

epic

**2018 Annual Report
Environmental Protection Information Center**

We Speak for the Forests!

EPIC Staff

Executive Director:

Public Land Advocate:

Conservation Advocate:

California Forests & Wildlife Advocate:

Director of Communications and Development:

Thomas Wheeler

Kimberly Baker

Amber Jamieson

Rob DiPerna

Briana Villalobos



Contractors

Attorney:

Bookkeeper:

Sharon Duggan

Brenda Pease

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Tom Preble

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Daniel Cordalis

James Adam Taylor

Contact Us

145 G Street, Suite A

Arcata, CA 95521

Phone 707.822.7711

Fax 707.822.7712

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 friend,

EPIC started as a little sapling planted by community members in Humboldt County a long time ago. We have matured into a strong and steady tree, strengthened by the heartwood of time and our roots in the community. Another year adds a new ring to our trunk—we now count 41—each telling a story about that year's successes and struggles. While the timber industry may consider this age ripe for logging, we think that like the mighty redwoods, some more growing would do us good.

It is a great honor to share with you this year's Annual Report. I became an environmental lawyer to protect endangered species. That's why this year has been the most meaningful in my career. 2018 was the year of the Humboldt marten—the small and slinky mammal that calls our coastal old-growth forests home. With less than 200 left in California, immediate action is necessary to stave off extinction.

In June, we successfully petitioned the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ban trapping of Humboldt martens. In August, the California Fish and Game Commission unanimously voted to list the feisty furball as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. A month later, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service followed suit, issuing a proposed rule to list the marten under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the culmination of over eight years of advocacy (and one lawsuit).

EPIC's staff is like the marten: small but feisty. With just a staff of five, EPIC punches above our weight and produces results—from challenging illegal timber sales on the Klamath National Forest (victory) to defending protections for gray wolves from angry ranchers (another victory). EPIC won't back down.

In a time when bedrock environmental policies are on the chopping block and big business is striving to take whatever it can, we need your help to grow stronger. In the coming year, we will be working double time to weather this political storm and continue sticking up for the forests, rivers and wildlife of the Pacific northwest. With you by our side, EPIC will face these challenges head on to ensure that lasting protections are in place to safeguard wild California.

Here's to a verdant and vibrant 2019 and another growth ring on EPIC's tree!

Thomas Wheeler
Thomas Wheeler



2018 EPIC By the Numbers

 Filed 4 Legal Objections to Forest Service Decisions	 Participated in 9 Active Lawsuits	 Wrote more than 20 Comment Letters for Public Lands	 Sent 6 Comment Letters on Timber Harvest Plans	 Signed on to over 80 Letters from Sister Organizations	 Recorded 24 Live Radio Shows	 Participated in 3 Forest Collaboratives
 Sent 65 Wildcalifornia Enewsletters	 Generated Comments from 4,655 Online Activists	 Sent 10 Action Alerts	 Mentioned in the News Over 50 times	 Filed 2 Petitions for Administrative Rulemaking	 Held 6 Redwood Hikes, 2 Workshops and 1 Basecamp	 Attended 2 meetings and sent 2 letters to Board of Forestry

Celebrating 41 Years of EPIC Victories!



2018 was another EPIC year! The numbers don't lie: We had nine ongoing lawsuits, two rulemaking petitions, and commented on over 30 projects—all with a staff of just five! Below are some of our highlights from 2018.

Year of the Marten 2018 was the year of the marten. We successfully listed the marten under the California Endangered Species Act and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the marten under the federal Endangered Species Act. But not all is well for the marten. Shady backroom deals threaten to undermine future protections for the marten. (Sounds like something EPIC should work on in 2019, right?)



Advocated for Beavers EPIC sent a notice of intent to sue to Wildlife Services, a taxpayer-funded wildlife-killing program of the USDA, because of the agency's problematic beaver "management." By killing beavers that were improving salmon habitat, without consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the agency violated the Endangered Species Act.

Defended Shasta Salamanders EPIC, together with our friends at the Center for Biological Diversity, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for dragging its feet in considering whether to list the Shasta salamander under the Endangered Species Act. Why the foot dragging? The Service anticipated making a final decision in 2022, two years after a dam raising project would imperil the salamander's habitat. We think this is malarkey so we are defending the charismatic amphibians in court!

Filed Suit to Protect Richardson Grove Again Another year of defense of the ancient redwoods of Richardson Grove State Park in the bag. So far we have held back the bulldozers for 11 years and we won't stop until Caltrans follows the laws! EPIC filed suit in Dec 2018, in both state and federal court alleging that Caltrans substantially changed the project and the public should be afforded the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Additionally, the "addendum" provided by Caltrans that describes the new changes contained numerous and substantial errors. As of May 2019, we had a victory in Federal court, and are still awaiting the state court's decision.

Litigated "Salvage" Timber Sale Scam The Klamath National Forest is back with another wasteful, corrupt and harmful timber sale. The Seiad-Horse Project is all about getting big bucks for timber companies, selling off old growth for record low prices. EPIC, together with our friends at KS Wild, are challenging the timber sale in federal court.

Documented Last Chance Grove EPIC's third annual Basecamp took place in Redwood National and State Parks, where proposed Highway 101 reroutes through old-growth redwoods were investigated. Hiking through an ancient redwood forest and finding tags to mark a potential highway route was eye-opening. EPIC is a stakeholder on the Last Chance Grade Project and has actively groundtruthed the various alternatives within the project to assess which have the least environmental impact.



Together We Protect Wild Places

EPIC Celebrates Jene McCovey with Sempervirens Award Activist Jene McCovey was honored at the Fall Celebration for her lifetime of work on behalf of the people and lands of the North Coast. Luckily, Jene is not slowing down. We see her at every protest and government meeting, leading the charge. We are so grateful for her work.

Filed a Formal Complaint and Appeal of Green Diamond's FSC Certification EPIC investigated Green Diamond's forest management and the legitimacy of its "High Conservation Value Forest." Forest Stewardship Council's sustainability certification requires Green Diamond to establish and maintain a network of lands classified as "core-interior habitats," and to voluntarily conserve, enhance, and maintain those lands. EPIC found that Green Diamond is not conserving these lands and is appealing the certification.



Led Collaborative Hike Series EPIC worked with Latino Outdoors to host the Redwood Hike Series, which included outdoor skills training and interpretive guiding workshops. The workshops and hikes were bilingual and concluded with a student led interpretive hike. All of the hikes were family-friendly, free and open to the public.

Prevented More Clearcuts EPIC and allies worked to prevent Sierra-Pacific Industries from clearcutting 900 acres in the Digger Creek watershed, a tributary to the Battle Creek watershed, which is in turn a major tributary to the Upper Sacramento River. SPI proposed this clearcutting in areas already severely damaged by previous clearcutting, the 2012 Ponderosa Fire, and subsequent salvage logging by SPI. The "Artemis" THP was eventually withdrawn from consideration for approval.

Halted Communications Tower in Redwood National Park After hearing from EPIC staff and 1,451 of our members through the public commenting process, the Office of Emergency Services decided not to place a radio tower and adjacent clearcut within the boundaries of Redwood National Park, instead choosing denuded industrial timber land outside of the Park.



Strengthened Northern Spotted Owl Protections EPIC attended and gave a presentation at the Annual California Department of Fish and Wildlife Northern Spotted Owl Stakeholder Forum in Sacramento on how Ministerial Emergency Timber Operations allowed on California Private Timberlands fail to account for the presence of Northern Spotted Owl or ensure their protection. Thanks to EPIC's efforts, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed guidelines for post-fire timber operations for private lands aimed at ensuring Northern Spotted Owls are protected.

Gray Wolf EPIC and allies intervened in (and won) a lawsuit filed by Pacific Legal Foundation against the Fish and Game Commission, challenging its listing of the gray wolf as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.



Looking Ahead

*I*n this work, it is easy to define yourself by what you are against—highway widening through Richardson Grove State Park, federal timber sales that lose money and destroy wildlife habitat, industry money influencing government decisions, etc. But there is a risk in this. You lose what you are for.

Here's what EPIC is for: Clean water that nourishes life and enriches the spirit. Resilient rural communities that live with nature and are not dependent on exploitive industries. Verdant forests that tower over us and remind us that we are small. Wild places that ignite a green fire in our eyes and keep us young at heart. Life, abundant and diverse, that we may never even see but its existence brings us comfort and joy. These are the things that EPIC has stood for since 1977 and what continues to drive our work in 2019.

In 2019, EPIC is working to promote these values through our diverse and important work. We are in court to give the Humboldt marten a fighting chance at recovery, pushing for wildlife corridors between large blocks of suitable habitat for the marten. We are promoting beaver recovery by challenging rules and practices that make it easy to kill beavers and inordinately difficult to relocate them. We are working with stakeholders to protect old-growth redwoods in the Last Chance Grade Project, a proposed highway reroute through Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. We are safeguarding at-risk forests through often dull research and review.

EPIC will continue to do what we do best: stand up boldly to protect the values that we hold true. We do this by watch-dogging agencies, activating the grassroots, and going to court. EPIC has grown over 42 years of work, from a plucky upstart group of volunteers to today's professional organization, but we have not departed from our core.

This work is not without trial, hard work, and disappointment. But it is also not without laughter, kinship, and joy. It is important to “sing behind the plow”—find pleasure in hard work and build community through common cause. I hope that you will sing with us and continue to support the good work of EPIC for another year.



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 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

Annual Report

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Fiscal Year January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Membership & Donations	\$102,599
Foundation Grants	\$145,227
Fundraising Events	\$ 7,687
Interest Income	\$ 560
Legal Fees & Awards	\$ 385

TOTAL SUPPORT \$256,458

EXPENSES

General & Admin	\$ 41,040
Fundraising	\$ 60,654
Programs	\$129,958
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$231,652

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets \$ 24,806

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS \$ 24,806

NET ASSETS @ Beginning of Year \$154,659

NET ASSETS @ End of Year \$179,465

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings	\$185,653
Other Current Assets	\$ 5,610
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$191,263

FIXED ASSETS \$ -

TOTAL ASSETS \$191,263

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,694
Credit Cards	\$ 2,043
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 8,061
Long-term Liabilities	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 11,798

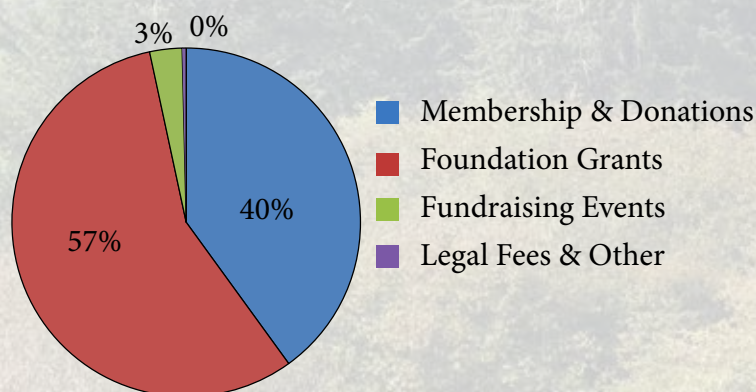
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$145,460
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 9,199
Net Income	\$ 24,806
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$179,465

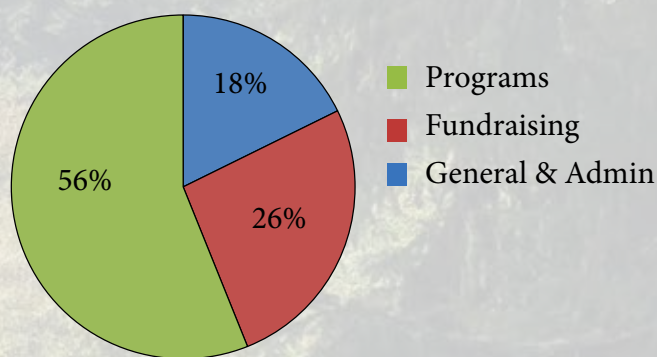
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$191,263

For a complete financial report visit wildcalifornia.org

2018 INCOME



2018 EXPENSES



Contributing Foundations

Di Caprio Foundation, Dorrance Family Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, Flora L. Thornton Foundation, Footprint Fund, Patagonia, Simon Edison Foundation, The Reis Foundation, Weeden Foundation & Wild Woods Foundation.



Environmental Protection Information Center, Inc.

145 G Street, Suite A

Arcata, CA 95521

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UPCOMING EPIC EVENTS:



2019 Events

EPIC will be tabling at various locations throughout the summer. Visit our booth, get important updates and sign petitions! We will be at the following events:

Benbow Summer Arts Festival - Garberville, CA - June 1-2 • Kate Wolf Music Festival - Laytonville, CA - June 27-30
Round Valley Blackberry Festival - Covelo, CA August 17-18 • North Country Fair - Arcata, CA - September 21-22



Base Camp

EPIC Base Camp is tentatively scheduled for September 13-15 at the Forest Glen Camp Ground in the Shasta Trinity National Forest. We will be assessing a wall of old growth that is under consideration for wilderness designation. Skills trainings will include groundtruthing, map and compass orienteering, environmental policy, know your rights trainings and more! For more information or to register, visit wildcalifornia.org or call the EPIC office at 707-822-7711.





Fall Celebration, Honoring Dennis Cunningham

On Saturday, Nov 9th at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. Doors open at 6pm. Followed by dinner, Sempervirens Award Ceremony and music with Delhi 2 Dublin!

Join Us!

Sign up for our newsletters at wildcalifornia.org

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