

Klamath Forest Alliance Archive Collection at HSU
Historical/Biographical Information
written by Felice Pace in late 2014

KFA's origins are in the "Back-to-the-Land" movement and the "Herbicide Wars" of the late 1970's and early 1980s. After the Vietnam War the Forest Service began using helicopters to aerially spray toxic herbicides (Agent Orange and its component herbicides) on its clearcuts and plantations. Local Native Americans (mostly Karuk but also Hoopa and Yurok individuals) opposed the spraying as did newer residents who had come to the Klamath Mountains in the 1970s as part of the Back-to-the-Land Movement.

Many in the Back-to-the-Land community and local natives lived below the national forest lands and took drinking water from creeks and springs flowing from national forest lands. They believed they were getting poisoned. Mavis McCovey - a native health worker - documented miscarriages and birth defects believed to be the result of drinking herbicide laced water drawn from the creeks. The Karuk Tribe was not yet formally recognized or organized but there were local Karuk councils, native health programs and Tri-County (later Northern California) Indian Development Council (a native social services NGO) which were involved somewhat.

The Back-to-the-Land movement included hippies - some with organizing skills. They organized Salmon River Concerned Citizens (SRCC) and Klamath River Concerned Citizens (KRCC) to carry on the battle against spraying. SRCC became lead plaintiff in the court challenge that ended the aerial spraying of toxic herbicides on California National Forests for over 25 years. Organizations from other parts of rural California joined the challenge.

In 1981 a group of mostly Back-to-the-Land folks in the Scott River Valley formed Marble Mountain Audubon (MMA) - a chapter of National Audubon. One of the founders, Felice Pace, a Back-to-the-Land person, became the group's conservation chairperson and by 1983 he filed MMA's first timber sale appeal which the group won. This may have been the first timber sale appeals in California filed and won by a small grassroots environmental organization. Administrative appeal of FS logging plans by citizens and grassroots groups had begun only a few years before in Southern Oregon but was soon to become commonplace not just along the West Coast but nation-wide.

In 1987, SRCC, KRCC and MMA joined together to form the Klamath Forest Task Force in order to influence the Forest and Resource Management Plan then being developed by the Forest Service for the Klamath National Forest. These groups were opposed to clearcutting and herbicide spraying and supported Native American efforts to control and use ceremonial sites on the national forests and to access acorns and other traditional foods located on national forest land.

Views of leaders like Petey Brucker had been strongly influenced not just by herbicide spraying and its connection to clearcutting and extractive ideologies but also because of their experience with the 1977 Hog Fire. This fire and subsequent salvage logging convinced Back-to-the-Land folks and some locals that the Forest Service was destroying the forest and setting up catastrophic wildfires. Meanwhile MMA had become concerned

about Old Growth liquidation logging and its impacts on wildlife including the Northern Spotted owl which the Forest Service had designated its “indicator species” for Old Growth forest ecosystems on the “westside” of Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

The goal of the Task Force was to get a Forest Plan that eschewed extractive ideology and industrial forest practices (clearcutting, herbicide spraying, road-building, destructive salvage logging, etc) which members saw being practiced on the national forests. These volunteers wanted a Forest Plan and forest management that would implement the National Forest Management Act, i.e. science based management that preserved multiple values and multiple uses. Above all else Task Force activists wanted to end the logging of Old Growth and the logging of green trees as “salvage” after fires.

Then the summer of 1987 brought massive wildfires. By the time fall snow and rain put the fires out, over 260,000 acres had burned on the Klamath National Forest. Task Force leaders Felice Pace, Petey Brucker, David Jacques, Donna Brucker, Susan and Malcolm Terence and others decided we needed to increase our effort - including raising funds so that some folks could get paid for working substantial hours (no one was full time in the beginning) to stop the FS from doing road building and massive logging of dead and live Old Growth trees in the name of post-fire “recovery”.

At the same time, some of the same activists (Petey Brucker) and others (Kenoli Oliari) became involved in an effort to stop the FS from evicting “Back-to-the-Land” folks and others including old timers who were living on national forest mining claims. These folks reached the same conclusion - they needed funding so some members could afford to work to stop the evictions and use the federal Townsite Act to make those national forest mining claims which formed the backbone of Salmon River communities into private land. The forest and the community defense activists decided to form Klamath Forest Alliance in order to receive grants to pay activists doing the work.

KFA was incorporated, applied for and received an \$8,000 grant - \$4,000 for forest work and \$4,000 for work on the mining claim evictions. Felice Pace did the forest work; Kenoli Oliari did the mining claim work; Petey Brucker did both but as a volunteer - he did not need to be paid. Others including Susan Terence, David Jacques and Donna Brucker also worked on forest management and to prevent destructive salvage logging or at least render the salvage sales less destructive (for example by getting the FS not to log green trees as fire-killed salvage).

KFA’s work to reign in post fire salvage logging led to several timber sale appeals. One of those appeals resulted in one of the first attempts by the Forest Service to use mediation to settle a timber sale appeal. The Mediation Action Group Agreement kept the FS from salvage logging in roadless lands within the Salmon River watershed and from salvage logging in the riparian areas along streams. In return KFA agreed not to appeal salvage timber sales outside roadless areas and riparian zones.

Around this time, Felice read *The Fragmented Forest: Island Biogeography Theory and the Preservation of Biotic Diversity* by biologist Larry D. Harris (University of Chicago Press, 1984). The book was a critique of FS Northern Spotted Owl management policies and practices from the standpoint of Island Biogeography and Conservation Biology. Felice contacted Professor Harris and asked for help applying Conservation Biology to

stop Old Growth logging. This led to a strong connection with one of Professor Harris' students who was now also a professor - Reed Noss. Noss had recently come to Oregon State University and he became an advisor to KFA. This was the beginning of bringing the new science of Conservation Biology into efforts to protect Ancient Forests. It also marked the beginning of KFA's strategy of teaming up with scientists to challenge FS management direction and actions.

A Forest Service proposal to build roads and salvage log the Grider Creek Roadless Area in the wake of the 1987 fires led to the lawsuit known as Marble Mountain Audubon v Rice. The lawsuit was rooted in the National Forest Management Act's biodiversity provision; it was the first court precedent defining FS obligations to preserve biodiversity and remains one of only a handful of successful lawsuits based on NFMA's biodiversity provisions. Felice wrote "The Grider Story"¹ about how the first biodiversity court precedent came about as a means to inspire others to become forest activists; the article was published in the first issue of Wild Earth Journal.

Work on the Grider lawsuit (MMA v Rice) and other proposed post-fire salvage logging resulted in Felice Pace and Petey Brucker studying wildfire science and the actual wildfires which burned in the Klamath Mountains. Following what had already become a KFA tradition, Petey and Felice walked portions of all the larger wildfires. They learned that natural wildfires did not destroy but rather tended to renew the forest. They also learned that Forest Service-ordered fire suppression actions were intentionally burned hotter than the natural wildfires and that, in the rugged Klamath Mountains of Northwest California and Southwest Oregon, these discretionary fire suppression actions were not only destructive but also spectacularly ineffective at actually controlling or suppressing wildfire. Since at least 1987 and likely earlier, FS firefighting operations have not been able to put out any of the larger wildfires which have burned in the Klamath Mountains. Rather it has been the coming of fall rain and snow which put the larger fires out.

Felice, Petey and other KFA folks also learned about fire in these mountains from members of the Karuk Tribe. Felice had worked for and with several Northern California tribes and a native NGO before KFA's founding. Petey, Felice and other KFA folks began working closely with Karuk leaders on fisheries issues. KFA learned that - prior to the coming of European miners and settlers - Karuk People used fire to manage vegetation in order to enhance foods, basket material and for other reasons. The natives specialized in cool fall and winter burns until forced by the FS to stop burning.

These Karuks showed us Tanoak stands that had once been kept clear with fire for easy acorn collection but which now were full of conifers that had over-topped the oaks and were slowly choking them out of the stand. This, our Karuk mentors told us, was because native burning had been excluded, suppressed and eliminated.

Recognizing that fire had been woefully mismanaged by the Forest Service (FS) and that often-ineffective discretionary, fire suppression actions were unnecessarily damaging streams and watersheds and had likely become (along with grazing) the #1 activity

¹ "The Grider Creek Story: Biodiversity & Biological Corridors in the Klamath Mountains" by Felice Pace in *Wild Earth* vol. 1, no. 1 (journal): <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/wild-earth-vol-1-no-1>. A scanned copy is part of the archive; see Selected Writings.

degrading wilderness values, KFA became engaged in efforts to change FS fire suppression policies. Led by Conservation biologist and KFA supporter Carlos Carroll,

KFA organized the first Klamath Fire Symposium in 1997. The Symposium brought together top FS and university fire researchers, FS fire managers, tribal cultural fire specialists and forest activists to learn from each other and to form alliances to foster a better understanding of fire in the Klamath Mountains and to advance the needed reform of fire suppression policies.

The Klamath Fire Symposium still takes place every three years; it is now organized by the Mid-Klamath Watershed Center and continues to be a place where fire researchers, FS managers, restorationists and forest activists develop shared understandings of fire behavior in the Klamath Mountains, native burning practices, fire risk reduction principles and practices.

Felice later delivered a policy paper on the need for reform of US Fire Suppression Policies at a major fire conference in Seattle Washington.² KFA activists continue to work on fire policy. The organization now supports members of forest communities and tribal efforts to reign in misguided fire suppression policies and practices and to allow natural wildfires and prescribed fires, i.e. those fires intentionally set by humans, to play a larger role in forest management and restoration. The recent work of Luke Ruediger and other KFA activists to publicize misguided and damaging fire suppression actions and KFA's participation in the Klamath Restoration Partnership are two of the ways KFA is carrying this work forward.

By the latter part of the 1980s, controversy over FS management of Old Growth and the Northern Spotted owl was heating up. Because the FS said it did not know where the Old Growth was located on Northwest and Northern California "westside" National Forests, National Audubon began an Old Growth mapping project using volunteers. Marble Mountain Audubon took on mapping the Klamath National Forest. Petey Brucker and Felice Pace spent many volunteer hours doing this mapping work which used over 90 FS timber type transparencies overlaid on USGS quad maps to identify and map polygons of forest types from clearcuts through Old Growth.

Felice used these maps to produce the first composite map of Old Growth on an entire national forest and took that map to Washington DC where Brock Evans of National Audubon took Felice and the map directly into Congressional offices.³

The forest maps showing Old Growth, younger natural forests and clearcuts/tree plantations made it possible to see the corridors of older forest habitat which remained when the FS fragmented the forests on either side. The FS goal was to "regulate" all national forests outside wilderness. "Regulating" the forest meant converting slow-growing Old Growth to younger stands of "thrifty" fast-growing trees. Using the maps

² The policy paper is unpublished. However a scanned copy is part of the archive; see Selected Writings.

³ A copy of the composite Old Growth map is included in the archive.

and applying the principles of Conservation Biology, Felice's created the Klamath Corridors Proposal which was later published as a chapter in the book *Landscape Linkages and Biodiversity*, edited by Wendy Hudson for Defenders of Wildlife and Island Press.⁴

Felice also collaborated with the Northcoast Environmental Center's Tim McKay on a more ambitious proposal to link Northwest California Wilderness Areas in order to create a very large core reserve. That proposal was presented at the University of California's Symposium on Biodiversity of Northwestern California held in Santa Rosa, California, October 28-30, 1991. The reserve proposal was published in the *Proceedings of the Symposium*.⁵

During the last years of the 1980s the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) was being created. The idea was to link up "westside" grassroots forest defense groups from Washington, Oregon and Northwest California with each other and with regional and national environmental organizations. The goal was to preserve all remaining "westside" Old Growth via legislation banning logging and road building within stands of ancient trees.

Felice Pace participated in the organizing meetings and began going to Washington DC on a regular basis to "educate" lawmakers about the need to preserve Ancient Forest ecosystems. In DC Felice also would "lobby" national environmental groups on behalf of utilizing the new science of conservation biology to inform work to preserve Old Growth ecosystems.

Felice's belief that we should ground our work to preserve forest ecosystems in the best available science in general and in the science of Conservation Biology in particular was not initially popular with most AFA folks who were focused on protecting Ancient Forests as places which embodied aesthetic, recreational and spiritual values. However, while some AFA leaders remained skeptical, Felice along with Reed Noss and others convinced more and more forest activists to link up with scientists and to use Conservation Biology principles and methods to fight Old Growth logging and to inform proposals to protect and preserve old forests and their ecosystems.

Felice was among those who promoted opening a second "front" in the battle over the fate of "westside" national forests. A series of meetings with fisheries biologists and forest activists facilitated by Andy Kerr of Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC) focused on what to do about declining salmon runs and led to the first petition to list Coho salmon coast-wide. At the last of these meetings, Felice made the motion to proceed with what had become an obvious course, i.e. to petition for a coast-wide listing of Coho Salmon.

The Coho petition led to the decision by NMFS to do a coast-wide status review of all Pacific Salmonids. This in turn led to multiple ESA listings and provided motivation for including an Aquatic Conservation Strategy within the regional "westside" forest plan

⁴ A copy of the book chapter is included within the archive in Selected Writings.

⁵ "New Perspectives on Conservation and Preservation in the Klamath-Siskiyou Region" in **Proceedings of the Symposium on Biodiversity of Northwestern California**, Richard Harris, Don Erman and Hanna Kerner, editors, Wildland resource Center, University of California, Report 29, December 1992. A copy is in Selected Publications which is part of the archive.

that was eventually adopted. Pacific Salmon ESA listings also led to the coast-wide “Restoration Initiatives” described below.

Felice Pace had become a “captain” within the AFA and was eventually selected to dialogue with President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at the Clinton Administration’s high profile Forest Conference in Portland. Felice represented the Northwest California environmental community. The Clinton Forest Conference was held in April 1993.

From before President Clinton was elected, the Ancient Forest Alliance had been working with sympathetic members of Congress toward Congressional legislation which would permanently protect all remaining Ancient Forests within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz had agreed to sponsor the legislation. Brock Evans, one of the Ancient Forest Alliance’s main organizers and at the time VP for Conservation at National Audubon, took on the task of drafting legislation we would propose to Mr. Jontz and other congressional environmental champions.

Drafting the legislation would be no small task. There were 30 or more independent grassroots organizations in the Ancient Forest Alliance - each fiercely independent and each with ideas about what was needed to protect not only the Old Growth stands but also the Old Growth ecosystems those stands supported. Protection for key salmon streams was a subject under discussion as well.

Brock Evans created a draft and sent it to all AFA member groups for review and comment. The comments rolled in and all were shared with all those involved. Brock digested the information, there were conference calls to discuss how to proceed and Brock created draft #2. This went on for something like 30 drafts before we had achieved consensus on the specific legislation we wanted Jim Jontz and our other champions to carry in Congress.

This was done before the days of widespread e-mail. Drafts of the legislation were broadcast faxed to all AFA member groups as were all comments made on each draft. The process was exhausting and took months to complete. Nevertheless Brock and the rest persevered. Jim Jontz introduced legislation to protect the remaining “westside” ancient forests on February 6, 1991.

The legislation got as far as markup in the full Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives. An environmental champion - George Miller of California - chaired the Committee. Miller believed he had the votes to get the legislation out of Committee but as the markup progressed it became evident that he did not have the votes. Speaker of the House Tom Foley - a friend of the timber industry from eastern Washington State - undermined the majority George Miller had built. The Committee was adjourned without marking up the Ancient Forest protection bill.

A week or two later, California leaders of the Ancient Forest Movement were called down to meet with George Miller at his home district office in the Bay Area. Seated around a long conference table Felice listened to George Miller inform the collected activists that there would not be legislation designating permanent, wilderness-like

reserves to protect the Ancient Forests. The activists were shocked and dumbfounded; soon they were depressed.

The Clinton Forest Conference led to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) - a science based management plan for forests within the range of the Northern Spotted owl. The NFP cut “westside” logging by about 80% and, because the Aquatic Conservation Strategy was part of the Plan, promised riparian protection and road decommissioning in order to restore salmonids on national forest watersheds. While some Ancient Forest activists were (and some remain) disappointed that NFP reserves were not (like wilderness) totally off limits to logging, the ascendancy of science in general and Conservation Biology in particular as a driver of forest management was in line with KFA positions.

When KFA and a host of other grassroots Forest Watch groups emerged within rural, westside forest communities, they had little expectation that they would be able to stop the logging juggernaut supported by the timber industry and almost every western member of Congress. The activists knew they had to try to stop the destruction but their expectation was that, perhaps, they could save a few places, a few Old Growth trees and maybe even slow down the juggernaut. With the NFP KFA and its allies succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

At the Clinton Forest Conference Felice was on the “solutions” panel and subsequently had good access to those formulating government policy on “westside” Old Growth. He used the access, among other things, to promote the idea that the federal government could mitigate the economic impacts of preserving national forest Old Growth by putting loggers to work rehabilitating the damage to the environment which industrial logging had caused. Loggers could find meaningful employment restoring forest and stream habitat. This idea became the Clinton Administration’s “Jobs in the Woods” program and helped introduce the concept of the “restoration economy.” KFA was a major promoter of the “Jobs in the Woods” policy.

Soon after the Northwest Forest Conference, Bill Clinton nominated FS biologist Jack Ward Thomas to head the Forest Service. Until then the Forest Service chief had always been a forester; Republicans and timber industry-backed Democrats in Congress balked at the idea of a non-forester becoming Forest Service chief. They blocked the nomination, refusing for months to approve it. Then, suddenly, the opposition became silent and on December 1, 1993 the nomination was quickly approved and Thomas became FS Chief.

One of Thomas’ first acts as Chief was to abolish the Timber Theft Task Force - an independent FS law enforcement team which had been established to investigate and prosecute the theft of national forest timber by the timber companies which purchased Forest Service timber sales. The Task Force had been successful in prosecuting a major timber theft case in Oregon and that fact was widely reported in the media. This prompted Felice to submit a Freedom of Information Act request for information on the theft of national forest timber in California.

The information KFA received in response to this request indicated that at the time Jack Ward Thomas abolished the Task Force the US Attorney in California had a massive timber theft case nearly ready for filing. While the name of the timber company to be prosecuted had been redacted throughout the documents, the redaction had been poorly done. These materials are in the archive and from them one can discover which major California timber company had engaged in systematic theft of national forest timber. That information was never reported in the media and has never become public.

Did the sudden evaporation of opposition to the Jack Ward Thomas appointment have anything to do with Thomas' first act as Chief - the abolition of the Timber Theft task Force? Was there a quid pro quo deal by which Thomas became chief and California's largest timber corporation escaped prosecution for timber theft? We may never know for sure.

Not wanting to be left out of the Ancient Forest Movement, forest activists in California organized the California Ancient Forest Alliance (CAFA). The main focus was to extend Old Growth protection to California national forests in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Modoc Plateau and Southern California, i.e. to national forests which are not home to the Northern Spotted owl. Many of the forests were, however, home to a close relative - the California Spotted owl.

Felice was deeply involved in CAFA - traveling 5 hours each way to attend Saturday CAFA meetings once every 4 to 6 weeks in Davis, California. CAFA gave rise, among other things, to a coalition effort to pass what became a spate of wilderness bills for individual California Congressional Districts. KFA provided room and board, office space and support for employees of the California Wilderness Coalition who mapped and "ground truthed" roadless areas in preparation for new wilderness bills.

Like other wilderness designation efforts of this period (1990s), the California effort was funded largely by the Pew Charitable Trust. Felice was on the California Wilderness Campaign's steering committee but he came into conflict with some of the other leaders over the role of Pew in controlling strategy for securing new wilderness designations. Felice resigned from the steering committee and later published an article in Counterpunch critical of the Pew Foundation's behind the scenes control of the wilderness movement.⁶

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"How the Pew Charitable Trust is Smothering the Grassroots Environmental Movement," Felice Pace. in Counterpunch on-line magazine. October 9-11, 2004. Available at this link: <http://www.counterpunch.org/2004/10/09/how-the-pew-charitable-trust-is-smothering-the-grassroots-environmental-movement/>

At the same time KFA was becoming deeply involved in efforts to save the Ancient Forests it was constantly challenging timber sales on the Klamath National Forest which targeted Old Growth. At that time almost every timber sale targeted old Growth; KFA had to perform triage, letting some timber sales proceed while challenging others via appeals and litigation.

At this time KFA also become involved in efforts to restore Klamath River Fisheries. The 1986 Klamath Act was federal legislation establishing a 20-year program which aimed to better manage and restore Klamath River Basin salmonids. The Act established an interagency/tribal/citizen fisheries restoration program and a Federal-State-Private Task Force to oversee development and implementation of salmon restoration. A separate Klamath Management Council was established to make recommendations on how to allocate the allowable salmon take among commercial, sports and tribal fisherpersons. Both the Task Force and the Council were chartered as federal advisory committees.

Environmental organizations were not given seats on the committees. However, Petey Brucker and Felice Pace participated in meetings and deliberations of the Klamath Task Force and Klamath Council all through the 20-year process. They became something akin to unofficial members of the Restoration Task Force.

As they became experts on why Klamath Salmon and Steelhead had declined, Petey and Felice moved in different ways to organize for salmon protection and restoration. Petey created "Salmon Ed" (Salmon Education) to take on the salmon poaching issue through public education. Once the poachers (mainly Back-to-the-Land folks and Indigenous natives) understood the plight of the salmon, they stopped poaching and even began turning in other poachers.

Salmon Ed lead to the formation of the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) in 1992 with Petey Brucker as its first Executive Director. Not to be confused with Salmon River Concerned Citizens, SRRC's mission was restoration. Whereas KFA would not accept funding from government entities lest it become compromised, SRRC was set up to go after federal, state and private funding for fish and watershed restoration, water quality and fisheries monitoring and public education focused on the need for salmon restoration.

Petey Brucker stayed involved in KFA but the bulk of his time now went to SRRC work. Felice Pace was motivated to work on different approaches to salmon restoration focused on protecting salmon via the Endangered Species Act. The coast-wide Coho petition discussed above is an example of how KFA sought to use the ESA to protect and restore salmon and the ecosystems on which salmon depend.

As KFA became more prominent within the forest protection movement, it was able to secure increasing support from private foundations and individual donors and this allowed it to take on more paid staff as well as to sponsor internships and after-school jobs for high school students. Petey Brucker went to work as KFA's Forest Watch

Coordinator. Interns came initially from Antioch College and later from Stanford and other colleges and universities.

During the 1990s KFA staff and volunteers (especially Petey Brucker) walked every timber sale documenting when large Old Growth trees were marked for cutting. During this period and subsequently up until today, KFA is well-known as a group that reviews logging and other FS management proposals on-the-ground. Many Forest Watch organizations typically engage in paper reviews of logging projects and rarely get on the ground; KFA prided itself on “walking” every timber sale.

Another post-fire salvage logging proposal led to one of the most prominent and significant campaigns KFA has undertaken. After a wildfire in 1994 the FS proposed to log the Dillon Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area contains a site most sacred to traditional Karuk and Yurok folks. KFA made common cause with local native leaders to oppose the timber sale. While KFA and its allies won concessions on roadless, riparian and Old Growth logging, the timber sale went forward under the infamous “Salvage Rider”. Calls from KFA and native leaders for direct action attracted the attention of folks affiliated with the Earth First! Movement. During the logging the “Dillon Defenders” “locked down” on log haul roads disrupting the operations. KFA had no formal connection with EF! but Petey Brucker and others KFA folks supported those doing direct action to halt the logging.

During this period Felice Pace continued going to Washington DC on a regular basis. American Forests had been set up as the voice of the forest activist grassroots in DC and Felice supported and worked closely with American Forests. During this period Felice organized 2 coast-wide “Restoration Initiatives” for and with American Forests. The initiatives were successful in securing appropriations for salmon restoration on salmon streams within the national forests. This helped advance the “restoration economy” and the concept that those whose work had destroyed the forest could be alternatively employed rehabilitating logging damaged watersheds.

During early winter in 1997, Northwest California sustained a large, multi-day storm event rated as a (25-35 year return interval storm). Over 300 road sites “blew out” on the Klamath National Forest some with catastrophic impacts to the streams below. Using the Emergency Assistance for Federal Roads (ERFO) program, the Forest Service moved to rebuild all those roads in the same manner as the roads that failed. That included rebuilding roads on steep slopes prone to landsliding - an invitation for repeated road failure and sediment delivery to streams. Furthermore, the road rebuilding was to be “categorically excluded” from NEPA review. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy’s call for road decommissioning was also to be ignored.

KFA secured legal representation from Earthjustice Seattle and filed a lawsuit challenging the rebuilding of logging roads in habitat for ESA-listed Coho salmon. We won and in the course set another precedent: No longer would storm damaged logging roads be automatically put back in the same condition as they were before they failed - often with catastrophic consequences for streams. Instead, the roads would be considered for decommissioning and, where they were reconstructed, would be rebuilt with larger (100 year storm) culverts and other salmon-friendly features like out-sloped roadbeds to

prevent unnatural water concentration which leads to landslides. Felice published an article on the lawsuit in the Road RIReporter newsletter.⁷

KFA's advocacy for salmon and the Klamath River expanded in 1997 into the Oregon portion of the Klamath River Basin. Felice Pace and ONRC's Andy Kerr organized the Klamath Basin Coalition to reform management of Klamath River water by the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) which, while operating the Klamath Irrigation Project, regularly dewatered Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges as well as regularly limiting flows in the Klamath River. Refuges and River were sacrificed whenever the water supply was short in order to provide full irrigation deliveries even during droughts.

KFA's River Program and other members of the Klamath Basin Coalition eventually challenged the first Biological Opinion produced by the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning the impact of the BOR's Klamath Irrigation Project on ESA-listed Coho salmon. The challenge was successful in 2002 and became a factor convincing PacifiCorp to negotiate a deal for removal of four of the five dams in the corporations Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

In 2002 Felice Pace stepped down as KFA Executive Director for personal reasons. He remained within the KFA Core Group (comprised of volunteer activists, staff and board members) working on Klamath and Scott River issues after first going on a four month sabbatical. He also took a full time job with the Yurok Tribe as Social Services Director. During this transition period, younger activists came onto staff to coordinate Forest Watch work, Petey Brucker stepped up to coordinate KFA's River program and volunteer Kyle Haines took on private industrial logging. Always and intentionally less than \$100,000, the KFA budget shrank and for a while it was questionable whether the organization would survive.

In 2004 KFA began exposing boondoggles in the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Klamath EQIP Program. Congress had appropriate \$50 million dollars in the 2002 Farm Bill to reduce agricultural water use in the Klamath River Basin. In spite of legislation blocking disclosure of individual farms and projects receiving the funding, Felice Pace was able to discover that many agricultural operators were using the funding to develop groundwater as an additional irrigation supply. Felice demonstrated that, rather than reduce agricultural water use as had been promised to Congress, Klamath EQIP had been used to expand irrigation to lower value lands thus increasing total agricultural water use in the Klamath River Basin. A subsequent audit of NRCS

⁷ "Federal Judge Halts Klamath Road Reconstruction – A Precedent and a New Tool for Forest Activists," Felice Pace in **Road RIReporter**, May/June 1999, Volume 4 #3. Available on-line from Wild Earth Guardians at <http://www.wildlandscpr.org/road-riporter/federal-judge-halts-klamath-road-reconstruction-%E2%80%93-precedent-and-new-tool-forest>

programs in Siskiyou County, California confirmed widespread abuse of Farm Bill conservation programs.

It was during this time that Cynthia Poten, who had once been the Delaware Riverkeeper and was a KFA Board Member asked the group to consider founding a Klamath Riverkeeper program; Cynthia offered to lead the effort. The Core Group agreed with enthusiasm and - with assistance from other members of the Core Group - Cynthia created the Klamath Riverkeeper as a KFA program and secured grants for Riverkeeper work. Once the program was up and running well, KFA decided to spin it off; Klamath Riverkeeper is now an independent organization.

Kimberly (Kayla) Baker had begun volunteer forest watch work in the 1990s with training provided by Petey Brucker and Felice Pace. In 2003 Kayla became KFA's Forest Program Coordinator; in 2013 Kayla stepped up to become KFA's Executive Director while continuing to coordinate KFA's public forest watch work. Highlights of accomplishments during the period of Kayla's leadership include:

- In 2005 KFA with allies stopped the Sims "Salvage" Timber Sale on the Six Rivers NF, which proposed to clearcut 125 acres in Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat and would have impacted Grouse Creek, a critical salmon spawning creek.
- Also in 2005 KFA won a precedent setting lawsuit preventing Redding BLM from shrinking the Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area in half. The area is part of a critical biological corridor for wildlife.
- In 2006, KFA litigation in Federal Court stops logging in 744 acres of old-growth forest stands in the Meteor Timber Sale in the Salmon River District of the Klamath National Forest.
- Also in 2006, KFA and allies prevailed in litigation upholding the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan.
- In 2009 KFA stopped over 500 acres of destructive post-fire logging on the Happy Camp Ranger District of the Klamath NF.
- In 2011 KFA joined forces with the Karuk Tribe in litigating implementation of the Orleans "Community Fuels Reduction" Healthy Forest Restoration Act project. KFA took the lead in organizing the litigation. The Federal Court ruled that the USFS violated the National Historical Preservation Act and was required to mitigate impacts to significant Indigenous ceremonial lands.

- In 2012 KFA and allies stopped Forest Service plans to helicopter log in the Kangaroo Roadless Area on the Klamath National Forest in the wake of the Goff Fire.
 - In 2012 KFA and allies also won a lawsuit that prevented the US Forest Service from reauthorizing grazing in the Marble Mountain Wilderness without conducting an environmental review.
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It has been noted above that KFA was founded by members of the Back-to-the-Land Movement. KFA's founders came from the political left portion of that movement. Petey Brucker followed his brother to the Klamath Mountains and the Black Bear Commune. Black Bear had been founded by members of the Diggers - a radical left group based in San Francisco that played a key role in creating the Hippie Movement. Felice Pace had become a left radical while attending Yale University where he organized one of the first protests of the Vietnam war to occur on that campus. After graduation Felice helped found and lived in communes and worked with Number 9 - one of the early hippie drug centers in New Haven Connecticut. One of the KFA founders - Malcolm Terence - was a member of the Diggers and was one of the founders of Black Bear. He was instrumental in the Black Bear commune filing one of the first appeals of a FS timber sale.
