

# Big River and Salmon Creek Forests

The Conservation Fund purchased the Big River and Salmon Creek Forests to protect rare and threatened temperate rainforest from fragmentation and the risk of conversion to non-forest uses. The non-profit organization's experience demonstrates how programs that provide financial incentives to landowners for a long-term commitment to sustainable forestry can achieve significant habitat restoration, water quality protection, and climate change mitigation objectives at a landscape scale.



## The Big River and Salmon Creek Forests

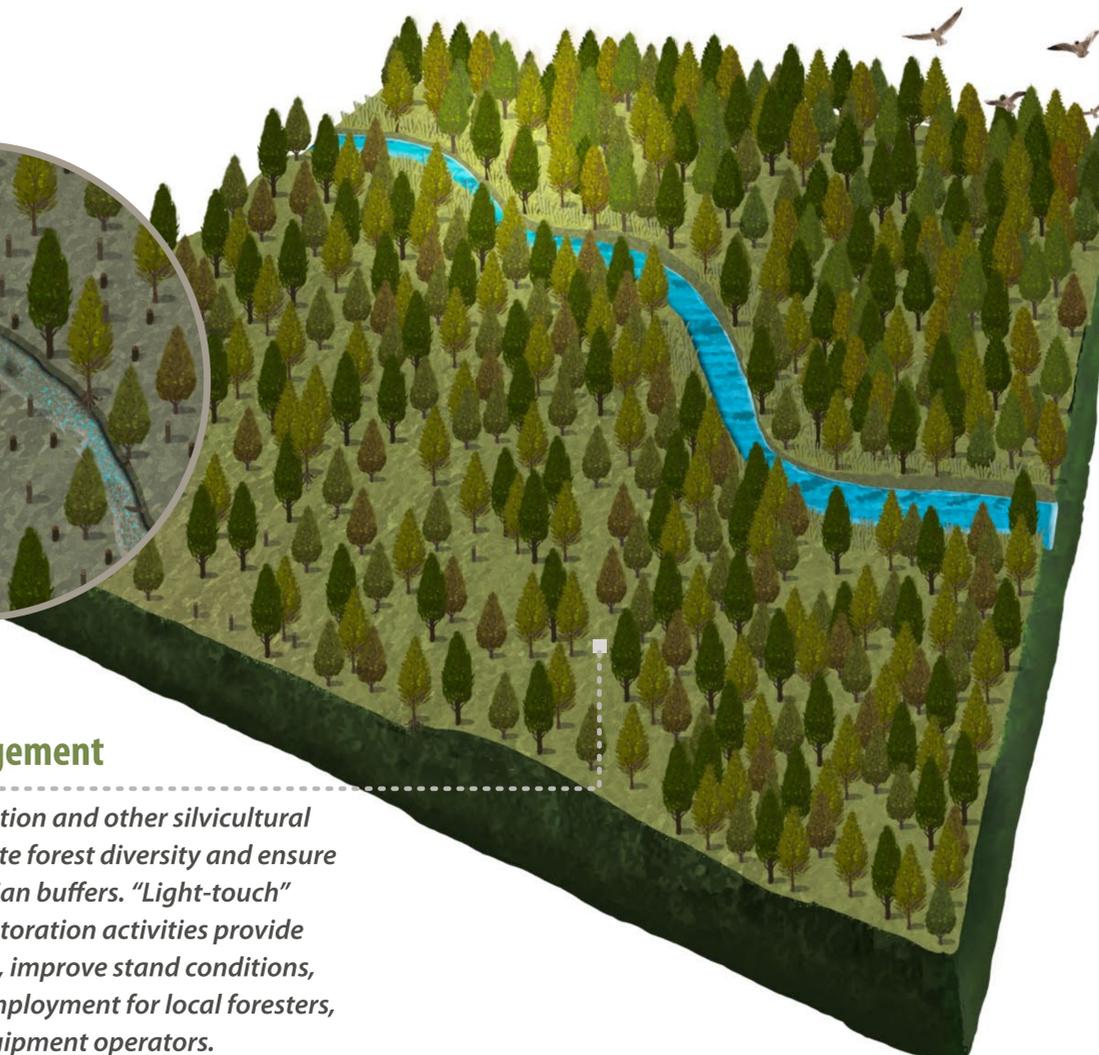
The Big River and Salmon Creek Forests are located along California's North Coast – part of a stretch of Redwood and Douglas fir forests that comprise one of the richest and rarest ecosystems in the world. The temperate rainforests provide critical habitat for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon and are highly productive economically, providing nearly half of the state's annual timber revenues and 16 percent of local jobs. Development pressures in the region threaten the long-term sustainability of these forests and the ecosystem services they provide.

### Unsustainable timber harvesting



### Sustainable forest management

Single-tree selection and other silvicultural practices promote forest diversity and ensure functional riparian buffers. "Light-touch" harvests and restoration activities provide timber revenues, improve stand conditions, and generate employment for local foresters, loggers, and equipment operators.



The 11,770-acre Big River property and 4,250-acre Salmon Creek property are strategically located among state protected lands and a large forested property, which maintains the ecological integrity of the landscape and enables wildlife habitat connectivity and coordinated watershed management.



The Conservation Fund was able to purchase the working forests with help from a low-interest loan from the State Water Board and two public grants. In exchange, the Fund committed to permanently protecting the forests and improving water quality. Riparian habitat protection for salmon is a key management objective.



The Conservation Fund sells independently verified carbon offsets issued by the Climate Action Reserve. Offset sales enable the Fund to forego harvests when log prices are low and increase standing timber inventory.

### Four-Year Average Revenue, 2007-2010

Source	Revenue	Percent
Delivered logs	\$1,509,404	53%
Carbon offsets	\$1,029,688	36%
Charitable contributions	\$285,391	10%
Restoration grants	\$17,009	1%

Initial land purchase was possible due to a grant for watershed services and a low interest loan. Revenue calculations and all financial information provided by the landowner.



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