



2022 Annual Report

Environmental Protection Information Center



We Speak for the Forests, Rivers, and Wildlife!

EPIC Staff

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Communications Coordinator: Abigail Lowell
Decarbonize the North Coast Advocate: Luis Neuner
30x30 Coordinator: Josefina Barrantes
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Annual Report Design and Layout by Amber Jamieson.

Our mission is to combine public education, citizen advocacy, and strategic litigation to advocate for the protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests, watersheds, and wildlife using an integrated approach based on best available science.

From the Executive Director

Dear EPIC Friend and Supporter,

We are grateful for the strong winter storms that are bringing an abundance of snow to the high country, cold water flows to our rivers, and an incredible display of wildflowers in the coming months. As we watch nature's web of life come out of hibernation and scurry about, we are reminded of the importance of our work—advocating for the protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests, watersheds, and wildlife. The task of protecting our ecosystems from an uncertain future is a massive undertaking, and we thank you for your support.

For over 46 years, a resourceful, talented, and dedicated group of remarkable people have propelled EPIC to the forefront of the resistance against environmental destruction and degradation in Northwest California. From protecting Headwaters Forest to saving Richardson Grove, we have consistently worked to overcome bureaucratic foot-dragging and provide safeguards for shrinking habitat and imperiled wildlife. Because of the legal pressure we have applied, thousands of acres have been saved from logging, and countless species still have their homes.

Throughout 2022, we've strived to protect our public lands from an onslaught of logging, challenge programs that harm rivers and salmon, and provide safeguards for endangered species, but these projects are still ongoing, and will require a full court press into 2023. With thousands of acres at stake, we will need to be fierce in the defense of wild places and the species that depend on them. In order to charge ahead and give it our best shot, we need help from our members and supporters, who provide the majority of our financial support.

To help us pursue our goals, I am excited to announce that EPIC is growing. Welcome Luis Neuner, our Decarbonize the North Coast Advocate, and Josefina Barrantes, our 30x30 Coordinator, to the team. Luis and Josefina are the future of the environmental movement and I am proud to say it is a bright future.

With your help, we will continue this important public interest work, on behalf of forests, rivers, wildlife, and communities that are dependent on and care deeply about maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring the continued survival of imperiled species in our wild backyards. We appreciate your support of this lifesaving work and look forward to another year of securing environmental protections for future generations.

For the Wild,

Thomas Wheeler

Thomas Wheeler



2022 EPIC By the Numbers

 Filed 3 New Lawsuits	Participated in 7 Ongoing Lawsuits 	 Wrote 68 Articles to Update Our Members	Commented on 31 Projects 	 Signed on to 82 Letters from Sister Organizations	Recorded 64 Live Radio Shows 	 Participated in 16 Coalitions and Collaboratives
 Sent 36 Newsletters	Generated 9,571 Comments from Online Activists 	 Sent 12 Action Alerts	Hosted 2 Ivy Pulls and 1 Scotch Broom Pull 	 Engaged With 16.9K Members and Activists	Mentioned in the News 74 Times 	 Participated in 23 Public Hearings

Celebrating 46 Years of Victories!



We are a small organization that packs a giant punch—watchdogging corporations and government agencies in the interest of environmental conservation. EPIC may be small, but we continue to wrangle some big accomplishments. In the last year, we have helped to protect:

- 🌲 Wildlife and mature forests on public lands by commenting on ALL of the timber sales that were proposed in the Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, and Mendocino National Forests;
- 🌲 Threatened coho salmon in the Shasta River by filing a lawsuit against National Marine Fisheries Service challenging the flawed Shasta River safe harbor agreement that has authorized take permits for irrigators for harming protected coho salmon and making a mockery of the Endangered Species Act;
- 🌲 Jackson Demonstration State Forest by working with lawmakers, local tribes, and forest activists to halt logging, develop a management plan, and to advocate for tribal management of the 48,652 acre state owned coast redwood forest;
- 🌲 Pacific fishers by filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for denying Endangered Species Act protection for West Coast fishers, and the old-growth forests they call home, which are threatened with extinction due to habitat loss and fragmentation from extensive logging coupled with climate change, rodenticide use, and high-severity fires;
- 🌲 Humboldt County from herbicide spraying by pressuring the Board of Supervisors to unanimously adopt a policy that will prevent attempts by PG&E, Caltrans, and others from spraying herbicides on county land without our consent;
- 🌲 One of Mendocino County's four currently active bald eagle pairs from PG&E chainsaws by working with tribal partners and by launching an action alert that sent hundreds of emails to PG&E demanding for the tree to be left standing;
- 🌲 Northern spotted owls by filing an objection to the Mad River August Complex timber sale, which led to the U.S. Forest Service agreeing to log 36% less habitat totaling more than one hundred acres; and
- 🌲 Endangered salmon and northern spotted owls by filing a lawsuit to stop the Mendocino Redwood Company from logging Russell Brook Timber Harvest Plan (THP), which consists of nearly 1,000 acres of redwood forest in a California watershed that provides habitat for threatened species.

Timber Sale Round Up

A slew of projects is coming down the pike from the U.S. Forest Service, claiming that we need to log the forests to save them from fire. In 2022, we worked on over a dozen ongoing timber sale projects, including the Region 5 North Zone, Antelope-Tennant, Bear Country, River Complex, and FH7 Mendocino projects. These proposed projects threaten a total of 226,944 acres with commercial logging, 18,375 acres that would remove, degrade, or downgrade nesting or roosting habitat for northern spotted owls, 20,539 acres of Riparian Reserves targeted for logging with a focus on creekside areas, and 56,145 acres of Late Successional Reserves.



Some of the most productive, sensitive, and diverse sites are within Riparian Reserves. They provide moist, cool microclimates critical for fish and wildlife species, connectivity to link habitat areas, and have high wildlife values due to the close proximity of water and structural diversity of vegetation. Late Successional Reserves are designated to protect and enhance conditions of old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as climate refuge and habitat for threatened and endangered species including the northern spotted owl.

Multiple wildlife and botanical species are dependent on the dense canopy cover of older forests and streams. EPIC is committed to engaging in the public process throughout project planning, and will continue to advocate for these special places by commenting at every opportunity. When appropriate, we will object to the projects and when all else fails, we will file lawsuits to help ensure that wildlife and wild places on these public lands are given the protections they deserve.

Saving Jackson Forest

The struggle to conserve Jackson Demonstration State Forest continued in 2022. First, we received good news. CAL FIRE agreed to begin the process of rewriting the forest management plan and agreed to not cut any more trees in the current THPs that were more than 48” in diameter. But then, in August, CAL FIRE announced that logging would resume without consulting with the public or Tribal Nations. This announcement was met with strong denouncements by activists, environmentalists, and Chairman Hunter of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. Protests were held at CAL FIRE offices from Fort Bragg to Sacramento.

While some logging did occur in 2022, two of the most controversial THPs—Caspar 500 and Soda Gulch—remain mostly untouched. The fate of these THPs is unclear and will depend on the public keeping the pressure up on CAL FIRE. In the meantime, CAL FIRE has switched from advocating for logging of mature redwoods to advocating for the creation of new shaded fuel breaks throughout the forest. The rains have kept loggers out of the forest in the later part of the year but we expect the pressure will increase once the weather dries up.



Looking At The Horizon

As we come out of a winter with numerous power outages and intense storms, we are inspired to expand our work to find solutions for climate resiliency on the North Coast, both by preserving mature and old-growth forests as carbon sinks, as well as advocating for sustainable energy independence. To help with securing climate resiliency and protecting 30 percent of our lands by 2030, EPIC has brought on board two new team members: Luis Neuner, and Josefina Barrantes. We are excited to grow our team and look forward to expanding our work!

Meet Josefina, EPIC's 30 x 30 Coordinator

Josefina is originally from the East Bay and is proud to call Humboldt home. At Cal Poly Humboldt, Josefina majored in Political Science paired with a concentration in Law and Policy. During her undergrad years, she interned at Senator McGuire's district office in Eureka, volunteered at EPIC, and served as the Associated Students Environmental Sustainability Officer, advocating for student needs through funding allocation and policy decisions. Josefina then went back to school for her Masters, which focused on the history of edible landscapes at Cal Poly Humboldt and other universities in the CSU system, with the vision that this research would serve the Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab.



As EPIC's 30x30 Coordinator, Josefina works with environmental nonprofits, advocates, and tribal nations across Northern California to conserve important ecosystems and advance statewide land and water conservation. If you are interested in discussing how we can utilize the 30x30 movement to advance conservation, Josefina would love to talk! She can be reached at josefina@wildcalifornia.org.

Meet Luis, EPIC's Decarbonize the Northcoast Advocate



Luis grew up on the Klamath River, swimming in the cool springs, and enjoying the natural wonders of the Klamath River Basin. As he grew older, these unforgettable summers became defined by the dearth of water and the constant looming fear of high-intensity wildfires. All these indicators served as a stark reminder of the brute historical legacy of natural resource exploitation, mismanagement, and overall colonization. As a preadolescent tribal member and a participant in the Pikyavish World Renewal Ceremonies ("pikyav" loosely translates to "fix"), he remembers thinking: "Geez, we sure got a lot of fixing to do." While obtaining his Associate's degree at College of the Redwoods, he spent two years interning with his tribe's Self-Governance Department experiencing

the inner functions of inter-departmental hierarchies, government-to-government relations, and, most importantly, the inherent conflict between traditional resource management practices and federally relevant statutes and laws. He later transferred to UC Berkeley where he earned a BA in Political Science and interned with The Brookings Institute, a D.C.-based think tank.

Addressing the climate crises promptly and effectively is vital to minimizing the most devastating effects of global warming. As EPIC's decarbonize advocate, Luis will be working on numerous challenges in pursuit of a zero carbon economy on the North Coast. If you're interested in our decarbonization-related work, whether that be developments on offshore winds or how you can help implement Climate Action Plans, don't hesitate to contact luis@wildcalifornia.org!

Annual Report

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Fiscal Year January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Membership & Donations	\$ 215,177
Foundation Grants	\$ 129,000
Fundraising Events	\$ 6,983
Interest Income	\$ 3,014
Legal Fees & Awards	\$ -
Unrealized Capital Gains	\$ 16,349

TOTAL SUPPORT \$ 370,524

EXPENSES

General & Admin	\$ 46,644
Fundraising	\$ 60,798
Programs	\$ 210,950
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 318,392

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets \$ 52,132

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS \$ 52,132

NET ASSETS @ Beginning of Year \$ 439,000

NET ASSETS @ End of Year \$ 491,132

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings	\$ 308,396
Other Current Assets	\$ 203,134
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 511,530

FIXED ASSETS

\$ -

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 511,530

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,688
Credit Cards Payable	\$ 36
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 18,675
Long-term Liabilities	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 20,399

NET ASSETS

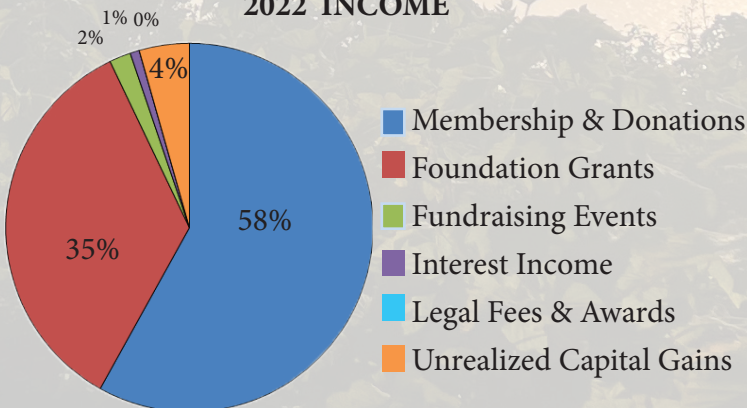
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 270,313
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 168,686
Net Income	\$ 52,132
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 491,131

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

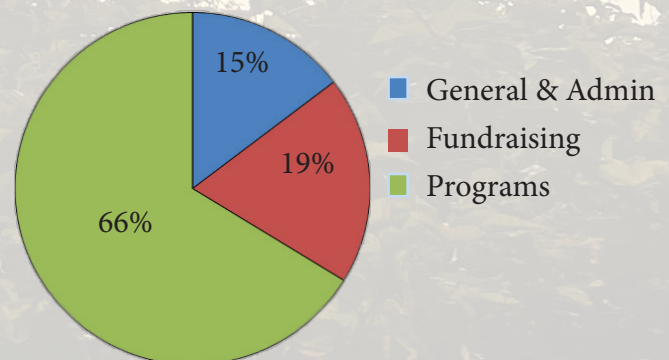
\$511,530

For a complete financial report visit wildcalifornia.org

2022 INCOME



2022 EXPENSES



Contributing Foundations

Community Foundation of Greater Chatanooga, Environment Now, Flora L. Thornton Foundation, Bower Charitable Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, United States Energy Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Wildspaces LLC, and Wild Woods Foundation.



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SUPPORT EPIC, GIVE THE GIFT OF THE FOREST!



Give the gift of the forest to family and friends or treat yourself by purchasing EPIC merchandise!

Find these awesome designs by local artists, Pen + Pine, Skye Henterly and Fiona Bearclaw on a hoodie, beanie, hat, water bottle, or t-shirt in our online shop at wildcalifornia.org.



GIVE DOUBLE: Become a Matching Donor

When you choose to give a donation, check with your employer to see if they have a corporate matching gift program. Many large companies will match your donations, making an easy way to double your impact.



GIVE WILDLY: Enroll in Automatic Giving

Help EPIC mount our fiercest defense by signing up to automatically renew your membership with annual, quarterly, or monthly automatic giving options. It's secure, easy and helps your gift go straight to protecting the wildlife and wild places that need us. To renew or enroll in automatic giving, please go to wildcalifornia.org/donate.



GIVE EVERLASTING: Add EPIC to Your Will

Consider a gift in your will or living trust to EPIC. If you currently have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a gift to EPIC. An example of appropriate language for inclusion in your will or living trust is:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Environmental Protection Information Center, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the Federal Tax ID # 94-2798433 and the mailing address of 145 G Street, Suite A, Arcata, California 95521, the sum of _____dollars [or otherwise describe the asset] for its general purposes and use at the discretion of the Environmental Protection Information Center's Board of Directors."



GIVE STOCKS: Donate Your Stocks to EPIC

You can write off the gift and reap substantial tax savings! It's easy to transfer stocks and bonds. EPIC's investment account is with Edward Jones. Registration Title is: EPIC Inc. Account Number: 203-09101-1-7 DTC#0057

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