

epic

2021 Annual Report
Environmental Protection Information Center

We Speak for the Forests!

EPIC Staff

Executive Director:	Thomas Wheeler
Public Lan Advocate:	Kimberly Baker
Communications & Development Director:	Amber Jamieson
Communications & Outreach Coordinator:	Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson
Staff Attorney:	Matt Simmons
Bookkeeper:	Brenda Pease



2021 EPIC Board of Directors

Tony Silvaggio:	President
Destiny Preston:	Treasurer
Ava Biscoe:	Secretary
Noah Levy	
Nate Madsen	
Judith Mayer	
Moxie Alvarnaz	
Karen Maki	
JP O'Brien	



Contact Us

145 G Street, Suite A, Arcata, CA 95521
epic@wildcalifornia.org

Annual Report Design and Layout by Amber Jamieson.

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

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The health of our forests, watersheds, and wildlife is vital to the rich cultural and traditional practices of our community. Our region is home to the Earth's largest remaining stands of old-growth redwood trees, the striking Trinity Alps, the largest undammed river in California (the Smith River), and other unique natural features. The North Coast and Klamath-Siskiyou bioregions are biodiversity hotspots, which serve as climate refugia for species that are being pushed to the brink of extinction as temperatures rise, development increases, and habitat shrinks.

Over the past few years we have seen some of the largest wildfires in history, which has spurred an onslaught of timber sales and new regulations to streamline logging. As our region struggles to recover from industrial activity and increasingly volatile climate conditions, we are prepared to leverage environmental laws with sound science to ensure that regulations are enforced and intact ecosystems are protected. Big Timber's messaging has been to cut down our forests to save them from burning. However, the reality is that most timber sales target large fire-resistant trees because they are more profitable, and include clearcut logging plans because they are more efficient.

Removing large fire-resistant trees and turning forests into plantations results in more fire danger down the road. Densely packed tree plantations are highly flammable and burn faster and hotter than complex forest ecosystems. In fact, it is beneficial for intact forests to be exposed to low-intensity burns, which is what local tribes have used to steward the land for centuries, opening up the forest floor and returning nutrients to the soil. After more than a century of fire exclusion and environmental destruction, we are realizing the importance of applying science and traditional knowledge to restore the landscape and ensure a sustainable future for all living beings.

Our work is cut out for us in the coming year, but we have the science, legal, and advocacy tools to safeguard the North Coast and the creatures that call it home. Because we are a community based nonprofit our primary income comes from membership donations, EPIC needs your support to continue protecting and healing the natural systems that provide vital ecosystem services that all living beings depend on. Please consider making a donation to further our conservation achievements in the coming year.



For the Wild,
Thomas Wheeler
Thomas Wheeler

2021 EPIC By the Numbers

 Challenged 1 Timber Sale in Court (& Won!)	Participated in 9 Ongoing Lawsuits 	 Wrote 93 Articles to Update Our Members	Commented on over 40 Projects 	 Signed on to over 89 Letters from Sister Organizations	Recorded 62 Live Radio Shows 	 Participated in 10 Coalitions and 2 Collaboratives
 Sent 59 Wildcalifornia Newsletters	Generated 21K Comments from Online Activists 	 Sent 18 Action Alerts	Hosted 3 Ivy Pulls and 1 Scotch Broom Pull 	 Engaged With 13.82K Members and Activists	Hosted 7 Webinars 	 Participated in 13 Public Hearings on behalf of EPIC

Celebrating 45 Years of Victories!



We are excited to share our 2021 projects and accomplishments with you! Over the past year, EPIC and allies:

- 🌲 filed and won a legal challenge that reinstated federal protections for more than 3.4 million acres of federal old-growth forests that are essential for the survival of Northern spotted owls;
- 🌲 called out CAL FIRE for looking the other way when private timber companies fail to disclose impacts and measures to avoid harm of northern spotted owls;
- 🌲 submitted comments on Timber Harvest Plans in Jackson Demonstration State Forest, delaying logging of second growth redwoods;
- 🌲 worked with a coalition to put pressure on Nordic Aquafarm to do a full environmental impact report instead of just an initial study/mitigated negative declaration;
- 🌲 succeeded in securing more protections for the Humboldt marten, as more than a decade after we filed a petition to list the Humboldt marten, USFWS finally proposed to designate 1.4 million acres of Critical Habitat;
- 🌲 continued our campaign to save Richardson Grove by submitting a new round of comments that included new scientific research that shows cutting and paving over redwood roots is likely to cause significant impairment to the remaining forest;
- 🌲 protected the rare Shasta snow-wreath from the invasion of Scotch broom and the use and drift of herbicides for the fourth year in a row, and began regular ivy pulls to remove invasive English ivy from sensitive coastal forests in Trinidad State Park;
- 🌲 supported the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation by advocating for the restoration and return to tribal control of ancestral lands on Reservation Ranch, a property along the Smith River estuary that has been owned and significantly degraded by cattle operations, resulting in extensive environmental violations and enforcement actions; and
- 🌲 coordinated public comments to the State's redistricting commission that advocated for keeping the North Coast together politically. In December, the commission announced that the North Coast would remain together allowing us to advocate together for our common environmental goals.

A Closer Look at Jackson

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) is a nearly 50,000-acre mixed use forest located in Pomo and Yuki ancestral territory and managed by CAL FIRE. After a century of clearcutting in Northern California, Jackson was created in 1949 to demonstrate more sustainable logging. Unfortunately, from its inception, Jackson failed to live up to this goal by harvesting much of the remaining old-growth within the forest. Since then, CAL FIRE has managed the forest as an industrial timberland, regularly harvesting large second growth redwoods. Despite this, Jackson is one of the last places on the North Coast where large second growth redwoods can be found.

EPIC is working with a broad coalition in the Campaign to Save Jackson, which includes local and national organizations, community members, and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the original stewards of the forest. They have gathered acorns, fished for salmon, and gathered food, basket weaving materials and medicinal plants from the coastal forest since time immemorial. Jackson is home to several sacred sites which are not currently adequately protected by CAL FIRE. The coalition is striving to change the way CAL FIRE manages JDSF using a multi pronged approach.



Photo by Michael Hunter

In 2021, we launched new efforts to conserve the forest under Governor Newsom's 30x30 plan, which calls for conservation of 30% of California's land by 2030. JDSF is a great candidate because it houses biological resources and culturally significant sites for the Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki peoples. JDSF is already state-owned land, which means no acquisition is required to move almost 50,000 acres into the "conserved" column. JDSF is already beloved by local residents and tourists alike as a place for outdoor recreation. Furthermore, the dominant species in Jackson is coastal redwood trees, which sequester carbon quicker and for a longer period of time than almost any other species on earth, while simultaneously providing habitat to the endangered Northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

In March 2022, Senator McGuire announced that a new management plan is underway for the Jackson forest, but in the meantime, CAL FIRE will continue to manage the forest, which includes industrial logging plans that target large old trees and Pomo and Yuki sacred sites. Destructive logging occurring in JDSF is completely controlled by the State. If Newsom wanted, he could place a moratorium on logging operations to protect the forest. Because writing a new management plan will take some time, we need a moratorium on timber operations so that CAL FIRE cannot damage the forest any further while we work to change the management plan.

Throughout 2022, coalition members are planning rallies, circulating petitions, and hosting community events to bring awareness of the campaign to save Jackson and to build political pressure to develop a plan that includes co-management of the forest by local tribes, protection for large old trees, and more engagement with the local community. EPIC has also led the charge in submitting public comments on every proposed timber harvest plan within the Jackson forest. Since we began commenting, no new timber harvest plans have been approved in the forest.

Together, we are all committed to changing the way CAL FIRE manages JDSF to focus on wildlife conservation, carbon sequestration, protecting cultural sites, and recreation, not industrial logging.

Looking At The Horizon

In the coming year, we are committed to defending public land from the numerous timber sales that continue to come down the pike and we will push for a conservation based plan that includes tribal management for Jackson State Demonstration Forest. Additionally, we are launching a Klamath Water Advocacy Program to advocate for dam removal and increased flows into Klamath tributaries.

As for Richardson Grove, new science from a study in Humboldt Redwoods State Park shows that roads stunt tree growth, sometimes resulting in dieoff of the tree canopy. The distance of impacts discovered were twice the distance analyzed by Caltrans. This new information suggests that the number of affected trees should be doubled, and that the severity of the impacts will likely be significantly more than anticipated. EPIC has put Caltrans on notice that failure to consider this significant new information would violate the National Environmental Policy Act and we anticipate another round of environmental analysis and public comment opportunities for EPIC and our allies to engage in.

As community events begin to open back up, we hope you will stop by our booth at Summer Arts, Kate Wolf, or the North Country Fair to sign a petition, pick up EPIC swag, and hang out with our staff and volunteers!



A Special Thank You



Priscilla and Polly visit the Zapatistas in Chiapas Mexico

Priscilla and Polly are longtime Tribal and environmental advocates who have left a lasting impact on the North Coast.

Priscilla Hunter is a member of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. As the matriarch of her Tribe, her grandmother taught her to respect the land—its beauty, food, medicinal herbs, and spiritual connections. Priscilla has long worked to protect her people's sacred landscapes and cultural resources. When EPIC filed the lawsuit *EPIC v Johnson* to protect Sally Bell Grove, Priscilla acted as a co-plaintiff. The lawsuit opened the door for the eventual return of 3,845 acres of Sinkyone land to tribal control, allowing the forest to heal itself.

Polly Girvin is a proud Chicana woman who has dedicated her life to helping people and protecting the environment. After graduating from law school, she went on to work with California Indian Legal Service in Eureka where she developed a love for the redwoods and participated in many Earth First! actions, including Redwood Summer.

It was during a rally against the first Gulf War held in Boonville, California that Polly first met Priscilla. Together, Polly and Priscilla then traveled to Chiapas, Mexico to deliver humanitarian supplies to the Zapatistas during their revolution against the Mexican government. Since then, Polly and Priscilla have been inseparable and have participated in many, many campaigns including a campaign to protect both the wetlands and many ancestral sacred sites during the construction of the Caltrans Willits Bypass Project and the JDSF campaign.

Priscilla and Polly have both lived incredible lives and we were excited to honor them both for their achievements with the 2021 Sempervirens Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you, Polly and Priscilla, for dedicating your lifetimes to environmental, tribal, and social justice advocacy, we appreciate all that you do and look forward to working in solidarity with you!

Annual Report

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Fiscal Year January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Membership & Donations	\$ 180,099
Foundation Grants	\$ 159,062
Fundraising Events	\$ 4,785
Interest Income	\$ 2,196
Legal Fees & Awards	\$ 29,810
Unrealized Capital Gains	\$ 12,807

TOTAL SUPPORT \$ 388,759

EXPENSES

General & Admin	\$ 22,662
Fundraising	\$ 59,370
Programs	\$ 213,637
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 295,668

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets \$ 93,091

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS \$ 93,091
NET ASSETS @ Beginning of Year \$ 345,909
NET ASSETS @ End of Year \$ 439,000

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings	\$ 366,212
Other Current Assets	\$ 90,117
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 456,329

FIXED ASSETS \$ -

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 456,329

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 683
Credit Cards Payable	\$ 139
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 16,508
Long-term Liabilities	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 17,330

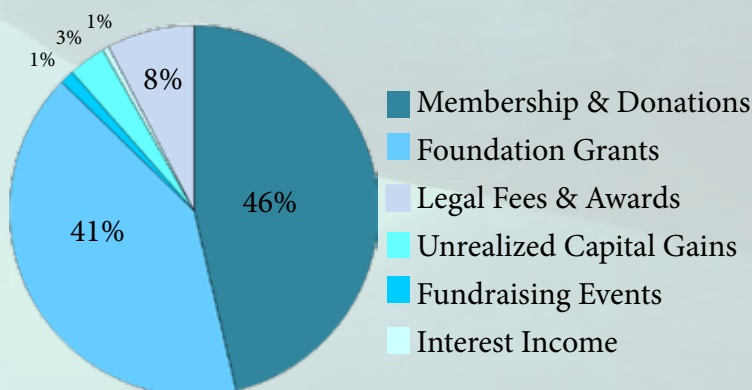
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 184,074
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 161,835
Net Income	\$ 93,091
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 439,000

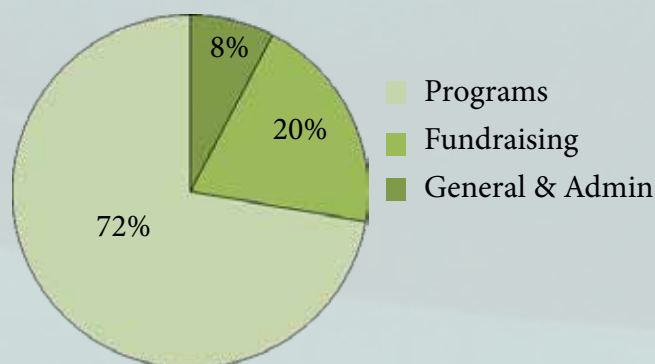
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$456,329

For a complete financial report visit wildcalifornia.org

2021 INCOME



2021 EXPENSES



Contributing Foundations

Environment Now, Firedoll Foundation, United States Energy Foundation, Patagonia, Weeden Foundation, Bower Charitable Foundation, Footprint Foundation, Flora L. Thornton Foundation, The Reis Foundation, Inc., Wild Woods Foundation, Sierra Club, Klamath Forest Alliance, Humboldt Area Foundation, and a special thanks to the Co-op's Seeds for Change Program!



Environmental Protection Information Center
145 G Street, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 822-7711
www.wildcalifornia.org

SUPPORT EPIC, GIVE THE GIFT OF THE FOREST!



Give the gift of the forest to yourself or friends by supporting EPIC through purchasing our merchandise! Find our Humboldt marten sweatshirts, beaver hats and other great gifts in our online shop at wildcalifornia.org. Make sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming new EPIC merch featuring a beautiful Beaver design by local artist Skye Henterly.



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.



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

Join Us!

Sign up for our newsletter at wildcalifornia.org

 /wildcalifornia

 epic_wildcalifornia

 @epicforthewild