Sierra Club, Mendocino Group
P.O. Box 522
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July 19, 2015

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Division Chief of Natural Resources, Jay Chamberlin
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Dear State Parks & Recreation Staff,

We would like to call your attention to a threat of loss of part of Russian Gulch State Park in Mendocino County. In the past, a portion of the State Park was identified as a potential for trade to the County to facilitate a waste transfer station elsewhere. This proposal is now part of the Central Coast Transfer Station Draft EIR by the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority.
(See http://www.mendorecycle.org/, right column near the bottom)

The Sierra Club, Mendocino Group is strongly opposed to the loss of State Park property.

The proposal would basically give the 12 acres of Russian Gulch SP to Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). The JDSF would then give 17 acres to the County for a waste transfer station, and the County would give an easement on the old landfill and transfer station to the State Parks. State Parks would get only an option to buy the old dump in exchange for 12 acres of second-growth Redwoods, Douglas fir, White fir, and Western Hemlock. These 1365 trees, now protected by the State Parks, would become harvestable by JDSF. We believe that this is important habitat for the marbled murrelet and the northern spotted owl.

In addition, the 12-acre parcel is part of the larger "Mushroom Corners" district which has renown as an important research and gathering area for mushrooms, with up to 100 identified species, and the academic "type locality" for 17 species of fungi. (see attached Thiers 1271, *Mycologia*, 2003)

Besides the academic value, the area provides recreational values for mushroom gatherers, hikers, and bicyclists. The 12-acre parcel lies east of Road 409 and is contiguous with Jackson Demonstration State Forest. It contains parking, trailheads and trails for a network of hiking and mountain bike trails extending 7.3 miles within the Park and over 100 miles of trails in JDSF; including the historic Little Lake-Sherwood Hiking and Equestrian Trail 0.8 miles away. This is heavily used section of Russian Gulch SP, second only to the oceanfront camps in local and visitor usage.

We feel that the loss of the trees' protection, likelihood of harvesting with concomitant closure of trails, environmental impacts, and impacts to recreation would be a huge loss to the State Parks and to the local citizenry. This loss is not even addressed in the Draft EIR, although it is mentioned as essential to the Transfer Station Project. The old Caspar landfill and transfer station property has had toxicity issues in the past, and this was also not evaluated in the DEIR.

Allowing the 12-acre parcel to be traded away would set a bad precedent of using protected habitat for non-conservation projects. We encourage State Parks to look closely at the proposed trade and request a comprehensive evaluation of the 12-acre parcel and the old landfill and transfer station before agreeing to the trade or conservation easement.

Sincerely,

Rixanne Wehren

Rixanne Wehren
Chair, Coastal Committee

Mary Walsh
Group Chair

Linda Perkins
Chair, Conservation Committee
Mendocino Group
Sierra Club

Cc:
Loren Rex, Supervisor, Russian Gulch SP

Rene Pasquinelli, Sr. Resource Scientist, Russian Gulch SP
Gordon Leppig, CDF&W
Lori Hubbard, CNPS
Nancy Morin, chair, CNPS
Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Woods
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Fort Bragg City Council

Mycologia, 95(6), 2003, pp. 1271–1275.

Harry D. Thiers, 1919–2000

Barbara M. Thiers

William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458-5126

Roy E. Halling[1]

Institute of Systematic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458-5126

FIG. 1. Harry D. Thiers

Harry Delbert Thiers was born Jan. 22, 1919, in Fort McKavett, Texas, on the sparsely populated Edwards Plateau of western Texas, and died Aug. 8, 2000, in southwestern Ohio. He was the third son of Harry and Sudie Merck Thiers, both from families of European origin who had lived in the region for several generations. Thiers' early years were spent on several ranches in the area where his father worked. He received his early education in rural, often one-room, schools. Because Thiers showed academic promise, the family moved to Junction, Texas, so that he could attend high school, an educational opportunity unavailable to many ranch children of the area. Thiers repaid his family for their sacrifices on his behalf by acquitting himself well in high school and gained acceptance to Schreiner Institute, a two-year military college in Kerrville, Texas.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Schreiner Institute, Thiers entered the University of Texas. It was during his undergraduate years at Austin that he was introduced to mycology and served as a student assistant mycologist with Dr. Marie B. Morrow (1939–1941). The United States became involved in World War II as Thiers was completing his bachelor's degree, and after graduation he enlisted in the Navy. He served from 1942 to 1945 in the hospital unit of a troop transport ship. He returned to the University of Texas in 1945 to enter a master's degree program under the direction of Dr. Morrow. His thesis was on airborne plant pathogenic fungi (Thiers and Morrow 1948, Morrow and Thiers 1949).

Thiers obtained a teaching position at Texas A&M University in College Station upon completion of his master's degree in 1947. In addition to teaching, he worked as a plant pathologist, providing advice to local farmers. This extension work gave him the opportunity to familiarize himself with the vegetation of eastern Texas, which is very different from that of the western part of the state because of greater rainfall. Mushrooms, rarely conspicuous in western Texas, were abundant and diverse in the wet summers of eastern Texas, and Thiers began to collect and study them. He quickly became fascinated by these organisms and found that little work had been published on the agarics of the southeastern United States. He recognized not only that he had found a great research opportunity but also that he needed more specialized training to pursue it. He wrote to Dr. Alexander H. Smith at the University of Michigan about the possibility of studying with him. Smith responded immediately by inviting Thiers to join him in Wyo-

Accepted for publication January 31, 2001.

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ming for fieldwork in the Medicine Bows during the upcoming summer.

Although the summer of 1950 was not noteworthy for the abundance of agarics in the Rocky Mountains, it was a turning point in Thiers' career. He found much in common with Smith: Both men came from rural backgrounds and shared an active curiosity about natural history in general and an enjoyment of the physical and intellectual challenges of collecting, identifying and classifying fungi. As a result of this mutually satisfying encounter, Thiers made arrangements to pursue a doctorate at the University of Michigan under Smith's direction. Because he could take a leave of absence from Texas A&M for no more than a year, Thiers spent only that year in residence at Ann Arbor, during which time he completed all course work and other requirements for the doctorate, except for the dissertation. His dissertation topic was the Agaricaceae of the pine belt and adjacent areas in eastern Texas. After the initial year at Michigan, he conducted fieldwork in Texas during the academic year and spent summers at the Michigan Biological Station, where he served as Smith's teaching assistant and recorded the results of his research (Thiers 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959a, b). While at the biological station in 1952, he met Ellen Jeanette Birkett (a science teacher at Schimer College, Mount Carroll, Illinois), whom he married in 1953. Back in College Station in 1955, a daughter, Barbara Mary, was born.

In 1959, Thiers accepted a teaching position at San Francisco State College in California. The lure of California was primarily the poor knowledge of the agarics there. In the history of the state, there had never been a resident agaricologist, but the little that had been published on the agarics of the state indicated that its mycota was potentially as distinctive as its vascular plant flora.

San Francisco State College (now University) was primarily a teacher's college in the late 1950s, and at that time most of the professors did not have active research programs. However, Thiers was encouraged in his desire to build a research program, herbarium and curriculum in cryptogamic botany by forward-looking department head Dr. John Hensill. During years of normal rainfall, it is possible to collect fungi in some area of California from September through May or early June, and thus the academic year was the prime time for research. Because an unrelentingly heavy teaching load and the distance to prime collecting areas from the campus precluded conducting research during work hours, Thiers devoted as many weekends as possible to collecting. Early morning and late evenings during the week were devoted to "getting those pesky things identified," he often said. During the dry California summers, Thiers turned his attention to recording the year's research and conducting fieldwork in other parts of the country.

During each field season in California, Thiers searched for new collecting areas and he returned to favorite sites as well. Two of his favorite sites stand out for their distinctive and plentiful mycota. Jackson State Forest is located approximately 240 miles north of San Francisco, just east of the coastal town of Mendocino. The forest, dominated by *Abies grandis*, *Lithocarpus densifolia*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Sequoia sempervirens* and *Tsuga heterophylla*, is typical for the north-central coastal areas of California. Thiers first visited the area in 1960, and he continued to collect there until 1989. Most notable were particular stops along Mendocino County roads 408 and 409 that he or his students dubbed "*Amanita* Avenue," "*Aleuria* Glen," "*Suillus* Park," "*Cortinarius* Canyon," and at the junction of those roads, "Mushroom Corners." In a year of ample rainfall, Thiers usually would visit these sites 5–10 times between October and January. Under optimal conditions, a weekend trip could yield 50–100 different species of fleshy fungi. Jackson State Forest is the type locality for 17 species of fungi described by Thiers and his students.

The second collecting area is an entirely different habitat near Yuba Pass on California 49 in Sierra County, at an elevation of 7000 feet. The forest there is a mixture of *Abies magnifica*, *Pinus murrayana*, *P. monticola*, *P. jeffreyi*, *P. ponderosa*, *Populus tremuloides*, and at the highest points, *Tsuga mertensiana*. Thiers became acquainted with the area because it was near the Sierra Nevada Field Station (formerly known as Camp Leonard), the field campus of San Francisco State University. He first visited the site in 1961. The Yuba Pass region has two brief agaric seasons, one extending 2–4 weeks from late May to early June (as the snow melts) and the other from mid- to late September into early October (until snowfall). The spring mycota is rich with "snow bank" fungi (i.e., those that fruit exclusively in or adjacent to melting snow) and species that, although related to epigeous agarics, have become at least partially hypogeous and have lost the ability to forcibly discharge their spores. This phenomenon, suspected to be a response to unfavorable climatic conditions, has been described by Thiers as the "secotioid syndrome" and was the subject of his presidential address to the Mycological Society of America (Thiers 1984a).

The fall mycota at Yuba Pass is very different from the spring aspect, although it still is characterized by a large number of hypogeous fungi. Boletes, not a conspicuous part of the spring fungi at Yuba Pass, are diverse and abundant in the fall. The rich mixture of ectomycorrhizal associates, together with favorable

terrain (flat or gently sloping, with an open understory), are factors that make this site especially favorable for these fungi.

The continual monitoring of Mendocino and Sierra counties by Thiers and his students has made these sites living classrooms for students of mycology. Since the early 1980s, mycology courses at San Francisco State University and the University of California at Berkeley and at Davis have met for a late autumn field trip to Jackson State Forest as an introduction to the fleshy fungus mycota of northern California. In 1982, Thiers initiated a weeklong field course at the Sierra Nevada Field Station, which has provided an opportunity for mycologists from throughout North America, as well as students and amateurs, to experience this rich and distinctive mycota.

The training of students was one of Thiers' great joys. During his 30 years on the faculty of San Francisco State, he supervised 36 master's degree theses, all of which contributed in some way to the documentation of the cryptogamic flora of California. A festschrift compiled by Thiers' students was published to mark his retirement from teaching in January 1989. The volume (Mycotaxon 31:1–276. 1989) contains, in addition to research articles, reminiscences by his students who share their experiences with Thiers and give the flavor of his teaching methods. The volume also includes a list of master's degree theses and an index to the type specimens of fungi on deposit at San Francisco State University at the time.

All of Thiers' research and teaching activities have contributed to the enhancement of the herbarium that began with a few herbarium cases in his office in the early 1960s. His concern and dedication to that collection was evident when he took the type specimens home for protection during the student riots at San Francisco State in the mid-1960s. Although the development and maintenance of an herbarium is time consuming, and the space required is large, Thiers always had given this work priority. He believed that in a group of organisms as poorly documented in the scientific literature as the Agaricales, properly named and curated specimens were essential reference tools for teaching and research. Although fungi always have been the emphasis at the San Francisco State herbarium, Thiers actively collected other groups of terrestrial cryptogams as well. Together with his students, he built an herbarium that today consists of well over 100 000 specimens of fungi, lichens and bryophytes.

In 1978, Thiers embarked on the production of an agaric flora of California. The goal of this multi-authored, multivolume work was to include descriptions along with color illustrations of all taxa. The loose-leaf format of the work was conceived in response to the peculiarities of the agaric life cycle. Many agarics do not produce basidiocarps on a regular basis, and thus photographs cannot be made at will. The loose-leaf format allows illustrations to be incorporated as they become available. Eleven volumes of the flora have been published by Mad River Press in Arcata, California.

Soon after the completion of his doctorate, the Boletaceae became Thiers' focus research group. In a conversation with Alex Smith, Thiers lamented that he had no group to call his own, while fellow classmates at Ann Arbor such as Howard Bigelow had *Clitocybe* and Orson Miller had the Gomphidiaceae; he wanted his own group. Smith suggested that he work on boletes because no one else was working with them in western North America. His first postdoctoral research project was a survey of the boletes of the Gulf Coast region of the United States, which resulted in a revision of the Strobilomycetaceae for the region (Thiers 1963). He later collaborated with Alex Smith on two major bolete projects: *A Contribution toward a Monograph of the North American species of* Suillus (Smith and Thiers 1964) and the monumental *Boletes of Michigan* (Smith and Thiers 1971). Thiers later brought together 15 years of his painstaking work on the boletes of California in his book, *California Mushrooms: A Field Guide to the Boletes* (Thiers 1975), which is out of print but available on the Internet. Of the 85 species included in the book, almost half were unknown to science before Thiers began collecting in California. Boletes have been the primary focus of most of his research outside California. In the mid 1970s, Thiers spent two summers collecting in the mountains of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, which resulted in a review of the boletes of the southwestern United States (Thiers 1976b), and he spent sabbaticals in Europe (1973) and in Australia and New Zealand (1981) gathering comparative data on boletes.

The contributions that Harry D. Thiers has made to mycology have been well recognized by his colleagues. He was an invited participant to international symposia: *Evolution in the Higher Basidiomycetes* (Knoxville, Tennessee) and *Species Concepts in the Hymenomycetes* (Lausanne, Switzerland), where he presented his ideas on bolete evolution, classification and species concepts (Thiers 1971, 1976a). In 1982, the Mycological Society of America recognized his educational skills by awarding him the William H. Weston teaching award (1982) and his contributions to mycology with the Distinguished Mycologist award (1989). The collection that Thiers developed at San Francisco State was named The Harry D. Thiers Herbarium (1989) in his honor. After getting his final

contribution to the agaric flora of California well under control (*Russula*) (Thiers 1997, 2000), he and Ellen moved to Peoria, Illinois (Ellen's childhood home). While there, he served as a consultant to the U.S.D.A. Northern Regional Research Laboratory. From 1995 to1998, Thiers made general collections of fungi in the central Midwest that were screened for biologically active compounds. This project resulted in the discovery of a new mycophilic species of *Pencillium*, *P. thiersii*, that produces two novel antiinsectan diterpenoids, thiersinines A and B, exhibiting potent activity against the fall armyworm (Li et al 2002). Until the very end of his life, Harry Thiers maintained his lively interest in the natural world around him, and in his many students and colleagues. He considered himself a most fortunate man because he was able to earn a living doing exactly what he enjoyed the most.

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Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority

A joint powers public agency

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July 20, 2015

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RE: Response to Letter of July 19, 2015 from Sierra Club Mendocino Group Concerning Russian Gulch State Park

Dear State Parks Managers:

Rixanne Wehren, identifying herself as a representative of the Sierra Club, objects in her letter to the transfer of a 12.6-acre piece of Russian Gulch State Park to the Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

This transfer was conceived in 2009 as a way to compensate Jackson State Demonstration Forest for the loss of 17 acres that will be given to the County of Mendocino as a site for a new solid waste transfer station. To compensate Russian Gulch State Park, the Department of Parks & Recreation would receive a conservation easement controlling future uses of the entire 61-acre Caspar (closed) Landfill property of the County of Mendocino and City of Fort Bragg, and an option to acquire 35 acres of that site for $1.

This 3-way property transfer is specifically described and authorized under Public Resources Code Section 4659 which was enacted under AB 384 in 2011 under the sponsorship of

Assemblymember Wes Chesbro. The bill was endorsed by the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Council and the State Board of Forestry. It is State Law.

The idea of transferring the 12.6 acre piece of Russian Gulch State Park to Jackson Demonstration State Forest came from Marilyn Murphy, then Superintendent of the Mendocino District of State Parks. She pointed out that this piece was isolated from the remainder of Russian Gulch State Parks by County Road 409 and the public wasn't aware that it was part of the state park. Furthermore, she said that it had no formal trails or other recreational features and contributed nothing to Russian Gulch State Park's mission. Superintendent Murphy believed the piece belonged more logically to the State Forest which surrounds it on three sides.

Superintendent Murphy expressed enthusiasm at the possibility of closure of the existing self-haul disposal operations at the Caspar Landfill property, which adjoins Russian Gulch State Park to the north, and which have been the subject of complaints by the Department of Parks & Recreation in past years. The 3-way property transfer would make this happen, and to Superintendent Murphy, it would be a big win for Russian Gulch State Park. This point of view was shared by the Department of Parks & Recreation which did not oppose AB 384.

No disturbance of the 12.6-acre piece is presently contemplated by Jackson Demonstration State Forest. It will become part of the Caspar Creek Experimental Watershed Study Area, which is a research project for evaluating the effects of timber management on streamflow, sedimentation and erosion. The study area was established in 1961 and will continue at least until 2099 pursuant to a memorandum with the U.S. Forest Service.

If, at some future date, any harvest of the 2nd-growth redwoods were to be proposed on these 12.6 acres, it would be subject to a Timber Harvest Plan and otherwise be subject to the strict environmental oversight that governs all activities in Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

If the County-City transfer station project becomes operational, the County will record a restrictive covenant in favor of the Department of Parks and Recreation on the 61-acre Caspar Landfill site along with an option for the Department to acquire the 35 western-most acres of that site for $1. The Department may approve the form of the restrictive covenant pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4659.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike Sweeney
General Manager, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority
Solid Waste Director, County of Mendocino

enclosed: Letter from Rixanne Wehren, July 19, 2015

cc: Board of Supervisors of County of Mendocino
City Council of City of Fort Bragg
Loren Rex, Supervisor, Russian Gulch State Park

July 18, 2015

Supervisors and Councilmen,

The following exchange between the Sierra Club and the MSWMA Manager Mike Sweeney sheds some light on the state of transparent governance of the Caspar Joint Powers Agreement in regards to the Central Coast Transfer Station. It is our hope that you will read and consider these questions when evaluating the EIR.

This document combines the requests for documents and replies on June 22nd and 23rd, 2015 (Original request and reply documents are enclosed at the end also.)

REQUESTS are in black, REPLIES are in blue.

From: Mary Walsh
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 4:51 PM
To: Mike Sweeney
Subject: Fwd: documents requested by Sierra Club

from the Fort Bragg Advocate.

Regarding the transfer station controversy, MSWMA Manager Sweeney can prove that his "facts" in the 5/28/15 Community Forum are accurate by posting the documents he refers to onto the MSWMA website.

We'd like to see

1. the appraisal for the Russian Gulch State Parks Road 409 property,

Mr. Sweeney replies:

> Dear Ms. Walsh:
> In response to your email:
> 1. I am unaware of any appraisal of "the Russian Gulch State Parks Road 409 property."

2. the appraisal for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest property,

2. We don't possess an electronic copy of this appraisal. We can provide a hard copy of the approximately 200 page document for a copying charge of 10-cents per page plus shipping cost, if any. It is available for public inspection at our office at 3200 Taylor Drive Ukiah by appointment.

3. the appraisal and toxics reports for the Caspar landfill and transfer station,

3. See #2 above regarding appraisal of the Caspar Landfill property. Groundwater monitoring reports for the Caspar Landfill property are held by the Mendocino County Department of Transportation.

4. the 2012 appraisal on asset values and exchange values,

4. See #2 above.

5. a rehabilitation plan and funding for the old Caspar transfer station property,

5. None exists to my knowledge.

6. the botanical report for the proposed Caspar pygmy forest preserve,

6. See attached PDF.

((Vegetation Communities letter_118_500_45v2.pdf enclosed – ed.)

7. an MOU with State Parks that they will accept a conservation easement on the Casper TS land and the dollar value of that easement,

7. There is no MOU.

8. a detailed report on the "huge savings" by transportation efficiency (with actual numbers, not included in the EIR),

8. See Table 3.7-1 of the draft EIR.

9. a report detailing why no environmentally less destructive alternative parcel was included in the EIR.

9. See Chapter 4 of the draft EIR.
Mike Sweeney

Without these documents neither the public nor the Sierra Club can evaluate his claims.

We are particularly concerned about three items: the loss of pygmy forest on Jackson Demonstration State Forest, the loss of protected area and trees on Russian Gulch State Park, and the rehabilitation of the Caspar Transfer Station land.

The Board of Supervisors and the City Council are responsible for reviewing the EIR and the ecological and economic basis of the swap agreement with State Parks and Jackson State Forest. More information is certainly needed to come to a reasonable decision. Please request the appraisals and evaluations that are necessary.

Sincerely,

Rixanne Wehren
Coastal Committee Chair
Mary Walsh
Mendocino Group Chair
Linda Perkins
Conservation Committee Chair
Sierra Club

SPEAKER CARD

☒ **I would like to speak to the Council on Agenda Item No.** 15-282

☒ **I would like to speak to the Council under "Public Comments on Non-Agenda, Consent Calendar or Closed Session Items"**

☐ **I do not wish to speak but want to submit the following comments to the Council**

NAME: Randall Dalton Secty. Pygmy Forest Protection League, too much to read

COMMENTS (ONLY IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO SPEAK): Please - Protect the Pygmy Forest, 1,000,000 YR old SOILS - 'PODSOL' - studied by Hanz Jenny, U.C. Berkeley, Soils Scientist for a lifetime (50+ years). Unique, rare, irreplaceable, NO permeability, runoff 100% impacts inevitable Wildlife Studies - Birds, flora, fauna, wildlife - Cats - Mountain Lion Bears must be done * Unbuildable *

Significant Environment Impacts will occur

streams run-off more time needed to study

(This information is retained as a Public Record, and as such, may be shared with others upon request. Please do not provide any information that you do not wish to be disclosed to others.)

ANY PERSON DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Thank you for attending this Fort Bragg City Council meeting. Your interest and participation is appreciated.

Those individuals who wish to address the Council on non-agenda subjects or agenda subjects scheduled as public hearings or discussions shall fill out speaker cards available at the meeting. Pursuant to Council procedures, the Mayor will recognize any member of the public who wishes to speak.

The Guidelines for the Conduct of the City Council meetings provide, in part:

- All speakers before the City Council shall approach the public microphone and give their name prior to addressing the Council.
- Questions to staff from the public and staff response should be directed through the Mayor.
- No clapping, cheering, cat-calling or other disruptive audience participation shall be permitted.
- The audience is requested to be seated in the Council Chambers. Standing or obstructing of aisles is prohibited.

Each individual who wishes to address the Council shall limit their remarks to the time limitations established by the Mayor. It is not necessary to address the Council when called upon by the Mayor if someone else has already made a similar comment or statement. Please limit your comments so that everyone has a chance to address the Council.

Laws require more time for public comment & perusal. 72 hours prior posting of agenda & 7 days - publishing of reports - too much and too quickly - and appendices - is not adequate to Read + understand in the amount of time given

Thank you.