

2019

**Redwood Forest Foundation  
Annual Update  
Ecology, Economy, Equity**

[WWW.RFFI.ORG](http://WWW.RFFI.ORG)



Board Tour July 2019

Left to Right: Jeff Romm, John Rogers, Mike Balok, Heidi Knott Gundling, Richard Gienger, Bill Wilkinson, Candace Skarlatos, Kathy Moxon, Kendall Smith. Not pictured – Steve Pearson, Bill Snyder.

## Inaugural URFC Intern Program

In 2019, we initiated our summer internship program. We had an overwhelmingly positive response from reaching out to Humboldt State University. We received over fifteen qualified applicants for the one position. After interviewing them all on the phone, I narrowed it down to seven. Fortunately, our first choice accepted the position. On June 3rd, Imri Vasale, a forestry major, became our first Student Intern. Imri brought a strong passion for learning and desire to expand his on the ground knowledge of forest management.



Imri assisted Forest Operations Manager, Jeff Houser, and Forest Techs Joaquin Quintana and Travis Munoz, with timber harvest plan layout, timber marking, and conducting stocking surveys on past timber harvest plans (THP). In addition, he supported Karen Youngblood, our Forest Conservation Specialist, with botanical surveys on restoration projects and future THP's.

As with any new venture, there were lessons learned. The most challenging aspect of having an intern for the summer on the coast is affordable housing. Applicants repeatedly ask if housing was provided or at least readily available. We were fortunate that Imri's family owned property near Westport where he camped.

There are many ways to support RFFI. Now one possibility is to house an intern for the summer. Typically, the program runs for ten weeks from early June to mid-August. Housing goes a long way to attracting good candidates for our intern program. If you have a rental unit, cabin or an extra space that would be available next summer, let me know at [linwood@rffi.org](mailto:linwood@rffi.org).

Credits: Front Cover Photo. Mitzi Rider

Back Cover. Usal Forest Map. Karen Youngblood

Other Photos. Elias Henderson, Mark Welther, Mitzi Rider, Joaquin Quintana

Another milestone was reached this year! RFFI embarked on our second property purchase, with a successful campaign to acquire the Reist Ranch, a 95-acre homestead located entirely within the Usal Redwood Forest.

This purchase is made possible in part by a generous price reduction from the current owner, Katharine Baker, and her husband John. The Reist Ranch has been in Katharine's family for nearly 100 years, and her memories of spending time at the ranch and the family's interest in seeing the property managed sustainably are reasons why they connected with RFFI. In exchange for their generous donation, RFFI has agreed to place permanent restrictions on logging the old growth grove that surrounds the family ranch buildings. A special thanks goes out to Roger Sternberg and Jim Larson, who have worked tirelessly to make this purchase a reality.



The ranch buildings have been vacant for many years and will be lost if not restored soon. Acquiring property is only the beginning. Road repairs are desperately needed to assure access. RFFI will then integrate sustainable timber management of Reist into the surrounding Usal Redwood Forest. The area where the ranch buildings stand will provide future increased community access to that area of Usal. With adequate support, we envision development of the site, located within five miles of Leggett, as a community research facility, educational center or field office. But the buildings are deteriorating rapidly and we need to act fast.

Acquisition, restoration and improvements will be paid for entirely by charitable gifts. Please help RFFI acquire this property and lay the foundation for these future projects. We are close to our goal. We need to raise \$300,000 by March 1, 2020 to finalize the Reist Ranch acquisition and restoration project— please give generously today.



Reist Ranch Homestead



# Redwood Forests for Our Future

## Your Donation Makes a Difference

### RFFI Accomplishments 2009-2019:

#### Ecology

- Restoring five watersheds (\$5 million)
- Removing 26 miles of detrimental roads
- Installing over 200 in-stream large wood structures
- Planting over 135,000 redwoods
- Sequestering 4.8 million metric tonnes of carbon
- Pioneering forest-based biochar production & research
- Initiating Reist Ranch acquisition.



#### Economy

- Contributing over \$3.5 million to the local economy
- Managing California's largest forest carbon project
- Maintaining full compliance with our loan
- Four years of FCS® certified timber production
- Creating living-wage jobs
- Sponsoring local community events.

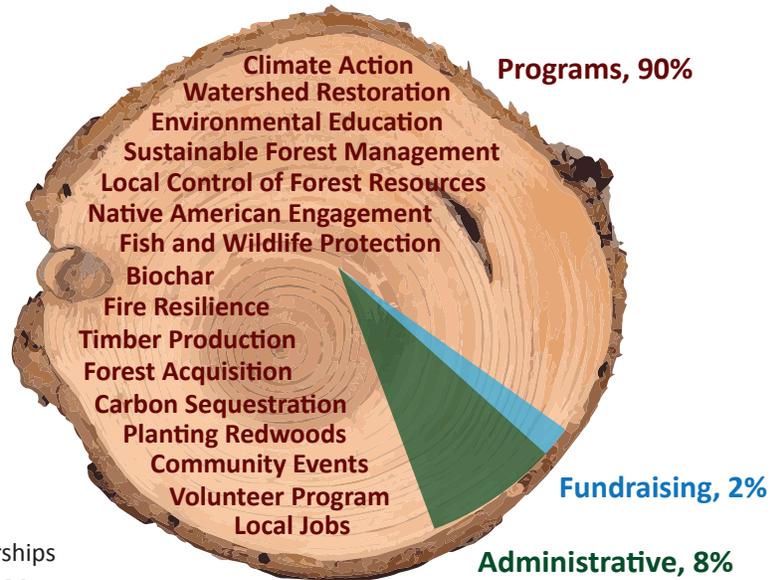


#### Equity

- Maintaining working environmental, financial and community partnerships
- Involving adults and K-12 students in hands-on environmental education
- Establishing Chinquapin Springs Acorn Grove for Native American use
- Engaging community to advise forest management
- Providing forest recreation activities
- Mobilizing more than 200 volunteers.



### Your Gift Supports:



If You Want To Make A Difference,  
Start With Forests!  
Donate  
Redwood Forests for Our Future.

### Do You Want To Make A Difference?

If you want your gift to have real impact, to improve lives, and even change the world, forests are a great place to begin! **A gift to the Redwood Forest Foundation has tremendous impact.**

According to the United Nations, an estimated 18 million acres of forest are lost each year. The most disturbed forests in the world are in the United States. Forests are critical to supporting life on this planet! They play a vital role in solving the worsening climate crisis. Forests are among the most powerful natural solutions to climate disruption. The Yale School of Forestry tells us that mature forests "are the ones that are going to add the most carbon in the coming decades." The actions we take in the next decade will be critical to avoiding irreversible damage from climate change.

Working forest conservation easements prevent development, fragmentation and allow owners to restore forests while supporting life. Forested watersheds provide drinking water for over 180 million Americans. The RFFI model creates jobs and improves economic opportunity in depressed rural communities. The RFFI model of acquiring and restoring depleted forestland for the benefit of the community is creating a model of large-scale forest conservation and is eliciting global interest. We receive daily requests from others asking for our help. We need your support to assist them by sharing the RFFI model. Your donations help us continue our work of acquiring and protecting forests and to extend our help to others seeking to embrace this approach.

### Thank You

To our many donors and volunteers whose generous contributions help us fulfill our mission.

### Special Recognition

Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation  
March M. Davis Wagner Trust  
California Roots Music & Arts Festival

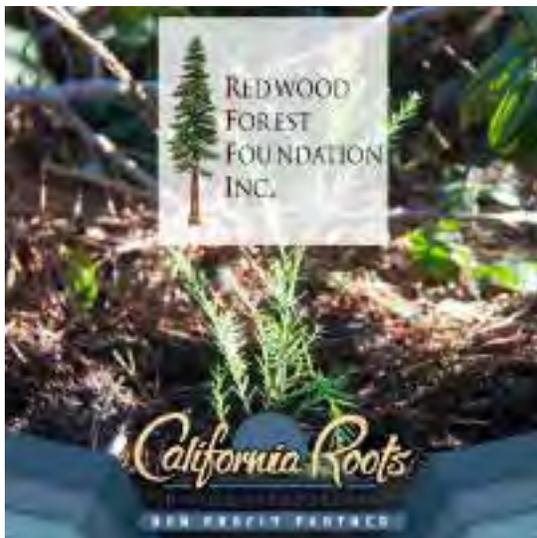




## Ice on Fire Casts RFFI as Climate Champion

RFFI's pioneering climate action landed us a significant role in the Leonardo DiCaprio HBO climate disruption documentary. Our sustainable forest management, tree planting, major forest landscape restoration, Usal Redwood Forest Carbon Project, and biochar operation catapulted us onto the world stage. RFFI's innovative financial strategies and demonstrated ability to transcend regional conflict-the Timber Wars- and carve out a new inclusive approach to providing community control over the management of forest resources was considered a model for moving forward. The film has generated global interest and support for our work. The filmmaker, Leila Conners, has chosen two RFFI projects for the post film action campaign, "Catching Carbon." Conners felt that RFFI is uniquely positioned to provide an inclusive, thoughtful, market-based response to, perhaps, the greatest crisis the civilized world has ever faced.

## RFFI and Cali Roots Team Up To Plant 7400 Redwoods



RFFI treasures our synergistic partnership with California Roots, a music festival production company that puts on phenomenal multi-faceted festivals. But, CaliRoots is so much more than just a music festival. Their festivals gave birth to their commitment to protect the Earth. Among the signature features are their Greening Initiatives: including Redwood Reforestation, Water Conservation, Waste Diversion, and Steel Pints, as well as, their partnerships to provide carbon offset and bike & skate valet. Like RFFI, CaliRoots is a grass roots movement engaging the community in helping to improve the economy and ecology of the redwood region. RFFI is at every Memorial Day Weekend Music and Arts Festival in Monterey, CA, spreading the RFFI message to over 10,000 visitors a day. CaliRoots donates to plant two redwoods for every VIP Redwood Pass! To date California Roots has donated \$25,000 to plant 5,000 redwoods. They have pledged another \$12,000 for 2020. This will bring their total number of redwoods planted in northern California forests to **7,400!** Thank You!



## RFFI Annual Meeting 2019



RFFI's Annual Meeting on Sep 7, 2019 was the best attended ever! Linwood Gill, Chief Forester, led 80 people on a tour of the Parker Ranch. After a delicious lunch and other presentations, world-renowned forest ecologist, Jerry Franklin, PhD, held the 150 RFFI supporters' attention with his captivating presentation. Dr. Franklin asserted that public and private forests should be managed for the common good and for the multiple benefits they can provide, instead of simply for profit and return on investment. He stressed maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and integrating ecological and

## RFFI's Defining Moment

**As 2019 closes, RFFI is writing a new chapter, RFFI 4.0.**

Redwood forests are vital to combatting climate change, providing essential habitat and supporting local economies. Yet, only 110,000 acres of old growth Coast Redwoods remain, 5% of the original. At the same time, over 1.2 million acres of previously harvested Redwood lands are in private ownership, many still heavily logged. How will these forests be managed to benefit their communities into the future?



RFFI's first 22 years were dedicated to creating a model for managing working forests that would answer this question. Now it is time to take the next step and expand the impact of the RFFI model on future forest management.

**RFFI 1.0 (1997 to 2007)** - Community leaders responded to the 1990s Timber Wars by founding RFFI in 1997 with a mission that still guides us today centered on the Three Es: Ecology, Economy and social Equity.

**RFFI 2.0 (2007 to 2012)** - We boldly purchased the 50,000-acre Usal Redwood Forest with a \$65 million Bank of America loan. RFFI developed a market-based strategy using private capital to leverage public, philanthropic, conservation and preservation funding, along with timber sales and usage fees, to retire the debt. After weathering the 2008 recession, RFFI implemented this strategy and twelve years later we are in full compliance with our loan, improving forest health and creating community jobs.

**RFFI 3.0 – (2013 to 2019)** - RFFI completed our first two sustainable timber harvests, suspended herbicide use, achieved FSC® certification, completed \$5 million in watershed restoration, and registered California's largest forest carbon offset project. In 2016, we took over Usal management and hired our first forestry team led by respected Chief Forester Linwood Gill.

Over the years, RFFI has forged many strong community partnerships. In 2019 alone, we worked closely with Trout Unlimited, CalFire, CA Fish & Wildlife, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Mead Family Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, local tribal peoples, Tree Media, Sonoma Ecology Center & Sonoma Biochar Initiative, California Roots, the Fort Bragg HS Anchor Academy and others.

Now, twelve years into Usal ownership, we are proud of our achievements, as well as RFFI's climate action leadership featured in the 2019 HBO documentary "Ice on Fire."

As 2020 opens, we are writing **our most important chapter, RFFI 4.0. This is the defining moment** where we will answer questions about RFFI's future direction, including: (a) can RFFI's model guide the sustainable forest management movement around the nation and world? (b) what is RFFI's future role as a climate action innovator? (c) how can RFFI increase benefits to local communities? and (d) how will we pay for these programs?

**Help RFFI write this exciting chapter.** We can only succeed with the participation of our entire community, including you! As you make your year-end giving decisions, **please make your most generous contribution to help RFFI lead this movement and reach our goal of raising \$300,000 by March 2020!**

Together, we will have the greatest impact on the forest and communities of the future.



**Usal Hopper Bike Race 2019** Thanks to URFC's Joaquin Quintana and Hopper owner, Miguel Crawford (Above), 250 mountain-bikers were inspired by RFFI's innovative forestry and the marvels of the Lost Coast.

## North Coast Biochar

Visit [www.rffi.org/biochar](http://www.rffi.org/biochar) for a comprehensive review of biomass conversion technology and RFFI's work to develop policy and funding for both production and utilization of this effective carbon sequestration soil amendment.

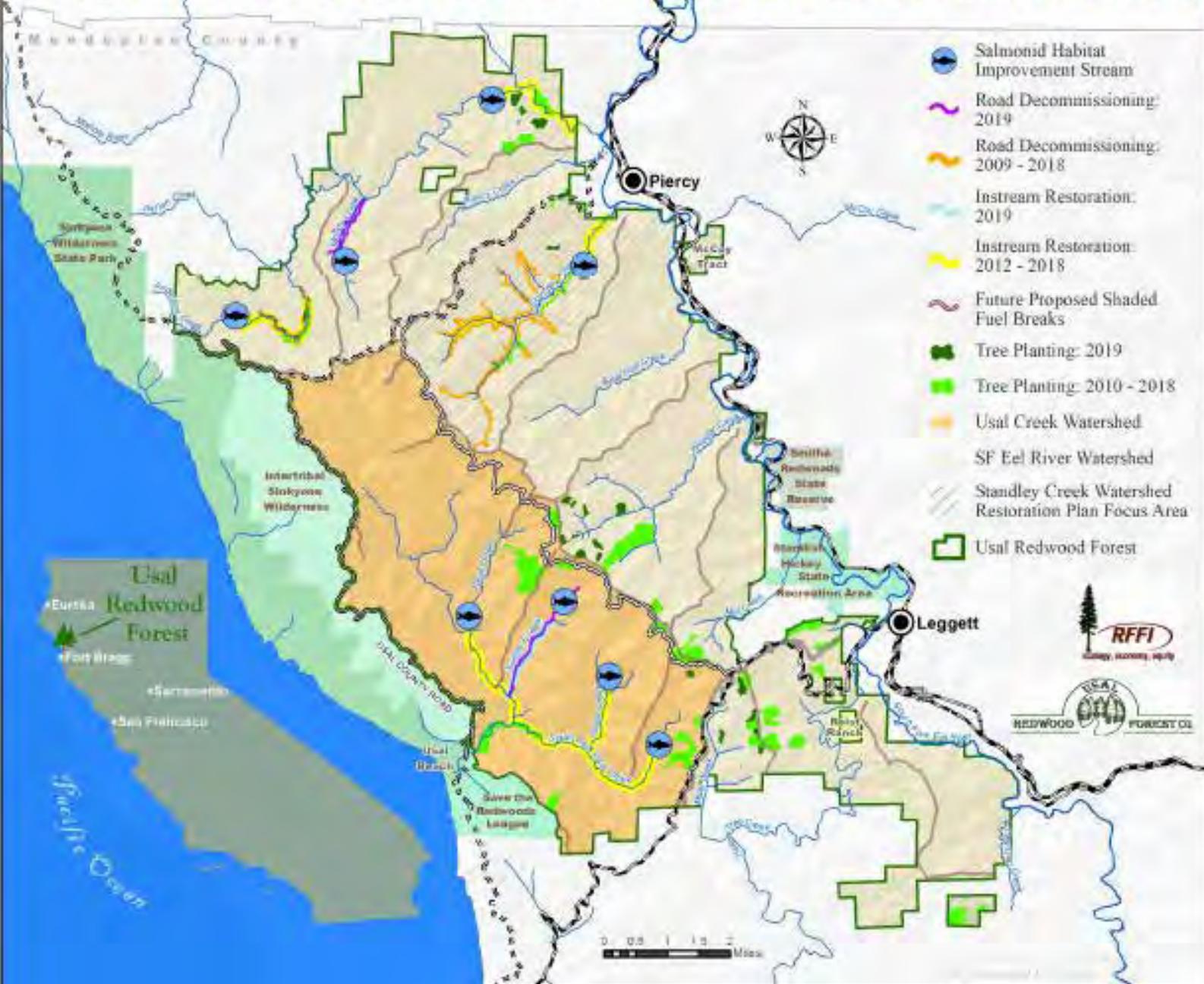


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**REDWOOD FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE**

**Usal Redwood Forest 2019 Restoration Work**



In 2019, salmon habitat restoration projects on Usal Redwood Forest included the placement of 70 large wood structures over 2.5 stream miles and removing 3.5 miles of roads which will prevent 14,000 yds of sediment from entering critical salmon habitat. We planted 25,000 trees in selected hillslope and streamside locations. We have designated the Standley Creek Watershed as our pilot watershed level comprehensive restoration plan and proposed future shaded fuel breaks on our major trending ridges.