



# Redwood Forest Foundation

Spring 2012

## President's Letter

by Kathy Moxon

I certainly welcome the sunny weather that has finally arrived after a long season of wet and mud, but most of all the coming of spring means RFFI will be taking a significant step towards fulfilling our vision of sustainable forestry in the Usal Redwood Forest. The delays and complexity of securing the conservation easement were necessarily the focus of our efforts these past several years. Now that these critical protections are in place, cementing RFFI's fundamental tenets of sustainable forestry and preventing fragmentation and development forever, we can enter a new phase of management. The California Department of Forestry has approved our timber harvest plans and we hope to see a pick-up in housing construction which could positively affect log prices, and this summer, the first logs will come off of Usal. Check out the article, "Working in the Forest," for details on our projected work in the forest.



It seems that with each newsletter, I write about two things: change and how much we still have ahead of us. In the wake of our easement success, there are changes among our board and staff. Thanks are due to several board members who championed our easement efforts and have now stepped down, including Don Kemp, Pete Mattson and Joe Euphrat. Without their tireless efforts we would not have been successful. We also wish to welcome new Board member, Mike Balok, formerly a forestry investment specialist with Bank of America, who has hit the ground

**Save the date!**

**Saturday, July 21, 2012, 10 AM**

for the RFFI Annual Meeting at the Campbell Timber Management Company picnic grounds north of Fort Bragg. Please RSVP for our great lunch on our website at

[www.RFFI.org](http://www.RFFI.org)

running. RFFI also wishes to welcome Tom Tuchmann of US Forest Capital as RFFI's Acting Executive Director. He'll serve through 2012 and outlines RFFI's 2012 priorities in his article later in this newsletter. Tom is no stranger to RFFI, having been with us since the beginning in 1998, and this experience combines with his professional work to prepare him for the important work ahead. Tom takes over from Art Harwood who has been instrumental in RFFI's birth and development, and although he has stepped down from his staff role, Art remains a vital part of RFFI's Community Advisory Committee and will provide leadership from that vantage point as RFFI embarks on long-range forest management.

Like the rhythm of seasonal change in our forests, after last year's busy, successful summer, news from RFFI quieted while we celebrated our successes and regrouped for the busy work season ahead. We are rejuvenated and excited about the future and are looking forward to sharing our plans with you at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 21. I hope you will join us again this year for lunch and an update on RFFI. As always, we need your interest and support and we hope you will check our website regularly for updates and information and, of course, that you will join us in any way you can.

## Redwood Forest Foundation 2012

### Working in the Forest Today

Heidi Gundling, *RFFI Board Member*

Since acquiring the Usal Redwood Forest in 2007, the Redwood Forest Foundation (RFFI) has focused on obtaining the conservation easement (accomplished last summer) and priority restoration projects in the Usal to repair some of the damage left by past logging practices. This year for the first time since becoming the Usal forest owners, RFFI will be harvesting timber in three of the forest's predominantly redwood groves. The approved timber harvest plans for 2012 specify selective harvesting, do not permit herbicide use and contain strict stream and road protection measures.

As has been the case with much of our restoration work, local contractors will be hired to conduct timber harvesting and log hauling, road improvement and maintenance, and the trees will be delivered to local mills, thus providing additional local employment. Some 31 different jobs will be supported during the entire process, including a professional forester, forestry technician, botanist, wildlife and fisheries biologists, a geologist, a GIS specialist, logging crew members, truck drivers, timber fallers, a log scaler and a log accountant.

This summer RFFI will also continue with its restoration activities, primarily in the Standley Creek Watershed, where work began several years ago. Another 2.2 miles of road will be decommissioned (i.e. made impassable by the placement of tree trunks and branches that will stabilize surfaces as they gradually return to their natural state). All together 18 erosion sites will be treated to stop sediment from flushing into the creek. Using field observations and aerial photo analysis, the 107 miles of road in the Indian Creek watershed will also be inventoried for erosion and sediment source sites. To increase and improve fish habitat, two miles of the North Fork of Usal Creek will be treated with large woody debris (LWD). LWD will also be used within a four-mile stretch of Indian

Creek to add complexity to the water channel, augment woody cover and increase the frequency of pools, which provide critical habitat for Chinook and Coho salmon and Steelhead trout. We have observed the success of our previous work in the Standley Creek Watershed and are pleased to be able to expand the breadth of this work.

Finally, as part of a multiple year conservation project we will continue thinning dense forest stands (pre-commercial thinning) on 250 acres throughout Usal Forest, implementing practices to protect soil quality on 200 acres and treating forest stands to improve habitat and soil quality on 15 acres. Through these on-going efforts, we aim to return an ecological balance to the forest that will allow for sustainable logging practices and secure jobs for local citizens. To this end, we are pursuing Forest Stewardship Council certification. For information on past restoration work, please visit

[www.RFFI.org](http://www.RFFI.org).



**Team Standish and MAPA  
submit plan to  
stop State Park Closure**



Read the article on  
[www.RFFI.org](http://www.RFFI.org)



## Redwood Forest Foundation Board Finalizes 2012 Priorities

Tom Tuchmann, *RFFI Acting Executive Director, US Forest Capital*

With the Usal Redwood Forest having achieved permanent protection through the sale of the conservation easement last year, the Redwood Forest Foundation (RFFI) is moving forward with a number of management activities that will help assure its long-term success.

More specifically, the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff met in March to discuss its strategic future and agree on operational priorities for the rest of the year. At the top of the list is the Foundation's effort to drill down on a specific forest management approach that will allow the Foundation to achieve its environmental, social and economic mission. The Foundation will be analyzing forest management options by modeling two or three management approaches that look at different forest practices and resulting revenues. The goal of this effort will be to provide a road map of how best to achieve RFFI's desired future forest management conditions while also continuing to meet our financial responsibilities.

Closely allied with forest management modeling is the Foundation's effort to further analyze, and potentially register and sell, carbon credits in 2012. There has been a lot of back and forth in these pages and beyond about the flux of carbon markets, but one thing is for sure: There is a market and the Foundation would like to support it if the liabilities are not overly burdensome. With the easement establishing certainty that the property cannot be subdivided or developed, RFFI can now finalize its calculations about how much additional carbon can be stored as a result of our forestry approach. Once we know this, we can move on to third-party verification and subsequent registration with the Climate Action Reserve. Finally, once the carbon has been registered, we can sell this carbon to willing buyers who need to purchase carbon credits

to offset their emissions. Beyond sequestering carbon, selling carbon credits will provide RFFI with the benefit of a modest income stream to help pay down the cost of the forest.

RFFI is very pleased that timber markets have recovered to the point where we will move forward on three timber sales this year and approximately five restoration projects. The Board has also approved planning for additional timber sales in 2013 and 2014.

In addition to our focus on management and carbon modeling, RFFI will address three other important matters:

- Developing and implementing a fundraising plan that will secure at least \$250,000 in operating funds for 2013 and 2014. We hope our supporters will help us in this endeavor.
- Developing the Foundation Board to include people who will help the Foundation grow and keep the organization strong; and,
- Hiring a permanent Executive Director.

All in all, the Foundation looks forward to a very busy and productive year, one that the Board feels will position the organization well for its future success.

*A Special Thank You to*  
**Vita, Jeff and Jon at**  
**Novogradac & Company LLP**  
**for their pro-bono work on RFFI's**  
**2010 tax returns.**



## Invest in RFFI, Invest in the Future

Help RFFI create self-sustaining working community forests in a manner based on economic, ecological and social equity values. Please support this exciting and unique model of forest ownership and management that holds such tremendous promise for future generations.

### **"Plant a Redwood" in Your Living Room**

RFFI, *Harry and David* and *Ascus Nursery* are teaming up to put a Redwood tree in your living room! Purchase a bonsai redwood tree and support RFFI.



*Read about it and purchase on*  
[www.RFFI.org](http://www.RFFI.org)



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