



2017 Annual Report
Environmental Protection Information Center

We Speak for the Forests!

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Annual Report Design and Layout by Amber Shelton

Cover Photo by James Adam Taylor

Our mission is to advocate for science-based protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests.

From the Executive Director

Let's face it, you need clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy food to eat. For thousands of years, people were able to live off of the land and sustain their families with the bounty of nature. And then came the industrial revolution; converting towering old growth forests into clearcut monocrops, turning free flowing rivers into toxic health hazards, transforming entire populations of animals into endangered species, leaving people with no choice but to be dependent on corporate consumerism.

EPIC exists to push back. In 2017, we celebrated 40 years of activism and agitation. I like to think our work is more than just defending what we have left; it is building the next generation of eco-activists and it is transforming our legal system to prioritize what matters. For 40 years we have been driven by a collective idea—that all beings have a right to a healthy planet. From this idea has spawned lawsuits and listing petitions, protests and progress.

2017 was another EPIC year. We filed two new lawsuits to protect Richardson Grove State Park from Caltrans' highway widening project. (It's been 10 years of holding back the bulldozers!) We scored a victory against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to list the Humboldt marten. And we helped train the next generation of environmental activists at EPIC Base Camp, where we investigated a proposed timber sale.

You have invested in EPIC because you understand that this is work worth doing. EPIC is a community organization, members make up 62% of our annual revenue, far higher than some of our sister organizations. EPIC produces results. Because of our history of successful lawsuits, when EPIC raises an issue, agencies, corporations, and communities listen.

Our first step is to use a collaborative approach to address a problem. We try to have informal conversations to address the problem, if they don't listen, then we comment on the project, if that doesn't get results, we blast them with an action alert, and when all else fails, we will file a lawsuit.

EPIC's work is technical and the majority of our time is spent at our computers reading dense documents, but recently we have boosted our efforts to get more members out into the field to develop our connection with one another and with the forests. This way, we can act quickly and mobilize our local community when our health and environment are on the line. But we could not do this work alone. It's because of people like you who believe in us and support us by showing up, volunteering, sharing our work and contributing financially, that we are able to mobilize our members and community to protect our forests when they are threatened.

Thank you so much for being part of EPIC and making our work possible. We hope to hear from you or better yet, meet you at one of our exciting upcoming events!

For the wild,

Thomas Wheeler



2017 EPIC By the Numbers

 <p>Filed 4 Legal Objections to Forest Service Decisions</p>	<p>Participated in 7 Active Lawsuits</p> 	 <p>Wrote 42 Comment Letters for Public Lands</p>	<p>Sent 35 Comment Letters on Timber Harvest Plans</p> 	 <p>Signed on to over 60 Letters from Sister Organizations</p>	<p>Recorded 34 Live Radio Shows</p> 	 <p>Participated in 3 Forest Collaboratives</p>
 <p>Sent 68 Wildcalifornia Enewsletters</p>	<p>Reached 15,797 EPIC Online Activists</p> 	 <p>Sent 13 Action Alerts</p>	<p>Mentioned in the News Over 40 times</p> 	 <p>Filed 2 Petitions for Administrative Rulemaking</p>	<p>Sent 5 letters to the Board of Forestry</p> 	 <p>Attended 7 Board of Forestry Meetings</p>

Celebrating 40 Years of EPIC Victories!



2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the Environmental Protection Information Center and there was no shortage of small victories worthy of celebrating. In case you missed anything, check out our highlights below!

On the Ground Monitoring Saves Big, Old Trees EPIC staff bushwhacked into logging units to examine the Jess Project, immediately finding trees marked for logging within stream zones. After alerting the Forest Service to its mistake, marking crews returned to “black out” dozens of big, old trees. EPIC has been watching this project since 2012 and has held the Klamath National Forest responsible for its duty to participate in multi-party monitoring.

EPIC Back in Court to Protect Richardson Grove EPIC is back in court to defend the old-growth redwoods in Richardson Grove State Park against a highway widening proposal that would cut and pave over the root structure of ancient trees. We’ve filed two cases, one in federal court and one in state court, to defend the grove. If history is any predictor, the groves will be okay; each time we’ve filed a lawsuit challenging the project, we’ve been victorious.



Spotted Owl Advocacy Gets Results In 2016, EPIC successfully listed the northern spotted owl under the California Endangered Species Act. The listing has already generated results. The Board of Forest and the Department of Fish and Wildlife are looking at ways forestry rules can be improved to protect the owl. Hope is on the way for our favorite forest raptor.

Victory for Humboldt Marten EPIC scored a victory for the Humboldt marten by forcing US Fish and Wildlife Service to go back and issue a new decision by October 2018. Hopefully this time the agency will listen to science and not timber lobbyists. If not, EPIC will be there again to fight for our favorite mustelid.

EPIC Defends Wolf Protections In 2014, the California Fish and Game Commission listed the gray wolf in California (based on a petition brought by EPIC!). In 2017, Big Beef took aim at those protections. The California Cattlemen’s Association filed suit to strip the wolf of protections. EPIC and allies intervened to give the wolf a voice and defend their protection. The case is still pending, but in the meantime, another wolf pack has been established. If we can hold wolf killers at bay, wolves will return home!

Stinky Zinke! Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is on a quest to gut National Monuments, rollback environmental laws, and open up public lands for development. In honor of his legacy, EPIC held a press conference to recognize Zinke’s legacy on public lands, and officially renamed vault-style toilets Stinky Zinkes! Our press stunt was picked up by the national news, including Trump’s favorite Breitbart.



Together We Protect Wild Places

Stopped a Destructive Railroad Proposal in its Tracks EPIC fought against a grant to study a railroad from Eureka to Gerber that would cross Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers. EPIC helped rally the good people of Trinity County to demand that the County not move forward with its proposal. Because of the massive groundswelling of support, the Trinity Board of Supervisors listened and voted down the railroad!

EPIC Saves Old Growth Because of EPIC's objection to the Horse Creek Project, the Klamath National Forest dropped hundreds of acres of old growth from logging along the Siskiyou Crest and imposed a limit on logging large, old trees in other areas of the project. An EPIC win!

Getting Fire and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Back on the Ground Kimberly Baker, EPIC's Public Land Advocate, is a regular presence on the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership collaborative, a group that helps the Forest Service develop smart forest management projects. EPIC's work is starting to pay off, as the Six Rivers National Forest is moving forward with a project developed in collaboration with WKRP! The Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project works to return fire's role on the natural landscape, a job that will help to protect the wildlife and clean water of the Klamath Mountains.

EPIC Tells Court: "Greenhouse Gas Accounting Matters" In our first court case of the year, EPIC filed an amicus brief to let the court know that accurate accounting of greenhouse gases matter in our statewide effort against global climate change.

First Annual EPIC Base Camp EPIC staff and members braved harsh weather to investigate the propose Horse Creek Project, a post-fire logging project on the Klamath National Forest. Information gained in the trip helped EPIC write detailed comments concerning individual logging units. On the ground monitoring is a hallmark of EPIC's work. We hope that those who attended will continue to put their activist skills to good use.



EPIC Petitions to End Sale of Invasive Ivy EPIC, together with our friends at the Humboldt No Ivy League, submitted a rulemaking petition to the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ban the sale of the invasive English ivy. Ivy is more than just a nuisance, it limits the biodiversity of our coastal forests by outcompeting native vegetation.

Bring Back the Beaver Beavers are one of the best ways to restore salmon habitat, but Wildlife Services kills hundreds of beavers every year in California. EPIC has started our fight to bring our beavers back, changing the rules to make beaver restoration easier and beaver trapping harder.

EPIC Brings Legal Fight Against Massive Timber Sale EPIC is back in federal court to challenge a timber sale on the Klamath National Forest, the Westside Project. This is the largest timber sale EPIC has fought in over a decade, with over 6,000 acres of logging proposed and the "taking" of more than 100 northern spotted owls.



Looking Ahead

Forests of the North Coast are legendary, attracting thousands of visitors each year to stand amidst the tallest trees on earth. The Redwood Coast has become so iconic, it has officially been named the number one destination in the country to visit in 2018. We understand the importance of connecting people with the forests we work to protect, and that the best way to advocate for a place is to experience and document it first-hand. For these reasons, we plan to increase our efforts to offer more community events in the forest and provide more trainings to inspire and empower individuals to advocate for wildlife and wild places. In Spring and Summer 2018 we are pairing up with Latino Outdoors to conduct a series of bilingual seminars and hands-on activities to get people out into the field to develop basic leave no trace, equipment knowledge and leadership skills. In the fall of 2018, we are planning the second annual EPIC Base Camp, which will be held in the Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park in early September. EPIC Base Camp is an overnight “groundtruthing” training focused on data gathering to monitor harmful projects proposed on public lands.

In addition to increased efforts in the field, EPIC staff will continue monitoring 5.6 million acres of public lands that span the Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Klamath and Mendocino National Forests. We are still attending meetings in Sacramento to ensure that the Board of Forestry adopts sustainable standards for private forest management practices, and we will continue to advocate for endangered species act protections for Northern Spotted Owls, Humboldt Martens, Gray Wolves, Siskiyou Mountain Salamanders and other critters that are hanging on by a dwindling thread.

We have our work cut out for us, and with your support, we will have the means to continue marching forward with a plan for a sustainable future. As Margarate Mead once said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”



GIVE WILDLY: Enroll in Automatic Giving

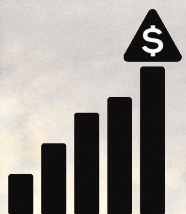
Help EPIC mount our fiercest defense by signing up to automatically renew your membership with an annual, quarterly, or monthly automatic giving options. It’s secure, easy and helps your gift go straight to protecting the wildlife and wild places that need us. To renew or enroll in automatic giving,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



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 95560, 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

Annual Report

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Fiscal Year January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Membership & Donations	\$140,051
Foundation Grants	\$ 70,000
Fundraising Events	\$ 9,213
Interest Income	\$ 384
Legal Fees & Awards	\$ 4,934
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$224,582

EXPENSES

General & Admin	\$ 38,056
Fundraising	\$ 51,030
Programs	<u>\$169,520</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$258,606
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	(34,024)

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	\$ (34,024)
NET ASSETS @ Beginning of Year	<u>\$188,684</u>
NET ASSETS @ End of Year	<u>\$154,660</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings	\$156,340
Other Current Assets	<u>\$ 6,135</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$162,475
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$162,475

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 634
Credit Cards	\$ 488
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 6,693
Long-term Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 7,815

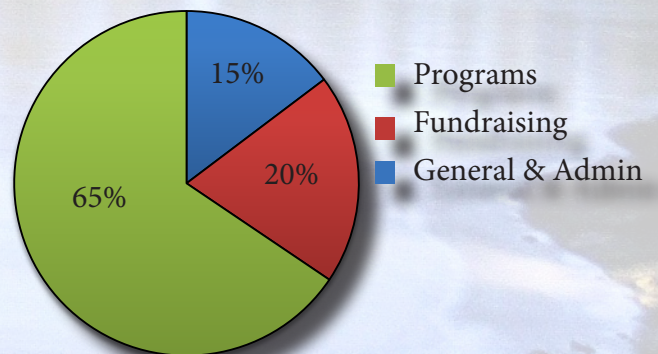
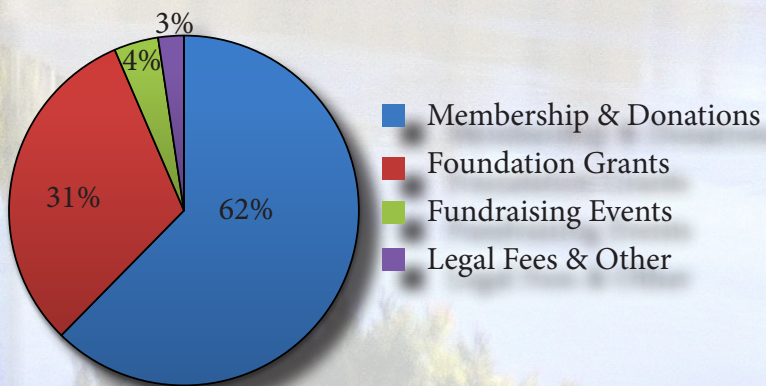
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$179,319
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 9,365
Net Income	<u>\$ (34,024)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$154,660

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$162,475
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Fiscal Year January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

~For complete financial report visit wildcalifornia.org~



Contributing Foundations

Environment Now, Firedoll Foundation, Patagonia Environmental Grants Program, Weeden Foundation, Wild Woods Foundation, Flora L. Thornton Foundation & East Bay Community Foundation.



Environmental Protection Information Center, Inc.

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www.wildcalifornia.org

UPCOMING EPIC EVENTS:



Redwood Hike Series:

July 16 - Hiouchi Trail: 3 miles • Sept. 23 - Trillium Falls Trail: 3 miles
Hikes are all ages and free, originating from the EPIC office at 145 G Street, Suite A in Arcata at 10 AM
Bring appropriate clothing, food & water. To register call 707-822-7711 or email briana@wildcalifornia.org



Base Camp:

EPIC Base Camp will be at Mill Creek Campground on September 8th & 9th. We will investigate the Last Chance Grade project, which proposes alternatives that include rerouting Highway 101 through Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Skills trainings will include groundtruthing, map and compass orienteering, environmental policy, know your rights trainings, and more! Learn more and sign up for this event at wildcalifornia.org.



Fall Celebration, Jene McCovey Honored:

Saturday, Nov 3 at Beginnings in Briceiland. Doors open at 6pm. Followed by dinner, music & Sempervirens Award Ceremony honoring Jene McCovey for a lifetime of environmental activism.

Join Us!

Sign up for our newsletters at wildcalifornia.org

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