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Northern Region Council News- Winter 2017

A quarterly newsletter highlighting success stories, upcoming activities and innovative conservation practices of land trusts in California's Northern Region.

North Coast Regional Land Trust

Indian Creek Conservation

Easement and Martin

Slough Enhancement

Project Funded

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recently

announced their list of Proposition 1 funded projects, and the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Phase II conservation easement project at Indian Creek was selected for funding. They will now be able to complete this historic 2,700-acre conservation easement, which is likely to close in 2017.



The cold, salmon-bearing stream of Indian Creek will be protected forever.

NOAA's Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grant Program



will be providing funding to implement the enhancement project at Martin Slough that they have been planning with project partners Redwood Community Action Agency and the City of Eureka. This project will provide key improvements to juvenile coho salmon

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and improving viability on agricultural land owned by the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and recreational land owned by the City of Eureka. They look forward to implementing the Martin Slough Enhancement Project in summer of 2017.

McKinleyville Land Trust

SAVE THE DATE— McKinleyville Land Trust MARCH 5 ANNUAL DINNER

Mark your calendars for the MLT Annual Dinner on March 5, 2017. The dinner will be held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville, with doors opening at 5 pm. This year we welcome Jennifer Wheeler, a local Botanist with the Bureau of Land Management who will be discussing restoration of native coastal grasslands using locally sourced, native grasses. Jennifer will discuss her efforts and successes, in partnering with the Mattole Restoration Council and Humboldt Fish Action Council, to restore grassland ecosystems in the King Range National Conservation Area, and the Lacks Creek Management Area in the Redwood Creek watershed. For more information contact info@mlandtrust.org

Lake County Land Trust

Annual Dinner a Success!

Over 100 people attended the Annual Lake County Land Trust fundraising dinner October 11. This year the land trust honored local attorney and rancher, Peter Windrem, for his many years of service to the Land Trust. Congressman Mike



Thompson, presented Windrem with a plaque and a resolution honoring his service. Keynote speaker Karen Ross, California State Secretary of Agriculture, shared her support of partnerships between land trusts and agricultural businesses. She stressed that enlightened government agencies must

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Lake County Land Trust president, Val Nixon reviewed the accomplishments of the land trust over the last year, including completing two conservation easements and the imminent purchasing of a 30-acre wetland parcel on the shores of Clear Lake in Big Valley. Nixon also recognized retiring Lake County Land Trust Executive Director, Catherine Koehler and welcomed new Executive Director, Tom Smythe; new Outreach Coordinator, Melissa Kinsell; and the Land Trust's new Operations Coordinator, Anne Martin.

Sanctuary Forest

Sanctuary Forest surpassed their 2016 goal and raised \$103,946 to save Van Arken watershed. They are already well on their way to meet their 2017 goal of \$100,000. As of January 4th, they have already raised \$18,600!

Learn more about this important watershed at: <http://www.sanctuaryforest.org/vanarkenwatershed/>

California Coastal Monument Expansion

On January 12, President Obama expanded the California Coastal National Monument to include three new sites in Humboldt County and three others in Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, and Orange Counties. The



national monument includes the Lost Coast Headlands, Walumph-Lighthouse Ranch and Trinidad Head, about 460 acres in Humboldt County. The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust has actively worked to support this designation. Executive Director Ben Morehead said "it is an honor that three out of our state's five newly designated on-shore California Coastal National Monument areas are in

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amazing ocean views. I hope that the communities living and working here will benefit from the resource management, economic and tourism opportunities that this national monument designation will offer."

Sonoma County Land Trust

Get out on the land and enjoy the many winter bird outings being conducted by Sonoma County Land Trust. Learn more at:

<https://sonomalandtrust.org/outings.html>

Friends of the Dunes

Kim McFarland, New Executive Director!



Kim first got involved with Friends of the Dunes through our Coastal Naturalist Training program in 2007 and can often be found out in the dunes telling folks about the nesting and mating behavior of our native dune silver bee, the topic of her Master's thesis. After serving on the Board of Directors for the past few years, she is very excited to completely immerse herself in the organization.

In addition to their regularly scheduled walks and restoration days, there are a couple of especially notable opportunities to get involved in learning about and caring for the coast., February 25 is the Annual Lupin Bash at Lanphere Dunes, and on Thursday, March 9th, attend an evening lecture entitled: Where Have all the Porcupines gone? More at: friendsofthedunes.org

Jacoby Creek Land Trust

Jacoby Creek Land Trust is looking for an ATV to use in their land management and would appreciate any leads on who might be willing to donate (or deeply discount) an ATV in good working condition. Donations are tax deductible and there may be some nice Kokte Ranch grass fed steaks in it for the donor.

Contact Susan Ornelas at susanjclt@gmail.com with any leads.

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Renee Casterline is new SLT Executive Director

Siskiyou Land Trust is thrilled to announce that Renee Casterline is the new Executive Director. Casterline has been with Siskiyou Land Trust for nearly a year and a half as a development consultant and has managed two very successful Giving Tuesday efforts. She comes to the organization after working at Great Northern Services as the Community Foods Program Manager. Casterline was born in Mt. Shasta and raised in Gazelle. She comes from



a Shasta Valley ranching family and is a life-long Siskiyou County resident. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Prescott College and a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. She has served in a number of community groups and is the current chair of the Mt. Shasta Recreation and Parks District Board. "I am so very excited to become the ED of Siskiyou Land Trust," Casterline said. "This is an incredible organization that is centered around the people who support SLT, meeting community needs and preserving the landscapes of my childhood."

Mattole Restoration Council

Do you like working with native plants? How about helping out our community? If so, come get your hands dirty with us at the Native Plant Nursery on Mondays from 10-12pm.

Tasks vary weekly – but you can expect to enjoy simple fulfilling jobs such as transplanting trees, preparing seedlings to be planted, and maintaining our native Seed Farms.

Can't make it out but still want to support the nursery? You can find some of the plants that we sell [here](#).

For more information or to find out what we are doing this week, contact Veronica at 629-3514, or veronica@mattole.org.

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CCLT Update**New Executive Director of CCLT**

California Council of Land Trusts is pleased to announce it has named a new Executive Director.

Ane Deister is an energetic executive manager with more than 25 years experience leading public water-related organizations in Southern and Northern California. She has held officer-level positions in large environmental, resource management and construction private sector firms since 2008.

She serves on the board of directors of the Water Education Foundation, Bay Planning Coalition, Urban Water Institute and several positions with the national American Water Works Association.

She previously served on the California Water Commission, appointed by Governor Davis, confirmed by the State Senate and to the President's National Drought Policy Commission by President Bill Clinton's administration, representing urban water for the country. In her initial private sector appointment, she served as the Restoration Administrator for the San Joaquin River Restoration program.

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District**Exciting Conservation Project near Stewarts Point**

This 868-acre property is highly visible as it is situated on both sides of Highway One on the north side of the hamlet of Stewarts Point. The property includes one mile of coastal bluff, and extends inland east over about two miles of forestland to the South Fork Gualala River, where the property fronts along approximately 1.7 miles of the Gualala River. Habitats on the property include coastal grassland, Bishop pine forest, and second-growth redwood forest with scattered legacy trees, late seral redwoods, and sag ponds. Grazing has historically occurred on the grasslands, and currently continues. Timber

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for sustainable timber harvesting under a non-industrial timber harvest plan. In addition, there is a forest reserve area along the Gualala River and sag ponds in which harvesting is limited.

Conservation of this property is of both local and state-wide interest; we received grants towards its protection through a conservation easement from the Coastal Conservancy (\$1M) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (\$3M). The District contributed \$2M. Public access has been a high priority, particularly along the coast, and another important component of the transaction is a trail easement, which went directly to the County. The District will be providing some funds to Regional Parks to construct about a mile of trail along the coastal terrace – at the same time that it will be constructing the trail on the Kashia Coastal Reserve.

The current landowner, Save the Redwoods League, will soon be recording a Cultural Access Easement over the property (which is consistent with the CE) that allows the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians access to its origination site, which is located on the property.

Another exciting result of this transaction is that in the near future, the League will convey the encumbered property to members of the Richardson family. Other members of the family previously owned this property but then the estate needed to sell it. When the property was put up for sale, the League stepped in to buy it so that a conservation outcome could be accomplished. Now, the property will go back to the Richardson family, who has owned property in and around Stewarts Point for multiple generations, thus, keeping the land in the private hands of a family with deep ties to the area.

Along with this transaction, the League will also be acquiring a conservation easement over a substantial old-growth redwood forest on adjacent property owned by the Richardson family, which is one of the last remaining privately-owned forests of its type.

This project results in so many benefits. It's a win for the forest, Gualala River, scenic vistas, Pacific Ocean coastal public access, Kashia access, multi-

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Mark your calendars!

Forest Conservation Conference,

June 8-10, 2017, Santa Rosa



**SONOMA COUNTY FOREST
CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**

The theme for the conference is growing resilience in forest, woodlands, forest communities and economies. The conference is for practitioners, landowners, tribe members and others to share their diverse base of knowledge and how to apply it on the ground. There will be one day of field trips, and two days of talks, panels and workshops. The conference will also serve as the next Northern Region Council face-to-face gathering. Conference organizers are in the process of soliciting presenters. If you have suggestions for presentations, please contact:

Marian Vernon | Strategic Initiatives Analyst

Sonoma Land Trust

822 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

[\(707\) 526-6930 ext. 133](tel:(707)526-6930)

www.sonomalandtrust.org

Possible Collaborative Water Grant Discussed During January Northern Region Council Conference Call

Tom Hicks, a water rights-real property-conservation attorney, participated in the most recent conference call to discuss the possibility of putting together a water resources planning grant for the region to be submitted through the Wildlife Conservation Board's Prop 1 grant program. Tom views land trusts as being in a unique position to put together a proposal that increases conservation values and increases stream flows at critical times through transnational strategies involving encumbrance. If you have project ideas you would like to share with the NRC, please email them to Carol at:

carol.vandermeer@gmail.com and she will share with the group.

Renew your Northern Region Council Membership! Please help keep the region strong by renewing your membership in the NRC. Membership helps support continued opportunities for collaboration through E-newsletters, conference calls, Face-to-Face gatherings and support for projects that

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Trans](#)[NRC Membership](#)**NEXT Northern Region Council Conference Call, March 15, 2pm****Dial number:** [\(641\) 715-3580](tel:(641)715-3580)**Access Code:** 305-654

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 27, 2017 (April-June) Send
newsletter items to: **carol@northernregioncouncil.org**



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