



PRESS RELEASE

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SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE FUNDS NEW REDWOOD RESEARCH

League awards nearly \$100,000 in grants for research on redwood ecosystems and the impact of global climate change on redwood forests

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 5, 2009) – [Save the Redwoods League](http://www.savetheredwoods.org), the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, today announced nearly \$100,000 in [research grants](#) to fund projects that will expand scientific knowledge of redwood ecosystems and the impact of global climate change on redwood forests. The League awarded seven grants to researchers at University of California, Berkeley; California State Parks; Redwood National and State Parks; and the Redwood Sciences Laboratory operated by the USDA Forest Service.

“Effective conservation requires more than land and habitat preservation. With the new threat of global climate change, research is more vital than ever,” said Ruskin Hartley, executive director of Save the Redwoods League. “Save the Redwoods League is proud to make new research possible through our annual grants program.”

For the second year, Save the Redwoods League requested proposals for research to examine the potential impact of global climate change on redwood forests. The League awarded \$15,000 to Professor Todd Dawson, University of California, Berkeley, to study how ancient giant sequoias use water and carbon dioxide in different portions of their canopies. A nuanced understanding of how the world’s largest trees use water and carbon dioxide will provide insight into the response of giant sequoias to projected changes in snow and rain patterns associated with warming temperatures.

“Because a climate response baseline has not yet been established for coast redwoods and giant sequoias, additional research in this area is critical to the future protection of the world’s tallest and largest trees,” said Dan Porter, director of science and planning for Save the Redwoods League.

– More –

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Since 1997, the League has awarded more than \$775,000 in research grants to fund 54 projects that have provided the scientific community and public with valuable new information regarding forest ecology, redwood growth, forest restoration and wildlife habitat.

2009 Save the Redwoods League Grant Recipients (listed by county):

Alameda County

- Dr. Todd Dawson, University of California, Berkeley, received \$15,000 for *Linking Structure and Function in Giant Sequoia Trees*, which will examine how different microclimates and physical attributes of giant sequoias, such as height and branch density, affect the trees' intake of water and carbon dioxide. The research will help further understanding of giant sequoias' potential response to projected changes in snow patterns due to global climate change.
- Kevin O'Hara, University of California, Berkeley, received \$15,000 for *Redwood Mortality and Sprouting Response to Summer 2008 Fires*, a project that will study the effect of surface fires on redwoods' sprouting response and tree mortality in Monterey, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt Counties.
- Scott Stephens, University of California, Berkeley, received \$14,250 for *Long-Term Dynamics Following Fuel Reduction Treatments in a Giant Sequoia-Mixed Conifer Forest*, a project that will evaluate the effects of fuel-reduction treatments implemented 45 years ago.

Calaveras County

- Patricia Raggio, California State Parks, Central Valley District, received \$13,270 for *Insect Diversity and Niche Specialization in Giant Sequoias*, a project to discover and document insects in the giant sequoia forest canopy at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Humboldt County

- Kristin Schmidt, Redwood National and State Parks, received \$15,000 for *Barred Owl and Spotted Owl Resource Selection in Coastal Redwood Forests*, which will quantify habitat selection by barred and spotted owls in the northern California redwood region. The research will ultimately inform how forest management programs may affect these species.
- Keith Slauson, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, received \$15,000 for *Effects of Forest Restoration on Mesocarnivores in the Redwood Region*, which will evaluate the suitability of second-growth redwood forests for the Humboldt marten, as well as fisher and gray fox species. The results may inform forest restoration planning at Mill Creek in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.
- Theodore Weller, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, received \$8,934 for *Evaluating the Importance of Redwood Forests as Wintering and Mating Habitat for a Continental Migrant: The Silver-Haired Bat*, which will examine the seasonal ratios of male to female bats in redwood forests in northwestern California and the significance of these forests as a winter destination and mating area for this species.

The League makes research findings available to the public to increase awareness of these unique resources. Grant recipients provide a final report that the League makes available through its Web site, savetheredwoods.org.

Save the Redwoods League invites researchers to apply for grants on an annual basis. Please visit savetheredwoods.org/research for more information on the research grants program.

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. 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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