well as highlighting SPI's destructive practices, Earth First! Humboldt also wants to expose the "green washing" tactics that SFI utilizes to sell the public its clients products.

Earth First! Humboldt has five specific demands of SPI which include:

1. SPI commits to preserving individual old-growth trees (over 150 years old) and old-growth forests.
 2. SPI stops clear-cutting.
 3. SPI engages in forestry practices that are both ecologically and economically sustainable. This includes selective logging that removes wood from the forest at a slower rate than which it grows.
 4. Complete transparency on all of their logging plans with accurate and detailed descriptions of the forest they intend to log
 5. SPI terminates their connection with the misleading "certifier" Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Earth First! is an international movement dedicated to using direct action to protect threatened ecosystems from runaway resource extraction? To learn more about Earth First! Humboldt, check out <http://efhumboldt.org/>