



Save the Redwoods
League

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Project Accomplishments for 2002-2003

LAND PROTECTED

In addition to the purchase of Mill Creek (see pages 4 and 5), the League expanded parks throughout the range of the redwoods.

Butano State Park The League recently purchased one of the few remaining stands of unprotected ancient redwoods near Butano State Park.

Protection of this 80-acre parcel secures nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet, a threatened seabird that requires the structure of the ancient forest to nest.

Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea

The League added 160 acres to the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea expanding linkages between Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the King Range National Conservation Area. Protection of this land helps secure a corridor for wildlife, connecting the world's largest old-growth redwood forest to California's longest un-roaded coastal area.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

The League added a one acre in-holding to this park. Although small, acquisition of this property is consistent with our goal of complete watershed protection for the remaining ancient redwood forests, one parcel at a time.

John B. Dewitt State

Reserve The League completed its the first purchase from Pacific Lumber Company since it came under ownership of Maxxam. The project protected 500 acres on the slopes above the Eel River and the magnificent ancient redwoods of the Whittemore Grove.



REDWOOD EDUCATION

The League's education program provides teachers and students with support and tools to incorporate redwood education into their curricula. In September 2002, the League awarded thirteen statewide education grants totaling \$50,000 to K-12 educators, teachers and students.

This year the League published a set of redwood education materials to introduce children to the ancient redwood forest. Contact our office to receive your copy.

REDWOOD RESEARCH

The League's Research Grant Program supports research that expands knowledge of redwood forest dynamics. Through this program, Professor Steve Sillett of Humboldt State University is unlocking the secrets of coast redwood canopies by monitoring soil deposits suspended in the branches of ancient redwood trees. This is just one of the many research projects this program supports.

THOUSANDS MORE JOIN!

The League welcomed 4,068 new members in 2002 – 2003. Of those members, 322 are now members of the Redwood Leadership Society, part of the League's premiere circle of supporters.

NEW GROVES

Our donors dedicated seven new groves in the past year. New groves are available for dedication at both Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Limekiln State Parks and at the newly acquired Daly property on the Avenue of the Giants.

ENGAGING OTHERS

Through the generous contribution of ad space from several magazines, Save-the-Redwoods League has reached over 7.72 million readers.

League Unveils Strategic Plan for Years 2003-2008

Recognizing the changing and intensifying threats to the redwood forests, Save-the-Redwoods League recently completed a five-year strategic plan to guide its work. The vision is that the League's day-to-day conservation activities—ranging from simple public outreach to complex land transactions—will cumulatively complement each other to foster comprehensive ecosystem protection. In doing so, the League will maximize the protection of ancient forests, their surrounding lands, and the fish and wildlife that depend upon them. The League has defined three major Strategic Priorities – each of critical and equal importance in pursuing the League's mission.



COMPREHENSIVE REDWOODS CONSERVATION

Through acquisition, restoration, management, and stewardship, the League aims to:

- Preserve core old-growth redwoods.
- Preserve strategic linkages between and buffers to old-growth reserves.
- Restore critical second-growth redwood forests to old-growth characteristics.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Helping people make connections with, appreciate, and promote the importance and relevance of redwood forests, the League will:

- Connect people to the redwood forest.
- Deepen partnerships to support effective education.
- Expand engagement in interpretation of the redwood forest.

INCREASE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Increasing the effectiveness and understanding of Save-the-Redwoods League is critical for continued success. The focus in this area is two-fold:

- Expanding League membership while broadening funding support.
- Fostering a healthy, productive, mission-focused organization.

OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS

Other strategic initiatives will also be pursued. These include:

- Exploring opportunities for interpretive centers at Hartsook Inn (a historic lodge near the "gateway" to the northern redwood region), in urban areas, and in Southern California.

- Fostering strong partnerships with private and governmental agencies in the redwood region.
- Assisting the California State Department of Parks and Recreation in its goals of stewardship, diversity, education, and urban focus.

- Supporting and promoting research that enhances understanding of the redwood ecosystem.
- Supporting landowner education to reinforce sustainable stewardship practices and stimulate the management of second-growth redwood forests to develop old-growth characteristics.

A copy of the League's Strategic Plan for 2003 - 2008 is available in the office upon request.

Mill Creek Collaborations Reflect the League's Legacy and Vision

A federally threatened northern spotted owl soars silently through the old-growth forest, and then disappears into a high snag cavity overlooking the sun-dappled floor. A small marbled murrelet, endangered and elusive, flies inland from the sea to lay its egg on the mossy branch of an ancient coast redwood. A tiny coho salmon fry rests in a clear pool of Mill Creek, cooled by the shade of tall trees.



In June 2002, successful acquisition of the 25,000-acre Mill Creek in coastal Del Norte County — the League's largest project to date — marked the permanent protection of these forest and stream ecosystems as a California State Park.

Reuniting Mill Creek with surrounding forests strengthened connections to more than six million acres of land in public ownership. It also strengthened the League's own connections to long-time partner agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation. These linkages reflect an 85-year history of working with the

Department, as more than six out of ten acres in California's redwood parks have been protected by the League.

Despite the League's persistent efforts, less than 4 percent of original coast redwood forest survives. The Northern redwood region encompass 44 percent of all that remains. At Mill Creek, 200 acres of pristine old-growth redwoods persist in precious islands that, in time, will connect to larger ancient groves in surrounding parks. By preserving Mill and Rock Creeks, the land also provides complete watershed-level protection for some of the world's most primeval redwoods in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. As a landscape interface, it forges habitat linkages between the interior Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion and coastal Redwood National and State Parks.

The \$60-million purchase of Mill Creek was a collaborative achievement: \$15 million from League-secured private funds and \$45 million from public funds. Working through state legislators and public agencies, the League rallied support from the California Department of Fish and

Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Coastal Conservancy, and California Department of Parks and Recreation. The League's funds comprised foundation support, individual contributions by 12,000 members ranging from \$5 to \$5 million, and League resources. These invested reserves enable the League to mobilize efforts quickly, seizing small- and large-scale opportunities for conservation.

Traditionally, the League has focused efforts on purchasing redwood lands that are then turned over to the State or National Park Systems. However, with Mill



Creek, partnerships and vision will continue beyond acquisition. League involvement in ecological restoration and stewardship will complement conservation here and in future projects.

For decades, much of Mill Creek was commercially harvested for timber. This left in its wake a sea of young trees in unnaturally high densities scarred by a network of roads. Yet surviving here are 5 salmon and trout species, 23 listed ani-



mal species, 15 vegetation communities, and 300 plant species, including Douglas-fir, knob cone pine, Port Orford cedar, and the carnivorous pitcher plant. Biodiversity from the canopy to the creek bed coupled with the area's geology and climate — ideal underlying structures for growing redwoods — provide optimism for the restoration of terrestrial and aquatic habitats to their original conditions.

MILL CREEK'S SHINING EXAMPLE

From the mink-like Pacific fisher, which eludes most visitors, to the year-round Pacific fog, which shrouds the redwood forest in a veil of moisture, Mill Creek encompasses all the features the League seeks in a project. Its old-growth forests and biodiversity coupled with the support of public agencies provide ideal opportunities for protection. Often old-growth cores are less viable, because they are small, fragmented, or degraded or they lie in watersheds that are not fully protected. However, Mill Creek's ancient forests are preserved on the watershed level and, in time, will connect to other primeval forests in surrounding public lands.

Working with public agencies and Del Norte County, the League will explore recommendations for minimizing impacts of roads, reducing catastrophic fire risk, and developing old-forest characteristics in the young stands. Through these partnerships, the League will build more than healthy ecosystems; it will build bonds for future conservation efforts.

Forest restoration will have ripple effects for creek health, too. Clear, cool water and stream banks stabilized by a healthy forest will help increase numbers of salmon and trout spawning in Mill Creek's waterways. These waters support California's most prolific wild coho salmon nursery. Increasing healthy populations is important. These protected tributaries are refugia, the primary sources of fish vital for the recolonization of degraded populations up and down the

Smith River, one of America's last undammed rivers.

Through continuing collaborations around Mill Creek, the League will help promote academic research, environmental education, and docent-led interpretative excursions to increase understanding and appreciation of redwood ecosystems. Ultimately, as Mill Creek's forests mature, fish populations increase, and our knowledge and support deepen so will the League's strategies for conservation here and beyond.



The two rare birds of the old-growth take flight. The spotted owl, soon after sunset, scans the darkening spaces between black tree silhouettes for rodents. The marbled murrelet returns to the Pacific after its young has fledged. The coho salmon, mature and ready to spawn in natal waters, holds promise for the next, larger generation in the Smith River, and upon completion of its lifecycle, will nourish the forest that helped support it.

written by Elaine Miller Bond

Save the Redwoods League

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2003

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	2,791,159
Accounts receivable	71,630
Contributions receivable	663,084
Investments	28,553,797
Notes receivable	1,180
Real estate held	31,696,882
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts	1,884,776
Property and equipment, net	137,551
Deposits on land purchase	5,000
Other assets	28,283
Endowment cash	<u>339,342</u>
Total assets	<u><u>66,172,684</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	237,135
Notes payable	180,000
Liability to beneficiaries	<u>206,834</u>
Total liabilities	<u><u>623,969</u></u>

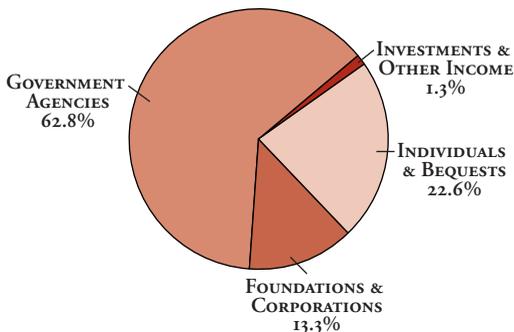
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	33,063,473
Temporarily restricted	32,145,900
Permanently restricted	<u>339,342</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>65,548,715</u></u>

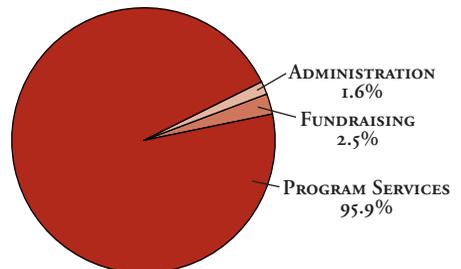
Total liabilities and net assets

66,172,684

REVENUES BY SOURCE



USES OF FUNDS



Save the Redwoods League

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions	
Donations	3,570,968
Program and land acquisition contributions	8,613,577
Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions	58,263
Change in value of irrevocable trusts	(119,056)
Donated Land	6,683,250
Income from investments	646,128
Grants from state and federal agencies	32,805,716
Other income	<u>16,313</u>
Total revenue and public support	<u>52,275,159</u>

EXPENSES

Program services	
Land deeded to State of California	10,000
Redwood land program support	1,214,345
Contributions made-cooperative preservation funded	48,509,132
Other grants	98,330
Research grants	<u>77,963</u>
Total program services	<u>49,909,770</u>
Support services	
General and administrative	825,363
Fund-raising	<u>1,323,592</u>
Total support services	<u>2,148,955</u>
Total expenses	<u>52,058,725</u>
Increase in net assets	<u><u>216,434</u></u>

The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2003 has been derived from the League's 2003 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, LLP, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2003 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited statements.

Save-the-Redwoods League Objectives



To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests.

To cooperate with the California State Park Commission, the National Park Service, and other agencies in establishing Redwood Parks and other parks and reservations.

To purchase Redwood groves by private subscription.

To foster and encourage a better and more general understanding of the value of the primeval Redwood or Sequoia and other forests of America as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.

To support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

Board of Directors

Save-the-Redwoods League is governed by a voting 60-member Board of Councillors from which nine members are elected to serve as the Board of Directors. The Council advises the Directors, who set policy and have fiduciary responsibility for the League's operations. The Secretary and Executive Director, a non-voting member of the Board of Directors, is responsible for implementing and managing the policies established by the Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MR. EDWIN F. CLAASSEN,
PRESIDENT
MR. RICHARD OTTER,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MR. FRANK WENTWORTH,
TREASURER
MS. KATE ANDERTON,
SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
DR. SARAH CONNICK
DR. WALTER MARK
MR. PETE DANGERMOND
MR. JAMES LARSON
MS. SANDRA DENNY
MS. SANDRA DONNELL

BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

HOWARD WHEATLEY ALLEN
MRS. GUILFORD C. BABCOCK
GEORGE BREMSER, JR.
STEPHEN J. BUTLER
DR. NORMAN M. CHRISTENSEN
DR. ROBERT E. CONNICK
DR. WILLIAM A. CROFT
CHARLES H. DANA
TODD DAWSON
JOSEPH H. ENGBECK, JR.
PETER FARQUHAR
DIANNE DAISS FELTON
TERRY GARCIA
ERIC R. GERSTUNG
BEN C. GERWICK, JR.
RICHARD N. GOLDMAN
MRS. WILLIAM GOODAN

CYNTHIA M. GRUBB
ROBERT HAMBRECHT
JACK F. HARPER
JANE TURNER HART
ANNETTE BOUSHEY HOLLAND
CHARLES A. HOLLOWAY
BARRY C. HOWARD
BRUCE S. HOWARD
PAUL HULL
NICHOLAS KENT
DR. WILLIAM J. LIBBY
SAMUEL M. LIVERMORE
CLAUDE A. LOOK
MRS. DONALD H. McLAUGHLIN
GEORGE McLAUGHLIN
STEPHEN MATHER McPHERSON
ROBERT E. MELLOR

SAM B. MERRYMAN, JR.
WENDY MILLET
GEORGE NEAVOLL
DONAL C. O'BRIEN, JR.
GEORGE S. PEYTON, JR.
GEORGE P. PUTNAM
NORMAN SPRAGUE
ROBERT SPROUL
JAMES M. STUART
JOHN D. TAYLOR
ELLEN WEAVER
WILLIAM P. WENTWORTH
NANCY P. WESTON
BRUCE WESTPHAL
MRS. ANN WITTER
J. ROY WITTWER
MARY WRIGHT



Save-the-Redwoods League

114 Sansome Street • Room 1200

San Francisco • CA • 94104

(415) 362-2352 voice • (415) 362-7017 fax

SaveTheRedwoods.org

Photo Credits

Cover: Evan Johnson

Inside pages: Stephen Corley

Page 11: Pernel S. Thyseldew