



# Celebrating 25 Years of Conservation

Natural Wonders Forever

Placer Land Trust | 2015-2016 Community Report



**Oest Ranch Lake Clementine Preserve**

*Photo by Loren Oest*



## Our Mission

***Placer Land Trust works with willing landowners and conservation partners to permanently protect Placer County's natural and agricultural lands for future generations.***

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that 2016 marks Placer Land Trust's 25th Anniversary! I am so proud of everything that we—PLT and you—have accomplished together in our first 25 years, and our 2015-2016 fiscal year was no different.

Together, we have protected over 8,100 acres of natural and agricultural lands so far—56 acres in this past year. Plus, we have over 30 potential new conservation projects in the works! These are lands that will be protected forever as places to recreate, create connections, and help contribute to a healthy environment.

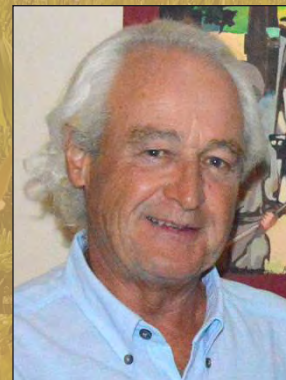
Increasing acres is not the only place PLT has grown! We started as an all-volunteer organization, and have expanded to 7 staff members. Although we were sad to say goodbye to Jessica Daugherty this year, who was our second staff member hired, we're excited to be hiring new staff members in the upcoming months. New staff will help expand our fundraising efforts, giving us more time to apply for conservation grants and enhance our planned giving program. They will also increase our ability to protect additional land and maintain and restore existing properties.

I've enjoyed reflecting on our past accomplishments, but I'm honestly more excited about the momentum we are building and what's to come in years ahead! PLT has nearly completed a new strategic plan, which will guide our growth and direction for years to come. With increasing support from the community, and new opportunities to permanently protect land, we think our future is bright.

Together, we will protect the special places that will help us all enjoy a wonderful quality of life in Placer County for generations to come!

Sincerely,

  
Fred Yeager







## **1991-1999**

Placer Land Trust and Nature Center was born in 1991. Utilizing only volunteers, we protected the first four preserves, totalling 78 acres.

## **2000-2002**

To better serve the missions of both organizations, Placer Land Trust and Placer Nature Center were split into two nonprofits. PLT hired our first staff member, Jeff Darlington, in 2002.

## **2003-2004**

Now strictly focused on land conservation, and with help from new conservation partners (such as Placer Legacy and the Sierra Business Council), PLT completed five projects in just two years, bringing the total number of permanently protected acres to 354.

## **2005-2006**

PLT was selected to administer a vernal pool grassland conservation effort in West Roseville, and we hired our second staff member. In a short period of time, PLT protected five more preserves, bringing the total to over 2,500 acres.

## **2007-2008**

PLT leveraged private mitigation funds and public grants to protect 1,792 acres of oak woodlands in the Bear River and Coon Creek watersheds. We also became the first land trust in the Sierra Nevada region to earn national accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

## **2009-2010**

PLT conducted a capital campaign, raising \$10 million to protect our largest preserve, Harvego Bear River Preserve (1,778 acres). We also completed our first mitigation project, Big Gun Preserve, protecting the largest population of endangered California red-legged frogs in the state.

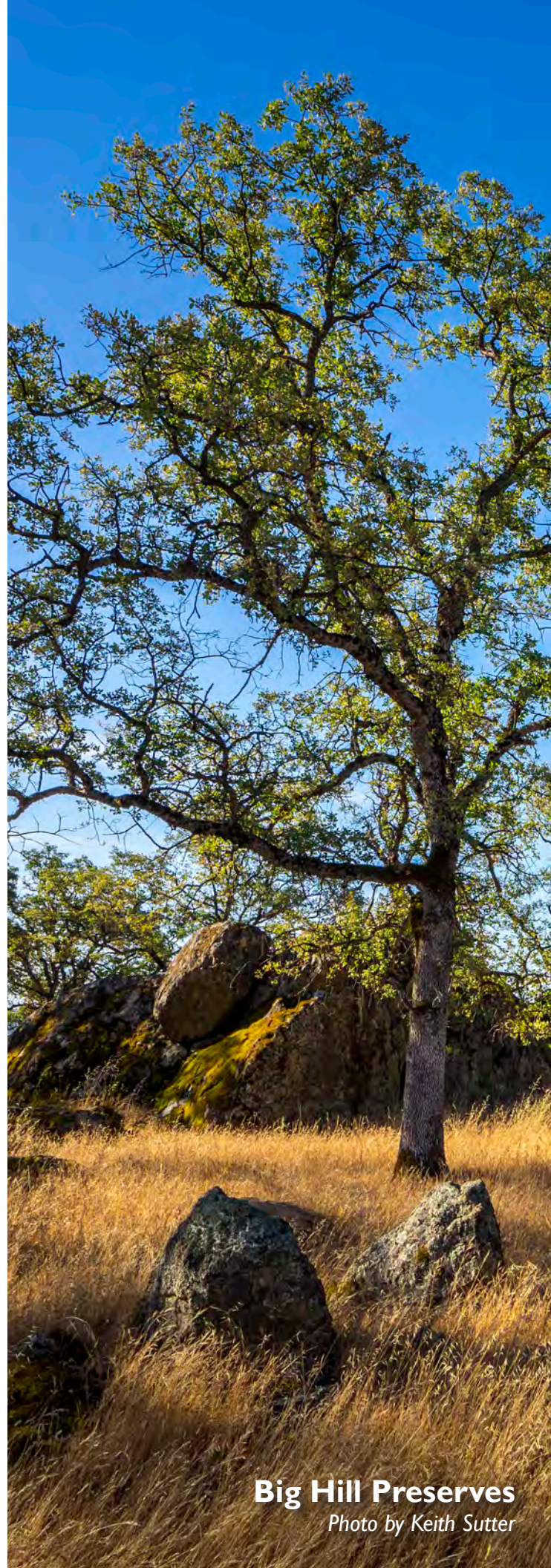
## **2011-2012**

With total acreage now at 7,171, PLT focused on building critical relationships with AmeriCorps NCCC, US Fish & Wildlife Service, local Fire Safe Councils and REI, to name a few.

## **2013-2015**

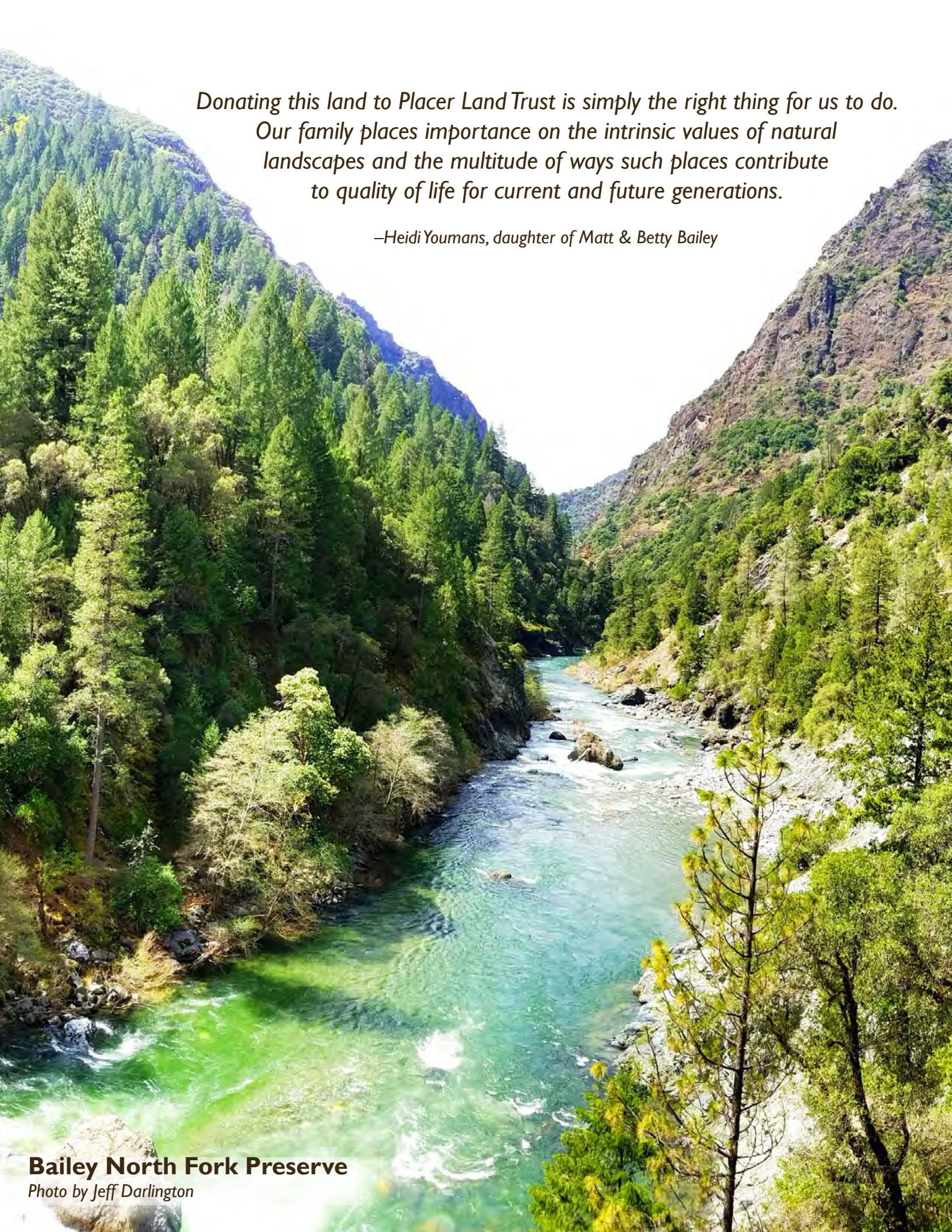
We conducted a successful Trails & Recreation Capital Campaign, raising over \$790,000 to build 20 miles of new trails. PLT made a name for ourself by outperforming all expectations in the regional online giving event, the BIG Day of Giving (three years in a row now).

***And we're just getting started!***



**Big Hill Preserves**  
Photo by Keith Sutter





*Donating this land to Placer Land Trust is simply the right thing for us to do. Our family places importance on the intrinsic values of natural landscapes and the multitude of ways such places contribute to quality of life for current and future generations.*

*—Heidi Youmans, daughter of Matt & Betty Bailey*

**Bailey North Fork Preserve**

Photo by Jeff Darlington



# Land Protection

Land conservation—it's what we do! Placer Land Trust exists to provide a valuable service to the community and protect the places that make Placer County unique, healthy and attractive to residents and visitors alike. We believe that wide-open spaces, beautiful vistas, trails for all forms of outdoor recreation, local and sustainable farms and ranches, and healthy habitats and watersheds ALL improve our quality of life.

In 2015-2016, PLT added two new properties to our list of permanently protected lands in Placer County, both of which have added family value! The **Bailey North Fork Preserve** is 40 acres of gorgeous land along the North Fork American River at the bottom of the Green Valley Trail in Alta. This stunning property was lovingly donated to PLT by the heirs of Matt and Betty Bailey. "Our family has long valued the scenic beauty of this landscape," shared daughter Heidi Youmans. "Protecting this land honors the hard work and sacrifices of our father who, among others, did the hard work of achieving protection [and the prestigious National Wild & Scenic River designation] for the North Fork American River." PLT is so honored to be entrusted with the care of such a family treasure, and we know Matt and Betty Bailey would be proud to see this land enjoyed by this generation and many more to come.

The second property to close in 2015-2016 was **Christian Valley Park**. This 16-acre property was donated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to the Auburn Area Recreation and Parks District (ARD), who has been leasing the land since 2001 to run recreation activities on it. At the same time, a conservation easement was granted to PLT to guarantee that the park will be protected forever. Not all properties are best served by being open to the public, but whenever possible, PLT loves to see the community taking advantage of these parks and preserves. Christian Valley Park was the first of many PG&E lands that PLT will have a role in protecting. PLT expects to permanently protect approximately 6,000 new acres of PG&E lands in the next year and a half, so stay tuned!

# Land Stewardship

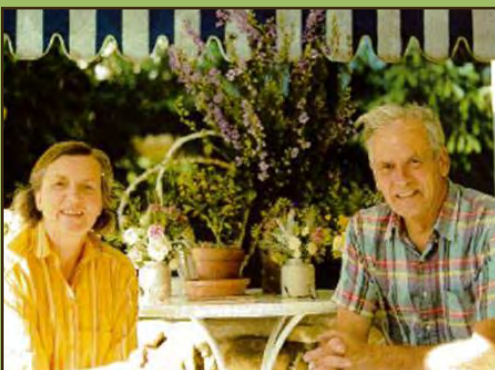
Taking care of 8,100 (and counting) acres is no easy feat! PLT takes our job of stewarding these lands seriously, monitoring conservation easements to ensure properties are being kept in excellent condition, and maintaining and enhancing (where needed) the preserves that we own. For example, PLT has constructed 130 acres of **shaded fuel break** at our Harvego Bear River Preserve to ensure the property, and local neighbors, are as safe from fire as possible. We also planted over 100 **native shrubs and trees** this year in our foothill preserves, improving both habitat for wildlife and the beauty and enjoyment for outdoor recreators.

One unique stewardship project is taking place right now at our Doty Ravine Preserve, which is 427 acres of vernal pool grassland and riparian habitat near Lincoln. We're partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on an **innovative restoration project** working with beavers to reconnect Doty Ravine with its historic floodplain. Staff and volunteers installed beaver dam analogs, which are a line of posts driven into the stream bed to form a base structure to encourage and assist beavers in building dams in strategic locations. Well-placed dams will help create or improve habitat for native wildlife and will also assist in flood control. We look forward to sharing updates in the near future!


*Matt & Betty Bailey, original owners of what is now PLT's Bailey North Fork Preserve.*

*Community members and project partners celebrate the Christian Valley Park donation.*

*Staff and volunteers install beaver dam analogs at Doty Ravine Preserve.*







*Placer Land Trust incorporated so much service-learning [into our volunteer experience] and helped us see how the work we did was meaningful. I felt like I've grown so much, thank you for helping me to do so!*

*—Member of AmeriCorps NCCC Blue 2 team*

**Doty Ravine Preserve**

*AmeriCorps NCCC members and local kids plant native plants on the preserve in celebration of Earth Day. Photo by Justin Wages.*



# Our Community

If land conservation is WHAT Placer Land Trust does, then people are WHY we do it! It goes without saying that we greatly value the native wildlife that also benefits from our work, but it's people—our members and volunteers—who make our work possible and who give us the inspiration and motivation to get the job done. We do it for people like 4th grader, **Juliana Meadows-Yaw**, who raised and donated almost \$300 to help build artificial homes on PLT preserves for the Western burrowing owl, a Species of Special Concern in California. We do it for people like **Mark Fowler**, who has dedicated his life to helping local youth learn about, and grow to love, our natural and agricultural lands. We were so impressed with Mark's conservation efforts that we honored him with the annual Placer Conservator award in 2015. These individuals, and so many others, share our passion and help us strive to do the best work possible.

Luckily, we don't have to do our work alone. In 2015-2016, more than **700 members** gave over **\$530,000** in contributions, and approximately **200 volunteers** gave over **26,000 hours** of their time! Taking care of land forever is expensive, so we're so thankful that our members give generously of their time, talent and treasure. Members showed their support again this year on the BIG Day of Giving, the regional one-day online giving event, where 350 new and returning donors made PLT the nonprofit that raised the most in Placer County, and 2nd overall across the Greater Sacramento area. PLT has also been fortunate enough to get assistance from several years of AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) teams. This year, the Blue 2 team worked for 8 weeks, helping to make a huge dent on stewardship projects on 10 different preserves, which would have cost PLT approximately \$85,000 if we had to pay to get the work done. But PLT was not the only ones who benefitted from this partnership. According to team leader, **Lindsey Earl**, "PLT staff helped develop team members' leadership skills by helping them take initiative, and they truly made Blue 2 feel appreciated and educated as stewards of Placer Land Trust." We were glad we could give back to such a wonderful group of committed young adults!

# Trails & Adventures

One of the many benefits of land conservation is the permanently protected open space it creates, allowing us to get outdoors and enjoy it! Getting people out on our preserves is the BEST way for people to understand what we do, and to fall in love with the land like we have. And when we can't get them out to the preserves, we participate in events where we can tell them all about it. That's why PLT staff and volunteers were so busy this past year, leading or participating in **40 hikes and events**, and engaging over **800 people** in the process. We have no desire to be the "best kept secret around", so help us spread the word and inspire your friends and family to get involved in saving these natural wonders.

We spent countless hours this year building **7 miles of new trails** to give our members greater opportunities to connect with each other and the land. These trails are part of PLT's larger Coon Creek to Bear River trail system that will connect to the trails at Hidden Falls Regional Park in the near future. PLT supporters helped this trail system to shine on the national stage this year during REI's Every Trail Connects campaign. Our trails competed with some well-known trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, receiving over 4,600 votes as a "favorite trail", which led to a \$33,000 donation from REI. The recently completed trails are already being enjoyed by trail lovers through PLT's monthly docent-led hikes. Board member and trail volunteer, **Jim Haagen-Smit**, shared, "There is nothing that makes me happier than seeing all these activities on trails I've been so involved with, connecting the community with the outdoors—except, of course, when I'm out riding or hiking myself."

*Juliana Meadows-Yaw inspires fellow students to get involved and help the burrowing owl.*



*Fred Yeager and Jeff Darlington present the 2015 Placer Conservator Award to Mark Fowler.*



*Hikers enjoy a private tour of Oest Ranch Lake Clementine Preserve.*

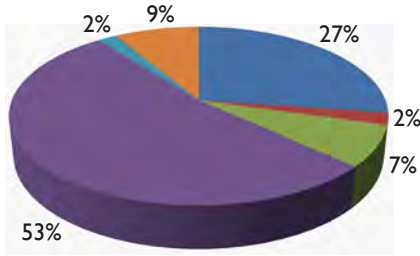


# Financials

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016)

Placer Land Trust is honored to have had the support of the community, from both individuals and organizations, for the past 25 years. We know that there are many great causes out there for donors to choose from and we're honored that you have entrusted PLT to help you achieve your philanthropic goals. We work hard to be a strong and sustainable organization, using our funds wisely, because our work of protecting natural and agricultural lands needs to not just continue for the next 25 years, it needs to continue... forever!

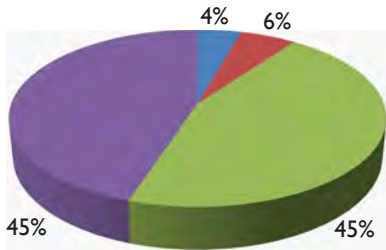
## Revenue



■ Contributions	\$ 531,715
■ Events	\$ 43,100
■ In-Kind Donations	\$ 142,636
■ Grants	\$1,030,677
■ Grazing Leases	\$ 36,551
■ Special Programs	\$ 166,937
■ Interest/Earnings*	\$ (158,190)
<small>*not included in chart</small>	

**Total Revenue \$1,793,426**

## Expenses



■ Administration	\$ 77,756
■ Fundraising	\$ 98,182
■ Land Stewardship & Programs	\$ 795,123
■ Land Acquisition & Endowment	\$ 799,039

**Total Expenses \$1,770,100**

## Board of Directors

### Officers:

Fred Yeager	<i>President</i>
Mehrey Vaghti	<i>Vice President</i>
Robert J. Gilliom	<i>Treasurer</i>
Jim Haagen-Smit	<i>Secretary</i>

### Members:

Barbara Brenner  
Rich Ferreira  
Doug Houston  
Charles Leininger  
John Marin

## Staff

Jeff Darlington	<i>Executive Director</i>
Sarah Darney	<i>Operations Specialist</i>
Jim McBride	<i>Stewardship Assistant</i>
Janet Voris	<i>Program Manager</i>
Justin Wages	<i>Land Manager</i>
Kara Walker	<i>Community Relations Manager</i>
Jeff Ward	<i>Stewardship Manager</i>



**Doty Ravine Preserve**

*Photo by Justin Wages*

## Stay Connected!

Keep up-to-date on Placer Land Trust by signing up for our eNewsletter and following us on social media. You can also email us with questions or comments at [info@placerlandtrust.org](mailto:info@placerlandtrust.org).



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