

EPIC 2008 Annual Report

EPIC uses science, law, and public education to secure the viability of species, ecosystems, and natural processes in the wildest big corner of the West Coast. In 2007, our 30th year, EPIC continued to deliver significant conservation outcomes, maintaining an indispensable position in the community as advocate and educator on critical environmental issues.

Protecting the Flagship Species

EPIC has worked for decades to help protect the northern spotted owl, an indicator species for Pacific Northwest old-growth forests. Often, "the owl" remains one of the biggest issues in controversial logging proposals on both public and private lands in our region. Today, EPIC is working through several processes to ensure that both state and federal authorities recognize the unique potential that northwest California may present as a stronghold for the imperiled bird. This work spotlights one of EPIC's special strengths: our ability to work effectively in both the federal and the state arenas, protecting habitat and species on both public and private lands.

Under the Bush administration, federal agencies sought to undermine protections for owls and other species to clear the way for logging. EPIC led regional opposition as a regional leader in rallying opposition to the severely flawed northern spotted owl Recovery Plan, and the associated effort to remove protection from much of the

bird's previously designated critical habitat. That effort has born fruit with the US Fish & Wildlife Service's admission that both proposals need to be withdrawn to cleanse the documents of "political interference." With allies from Washington, Oregon, and California, EPIC is pushing to ensure that both projects go back to "square one," and result this time in scientifically sound plans.

At the same time, EPIC has been working to improve protections for even more imperiled owl habitat on private industrial timberlands in California. With our allies, we successfully fought back one proposed change to California's Forest Practice Rules in 2008 to let the timber industry do its own assessment of owl habitat, and we're fighting another right now. The proposal would basically put the timber industry fox in charge of the forest henhouse—exactly the wrong direction when owl populations are in steep decline and facing a host of new threats.



Saving Salmon and Their Watersheds

Sadly, the winter of 2008 brought record low numbers of Coho salmon back to the rivers of Northern California. Our North Coast runs of "silver" salmon are listed under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, and even though it has been more than a decade since federal scientists warned state logging rules fail to provide adequate protections for Coho, the California Board of Forestry and Department of Fish and Game still refuse to take the steps necessary to protect the fish.

That's why EPIC, in coalition with the Sierra Club and California Trout, are suing those state agencies to block the inadequate

rules the agencies proposed. That's why EPIC and our allies are working to ensure that the proposed "threatened or impaired watershed" rules released in spring 2009 by the Board of Forestry are strengthened, even as the timber industry is working overtime to ensure they are gutted. These rules are more than a decade in the making; they highlight both the difficulty and the importance of ensuring that state agencies, so often dominated by well-heeled industrial interests, follow the clear dictates of California's wildlife laws. And they show how critical groups like EPIC are to ensuring that Coho get a chance to thrive again on the North Coast.

Protecting Northwest California

EPIC 2008

pulling the pieces together

EPIC monitors projects and policies on private and public lands across northwestern California.

We work to create more transparency in public land management, and use every tool available to protect the publicly owned lands at the heart of this wildest corner of the West Coast. In addition to the four national forests that cover most of the interior of this corner of California, these include national, state, and county parks, federal wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas, and Bureau of Land Management lands.

As well, EPIC has been a key player in reforming California Forest practices for over three decades. Today, we remain active in monitoring Timber Harvest Plans across NW California and the Northcoast in shaping forest regulations, and in challenging both bad projects and rules which fail to protect key habitats and ecosystems.

National Forest Advocacy

Every year, EPIC keeps a close eye on projects in the Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, Mendocino, and Klamath National Forests. Across more than five million acres, commercial logging, grazing, and off-highway vehicle trail proposals are some of the clearest threats to the ecological integrity and natural beauty of these unique landscapes.

By engaging with local Forest Service offices at every step in project processes, EPIC can often stop the most egregious portions of proposed projects before they receive final approval. At times, however, the Forest Service pursues projects that must be challenged in court. EPIC does not hesitate to litigate where necessary, and a 2009 study in the *Journal of Forestry* found EPIC had the highest rate of success in challenging Forest Service decisions—nationally.

Forests and Fire

Following the historic 2008 fires in northwestern California, the Forest Service has proposed over 8,000 acres of post-fire logging projects. These projects include massive roadside projects and clearcut operations, some within areas previously protected from commercial logging, and at least one on the boundary of a protected wilderness area.

Because post-fire logging creates serious damage to forest and aquatic habitats, harms fire-dependent wildlife, and inhibits natural recovery, EPIC opposes such logging in most circumstances. In the present lumber market, the weakest in more than a generation, there's simply no justification for harmful logging to provide wood nobody needs.

In 2008, EPIC and our allies stopped 360 acres of post-fire logging in the Klamath National Forest. These plans included logging of old-growth forest, and clearcuts on steep and unstable hillsides along salmon-bearing tributaries of the Klamath River. Many other plans, including the Orleans Community Fire Reduction (OCFR) project in the Six River National Forest near Orleans, changed significantly thanks to our participation.

While the conventional model of fire suppression and high-impact logging becomes more and more clearly bankrupt, local traditional ecological knowledge provides forest managers with models of successful indigenous fire management of the region's forests.

To address these policy issues, EPIC co-organized a NW California Fire Policy Summit. As a coalition, we have identified actions to improve both agency and community responses. As well, EPIC is supporting a pioneering effort to restore fire as a primary management tool on the Mendocino National Forest.

Goodbye Maxxam!

After Pacific Lumber's takeover by corporate raider Charles Hurwitz' Maxxam Corp., EPIC helped lead two decades of struggle to protect the last stands of ancient redwoods held by Pacific Lumber from liquidation. Finally, in 2008, Maxxam folded in federal bankruptcy court.

The California Supreme Court handed down an historic, unanimous opinion upholding EPIC's challenge to key decisions at the heart of the flawed Headwaters Deal.

Fittingly, in the final weeks of Pacific Lumber's existence, the California Supreme Court handed down an historic, unanimous opinion upholding EPIC's decade-old challenge to the bogus Sustained Yield Plan at the heart of the flawed Headwaters Forest Deal. The opinion vindicates EPIC's critical role as citizen watchdog, and makes it clear that state agencies went beyond the law in allowing logging on Pacific Lumber lands. It should ensure that future projects which may harm imperiled species are held to higher standards.

More than two hundred thousand acres of Humboldt County redwood forest have now been sold to the new Humboldt Redwood Company, formed by owners of the Mendocino Redwood Company, including the Fisher family, owners of The Gap.

The new owners have committed to protect remaining old growth, to sharply reduce logging levels, and to a new level of public transparency in planning and watershed protection. EPIC will continue to monitor Humboldt Redwood Company's plans to ensure watershed protection, that sustainable planning remains a priority, and community values are protected.

Protect Richardson Grove

Traveling north along Highway 101, travelers pass through the renowned ancient redwood grove at Richardson Grove State Park just north of the Humboldt county line. The quiet, beautiful grove of huge trees right along the highway makes a fitting gateway for our unique region.

However, some business interests see Richardson Grove not as a precious heritage, but as the last barrier on the North Coast to the passage of new, larger standardized trucks. They have pressed for rapid completion of CalTrans' plans to widen Highway 101 through Richardson Grove, and have worked hard to present the proposed widening project as both inevitable and inconsequential.

EPIC and our allies successfully demanded a full environmental review of the project. EPIC's review of the draft environmental analysis, released in 2009 shows that the document fails to meet legal requirements for environmental review, or to support proponents' claims that the project's impacts are certain to be minor. Rather, CalTrans appears to have assembled a set of justifications for a rushed decision already made to go ahead with the project. An array of groups, from the InterTribal Sinkhole Wilderness Council to the California State Parks Foundation, are now firmly on the record as opposed to the project.

EPIC will keep working to ensure that Richardson Grove State Park's irreplaceable values are protected.

STAFF

Scott Greacen
Executive Director
scott@wildcalifornia.org

Sharon Duggan
Staff Attorney

Dian Griffith
Administrative Director
dian@wildcalifornia.org

Kerul Dyer
Outreach Director
kerul@wildcalifornia.org

Kimberly Baker
Public Lands Advocate
kimberly@wildcalifornia.org

Jeremy Jensen
Private Lands Advocate

CONTRACTORS

Tempra Board
Development Consultant

Richard Glenger
Forest and Watershed Advocate

EPIC Thanks Their Dedicated 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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EPIC

Administrative Office
New Address!
P.O. Box 543
Redway, CA 95560
(707) 923-2931

Arcaia Office
(707) 822-7711

epic@wildcalifornia.org
wildcalifornia.org

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Jeri Fergus,
Trees Foundation

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A Note From the Epicenter

Dear Friends of EPIC,

I've always wondered what it feels like for those salmon who jump up waterfalls. I think I'm beginning to get it. Salmon leap waterfalls for the same reason groups like EPIC keep fighting for forests, fish, and wildlife—because the future demands it.

It is an honor to report to you that this small but powerful outfit we call EPIC is indeed swimming upstream. Over the last year, we have put together a dynamic team dedicated to securing the future of Northwest California's incredible natural heritage. Having prevailed against overwhelming odds in our long struggle with Pacific Lumber, we're now positioned to help ensure that more sustainable logging practices spread across the landscape.

EPIC has been redoubling our efforts to secure long-delayed salmon protection rules, to keep the timber industry from appointing itself the fox in charge of the spotted owl henhouse, and to ensure that reforms to logging regulation don't reduce protections for wildlife.

Meanwhile, EPIC remains extremely active in protecting the public lands that are at the heart of this wildest corner of the West Coast. I hope you're as delighted as I am by the report in the **Jan-Feb 2009 Journal of Forestry**, which identified EPIC as the single most effective plaintiff group in challenges to US Forest Service actions from 1989-2005, with an incredible 62 percent success rate.

With your help, I am confident that EPIC is going to continue to lead the way. As everyone knows, these may be the most challenging times most non-profit organizations have ever seen. Everybody who works for a living is feeling the pinch of rising prices and increasing uncertainty. As ever, what's keeping EPIC fueled and fighting is, more than anything, the need to make a concrete difference in the world our kids inherit. What makes it possible is the consistent support our dedicated membership provides.

More than ever, we need your help to keep this progress going. Please give what you can today.



Scott Greacen,
Executive Director

Annual Report

Fiscal Year January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Membership & Donations	\$ 78,719.25
Foundation Grants	\$ 113,000.00
Fundraising Events	\$ 11,171.82
In-Kind Donations	\$ 15,041.69
Interest Income	\$ 4,430.13
Legal Fees & Awards	\$ 300.00
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$ 222,662.89
EXPENSES	
General & Admin.	\$ 39,788.96
Fundraising	\$ 26,272.87
Industrial Forestry Reform	\$ 92,512.60
Public Lands Program	\$ 53,705.80
Biodiversity Projects	\$ 3,232.92
Clean Water Program	\$ 16,881.41
Outreach & Development	\$ 26,051.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 258,445.87
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (35,782.98)
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	\$ (35,782.98)
NET ASSETS @Beginning of Year	\$ 128,974.10
NET ASSETS @ End of Year	\$ 93,191.12

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	\$ 173,334.66
Accounts Receivable	\$ -0-
Other Current Assets	\$ 2,234.78
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 175,569.44
FIXED ASSETS	\$ 2,245.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 177,815.24
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 327.04
Credit Cards	\$ 643.80
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 3,653.28
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 80,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 84,624.12
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 75,960.29
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 37,263.81
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 15,750.00
Net Income	\$ (35,782.98)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 93,191.12
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 177,815.24

EPIC 2008 Financial Statement

Thank you

to the Foundations
Supporting EPIC
in 2008 (over \$5K):

Cereus Fund

David B. Gold Foundation

David L. Klein, Jr. Foundation

Environment Now

Firedoll Foundation

Klamath Environmental
Law Foundation

Patagonia

Wild Woods Foundation

* I certify that the statements below were prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation. - Bobbie Todd, Treasurer

