



PRESS RELEASE

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SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE URGES QUICK ACTION TO KEEP STATE PARKS OPEN

Governor Schwarzenegger used line-item veto authority to cut an additional \$6.2 million for state parks; \$38.6 million total loss in funding for next fiscal year may require more than 100 parks to close

Ruskin Hartley, executive director of Save the Redwoods League, comments on signed Fiscal Year 2009-10 state budget and funding cuts for state parks

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 30, 2009) – “Californians face the one of the greatest threats to [state parks](#) in the system’s 81-year history,” said [Ruskin Hartley](#), executive director of [Save the Redwoods League](#). “The \$14.2 million General Fund cut, staff furloughs and reductions in other revenue sources mean that more than 100 parks – more than one-third of the state park system – may close. A 21 percent total funding loss is the largest cut percentage-wise that state parks have experienced to-date.”

“While we do not know which parks will be proposed for closure at this time, Californians’ access to iconic redwood forests is at risk,” said Hartley. “The state park system is home to 61 redwoods parks, which create irreplaceable opportunities for people of all ages to visit forests that are found nowhere else on the planet. With only 5 percent of the world’s ancient redwoods left standing, we must ensure that today’s visitors and future generations can experience these majestic forests.”

“California cannot afford to close more than one-third of the state park system,” continued Hartley. “The loss of consumer spending associated with park visits will be devastating to local economies that rely on tourism and park visitation. State parks deliver more than \$4.2 billion in direct spending from visitors to California’s economy, according to a recent [California State University Sacramento survey](#). Every \$1 spent supporting the state park system returns \$2.35 to the State’s General Fund through economic activity in communities surrounding state parks.”

“The threat to state parks created by budget cuts this year highlights the critical need for a stable, dedicated funding source for parks. It is simply not possible for the state to turn its

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back on 100 parks and expect Californians to be able to fully assume this public responsibility.”

“Save the Redwoods League stands ready to work with all Californians and legislators to develop creative solutions to keep as many parks open as possible,” said Hartley. “With more than 100 state parks at risk of closure, it is more important than ever for Californians, nonprofits, private companies, local governments and legislators to come together to save them.”

Save the Redwoods League encourages park visitors and supporters to act now to help save parks:

- Send a message to your elected officials urging them to take action to stop parks closures by visiting: <http://savetheredwoods.org/voice>.
- Visit [redwood parks](#) this summer.
- Stay informed by visiting <http://savetheredwoods.org/voice>.

Editors, please note: Interviews available with Ruskin Hartley, executive director of Save the Redwoods League, by contacting Heather Platisha at 415.359.2306/heather@landispr.com or Jessica Lee at 415.359.2312/jessica@landispr.com.

About Save the Redwoods League

For more than 90 years, Save the Redwoods League has been dedicated to protecting the ancient redwood forests so all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of redwoods. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than 5 percent remains and faces threats from unsustainable logging practices, poorly planned development and global climate change. Since its founding in 1918, the League has completed the purchase of more than 181,000 acres of land. For more information, visit SaveTheRedwoods.org.

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