



# Save-the-Redwoods League

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

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## **SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE ACQUIRES 100-ACRE HOUCK PROPERTY TO PROTECT ANCIENT REDWOODS AND WATERSHED SYSTEM**

*Land acquisition protects ancient redwoods, federally threatened marbled murrelet habitat and provides protection for Pescadero Creek watershed system*

**SAN FRANCISCO** (January 7, 2008) – Save-the-Redwoods League today announced the purchase of the 100-acre Houck property adjacent to Butano State Park in San Mateo County. Funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the acquisition expands protection for ancient redwood forests and consolidates protected natural lands in California.

Located on the San Mateo Coast, the Houck property saddles the ridge that is directly upslope from Butano State Park and provides watershed protection for the redwoods of both Butano Creek and Little Butano Creek, which are tributaries in the Pescadero Creek watershed system. The property is adjacent to designated habitat for the marbled murrelet and offers protection for this endangered seabird species, which relies on the dense structure of the ancient redwood forest for nesting.

“Save-the-Redwoods League’s acquisition of the Houck property is an important milestone in preserving ancient coastal redwoods and sensitive habitat for the marbled murrelet,” said Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director, Save-the-Redwoods League. “This acquisition is part of the League’s effort to purchase lands that will help establish permanent protection for ancient redwoods. It’s our commitment to help make sure that Californians and visitors to our state can experience the majesty of redwood forests.”

As with all land acquisitions, Save-the-Redwoods League will seek a suitable partner to serve as a permanent steward of the Houck property. Since its founding in 1918, the League has purchased more than 177,000 acres of land to help preserve ancient redwoods and giant sequoias.

“The League’s acquisition is an important step in preserving the natural features of the Bay Area. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is proud to help protect this land,” said Helen Kim, Chief Program Officer for the San Francisco Bay Area Program, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. “Permanent protection of this land benefits our community as much as it does the environment. Future generations will now be able to enjoy this unique and beautiful parcel.”

### **About Save-the-Redwoods League**

Celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, Save-the-Redwoods League is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving ancient forests so that all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of these towering giants. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than 5 percent remain. Since its founding in 1918, the League has completed the purchase of more than 177,000 acres of land. For more information, visit [www.savetheredwoods.org](http://www.savetheredwoods.org).

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