

Northern Region Council News- January 2016

New Faces at Northern Region Land Trusts:



Friends of the Dunes

Pete Bidigare is the new Executive Director for Friends of the Dunes. He has an extensive naturalist background and has developed and implemented interpretive programming with the National Park Service, California State Parks, school districts and nonprofit organizations. Intertwined with his field experience, he has also amassed a successful track record in volunteer recruitment, fundraising and event planning. As Executive Director, he is most passionate about continuing the rich legacy of Friends of the Dunes and strengthening its ability to serve the community.

Northcoast Regional Land Trust

NCRLT welcomed Dan Ehresman as a new project manager. Dan has over 15 years of experience working in the non-profit sector with numerous conservation-based organizations in Northern California – most recently serving as Executive Director of the Northcoast Environmental Center. He is a board member of the Rose Foundation's Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund and currently serves on the McKay Community Forest Advisory Group. He is committed to creating more sustainable communities, protecting and celebrating the ecological systems that sustain us, and supporting one another to create a more resilient future for life in all its forms – human and wild.

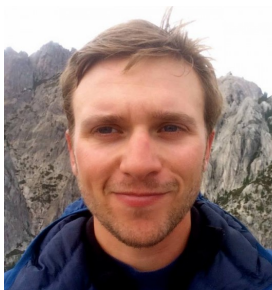


Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

In December, Ben Morehead was appointed as the first executive director of the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust. A long time board member, Ben has worked professionally for almost twenty years in the land trust conservation field, including positions with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and Southern Humboldt's Sanctuary Forest.



This past year has been a great one for the TCLT: the acquisition of 15 acres of coastal property along the Little River, the completion of the new TCLT office and Simmons Gallery building, and a continuing ramp-up of restoration and stewardship efforts on TCLT's 18 property holdings. These include Baker, Beach, Houda Point / Camel Rock, north Luffenholtz Beach, as well as the public access easement at Moonstone Beach. In addition, TCLT is working with partners towards a federal designation of Trinidad Head as a California Coastal National Monument; one of a select group of on-shore BLM properties selected for this preservation designation.



Sanctuary Forest

Galen Doherty, Lands Program Director

Beginning July 2015, Galen Doherty will be joined the Sanctuary Forest team as the Lands Program Director. He previously served on the Sanctuary Forest Board of Directors, and was on both the Lands and Stewardship Committees.

McKinleyville Land Trust (MLT)

MLT has been keeping busy with their properties:

Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland (DPEW)

In October, MLT hosted an environmental education workshop for teachers and environmental educators. DPEW is part of USFW's Schoolyard Habitat program. Participants were introduced to the Growing Up WILD activity guide, the Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum, and the CA Regional Environmental Education Community network.

Chah-GAH-Cho

MLT, in partnership with the Redwood Community Action Agency, received a grant through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program of the CA Natural Resources Agency to develop a formal trail system, signage and trailhead improvements, and vegetation mgmt for their Chah-GAH-Cho property. Work will start in Spring 2016.

Mad River Bluffs (MRB):

A very active Friends of the MRB committee has been formed to deal with issues related to MRB, including proliferating dog waste, off-trail use by humans and dogs, occasional confrontations between different kinds of trail users (e.g., dog-walkers, bicyclists), and illegal camping, trash dumping, and removal of plant materials.

Mark your calendars for the MLT Annual Dinner and Auction is set for March 6, 2016. There will be a slideshow by the Yurok Tribe on the reintroduction of the CA condor to the North Coast of California.

Sonoma Land Trust



DONE DEAL! Estero Ranch has been protected forever

On December 24, the Sonoma Land Trust closed on 547-acre Estero Ranch, offering both Estero Americano frontage and Pacific coastline from which one can see Point Reyes, Bodega Head and Doran Beach.

Read more at: <http://sonomalandtrust.org/>

Mendocino Land Trust

On Saturday, January 30th, volunteers are invited to help plant 600 trees on a private preserve in Willits and we would love your help. Spaces are limited, so if you would like to spend a morning making Mendocino a greener place, please RSVP to Nicolet at nhoutz@mendocinolandtrust.org

Save the Date- May 6 & 7th Siskiyou Face to Face meeting!



Picture yourself in beautiful Sisson Meadow, having your coffee or doing gentle stretches before heading out to have a day on the land, learning about and exploring land trust projects and Siskiyou county.

Friday afternoon focuses on the Northern Region Council with face-to-face sharing, and networking followed by an evening social.

Saturday NRC members are invited to participate in a Siskiyou Big Day on the Land, getting out in the field with other land professionals, learning about innovative land projects.

More details are coming soon. Please email carol.vandermeer@gmail.com to reserve your space.

Be a Part of the Proposed NRC Trail Guide

The NRC steering committee directed Carol Vander Meer, the Regional Coordinator develop a scope of work and funding strategy for a trail guide to highlight 10-12 public access trails in the Northern Region. If your land trust would like to participate, send Carol a description, a map of one, no more than two trails you want to highlight, a map showing its location in the region, a description of the trail and a scenic shot if you want to be included. The effort is modeled after the Tri-valley trail map which can be viewed here: <http://visitttrivalley.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/TrailBrochureAugust14-OnlineVersion-V4.pdf>

Submit Your NRC News Items!

If you would like to submit items to be included in the quarterly Northern Region Council News, send your items and photos to: carol.vandermeer@gmail.com