



Siskiyou Land Trust

# Newsletter

Spring 2012



**In this Issue:**  
Reaching out to the Next Generation,  
Current Project Updates,  
Rails to Trails,  
Three Rivers Bicycle Trip,  
and more.

**May 29th is our Annual Member Meeting  
7:00 PM at the Mt. Shasta Resort**





## Reaching Out to the Next Generation

*Special thanks to the Sisson Special Day class members from Sisson School who helped gardeners put the Land Trust Garden to bed for the winter. Here are some of their thoughts about the experience:*

**L**ast fall, our class volunteered to work in the Siskiyou Land Trust garden. While there, we winterized the garden. Winterizing took some time, but in the end, the garden was ready for winter! While winterizing, we did many things. First, we pulled the dead and dying plants, and the gardening stakes around them out of the ground, and picked any remaining edible food on them. Then, we weeded, before raking and clearing the beds. Finally, we covered the beds with straw. When we finally finished, the garden was good to go, and we were proud of ourselves.

**T**ired – yes, but proud nonetheless. All in all, it was a good experience, and we would be willing to do it again!

-Sisson Special Day Class

Elk on the Scott River Ranch- Gareth Plank

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jenna Weslowski Matolle Charter School Student

Jenna Weslowski volunteered 12 hours of her time to help the Siskiyou Land Trust continue its conservation work. In that time she assisted us with entering conservation easement monitoring data, event mailings, office organization and filing. Upon completing her volunteer activities, Jenna shared her thoughts about Sisson Meadow.

### **What Does Sisson Meadow Mean to Me?**

*I have many memories from this meadow, from collecting water samples in seventh grade to reading in the sun with my whole eighth grade class. This is a place of peace for both human and animals. For humans, it is a place to come clear your mind, read, and enjoy the sun, and enjoy the nature around you. For animals, it provides them with a clean home they wouldn't have if this meadow had been built upon.*

### **How I Describe the Meadow:**

*Peaceful, Beautiful, Quiet, Happy, Beautiful*

Thank you Jenna! The Siskiyou Land Trust greatly appreciates our volunteers. A little bit of time goes a long ways.



# Sisson Meadow Update

Photo and Pictures by Sam Baxter

On October 1, 2011 a cold, rainy and windy Saturday morning, 25 intrepid volunteers showed up to clean and prepare the meadow for winter. Among those were 3 students from Sisson School and their teacher. We enjoyed having their enthusiasm with us. The work was extensive in clearing the boardwalk of overgrowth. As you remember, we had an excessive amount of rain and snow through June, 2011. As a result, you can imagine what the meadow looked like by October. Plenty of sun and plenty of growth. The meadow grasses reached nearly four feet tall in places. Many of these had fallen over on the boardwalk and made it difficult to walk. As you can see from the before and after pictures, the job was successful. The volunteers pitched in and cleared all of the boardwalk of hazards. This was the second cleanup in the meadow and another example of the community spirit of the citizens of Mount Shasta.



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

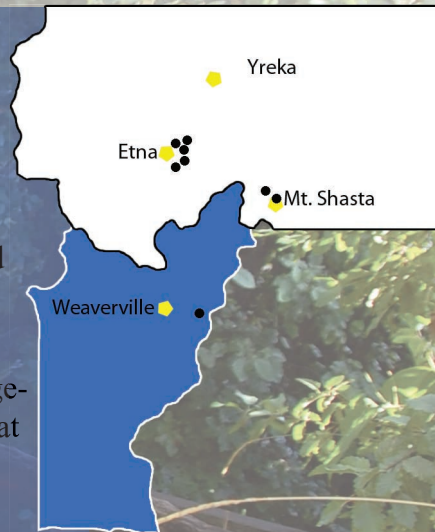
## SLT Holdings

Sisson Meadow- Mt. Shasta, CA  
7.7 acres of scenic viewshed and wetland habitat

Trinity River Easement  
70 acres of open space, view-shed and river corridor

Scott Valley Conservation Easements  
5,500+ acres of agricultural land, range-land, river corridor, and wildlife habitat

Hammond Reservoir- Weed, CA  
67 acres of wetland and habitat



## What is the Siskiyou Land Trust GardenShare Project?

Group activity yielding bounty for the collective...

Accepting members' different styles, abilities, time, knowledge, contributions...

Respecting the land and all that she provides...

Dreaming of a better world where all are fed in body and spirit...

Energized through intimate contact with earth, water, sunshine and wind...

Never knowing exactly what will flourish...and what we will learn...

Sharing time, resources, skills, ideas, harvest, recipes, gatherings, stories, lives...

Happy to invite the larger community to participate and witness what is possible...

Amazed at the abundant, delicious, nutritious, beautiful crops that we grow...

Resting in the winter while pondering, planning and preparing for spring...

Every entity enlivened by this evolving experiment!

by Bayla Greenspoon, happy GardenShare farmer

A big thanks to Susie Boyd for sponsoring the color printing of this newsletter.

# Community





## Rails to Trails Purchase Agreement

Great news from the Great Shasta Rail Trail project team: a purchase agreement for the railway corridor between Burney and McCloud was recently signed that opens the door for a “Rails to Trails” recreational trail. Next steps are to acquire funds to purchase the railway corridor.

The Siskiyou Land Trust is participating in the planning team to support the efforts of the Great Shasta Rail Trail project team that is working hard to develop a recreational trail from Burney to McCloud, CA.

Established in the late 1800's, McCloud River Railroad Company was purchased in 1992 by 4 Rails, which is owned by Siskiyou County resident Jeff Forbis. In 2005, the railroad (then operating as McCloud Railway Company) filed for abandonment of that portion of their property between McCloud and Burney. Save Burney Falls, a local non-profit organization, temporarily halted the abandonment process by formally requesting permission to convert the right-of-way into a public trail using a tool called “railbanking.” Railbanking was created in the National Trails System Act by act of Congress and allows the right-of-way to be sold to an organization that will preserve the property and manage it for public use and public benefit, until it is again needed for railroad use.



### **From the President's Desk** *April 2012*

**One of the items that are on the agenda for the SLT board is the setting of the next year's goals. In the process, we review whether we met the goals we set from the previous year. In reviewing 2011, we successfully met our goals with a little extra.**

**Last year the board set a goal to increase our membership from 130 to 180. This is quite a percentage leap. Good News! We reached 181 members. This year we set our membership to increase to 225-300.**

**The second major goal was to increase our member donations. Our base was \$15,000 and we set our sites for \$30,000. We hit \$31,000!**

**For the year 2012, we are looking to increase membership to 225-300 and our membership donations \$35,000.**

**So, dear members, thank you for making this happen.**

**Belinda Higuera**



# Siskiyou Land Trust Gets a Boost: *A Very Happy New Year!*

The Land Trust received an unexpected Christmas present in the mail, a \$10,000 contribution from the Patricia L. Kimball and David T. Kimball Fund! This gift that was administered through the Shasta Regional Community Foundation came at a timely moment for the Land Trust, as our volunteers and half-time staff have been working over-time to meet increasing demands to acquire additional land and easements in Siskiyou County and to steward the places we currently own or hold under easement.

While inquiries from landowners and community members interested in protecting land has risen significantly since early 2010 and the level of stewardship responsibility increased – our paid staff and budget decreased significantly. Successful conservation work is not part-time work, it doesn't even happen with one full time position – land acquisition and stewardship is much more than a full time job - it takes full time paid staff plus the dedication of a community of volunteers. The generous gift from the Kimball Fund has allowed the Land Trust to cover an additional day for our Conservation Director who is currently developing three land and easement acquisition projects, implementing our stewardship program, and assisting with outreach and educational events. We hope to leverage this generous contribution for additional program and project funding.

## Keeping Conservation Relevant: *Rainbow Ridge Collaborative Forest Stewardship* by Kara Baylog

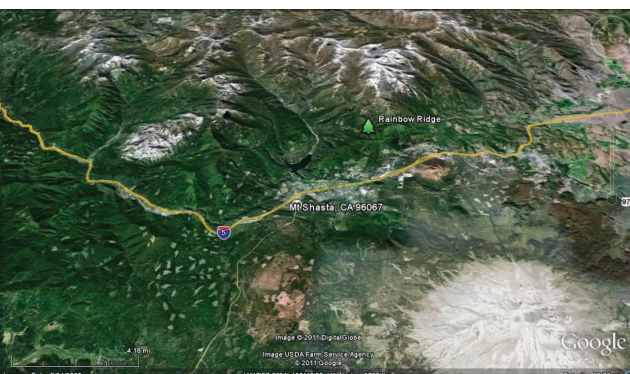
Rainbow Ridge is a 4,000+-acre area of public and private forest land that parallels Interstate-5 spanning from Lake Siskiyou north towards Deetz Road. Portions of the ridge are managed as large intact forests, while other areas of the forested mountain ridge have been converted to smaller residential developments or subdivisions, such as Shasta Brown Ranch and Timber Ridge subdivisions. Since 2007, the Land Trust has met periodically with Rainbow Ridge landowners in Mount Shasta who are interested in

developing the concept of a collaboratively managed and protected forest ridge. The idea has remained conceptual until recently when the Land Trust began moving forward with a 600-acre forest conservation easement on the ridge and teamed up with the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District's (Shasta Valley RCD) newly hired Watershed Coordinator.

While the Land Trust is focusing its current efforts on finding funding to purchase the forest conservation easement, the Shasta Valley RCD and U.S. Natural Resource Conservation District are focusing on collaborative forest management options that would reduce the dangerously high fuels load, enhance wildlife habitat and forest ecosystem function, and maintain a scenic view-shed of Rainbow Ridge that is visible from the city of Mt. Shasta, the Mt. Shasta Wilderness, and scenic Volcanic Legacy highway corridor of I-5. The conservation partners are also coordinating a forest stewardship education series that

will include indoor and outdoor learning about forest ecology, sustainable forest management practices, forest conservation easements, and many other presentations and discussions about taking care of forest lands.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Rainbow Ridge Collaborative Forest Stewardship Project should contact Kara Baylog ([strawberria@gmail.com](mailto:strawberria@gmail.com)) the Watershed Coordinator at the Shasta Valley RCD.



# Projects



# Innovation in Regional Forest Management

Kathleen Hitt

Last Fall, the Siskiyou Land Trust hosted a workshop on regional forest management tools. The program, presented by the Mattole Restoration Council, shared information and experiences for watershed forest conservation methods. About 20 attendees, including foresters, conservation organizations, resource agency representatives and landowners, learned how the Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) can streamline forest conservation via watershed timber harvest planning and permitting for several landowners at once—making it a useful tool for comprehensive forest management. According to SLT Board member John Brennan, “the Land Trust was interested in learning about this forest stewardship tool to determine if it may be useful and applicable to forest conservation efforts in Siskiyou County.”

Since Mattole Restoration Council’s recent approval of their PTEIR document that covers an entire watershed, several landowners have successfully used the document to apply “light touch” site-specific timber harvests that will protect and restore forest vitality in the Mattole watershed. This forest stewardship tool has allowed for watershed scale forest management with an goal of conservation. Hezekiah Allen, Mattole Restoration Council Executive Director is enthusiastic about the programmatic forest stewardship tool: “while participation in the programmatic forest management tool that requires “light touch” forest management is *voluntary*, the comprehensive forest management document is approved for a 50 year period and it significantly reduces costs for landowners interested in managing their forestlands. Because of these benefits, the Mattole Restoration Council expects the number of landowners using this innovative forest conservation tool to significantly increase.”

Special thanks to our workshop coordinators and presenters, Hezekiah Allen (Executive Director of MRC and new SLT member), Seth Zuckerman (MRC Forest Futures program coordinator), Bill Wilkinson (Registered professional forester with BBW & Associates), and John Brennan (SLT Board Member and Land Acquisition Committee Chair). Thanks also to all who attended the informative workshop. Information about the Mattole Restoration Council and the PTEIR process can be found at <http://mattole.org/content/mattole-forest-futures-pteir> or by contacting the Mattole Restoration Council.

# California Council of Land Trusts

John Brennan

Kathleen, John Schuyler, and I just returned from the 12<sup>th</sup> annual California Council of Land Trusts conference in Sacramento. This was the best one yet from my perspective as Treasurer.

I was able to speak with representatives from the Big Sur Land Trust who were using a proprietary record keeping system which is used to keep track of our 4 properties and easements as well as the 18 inquiries we are reviewing. It is an asset which will allow specified persons to remotely access our data base. That will allow a board member, for example, to access a file containing the complete and current information about an inquiry or an owned property. This is an important asset to eventually obtain as we can use it for offsite storage for all our records, thus complying with one of the Land Trust Alliance requirements for accreditation.

Another session I attended related to management of our investment portfolio and evaluation of the performance our institutional investment manager’s performance. The firm which made the presentation offers investment performance benchmarks for use in evaluating our portfolio.

May sound boring to you, but even though we are a non profit, we are a business and must run ourselves as such to fulfill our responsibilities and property owners and stewards of conserved lands.

We made many more useful contacts within the land trust community which will prove useful in helping us attain our strategic goals.





## Grant Funds from McConnell Fund Help Finance 2012 Stewardship Projects!

Thanks to a generous grant from the McConnell Fund, several stewardship projects will receive a boost that will help the Land Trust communicate with the public via informational and interpretive signs and wildlife viewing cameras at Sisson Meadow and Hammond Pond. Grant funds will also help provide signs at several conservation easements and improved wheelchair access at the western entrance of Sisson Meadow where several community members identified a safety issue.

The Land Trust pursued the grant through the Shasta Regional Community Foundation last Fall largely in response to the many Land Trust members and community members who expressed the need for clarification or information about Sisson Meadow and Hammond Pond. “Why aren’t there signs....what is allowed.... who owns this....what wildlife lives and visits here?” These are just a few of the typical questions heard by Land Trust Board members and staff on a regular basis.

Well, we agree – the land trust should have signs that explain who protects these places, how they are protected, and what makes these places special. We are scheduled to install the signs by the end of July, and hope to have them in place before then. Our wildlife cameras will be in place by then too – with pictures to be posted on the Land Trust website and facebook. **Many thanks to Shasta Regional Community Foundation, the McConnell Fund, our members, and our volunteers for helping us take care of these special places!**

## Slide Show Series Success!

This season’s SLT sponsored slide shows in November through March have been the most successful series ever and we want to thank you for your support by showing up in big numbers. The increasing numbers of people turning out for shows are the reason we moved to ever increasing sized venues. The March show was held in the large downstairs conference room at the Mount Shasta Resort to accommodate over 90 people. SLT wants to thank our entertaining slide show presenters for their time and energy sharing their grand adventures.

- *Turkey by Bicycle* in November with Mike Hupp & Linda Roddy
- December featured *Paddling & Hiking in the New Zealand Wilderness* by Steve Bollock and Kim Solga
- January brought us Steve Morrell and *Penguins of the Antarctic*
- *On the Origins of Lemuria* was the February show by William Miesse
- In March, Rick Demarest presented *Last of the Great Unknown*, his adventures in the Grand Canyon.
- Megan Margo was April's presenter, her slideshow was about Forest Conservation in the Klamath-Cascade.

SLT would like to thank the presenters and volunteers who made this possible. We also want to thank the Mount Shasta Resort for providing a wonderful venue and lastly, all of the public who showed up each month sometimes even in the rain and snow.

Another series is starting in November 2012 and we hope to see you at the next show! Look for email updates and posts on the website and Facebook. If you have Facebook, “like” the Siskiyou Land Trust page to get automatic updates. Go to the Siskiyou Land Trust website to subscribe to the email list. Thanks again for your support!





**Siskiyou Land Trust**  
 522 East Alma  
 P.O. Box 183  
 Mt. Shasta, CA 96067  
 Phone: (530) 926-2259  
[www.siskiyoulandtrust.org](http://www.siskiyoulandtrust.org)

**Board of Directors**

Belinda Higuera, Stacy Smith  
 Susie Boyd, John Brennan,  
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**Newsletter** Claire Tenscher  
 Additional Photos and Articles  
 Kathleen Hitt, Tristan Behm  
 John Brennan



**2012  
 Three  
 Rivers  
 Bicycle  
 Tour**

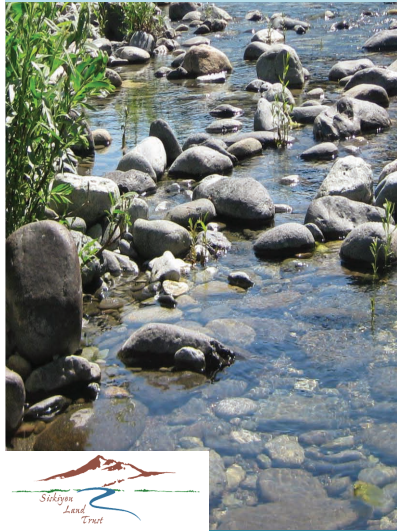
Circumnavigate California's  
 Majestic Marble Mountain  
 Wilderness along the Wild and  
 Scenic Cal Salmon, Scott and  
 Klamath Rivers

**Four Days of Riding!**

**A benefit for the Siskiyou Land Trust** [www.siskiyoulandtrust.org](http://www.siskiyoulandtrust.org)

- Four days SAG support
- Catered meals
- Amazing scenery
- Secluded camping

**Challenging, Low traffic roads, 40+ mile downhill!**



- Dates** September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>
- Location** Starts and finishes in Etna, CA
- Time** 9:00 a.m. September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Attire** Bicycle clothes and your best camp gear and clothes.
- You bring** Your bike, camp gear, personal items for three nights camping, special snacks and energy drinks for four days riding. Limits on amount of gear apply.
- Cost** \$600.00 per person (PayPal): [www.siskiyoulandtrust.org](http://www.siskiyoulandtrust.org) or mail a check to Siskiyou Land Trust, P.O. Box 183, Mount Shasta, CA 96067
- Speakers** Music; Camp Storytellers
- Group Size** Limited to the first 16 people. Sign up quickly since this will sell out fast!
- Benefits** Support land conservation in Siskiyou County. Sign up today!



**Calendar of Land Trust Activities:**

**May 29 SLT Annual Member Meeting 7PM, Mt Shasta Resort**

- May 23 Forest Stewardship Speaker Series: Part 1, Contact Kara Baylog (530)926-2259
  - June 1 Spring Hill Hike – *Exploring our Backyard* (10:00 - meet @ SLT office)
  - June 6 Mt. Shasta Garden Tour, Tickets Available at Spring Hill Nursery
  - June 15 Volunteer appreciation picnic: @ Lake Siskiyou South Shore Picnic Area (4:30-6:30)
  - TBA Sisson Meadow stewardship day (9:00-12:00)
  - TBA Exploring Hammond Pond by Boat – *Wetlands & Wildlife* (5:30-6:30 – RSVP Space Limited)
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> Land Trust booth with Sisson Meadow tours leaving from the booth
- Contact the SLT for additional information.