

FEATHER RIVER



LAND TRUST

Mission Statement

To conserve land in the Feather River region and steward its ecological and cultural values for current and future generations.

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Protecting the Places that Make the Feather River Country Special

November 18, 2011

Karen Kleven
P.O. Box 3572
Quincy, CA 95971

*Here I am soaring
over Sierra Valley*



Dear Karen,

I bet you've never received a letter from a bird before.

Well, that's okay because I've never written a letter before! Paul and the team at the Feather River Land Trust thought you might want to hear from my point of view.

First, let me introduce myself -- I'm a Sandhill Crane and my friends call me Sandy -- not too original but easy to remember.

And just to be upfront, I'll be asking you to give money to keep my home safe.

I was asked by my fellow Sandhill Cranes to represent us, so I'm taking a short break from my long trip to warmer places to write you this letter. It seems to be an important thing to do because we love the Feather River region with its grand meadows and wetlands. Most importantly, we need these meadows and wetlands for our survival, but we can't protect them ourselves.

We cranes are threatened, so we really need your help. Paul says these meadows and wetlands are really important for your family too. They provide beautiful, scenic views, fresh air, family ranches and farms, and clean water for millions of people.

So we're in this together.

I would like to thank you for conserving so much of Sierra Valley because its open meadows and wetlands are a perfect place to raise my family. I hear rumors that FRLT, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and you think my home is important enough to conserve lots more of the wetlands. That would be a relief because sometimes I worry about how rotten it would be if I had to find a new home to raise our young.

Personally, I prefer Sierra Valley, but some of my fellow cranes can't imagine why I don't head for the Pearce Ranch in Indian Valley.

Boy, were they happy when you were able to finish off Pearce conservation easement – thanks to many of you for chipping in.

There are those cranes that are a bit more urban and prefer the meadows and wetlands in American Valley. Did you know that FRLT just purchased 40 acres of those wetlands next to the Quincy High School? That may mean more kids and Quincy people in our space but I think we can get along, especially because you're teaching kids to care about us.

You know, we cranes have been around for a very, very long time; some say longer than any other bird species! We know that in order to protect our homes – and yours – for many generations to come, your kids have to love the land like you do. That's why we really like the Learning Landscapes program because it gets kids outside all over the watershed, learning to love and care for the land.

It's super that you're also looking to conserve some of those grand meadows in the Lake Almanor basin and Red Clover Valley through conservation easements.

We cranes are deeply grateful because, while we have our own talents, like making soul-stirring sounds and looking majestic in flight, we really don't have a clue how to write up legal documents that seem necessary to save these lands for you, me, and our children.

We need you and the land trust.

Now Paul said I shouldn't be shy about asking for your help because you've always been so generous. He told me the story about saving the Heart K Ranch, so after that, I figure you can do anything. So here goes.

First, I offered Paul a collection of worms, snakes, insects and grains from my family to keep the land trust going. Paul said thanks, but they need dollars - lots of them. Seems strange but he's a nice, smart guy so I'll have to believe him.

He told me that your dollars help pay for the staff and lots of other expenses that make conservation, stewardship and education possible.

Three very generous donors have put up a match of \$15,000.

This year you can have your gift of up to \$99 doubled and a gift of more than \$100 will be tripled. Math is not my strong suit, but even I know that this is a great deal. But you have to act by December 31 so you don't lose out.

Worms won't be matched so it's up to you to send dollars.

I wouldn't be writing this letter if I didn't think that now is the time to preserve my home and yours. We can't wait. I'm depending on you. Please give as generously as you can.

Thank you.

Hope to see you next spring,



Sandy and my friend, Paul

P.S. If you hurry, your gift will be doubled or tripled. Please no worms.