



Save the Redwoods League

Fall Bulletin 2006

*Fall in the redwoods, Mill Creek
Photo by Stephen Corley*

Better from the President

Fall in the forest is marked by the appearance of the rich gold of the big leaf maple and the brilliant red of the lacy vine maple against the deep green of the redwoods. And fall this year also brings an election season of particular importance for redwood conservation.



This bulletin highlights the lasting impact of past bond acts on the redwood forest. A prime example is the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea for which we have worked to piece together protection of its forests, streams, and wild open spaces

over the past seven years. The investment of public funds was a key element of this project. We matched public funds with private contributions from our members and supporters to permanently protect this land from aggressive logging and the pressure of development. With public bond funds now depleted, our ability to build protection for the remaining redwood forest is at risk.

Known as the *Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act*, Proposition 84 on California's November ballot proposes a \$5.4 billion measure to provide critically needed funds to protect and preserve California's natural resources.

Continuing our long history of stimulating public investment in redwood conservation, we are working with a broad coalition of environmental groups, water agencies, and others to secure passage of this bond measure. Of particular importance to our programs, the proposed bond includes \$400 million for California State Parks; \$180 million to establish a statewide forest conservation program; \$45 million to protect coastal salmon and \$135 million for wildlife protection.

Facing enormous population growth in the coming years, California expects 25 million new residents by 2040. Investment in infrastructure is not keeping pace. Current funding for natural resources and environmental protection programs is critically low, making up less than 1% of the overall state budget.

The success of Proposition 84 is needed to ensure that people will have access to safe drinking water, better protection from floods and opportunities to enjoy parks, natural landscapes, and our rivers, lakes, beaches, bays, coastline, and forests.

Often I am asked, "apart from donating money, what can I do to help protect the redwoods?" This fall you have the opportunity to talk to your friends and family about the impact of Proposition 84. Visit one of California's beautiful State Parks, or beaches, swim in a river, and if you have the opportunity take your family and friends to walk among the redwoods. Stop and enjoy the autumnal colors; and then return and vote yes on Proposition 84.

Thank you for joining with me to care for the future of California's redwood forest.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Claassen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ed Claassen
President

To learn more about Proposition 84, please visit www.cleanwater2006.com.

Building on Momentum

March's close of our fiscal year confirmed that in 2005, with your support, the League protected about 7400 acres of critical redwood land and connecting habitat valued at nearly \$12 million.

In addition, the League transferred property valued at almost \$15 million to California State Parks, the Bureau of Land Management and other state and federal agencies for permanent stewardship and to open new recreational opportunities.

Guided by the Master Plan for Coast Redwoods, the League is now working to complete some projects that have been in the pipeline for some time, and to develop the next group of protection efforts. By the time you read this we will have completed the protection of a highly visible stand of ancient redwoods along Highway 101. With support, in equal parts from California State Parks bond funds and contributions



*Redwoods at Horse Collar Creek
Photo by: Save-the-Redwoods staff*

from League members, the 24-acres known as Horse Collar Creek will be added to the northern stem of Humboldt Redwoods State Park and managed by California State Parks.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIDS FAREWELL TO KATE ANDERTON



Throughout the League's history dating back to 1918, our organization has been blessed with extraordinary leadership. A few key individuals who possessed the vision, drive and ability to marshal the support of others have guided our efforts to preserve and protect the ancient redwood forests in the face of daunting obstacles. John C. Merriam, the League's first president, Newton Drury, the first executive director, and John Dewitt, executive director through the 1970's and 80's come readily to mind. Now we must add to that list of those whose period of remarkable leadership has come to a close. Kate Anderton completed her tenure as executive director in July after guiding the organization for the past eleven years. She will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to work with her.

In our experience in working with Kate, she: challenged us to take on acquisition projects that seemed daunting in the beginning, and then crafted a path forward that in hindsight seems so clear and appropriate; found her own unique voice speaking both eloquently and passionately about the redwoods and our stewardship of them, so that these silent ancient ones had a true advocate; built alliances with critical strategic partners throughout the state and beyond; shaped and nurtured a staff of capable and committed professionals, who continually perform in a way that gives us all tremendous confidence and pride in their ability; instituted a clear and responsive process for translating our strategic intent into operational plans that ensure we are applying our resources and energy to the things that really matter; and was a wonderful colleague.

I know you will join us in extending a very special thank you to Kate for all that she gave and all that she accomplished on behalf of the League and the redwoods.

Weaving a Quilt of Protection—Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea

A seven-year effort by the Save-the-Redwoods League paid off in 2006 with the completion of the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea. This 10,500-acre matrix of land connects the world's largest old-growth redwood forest in Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the windswept shores of the King Range National Conservation Area, which has the longest unroaded coastline in the contiguous United States. A flight along the Corridor would take you from the majestic redwoods of the Rockefeller Forest in the Eel River flats, up through the Bull Creek drainage, and over 3,040-foot-high Gilham Butte. Then you'd dip into the isolated Mattole River valley, cross Wilder Ridge, and climb into the King Range. The lands newly protected, added to the 126,550 acres already in state and federal ownership, and will provide habitat connectivity and enhance wildlife benefits for sensitive species native to coastal old-growth redwood, including the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

The Corridor is a fascinating mosaic of ecosystems. Dark forests cover ridge after ridge, and grasslands sweep down to streams where endangered coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout still run. Not far west of busy US 101, the land still has a wild, remote feel. It is home to at least 15 pairs of spotted owls, and perhaps creatures even rarer, like the Humboldt marten and Pacific fisher. On Gilham Butte, conifers that were growing when Shakespeare was born tower over multi-trunked madrones and huge old tanoaks. In late spring, whitethorn and Nootka rose bloom. Yellow-and-white irises carpet the forest floor, and coral-root orchids poke up through the duff. The voices of birds break the silence of the

ancient forest: the ethereal spiraling song of a hermit thrush, the yammer of a pileated woodpecker, the hoot of a distant owl.

"Piecing together a quilt of protection" as League executive director Katherine Anderton called the process, has been one of the League's largest and most complex projects. It involved acquisition of 6,500 acres, a 4,000-acre conservation easement, and a 1,200-acre land exchange.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

What does it mean to assemble a quilt of protection? In the Corridor, it required forging a multitude of partnerships. These include the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Wildlife Conservation Board (an independent California state board that acquires land for wildlife conservation), Ancient Forest International, local Humboldt County organizations, and private landowners. It also took multiple approaches. Components of the Corridor were purchased from timber companies and other landowners, and have nearly all been transferred to BLM or California State Parks. Others were protected by easements, with landowners agreeing to limitations on use of the land in order to preserve its environmental values. A third approach, used in conjunction with a key easement, was an exchange of League-owned land with a private landowner.

At the beginning, one piece was already in place: BLM's 2,500-acre Gilham Butte Reserve. Salmon Creek, which flows into the South Fork of the Eel River, and eastern tributaries of the Mattole River originate in this divide between watersheds. Working with local organizations like the Friends of



Mattole River, Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea

"The only way to manage the Corridor, a complex mix of landowners, public agencies, and organizations to protect the forest."

- Bob Wick, BLM planning

Gilham Butte, BLM has managed the reserve to protect and improve wildlife resource values. It's recognized as vital habitat for nesting northern spotted owls.

The Corridor project's first priority was preserving forests bordering Gilham Butte Reserve. Time was running out: Eel River Sawmills had filed timber harvest plans for the Salmon, Grindstone, and Westlund creek watersheds. The League, active in the region since its founding, stepped in. The parcels were purchased with \$2.6

From the Redwoods to the Sea



Photo by Ruskin Hartley

...an ecosystem like the
...private and public land, is
...agencies, and environmental
...work together.”

...and environmental coordinator

million from private contributions, matched by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The 2,324 acres protected were transferred to BLM in 2000. They are afforded the same level of protection as the original Gilham Butte Reserve: no timber harvest, no transportation of timber cut elsewhere.

“Critical mass was achieved when the League came on board,” recalls Kate Crockett, a longtime advocate of forest protection. The League has since helped purchase another 4,170 acres between Gilham Butte and the King

Range from Sierra Pacific Industries and other willing sellers. Some of the new parcels were selected with an eye toward an eventual land exchange that took place this year. All told, 15 separate parcels were acquired outright, to be conveyed to public agencies for permanent stewardship.

Fee title acquisition wasn't the only path to protection. In the heart of the Corridor, Bob Stansberry's family purchased their ranch from the original settlers over 70 years ago. Today they raise Limousin cattle. The ranch is already a corridor for black bears and mountain lions, and the Stansberrys say they don't mind wildlife going through as long as "they don't stop for lunch." They've taken exemplary care of their land, and wanted to make sure it was never chopped up into 40-acre ranchettes. To do so they've agreed to a conservation easement that precludes subdivision of the ranch into parcels smaller than 600 acres.

Along with the easement, the Stansberrys traded 1,200 acres with the League. The family got more grazing land, control of their access road, and simpler ranch boundaries. The League got land with large, old trees and valuable wildlife habitat, which will become BLM property. Both parties say they came out of the transaction feeling like winners. Anderton, who spent many days on the ranch during discussions of the easement and exchange and came to know the area well, recalls: "sharing our common pleasure in the land made it a complete and total pleasure to work with the Stansberry family." It was another example of "people who come forward from very different perspectives to find common ground."

(continued on page 6)

SEARCHING FOR THE HUMBOLDT MARTEN

The animal frozen in the headlights of J. J. Hall's truck had all the marks of a Humboldt marten (*Martes americana humboldtensis*): foxy face, buckskin pelt, fluffed tail. Hall's Wilder Ridge sighting is one of several anecdotal reports of this small carnivore in the Corridor area. But scientific surveys have failed to detect it. The subspecies had been written off as extinct until US Forest Service biologist Bill Zielinski's crew photographed a marten within its historic range in eastern Del Norte County in 1998.



Humboldt Marten, Photo by Bill Zielinski

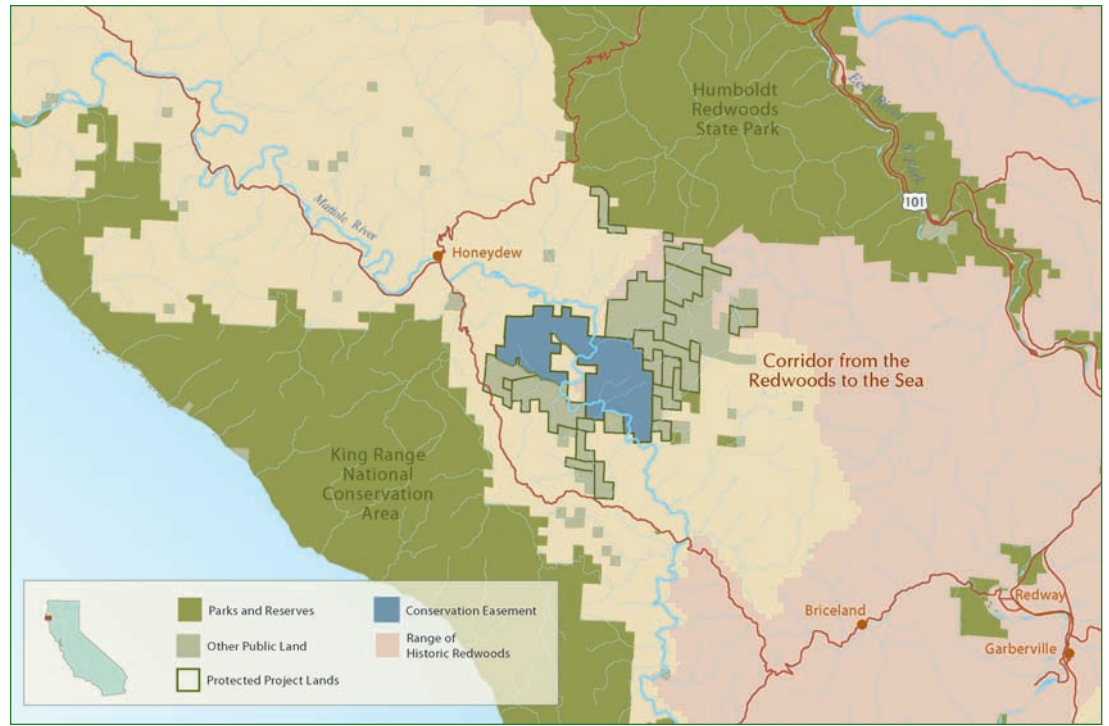
Karen Stone at Southern Oregon University, comparing DNA from museum specimens with a sample from Zielinski's marten, found that it was genetically distinct from the more common Sierra subspecies. So, the obituaries may have been premature. It will take hard data to confirm the Humboldt marten's survival in the Corridor. For definitive evidence, Hall and biologist Noel Soucy plan to conduct field studies on Wilder Ridge that may detect marten tracks.

"Wherever it occurs," says Zielinski, "the marten is a good indicator species for mature and old growth forest."

(continued from page 5)

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROTECTION

The product of a unique landscape-level set of partnerships, the Corridor would never have become reality without the League and the support of its members—or without the fierce attachment to the land demonstrated by neighbors like Wilder Ridge landowner J. J. Hall, who says: “What I’m happy about is that because of the Corridor, I can guarantee that the landscape I’m looking at will not change.”



Map by GreenInfo Network

Some of those partners are individuals, like Hall and the Stansberrys—the neighbors whose careful management has helped preserve their land’s natural values. Others are groups like the Mattole Restoration Council, launched in 1983 when residents came together to work on watershed issues. The Council has planted thousands of trees along creeksides, and its Good Roads, Clear Creeks program helps landowners decommission or upgrade roads near fish-bearing streams.

The Mattole Valley’s culture of stewardship complements the League’s vision of comprehensive protection. “One of the great things the League does is bring redwood-ecosystem-wide commitment into projects that have large impetus from local communities,” says Anderton. Working with the League, local groups have themselves launched the Redwoods to the Sea Stewardship Project, which encourages sustainable management of private lands neighboring public holdings.

That spirit also informed the development of the Community Management Plan for Gilham Butte and surrounding Corridor lands transferred to BLM. The Middle Mattole Conservancy and the Mattole Restoration Council worked closely with local stakeholders. BLM provided coaching, and the League gave advice and support. The planners, led by Eel River resident Kate Crockett, mapped out memorial groves on Gilham Butte honoring Jeremy McIntyre and Giles Mead, Jr., whose families were important supporters. The plan includes a

full range of forest management and restoration prescriptions. The goal is to reduce fire danger and help younger conifers mature into old-growth. It’s hoped private landowners will apply plan guidelines to their own lands.

“Watersheds are more than museums with wild lands hanging on the walls,” writes Freeman House, author of Totem Salmon, which celebrates the efforts of the Mattole Restoration Council. Bob Wick, BLM planning and environmental coordinator echoes that: “We can’t put a border around the land. The only way to manage an ecosystem like the Corridor, a complex mix of private and public land, is for landowners, public agencies, and environmental organizations to work together. The restoration end of the spectrum is just as important as the acquisition. The process is as dynamic as the whole environment we’re working in.”

Visit the public lands that bookend the Corridor: Humboldt Redwoods State Park to the east, where 60% of the world’s tallest trees grow, and the King Range to the west, with coastal forests and tidepools to explore, and Roosevelt elk and other wildlife to view. For the adventurous, a hiking trail from the state park to BLM land on Gilham Butte awaits, and access to the western Corridor lands can be gained via Wilder Ridge Road. For more information, contact Humboldt Redwoods State Park at (707)946-2409 or BLM at (707)825-2300 or www.blm.gov.ca.arcata.

Middle School Redwood Experts

Over two months this winter, students from TOPS Middle School visited and explored Pamplin Grove on the outskirts of Eureka. This opportunity was created by an education grant from Save-the-Redwoods League to The Ink People Center for the Arts. The program taught students through both scientific exploration and artistic interpretation. More importantly it nurtured a bond between underserved Humboldt County students and the surrounding redwood forest, a place most students had never ventured despite it being at their doorstep.

Students learned how to create maps, measure the height of a tree, and identify plant and animal species. Innovative lesson plans encouraged them to capture their forest observations in illustration, creative writing and on video. Back at the Ink People Media Lab, they used their experiences to create redwood interpretive materials.



Leading peers on a redwood ecology hike
Photo by Barbara Domanchuk



Student artwork

After much graphic design and film editing work, the students returned to the forest with their finished projects to peer teach the rest of their school. A short film, trail maps, and a redwood rap song combined with learning stations and nature hikes made the fieldtrip a fun, memorable and educational event for all.

Barbara Domanchuk, the program director said, "Every teacher, mentor volunteer and student was completely engaged in the field work. The weather was challenging, but that did not slow anyone down. Our senses were keen and the students' observations were phenomenal." The Humboldt State University Natural History Museum exhibited the students work for the general public.

REDWOOD GROVES DEDICATED BETWEEN JUNE 15, 2005 AND JUNE 15, 2006

Big River State Park
Simpson Family Grove

Butano State Park
The Calboun and Moritz Families Grove
The Fredrick Monford Herrera Grove
The Ed Pollack Family Grove

Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Captain W. L. Marshall USN Grove
Ivan Minderhout Grove
Les and Nancy Whatley Family Grove

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Eugene and Edith Geswander Memorial Grove
The Biba and Jon Parker Grove

Limekiln State Park
Dedicated to Lee and Pete Vullo - Love Tommy

Navarro River Redwoods State Park
The Hull and Maidment Family Grove
The Jones and Kelly Family Memorial Grove

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park
J. William and Eileen J. Bigoness Memorial Grove
The Consolé Mill Cochrane Grove D

Portola Redwoods State Park
Ruth P. Cummings Memorial Grove

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Adriance – Monaco Grove
The Bruce S. and Jeanette C. Howard Memorial Grove

Purisima Open Space District
Sally Sternau Shubin Memorial Grove



Redwood National Park
The Donald and Ann Bernstein Family Grove
Althea P. Lang Grove in Memory of Her Aunt, Althea C. Livesay

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park
Robert C. and Mae R. Carter Anniversary Grove

Keeping a Pact

“Joe—look! Lie back and look up,’ I said. For long minutes, we lay quietly and looked up at the towering giants, their huge trunks plumbed straight up, seemingly scraping the sky. It was the most awesome, stirring yet humbling scene we’d seen before or since. We never forgot it. We traveled all over the world since, and nothing ever erased or replaced that feeling of grandeur, of nature’s majesty. As the years went on and we learned of the work of your League to Save the Redwoods, we shared an unwritten pact that we would do what we could to help. Hence this gift.”



Joe and Janice Krenmayr in the 1930's Photo by Seattle Times

The League was honored to receive this inspiring note from long-time member, Janice W. Krenmayr, of Seattle, Washington, advising us that she had independently established a charitable gift annuity through her local community foundation which “brings benefits to me as well as to the League.” With this gift annuity, Janice is keeping the pact she made with her husband Joe as they honeymooned in the redwoods in the 1930’s. Janice’s gift annuity provides her income for life at an attractive annual rate and the remainder gift to the League will eventually fund a grove in memory of Janice and Joe.

For information about charitable gift annuities and planned giving, please contact Suzanne Ritchie, 888-836-0005, or sritchie@savetheredwoods.org

YOU ARE INVITED



The annual Members Reception will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, from 5:30–7:00 PM, at the World Trade Club along The Embarcadero in San Francisco. Come meet other redwood

conservationists and learn about Save-the-Redwoods League’s progress over the past year. Please RSVP by October 15, 2006 to membership@savetheredwoods.org, using Members Reception in the subject line. Let us know your full name and the names of your guests. We look forward to seeing you there.

✦ GROVE DEDICATION ✦

Join a distinguished group of individuals and families who have dedicated a redwood grove through a gift to Save-the-Redwoods League.

Groves are available throughout the redwood ecosystem, and naming opportunities begin at \$25,000. Your donation may be made in lump sum, spread over a three-year period, or by bequest or other form of planned gift. In most parks, a sign bearing the name of the honoree may be placed in the grove.

For more information, contact Jennifer Gabriel, by calling (888) 836-0005 or by email at groves@savetheredwoods.org.



To receive the Bulletin via email, send your email address to membership@savetheredwoods.org

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