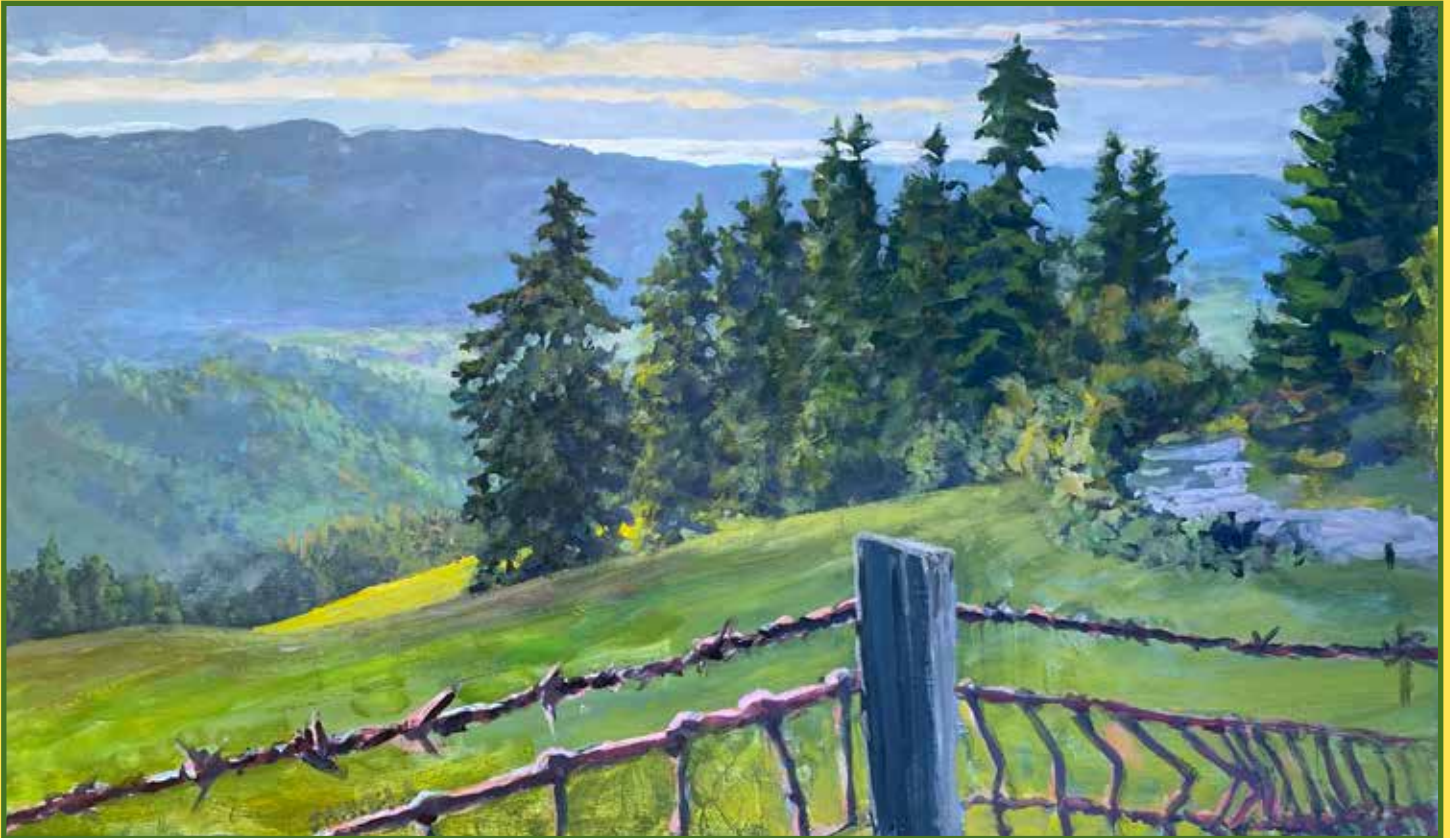


Summer 2022



NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST



Old Angel Ranch

Ken Jarvela

Conservation Values Abound

Throughout the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's work over the past two decades, we have learned that good things come in packages of all shapes and sizes. This spring was a testament to the value of conservation easements from our largest (Hunter Ranch at 15,682 acres) to one of our smallest (Red Mountain at 25 acres). While the properties vary substantially in size and use, they are both representative of the vital role that private land conservation plays in our region and the multitude of benefits that are afforded by each unique conservation easement project.

This May, a group of NRLT staff and advisors enjoyed an overnight visit at the expansive Hunter Ranch in eastern Humboldt County. Although it was a short trip, the group got a good sense of what the property has to offer including its varied habitats, working landscapes, and frontage along a remote section of the Mad River.

Upon arrival, a tour led by ranch manager Jeremy Heidrick provided insights into the landowner's ecologically-minded stewardship including oak woodland restoration, rotational grazing, and forestry practices designed to increase carbon sequestration. That evening, looking west to distant peaks as the sun set, campers pondered the scale, solitude, and significance of the surrounding landscape. The group also observed the beneficial framework that allows for the Fulton family, the ranch's previous owners, to continue their role as stewards on the property through lease agreement and how that relationship helps maintain the place-based knowledge developed over many years. The next morning, after watching cattle, elk, bear, and deer traverse the mosaic of oaks and prairie, the caravan of campers descended the ridge to where Jeremy Fulton and a small logging crew were taking their lunch break. He asked if folks had a good visit. It may have been

on everyone's mind but at least one in the group was thinking, "we're pretty darn fortunate."

Continued on page 4

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Newsletter published by NRLT twice a year
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From the Executive Director

In our last newsletter, we reflected on changes at the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. For this issue, I am excited to report that our board has approved moving forward five new conservation easement projects this year which you will hear more about in our Fall newsletter. We continue to receive a considerable number of inquiries from landowners interested in establishing easements to safeguard the places they care for. In May, to help us keep up with the demand, we welcomed the newest addition to our team, Douglas Page, who brings considerable project management and conservation experience.

I am also pleased to report that while much has indeed changed, it feels like life is beginning to get back to some semblance of normal. Staff are back at the office, relievedly spending less time on Zoom and we're getting back to more in-person events. We are once again gearing up for a live Summer Celebration at Freshwater Farms Reserve and the Fortuna River Lodge is booked for our Boots & Birkenstocks Annual Celebration – we are excited to see many of you in person this year!

With gratitude,



Dan Ehresman, Executive Director



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4th Annual Freshwater Farms Summer Celebration: *Saturday, July 16, 4 pm – 8 pm, Freshwater Farms Reserve (5851 Myrtle Ave).* Join NRLT for a family friendly concert featuring local bands Huckleberry Flint and Wild Abandon with food and drink for sale. Tickets on sale now at givebutter.com/HuckFlint2022.

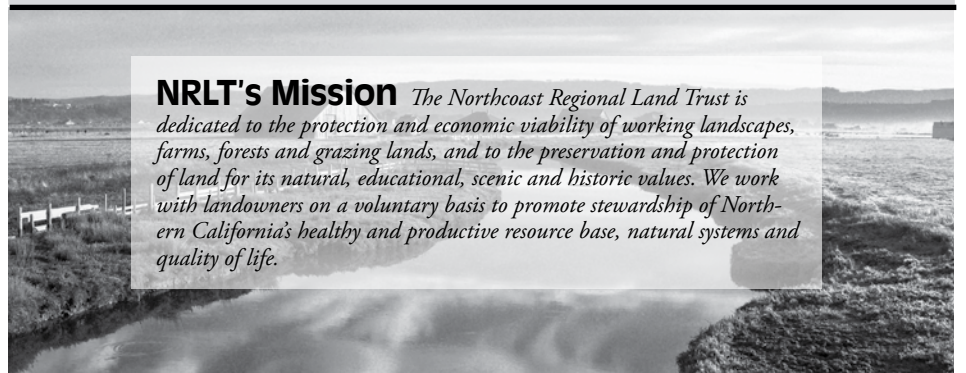
NRLT Open House: *Friday, August 19, 4 pm - 7 pm, Freshwater Farms Reserve (5851 Myrtle Ave).* In lieu of the traditional NRLT December holiday party, join us for a fun evening outdoors to visit with NRLT staff, board members, advisors, project partners, and supporters. Appetizers and drinks provided.

Annual Celebration - Boots and Birkenstocks: *Saturday, October 8, 5-9 pm, Fortuna River Lodge.* Celebrate community and conservation at our annual gathering. Enjoy a locally produced meal, bar, music, and silent and live auctions.

Stewardship Days: *Stay in the loop through our email list or social media.* Join NRLT staff and volunteers at Freshwater Farms Reserve for wetland restoration, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removal. Contact info@ncrlt.org to join the email list.

For more information and the most up to date calendar, check our website ncrlt.org and social media (Facebook and Instagram) periodically.

NRLT's Mission *The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is dedicated to the protection and economic viability of working landscapes, farms, forests and grazing lands, and to the preservation and protection of land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values. We work with landowners on a voluntary basis to promote stewardship of Northern California's healthy and productive resource base, natural systems and quality of life.*



Restoring Wood Creek

Monitoring Partnerships



In order to increase efficiency while surveying, CNPS volunteers collect vegetation samples and identify as many species as possible prior to conducting monitoring activities.

In late 2016, the Wood Creek Phase II Enhancement Project was completed at NRLT's ambassador property, Freshwater Farms Reserve. This project reconnected vital habitat for juvenile salmon, restored wetlands benefitting a myriad of other plants and wildlife, and improved pasture conditions for cattle grazing.

As with any restoration work, monitoring is important to understand the continued impacts the project has on the landscape. This May, the California Na-

tive Plant Society (CNPS) North Coast Chapter, one of our community partners, generously lent their botanical expertise to monitor vegetation within the restoration area. Results from the field show increased vegetation cover and a higher percentage of native plants – further demonstrating that the project continues to be a success worth celebrating. Thank you to CNPS for their assistance and leadership in this important monitoring effort!



California Native Plant Society (CNPS) volunteer, Tony LaBanca, oversees vegetation monitoring at Freshwater Farms Reserve.



The Felt Ranch is the location of the next phase of habitat restoration work on Wood Creek.

Traveling Upstream

Just upstream and across Myrtle Avenue from Freshwater Farms Reserve sits the Felt Ranch, a 47-acre property owned by Kathy and Sean O'Day. Due in large part to the stewardship efforts of the O'Days, the property consists of productive pastureland for cattle as well as wetland habitat supporting native flora and fauna. Building upon previous restoration along Wood Creek completed by NRLT and project partners in 2009 and 2016, the *Wood Creek Restoration Phase III: Felt Ranch Habitat Restoration Planning Project* is gaining momentum. Overseen by The Buckeye Conservancy and currently in the planning phases, this project will further the work already completed at Freshwater Farms Reserve by reestablishing connection with the portion of Wood Creek that traverses Felt Ranch and increasing salmon rearing habitat. We are lucky to have such great neighbors and partners in conservation!

Conservation Values Abound

Continued from page 1

(Note: while NRLT holds a conservation easement on the Hunter Ranch, as with all the easements we hold, it is still private property and access is by permission only.)

Some 15 miles south of the Hunter Ranch on the slopes of Red Mountain is NRLT's third smallest easement. Completed in 2016 thanks to the efforts of a small group of conservation-minded landowners, the Red Mountain Conservation Easement protects the last remaining habitat for an extremely rare, diminutive legume – the two-flowered pea (*Lathyrus biflorus*). Found nowhere else in the world, it is believed that 95% of the plant's population occurs on a 10.5-acre area within the easement. Earlier this year NRLT was contacted by Ashley Dickinson, a graduate student at Cal Poly Humboldt working with ecologist Dave Imper (who was one of the six original landowner-donors of the Red Mountain Conservation Easement) on a research project to assess the genetic diversity in the population and help inform effective conservation strategies for the imperiled species. This May, NRLT staff had the opportunity to conduct our annual easement monitoring activities in conjunction with the research group's visit. What they found was hopeful. Nestled amidst the pine needles and serpentine outcroppings they came upon a considerable number of flowering peas. We look forward to hearing the results of the research project and any recommendations for how we can support the conservation of this unique plant that contributes to the biodiversity of our region.

Each conservation easement enables the protection of land for a multitude of values – economic, environmental, educational, cultural, or any combination thereof – and,

regardless of their size, the conservation of these special places enriches our lives and increases the resiliency of North Coast communities.



Hunter Ranch features a remote section of the Mad River.



Cal Poly Humboldt Graduate Student, Ashley Dickinson, conducting research on the two-flowered pea.



*The Red Mountain Conservation Easement features 95% of the world's population of the two-flowered pea (*Lathyrus biflorus*).*



Hiking up Cameron Ridge Road on the Hunter Ranch



Looking westward at sunset on the Hunter Ranch.

A Living Laboratory for Students



Cal Poly Humboldt students research invasive *Spartina densiflora* (foreground of photo) at Freshwater Farms Reserve

It's always exciting to see Freshwater Farms Reserve serving as a living laboratory for local students. This spring, a group of four Cal Poly Humboldt students worked closely with NRLT staff to conduct an assessment of invasive vegetation present within the Wood Creek Phase II restoration project area. Utilizing vegetation monitoring protocols, the students mapped the extent of invasive vegetation onsite and offered recommendations for invasive species management. Recommendations were influenced by a literature review as well as field data collected at Freshwater Farms Reserve. Cal Poly Humboldt student Miles Oliart, reflects on the experience:

“ *Having the opportunity to conduct research in the field and develop an invasive species management plan for Freshwater Farms Reserve proved to be a great experience that made me hone all of the skills that I've developed in my Ecological Restoration degree. The reserve itself is a great example of a multi-faceted restoration project and my team and I were proud to be involved in furthering restoration goals for the area.*

Partnerships like this one ensure Freshwater Farms Reserve continues to support our North Coast community through hands-on learning and recreation opportunities.

Seeds of Change

You may have noticed some new activity over at Freshwater Farms Reserve as our new tenant, Luke Besmer, gets settled in the greenhouse and gets the area around the barn and farm stand planted for the season. Luke owns and operates TeaLAB, a local business specializing in soil amendments, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in soil science and botany to his new venture at Freshwater Farms Reserve. He planted vegetable starts in the greenhouse earlier this spring, has recently planted the area around the farm stand, and plans to open the farm stand on a limited basis this summer.



Above: A newly planted labyrinth is growing by the renovated farm stand.
Left: New tenant, Luke Besmer, tends to his vegetable starts in the greenhouse.

NORTH COAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST PRESENTS

FRESHWATER FARMS SUMMER CELEBRATION

Family Friendly!

featuring

HUCKLEBERRY FLINT AND WILD ABANDON

Saturday, July 16 • 4-8pm

TICKETS \$25 AT GIVEBUTTER.COM/HUCKFLINT2022
KIDS 10 & UNDER FREE (BUT MUST BE REGISTERED)

FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
5851 MYRTLE AVE. • PARKING IS LIMITED, PLEASE CARPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is pleased to provide our partners in conservation with an accounting of accomplishments for 2021.

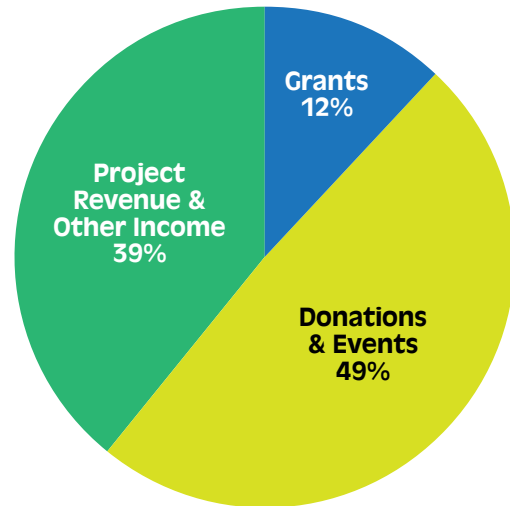
- Staff welcomed new Project Manager, Zach Wenderott, to the team and enjoyed being back in the office together after working from home for more than a year due to the pandemic.
- Five new board members joined us in 2021 and brought a wealth of varied experience to the team, as well as a deep passion for land conservation.
- We continued work on four conservation easement projects spanning over 27,000 acres in Humboldt and Trinity Counties.
- We began work on three new conservation easement projects covering more than 10,000 acres from McKinleyville to Southern Humboldt County.
- We completed the Mattole Meadows Conservation Easement which overlooks the Mattole River near Briceland and entered into contract to be the monitoring agent for a CalFIRE-held conservation easement on the 762-acre Grizzly Creek Forest property, adjacent to Grizzly Creek State Park.
- Thanks to a generous grant from the Dean Witter Foundation we were able to take a deep dive into our field trip curriculum and increase our capacity to deliver quality education programs.
- We were happy to be able to get back to in-person Cows & Cattails field trips and we hosted five in-person stewardship events at Freshwater Farms Reserve.
- We observed increased usage at Freshwater Farms Reserve and it continues to be a destination for many who enjoy walking the trail, viewing wildlife, and getting out on the land. Also, we continued to improve buildings and infrastructure on the property for ongoing agricultural activities and public use.
- Although we ended up having to move the Summer Celebration to a virtual event at the last minute, we're so grateful that attendees donated their tickets, sponsors continued to lend their support, and so many showed up for the virtual event to support the Land Trust.
- Our Annual Celebration, Boots & Birkenstocks, was virtual again this year and featured a short film about Hunter Ranch. Supporters gave generously to the event and we are so grateful!

Thank you to these 2021 business partners!

Aalfs, Evans & Company, LLP, Coldwell Banker Commercial Pacific Partners, GHD Inc., GR Sundberg, Inc., Humboldt Association of Realtors, Kelly-O'Hern Associates, Lost Coast Ranch and Old Growth Timbers, Madeline McMurray, LMFT, Marimba One, North Coast Cleaning Services, Pintermedia, Roy E. Corsetti, CPA, Samara Restoration, Trinity Associates

REVENUE & SUPPORT *

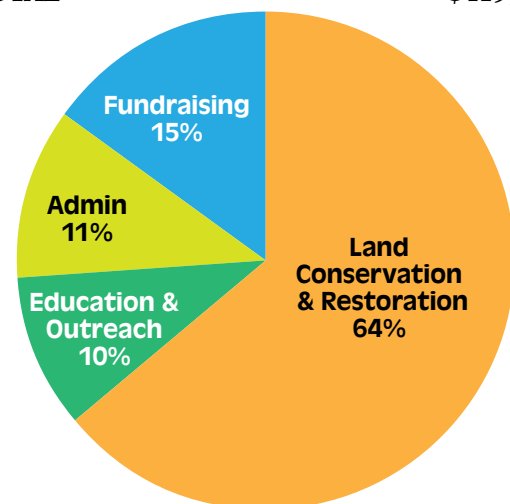
| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Grants | \$ 65,535 |
| Donations & Events | 264,910 |
| Project Revenue & Other Income | 206,419 |
| TOTAL | \$536,864 |



*Income reported above pertains to operational income. NRLT also received \$146,000 as restricted stewardship donations upon completion of two easements projects. These restricted donations were placed in an investment fund, allowing for the ongoing monitoring and stewardship of easement terms.

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Land Conservation & Restoration | \$267,481 |
| Education & Outreach | 43,532 |
| Administration | 44,909 |
| Fundraising | 63,481 |
| TOTAL | \$419,403 |



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Thank You NRLT Supporters! We are grateful to the following who gave grants, donations, or support in 2021.

Agencies & Foundations

Americorps Watershed Stewards Program
The Buckeye
CA Coastal Commission
CA Conservation Corps
CA Council of Land Trusts
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CA Department of Water Resources
CALFIRE
CA Forest Legacy Program
CA Native Plant Society - North Coast Chapter
CA Natural Resources Agency
CA State Coastal Conservancy
CA Wildlife Conservation Board
Cal Poly Humboldt
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National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program
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North Coast Growers' Association
Northwest California Oaks Network
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The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
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US Fish & Wildlife Service
USFS Forest Legacy Program

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Rick Tolley: Jan Rowen, Paula Golightly and Edward Fernbach, Jim McVicker and Terry Oats
Ruth Luckens: Claire McAdams
Samuel Gregerson: R. Uwe and Zuzana Gellner
Sue Lowery: Ann and Larry Wieland
The Shanahan Sisters: Mary Shanahan and Peter Blakemore
Theodore Tatro: Karen Erickson

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Featured Artist – Ken Jarvela

Ken Jarvela is a landscape painter working in the wildlands of Northern California. He grew up in Bayside, California alongside Humboldt Bay and, today, is one of the region's premier landscape painters. A plein air and studio painter, he captures the ever-changing elusiveness of light with vivid brush strokes and a subtle color palette. Unafraid of challenging grandiose subjects such as Yosemite Valley, CA and Crater Lake, OR, and with a special affinity for the Trinity Alps, Ken's paintings range from the well-known to the unexplored intimate sea cliffs, valleys and golden hills of the Pacific Northwest. Jarvela's enthusiasm, subject matter and style is reminiscent of early 20th century painters known for capturing the wild west frontier.



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