



WONDERS

PLACER LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



A Sneak Peek at Three New Preserves

As spring arrives, we're buzzing with excitement about three new land protection projects in the works! Read on for a look at what's coming in the months ahead...

We are in the final stages of placing an agricultural conservation easement on Doty Creek Ranch, a 186-acre commercial walnut orchard situated on Doty Ravine Creek in Lincoln. The easement will permanently protect the property for farming and ranching, and prohibit any future subdivision and residential development. This type of easement allows the landowner to continue ranching with little to no change to their agricultural operations. And since the easement stays with title to the land, the ranch will retain the same protections under future landowners as well.

Doty Ravine, which provides habitat for salmon and other wildlife, crosses the property and represents

an ideal location for stream and wetland restoration projects. Due to its location, zoning, and terrain, this property is under pressure from development as the City of Lincoln expands. The agricultural conservation easement will preserve Doty Creek Ranch as productive working farmland forever.

Near Sheridan, we're working to permanently protect 542 acres of rangelands and vernal pools. Surveys of the vernal pools found that several contain native fairy shrimp, a tiny crustacean that lives

only in these temporary seasonal ponds. The fairy shrimp is listed as threatened due to the loss of vernal pool habitat - the only place it can live. Protecting these grasslands preserves a rare and vital ecosystem for a wide range of wildlife, from these tiny crustaceans to migratory waterfowl and birds of prey. And as with many valley grasslands, this property also supports livestock grazing, providing land for local agriculture and food production.

We're also in the process of
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Walnut orchard at Doty Creek Ranch



Left: the tumbling Raccoon Creek crosses a cattle ranch near Lincoln.
Above: Cattle grazing coexists with vernal pool habitat in Sheridan.

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placing an agricultural conservation easement on a 328-acre cattle ranch near Lincoln. This property provides natural, agricultural, and scenic values, with rolling oak woodlands and grazing land crossed by a stretch

of Raccoon Creek. The large size of the property and the natural condition of landscape make it a significant area for wildlife habitat. Protecting this intact creek corridor provides benefits for local agriculture, as well as wildlife and water quality.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more news on these exciting projects – it's thanks to the support of members like YOU that we can protect these irreplaceable landscapes for today, tomorrow, and forever!

A Look Back at 30 Years...

Thank you, members – you have helped Placer Land Trust protect land for **30 years!** Together, we have preserved almost **12,000 acres** of farm and ranchlands, natural open space, places to get outdoors and play, critical habitat for wildlife, land that helps keep our waterways healthy and clean, and more.

We think it's appropriate that the 30th anniversary is often represented by a diamond because of its lasting durability and strength. Because of your support, Placer Land Trust has grown into a solid organization with a valued mission that has become a trusted source of knowledge and expertise in the field of land conservation. **There is so much to celebrate** when we look at what we accomplished together in our first 30 years...

1991-1999

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



Codfish Falls Trail Preserve - 1993

2003-2004

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



Canyon View Preserve - 2003

2000-2002

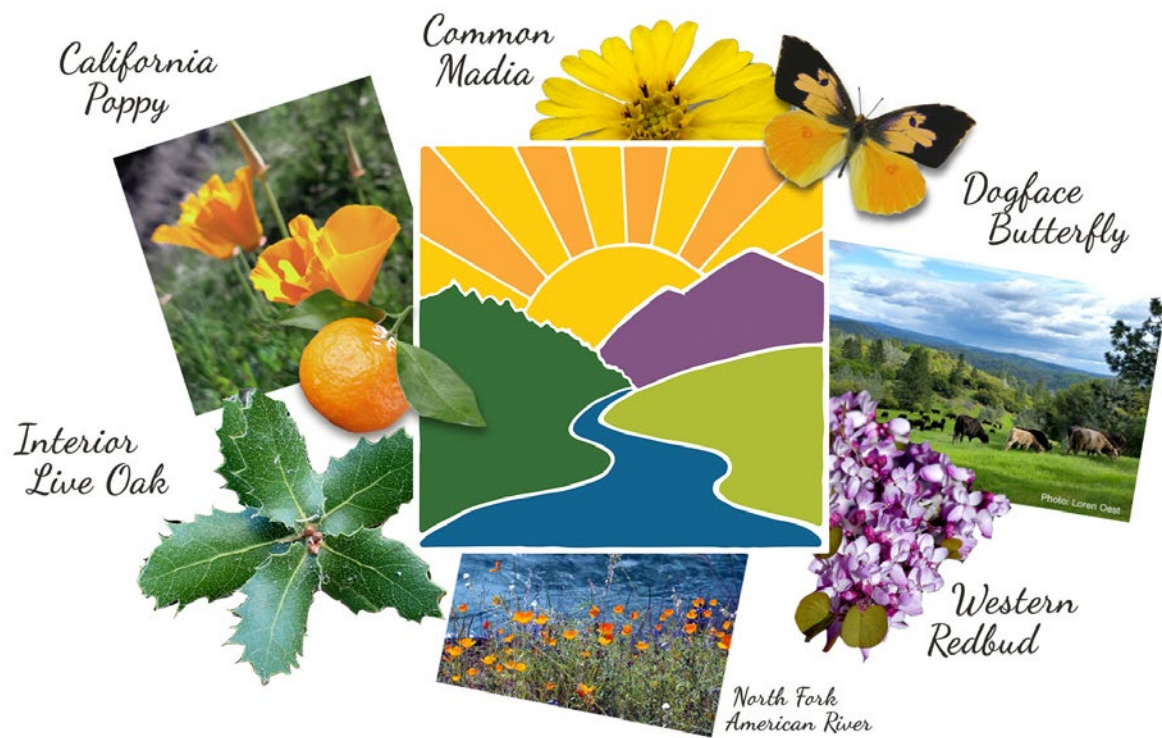
To better serve the missions of both organizations, Placer Land Trust and Placer Nature Center were split into two nonprofits. Placer Land Trust hired our first staff member, Jeff Darlington, in 2002.

2005-2006

Placer Land Trust 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, Placer Land Trust protected five more preserves, bringing the total to over 2,500 acres.



Doty Ravine Preserve - 2005



We're celebrating our big anniversary with a fresh new look! From the mountains to the valley, the rolling foothills to the rivers, our new logo reflects the places we love, protect, and call home. The colors are inspired directly by the land itself and the beauty that these landscapes provide for us all to enjoy. With the focus

on our love for the land and a bright future on the horizon, we think our new logo captures this feeling and will inspire others to join us in our journey. We hope you find our new look as energizing as we do, as we get ready for the next 30 years (and beyond) of protecting land for current and future generations!

2007-2008

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

2011-2012

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

2016-2020

The pace of conservation is picking up with 3,440 acres protected in the last 5 years, bringing the total to just under 12,000 acres! Placer Land Trust finished protecting the entire 150-year-old Oest Ranch, as well as and other ag projects. We protected numerous preserves along the American and Bear Rivers, helping to keep our waterways clean. We protected lands that create opportunities for outdoor recreation and for people to improve their mental and physical wellbeing. And we protected lands that preserve the history of local Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribes.



Gerjuoy North Fork Preserve - 2020

2009-2010

Placer Land Trust 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.



Red-legged frog

2013-2015

We conducted a successful Trails & Recreation Capital Campaign, raising over \$790,000 to build 20 miles of new trails. Placer Land Trust made a name for ourselves by outperforming all expectations in the regional online giving event, Big Day of Giving.



We're excited to see what the next 30 years has in store – we hope you'll keep our mission going for generations to come!

30 Years. That's how long people of all walks of life have been finding common ground as they protect the land they love through their support of Placer Land Trust. We could tell you all the reasons why so many people love the land, but we'll let them tell you themselves...

Agriculture & Open Space:

"I'm happy to help this organization continue its work in preserving our sacred open spaces for future generations, as well as ensuring that Placer County and the greater Sacramento region continues to have a flourishing agricultural platform."

- Hillary Bates, PLT Member



Rivers & Views:

"In April of 2003, we donated a conservation easement to Placer Land Trust. The purpose of the easement was to preserve a significant area of the land overlooking the North Fork of the American River in its natural state. In making the donation we received tremendous emotional satisfaction in knowing the land would be maintained in perpetuity as it presently exists."

- Ronald and Sharon Bettencourt, land donors

Health & Recreation:

"A delicate balance is needed to address all aspects of health. Outdoor recreation and adventure is the answer to that balance. It is now believed that major health determinants have little to do with healthcare systems and much more to do with environmental and social factors. *So go outside and play!*"

- Gina Giambruno, PLT Member & Health Educator



Volunteerism & Youth:

"I believe in PLT's mission and have a passion for outdoor activities. I volunteered at Taylor Ranch for a trail maintenance day, and I was inspired by the teenagers who showed up to help their friend with his Eagle Scout project. I've also been impressed with the Girl Scouts working at the Auburn Community Garden. It is wonderful to see young adults getting involved with their community, volunteering their time to make a difference."

- Rick Ross, PLT Member



Wildlife Habitat:

"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 enjoy renewing my membership on Big Day of Giving when I know my dollars will go further to support them."

- Morgan Lynn, PLT Member

Whether you agree with one or all these community members, we hope you find your own value in protecting our local lands before they're gone. And the good news is, the best time of the year to give is just around the corner... **turn the page to find out why!**



Big Day of Giving MAY 6

**The first \$60,000
in donations will
be DOUBLED!**

Why is Big Day of Giving the best day to invest in the well-being of our community through land preservation? The simple answer is that your donation to Placer Land Trust goes further on this day, with opportunities for it to be doubled due to our matching fund, and each gift – no matter the size – can make us eligible for additional cash prizes. But more importantly, it creates another place to find common ground as it unites our region to rally around the nonprofits that help us all thrive.

Show the region how much you value protected land this Big Day of Giving:

- 1. Donate between April 22 - May 6!** Give at www.bigdayofgiving.org/placerlandtrust, where donations will be DOUBLED while our \$60,000 matching fund lasts. If you'd rather give via check, stock, IRA rollover, or donor advised fund, simply mail to Placer Land Trust, 11641 Blocker Dr, Ste 220, Auburn, CA 95603 before May 6.
- 2. Share your support!** Please tell your friends; follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @placerlandtrust and share our posts; or introduce a friend to one of Placer Land Trust's public preserves! Just help us get the word out to protect the land that gives life and brings us together.

Please visit www.placerlandtrust.org/big-day-of-giving for more information, or email kara.walker@placerlandtrust.org. And THANK YOU for being part of our community of supporters who are protecting quality of life in Placer County for generations to come!





Poppies bloom at Harvego Bear River Preserve



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We're back on the trail!

We are delighted to welcome our community back to Big Hill Preserves for docent-led hikes! Our plan is to continue to offer these small, limited-capacity outings with Covid protocol in place as long as Placer County is in Red tier or below. Visit placerlandtrust.org/calendar for new offerings and updates!

Looking for a place to get outdoors on your own? Visit placerlandtrust.org/trails for a list of our preserves that are open to the public.

Change of address

We are moving our office space into downtown Auburn to better meet our needs. After May 1st, you can find us near Central Square:

922 Lincoln Way, Suite 200
Auburn, CA 95603

