To walk in the quiet of the redwood forest, to stand and look upward, to follow the shafts of sunlight into the forest canopy high above, is a welcome change from the demanding, frantic tempo of life in today’s world. It can rejuvenate our spirits and remind us of what is truly important and sustaining in our lives.

The tempo of the forest is set by the ancient monarchs whose lives reach back as much as two thousand years. But that tempo was abruptly interrupted by the arrival of settlers some 150 years ago. That interruption continues today with mechanization and technologies that allow logging at a pace that has cleared all but some 4% of the ancient forest.

Save-the-Redwoods League was founded in 1918 to protect and preserve the redwood forest from the saw and the axe by purchasing forest stands for permanent protection and enjoyment. Today, other pressures multiply the threats to the tempo of the forest. Working throughout the range of the coast redwood and the giant sequoias of the Sierras, the League buffers the forest from these pressures. We maintain our long-standing commitment to protection through the purchase of forest lands, informed now by a comprehensive Master Plan that prioritizes action to protect and link core reserves of ancient redwoods in key watersheds.

Success in saving the redwoods today requires use of new conservation tools as well. The League has begun to engage its constituencies of vital logged lands, supporting research and monitoring programs to refine our strategies. And the League is expanding our investment in educational initiatives to stimulate a new generation of citizens committed to saving the redwoods.

We deeply appreciate your continuing support! It is essential for the League’s effectiveness. Your commitment creates the hope that the tempo of the forest will survive. Thank you.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Photo by Howard King

Katherine Anderton, Secretary and Executive Director
Ed Claassen, President
Photo by Ruskin Hartley
LEAGUE OBJECTIVE
To cooperate with the California State Park Commission, the National Park Service, and other agencies in establishing redwood parks and other parks and reservations.

The tempo of our day to day lives – the pulsing energy of doing more and more, faster and faster – is in marked contrast to the tempo of the forest.

California Tiger Lily
Photo by Howard King
LEAGUE OBJECTIVE
To purchase redwood groves by private subscription.

The commitment and support of the League’s members positions us to buffer the impact of human pressure on the forest through purchase of critical forest lands.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVE
To support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

Restoration of logged-over lands is a key League conservation strategy for linking old forest reserves and protecting their waters.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVE
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.

The League’s education program focuses on fostering the stewards of the future.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVE
To purchase redwood groves by private subscription.
Many species cannot exist without the ancient forest’s ability to strip water from foggy air to provide essential moisture to the delicate ecosystem.

Residential development, new roads, domestic pets, pollution and exotic vegetation disrupt the natural processes of the forest.

Incompatible forestry practices replace the old complex forest with young, simple plantation forests.

Ancient redwoods are irreplaceable.
Today only 4% of the original 2 million acres of ancient redwood forest remain.
The League spearheaded the purchase of the following properties:

• Contrail from the Redwoods to the Sea: 595 acres
• Montgomery Redwoods State Reserve: 3,000 acres
• Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park: 22.5 acres (pending)
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 112 acres (pending)
• John Muir State Reserve: 561 acres

The League transferred the following properties to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and to the Federal Bureau of Land Management subject to land protection agreements:

• Contrail from the Redwoods to the Sea: 784 acres
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 141 acres
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 322 acres
• Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: 546 acres

Conservation

The League is developing a Master Plan for the Coast Redwood to ensure survival of the ancient redwood forest for the coming millennium. The Master Plan is a science-based process for identifying, evaluating, and recommending appropriate methods for protecting critical lands, and identifying conservation actions necessary for the survival of the ancient redwood forest.

This year saw completion of a detailed plan for the Santa Cruz mountain range, one of the seven regions in the natural range of the ancient redwood. The Master Plan is identification of conservation strategies to foster protection of the ancient redwood forest.

The year saw completion of a detailed plan for the Santa Cruz mountain region, one of the seven regions in the natural range of the ancient redwood forest.

Master Plan:

• Identifies remaining ancient redwood forest
• Assesses threats to the redwood forest
• Assesses the visitor experience
• Identifies potential conservation partners
• Recommends specific conservation strategies

Education

The League’s Education Grants program is dedicated to creating a life-long love of the redwood forest by adults and children. The program supports studies linked to redwood forest ecology, including with schools, interpretive associations and park districts to provide opportunities for children and others to experience the majesty of the redwood forest, often for the first time.

Twenty-four grants funded high quality education projects; 50% were in urban communities.

Thirty-six outdoor education projects at Mill Creek Redwoods during the summer, and tours to view riparian habitats in the winter.

More than 1,000 redwood enthusiasts visited the Hartsock Inn Redwood Visitor Center during the summer.

35 schools, 2,000 students and 82 teachers participated in the Redwood Environmental Education Fair held in Humboldt County.

Over 1,000 children from low-income San Francisco families camped at the Boys & Girls Club in the Hartsock Inn Redwood Visitor Center during the summer.

24 schools, 2,800 students and 112 teachers participated in Muir Woods’ “Into the Redwood Forest” program.

The League-supported development of curriculum material to teach students in Los Angeles about the ecology of the Giant Sequoia using art activities.

Research

The League’s research program seeks to expand our understanding of the ancient redwood forest:

• Initiated graduate research fellowships at California Polytechnic and Humboldt State Universities to support studies linked to redwood forest ecology and restoration.

• Co-sponsored the second Redwood Science Symposium attended by hundreds of researchers, scientists, educators, conservationists and timber industry representatives.

• Published research on the limits to tree height in the scientific journal, Nature.

Research projects funded included:

• An examination of historic understory vegetation of giant sequoias given in California State Park to inform forest management decisions.

• A comparison of changes in land use, ownership and forest structure in Mendocino County over the last 50 years and its effects on the sustainability of redwood reserves.

• An evaluation of the impacts of the 10,000-acre Canoe Creek fire in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Mill Creek Restoration Project

In 2002, the League spearheaded the purchase of Mill Creek Redwoods, a 25,000-acre stand whose tempo had been fundamentally altered by logging since 1966. Last year the League and its partners continued active restoration of the forest, restoring 500 acres to wilderness and removing roads that scar the landscape.

The League spearheaded purchase of the following properties:

• Mill Creek Redwoods State Park: 546 acres
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 112 acres (pending)
• Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park: 33.5 acres (pending)
• John B. Dewitt State Reserve: 581 acres
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 141 acres
• Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 322 acres
• Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: 546 acres

Map by Grooverhill Network www.greenred.org
The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2004, has been derived from the League's 2004 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2004 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements.

**Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents $1,679,134  
Accounts receivable 89,037  
Contributions receivable 2,204,273  
Investments 34,649,685  
Notes receivable 1,380  
Real estate held 23,178,310  
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts 1,065,462  
Office equipment, net 104,881  
Deposits on land purchase 89,037  
Other assets 42,660  
Endowment cash 414,352

Total assets $64,346,230

**Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities $312,636  
Notes payable 180,000

Total liabilities 492,636

**Net assets:**

Unrestricted 33,662,582  
Temporarily restricted 28,662,370  
Permanently restricted 245,942

Total net assets $64,346,230

**Revenue and Public Support**

Contributions: Donations $1,834,670  
Program and land acquisition contributions 3,748,065  
Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions 732,296  
Change in value of irrevocable trusts 139,948  
Grants from state and federal agencies 217,500  
Income from investments 513,638  
Gain on revaluation of land 604,330  
Other income 184,093

Total revenue and public support 8,077,440

**Expenses**

Program services: Land deeded to State of California 3,185,022  
Land deeded to the United States of America 2,684,858  
Redwood land program support 1,133,611  
Redwood reforestation grants 40,000  
Other grants 52,388  
Research grants 87,725

Total program services 7,803,496

Support services: General and administrative 812,960  
Fund-raising 1,515,397

Total support services 2,328,357

Total expenses 9,771,961

Increase (Decrease) in net assets $(1,694,521)
Save-the-Redwoods League is governed by a 60-member voting 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 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.

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Photo by Don Briggs
Cover photo by Howard King