



Save the Redwoods League
ANNUAL REPORT 2006

*Photo by R.L. Hiser
Courtesy of Redwood National and State Parks*



Looking west from a ridgetop in Mendocino County across grassy slopes to the towering heights of the ancient redwood forest of Montgomery Woods across the south fork of the Big River, we stood at peace. Members of Save-the-Redwoods League, representatives of the state agencies whose grants had combined with our donors' gifts, owners of neighboring lands, and staff were gathered on the land purchased by Save-the-Redwoods to double the size of the Montgomery Woods State Reserve, celebrating the protection of this magnificent landscape.

The Montgomery Woods project perfectly embodies the League's strategy and commitment in the face of today's challenges and pressures, building on our long legacy of effective action throughout the coast redwood forest.

In 1919, one of the League's first members voiced concern about imminent logging at Montgomery Woods. The League's leaders worked with the local community of Ukiah, alerted early State Park planners of the conservation opportunity, and assisted in securing State ownership of the core of this primeval forest in the early 30s.

Several years ago, a speculator purchased two parcels adjoining the Reserve, planning to maximize profits by a quick sale to the League. Unwilling to sell at the appraised fair market value, he intensified pressure by beginning to excavate an access road inside the Reserve over a legally deeded right of way. But the route ran through a portion of the ancient redwood forest bordering the clear waters of Pruitt Creek, jeopardizing the spawning beds of coho salmon and the integrity of the forest itself. Alarmed neighbors called the League, and with the engagement of California State Parks, road development was delayed. Finally this year, we reached agreement on a purchase price at fair market value, permanently eliminating the threat of development and bolstering protection of Montgomery Woods.

Another opportunity was created through the League's engagement with State Parks in the stewardship and care for these protected lands. One of the concerned neighbors with whom we had worked, faced changed family circumstances and decided to sell. He called the League first to see if their land might be permanently protected. With the owners' significant discount, supported by League member contributions and grants from public agencies, that purchase was completed as well.

This success is a classic demonstration of the benefits of the League's commitment to strategic action within a planned context. Beginning with our Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods, we prioritize opportunities throughout the natural range of the coast redwood to achieve comprehensive protection of the diversity of the forest. Having identified areas where protection is needed, the League mobilizes the necessary engagement and takes action. This

year, the plan for the Mendocino-Sonoma County region was completed, and the Big River watershed in which Montgomery Woods is located, was identified as one of the highest priorities for conservation in the region.

The Montgomery Woods Reserve is near the eastern edge of the watershed. Its expanded boundaries now connect the reserve to wild ridgetop lands that have remained in federal ownership since California's creation as a State. The new northern boundary links the reserve to a large, adjacent private ranch whose spectacular stand of ancient redwoods, bordering the largest natural lake in Mendocino County, have been protected through the owner's conservation easement that bars their logging for all time.



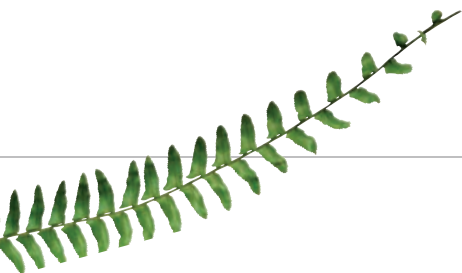
*Katherine Anderton, Secretary and Executive Director
Ed Claassen, President*

Expanding conservation on Big River builds on the League's assistance with the purchase and protection of some 7,000 acres at the mouth of Big River, creating a new State Park. Ownership of the land between these two "bookends" also promises conservation opportunities through responsible timber management and research.

We continue to explore new forms of land protection in collaboration with new partners, as we expand action to foster the sustainability and protection for core redwood parks and reserves. At the same time, we continue to develop opportunities for people to experience the inspiration of the redwoods through our education program. And we continue to support a broader understanding of the complexity of the forest itself through research grants.

Your support for these efforts, as described throughout this report, is pivotal. Together we all share the great pleasure of working together to the end of saving the redwoods for today and into a future that stretches beyond our imagination. Thank you for joining with us.

Ed Claassen
Katherine Anderton



PROTECTION Saving the Redwoods: From Key

Polystichium manitum
Sword fern

Over the past 150 years, 96% of the world's nearly 2 million acres of ancient redwood forest has been logged. Today, only about 80,000 acres remains. To prioritize our work, the League is developing the Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods. With the completion of the strategy for the central region of redwoods in April 2006, it is now two-thirds complete. Among its findings: "although coastal Mendocino and Sonoma counties contain the lowest percentage of ancient redwoods and of protected lands anywhere in the redwood region, significant protection opportunities still exist."

The Master Plan is a science-based conservation strategy for the entire coast redwood ecosystem. It identifies places that, when protected, will ensure the survival of the ancient redwood forest for the coming millennium. It is the tool the League uses to prioritize acquisitions, determine methods to preserve and restore the most critical lands, and identify partners. It focuses on three strategic arenas: securing protection of viable redwood parks and reserves; permanently protecting the last remnants of the ancient redwood forest that remain in private ownership; and protecting the connecting landscapes and watersheds.



Redwood forest on the Mendocino Coast



Portola Redwoods State Park

This year, the League secured protection for more than 7,400 acres of ancient redwood forests, mature second-growth redwoods, and the surrounding watersheds essential for their protection. These lands were transferred to permanent guardians: California State Parks, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

In its quest to improve park and reserve viability, the League acquired several key inholdings within both national and state parks. These inholdings, while tiny in size, contain large, mature and old-growth redwoods, and will contribute significantly to the forest's integrity and connectivity.

The League also completed a seven-year project to connect the ancient redwood forests in Humboldt Redwoods State Park to the Lost Coast, the longest stretch of unroaded coastline in the lower 48 states. The League's Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea project was both extraordinarily complex, requiring patience and long-term vision and innovative in the tools that were applied, which included a large conservation easement that will prevent subdivision.

In addition, the League had the opportunity to protect large landscapes in two very important watersheds: Lacks Creek, which is upstream of Redwood National Park, and Big River, which includes Montgomery Woods State Reserve. In enhancing watershed protection for the ancient redwood forests in Redwood National Park and Montgomery Woods, the League helped to protect the fresh water needed by local communities. The benefit also extended to the diverse natural areas adjacent to the redwoods. Native oak woodlands, grasslands, old-growth Douglas-fir forests, and young conifer forests were added to the variety of habitats available for wildlife, and for people to enjoy when visiting the parks. The acquisitions also included valuable habitat for native fish, including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout.

Parcels to Watersheds

Properties Purchased by the League



Redwood National and State Park

The protection of this important one acre property further connects Redwood National Park with its neighbor, Prairie Creek Redwood State Park. The acquisition also restores the integrity of habitat for the Roosevelt elk that live in this part of California's north coast.

Lacks Creek Late Successional Reserve

Located upstream of Redwood National Park, this 4,491 acre addition to the reserve not only expands recreational opportunities in the area, it also provides critical watershed protection for the old-growth redwoods downstream.



Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park

Through this addition to the State Park, 33.5 acres of mixed old growth and second growth forest were protected, promoting the recovery of the marbled murrelet and completing the preservation of the stunning old growth redwoods in the Cheatham Grove.

Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea

Over 1,215 acres were protected, preserving habitat for several endangered species including coho salmon and steelhead trout. An additional 4,000 acres of adjacent land were protected in perpetuity from subdivision through a conservation easement.



Montgomery Woods State Reserve

The 1,240 acres of dramatic rock outcroppings and rolling hills recently added to this reserve play a vital role in protecting the magnificent old-growth redwoods in the valleys below. This addition more than doubled the size of the reserve, protecting numerous sensitive habitats.

Portola Redwoods State Park

The League was able to add these 80 acres of stunning old-growth and second-growth redwoods to Portola Redwoods State Park thanks to a generous grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.



Forest of Nisene Marks State Park

The purchase of this critical .5 acre park in-holding property protects the integrity of this beautiful mature second growth forest. In the last year, the League worked on restoring the site to its natural state by removing refuse and vacant buildings.



Properties Transferred to Public Agencies (divestments):

1. Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, 210 acres
2. Humboldt Lagoons State Park, 97 acres
3. Butano Redwoods State Park, 80 acres
4. Redwood National and State Park, 1 acre
5. Lacks Creek Late Successional Reserve, 4,491 acres
6. Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea, 1,215 acres
7. Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, 33.5 acres
8. Montgomery Woods State Reserve, 1,240 acres
9. Portola Redwoods State Park, 80 acres



RESTORATION Reweaving the Fabric of the Forest

Sequoia sempervirens
Coast redwood leaflets

In 1923, UC Berkeley forester and League Councillor Emanuel Fritz had a vision of the redwoods that looked beyond the cut-and-run forestry practices of the day. Instead he imagined a thriving second growth forest and convinced the Mendocino Lumber Company to set aside some trees that he could study. He began measuring the heights and diameters of young trees within a one-acre plot, now known as the ‘Wonder Plot’—so named for the trees’ remarkable growth. He continued his measurements every ten years from 1923–1983, thereby establishing the longest running record of redwood recovery.

As part of the League’s Research Grants Program Fritz’s periodic measurements will be maintained; the most recent data was collected in 2005. Permanently protected in 2002 through a partnership between the League and Mendocino Land Trust, the ‘Wonder Plot’ is a unique opportunity to study recovery of older second-growth redwood forests. This long-term research record now informs groundbreaking restoration strategies for the Mill Creek Redwoods and will be crucial throughout the evolving field of redwood restoration.



Early morning fog at Mill Creek

Ecological restoration is a global challenge for the 21st century. Around the world, people are coming together to restore degraded natural landscapes—working to sustain the diversity of life and to rebalance the relationships between nature and culture.

With less than five percent of the ancient redwood forest remaining, restoration is a key conservation strategy for the League. Working with partners we are reweaving the fabric of the forest to ensure that the remaining ancient forest reserves are large enough and well-connected enough to survive in the face of population pressure, resource extraction, and climate change.

Over the past year the League’s restoration work has been focused at Mill Creek Redwoods—providing technical support, funding and leadership in this innovative example of collaborative restoration. Work at Mill Creek has spawned creation of the North Coast Forest Restoration Cooperative—a group of public and private ecologists and forest scientists who are developing techniques to restore the forest, while protecting its inherent natural values. By sharing experience, approaches, and contacts, the work on any individual project benefits activities across the redwood range.



Permanent identification tags used to track growth



Partners from California Conservation Corps working to remove invasive plants at Mill Creek

Landscape-scale restoration at Mill Creek

Working in cooperation with a diverse group of project partners, we have identified and prioritized restoration initiatives on this 25,000-acre property. These initiatives will control erosion, restore young forests, and protect sensitive plant and animal species. In 2005, the League supported restoration of 400-acres of young forest stands; the removal of old logging roads to protect sensitive wild salmon spawning streams, and worked with California State Parks and local interpretive groups to provide public access.



Volunteer tree planting at Hartsook Creek

For the second year in a row, League staff worked with the California Conservation Corps, the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group, AmeriCorps and a group of dedicated volunteers drawn from our membership to restore Hartsook Creek. Volunteers pulled invasive plants, and planted redwoods, alder and dogwoods in the space created. Volunteers will be back in the winter to tend the plants and remove weeds as they sprout from the ferocious seed bank.



A new tree



Ariolimax Columbianus
Banana slug

EDUCATION Planting Seeds of Inspiration

*Dear Save-the-Redwoods League,
I thought this field trip was great!
My favorite part was when we went
through that hollow in the tree. I
also liked when we made paint by
rubbing rocks together. I learned
that slugs have little holes in them
that allow them to breathe. It was
very enchanting walking on that
path that was off the trail.
Thank you!*

**From Luke
Sunset Elementary School**



Collecting Data

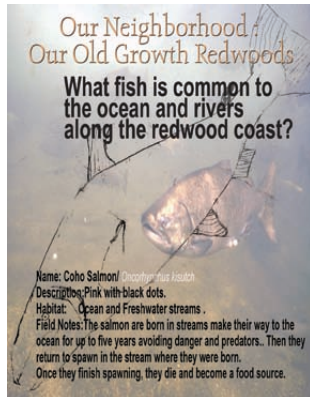


A new generation of redwood stewards

Although school children for generations have sung the patriotic refrain “from the redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters,” many have never seen a redwood tree or been inspired to care for these ancient treasures. To rebuild this connection, Save-the-Redwoods League recently completed its’ Redwood Education Framework. Using this framework the League will work to introduce people of more diverse ages and backgrounds to our redwood forests by:

- ♦ Expanding the education grants program to serve a broader audience
- ♦ Continuing to create learning opportunities in the forest, especially for children grades K-12
- ♦ Fostering the development of redwood curricula to support K-12 in-classroom education
- ♦ Creating opportunities for broader audiences to personally experience the redwoods
- ♦ Building a network of redwood educators and partners

Thanks to the generous support of our members, 20 grants were awarded in 2005 totaling more than \$75,000. This created the opportunity for thousands of children and adults throughout the state to discover the majesty of the ancient redwood forest, often for the first time.



Poster artwork created by students
 Photo by Barbara Domanchuk

**Inspiration from the Redwood Grove
 Ink People Center for the Arts (Humboldt County)**

TOPS Middle School students in Eureka captured their observations through illustration, creative writing, and video footage. This innovative program exposed at-risk students to scientific, artistic, and computer career skills, and introduced them to their surrounding redwood forest, a first-time visit for the majority of students.



Introducing students to three species of redwoods
 Photo by Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

**Discovering Science Careers among the Redwoods
 FARMS Center for Land Based Learning (Yolo County)**

Fresno High School students gained practical camping skills on their overnight trip to Armstrong Woods State Park, while also exploring career paths in water quality monitoring projects, sustainable lumber harvesting practices, and an owl monitoring program.

Other 2005 Educational grant recipients: Acorn Soupe, St. Helena • Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco, San Francisco • Calaveras Big Trees Association, Arnold • East Bay Conservation Corps, Oakland • Eureka High School, Eureka • Hamilton Elementary School, Novato • Humboldt County Office of Education, Eureka • Humboldt State University Natural History Museum, Arcata • Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association, Mendocino • Muir Woods National Monument, Mill Valley • Rio Dell Elementary School District, Rio Dell • Salmon Protection & Watershed Network, Forest Knolls • San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, San Francisco • Woodland Joint Unified School District, Woodland • YMCA Point Bonita Outdoor & Conference Center, Sausalito • Thomas Alva Edison Middle School, Los Angeles



Del Norte County elementary school students observing spawning salmon at Mill Creek

**Spawning among the Redwoods
 North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association
 (Del Norte Unified School District)**

A series of winter public tours through the newest property addition to Redwood National and State Park provided visitors with a first-hand experience to observe fish spawning in Mill Creek and an appreciation of the redwood restoration effort to preserve salmon habitat.



REDWOOD LEGACY CIRCLE

Dichelostemma venustum

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS-LEAGUE MISSION & OBJECTIVES

1. To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests.
2. To co-operate with the California State Park Commission, the National Park Service, and other agencies, in establishing Redwood parks and other parks and reservations.
3. To purchase Redwood groves by private subscription.
4. To foster and encourage a better and more general understanding of the value of primeval Redwood or Sequoia and other forests of America as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.
5. To support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.



Butano State Park

The Redwood Legacy Circle honors our members who have created a living legacy by naming Save-the-Redwoods League in their estate plans. By making a bequest or other planned gift to the League, Legacy Circle members ensure that the ancient redwoods remain a vital part of our American heritage—for today and future generations.

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Cesar Chavez elementary school student enjoying a League sponsored field trip

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Leadership Society members listed have generously contributed a total of \$1,000 or more between January 1 – December 31, 2005. We are most grateful to these loyal friends.



Darlingtonia californica
Cobra lily

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Nemophila, Montgomery Woods State Reserve

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Oxalis oregana, Redwood Sorrel

The Evergreen Society is a valued group of League members who demonstrate their commitment to redwood preservation through regular, monthly contributions to Save-the-Redwoods League. We thank the current Evergreen Society Members.

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Trillium ovatum
Western trillium

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Save-the-Redwoods League March 31, 2006

The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2006, has been derived from the League's 2006 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2006 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited statements.



ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	980,144
Interest receivable and other	161,753
Contributions receivable	1,505,197
Investments	51,743,743
Real estate held	11,849,150
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts	2,102,141
Property and equipment, net	97,494
Deposits on land purchase	1,000
Other assets	64,789
Endowment cash	362,342

Total assets 68,867,753

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	384,983
Note payable	500,000
Total liabilities	<u><u>884,983</u></u>

Net assets:	
Unrestricted	37,400,493
Temporarily restricted	30,219,935
Permanently restricted	362,342
Total net assets	<u><u>67,982,770</u></u>

Total liabilities and net assets 68,867,753

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Save-the-Redwoods League for the year ended March 31, 2006

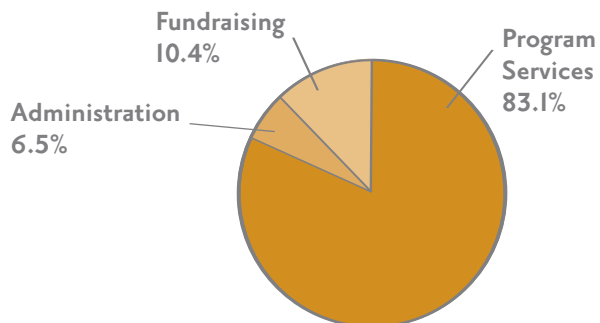
REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions:	
Donations	2,813,557
Program and land acquisition contributions	10,980,087
Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions	176,036
In-kind contribution	12,937
Change in value of irrevocable trusts	275,612
Donated Land	575,000
Income from investments	1,504,619
Gain on revaluation of land	308,000
Gain on sale of land	721,605
Other income	7,560
Total revenue and public support	<u>17,375,013</u>

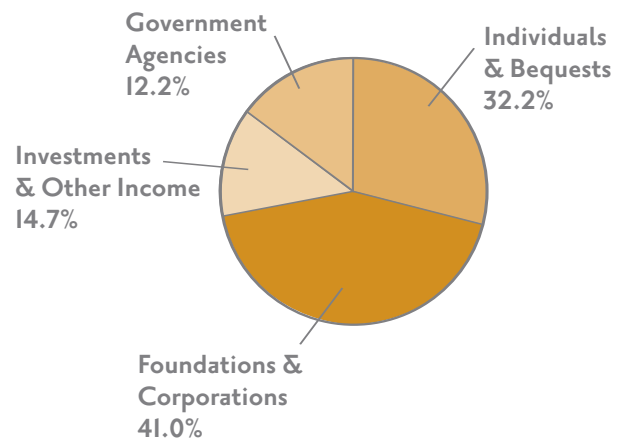
EXPENSES

Program services:	
Land deeded to State of California	8,741,000
Land deeded to the United States of America	1,700,005
Redwood land program support	1,684,229
Other grants	176,592
Redwood reforestation grants	97,293
Total program services	<u>12,399,119</u>
Support services:	
General and administrative	971,392
Fund-raising	1,545,714
Total support services	<u>2,517,106</u>
Total expenses	<u>14,916,225</u>
Increase (Decrease) in net assets	<u><u>\$2,458,788</u></u>

PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY



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