



Friends of the Eel River

2024 Annual Report

Advancing Eel River Dam Removal



In 2024 PG&E said they are planning for the Potter Valley Project dam removal to be the fastest dam removal on record with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They then announced a 6-month delay in their plans. This was all for the sake of securing broad stakeholder agreements on decommissioning, which at this point is heading in the right direction.

We continued with our Endangered Species Act cases against both FERC and PG&E, putting on the pressure to ensure that dam removal is prioritized, and that the project is better managed to limit harms in the meantime. In 2024 PG&E began working on a license amendment, which would add many of the interim protective measures we are seeking in our lawsuit.

Looking ahead to the future, we began assessing post-dam removal restoration. Using the Klamath as a model, if PG&E is really trying to begin dam removal by 2028 (an incredibly lofty goal at this point) they are already years behind in studying, planning, and preparing for restoration efforts like revegetating the Pillsbury reservoir. We are working to generate some of the research to inform their restoration strategy and create a regional collaborative process.

Leading the Great Redwood Trail Friends Coalition

The Great Redwood Trail is only opportunity to clean up the decades of pollution left by the Northwest Pacific Railroad, including blocked fish passage to numerous tributaries, failed culverts bleeding sediment into the river, toxic substances including oil, fuel, and other hazardous waste, as well as the great amounts of physical debris and trash along the right of way and in the river.

Our Great Redwood Trail Friends coalition worked to protect public access to the Van Duzen River and the future trail at Fisher Road, where private property owners illegally blocked a public road. Public access to long privatized wild spaces, and to the river itself, is an important benefit of the Great Redwood Trail and a necessary element of growing support for the magnificent Eel River.



We provided in-depth comments on the Great Redwood Trail Agency's draft master plan and PEIR scoping, and we continued our behind-the-scenes efforts to ensure that the concerns of Indigenous people are being heard. In our engagement with GRTA staff we continue to emphasize that the Agency is held to the same legal agreement the NCRA entered into nearly 30 years ago to clean up their mess.

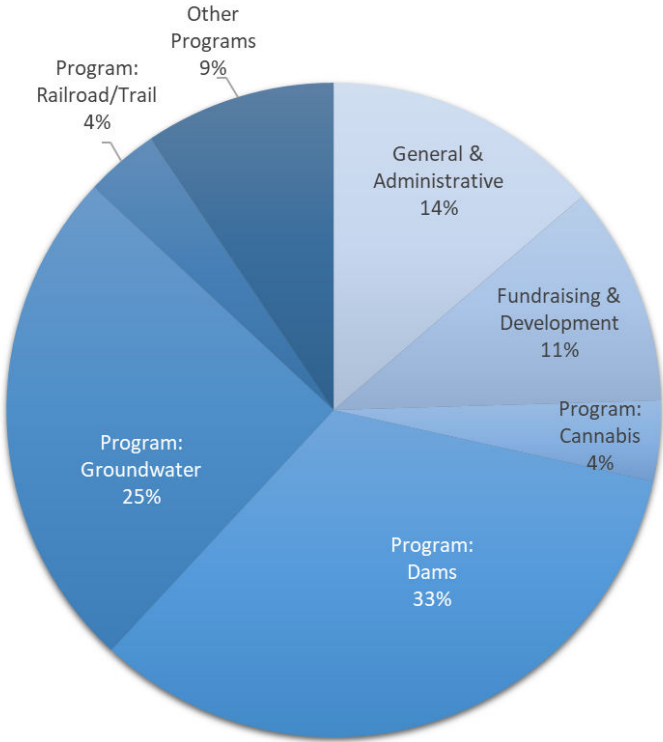
Protecting the Public Trust and Groundwater

Our public trust lawsuit against Humboldt County, challenging their failure to manage groundwater use to minimize impacts on surface water in the lower Eel, passed a significant hurdle in 2024. The court ruled the case could continue, despite the County's motion to have it dismissed. We secured an additional expert witness and spent a lot of time and resources confirming that the data we have received from the County supports our claims about groundwater use and its impact on surface flows. By the end of 2024 we had a schedule for the case through the next year and a likely trial date in August 2025.

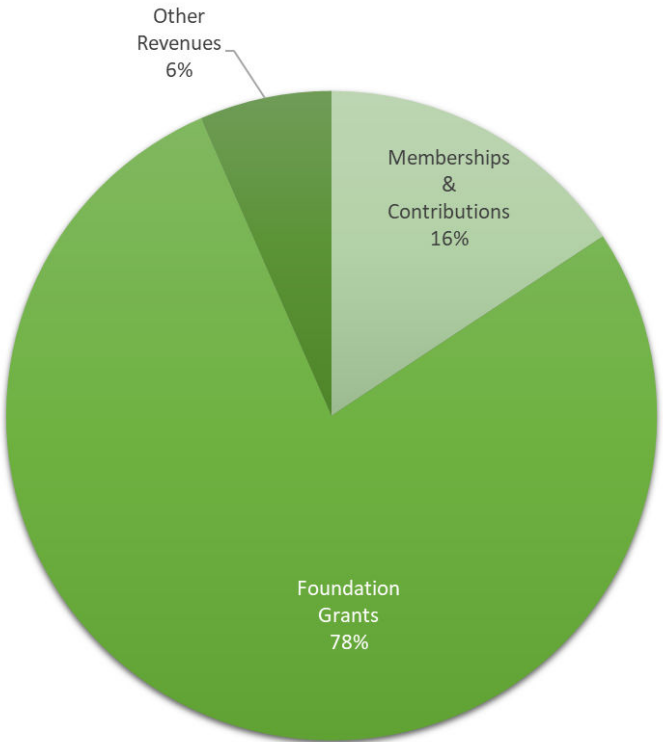
Keeping Water Where It Belongs in the River

Throughout 2024 we continued with three protests of applications for appropriative water rights, working closely with state and federal agency staff to ensure that these projects have appropriate conditions like bypass flows and other mitigations. We also worked with a team of super volunteers to elevate with California Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership our concerns about the lack of compliance with the department’s legal mandate to study and publish flow recommendations. Thanks to our advocacy, this work has advanced and the department is now preparing the recommendations based on research completed several years ago.

Expenses



Income



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Membership & Contributions	56,390
Foundation Grants	279,500
Other Revenues	<u>23,579</u>
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	359,469
EXPENSES	
General & Administrative	43,024
Fundraising & Development	33,962
Program: Cannabis	12,486
Program: Dams	104,795
Program: Groundwater	78,548
Program: Railroad/Trail	11,424
Program: Other	<u>29,624</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	313,863
NET ASSETS Beginning of Year	534,732
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>45,606</u>
NET ASSETS End of Year	580,338

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	436,587
Accounts Receivable	869
Other Current Assets	<u>4,248</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	441,704
OTHER ASSETS	<u>140,390</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	582,094
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	1,156
Other Current Liabilities	<u>600</u>
TOTAL LIABILTIES	1,756
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>580,338</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>582,094</u>



Donate



Merchandise



Volunteer

