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Save the Redwoods League Secures Opportunity to Protect 453 Acres of Coast Redwood Forest in Mendocino County

Nonprofit seeks to raise \$1.3 million for the purchase of Atkins Place to expand Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve



Atkins Place is a 453-acre coast redwood property in Mendocino County, California. Photo by Max Forster @maxforsterphotography, courtesy of Save the Redwoods League.

San Francisco, Calif. (April 19, 2022) – [Save the Redwoods League](#) today announced it has secured the opportunity to acquire and protect 453 acres of coast redwood forest in Mendocino County. The Atkins Place property is a critical habitat corridor, connecting Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve and Bureau of Land Management protected lands. It has 335 acres of coast redwood and Douglas-fir forest, 1.25 miles of steelhead and coho salmon-bearing streams, plus grassland and ridgelines. The League seeks to raise \$1.3 million by June 30 for the acquisition.

“Montgomery Woods is a beloved, hidden gem of a coast redwood reserve, and we have an opportunity to expand its protection through the purchase of Atkins Place,” said **Becky Bremser**, director of land protection for Save the Redwoods League. “Atkins Place shares a three-quarter mile boundary with Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. If we can save it from future subdivision and development, we can help maintain this land as a critical wildlife corridor and a forested buffer to the old-growth redwoods in the park.”

Adding Atkins Place to Mendocino's Protected Lands

Located in the South Fork Big River watershed, Atkins Place provides critical spawning habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon, which are culturally and ecologically important species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Atkins Place also provides important habitat for the endangered foothill yellow-legged frog and northern spotted owl as well as other animals, including northern goshawk, white-tailed kite and other raptors.

The mixed conifer forest on Atkins Place ranges in age from 50 to 90 years. It has been privately owned and managed for timber production for decades. The current landowners, the Weger and Hodge families, have had a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan in place since 2002 to improve the condition of this young forest. Sustainable timber harvests have taken place, focusing on removing small, unhealthy trees to promote the growth of the larger, more vigorous trees. This conservation-oriented practice brings back a diversity of tree sizes and age classes, characteristics of a healthy forest.

"We're very proud of how good the forest looks these days and how far it has come," said **Lisa Weger**, a representative of the families that are selling Atkins Place to the League. "Seeing Save the Redwoods League purchase Atkins Place means that it will be protected and that all of our work to make this forest healthy will continue."

The League plans to own and manage the property before ultimately transferring it to California State Parks for inclusion in Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, creating a potential opportunity for expanded public access in the park.

The protection of Atkins Place furthers the League's [centennial vision](#) to double the size of coast redwood forests in parks and reserves and secure the redwood forests' footprints and ecology.

Saving Mendocino County's Iconic Redwood Forests

Save the Redwoods League has protected forests in some of Mendocino County's most beloved parks and reserves, including Mendocino Headlands State Park, Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, Navarro River Redwoods State Park and Hendy Woods State Park. Most recently, the League [purchased and protected](#) the 3,181-acre Lost Coast Redwoods property and [donated](#) a 523-acre redwood forest known as Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, returning Indigenous guardianship of the land.

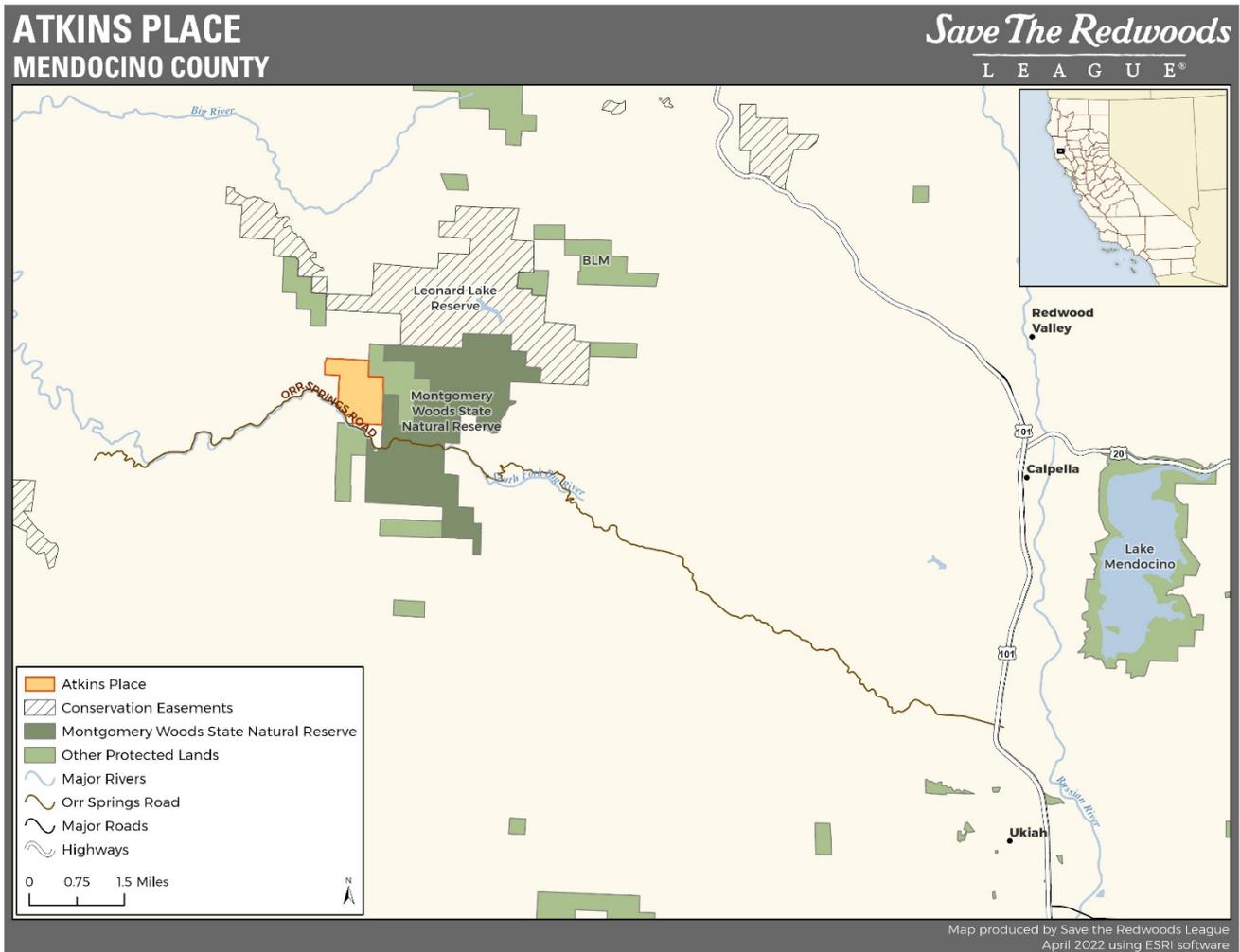
Funding the Protection of Atkins Place

Save the Redwoods League has secured an agreement to purchase the Atkins Place property from its current owners for \$1.18 million. In addition to the purchase price, the League seeks to raise \$120,000 for stewardship and transaction costs.

The California Natural Resources Agency has awarded the League \$550,000 in acquisition funding for this project through its Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program. Google has also made a \$188,000 gift through its partnership with the International Living

Future Institute and its pursuit of the Living Building Challenge, a certification program that requires new projects to meet certain environmental metrics and directs funding to environmental initiatives.

The League has launched a [fundraising effort](#) to raise the remaining \$562,000 needed to purchase the property by June 30, 2022.



The public can [learn more](#) about Atkins Place and [donate](#) to support its protection and stewardship on the Save the Redwoods League website.

To access hi-res images and b-roll, please [visit the League's online newsroom](#).

To schedule an interview, contact Jennifer Benito-Kowalski at 415-820-5814 or jbenito@SaveTheRedwoods.org.



Save the Redwoods League

One of the nation's longest-running conservation organizations, Save the Redwoods League has been protecting and restoring redwood forests since 1918. The League has connected generations of visitors with the beauty and serenity of the redwood forest. The nonprofit's 29,000 members have enabled the organization to protect more than 216,000 acres of irreplaceable forests in 66 state, national and local parks and reserves. For information, please visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org).

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