



Save the Redwoods League

Fall Bulletin 2005

Better from the Executive Director

As we work from day to day on the multitude of projects like those you will read about in this bulletin, we think often with gratitude of the support from you, our members, that is critical for our successes. With far less frequency, we pause to consider how saving the redwoods fits into actions taken on a global scale to protect places of special significance that inspires and sustains the world's peoples.

In early June, the League was honored to participate in hosting a gathering in Muir Woods to celebrate United Nations World Environment Day. The Director of the UN's Environmental Program, Klaus Toepfer, and mayors from cities around the world traveled from downtown San Francisco on the last day of their five-day conference, for an early morning walk in the redwoods. With sunshine streaming through the trees, the delegates, League Directors and Councillors, and invited guests circled the ancient redwoods of Cathedral Grove and stood in silence, listening to the morning sounds of the forest and the echoes of history.

Sixty years ago, at the end of the Second World War, world leaders convened in San Francisco to found the United Nations. They, too, traveled to Muir Woods. They went to honor recently deceased President Franklin D. Roosevelt whose vision of an organization dedicated to world peace was pivotal to the architecture of the United Nations.

As emcee for the program that followed our walk, I had the opportunity to tell the story of how one man had acted to save Muir Woods. In 1903, William Kent was alerted to plans to fell the ancient redwood forest to build a dam at the mouth of Redwood Creek to store water for nearby growing communities. Convinced there was another way to meet the demand for water, but no other way to replace the cathedral formed by the canyon's ancient redwoods, the Kent family acted. They used their savings to purchase the canyon to protect the majesty of that place, to assure that the stately tempo of that forest would continue uninterrupted. They acted to preserve the peace that inspires all who visit.



Kate Anderton and Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Program, walking through Muir Woods.

Photo by Ruskin Hartley

William Kent's purchase of Muir Woods was the catalyst for the engagement of many others in the years that followed, eventually transforming Redwood Canyon into a National Monument, visited each year by nearly a million people. William Kent also went on to join with others to found Save-the-Redwoods League in 1918, which has developed and implemented a strategy to halt the devastation of the redwood forest, through purchase of more than 170,000 acres stretching from the California's northernmost coastal range to the tip of the Big Sur coast.

In June, the mayors returned to San Francisco to sign accords based on their unique opportunity as mayors of cities around the globe to lead their communities through appropriate local actions to protect the planet's natural systems as a critical part of sustainable urban centers in an era in which, for the first time, more of the earth's population lives in urban centers than in rural areas.

Protection of the natural system anchored by the redwoods has been the mission of Save-the-Redwoods League for more than 87 years, a mission that you make possible by your engagement and membership in this organization.

As John Muir said about the redwoods, "These kings of the forest, the noblest of a noble race, rightly belong to the world, but as they are in California, we cannot escape the responsibility as their guardians. Fortunately, the American people are equal to this trust." ***Thank you for joining with us as the guardians of the redwoods.***

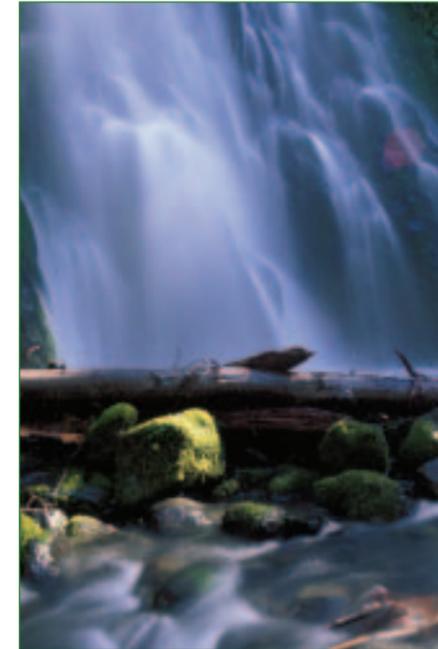
Katherine Anderton

Upstream Downstream Lacks Creek: A Key Connection

Each fall chinook salmon return to Redwood National and State Parks and the Redwood Creek watershed. After a life at sea, they make the arduous journey back to their birthplace to spawn in Redwood Creek. Winding their way upstream, they impress the Park's human visitors with their determination and pluck. As they ascend beyond the Park's upstream boundary, many of them head up one of Redwood Creek's largest tributaries, a steep and deeply cleaved waterway known as Lacks Creek. Here they find the fresh, quickly moving waters, gravel and food required for successful reproduction. From the high, steep slopes on the eastern side of Lacks Creek, waterfalls drop cool water into deep pools, which provide a sanctuary for the salmon.

The chinook are not alone in the waters of Lacks. It is also a key creek for the area's cutthroat, steelhead, and coho. It is the only tributary to Redwood Creek, upstream of the park, which hosts all four of the anadromous species so central to the identity of the Park five miles downstream.

This summer, Save-the-Redwoods League spearheaded the purchase of 4,500 acres of the Lacks Creek watershed to restore the area's own ecological integrity and to ensure the safety of the Park downstream. When the National Park was established by Congress in 1968 it included 58,000 acres, focused on the majestic old-growth redwoods of lower Redwood Creek. Ten years later, to address the impacts of the upper watershed on the health of the redwoods on the alluvial flats, the Park



*Falls at Lacks Creek
Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management*

was expanded by an additional 48,000 acres reaching up Redwood Creek. At the same time, Congress designated a "Park Protection Zone" identifying the area even further upstream in which acquisition and restoration would be a priority. Lacks Creek is the heart of that Protection Zone.

Today, Lacks Creek is still a very wild place. Open prairies are linked by a Douglas-fir forest suited to the drier climate further inland than the moisture-rich environment required by the redwoods. But for all of its wildness, and all of its beauty, park ecologists and geologists recognize that it also "contains some loaded guns that are pointing at the salmon and at the Park downstream," says Greg Bundros, a geologist with the Park.

Those loaded guns are major erosion events waiting to happen. Timber has been harvested from much of the area over the decades and both active and abandoned logging roads lace the hills rising from the creek.

Bundros has spent a decade studying the Redwood Creek watershed, identifying the areas that pose the greatest threat to the ecology of the Park downstream. Lacks Creek follows a seismic fault and its inner gorge is "remarkably steep, unstable, and prone to land sliding," says Bundros. Over the years, logging roads have further destabilized the hill slopes surrounding the creek. According to Bundros, road density exceeding three miles per square mile on such land is considered dangerous. Here the densities are often twice that. A major landslide event could not only devastate the spawning habitat, but could also wreak havoc downstream in the Park itself. Lacks Creek has already

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begun to recover from years of intensive logging but treating the roads in Lacks Creek will prevent sediment that combines with erosion from upper Redwood Creek, to alter its hydrology and pose risks to some of the big trees that are the crown jewels of the Park.

Bob Barnum has been involved in the Park since its inception. As a major landowner in Lacks Creek and Humboldt County, Bob was part of the original Park planning committee in the 1960s and recognized that one day his lands in Lacks Creek could play an important role in protecting the Park.

A few years ago, when a variety of factors led Barnum to consider selling some of his land, he thought of the 2,000 acres in Lacks Creek that he has been logging for decades as part of a family ranch centered in Redwood Creek. Barnum liked the idea of both adding to the Park's Protection Zone and ensuring that he knew his downstream neighbors.

Bob is the fourth generation of Barnums in Humboldt County. His great grandfather ran mules on the trails linking the Pacific Coast to the gold country in the Trinity Alps. Over the years, Barnum Timber has accumulated forestland throughout the area. But as timber values have dropped, and the price and complexities of securing timber harvest plans in California have risen, it has become increasingly difficult to make the land profitable through logging, according to Barnum.

Some might see that as a good thing. After all, it was getting the logging industry to assume responsibility for more of the real ecological costs of logging that motivated the adoption of the regulations that are now straining the pocketbooks of the timber companies. But with dwindling profits and growing costs, many private forest owners today are looking for another easier way to get returns from their lands. At the rate of about 30,000 acres a year, California landowners are chopping up their holdings and turning their second growth into second homes for affluent vacationers or urban refugees.

"When a forest is subdivided and built on, the environmental impacts on the area may be far worse than those of good logging practices," says Kate Anderton, the League's Executive Director. More roads are built, more water is diverted or drawn from the



Redwood Creek

Photo by Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

"Lacks Creek is a key link in a chain of public and private lands extending inland from the coast,"

LYNDA ROUSH

ARCATA FIELD MANAGER, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

aquifer, and pesticide use and runoff increase. And once a large forest has been divided into pieces, and each one sold for the highest price, it is virtually impossible ever to put it back together again. As long as a forest can remain in large tracts, there is a chance it can be restored or preserved. "In the case of lands in the Redwood National and State Parks Protection Zone, this is particularly important," says Anderton.

Several years ago, Barnum asked the Park Service if they would like to buy his 2,000 acres in Lacks Creek. He was well aware how valuable it was as the upstream spawning ground for the watershed's salmon and trout and for ensuring a safe future for the Park's key biological assets.

Although the Park Service acknowledged the importance of the holdings to the Park, there was simply no budget for acquisitions at that time. He then turned to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which already owned about 4,100 acres of Douglas-fir forest in the Lacks Creek watershed. The BLM said they would very much like to acquire the land, but their budget wouldn't allow it either.

That's when Save-the-Redwoods League stepped in, raising money and working with Barnum and another private landowner, Eel River Sawmills, and the BLM to make the deal. And this summer saw the conclusion of the project with purchase and transfer to BLM of some 4,500 acres, protecting virtually the entire Lacks Creek

watershed except for a single, large, well-managed, historic family ranch.

BLM's lands, known as the Lacks Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (LCACEC), include an impressive old-growth Douglas-fir forest, providing key habitat for spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and golden eagle. The addition will allow BLM to extend recreational use for hikers, horseback riders, and cyclists while also securing its ecological integrity. "Lacks Creek is a key link in a chain of public and private lands extending inland from the coast," says Lynda Roush, BLM Arcata Field Manager.

We encourage you to make a visit to Lacks Creek, to walk through its prairies and forests in a landscape that is now protected for all time, immune to the pressures of subdivision development and further logging. Then, plan a hike down into the Tall Trees Grove in Redwood National and State Parks and experience the connection of Redwood Creek's tributaries to the magnificent ancient redwoods of the lower River.

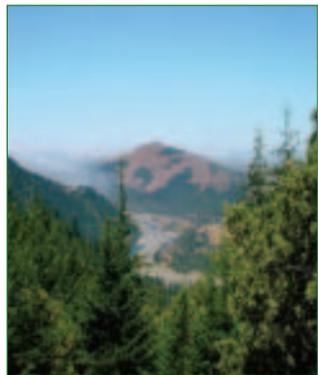


Map by GreenInfo Network www.greeninfo.org

Highlights of Recent League Acquisition Activity

LACKS CREEK PURCHASE ENSURES SAFETY OF REDWOODS IN NATIONAL PARK

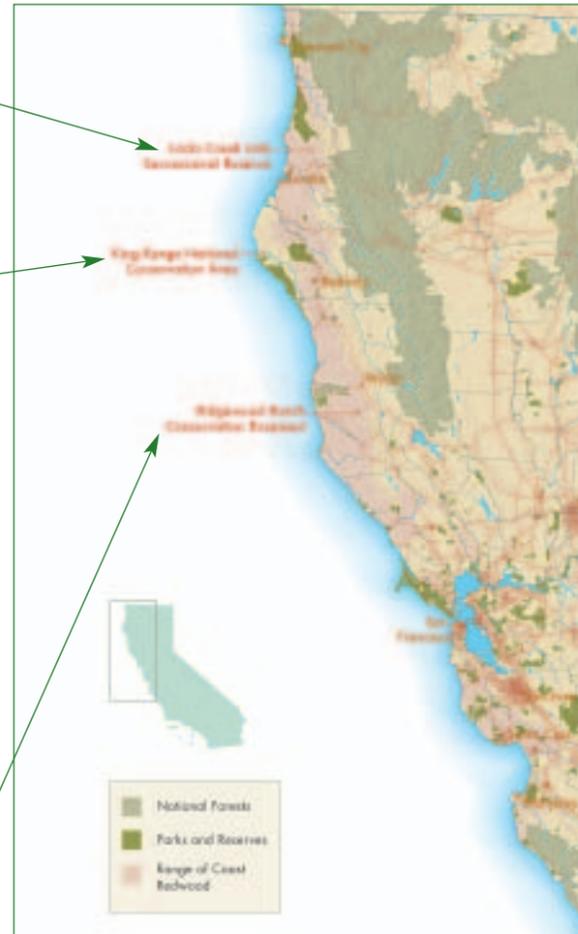
This project protects nearly 4,500 acres of land in the watershed of this important tributary of Redwood National and State Parks' Redwood Creek (see feature article).



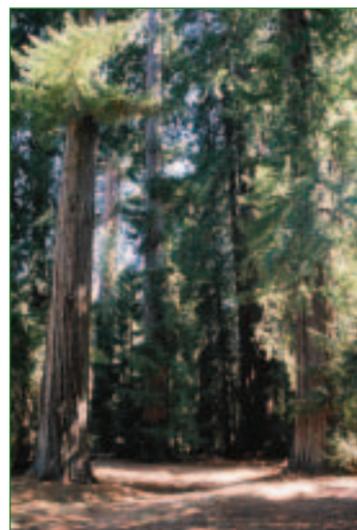
Mouth of Mattole
Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

KING RANGE ACQUISITION PROTECTS SALMON HABITAT

Purchase of 593 acres in the salmon rich watershed of the Mill Creek at the mouth of the Mattole River will protect a stand of ancient Douglas-firs amplifying the benefits for wildlife that depends on old-forest habitats and extending the protected area encompassed by the BLM's **King Range National Conservation Area**. The King Range is the largest unroaded coastal area in the lower 48 states and one of the anchors of the League's Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea project.



Map by GreenInfo Network www.greeninfo.org



Mendocino County
Conservation Easement
Photo by James Bernard,
Mendocino Land Trust

LEAGUE ENABLES COLLABORATIVE PURCHASE OF RIDGEWOOD RANCH

A small spectacular stand of old growth redwoods and mature second growth redwood forest are now permanently protected on the historic **Ridgewood Ranch**, near Willits, through collaboration with the landowner and the local Mendocino Land Trust.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEAGUE EDUCATION GRANTEE: SEQUOIA YOUTH

South Central LA Youngsters See Redwoods for Very First Time

When Edison Middle School teacher Ellen Sachtjen launched the Sequoia for Youth Program seven years ago, she had merely hoped to take some students to Sequoia National Park to participate in its management planning process. She wanted to give them a chance to contribute their views on how the park might be woven into a middle school curriculum. Many students had no idea where or what Sequoia National Park was. In fact, many had never left south central Los Angeles at all.

Today there are hundreds of graduates from the Sequoia for Youth Program, which received an education grant from the League in 2005. All of those grads know a good deal about the park and its ecology, and a lot more about their own neighborhood.



Students at General Sherman Giant Sequoia
Photo by Ellen Sachtjen

"When I first saw a Sequoia tree, I couldn't believe it was standing there in front of me," says Joel Camacho, a former student of Sachtjen's. "In LA everything is covered with concrete. I was speechless. The trees are so gentle, but they are also so strong. They are a great example of resilience," he adds.

"The Sequoia for Youth Program is all about drawing connections," says Ellen Sachtjen. Connections can be made between inner-city students and the natural world, and between effort and outcome. And making connections to the broader world has helped Sachtjen's students do exceedingly well in school and beyond. Camacho, for instance, now a high school junior in Los Angeles, is planning to attend Columbia University in New York after finishing high school at the end of next year.

NOEL KIRSHENBAUM: A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT



Noel Kirshenbaum
Photo provided by
Noel Kirshenbaum

Noel Kirshenbaum remembers his first trip with his family in 1946 to the redwood forests. Founders Grove made a vivid impression on him, as did the information he learned about Save-the-Redwoods League. Inspired, young Noel sent his allowance to the League – and he has repeated his giving ever since.

"The redwoods are unique. Who doesn't love their aroma and beauty?" he asks.

Noel's career as a mining industry metallurgist made him aware of society's impact on the environment. He makes an analogy between the loss of old-growth forests and the depletion of high grade mineral resources. Noel created a charitable remainder trust to benefit the League. "I made this gift in the spirit of enlightened self-interest. Financially, this deferred gift serves me well." Noel is discussing ways to memorialize his late wife who was also keenly fond of the redwoods. To be more engaged, Noel now belongs to both the Redwood Legacy Circle and the Leadership Society.

"I believe in preserving redwoods. My gifts for their protection now and in the future give me great satisfaction," summarizes Noel.

For more information about planned giving or the Redwood Legacy Circle contact Suzanne Ritchie at The League toll free, 888-836-0005.



Grove of Tall Trees

Photo by Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

Redwood Honor and Memorial Gifts

Gifts to the honor or memory of a friend or loved ones can be made to Save-the-Redwoods League, providing a thoughtful and unique tribute for family and friends. When you make a tribute gift of \$50 or more, the League sends an attractive acknowledgement card of a beautiful redwood forest scene to the individual or family that is honored. Tribute gifts support the League's efforts to protect and restore redwood forests throughout California.

You may also designate tribute or memorial gifts to our reforestation program. For each \$50 or greater gift to the tree planting program, a redwood sapling will be planted as part of the California State Park's reforestation program.

Each year, hundreds of redwood saplings are propagated from seed at a nursery funded in part by honor and memorial gifts from people all across the country. Once the seedlings are two years old, they are planted in redwood forests in need of reforestation. The League works closely with the state parks staff to ensure the viability of the parks.

To make a tribute gift, please call the League's membership staff at 415-362-2352 or email us at membership@savetheredwoods.org.

Honor and memorial gifts may also be made online at our website, SaveTheRedwoods.org



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

Save the Redwoods League 114 Sansome Street • Room 1200 • San Francisco • CA • 94104
(415) 362-2352 voice • (415) 362-7017 fax • SaveTheRedwoods.org

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GROVES DEDICATED IN 2004 AND 2005 AS OF JUNE 15, 2005

Del Norte State Park:

*The Peter D. Dickinson
Memorial Grove*

**Del Norte Coast Redwoods
State Park:**

*Max and Margaret Lichenheim
Grove*

*May Cole Titus and Leo Martin
Titus Memorial Grove*

**The Forest of Nisene Marks
State Park:**

*The Robert E. Peck Family
Memorial Grove*

Humboldt Redwoods State Park:

*Samuel Baumann Family Grove
Kimberley Joan Culpepper
Memorial Grove*

Mill Creek Redwoods:

Jerome and Sylvia Cherin Grove

Navarro River Redwoods

State Park:

Charmin and David Knock Grove

Portola Redwoods State Park:

*Captain & Mrs. H. Nordmark
Williams Grove*

Prairie Creek Redwoods

State Park:

Lothar Kolbig Grove

Karl W. Weber Family Grove

Purisima Creek Redwoods

Memorial Groves:

*Matthew C. Meadows Memorial
Grove*

Redwood National and State Parks:

Richard J. Mazurek, M.D. Grove

Wilder Ranch State Park:

David W. Bareis Family Grove

Ruth and Spencer Overholser Grove

Gary Marlow Simmons Grove

*Frederic Henry Willey Memorial
Grove*