

A photograph of a forest path. The path is made of dirt and small stones, winding through a dense forest. On the left side of the path, there are large, vibrant green ferns with some brown fronds. In the foreground on the right, a large, moss-covered fallen log lies across the path. The background is filled with tall, slender trees, likely redwoods, with sunlight filtering through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor.

Save-the-Redwoods League

Fall Bulletin 2001

Dear Members,

The ancient redwood forest is a place of peace. Its quiet silences. Its stature inspires. Its age awes. Its light illuminates. Experience of the redwood forest sustains us, even when recalled from miles away or years before.

In this period since September 11th, we are deeply grateful for the clarity of purpose rooted in protecting the redwood forest. These trees have stood for thousands of years and will continue to stand far into the distant, unimaginable future. This is the world we value. This is the majesty we want our children and their children to experience. Your support makes this work possible. Your letters are as nourishing as the fog to the forest.

Hilma Cohn, a League member recently wrote:

Dear Save-the-Redwoods League,

I assume that contributions have thinned out considerably as our nation rightfully turns its attention to repairing the damage from the September 11th atrocity. However, I am sending you a rather modest contribution today (with more later in the year for Christmas gifts) to let you know that your efforts on behalf of these magnificent giants are still remembered and supported.



Jedediah Smith State Park
Photo by Howard King

We thank all of you for your commitment to saving the redwoods. We look forward to working with you to protect the redwood forest and the peace it inspires.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Anderton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'K' and 'A'.

Katherine Anderton
Secretary & Executive Director

Cover photo of Mill Creek by Howard King
Design by BarkingDog Creative Services · www.barkingdogcreative.com

Dillonwood Grove Saved

"The entire upper portion of the Tule basin is magnificently forested with sequoia, the finest portion being on the north fork. This, indeed, is, I think, the noblest block of sequoia in the entire belt, surpassing the giant forest of the Kaweah."

—John Muir

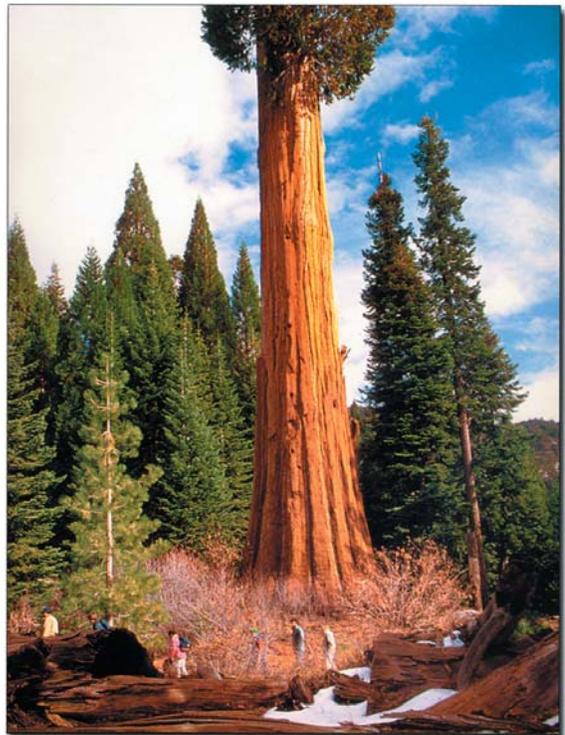
The next chapter in Dillonwood Grove's long history starts with the success of our \$10.3 million campaign for its purchase. Since Muir's visit to the headwaters of the North Fork of the Tule River in the 1870s, Dillonwood has withstood the pressures of human use.

The outpouring of support to protect these ancient monarchs demonstrates the giant sequoia's importance in our natural and cultural legacy. Twelve thousand League members, from all 50 states, gave generously to meet the \$1.5 million challenge grant made last Spring by an anonymous benefactor to preserve Dillonwood Grove forever.

Bonnie Peterson of New Jersey sent a check with a note that said "This money represents my eight year old daughter's precious allowance/activity money, which she wants to dedicate to a worthy cause. She has dreamed of seeing the redwoods all her life, and we've been saving for a trip to California to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Dillonwood includes 70% of the remaining privately owned giant sequoia forest land. It will now become part of Sequoia National Park, reunited with its companion, the Garfield Grove, in the care of a single steward.

Tentative plans are underway for a June 2002 celebration of Dillonwood's addition to Sequoia National Park. It will be a wonderful opportunity to thank all of you once again for your support and generous contributions. We hope our eight year old donor, Julie Peterson and her family from New Jersey, will join us to celebrate the protection of this treasured forest.



Dillonwood Grove
Photo by Ernie Braun

BIG TREES

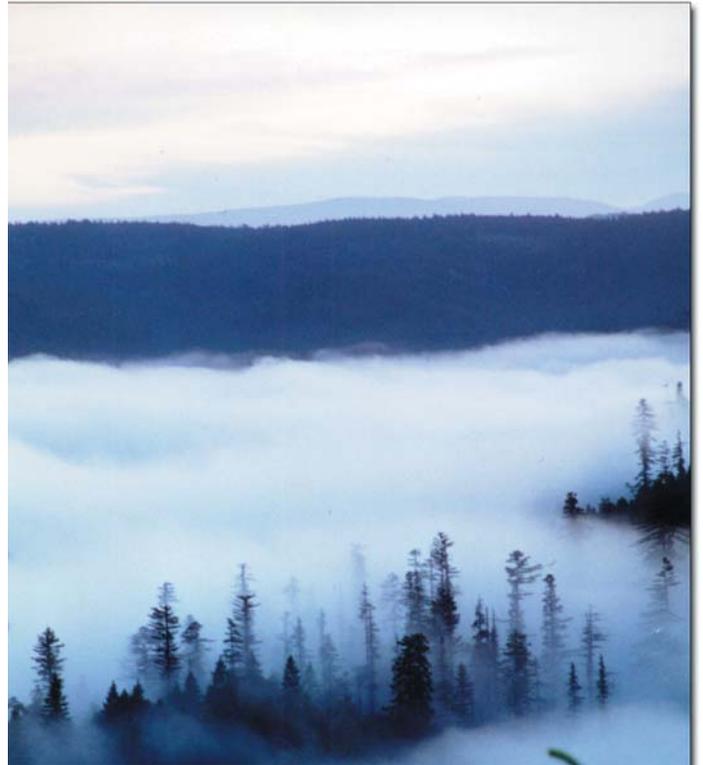
Last November, League staff joined LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District in the public opening of the 29 acre "Grove of the Old Trees" (the Van Alstyne Grove). Together, we had funded the purchase of this island of ancient redwoods, a rare survivor surrounded by vineyards in the central region of the redwood's range. LandPaths is a local land trust dedicated to linking people to natural lands in Sonoma County.

A group of developmentally challenged adults gathered in the forest in November, incredulous and excited by the size of the towering trees. Last week, on a local street, LandPaths' Executive Director greeted one member of the group he hadn't seen since the November celebration. He beamed, pointed at the Executive Director and said, "Big Trees! Big Trees!"

The Mill Creek Redwoods

One morning early this year, we watched an owl fly silently through the forest and land on the branch of an ancient redwood: fortunate visitors to its quiet world. We stood in one of five remaining stands of ancient redwood forest on the Mill Creek property.

In 1933, Newton B. Drury, the League's first Secretary wrote "By far the most important acquisition before the League is that of the Mill Creek-Smith River Redwoods." He was referring to the pristine ancient redwood forest along Mill Creek, tributary of the Smith River, the northernmost reach of the redwoods in Del Norte County. From sheltering canopies more than three hundred and fifty feet high, to centuries-deep duff, these giants anchored the forest.



Mill Creek
Photo by Evan Johnson



Northern spotted owl at Mill Creek
Photo by Jack Harper

These are the forests of Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwood State Parks, purchased by the League. But most of the upper watershed remains in private ownership. It has been heavily logged. Today, five groves are all that remain of the upper watershed's original redwood forest, surrounded by a sea of healthy young trees.

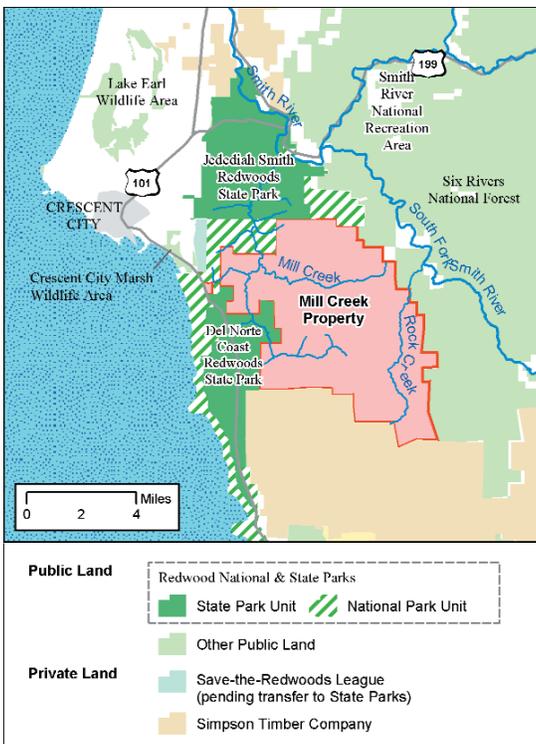
At last, after nearly seven decades, the League is poised to purchase the privately-owned 25,000 acres of the Mill Creek forest. Purchase will protect the remaining stands of ancient redwoods. Instead of a tree farm in which virtually every tree is cut before it reaches fifty years of age, a natural forest will, once again, over time, link Mill Creek's ancient redwoods groves with those in the adjoining State Parks. Wildlife that depends on the ancient forest will escape vulnerability to predators at the edge of the fragmented forest. Populations of marbled murrelet, pacific fisher, and the other animals that depend on intact ancient forest will rebound.

The streams themselves, the arteries of the forest, represent the promise. Even with heavy logging, the streams survive in remarkably good condition. Their clear, cold waters support one of Northern California's strongest wild populations of the threatened coho salmon. Healthy runs of steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and chinook salmon also thrive. These fish spend their adult lives in the salt waters of the Pacific Ocean, and return to their natal fresh-water streams to spawn. Their young depend on clean gravel and cold water for survival. With conservation management, spawning and nursery habitats in Mill Creek will support larger populations, capable of re-colonizing degraded areas of the Smith River.

Today, in spite of the League's persistent efforts, less than 4% of the original coastal redwood forest remains. Of the surviving ancient redwood forest, 44% is in the area encompassing the Mill Creek-Smith River Redwoods. The Mill Creek purchase is strategically located to consolidate protection of ancient redwood forests in this region. It will insulate existing stands from the pressures of future change. It will link coastal wetlands and redwood forests to the incredible diversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou's inland forests.

KEY FACTS

- 25,000 acres of forest and watershed land
- Completes protection of Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds
- Provides landscape-scale connectivity between coastal and inland habitats
- Protects the best tributary of the Smith River for coho salmon
- 5 species of salmon and trout: coho, chinook and chum salmon; steelhead and coastal cut throat trout
- 23 listed animal species, including the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl
- 15 plant communities and habitat for 300 plant species



It will expand the uninterrupted area in which fog, flood, and fire function naturally to shape the ever-changing face of the forest.

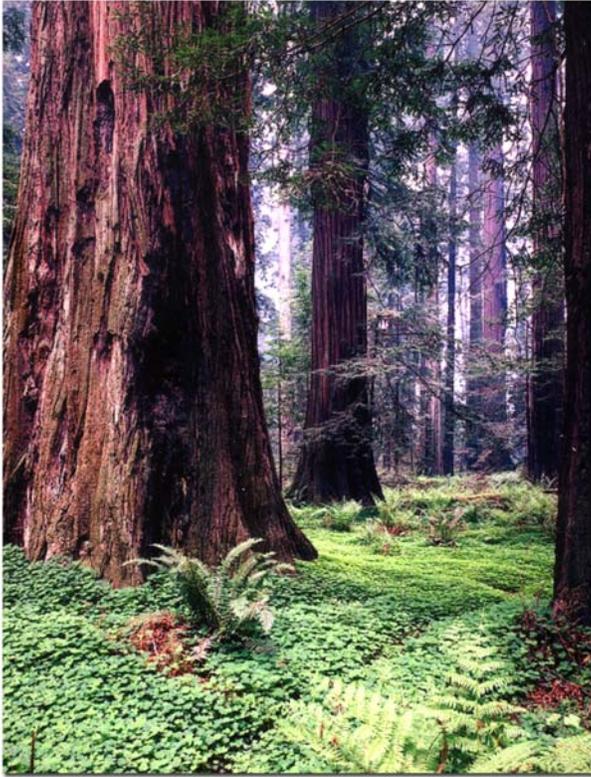
The 25,000 acre Mill Creek property is the largest single purchase in the League's history. Although today's forest is very different than the forest of 1933, it is the forest of the future and secures the protection of the ancient groves that it connects.

Every state agency responsible for protection of our natural resources and legacy has joined the League and private donors to pledge \$52.7 million of the \$62 million project price. With the help of League members and other donors we will raise the funds needed to complete our seventy-year effort to protect the Mill Creek-Smith River redwoods.

Bordered on three sides by protected public land, Mill Creek is a missing piece in a conservation puzzle that the League has assembled over almost 70 years.

First Redwood Purchase

from voter-approved park bond redwood fund



Pepperwood Grove
Photo by Howard King

BIG BASIN GENERAL PLAN

Nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Big Basin is one of California's oldest and most-loved redwood parks. Many of our members return every year with their families to camp in the heart of the forest. Although it is almost 100 years old, the park does not have a General Plan. General Plans are broad policy documents that direct park management and future development. Public involvement is a key part of developing the plan. If you would like to be involved, or wish to send written comments, please contact State Parks at:

California State Parks
Robin Ettinger, Northern Service Center
PO Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

In March of 2000, for the first time in twelve years, Californians passed a park bond, the largest in our nation's history. It included \$10 million designated to match contributions for the purchase of redwood forestland. Early this summer, the League and the State Department of Parks completed the first purchase funded by the Bond.

An 18-acre grove of ancient redwoods was added to the adjoining forest of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. This purchase from a descendant of one of the original pioneer families of Humboldt County secures the protection of a portion of the forest neighboring the town of Miranda on the Eel River. As Rusty Areias, Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation noted,

"For many years, Save-the-Redwoods League and the Department have worked together to protect our most valued natural and cultural resources and to create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. We are very pleased to further the mission of California State Parks and to be able to include this stand of majestic ancient redwoods in the park."

The League anticipates that a number of its properties, purchased during the years when State funds were unavailable to match the contributions of League donors, will be transferred to the Department of Parks in the coming year.

Funds from the park bond of 2000 have been invested in projects ranging from local parks, to wild places, from our deserts to our mountains. These funds are nearly gone.

The Governor has signed legislation to place a new park bond on the March 2002 ballot. Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 would provide \$2.6 billion for local parks and for protection of the natural lands of the State threatened by the heavy pressures of resource extraction and population growth. State funding to match League contributions for the protection of redwood lands depends directly on the passage of this new funding measure.

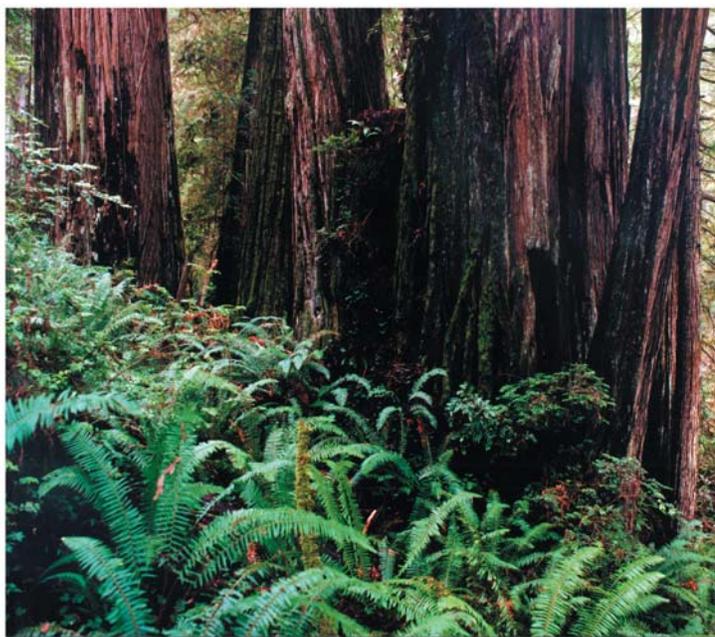
Your vote in support of the park bond of 2002 will provide critical funding for redwood conservation.

Memorial Groves

Since 1921, more than 930 Honor and Memorial Groves have been established through Save-the-Redwoods League. Donors who make major gifts to the grove program, select and name an area in one of our Redwood Parks to honor someone they love and respect - memorials that live for hundreds of years. Many return, year after year, to experience the tranquil solitude and the sense of awe that these groves inspire.

Groves have also been established to create a memorial at times of national crisis. In 1945, the National Tribute Grove was created by the people of the United States as a tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces in World War II, honoring those who live as well as those who made the supreme sacrifice. More than 5,000 acres of the finest redwood forest, including 500 acres adjacent to Mill Creek in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, were set aside as a living memorial of beauty and peace. "The Golden Book" in the National Archives in Washington lists the names of those honored by a donation.

This year, 23 new groves were established. For more information on the Honor and Memorial Grove Program, please call our office at (888) 836-0005.



*National Tribute Grove at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Photo by Don Briggs*

Tree

It is foolish
to let a young redwood
grow next to the house.

Even in this
one lifetime,
you will have to choose.

That great calm being,
this clutter of soup pots and books-

Already the first branch-tips brush at the window,
softly, calmly, immensity taps at your life.

—Jane Hirshfield
From "Given Sugar, Given Salt"
© 2001 Harper Collins

THIS YEAR'S GROVES

- BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - John, Mabel and Joyce Davis Memorial Grove
- CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK
 - Elsa and David Wheeler Memorial Grove
- DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - The Vernie and John McGowan Groves
- GRAY WHALE-WILDER RANCH STATE PARK
 - Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Grove
 - Mom and Dad's Meadow
- HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - Oliver Chapin Field Grove
- JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK
 - Herbert J. Bolton and Katharine S. Bolton Grove
 - Einar Nilsson Memorial Grove
- LIMEKILN STATE PARK
 - Robert P. and Nancy J. King Foundation Grove
- MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE RESERVE
 - Gottfried and Anna (Hüsser) Löhrl Memorial Grove
- NAVARRO RIVER REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - The Betty M. Jones Memorial Grove
 - Bill and Shirley Leigh Family Grove
 - Elizabeth Harris Taylor and John D. Taylor Grove
- PORTOLA REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - Robert L. Gibson Grove
 - Marie H. Peterson Memorial Grove
 - Virginia Pedersen Carter Memorial Grove
- PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
 - Clara and Will Marshall Grove
 - The Fore Mothers Grove
- PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
 - Kathleen Huguenin Morris Memorial Grove
- REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK
 - The Schneider Family Grove
 - The Jeangerard Family Grove

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIPS

Give a Save-the-Redwoods League Membership as a holiday gift! A special holiday card along with our new membership packet will be sent to the person of your choice. Your gift helps to support reforestation and conservation in our forest areas. Please fill out the information and mail back to us in the enclosed envelope or call our office at (888) 836-0005.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name of Gift Recipient: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I want to purchase a membership gift!

- Contributor \$25
- Family \$50
- Sustainer \$100
- Benefactor \$250
- \$ _____



Learn More About The Redwood Forest

Available from your local bookseller and online:

Coast Redwood: A Natural and Cultural History by Michael G. Barbour, et al. Cachuma Press, 2001. 20% discount for League members when purchasing directly from Cachuma Press (805) 688-0413.

Barbour has assembled an engaging overview of the diversity of the redwood forest and the movement to preserve it, textured with fascinating detail, and beautifully illustrated with color plates.

Salmon Without Rivers: A History of the Pacific Salmon Crisis by Jim Lichatowich. Island Press, 1999.

This compelling case study details the relentless impact of humans on the rivers of the West and underscores the importance of the forest to salmon.

Trees and Shrubs of California by John D. Stuart and John O. Sawyer. University of California Press, 2001.

This field guide is an informative, well-illustrated key to identifying and understanding the role of the trees and shrubs of the redwood forest as well as other areas of California.

The Redwood Forest edited by Reed Noss, Island Press 2000.

This comprehensive review of the science and ecology of the redwood forest, with contributions from over 30 experts, is the keystone for Save-the-Redwoods League's Master Plan for the redwoods.

STOCK GIFTS TO SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

Your contributions are essential to our work. If you would like to make a year-end gift of securities to Save-the-Redwoods League, call (888) 836-0005.

VOLUNTEER

Help us save the redwoods—VOLUNTEER!
Call Jennifer Lian at (415) 362-2352 x 17



To receive our bulletin via email, send your email address to bulletin@savetheredwoods.org

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