

About Save the Redwoods League

Walk through a redwood forest—home of the tallest, largest and some of the oldest living beings on Earth—and you can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of awe and peace among these magnificent giants. Since 1918, Save the Redwoods League has led the effort to protect coast redwoods and giant sequoias for all to experience and enjoy. To date, the League has protected nearly 200,000 acres of redwood forest and associated land from southern Oregon to the Big Sur coastline of central California. As part of that effort, the organization has created and expanded 66 redwood parks and preserves that inspire awestruck visitors from around the world.



Other Species to Watch



Woodwardia fimbriata
Giant chain Fern



Dryopteris arguta
Coastal wood fern



Pteridium aquilinum
Bracken Fern



Pentagramma triangularis
Goldenback fern



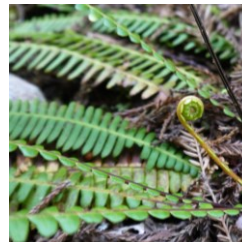
Athyrium filix-femina
Common ladyfern



Adiantum aleuticum
Five finger maidenhair



Polypodium californium
California polypody



Blechnum spicant
Deer fern

Fern Watch

Help track climate change in coast redwood forests by observing the growth of Western sword fern



About Fern Watch

Help Save the Redwoods League expand Fern Watch and track climate impacts in the coast redwood forest by observing Western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*). This perennial fern is common in the world's tallest forests and responds quickly to increases or decreases in rainfall. Through this project we hope to locate habitat most buffered from climatic extremes so that we can focus our conservation efforts in forests resilient to climate change.



Find Redwood Forest Ferns

Locate Western sword fern on the forest floor throughout the coast redwood ecosystem and other Californian forests. Its fronds reach lengths of more than 1 meter and are once-divided, displaying pinnae (leaflets) with a “hitchhiker’s thumb” pointing upwards near the frond rachis (midrib). Fiddleheads emerge in spring and fronds typically live for approximately 30 months.

Join Fern Watch on iNaturalist

- Download the iNaturalist app for iPhone or Android
- Create an iNaturalist account
- Join the Fern Watch project

Add an Observation

OBSERVE – Photograph the fern up close so that the frond characteristics are documented. Use multiple photos if needed to show presence of fiddleheads and sori (brown or green spots on frond undersides).

WHAT DID YOU SEE? – Identify the species or leave blank if unknown.

PROJECT – Select Fern Watch and note additional traits about the fern:

- **Fiddleheads** – Do you see any new leaves emerging as curled fiddleheads? If you see at least one fiddlehead emerging or uncurling, record **YES**.



- **Number of Green Fronds** – Count the number of green fronds including fiddleheads. Record the number of living fronds, excluding any old fronds that are more than half brown or dead.



- **Presence of Sori** – Sori are the round spots on the underside of fronds which produce spores. Do you see any of these reproductive structures? If brown or green sori are present, record **YES**.



- **Frond Length** – Measure the length in centimeters of one uncurled green frond (not fiddlehead) from the tip down to its lowest pinna (leaflet). Record the length to the closest whole centimeter. Repeat length measurements on four more fronds.



For more information, visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org)