Save-the-Redwoods League

ANNUAL REPORT 2003
LAND PROTECTED
In addition to the purchase of Mill Creek (see pages 4 and 5), the League expanded parks throughout the range of the redwoods.

Butano State Park
The League recently purchased one of the few remaining stands of unprotected ancient redwoods near Butano State Park. Protection of this 80-acre parcel secures nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet, a threatened seabird that requires the structure of the ancient forest to nest.

Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea
The League added 160 acres to the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea expanding linkages between Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the King Range National Conservation Area. Protection of this land helps secure a corridor for wildlife, connecting the world’s largest old-growth redwood forest to California’s longest un-roaded coastal area.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park
The League added a one acre in-holding to this park. Although small, acquisition of this property is consistent with our goal of complete watershed protection for the remaining ancient redwood forests, one parcel at a time.

John B. Dewitt State Reserve
The League completed its first purchase from Pacific Lumber Company since it came under ownership of Maxxam. The project protected 500 acres on the slopes above the Eel River and the magnificent ancient redwoods of the Whittemore Grove.

REDWOOD RESEARCH
The League’s Research Grant Program supports research that expands knowledge of redwood forest dynamics. Through this program, Professor Steve Sillett of Humboldt State University is unlocking the secrets of coast redwood canopies by monitoring soil deposits suspended in the branches of ancient redwood trees. This is just one of the many research projects this program supports.

THOUSANDS MORE JOIN!
The League welcomed 4,068 new members in 2002 – 2003. Of those members, 322 are now members of the Redwood Leadership Society, part of the League’s premiere circle of supporters.

NEW GROVES
Our donors dedicated seven new groves in the past year. New groves are available for dedication at both Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Limekiln State Parks and at the newly acquired Daly property on the Avenue of the Giants.

ENGAGING OTHERS
Through the generous contribution of ad space from several magazines, Save-the-Redwoods League has reached over 7.72 million readers.

REDWOOD EDUCATION
The League’s education program provides teachers and students with support and tools to incorporate redwood education into their curricula. In September 2002, the League awarded thirteen statewide education grants totaling $50,000 to K-12 educators, teachers and students.

This year the League published a set of redwood education materials to introduce children to the ancient redwood forest. Contact our office to receive your copy.
Recognizing the changing and intensifying threats to the redwood forests, Save-the-Redwoods League recently completed a five-year strategic plan to guide its work. The vision is that the League’s day-to-day conservation activities—ranging from simple public outreach to complex land transactions—will cumulatively complement each other to foster comprehensive ecosystem protection. In doing so, the League will maximize the protection of ancient forests, their surrounding lands, and the fish and wildlife that depend upon them. The League has defined three major Strategic Priorities—each of critical and equal importance in pursuing the League’s mission.

**Comprehensive Redwoods Conservation**
Through acquisition, restoration, management, and stewardship, the League aims to:
- Preserve core old-growth redwoods.
- Preserve strategic linkages between and buffers to old-growth reserves.
- Restore critical second-growth redwood forests to old-growth characteristics.

**Public Awareness and Education**
Helping people make connections with, appreciate, and promote the importance and relevance of redwood forests, the League will:
- Connect people to the redwood forest.
- Deepen partnerships to support effective education.
- Expand engagement in interpretation of the redwood forest.

**Increase Organizational Effectiveness**
Increasing the effectiveness and understanding of Save-the-Redwoods League is critical for continued success. The focus in this area is two-fold:
- Expanding League membership while broadening funding support.
- Fostering a healthy, productive, mission-focused organization.
- Supporting and promoting research that enhances understanding of the redwood ecosystem.
- Supporting landowner education to reinforce sustainable stewardship practices and stimulate the management of second-growth redwood forests to develop old-growth characteristics.

Other strategic initiatives will also be pursued. These include:
- Exploring opportunities for interpretive centers at Hartsook Inn (a historic lodge near the “gateway” to the northern redwood region), in urban areas, and in Southern California.
- Fostering strong partnerships with private and governmental agencies in the redwood region.
- Assisting the California State Department of Parks and Recreation in its goals of stewardship, diversity, education, and urban focus.

*A copy of the League’s Strategic Plan for 2003–2008 is available in the office upon request.*
Mill Creek Collaborations Reflect
the League’s Legacy and Vision

A federally threatened northern spotted owl soars silently through the old-growth forest, and then disappears into a high snag cavity overlooking the sun-dappled floor. A small marbled murrelet, endangered and elusive, flies inland from the sea to lay its egg on the mossy branch of an ancient coast redwood. A tiny coho salmon fry rests in a clear pool of Mill Creek, cooled by the shade of tall trees.

In June 2002, successful acquisition of the 25,000-acre Mill Creek in coastal Del Norte County — the League’s largest project to date — marked the permanent protection of these forest and stream ecosystems as a California State Park. Reuniting Mill Creek with surrounding forests strengthened connections to more than six million acres of land in public ownership. It also strengthened the League’s own connections to long-time partner agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation. These linkages reflect an 85-year history of working with the Department, as more than six out of ten acres in California’s redwood parks have been protected by the League.

Despite the League’s persistent efforts, less than 4 percent of original coast redwood forest survives. The Northern redwood region encompass 44 percent of all that remains. At Mill Creek, 200 acres of pristine old-growth redwoods persist in precious islands that, in time, will connect to larger ancient groves in surrounding parks. By preserving Mill and Rock Creeks, the land also provides complete watershed-level protection for some of the world’s most primeval redwoods. In Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, As a landscape interface, it forges habitat linkages between the interior Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion and coastal Redwood National and State Parks. Traditionally, the League has focused efforts on purchasing redwood lands that are then turned over to the State or National Park Systems. However, with Mill Creek, partnerships and vision will continue beyond acquisition. League involvement in ecological restoration and stewardship will complement conservation here and in future projects.

The $60-million purchase of Mill Creek was a collaborative achievement: $15 million from League-secured private funds and $45 million from public funds. Working through state legislators and public agencies, the League rallied support from the California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Coastal Conservancy, and California Department of Parks and Recreation. The League’s funds comprised foundation support, individual contributions by 12,000 members ranging from $5 to $5 million, and League resources. These invested reserves enable the League to mobilize efforts quickly, seizing small- and large-scale opportunities for conservation.
For decades, much of Mill Creek was commercially harvested for timber. This left in its wake a sea of young trees in unnaturally high densities scarred by a network of roads. Yet surviving here are 5 salmon and trout species, 23 listed animal species, 15 vegetation communities, and 300 plant species, including Douglas-fir, knob cone pine, Port Orford cedar, and the carnivorous pitcher plant. Biodiversity from the canopy to the creek bed coupled with the area’s geology and climate — ideal underlying structures for growing redwoods — provide optimism for the restoration of terrestrial and aquatic habitats to their original conditions.

Working with public agencies and Del Norte County, the League will explore recommendations for minimizing impacts of roads, reducing catastrophic fire risk, and developing old-forest characteristics in the young stands. Through these partnerships, the League will build more than healthy ecosystems; it will build bonds for future conservation efforts.

Forest restoration will have ripple effects for creek health, too. Clear, cool water and stream banks stabilized by a healthy forest will help increase numbers of salmon and trout spawning in Mill Creek’s waterways. These waters support California’s most prolific wild coho salmon nursery. Increasing healthy populations is important. These protected tributaries are refugia, the primary sources of fish vital for the recolonization of degraded populations up and down the Smith River, one of America’s last undammed rivers.

Through continuing collaborations around Mill Creek, the League will help promote academic research, environmental education, and docent-led interpretive excursions to increase understanding and appreciation of redwood ecosystems. Ultimately, as Mill Creek’s forests mature, fish populations increase, and our knowledge and support deepen so will the League’s strategies for conservation here and beyond.

The two rare birds of the old-growth take flight. The spotted owl, soon after sunset, scans the darkening spaces between black tree silhouettes for rodents. The marbled murrelet returns to the Pacific after its young has fledged. The coho salmon, mature and ready to spawn in natal waters, holds promise for the next, larger generation in the Smith River, and upon completion of its lifecycle, will nourish the forest that helped support it.

**Mill Creek's Shining Example**

From the mink-like Pacific fisher, which eludes most visitors, to the year-round Pacific fog, which shrouds the redwood forest in a veil of moisture, Mill Creek encompasses all the features the League seeks in a project. Its old-growth forests and biodiversity coupled with the support of public agencies provide ideal opportunities for protection. Often old-growth cores are less viable, because they are small, fragmented, or degraded or they lie in watersheds that are not fully protected. However, Mill Creek’s ancient forests are preserved on the watershed level and, in time, will connect to other primeval forests in surrounding public lands.

Written by Elaine Miller Bond
Save-the-Redwoods League

Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2003

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>2,791,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>71,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>663,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>28,553,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>1,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate held</td>
<td>31,696,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts</td>
<td>1,884,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>137,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits on land purchase</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>28,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment cash</td>
<td>339,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total assets: **66,172,684**

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>237,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability to beneficiaries</td>
<td>206,834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total liabilities: **623,969**

**Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>33,063,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>32,145,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>339,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total net assets: **65,548,715**

Total liabilities and net assets: **66,172,684**

---

**Revenues by Source**

- **Government Agencies**: 62.8%
- **Foundations & Corporations**: 13.3%
- **Individuals & Bequests**: 22.6%
- **Investments & Other Income**: 1.3%

**Uses of Funds**

- **Program Services**: 95.9%
- **Fundraising**: 2.5%
- **Administration**: 1.6%
**Save-the-Redwoods League**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003**

### Revenue and Public Support

**Contributions**

- Donations 3,570,968
- Program and land acquisition contributions 8,613,577
- Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions 58,263
- Change in value of irrevocable trusts (119,056)
- Donated Land 6,683,250

**Income from investments** 646,128

**Grants from state and federal agencies** 32,805,716

**Other income** 16,313

**Total revenue and public support** 52,275,159

### Expenses

**Program services**

- Land deeded to State of California 10,000
- Redwood land program support 1,214,345
- Contributions made-cooperative preservation funded 48,509,132
- Other grants 98,330
- Research grants 77,963

**Total program services** 49,909,770

**Support services**

- General and administrative 825,363
- Fund-raising 1,323,592

**Total support services** 2,148,955

**Total expenses** 52,058,725

**Increase in net assets** 216,434

*The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2003 has been derived from the League’s 2003 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, LLP, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2003 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League’s office for copies of the complete audited statements.*

---

*The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2003 has been derived from the League’s 2003 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, LLP, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2003 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League’s office for copies of the complete audited statements.*
Save-the-Redwoods League Objectives

To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests.

To cooperate with the California State Park Commission, the National Park Service, and other agencies in establishing Redwood Parks and other parks and reservations.

To purchase Redwood groves by private subscription.

To foster and encourage a better and more general understanding of the value of the primeval Redwood or Sequoia and other forests of America as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.

To support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

Board of Directors

Save-the-Redwoods League is governed by a voting 60-member Board of Councillors from which nine members are elected to serve as the Board of Directors. The Council advises the Directors, who set policy and have fiduciary responsibility for the League’s operations. The Secretary and Executive Director, a non-voting member of the Board of Directors, is responsible for implementing and managing the policies established by the Directors.

Board of Directors
MR. EDWIN F. CLAASSEN, President
MR. RICHARD OTTER, Chairman of the Board
MR. FRANK WENTWORTH, Treasurer
MS. KATE ANDERTON, Secretary and Executive Director
DR. SARAH CONNICK
DR. WALTER MARK
MR. PETE DANGERMOND
MR. JAMES LARSON
MS. SANDRA Denny
MS. SANDRA DONNELL

Board of Councillors
HOWARD WHEATLEY ALLEN
MRS. GUILFORD C. BARCOCK
GEORGE BREMNER, JR.
STEPHEN J. BUTLER
DR. NORMAN M. CHRISTENSEN
DR. ROBERT E. CONNICK
DR. WILLIAM A. CROFT
CHARLES H. DANA
TODO DAWSON
JOSEPH H. ENGBECK, JR.
PETER PARQUHAR
DIANNE DAVIS FELTON
TERRY GARCIA
ERIC R. GERSTUNG
BEN C. GERWICK, JR.
RICHARD N. GOLDMAN
MRS. WILLIAM GOODWIN
CYNTHIA M. GRUBB
ROBERT HAMBRECHT
JACK F. HARPER
JANE TURNER HART
ANNETTE BOUSHY HOLLAND
CHARLES A. HOLLOWAY
BARRY C. HOWARD
BRUCE S. HOWARD
PAUL HULL
NICHOLAS KENT
DR. WILLIAM J. LIBBY
SAMUEL M. LIVERMORE
CLAUDE A. LOOK
MRS. DONALD H. MALAUGHELIN
GEORGE MALAUGHELIN
STEPHEN MATHER McPHerson
ROBERT E. MELLOR
SAM B. MERRIMAN, JR.
WENDY MILLET
GEORGE NEAVOLL
DONALD C. O’BRIEN, JR.
GEORGE S. PEYTON, JR.
GEORGE P. PUTNAM
NORMAN SPAGUE
ROBERT SProuL
JAMES M. STUART
JOHN D. TAYLOR
ELLEN WEAVER
WILLIAM P. WENTWORTH
NANCY P. WESTON
BRUCE WESTPHAL
MRS. ANN WITTER
J. ROY WITTWER
MARY WRIGHT

Save-the-Redwoods League
114 Sansome Street • Room 1200
San Francisco • CA • 94104
(415) 362-2352 voice • (415) 362-7017 fax
SaveTheRedwoods.org

Photo Credits
Cover: Evan Johnson
Inside pages: Stephen Corley
Page 11: Pernel S. Thyseldew