

June 13, 2007

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.  
 Bank of America

On behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I would like to offer my congratulations to Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) and Bank of America on their agreement to preserve 50,635 acres of Usal Redwood Forest. With the assistance of US Forest Capital, LLC, this exemplary agreement will serve as a model for privately-funded forest acquisition for conservation purposes.

RFFI's purchase of the property from Hawthorne Timber Company for \$65 million, as well as a tentative agreement with The Conservation Fund to establish a conservation easement across the property, will ensure permanent protection from fragmentation and development. In addition, RFFI will manage the property as a sustainable working forest to provide economic and quality of life benefits throughout the region.

Usal Redwood Forest, just north of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County, is a valuable natural resource and an important part of the State's effort to reduce global climate change. This unique arrangement will maintain the forest as a single property, preserve open space and allow the coastal redwood trees there to help reduce the level of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.

RFFI's management plan for Usal Redwood Forest will restore the forest's ecosystem, maintain a healthy watershed and preserve wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Additionally, it will create public access and recreational opportunities and provide family wage jobs for those who depend upon forests for their livelihoods.

The Resources Agency's mission is to restore, protect and manage the state's natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future generations using creative approaches and solutions. This agreement illustrates this mission and sets a standard for environmentally sustainable public-private partnership.

Sincerely,



Mike Chrisman  
 Secretary for Resources

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