



Dear RFFI Supporters,

Mark Welther’s first line in 2018’s Annual Update: “For 21 years RFFI has held the vision of healthy and sustainable forests...” brought the word ‘tenacity’ to mind. The dictionary gives three definitions of **tenacity**:

- *The quality or fact of being able to grip something firmly; grip*—It took 14 years for a group of citizens from Mendocino County to realize their idea- to create an organization that could manage forestlands for the long term benefit of the community. It took that long to bring their working community forest, the Usal Redwood Forest, into being.
- *The quality or fact of being very determined; determination*—During those 14 years the group was told numerous times that the community had no business owning and managing forestland. Securing financing for this first purchase seemed insurmountable.
- *The quality or fact of continuing to exist; persistence*—RFFI purchased Usal Redwood Forest in 2007 with private sector financing and since that time has moved steadily toward the development of a dedicated staff working diligently to restore the health and productivity of the forestlands.

Against all odds, 21 years later, RFFI owns and manages 50,000 acres of forestland in Mendocino County. While Usal Redwood Forest is still years away from full productivity, we are meeting our financial obligations, investing millions in restoration, creating jobs, and continuing to contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. Management resulting in a healthy forest is critical to our communities now more than ever before. The progress made has been the result of hard work and the support of our many partners and believers who contribute to our success.

RFFI and Usal Redwood Forest are evidence of what can be accomplished with enough tenacity. I hope you are as excited as the Board and staff about the many projects and activities that lie ahead and will consider making a financial contribution supporting the work of RFFI.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Moxon, Board Chair

