SISKIYOU LAND TRUST DEDICATED TO LONG – TERM STEWARDSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL, WILDLANDS AND FORESTS IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

Land Trust Matters

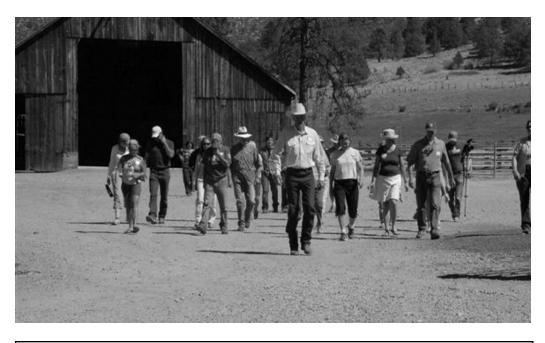
News for friends of the Siskiyou Land Trust

Fall 2010

SLT Celebrates Scott Valley Conservation Easement!

September 12, the sun was shining and the weather was sweet at the Plank-Whipple Conservation Easement Project celebration in Scott Valley. The day included a tour of historic barns by Gareth Plank, a hike led by Melinda Plank, and a bike ride led by Belinda Higuera. Gareth Plank and Keith Whipple spoke to guests about the benefits that conservation easements can bring to rural communities and families struggling to keep their lands intact.. Thank you to our hosts for sharing their home and ranch history!

To learn more about the ranch, visit the Scott River Ranch website: <u>www.scottriverranch.com</u>



Notes from the SLT Board of Directors

The Siskiyou Land Trust is happy to welcome Barry Price to our Board of Directors. Barry joined the Land Trust Board in August 2010. When asked what motivated him to become a Board member, Barry responded "slowing the encroachment of modern society into the natural and historic Siskiyou Country".

Barry brings a wealth of

experience to the land trust, including his work as an attorney, a background in business and finance, and experience assisting local non-profits. He has served on several non-profit boards, including his current role with the Mt. Shasta Trails Association. Barry has also graciously stepped forward to serve on our Executive Committee as Treasurer. He and his wife Joy have lived in Weed since 1994.

A heartfelt thank you to Tom Wearing, who recently stepped down from the Board. Tom served on both the Executive Committee as Secretary and on the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committee. Tom's generosity, talents, and caring manner will be missed by all.

Fall Harvest Celebration

Siskiyon

Land Truct

Mt. Shasta Community Hall Nov. 10, 2010 6:30 pm

See page 5 for details

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Outgoing SLT President, John Brennan, tilling the SLT garden.

A Final Message from Outgoing President of the Board

By John Brennan

A group of my colleagues recently asked me to talk about sacred land. I could not have meaningfully talked a lot about sacred land until 7 years ago when we moved here to Siskiyou County. We thought we lived on sacred land in Cachagua along the upper Carmel River. It was good land, very good land, home to my Esselen People, but it was not as sacred as our land here is.

So, what's the difference? As far as I'm concerned the lands here in our County represent California some 50 years ago. Sinuous swaths of lush Pine, Cedar, and Fir forest cloak the ridges, crystalline creek waters flow to churning rivers, ditches carry life giving waters to croplands, the pastures are dotted with numerous breeds of full-bodied cattle. The season's changes paint the grasslands, hillsides and peaks with an ever varying palette of Nature's colors. Mount Shasta, much more than snow and ice covered rock, emanates subtle but nevertheless effective healing powers.

I admiringly watch the big rigs haul Siskiyou food, hay, grain, cattle, logs, nursery stock, and more to the north and south. I mix with the visitors who marvel at our landscapes, who romp and raft in our crisp waters, who gingerly step on the forest duff, digitize our unique wildflowers, and eat heartily from our rich fields. I gratefully witness many life-changing personal transformations which occur on our collective rural lands. I believe they happen here because of our immediate proximity to Nature's inherent healing power. That, to me, creates sacredness.

These first-rate gifts we have here in Siskiyou County are threatened by global warming, by unwise development, by shifting population pressures, and by the impending loss of economic incentives which assist our ranchers and farmers. It has been my honor to serve as president of SLT as we set and followed a sure and swift course toward long term protection and stewardship of our sacred homelands. We can only do this as a result of your unfailing physical and financial support. Thank you for being there for our sacred land.

Lily Koltonow, garden volunteer, holding a blue hubbard squash harvested from the SLT garden.

What's New at the Siskiyou Land Trust Office? The Garden Share Project

2010 brought a new location for SLT, and with the new space came inspiration for everyone here at SLT. One of the inspirations has been the Garden Share Project.

When a landowner shares his or her land with others in the community who do not have space to garden, it becomes a garden share. The Siskiyou Land Trust teamed up with Shasta Commons and the Bioregional Ecology Center to gather resources to begin a garden next to the land trust office on Alma Street

Conservation Director, Kathleen Hitt commented that "the idea to plant a garden came about as soon as we moved into our new space. Gardening is a great way to bring people together, provide a sustainable food model for the community, and demonstrate the importance of working agricultural landscapes in Siskiyou County," The garden harvest included lots of zucchini, yellow squash, carrots, potatoes, kale, collard greens, peppers, basil, pumpkins, beans, beets, wheatgrass, and one very large sunflower! A portion of the harvest was donated to the Mount Shasta Community Food Bank.

This effort was made possible by many generous community members and volunteers who donated everything in the garden! Donations included seeds, tools, garden hoses, volunteer time, gardening experience and knowledge about the amazing world of gardening. We thank you all very much.

If you are interesting in participating in the Garden Share Project, contact Kathleen Hitt at the Siskiyou Land Trust Office. All are welcome to help finish putting the garden to bed for the winter and plan for next years growing season.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to the garden we are looking for garden tools, a volunteer garden coordinator, watering timers, bean poles, fencing, wire, twine, compost bin materials, and warm sunny smiles. The SLT Garden Share Project has established a savings account at Scott Valley Bank. Donations are welcome!

This year's garden has been a great success. We look forward to planting another garden next year!

Still WalkingWords from the PCT By Janet Zalewski

Still Walking....

For the past 5 months I have been walking between Mexico and Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail in an effort to fulfill a personal, lifelong dream, and to raise money for the Siskiyou Land Trust Endowment Fund. Since April, I have covered just about 2,400 miles with only a few hundred more to go to complete the 2,650 mile journey. Just 2 days ago I got an e-mail from a board member of the Siskiyou Land Trust asking me if I might have some words of wisdom to share with the Land Trust Membership from the trail

When I started my journey, I did so with a hope and perhaps an expectation that somehow taking a six month walk would have a profound effect on me and I would return and share my insights with those who would listen. Perhaps I would become enlightened, or maybe as I walked in silence I would have found answers to life's elusive questions. I am still walking, and the perfect and most profound thought still eludes me.

What I do know is that I have been able to experience this incredible journey because, like the special places conserved by the Siskiyou Land Trust, the Pacific Crest Trail exists because someone, somewhere had a vision that they put into action. And, like each acre of land that we save, the Trail didn't just happen but was many years in the making. Somewhere a thought generated a vision, then it generated a conversation, then it became a plan. Others got excited and were enrolled in the process; some started gathering resources, others picked up a shovel. During the process, breakdowns occurred and the process started

over again. But the vision was held and now we share a national treasure that will be handed down from generation to generation.

The work of those involved in the Siskiyou Land Trust is every bit as important as the work of those involved to create and preserve the Pacific Crest Trail. We too are preserving "treasures" to be en-



Executive Director Janet Zalewski hiking the Pacific Crest Trail

joyed for future generations. Each acre saved is hard work and takes incredible resources. As more people become enrolled in the

vision, the work becomes easier and another acre is saved. So I continue to walk and am close to the end. The words of wisdom still elude me, but for now I know that with the continuing support from those who care about our world and our future generation's right to experience it to the fullest, each step helps bring the vision closer to reality and another acre will be saved. Live your Dream,

Smudge (aka Janet Zalewski)

Janet is now safely home !



Tristan Behm, SLT volunteer, admiring an old aspen tree.

Volunteers Make A World of Difference!

By Tristan Behm

You may ask yourself how an organization like SLT can keep going. One way is through our volunteers. Have you enjoyed a walk through Sisson Meadow and wondered how the pathway is maintained or ask yourself, "how did these benches get here?" By our dedicated volunteers. Everyday I try to appreciate the tireless work of our community members who volunteer their time and expertise for the sake of our community. My first experience volunteering in Siskiyou County was with the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project, where I was required to participate in over 200 hours of community service. I volunteered in schools, at salmon festivals, and for river clean-ups. I have been volunteering my time ever since. Volunteering not only helps an organization and it helps better our community and ourselves. At the Siskiyou Land Trust, volunteer opportunities include working on the website, writing press releases, monitoring project sites, helping SLT committees, gardening, maintaining Sisson Meadow, and planning events. All of these activities make a difference in caring for our land. Through every small effort, we help the lands of Siskiyou County. If you would like to volunteer opport.

teer for the Siskiyou Land Trust please contact SLT at 926-2259. Keep up the great work!

Garden Share Project: Tom Wick, Lily Koltonow, Sarabecca and The Siskiyou Land Trust thanks our many volunteers David, Tristan Behm, Rosemunde, Sharon Sahi, Kathleen Hitt, Bill Nel-Fall Harvest Celebration: Susie Boyd, Belinda Higuera, Nancy and son, Kate Asch, Francis Mengels, David Reis, Lucas Fire Walker, Tousan Brett LaMott, Cindy Lawhon, Tristan Behm, Cedar Kirwin, Larie D'Innocente, Tom Wearing, Lilly Koltonow, and all of our generous sup-Sarvon, and Eugene. Sisson Meadow Stewardship: Dennis McFall, Stacey Smith, Lynn porters. Lloyd, Roger Kosel, Michael Zanger, Belinda Higuera, Sydney Miller, Scott Valley Celebration: Susie Boyd, Belinda Higuera, Nancy and Brett LaMott, Cindy Lawhon, Melinda and Gareth Plank, Keith and Kris Ellingson, and Marsha Napier. Office Assistance: Michelle Mauro, Roger Kosel, Tristan Behm, and Harrie Whipple, the Callahan Grange, Tristan Behm, and Lee Benda & Cedar Kirwin. Assoc Outreach Materials: Jan Schrag, Tristan Behm, Jackie Derwingson, Conservation Easement Project: John Brennan, Tristan Behm, Nick Nathan Johnston, Christina Schmidlin, and Linda Sue Runnels. Joslin, Crystal Bowman, and the Whipple and Plank families.

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California Land Trusts: Small is Beautiful By: Amos S. Eno—Published on Private Landowner Network

This Sunday September 12 in Siskiyou County, California, families and friends will celebrate the permanent protection of three miles of the broad Scott River Valley with stunning views of the Marble Mountain wilderness. Its owners, the Plank and Whipple families along with the Siskiyou Land Trust have worked toward this day for eight years. The Siskiyou Land Trust will finalize its purchase of a 5600-acre conservation easement from the families with help from voter initiative funds established specifically to conserve grazing land and farmland. Until recently, both had been frozen during the ongoing state budget crisis.

Gareth Plank stated that "Putting the ranches into an easement was a difficult choice and initially received much opposition from county officials. Every year we have seen an ever increasing encroachment on farm land due to population." The rich farmland that the Keith Whipple family had farmed in California since the Gold Rush is now sealed in concrete and stands under miles of warehouses. They feel the idea that "It could never happen here" is short sighted and naïve. "We are committed to the preservation of ranch land for future generations and retaining wide-open spaces for the critical habitat and quality that they afford for everyone."

Small but Dedicated

Kathleen Hitt, Conservation Director of the tiny Siskiyou Land Trust, or SLT, recently told me this is by far the largest easement acquisition her organization has completed. Like all land trusts, SLT purchases only from willing landowners, and its focus on a blend of long-term stewardship and a willingness to value agricultural, forest, and wild lands exemplifies the strengths of land trusts working in partnership with private landowners. The history of SLT also demonstrates the dedication that drives the land trust movement. Begun as an organization of volunteers in 1993, the land trust hired its first part-timers in 2001, and only became fully staffed in 2006.

The Scott River is a tributary of the embattled Klamath, the nexus of long-running claims and counter claims between agricultural interests who use Klamath water for irrigation, and conservationists, who want to keep the water in-stream for salmon. Protecting land along this stretch of the Scott has obvious long-term benefits for the river.

An Easement is Only as Good as What it Protects

The Plank and Whipple families also exemplify the type of landowners who constitute America's frontline, and perhaps her last defense, against creeping habitat loss. An easement is only as good as what it protects, and in this case, ranch stewardship includes the planting of native grasses near the river banks to support elk, as well as organic operations on 1000 acres of cropland. As Kathleen says, "A conservation easement isn't a blanket restriction from the government, it's what a landowner chooses to do. It's a legacy! How often can a landowner decide what their future land will look like, especially considering development pressure, lack of interest from family members, and estate taxes? An easement can help ensure that a landowner's vision of stewardship endures." I'm certainly glad that in Siskiyou County, families like the Planks and Whipples have the vision to plan for future generations, and that organizations like SLT have the ability to help them.

Member Focus: Meet Tom Stokely



In recognizing the vital role that members play in the continued success of our organization, we are sharing your stories. Our second *Member Focus* story is about Tom Stokely, a retired Natural Resource Planner from Trinity County who recently moved to Mt. Shasta, California to enjoy the skiing, hiking, and natural beauty. Tom became a member of the Siskiyou Land Trust in the spring of 2010. When asked how he first heard about the Siskiyou Land Trust he told us, "I learned about it through my former AmeriCorps Watershed Steward employee, Kathleen Hitt. When Kathleen told me she about working for the Siskiyou Land Trust this year, I became a member"

Prior to moving to Siskiyou County, Tom lived and worked as the Principle Natural Resource Planner for neighboring Trinity County, where he helped restore flows and habitat to the Trinity River. His time spent in the mountains working on local, regional, and statewide conservation issues

has increased his understanding of the value of conserving land in Siskiyou County. As Tom put it, "the lands and waters of this region are the lifeblood for our community and much of California. If we don't work to protect and conserve these precious resources—who will?" He adds, "the land trust provides a cooperative approach to conservation in an area that really needs to work together if we are going to make a difference." Tom is currently working on water policy issues for California Water Impact Network (www.c-win.org). Thank you Tom for discussing your membership and interest in conservation.

Volunteer Opportunities!

What are your skills? There are many opportunities for you to join and make this organization stronger.

Please check out the list below for some current volunteer needs.

Fall Harvest Fundraising Event: Help with setting up and breaking down this event would be wonderful.

Contact the SLT office at 926-2259 or Susie Boyd at 926-0753

Writing Opportunities: Looking for that Wordsmith who can easily assist with newsletters, press releases and magazines articles.

Office Support: Update membership database, assist with filing, and bulk mailings.

Education and Outreach Activities: Coordinate educational activities at Sisson Meadow for children and adults

SLT Garden Share Project: Put the garden to bed and plan for next year. Contact Kathleen at the SLT office 926-2259

Land, Acquisition and Stewardship: John Brennan 859-3499. Committees:

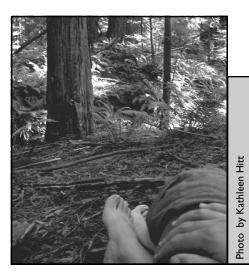
Education/Communication/ Outreach: Jan Schrag 925-4202

Fundraising and Membership: Susie Boyd 926-0753

Sleeping in the Forest

I thought the earth remembered me, she took me back so tenderly, arranging her dark skirts, her pockets full of lichens and seeds. I slept as never before, a stone on the river bed, nothing between me and the white fire of the stars but my thoughts, and they floated light as moths among the branches of the perfect trees. All night I heard the small kingdoms breathing around me, the insects, and the birds who do their work in the darkness. All night I rose and fell, as if in water, grappling with a luminous doom. By morning I had vanished at least a dozen times into something better.





Pacific Crest Trail Presentation

Come Hear About Life on the Trail!

The Siskiyou Land Trust is hosting a presentation by Janet Zalewski about her experience hiking the entire Pacific Crest Trail

November 16th, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m. Place: Mt. Shasta Gallery Location: 201 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd. Mt. Shasta

Suggested Donation of \$5/adult

Questions? Contact 926-2259 or e-mail slt-ed@sbcglobal.net

Look forward to seeing you !

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Past President Jack Moore Hard at work!

Where are they Now? Jack Moore Past Board President

Since handing over the SLT president's reins to John Brennan (in 2008), I've had opportunities to more deeply explore passions both at home and abroad, including skiing, yoga, whitewater and travel adventures.

Stateside, I've enjoyed countless days paddling local Siskiyou County rivers, including the Sacramento, Salmon, Klamath rivers. This past spring delivered some of the best and longest seasons on record due to greater precipitation and snowpack levels...hooray!

l've also been fortunate to make several three-week trips down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, a week down Idaho's beautiful Middle Fork Salmon River, and many four-day floats down the wild and scenic Rogue River in Oregon

Oregon. Abroad, I've spent more time trekking and doing volunteer work in Nepal under the shadow of the soaring Himalayas. This has included manual labor as well as writing business plans to build a school, large hospital, hydropower plant and other financially and environmentally-sustainable projects. I work closely there with Nepali people and several U.S.-based non-profits.

Most recently, I've had the honor of working with a very dedicated and gifted Nepali friend in Kathmandu, along with our very own legendary Mt. Shasta climbing guide Linda Chitwood. Jointly, we have initiated a long-term project to motivate teachers to return to work at eight primary (elementary) schools in a very poor, remote, culturally-intact and scenically-outstanding Himalayan valley along the Tibetan (Chinese) border. We believe that education is key to people helping themselves, especially in this beautiful but struggling country where a long -standing pattern of 'throwing money' at problems has benefitted some people, but also encouraged a 'beggar' mentality among many residents. We are seeking to break this pattern by partnering with local agencies and individuals to initiate joint long-term educational projects. Wish us luck!

Keep your eyes out for an upcoming slide show of Jack's adventures!

Conservation Calendar for Fall/Winter 2010 *Please check out our webpage & Facebook for updates on items "TBA"*

Siskiyou Land Trust Events

- Spring Hill Trail Maintenance with Mt. Shasta Trail Association: TBA, Contact Joe Wirth
- Fall Harvest Celebration: November 10, 6:30 @Mt. Shasta Community Hall, Contact SLT Office
- The Pacific Crest Trail Slide Show by Janet Zalewski (aka Smudge): November 16, 7:00 @ Mt. Shasta Gallery. Another showing in Yreka TBA.
- Holiday Open House : Wednesday, December 8th, 4::00—6:00 pm @ SLT Office (522 Alma St., Mt. Shasta)
- Travels West, A Slide Show by John Brennan: TBA
- Educational House Solon. Collaboration in Conservation: TBA

Other Events of Interest

- BioRegional Ecology Center Harvest Celebration Event: November 13th, 5:30 @ Mt. Shasta City Park
- "Sustainable Watershed Series" Castle Crags Recreation Site Inventory Summery Meeting at Brow Trout Café, Dunsmuir. Wed. Dec. 8th, 9am for more information contact The River Exchange at 235-2012.
- Siskiyou Wanderers Shasta Valley Bike Ride on November 18. Meet in Montague at 9 am by the statue for a 10-25 mile bike. Please check out www. siskiyouwanderers.com for additional outing information.
- Siskiyou Meanderers Hike in Shasta River Canyon on November 19: Meet at Penny's in Yreka @ 9:00
 a.m. A Fall Hiking Schedule is available on the web at: http://sites.google.com/site/siskiyouwanderers/meanderers-schedule
- Bald Eagle/Winter Water Fowl Field Trip with the River Exchange on January 15th, 9:00



Want to get your Conservation Event on our Calendar? Please e-mail your event information to slt-ed@sbcglobal.net

Your annual membership entitles you to:

\$25 Friend

Member newsletter

\$50 Supporter

- Invitation to educational and special events
- Siskiyou Land Trust refrigerator magnet
- Member newsletter

\$100 Sustainer

- All of the above plus...
- Sisson Meadow poster by Kim Solga

\$250 Steward

- All of the above plus...
- Siskiyou Land Trust commemorative coffee cup

\$500 Protector

All of the above plus...

- Mounted and framed Sisson Meadow poster by Kim Solga
- Invitation to an exclusive major donor dinner

\$1,000 +Conservator

- All of the above plus...
- Recognition on donor wall in the resource library at the Siskiyou Land Trust

Become a Siskiyou Land Trust Member Today!

Download a member application at www.siskiyoulandtrust.org Call 926-2259 for more information

Give the gift that Keeps on Giving: Planned Giving and Fulfilling your philanthropic dreams of supporting SLT

Because so much of our land conservation work is about ensuring that the places we save today will be protected forever, legacy gifts (also know as "planned gifts") are indispensable to the Siskiyou Land Trust. There is no better way to continue to make a difference for conservation many years from now.

Your will or living trust is an important way to provide for family and friends, plan the management and disposition of your estate, and ensure a lasting legacy for the causes that have special meaning to you.

Gifts made through wills and living trusts are easy to arrange and can be changed at any time you choose, giving you maximum flexibility in your planning. You will also enjoy peace of mind knowing that your property will be put to good use when you no longer need it, but your cash flow will not be affected today.

You may choose to specify that the Land Trust receives a specific dollar amount or assets, percentage of your estate, a contingent bequest in case you outlive other heirs, or a portion of the residue (remainder) of your estate after provisions for friends and family are paid. A residual gift is only made if there is anything that remains in your estate.

Creating or updating your estate plans for careful planning with help from professionals, including an estate-planning attorneys. Siskiyou Land Trust is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit corporation incorporated in California located at 522 Alma, Mount Shasta. Tax ID # 68-0235003. Be sure to consult with your attorney on the language and effect of any charitable bequest.

If you are interested in more information about bequests or other ways to make a planned gift, please don't hesitate to contact the Siskiyou Land Trust at 530-926-2259

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Siskiyou Land Trust Conservation Holdings

- Sisson Meadow-Mount Shasta, CA Protecting 7.7 acres of scenic view-shed and wetland habitat
- Trinity River Conservation Easement Protecting 70 acres of open space, view-shed and wildlife habitat corridor
- Scott Valley
 Conservation
 Easement
 Protecting 5,600 acres
 of agricultural land,
 river corridor and wild life habitat
- Hammond Reservoir Weed, CA Protecting 67 acres of open space and wildlife habitat

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." - John Muir

SISKIYOU LAND TRUST

522 East Alma Street Mt. Shasta P.O. Box 183 Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

www.siskiyoulandtrust.org

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Conservation Director Kathleen Hitt

Office Assistant Jane Piereth



Our Mission

The Siskiyou Land Trust is dedicated to long-term stewardship of agricultural, forest and wildlands in Siskiyou County by working with willing landowners, agencies and organizations.

Siskiyou Land Trust Members 2010

Conservator

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