

Thinking About and Missing John
by Richard Gienger



John William Rogers has been a vital, steady, and integral part of the cultural, social, and intellectual life of Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino Counties since the 1970s. Our paths crossed many times. In the appreciable time I spent with John, I admired his leadership and incredible knowledge and perspective of forestry. Among John's many accomplishments were his role in the founding of the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF). His depth of thought, influence and leadership reaches Northern California and to forests and forest-connected people in North America and beyond. His sudden passing on September 29th was tragic and shocking.

My most cherished time with John has been on the Boards of Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) and the Usal Redwood Forest Company (URFC) since 2008. John's commitment to RFFI's principles have been unwavering. His dedication to forming and implementing a Stewardship Plan are invaluable now and for the future. The manifestation of that effort can be seen in the current strategic plan focusing on climate, carbon, water, habitat, and community connection. His loss now is especially painful.

Three parts of John's commitment to forest management stand out: his adamancy that a real, truly productive forest is a forest that is predominately composed of large and high quality trees and habitat, that surrounding communities be intertwined with that forest and its management, and that it be accomplished without the use of herbicides. We must honor that commitment and continue and expand on his leadership. Please visit john.rogers.memorial@gmail.com

Tribute to Steve Zuieback
by Art Harwood

This past summer RFFI lost a great friend, mentor and supporter – Steve Zuieback. Steve had a passion for making the world a better place and a skillset that united people to proceed down a singular path. A modest person, Steve, with a lot of help from his friends (us), provided the inspiration and leadership that has allowed RFFI to flourish into what it is today, establishing a blue print into what we hope it will become.



In the 1980's Steve introduced the concept of the 3E's that would become a guiding principle behind every entity Steve chose to affiliate with. Simply stated, every decision should satisfy the criteria of the 3E's: Economic feasibility, Environmental sustainability and social Equity.

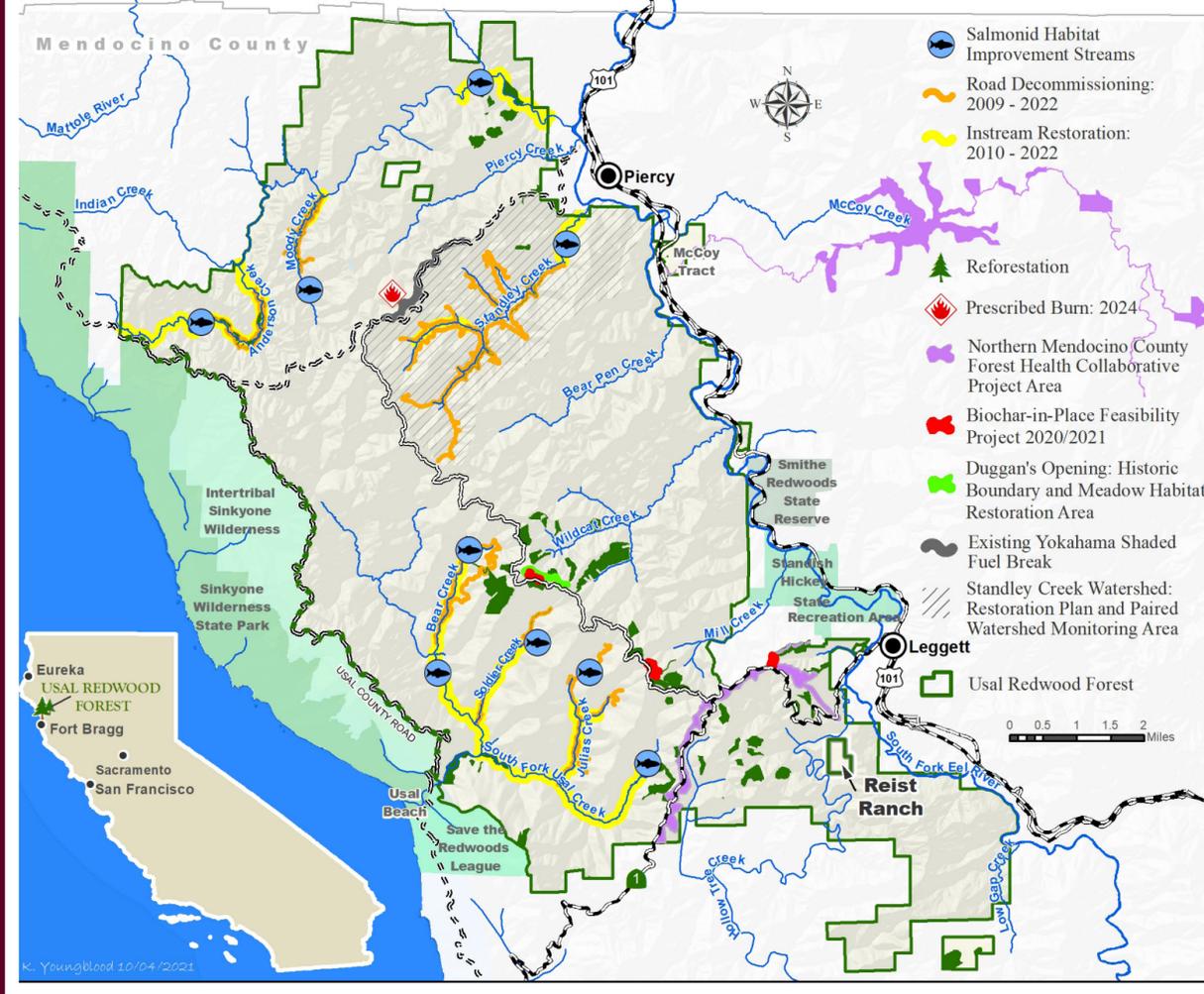
In the late 1980's the "Timber Wars" rocked the Redwood Region. Groups with divergent views clashed over use of our natural resources. As these clashes escalated, we observed that many of the faces on both sides of the issue were familiar. Our kids played on the same sports teams, they were classmates in school. We decided we needed to talk. With Steve's help, our divergent groups came together to talk. We found that we agreed on many things, could discuss what separated us and the disagreements would dissipate.

After the timber wars wound down, North Coast timberlands came up for sale, a group of former adversaries came together and decided to pursue a dream of purchasing timberlands - owning and managing them for community benefit. Thus RFFI was formed. Once again Steve facilitated a process that allowed our divergent group to work together toward a common vision and goal.

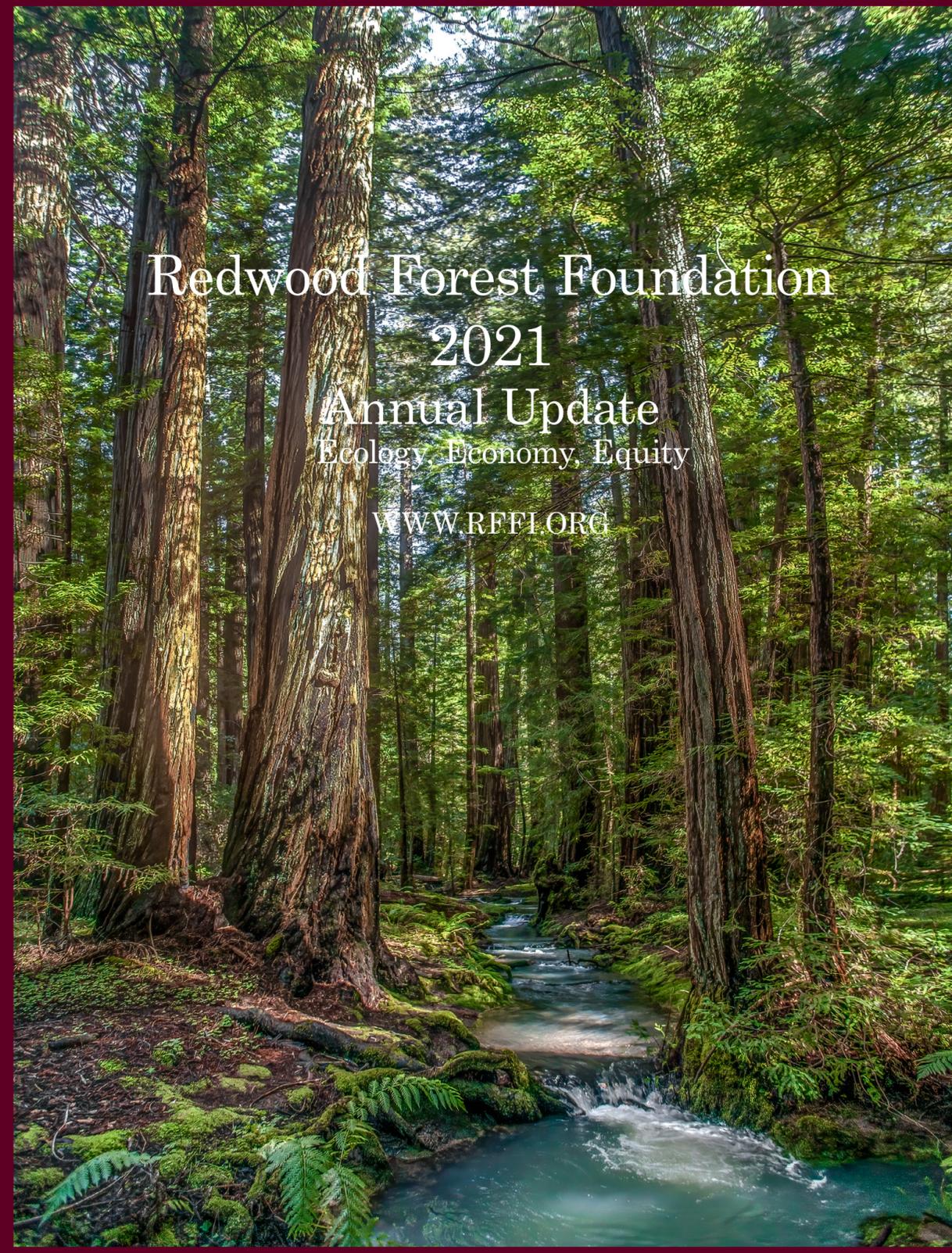
Steve believed in the RFFI model and more importantly dedicated his life to helping people positively transform their local community, as well as the larger world that we are a part of.

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 118
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Usal Redwood Forest



Your gifts have leveraged over \$7,500,000 in major watershed restoration in Usal. Fifty-one miles of unmaintained roads and their failed crossings were removed or upgraded preventing 150,000 cubic yards (11,000 truckloads) of sediment from washing into salmon bearing streams. Fifteen miles of key salmonid spawning streams were enhanced with over 300 large wood structures. Our Biochar-in-Place Feasibility project, converted 1000 cy of biomass into 150 cy of biochar, sequestering 38 tons of CO2 in Usal's forest soils."



Redwood Forest Foundation

2021
Annual Update
Ecology, Economy, Equity

WWW.RFFI.ORG

**Redwood Forest Foundation
Board of Directors**



*Left to Right: Kathleen Moxon, Candace Skarlatos, Bill Snyder
Second row: Jeff Romm, Richard Gienger, Mike Balok*

**Usal's Community
Linwood Gill, RPF
Chief Forester**



Community partnerships, both old and new, have long been a key element in the management of Usal Redwood Forest. Whether continuing our long-term relationship with Vasquez reforestation or building on our recent association with Finnegan Excavation for road maintenance, these partnerships are critical for our long-term success. With an eye on our strategic goals, there are many areas where we will expand our partnerships.

We have begun to reach out to the scientific community to improve our knowledge on restoring the forest to a more productive, fire resilient forest; not only for timber resources, but also to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. There will be many opportunities to learn, to encourage research, and to look for solutions as the forest adapts to a changing climate.

We are reaching out to the local indigenous community. With their guidance, we hope to incorporate traditional management practices back into the forest; practices that will not only help make the forest more fire resilient, but also provide more opportunities for traditional uses.

We are looking to contract with more local businesses to provide employment opportunities. With funding for the Forest Health Grant, we will need additional contractors to help get the project completed in a timely manner. This grant is only the first phase of a multiple stage program to improve forest conditions and turn excess woody biomass into soil enhancing, carbon sequestering biochar.

We continue to seek community involvement and connection to the forest, an overarching goal since RFFI's inception. Whether it be through recreational activities, access to non-timber related products, citizen science programs, access to firewood cutting or involvement in the Redwood Forest Council, we are continuing to look for ways to make Usal Redwood Forest truly a community forest.



Reist Ranch Acquisition RFFI is purchasing our second forest! Please help wrap-up the successful campaign to acquire and restore the forested Reist Ranch. This 95-acre richly forested homestead is located entirely within our Usal Redwood Forest and provides critical access to areas of Usal. The generosity of the owners, Katherine and John Baker, along with grants and individual donations are helping to conserve this valuable resource.

This redwood and Douglas fir forest, with old growth trees and sensitive meadows, has been in Katharine Baker's family for nearly 100 years. Her memories of spending time at the ranch and her family's interest in preservation and assuring sustainable forest management brought the family to RFFI. The Bakers are placing a conservation easement on the property prior to transferring ownership. In exchange they have significantly reduced the price. The conservation easement will protect the old growth grove, meadows and assure sustainable management of the land in perpetuity.

Help open up exciting possibilities for both the forest and our community. With your support, we will restore the historic buildings and stabilize failing roads. The vacant ranch buildings will be lost if not restored soon; the roads provide critical access to areas of Usal. The ranch buildings have water and electricity and will allow RFFI to expand programs and community engagement in our forests. Together with universities and other educational facilities, we envision a community research facility, educational center and/or field office. Help us complete this exciting project by making a generous donation today!

We Appreciate You!



A heartfelt "Thank You" to our many generous donors and volunteers. Your support has leveraged grants for forest restoration, community engagement and forest acquisition. Your support makes it possible for RFFI to address climate disruption, build fire-resilient forests, provide jobs for the community and sustainably produced wood products. We are sincere when we say we cannot do our work without you!



**Forest Health Grant Award
Karen Youngblood
Forest Conservation Specialist**



Redwood Forest Foundation is pleased to announce its recent grant award for the construction of a shaded fuel break as part of the Northern Mendocino County Forest Health Collaborative. This is an exciting opportunity for RFFI to work with community partners to improve fire resiliency and forest health across northern Mendocino County.

Together with key partners, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Piercy Fire Department, we will reduce hazardous fuels on 1320 acres of public and private lands on major trending ridges along Highway One and Red Mountain Road for Phase I of this project (see Usal map on back cover). Understory vegetation in our project area on Usal Redwood Forest will be masticated, burned in small piles, and converted to biochar or firewood to reduce ladder fuels and slash build-up on the forest floor. Large, fire-resilient, overstory trees will be retained for forest health and to slow down the regrowth of understory vegetation. Along with reforestation and invasive plant removal, this project will also include a small control burn treatment that will reintroduce prescribed fire on Usal Forest after many years of fire suppression. Piercy Fire Department will lead community outreach efforts to neighbors in Mendocino and Humboldt counties to develop a community fire plan and to prepare for the expansion of a fuel break network across the counties in Phase II of this collaborative effort.

It is our hope and intention that this project will improve forest health and carbon storage potential, mitigate wildfire risk, and support community safety and employment.

Check the RFFI website for periodic updates about our community outreach and project progress.



**From the desk of Kathleen Moxon
Interim President & CEO**

It has been a year of good-byes - Mark Welther and Emily Ellickson-Brown from our staff left for other opportunities as did Heidi Knott-Gundling, Bill Wilkinson, and Steve Pearson from the board but all are still engaged. We also sadly say good-bye to Steve Zuieback and John Rogers, two long time RFFI advocates who passed away this year. Each has strongly influenced RFFI in a positive way- we would not be the same organization without them.

This has also been a year of renewal. We dedicated a significant amount of time identifying our strategic priorities for 2022-2025. In the process we revisited our origin story as well as our mission and vision. We were anxious that our priorities were timely, aspirational and tied to the deep commitment we have to our vision of healthy productive forests that restore local connection and control, ecosystem health and diversity, economic opportunity, and climate resilience throughout the Redwood Region. To that end, our strategic priorities are:

- #1 Integrate community, scientific and indigenous knowledge into our forest management with specific objectives on fire resiliency, carbon capture, climate mitigation and habitat restoration as well as improved forest productivity.
- #2 Redefine the relationship between communities dependent on forests and the ownership and management of the timberlands that surround them by deepening connections, strengthening partnerships and expanding roles.
- #3 Strengthen RFFI/URFC financial position to allow for sustained management of the Usal Forest as an outstanding example of community driven forestry and a model for other forested lands.

As I write this, I am struck by the amount of work each entails -starting with the creation of a common set of beliefs about what success looks like how we will measure progress. For more detail go to www.rffi.org

Acceleration of the effects of a changing climate means we have no time to lose. The board, staff and community advisors have committed to the priorities, but implementation will require the commitment of many more. It is critical that we build capacity to accomplish our ambitious goals and we will need your help. RFFI is a model that can influence the actions of other forests owners. We invite you to become a part of creating that model.

Time is of the essence. I hope you will consider becoming part of the RFFI family by providing financial support as well as rolling up your sleeves and volunteering your time.