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**SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE  
FACT SHEET**

**OVERVIEW:**

In 2008, Save-the-Redwoods League celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> year of protecting the ancient redwood forests so all generations can experience the majesty of redwoods. Since its founding in 1918, the League has played a vital role in preserving the world's ancient redwood forest through land acquisition and partnership with permanent public stewards. The League's efforts to save redwoods and connect people to them include awarding research and education grants. Research grants advance scientific knowledge of redwood ecosystems; and education grants make it possible for children and adults from diverse backgrounds to study and experience redwood forests. More than 21,000 members and volunteers support the League's work.

**HISTORY:**

Save-the-Redwoods League was founded in the spring of 1918 by three conservationists: John C. Merriam, University of California paleontologist; Madison Grant, chairman of the New York Zoological Society; and Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The men realized the urgent need to preserve redwoods after they saw widespread destruction of the forests along The Redwood Highway in Northern California.

**LAND  
ACQUISITION  
AND  
PRESERVATION:**

With the support of individuals, public service organizations, private foundations, the State of California and other local and federal agencies, the League has purchased more than 180,000 acres of land and helped develop 57 state and national parks and reserves.

Summary of Save-the-Redwoods League land acquisitions:

<http://www.savetheredwoods.org/protecting/acquisitionssummary.shtml>

**EDUCATION  
GRANTS:**

The League's Education Grants Program was established in 2000 to foster a deeper understanding of redwood forests among people of diverse backgrounds and ages through personal visits and educational experiences.

Since the Education Grants Program's inception, Save-the-Redwoods League has awarded more than 150 grants totaling more than \$580,000 to schools, park interpretive associations, and nonprofit organizations that provide high-quality redwood and forest education in and out of the classroom.

In 2007, Save-the-Redwoods League awarded nearly \$150,000 in grants to 39 schools, park interpretive associations, and nonprofit organizations, including:

- Muir Woods National Monument
- Roots & Shoots, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
- Humboldt County Office of Education
- The Yosemite Fund

**RESEARCH GRANTS:**

Since Save-the-Redwoods League began its Research Grants Program in 1997, it has awarded more than \$575,000 to fund scientific research to advance understanding of redwoods and their ecosystems. To date, grants have funded 50 projects. In 2006, the League made history by participating in the expedition to confirm the height of the world's tallest known living organism, Hyperion, a coast redwood measuring 379.1 feet.

Through a new request for proposals in 2007, Save-the-Redwoods League is encouraging scientific research on how global climate change affects redwood forests.

**THE WORK AHEAD:**

Fifteen thousand acres of unprotected ancient redwood forest remain in California. Today, significant threats to redwood forests exist from non-sustainable forestry, unplanned residential development and global climate change.

Save-the-Redwoods League is committed to ensuring protection of these forests through productive collaborations between private landowners, the timber industry and public agencies such as California State Parks, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. In addition to protecting redwood forests, the League is dedicated to increasing the viability of California's redwood parks to expand public access to these natural wonders.

Save-the-Redwoods League has developed a Master Plan for the Redwoods, which provides a science-based conservation strategy for the entire coast redwood ecosystem. The plan guides the League's work in protecting ancient redwoods, creating viable parks for the public to enjoy and conserving the connecting forest landscape.

**SENIOR STAFF:**

- Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director
- Jennifer Benito, Director of Outreach
- Rolando Cohen, Chief Financial Officer
- Hugh O'Boyle, Deputy General Counsel
- Dan Porter, Director of Science and Planning
- Suzanne Ritchie, Major and Planned Giving Director
- Betsy York, Development Director

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**FOR MORE  
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