

200 acres of redwood donated to BLM by Save the Redwoods League

By purchasing and placing land under the management of federal and state agencies like the Bureau of Land Management, the league ensures permanent protection for sensitive redwood habitats.

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Acquisition protects old-growth redwoods, water quality and wildlife habitat

Save the Redwoods League has announced acquisition and transfer of two redwood parcels totaling 200 acres to the federal Bureau of Land Management.

Bordering Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, the parcels serve as a buffer zone to help preserve the area's biodiversity, including the largest grove of old-growth redwood forest in Mendocino County.

The acquisition and transfer also will provide protection for rare, threatened or endangered species, including marbled murrelets, Coho salmon, Steelhead trout and Red-bellied newts.

The land will be cooperatively managed by BLM and California State Parks.

"The purchase and donation of these two properties to the Bureau of Land Management is part of Save the Redwoods League's commitment to permanently protect ecologically-sensitive land around the remaining old-growth redwoods in California," said Ruskin Hartley, the organization's executive director. "Today's transfer adds to the more than 187,000 acres of land the League has purchased to help protect the ancient coast redwoods and giant sequoias."

Both parcels are approximately 12 miles from Ukiah. As part of the greater South Fork Big River watershed, the protection of the parcels will contribute to ongoing efforts by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to restore the fisheries throughout the area. The donation also creates buffer zone between possible residential, commercial or agriculture developments and the large stands of old-growth redwoods along the hillsides of Montgomery Woods.

"We are pleased the Save the Redwoods League turned to the Bureau of Land Management to secure the biodiversity of this special area," said Rich Burns, field manager in the BLM's Ukiah office. "Montgomery Woods hold some of the most spectacular stands of old-growth redwoods in Mendocino County, and these 200 acres offer protective surrounding habitat for these ancient trees. We look forward to managing this area with California State Parks for future generations to enjoy."

Save the Redwoods League, the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, identified the two parcels as critical redwood areas for protection because of their proximity to a highly developed area. The properties are further protected through an agreement between the League and the Bureau of Land Management that prohibits logging, grazing, mining and new roads or structures.