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Redwoods Rising Student Apprentices Help Restore Redwood National and State Parks

18 Humboldt State University students are gaining real-world experience conserving redwood ecosystems this summer alongside forestry professionals

San Francisco, Calif. (July 16, 2019) — Eighteen students from Humboldt State University (HSU) are participating in a collaborative restoration project known as [Redwoods Rising](#), gaining valuable knowledge and work experience studying the historically logged coast redwood forests in Redwood National and State Parks this summer. HSU and Save the Redwoods League hired these college students to augment their classroom instruction and help them gain real-world experience with lasting benefits for the coast redwood forest. The apprentices are working alongside forestry professionals at Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks.



2019 Redwoods Rising Apprentices.

Redwoods Rising, a multi-year collaboration between Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks, was [established in April 2018](#) to restore more than 70,000 acres of historically logged coast redwood forest in Redwood National and State Parks.

“Restoring the redwood forest within these incredible parks will take years, but we can start today,” said Richard Campbell, director of restoration for Save the Redwoods League. “The Redwoods Rising apprentice program and the support provided by the HSU students and faculty are critical to achieving our restoration goals while offering a strong, hands-on learning experience.”

This is the second year that the Redwoods Rising staff has worked with HSU to train the next generation of conservation leaders while they study and restore the forest. In 2018, Save the Redwoods League worked with HSU faculty to hire eight summer apprentices to assist parks staff in collecting forestry and botany data. For 2019, they have expanded the program and hired 18 students. They are collecting data and quantifying baseline conditions of stand characteristics; growth rates of the trees; the diversity and abundance of plants and wildlife; and conditions of the waterways, roads, and infrastructure in the young, regrowing forested areas.

“This is a tremendous learning opportunity for our students, and we’re thrilled to be able to expand the program this summer,” said Dr. Erin Kelly, Associate Professor in Forestry at Humboldt State University and Councilor for Save the Redwoods League. “The Redwoods Rising apprentices will work on projects with real, lasting ecological benefits for the redwood region, and they’ll acquire skills they can use throughout their careers.”

Redwoods Rising Apprentices from Humboldt State University

Forestry Apprentices:

- **Ryann Howard**
Major: Forestry – Restoration
- **Dillon Martin**
Major: Forestry – Restoration
- **Cameron Miller**
Major: Forestry
- **Caleb Van Rossum**
Major: Forestry – Hydrology

Rare Plants Apprentices:

- **Caitlyn Allchin**
Major: Botany
- **Macy Budesilich**
Major: Botany
- **Skylr Lopez**
Major: Wildlife Biology
- **Julia Martinez**
Major: Botany

Exotics Management Apprentices:

- **Judson Fisher**
Major: Forestry
- **Christopher Villarruel**
Major: Forestry – Hydrology

Wildlife Apprentices:

- **Christopher Collier**
Major: Wildlife Biology – Conservation Biology/Applied Vertebrate Ecology
- **Ryan Thompson**
Major: Wildlife Biology

Watershed Rehabilitation Apprentices:

- **Anton Bokisch**
Major: Environmental Science & Management and Ecological Restoration
- **Steven Hopper**
Major: Environmental Resources Engineering
- **Haley Isaacson**
Major: Environmental Resources Engineering
- **Samantha Bowman Pincus**
Major: Forestry – Wildland Fire Management

Hydrology Apprentices:

- **Brett Crandall**
Major: Forestry – Hydrology
- **Sarah McGee**
Major: Forestry – Soils

For more information about Redwoods Rising and the apprentice program or to schedule an interview, contact Jennifer Benito-Kowalski at (415) 820-5814 or jbenito@savetheredwoods.org.

To access hi-res images, please [visit our newsroom](#).

REDWOODS RISING

ABOUT REDWOODS RISING:

Redwoods Rising is a collaboration between Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks. It will greatly accelerate the pace of redwood forest recovery within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) and help protect the area's remaining old-growth groves. RNSP is made up of four parks, Redwood National Park, Prairie Creek, Jedediah Smith, and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks, which are cooperatively managed by California State Parks and the National Park Service. Learn more at RedwoodsRising.org.



Save the Redwoods League, one of the nation's oldest conservation organizations, has been protecting and restoring redwood forests since 1918, connecting generations of visitors with the beauty and serenity of the redwood forest. Our 24,000 supporters have enabled the League to protect more than 216,000 acres of irreplaceable forest in 66 state, national and local parks and reserves. Learn more at SaveTheRedwoods.org.



National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The national park system includes 417 areas covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation requires a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations. Learn more at www.nps.gov.



California State Parks (CSP) preserves the state's valued natural, cultural, and historical resources while providing recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, boating, and off-highway vehicle activities. The department achieves its mission through grant programs and a network of 280 parks, which include beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces, off-highway areas, and historic sites. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

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