



Natural Wonders Forever

Building the Path to a Bright Future

Placer Land Trust | 2014-2015 Community Report

Placer Land Trust

We believe that wild open spaces and natural playgrounds add to quality of life and are an essential part of a healthy community—connecting people to themselves, others and the land.

We work with willing landowners and conservation partners to permanently protect natural and agricultural lands in Placer County for future generations. Protecting the land, restoring habitat and creating new natural playgrounds is at the core of our work.



Future Generations

Dear Friends,

Our 2014-2015 fiscal year was a great year for Placer Land Trust...

With **YOUR** support, more natural open space has been protected and vital habitat has been restored.

Because of **YOUR** generosity, agricultural land that has been in the same family for 5 generations will continue to be used for agricultural purposes for generations to come.

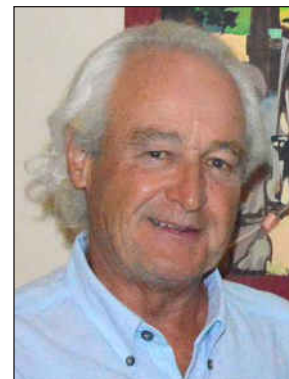
Because of **YOUR** dedication, new trails have been built, creating opportunities for adventure and developing connections with nature and with new friends.

Placer Land Trust staff and the members of the board of directors are so thankful that **YOU** share our passion for ensuring that the natural wonders of Placer County are here for our grandchildren and generations beyond. In a world where we have been trained to expect immediate results, it's inspiring to see supporters like **YOU** who are willing to look into the future and act now to preserve treasures that will last beyond our lifetimes.

YOU are building a path to the future, and thanks to **YOU**, the future looks bright!

Sincerely,

Fred Yeager
Fred Yeager



P.S. Included at the end of this report is a financial overview of Placer Land Trust's income and expenses for the 2014-2015 fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.



Adventures in Nature

Outdoor recreation has psychological benefits, including the prevention or reduction of stress; improved self-esteem, confidence and creativity; spiritual growth; and an increased sense of exhilaration, adventure and challenge from life.”

- Dr. Andrew Lepp, Kent State

Adventure

Since our inception in 1991, Placer Land Trust has evolved into the premiere non-profit organization protecting Placer County’s wide open wonders, natural playgrounds, and the quality of life enjoyed by so many in the region. We improve quality of life not only by preserving land, but by providing opportunities throughout the year to develop connections—with each other and the land—through outdoor activities and adventures that enrich our lives.

Hikes & Adventures

In 2014-2015, Placer Land Trust had some fun trying out new hikes and activities. Over **400 people** played along, enjoying more than **20 adventures** such as hikes under the full moon; painting beautiful landscapes in our Plein Air outing; learning more about the natural world in geology, wildflower, and birding hikes; and celebrating outdoor recreation, and the lands that make it possible, during a few trail-themed events.

Love of Trails

Fiscal year 2014-2015 was an exciting year for Placer Land Trust’s trails! Thanks to hundreds of Placer Land Trust volunteers and donors, and outstanding support from REI and Placer County, we raised **over \$790,000** for our Trails and Recreation Capital Campaign.

10 miles of new trails have already been constructed, getting us one step closer to our vision of a 50 mile continuous trail system stretching from Hidden Falls Regional Park at Coon Creek, north to the Bear River. We are working with Placer County and others to complete the connector trails to help make this expansive trail system possible.

“Placer Land Trust is an outstanding organization and REI is thrilled to be a partner. Their work to create new outdoor recreation locations and conserve open space areas strongly aligns with REI’s own stewardship values. We look forward to many more opportunities to support and work with Placer Land Trust.”

—Erin Harrington, REI Outdoor Programs & Outreach Market Coordinator

Making an Impact

“Having had the opportunity to travel, I have seen firsthand what countries can look like when their citizens do or do not protect their agricultural lands and wild spaces. Working as a volunteer for Placer Land Trust provides me with an opportunity to impact the future, right where I live, and to give something back to the community. This is a great way to meet interesting people, learn new information, and go away feeling like you have helped in some small way.”

-Cindy Whitson-White,
PLT Member & Volunteer

Connections

At Placer Land Trust, we talk a lot about the landscapes and vistas we protect, the farms we help sustain, and the natural playgrounds we make available—but what benefit would that bring without people to enjoy our work? Our members and supporters are the ones who bring our mission to life and give it purpose. Because of you, we strive to establish meaningful connections, between members of this region and with the land itself, for generations to come.

Amazing People

In fiscal year 2014-2015, over **708 members** gave over **\$345,000** in annual support and to valuable campaigns and events that enable us to expand our reach. In addition to generous contributions, we were fortunate to have over **325 volunteers** give more than **5,800 hours** of their time to exponentially increase our impact.

The year also brought some much needed help from **two new staff**, Kara Walker, Community Relations Manager, and Jim McBride, Stewardship Assistant; and a **new board member**, Charles Leininger.

Successful Events

Events can be a great way for Placer Land Trust to build awareness of our work in the community, while often raising additional much-needed funds (while allowing us all to have a little fun)! Events in fiscal year 2014-2015 shattered a few records:

“Placer Land Trust protects land not just for the recreational activities it provides, but also to preserve habitat for wildlife in the area. They’re doing such important work, and I’m planning to become a member on the **BIG Day of Giving** when I know my dollars will go further to support them.”

—Morgan Lynn, retired President, Sierra College,
and new Placer Land Trust member

Last October, Placer Land Trust honored the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) **Canyon Keepers** with our annual **Placer Conservator** award. Our members were obviously inspired by their efforts to ensure all who visit the ASRA have a great experience as we netted an unprecedented \$27,000 in one night.

This May, the greater Sacramento region spoke with their dollars and gave Placer Land Trust the **MOST** money out of all participating 529 nonprofits during the **BIG Day of Giving**—over **\$128,000 in one day!**



Habitat Restored

In 2011, Placer Land Trust installed artificial burrows at our Swainson's Grassland Preserve to help the Western Burrowing Owl whose populations had been declining due to habitat degradation and destruction. It took four years, but we were thrilled to find a new clutch of baby Burrowing Owls safe and sound in the manmade burrows!

"I'm often accused of being pessimistic, and with mainstream media starting to echo the dire warnings about the state of our planet, perhaps pessimism is justified. However, I do think it's important to celebrate victories, no matter how small. I'm glad the people at Placer Land Trust did the work and helped restore burrowing owls to the environment."

-PLT Supporter

Stewardship

Many people choose to live, work or play in Placer County because of the beautiful landscapes and breathtaking vistas; the natural playgrounds that provide for great outdoor recreation; or for the valuable agricultural lands that make it possible to buy food grown or raised in their backyard. Those are just a few reasons why we at Placer Land Trust made it our mission to ensure that these special places remain here...**forever**.

Land Protected

As of July 2015, Placer Land Trust has protected over 8,000 acres of land that include natural habitat, family farms and ranches, river and canyon lands, and public parks and trails. As always, our conservation work is ongoing, with more than a dozen projects currently in the works that will protect more than 3,000 acres when completed. During fiscal year 2014-2015, we completed two such projects by working with willing landowners to protect 41 additional acres:

- **Pannell Property** – This 5-acre property of oak woodlands lies along the Bear River and is adjacent to, and has been added to, our Harvego Bear River Preserve (now 1,778 acres).
- **Oest Ranch North Preserve** – This 36-acre preserve is the third portion of the 947-acre historic Oest Ranch to be permanently protected. So far 545 acres of this working cattle ranch have been protected since Placer Land Trust first started working with the Oest family in 2007.

Land Restored

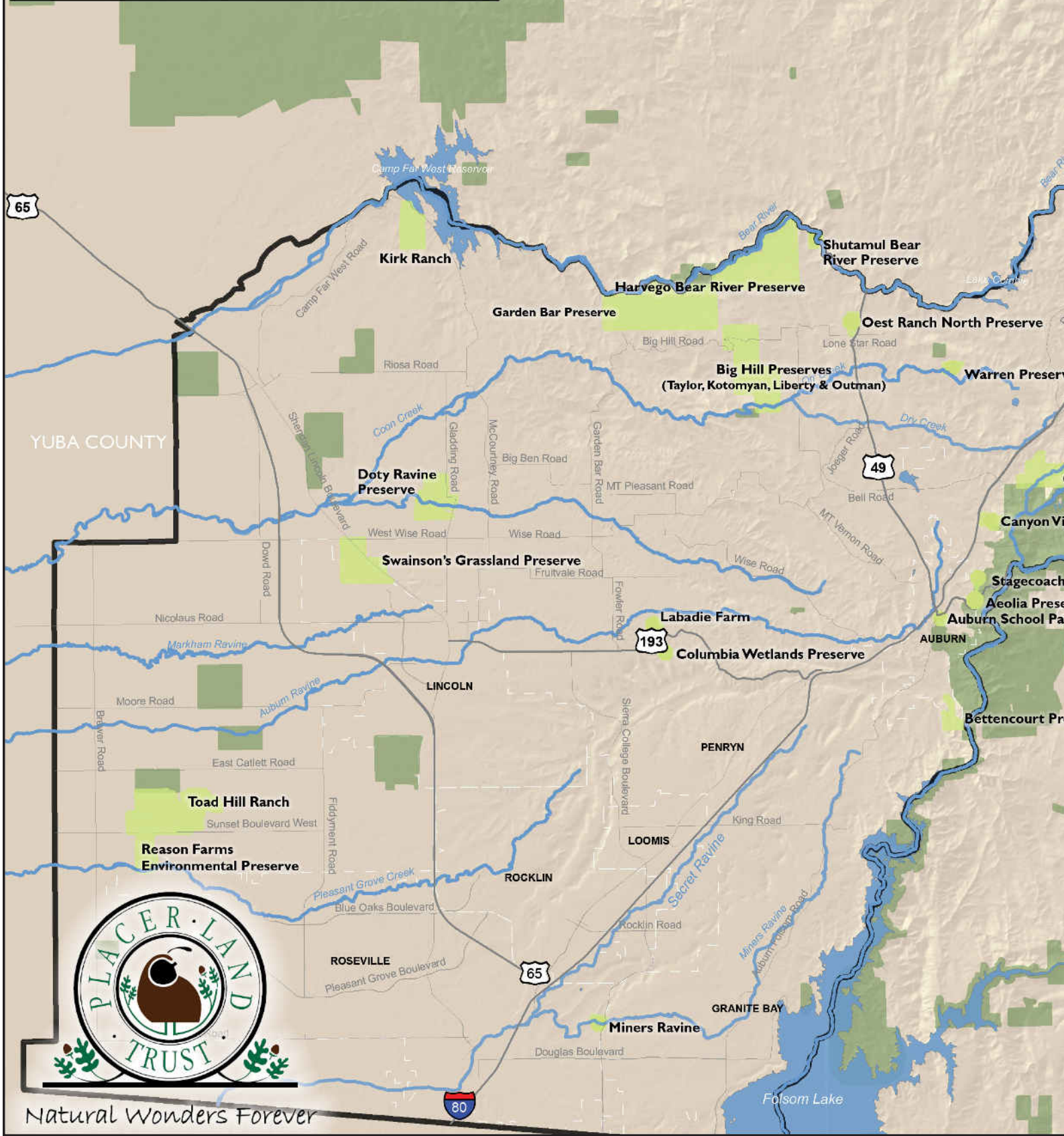
We continually manage and monitor over **40 properties** in our care, which includes critical projects such as reducing fuel load to minimize fire hazard and improve forest health. Stewardship work can also take the form of riparian restoration, which includes projects like invasive plant removal, stream bed stabilization, and revegetation with native trees and shrubs. This year marked the completion of a 4-year, \$330,000+ grant project that has greatly enhanced the public benefit of our Canyon View Preserve.

"This ranch was built by my great-great-grandfather and continued by a lot of hard work down through the generations. We love the land, and we worked with Placer Land Trust because we want to see our family's ranching legacy continue for future generations."

–Loren Oest, the fifth generation of his family to work this land

 Placer Land Trust
 Other Permanently Protected Land


 0 2.5 5
 Miles



Natural Wonders Forever



Natural Wonders Forever

as of July 2015

Name of Preserve	Acres	Date
------------------	-------	------

PLT owns and manages

Codfish Falls Trail	30	1993
Stagecoach	7	1999
Canyon View	50	2003
Doty Ravine	427	2005
Swainson's Grassland	469	2005
Shutamul	40	2006
Wilson Property (added to Stagecoach)	3	2007
Taylor Ranch (Big Hill)	321	2007
Kotomyan (Big Hill)	160	2007
Harvego Bear River	1773	2010
Long Point North Fork	40	2011
Outman (Big Hill)	80	2012
Mergen North Fork	160	2013
Aeolia	8	2013
Big Bend North Fork	416	2014
Pannell (added to Harvego)	5	2015

PLT holds conservation easement

Columbia Wetlands	11	1999
Labadie Farm	30	2000
Bettencourt	85	2003
Auburn School Park	4	2004
Reason Farms	223	2005
Toad Hill Ranch	1,000	2006
Liberty Ranch (Big Hill)	313	2007
Garden Bar	912	2007
Warren	27	2007
Miner's Ravine	26	2008
Oest Ranch- Lk. Clementine	353	2009
Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Farm Colony	272	2010
Big Gun	48	2010
Oest Ranch- Cold Springs	160	2012
Oest Ranch- North	36	2015

PLT facilitated permanent protection

Nichols	135	2004
Cisco Grove Gould Park	16	2004
Kirk Ranch	281	2007
Siller 1 & 2	94	2007
Coon Creek Connector	23	2013

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

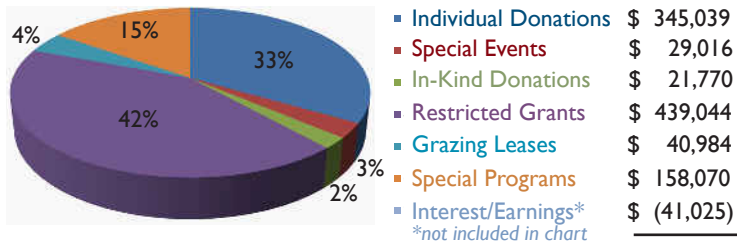


Financials

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

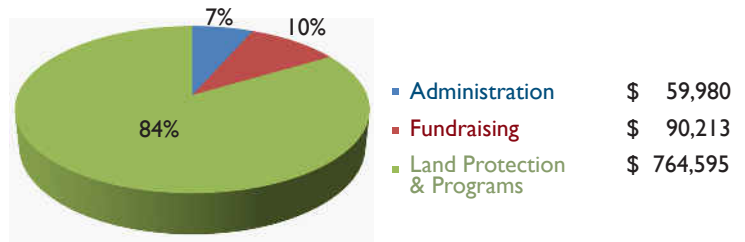
(July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

Revenue



Total Revenue \$ 992,898

Expenses



Total Expenses \$ 914,788

We know that individual and organizational donors have many great non-profits to choose from, and we're so grateful to have your support. Together, we form a strong team that moves our mission of protecting natural and agricultural land in Placer County forward. Your trust in us, and belief in the value of wide open spaces, locally grown food on sustainable farms and ranches, and outdoor adventures, will help us ensure that Placer County's natural wonders will be here...forever!



Board of Directors

Top Row, left to right:

Robert J. Gilliom
Larry Menth
Thomas McMahan
Barbara Brenner
Rich Ferreira
Charles Leininger
Larry Welch (Secretary)

Bottom Row, left to right:

Doug Houston
Mehrey Vaghti (Vice President)
Fred Yeager (President)
Jim Haagen-Smit
Gina Giambruno
Gregg McKenzie (Treasurer)



Staff

Top Row, left to right:

Justin Wages, Land Manager
Janet Voris, Program Manager
Kara Walker, Community Relations Manager
Jim McBride, Stewardship Assistant

Bottom Row, left to right:

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Sarah Darney, Operations Specialist
Jessica Daugherty, Assistant Director
Jeff Ward, Stewardship Manager

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.



Sign-up at:
www.placerlandtrust.org



www.facebook.com/PlacerLandTrust



www.instagram.com/PlacerLandTrust



[@placerlandtrust](https://twitter.com/placerlandtrust)

Placer Land Trust

11641 Blocker Drive, Suite 220
Auburn, CA 95603
530.887.9222

www.placerlandtrust.org

Tax ID# 68-0223143



Natural Wonders Forever