



PARKS ON CLOSURE LIST

**KEEPING
THE HOME
OF WONDER
OPEN**



Our Mission: Save the Redwoods League protects and restores redwood forests and connects people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish.

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Cover image: Hendy Woods State Park harbors amazing ancient redwoods. Your gifts help protect the forest and keep the park open this year. Learn more on page 5. Photo by David Baselt, redwoodhikes.com

Left image: Your support also keeps Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park open until next summer for all to enjoy. Learn more on page 5 about how you can help.



Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,

You may have heard about the alleged hiding of funds by a California State Parks official. The news came as 70 parks faced closure because of the state's budget crisis and just as this newsletter was going to press. While we're deeply disappointed by the news, we remain committed to California State Parks, and we decided to publish the story on page 5, which was written before the revelation about the funds.

California State Parks is the custodian of most of the redwood forestland you and the League have protected since 1918. Over the decades, we've worked with dedicated, trustworthy staff members of this park system. Let's remember that a few bad apples don't spoil the bunch.

The bright side of the crisis is that organizations and citizens are keeping open 68 of the 70 parks slated for closure. This action yields hope for the park system's future. Our state parks are still in crisis, struggling to cover annual operating costs and facing \$1 billion in deferred maintenance. We and dedicated parks staff must continue working to reinvent our park system to protect our natural treasures forever.

I invite you to learn on page 5 about our short-term solution to help keep state redwood parks open. During this trial project, we will assess long-term solutions to make parks viable so you can continue to enjoy them.

Please join us in building models for change, and get the latest news on our work at SaveTheRedwoods.org/stateparks. You can help also by sharing the wonder of state parks with your friends and family. Thank you for your support.

Ruskin K. Hartley Executive Director



Protection

Keeping the Home of Wonder Open

You can help sustain state redwood parks on the closure list

David Villalpando, a Save the Redwoods League member, has been visiting Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park for 30 years. He's among generations of visitors who relish this park's seclusion 30 miles from the sea in wild and remote Humboldt County. Here, the sparkling Van Duzen River beckons as a swimmer's delight, and the park's ancient redwood forest is so wondrous that it commanded a starring role in the movie, *Return of the Jedi*.

So visitors were upset when they learned Grizzly Creek's gates were to close indefinitely in July 2012, along with 69 other California State Parks, because of the state's budget crisis. Sixteen of the parks on the closure list are redwood parks.

But at the last minute, the California Legislature reallocated funds that — when combined with the operating and donor

agreements developed by local nonprofits — will keep most parks open until next summer. The deal includes the 16 redwood parks. Before this news, the League and other conservation organizations joined forces to keep Grizzly Creek, Hendy Woods, Portola and Mill Creek in Del Norte open until next summer. This reprieve by the conservation organizations will allow these parks to remain open in the short-term. Meanwhile, several nonprofits including the League will work with California State Parks to develop a long-term solution that will set redwoods state parks on a path toward sustainability and excellence.

Villalpando was happy to hear about the reprieve for Grizzly.

"Grizzly Creek is responsible for some of my favorite childhood memories," said the Southern California resident. "Now we take our kids as often as possible, even though we have to cross the state to do it. Thank you,

Save the Redwoods League, for working to keep this glorious park open."

A Shared History

California State Parks is the League's primary partner in acquiring and caring for most of the redwood forestland we have protected with your gifts, so the park system's future is among our priorities. League representatives pointed out in the early 1920s that California's rapid urban and industrial development made it necessary to plan conservation of scenic and recreational areas for future generations — otherwise these natural wonders would be lost forever. The League advocated for bills that helped establish the state park system in 1927.

Today, for a short-term solution, we have signed on to cover shortfalls in the four select parks' operational budgets because we know we can rely on you for your help.

Hendy Woods State Park will stay open for exploration, with your help.

Protection

This temporary reprieve will allow families to continue their traditions of visiting Hendy Woods State Park to camp and hike among its gigantic 1,000-year-old redwoods. There they find a refuge in the cool shade, enveloping quiet and beautiful Navarro River. Many call Hendy the perfect location for relaxing and exploring the Mendocino coast and wine country.

Kathy Bailey is so committed to keeping Hendy open that she and dozens of her neighbors established a nonprofit to do the job. Bailey is the Chair of Hendy Woods Community (HWC). This organization and the League are providing funds for California State Parks to continue running the park. In addition, HWC is providing volunteers to help operate Hendy.

“It will take a village to save our parks,” said Chet Bardo, Superintendent of California State Parks’ Santa Cruz District. Bardo’s district includes Portola. “Relationships like the one we have with Save the Redwoods League are essential.”

Additional Help

In addition to supplemental funding, we are providing legal guidance to nonprofit park operators, mediating discussions and helping to coordinate their work.

“We wouldn’t have succeeded without the League’s help,” Bailey said. “I couldn’t be happier. Now, one of the most important things everyone can do is to encourage their friends to visit Hendy Woods!”

CALIFORNIA STATE REDWOOD PARKS ORIGINALLY ON CLOSURE LIST



Lush and tranquil Portola Redwoods State Park will remain open, with your help.

Visiting parks is important to lower the risk of vandalism, wood poaching, marijuana cultivation and other harm.

“Our focus continues to be on ensuring the redwoods are protected,” said Ruskin K. Hartley, League Executive Director.

Over the next year, we will work with California State Parks and our park operating partners to identify possible enhancements that will help parks sustain themselves by reducing costs or increasing revenue. The Bay Area Conservation Initiative (BACI) of the Resources Legacy Fund and S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation are generously funding this analysis. Enhancements may include building revenue-generating group campsites, cabins and picnic shelters.

“All California state parks were established because citizens took action,” said Pete Dangermond, former Director of California State Parks and President of the League’s Board of Directors. “Now it’s time for citizens to get involved again to protect these remarkable places.”

Donate today to the Park Crisis Fund — 100 percent of your gift will be used to enhance parks and keep them open and protected, including Grizzly Creek, Hendy Woods, Portola and Mill Creek. You may donate through our secure site at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/stateparks](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/stateparks), or use the attached envelope. Check this webpage to see other ways you can help. Thank you for your generosity!

Pitch in at California State Parks

Volunteer for California State Parks as a docent, caretaker or patroller, or choose from many other roles. Call (916) 653-9069 or email vipp@parks.ca.gov, and leave your name and address to receive applications and information about each of the parks.

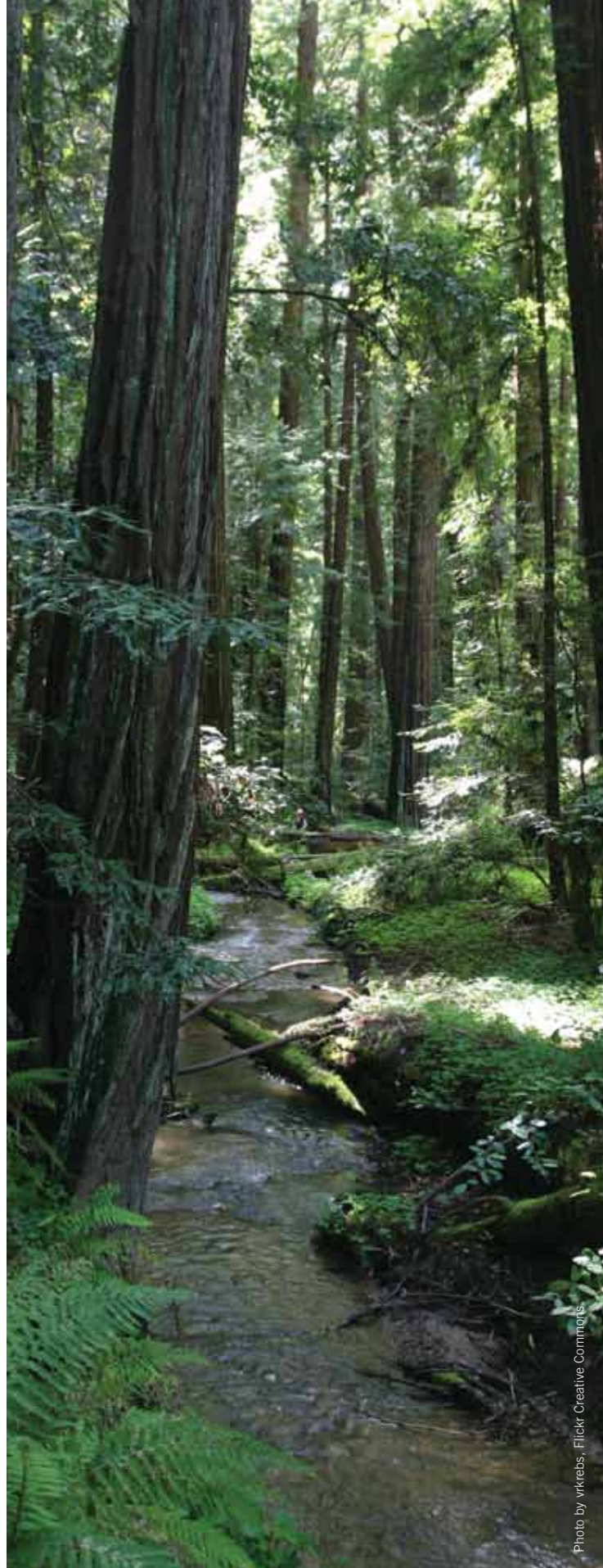


Photo by vkrebs, Flickr Creative Commons

Community

Proponent of People-Power for Parks

Rosemary Cameron has a deep affection for local, county and regional parks. She spent most of her career helping them thrive. Retired from the East Bay Regional Park District in 2010, Cameron volunteers on the Save the Redwoods League Board of Councillors and the Board's Finance Committee and Redwood Parks Excellence Task Force.

She was drawn to the League, in part, by its ability to create public space through people power. "Some of its early acquisitions helped lead to the formation of our California State Parks system, and that's a very compelling part of its history," she said. "Yet, there's a larger theme: the incredible importance of citizen involvement."

Cameron believes that the League's work is more important than ever.

"It seems that the League's long-time and even new donors are particularly interested in helping ensure that property acquisition continues. As we used to say at the Park District, 'God isn't making any more land.' It's a nice way to remind



League Councillor Rosemary Cameron said it's important for citizens to participate in saving parks threatened by budget cuts.

us that acquisition needs to be attended to now rather than later, to ensure that endangered redwood groves are protected for future generations."

She's still a champion of the protected redwoods of the East Bay Regional Park District. "It's amazing to have these beauties literally within the Oakland city limits," she said.

She hopes to help the League move into its second century of protecting redwoods, and is excited about her work on the Redwood Parks Excellence Task Force. "We're developing citizen-based programs to promote awareness, increase visitation and enhance education and research," Cameron said.

Conservation

Protected,
Thanks
to You



Redwoods cover the Four Corners property. You helped the League protect this land and donate it to descendants of the land's original inhabitants.

Historic Forest Secure with New Partners

Just a few hours north of San Francisco lies a remarkable place for redwoods, wildlife and American Indians. Known as Four Corners, this 164-acre parcel is covered with beautiful redwoods. Native and non-native local residents have met here for more than a thousand years. With your gifts, Save the Redwoods League has protected and donated the property to descendants of the land's original inhabitants.

Between Sinkyone
Wilderness State Park

and the Mattole River headwaters, Four Corners is a potential home to threatened species including the coho salmon and northern spotted owl. The land got its name for being at the intersection of two historically significant roads.

Our work to protect places like Four Corners has become more complex as traditional partners such as California State Parks have little means to care for new properties.

We purchased Four Corners for \$750,000 in 1997, later working with the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council to determine how to best

protect the property. In return for the League donating the land, the Council agreed to protect it from development and logging.

“We feel blessed that we've been chosen to take care of this land,” said Priscilla Hunter, Council Chairwoman and Co-Founder. “We also are thankful that people and organizations like Save the Redwoods League care so deeply about the protection of our Mother Earth.”

You Safeguarded Giant Sequoias, Clean Water

In the rugged Sierra Nevada, up a winding, remote dirt road, you'll pass towering cinnamon columns — amazing giant sequoias. Eventually, you'll reach property where younger sequoias grow. Save the Redwoods League in December 2011 bought this land containing younger trees to protect clean water and the magical forest of giants.

Our purchase, thanks to our members' donations, protects the property's creek from degradation that could result from more development on this land. Safeguarding this creek, in turn, protects the Middle Fork of the Tule River downstream. This river is a priority to protect because it's an important water source and home for wildlife.

In addition, this purchase helps protect the surrounding Giant

Sequoia National Monument (pictured). In the same way that pollution upstream will flow down and affect the water of a town hundreds of miles away, what happens in one forest can affect the health and survival of another.

We plan to help return the property we purchased to its natural state by removing a cabin, then we will transfer it to the US Forest Service, which manages the Giant Sequoia National Monument. After it's part of the monument, you may visit these secluded 60 acres by dirt roads or by hiking trails. The property is southwest of the town of Camp Nelson.

It took \$300,000 to protect this land. Help us secure more land by donating today.

Our recent purchase of land helps protect the surrounding Giant Sequoia National Monument (pictured), home of some of the Earth's largest trees.



Redwood Groves Dedicated

JUNE 15, 2011–JUNE 14, 2012

BUTANO STATE PARK

SUE ANN, JOY L. AND DONALD
RHYNARD GROVE

HARRY A. MERLO SRA

BONILLA FAMILY GROVE
GEORGE SARDINA, M.D., GROVE
RIDDLE FAMILY GROVE

Honor Your Loved Ones

You can dedicate a special place in the forest to friends, family or an organization by contacting our Major Gifts Officer, Megan Ferreira, at (415) 362-2352 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK

PENELOPE SMITH-ANIMA MUNDI-
SOUL OF THE WORLD GROVE
THE LOUIS AGASSIZ AND INEZ
GREENE TEST GROVE

PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK

FRAN B. WOLFE GROVE

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

FAMILY OF HENRY AND
IMELDA JAMES

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SCOTT FAMILY GROVE — MARY,
VINNIE & PATRICIA KLAHN

The Impact of Your Support

RECENTLY, YOU PROTECTED ...



224.5 ACRES

of redwood forest and supporting land from development (locations 1, 2 and 6 on map)

THIS PROTECTED LAND SAFEGUARDS ...



CLEAN WATER



WILDLIFE



RECREATION



SCENERY

IT TOOK \$1.1 MILLION TO PROTECT PROPERTIES 1, 2, 6

Help make sure we are always ready to seize opportunities to buy redwood forestland: Please donate to our Redwood Land Fund through our secure website at **SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund**, or use the attached envelope. Thank you for your generous gifts.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK | 4 NOYO RIVER REDWOODS |
| 2 FOUR CORNERS | 5 CEMEX REDWOODS |
| 3 SHADY DELL | 6 GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT |

- Recently protected
 - Projects that still need your help
- Learn more at SaveTheRedwoods.org/LandProjects.

Education

Nurturing Future Scientists



High school student Kira Rosenbaum learns to analyze redwood DNA.

REDWOODS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Michele Luna and her team at Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods received our Redwoods Educator of the Year award for the quality of their K–12 redwood education program in the area near Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. *Summer Bulletin '11* featured Stewards' work.

If we are to support the long-term health of the magical redwood forests, we must invest in building the next generation of caretakers. These caretakers include scientists, and high school senior Annie De Lancie may become one of them, thanks to your gifts.

De Lancie is learning the same genetic research techniques that scientists use to determine how to protect redwoods from risks such as disease. She's in the Conservation Biology class at San Francisco's Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, studying coast redwood genetics with the help of a \$4,000 education grant from Save the Redwoods League.

In this class taught by Ray Cinti, students learn how understanding these genes can help park managers. After examining redwoods' DNA, students discuss complex conservation issues that managers must consider, such as whether inbreeding weakens certain groves and whether redwoods with different genes should be introduced.

Cinti's students collect coast redwood needles, then analyze the DNA in their school's lab. This year they found matching DNA sequences in two of a park's trees, even though they are far apart.

Student Mikaela Esquivel Varela suggests an explanation. "That means that a lot of the forest could be clones," she said, adding that she likes learning about a real-world issue.

De Lancie agreed, adding that she enjoys the work.

"My favorite part has been learning all the lab skills and just feeling like a real scientist," she said. "This class has broadened my interest in the sciences."



5 Ways You Can Help Protect Redwoods

DONATE

to Save the Redwoods League.

PLAN

a gift in your will for Save the Redwoods League.

TALK

to your friends about the League's work.

VISIT

the redwood forest with your friends and family.

EXPLORE

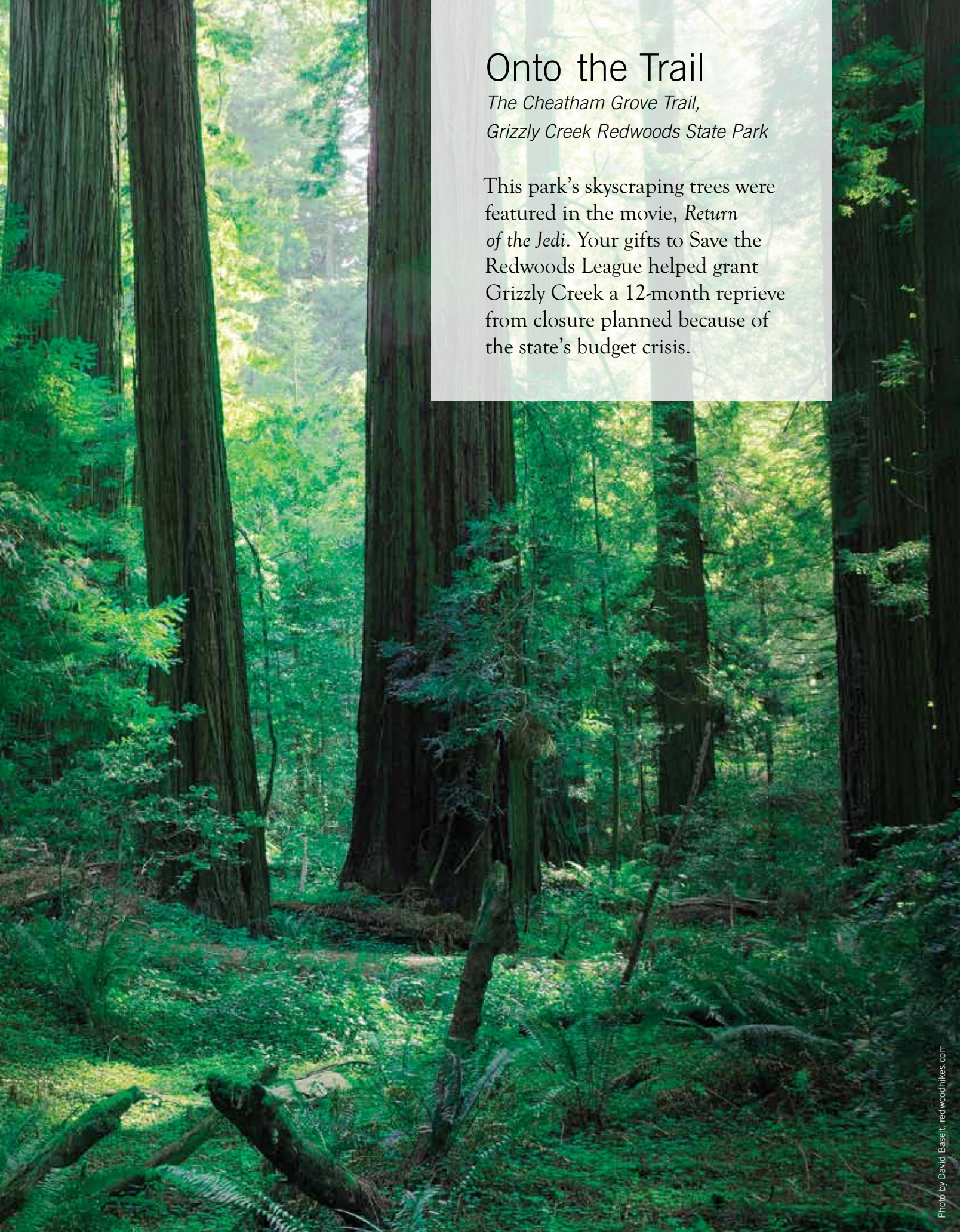
volunteer opportunities in redwood parks.

To learn more, visit SaveTheRedwoods.org, or call us at (888) 836-0005.

Be a Pillar among Redwoods

You can help provide the financial foundation for our efforts to secure ancient redwood forests for current and future generations to enjoy. If you give a total of \$1,000 or more, you will be invited to join the Redwood Leadership Society. You'll get invitations to exclusive redwood tours, luncheons and our Annual Leadership and Legacy recognition event; listing in our annual report if you wish; and insider program updates. For more information or to donate, visit SaveTheRedwoods.org/leadershipociety or call us at the number above.





Onto the Trail

*The Cheatham Grove Trail,
Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park*

This park's skyscraping trees were featured in the movie, *Return of the Jedi*. Your gifts to Save the Redwoods League helped grant Grizzly Creek a 12-month reprieve from closure planned because of the state's budget crisis.



Save The Redwoods

LEAGUE®

114 Sansome St Suite 1200
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choosing recycled, chlorine-free paper made
from postconsumer waste.

New Webcam, Website, Mobile Map of Parks

The new SaveTheRedwoods.org makes it easier to visit the forest and follow
the latest protection work that you make possible. **You'll also see**

- a new live webcam of the redwoods (view pictured here)
- Redwoods Finder, the interactive map of the redwood regions, now compatible with your mobile device
- a fun facts page
- videos of people like you
- information on how the kids in your life can enter our art contest in September