Save-the-Redwoods League

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SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE AWARDS REDWOOD RESEARCH GRANTS

League grants more than $90,000 to fund research projects that will advance scientific knowledge of redwood ecosystems and the impact of global climate change on redwood forests

SAN FRANCISCO (February 28, 2008) – Save-the-Redwoods League, the only non-profit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, today announced its 2008 research grant recipients. The League awarded more than $90,000 to fund seven research projects that will expand scientific knowledge of redwood ecosystems and the impact of global climate change on redwood forests.

"The projects being undertaken by the 2008 Save-the-Redwoods League research grant recipients play a vital role in saving our treasured redwood forests," said Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of Save-the-Redwoods League. "A nuanced understanding of what redwoods ecosystems need to survive will help us find the best ways to protect these ancient treasures now and in the future. The League is honored to provide these scientists with funds needed for this research."

Through a new request for global climate change research proposals in 2007, Save-the-Redwoods League hopes to encourage scientific research on the potential impact of global climate change on redwood forests with its annual research grants program. Mary K. Firestone of the University of California, Berkeley, is the first researcher to receive a League grant in this critical area of study. The League granted firestone $15,000 to determine how climate affects redwood forest soil microbes, a critical component of coastal redwood ecosystem biology.

"Global climate change is a new challenge in preserving and restoring redwood forests," said Dan Porter, Director of Science and Planning, Save-the-Redwoods League. "The League's research grants program is an investment in learning how we can protect redwoods in the face of climate change."

Since 1997, the League has awarded more than $675,000 in research grants to fund 47 projects that have provided the scientific community and public with valuable new information regarding forest ecology, redwood growth, restoration and wildlife habitat. In 2006, the League made history by funding the research team that confirmed the height of the world's tallest known living organism, Hyperion, a coast redwood tree measuring 379.1 feet. Save-the-Redwoods League research grants also facilitated the discovery of a new species of tree-dwelling salamanders and new canopy ecosystems.

2008 Save-the-Redwoods League Grant Recipients (listed by county)

Alameda County

- Mary K. Firestone, University of California, Berkeley received $15,000 for *How Will Climate Change Impact the Composition of Microbial Communities in Costal Redwood Forest Soils?*, a project to determine how climate affects redwood forest soil microbes, a critical component of coastal redwood ecosystem biology that performs essential functions such as recycling nutrients.

- Todd Dawson, University of California, Berkeley received $15,000 for *Sword Fern: the Unexplored Link in Redwood Hydrology*, which will determine how rapid absorption of fog water into canopies, or the uppermost spreading branchy layers, of sword ferns influences distribution of fog water on the forest floor.

- Kevin O'Hara, University of California, Berkeley received $15,000 for *Tanoak Decline in Redwoods Forests: An Analysis of the Structural and Compositional Effects of Sudden Oak Death.* This project will determine the most likely short-and long-term effects on forest structure and species composition as sudden oak death removes tanoak from redwood forests.

- Kevin O'Hara, University of California, Berkeley received $13,562 for *Re-measurement of Variable-Density Thinning Plots at Mill Creek,* which will measure an attempt to accelerate the formation of old forest structural features among coast redwoods. Features include growth of redwood seedlings, sprouts and the remaining trees after thinning.

Humboldt County

- Walter Duffy, Humboldt State University received $14,967 for the *Lower Redwood Creek Juvenile Salmonid Abundance* project that will determine the population, status and trends of juvenile Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout in Redwood Creek in Humboldt County. The research will also assess watershed health, restoration activities and other qualities.

- W. Bryan Jennings, Humboldt State University received $7,000 for the *How many Species of Black Salamanders Exist in the Redwood Forest* project to identify species of black salamanders, which play a crucial role in redwood forest ecosystems.

San Francisco County

- V. Thomas Parker, San Francisco State University received $10,000 for *Determining Shade Tolerance in Rare Redwood-Associated Manzanita,* which will examine the dynamics on the edges of coastal forests which have led to the evolution of a rare manzanita species. The research will ultimately inform fire and vegetation management.

In addition to advancing scientific knowledge related to redwoods, 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 website.

Save-the-Redwoods League invites researchers to apply for grants on an annual basis. Please visit www.savetheredwoods.org/research for more information on the research grants program and the 2009 application period.

About Save-the-Redwoods League
Celebrating its 90th 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.

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