

FRLT Land Protection Update

Matley Ranch Protected

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FRLT is pleased to announce that it recently partnered with The Nature Conservancy to help acquire the 1,030-acre Matley Ranch along upper Last Chance Creek! The acquisition closed on February 20, 2004. The Nature Conservancy is initially holding title to this magnificent property, while FRLT manages it.

The Matley Ranch consists primarily of spectacular, high mountain meadows. Some of the property's exciting features include a high diversity of wildlife and plant species, spectacular vistas and rock formations, key breeding and migratory habitat for the Doyle Deer Herd (the property abuts the Dixie Mountain Game Refuge), important mountain lion and black bear habitat, three perennial creeks, an abundance of Native American cultural sites, and much more!



The property is being leased to a local rancher for cattle grazing, while key streams and riparian areas are restored in partnership with the Feather River Coordinated Resources Management Group.

With the protection of the Matley Ranch, FRLT has now helped protect six properties, totaling more than 17,000 acres, in the Feather River Region.

Trosi Canyon Ranch Under Option

In addition, on June 1, 2004, FRLT entered into an option contract to purchase a conservation easement on the 1,360-acre Trosi Canyon Ranch in Sierra Valley. This property is highly threatened by development and provides critical wintering and migratory habitat for the Doyle Deer Herd, contains spectacular scenery, and is surrounded by public lands (USFS and BLM). Additional resources of interest found on the Ranch

include montane riparian, wet meadow and black oak woodland habitats, aspen stands, several perennial springs and creeks, and a diverse assemblage of breeding bird species.

FRLT has secured \$350,000 to date and has until year end to raise the remaining \$500,000 necessary to purchase the conservation easement. Please call Paul Hardy at 530/283-5758 if you are interested in helping to protect the Trosi Canyon Ranch.

The Road Ahead

In addition to being under contract on the Trosi Canyon Ranch, FRLT is currently working on several other land transactions in places like Genesee Valley, Sierra Valley, Long Valley and Mountain Meadows that give us the opportunity to protect thousands of additional acres in the months ahead. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution today in support of FRLT's effective program of land protection. Together we can continue to work to protect the places that make the Feather River Region special.

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FEATHER RIVER



LAND TRUST



Protecting the places that make the Feather River Region special . . .

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Protecting Culturally Important Properties

The Feather River Land Trust has had a Land Protection Committee since its beginnings. This committee evaluated properties to be protected, helped conduct land transactions, managed properties and monitored conservation easements. Due to our increased work load, we recently determined that it was time to divide our Land Protection committee into two separate committees, with very distinct responsibilities. Today we have a Land Protection Committee and a Land Stewardship Committee. The Land Stewardship Committee manages the lands that we own and monitors our conservation easements. The Land Protection Committee reviews every property that is referred to us according to established criteria; including biological value, agricultural value, recreation value, scenic value and cultural value. Each property is ranked according to its importance in these areas. The Land Protection Committee also helps conduct land transactions, which often entails legal and fundraising work.

In evaluating our process, we decided that we wanted to be more informed about the cultural value of the lands we protect so we could better incorporate cultural information and knowledge into our land protection criteria, conservation easements and land management plans. To that end, earlier this month, we met with Farrell Cunningham of the Maidu Culture and Development Group in an attempt to better understand the cultural importance of properties from a Maidu perspective.



Farrell stressed that the Maidu are a land based culture and that as a people their cultural being “. . . is shaped by this land, by these rocks, by these trees, by these birds, by these animals and whatever is in this land. This is our homeland! Nobody else can say that and that makes us unique I would think. Our creation story is here.”

The Maidu have managed the lands by practicing traditional ecology, a land management practice that harvests resources but also puts back a portion of that resource to grow and multiply for the following harvest. By using sustainable management practices that enhance the ecosystem, the Maidu people have assured that they can get the resources they need over time. In Farrell’s words, “We look at the plants and then we see how they’re growing, we see what we need to do and where we can dig them. We dig them out. We get what we need and put the parts of it back that allow it to keep growing and as we do that it makes the plant healthier.” Using this system there is no need for intensive agriculture. No plowing. No irrigation. Farrell considers it the “most refined agricultural

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system in the world.”

He then spoke about how preserving the land is, in part, preserving the people. “Those plants become our relatives. And in our belief systems these lands, each of them, are communities and these are people that we need to talk to, that we can learn from and that becomes cultural.” Farrell continued by telling us that maintaining a connection to the ancient times helps the Maidu to understand what life was like in years past

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and keeps them connected to their people. When finding pieces of pottery, a grinding stone or an arrow head, being able to make that connection and not seeing these objects as just another “abstract artifact” of a lost culture, but beginning to understand what the culture was and interpreting how life might have been, is another way to keep the generations connected and to stay connected to the landscape.

Clearly the idea of open space and protected lands is critical to the Maidu culture. “That’s key for us as a people, because we have to have that ability to walk out and to go to the land just like this, where you maybe won’t even see another person.” By finding ways to work together, the Maidu people and FRLT hope to be able to protect culturally significant lands and to provide access to these lands. As Farrell states: “. . . that’s kind of what we would like to see, access to continue, just to feel free to walk on the land. Maybe even sometimes we don’t need to dig roots or we don’t need to have gathering, but just the ability to walk within this landscape and to feel that it’s free and it’s not owned by an individual who has their right to tell you you can’t walk there or yes, we’ll give you permission on this day. But just to say, I dreamt about this meadow last night and so now I feel compelled to come here. . . . Just to have that freedom will allow the world to talk more clearly to us I think, because it frees the mind. . . . We depend on this land and there is no place else we can go.”



Through our land protection purchases and conservation easements, the land trust seeks to protect lands of ecological, agricultural, educational, recreational and scenic value for the benefit of current and future generations. We are now working to find creative ways to protect and steward lands of cultural importance as well. Doing so will not only allow us to protect and restore the land, but to restore our relationship to the land as well. Put another way: “. . . we would all become place-based and love the landscape and this landscape would form the basis, not just for Maidu people, but for all of the different people. We would take care of it and love it and seek to understand these other plant people, tree people, wind people and what they are trying to tell us about the land we live in, so that finally we might evolve into some type of civilization that would actually be able to survive another thousand years.” It seems that the Maidu and FRLT want the same things — protection of the land, respect for the land, and sustainable use of the land in perpetuity.

Learning Landscapes Initiative

A conservation ethic and stewardship practice is a product of time and space. Its development begins early in life both formally and informally. One way that the Feather River Land Trust is supporting this development is through the Learning Landscapes Initiative.

Learning Landscapes seeks to provide sustainable access to natural lands adjacent to or near every school in the watershed, through memorandums of understanding, easements and acquisition. This is accomplished in partnership with the Plumas County School Board, local school administrators and teachers and willing landowners. Even in Plumas County and its “Million Acre Classroom”, appropriate outdoor areas within a ten minute walk of a school are disappearing under the pressures of development. Without protection for these natural places teachers and students will lose a valuable amenity for learning. Through Learning Landscapes these places, many of them used informally for decades by local schools, will be formally protected for generations to come.

“The earth is not ours; it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations.”

African Proverb

Poem of Greenville

*Between the pine clothed mountains,
Beneath the friendly skies,
Beyond the noise of cities,
The Indian Valley lies.*

*And there within the valley,
Away from noise and smoke,
Is quaint and charming Greenville
A town of friendly folk.*

*Where etched against the skyline
Above the quiet town
Serene, the Indian's profile looks
His benediction down.*

*And somehow, 'mid the pine trees,
With streams in vale and glen,
The folks grow like the mountains
To stronger better men.*

Author unknown

Worm Corner Work Day

On the morning of April 24th a group of volunteers gathered in Sierra Valley to work at FRLT's Worm Corner Property (aka: Maddalena Property). It was a beautiful day — sunny with a slight breeze — perfect for a lot of hard work! We installed fencing in the fields, set monuments, repaired the corral fence, laid out the water system and cleaned



Volunteers Joyce Paczynski & Barry Ford hard at work on FRLT's Maddalena Property

up trash/ recyclables. These projects are helping us to restore the wetlands, manage our cattle grazing program and make the property more

attractive to the public. Thank you to the following folks who made up the various work crews:

Bob Beckwith
Bill Davis
Barry Ford
John Hafen
Paul Hardy
Richard Hardy
Becky Hardy
Bill Harnach
Betsy Kraemer
Zane Krakowski
Tim Kurdupski

Mac McCormick
Mary McCormick
Mary Lou McNay
Ron McNay
Guy McNett
Shannon Morrow
John Olofson
Joyce Paczynski
Susan Payne
Tom Wood

***Again — Thank you one and all!
We really appreciate your participation.***

Land Protection *(continued from page 1)*

Attilio Genasci Signs Option Contract to Protect Sierra Valley Ranch

Finally, in April 2004, FRLT assisted the California Rangeland Trust and Sierra Business Council in entering into an option contract to purchase a conservation easement on the 500-acre Genasci Ranch in Sierra Valley. The Rangeland Trust plans to hold the easement. The landowner, Attilio Genasci, has lived on the property his entire life and signed the contract as part of the 95th birthday celebration on April 9th. Attilio's wife, Angie, ran the ranch with Attilio for decades. Among Angie's dying wishes was that the property be protected for open space and ranching, and Angie's ashes are scattered on the Ranch. So, in protecting his property with a conservation easement, Attilio Genasci is not only preserving high quality rangeland and outstanding raptor habitat, but honoring the memory and wishes of his beloved life partner as well. We salute Attilio for deciding to permanently protect the land he loves!

Recycled



Paper

All Gifts Are Not Paper

There are many ways that you can support the FRLT. Our members are very generous with their donations and we use every gift to support our land saving mission. We also have many wonderful volunteers who, over the years, have helped us put up fences, design and install water systems, paint walls, cut weeds, bake pastries, produce marketing brochures, write grants, compile surveys and help coordinate events. What a wonderful group!

Some examples of “non-paper” gifts that have had a huge positive impact on the organization include:

Bob Cobb and Betty Moura’s donation of a computer and printer for the FRLT office.

Ira and Maddie Kaufman’s donation of office furniture for the FRLT office.

Pete Hentschel’s donation of many hours of legal time.

Bob Battagin’s construction and donation of an adjustable, wooden bookshelf for the FRLT office.

Betsy and Walt Kraemer’s donations of gifts for our major donors and supplies for our archival program.

Bud Turner’s donation of a scanner to the FRLT office plus hours of time installing our network system.

Rebecca Yost’s donation of her 1996 Acura Legend to FRLT, which we resold for almost \$5000.00.

Tony Maddalena’s donation of a Stafix Fence Compass for the Stewardship Team.

James and Susan Gaither’s donation of a canoe and paddles for use on the Maddalena Property.

And most recently, Bill Battagin’s installation of our solar tracker on the Maddalena Property.

As our members have proven, there are a myriad of ways to support FRLT in addition to direct financial contributions. Whether it be a donation of time, equipment, expertise or real property (yes, we still accept financial contributions), we are so grateful for the many generous and creative ways you have found to support FRLT . . . and help protect the places you love in the process. Please call us at 283-5758 if you have been contemplating a donation and would like to discuss the possibilities!

“We are all indigenous to this planet, this mosaic of wild gardens we are being called by nature and history to reinhabit in good spirit. Part of the responsibility is to choose a place. To restore the land one must live and work in a place. To work in a place is to work with others. People who work together in a place become a community, and a community, in time, grows culture. To work on behalf of the wild is to restore culture.”

**-Gary Snyder,
Rediscovery of Turtle Island**

Increased Efficiency at the Office

FRLT has been functioning with only one voice line since moving into our office in 2002. If you have tried to reach us on a busy day, you know this is sometimes very inefficient.

In an effort to improve the use of everyone’s time, we have recently been able to expand the phone system to two voice lines and a DSL line! Our new numbers and addresses are:

Phone: 530/283-5758

Fax: 530/283-5745

FRLT office email = frlt@frlt.org

Paul’s email = phardy@frlt.org

Susan’s email = spayne@frlt.org



Thank you to Sauvage Marketing for their much appreciated donation that helped to make this happen and to Bob Burney for installing the DSL!

How would you like to take a trip to the very top of Mt. Ingalls with a tour guide and catered lunch? Note: Mt. Ingalls is the highest point in Plumas County and offers a stunning view of the neighboring peaks and valleys!

Top of the Watershed Tour

Are you tempted?

Excellent — because we are offering this tour as a fundraiser for FRLT. We are setting it up as a single silent auction item only in this newsletter! Here is what you are bidding on:

- *Tour for up to six people led by Paul Hardy to Mt. Ingalls.*
- *Catered lunch for all.*
- *You pick the day (but be sure your tour guide is free that day).*
- *Spectacular photo opportunities and birding opportunities.*
- *An incomparable view of a large portion of the Feather River Watershed including many of the lands that FRLT is working to protect.*
- *Fresh air and great exercise.*

Bidding begins at \$50.00 per person. Bid sheets are in the office. Come by if you can (we'd love to see you), give us a call or even email us your bid for this fun excursion.

Bidding ends on August 10th so don't delay. Good luck!

PS: You can call us anytime and see where you are in the bidding lineup!

Feather River Land Trust Presents the 22nd Annual Round Valley Run/Walk



**Saturday, August 21st
At Round Valley Reservoir
near Greenville**

*Walk or run in support
of land conservation
in the Feather River Country
Enjoy stunning scenery and
get some fresh air
and good exercise
Meet great people!
Bring the entire family for
fun, food and prizes*

Pre-registration (before August 16th) is \$20 for the main event and \$15 for Junior and Walk events

Add \$5 for registration on race day

Registration forms available on website:

www.roundvalleyrun.com

Or call 284-6856

Ribbons - Prizes - Raffle - Refreshments

Registration and Pre-registration: 7:30 — 8:30 am

Kids run (10 and under): 8:45 am

Walk, Junior & Main Events: 9:00 am

A Gift Idea!

Help us protect more of the lands you love in the Feather River Region by giving your friends and family a membership to the Feather River Land Trust! Gift donation cards are available at our office at 75 Court Street in Quincy.

Credit Cards

If we offered a credit card option for making your membership donations would you use it? Would it make it easier for you? Give you extra airline miles?

Let us know by giving us a call at 283-5758 or sending us an e-mail at frlt@frlt.org. **Thanks!**

Five Reasons to Advance a Bequest

The president and board of directors are always excited to learn that the Feather River Land Trust has been named in a will or other estate transfer document. Even to know that a person intends to include FRLT is uplifting.

Whether your will includes FRLT or not, we want you to know some of the advantages of moving your bequest forward and giving all or part of it now. In particular, please consider some of the current benefits of an FRLT charitable gift annuity.

1. Increase your income now.

One of the more important benefits of a gift annuity is the attractive rates we are able to offer, especially for our older donors. For example, an 80-year-old person qualifies for an annuity rate of 8%. Thus, establishing an annuity with \$100,000 would provide \$8000 every year for the duration of life. A 90-year-old annuitant would fare even better with a rate of 11.3% (June 2004 Gift Annuity Rates).

While a person may be able to obtain a higher rate with a commercial annuity, it's important to remember that we're talking here about money that has already been "earmarked" for FRLT as a bequest.

2. Reduce your taxes now.

The IRS provides a charitable income tax deduction for gifts made to FRLT during life. For itemizers, this deduction may be used to reduce income taxes. And fewer taxes means more money for you to spend . . .

or give.

Since a portion of an FRLT annuity qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction, making that gift now with assets you already plan to give later, may be a tax-wise idea worth considering.

3. Stabilize your retirement now.

Gift annuity payments are fixed. Once the payment dates are established (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually) you will receive the identical amount with every check. No need to guess or worry about the ups and downs of the financial markets. Your annuity will be backed by the entire capital assets of FRLT.

While we would not begin to suggest that people should place all of their assets into an FRLT gift annuity, we do think a gift annuity can help our donors diversify and stabilize their retirement income.

4. Enjoy your giving now.

When you establish a gift annuity, you will experience the satisfaction of completing a gift now by actually transferring assets to FRLT to help us accomplish our land saving mission. Furthermore, you will give us the opportunity while you live to express our gratitude and to include you in our recognition programs.

Why miss out on the "joy of giving"? Give while you live! Contact Beau McNicholas at 877/977-5140 for your free personal consultation.

WISH LIST

Grant Writer. We are looking for a volunteer to help us with grant writing. Please contact Paul at 283-5758.

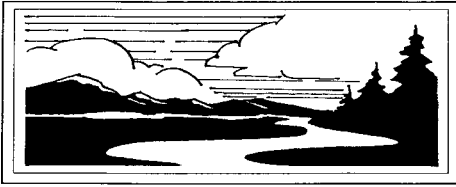
Screen Door for the 'back door' (36 x 90) would really help with the air circulation in the office. If you have one to recycle please give us a call.

Vehicle. 4x4 preferred, but any vehicle in good, running condition would be helpful for our land stewardship activities.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech."

-Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

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FRLT Mission

The purpose of the Feather River Land Trust is to conserve, restore and manage land in the Feather River Region in cooperation with willing landowners for the benefit of current and future generations.

