

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a redwood forest. The trees are tall and slender, with thick, textured bark. The lighting is soft and dappled, suggesting a forest floor covered in ferns and other vegetation. A small figure of a person is visible in the lower-left quadrant, providing a sense of scale to the massive trees.

Save the Redwoods League

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

*Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Photo by Howard King*



*Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Photo by Howard King*

One morning, not long ago, the mail delivery to the League included a two page letter from a man in Georgia that began with an excerpt from his journal on the day he woke before dawn to hike into the Tall Trees Grove in Redwood National Park. He had never been to the redwoods before, but had dreamed of visiting them since he was nine years old when he read the Time-Life book on Trees and saw pictures of the ancient redwood forest. He described starting down the trail in the early morning light, and the building sense of anticipation as the trail dropped through ever taller trees to the flat floodplain where Redwood Creek had meandered thousands of years before, leaving behind the rich soil that supports these tallest of all trees in the world. Alone in the quiet, dwarfed by their majesty, he walked among the ancient redwoods absorbing the beauty surrounding him and experiencing a desire to learn more about these primeval giants

And when he climbed back up to his car, his search led him to a forestry professor at Humboldt State University who told him about Save-the-Redwoods League. The professor described the work the League has been doing for nearly nine decades to protect the future of the forest. He learned about how, against the accelerated pressures of mechanization and the demands of an increasing population, the League had organized to purchase and preserve some of the most remarkable remaining groves.

The League's strategy today, and our work of the last year, builds on the work of previous decades. We continue to purchase lands for permanent protection as part of federal, state, and regional parks and preserves, with contributions from our members matched by public funding.

The League's guiding principles and priorities have been translated into a Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods. The Master Plan, in turn, informs our initiatives and responses to new opportunities and threats. We have divided the entire two million-acre range of the coast redwood, from its northern reaches near the California-Oregon border to the tip of the Big Sur, into seven regions. In each region we map the remaining stands of ancient redwoods, reduced now to less than 5% of the original forest, and compile data about the surrounding landscapes. The Master Plan is based on the recognition that the remaining stands of the ancient forest require protection of their watersheds and connection to each other if the wildlife, flora and natural processes that maintain the diversity and complexity of the forest are to survive.

This year, the League completed the Master Plan for the two northernmost regions, including Redwood National and State Park and the Tall Trees Grove. The importance of the entire Redwood Creek watershed could not have been clearer. The roads and erosion from logging in the Redwood Creek's upper watershed and tributaries have



*Katherine Anderton, Secretary and Executive Director
Ed Claassen, President*

a direct impact on the forests protected in the Park. This report describes the protection for the Lacks Creek watershed, one of the largest tributaries to Redwood Creek, secured this year. There are no ancient redwoods in Lacks Creek, but its protection is connected directly to the protection of the ancient redwoods downstream in the Tall Trees Grove.

The visitor from Georgia may not have learned in such detail how the League goes about its mission of preserving the ancient redwoods, but he understood its importance and the value of working together to achieve it. He closed his letter with a statement of resolve to change his life in a way that would focus on his connection with the redwood forest. He concluded by referring to an enclosed check for \$1,000 "taken from under his mattress" at a time when his resources were not great. He asked that half be used to support the League's research program investigating issues that lead to a deeper understanding of the complexity and dynamics of the forest and what it needs to survive. He asked that the other half be used for the League's education program to fund trips that take children into the forest, if possible for use with nine and ten year olds in honor of the time he first learned of the redwoods.

Your connection with the redwood forest is at the heart of the year's successes described in the report that follows. We thank you and look forward to the years ahead, the deepening connection for each of us with the majesty and peace of the redwood forest, and the deepening connection among all of us who share in the sense of wonder inspired by the forest and the commitment to its protection.

Katherine Anderton

Ed Claassen

PROTECTION

To focus our efforts and ensure we make the best use of limited resources, the League is developing a Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods.

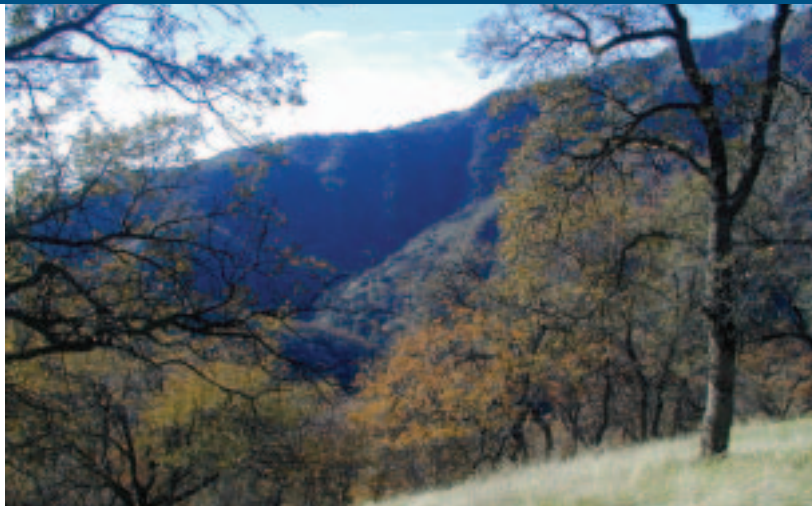
The Master Plan is a science-based conservation strategy for the entire coast redwood ecosystem that identifies priority places that when conserved will ensure the survival of the ancient redwood forest for the coming millennium. The Master Plan is the tool the League uses to identify priority actions, determine appropriate methods for protecting and restoring the most critical lands, and to identify conservation partners. In developing the Master Plan we are setting strategies in



Ancient redwoods protected in Mendocino County

Photo by Dan Porter

three arenas: first, securing protection of viable parks and reserves; second, protecting the last remnants of the ancient redwood forest that remain in private ownership; and third, protecting the connecting forest landscape.



Trailhead in the Foothills of Sequoia National Park

SAVING THE REDWOODS

The League secured protection for more than 3,200 acres of ancient redwood forests, mature second growth redwoods and the watershed essential to their protection. In addition, 2,099 acres were transferred to permanent guardians: California State Parks and the Bureau of Land Management.

The League's critical mission is to ensure that the ancient redwood forests survive forever. The key tool for reaching that goal is the acquisition of land at fair-market value from willing sellers. Thanks to the generous donations of League members, Save-the-Redwoods League has helped to protect more than 165,000 acres. In fact, the League has assisted in the purchase of more than 6 out of every 10 acres in California's 39 redwood state parks. Like the pieces of a puzzle, the League has connected parcels of land, protecting the living ecosystem that fit into the larger conservation picture.

The coast redwood is found only in a narrow coastal band that runs from Big Sur to southern Oregon. Of the nearly 2,000,000 acres of the original ancient forest, more than 95% has been logged in the past 150 years.

PROPERTIES PURCHASED BY THE LEAGUE

Critical Watershed Secured 2,491 Acres

Just 5 miles upstream from Redwood National and State Parks, this property links the essential ecology necessary for the preservation of the Park's ancient trees.



Lacks Creek
Photo by Bureau of Land Management

- 5 acres of redwoods
- 592 acres of watershed forest

Partnership Protects Ancient Redwoods 33 Acres

Together with the Mendocino Land Trust, the League has protected some of the few remaining ancient redwoods in Mendocino County.

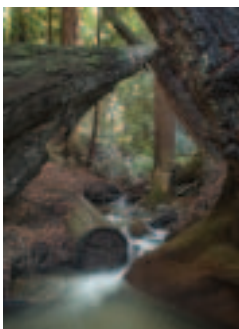


Old-growth at Ridgewood Ranch (conservation easement)
Photo by James Bernard, Mendocino Land Trust

- 5 acres conservation easement on old-growth redwoods
- 11 acres, trailhead to Giant Forest



Map by GreenInfo Network



Purchase Expands Park 72 Acres

Post Creek tumbles through this property, its banks shaded by a beautiful mature second growth redwood forest that is a critical watershed for steelhead trout.

Post Creek
Photo by Fred Mertz

Properties Transferred to Public Agencies (divestments):

1. Corridor from Redwoods to the Sea, 160 acres
2. Corridor from Redwoods to the Sea, 1660 acres
3. Humboldt Lagoons State Park, 180 acres
4. Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, 10 acres
5. John B. Dewitt State Reserve, 2 acres
6. Jug Handle State Reserve, 9 acres
7. Mill Creek Redwoods, 26 acres
8. Richardson Grove State Park, 52 acres

RESTORATION

Scientific research is an essential element of the League's Master Plan and provides the basis for ecological restoration at Mill Creek and elsewhere. By partnering with leading scientists at the University of California at Berkeley, Humboldt State University, Redwood Sciences Laboratory and others, the League continues to expand our understanding of these inspirational forests.

The League's **Research Grants Program** fills a critical gap in funding for forest science research. In addition to generating valuable results, the League's seed grants have been successful in stimulating additional funding from organizations like the National Science



Black bear cub in old-growth redwood stump

Photo by Greg Holm, Redwood National and State Parks Wildlife Biologist

Foundation. The League has also established graduate research fellowships to encourage a new generation of redwood scientists.

In 2004, the League awarded \$75,000 in research grants to scientists.



Mill Creek

Photo by Evan Johnson

REWEAVING THE FABRIC OF THE FOREST

The League has secured protection for thousands of acres of redwood land and made it available for public enjoyment. Sometimes in order to protect the forest, we acquire land that has been logged and is crisscrossed with roads — disrupting the natural rhythm of the forest. Our responsibility to the forest doesn't end with acquisition. League staff continues to work closely with our park partners to support the recovery and restoration of these forest lands.

Restoration and recovery can assume many faces. Sometimes it's simply a matter of leaving the land alone and letting time, the great healer, work its magic. In other instances, the forest is damaged to the point where natural recovery is unlikely. Park managers work carefully to restore the natural rhythm of the forest by removing roads, planting young trees, or by thinning dense young forests to promote the growth of the next generation of giants.

Two examples are highlighted on these pages: one, the largest single acquisition in League history — Mill Creek Redwoods; the other a small property in southern Humboldt County. Although at very different scales, they illustrate the care and attention needed to ensure that the redwood forest flourishes.

With less than 5% of the original redwood forest remaining, the League must look to the restoration of young forests to ensure that remaining ancient forest reserves are large enough and well-connected to survive in the face of population pressure, resource extraction, invasive plant and animal species, and climate change.



Removing an old logging road
Photo by Dan Porter

LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION AT MILL CREEK REDWOODS

The League spearheaded the purchase of 25,000-acre Mill Creek property in 2002. Managed by California State Parks, Mill Creek is uniquely positioned to reconnect the primeval forests of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. In 2004 the League supported the ecological thinning of 200 acres, the decommissioning of 12 miles of old logging roads, and restoration science research.



Map by GreenInfo Network

VOLUNTEER TREE PLANTING AT HARTSOOK CREEK

In a cooperative effort coordinated by League staff and supported by the California Conservation Corps, the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and Americorps, more than 50 volunteers planted 600 redwoods, alders and dogwoods along Hartsook Creek. All trees were grown from seeds collected at Hartsook. The planting was designed to re-vegetate the creek banks after the removal of non-native French and Scotch broom plants.

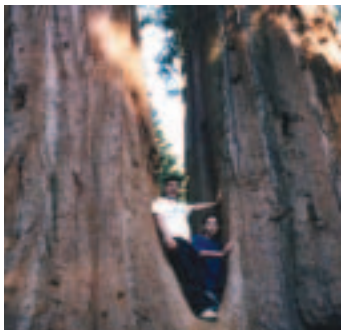


A young girl learns about restoration
Photo by Angela Avery

EDUCATION

I see a lot of green
surroundings
I feel like a tourist, can
this be my planet?
Everything is so serene,
calm, and tranquil
I feel healthy, clean, for once
I feel like I'm breathing pure
The stream of water calms
me down and makes
me feel like I am a
part of this earth.
Finally I know what it feels
like to be living
An organism
I don't feel like a student or
a son, I feel like a human.

*A poem written by a student
during a League sponsored
visit to Muir Woods National
Monument.*



*Students in a giant sequoia
in the southern Sierra
Photo by Ellen Sachtjen,
Sequoia for Youth*



*Winter in the giant sequoias
Photo by Ellen Sachtjen, Sequoia for Youth*

EDUCATION

For many, a lifelong love of the redwoods begins with an early childhood experience: leafing through the pages of a picture book, or walking among the giants with family and friends. The League awards grants to schools, interpretive associations and other groups to support opportunities for children and adults to experience the forest. Often all it takes is bus money to enable a committed teacher to transport a class from their urban environment to walk in the woods with a park ranger.

The League funded a broad array of educational programs, including: a series of lectures and hikes presented by local scientists, naturalists, and cultural experts at nature centers; the Spanish translation of redwood educational materials for a school program; the design and construction of exhibits for Portola Redwoods State Park's visitor center in San Mateo County; the study and restoration of a forest burn site and purchase of science equipment for students; and curriculum development and transportation of South Central Los Angeles, San Francisco and Richmond students to redwood parks.

This year the League's educational grant program expanded to reach new audiences. The program, established in 1999 with two grants to two organizations, is proud to have awarded 20 grants in 2004 totaling more than \$72,000. Thanks to the generous support of our members, thousands of children and adults were able to experience the beauty of the ancient redwood forest while participating in a wide range of educational opportunities throughout the state.

COLLECTING REDWOOD SCIENCE DATA

South Fork High School (Miranda)

The science department at South Fork High School developed a study area on a burned site in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, adjacent to the school, for biology and life science classes. Students studied the microclimates of the old growth forest, and examined the plant species of burned and unburned areas.



*Students tend a restoration planting
Photo by Nettie Lane, LandPaths
Education Director*



Map by GreenInfo Network

CONNECTING BILINGUAL COMMUNITIES TO THE REDWOODS

LandPaths (Santa Rosa)

Funding was used to research, develop, and field test a bi-lingual redwood education curriculum. Pilot test participants included 6th graders from Cali Calmecec Bi-Lingual Charter School and Windsor High School Environmental Core Program.

LEARNING FROM THE REDWOODS

Sequoia for Youth (South Central Los Angeles)

Seventh grade students, teachers and parents travelled to Sequoia National Park. They visited the General Sherman Tree and played in the snow, a first-time event for many children. These exciting real-life experiences provided motivation for learning core subjects.



*Students end their journey from
South Central Los Angeles at
the General Sherman Tree
Photo by Ellen Sachtjen,
Sequoia for Youth*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE MARCH 31, 2005

The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2005, has been derived from the League's 2005 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2005 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements.

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,446,327
Interest receivable and other	90,370
Contributions receivable	2,787,585
Investments	41,194,541
Real estate held	18,694,425
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts	1,807,258
Property and equipment, net	61,876
Deposits on land purchase	140,000
Other assets	71,604
Endowment cash	357,342
	<hr/>
Total assets	<u><u>\$66,651,328</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$447,346
Notes payable	680,000
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Total liabilities	<u>1,127,346</u>
 Net assets:	
Unrestricted	34,693,751
Temporarily restricted	30,472,889
Permanently restricted	357,342
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Total net assets	<u>65,523,982</u>
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$66,651,328</u></u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

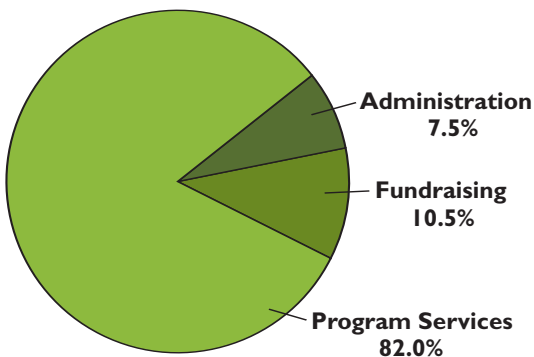
REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions:	
Donations	\$4,050,587
Program and land acquisition contributions	8,965,165
Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions	251,802
Change in value of irrevocable trusts	(40,941)
Income from investments	543,539
Gain on revaluation of land	806,721
Other income	5,583
	<hr/>
Total revenue and public support	14,582,456

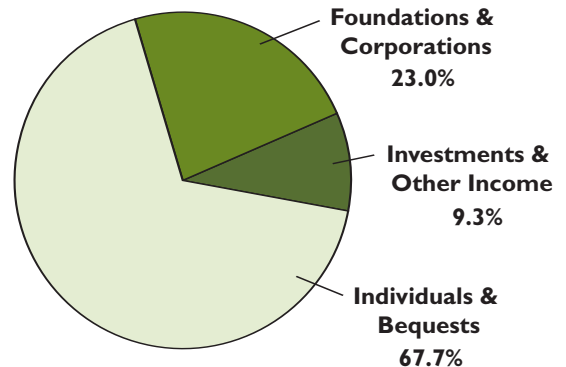
EXPENSES

Program services:	
Land deeded to State of California	3,695,385
Land deeded to the United States of America	4,879,000
Redwood land program support	1,531,337
Redwood reforestation grants	45,000
Other grants	342,807
Research grants	100,157
	<hr/>
Total program services	10,593,686
Support services:	
General and administrative	970,894
Fund-raising	1,348,088
	<hr/>
Total support services	2,318,982
	<hr/>
Total expenses	12,912,668
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Increase (Decrease) in net assets	\$1,669,788

**TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC
EFFICIENCY**



**CONTRIBUTIONS
BY DONOR TYPE**



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Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Photo by Howard King