



Redwood Forest Foundation

Fall 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Redwood Forest Foundation's bi-annual newsletter. This issue will highlight restoration related activities, from our own projects on the Usal Redwood Forest to events associated with the National Geographic Society's upcoming feature article on the Redwood Transect. One of RFFI's primary goals is to partially finance its own ambitious restoration plans by supplementing conventional timber revenues with cash derived from other forest products, such as clean water and air, carbon sequestration, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation.

In our last newsletter we examined conservation easements and described RFFI's work with The Conservation Fund to sell an easement on the Usal Forest. This sale will ensure that this 50,000 acre forest remains undeveloped and intact, restored and managed sustainably in perpetuity. RFFI is also working to register and sell Carbon Reserve Tons (CRT), certified under protocols developed by the California Climate Action Registry (CAR). Through employing these kinds of balanced approaches to valuing ALL forest resources, RFFI will be better able to meet our objectives of Environmental integrity, Economic viability and social Equity in the redwood region.



Don Kemp
President, Board of Directors

Be sure to check www.RFFI.org for news and special events associated with the upcoming **National Geographic** article: "*Redwood Transect.*" Details inside.

Community Outreach

The October issue of National Geographic will feature an article of great interest to anyone who cares about the redwood region. The "Redwood Transect" will comprehensively look at the status of the redwood forest and its communities. RFFI is particularly excited by this opportunity to focus public interest on crafting a strategic rehabilitation plan, that integrates RFFI's founding principles, the Three E's: Environmental integrity, Economic viability and social Equity. We look forward to actively engaging to develop a "Marshall Plan for the Redwoods."

RFFI is convening a group of regional stakeholders and leaders to drive this effort. We know that an effective plan means engaging many people with different perspectives. We hope that through this planning effort, we will demonstrate what communities can accomplish by collaborating, and we will create a model for others to emulate. We will update our website regularly regarding activities and developments and hope you will get involved.



Art Harwood
Executive Director

To join RFFI, return the attached envelope or visit our website:

www.RFFI.org



photo credit: Robert Ballard

Redwood Transect

by Mike Faye, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and Wildlife Conservation Society Conservationist

No human who has ever seen the giant redwoods, not the least those who cut them, has not stood in awe of their greatness. This is one of the reasons I decided to walk the entire length of their range from the southernmost redwood tree known to exist today to the northernmost tree, a distance of some 700 miles and taking over a year. Along the way, independent researcher Lindsey Holm and I collected data critical to understanding the ecology, history and current state of the redwood forest. We hoped that our virtual transect would connect a community of people from all walks of life: practitioners, landowners, scientists and advocates to contribute information about the current status of the redwood forest. My ultimate goal was always to challenge redwood communities and all involved in their future and management to develop sustainable ways to use and appreciate America's redwoods.

My transect, which will be featured in the upcoming Oct. issue of National Geographic Magazine, and in the documentary, *EXPLORER: Climbing Giant Redwoods*, is not the first involvement of the Society with this extraordinary landscape. The Society's first article on Redwoods appeared in 1899. At that time the author Henry Gannett, a USGS scientist, focused on examining the inventory, which he estimated to be at 75 billion board feet and at the rate of use, believed that much of it would be gone in 50 years. A second trip to the region

in 1917 became pivotal in igniting interest in saving this unique forest. The Society's resulting article "Saving the Redwoods," was published in June 1920 and made an impassioned plea to the public to ask government representatives to set these lands aside as a national park. This article, coupled with the tireless efforts of the newly incorporated Save-the-Redwoods League, is largely responsible for the founding of many state parks and reserves in California. In 1964 National Geographic focused on the Redwood Region again, this time looking closely at Redwood Creek, the finding of the tallest tree on earth and on the creation of Redwood National Park.

But this is a different era. Almost 40 years have passed: 40 years of intense timbering, settlement and road building. 95 percent of the original forest has been cut. Our transect documents, first-hand, the enormous damage of past uses, decline in forest productivity and ecosystem function. These losses are directly felt by landowners, local residents and the State of California and are seen in fisheries declines, stream sedimentation and regional economic difficulties today. But we also see many reasons for hope. Through innovations in practices and regulation, both of which California are known for, a new reality of forest management is developing. Private landowners along with regulators and local people are working together in a process of restoration and a new, innovative kind of management. This process is not just about restoring and protecting ecosystems and ecosystem values but bringing full productivity back to these forests. It is a process that integrates quality wood production with local people, regulation, restoration and brings long-term monetization of ecosystem assets into the equation.

Our hope is that by focusing on the redwood and using this global symbol that represents everything that is powerful, grand and resilient in nature, by employing the power of thousands of people using our virtual crystal ball, and with leadership of a bold few, people will move to act and change the course of history globally and locally.

Restoration Road: New Rights-of-way for Fish

by Heidi Gundling, Advisory Board Member and
Richard Gienger, Board Member

Standley Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Eel River in the Usal Redwood Forest, is an important spawning stream for Coho salmon and Steelhead trout. But like many areas in the Redwood region, this stream and the nearby forest ecosystem have been damaged by sediment associated with past logging practices. After World War II, caterpillar tractor logging became the most common method of removing trees, providing access to areas of the forest that had previously been untouched. These track-driven bulldozers with winches crawled up to trees cut on steep slopes and dragged them to lower hillslopes and streamside roads.



photo credit:
Thomas Leroy, Pacific Watershed Associates

In addition to these streamside roads, numerous crossings and landings were also placed in stream channels. Many crossings were constructed by putting logs within narrow, steep stream channels and then filling the channel with dirt from road construction. These structures were typically left behind, and many have partially collapsed, blocking fish access and/or burying streams with thousands of cubic yards of dirt and debris. Removal of these structures is a massive and expensive undertaking, but is critically important to restoration of fisheries and watersheds, as well as improving water quality. One such crossing

dismantled in the Clark Fork tributary of Standley Creek this summer required the removal of approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material. That is the equivalent of 700 average highway 10-wheel dump truck loads!

As forests have come to be valued for more than just lumber, RFFI and its property manager, The Campbell Group, have partnered with Pacific Watershed Associates, Trout Unlimited, the Department of Fish & Game and several local community groups to draft an ambitious, six phase restoration program to decommission specific, poorly located roads, crossings and landings throughout the Standley Creek watershed that are at high risk of future sediment delivery. This work is the beginning of a much larger restoration and stewardship program that will address problems throughout the entire Usal Redwood Forest and integrate sustainable silviculture with important recreational, cultural, and wildlife elements. Any future logging on Usal's steep slopes, where these specific roads are being properly decommissioned, will be carefully completed using cable yarding or other systems that fully protect and continue to help recover watershed and fisheries resources.

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On our website only:

Danny Hagans and professional geologists at Pacific Watershed Associates are supervising the restoration work in the Clark Fork this summer, and Danny was interviewed by RFFI's Heidi Knott on August 3. For the complete interview and photographs of the project, please visit our website at www.RFFI.org.

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Thank You Goldman Fund!

For the second year in a row RFFI has received a \$100,000 grant from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund for fiscal year 2009-10 to support general operations and capacity building.

Be sure to check the online version of articles at
www.RFFI.org
for additional information, web links, maps and more!

HAVE FUN WHILE SUPPORTING RFFI!

Generous grants from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund and wonderful support from our members have nourished RFFI over the past two years. However, RFFI still needs \$150,000 for the coming year. Here are some unique ways to help us:

Redwood Painting Safaris

Renown artists Paul Youngman and Edward Duarde are offering instructional “plein air” painting workshops in January and March 2010. Participants in these 4 day “paint outs” become “Sustaining Members” of RFFI, enjoy spectacular local accommodations, a painting llama trek and a guided tour into the Usal Forest on the “Lost Coast.”

Visit www.RFFI.org and click on Redwood Painting Safaris or call 707 937-2660 for details.

Redwood Rescue Project

Help us save 100,000 young Redwoods from destruction! Originally grown for reforestation, the current economic crisis will leave these trees homeless unless we act now. Our campaign of community partners — all listed at www.RFFI.org — are seeking sponsors for these trees which will be planted in your honor or as a gift for someone special!

Please visit www.RFFI.org and click Redwood Rescue Project or call 707 937-4808.

These make wonderful gifts for the holidays or any occasion. Or, support RFFI the old fashioned way, by sending your donation to RFFI at P.O. Box 12, Mendocino, CA 95460, or online at www.RFFI.org.



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