

**Chesbro Proposes \$3B Bond for Improving California Parks**  
**\$1 billion for Forest Protection, Open Space, Coastal Access**  
**and River Restorations** Saturday, February 12, 2005 Eureka Times-Standard

SACRAMENTO -- Concerned about the restoration of North Coast rivers and protection of California's coastline, Sen. Wesley Chesbro, D-Arcata, Friday introduced a \$3 billion act aimed at protecting a wide range of state and local park programs. Chesbro said the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (SB 153) "will provide California an opportunity to finish the Coastal trail, continue our work restoring salmon and steelhead habitat, and protecting the North Coast." He added: "The economic strength of coastal California is tied to environmental protection. The dramatic landscapes and recreational fishing opportunities draw visitors from throughout the world helping to make tourism one of our top industries. We need to continue our investments in California's natural assets." Included in the measure is more than \$1 billion for forest protection, open space, coastal access and river restorations. In addition, the bond also allocates \$700 million for new state parks and maintenance at existing parks, over \$1 billion for local cities and counties for recreational programs, athletic fields and parks, \$200 million for historic preservation, and a final \$100 million for California senior center facilities. "It is time for the state to become a partner with local governments to assist preserving the state's historic treasures," Chesbro added. "Without our actions, thousands of treasures, public buildings and architectural gems will be lost to neglect." The new bond measure is a follow-up to Propositions 40 and 50, which Chesbro also authored. Those measures are beginning to run out of funding. Additional bonds will need to be approved by the voters if programs such as salmon restoration are to continue to be funded. Chesbro has organized a bipartisan coalition of state legislators who are supporting the Park Bond Act, including Assemblywoman Patty Berg of Eureka, Assemblywoman Noreen Evans of Santa Rosa and Assemblyman Joe Nation of San Rafael. SB 153 has to be in print for 30 days before it is heard by the Senate Natural Resources Committee.