VIBRANT FORESTS

for future generations



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LEFT The crystalline Gualala River flows past verdant oldgrowth redwood stands on the League's Stewarts Point property. Save the Redwoods permanently protected Stewarts Point and this stretch of the river this year. Learn more on page 6.

ABOVE Sam Hodder, President and CEO, left; and Justin Faggioli, Chair of the Board.

COVER With her heart and body soaring, a child experiences the wonder of Lady Bird Johnson Grove in Redwood National Park. Save the Redwoods League shared the thrill of places like this with the next generation of conservationists, connecting 7,300 students to the redwood forest through our education programs and welcoming 35,000 visitors to redwood parks on Green Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. Learn more on pages 12 and 13. We made great progress in leaving these young people a vibrant redwood forest, regenerated from the forest we have lost. Learn more on page 10.

Dear Friends of Save the Redwoods League,

While conservation at Save the Redwoods League is a science-based process, it is driven by the fundamental and emotional objective of leaving the world better than we found it. This goal requires that we protect what is left of one of our greatest natural legacies — the ancient redwoods. The objective also requires that we pass on to our grandchildren and their grandchildren a vibrant, resilient and naturally functioning redwood forest, regenerated from the roots of the forest we have lost.

We sum up the League's mission in three words: protect, restore and connect. We must meet all three goals to establish a healthy, resilient oldgrowth redwood forest for the future in this era of climate change and increased demands on natural resources. We work to **protect** the ancient redwoods and the vibrant forest landscapes that sustain them; **restore** young redwood forests so they become the magnificent old-growth forests for future generations; and **connect** people to the peace and beauty of the California redwoods through world-class parks and protected areas.

Our efforts toward these ends are many, and we describe them in this report. Here are three highlights of the past year.

We reached agreements that permanently protect and connect people to our magnificent Stewarts Point property on the rugged and spectacular coast. Now the property's beautiful old-growth and second-growth redwood stands, grasslands and a stretch of river are protected, and an agreement arranges for construction of a public trail with gorgeous coastal views. We also worked to reunite an indigenous tribe with an important ancestral site.

In Redwood National and State Parks, we made great strides toward our vision of restoring this redwood heartland. Our careful planning and research this year will ultimately accelerate the restoration of healthy redwood forest ecosystems in this region.

In the second year of our day-after-Thanksgiving event to connect new visitors to the forest, 35,000 people used free passes to enjoy 116 state parks. California State Parks Foundation and California State Parks collaborated with us to offer this popular event.

As we prepare to celebrate the League's Centennial in 2018, our volunteers, donors and staff can look back on our accomplishments of this past year with profound satisfaction. We have protected critical redwood forestland, established an extraordinary forest restoration program, connected thousands of young students and new visitors to the redwood parks, and designed a strategic plan to take us into our second century. We have sustained our legacy of leadership in the conservation community and stand ready to extend that legacy in an era when it is needed more than ever.

Thank you for your generous support and contributions. We have made tremendous progress in the past year. We anticipate even greater successes ahead.

Gratefully,

Justin Faggioli Chair of the Board

Im Hode

Sam Hodder President and Chief Executive Officer

Achievements

The Impact of Your Support 2016-17

Save the Redwoods League made great progress toward our mission of protecting and restoring the redwood forest and connecting people to its peace and beauty. From the coast redwood parks of Big Sur to the rainforest of Redwood National and State Parks near the Oregon border, from the restoration of Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite National Park to our inaugural brochure featuring 93 redwood parks in California, this year included a broad and deep portfolio of conservation successes.

Through completed land transactions, we added critical redwood forestland to our redwood parks. We restored degraded redwood forests, bringing to bear the highest standards of restoration forestry and setting them on a path to become vibrant old-growth forests for our children's children. We built trails and park amenities to ensure that life-changing experiences await us in redwood parks that are accessible to all. 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, to actively engage in the stewardship and restoration of the forest, and to invest in the redwood parks that inspire and sustain us.

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

Stewarts Point Conservation easement transferred

HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17

STARTED

at Redwood National and State Parks New initiative to increase the pace and scale of restoration

BUFFERED

Headwaters Forest Reserve Neighboring Westfall Ranch purchased

INSPIRED

at 116 California State Parks 35,000 people used free

after Thanksgiving

EXPANDED

Redwood National Park Two properties transferred

BUFFERED

Richardson Grove State Park

Conservation easement purchased on neighboring Twin Trees property

CONNECTED

redwood forest

in the San Francisco Bay Area 7,300 students learned about the REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS (pp. 8, 9, 10, 12)

ORICK MILL SITE (pp. 10, 12)

Eureka

WESTFALL RANCH (p. 7) HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE (p. 7)

HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK (p. 12)

TWIN TREES, RICHARDSON GROVE (p. 8) SHADY DELL (pp. 10, 12) CAPE VIZCAINO (p. 10)

Mendocino

MAILLIARD RANCH (p. 8)

STEWARTS POINT (pp. 6, 7)

MAP AREA

Ň

CALIFORNIA

Arnold BEAVER CREEK (p. 10) CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK (p. 10)

San Francisco

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK (p. 12) SAN VICENTE REDWOODS (pp. 10, 13) MARIPOSA GROVE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK (p. 9)

Monterey

PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK (p. 12)

2016-17 Achievements
Coast Redwood Range
Giant Sequoia Groves

Protect

Safeguarding ancient redwoods and the vibrant forest landscapes that sustain them

STEWARTS POINT PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

Our magnificent 870-acre Stewarts Point property is now permanently protected from subdivision and extensive logging and will welcome the public to a breathtaking coastal trail. We transferred an easement to Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to conserve 700 acres of old- and second-growth redwood forestland, coastal grasslands and a 1.7-mile stretch of the Gualala River. We transferred another easement to the County of Sonoma for the development of a new section of the California Coastal Trail by the end of 2019.

The permanent protection of Stewarts Point was made possible with funds from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board, the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

In 2010, with the help of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, donors from around the country and a loan from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Save the Redwoods League purchased the Stewarts Point property for \$11.25 million to stave off development and find a long-term conservation solution.

> RIGHT A 175-acre reserve protects oldgrowth redwoods including this one on our Stewarts Point property. The reserve will allow younger trees to grow larger and provide habitat for more species of plants and animals. These precious giants stand tall as the last surviving ancient trees in an area that was harvested around 120 years ago.





WESTFALL RANCH BUFFERS HEADWATERS FOREST

We successfully concluded a fundraising campaign and purchased the scenic, 77-acre Westfall Ranch to buffer the neighboring and iconic Headwaters Forest Reserve. More than 3,000 donors answered our call to protect this property, preventing development and logging.

ABOVE Headwaters Forest Reserve embraces more than 3,000 acres of glorious ancient redwoods. The League purchased Westfall Ranch to buffer the reserve.

MIDDLE Westfall Ranch's beautiful second-growth redwood forest and idyllic meadows are now protected, thanks to our donors' support.

RIGHT At Stewarts Point, Martina Morgan, Vice Chairwoman of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, stands on the bluff overlooking the storied birthplace of her ancestors. The League will grant the Kashia permanent access to this place for ceremonies.





TWIN TREES PROTECTS RICHARDSON GROVE STATE PARK

Located on the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Eel River, Richardson Grove State Park is the gateway to the North Coast redwoods. To buffer this jewel of a park from potential threats on a neighboring property called Twin Trees, Save the Redwoods League purchased a conservation easement from land owner Lost Coast Forestlands. The easement agreement protects more than 255 acres of redwood forestland and river habitat. It also allows Lost Coast to continue to own and manage the property while forever prohibiting other land uses such as unsustainable logging, subdivision and development.

2 TRANSFERS EXPAND REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

We made significant steps forward in our 90-year history of protecting lands in the Prairie Creek Scenic Corridor, a patchwork of private property surrounded by parks. The League transferred two properties to Redwood National Park. The 5.9-acre Berry Glen Trail Connection secures crucial wildlife habitat and important trail connections to the park's two largest ancient redwood groves. The other property, a 2.5-acre parcel, attracts elk herds (like the one below) and the tourists who love to watch them. RIGHT Mailliard Ranch is the largest remaining redwood property still in family hands in the entire coast redwood range. League donors nearly closed the gap for the first phase of the project to protect the ranch's West and Middle portions (totaling more than 11,000 acres), thanks to a match from Justin Faggioli and Sandra Donnell, League Board Chair and Councilor respectively. The conservation easement that the League is working to acquire across this inspiring 15,000-acre ranch is the ideal tool for protecting this redwood forest at a transformative scale.

BELOW Iconic elk herds like this one can continue to graze on one of their favorite meadows now that the League transferred the land to Redwood National Park.





GROUNDBREAKING SCIENCE FOR FOREST CONSERVATION

Save the Redwoods League funds research to understand how to best protect redwood forests. Researchers submitted the results of two studies:

A Promising New Restoration Method

A new forest restoration practice called localized release is cost-efficient and creates diverse redwood forests with healthy trees. The method involves thinning dense young redwood stands in a variable pattern that mimics natural disturbances and accelerates their transformation into thriving forests with massive redwoods and flourishing plants and wildlife.

Study Helps Protect Groves from Foot Traffic

A study on the impacts of unofficial trails around ancient trees in Redwood National and State Parks spurred managers to install signage and plan elevated boardwalks to protect redwood groves. The research also provides a process other park managers can follow to study the impacts of trails, and can help define a standard for balancing recreational uses in sensitive habitat.

Researchers Begin Study of Mariposa Grove Giants

In a third study, our Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) team went to Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove to study how large and small giant sequoia trees have been growing over time. They used the RCCI methods of assessing tree size and shape, then used tree cores collected at multiple heights to determine how much the trees have grown. These data help us understand how climate change is affecting them now and how it will in the future. The research also serves as a baseline for studying how the trees respond to restoration work in the grove.

Restore

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

ADVANCING RESTORATION OF REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS

Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) embrace 40,000 acres of ancient redwood stands — nearly half of the world's remaining old-growth redwoods and half of the tallest trees. These parks are also home to 80,000 acres of young, recovering forest that were heavily harvested in the years before the park was established.

Together with our public agency partners, we set in motion a new initiative to increase the pace and scale of restoration that will put these redwood forests back on the path to old-growth form and function through ecological tree thinning, removal of old logging roads and invasive species, and restoration of waterways and watersheds. Included in the broader effort to restore the young forests around Prairie and Mill creeks is our restoration effort at the southern gateway to RNSP on the site of the defunct Orick lumber mill. This year, we developed a range of actions to restore the wetlands, meadows and riparian woodlands of the Prairie Creek section that runs through the property. This restoration will support elks, imperiled salmon and many other species. Next, we will choose a path and begin restoration of the meadow, the creek and the forest. Thanks to a \$500,000 matching gift offered by League Councilor John Scharffenberger at the end of 2016, League supporters have given more than \$1 million to support forest restoration in these parks.

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK IN SHADY DELL, CAPE VIZCAINO, BEAVER CREEK

Consistent with our restoration goals, we reduced accumulations of highly combustible vegetation on a total of 46 acres at our Shady Dell and Cape Vizcaino properties and at Beaver Creek near Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Dead branches, thick brush and closely packed, spindly saplings could fuel catastrophic wildfires and threaten our efforts to accelerate old-growth characteristics in younger redwood forests. This initial step in our restoration work returns nutrients to the forest floor, benefiting redwoods and native understory plants.

LEADING THE CHARGE IN SAN VICENTE REDWOODS

The 8,500-acre San Vicente Redwoods is the largest privately held tract in Santa Cruz County and a critical component of the Santa Cruz Mountains biome. With owners Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund, we are working to conserve this magnificent forest forever. Together, we are conserving its ancient redwood and mixed forest; ensuring that the streams provide clean drinking water; protecting wildlife habitat; managing the forest sustainably; and with Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, planning public recreation. We led the planning for the first forest restoration project, including strategic thinning of dense young stands. Restoration projects including thinning and prescribed fires will accelerate old-growth characteristics in the forest, benefitting a number of imperiled wildlife species.



ABOVE Protected old-growth redwoods rise above stands that were heavily logged before the area became part of Redwood National and State Parks. We are working to restore a forest of giants here for future generations.

RIGHT Thinning dense young redwood stands in Redwood National and State Parks helps reduce competition for resources, speeding the growth of the remaining trees and the return of old forest habitat conditions.



Connect

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

2,000 VISIT NEW PETER DOUGLAS TRAIL, SHADY DELL

The Lost Coast is one of the most spectacular wilderness landscapes in the continental United States: a 100-mile stretch of bluffs, long, empty beaches and lush forests reaching down to a pristine sea rich with marine life. The League and its collaborators dedicated the Peter Douglas Trail (top right) on our Shady Dell property, extending the southern terminus of the Lost Coast Trail. Since its opening, this 2.3-mile trail has logged more than 2,000 visitors.

35,000 DISCOVER REDWOOD PARKS ON GREEN FRIDAY

The second year of our Green Friday day-after-Thanksgiving event was a smashing success. About 35,000 people used free passes offered by the League and California State Parks Foundation to visit 116 California state parks on November 25 (middle right). We also produced our inaugural Discover California Redwood Parks brochure, featuring 93 local, state and national parks. This compelling and comprehensive brochure is available at parks and visitor centers throughout the state. Along with Green Friday, the brochure connects Californians to their redwood parks and helps the League build a dedicated, long-term constituency for redwood forest conservation.

VISITOR CENTER DESIGN TAKES SHAPE

We are making great progress in leading construction of the new Gateway Visitor Center for Redwood National and State Parks, home of the world's tallest trees. The schematic design phase — the planning that addresses the basic scope of a project, including the relationship between various buildings and the landscape — is now largely accomplished. Pending a future fundraising effort, the completed center on our Orick Mill Site will stand as a dynamic, interactive hub connecting the public with the parks, inspiring passion for and engagement with the redwood forest as never before.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS JOINT PROJECTS

Major Steps for Trail Restoration, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Reaching a major milestone, we raised the \$1 million needed to restore the popular Pfeiffer Falls Trail after it was destroyed by a 2008 wildfire. Despite floods and a 2016 wildfire, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) built and restored 300 feet of this beautiful trail through the redwoods. This work builds on previous accomplishments by League, CCC, California State Parks and contractors who reconstructed the trail's lower section and added interpretive signage. We estimate that the team will complete the entire new 1-mile trail and construction of a 70-foot bridge by early 2019.

In addition to Pfeiffer Falls Trail, the League is working with the newly formed California State Parks Partnerships Office to expedite progress on our many joint projects that will restore our collective connection to our spectacular redwood parks. Through these projects, we are creating world-class park facilities and experiences that are worthy of these global treasures and that inspire visitors from all walks of life. Our many projects in progress include these:

Transforming Big Basin Museum

In Big Basin Redwoods State Park, we are helping to renovate the Big Basin Nature Museum & Research Center to create an immersive experience that turns spectators into active participants in conservation.

Welcoming Visitors to a Magnificent Grove

In Humboldt Redwoods State Park, our goal by spring 2018 is to complete a new, wheelchair-accessible staging and picnic area for visitors exploring The Garden Club of America Grove, where we restored 1.5 miles of the River Trail earlier.

τοΡ: The League and collaborators dedicated the Peter Douglas Trail on our Shady Dell property, extending the southern terminus of the Lost Coast Trail.



PLANNING PUBLIC RECREATION IN SAN VICENTE REDWOODS

We advanced work with Peninsula Open Space Trust, Sempervirens Fund and Land Trust of Santa Cruz County on the public access plan for the beautiful San Vicente Redwoods property in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Our goal is to construct and open hiking, biking and horseback riding trails by 2018.

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN THE FOREST

Our Explore Your Watershed, Redwood Phenology, and Redwoods and Climate Change programs brought more than 1,700 San Francisco Bay Area students to the redwood forest. These programs provide students with a solid grounding in conservation science and forest ecology, and provide meaningful — and often long-lasting connections to the outdoors.

Also in the San Francisco Bay Area, our education grants supported free field trips to the redwood forest for 5,600 elementary, junior high, high school and college students. Students learned about a variety of redwood forest topics, from ecology to restoration.

> CLOCKWISE FROM MIDDLE About 35,000 people discovered 116 redwood and other California state parks by using free passes on November 25 (Green Friday).

Kids learned about the redwood and giant sequoia forests using our free educational booklets. You may download copies in English or Spanish at <u>SaveTheRedwoods.org/booklets</u>.

Our inaugural Discover California Redwood Parks brochure features more than 90 local, state and national parks, and is available at parks and visitor centers throughout the state. Along with Green Friday, the brochure connects Californians to their redwood parks and helps build a dedicated, long-term constituency for the conservation of the redwood forest.







How You Can Help Redwoods

GIVE

to Save the Redwoods League.

INCLUDE

a gift in your will or trust for Save the Redwoods League.

TALK

to your friends about the League's work.

ut forest with s your friends and family.

VISIT

EXPLORE

parks.

volunteer opportunities in redwood

VOTE

for conservation measures.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT SAVETHEREDWOODS.ORG, OR CALL US AT 888-836-0005.

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*Board of Directors (12 directors)

Finances

The Impact of Your Support, 2016-17

Thanks to more than 17,900 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 2016–17

TOTAL REVENUE \$24,570,215

The League's revenue for the fiscal year was \$24.6 million. The League continues to receive significant support through gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations for our work. The revenueby-category chart excludes unrealized gains and losses.



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY 2016-17



The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2017, has been derived from the League's 2017 financial statements. The condensed financial information should be read with the 2017 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements or visit <u>SaveTheRedwoods.org/financials</u>.

TOTAL EXPENSES \$13,030,232

Expenses reflect the work of the League throughout the year in acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements; conducting scientific research; providing outreach and education programs; and enhancing state and national parks and the visitor experience.

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 moment 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.

General, Administration, and Outreach 11% Membership and Fundraising 17%

Program Services 72%

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Total revenue and public support	\$ 24,570,215
Other income	120.710
Interest from loans	6,925
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments (net)	5,682,730
Realized gain on sale of investments (net)	1,974,021
Interest and dividends	1,413,763
Contributions and grants	\$ 15,372,066

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Conservation easement acquisition	\$	325,000	
Conservation easement deeded to public agency		104,500	
Redwood land programs		5,740,207	
Education and research grants		672,102	
Redwood reforestation grants		150,000	
Climate change research grants		371,633	
Park support grants		89,805	
Other grants		164,000	
Total program services	\$	7,671,247	
SUPPORT SERVICES			
General, administrative and outreach	\$	1,943,270	
Fundraising		3,469,715	
Total support services		5,412,985	
Total expenses		13,030,232	
Change in net assets	11,539,983		
Net assets, beginning of year	109,306,014		
Net assets, end of year	\$120,845,997		

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents Restricted cash and cash equivalents Contributions, grants, pledges and other receivables, net Notes receivable Deposits for land transactions Other assets Property and equipment, net Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts Investments Real estate held Endowment fund	\$	5,948,809 37,415 8,717,146 172,110 1,825,000 331,059 1,397,390 4,837,993 69,429,933 30,162,880 888,679
Total assets	\$1	123,748,414
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS LIABILITIES Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Notes payable	\$	1,802,417 1,100,000
Total liabilities	\$	2,902,417
NET ASSETS Unrestricted Board designated	\$	5,724,979 80,200,000
Total unrestricted net assets	\$	85,924,979
Temporarily restricted Permanently restricted		34,510,210 410,808

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.

Total net assets

Total liabilities and net assets

120,845,997

\$123,748,414



"Our goals are to ensure that redwood forests thrive for future generations and to leave the world a better place than we found it."

> Sam Hodder, President and CEO, Save the Redwoods League



To use our resources responsibly, this publication is printed with soy-based inks on paper that contains recycled fiber and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

If you must print this electronic version, please help conserve our forests by reusing paper or choosing recycled, chlorine-free paper made from postconsumer waste.



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