

# UC land sale raises fears of logging

By MAY WONG  
Sentinel staff writer

**BOULDER CREEK** — The proposed sale of a 440-acre parcel along Kings Creek Road owned by the University of California has prompted protests by an environmental group and others who fear the property might be used for logging.

The parcel, north of Boulder Creek between Highway 9 and Two Bar Road, is largely undeveloped and contains about 50 acres of virgin redwoods that environmentalists say may be the only old-growth redwood forest left unscathed by logging in California outside of state parks.

"It would be a crime to see this sold to developers or to loggers," said John Holm, whose 5.5-acre ranch on Two Bar Road is adjacent to the parcel. "We would love to see it remain a wilderness area."

Adolph and Mary Miller donated the land to the university in 1942 as a recreational or academic resource. But the parcel is unneeded for academic pursuits,

and has not been used recreationally for at least seven years, said Michael Houlemard, the director of community planning and land development for UC Santa Cruz, which manages the parcel.

The proposed sale comes as UCSC is preparing to cut \$11 million from its \$164 million operating budget by July, and the sale of the land — which is worth "well over \$1 million" — will help defray the loss of state revenue, Houlemard said.

"We need to do it," he said.

The university notified nine public or non-profit agencies last month about the sale, giving them a chance for a negotiated sale before seeking competitive bids from the general public. The agencies included the Santa Cruz County Land Trust, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, and Boy Scouts of America.

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Dan Coyro/Sentinel

John Holm wants the land to remain a wilderness area.

# Logging

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The university, which would like to sell the property before summer, set a deadline of April 30 for the agencies to state their interest. Any negotiation will take place from that point, Houlemard said.

So far, at least two agencies have said they are interested in looking into the purchase, Houlemard said. He declined to name them.

Fifth District Supervisor Fred Keeley said he plans to ask the Board of Supervisors next week to tell the university that the county would like to analyze the property to see if there is a public use potential.

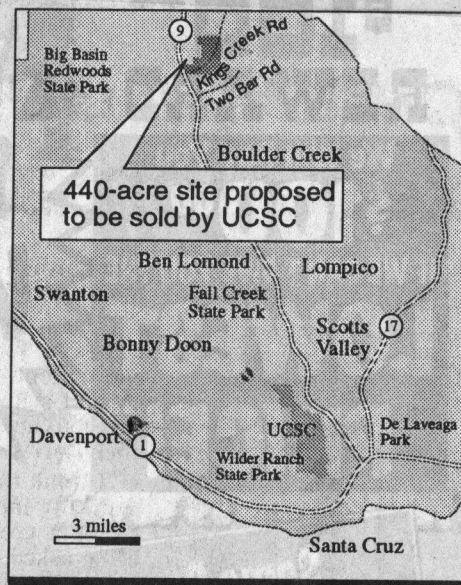
The county's financial ability to purchase the property is "unlikely" at this point, Keeley said, "but that doesn't mean something can't be worked out."

Quentin Alexander of the Mount Diablo-Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which owns Camp Lindblad, a 360-acre property immediately north of the UC parcel, said it is premature to say whether the Boy Scouts would be interested in buying the parcel. But, he added, Camp Lindblad is big enough now to serve Boy Scout programs.

Jim Mueller, the manager of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District said the agency has no interest in the property.

John Dewitt, the executive director of Save-the-Redwoods League in San Francisco, said he would like to see the 50 acres of old-growth redwoods stay in university hands.

The league is urging the university to hold the 50-acre old-growth portion in memory of Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, a former UC president and treasurer of the Save-the-Redwoods League.



Sentinel map

"Any groves that are over 100 years old are growing more and more scarce," Dewitt said. "We think the university should retain and use it for study. Surely the university needs cash, but we feel its educational value is extremely important."

The land contains more than 7.5 million board feet of timber, according to a 1979 timber management plan proposed by the university.

The redwoods league fears that if no other public entity acquires the UC property, the land could be purchased by a private party interested in logging.

Under state guidelines, logging old-growth redwoods in state parks is prohibited. Any virgin redwood stands outside of state parks can be selectively harvested.

But the league, which has donated

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more than \$65 million in the past 75 years to help establish the state's 35 parks, sees little chance for the parcel becoming a state park. No state parklands are adjacent to it, and the parks system is victim to the same fiscal crisis the university is experiencing, Dewitt said.

According to the 1979 timber management proposal, the parcel contains 50 acres of virgin redwoods, 81 acres of second-growth redwoods, 100 acres of Douglas firs less than 100 years old, 149 acres of hardwoods, such as madrones and oaks, and 74 acres of pasture and grassy areas.

The university has already considered and rejected the possibility of selling just a portion of the parcel, Houlemard said.

"We considered every option," he said. "We've thought long about it."

During the 1970s, about 15 acres of the site was used as a campground by university employees and their families, Houlemard said. But the land has not been used for more than seven years. Last year, the university spent about \$15,000 in maintenance and operational costs for the property.