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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/2021.



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



PLACER LAND TRUST

2021 Annual Community Report

Our Mission

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

Dear Friends,

For Placer Land Trust, 2021 was a year of stewarding our lands, reflecting on the past, and planning for our future. We wrapped up our 30th anniversary, feeling proud of what we've accomplished together—staff, board members, volunteers, partners, and donors — and dreaming about what's possible.

Despite the continued pandemic, our team was hard at work exploring new conservation projects and going through the numerous steps it takes to turn a project into a preserve. We successfully expanded the Bailey North Fork Preserve and have several other "soon-to-be preserves" nearing completion that we look forward to sharing with you soon.

We continued to steward the lands in our care, making our preserves more resilient to catastrophic wildfires, removing invasive species, and building and tending to trails. Our floodplain restoration work at Doty Ravine Preserve has made national and international news for the wonderful results we've seen there, thanks to our partnership with beavers!

2021 also reminded us that we are indebted to the generations of people before us. We acknowledge that the protected lands in our care are the ancestral lands of the Maidu, Miwok, Nisenan, and Washoe tribes, and their lands were forcibly seized, and these tribes were unjustly treated. We are also grateful for the generations of farmers and ranchers who have stewarded their lands before permanently protecting them with Placer Land Trust. We know that indigenous communities, farmers, and ranchers provide valuable knowledge about conservation and long-term stewardship of land, and we look forward to growing our partnerships with them to further conservation in the future.

Looking ahead, we think future generations deserve a chance to benefit from protected lands in Placer County as we do today. We see permanent conservation and responsible stewardship as the best ways to preserve Placer County's unparalleled ecological, agricultural, and recreational land and resources for the future, and we strive to engage all generations in this mission.

That's why we collaborated with community members to develop a new strategic plan that will guide us for the next decade. We've learned a lot over the past 30 years and are excited to put that knowledge into practice to make the future of Placer Land Trust as effective as it can be, providing the best possible benefits to all who live, work, and play in Placer County.

And to you, our members, THANK YOU for your support in 2021. You inspire us every day to do the best work we can for current and future generations. I hope 2022 finds you and your family healthy, happy, and enjoying the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Pieper

Christine Pieper
Board President



North Fork of North Fork
American River Preserve

A Look Back at 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**.

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.

2003-2004

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

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**.

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.

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.

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.

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.

2016-2020

The pace of conservation picked 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 other agriculture 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 well-being. And we protected lands that preserve the history of local Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribes.

We're excited to see what the next 30 years has in store — and your support will help sustain our work for generations to come!



Codfish Falls Trail
Preserve - 1993



Canyon View
Preserve - 2003



Doty Ravine
Preserve - 2005



Red-legged frog



Connecting our community
to the land via the Trails &
Recreation Campaign



Gerjuoy North Fork
Preserve - 2020



Sustaining Our Work: Members and Supporters

For a full list of our generous donors, please visit www.placerlandtrust.org/2021

30 years ago, Placer Land Trust was formed by community members who believed in the importance of protecting some of our special natural and agricultural lands before they were gone. Throughout the years it has been community members who have kept this mission growing through the support of their money, time, and skills. We are so grateful for EVERY member who has gotten involved in whatever way they can to help ensure future generations benefit from the beautiful and sustaining lands that we treasure today. *We thank you today, and know your impact will be felt forever!*



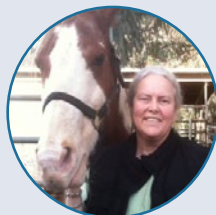
Placer Land Trust & Nature Center was formed in 1991



As of 2001, the last year it remained Placer Land Trust & Nature Center, we had 26 member households, 7 of which are still contributing in 2021! One of those committed members, Christine Turner, has been supporting PLT because of her love of agriculture in the region.

"When the land resource is gone, then it's gone – and agriculture will go with it. Soil is a non-renewable resource, and our most precious resource. The protection of our agricultural land is the most important thing we can do today, to ensure that future generations can continue to live and work on the land and contribute to our local economy, environment, and quality of life."

– Christine Turner, 2021 Conservator Awardee and former Placer County Agricultural Commissioner



By 2011, we had grown to 369 member households. 76 of which have given every year since — at least 10 years straight!



"We are pleased to support Placer Land Trust because the Trust envisions and implements multi-use projects that will impact our community for generations to come. Helping Placer Land Trust in their mission gives us the opportunity to contribute to an organization that protects our open space... open space that is so very valuable to both body and spirit."

– Jim & Mary Kleinbach

In 2021, we are fortunate to have the support of 767 member households!



"Since moving to Northern California I have seen urbanization taking over formerly pristine areas in Placer County. I want to do what I can to help preserve what is left for future generations to enjoy, and Placer Land Trust is a great vehicle to do just that."

– Iggy Rivas

2021 Forever Society: 26 member households



"We are inspired by the partnerships Placer Land Trust has put in place over the last several decades to not only protect farmland and wildlands from future development, but to enhance outdoor experiences and food production as well. A planned gift seems like the best way to contribute to the quality of life of future inhabitants of Placer County."

– Karen and Steve Killebrew

2021 Sustaining Members: 31 member households



"I think it's important to have land set aside to enjoy its beauty and remember that we were not the first ones here. I support Placer Land Trust with just a small amount at a time. I think it's easy to fall into the thinking that "I can't give a lot so I won't give at all." But a small amount given through online bill-pay every paycheck [or via monthly credit card donation] is easy, and if I forget, it still gets done."

– Alaine Callen

Guiding the Future: Our New Strategic Plan

Placer Land Trust has just put the finishing touches on a new strategic plan designed to guide us for the next decade. We worked with an outside consultant; conducted a detailed survey of staff, board, and community council members; received input from conservation partners and community members via a targeted survey; and interviewed partners and community leaders with experience in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access to land. After numerous conversations and workshops, we are pleased to share an overview of this community-guided effort. For the full and complete Strategic Plan, visit placerlandtrust.org/strategicplan.



GOAL 1:
Expand Land Conservation with a Focus on Water, Climate and Connectivity

GOAL 2:
Ensure Effective Stewardship of Land to Protect Conservation Values and Communities

GOAL 3:
Provide Meaningful Opportunities for People to Connect to Land

GOAL 4:
Engage with Community to Increase Awareness and Investment in PLT's Mission

GOAL 5:
Maintain a Solid and Sustainable Organization

Taylor Ranch Preserve

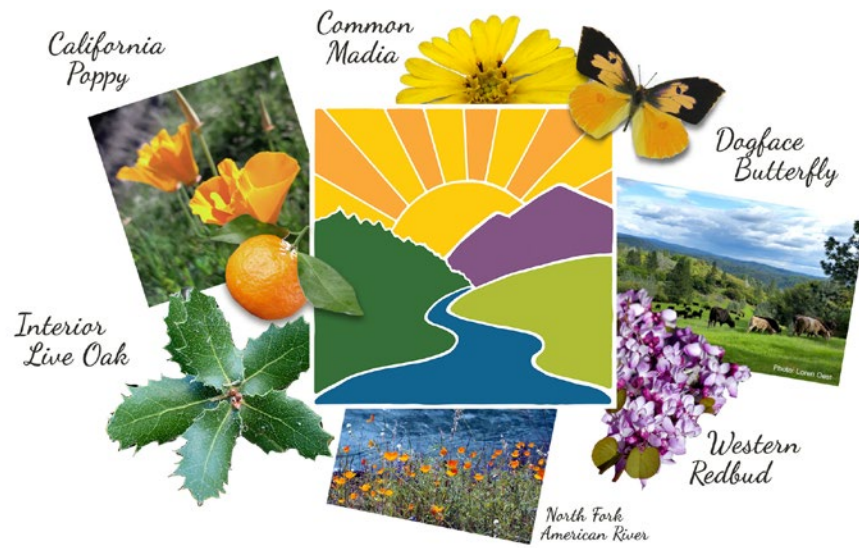
Land Acknowledgment

The protected lands in Placer Land Trust's care are the ancestral lands of the Maidu, Miwok, Nisenan and Washoe tribes. These lands were forcibly seized, and these tribes were unjustly treated. Although Placer Land Trust cannot change the past, we seek to work with local Native American tribes where we can to help address this injustice.

IDEAL: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access to Land

Placer Land Trust seeks to protect land for the sake of the environment, the benefit of people, and the connections between them. Just as diversity strengthens a natural ecosystem, we know it makes our communities stronger and more resilient. Our long-term success depends on inclusive community support now and in the future, and on staying relevant to current and future generations.

We believe our region's quality of life depends in part on equitable access to a healthy outdoors, yet our present-day enjoyment of the land stems from a privilege that is not afforded to all. Our vision is that all people — especially those who have been excluded or underrepresented — have a voice, a role, and feel a sense of belonging on our shared lands. We hope all who enjoy these natural lands and open spaces are inspired to play an active role in furthering our mission. We will continue to work intentionally towards this goal until our leadership, membership, and footprint ultimately reflect the diversity of identity, background, and experiences of our beautiful region — and then we will strive to sustain that diversity forever.



We kicked off our 30th anniversary year 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, our new logo captures this feeling as we step into a new decade of protecting land for current and future generations.

We also moved our office space to **922 Lincoln Way in downtown Auburn**. Built in 1892, this beautiful historic building is located just up the street from Central Square. We are excited to be in a space that brings us more opportunities to be a visible and involved part of our community!



A Land Affair was celebrated in June, with a new picnic format! This event honors a special group of visionaries, including our Forever Society members, Conservation Champions, and Land Benefactors, who gathered at Taylor Ranch Preserve to enjoy a beautiful afternoon among the oaks.

To learn more about these visionary circles, visit placerlandtrust.org/membership.

Bailey North Fork Preserve Expanded

River frontage, recreation opportunities, watershed, and wildlife habitat

In December, Placer Land Trust permanently protected an 11-acre addition to the **Bailey North Fork Preserve** on the North Fork American River. The new parcel is located south of Interstate 80 at Alta and can be accessed from the public Green Valley and Euchre Bar trails.

The property was donated by the family and heirs of Matt and Betty Bailey and will be permanently protected as natural and recreational land. Placer Land Trust protected the original 40-acre Bailey family parcel in 2016; the new addition increases the size of the Bailey North Fork Preserve to 51 acres of scenic canyon land.

The preserve is named in recognition of the Bailey family's multi-generational work to protect the American River. Matt and Betty Bailey were leaders of a decades-long effort in the 1960s and '70s to protect the North Fork American River, culminating in 1978 when a 38-mile stretch of the river was awarded with the National Wild & Scenic River designation.

"Our connections to the North Fork American River span a long period time and run deep," said Heidi Youmans, one of the Bailey heirs who donated the land to Placer Land Trust. "Our family places importance on the value of natural landscapes and the multitude of ways such places contribute to quality of life for current and future generations. Donating this land to Placer Land Trust is simply the right thing to do."

Bailey North Fork Preserve is connected by public land

managed by the U.S. Forest Service and can be visited by the public. The preserve is situated near the end of the Green Valley Trail, a trail made public by the Towle family of Alta as part of the broad ongoing effort to protect land and river access in the Giant Gap area of the North Fork American River. Views of Lover's Leap and the river gorge make the trail to the preserve a popular one. The new 11-acre addition to the preserve includes a beautiful swimming hole that can be reached from the trail.

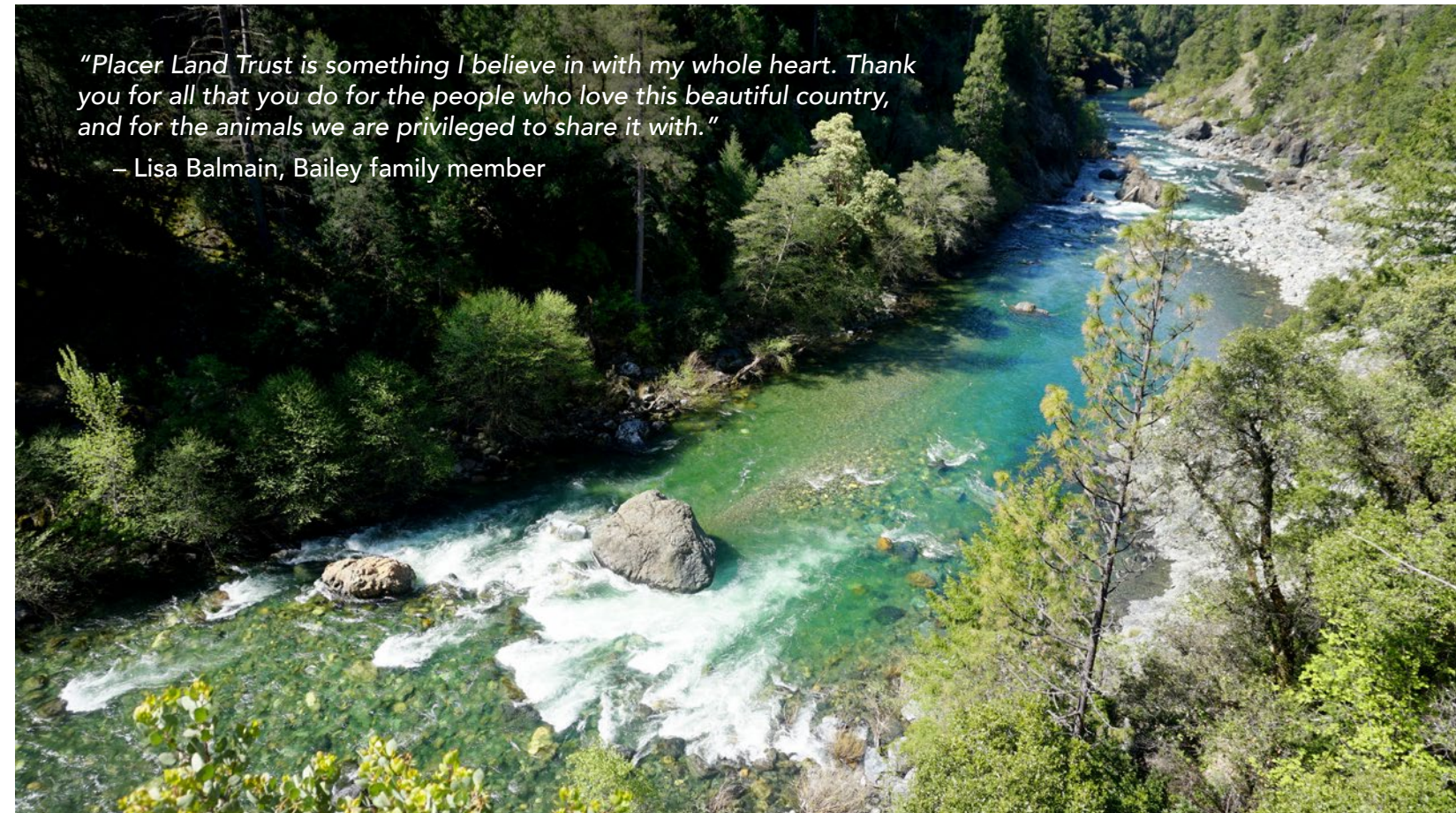
"The American River is beautiful and sacred in so many ways," said Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington. "We are indebted to all people who care for the lands along the river, including our Native American community and the Bailey family, and we pledge to protect this watershed for the benefit of all living things now and in the future."

Placer Land Trust will continue to manage Bailey North Fork Preserve in a way that preserves its 'wild' status, benefiting wildlife and protecting the river (and thus the quality of our drinking water), while maintaining open access for public recreation.

Funding for the ongoing stewardship of Bailey North Fork Preserve was obtained through a grant from the Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust and donor contributions at Placer Land Trust's 2020 Placer Conservator auction.

"Placer Land Trust is something I believe in with my whole heart. Thank you for all that you do for the people who love this beautiful country, and for the animals we are privileged to share it with."

— Lisa Balmain, Bailey family member



Highlights of 2021: Projects made possible by our volunteers and community partners

The pandemic put many of our community activities on hold in 2020, but 2021 saw some creative new ways to engage with our members and the public. In June, Placer Land Trust's **Community Council** launched its first **Preserve Passport Program** to encourage people to discover our preserves and celebrate National Great Outdoors Month. Participants visited their choice of public preserves, enjoyed the benefits of being outdoors, earned cool prizes, and shared their photos and stories with us.



Our **docent-led hikes** resumed in 2021, with smaller groups of participants and Covid safety practices in place. We introduced a new sunrise hike to beat the summer heat, and a lucky group of members got to visit the Dogface Butterflies at Shutamul Bear River Preserve! Hikers enjoyed getting back out to our beautiful protected lands in a safe and comfortable way with our knowledgeable docents.

Partnering for a Fire Safe Community

Fuels reduction and fire safety improvements are vital aspects of our work to care for our preserves. In fall 2021, we partnered on the **Auburn Shaded Fuel Break project**, a fuels reduction effort managed by the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) in cooperation with the Auburn Fire Department, CA State Parks, US Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners like Placer Land Trust. This project strategically reduces fuels along 353 acres of the American River canyon rim, bordering the City of Auburn, and aims to protect it in the event of a wildfire.

To form a shaded fuel break, hand crews clear out dense understory vegetation — also known as “ladder fuels” — which can raise a fire into the upper tree canopy. This modifies the behavior of the fire by keeping it slow-moving and low to the ground, reducing severity and providing crews an opportunity to access and suppress the fire before it can cause further damage. The Auburn Shaded Fuel Break includes a 34-acre swath of **Canyon View Preserve**, as well as part of **Aeolia Preserve**, a smaller neighborhood preserve nearby on the edge of the canyon.

Canyon View Preserve is a special place to both Placer Land Trust and to the local community — now more than ever, as it remained an accessible and peaceful outdoor space during the pandemic. We worked closely with Placer RCD to best meet the conservation goals of the preserve while maximizing the benefits of the fuel break. In addition to the overall community benefits of preventing catastrophic wildfire, this project provides an opportunity to build upon our other management goals, such as reaching more invasive species for removal and opening the canopy for greater diversity of species in the understory.

Burrowing Owls Thrive at Swainson's Grassland Preserve



A burrowing owl encounters a visitor. Photo by Dennis Cavallo

At Swainson's Grassland Preserve, a new artificial burrowing owl nest was installed in February, and a family of owls promptly moved in! William Jessup University's Institute for Biodiversity and the Environment also began a project to study the owls and their nesting habits at this Placer Land Trust preserve. In addition to demonstrating nesting success by the owls with the use of artificial burrows, this study is helping recover this species locally in Placer County.



At Doty Ravine Preserve, staff and volunteers planted 200 blue oaks and installed an irrigation system to help the young trees get established.

Preserve Stewards Improve Trail Access



At **Big Hill Preserves**, a new gate revamp project improved accessibility and enjoyment for all types of users.

The new gates are designed to be compatible with different types of recreation, and are easily used by equestrians, cyclists, and hikers alike.

This preserve is also used for cattle grazing, and the new gates will keep cows from crossing into pastures where they're not supposed to be, increasing safety for both people and livestock. We also improved trail wayfinding with new maps and trail markers.

The gates were installed by our dedicated volunteer group of **Preserve Stewards**, who tackle various maintenance and improvement projects on our recreation lands. The group grew in 2021 to 20 members and is now doing work on most of the preserves we own. We are so grateful for these talented and hardworking volunteers, and for all that they've helped us accomplish — many projects, like this one, could not have happened without them!



At **Canyon View Preserve**, Eagle Scout **Michael Collins** of Rocklin worked with our staff to design and build a new side trail and a secluded picnic area. Through COVID lockdowns and many weekends, he and 35 volunteers contributed over 600 hours to complete the project.

Doty Ravine Beavers and Restoration Make Headlines

In summer 2021, our local beavers made international news as media outlets from Sacramento to Canada to the UK picked up the story about our wetland restoration project at **Doty Ravine Preserve** in Lincoln.

This innovative project uses a technique called *process-based restoration* to return the natural process of flooding across the area where it used to exist. The Doty Ravine floodplain was dry and damaged due to many decades of human intervention, with an eroded stream channel carved through a dusty, fire-prone grassland. With the process-based restoration approach, our job was to set up the right natural conditions, then step back and let nature — or in this case, beavers — do the work.

To help get the restoration started, we built beaver dam analogues — artificial beaver dams that encourage the local beavers to build their own natural dams. We also removed the old levee that was installed to contain the stream and control flooding. The restored floodplain now acts as a giant sponge, slowing and holding water for a period of time, and providing wildlife habitat, a natural firebreak, and groundwater for the area.

Indigenous cultures have practiced this kind of nature-led stewardship for thousands of years, but modern approaches tend to be much more controlled — an engineer designs how it will look, heavy equipment is used to carve out the floodplain, and plants are re-planted according to a design plan. That may sound good, but there are some



Above: aerial view of the restored Doty Ravine floodplain.
Inset: a beaver works by night at Doty Ravine.

big trade-offs: the survival rate of planted plants in these settings is often low, the work is resource-intensive, and it all has a significant carbon footprint. It also costs a lot more money: potentially hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of dollars. Instead, with process-based restoration, the Doty Ravine beavers provided a solution that was cost-effective, eco-friendly, and wildly successful — with 60 acres (equivalent to about 45 football fields) of dry floodplain brought back to lush, green, diverse life in just a few years.



Placer Land Trust Staff

Jeff Darlington, *Executive Director*
Lynnette Batt
Julia Boorinakis Harper
Christy Claes
Sarah Darney
Elias Grant
Heather Harden

Elia Rivas
Eden Rock
Anna Urias
Janet Voris
Kara Walker
Jeff Ward

Board of Directors

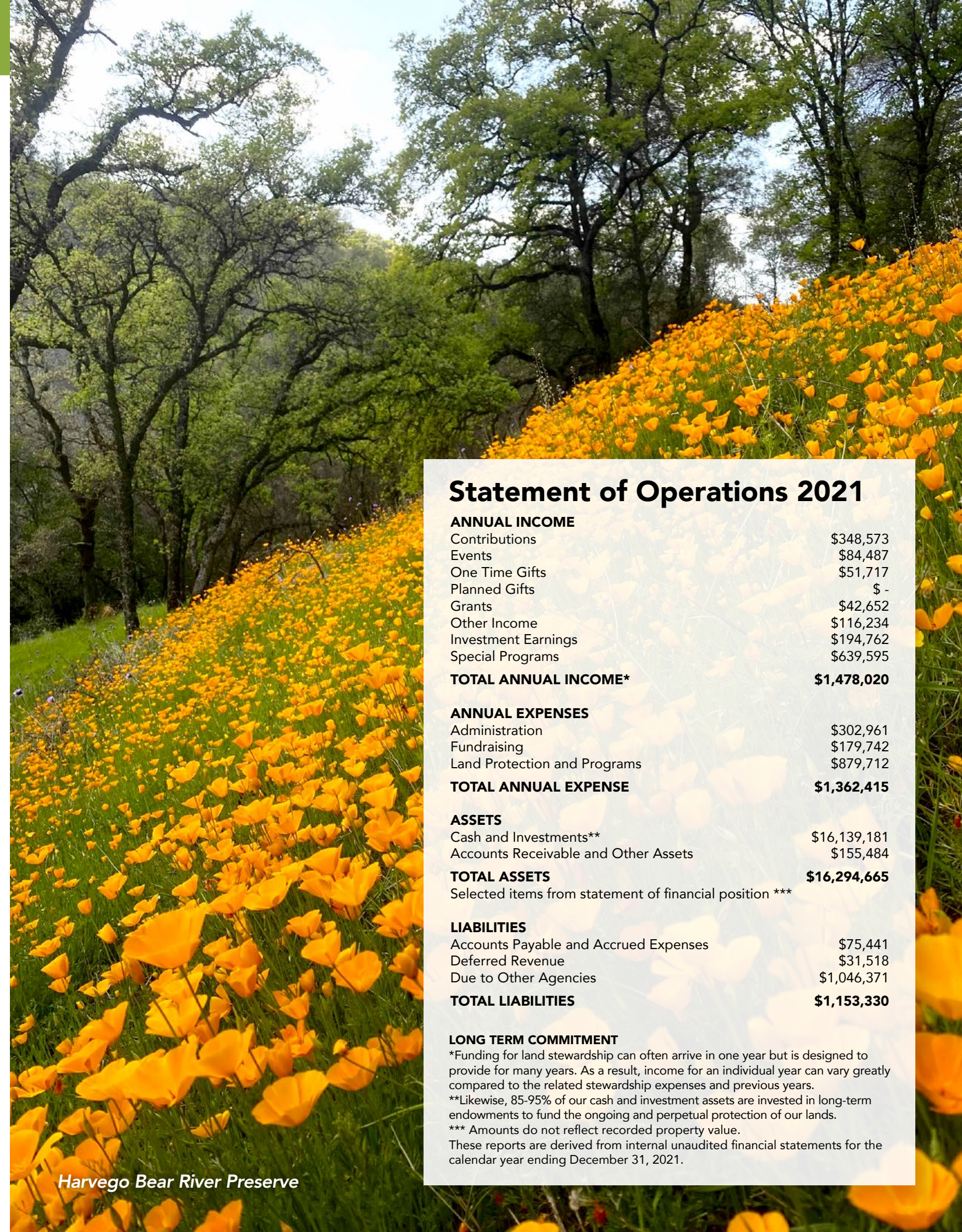
Christine Pieper, *President*
Fred Yeager, *Vice President*
Robert Gilliom, *Treasurer*
Jim Haagen-Smit, *Secretary*
Achini Bandara
Barbara Brenner

Amy Eubank
Rich Ferreira
Doug Houston
Karen Keene
John Marin
Maggie Tides

Community Council

Karen Keene, *co-chair*
Tatyana Kjellberg, *co-chair*
Therese Adams
Shannon Benton
Brandon Hill
Brian Bellew
Loren Clark
Vickie Hayashigatani

Cathy Johnson
Mark Johnson
Jocelyn Maddux
Christine McMorrow
Kate Nitta
Nicole Spencer
J.P. Tindell
Gary Wells



Harvego Bear River Preserve

Statement of Operations 2021

ANNUAL INCOME	
Contributions	\$348,573
Events	\$84,487
One Time Gifts	\$51,717
Planned Gifts	\$ -
Grants	\$42,652
Other Income	\$116,234
Investment Earnings	\$194,762
Special Programs	\$639,595
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME*	\$1,478,020
ANNUAL EXPENSES	
Administration	\$302,961
Fundraising	\$179,742
Land Protection and Programs	\$879,712
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSE	\$1,362,415
ASSETS	
Cash and Investments**	\$16,139,181
Accounts Receivable and Other Assets	\$155,484
TOTAL ASSETS	\$16,294,665
Selected items from statement of financial position ***	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$75,441
Deferred Revenue	\$31,518
Due to Other Agencies	\$1,046,371
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,153,330
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, 2021.