

PUBLIC STATEMENT
 REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK HEARINGS
 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR & INSUBAR AFFAIRS

April 18, 1968
 Eureka, California

by

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Chairman Taylor, Chairman Aspinall and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Rudolf W. Becking, Professor of Forestry residing at Arcata. I already have submitted testimony to the Committee and sincerely hope that these materials become part of your hearing records. I wish to summarize my statement and afford you afterwards the opportunity to question me about my statement.

I am a professional forester and ecologist who has studied the coastal redwoods for the past seven years. I have proposed the Regional Redwood Park Plan and presented in my testimony a Compromise Proposal of this Plan. This park plan includes many unique features: It preserves the best available virgin redwood country in the Redwood Creek area, particularly the Emerald Mile, Emerald Creek and Rocky Canyon with primeval forests on both slopes. It preserves the world tallest trees of redwood (367 ft), Douglas fir (285 ft), Grand fir (250 ft), Western Hemlock (217 ft), and Red Alder (126 ft). It preserves the only remaining large contiguous block of primeval timber. It provides for recreational areas of intensive use and developments outside superlative groves. It especially emphasizes water-oriented recreational developments: the salt-water lagoons, the ocean beach front, and the creation of artificial inland lakes in the so-called TriLake Proposal. This TriLake Proposal as a potential water resource and recreational area has received wide support from the City Councils of Eureka and Arcata and many local citizens. It provides for protection of the lower Klamath River, our foremost stream to sustain our ocean fishing industry. It provides for adequate in lieu taxes, and more importantly for permanent rebate taxes. It does not liquidate any timber company by drastic land acquisitions. It provides for private participation in developing the recreational potential of the area creating thus a new basic industry and livelihood for many local citizens. It proposes no acquisition of State park lands except by donation. It puts the Northern Redwood Purchase Unit under the Sustained Yield Act by which private companies would have cutting privileges under approved management by the U.S. Forest Service in perpetuity. It proposes the creation of a national conference center in the TriLake area. It proposes the creation of a Regional Redwood Recreation and Park Authority with powers of zoning and multiple use development of all the regional resources.

During the field trips you have repeatedly seen and heard of logging effects in the form of blowdown. You have seen the Tallest Tree Unit with its dying tops, and the impossibility to preserve this unit because of the logging on adjacent slopes. This brings out clearly that in order to save redwoods the total environment must be considered. A truly magnificent national park must not have long meandering boundaries. It must incorporate a massive block of the best available redwood land fitted to drainage pattern and topography.

May I seriously recommend the preservation of the best areas in the Emerald Mile, Emerald Creek, and Rocky Canyon, the coastal lagoons, the lower Klamath River, and the development of the TriLake Proposal to its fullest recreational potential. The Regional Authority with shared responsibilities by federal, state and local governments and citizen representation can best guide the overall regional economic develop-

ment towards a prosperous future. Past economic studies have indicated positive benefits of the creation of an adequate Redwood National Park. If such economic studies would include intensive water-oriented recreational developments, the economic advantages become even more pronounced. In fact, such a national park would mean an economic boon to our sagging economies.

I am prepared to answer any questions you may have to the best of my ability. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.