



**Environmental Protection Information Center**  
**Annual Report 2012**



epic

Keeping Northwest California Wild Since 1977



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# Mission Statement

The Environmental Protection Information Center works to protect and restore ancient forests, watersheds, coastal estuaries, and native species in Northern California. EPIC uses an integrated, science-based approach, combining public education, citizen advocacy, and strategic litigation.

Fellow Wild Californians:

It is a great honor to present our 2012 Annual Report, to celebrate our recent accomplishments and highlight our most contemporary objectives. It is also my pleasure to take advantage of this moment to share briefly some perspective as to what it is that EPIC does, and why it is that we do what do.

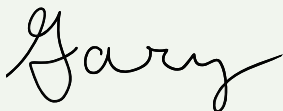
EPIC continues to develop four core conservation program areas: our Endangered Species and Biodiversity Defense Program, where we leverage endangered species activism for changes in corporate and government agency management regimes; our Public Lands Program, where EPIC monitors, tracks, and challenges projects across a million acres of federal land in Northwest California; the time-honored Industrial Forestry Reform Program, where EPIC engages with globally powerful timber companies with extensive holdings and political influence on the North Coast; and our highly innovative Clean Water Healthy Rivers Program, where the EPIC objective is to keep abundant cold, clean water flowing in our region's waterways.

A high-level integration of our core program areas is expressed in the EPIC legal advocacy, along with exceptionally talented partners, to challenge unnecessary and highly impactful California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) highway construction projects. From the treasured Smith River in Del Norte County, through the Humboldt Redwoods in Richardson Grove, to the headwaters of the Eel River at Willits in beautiful Mendocino County, EPIC is on the frontlines in protecting sensitive landscapes from inadequate and dangerous transportation planning. EPIC is also active politically in Sacramento with a broad community of allies from across the state to leverage decision makers to investigate the agency and bring far-reaching reform to Caltrans. It is obvious that we cannot solve the environmental and economic puzzle of the future with the same tools that have caused the problems in the first place—we demand that the state government be more responsive to the real needs of our North Coast communities.

These are bold demands, they are risky, and they are necessary because of the urgent need to act to protect the biosphere. You are here with EPIC because you know that our communities need to hold the line for the life systems that sustain us—and that EPIC can be there for you, and your family, in holding that line.

There can be few doubts that we stand as human kind on the brink of an unknowable abyss. EPIC will not shy away from our obligations and responsibility to care for that which has made the miracle of our existence possible. We express our gratitude and appreciation to all of our members and supporters who stand with us in this monumental and daunting task of protecting the landscape that sustains us. Because humans need this planet to survive, EPIC is working to steward the essence of our existence, the intricate web of nature and culture—we have no other choice. We hope that with the presentation of our 2012 Annual Report that you have evidence of the competence and skill that is the back bone of the reputation that EPIC has as earned as a leader in advocating for the proper care of our planet. Your ongoing and generous support means everything to our organization, and it means everything for the origins of life that we are daily laboring to maintain intact for our children, and their children beyond them.

Thank you, and let's have a Wild California 2013!



Gary Graham Hughes  
Executive Director



# *Epic Year in Review*

## ***Northern Spotted Owl Protection***

The Northern Spotted Owl Protection in Northwest California Project is a flagship initiative of the EPIC Endangered Species and Biodiversity Defense Program. EPIC works to protect the Northern Spotted Owl because the owl is an indicator of ecosystem health. When an area is suitable for the Spotted Owl that indicates that the forest ecosystem is still able to support a full suite of native plants and animals. Unfortunately, more than 20 years after being listed as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act, the Northern Spotted Owl is now closer to extinction than ever—an indicator that our Northwest California forest ecosystems are under increasing stress, and that the forests ability to provide for native species is being seriously diminished.

In 2012, EPIC filed two legal petitions demanding increased protections for the Northern Spotted Owl:

- ▶ To change the status of the Spotted Owl under the federal Endangered Species Act from “threatened” to “endangered;”
  - ▶ To list the owl as “endangered” under the California Endangered Species Act.
- With improved state and federal Endangered Species Act protections for this iconic indicator species the opportunities for protecting forests will be enhanced.

EPIC also works to protect many other endangered species whose mere existence is threatened by human activities. These include the Humboldt Marten, the Upper Klamath and Trinity Spring Chinook Salmon, the Marbled Murrelet, the Pacific Fisher, and the iconic Grey Wolf, only recently returned to California.

## ***National Forest Conservation***

The Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Klamath and Mendocino National Forests encompass 5.6 million acres, including some of the largest and most biologically significant roadless areas and ancient forest habitat in the West. This includes the Trinity Alps Wilderness and other places that are famous throughout the world, as well as remote and little known areas like Red Buttes Wilderness.

The EPIC Public Lands Program works to protect the wild nature of your National Forest lands by monitoring and challenging damaging projects proposed across the region. Our successes include:

- ▶ Halting post-fire salvage logging in old growth forests and endangered species habitat, and therefore promoting a greater understanding of the ecological benefits of wildfire.
- ▶ Reducing the impact of cattle grazing in wilderness areas, protecting endangered species, water quality, and sensitive alpine habitats.
- ▶ Requesting that the U.S. Forest Service analyze the impacts of trespass marijuana grows on our National Forests.

The overarching goals of this program are to maintain and restore the biological diversity, ecological integrity and connectivity of National Forests in Northwest California, and to improve the manner in which relevant laws and regulations are interpreted and implemented throughout the nation.



## *Rein in Caltrans*

EPIC continues to hold Caltrans accountable to the law. We believe that challenging out of date assumptions and approaches to developing transportation infrastructure is fundamental to promoting effective environmental and economic planning in our bioregion.

In the spring of 2012 EPIC secured a groundbreaking victory when a federal court rule against Caltrans in our challenge to their highway-widening project on Highway 101 in Richardson Grove State Park. EPIC continues, with partners, to challenge Caltrans in state court on this project.

EPIC has also worked to challenge and draw attention to the expensive, inadequate, and destructive Willits By Pass Project in the headwaters of the Eel River in Little Lake Valley in Mendocino County, as well as challenging the unnecessary and dangerous road-widening project on Highway 199 in the Smith River Canyon of Del Norte County.

This project specific legal work is accompanied by active participation in a statewide coalition that demands reform of this monstrous road construction agency. We are proud to be part of a growing statewide movement to bring Caltrans into the 21st century, and are committed to promoting a regionally appropriate transportation model that respects sensitive landscapes while taking into consideration the real transportation needs of our rural communities.

## *Industrial Forestry Reform*

Since EPIC's inception in 1977, we have worked to reform industrial forestry practices and protect the forests and watersheds on the North Coast from predatory logging.

EPIC monitors and engages with the timber industry and regulators using a diverse set of tools and campaign strategies. Over the past year EPIC has provided comments on nearly one-hundred timber harvest plans, water resource management regimes, and legislative initiatives concerning the management of forests in our bioregion.

In 2012 EPIC:

- ▶ **Exposed Greenwash:** Increasingly the timber industry will co-opt the language of sustainability to market their products and damaging practices. EPIC has taken on a leadership role in California in exposing industry efforts to use public relations to mislead the public about the impacts of their activities on our forests and rivers.
- ▶ **Protected Old Growth Forest:** By using legal leverage to ensure that Sierra Pacific Industries no longer logs within core Northern Spotted Owl nesting habitat, our organization has protected hundreds of acres of old growth forest that would have otherwise been logged in the last year.

EPIC's uncompromising spirit, solid science, and strategic legal actions over the last thirty-five years puts our organization at the cutting edge of the global forest protection movement.

## *Environmental Democracy*

Environmental democracy is about government being transparent, accountable, and involving people in decisions that affect the quality of their lives and their environment. Citizen watchdogs and public interest organizations like EPIC play a critically needed role to ensure that the nation's environmental laws are upheld and not undermined. EPIC works to defend your right to access information and participate in the public process—we like to call our effort to defend environmental democracy a form of promoting “wildlands civics.”

Back room deals and secrecy have never been compatible with an open society. By demanding that government agencies and private corporations operate out in the open, we are working towards ensuring that a cornerstone of our democracy is vibrant and functioning. EPIC has exposed numerous proposed actions over the past year where government officials have attempted to short circuit the public's role in the decision making process, and by day-lighting these undemocratic actions EPIC has fought back--effectively defending our right to public participation.



# Celebrating Thirty-Five Years of Protecting the North Coast Redwood Region

In 1977, the North Coast was under siege from the logging industry, with aerial herbicide spraying occurring at a rampant level. Outraged community members in Southern Humboldt County banded together to end this practice, determined to protect the forest and water sources that sustained their families and native fish populations. Born from this successful community organizing effort, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) is celebrating its 35th year of using innovative strategies and tactics to protect the forests, watersheds and wildlife on California's North Coast.

In the mid 1980s the ancestral lands of the Sinkyone people, on the Mendocino Coast, became the focus of EPIC's work as various groups struggled to defend Native American cultural history and the ancient forests, then owned by Georgia-Pacific Corporation. EPIC built coalitions with Native Americans, workers, environmentalists, lawyers, and agency personnel. The lawsuit to protect Sally Bell Grove, *EPIC v. Johnson*, set a major precedent which established that state agencies must consider the cumulative effects of logging in a watershed on: water quality, soils, and wildlife habitat when reviewing logging plans.



EPIC's work was an important part of the campaign that brought what is now the Headwaters Forest Reserve to national attention. Court cases filed by EPIC, Sierra Club and United Steelworkers of America during the 1990s and early 2000s against Maxxam's Pacific Lumber Company brought EPIC into the realm of legislative and administrative advocacy regarding a wide range of regional and national biodiversity issues.



*EPIC & Marbled Murrelet v. Pacific Lumber*, the U.S. Supreme Court handed a major victory to endangered species in Headwaters Forest and on all corporate lands across America. EPIC's "Owl Creek case" created a precedent-setting rule that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) must be enforced on private lands. It was the first time environmentalists successfully sued under the Federal Endangered Species Act to protect an imperiled animal on private property.





ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Annual Report

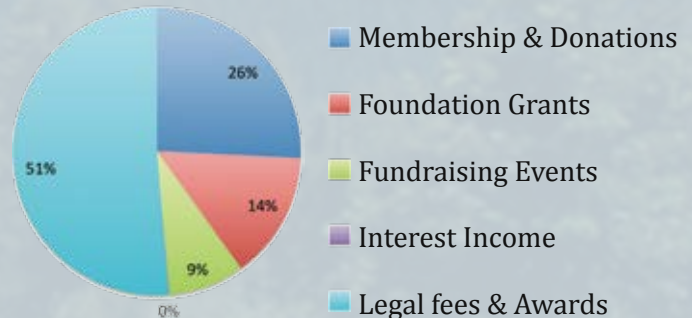
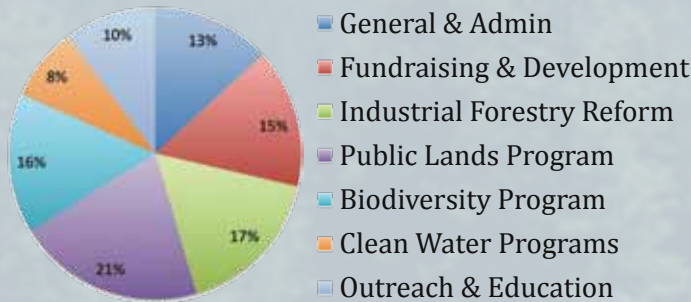
Fiscal Year January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Membership & Donations	\$118,907.87
Foundation Grants	\$ 66,100.00
Fundraising Events	\$ 39,327.78
Interest Income	\$ 378.42
Legal Fees & Awards	<u>\$236,690.77</u>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$461,404.84</b>
EXPENSES	
General & Admin.	\$ 42,048.44
Fundraising & Development	\$ 49,184.62
Industrial Forestry Reform	\$ 53,475.07
Public Lands Program	\$ 65,792.95
Biodiversity Projects	\$ 49,621.44
Clean Water Program	\$ 25,818.67
Outreach & Education	<u>\$ 32,589.94</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$318,530.08</b>
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	\$142,873.71
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	\$142,874.76
NET ASSETS @Beginning of Year	<u>\$76,588.03</u>
NET ASSETS @ End of Year	\$219,462.79

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	\$218,185.97
Accounts Receivable	\$ -0-
Other Current Assets	<u>\$ 4,678.00</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$222,863.97</b>
FIXED ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,598.58</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$226,462.55</b>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 853.97
Credit Cards	\$ 768.91
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 5,376.88
Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$ -0-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 6,999.76</b>
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 21,540.13
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 39,298.95
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 15,750.00
Net Income	<u>\$142,873.71</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$219,462.79</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$226,462.55</b>



*Thank You!*

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and deepest gratitude to all of our supporters, from the largest foundation to each and every individual member, partner organization, business supporter and volunteer. Thank you for working with us in 2012, and for making us strong and resilient for the work ahead.

*Contributing Foundations*

Environment Now, Firedoll Foundation, Guacamole Fund, Patagonia Environmental Grants Program, Weeden Foundation, Wild Woods Foundation & William C. Bannerman Foundation



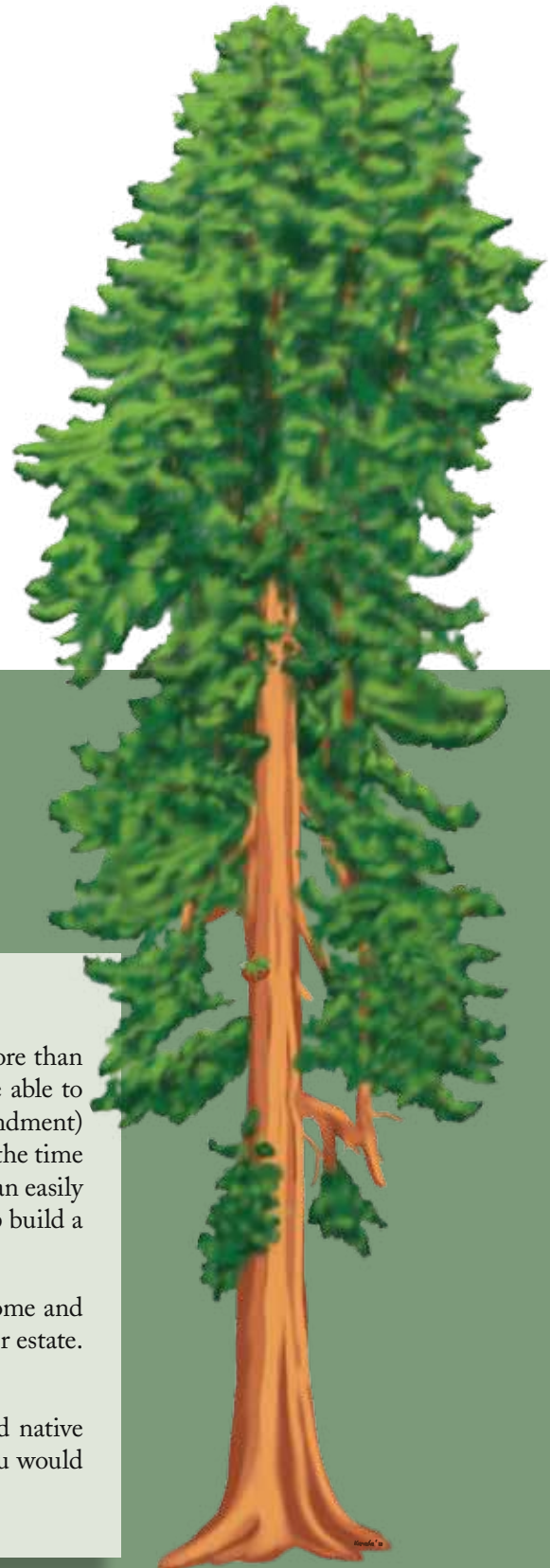
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### *Leave a Legacy for the Planet*

EPIC has been working to protect the environment in northern California for more than 35 years. But it is only through our member's support year after year that we are able to continue our record of success. If you have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a bequest—a gift in your will—to EPIC. If you don't have a will, this is the time to prepare one. Your will is fully revocable while you live—you retain control and can easily make revisions should your circumstances change. Your bequest to EPIC will help build a solid funding base to support our work far into the future.

Besides strengthening our community, improving the environment for years to come and creating a personal legacy, charitable bequests may also provide tax benefits for your estate. Ask your estate planner.

We hope that you will consider leaving a legacy to the coastal areas, forests, and native species of northern California through a bequest to EPIC. Please contact us if you would like assistance at (707) 822-7711.



Sign up online at [wildcalifornia.org](http://wildcalifornia.org)