Meeting the Challenges of a Regional Organization

Miles, miles, miles! From Crescent City to Zennia is 180 miles. From Petrolia to Weaverville, 156 miles. And, we all well know, these aren’t easy highway miles by any means. Fulfilling our mission as a regional land trust covering nearly five million acres in the three North Coast counties requires covering a lot of miles. With easement projects developing in Del Norte and Trinity Counties, NRLT has covered approximately 2,000 miles this summer, all without leaving the tri-county area. We could have driven to Cabo San Lucas from Crescent City with enough miles to spare for a few fish taco stops.

Although NRLT has conducted workshops and fielded periodic landowner inquiries in past years for Del Norte and Trinity County, the bulk of our activity has been concentrated in central Humboldt County. There is a logical reason for this; most of the private non-corporate land in the tri-county region occurs in the central Humboldt area. However, with NRLTs increased presence and capacity in Del Norte and Trinity, we are more frequently seeing the unique challenges that these areas face and the threats to productive working lands, open space, and fish and wildlife habitat.

In Del Norte, the pressure for housing and economic development is targeting the remaining productive land in private ownership along the lower Smith River coastal plains, redwood forests, and coastal bluffs. With declining state and federal budgets threatening State Park closures, and with the continual reduction in public land management resources, we are seeing the need for new models of resource protection and locally viable sources of food and fiber.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is one tool that can achieve natural resource protection, preventing subdivision and development, while keeping the responsibility and cost of stewardship in the private landowner’s hands. In most cases, a private non-corporate landowner is

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Ryan Wells, Project Manager

Volunteer
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P.O. Box 398, Bayside, CA 95524
Ph: 707.822.2242; Fax: 707.822.5210
info@ncrlt.org; www.ncrlt.org

From the Executive Director

Land Conservation

This summer NRLT continued our efforts on the Six Rivers to the Sea working ranch conservation easements for Chalk Mountain and Charles Mountain ranches. Fundraising, conducting title work, writing grants, touring agency officials, drafting easements, and preparing for appraisals have proven to be arduous, time-consuming tasks with unique issues on each property. It is time and energy well spent, however, as these properties represent over 15,000 acres of productive forest and rangeland and with their associated wildlife and fisheries habitats, might have otherwise gone the way of unchecked development and fragmentation.

In July, NRLT staff also performed the annual easement compliance monitoring visits on Iaqua and Price Creek ranches. Accompanied by representatives from CalFire (the easement holder) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (easement contributor), we were pleased to see both of these ranches in their productive form and embracing the terms of their easements.

Freshwater Farms Reserve

The restoration project at our property in Freshwater requires permits from six different agencies. Although the agencies we work with are all very cooperative, the nature of public review timelines and inter-agency processes have resulted in a delay of project implementation until the summer of next year. As the saying goes though, “If life gives you manure, make a thriving niche market fertilizer business,” or something like that. Meaning that the delay will give us more time to study pre-project conditions and now we have the ability to acquire the additional funding needed to complete the re-vegetation phase the project. In the meantime, the site continues to support grazing operations and we are still refining future management options for the property with our sights set on interpretive trail development and invasive species control.

Regional Planning

NRLT and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) continue to exchange knowledge and expertise to form a revised Conservation Action Plan. We are using new Geographic Information System (GIS) tools developed by TNC and the local knowledge of NRLT staff and other partners to develop conservation targets within our area of operations. Establishing these conservation priorities will help guide limited resources toward projects and places that stand to have the greatest impact.

North Coast Dialogues

The first phase of the Dialogues project commenced in late spring and involved a diverse group of community members who developed 100-year vision statements for productive working lands in Humboldt County. The project culminated with the associated workgroups beginning to explore how to bring those visions to life. We then took a recess while the busy (and smoky) summer season followed. NRLT is very pleased to accept another grant award from the Andrus Family Fund for the second phase of Dialogues which is slated to start back up this season. The community workgroups will begin to gather data and address some tough questions in order to make the collective vision a reality; such as, “how much conserved working forest land in the region is necessary to maintain a forest product economy?” Also in phase two, we hope to recruit a broader circle of interested community members with diverse perspectives to help contribute.

We’ll keep you posted on our programs and land conservation projects as they progress throughout the coming year.
Meeting Regional Challenges

continued from page 1

more aware of the evolving stewardship needs on their property, and is able to react more effectively, than a large land management entity responsible for hundreds-of-thousands-of-acres and faced with bureaucratic red tape.

Management Activities

All three counties also have some form of private stewardship on public lands; another model for conservation. When federal and state agencies find themselves with more and more lands to manage through periodic acquisitions, they often find themselves without the resources needed to adequately steward those lands. In Del Norte and Humboldt Counties private graziers, with leases on Fish and Game and other refuge lands, serve a multi-purpose management scheme that pays for itself. Through careful management, pasturelands can maintain Aleutian Goose habitat and provide for the disturbance necessary for certain rare plants to thrive. In Trinity County, the Weaverville Community Forest exemplifies another unique model of conservation and sustainable stewardship. The Bureau of Land Management, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, and the community work in partnership to manage public lands which includes the timber harvesting. This form of private and community-based alliance may be another alternative for conservation in other areas of our region.

Public Trust Ownership

Lastly, the “land-trust-fee-ownership” approach is another way in which multiple conservation and economic objectives can be met. Land trusts as non-profit corporations can own fee simple land and are still required to pay property taxes. The land they own can be managed for a variety of uses depending on conservation and economic objectives. As in one of the models mentioned above, the land trust can lease a property to a private agricultural producer which provides for active stewardship, local revenue generation, and the opportunity for up-and-coming producers to use a piece of land without having to absorb the increasing price of property values.

As NRLT continues to work with landowners, agencies, and the communities in Trinity and Del Norte Counties, some of these alternative or complementary models for conservation and healthy landscapes may serve well in meeting competing objectives and possibly bring different facets of the community closer together for a common goal.

Covering such a large, rugged, and ever-changing region requires a lot of miles, but then that is also our favorite part of this work. In closing, we’d like to extend a sincere thanks to PG&E for their donation of a 4x4 pickup to NRLT to help us cover those bumpy, dusty roads that lead us to the treasured corners of our region in doing our work.

TRUCK DONATED BY PG&E

Ian Caliendo of PG&E hands off the donated Ford 250 to NRLT Executive Director Kevin McKernan while NRLT board members look on. From left to right: Ian Caliendo, Kevin McKernan, Mark Andre, Dennis Rael, Jack Limmer, Maya Conrad, Yvonne Everett, Wes Anderson, Bill Bragg, Fred Neighbor and Ann King Smith.

NRLT’S “IN-KIND” WISH LIST

Should you or yours have or know of others willing to donate the following items, please call our office 707-822-2242.

• An all-in-one high quality printer, copier and scanner
• Web development expertise
• A low-mileage off-road Quad vehicle for backcountry traversing

In-kind donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted!
The Northcoast Regional Land Trust’s land conservation projects – those completed or under development – are at the core of our mission. With many thousands of acres placed under protection through conservation easements and a transfer of land, NRLT was able to integrate and strengthen our other program areas in 2007. These efforts reflect our commitment to enhance agriculture, education and recreation by creating unique opportunities for community members to get involved. This holistic approach to conservation necessarily involves everyone concerned about our region’s natural heritage. We, therefore, dedicate our 2007 annual report and the milestones accomplished in 2007 to all of those who make our work possible. You know who you are, but feel free to browse the multiple listings on page 7 for those you know!

**NRLT Accomplishments for 2007**

- Completed biological assessment to evaluate the condition of wetlands in Freshwater Farms Reserve
- Formalized protocol and policy for internal evaluation and approval of potential projects
- Conducted monitoring activities to on two Six Rivers to the Sea properties – Iaqua and Price Creek Ranches
- Investigated 12 projects and secured five of those which are currently under contract agreement with the landowners
- Initiated the development of the North Coast Conservation Action Plan in partnership with The Nature Conservancy
- Completed baseline conditions report to inventory and document property status for Valley View Ranch
- Formed a 10-member steering committee for the North Coast Dialogues and set project goals
- Hired Executive Director Kevin McKernan
- Hired Ryan Wells, previously an NRLT intern, as a Project Manager
- Attended the national Land Trust Alliance Rally in Denver
- Led two Canoe-the-Slough moonlight paddle events
- Led two interpretive walks on Freshwater Farms Reserve
- Commenced the first Board of Director’s Member Picnic at the Alexandre Dairy in Ferndale
- Guided NRLT members on hikes around Iaqua Ranch and served an elegant lunch afterwards
2007 Financial Statement

Income

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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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Expenses

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<td>47,743</td>
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<td>Board</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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The Wetherell Dairy

The Wetherell Dairy in northern Del Norte County has been family-owned and operated as a dairy and creamery since 1868. William Carey Bailey first established the dairy that is now managed by his great-grandson Richard Bailey Wetherell. The picturesque dairy is nestled between vast expanses of grazing lands, and adjacent to the National Wild and Scenic Smith River.

Rich Wetherell and his father, Harry, have worked hard to maintain and enhance this 140-year-old operation. To remain competitive, they recently completed renovation and modernization of a 50-year-old milking barn. This included the installation of a fully automated milking system and new, innovative bedding material to provide winter shelter for nearly 200 Jersey cows. The Wetherells also completed a successful large-scale stream channel restoration project below the famous Bailey Hole on the Smith River. The project redefined the aggraded stream channel and improves fish habitat. The entire project was achieved without the use of external funding.

Their newest innovation is a state-of-the-art manure storage and irrigation system. This new system is the first of its kind in California and will allow the Wetherells to increase production on their already impeccably managed prime farmland. Using an automated traveling sprinkler and new storage technologies, this system can carefully regulate the application of nitrogen to their network of grazing fields. This system will have the added benefit of improving water quality by reducing run-off during the winter months.

The Wetherells are currently working with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust to evaluate future conservation options for their property.

Grizzly Mountain Ranch

Ross Burgess is a fourth generation rancher from Zenia, in southwest Trinity County. He first connected with NRLT at a landowner workshop held in Fortuna a few years ago. His multi-faceted career, from a U.S. Air Force weapons mechanic to the owner of a successful and ongoing tire business, an elected Trinity County supervisor to a licensed timber operator, has made him the natural resources entrepreneur that he is today. Determined to preserve his family’s ranching history, Ross now directs his attention toward innovative resource management and conservation tools.

Ross developed a sophisticated hydroelectric facility which generates renewable energy that he sells back to PG&E. His Three Forks Water Power Project is eligible to be certified as a “Low Impact” project, potentially the first in California. Ross and his step-children run a small herd of cattle and he has placed a non-industrial timber management plan on his ranch to promote sustainable forestry. He is also in the non-timber forest products business. Beginning in 2003, Ross began wholesaling pacific bay leaves which are used to produce Christmas wreaths and garlands. By 2007, the amount of leaves harvested had increased to approximately 84,000 pounds.

Ross’s recent relationship with NRLT stems from his commitment to benefit his family by keeping his ranch protected for future generations. By donating a conservation easement, Ross is stepping onto new ground. He says his goal is “to assure that Grizzly Mountain Ranch remains both economically and environmentally sustainable throughout time.” NRLT supports Ross’s efforts and expects to complete his conservation easement by the end of 2008.
THANK YOU NRLT Members and Supporters!

NRLT thanks all of its supporters from April 1, 2008 through September 1, 2008.

Agencies and Foundations
Anonymous (2)
Andrus Family Fund
CA Coastal Conservancy
CA Department of Conservation
CA Department of Fish & Game
CALFIRE
CA Wildlife Conservation Board
Clarence E. Heller Foundation
Columbus Foundation
County of Humboldt
Humboldt Area Foundation
Mel & Grace McLean Foundation
National Fish & Wildlife Federation
NOAA Fisheries
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Inc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Will J. Reid Foundation

Redwood ($1,000 +)
Anonymous (2)
Blake & Stephanie Alexandre
Wes & Sue Anderson
Barbara Barrett
Joan Berman
Bill Bragg & Lee Roscoe-Bragg
Francis & Carole Carrington
Maya Conrad & Charlie Tripodi
Renee Crowley
Yvonne Everett
David & Heidi Hodges
Annette & Greg Holland
Peter Jermy & Heidi Bourne
Jack & Rita Limmer
David & Madeline McMurray
Lee & Eileen Mora
Fred & Joyce Neighbor
Jim Petruzzi
Ann King Smith & Doug Smith
Bill & Jane Thompson
Ronald & Donna Thompson
Mock Walllund
George Yandell

Big Leaf Maple ($500-$999)
Anonymous (2)
Dave Albee
Mark Andre & Nancy Rehg
Harry Blumenthal & Scott Mitchell
Kim & Shirley Browning
Thomas Brundage & Diane DeFord
John Dalby
Danny Hagans
Laura Kadleck & Mike Wilson
Mary Kechni
Tom Lisle & Lori Dengler
Margaret Nulsen & Chris Froliking
Dennis Rael & Carol Falkenthal
Jeff & Edith Schwartz
Marlena & Moises Vega

Black Oak ($250-$499)
Anonymous (3)
Lois Busey
Russ Conrad
Marjone Fay
Susan Frances
Glenn & Gail Gianno
Shayne Green
Dick Hackett
Judith Hinman
Kevin McKernan
Carol Mon
Archie Messman
Felicia Oldfather
Robin Park
CJare & Gene Perricelli
Tom Rowe & Emily Stokes Rowe
George Schmidbauer
Linda Serrano
Kenneth & Rose Smith
Francis & Lorana Sweet

Madrone ($100-$249)
Anonymous (4)
Glenn Berry
Lucinda Bradshaw
Jon Brooks
Donvieve & Michael Christian
Margaret & Steve Cole
Gail Coonen
Lane DeVries

Charles & Natalie DiCostanzo
Joan Early
Sarah Eeles
Lawrence Eitzen
Michele & Carl Fell-Casale
Gary & Janis Friedrichsen
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Bill Kier
Nuri Licht & John Pendleton
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Marty McClelland
Robert & Mavis McKelvey
Sam & Kathleen Manakata
Ku Mann & Rebecca Zeiller
Lisa Miller & Bryan Gaynor
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Janice Paraklsas & Roy Raker
Rob & Susan Parks
Johanna Rodon
Herb Schwartz
Bob Sizoo & Sue Turner
Gordon & Lynn Skaggs
Ronald Snodgrass
Martha Ann Spencer
Virginia Springer
Ted & Josephine Trichilo
Vicky Turner & Rudy Ramp
Don & Andrea Tuttle
Anne & Roger Weiss
Lynne & Bob Wells

Manzanita (Up to $99)
Anonymous (6)
Thomas & Catherine Allen
Illijana Asara & Jim Vandegriff
Mary-Jane Ashton
Tempra Board
Sally & Richard Botzler
William & Carol Brueske
Peter Burgess
John Callins
Rita Carole
Susan & Earl Carson
Chris & Jeanne Chapin
Kathryn Corbett
Elias Elias
David Epstein & Patricia Platt
Eipstein
Dan & Donna Hauser
Sandra Healy
Christine Henson
Lisa Hoover
Marilu Hunkins
Dave Impey
Claudia Israel
Melanie Kasek & Edge Gerring
Ron & Melanie Kuhnel
Jeremy & Nancy Lengyel
Judy & John Longshore
John & Denise Lopes
Lois Mellert
Thomas & Doris Montgomery
Susan Moskaly
Gwen Neu
Douglas & Gabrielle Parkinson
Jennifer Rice
Jared Rossman
Joan Schirle
Iris Shalmony
Mark & Sandi Sommer
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Julie Stark
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Scott Sway
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Robie Tenorio & Gil Gregori
Mike Torbert
Ellen Weiss & David Coppell
Merry Winslow
Kristi Wrigley

To make your valued donation to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, please use the enclosed remittance envelope.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization listed with the Internal Revenue Service under EIN #68-0456290. All donations are tax deductible.

NORTH COAST CO-OP REGISTER DONATION PROGRAM #82013

Calling all North Coast Co-op shoppers. Now it’s easier than ever to make donations toward conserving North Coast landscapes. NRLT is now a member of the Co-op’s Register Donation Program. When asked, please give the cashier number 82013. One percent of your grocery bill will be added for a donation to the Land Trust. Again, just mention the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and the number 82013 and the cashier will take care of the rest. Thanks!
THANKS TO:

**NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST**
P.O. Box 398
Bayside, CA 95524

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**Upcoming Event**

**Succession Planning Workshop**

According to a recent Agricultural Survey of Humboldt County, 65% of active agricultural producers do not have an estate plan. Succession planning is an important step in facilitating a relatively smooth transfer of farm and ranch assets and management to the next generation, and can provide some assurance that working family lands will stay in agriculture. U.C. Cooperative Extension, in collaboration with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and California FarmLink, will host a two-day Succession Planning Workshop in January 2009, to assist families in understanding the facts in planning for transition. Topics covered in this event will include retirement planning, strategic business planning, tax and estate issues, an overview on land trusts and conservation easements, as well as finding new business partners if heirs are not interested in ranching. Multi-generations of family members are encouraged to attend. Due to limited space, pre-registration is required. Look for your mailed invitation as the date nears, or call the NRLT office at (707) 822-2242 in November for details.

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**COVER ART - LISA MARIE WATERS**

“The primary medium used in my paintings is traditional dry pastel on archival printmaking or handmade paper.” Lisa Marie Waters began her formal art training in 1976, at Humboldt State University in California, where she completed a degree in fine art. She is a member of the Pastel Society of America and has been the featured artist in publications that include American Artist Magazine and Ladies Home Journal. The Artist has exhibited extensively and is well represented in private, museum, and corporate collections internationally. Lisa credits her love of nature and the arts to a culturally diverse heritage of Spanish, Celtic, English and Native American. The Artist maintains a gallery and studio in Arcata, California. Her work can be viewed on line at http://watersart.com.

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**NRLT’s Mission:**

*The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of farms, forests, range-lands, and wild areas in perpetuity. Our vision for the future includes vibrant communities, sustainable economies and healthy landscapes.*