

2009 Annual Report



SAVE THE REDWOODS



Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE®



Photo: Erin Derkatz

Welcome



Pete Dangermond and Ruskin K. Hartley

Dear Friends,

This year, Save the Redwoods League adopted a mission statement to succinctly communicate what we do: “Save the Redwoods League protects and restores redwood forests and connects people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish.” We continued to carry out this mission as we have since 1918, despite the challenging economic climate.

With our members’ and partners’ generous support in fiscal year 2008-9, we protected more than 1,100 acres of key redwood forestlands valued at \$8 million, and transferred 831 acres to state or national parks or reserves. This work brought the total number of acres the League has protected to more than 181,000.

Our work continued as a world leader in two important endeavors: accelerating restoration of the logged Mill Creek forest to a majestic state, and developing a strategy to help redwoods survive rapid climate change.

To sustain our work in the future, we continued to grow future redwoods stewards by awarding 37 grants that helped 63,000 children and adults experience and want to protect redwoods.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generosity of our members and partners. We extend our sincere thanks, and we look forward to your steadfast support to help save redwoods—sources of peace and beauty for people today and in centuries to come.

Pete Dangermond
Board President

Ruskin K. Hartley
Executive Director and Secretary





Contents

Welcome 03

Mission & Objectives 06

PROTECT 10

Safeguarding Key
Watersheds and
Ancient Groves

RESTORE 16

Returning a
Logged Forest to an
Inspiring State

INSPIRE 20

Growing Future
Redwoods Stewards

Friends 24

Councillors 31

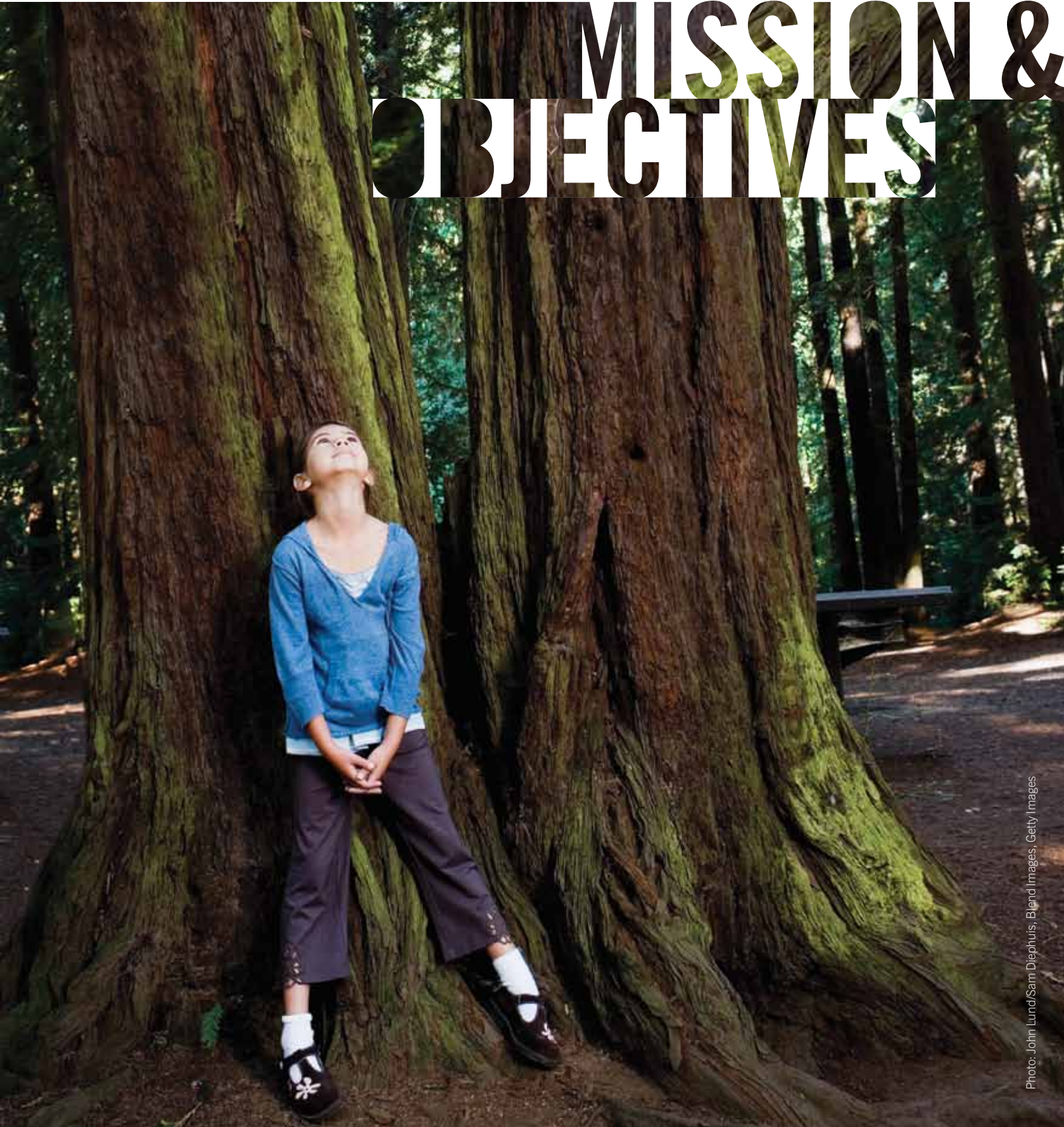
Financials 32

Mission: Save the Redwoods League protects and restores redwood forests and connects people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish.

Objectives

1. To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests.
2. To cooperate with California State Parks, the National Park Service and other agencies in establishing redwood parks and other parks and reserves.
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 giant 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.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES





PROTECT

RESTORE

INSPIRE





PROTECT

Safeguarding Key Watersheds and Ancient Groves

With our members' and partners' generous support, Save the Redwoods League was able to protect several key parcels that preserve inspiring old-growth and younger redwoods, promote viable parks and maintain connecting landscapes for current and future generations.

This year's accomplishments, all part of our science-based Master Plan, include protection of one of the last remnants of ancient redwood forest in Sonoma County. We also buffered an ancient Humboldt County grove that we protected in 1921; expanded the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea; increased protection for the Mattole River and Big River watersheds; and transferred land to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

In the 2008-9 fiscal year, we and our partners protected more than 1,100 acres of redwood forestlands valued at \$8 million and transferred 831 acres to state or national parks, reserves and federal wilderness. Despite the economic downturn, the need to save redwoods from real-estate development and timber harvesting remains. More redwood land is for sale, sometimes for the first time in a generation. With your support, we can continue to save the irreplaceable redwoods.

Here is a look at our redwood protection accomplishments in fiscal year 2008-9.

* 1. DEL NORTE PROPERTY: AGREEMENT SAVES ANCIENT REDWOODS, SEABIRD HABITAT

A land-protection agreement now safeguards 76 acres of old-growth redwood forest and priority habitat for the rare marbled murrelet, a seabird that needs ancient trees' large branches for nest platforms. The agreement covers 298 acres of remote industrial timberland near the mouth of the Klamath River in Del Norte County. In addition, the agreement covers young forest surrounding the old-growth that will grow to provide additional habitat for the endangered seabird. Oil-spill mitigation funds supported this agreement.

* 2. LAGOONS PROPERTY: LAND TRANSFER PROTECTS WATERSHED

Save the Redwoods League transferred 39 acres of adjoining land to Humboldt Lagoons State Park, increasing protection of the Freshwater Lagoon watershed and the spectacular Pacific Ocean view along US Highway 101 for all to enjoy. We acquired the \$550,000 property in August 2007 with support from our members and the California Coastal Conservancy.

* 3. HUMBOLDT PROPERTY: ACQUISITION BUFFERS ANCIENT GROVE

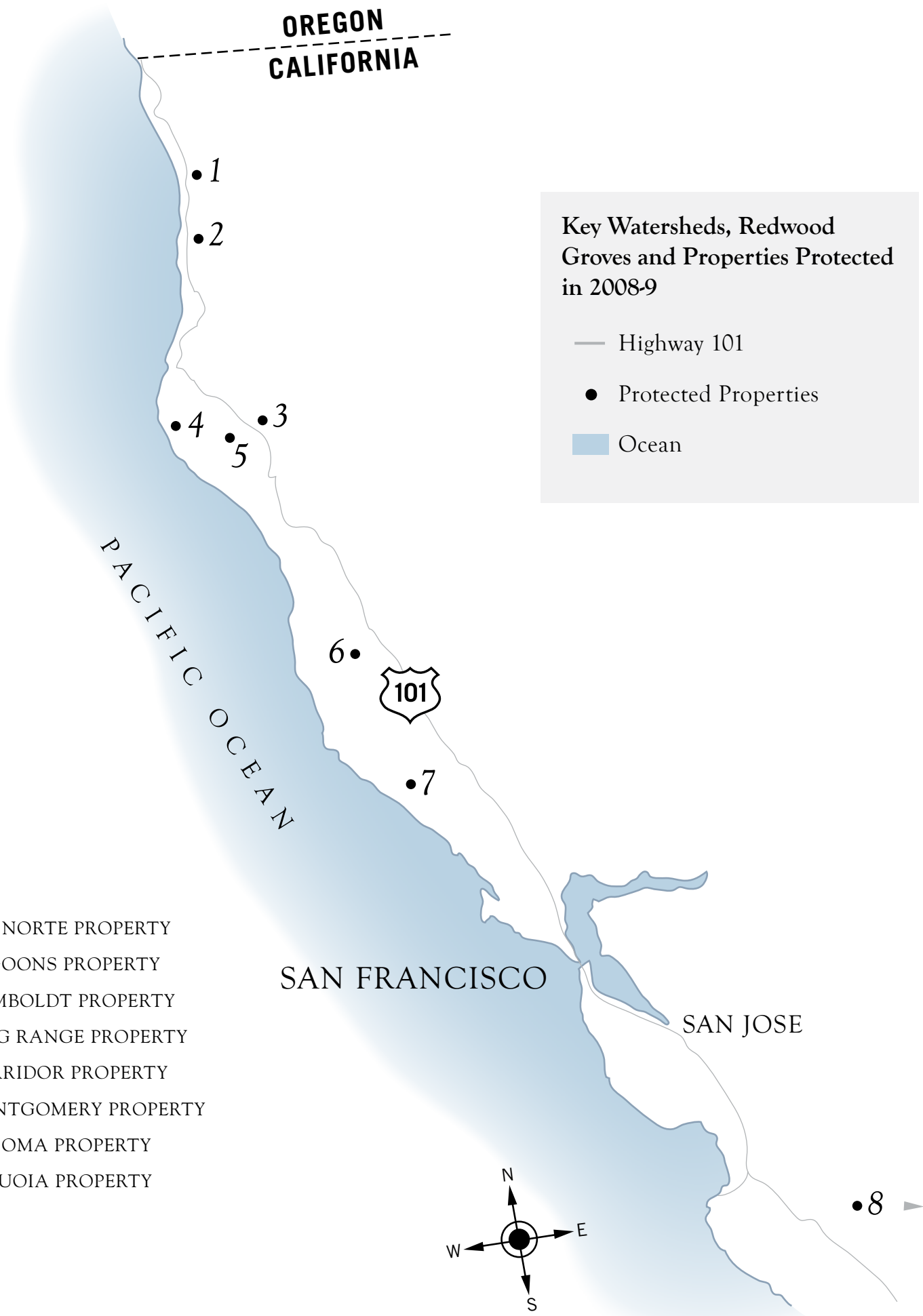
With support from our members and the Preserving Wild California program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, Save the Redwoods League purchased about 46 acres of redwoods surrounded by Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP). This \$650,000 acquisition protects the watershed and wildlife habitat in and around the old-growth redwood forest in the park's historic Bolling Grove. We protected the ancient Bolling redwood grove in 1921, among the first of our more than 300 transactions that built the state park, which now includes more than 53,000 acres. HRSP contains the largest contiguous ancient redwood forest on Earth.

* 4. KING RANGE PROPERTY: PURCHASE ADDS PROTECTED HABITAT

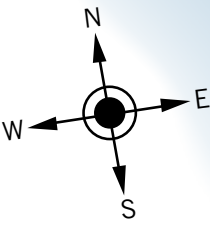
Our acquisition of about 160 acres expands wildlife habitat in the King Range National Conservation Area. The \$370,500 acquisition was an inholding, or privately owned land inside the boundary of protected park lands. This purchase strengthens protection of the Mattole River watershed, home to rare or threatened animals, including coho salmon and two frog species. We acquired this property with support from the Preserving Wild California program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and the Wilderness Land Trust. The land was transferred to the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for permanent protection.

* 5. CORRIDOR PROPERTY: KEY WATERSHED GAINS MORE PROTECTION

We completed a land transfer that protects threatened species and enlarges the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea, which connects the King Range National Conservation Area to Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The transfer of land to the BLM expands the Corridor by 361 acres, including watersheds that are home to endangered salmon. Purchased years ago as part of a larger package, the land was valued at \$850,000 when it was transferred in March 2009.



- 1. DEL NORTE PROPERTY
- 2. LAGOONS PROPERTY
- 3. HUMBOLDT PROPERTY
- 4. KING RANGE PROPERTY
- 5. CORRIDOR PROPERTY
- 6. MONTGOMERY PROPERTY
- 7. SONOMA PROPERTY
- 8. SEQUOIA PROPERTY



6. MONTGOMERY PROPERTY: TRANSFER EXPANDS RESERVE

The League facilitated the purchase and transfer of 160 acres to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve in April 2008. This land is on the eastern boundary of the Reserve, adjacent to property that the League transferred to California State Parks (CSP) in 2006. The 160-acre parcel contains redwoods, grasslands, rock outcroppings and a creek that flows into the South Fork of the Big River. Our work at Montgomery Woods includes working with CSP to enhance public access to the inspiring old-growth grove and the newly acquired land.

7. SONOMA PROPERTY: AGREEMENT SAFEGUARDS 20 ACRES OF ANCIENT REDWOODS

A \$480,000 land conservation agreement with the Annapolis Milling Company now protects one of the last remnants of ancient redwood forest in Sonoma County.

The agreement ensures that the 20-acre grove just south of Soda Springs Reserve is permanently protected from timber harvest and vineyard conversion.

8. SEQUOIA PROPERTY: TRANSFER MAKES WAY FOR ACCESS TO GIANT FOREST

Our members' support enabled us to transfer to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks an 11-acre parcel that will allow the National Park Service to improve public access. The property connects to a network of trails through the park leading to the Giant Forest. The Giant Forest is home to the world's largest tree, the General Sherman Tree. This new \$71,000 property also is important because it contains blue oak woodlands, an increasingly threatened habitat in California. Before transferring the property, the League restored it to its natural state by removing a derelict home.



A TRIBUTE TO THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

Rather than a traditional memorial service, Andrea and Dan Speraw chose to pay tribute to their nature-loving mother with a ceremony among the redwoods. On September 6, 2008, more than 40 friends and family members gathered in Portola Redwoods State Park for the dedication of the Ruth Krag Speraw Memorial Grove. This special tribute was made possible by a gift Ruth made one year earlier to support Save the Redwoods League through our Honor and Memorial Grove Program. Portola Redwoods State Park is a stunning San Francisco Bay Area redwood park 20 miles west of Palo Alto.

Dedicate a grove or tree today by visiting us online at savetheredwoods.org/dedicate or by calling Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005.

“The grove gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my mother in a way that she and I had often done while she was alive ... through the beauty and healing power of nature.”

— Andrea Speraw, Member

A NEW PLAN TO SAVE GIANT SEQUOIAS

Save the Redwoods League in 2009 completed a plan to save a source of wonder: California's enormous giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Also known as the Sierra redwood, many of these trees live 2,000 to 3,000 years, and are Earth's largest trees by volume, with trunks as wide as 30 feet — about as long as a large school bus.

The plan incorporates input regarding the trees' natural range from more than a dozen giant sequoia managers and scientists, including those from the US Forest Service, the US Geological Survey and the Trust for Public Land. This giant sequoia plan is the last portion of the League's Master Plan for the Redwoods, a conservation strategy to save unprotected old-growth and supporting forests for current and future generations. Before completing the plan's giant sequoia portion, we finished the coast redwood portion and evaluated the conservation status of the dawn redwood.

Redwoods, symbols of nature's resiliency and grandeur, have migrated during their millions of years, but not as quickly as it may be necessary to adapt to rapid climate change. Save the Redwoods League made progress in developing a strategy to help these forests survive.

Guiding the League's giant sequoia conservation actions, the giant sequoia portion of the Master Plan primarily entails land acquisitions. Only 77 giant sequoia groves remain scattered across the Sierra Nevada, making *Sequoiadendron giganteum* a rare species. Although more than 90 percent of giant sequoia grove acreage is in public ownership, opportunities to purchase more than 6,100 acres of priority inholdings and buffer lands still

exist. The need to protect these great trees is urgent as they face the major threats of residential and commercial development. Another threat is linked to decades of fire suppression, which has allowed leaf litter to accumulate. Periodic fires are needed to clear this leaf litter so sequoia seedlings can grow. Accumulated leaf litter also can fuel intense fires that can kill or damage larger sequoias. Global climate change also poses a major threat.

In the plan, the League prioritizes giant sequoia acreage to protect according to feasibility factors and groves' degree of isolation, because isolated groves are more likely to be genetically unique.

The plan also includes recommendations for supporting major research, including giant sequoia groves' genetic variation and how they are affected by fire and climate change.

For more information on the Master Plan for the Redwoods, visit savetheredwoods.org/master_plan or call our office.

HELPING REDWOODS WEATHER CLIMATE CHANGE

Redwoods, symbols of nature's resiliency and grandeur, have migrated during their millions of years, but not as quickly as it may be necessary to adapt to rapid climate change. Save the Redwoods League made progress in developing a strategy to help these forests survive. In January 2009, the League and the University of California, Berkeley, co-hosted a two-day Redwoods and Climate Change workshop that drew leading scientists in forest ecology, climatology and ecosystems monitoring, along with representatives from California State Parks, the National Park Service and the California Academy of Sciences. The group developed a research and monitoring framework that will guide our work in this area for years to come.



Returning a Logged Forest to an Inspiring State

With support from our generous members and partners, Save the Redwoods League continued work as a leader in accelerating restoration of logged forests to a majestic state. We also awarded research grants to advance understanding of redwoods and climate change.

Here is a look at our efforts to support redwood forest restoration in fiscal year 2008-9.



RESTORE

RESTORATION PROGRESSES IN MILL CREEK FOREST

Work continued on our Mill Creek Ecological Restoration Project in a 25,000-acre temperate rainforest now part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Near the California-Oregon border, the forest is home to ancient redwoods, hundreds of native plant species and two critical salmon-bearing streams. In 2002, a coalition of public and private partners, including the League, the Smith River Alliance, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Coastal Conservancy purchased Mill Creek and transferred it to California State Parks for permanent protection.

The project is a unique opportunity to use a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to restore old-forest characteristics to a redwood landscape that had been industrial timberland. Thanks to our members and funds from the National Park Service, more than 250 acres of young forests were thinned to admit more light and to change the species composition back to coast redwoods. For the fifth consecutive year, logging roads were removed to prevent sediment from flowing into streams that harbor endangered salmon. During this fiscal year, 2.5 miles were eliminated. Without the road removal, the sediment could suffocate eggs of wild salmon, an integral part of the redwood ecosystem.

Since 2003, more than 1,800 acres of young, dense forest stands have been thinned to promote characteristics of old forests such as large trees. Thirty-six miles of severely eroded logging roads have been removed.

GIFTS SUPPORT 2,500 SEEDLING PLANTINGS

Thanks to those who had a redwood seedling planted in honor of a loved one, California State Parks' Eel River Sector planted more than 2,500 young trees, according to their most recent report, issued for the 2007-8 season. The plantings replenish parts of forests that were once overharvested. In addition to this program, Save the Redwoods League helps to support two state park nurseries in the Eel River Sector that provide a variety

of seedlings for area reforestation and restoration projects. In the 2007-8 season, the nurseries propagated more than 14,000 seedlings. The League also supports a nursery and tree plantings in Mill Creek forest.

Gift-givers can arrange year-round to have seedlings planted; visit savetheredwoods.org/seedling or call us at (888) 836-0005.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC USES LEAGUE'S LiDAR DATA

An October 2009 episode of National Geographic Channel's *EXPLORER* series titled *Redwood Giants*, will feature stunning new animations of the redwood forest based on data from Save the Redwoods League. The data is from the League's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) project, funded in part by a generous grant from Kenneth Fisher. LiDAR involves firing a laser beam from a plane and recording the reflection to measure the height of the trees and the ground. The technology is improving the League's ability to determine the number and size of redwoods and erosion threats and prioritize forest restoration. In 2007, the League coordinated and supported the acquisition of LiDAR data over 138,000 acres of parkland in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. In 2008, the final data was delivered to the League. Redwood National and State Parks is using the League's LiDAR data to identify erosion threats to salmon streams and plan threat abatement and restoration projects.

OUR MEMBERS' SUPPORT HELPS REOPEN REDWOOD PARK

Donations from Save the Redwoods League members supported trail repair that allowed Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve to reopen after June 21, 2008, lightning fires burned 950 acres. Until November 21, 2008, parts of the park had been closed to protect the public from falling limbs and trees and other fire-related conditions. Sheltering one of the region's largest remaining stands of ancient redwoods, the Reserve attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually. Since 1945, Save the Redwoods has protected more than 2,100 acres in the Reserve.

7 GRANTS SUPPORT REDWOOD RESEARCH

Thanks to support from our members, Save the Redwoods League is expanding scientific knowledge of redwood ecosystems and the impacts of global climate change on redwood forests. Our Research Grants Program awarded seven grants totaling \$96,454 to advance understanding of these subjects. The program has made these annual grants since 1997 to a variety of scientists.

NAME OF PROJECT	RESEARCHER & INSTITUTION
Projecting Future Suitable Habitat for Coast and Mountain Redwoods Under Alternative Climate Change Scenarios (Phase I) and Preliminary Analysis of Climate Change Effects on Suitable Habitat of Coast & Mountain Redwoods (Phase II)	Healy Hamilton, California Academy of Sciences
Insect Diversity and Niche Specialization in Giant Sequoias	Patricia Raggio, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Central Valley District
Barred Owl and Spotted Owl Resource Selection in Coast Redwood Forests	Kristin Schmidt, Redwood National and State Parks
Effects of Forest Restoration on Mesocarnivores in the Redwood Region	Keith Slauson, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service
Evaluating the Importance of Redwood Forests as Wintering and Mating Habitat for a Continental Migrant: The Silver-Haired Bat	Theodore Weller, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service
Linking Structure and Function in Giant Sequoia Trees	Todd Dawson, University of California, Berkeley
Long-Term Dynamics Following Fuel Reduction Treatments in a Giant Sequoia-Mixed Conifer Forest	Scott Stephens, University of California, Berkeley
Redwoods Mortality and Sprouting Response to Summer 2008 Fires	Kevin O'Hara, University of California, Berkeley





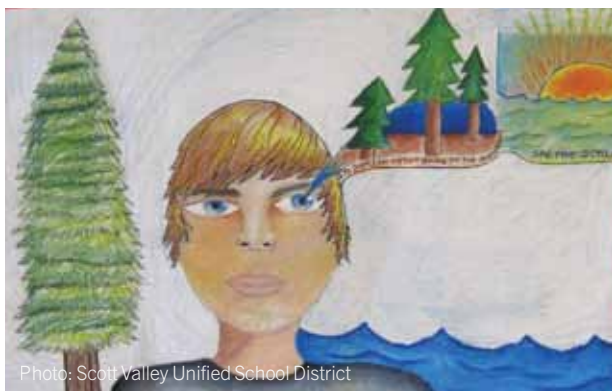
Growing Future Redwoods Stewards

Our members' contributions made it possible for Save the Redwoods League's Education Program to continue growing redwoods enthusiasts to promote the future protection of the gentle giants we cherish. We awarded 37 grants totaling \$158,228 in 2008-9, helping 63,000 children and adults experience redwoods. Here's a look at this year's grant-supported programs.

A DAY IN THE REDWOODS

Scott Valley Unified School District, Siskiyou County, California

Noah Conklin, a student at Etna Elementary in Siskiyou County, California, was one of five national winners in the Scholastic Book Club's 2009 drawing contest, which encouraged students to illustrate how they see themselves in the new year. Noah's picture was inspired by his upcoming four-day class trip to the coast and the redwood forest, a trip that was partially funded through a League Education Grant.



“Going to Muir Woods was one of the best field trips I have been on! It made me think a lot about how special Redwood Trees are. I learned that tannin is the chemical that does not let the trees get on fire. It makes me want to go to Muir Woods twice every weekend!”

— Olympia, Participant in a League-Sponsored Program, Sunset Elementary School, San Francisco

MARIN REDWOODS PROJECT

Canal Child Care Center, San Rafael, California

Seventy ethnically diverse, low-income, at-risk children and their family members visited 10 redwood forests in their home county of Marin and learned from environmental leaders and naturalists about the benefits of experiencing and conserving such land. For most of the participants, the project gave them their first opportunity to experience the redwood forest. Children in the center's after-school program created scrapbooks with photos they took during their adventures. This program encouraged families and teachers to take children to visit the trees and learn how to protect them.

FLUX EQUILIBRIUM, ECOLOGICAL SUCCESSION, INTERCONNECTIONS AND DIVERSITY: THE STORY OF THE REDWOODS

Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative
San Francisco, California

While camping, hiking and restoring habitat in four redwood parks, 70 primarily low-income San Francisco high school students explored four ecological concepts—flux equilibrium, ecological succession, interconnections and diversity. These concepts were themes for a challenging curriculum that integrated science, English and social studies. The program fostered a love of redwoods among the students and gave them a framework in which to analyze and understand literary texts, historical events and scientific data.

*I meander past
one tree after another
these grand invincible beings
who survive severe burns yet stay durable
Standing tall above all others
or lying comfortably in the dirt
redwood trees remain redwood trees
gigantic, ascendant, sheltering*

—Shirley Ma, Student in the Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative program

37 GRANTS HELP ORGANIZATIONS TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT REDWOODS

With support from our generous donors, Save the Redwoods League awarded 37 grants totaling \$158,228 to California schools, park interpretive associations and environmental education organizations. The Education Program awards, which served 63,000 people during the 2008-9 fiscal year, contribute to our efforts to connect people of all ages to the majestic redwoods so they will be inspired to protect these natural wonders.

GRANT RECIPIENT	COUNTY SERVED
Beamer Park Elementary School	Yolo
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco	San Francisco
Cal State Parks, Office of Community Involvement	Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino
Canal Child Care Center	Marin
Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program	Sonoma
Center for Land-Based Learning	Yolo
Del Norte County Unified School District	Del Norte
Del Norte County Visitors Bureau	Del Norte
Dow's Prairie School	Humboldt
EarthTeam Environmental Network	Alameda
Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools	San Mateo, Santa Cruz
Fortuna Middle School	Humboldt
Grace Hudson Elementary School	Mendocino
Humboldt Area Foundation	Humboldt
Humboldt County Office of Education	Humboldt
Larchmont Elementary School	Sacramento
Manila Community Services District	Humboldt
Mendocino Area Parks Association	Mendocino
Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association	Mendocino
Mt. Diablo High School	Contra Costa
Muir Woods National Monument	Marin
North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association	Del Norte
Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project	Mendocino
Richmond Elementary Schools	Contra Costa
Sage Community School	Klamath, Oregon
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network	Marin
San Francisco Botanical Garden Society	San Francisco
Scott Valley Unified School District	Siskiyou
Sempervirens Fund	Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz
Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation	Humboldt
Sequoia Parks Foundation	Tulare
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods	Sonoma
Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative	San Francisco
WildPlaces	Tulare, Fresno
YMCA Point Bonita	Marin
Yokayo Elementary School	Mendocino
Youth Enrichment Strategies	Contra Costa



Photo: Alan Levenson

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Save the Redwoods League
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
 For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions:	
Donations	\$6,852,913
Program and land acquisition contributions	15,170,718
Reforestation, restoration, research, and other contributions	909,488
In-kind contributions	30,273
Change in value of irrevocable trusts	(556,553)
Grants from state and federal agencies	5,000
Loss from investments	(849,388)
Gain on revaluation of land	18,500
Other income	43,506
 Total revenue and public support	 21,624,457

EXPENSES

Program services:	
Land deeded to the State of California	1,971,000
Land deeded to the United States of America	1,220,500
Conservation easement expense	3,750,000
Redwood land program support	2,734,817
Education and research grants	254,682
Redwood reforestation grants	62,099
Other grants	218,778
 Total program services	 10,211,876

SUPPORT SERVICES

General and administrative	1,432,573
Fundraising	1,945,978
Total support services	3,378,551
Total expenses	13,590,427
 Increase in net assets	 8,034,030
Net assets, beginning of year	75,307,690
Net assets, end of year	\$83,341,720

Save the Redwoods League Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,476,953
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	919,339
Interest receivable	466,647
Contributions receivable	3,028,610
Grants receivable	100,000
Investments	67,551,967
Real estate held	9,027,380
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts	1,503,406
Property and equipment, net	96,121
Deposits on land purchase	10,000
Other assets	54,584
Endowment fund	244,309

Total assets **\$84,479,316**

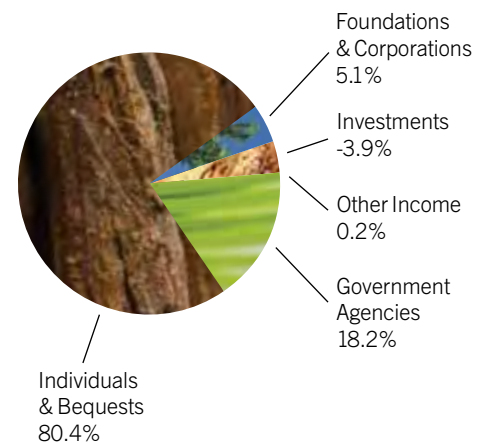
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	253,199
Accrued liabilities	466,703
Environmental remediation obligation	417,694
Total liabilities	\$1,137,596

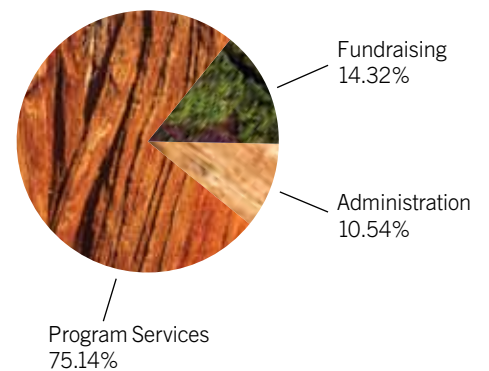
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	45,895,920
Temporarily restricted	37,039,992
Permanently restricted	405,808
Total net assets	83,341,720

Total liabilities and net assets **\$84,479,316**

Revenue by Category 2008-2009



Total Programmatic Efficiency 2008-2009



The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2009, has been derived from the League's 2009 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2009 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited statements.

“I think the California redwood forests are historical sanctuaries and as close to paradise on Earth as anyone will ever find. I saved my money for years to dedicate a grove to my family so it will be there for my great, great grandchildren.”

– LaDuska Adriance, Grove Donor, Member Since 1982



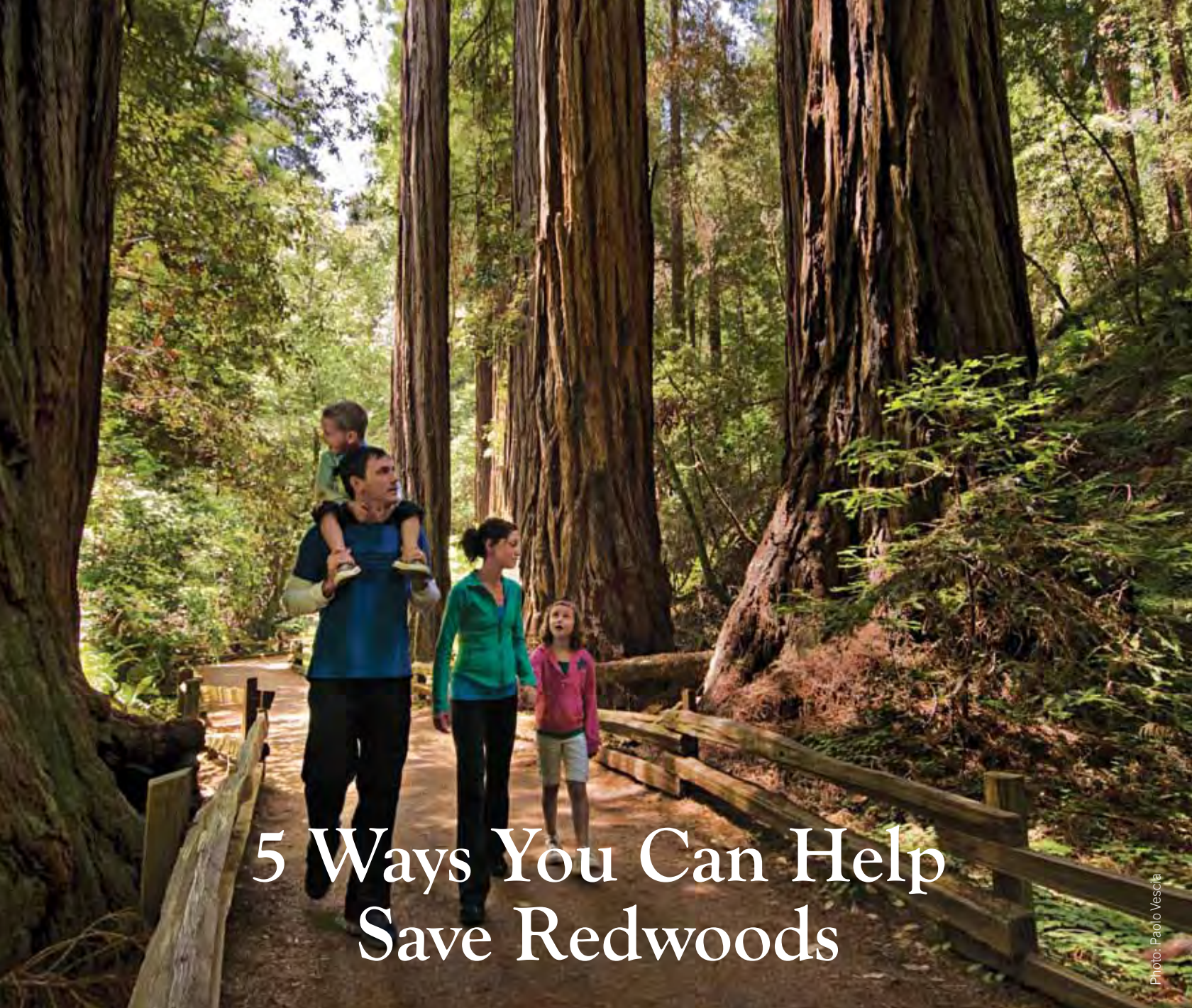


Photo: Paolo Vescia

5 Ways You Can Help Save Redwoods

VISIT

the redwood forest with friends and family.

TALK

to your friends about the League's work.

EXPLORE

volunteer opportunities in redwood parks.

DONATE

now to Save the Redwoods League.

PLAN

an estate gift for Save the Redwoods League.

To learn more, call us at (888) 836-0005 or visit savetheredwoods.org/help.

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www.project6.com

Cover & Back Photo: Pete Smith



WALK AMONG GIANTSSM

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