



Save The Redwoods

L E A G U E

GIANT ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE FOREVER FOREST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021





From left: Sam Hodder, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Matt Berler, Chair of the Board, Save the Redwoods League.

Dear Friends of Save the Redwoods League:

At the dawn of the League's 2020-21 fiscal year, in the early days of a global pandemic, our world was instantly overcome with dramatic uncertainty about the future. But we knew that we needed to move forward; that our urgency and passion for protecting and restoring the redwood forests and connecting people to them would help us to heal, and that these forests also needed us in the face of unprecedented challenges. We soon learned that the year would be equally defined by racial injustice, political division, and wildfires across California.

The League's tremendous work in the last fiscal year, encapsulated in this report, offers what seems like an antidote to the year's friction and uncertainty. Restoring resilient forests, protecting lands we love, re-establishing the human connection on new trails for the growing League community—our work together infused the anxiety of the year with hope and recovery. We closed on three critical land transactions: on the remote Lost Coast, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and in Anderson Valley in southern Mendocino County, where, in the final phase of the Mailliard Ranch project, we protected nearly 15,000 acres through conservation easements. Our first full operating season of Redwoods Rising in the coast range was a success, and we elevated our research and stewardship in the giant sequoia range, which was heavily impacted by the SQF Complex Fire. Our great partnership with California State Parks spanned from Big Sur to the north coast, including supporting initial recovery work at Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the wake of the fires. All of this was reinforced by the League's focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as deeper, more intentional tribal engagement.

We achieved so much together despite the challenges. We are so humbled and grateful for your unwavering support and your sustained commitment to the forests that inspire us to reimagine and rebuild a better future.

Gratefully,

Matt Berler
Chair of the Board

Sam Hodder
President and Chief Executive Officer

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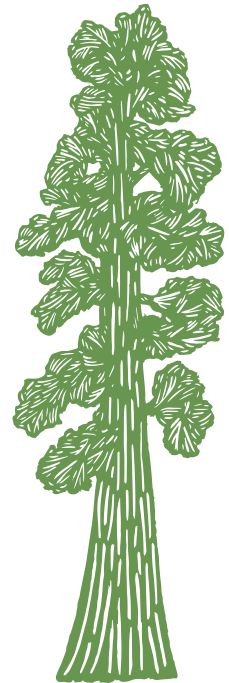
Front and back covers and opposite page: Old-growth coast redwoods stand in a lush grove at Mailliard Ranch. The League completed the final phase in protecting the nearly 15,000-acre property, almost doubling the amount of land that Save the Redwoods has protected in Mendocino County.

Photos:
Front cover: John Birchard
Back cover: Christine Aralia
Opposite page: Luz Perez

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT 2020-21 ACHIEVEMENTS

In the face of an unprecedented global pandemic and a record-breaking wildfire season in California, Save the Redwoods League forged ahead with our vision to bring back the great redwood forests of our past, protecting the last of the remaining old-growth redwoods, restoring historically logged redwood forests, and connecting all people to the wonders of the redwoods through world-class parks.

These conservation achievements were possible with your generous contributions, which supported critical land acquisitions, the first full season of a historic forest restoration initiative, and vital investments in redwood parks to offer inclusive experiences to millions of visitors who sought the peace and solace of the redwoods during a tumultuous year.



HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTED

Mailliard Ranch

A nearly 15,000-acre coast redwood property, creating 82,000 acres of contiguous conserved lands



Cascade Creek

A 564-acre coast redwood forest, establishing a keystone connection for protected habitat

Andersonia West

A 523-acre coast redwood forest along the remote Lost Coast, including important wildlife habitat

ADVANCED

Redwoods Rising

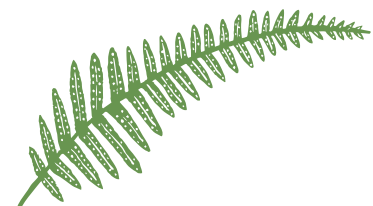
Thinned 1,000 acres of degraded young forests and removed 8.5 miles of old logging roads to restore historically logged forests in Redwood National and State Parks



REHABILITATED

Forests from the coast to the Sierra Nevada

Adapted restoration plans, started establishing post-fire research plots, prevented erosion, planted seedlings, and reduced fuels after record-setting wildfires



CONSTRUCTED

Trails in Big Sur and the north coast

Constructed Pfeiffer Falls Trail in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and the Grove of Titans elevated walkway in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park



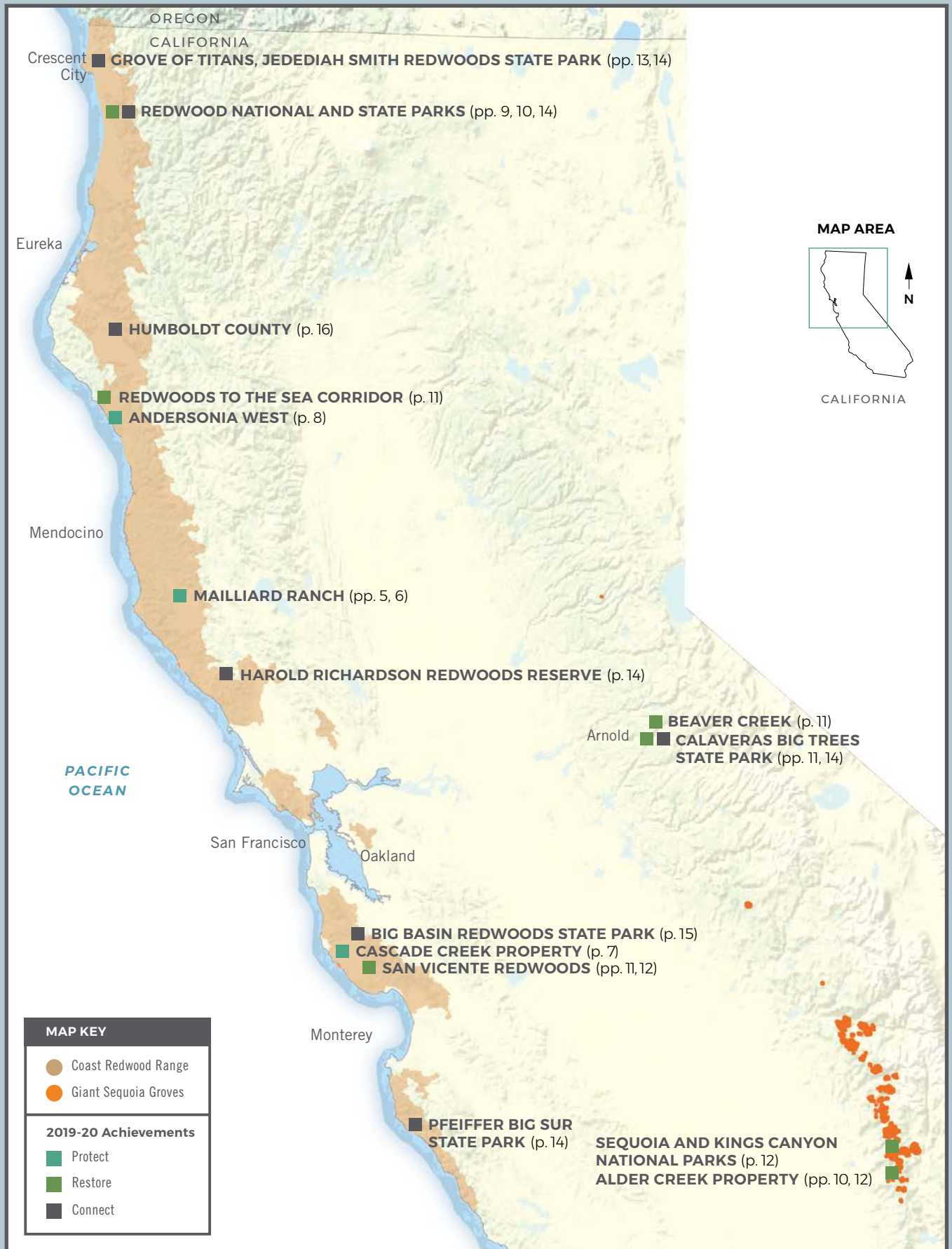
ADVANCED

More inclusive redwoods experiences

Broadened and deepened engagement with underrepresented communities



Illustrations: Brian Herrick







PROTECT

PROTECTING THE ANCIENT
REDWOODS AND THE VIBRANT
FOREST LANDSCAPES THAT
SUSTAIN THEM

We are securing the remaining viable old-growth redwood forests and doubling the protected coast redwood forest reserves over the next 100 years to ensure the forests' health and beauty will endure for generations to come.

Coast redwoods cover the nearly 15,000-acre Mailliard Ranch, which Save the Redwoods League permanently protected with three conservation easements. Closing the final phase of the project created 82,000 acres of contiguous protected lands in Mendocino County.

Photo: John Birchard



Mailliard Ranch easements protect nearly 15,000 acres in Mendocino County

In southern Mendocino County, the expansive 14,838-acre Mailliard Ranch features crystal-clear streams and mountains blanketed by verdant coast redwood forest. Save the Redwoods League permanently protected this landscape with three conservation easements, closing the final phase of the \$24.7 million project and creating 82,000 acres of contiguous conserved lands. The League oversaw the acquisition of the third conservation easement by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), which will monitor the easement with the League. The easements safeguard this largest coast redwood forest left in private family hands from subdivision and development, regardless of future ownership. In addition to protecting sustainable working forests and grasslands across nearly 14,000 acres, the easements protect nearly 1,000 acres of reserves, including old-growth redwoods, mature mixed-conifer forest, and salmon-bearing streams. The Mailliard family will retain ownership of the property and continue their high level of stewardship as they have since 1925.

The protection of Mailliard Ranch was made possible through public funding and by donors to Forever Forest:

The Campaign for the Redwoods. Major support was provided by the Hind Foundation, Ralph Eschenbach and Dr. Carol Joy Provan, Justin Faggioli and Sandra Donnell, as well as grants from Walmart's Acres for America program through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Nancy Eccles and Homer M. Hayward Family Foundation. The Mailliard family also made a generous land value donation.

Public funders include the California Wildlife Conservation Board through Proposition 84; CAL FIRE through the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program; and California Natural Resources Agency's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

Majestic old-growth coast redwoods and mature mixed-conifer forest stand in nearly 1,000 acres of reserves on Mailliard Ranch. Sustainable working forests and grasslands cover nearly 14,000 acres.

Photo: Save the Redwoods League



Cascade Creek purchase in the Santa Cruz Mountains links coast redwoods to the Pacific

More than 6,700 donors supported the League's purchase of Cascade Creek, a 564-acre coast redwood property between Big Basin Redwoods and Año Nuevo State Parks. The \$9.6 million project establishes a keystone connection for protected habitat from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The CZU Lightning Complex wildfire burned through the Cascade Creek property in August 2020. Its 100 acres of old-growth redwoods largely survived, and the mixed-conifer forest is already showing signs of recovery.

The League's initial rehabilitation efforts focused on protecting the road and creekside trail from erosion and hazards. Going forward, we will focus on promoting natural recovery wherever possible.

The purchase and protection of Cascade Creek was supported by donors to the Forever Forest Campaign, including lead gifts from Ralph Eschenbach and Dr. Carol Joy Provan, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, project partner Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), and the California State Coastal Conservancy. In addition, the Holmes family generously reduced the purchase price by nearly \$1 million.

Green coast redwoods stand tall amid areas burned in a 2020 wildfire on the Cascade Creek property, which the League purchased that year. Most of the old-growth redwoods survived.

Photo: Jim Campbell-Spickler and Will Goldenberg



523-acre Andersonia West acquisition protects Lost Coast redwoods

Anderson Creek runs through the verdant old- and second-growth coast redwood forest of the Andersonia West property.

Photo: Alex Herr, NCRM Inc.

Save the Redwoods League purchased the Andersonia West property, a lush 523-acre coast redwood and mixed-conifer forest in a rugged and remote part of Mendocino County along the Lost Coast. The \$3.55 million purchase protects redwoods throughout the property, including nearly 200 acres of old-growth stands and scattered ancient trees. This forest provides important habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed coho salmon, steelhead trout, marbled murrelets, and northern spotted owls.

The purchase was fully funded by Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Compensatory Mitigation Program related to its Multiple Region Habitat Conservation Plan to meet the company's 30-year conservation goal for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets. PG&E's commitment also includes an endowment for the perpetual management and stewardship of the property.



RESTORE

RESTORING YOUNG REDWOOD
FORESTS SO THEY BECOME
OLD-GROWTH FORESTS FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

To ensure that redwood forests thrive, we are restoring forests and ecosystems throughout the redwood regions, leveraging the best available science to accelerate their healing.

Workers thin a young, unnaturally dense coast redwood forest in Redwood National and State Parks during the first full operating season of Redwoods Rising, a historic partnership working to set the historically logged forest on the path to its former glory and full, powerful carbon-storing potential.

Photo: Will Goldenberg



League staff members survey giant sequoia after a 2020 wildfire burned the League's Alder Creek property. Most of the large giant sequoia survived.

Photo: Suzanne Moss

Rehabilitating the Alder Creek property after wildfire

After the 2020 SQF Complex Fire burned through significant portions of our Alder Creek property, our 2020 survey showed that at least 80 of the forest's nearly 500 large giant sequoia died. The Stag Tree, the fifth largest known tree in the world, survived. We took immediate action to protect the roads, trails, and culverts from erosion.

The fire impacted our planned restoration work. We are working with scientists to develop a plan for rehabilitation.

In addition, we finished the second year of a hydrology study, the results of which will help us better understand water dynamics within the forest during this ongoing period of droughts in California.

Meanwhile, our hearts go out to our neighbors who sustained devastating losses in the fire. At least 45 homes in the neighboring subdivision of Sequoia Crest burned.

Historic forest restoration initiative completes successful first season

Redwoods Rising is a monumental partnership between Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks to restore more than 70,000 acres of historically logged forests in Redwood National and State Parks. Our

goal is to reset the natural balance and function of the world's most iconic forests and set them on trajectory to be the old growth of the future. After breaking ground in October 2019, we and our partners completed our first full operating season in October 2020.

We implemented work in the Mill Creek and Prairie Creek watersheds, near some of the parks' most beloved and popular sights. Since 2019, we have conducted restoration thinning across approximately 1,000 acres of degraded young coast redwood forest and removed 8.5 miles of old logging roads, preventing erosion that threatened streams in which salmon spawn.



*The Redwoods to the Sea Corridor Forest Resilience Project, Giant Sequoia Forest Resilience Project, and Redwoods Rising are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website, www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

The partnership employed dozens of skilled workers. The League funded and hired 17 apprentices from Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods who worked alongside park staff on forestry, botany, watershed rehabilitation, stream classification, and wildlife biology. Thus, Redwoods Rising is not only helping to create good jobs in the region, but also fostering the next generation of forest stewards.

Redwoods Rising is an initiative of Forever Forest: The Campaign for the Redwoods and is supported by generous donors including League Board of Directors member and Councilor John Scharffenberger, Elizabeth R. and William J. Patterson Foundation, S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, and Oracle, among others. Major funding is also being provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) as part of the California Climate Investments program*; the National Park Service; California State Coastal Conservancy; and California Wildlife Conservation Board.

Post-fire stewardship in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Roughly half of the forest in the 8,532-acre San Vicente Redwoods, where the League holds a conservation easement, burned at high intensity in the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire, likely killing most of the Douglas-fir and other hardwood trees in those areas. The coast redwoods will likely recover—many are already resprouting along the trunks and branches of the trees.

Our past restoration work to reduce the density of trees in fire-prone areas and create shaded fuel breaks on San Vicente Redwoods helped to reduce the fire severity in regions of the property. We are analyzing data to learn more about the impacts of that work.

To address potential erosion issues and landslides, we replaced burned culverts and stream crossings in fall and winter 2020. In late winter 2021, we worked with POST and Amah Mutsun Land Trust after the fire to plant 5,500 coast redwood and Douglas-fir seedlings in the Deadman Gulch Restoration Reserve and Working Forest unit. We also have started field pretreatment work as part of a grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to continue fuels reduction and restoration thinning across the 550-acre Deadman II area.



Anthony Castaños, the League's Land Stewardship Manager, plants a Douglas-fir seedling at San Vicente Redwoods after a 2020 wildfire. The League worked with partners to plant 5,500 coast redwood and Douglas-fir seedlings on the property.

Photo: Kristy Peterson

Restoring habitat and fire resilience from the north coast to the Sierra Nevada

In the Redwoods to the Sea Corridor in Humboldt County, where the League holds nine conservation easements spanning 11,000 acres, restoration work is underway in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, landowner Bob Stansberry, Mattole Salmon Group, and Mattole Restoration Council. We have treated 130 acres of a 252-acre fuel break and installed 350 logs into tributaries of the Mattole River to improve fish habitat. This work is funded by a grant provided in 2018 by the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.*

In the Giant Sequoia Forest Resilience Project in the Sierra Nevada, the League and California State Parks completed restoration thinning of 151 acres on the League's Beaver Creek property. The thinning is part of a project to reduce fuels across 981 acres at Beaver Creek and Calaveras Big Trees State Park. This work is funded by a grant provided in 2018 by the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.*

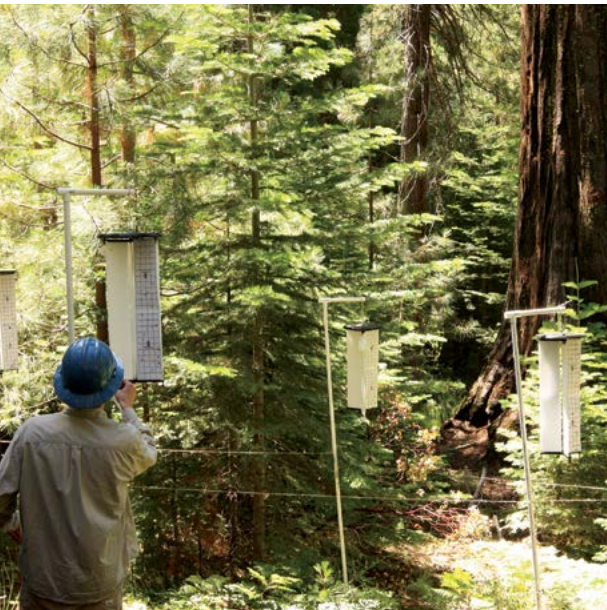
SCIENCE

Post-fire research and monitoring

The League is conducting research on the effects of fire in the coast redwood and giant sequoia ranges. This critical research is already advancing our understanding of how wildfire affected stands differently based on their pre-fire conditions, as well as how we can treat burned stands for increased resilience and recovery. We are establishing additional plots in San Vicente Redwoods and the League's Cascade Creek property to monitor recovery after the 2020 wildfires. In the giant sequoia range, we funded research on the catastrophic 2020 Castle Fire to understand how pre-fire fuels and management affected post-fire sequoia mortality. The study includes the League's Alder Creek property, as well as the Belknap Complex groves and Freeman Creek Grove. We also provided seed funding to develop a prioritization model to focus efforts for giant sequoia protection.

Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative

Our pioneering Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) is the most comprehensive study of the impacts of climate change on coast redwood and giant sequoia forests ever advanced, providing knowledge that is directly supporting our conservation work. In the third year of Phase 3, research continued on coast redwoods that are on the edges of the range and second-growth forests. Furthermore, several RCCI plots in the coast redwood and giant sequoia study areas were directly impacted by 2020 fires, creating a unique research opportunity to learn how the fires impacted the biomass and growth rate trends that we have been tracking for more than a decade. This effort will yield an opportunity to compare pre- and post-fire measurements by 2024, when we expect to have a tree-ring record that will provide detailed information on post-fire growth.



Studying the beetle threat to giant sequoia

We began research in summer 2020 on a potential new threat to giant sequoia: the *Phloeosinus* beetle. Funded by the League in partnership with Yosemite Conservancy, researchers from Colorado State University have set beetle traps on the forest floor and in canopies in Mariposa Grove in Yosemite National Park, as well as in Grant Grove and Giant Forest in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Genetic analyses and behavioral observations of captured beetles began in fall 2020. The studies will help explain if the beetle that feeds on giant sequoia is the same one that feeds on incense cedar trees, which grow among giant sequoia.

Nate Foote from Colorado State University sets traps to study beetles infesting giant sequoia.

Photo: Linnea Hardlund



CONNECT

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE
PEACE AND BEAUTY OF THE
CALIFORNIA REDWOODS
THROUGH A NETWORK OF
WORLD-CLASS PARKS AND
PROTECTED AREAS

Redwood forest visitors can connect with rare, ancient beauty found nowhere else. We are creating inspirational and transformative experiences for all redwood park visitors and fostering the understanding that these forests are critical elements of California's identity.

In the Grove of Titans of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, California State Parks Interpreter Kashauana Chaffee points at the ancient redwoods while standing on a new elevated walkway. Almost finished in fiscal year 2020-21, the walkway protects and provides safe access to the giants.

Photo: Max Forster, @maxforsterphotography

Enhancing our parks to offer transformative experiences

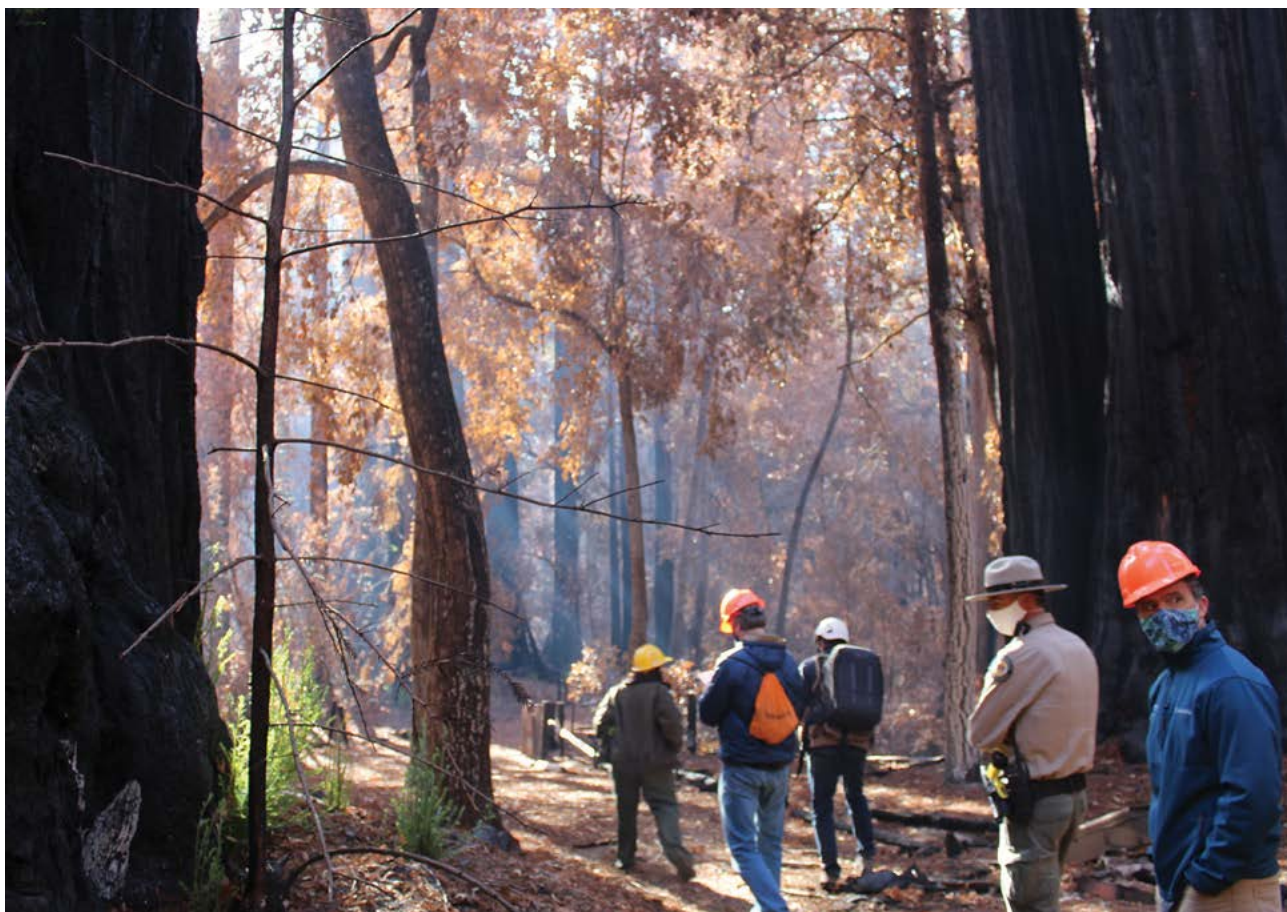
To ensure inspirational experiences for all who visit the redwoods, we made bold strides in our work to strategically upgrade recreational, educational, and interpretive infrastructure in parks.

- Work neared completion on a project including a 1,300-foot-long elevated walkway to protect and provide safe access to the amazing Grove of Titans in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. The \$3.5 million project was supported by the California Natural Resources Agency's Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program, League benefactor Josie Merck, and thousands of Save the Redwoods League and Redwood Parks Conservancy members. California State Parks, the National Park Service and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation also are collaborating with us on this project.
- Crews almost finished a full renovation of the Pfeiffer Falls Trail in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, which winds under the redwoods and spans a gorge on a new 70-foot-long footbridge to reach the waterfall vista. The nearly \$2 million project was made possible by California State Parks deferred maintenance funding, the California Natural Resources Agency's California River Parkways Program, The Parker Foundation, and private donors to Save the Redwoods League.
- New interpretive signs telling the story of the famous Pioneer Cabin Tree in Calaveras Big Trees State Park are to be completed later in 2021.
- With our parks partners and the Yurok Tribe, we completed the conceptual design for a southern trails gateway to awe-inspiring Redwood National and State Parks. The trails gateway is to be located on the League's Orick property, which we will transfer to the National Park Service (NPS). This first phase of public access accompanies plans for NPS to construct a visitor center on the property, provided that federal funding becomes available. Additionally, the League secured a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the first phase of the restoration of Prairie Creek, which runs through the property.
- We advanced plans and the conceptual design for public access to Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve, a breathtaking League property in Sonoma County. As we cultivated our relationship with the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, we explored ways to partner, given the reserve's location in the heart of Kashia ancestral lands.



The renovation of Pfeiffer Falls Trail features stairways through a lush coast redwood forest in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Work on the wildfire-damaged trail was nearly completed at end of fiscal year 2020-21.

Photo: Max Whittaker



Wildfire recovery begins at Big Basin Redwoods State Park

After 97% of Big Basin Redwoods State Park burned in the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire, most of the park remains closed until spring 2022 at the earliest. Thanks to the generosity of League donors, we provided California State Parks with more than \$100,000 in immediate emergency relief to begin the beloved park's massive recovery effort. The League is working closely with State Parks and other organizations to rebuild park infrastructure damaged by fires so that these vital facilities can reopen as soon as possible. Initial recovery at the park included hazard tree removal, culvert replacement, and facility and infrastructure assessment. Meanwhile, the League made great progress on replacing the Rancho del Oso Welcome Center and constructing a new outdoor classroom and gathering space in the park's western coastal region. The new facility is set to open in summer 2022.

In consultation with partners, stakeholders, local communities, and the public, planning and reconstructing Big Basin will involve reimagining the park for climate resilience and equitable public access for millions of Californians and other visitors.

League President and CEO Sam Hodder, right, joins California State Parks staff in assessing the impacts of the 2020 wildfire at Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Photo: Suzanne Moss



Creative community engagement

The League launched a podcast called “I’ll Go If You Go” by and for diverse conservation and outdoor recreation leaders. The podcast at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/podcast](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/podcast) features (clockwise from top left) Farrahn Hawkins, community development enthusiast and former Yosemite National Park ranger; Toni Maggi-Brown, Redwoods Rising apprentice; Leslie Parra, the League’s Outreach Program Manager and the podcast host; Miguel Marquez, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ranger; Rebecca Au, Volunteer and Youth Programs Coordinator for Golden Gate National Recreation Area; and Karla Amador, who started the 52-Hike Challenge.

Photos: Farrahn Hawkins by Kim Grossman, Toni Maggi-Brown by Will Goldenberg, Miguel Marquez by Juzeh Correia, Rebecca Au by Alex Sobloff, and Karla Amador by Victor Vic.

As the COVID-19 crisis revealed the enormous disparities in access to nature for some communities, it also halted the League’s momentum in creating new opportunities for inclusive park experiences. With California on lockdown, the League found creative ways to engage communities and readied plans for a post-pandemic world.

We used this time to deepen partnerships with more than 50 community organizations. A planned series of redwood hikes with one of these groups, Latino Outdoors, was converted into a series of video virtual hikes with naturalists from the organization. The series “Explore the Redwoods” was shared widely through League channels. During an ebb in the crisis, we hosted a socially distanced giant sequoia workshop with Justice Outside’s outdoor education institute in Fresno. And we launched a podcast called “I’ll Go If You Go,” by and for diverse conservation and outdoor recreation leaders that strives to build community through conversation and expand access to the redwoods and partnerships for the League.

Connecting redwoods with students at home

With our redwoods education programs suspended by the closure of schools and in-person programs, the League found creative ways to engage. As teachers and parents turned to the internet for resources, we shared our extensive redwoods education resources online: guides for teachers, educational games, parenting tips, even videos of book readings in English and Spanish for young children.

Among our new online resources is our redwoods K-12 curriculum for schools, parks, and families, capping off several years of development in partnership with Humboldt County. This project was partially funded by the S.H. Cowell Foundation.

We also adapted lessons and field trip activities of the Explore Your Watershed elementary school program for use online, encouraging children to get outside around their neighborhoods.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Building a redwoods movement that resonates with everyone

The League made great progress in defining and strengthening our values around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We completed a statement of our formal commitment to DEI and a five-year plan including our strategies and tactics to build a more equitable and inclusive organization. These were developed in consultation with staff members at all levels and programmatic areas, as well as our Board of Directors and Council to ensure broad representation.

Through deep reflection and thoughtful discourse, we came to understand how our founders' leadership in the eugenics movement had broad and lasting implications for redwoods conservation and our organization. We recognized that the League needed to explicitly reckon with this part of our history, and we made our first public statement acknowledging all of this. The League's Board of Directors also passed a related resolution denouncing our founders' beliefs and formally committing to DEI.

Focusing on DEI values gives us a cultural foundation for achieving our ambitious Centennial Vision, defining a future that includes and resonates with all people. We believe that protecting and restoring redwood forests and connecting people to their peace and beauty can play a part in our collective healing. We continue to move forward on this critical work by better engaging and representing broader perspectives and interests, particularly those of our focus communities that we have identified as priorities: California Native tribes, youth of color, women and girls, and redwood forest-adjacent low-income communities.

Today's redwood forest enthusiasts come from many different backgrounds and perspectives. The League is committed to ensuring all people have a welcoming and inclusive experience.

Photo: Daniel Gorostieta



EVENTS

Thanking Our Supporters



Clockwise from top left: Jessica Carter, Director of Parks and Public Engagement, and Sam Hodder, President and CEO, both of Save the Redwoods League; Lorelle Ross, Vice-Chair of the Tribal Council of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and a League Councilor; Robert Doyle, now former General Manager of East Bay Regional Park District; Caryl Hart, a California Coastal Commissioner, former Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, and a League Board of Directors member; and Jason De Wall, Northern Field Division Chief of California State Parks, were panelists in the League's spring 2020 webinar for members. The group discussed the role of parks in our collective recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

League events go virtual

With COVID-19 putting the League's in-person events on hold, we pivoted to producing virtual events to sustain our connection with our community members during this challenging time—to great success.

Our first webinar featured President and CEO Sam Hodder giving an update on the League's work to our members, followed by a live Q&A with Campaign Director Suzanne Moss.

We convened a panel discussion (pictured above) about the role of parks in bolstering public health and well-being during the pandemic. Later, the League's now former Director of Science Kristen Shive gave a fascinating talk about modern fires in ancient forests. She discussed fire ecology and the impacts of the 2020 wildfires across the coast redwood and giant sequoia forests. She and Hodder also provided updates on the status of League-owned properties, Cascade Creek in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Alder Creek in Giant Sequoia National Monument, as well as the League's work to restore the forests and prepare them for longer and hotter fire seasons.

We also hosted a Facebook Live event with the League's now former Director of Restoration Richard Campbell, who talked about the importance of California's redwoods and described how Redwoods Rising is creating the ancient forests of the future.

These webinars enabled us to reach a wider audience and may remain as one of the ways we stay connected with our community.

Take Me to the Trees event brings trees to our community

While the League's annual fundraising event, Take Me to the Trees, has historically been a gathering under the redwoods, the 2020 virtual event empowered us to instead bring the trees to more supporters, many of whom reside far from redwood forests. More than a thousand redwoods champions joined us from more than 40 U.S. states, as well as England and Norway to raise vital funds for the League's park programs. Event Co-chairs Rosemary Cameron and Allegra Krasznegewicz hosted the evening and acknowledged Honorary Chair Mary Wright for her dedicated work on behalf of the League.

The event featured incredible performances by country artist and Grammy Award nominee Cam, who sang her hit single "Redwood Tree," and globally recognized musician, humanitarian, activist, and award-winning filmmaker Michael Franti, who joined us all the way from Bali, Indonesia.

The League is grateful to our presenting sponsor, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, and to all those who supported the event as sponsors or auction contributors. We also thank our Celebration Committee: Amy Berler, Carolyn Sherwood Call, Caitlyn Fox, Sandy Gibson, Colby Hastings, Sam Hodges, Walker Kirby, Lisa Ortiz, Katie Prescott, Ethan Ravage, Heidi Richardson, Jim Sergi, Julia Sherwin, Rich Wendling, Mark Wentworth, and John Young.

Through event sponsorships, a live auction, a fund-a-need program, and a silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind redwoods adventures, we raised more than \$700,000 for the League's parks programs.



Michael Franti, a globally recognized musician, humanitarian, activist, and award-winning filmmaker, performs during the Take Me to the Trees virtual benefit for the League's parks programs.

Celebrating our Legacy Circle donors from afar

In place of our annual Legacy Circle brunch, the League threw a virtual event for those who have provided for the League in their will, trust, retirement plan, donor-advised fund, insurance policy, or other life-income vehicle.

League President and CEO Sam Hodder illuminated Forever Forest: The Campaign for the Redwoods, sharing insights into several Campaign initiatives, including the protection of Mailliard Ranch, a project that the League completed in 2020 to safeguard nearly 15,000 acres of redwood forest in Mendocino County with three conservation easements. In addition, the event featured a live Q&A moderated by Director of Gift Planning Deborah White, in which Hodder discussed the League's current work and reaction to the unprecedented 2020 wildfires in the coast redwoods and giant sequoia.

While it was bittersweet not to be able to celebrate these generous donors in person, we are thrilled that many who would not have been able to attend this annual event in San Francisco were able to join us from all over the West Coast and across the country.



Deborah White, League Director of Gift Planning, and Sam Hodder, President and CEO, answer questions from Redwood Legacy Circle members about the League's work and the 2020 wildfires in the redwoods.



The new Grove of Titans elevated walkway in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park was almost completed in fiscal year 2020-21.

Photo: Max Forster, @maxforsterphotography.

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 Ted Driscoll
 Ralph Eschenbach
 Justin M. Faggioli
 Caitlyn Fox
 Jerry Franklin
 Reno Keoni Franklin
 Denise Garone
 Sandy Gibson
 José G. González
 Michael Helms
 Sam Hodges
 Reed Holderman
 Annette Boushey Holland
 David Horn
 Erin Kelly
 Lucy Kerhoulas
 Yoriko Kishimoto
 Allegra Krasznakewicz
 Ray Leon
 Peggy Light
 Christa Lyons
 Dave Mahler
 Donald Massey
 Robert E. Mellor
 Lisa Allen Ortiz
 Ralph Osterling
 Richard Otter
 Mary E. Power
 Katie Prescott
 Jorge Ramos
 Ethan Ravage
 Kimberly Rodrigues
 Lorelle Ross
 Corinna Roth
 Roger Samuelsen
 Jim Sergi
 Julia Sherwin
 Carolyn Sherwood Call
 Melinda M. Thomas
 David Weinberg
 Frank W. Wentworth
 Mark X. Wentworth
 Mindy Whittington
 Rob York

Thanks to more than 29,600 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 to their peace and beauty.

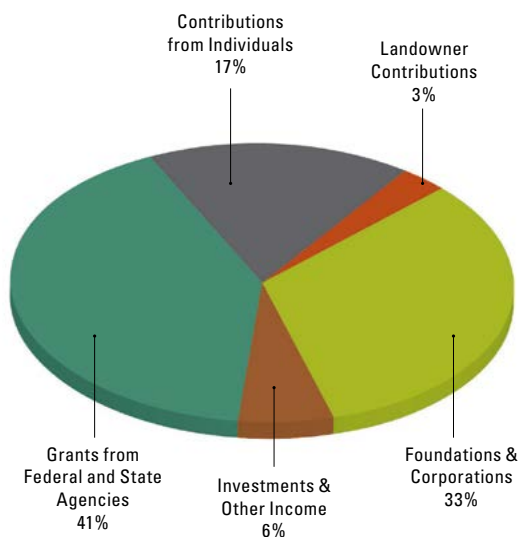
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

2020–2021

REVENUE BY CATEGORY 2020-21

Total Revenue
\$59,913 (in thousands)

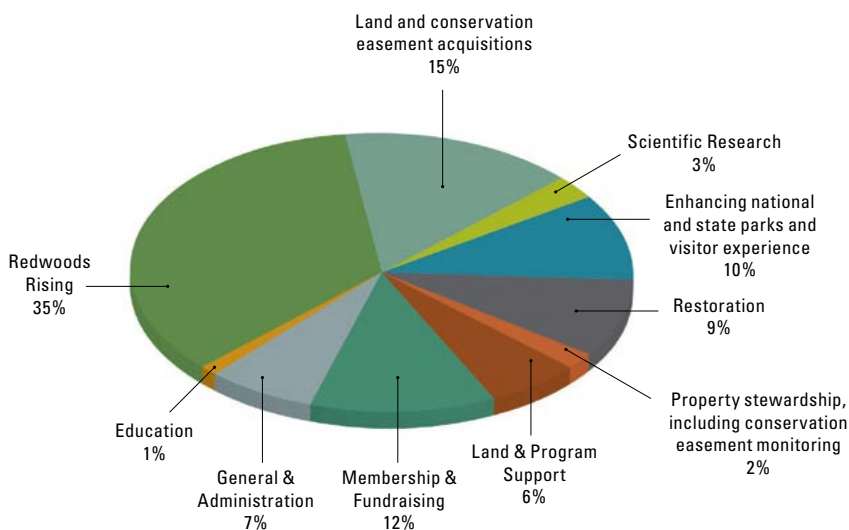
The League's revenue for the fiscal year was \$59.9 million. The League received significant support through gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations, and government agencies for our work. The revenue-by-category chart excludes realized and unrealized gains and losses from investments.



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY 2020-21

Total Expenses
\$36,743 (in thousands)

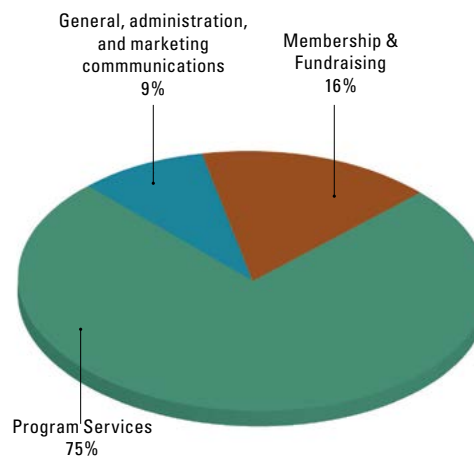
Expenses reflect the work of the League throughout the year in acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements; conducting scientific research; providing outreach and education programs; and enhancing state and national parks and the visitor experience.



The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2021, has been derived from the League's financial statements audited by Hood and Strong, independent auditors. This condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and related notes. To review the complete audited financial statements, please visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org/financials](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/financials).

EXPENSE RATIO 5-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE

As is common in land conservation, the transaction cycle of purchasing, holding, and transferring land often requires several years to complete. While land and forests are protected from the time of acquisition, 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.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021 (in thousands)

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$ 11,155
Contributions and government grants for acquisitions	12,506
Bequests	7,051
Government contract revenue	11,594
Special event revenue	645
Change in value of split interest agreements	881
Investment income, net	14,819
Paycheck protection program	1,174
Other income	88
Total revenue and public support	\$ 59,913

EXPENSES

Program services

Protect	8,783
Restore	17,238
Connect	3,966
Total program services	\$ 29,987

Support services

General, administrative, and marketing communications	2,457
Fundraising	4,299

Total support services **6,756**

Total expenses **36,743**

Change in net assets **23,170**

Net assets, beginning of year **137,879**

Net assets, end of year **\$ 161,049**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MARCH 31, 2021 (in thousands)

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,806
Government contracts receivable	3,741
Contributions receivables, net	6,109
Bequests, net	4,591
Split interest agreements	5,088
Prepaid expenses and other assets	583
Property and equipment, net	610
Investments	62,926
Real estate held	76,188
Endowment fund	1,404
Total assets	\$ 168,046

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,350
Grants payable	1,968
Refundable advance	52
Notes payable	2,278
Liabilities under unitrust agreements	349
Total liabilities	6,997

Net Assets

Undesignated	11,236
Board designated	82,700
Total without donor restrictions	93,936
With donor restrictions	67,113
Total net assets	161,049
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 168,046

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.



YOU CAN STAND FOR THE FOREVER FOREST

SPEAK UP

Learn about measures you can support with your vote and voice.

SaveTheRedwoods.org/action

SHARE

Tell your family and friends about redwood forests and Save the Redwoods League. Join our social media communities.

SaveTheRedwoods.org/social

VISIT

Experience more than 100 coast redwood and giant sequoia parks by using our trip-planning website.

ExploreRedwoods.org

DONATE

Renew your membership; give monthly; make an honor or memorial gift; leave a gift in your will; donate your car; dedicate a grove or tree; or give stock.

SaveTheRedwoods.org/WaysToGive

VOLUNTEER

Choose from many roles to help in California redwood state parks.

Parks.Ca.gov/Volunteer

With our supporters, we are accelerating the pace and scale of our redwood land protection, restoring landscapes of young forests across their ancient range, and connecting new generations with the beauty and power of nature through transformational parks experiences. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and record-breaking wildfires, we marked the year with tremendous accomplishments, protecting and healing our natural systems and helping the redwood parks heal us.



111 Sutter Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

(888) 836-0005
membership@SaveTheRedwoods.org
SaveTheRedwoods.org

