



Big Bear GRIZZLY

Sandy Steers



Environmentalist. Author. Defender of Fawnskin. Five words that best describe Sandy Steers. In 2006, after more than three years of court battles, Steers and her supporters won the case against Marina Point developers.

A federal judge agreed that the developers violated the Clean Water and the Endangered Species acts and fined the developers \$1.3 million. Developers were also ordered to clean up the shoreline at the Fawnskin site.

The North Shore condominium project remains on hold while the appeal process continues. But Steers feels a sense of vindication after the court's ruling in 2006. "I'm happy that justice prevailed, because they were breaking the law," Steers says.

The fight began because of bald eagles, who utilize the shoreline, particularly around Fawnskin, as a winter foraging area. Adam Keats, director of the Urban Wildlands Program for Center for Biological Diversity says Steers has been amazing throughout the long the fight. "She stood firm in the face of a vicious and warrantless attack by the developer of Marina Point and came out of it stronger, more committed and more effective in stopping the rapid destruction of what makes Big Bear Lake so special," Keats says.

"Part of the thrill of living in Fawnskin is to see the eagles and all the trees," Steers says. "With all the development going on in the Valley this is one of the last refuges for eagles and humans, so it's important to protect it."

Winning the case against a large corporation means Fawnskin residents can continue to enjoy the view a little while longer.

—Kathy Portie