



NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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Assemblyman Wood Champions Bill to Protect Old Growth Oaks

Sacramento – Assemblyman Jim Wood’s bill AB 1958, which would update the Forest Practice Act to allow for restoration of California’s oak woodlands, recently passed through the Assembly Natural Resources Committee with unanimous support.

Assemblyman Wood said, “I am pleased that this measure has received such great support. Oak woodlands provide natural fuel breaks and essential habitat for wildlife and livestock, however current laws are preventing landowners from protecting oaks that are threatened by encroaching conifers.”

Conifers grow large and quickly out-compete mature oak trees, eventually killing them. Currently land owners are required to replant conifers even after restoration projects, effectively making it impossible to protect oak woodlands from conifer encroachment. AB 1958 would eliminate that requirement and provide restoration exemptions, allowing land owners to permanently remove and sell the conifers in order to make conservation, protection and maintenance of oak woodlands easier and more affordable. “Removing conifers without damaging the oaks is expensive, but very important work. AB 1958 creates a resource to help land owners who want to reclaim their woodlands,” said Wood.

This bill was sponsored by the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and The Buckeye Conservancy, two local organizations committed to helping conserve working landscapes. Land Trust Executive Director, Michael Cipra said, “This bill proposes common sense solutions to enable private landowners – the stewards of more than 85% of oak woodlands in Humboldt County – to do the right thing and restore our oak woodlands.”

AB 1958 will be heard next in Assembly Appropriations Committee. For more information about this bill or oak woodland restoration, contact the Northcoast Regional Land Trust at (707) 822-2242.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and economic viability of working landscapes, farms, forests and grazing lands, and to the preservation and protection of land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values. We work with landowners on a voluntary basis to promote stewardship of Northern California’s healthy and productive resource base, natural systems and quality of life.