

Media Contact:

Robin Carr, Landis Communications Inc.

Email: Redwoods@LandisPR.com | Phone: (415) 766-0927



Save the Redwoods League Donates 453 Acres of Redwood Forest to Expand Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve

Atkins Place Property Transferred to California State Parks under New State Law SB 630

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (April 22, 2026) — [Save the Redwoods League](#) announced today the transfer of its Atkins Place property—453 acres featuring a coast redwood forest in Mendocino County—to California State Parks as a new addition to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. The property donation, which required no payment from State Parks, was formally completed on April 16, 2026, and is [one of three properties State Parks has acquired recently](#) under new legislation SB 630.

Atkins Place, which Save the Redwoods League acquired in 2022, features a healthy second-growth forest with a mix of coast redwood and oak woodlands, as well as 1.25 miles of high-quality streams for imperiled salmon. The addition of these 453 acres increases the size of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve by 16%. To date, Save the Redwoods has protected nearly 42,000 acres in Mendocino County.

"Donating Atkins Place to California State Parks is the realization of the vision we set when we launched our Montgomery Woods Initiative," said **Steve Mietz**, president and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. "This property was always meant to become part of Montgomery Woods, and seeing it formally join the Reserve on Earth Day is a fitting tribute to the supporters, partners and communities who made it possible. This transfer marks a new milestone for redwood conservation in Mendocino County."

Atkins Place fills a critical environmental 'puzzle piece' in the protected landscape surrounding Montgomery Woods, expanding a protected greenbelt of more than 11,500 acres in the upper reaches of the Big River watershed—a vital wildlife corridor for endangered and threatened species, including coho salmon and steelhead trout. To the east, the Atkins Place property connects the Reserve, as well as protected lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

"Montgomery Woods is an extraordinary place—ancient, irreplaceable and deeply meaningful to the people of Mendocino County and to all Californians," said **Armando Quintero**, director of California State Parks. "We are grateful to Save the Redwoods League for their dedication and generous support, which builds on a long legacy of helping protect nearly all the Reserve's more than 3,000 acres since its founding in 1945. We also respectfully acknowledge that the Reserve is located on the ancestral lands of the Northern Pomo people, whose deep connection to this landscape long predates our own stewardship."

With Atkins Place now formally part of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, State Parks can explore expanded public access and visitor experiences in this spectacular corner of

Mendocino County. The addition of Atkins Place is expected to support future trail development.

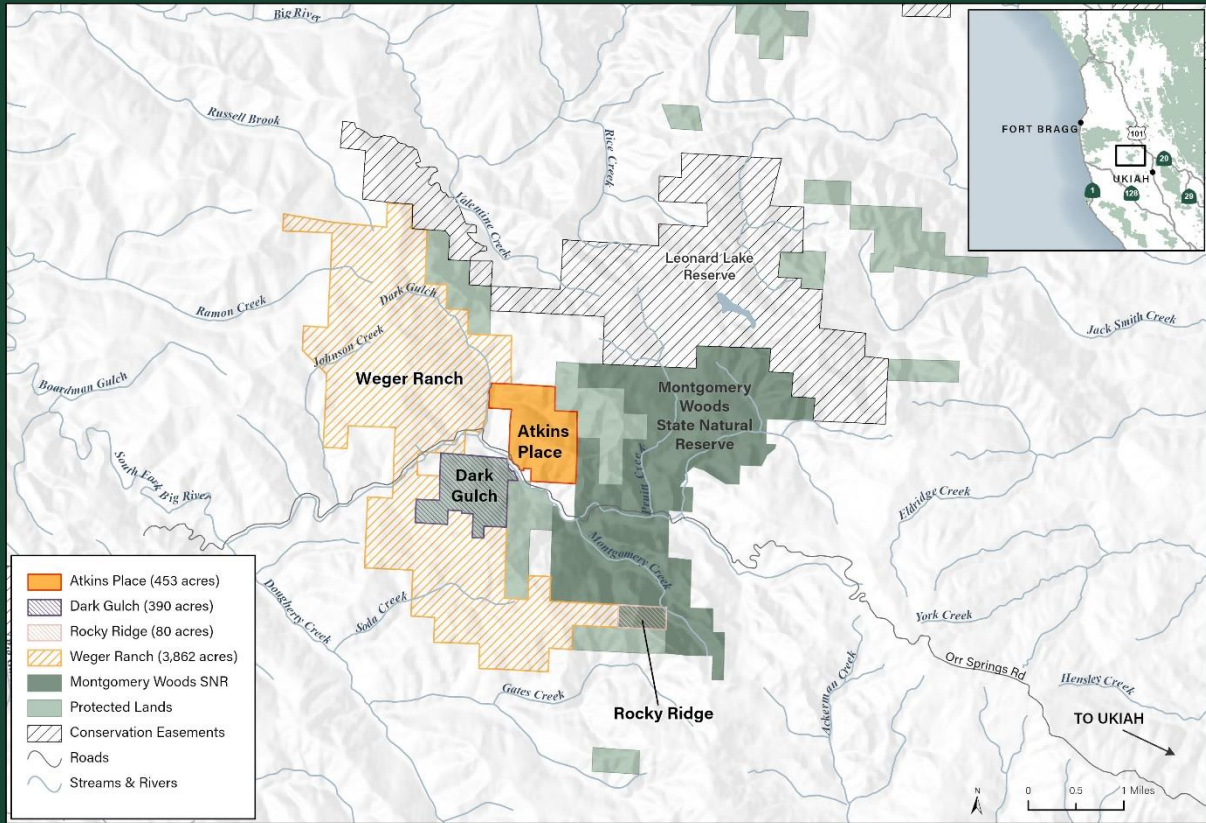
Save the Redwoods League's purchase of Atkins Place in August 2022 for \$1.18 million was the founding project of its Montgomery Woods Initiative—a landscape-scale vision to expand protection around Montgomery Woods and improve visitor experiences at the Reserve. Save the Redwoods held and stewarded the property for more than three years, with the transfer to State Parks as the ultimate goal.

“This transfer represents the culmination of years of fundraising, stewardship and partnership with State Parks,” added Mietz. “It is a gift from Save the Redwoods League’s generous supporters to the current and future generations of Californians.”

About Save the Redwoods League’s Montgomery Woods Initiative

The [Montgomery Woods Initiative](#) is a multi-year effort by Save the Redwoods League to expand the protection of lands surrounding Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve and improve the park experience for visitors. Key milestones include the purchase of Atkins Place (2022), a conservation easement on the 3,862-acre Weger Ranch (2023), the transfer of the 80-acre Rocky Ridge property to California State Parks (2024) and the acquisition of the 390-acre Dark Gulch property (2024). Together, these protections contribute to a growing greenbelt of conserved lands in the upper Big River watershed. Recreational improvements funded by Save the Redwoods include the creation of a gathering area in the Reserve’s old-growth grove, providing an immersive experience to visitors while also better protecting the grove’s root system and floodplain. Other improvements include the expansion of the parking lot and an update to interpretive and directional signage. Save the Redwoods and State Parks continue to engage local Indigenous communities and historically underrepresented communities in project development. To support visitation to the Reserve, click [here](#).

MONTGOMERY WOODS INITIATIVE MENDOCINO COUNTY



Data: Protected Lands (CPAD, 2025), Conservation Easements (CCEd, 2025)

Map produced by Save the Redwoods League
April 2026 using ESRI software

* * *



Save the
Redwoods
League

Save the Redwoods League

Save the Redwoods League revitalizes coast redwood and giant sequoia forests across California's redwood range. In partnership with state and federal agencies, Tribes, and communities, we have conserved more than 220,000 acres in 76 parks and preserves and restored 37,000 acres. Our work bolsters carbon storage, strengthens wildfire resilience, benefits local economies, and safeguards iconic landscapes enjoyed by millions. For more information, visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org)