

PRESS RELEASE
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STAND FOR
THE
REDWOODS
STAND FOR THE FUTURE

100 YEARS IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE

**Save the Redwoods League Acquires One of the Last and Largest Remaining
Unprotected Giant Sequoia Groves in the World**

*League to Expand Protections and Public Access within the Giant Sequoia National
Monument*

San Francisco, Calif. (June 26, 2018) – Save the Redwoods League, celebrating its centennial year as the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and stewarding giant sequoia and coast redwood forests in California, **successfully raised \$4 million to acquire Red Hill, one of the two largest unprotected giant sequoia properties in the world.** The 160-acre property has 110 ancient giant sequoia growing within its boundaries, and it provides critical habitat for imperiled species including the Pacific fisher, Sierra marten, and California spotted owl. Red Hill is surrounded by the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest. The League plans to protect and steward the Red Hill property and eventually transfer it to the US Forest Service (USFS) for permanent protection as part of these public lands.

“Red Hill is one of the great natural gems of the Sierra Nevada, and this purchase and ultimate transfer will assure its protection forever,” said Sam Hodder, president and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. “We’re thankful to the many individuals and foundation partners who care passionately about redwoods and donated to help us protect this important grove. We also acknowledge the commitment of the Nicholas family, who have carefully managed the property since the 1970s to ensure the health and safety of the giant sequoia and other mature conifers. This is a project of tremendous



Red Hill's 110 ancient giant sequoia are now protected by Save the Redwoods League. (Photo by Paolo Vescia, Save the Redwoods League.)

significance, bringing us closer to fulfilling the League's [centennial vision](#) to protect the remaining viable old-growth giant sequoia and coast redwood forests."

The acquisition and ultimate transfer of the property will allow the USFS to manage Red Hill in coordination with the national monument's general plan, which emphasizes protection of ancient giant sequoia, wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection, habitat enhancement for threatened species, and recreational opportunities. Those goals also conform to the priorities of the Tule River tribe, which owns adjacent lands.

The eventual transfer of Red Hill to the USFS will allow for expanded public recreational opportunities in the Tule River watershed, such as hiking trails. The giant sequoia forest of the Red Hill offers a globally unique visitor experience less than 200 miles from metropolitan Los Angeles.

Red Hill is critical habitat for a variety of imperiled species, including the Pacific fisher, Sierra marten, California spotted owl, northern goshawk, mountain yellow-legged frog, Greenhorn Mountain slender salamander, purple mountain parsley, unexpected larkspur, Kaweah Lakes fawn lily and Twisselman's buckwheat. The project assures watershed protection for the Tule River tribe and downstream communities, and enhanced fuels management programs will ensure greater wildfire protection for the grove, the monument, and the surrounding Sequoia National Forest.

Michael Nicholas, the previous owner of Red Hill, said the League's purchase of the grove conforms to the long-standing determination of his mother, Isabelle Nicholas, to protect its magnificent trees. "Save the Redwoods League shares a lot of our same interests as far as protecting the land and ensuring this resource is going to carry on and be a treasure not only for this generation but for future generations," said Nicholas. "I feel like it's a real win-win situation for all of us. My mother's trees will live on."

The League raised \$4 million for the project, meeting its goal, thanks to a generous challenge issued by an anonymous donor to match all gifts made to Red Hill dollar for dollar. The \$4 million goal included the \$3.3 million purchase price and an estimated \$700,000 for project costs and stewardship activities to enhance forest conditions and climate and fire resilience on the property. Over 3,100 League members from across the country contributed to the effort along with significant grants from local and regional foundations including The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation, Ted Martin Legacy Fund at the Central Valley Community Foundation, The Conservation Alliance, the Flora L. Thornton Foundation and the Summer Hill Foundation. The project has also garnered wide support from conservationists, local communities, and public officials, including the US Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Sequoia Riverlands Trust.

Red Hill is one of the last remaining inholdings within the Giant Sequoia National Monument and, before the League's acquisition, was one of the last unprotected

sequoia groves in the world. It's critical to the monument's long-term planning for several reasons, including the number of mature giant sequoia it supports, the high quality of the forest, the presence of imperiled species, and its location along the South Fork of the Tule River.

Centennial Vision for Redwoods Conservation

Save the Redwoods League envisions vibrant redwood forests of the scale and grandeur that once graced the California coast and the Sierra Nevada, protected forever, restored to grow old again, and connected to people through a network of magnificent parks and protected areas that inspire all of us with the beauty and power of nature. Over the next 100 years, the League is committed to securing the protection of remaining old-growth coast redwood and giant sequoia and the vibrant forest landscapes that sustain them. [Learn more about this and other centennial objectives.](#)

To access images, videos, drone footage or maps please [visit our newsroom for resources.](#)

To schedule an interview, please contact Ashley Boarman, Landis Communications at (415) 359-2312 or redwoods@landispr.com

For more information about Red Hill, go to SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedHill or contact 415-820-5800.

About Save the Redwoods League

Save the Redwoods League, one of the nation's oldest conservation organizations, is celebrating 100 years of protecting and restoring redwood forests, and connecting generations of visitors with the beauty and serenity of the redwoods. Its 19,000 supporters have enabled the League to protect more than 200,000 acres of irreplaceable forest and help create 66 redwood parks and reserves. For more information, visit SaveTheRedwoods.org.

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