

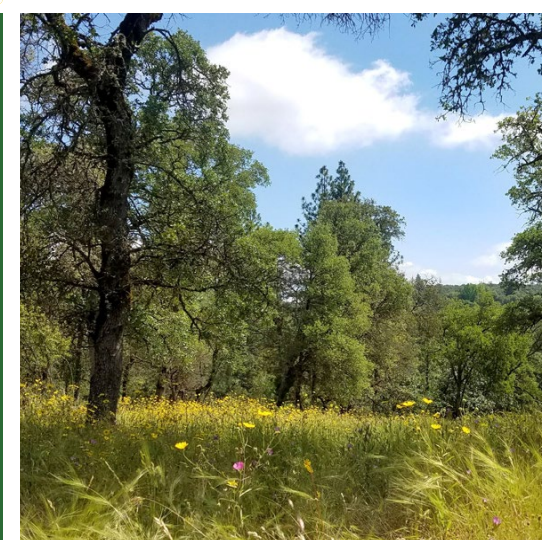



Be sure to check out our online annual report for additional videos, photos, content, and a complete donor recognition list. You can find it on our website at placerlandtrust.org/2020.



Looking Ahead...
2021 marks the 30th anniversary for Placer Land Trust. We look forward spending the year celebrating all we accomplished together in our first 30 years, and what we've learned along the way. We hope you're as energized and inspired as we are as we create a clear vision and set lofty goals for the next 30 years. Stay tuned for land conservation stories, a fresh new look for Placer Land Trust, a new strategic plan to carry us forward, and much more!


Placer Land Trust is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization incorporated in 1991, accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission.
Federal TIN: 68-0223143



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Auburn, CA 95603
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Placer Land Trust

2020 Annual Community Report

Our Mission

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

Dear Friends,

2020 was quite a year. For Placer Land Trust, as for many of us, it brought challenges, opportunities, and growth. I hope you have weathered the year in safety and good health.

It has been a year of resilience. Despite a global pandemic, YOU, and hundreds of members like you, showed your love for the natural wonders of Placer County like no year before. I am humbled by your support — your generous donations, the contribution of your time and talents, and how you followed and shared our progress with others. You made it possible to protect three new preserves and expand an existing preserve this year, bringing us to nearly 12,000 acres protected from development.

It has been a year of awakening. Those of us who spend time in natural ecosystems know they are strengthened by diversity, as is our human community. We are weaker when we all don't have an equal voice, or when some suffer injustice disproportionately. We all have a responsibility to contribute to social justice. Even in our well-intentioned commitment to land conservation, we must recognize the harm that has been done to the indigenous people who stewarded this land for centuries. Placer Land Trust is committed to doing our part to build a more equitable and inclusive landscape where everyone can feel safe and enjoy the benefits of spending time in nature.

And it has been a year of gratitude for open spaces, as people flocked to the outdoors for their physical and mental well-being. More and more people are joining us in appreciating protected lands for beautiful vistas, wildlife habitat, productive agriculture, and places to recreate. In the coming years, it will take each and every one of us to work together to protect the lands of Placer County for current and future generations.

My family welcomed 2021 in our usual style — with a hike to the American River to soak up the winter sun, breathe deeply, and give thanks for our blessings. On behalf of the Placer Land Trust board and staff, I am grateful for you, and for the passion we share for our beautiful, resilient, and inclusive community and the lands that sustain us all.

With gratitude,

Christine A. Pieper

Christine Pieper
President



2020... A LOOK BACK AT THE HIGHLIGHTS

What can we say? It was a year like no other. But despite all the challenges, our work didn't slow down. Three brand-new preserves, another preserve expanded, incredible member and volunteer support — here are just a few of the many highlights of 2020, well worth celebrating!

SEPTEMBER: THE 2020 PLACER CONSERVATOR GOES WILD... AND VIRTUAL!

Placer Land Trust held our first virtual event this year, the 2020 Placer Conservator. Although we missed being together in person, the event allowed the love for land conservation and wildlife to shine through. The new format enabled us to engage a wider audience, making it possible to share our mission with many who may not have attended our previous in-person events. It also allowed us to use stunning videos to highlight the many successes of our 2020 Placer Conservator Award winner, Sallysue Stein, and the invaluable work she does with Gold Country Wildlife Rescue. Participants helped us raise nearly \$100,000, with donations made during the special Fund-A-Need Auction supporting the protection of wildlife habitat. Thanks again to our many generous sponsors, supporters, and volunteers that helped to protect more natural and agricultural lands for generations to come!



MAY: AN EXTRAORDINARY BIG DAY OF GIVING

2020 marked Placer Land Trust's 7th year participating in Big Day of Giving, and like most of the 600+ participating nonprofits, we were a little unsure of what to expect during a pandemic. We were AMAZED by the outpouring of support from our generous members, receiving a record-setting 400+ donations amounting to more than \$181,000. You spoke with your dollars and showed the region how much you value our protected lands.



1,800+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED...

BY **60**
VOLUNTEERS

765+
MEMBERS



11,956
ACRES PROTECTED

as of December 31, 2020

Beard Ranch Preserve

Historic Working Agricultural Land

In April, Placer Land Trust and landowner Patti Beard placed an Agricultural Conservation Easement on the 137-acre Beard Ranch in North Auburn. This type of easement allows Patti to continue ranching with little to no change to her cattle operation, while permanently protecting the property for farming and ranching. Subdivision and development of the land will always be prohibited, even for future landowners, which is especially important as the ranch and surrounding area have been designated by Placer County as "Farmland of Local Importance" based on soil quality and land use.

"Too often large productive agricultural properties in our rural countryside are paved over for subdivision and private development," says Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington. "But when a landowner is willing to give up the right to subdivide and develop their land, then Placer Land Trust can ensure that some of our treasured agricultural heritage and productivity is protected, now and for future generations."

Patti has fond memories of growing up on the ranch, where multiple generations of her family lived and worked in the family business. The Beard family bought the ranch in 1955 and operated it as a dairy until 1982, when Patti Beard took ownership and began running it as a beef cattle operation. The now-protected



Cattle graze at Beard Ranch Preserve

Beard Ranch Preserve features a mixture of irrigated pasture, annual grasslands, blue oak woodlands, and some remnant fruit trees from the 1920s, when the property produced plums, pears, and grapes. It supports a diverse range of plants and wildlife in addition to pastured cattle.

The permanent nature of the conservation easement provides benefits not only to the property itself, but to neighbors who should enjoy seeing less growth and greater property values, to our community that benefits from our continued agricultural economy, and to everyone who values the natural beauty and quality of life in rural Placer County.

Spring Garden Preserve

192 Acres of Watershed and Wildlife Habitat on the Foresthill Divide

In June, Placer Land Trust purchased and permanently protected Spring Garden Preserve. Spanning the canyons and watersheds of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the American River, this 192-acre preserve is located on the Foresthill Divide near the community of Foresthill. Spring Garden Ravine runs through the property and ultimately into the Middle Fork American River. Folsom Lake is fed by the American River, and as the largest source of water in the Sacramento region, protection of the American River and its tributaries is a significant benefit to us all.

The property was initially marketed for development, given its prime location. Instead, the landowners, Foresthill Land Company LLC, worked with Placer Land Trust to ensure that this forested land will continue to be open space forever. "The landowner and his realtor were absolutely key to our success," says Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington. "They took the land off the market while we secured funding and waited through the state review process. The landowner made a very generous and critical donation that will allow us to protect and manage the land in perpetuity. Landowners like this make conservation of land in Placer County possible, and we are deeply grateful."

The purchase of Spring Garden Preserve creates a large contiguous block of protected land, as it connects

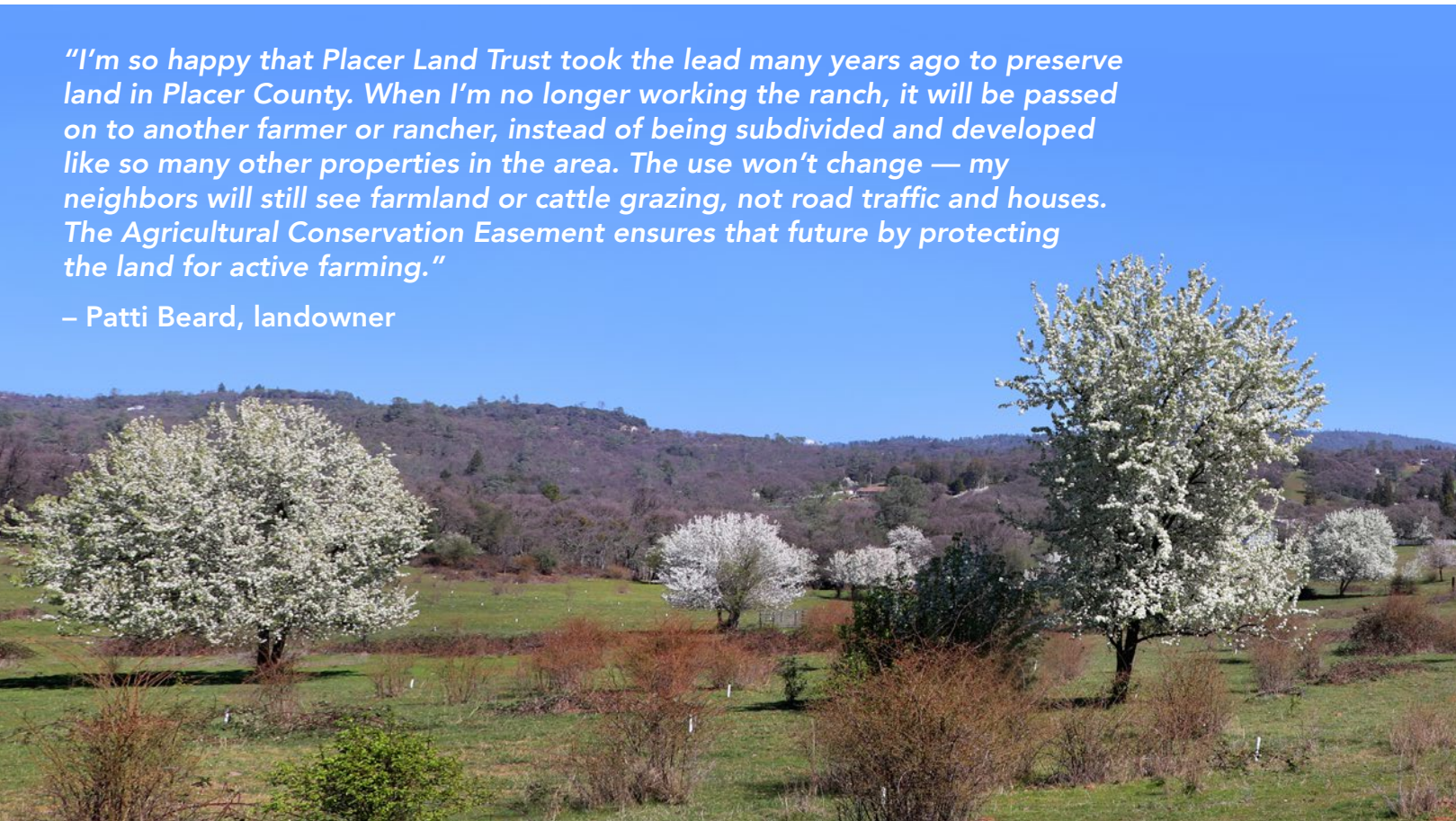
with federal BLM land and the 416-acre Big Bend North Fork Preserve which was transferred to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 2014 to become a part of the Auburn State Recreation Area. Placer Land Trust looks to protect large blocks of land that are connected with other protected pieces to maximize the benefits for wildlife, especially larger mammals such as black bear, bobcat, coyote, deer, raptors, and mountain lion in the area. Spring Garden Preserve now provides a valuable "wildlife corridor" across the Foresthill Divide.

Spring Garden Preserve's forest is unusually diverse, with large stands of mature madrone trees alongside huge blue and black oaks, Douglas fir, and Ponderosa pine. Purchase of the property was funded by the CAL FIRE Forest Legacy Program. In line with program goals, the preserve will be managed to support ecologically-healthy and fire-resistant forests, reducing risk to adjacent residential properties and neighborhoods.

"CAL FIRE is pleased to help conserve the Spring Garden Preserve Forest Legacy Project as it protects forestland from residential development in the Wildland Urban Interface," said CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter. "Conservation of this property will help protect important forest resources in the Sierra Foothills while also securing open space, carbon sequestration, clean air and water for future generations."

"I'm so happy that Placer Land Trust took the lead many years ago to preserve land in Placer County. When I'm no longer working the ranch, it will be passed on to another farmer or rancher, instead of being subdivided and developed like so many other properties in the area. The use won't change — my neighbors will still see farmland or cattle grazing, not road traffic and houses. The Agricultural Conservation Easement ensures that future by protecting the land for active farming."

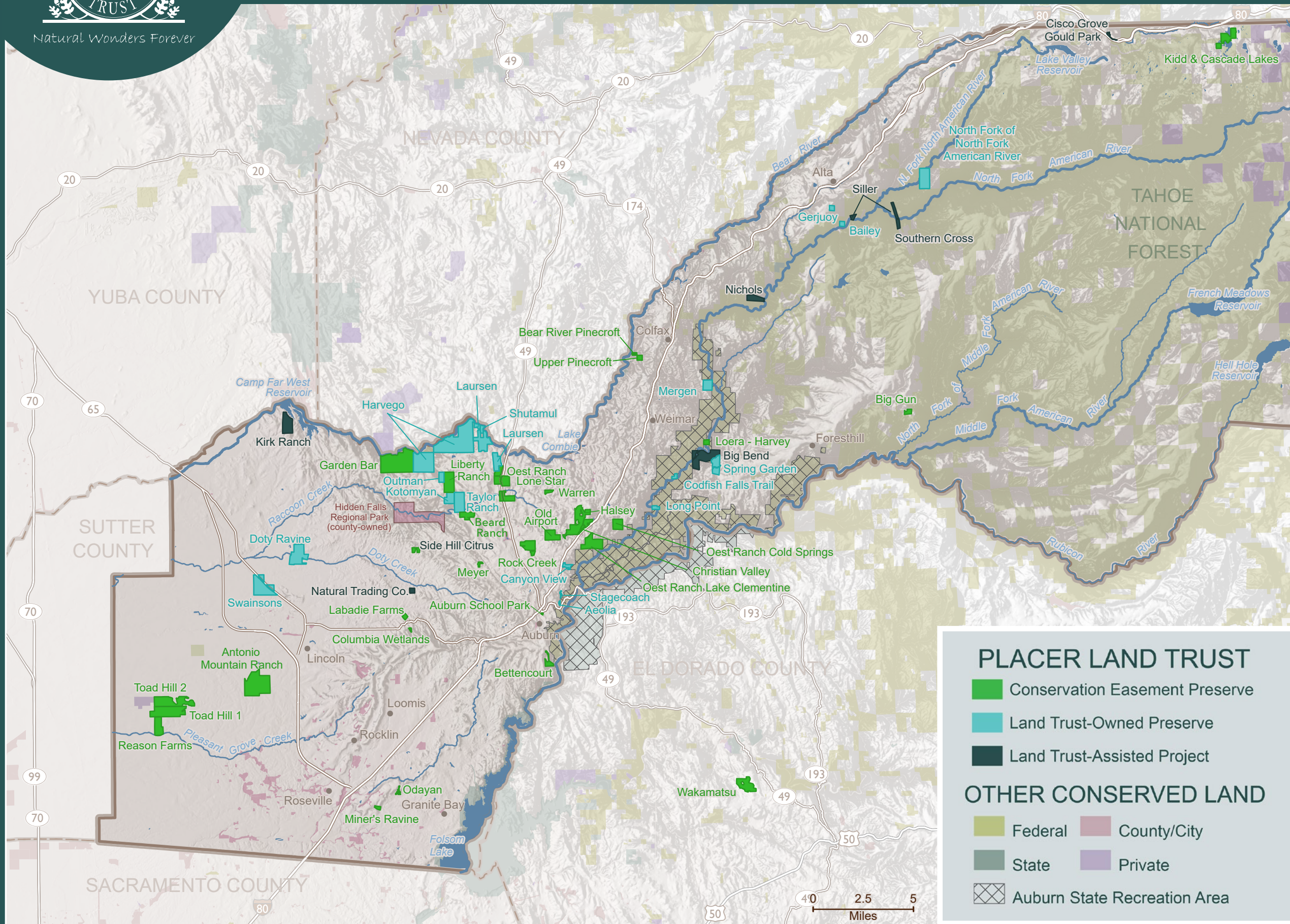
– Patti Beard, landowner





Natural Wonders Forever

PLACER LAND TRUST PRESERVES



Protecting and connecting open space

Whenever possible, Placer Land Trust looks to protect blocks of land that are connected with other protected pieces, leaving large areas of intact wilderness. This maximizes the benefits for wildlife, especially larger mammals, by providing critical habitat and forming natural corridors for the day-to-day movement and seasonal migration of wildlife.

The area between **Raccoon Creek** and the **Bear River** is special as it represents the largest contiguous area of blue oak woodlands remaining in Placer County. It forms an important north-south corridor complimenting the natural east-west corridors formed by the rivers, aiding the approximately 331 species of wildlife that inhabit Placer County's oak woodlands including mountain lions, bobcats, several species of hawk, rodents, snakes, owls, and songbirds.

Since 2002, Placer Land Trust has been working with other conservation organizations to permanently protect some of these last relatively "wild" areas in Placer County. We worked together to set priorities for this regional land conservation effort, looking to maximize the public benefit of our work to protect oak woodlands, wildlife corridors and habitat, agriculturally productive rangelands, public recreation possibilities, scenic vistas, rivers and streams.

As you can see from that area of the map, great progress has been made since 2002, when not one of these preserves existed. **Beard Ranch Preserve** was a great addition this year with its "Farmland of Local Importance" designation, as was the expansion of **Laursen Bear River Preserve**, protecting more land near the Bear River. Both of these preserves will prevent subdivision and residential development in this increasingly fragmented region.

We hope you, our members, feel good about creating this large block of almost 5,000 acres of connected and permanently protected land across the Raccoon Creek and Bear River watersheds...land that will be protected forever!

Gerjuoy North Fork Preserve

Protecting Canyon Land, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat from Development

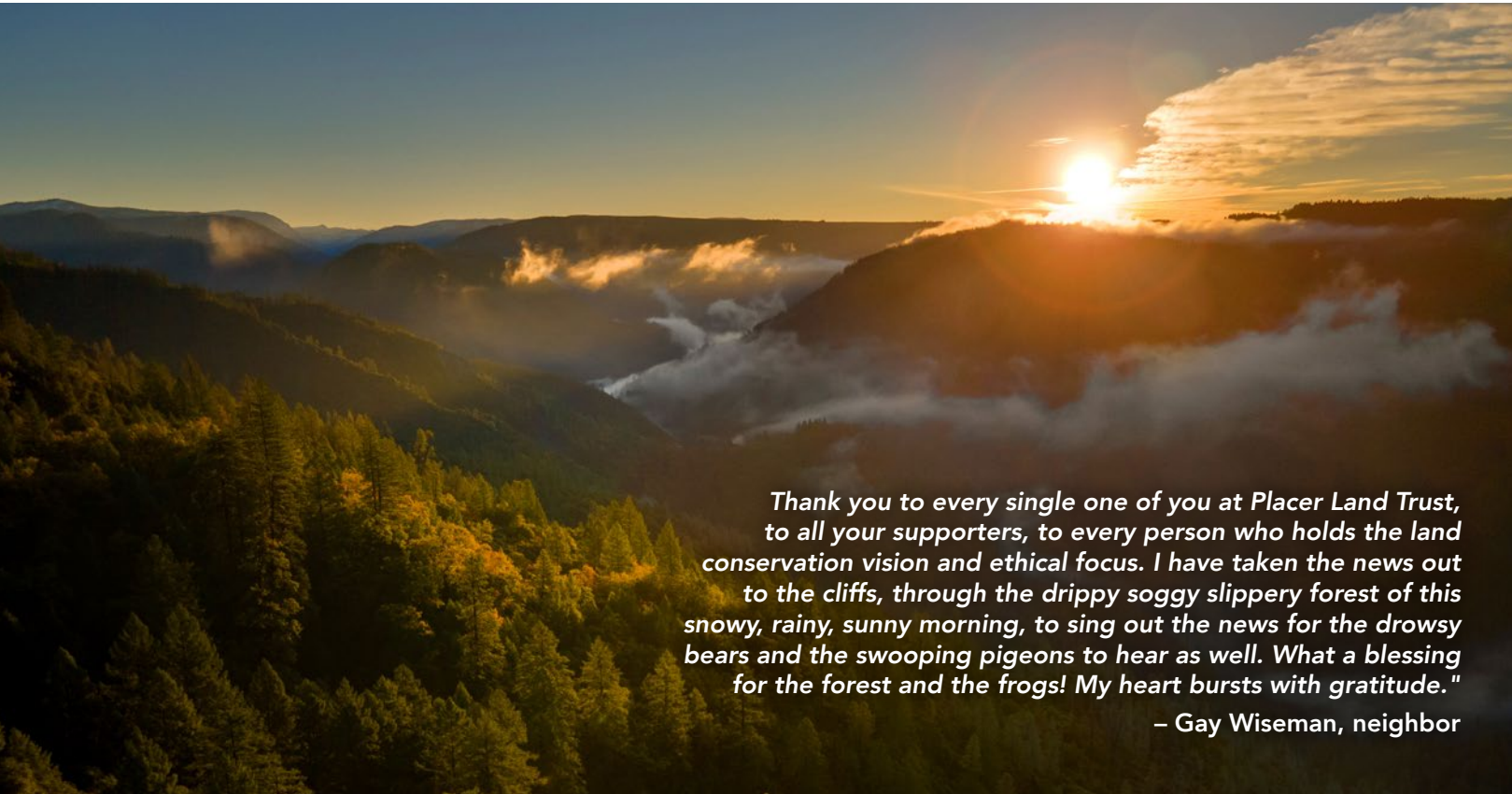
As 2020 came to a close, we were thrilled to protect one more beautiful property: Gerjuoy North Fork Preserve! Located in the Moody Ridge area, near Alta, this 40-acre preserve represents a key piece within a large block of conserved lands along the river canyon including federal land, the public Green Valley Trail, and our Bailey North Fork Preserve.

The Preserve is located on the canyon rim of the North Fork American River watershed, approximately a mile upslope from the federally-designated "Wild and Scenic" section of the river — the top designation reserved for the highest quality, undammed rivers in the US. The American River is a significant source of drinking water for Placer County and the Sacramento region. Protecting the watershed helps to keep the river and our drinking water clean and free from contaminated runoff, erosion, sedimentation, and other pollution.

This project happened thanks to the collaboration and generosity of landowner Neil Gerjuoy, who passed up other sale opportunities in order to work with Placer Land Trust to permanently protect the property. "Ridgetop residential development continues to expand in this area due to its proximity to Interstate 80," says Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington, "and that disrupts the day-to-day movement and seasonal migration of wildlife in the American River canyon and along the canyon rim.

Our acquisition and management of this forested preserve helps protect the river canyon and provide permanent corridors for plant and animal species to thrive and adapt to climate change."

The preserve hosts a bubbling spring, small waterfall, unique riparian (streamside) vegetation, and several large rock outcrops, all of which provide wildlife habitat. This area is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, from large mammals such as bear, deer, bobcat, and coyote, to reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects. Several special-status plant and animal species live within a five-mile radius of the preserve, and the foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), a state candidate threatened species, has been found nearby. Grinding rocks on the property indicate that this land was a food gathering and preparation site for Native Americans. Placer Land Trust's acquisition of Gerjuoy North Fork Preserve ensures the permanent protection of this cultural history, wildlife habitat, and that a significant stretch of the North Fork American River canyon land will remain wild and natural forever.



Thank you to every single one of you at Placer Land Trust, to all your supporters, to every person who holds the land conservation vision and ethical focus. I have taken the news out to the cliffs, through the drippy soggy slippery forest of this snowy, rainy, sunny morning, to sing out the news for the drowsy bears and the swooping pigeons to hear as well. What a blessing for the forest and the frogs! My heart bursts with gratitude."

– Gay Wiseman, neighbor

Forever Society

*We have lived in Placer County since the early 1970's and have seen its population grow and the landscape change dramatically over the years. Orchards, ranches and open land that existed throughout the County have now become large residential subdivisions and commercial centers. What were once quaint country roads have become four or six lane arterial roadways. **Protecting open space and agricultural land in the County is essential to maintain the quality of life that inspired us to want to live here.***



*We believe and support Placer Land Trust's philosophy and mission and are happy that it focuses on the area in which we live, that has been so impacted over the years. **We are proud to be members of the Forever Society, knowing that the Land Trust will continue its effort beyond our lifetimes to preserve open spaces, agricultural land, and the quality of life that made us all fall in love with Placer County.***

– Jan and Ron Miller

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a Forever Society member, please contact Eden at eden.rock@placerlandtrust.org.

Placer Land Trust Staff

Jeff Darlington, <i>Executive Director</i>	Eden Rock
Lynnette Batt	Anna Urias
Julia Boorinakis Harper	Janet Voris
Christy Claes	Justin Wages
Sarah Darney	Kara Walker
Elias Grant	Jeff Ward
Jim McBride	

Board of Directors

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Fred Yeager, <i>Vice President</i>	Rich Ferreira
Robert Gilliom, <i>Treasurer</i>	Doug Houston
Jim Haagen-Smit, <i>Secretary</i>	Karen Keene
Barbara Brenner	John Marin

Community Council

Therese Adams	Kate Nitta
Shawn Baldwin	Elke Reimer
Brian Bellew	Nicole Spencer
Loren Clark, <i>co-chair</i>	J.P. Tindell
Karen Keene, <i>co-chair</i>	Ray Valone
Tatyana Kjellberg	Gary Wells
Jocelyn Maddux	Rachel Westaby
Christine McMorrow	

Laursen Bear River Preserve Expanded

In September, Placer Land Trust completed the permanent protection of our 63rd project: a 185-acre addition to the Laursen Bear River Preserve north of Auburn. This brings the total acreage of the preserve up to 546 acres, which in turn is part of a block of over 8,000 contiguous acres of protected lands. This property was on the market and would have been developed had the original landowners, Andy and Shana Laursen, not agreed to sell it to Placer Land Trust instead.

Andy and Shana, who were named our 2010 Placer Conservator awardees for their conservation work, partnered with Placer Land Trust to protect their lands along the Bear River. They also donated a trail easement over adjacent private property to connect this new property with the existing preserves. We look forward to opening up these beautiful oak woodlands to docent-led activities in the future.

Southern Cross Preserve Joins Tahoe National Forest

This fall, we transferred Southern Cross Preserve to US Forest Service ownership, where it will join the rest of the Tahoe National Forest. This beautiful preserve is located on the North Fork American River. The public Euchre Bar Trail runs through the property.



If you look at a map of the Tahoe National Forest, you'll notice that it looks like a "checkerboard" of public and private property. This unusual pattern has its roots in 19th-century federal land policy and the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad north of Lake Tahoe. The resulting "patchwork quilt" of public and private lands can create challenges for land management and public recreation. By permanently protecting private lands within the "checkerboard" and transferring them to the USFS, we can help expand the Tahoe National Forest and fill in the gaps.

"This project was especially cool because it's a great model — we work with the landowner to secure a complex land deal, then transfer it to public ownership," says Placer Land Trust Conservation Director Lynnette Batt. "We are grateful to the USFS for being great partners."

2020 Members and Supporters

For a full list of all our generous donors, please visit www.placerlandtrust.org/2020

Conservation Champions

\$50,000+

Anonymous

Beard Ranch

Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust

\$10,000-\$49,999

Community Needs Fund
at Placer Community Foundation
Neil Gerjuoy
Kayden & Christine Kelly

Andy & Shana Laursen
Marcella D. Hardt Charitable Remainder Trust
Tom & Nancy McMahan
Side Hill Citrus

Donald & Audrey Stoye
The George W. Bauer Family Foundation
The Ridge Golf Course & Events Center

\$5,000-\$9,999

Bella Wildfire & Forestry Services
Capital Public Radio

Churchwell White LLP
Richard & Barb Proffitt

REI
Pat & Eden Rock

Nicole Spencer
Jack & Peggie Wormington

\$2,500-\$4,999

Aronowitz Skidmore Lyon
Bruin Ranch
California Foundation
for Stronger Communities
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Dennis & Nancy Meyer Family Trust
Jeff & Kim Dutra
Jon & Karen Easterbrook
Len & Kris Ganz
Harvego Family Foundation
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Elizabeth Jansen
Karen & Gerald Johnson
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John Krogsrud & Deborah Domitrovich
Jean Labadie
Joan Levers & David Manhart
John Marin & Therese Crutcher-Marin

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Placer Title Company
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Ray Santana & Janet Pucci
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The Keller Family Pathway Fund
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Community Foundation
Janet & Mark Thew
J.P. Tindell
Jackie Traynor
Traci Veteto
Phil & Kathy Weber
Larry & Linda Welch
Wildlands Inc.
Karen Wyatt
Yamasaki Landscape Architecture
Fred & Denise Yeager
Anita & Bill Yoder
Heidi & Clif Youmans

In Memory Of

Ron Blair
Don Brophy
Gabriella Debeniotis
James Durfee
Michael Grace
Dorothy B. Hamilton
Roland & Gloria Herbst

Barbara Hixon Wilson
Virginia Horton Sword
Beatrice Larkin
Pat McKenzie
Tom McMahan
John McQueen
Brad Weston

In Honor Of

Lynnette Batt
Bill Beadle
Wesley J Buckwalter
Rich Ferreira
Jim & Cathy Haagen-Smit

The Johnson Family
Jann & Ted Neal
Suzanne Peterson
Amanda Sharp
James Smith & Brooke Allison

Land Acquisition Grant Funders

California Climate Investments
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Department of Forestry and Fire
California Farmland Conservation Program
Placer County Legacy

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Board

Forever Society

Forever Society members preserve the natural wonders of Placer County for generations by including Placer Land Trust in their will and/or estate plans. We are forever grateful to our members listed below, and for our much-appreciated anonymous members.

Anonymous
Veronica Blake
Kurt & Karen Bleuel
Norma Brink
Jeff Darlington
Jan Foster & Ray Valone
Douglas A. Freeman (deceased)
Bob Gilliom & Patty Schifferle
Jim & Cathy Haagen-Smit
Doug Houston & Sons
Steve & Karen Killebrew
Tom (deceased) & Nancy McMahan

Ron & Jan Miller
Michael Pargament (deceased)
& Diane Pargament
Graeme & Debra Plant
Dean Prigmore & Patrice Taylor
Barbara G. Schutz
Nicole Spencer
Janet & John Voris
Larry & Linda Welch
Karen Wyatt

Land Benefactors

A Land Benefactor is an individual, family, or organization who has chosen to protect their land and has included some level of charitable contribution. This could be a donation of land, an easement, funding for a stewardship endowment, and/or a discounted sale.

American Land Conservancy
American River Conservancy
Lisa & Doug Balmain
Beard Ranch
Ron & Sharon Bettencourt
John & Lugene Boyd Family
Chamberlain Family
Dennis & Nancy Meyer Family Trust
Gretchen & Richard Dyson
Mark Emalfarb
Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust
Ferreira Family
Foresthill Land Company, LLC
Robert & Denise Freiheit
Neil Gerjuoy

Gould Family
The Harvego Family
Bill & Vera Johnston Family
Labadie Family
Andy & Shana Laursen
David Loera & Alison Harvey
Ron, Kathy, & Blair Meyer Family
Daryl & Sue Oest
Protect American River Canyons
Estate of Abraham V. Schenck
Susan Taylor
Leslie F. Warren
Wilson Family
Heidi & Clif Youmans

Statement of Operations 2020

ANNUAL INCOME	
Contributions	\$307,642
Events	\$99,743
One Time Gifts	\$531,535
Planned Gifts	\$38,791
Grants	\$53,252
Other Income	\$383,042
Investment Earnings	\$49,373
Special Programs	\$512,172
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME*	\$1,975,550
ANNUAL EXPENSES	
Administration	\$214,037
Fundraising	\$173,421
Land Protection and Programs	\$904,092
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSE	\$1,291,550
ASSETS	
Cash and Investments**	\$15,030,768
Accounts Receivable and Other Assets	\$31,189
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,061,957
Selected items from statement of financial position ***	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$80,157
Deferred Revenue	\$39,236
Due to Other Agencies	\$1,051,913
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,171,306

LONG TERM COMMITMENT

*Funding for land stewardship can often arrive in one year but is designed to provide for many years. As a result, income for an individual year can vary greatly compared to the related stewardship expenses and previous years.
**Likewise, 85-95% of our cash and investment assets are invested in long-term endowments to fund the ongoing and perpetual protection of our lands.
*** Amounts do not reflect recorded property value.
These reports are derived from internal unaudited financial statements for the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.