FEATHER RIVER LAND TRUST 2018 Annual Report

Vision into Action all thanks to you

OUR MISSION

Feather River Land Trust

We conserve the lands and waters of the Feather River region and steward their ecological, cultural, and educational values for current and future generations.

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Sunrise at Olsen Barn © Jan Davies Photography

SUSTAINING THE VISION

together with you

Recently I took a walk on the Quincy Leonhardt Ranch Learning Landscape trail during my lunch break. It was a cold winter day and the creek was running high. A pair of Sandhill Cranes were calling from the west field and a snow goose was floating in the wetlands. I felt the cold breeze on my face and could see fresh snow on Spanish Peak. I was in heaven just a short walk from the office. On my way back, I encountered another walker who met me with a smile on her face and joy in her step. This experience brings home the importance of having places close to town for children, and the inner-child in all of us, to connect with their "wild side" every day.

With 19 years of support from friends like you, our partners and conservation community, we are conserving this precious watershed and making it even more special with improved access to the great outdoors. As of August 17, 2018, we met our goal of raising a \$1,000,000 Vision Fund! Thank you! This was a critical first step in growing FRLT towards sustainability as a vital, stable land trust and as long-term stewards of the lands we have protected.

Our 2020 Vision is a big one—to protect an additional 75,000 acres of culturally and ecologically important lands. With great strides made in 2018, including protecting over 7,000 acres, we are well on our way. Your sustained support is vital to continue the momentum. Read on to see what your generosity and commitment have accomplished in yet another wonderful year. And please join us at our land-based events this spring and summer and nourish your wild side!

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Shelton Douthit, Executive Director





FRLT's Learning Landscapes project conserves and enhances outdoor classrooms within a ten minute walk of every public school in the Feather River Watershed. We support teachers to lead their students in hands-on learning and stewardship of these special places. www.frlt.org/learning-landscapes

Trail Tuesday at Kid's Creek Forest © Rob Wade

raised up by you

Trail Tuesdays with Local Schools

In 2018 FRLT partnered with the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) to get kids outside with a hands-on stewardship project on their Learning Landscapes outdoor classrooms. Trail Tuesdays brought trail building and hard work to outdoor classrooms across the watershed, empowering students to apply concepts learned in Earth Science classes and connect to conserved lands in their community.

"I love introducing trail work to students because they thrive when they are involved and get to give back to their outdoor classrooms," shared Mandy Beatty, Trails Program Manager of SBTS. "It teaches life skills like problem solving, project management, prioritization, and, most importantly, trying and failing and trying again!" Mandy and her crew led four Trail Tuesdays in fall of 2018, getting over 300 students outside for trail work just steps from their public schools.

"Trails are a literal and figurative path into wonder and adventure," states Rob Wade, Learning Landscapes Coordinator. "To get our kids on trails, but also caring for them, builds a lasting relationship to the land. Mandy at SBTS makes that happen for us—and our students love being on an official trail crew. Hard hats, hand tools, and a little back sweat help make a Mountain Kid!"

GRATITUDE FOR MAKING STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS AT LEARNING LANDSCAPES OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS POSSIBLE: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, local schools, dedicated teachers and students, gracious landowners, Susan Hopkins, Grant and Cindy Edwards, a family foundation established in Stockton, the Northern Sierra Partnership, US Forest Service, volunteers, and members like you.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

With your help, FRLT owns and manages five properties totaling 3,598 acres. Located in nearly all the major valleys of the Upper Feather River Watershed, our preserves protect and enhance public access and are a legacy of land conservation we all share. www.frlt.org/conserve-land/success-stories

Nils Lunder at Mountain Meadows Gateway © Katie Bagby

GREATER PUBLIC ACCESS

made possible by you

Mountain Meadows Gateway: A Small Parcel with a Big Impact

Down a dirt road, a quick walk from town, is one of Feather River Land Trust's most recent land conservation successes—8.5 acres of meadow in the Lassen County community of Westwood. With the help of our partners at Mountain Meadows Conservancy and generous donors, FRLT purchased the "Mountain Meadows Gateway" property as a connective land bridge to the north shore of the beautiful Mountain Meadows Reservoir. In 2018, FRLT protected the 7,058-acre Mountain Meadows Planning Unit, owned and managed by Pacific Gas & Electric, with a conservation easement. Prior to the Gateway acquisition, there was limited legal public access to the reservoir and meadow lands that the townspeople of Westwood love to explore.

The Gateway property features a diverse mix of ponderosa pine, willows, grasslands and a riparian corridor along Robbers Creek, which flows through the property into a lush delta. This small but special parcel is a haven for a variety of wildlife including Western Bluebirds, Marsh Wrens, Willow Flycatchers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

FRLT's Stewardship Manager and Westwood native, Nils Lunder, has this to say about the Gateway Property purchase: "We look forward to working with our neighbors, Westwood schools, and the community to make this property a recreational and educational resource for my hometown."

GRATITUDE FOR PROTECTING AND EXPANDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS: The Joseph and Vera Long Foundation, with stewardship funding raised from the Mountain Meadows Conservancy, Sierra Pacific Industries, and three generous families.

LAND PROTECTION



Since 2000, you, FRLT, and visionary landowners have helped conserve over 54,000 acres of important lands in the Feather River Watershed-the largest watershed in the Sierra Nevada. Fueled by our 2020 Vision, we are working to conserve a total of 122,000 acres by 2021. www.frlt.org/conserve-land

Goodrich Creek, Mountain Meadows © Pup N' Suds Productions

supported by you

Innovative Land Protection Planning

Landscape scale conservation—connecting river and wetland systems, working ag lands, upland forests, and migration corridors in a network of protected lands—is vital for sustaining the health of human and wild communities alike.

To accomplish this goal, a land protection plan guides our conservation efforts and in 2018 we initiated a plan update to look beyond 2021. Enter the Land Protection Committee's Task Group on Strategic Conservation Planning—an interdisciplinary team of expert staff, biologists, ecologists, historians, and cultural resource professionals focused on protecting the wild and wonderful private lands we need for a prosperous future. The Task Group is identifying where in the watershed our work is most needed—from treasured community sites to mountain meadows with carbon rich soils.

The Task Group is synthesizing information—from scientific data to community priorities—on a wide range of resource values such as water, wildlife habitat, cultural importance, and family ranchlands. GIS-analysis will be used to model and project what lands in the region are especially important to protect in a changing bioregion facing higher populations, reduced snowpack, and catastrophic wildfires. This innovative approach links to larger conservation efforts in the northern Sierra Nevada, and will be made possible in partnership with forward thinking and willing landowners.

GRATITUDE TO PARTNERS ON THE LAND PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND 2020 VISION FUND DONORS FOR MAKING THIS IMPORTANT WORK POSSIBLE: Point Blue Conservation Science, Hardy Consulting, Plumas County Museum, Chester-Lake Almanor Museum, DZC Consulting, and our 211 Vision Fund donors.

STEWARDSHIP



Acres Owned and Managed by FRLT on 5 Preserves

FRLT works with ranching families to protect and care for ranchlands that provide food, support local economies, and make up some of the region's most beautiful landscapes. On lands we own, your support enables our Land Stewardship team to manage and enhance the land's health and habitats. www.frlt.org/stewardship

Ranch Kid at the Sierra Valley Preserve © Annie Tipton

protected by you

Sustainable Grazing and Ag Partnership

When FRLT took on ownership of its first preserve in 2003 with the help of The Nature Conservancy, it was a big leap of faith not only for our young land trust, but also for the ranching family who sold the land. The Maddalena Property of the Sierra Valley Preserve has been managed as a working landscape by four generations of Maddalenas. Today, Annie Maddalena Tipton and her husband Joe Tipton run cattle on the upland fields of the 573-acre property that also features rich wetlands, public access, and exceptional birding.

"My family has a strong connection and many fond memories that make us love this piece of land. Not only that, but from a business standpoint, the property fits the needs of our operation and allows us to continue to be successful," shares Annie.

In 2018, FRLT's stewardship team worked with the Tiptons to implement a grazing plan to protect sensitive wetlands, nesting birds, and clean water using solar-powered fencing, rotational grazing, and targeted grazing in areas with invasive weeds. Partnering with innovative and responsive grazers like the Tiptons is an important tool for managing healthy lands. Supported by friends like you, the land trust's properties protect important habitats, while providing grazing lands that bolster rural livelihoods and continue an agrarian legacy.

GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS WHO HELP US STEWARD THE SIERRA VALLEY PRESERVE: The Nature Conservancy, the Northern Sierra Partnership, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Point Blue Conservation Science, the Maddalena-Tipton Family, botanists Bill and Nancy Harnach, and land trust members like you.

PEOPLE AND LAND

Feather River Land Trust's vision includes offering nature-based recreation and outreach programs for people of all ages about the importance of local flora and fauna, natural systems, cultural heritage, and related human well-being. www.frlt.org/events Paddlers on Indian Creek in Genesee Valley © Ellie Hinrichs

CONNECTING TO PLACE

together with you

Land-Based Gatherings Celebrate the Seasons

From a springtime paddle down Indian Creek, to stargazing during the August Perseid meteor shower, to a Maidu culture walk amongst Autumn leaves at the Heart K Ranch, we gather in community to celebrate our shared love of the land. Land conservation is important, but just as important is the conservation and restoration of people's relationship to place and the resources that sustain us all. FRLT's People and Land (PAL) Program works to deepen this connection and to facilitate inclusive and diverse land uses.

With your help, in 2018 FRLT hosted 11 gatherings on conserved lands throughout the Watershed, and we were proud to help sponsor regional events like the Middle Fork Feather River Big Time and the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail. A fogbow during the Dawn Chorus of birds at the Sierra Valley Preserve and a migration of California Tortoiseshell butterflies during a Lake Almanor kayak trip were unexpected delights.

Our conserved properties have self-guided public access too! Enjoy a picnic at the Olsen Barn Meadow, take a stroll on the Leonhardt Ranch Learning Landscape trail in American Valley, or spot your first (or five-hundredth) Yellow-headed Blackbird from the observation deck at the Sierra Valley Preserve. We'd love to see you out on the land!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: to FRLT Board Members, staff, and volunteers who recognized the human connection to place as crucial to land conservation success from the very beginning. And to you, our supportive donors, who keep this connection alive today.

HERE TO STAY



Raised by you to scale up FRLT and protect important lands

Burrowing Owl in Sierra Valley © Janet Delight

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, Audited Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

| Current Assets | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 1,327,289 |
| Investments | 957,347 |
| *Conservation Easements | 8 |
| Total Current Assets | \$2,284,644 |
| Land Improvements and Equipment (net) | \$6,652,804 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$8,937,448 |

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

| Liabilities | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities | 113,778 | |
| Unearned Revenue | 751,838 | |
| Total Liabilities | \$865,616 | |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 230,037 | |
| Unrestricted - Board Designated | 593,928 | |
| Temporarily Restricted | 210,191 | |
| **Permanently Restricted | 7,037,676 | |
| Total Net Assets | \$8,071,832 | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$8,937,448 | |

*Reflects the number of conservation easements held at an assigned value of \$1 each, covering 9,123 acres

**Permanently restricted funds reflect reserves required to monitor lands in perpetuity

Statement of Activities

REVENUES

| Grants Individual Donations Grazing and Service Revenue Investment Income Other Income (includes fundraisers) | 884,878 902,879 10,539 146,916 201,542 |
|---|--|
| TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES | \$2,146,754 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Land Conservation | 501,892 |
| Land Stewardship | 594,532 |
| Education | 90,236 |
| Management and General | 116,832 |
| Fundraising/Membership/Outreach | 199,106 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,502,598 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$644,156 |
| NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR | \$7,427,676 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR | \$8,071,832 |

Your support helps keep FRLT vital and strong. Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 available by request.

For a full list of our generous donors, volunteers, and partners, visit www.frlt.org/annualreport2018

GRATITUDE

Whether you're a member of FRLT, a volunteer, a partner organization, or a foundation, your support makes our work possible. You are helping to conserve more land, restore people's relationship to land, and create a vital, sustainable organization.

\$100.000+

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Echo Azure Butterfly on a Buttercup © Ellie Hinrichs

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Hera Buckmoth in Sierra Valley © Kristi Jamason

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We are grateful to the Morgan Family Foundation for their generous financial support to produce this annual report.

Sandhill Crane in Sierra Valley © Andy Wright, LightHawkPhoto.com

OUR FUTURE

made possible by you

When you join the Feather River Land Trust, you're joining 1,100+ like-minded friends who are passionate about conserving one of California's most magnificent and biodiverse regions, and a source of water for 23 million people.

Help conserve and steward 75,000 more acres of important lands and waters by contributing to FRLT's 2020 Vision. Together, we can ensure that this landscape remains healthy and resilient today and for future generations.

Give your gift in the enclosed envelope or at www.frlt.org/donate

Thank you.



FEATHER RIVER

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Cover: Western Blue Flag Iris in Sierra Valley © Vanessa Vasquez