



WONDERS

Placer Land Trust Newsletter

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Conserving Private Land

Placer Land Trust (PLT) is a non-profit public benefit organization – so why does it protect PRIVATE land?

A good question! When a landowner works with PLT to protect land, they may gain financially through tax benefits and/or the purchase price. This income may often be just what it takes to help landowners, such as farmers and ranchers, keep their operations sustainable. The landowner may also appreciate leaving a legacy—knowing their land is protected for its special value and history forever.

Sometimes private land protected by PLT can be made available for future public access and recreation. But even in cases when the general public cannot set foot upon protected land, we all still benefit in a myriad of ways. More protected grasslands, forests, and areas around rivers, creeks, and waterways helps to:

- Reduce the risk and negative impacts of fire and flooding, while simultaneously improving forest and watershed health
- Sequester greenhouse gases, reduce air and water pollution by absorbing contaminants, and increase resilience to drought and invasive species
- Provide a safe and natural home for plants and animals, helping to maintain a healthy environment
- Reduce fragmentation, traffic, and other negative impacts that accompany development and



“urban sprawl”; and also retain the scenic charm of rural areas.

Protection of farming and grazing land can also contribute to many of the same benefits as listed above. In addition, it preserves our region’s history and way of life dating back hundreds of years, and helps farmers and ranchers continue to grow and produce food for our region and beyond.

A great example of private protection/public benefit is the historic Oest Ranch, a 150-year old working cattle ranch operated by the Oest family through five generations. For nearly a decade PLT has been proudly working with the family to protect the entire 940-acre ranch through agricultural conservation easements in

a series of five phases, which is expected to finish this year. Oest Ranch is comprised of foothill oak woodlands that serve as grazing land, open space, and habitat for a diverse range of local species. If you drive north on Hwy 49 out of Auburn, you’re sure to appreciate the scenic landscape of rolling hills on either side of this busy road, ending the business sprawl. Another section of the ranch sits above Lake Clementine and helps to prevent erosion and pollution from running off into our local water supply. Thanks to projects such as this, the Oest family’s ranching legacy will continue to provide multiple benefits and live on as part of our region’s rich history and future.

Great Sierra River Cleanup

Thanks to the 100+ volunteers who came out to help clean our waterways during PLT's largest annual volunteer event. Generations came together on Sept. 15th to remove over 700 pounds of trash from a 4-mile stretch of the Miner's Ravine Trail as part of Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) 10th annual Great Sierra River Cleanup. The "next generation" made a strong showing by making up a third of all participants. Volunteers from Del Oro High, Sierra College ECOS Club, Cub Scout Pack 57, and many individuals demonstrated their love for the environment and willingness to help care for it.

One clean-up crew, "Shannon's Trashy Friends" (as the group affectionately called themselves), picked up over 150 pound of litter in just one-tenth of a mile. They were located near a large business and picked up cups, straws, lids, and more that had been discarded in the parking lot and likely blown toward the ravine by landscapers or wind.

This was the 9th year PLT has participated in this event. Thanks to the City of Roseville for sponsoring us. Be sure to check out the great video of our clean-up crew on PLT's Facebook page.



Del Oro H.S. students (left to right): Hailey Patterson, Hannah Lacey, Quincey Gieck, and Jacy Tooker

Team Leader Shannon reminds party-throwers to never release helium-filled balloons into the air, and to make sure all balloons get safely discarded after the event—they can be very dangerous to wildlife who often mistake them for food.

Our Plate is Full...of Gratitude!

The **Clif Bar Family Foundation** is providing fuel for PLT's volunteers—and we're not just talking about yummy energy bars! PLT is honored to have received a grant from the Foundation to bolster our volunteer program, which is so vital to our work. Our volunteers help us leverage our resources and accomplish much more than our staff could manage on our own. From leading hikes to restoration projects, volunteers help PLT achieve our goals and create more opportunities for people to connect with and care for the land that sustains us—now and forever! Thank you Clif Bar Family Foundation for supporting such a critical component of our organization.



And for more hunger-satisfying news...PLT has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the **California Wildlife Conservation Board** and has received \$500,000 from **Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust** for a new preserve north of Auburn. This

property consists of 300+ acres of oak woodlands and Bear River frontage. Its proximity to other permanently protected land will greatly enhance the protection of wildlife habitat in the area.

AND...if you're not full yet, a \$496,000 grant was just approved by Placer County for the protection of the 5th and final phase of the 940-acre Oest Ranch! Stay tuned for all the mouth-watering details!

It's Time to Celebrate!



Daryl & Sue Oest

Do you have your tickets for the **2018 Placer Conservator** yet? Join us on **Thursday, November 15th** at **The Ridge Golf Club and Events Center** for this great event where you can meet and spend time with like-minded people in our community, enjoy a tasty dinner and drinks, and celebrate those making a difference in our region. It's also a fun way to give back to a cause you care deeply about, maybe even bringing home wonderful raffle and auction items. Proceeds will go right back into the community in the form of protected natural and agricultural lands.

We can't wait to present **Daryl & Sue Oest** with the 2018 Placer Conservator Award! It has been an honor to work with the Oests over the years to permanently protect their 940-acre ranch through five different projects. The Oests are a pioneering Placer County family that has been farming and ranching in the Auburn area since 1859. They were inducted into the California Agricultural Heritage Club in 2011 for more than 150 years of farm and ranch productivity. Thanks to their conservation efforts, their ranching legacy will live on for generations to come.

We are also excited to announce the recipients of two well-deserved volunteer awards. **Jeri Juergenson** will be honored with the Volunteer of the Year award for her long-time service as one of PLT's original hike docents. Jeri helped to kick our guided hike program into gear and has shared our natural wonders with hundreds of participants over the years.

Doug Johnson will receive the Land Steward of the Year award for his service working on trails and related amenities that greatly enhance the user experience. We will be sharing more about these generous members of the community at the event, so be sure to get your tickets today!

Ticket sales end on November 5th. Get yours today at: www.placerlandtrust.org.

Would you like to sponsor this event? Promote your business, support a great cause, and gain many other perks by sponsoring the annual Placer Conservator! Check out our website for more information on sponsorship levels and benefits, or contact **Kara Walker** at 530-887-9222, or kara.walker@placerlandtrust.org.



Jeri Juergenson



Doug Johnson

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PLACER LAND TRUST
11641 BLOCKER DR., STE. 220
AUBURN, CA 95603-4674

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Pie Party!



Mark your calendars and get your favorite recipes ready. It's almost time for PLT's annual Pie & Holiday Party. This is a great free event for members to enjoy delicious food, tasty beverages, and chat with other PLT members. Join us on Thursday, December 6th! Keep an eye out for PLT's holiday card which will have more details on time and location. We hope to see you there!

The Holidays are Coming



Are you already thinking about holiday gifts? Or maybe about finalizing your 2018 charitable giving? You can accomplish both with Placer Land Trust! Your donation of an annual PLT membership can be the perfect gift for the land-lover in your life, AND it's tax-deductible for you. Simply give at www.placerlandtrust.org/donate and select "gift membership". It's that easy!

Placer Land Trust was the first Land Trust in the Sierra Nevada to renew accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2013.



Visit www.placerlandtrust.org/calendar for a full list of upcoming events