



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

TRANSFORMATION

in Motion

Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE®

A low-angle photograph of a forest with massive redwood trees. The trees are tall and slender, with thick, textured bark. The forest floor is covered in lush green ferns. The sky is visible through the canopy, showing a mix of blue and white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

ACHIEVING GREATNESS



"The redwood forest is like no other place on Earth."

Justin Faggioli, Chair of the Board, Save the Redwoods League



RIGHT: The majestic landscapes of Mailliard Ranch include magnificent old-growth redwoods and 28 miles of fish-bearing streams. Thanks to the Mailliard family and Save the Redwoods League donors, this expansive ranchland is poised to be protected forever.

Learn more on page 14.

COVER: Helping to restore Headwaters Forest Reserve and accelerate the emergence of ancient forest characteristics for future generations, the League supported the planting of redwood trees and decommissioning of logging roads.

Dear Friends of Save the Redwoods League,

The redwood forest is like no other place on Earth. Its transcendent beauty inspires a unique connection with and appreciation of the great outdoors. This is America's forest, saved for the world by all of us: the League's founders, generations of donors and supporters like you, and a century's worth of partners in conservation.

Earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell launched the National Park Service Centennial by describing a new path for conservation in the 21st century. This path "relies on science and collaboration to chart a sustainable future for entire landscapes and ecosystems, one that invests the necessary resources in these incredible places, and one that welcomes all Americans to care for our most treasured assets as though they are their own — because they are."

Save the Redwoods League could not agree more. Together, as we head down a new path for conservation, we are more determined than ever to give future generations the gift of a protected and restored redwood forest landscape. In this report, we share the stories of this year's achievements toward that end, including the following accomplishments that are examples of our vision and Secretary Jewell's path for conservation.

First, we reached a major milestone to protect the redwood range at a transformative scale through our work on Mailliard Ranch, the largest remaining family-owned redwood landscape. From vast, unfragmented forest habitat, to carbon storage, to cathedral-like old-growth groves, this is a truly exceptional property.

Second, at our Orick Mill Site, we have made great strides to restore this gateway to the world's tallest trees in Redwood National and State Parks. We are leading the charge to create a hub for recreation and discovery that will engage diverse audiences and inspire their love and appreciation of redwood forests as never before.

Third, we started a new tradition, inspiring new visitors to know and love the redwoods. Some 20,000 people visited 48 California redwood state parks on Black Friday, motivated by the free passes we provided. The program inspired park systems in 12 states to make similar offers.

Fourth, the League funded scientific research that advanced our understanding of redwood ecosystems, ultimately helping us prioritize land to protect and restore.

As we approach our centennial in 2018, we are determined to make our second century even more inspiring and impactful than the first. We will intensify our work to protect the ancient redwoods and the vibrant forest landscapes that sustain them; set young redwood forests on the path to old-growth conditions for future generations; and connect people to the peace and beauty of the California redwoods through a network of world-class parks and protected areas.

Thank you for your contributions to this successful year; you made the world a better and more beautiful place.

Gratefully,

Justin Faggioli
Chair of the Board

Sam Hodder
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Progress Made

The Impact of Your Support
2015-16

Save the Redwoods League made great progress toward our vision of fostering a vibrant redwood forest across its natural range, protected forever, restored to reflect the old-growth characteristics that were lost, and connected to the visiting public through a network of magnificent parks that inspire the world with the beauty and power of nature.

We reached agreements to protect redwood lands covering a sweeping 15,000 acres. The League helped to restore degraded redwood forests, setting them on a path to become wondrous ancient forests for our children's children. We moved forward on work to build and restore inspiring trails and create amenities in parks to offer life-changing experiences for all who visit the redwoods. And we brought tens of thousands of new visitors to the forest, inspiring wonder and moments of joy in the parks that our predecessors helped to create.

Your contributions to the Redwood Land Fund made this progress possible, allowing the League to seize opportunities in a complex and fast-paced real estate market, and enabling us to buy, hold, restore and ultimately transfer and open forests to the public.

YOU PROTECTED ...



ANCIENT GIANTS

You saved redwoods from threats including development.



CLEAN WATER

You protected streams that run through redwood forests, securing a vital resource.



WILDLIFE

You safeguarded places for threatened wildlife such as salmon.



SCENERY

You preserved beautiful views that will inspire people for generations.



RECREATION

You secured land that opened or will be open to the public in the future, and you improved parks that are already open.



CO2 STORAGE

You helped mitigate climate change by protecting redwood forests, which store at least three times more carbon than any other kind of forest.



Protect

Safeguarding the forest through groundbreaking science

New League-sponsored research provided a major contribution to our Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative, offering new insight into the climate conditions that the redwoods might face in the future. Published in *Global Change Biology*, the study refines the **climate forecast for coastal California through 2030** and determines that a future of warmer conditions and normal rainfall – the sweet spot for redwoods -- is most likely. **See the story on page 21.**

Another study provides hard data that enables rangers to educate redwood forest visitors on how they can **protect imperiled birds by cleaning up picnic sites.** Researchers showed that human food in campgrounds is attracting Steller's jays that prey on marbled murrelets, highly threatened seabirds that depend on ancient redwoods for nesting.

A study on coast redwood genetic diversity revealed that, contrary to a long-held belief, **not all redwoods growing together in a ring are genetically identical.** The findings will help us retain genetic diversity when planting redwoods in areas damaged by industrial logging.



Mailliard Ranch: In securing an option agreement with the landowners, we reached a major milestone to protect this coveted conservation priority. The conservation easement that the League is working to acquire across this 15,000-acre ranch on the shoulder of the beautiful Anderson Valley is the ideal tool for protecting this redwood forest at a transformative scale. **See images on pages 5 and 15, and the story on page 14.**



Westfall Ranch: We launched the campaign to purchase the scenic 77-acre ranch (above) to buffer the spellbinding and neighboring ancient redwood forest of Headwaters Forest Reserve (left). Thousands of donors answered our call to protect this \$1.1 million property by preventing other potential owners from developing or logging the land.

Craig Ranch: Sixty-six acres of rich habitat for rare, iconic animals such as spotted owls and Pacific fishers are protected now that the League has purchased and transferred the \$300,000 ranch to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with assistance from Sequoia Riverlands Trust. By protecting the ranch, the BLM will be able to provide a new gateway to an extraordinary kingdom of ancient giant sequoias on Case Mountain (right). Hikers, mountain bikers and other visitors will be able to traverse the picturesque ranch to reach the grove, passing a seasonal waterfall and Salt Creek threading between rolling hills, majestic blue oaks and peaceful meadows.



Restore

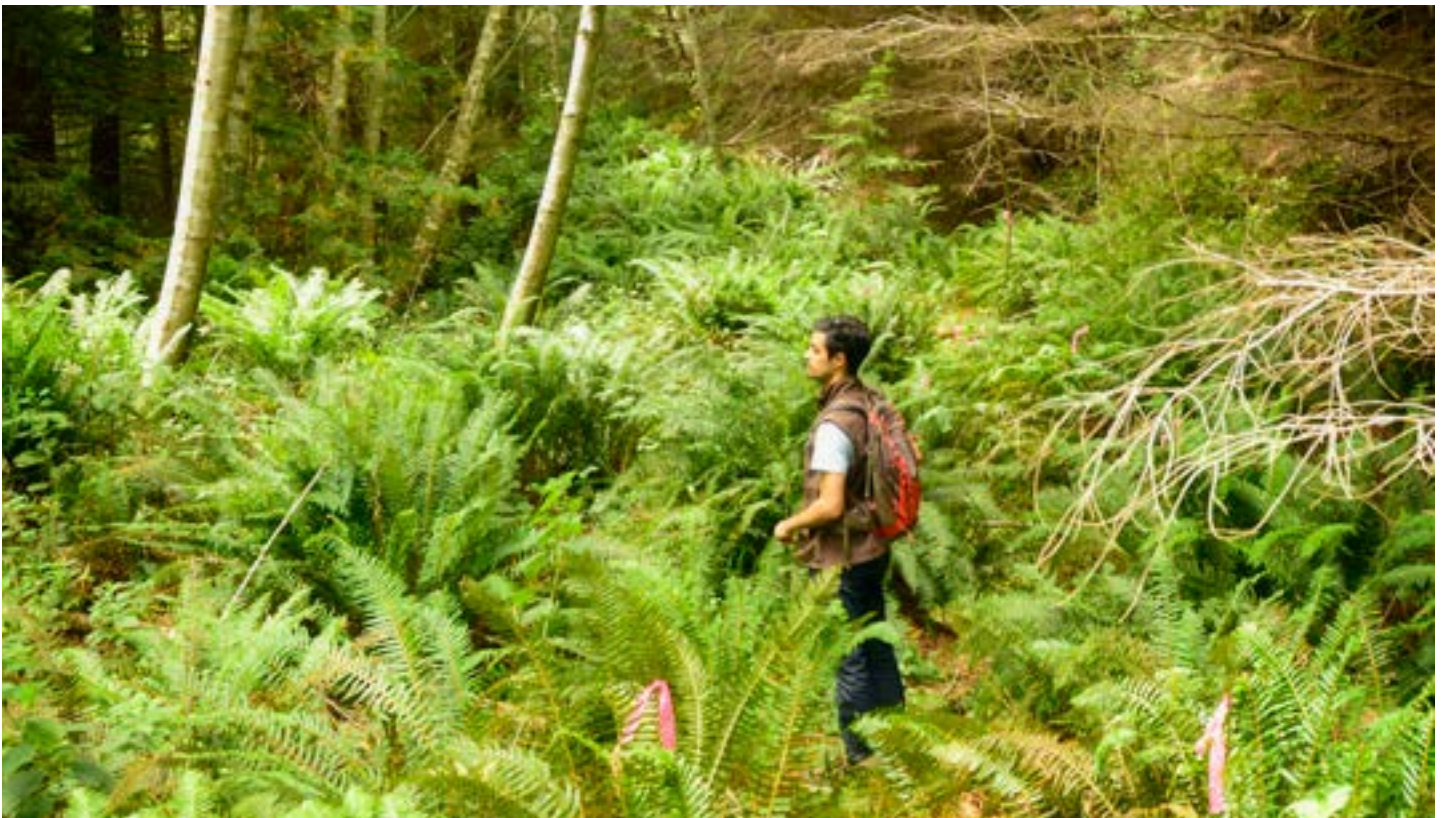
Setting young redwood forests on a trajectory to become the old-growth for future generations

At **Gateway to Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP)**, we led a public and private partnership on our Orick Mill Site, with support from the California State Coastal Conservancy, and studied how to restore pasture from pavement, improve the health of Prairie Creek, and bring salmon, elk, and redwoods back to the home of the tallest trees. **See the story on page 16.**

In **Shady Dell**, a unique redwood forest on the Lost Coast, we set younger stands on the path to become as magnificent as this forest's ancient redwoods — by reducing dangerous buildups of combustible vegetation that could fuel a catastrophic wildfire.

In **Big River-Mendocino Old-Growth Redwoods**, we plotted our course to heal this place that protects two forest types in one magnificent location: a rare pygmy forest and a breathtaking ancient redwood forest. Top priorities are preventing catastrophic amounts of sediment from burying spawning and rearing habitat of endangered coho salmon in nearby Big River.

In **San Vicente Redwoods**, with Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund, we completed a plan for managing and restoring this vast forest, a critical part of the Santa Cruz Mountains' ecosystem. The work brings us closer to conserving this precious landscape for all its uses: protection of old-growth redwood trees and drinking water, wildlife habitat restoration, ecologically sustainable timber harvesting and public recreation. We also led enthusiastic volunteers from Oracle Corporation who helped care for the forest.



Headwaters: Helping to restore Headwaters Forest Reserve and accelerate the emergence of ancient forest characteristics, the League supported the planting of redwood trees and decommissioning of logging roads. About half this magnificent ancient forest had been harvested before a protracted logging dispute made national news and led to the reserve's establishment in 1999.



Connect

*Linking people to the peace and beauty of the California redwoods
through a network of world-class parks and protected areas*

In **Gateway to Redwood National and State Parks and Visitor Center**, we are leading public and private organizations to create a hub for recreation and discovery that will engage diverse audiences and inspire their love and appreciation of redwood forests as never before. With support from The James Irvine Foundation, we hired award-winning Siegel & Strain Architects to develop a conceptual plan for a replacement visitor center in the home of Earth's tallest trees. We also hired AldrichPears Associates to plan innovative educational exhibits, as well as LACO Associates to develop a master plan for integrating the development with the landscape restoration of our Orick Mill Site. **See the related story on page 16.**

In **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**, we made great progress toward reuniting thousands of hikers with the beloved River Trail through the spectacular, ancient Garden Club of America Grove. We finished restoring the surface of this fire- and storm-damaged trail and installed three bridges. In addition, the grove's day-use area now has five new picnic tables offering uplifting views. Next steps include addition of a bathroom and three remaining bridges.

In **San Vicente Redwoods**, the public is closer to experiencing this vast, mountainous forest laced with streams, teeming with wildlife and overlooking the Pacific Ocean, all within an hour of many of the San Francisco Bay Area's cities. Working with POST, Sempervirens Fund, and Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, we completed the draft of a plan allowing public recreation.

At **Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park** visitors learned the secrets of this park's redwoods, thanks to our new interpretive kiosk. We also collaborated with California Conservation Corps and California State Parks to rebuild part of the fire-damaged Pfeiffer Falls Trail. The work is just the first phase of our effort to eventually restore the entire trail, the park's most popular footpath, which showcases a redwood canyon and a delightful 60-foot waterfall.

Reaching new audiences during a **sold-out event at San Francisco's Commonwealth Club**, Sam Hodder, League President and CEO, delivered a presentation on today's threats to the redwoods; how we can ensure that our irreplaceable forests will thrive into the future; and why listeners should care. Hear the presentation and see a slideshow at SaveTheRedwoods.org/watch-future.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, our **Education Grants** supported free field trips to the redwood forest for 860 junior high, high school and college students. Youths from Santa Rosa to Half Moon Bay spent a day exploring the redwoods as scientists, collecting data, and learning how the redwoods are playing a role in combating climate change.

Creating the **new tradition of Free Redwood Parks Day** on the day after Thanksgiving, we inspired 20,000 new visitors to enjoy the wonders of 48 California Redwood State Parks. Providing passes to these magical places cultivated long-term supporters for the forest's protection. **See the story on page 18.**



Education: Through our Education Program, 5,000 California students like these visited a local redwood forest, learned why redwood forests matter and what needs to be done to protect them.



Infrastructure: Working toward our objective of ensuring an inspirational and transformative park experience for all who visit the redwoods, the League helped replace a failing footbridge at Limekiln State Park. The new bridge serves the nearly 16,000 annual visitors who enjoy the dramatic Big Sur coastline, awe-inspiring 100-foot Limekiln Falls, rare California condors and the southernmost old-growth redwood grove in California.

Accessibility: We built a 2.3-mile extension of the Lost Coast Trail in our Shady Dell forest, winding past enthralling ancient candelabra-shaped redwoods and dramatic bluff-top vistas. The League collaborated with California State Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, Mendocino Land Trust and California State Parks to make this trail possible.





ABOVE and BELOW: The majestic landscapes of Mailliard Ranch include magnificent old-growth redwoods and 28 miles of fish-bearing streams. Thanks to the Mailliard family and Save the Redwoods League donors, this expansive ranchland is poised to be protected forever. RIGHT: League Councilor John Scharffenberger supports the project to protect Mailliard Ranch.



Mailliard Ranch will provide vital connections to more than 82,000 acres of contiguous protected lands.



TRANSFORMATIVE ENDEAVOR REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

This agreement will protect the largest remaining family-owned coast redwood forest forever.

Generations of Save the Redwoods League members like you have helped protect nearly 200,000 acres of redwood forest since 1918. As a result of this dedication, 75 percent of the remaining old-growth coast redwood forest is now protected in parks and reserves. But only 29 percent of the entire coast redwood forest — old and young — is currently protected.

FORESTS IN TRANSITION

Vast expanses of second-growth and third-growth forest are starting to manifest old-growth characteristics on which

“The initiative is a wholly sustainable approach that will improve carbon sequestration and will ultimately return the redwood forest to the condition it was in before logging began.”

League Councilor John Scharffenberger

imperiled wildlife depends, and they remain vulnerable to threats such as development. If these lands are properly protected and managed, they ultimately will resemble the primeval redwood forests of pre-European contact that fill our hearts with awe.

But to achieve this goal, we have to identify and protect strategic properties: redwood tracts that already contain significant old-growth characteristics, provide essential links between established preserves, and are suitable for ongoing restoration. Toward this end, the League has negotiated a critical agreement, one that will preserve an enormous portion of Mendocino County’s redwood lands and provide essential linkage to redwood parks and preserves to the north.

This agreement will protect the extraordinary Mailliard Ranch, the largest family-owned redwood landscape

in the entire redwood range. The 14,898-acre ranch is an expanse of rugged mountains cloaked with redwood, Douglas fir and oak woodlands, rich in wildlife and harboring imperiled northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets and coho salmon. Its treasures include 28 miles of fish-bearing streams and almost 1,000 acres of old-growth forest.

PRESERVED FOREVER


The agreement between the League and the Mailliard family establishes conservation easements that will preserve this incomparable landscape and its irreplaceable natural treasures forever. Further, our \$7 million investment will provide a refuge for 59 native plant species, sequester quantities of planet-warming carbon as the redwoods and other trees grow, and provide vital connections to more than 82,000 acres of contiguous protected lands.

“The Mailliard Ranch initiative demonstrates very effective forestry protocols that can be widely applied to other forests,” said John Scharffenberger, the famed Mendocino County chocolatier, vintner, League Councilor and a supporter of the project. “It is a wholly sustainable approach that will improve carbon sequestration and will ultimately return the redwood forest to the condition it was in before logging began.”

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

In short, the Mailliard Ranch agreement is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a transformative impact in the century-long fight to save and restore the redwood forest. But while this an unprecedented deal, it is by no means a done deal. Save the Redwoods League supporters have been generous, contributing \$1.8 million of the needed \$7 million to conclude this historic agreement. As always, we look to you to ensure success.

Read more about Mailliard Ranch and see more photos at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/MailliardRanch](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/MailliardRanch)

A photograph of a dense forest of tall redwood trees. The trees are very tall and slender, with thick, textured bark. The forest floor is covered in a thick layer of green ferns and other vegetation. In the foreground, a small stream flows through the forest, its surface reflecting the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is a lush, healthy forest environment.

In Redwood National and State Parks, Prairie Creek provides ideal spawning habitat for imperiled salmon. But the creek's lower portion was damaged by construction of a redwood lumber mill decades ago, threatening the iconic fish. The League is making major progress in realizing the vision to restore the creek and the mill site to create an inspiring gateway to the parks, and a new visitor experience like never before. The League's expertise is vital in the Orick Mill Site project, according to Steve Prokop, Superintendent of Redwood National Park.

GRANT BOOSTS EFFORT TO HEAL CRUCIAL WATERSHED

League leads partners in revitalizing the gateway to home of world's tallest trees

Historically, Prairie Creek in Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) has been prime habitat for our native salmonids, which are key species in this ecosystem. Listed under the Endangered Species Act, coho salmon, steelhead trout and Chinook salmon are found here, while the surrounding forests support abundant populations of charismatic species — Roosevelt elk, black bear, mountain lion, and the imperiled marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl.

FORESTS IN TRANSITION

This Redwood Creek watershed provides critical breeding and foraging areas for these fish. But the area's long history of intensive timber harvesting, associated road building and conversion of wetlands for agriculture have degraded the watershed, including lower Prairie Creek, as has the decommissioned Orick Mill Site in the stream's lowermost

"We need the League to fully accomplish our mission. Together, we've accomplished remarkable things in the past century, and we believe that's going to continue through the next hundred years."

Steve Prokop, Superintendent of Redwood National Park

mile. These past land uses have decreased aquatic habitat and availability of the qualities that the fish need: cool, clear water with calm pools in which to rest and hide from predators. As a result, the watershed is listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act. Restoring Prairie Creek is critical to improving salmon recovery rates. That's why the League's 2013 purchase of the 125-acre mill site was a major milestone in our nearly 100-year history of protecting what is now RNSP, a World Heritage Site and home to 45 percent of Earth's magnificent ancient redwood forest.

A more recent milestone is the League's partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy to restore the mill site and return Prairie Creek to its former natural glory. A \$300,000 grant from the Conservancy and

\$100,000 League match are funding studies that will inform restoration.

Progress is evident already. Concrete and invasive plants have been removed by National Park Service and California Conservation Corps; we've seen elk browsing; and we've found ample evidence that bears and mountain lions feel welcome again.

Ultimately, the project will expand spawning habitat for anadromous fish; restore the creek and its floodplain to a far more natural configuration; and reconnect almost a mile of the creek with tributaries and freshwater marshes.

Along with this rehabilitation, and in response to the National Park Service's need to remove the Kuchel Visitor Center from the tsunami zone and estuary floodplain, our vision for the mill site is to create a replacement visitor center that will engage diverse audiences and inspire their love and appreciation for redwood forests as never before. This world-class visitor center would meet needs for easy access to ancient redwoods and connections to walking and cycling trails that reach most of RNSP and its wonders.

During the last century, Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service and California State Parks have collaborated to protect more than 51,000 acres of redwood forest that is now RNSP. The Orick Mill Site project advances that work, said Sam Hodder, League President and CEO.

"This initiative ties together all the major components of our mission – protecting this key property, healing the redwood forest ecosystem, providing habitat for threatened species, and forging new connections between people and nature that make hearts soar," he said. "We are seizing this thrilling, momentous opportunity."

The League's expertise is vital in this project, said Steve Prokop, Superintendent of Redwood National Park. "We need the League to fully accomplish our mission," he said. "Together, we've accomplished remarkable things in the past century, and we believe that's going to continue through the next hundred years."

See an aerial video of the Orick Mill Site at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/OrickMill](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/OrickMill)



When we encourage people to visit redwood forests, we build strong communities and inspire a love for these remarkable places.

LEFT: To share the gift of the redwoods with a society growing more detached from nature, the League started a transformative new tradition on the day after Thanksgiving, providing free passes to 48 California Redwood State Parks. The Espinas family and friends, of the San Francisco Bay Area, show the event's social media hashtags at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. They were among the 20,000 people who turned out to experience joy in these magical places on this day that many traditionally spend shopping for the holidays.

ABOVE: Deanna and Tana of Oakland, California, using a pass sponsored by the League, jumped at the chance to visit Samuel P. Taylor State Park for the first time, saying they were up for an adventure on the day after Thanksgiving.

FREE ACCESS TO REDWOODS: A NEW THANKSGIVING TRADITION

Free Redwood Parks Day inspires 20,000 new people to visit redwood forests

Unless people establish a deep emotional – even spiritual – connection to the redwood forest, they will not feel compelled to preserve it. When we encourage visitation to the redwood forest, we build strong, long-term communities for its protection. Experience has taught us that few people are immune to the power and majesty of a grove of old-growth redwoods. By creating and supporting programs that bring people to the redwoods, we ensure that these magnificent trees and their irreplaceable ecosystems will endure as a wonder of the world.

TREES INSTEAD OF MALLS

Toward this end, Save the Redwoods League launched Free Redwood Parks Day after outdoor retailer REI announced plans to close on the traditional holiday shopping day of Black Friday at all 143 of its stores and pay its employees to go outside instead. REI also invited

“This program establishes a new Thanksgiving tradition, one that invites everyone to experience one of our greatest natural wonders, the ancient redwood forest. It establishes a template for public outreach that will give new generations of Americans the opportunity to experience the joy, inspiration and renewal that these hallowed forests provide.”

Sam Hodder, Save the Redwoods League President and CEO

people in the United States to reconnect with family and friends on this day. Reinforcing this idea, the League's Free Redwood Parks Day encouraged people to visit state redwood parks on Black Friday. When we offered free Black Friday passes for California's 48 redwood and giant sequoia state parks, we anticipated significant public interest. But the turnout far exceeded our expectations. About 20,000 people took advantage of the offer; Jack London State Historic Park in Sonoma County alone logged 1,800 visitors, a one-day record.

“It was a very positive experience,” said Tjiska Van Wyk, the executive director of Jack London Park Partners, which manages the property for the state. “Everyone was in a holiday mood. We loved seeing all the new people at the park.”

One program participant, Sarah Peres, took her family to the giant sequoia groves of Calaveras Big Trees State Park in the Sierra Nevada. “We were thrilled to take advantage of this opportunity,” said Peres. “Getting outdoors and exploring nature with my family, seeing the amazement in my children's eyes at the size of the trees, and being around other people and families enjoying the same things made for a priceless experience.”

California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird deemed the Black Friday program “an enormous success. On a day when many individuals are focused on sales and holiday gifting, it was great to see Californians appreciating the fantastic array of natural gifts our state has to offer,” Laird said.

OTHERS INSPIRED TO SIMILAR PROGRAMS

The program's success was noticed far beyond California, inspiring park departments in at least 12 other states to offer similar programs.

A subsequent survey confirmed that 88 percent of those who visited a park during Black Friday rated their experience as excellent. These results provide hope for the future of redwoods conservation, despite studies showing Americans are losing their connection to nature. Only 48 percent of Americans participated in an outdoor activity in 2014, according to a 2015 report from The Outdoor Foundation.

“Our Black Friday program shows people are excited about the redwoods,” said Sam Hodder, Save the Redwoods League President and CEO. “All they need is some impetus, a little encouragement.”

Such programs will build support for the League's vision for its next 100 years: to nurture the redwood forest so it reflects the scale and grandeur of the original, and to link this landscape through magnificent parks that inspire the world with nature's beauty.

See videos and photos of Free Redwoods Parks Day at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodParksDay](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/RedwoodParksDay)

EDUCATION PROGRAMS YIELD LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS

Teaching kids the awesome power of redwood forests.

We teach new generations about redwood forests, why they matter and what needs to be done to protect them. The more people we introduce to these life-changing places, the healthier and happier our communities will be, and the more likely these visitors will protect our forests forever. Your gifts helped provide our education programs, including \$101,000 grants to 22 organizations, including schools, nonprofits and parks. All our programs served 5,000 students statewide.

KIDS LEARN ABOUT THE GIANTS THAT PROTECT OUR STREAMS

The future of the redwoods eventually will rest in the hands of today's children, so it's up to the forest's current supporters to cultivate kids' interest or excitement for these magnificent places. But getting to the redwoods and learning about them can be difficult for many kids who normally don't visit these parks.

That's why Save the Redwoods, in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District, created the Exploring Your Watershed Program. This year, the program introduced more than 100 fourth-graders from two schools in Oakland to their watershed, demonstrating the connection between

"You can see Redwood Regional Park in the East Bay hills from our school," Jackson said. "But a lot of my students have never seen a redwood or the ocean. They're like any other kid; when you get them into nature, they just blossom."

"It was incredible," Jackson said. "We took field trips to the forests and the bay, and the kids learned firsthand about the impacts of pollution from the upper watershed to the estuary. Because they were excited, they learned. Programs like these make a real difference in the lives of these children."

"Programs like these make a real difference in the lives of these children."

Janet Jackson, teacher whose class participated in the Exploring Your Watershed Program

local redwood forests, the San Francisco Bay, and the neighborhoods in between using hands-on, science-based activities. "By understanding this connection, students recognize the importance of taking action to keep their watershed clean and healthy, from the treetops to the rocky shore of the bay," said Deborah Zierten, the League's Education and Interpretation Manager.

Janet Jackson, a teacher at Allendale Elementary School in Oakland, participated in the program with her fourth-graders.



Learn more about the Explore Your Watershed Program at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/EYWP](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/EYWP)

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES GUIDE OUR PROTECTION AND RESTORATION WORK

Advancing research to protect coast redwood and giant sequoia forests.

Save the Redwoods League studies redwood forests and surrounding land and waterways to understand how to best protect them and determine what the forest's long-term survival means to the health of people and our planet. Your gifts provided \$223,000 in research grants for studies that will contribute to scientific knowledge of coast redwood and giant sequoia forests. These grant recipients are studying subjects such as biodiversity, forest restoration and the imperiled marbled murrelet. Research grants also supported the following project that informs our science-driven plan for the redwood forests, which we use to prioritize our forestland acquisitions and restoration work.

STUDY REFINES FOREST CLIMATE FORECAST

New League-sponsored research published in *Global Change Biology* deepened our understanding of climate and the coast redwood forest. The paper, "Back to the future: using historical climate variation to project near-term shifts in habitat suitability for coast redwood," is by Miguel Fernández, Healy Hamilton, and Lara Kueppers. Their League-supported work provides a major contribution to the League's Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative (RCCI).

"With warmer climate forecast for more than half the coast redwood range, we are eager for research that helps to identify areas that are most sensitive to climate change. Continued research will help us identify conservation opportunities that will increase the resilience of these special places."

Paul Ringgold, Chief Program Officer, Save the Redwoods League

The study refines the climate forecast for coastal California through 2030 and determines that a future of warmer conditions and normal rainfall is likely. In some parts of the coast redwood range, the climate is predicted to change more than others. Imagine as a bubble over the forest the average temperature and rainfall conditions that the coast redwood forest has experienced since the 1890s. The study finds that



this climatic "bubble" will most likely expand 34 percent in the north and retreat from the forests south of San Francisco.

Luckily, warmer conditions like those predicted for the coast redwood range are familiar to the long-lived coast redwoods. In multiple years over the last century, the coast redwood forest has experienced the type of climate predicted. Coast redwood growth rates have even been on the rise during the most recent decade, according to research by RCCI lead scientist Stephen Sillett.

"With warmer climate forecast for more than half the coast redwood range, we are eager for research that helps to identify areas that are most sensitive to climate change," said Paul Ringgold, the League's Chief Program Officer. He added that continued research on the redwoods' changing climate will help us identify conservation opportunities that will increase the resilience of these special places.

Learn more about the RCCI at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/rcci](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/rcci)

Finances

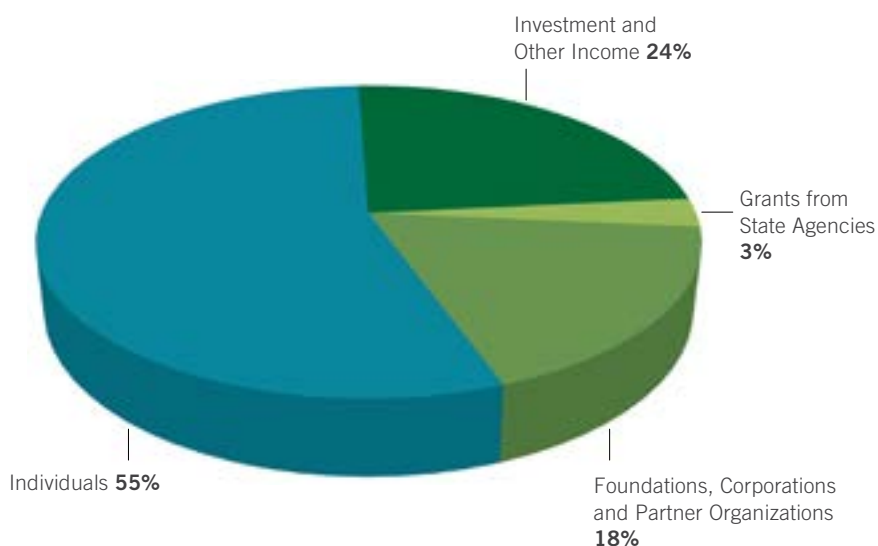
The Impact of Your Support
2015-16

Thanks to more than 18,800 members and volunteers, Save the Redwoods League achieved a number of significant accomplishments in our mission to protect and restore redwood forests and connect people from California and throughout the world with their peace and beauty.

REVENUE BY CATEGORY 2015-16

TOTAL REVENUE \$10,568,024

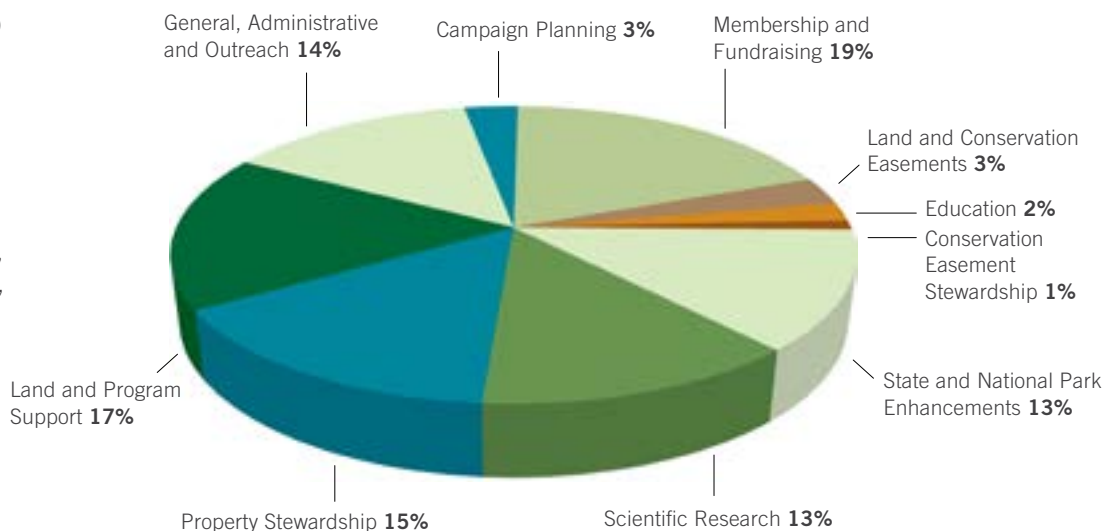
Save the Redwoods League revenue for the fiscal year was \$10.6 million. The League continues to receive significant support through gifts from individuals, as well as from foundations, corporations and partner organizations for our work. The revenue by category chart to the right excludes unrealized gains and losses.



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY 2015-16

TOTAL EXPENSES \$13,170,760

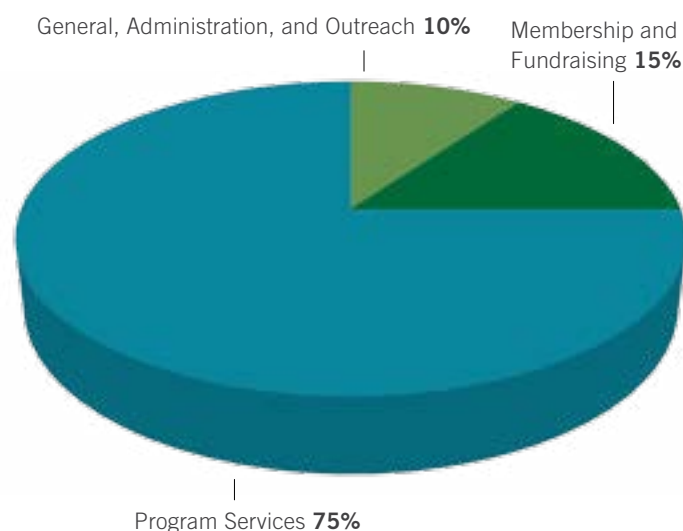
Save the Redwoods League expenses reflect League work throughout the year in acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements, conducting scientific research, outreach, education programs, and state and national parks enhancements.



The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2016, has been derived from the League's 2016 financial statements. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2016 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements or visit SaveTheRedwoods.org/financials.

EXPENSE RATIO 5-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE

As is common in land conservation, the transaction cycle of purchasing, holding and transferring land for Save the Redwoods League often requires several years for completion. While land and forests are protected from the time the League acquires them, the League often remains a steward of those lands until they can be transferred to a public agency or nonprofit land trust for ongoing stewardship, public access and permanent protection. The program expense is recognized only when a property is transferred to its permanent steward, or when a conservation easement is acquired. Since land divestments and conservation easement acquisitions are episodic and markedly affect the League's expense ratio from year to year, we believe a five-year rolling average is a more meaningful depiction of our program expense ratio.



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$ 12,610,858
Interest and dividends	1,587,517
Realized gain on sale of investments (net)	2,406,636
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments (net)	(6,103,588)
Interest from loans	8,348
Other income	58,253
Total revenue and public support	\$ 10,568,024

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Land deeded to a federal or state agency	\$ 300,000
Revaluation of a property	50,000
Redwood land programs	6,305,377
Education and research grants	334,563
Redwood reforestation grants	532,962
Climate change research grants	507,142
Park support grants	235,701
Other grants	64,978
Total program services	\$ 8,330,723

SUPPORT SERVICES

General, administrative and outreach	\$ 1,880,332
Fundraising	2,959,705

Total support services **4,840,037**

Total expenses **13,170,760**

Change in net assets **(2,602,736)**

Net assets, beginning of year **111,908,750**

Net assets, end of year **\$109,306,014**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2016

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,070,681
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	829,094
Contributions, grants and other receivable, net	7,494,572
Notes receivable	213,594
Deposits on land purchase	1,325,000
Other assets	399,742
Property and equipment, net	1,635,828
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	3,838,516
Investments	54,123,508
Real estate held	35,677,380
Endowment fund	694,947
Total assets	\$ 110,302,862

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 996,848
Total liabilities	\$ 996,848

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 6,506,702
Board designated	72,700,000

Total unrestricted net assets **\$ 79,206,702**

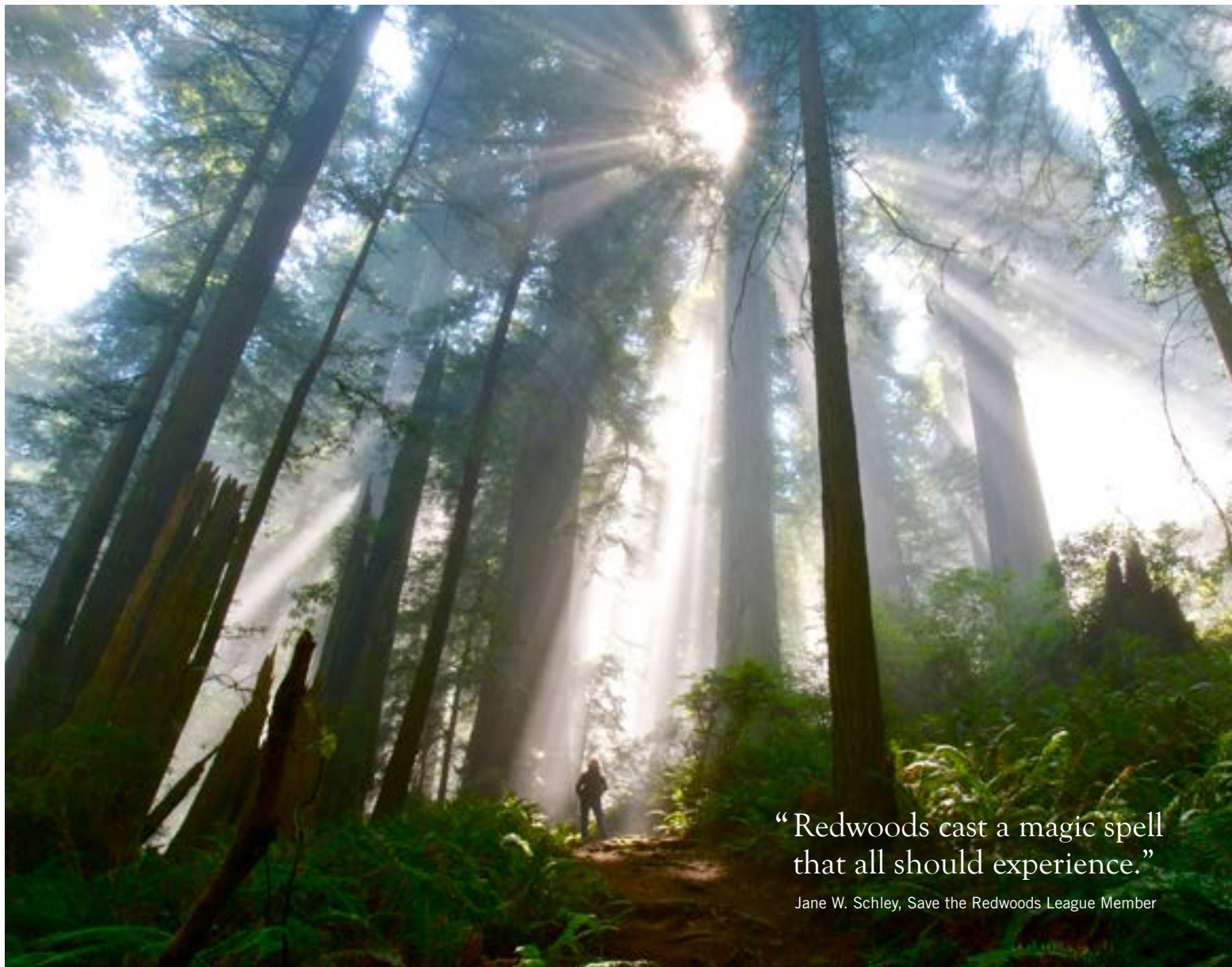
Temporarily restricted **29,688,504**

Permanently restricted **410,808**

Total net assets **109,306,014**

Total liabilities and net assets **\$110,302,862**

Our net assets empower the League to purchase and protect threatened redwood forestland in a complex and fast-paced real estate market, enabling us to seize opportunities to buy, hold, restore and transfer properties for permanent protection.



“Redwoods cast a magic spell
that all should experience.”

Jane W. Schley, Save the Redwoods League Member

ABOVE: Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Visit the Redwood forest today. Go to SaveTheRedwoods.org/plan-trip-redwoods. Choose from more than 90 local, state and national redwood parks! Discover hidden gems, must-see features, events, wheelchair-accessible trails, dog-friendly parks and more.



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