



Redwood Forest Foundation

Spring 2016

Welcome

Kathy Moxon, *Redwood Forest Foundation Board Chair*



How does it feel to be independent of the services of Campbell Global? Much like a teenager striking out on her own for the first time; it's exciting, hopeful, idealistic and a little scary. It's exciting because it represents the next stage of our

organizational development—having our own forestry staff. We're hopeful that these changes will help us better align the RFFI mission and vision with our recovering forest – including increased volunteer opportunities, educational partnerships and economic opportunities for local residents. The idealistic element is our conviction that the current carbon credit markets can support good forest management decisions in the short run and a quicker transition to selection management. Independence is a little scary. We are realizing and appreciating everything Campbell Global did for us that we now need to manage on our own.

Here's an overview of RFFI's news, some of which is expanded elsewhere in this newsletter. We completed registration of our carbon project with Climate Action Registration (CAR), the first big step toward being able to sell carbon credits that will count as emission offsets for businesses. The income from these sales will help reduce our debt with Bank of America. By working diligently, we hope to have the process completed by fall.

We also have several new associates to help us move along. Please join us in welcoming new board member Bill Snyder, retired Deputy Director of Cal Fire. Bill has already given generously of his time, and he played a significant role in our having been awarded Forest Stewardship Council certification in 2015. Also, thanks to funding from the Giles W.

and Elise G. Mead Foundation, we have been able to hire a volunteer coordinator: Johanna Cummings will work to increase our outreach and deepen community relationships. See www.rffi.org. We are excited to see RFFI's mission coming to life in 2016. We hope you feel it as well and want to be involved and support the progress.

Restore It and They Will Come

Mark Welther, *President and Chief Executive Officer*



"Reports of at least eight Coho in the headwaters of Anderson Creek ... AND more higher-up in little bits of gravel ... not that far from Lynch's Opening. That's really good spawning and rearing habitat up there!"

*– Richard Gienger,
RFFI Restoration Chair to
Mark Welther.*

Enthusiastic reports like Richard's and many other Coho lovers are documenting a rise in fish populations in RFFI's Usal Forest. RFFI's years of stream restoration, coupled with heavier early winter rain, are clearly producing results. Let's hope that El Niño will keep bringing us the promised water.

The Usal Forest encompasses some of the best cold water salmon habitat in the South Fork of the Eel River, which itself is one of the most important salmon streams in Northern California. That's why RFFI and our partners at Trout Unlimited, the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and Pacific Watershed Associates are aggressively working to continue decommissioning roads and restoring the South Fork tributaries of Anderson Creek, Indian Creek and Standley Creek, as well as Usal Creek. This work is part of RFFI's property-wide Restoration Plan, currently under development, which emphasizes the restoration of our streams. The future is bright for fish at Usal!

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Restore It and They Will Come

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It is bright, that is, with your help. By now, you have heard about RFFI's ambitious two-year \$5.6 million "Redwood Forests for Our Future" (RFFOF) campaign. We have already raised more than half of the funds needed for Usal's priority restoration projects. All funds raised for this campaign will go toward restoration, innovative forest practices (including no-herbicide vegetation control), workforce development and education. Please contribute to RFFOF today! Your contribution will help to restore the forest's health and clear the way for all of its species to return – including fish.

Like the fish populations, RFFI, too, is growing. Our recent accomplishments include:

- In 2015 we hired our own forest management team, comprised of BBW & Associates and Registered Professional Foresters Kevin Whitlock and Stephen Smith.
- In September, we were awarded Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, which is a condition of our 2011 Conservation Easement and carbon project.
- Our Biochar Demonstration Project was completed successfully and the ENTIRE inventory (22,000 pounds) has been sold. We are now evaluating sites closer to the Usal Forest for possible relocation of the biochar machine this summer.
- In October our new office opened at 528 S. Main Street in Fort Bragg.
- Two new positions were created: Johanna

Cummings is our first-ever volunteer coordinator. Eli Henderson is helping us set up our new office. A business manager is soon to be hired.

- Perhaps most importantly, we've completed registration of RFFI's carbon sequestration project with the Climate Action Reserve, which will allow us to be paid for leaving trees standing. This is a major step in our carbon program, and we hope to complete the final step, registration with the California Air Resources Board, this fall.

We at RFFI are just getting started, and we need your help. There are more streams to restore, more fish to attract, more threatened species to protect and more forest jobs to create. Please make a contribution to "Redwood Forests for Our Future" campaign today. Then Save the Date for RFFI's biggest party of the year, our Annual Meeting this July 23rd. Be a part of our growth and our bright, diverse future.

Introducing RFFI's New Board Member, Bill Snyder



Meet Bill Snyder, RFFI's Newest Board Member

William Snyder brings a wealth of Board, private industry and public agency experience to his new position. Recently retired as Deputy Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

(CalFire), Bill also worked as a forester for twenty-five years in the private sector. Bill is pleased to be serving on the Board and is "hopeful that I can contribute to the success of the overall vision the community has developed for the Usal Forest." Learn more about Bill at:

www.rffi.org.

Redwood Forests For Our Future *Help Us Reach Our Goal!*

Your Gift Will Support:

- ◆ River Restoration
- ◆ Forest Management
- ◆ Forest Jobs
- ◆ Public Engagement



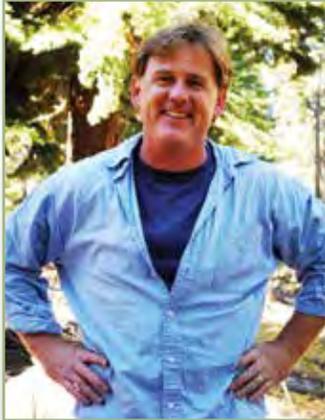
We are more than half way there!

Funds Raised - \$3,294,023

FUNDS NEEDED - \$2,379,428

Excerpts from the Journal of an International Forester

Kevin Whitlock, RFFI Forester



Kevin Whitlock is a forest economist who has worked for 30 years in the Redwood Region and the Northern Sierra Nevada, as well as in eleven other countries with the World Bank, USAID and others. In this capacity he has witnessed first hand how resource depletion

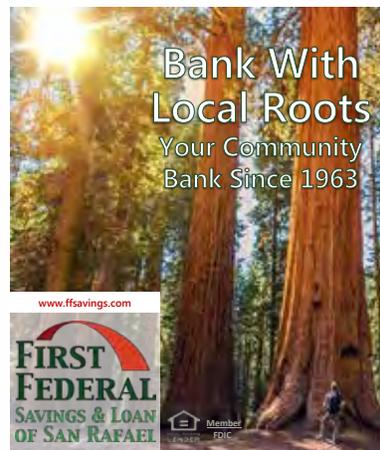
leads to ecologic, economic and social decline around the world through processes not unlike those of our own Pacific Northwest.

"The red dirt road winding from Conakry north to Senegal and on to Timbuktu is rutted and dusty at the end of the dry season. There are rusty wrecked vehicles around every blind corner. People are sitting by the side of the road choking on our Land Rover's dust. The sky is red with dust carried on the wind, blowing dry across the southern Sahara. The road cuts through the green hills with the vegetation thick and full of vines, ripening mangoes dangle like ornaments from dark green branches. It straightens out across the open savanna, baking in the harsh African sun. The acacia trees flame with yellow flowers. Much of the landscape is cut over, burned, and grazed; oil palm is now the dominant tree species prevailing over 200 tree species that once comprised the original jungle ,....."

In 1958 the French abandoned their colony of Guinea to a series of corrupt communist and greedy military dictators resulting in conflict that spilled over to neighboring states. The root cause of the conflict in the area was economic dependence on natural resources. The results were devastating when over-extraction eradicated the economic cornerstone.

Among the most serious, long-term problems associated with the conflicts of West Africa are those related to the prevailing economic, ecological and environmental conditions caused by over-harvesting and poor harvest practices. These conditions and the resulting economic and social impacts are widespread, even in our own back yard. After 150 years of over-harvesting and poor harvest practices in the Usal Redwood

Forest, the remaining second and third growth conifers compete with tan oak and brush for nutrients, sun and water. The Redwood Forest Foundation (RFFI) is breaking new ground by curbing economic dependence on extracting natural resources and shifting toward long-term forest and watershed restoration. RFFI is curtailing economic dependence that relies on depleting natural resources by establishing new revenue sources, such as selling a conservation easement and establishing its carbon market. Imagine being paid to grow a tree rather than for cutting it down...paid to keep the forest intact rather than subdividing it...that is what RFFI is up to. Read more about the parallels between the economic, ecological and social conditions in the redwood region and Africa at www.rffi.org.



Team Up With RFFI to Honor Employees and Customers

First Federal Savings and Loan of San Rafael and RFFI are teaming up with the bank's customers to help save trees and plant redwoods. To

honor each customer who switches to electronic statements, First Federal will make a donation to the Redwood Forest Foundation to plant a redwood tree. First Federal chose to plant a coastal redwood, because they are unique to our area and sequester enormous amounts of carbon. They are joining other partners, such as Managed Markets Insight & Technology of Yardley, PA, Redwood Property Management Co. of Manhattan, Chef Aura of California and Visiting Angels of Santa Cruz, CA, who have established programs planting redwoods in honor of their clients or employees.

Read about our other corporate partners at www.rffi.org. and consider partnering your business with RFFI to honor your clients and employees.

Contact Lin Barrett at morgan@rffi.org for info.



Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 12
Mendocino, CA 95460
www.RFFI.org

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*Save the
Date!*

Saturday July 23, 2016
RFFI Annual Meeting & Barbeque

Usal Redwood Forest's Carbon Project Among Largest in USA

RFFI is pleased to report that, after four years of hard work with our advisor Tom Tuchmann of US Forest Capital, we have successfully registered 3,166,372 tons of Usal Redwood Forest carbon with California's Climate Action Reserve (CAR). Our carbon project is one of the largest forest carbon sequestration projects in the country.

CAR registration is a significant step towards registering Usal's carbon project with the California Air Resources Board (ARB). As part of CAR's early action program, an independent third-party verified the carbon sequestered by Usal's sustainable forest management practices. The next step is a second independent verification that is required for submission of our project to the ARB. We should complete ARB registration of the Usal carbon project by late 2016.

With ARB approval, Usal's carbon will be registered as "compliance" credits that can then be used to offset carbon emissions generated by companies that are mandated to meet the requirements of California's landmark climate change policies.

Carbon registration is an essential step in RFFI's long-standing plan to develop revenue streams that do not rely exclusively on timber production. This revenue source will support RFFI's sustainable forest management by reducing the financial pressure to harvest trees to service our debt, allowing RFFI to improve forest health and address climate change.

Support RFFI
Donate online at www.rffi.org

Or mail your check to:
RFFI, PO Box 12
Mendocino, CA 95460