



Redwood Forest Foundation

Spring 2010

Hold this Date: RFFI's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **July 24, 2010**. Information at www.RFFI.org. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

Welcome

Kathy Moxon, President

Spring always brings about that feeling of rejuvenation after the long winter and RFFI is gearing up for a busy year! Our agenda is full: preparing for the sale of the conservation easement, monitoring carbon credit markets, developing the Option A for the Usal Forest, re-engaging our community advisory committees and fundraising to support both programs and projects of RFFI.

In line with these goals, we have restructured our board leadership with Don Kemp and I switching places—he becoming the vice president and me taking on the mantle of president. This will free Don to work more intensively on Usal related projects including the easement and carbon while I will focus on enhancing RFFI's organizational structure and capacity, and the interface with the community and the region.

This issue will give you some insight into what RFFI has underway as well as opportunities for you to engage. Whether your interest is forest management, recreational planning, regional collaboration, or supporting events that bring awareness of and support to RFFI's working forest model, I hope you will be part of our success.

Community Outreach

Art Harwood, Executive Director

It is Spring and RFFI has certainly sprung into action as we actively pursue community involvement on many fronts. In March, I joined Mike Faye and many community and educational groups, to celebrate the launch of the Northern California Geotourism website, www.VisitRedwoodCoast.com. The website is the creation of the National Geographic Society's Center for Sustainable Destinations and shares many of RFFI's hopes for nourishing new, sustainable economies in this region.

RFFI is also a leader in Redwood Futures, described in the feature article of this issue. We have assumed a leadership role in Redwood Futures because it is our belief that we can harness the buzz created by the National Geographic article and documentary to further RFFI's mission. Our participation is as one of the "glue" organizations critical to holding this work together during these early stages.

These efforts – all of which promote regional collaboration – will greatly accelerate the work of rebuilding forest ecosystems and the social and economic well-being of our communities. We encourage you to be part of this work by getting involved and supporting RFFI in any way you can (yes we also need volunteers!) We need the administrative capacity to keep these ground-breaking initiatives moving forward.

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

RFFI Reaching Out for Recreation Through Prop 84

**by Lin Barrett, *Development Director*
& Don Kemp, *Vice President***

RFFI is pursuing a conservation easement for the Usal property that focuses on protecting ecological values while maintaining it as a working forest that can offer compatible public use. In line with these goals, community members from Mendocino and Humboldt Counties are developing plans for a variety of activities including natural history, cultural studies and vocational education. The intent is to develop recreational opportunities on the Usal that are in line with the protection of ecological and archaeological attributes as set forth in the proposed conservation easement.

In order to develop capacity for compatible recreation, RFFI is pursuing a variety of opportunities and has submitted a request for \$5,000,000 of Prop 84 funds from the California State Parks and Recreation Department for recreational facilities. This application proposes development at a site off of Highway 101 near Piercy at McCoy Creek that would be concentrated in one of the five 10-acre "Designated Improvement Areas" to be permitted under the proposed easement. Consistent with the permitted recreational activities, this site would offer: (1) recreation for the local community; (2) summer family and group camp rentals and off-season professionally run health, outdoor education, art and vocational training programs; (3) a Native American and Nature Study Center with exhibits and trails; and (4) low-intensity, daytime public access to the forest, trails and river. Proposed amenities include: a dining and recreation hall, classrooms, play-fields, trails, corrals, group camping opportunities in both tent and rustic cabins with nearby restrooms and showers.. The facilities, outdoor exhibits and self-guiding nature trails would provide new outdoor recreational, and vocational education opportunities to local residents and visitors. Swimming, canoeing, kayaking and rafting could also occur on the South Fork of the Eel River. The proposed

facilities would offer valuable opportunities to learn about Native American traditions, natural history, sustainable forestry and RFFI's unique vision for Usal forest.

Thank You to the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for contributing \$50,000 to support RFFI's vision.

Restoration and Stewardship News by Richard Gienger, *Board Member*

RFFI continues intensive work in a variety of arenas to pursue restoration and stewardship of the Usal Forest. The road decommissioning work featured in the fall newsletter brought natural stream flow back to Clark Fork, a major tributary of Standley Creek, for the first time in probably 50 years. This critical restoration, supported by the California Dept. of Fish and Game, will continue in other parts of the Standley Creek watershed this summer. In all, this work has pumped \$2 million into the local community and local contractors in addition to putting the Usal Redwood Forest on a path to restoration of its silvicultural, aquatic and biological treasures. True realization of our restoration goals will take time and continued grant funding. Additionally, RFFI is making significant progress on the development of a stewardship plan that incorporates all related plans such as the Fire Hazard Reduction Plan and addresses other critical management considerations. All this work supports RFFI's pursuit of certification by the Forest Stewardship Council for sustainable forest management.

For updates on these efforts, a list of partners, maps, internet links and more go to

www.RFFI.org.

Thank You also to the "Green Team" of the Novogradac & Company LLP for their generous professional accounting support.

REDWOOD FUTURES: A CALL TO ACTION

Art Harwood, *Executive Director*

The 2000 mile redwood forest trek made by Michael Fay and Lindsey Holm on behalf of National Geographic Society is doing more than rekindling the world's fascination and intrigue with the tallest trees on earth. The journey has ignited a new initiative within the region, a collaborative effort to restore redwood forests and rebuild sustainable, resource-based economies.

Redwood Futures is a call to action—a gauntlet thrown down—challenging diverse interests and perspectives to come together to craft a strategy for action that will rebuild the health of forest ecosystems, protect species and legacy stands, sustain viable working forest landscapes and rebuild the social and economic well-being of communities located throughout the region.

Redwood Futures is critically important at this time due to a confluence of factors: 1) worldwide attention is focused on the redwood region due to the recent National Geographic issue, 2) a faltering timber industry due to current economic conditions, coupled with increasing costs to comply with regulatory paperwork and the continual buffeting by global competition, threatens our sweeping redwood landscapes with conversion to other uses, 3) uncertain but potentially disastrous climate impacts as greenhouse gasses accumulate in our atmosphere, and 4) the projected increase in California's population to 45 million by 2025 and the attendant impacts on our region's water, timber and other natural resources.

A NEW VISION: Redwood Futures has mobilized an unlikely coalition of foresters, planners, environmentalists, loggers, Native Americans, public agencies, biologists and all manner of others who see promise as well as peril in the current predicament of our redwood forests. Elements of this vision include:

- A region with a shared identity and shared sense of ownership for its activities and a shared commitment to creating a future together.
- A place that mobilizes and focuses its resources toward the future through sustainable practices and simultaneously takes into consideration the ecological, economic and social equity issues as they relate to forests and communities.
- Forests that provide a variety of conservation values across the landscape.
- A vibrant natural resources economy providing a broad range of employment and business opportunities for residents.
- Managed forests that have mature forest characteristics providing high quality wood, high quality habitat for a diversity of species and fire resiliency.

In early October, 2009, 170 community leaders gathered at Humboldt State University and began to outline a sweeping plan to revitalize the redwood forests and the ecological and human systems that rely on

the health and productivity of those forests. Since then, large groups of community members have also convened in Ukiah and Redway to specifically identify forest-based strategies that build upon the initial work in October and put them into action.

Communities once convinced they needed to choose between jobs and the environment can now envision a new future, a future that embraces people and the environment—a global model for resource management. As Mike Fay puts the challenge “California revolutionized the world with the silicon chip, they could do the same with forest management.”

“California revolutionized the world with the silicon chip, they could do the same with forest management.”
Mike Faye, National Geographic Society

Here are some uniquely enjoyable activities that also help support RFFI's mission.

JOIN US AND HAVE FUN!



Paint the Forests 2010, Juried Art and Photo Competition: Enter Now through June 30, 2010 and submit art or Photographs. Entry Fees: \$35/ Art \$25/Photographs Late Entry Dates: June 30 – Aug. 18, 2010. Prizes and a nationwide touring exhibit for winning artwork or photographs that represent any aspect of the forest or forestry industry in any area of the United States.



Lost Coast Ride for the Redwoods: Stunning Mountain Bike Ride in the Usal Redwood Forest — A benefit Ride for the Redwood Forest Foundation. Saturday, June 19, 2010.



Plant a Redwood Now! Help RFFI reforest the redwood range and plant young redwoods in your name, or in honor of a friend or loved one. These make enduring gifts for any occasion. Tens of thousands of trees have been planted to date!

For applications and more information on these activities as well as other opportunities to volunteer and support RFFI, go to www.RFFI.org!



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