Our mission is to advocate for science-based protection and restoration of Northwest California’s forests.
Dear friends,

In these weird and stressful times, I am so thankful to our members who have supported us over the past 43 years. We’ve made it through hard times before; we can make it through this pandemic and come out stronger than ever. I am currently writing to you from my back deck because, while the office is closed, EPIC is still open. We are hard at work doing the stuff we are good at: commenting on projects, collaborating with other advocacy organizations, and trying to make sense of new legislation that keeps coming down the pike to unravel environmental laws that protect our nation’s wildlife and wild places. (Diving into our work has also been a welcome distraction from the chaos.)

2019 saw some major changes at EPIC. Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson joined the organization as our OutreachCoordinator. Rhiannon is a Humboldt native, born and raised in the environmental movement, and brings great experience and ideas to the office. Rhiannon is a native pollinator nerd, so expect lots of buzz about bees! Some familiar faces also left EPIC. Our longtime friend and terrific advocate Rob DiPerna retired in September. We will miss Rob terribly—in addition to being a wonderful guy, Rob also memorized nearly the whole Forest Practice Act and Rules—but we are glad for him that he’s escaped the office and can be outside more now. Don’t worry about declining capacity though. We are actually expanding. EPIC is in the midst of hiring another attorney to continue our legacy as the most effective conservation organization in Northern California.

The next year will bring a number of challenges. In what might be the waning months of the Trump Administration, we anticipate a number of last minute Hail Marys, from big timber sales to new ways to undo environmental regulations. We are ready for this last gasp. Our pencils are sharpened and our laptops are fully charged. We held off the worst for four years, we can handle a couple more months.

I know that this is a hard time to ask for a donation. But here I am. If you can, please because others can’t. Our work is made possible by your kind donations. I thank you in advance for your support of all of our work (beavers! fishers! martens! owls! timber sales!) that is able to go forward due to members like you.

For the Wild,

Thomas Wheeler

2019 EPIC By the Numbers

- Challenged 2 Timber Sales in Court
- Participated in 7 Ongoing Lawsuits
- Commented on 43 Projects
- Signed on to over 80 Letters from Sister Organizations
- Recorded 31 Live Radio Shows
- Participated in 6 Coalitions and Collaboratives
- Generated Comments from 1,381 Online Activists
- Mentioned in the News 48 times
- Filed 2 Petitions for Administrative Rulemaking
- Hosted 4 Membership and fundraising Events
- Attended 35 Public Hearings to Speak on Behalf of EPIC

From the Executive Director

wildcalifornia.org
2019 was another EPIC year! We are excited to share our projects and accomplishments with you.

People Power Prevails: EPIC work pays off—people power protecting plants proves positive. For the past two years, EPIC staff and volunteers have worked removing the invasive Scotch broom from areas in Shasta County where there are Shasta snow wreath (an endemic and rare endangered plant) populations. This work protects some of the most sensitive populations from the possible drift of herbicides usually used in Scotch broom removal. It was a pleasant surprise to see only a few tiny seedlings growing in the roadside treatment location in 2019 and only a few previously missed plants growing down by the creek. We plan to do this work again every year till the broom is gone from the creek side and snow wreath locations.

Two Victories For Richardson Grove: In June, Humboldt County Judge Kelly Neel ruled that Caltrans is not allowed to physically alter the proposed project area and the agency would need to get court approval before moving forward. Later in the same month, victory came at the federal level, Judge William Alsup of the Northern District Court of California stated that: “At long last, the Court now orders that Caltrans stop trying to skate by with an EA/FONSI and that Caltrans prepare a valid EIS. Please do not try to systematically minimize the adverse environmental consequences and to cherry-pick the science.” Now, as a result of this order, Caltrans is obligated to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement and receive public comment on their analysis if they decide they want to try to move forward with a project in Richardson Grove.

The Proposed Humboldt Wind Project: Probably the most controversial project of the year ended with a stunning collapse. EPIC spent many long hours reviewing, commenting, and discussing Terra-Gen’s proposed Humboldt Wind Project. EPIC’s work with a variety of wildlife experts, environmental groups, project managers, and others to decrease environmental impacts and make sure the project contained important mitigation measures for wildlife will hopefully encourage other developers in the future to follow rigorous environmental standards. In the end, the project could not find an alternative to being built on Bear River Ridge, a Wiyot sacred site, which ultimately led to its demise.
Furry Friends Find Fortune: At last, California banned all commercial trapping of fur-bearing mammals. The Wildlife Protection Act of 2019, signed by Governor Newsom in September, EPIC supported the law and sent our endorsement to the legislature and governor. As well, based on a petition submitted by EPIC and others, our neighboring state, the Oregon Fish and Game Commission banned the trapping of Humboldt martens in Oregon.

Beaver Believers: In November, EPIC filed a rulemaking petition with the California Fish and Game Commission to ensure greater protections for beavers and to clarify existing legal rules concerning their trapping. Beavers are incredibly important to California watersheds, as their dams filter stream water, improve water quality, raise the water table, increase water storage, and repair eroded riparian areas. In February 2020, EPIC’s rulemaking petition cleared the first hurdle with the Fish and Game Commission and was referred to CDFW.

Headwaters Forest Reserve Turned 20: 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the Headwaters Forest Reserve, which was created to protect the last large, intact, old growth coast redwood forest on the planet that remained in private ownership, punctuating a 13-year campaign that involved mass demonstrations and acts of non-violent civil disobedience, lawsuits filed by EPIC and others, and a huge network of groups and volunteers working to get the word out and influence lawmakers. Twenty years later, the Headwaters Forest Reserve receives thousands of visitors each year.

EcoNews Radio Show Revived: After a sad turn of events with KHSU in early April, the long-running EcoNews radio show needed a new place to go. Luckily, Lost Coast Communications offered to hold a space on KHUM to get the show back on the table. Featuring EPIC’s Tom Wheeler, Humboldt Baykeeper’s Jennifer Kalt, Northcoast Environmental Center’s Larry Glass and Friends of the Eel River’s Scott Greacen, the show now airs every Saturday morning on KHUM.

Follow The Fire Story: EPIC’s Kimberly Baker collaborated with FUSEE to create an incredible story map with details on California’s largest wildfire, the Mendocino Complex a tool to communicate more about wildfires in California.
I want to use this space to introduce you to a term you may not have heard of: proforestation. Proforestation is the sister concept to reforestation. While reforestation is concerned with creating new forests where ones once stood, proforestation is about growing forests to achieve their ecological potential. Here in the Pacific Northwest, this means lush, dense and verdant forests along the coast and fire-adapted, closed canopy forests further inland. In these forests, carbon storage is at its maximum (and risks of carbon loss, say from fire, are reduced).

The climate crisis teaches us we need to do two things: reduce emissions and increase carbon storage. Our forests can help. But first, we need to get past the timber industry spin machine. The timber industry is hard at work to convince the public that clearcuts are climate conscious. (Their argument being that when trees are cut, their carbon will be safely stored in timber, in the form of houses, paper, or furniture.) This ignores that only a fraction of the total carbon of a tree is ever stored (most of a tree is lost along the way, the branches burned in slash piles, the chips and sawdust from the mill burned in a biomass plant, etc.)

As we embark on a new year, we strive to build a new narrative, that investing in healthy forests is investing in a secure future. One of the best ways to achieve forest conservation is to protect critters that live in the forest. In the coming months, we anticipate additional protections from Endangered Species Act uplisting petitions for northern spotted owls, Humboldt martens and Pacific fishers, which would provide additional safeguards for our forest dwelling friends and their habitats.

In times like these it is important to focus on what matters most and we are hopeful that the coming election year will bring a shift toward environmental conservation and wildlife protection to ensure a healthy future for generations to come and for the wild!

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
### Annual Report

**Environmental Protection Information Center**

**Fiscal Year January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

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#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

**REVENUE & SUPPORT**
- Membership & Donations: $115,748
- Foundation Grants: $104,850
- Fundraising Events: $8,741
- Interest Income: $8,178
- Legal Fees & Awards: $600

**TOTAL SUPPORT**: $238,117

**EXPENSES**
- General & Admin: $49,609
- Fundraising: $50,003
- Programs: $129,958

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $231,014

**Increase (decrease) in Net Assets**: $7,102

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#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**ASSETS**
- CURRENT ASSETS
  - Checking/Savings: $165,078
  - Other Current Assets: $33,372
  - TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS: $198,450

**FIXED ASSETS**: $-

**TOTAL ASSETS**: $198,450

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**
- LIABILITIES
  - Accounts Payable: $673
  - Credit Cards: $75
  - Other Current Liabilities: $11,135
  - Long-term Liabilities: $-
  - TOTAL LIABILITIES: $11,883

- NET ASSETS
  - Unrestricted Net Assets: $167,729
  - Temp. Restricted Net Assets: $11,736
  - Net Income: $7,102
  - TOTAL NET ASSETS: $186,567

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $198,450

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**For a complete financial report visit wildcalifornia.org**

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### Contributing Foundations


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**2019 INCOME**

- Membership & Donations: 49%
- Foundation Grants: 44%
- Fundraising Events: 3%
- Legal Fees & Other: 3%

**2019 EXPENSES**

- Programs: 21%
- Fundraising: 57%
- General & Admin: 22%
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO KEEP EPIC GOING!

DAVID “GYPSY” CHAIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

Anne Rants, Humboldt State University freshman and descendant of Karuk, Shasta, and Aleutian tribes is the first recipient of a scholarship commemorating young forest activist David “Gypsy” Chain. The scholarship is available to graduating Humboldt area high school seniors, and to first year students at HSU and CR who are dedicated to protecting our region’s environment. EPIC staff and supporters worked together on this scholarship to assist local students who are dedicated to protecting the North Coast.

We appreciate Anne’s fresh perspective on activism: “the whole first word in activist is "ACT."” We often talk about issues like climate change and forest protection but do not take action, because we do not know where to start on issues that seem hopeless. Listening to indigenous environmental views and taking action NEEDS to happen.” Visit www.davidgypsychain.org for more information.

HONORING EILEEN COOPER:

This year, EPIC will honor Eileen Cooper with the Sempervirens Award. Don Gillespie of the Friends of Del Norte, reflects on Eileen’s work: “For the past forty-seven years the Friends of Del Norte has positioned itself as ‘the local watchdog group’ to protect the local environment. But for the last twenty of those years, Eileen was our bulldog. She was tenacious in her research on many issues and relentless in attending our local Board of Supervisors, City Council and Coastal Commission meetings to represent environmental perspectives. For years she has constantly called on members to rally the troops to attend important public events where environmental decisions are at stake. She has constantly kept us on our toes when we may be growing complacent about a local issue, a true thorn in our side to keep us all motivated to pick up the fight when needed.”

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING EPIC EVENTS.

Join Us!
Sign up for our newsletters at wildcalifornia.org