



Member Business

Meeting Sisson

**Museum
April 14, 2010**

6:00 pm

See page 5 for details

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Land Trust Matters

News for friends of the Siskiyou Land Trust

Spring 2010

5,500 Acre Scott Valley Conservation Easement up for Approval in May



Landowner Keith Whipple looks over his Scott Valley ranch and forestlands

The Siskiyou Land Trust has been working for several years with the Whipple and Plank families in Scott Valley to place approximately 5,500 acres of their land into a conservation easement. After years of negotiation and hard work, the proposed conservation easement is on the road to approval and completion.

A conservation easement is a legal tool used to protect the

conservation values of land in perpetuity. Land owners that choose to place their land under a conservation easement can retain ownership of the land, while also agreeing to limit future development of the land to protect conservation values.

Upon approval by the granting agency, purchase of the conservation easement will be made with funds from the California Department of Conservation's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and the California Wildlife Conservation Board's Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program. The conservation easement will be held by the Siskiyou Land Trust.

Protecting land in Siskiyou County for agriculture and wildlife values serves as a model for cooperative conservation planning. The proposed conservation easement, located just outside of Etna, would protect agricultural, open space, and wildlife conservation values. The easement would cover a wide range of habitats, including several miles of the Scott River and adjacent riparian areas, grasslands, croplands, and woodlands.

The Siskiyou Land Trust is very fortunate to be working with these families, who have worked tirelessly to protect these lands for future generations. Their organic grass-fed beef is available for purchase locally at Berryvale grocery store.

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

Roger Kosel and Stacy Smith Join the Board of Directors

The Siskiyou Land Trust is fortunate to have Roger Kosel and Stacy Smith on our Board of Directors. Both Roger and Stacy joined the land trust Board in January 2010. Our Board members volunteer their time and ensure that the land trust continues to operate and fulfill its conservation mission. Roger and Stacy shared their thoughts on what inspired

them to become Board members.

Roger Kosel recently retired from his post as Superior Court judge for Siskiyou County, and now enjoys spending time outdoors. When asked why he chose to volunteer for the land trust Board, Roger told us that he "joined to help encourage people from other parts of the county to become members of

the land trust to help preserve the land and viewsheds in Siskiyou County."

Stacy Smith is passionate about land conservation, and has a background in federal land management. Stacy joined the Board "to share her experience and understanding of lands in Siskiyou County."

A message from the President of the Board

By John Brennan



SLT President, John Brennan hiking at Heart Lake

SLT staff and I had been applying all possible efforts to secure \$360,000 in non-State funding in order to get the 5,500 acre Plank and Whipple conservation easement on the Wildlife Conservation Board May agenda for project funding approval. This included some attempts to get bond funds released by educating members of the State Assembly. Things looked pretty bleak, that is, until Friday March 26th when we got a call from the Wildlife Conservation Board project manager. There had been some bond funds released ... more to follow next week.

Then on March 30th WCB staff called again. Whee! We're on the May agenda! No additional project funds required. This sets the stage for final approval of this fabulous conservation project which protects, among many other resources, 3 miles of Scott River salmon spawning redds. (a red is a "nest") Thanks, to Kathleen Hitt and to all who worked to move this project forward!

Our membership gained enormously by engaging Janet Zalewski and Kathleen Hitt as Executive and Conservation Directors respectively. They bring unparalleled new energy, talent, and demeanor to Land Trust matters. They and two board members attended the California Council of Land Trusts annual conference in Sacramento. We made many contacts [a few even had modest funds to offer!] in our assertive continuing effort to create effective working partnerships with funding sources, other conservation organizations, and governmental agencies at many levels.

These working collaborations bring far greater leverage to our ability to counteract, or at least to mitigate, the threats to our local economies and the prized landscapes in the County we call home. They also pool scarce resources when one or more organizations form a team to address conservation issues. These efforts not only facilitate more effective outcomes from distant grant funders, but build stronger communities here at home.

Ribbon is Cut for New Land Trust Office!

After enjoying several years in the Weed Mercantile building, the Siskiyou Land Trust is thrilled to have a new office location near Sisson Meadow (522 Alma Street, Mt. Shasta).

"the new office space works really well for the work that the Land Trust is doing", said Janet Zalewski Executive Director, "We have adequate room to spread out and a small conference room that works well for the many meetings that we hold every week with committees, volunteers and landowners."

Conservation Director, Kathleen Hitt explained "The small conference room is available as a place to meet, free of charge, to other organizations who have similar or supportive missions." Sometimes it is difficult for groups to find a place to hold a

meeting. "The room works well for groups of up to 12 people", said Hitt "the Land Trust wants to support other like minded organizations by helping out in this small way. There is a lot of work to be done and we need to be supportive of each others mission and partner to get things done."

The Land Trust is also working to assemble a resource library of conservation related books and publications. "Any member of the Land Trust may access this library. And, we are open to accepting donations of con-

servation related books that may be collecting dust on bookshelves!" said Zalewski.

Please feel free to check out the "new digs". If you are in need of using the conference room, please contact Kathleen Hitt at slt-kathleen@sbcglobal.net.



The Siskiyou Land Trust is welcomed by the Mt. Shasta Chamber of Commerce as a new business.

Land Trust Board and Staff Puts Focus on Action

By Janet Zalewski

"What gets measured, gets done." I remember this quote from some management class I had in college—many more years ago than I care to remember. And...its true!

Over the past several years the Land Trust Board of Directors undertook the enormous task of preparing a long range Strategic Plan to guide their planning, decision making and direction for the next several years. The final Strategic Plan document has many, many valuable goals and objectives, enough to keep any hard working group of volunteers busy well into the next several years.

One of the dangers in preparing a strategic plan is that they often never get beyond the planning stage. They fail to move from strategy to implementation, and as a result, wind up sitting on a shelf to be dusted off when they are reviewed at an annual board retreat when

frustrated board members ask ? Who was supposed to do that?"

The Siskiyou Land Trust Board of directors is determined to make sure that the goals of the Land Trust's Strategic Plan are carried out in a responsible and timely way. In order to make this happen, the board has assembled four standing committees; Executive/Finance, Education/Communication and Outreach, Membership/Fund Development, and Land Acquisition and Stewardship. Each committee has developed 18 month objectives and an annual work plan that defines action items, tasks, timelines for completion and the person who is responsible to insure that the tasks are carried out.. These action plans are the road maps which guide the work of committees and assign individual accountability. Thus..."What

gets measured, gets done!"

Another quote that comes to mind is "Many hands make light work!" That being said, the Strategic Plan and committee actions plans are available to Land Trust members for review. Members who find that they are interested in a particular project and would like to "jump in" on the efforts may contact staff or board members of the Siskiyou Land Trust.

Janet Zalewski comes to the Siskiyou Land Trust after 9 years acting as the CEO of the Siskiyou Family YMCA. Prior to that Janet worked with the State of California Department of Education, Shasta County Office of Education, Tahoe City Parks and Recreation, and North Tahoe fine Arts Council. Janet has an MBA from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a BA in Recreation Administration from Chico State. Most of all, Janet loves to play outside in Siskiyou County, and is passionate about the work of the Siskiyou Land Trust!)



Executive Director Janet Zalewski and "Lucy" hiking below Mt. Eddie

What on Earth Do You Do? By Kathleen Hitt

When I tell people about my new position as Conservation Director with the Siskiyou Land Trust, I tend to get a curious look and a question: "so.....what exactly is it that you do?" That's a good question....

As directors, Janet and I work with the Land Trust Board, committees, and volunteers to achieve the organizations conservation goals. Okay, so what does that mean?... It means we take care of the big picture planning and day to day implementation of conservation projects. We meet with the Land Trust Board on a monthly basis to review our fiscal status, education and outreach activities, land acquisition and stewardship activities, and membership and fund development activities. Together, staff and the Board plan events like the membership meeting, we manage conservation projects like the purchase of the Scott Valley conservation easements, and we plan for the organization's operational success.

As staff, we provide landowners with information and ideas about how the land trust can help them protect and conserve their open spaces, agricultural lands, wetlands, forestlands, grasslands and wildlands. At the Land Trust, we help people negotiate the maze of conservation opportunities available to landowners, and help them achieve their conservation goals. A land trust is capable of holding real estate, including a conservation easement. That means the organization can accept donations of land or conservation easements from land owners who are interested in protecting their land for its conservation values. This can be done while people are alive, or after they have "graduated" via a testamentary gift. By donating land or a conservation easement to the land trust, families can receive tax benefits, such as relief from hefty income or estate taxes.

With that said, this is just a snapshot of what it is that we do at the Land Trust. If you are interested in learning more about us and what it is that we do, please stop by, join a committee, and participate in one of the many volunteer opportunities. Land Trust members are encouraged to visit our new Conservation Library, located in our office at 522 Alma Street, Mt. Shasta. If you have books or other conservation materials that you would like to donate to the library, please do.

Kathleen is thrilled to be working with the land trust as the new Conservation Director. Her background includes natural resource monitoring, planning, policy, and law. Kathleen moved to California in 1999 to work for the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project over in Callahan. Her passion for conservation and cooperative solutions brought her to the land trust, where she says "we have an incredible opportunity at this time to work together for the people and places we love."



Conservation Director, Kathleen Hitt hiking in Russian Wilderness

Membership Matters! By Susie Boyd

The Siskiyou Land Trust is local people-- that's you and me and our neighbors working to fulfill a vision first conceived more than a decade ago by a few Siskiyou County residents: the vision of a county where the necessary development to meet the needs of people is always carefully balanced with protection of farmland, sensitive habitats, and recreational and scenic open space.

As farmland and view sheds all over California have been eroded and bulldozed away by real estate development various tools have been created to assist in balancing all these land uses. State and federal agencies have been directed to assist local groups such as ours to conserve our natural environment. The missing link is funding and support for local groups, such as ours, to make sure these programs are implemented locally.

Aha!! Now we get to membership...and why it matters. Membership??? Yes---that's you and me. Our membership dollars enable the Siskiyou Land Trust to maintain an office with staff. In that way, we can communicate our vision of local conservation and work with willing landowners, other conservation groups, and government agencies to achieve our goals. Everyone who values the pristine beauty of Siskiyou County has a vested interest in preserving and protecting the natural beauty that surrounds us. Why then shouldn't each and every one of us join the Siskiyou Land Trust as annual dues-paying members? **Count me in!!!!**



SLT Board Member Susie Boyd at Lake Helen on Mt. Shasta

Did you know?

You can become a "FAN" of the Siskiyou Land Trust on Facebook!

Keep yourself informed and "be in the know!" about Land Trust Matters.

Member Focus—Meet Marc Williams

Members are the lifeblood of the Siskiyou Land Trust. Membership contributions account for 20 % of the organization's operational costs, which allow the organization to succeed in meeting its conservation mission. Members also share in-kind gifts and hours of time volunteering for land trust projects and committees. In recognizing the vital role that members play in the continued success of our organization, we are sharing your stories. Our first *Member*

Focus story is about Marc Williams, a retired wildlife biologist who lives in Scott Valley, California.

Marc became a member of the Siskiyou Land Trust in 2003. When asked how he first heard about the Siskiyou Land Trust, he recalled learning about it through friends at the local Audubon chapter. Marc then participated in a Sisson Meadow event where he learned more about the land trust's efforts to purchase and restore Sisson Meadow.

Marc has lived and worked in Siskiyou County for many years. His time spent in the mountains and working with wildlife has increased his understanding for the value of conserving wildlands in Siskiyou County. As Marc put it, "As a wildlife biologist, I am aware

of the value of wildlands, especially those that provide unique habitats. It is also important to connect wildlands together by protecting contiguous areas or corridors."

When asked why he joined the land trust, Marc tells us, "because protection of the natural environment is critical for the survival of most wildlife species, space for them to live, thrive and reproduce. In addition, it is also a place for us humans to experience nature, the quiet and solitude, and perhaps, if we're lucky, to see some of our wildlife in their own home habitat."

Thank you Marc for graciously accepting our request to discuss your interest in conservation and reasons for being a member of the Siskiyou Land Trust! (he was not expecting our call!)

If you would like to share your story about being a land trust member, contact Kathleen Hitt: slt-kathleen@sbcglobal.net.



SLT Member Marc Williams at his home in Scott Valley

Taking Steps to Build Our Endowment

by Janet Zalewski

When the Siskiyou Land asked me to serve as the Executive Director of the organization I was both honored and thrilled that I would be able to help the organization with the important work to conserve special places in Siskiyou County. And...when asked, I was in the midst of planning a journey that would fulfill a life long dream—a "thru-hike" on the Pacific Crest Trail, Mexico to Canada. A walk that typically takes, even the fittest of folks, a good 5 to 6 months. Hmmm...how to do both?

Knowing that my primary task as Executive Director will be to ensure the financial stability and long term sustainability of the Land Trust, my personal journey expanded to one that will meet a broader objective; to grow the Land Trusts Operational Endowment Fund. So, I have set a personal goal of raising a minimum of \$10,000 by having friends of the Siskiyou Land Trust pledge a monetary amount per mile. The entire trail is 2,650 miles and five, ten, twenty cents or more per mile quickly add up. At the time of this printing, we have over \$6,100 in pledges!

An Endowment Fund will help the Siskiyou Land Trust insure that funds are available to support the organization into the future. This works by growing the principle amount in the fund and gleaning the interest off of the fund's investments to help support the organization's operations. The larger the amount in the Endowment fund, the more work can be done to conserve agricultural, forest and wildlands in our beautiful and unique county.

As one can imagine, this is a huge endeavor for me personally. Knowing that I am apart of something so much bigger than myself makes my journey purposeful far beyond words that I can express. In addition, as I am walking mile after mile, I will have a comforting awareness that I have a family of friends who love and cherish this land where we live, supporting me. And, when I get to those tough soul searching moments when I know I will question my sanity in taking on such a titanic undertaking, I will pause, reflect and know that what I am doing is for a cause much bigger than myself.

Please consider making a pledge! For information about how to do so, please contact me at slt-ed@sbcglobal.net. You can also contact the Land Trust office for a pledge card and be a part of helping grow the endowment fund!



Janet at a PCT trail crossing near Werner Springs, California

The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendall Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
And wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
Rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
Who do not tax their lives with forethought
Of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
Waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world and I am free.



Photo by Mike Hupp

Siskiyou Land Trust

Annual All Member Business Meeting

Learn More About Your Land Trust!

The Board of Directors is holding a meeting to update and inform the general membership of the Siskiyou Land Trust on issues related to the organizations and conservation issues in Siskiyou County

**April 14, 2010
Sisson Museum**

*Appetizers & Beverages 5:30pm
Meeting 6:00pm to 7:00pm*

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

Conservation in the News....

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

By Nate Caeton



SLT Volunteer Nate Caeton
hiking near Brandy Creek Falls

Welcome to the latest edition of Conservation in the News. This time around, we would like to highlight the efforts of the Audubon Society's Mount Shasta Chapter, to obtain a grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund in order to purchase a 424 acre parcel on Rainbow Ridge. For those of you unfamiliar with Rainbow Ridge, there is still a good bet that you have laid eyes upon it. Located due west of Mt. Shasta, the ridge is prominently within the view shed of the city and the Interstate 5 corridor. The parcel, currently owned by Sierra Pacific Industries, is the second largest private parcel on Rainbow Ridge, which encompasses some 3000 acres. With a \$4.2 million price tag and stiff competition for sparse LWCF grant funds, Kerry Mauro, President of the Mount Shasta Chapter, worries that the bid may be a "long-shot" but agrees that one never knows until they try. Whatever the case, as the land is for sale for development purposes, it would be a shame if no one made an attempt to acquire it for conservation purposes, especially given that our trust has been working with the Audubon Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District and countless landowners to bring the entire ridge into a

common forest management unit. In a conversation with Siskiyou Land Trust's President, John Brennan, he described the project as "highly collaborative" and an "integral part of protecting the community view shed, valuable wildlife habitat and watershed that feeds into Lake Siskiyou." For now, it looks as though we must wait and hope for a positive outcome in a project that clearly falls within our trusts ideals. If you would like to find out more about the project or how you can help, please contact our offices.

(Nate W. Caeton is a Northern California native with roots in Redding, where he lives with his wife and two sons. He has a passion for writing, photography and the outdoors.)

Conservation Calendar for Spring/Summer 2010

Please check out our webpage & Facebook for updates on items "TBA"

Siskiyou Land Trust Events

Sisson Meadow Spring Clean-up Date: Saturday May 1 Contact Dennis McFall
Spring Hill Trail Maintenance with Mt. Shasta Trail Association: TBA, Contact Joe Wirth
Open House for New Siskiyou land trust Offices: Wednesday May 12th, 5:00 pm
Garden Party – Help *Plan* the New Native Plant Garden at the Siskiyou Land Trust: April 24, Contact Kathleen Hitt : slt-kathleen@sbcglobal.net
Garden Party – Help *Plant* the New Garden at the Siskiyou Land Trust May 15th, Contact Kathleen Hitt
Hammond Pond Stewardship Day: TBA , Contact John Brennan
Conserving Our Lands: Conservation Easement Workshop: TBA

Other Events of Interest

May 6th, 9 am: Hike – Hotlum/Cinder Cone Loop. Contact::Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
May 9th, 10 am – 4pm: Annual Mother's Day Wildflower Show . Where: Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka
May 11th, 7-9 pm: Green Building 101 w/ Robert Bechen, Licensed Architect, Where: Stage Door, Mount Shasta
Contact: Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center @ 530.926.5655
May 13th, 9 am: Hike – Weiss Ranch. Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
May 15th: Siskiyou Crest Hike Series – Sterling Ditch Trail – Little Applegate Valley. Contact: : Laurel @ 541.488.5789
May 15th, 10 am – 4 pm: Native Plants in the Landscape Garden Tour Where: Redding/Anderson/Palo Cedro
Contact: Donal Jonio @ 530.221.4280
May 20th, 8:30 am: Hike – Table Rock . Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
May 27th, 9 am: Hike – Cabin Creek (aka, Squaw Valley Creek) Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
June 3rd, 9:30 am: Hike – Sacramento River Trail/Wanderers Annual Picnic. Where: Dunsmuir City Park
Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
June 10th: Hike – Cabin Meadows Creek . Contact::Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
June 17th: Hike – Campbell and Cliff Lakes Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
June 19th 9 am: Siskiyou Crest Hike Series – Bigelow Lakes – Mt. Elijah. Contact:: Laurel @ 541.488.5789
June 24th 8:30 am: Hike – Martins Dairy Area. Contact:: Neal & Benita Clark @ 530.926.2424
September 18th: KS Wild'S Annual Dinner and Auction Where: TBD * Time: TBD * Charge: TBD Contact:: KS Wild @ 541.488.5789



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:

- \$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

What Matters to Me by Tuli Potts

We each have memories of the special places where wild and natural lands spoke to us and changed our lives. When we describe our communities and our country we might speak of our culture, our economy and our politics, but we always speak of our landscapes. Siskiyou County is a land of majestic mountains, fertile valleys, powerful rivers and towering forests that create a sense of place and identity. Our land is the most important legacy we can pass on intact to our children and grandchildren.

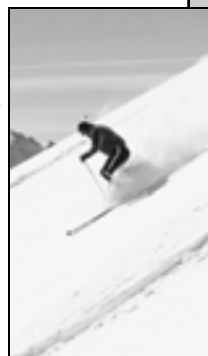
For many of us, preserving the places that enrich our lives is reason enough to support conservation. But much more is at stake. Ensuring that our natural areas are preserved is critical to the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat as well as ensuring that our natural areas are preserved for recreation and opportunity to connect with the land around us.

In addition to health, wildlife, and open space benefits, conserving land promotes the continuation of viable agricultural and timber operations, increases property values near greenbelts and saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development. Study after study has demonstrated the tremendous economic benefits of land conservation. Land trusts work to conserve land to keep communities healthy

and economically viable, while conserving desirable places to live.

The Siskiyou Land Trust is a community-based conservation organization that acquires and protects land for the public good. The Siskiyou Land Trust helps preserve land for future generations, for protection of our food and water supply, to provide wildlife habitat, to provide agricultural and timber resource protection, and to provide open spaces for recreation.

Throughout the County, local citizens, private land owners, and community governments have joined together to save the places they cherish by establishing land conservation easements. These conservation projects provide local communities with effective champions and long-term caretakers of their critical land resources. So join us in promoting stronger local communities throughout Siskiyou County by providing the knowledge, resources and support.



We couldn't get our volunteer Tuli to send a photo—but this could be her!!! Off playing somewhere in Siskiyou county!

Siskiyou Land Trust Conservation Holdings

- **Sisson Meadows 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 5,500 acres of agricultural land, river corridor and wildlife habitat (in-process)
- **Hammond Reservoir Weed, CA**
Protecting 67 acres of open space and wildlife habitat

*"Study after study has demonstrated the tremendous economic benefits of land conservation."
- Tuli Potts*

SISKIYOU LAND TRUST

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P.O. Box 183
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

www.siskiyoulandtrust.org

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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

Leslie Andrews
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