Hello Land Trust community members,

Change is often incremental, particularly in the Land Trust world where projects can take years to complete. Over the past year we've continued to move our big conservation easement projects forward one step at a time, celebrating milestones along the way. At the community garden on the Garden Greenway in Mt. Shasta, the summer of 2019 saw the completion of a three year infrastructure project and this summer we grew vegetables!

We believe in working diligently with our partners to do important work. It's the people who help get things done as we all keep our eyes trained on the long-term benefits to the land and families, earth and humanity that these projects bring. Whether we're reading through hundreds of pages of baseline reports and grant applications on an easement project or digging trenches for irrigation line, we understand that the work we do matters.

Your support matters, too. Our little land trust is able to take on big projects, engage in community and make lasting impacts because we all work together, each lending our specialized knowledge, talents, skills, experience, creativity and energy. Our donors around the county and the country help carry our work forward. We're all a part of this together.

In the next few years we'll have some big achievements to celebrate and challenges to take on. We appreciate all of you for being a part of this community and all that you do to make this work possible.

Rod Merys
President

Renee Casterline,
Executive Director
Working together: Community makes it happen

Board and staff enjoying the Land Trust community at our annual Solstice Dinner, held at the Axe & Rose Public House in McCloud. From left to right: Dorinda Thompson, Katie LeBaron, David Tucker, Stacy Smith, Renee Casterline, Gareth Plank and Rod Merys (Steve Bollock, Kathleen Hitt and Laura Bradley are not pictured).

Board of Directors
Rod Merys, President
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David Tucker, Treasurer
Stacy Smith, Secretary
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Katie LeBaron, Outreach Committee Chair
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Renee Casterline, Executive Director
Kathleen Hitt, Conservation Director
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Thank you to David Blink for donating the cover photo.
Thamar Wheritt: Leaving more than a legacy

If you caretake the smallest patch of earth, you know what it means to find joy pouring your heart and soul into its well-being for you and all that live there. If you own a large forested area, you likely have an even deeper appreciation and knowing for what it means to steward these dynamic places: It’s far more than one person’s or one generation’s work.

When Thamar Wherrit’s parents passed away, leaving her with almost 600 acres of land on Rainbow Ridge, she picked up the reins of forest stewardship with verve. Surrounding herself with a cadre of friends and associates to introduce her to and mentor her through the ins-and-outs of private forest landownership in California, she never looked back.

Thamar recalled tales of riding her horse as a young girl from the area we know today as downtown Mt. Shasta across meadows to Rainbow Ridge. These forests and streams were places she knew intimately, and yet it was not until much later in life, when she adopted a Rainbow Ridge forest as a landowner, that she would say she really understood what it meant to be a steward.

Similarly, since Thamar’s passing, Siskiyou Land Trust will be picking up the reins of forest ownership and long-term stewardship. In the midst of securing a conservation easement for her forest, Thamar put her land into a Charitable Trust and named Siskiyou Land Trust as the beneficiary. Now that Thamar has “graduated” from this life, as she would say, it is time for the Land Trust to take the lead. We are honored and humbled, and like Thamar when she took the role of steward from her parents, we are
drawing a collective deep breath and taking stock of what is being asked of us.

It is one thing to see and admire a forest on the horizon or to visit a forest in all of its seasons and know its heart. It is another thing all together to be in the driver’s seat of its care.

As we at the Land Trust step into this role, we see opportunity in deepening understanding of the work we do, connecting to forest and community and each other. We aspire to be thoughtful stewards who take care of this forest community in ways consistent with Thamar’s vision, forest conservation plans and goals, and that complement collective forest conservation efforts near and far.

And like Thamar moving from a girl who visited this land to one who facilitated its care, Siskiyou Land Trust will be surrounding ourselves with a cadre of friends, professional associates, and neighbors to weave our long-term stewardship vision into this place in a way that resonates with the gift bestowed.

We expect this endeavor to take time, with interim and long-term plans adapting to circumstance and experience, and with many lessons along the way. We are especially thankful for Thamar’s planning. 

Completing the first annual monitoring of the Wherrett conservation easement with Cal Fire. One of the views from the top of Thamar’s land on Rainbow Ridge above the City of Mt. Shasta. Left to right: Kathleen Hitt, Steve Bollock, Brook Darley and a visiting forestry professional.
and generous spirit to bring ease to this task. Along with her sharp wit, Thamar was a shrewd business woman. She knew what it took to take care of a 600-acre forest, and so provided a financial donation to start us on our way to being successful stewards. The Land Trust plans on investing the bulk of this bequest so that the gift is one that is ever giving.

In this and many ways, Thamar Wherrit’s legacy is far greater than the acres and money she gifted. Thamar’s vision of permanent forest conservation was one that is helping SLT grow into a larger vision, giving us the opportunity to step into the forest conservation easement world from the perspective of a landowner. Her estate planning meant that the Land Trust could anticipate receiving a significant financial gift and provided an infusion of possibility and optimism, helping us all see what Siskiyou Land Trust is capable of now and into the future.

Her parting gift came as a nudge. With a 600-acre forest that is permanently protected by a conservation easement and a financial bequest, Siskiyou Land Trust embarks up becoming the kind of forest steward we dream of being.

For more about Thamar, go to www.siskiyoulandtrust.org to read a letter she wrote in 2017 about why she chose a conservation easement and her love of land and animals.
We're ready to grow

The impact and scope of our work is growing. In support, we are launching our $5,000,000 by 2025 Endowment Fund goal.

By the end of 2021, we'll be well on our way with almost $1,000,000 in the Fund from Thamar generosity, earlier gifts and easement donations. And that's just what we know about.

Every dollar in the endowment fund lays a strong foundation for tomorrow and gives assurance that the work we do now is sustained for generations.

Join us in reaching our $5,000,000 goal. Call today to discuss how your gift can make an impact in perpetuity.

Join the supporters who are building a legacy by including Siskiyou Land Trust in your estate plans.

Have you already included Siskiyou Land Trust in your will or estate plans? Please let us know so we can welcome you to our Conservators Circle.
Siskiyou Land Trust has been working with Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM) for over two years on the Scott River Headwaters project, a forward-looking effort to restore and protect nearly 40,000 acres of working forest above Scott Valley. EFM purchased the land rich with pockets of aspen groves, wet meadows and cold-water streams when it went up for auction in 2017.

EFM and the Land Trust are partnering to place three conservation easements (CEs) that will prevent future subdivision and protect its diverse landscapes and habitats. Work on these easements is in process, and while some have secured funding, the first projected closing date is in 2020.

There is tremendous diversity here: Cal Fish and Wildlife’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis tool ranks this property high for aquatic biodiversity and climate change resilience. With more than a dozen streams and the South Fork of the Scott River running through it, this project employs practices that contribute to the health of Endangered Species Act listed salmon, the
The Wildcat block, one of three project areas, sits towards the south end of Scott Valley up against the Russian Wilderness. Sugar Creek, French Creek and the South Fork Scott River run through this 8,269 acre block. The Sugar Creek drainage is home to "the Miracle Mile" - one of the richest conifer assemblages on Earth, according to conifer expert Michael Kauffmann. Funding for this conservation easement has been secured through Wildlife Conservation Board’s Climate Change Initiative program with a target closing date in 2020.

The Whiskey block, encompassing 18,683 acres, sits near the city of Etna and the Marble Mountain Wilderness. It includes Kidder, Patterson and Crystal Creeks, as well as Etna Creek, which provides water to the city. The Whiskey block CE was selected for Cal Fire Forest Legacy program funds in spring 2019 and is in process.

The Shackleford block, at 12,214 acres, sits farthest north along the western edge of the Scott Valley and is adjacent to the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Within it lies Big Meadow, which provides habitat for rare and threatened species, the access point to Shackleford Falls and aspen groves. SLT and EFM are working on a strategy to fund a conservation easement.

Siskiyou Land Trust is excited to partner with Ecotrust Forest Management on the Scott River Headwaters to make lasting landscape-scale impacts.
In the late spring and early summer of 2019, SLT embarked on a series of meetings to ask the community members who love Sisson Meadow about its future. Through a series of public meetings, online and print surveys, residents of all ages took part in shaping upcoming projects.

What came from that input is the Sisson Meadow Enhancement Project, which includes replacing the existing boardwalk, adding a new segment of boardwalk, enhancing the picnic area and streambank stabilization in the waterfall area where people access the creek. SLT board and staff are working toward funding these projects.

**Boardwalk replacement and expansion**

The key question here is the width of the boardwalk. Should it remain the same or be widened to accommodate easier side by side walking and passing? After much discussion, we settled on a future width of 5', which was the original plan when designs were completed in 2006. The new portion of the boardwalk along the north side of SLT's property was also part of that original drawing.
**Picnic area enhancements**

Standing in the picnic area near the Castle Street entrance, people expressed their desires to see Sisson Meadow remain the quiet, peaceful, intimate place that it is. Enhancements to this area include an open-slat roof shade structure and a few more comfortable benches.

**Streambank stabilization**

This project near the waterfall is aimed at improving access to the stream, preventing further erosion at the waterfall and in the stream channel. This work will add stone work to the seating area and native species plantings along the far bank of the stream where it meets private property.

**Considerations and values**

As the community came together to talk about the meadow, people identified the important values around the space: keeping it open and free from large signs or features, using native plantings to discourage people from stepping off the boardwalk and stewarding the space for plants and animals, as well as the humans who love the meadow.

**Next steps**

Each of the project elements require their own permits, construction planning and funding. SLT is submitting grant applications, meeting with potential project partners and considering asking for private donations to move this vision forward in the next five years.
Glenn Harvey: A force in the community

When there’s a SLT project to be done, Glenn Harvey is likely to be there. From fence building, locating materials, to building birdhouses, working on a Sisson Meadow project, fixing the irrigation or any other system with moving parts, Glenn consistently provides skills, expertise, leadership and enthusiasm.

From his time as a youth in Boy Scouts, Glenn has been engaged in community service and development projects because “I enjoy it, it enhances life, and you get to meet and work with people you wouldn’t meet otherwise.”

He enjoys forming relationships with other community groups and uniting partners to work together, such as the Mt. Shasta Trail Association and Rotary Club of Mt. Shasta.

Moving to Mt. Shasta in 2008 and loving work that is land based, Glenn became the Kingston Meadow steward, which led to further involvement with SLT.

In 2018 he took on the role of project lead for the garden infrastructure project, which included finishing the fence gates, putting in raised beds, building the irrigation system and building work benches. He’s organized dozens of work parties and put in hundreds of hours.

"I loved working with the 'Crazy Old Guys' to get it all done, as well as with the Land Trust volunteers and other community members who helped out along the way," he wrote recently about the garden project. "Doing things together that make our lives and community better is what it’s all about in my book."
Volunteers make things possible!

Volunteers are at the heart of the Land Trust - from working on community projects, land stewardship and community events, we're surrounded by great folks giving their time and creativity. We appreciate you all!

Conservation: 170 hours
Stewardship: 212 hours
Garden construction: 768 hours
Outreach activities: 150 hours
Outdoor education: 152 hours
Fundraising: 722 hours
Office Support: 54 hours
Board members: 701 hours
Committee meetings: 367 hours

Total for 2018-2019: 3296 hours

The Crazy Old Guys

Mark Telegin, David Tucker, John Harch, Glenn Harvey and Neil Jacobs (not pictured above), are a dedicated core of volunteers. They show up anywhere, anytime to do almost anything when one of them puts out the call for a clean up, fence building, hole digging, tree trimming, garden building, bridge construction, trail maintenance - the possibilities have not fully been tested. These guys, who are often joined by other volunteers, have contributed so much to our community and the Land Trust. Thank you!
Bouvier Ranch: partnering to protect salmon habitat

The Bouvier Ranch lies upstream of Callahan on the South Fork of the Scott River, the most important source of cold, clean water flowing into the main stem of the river. The relatively small Scott River watershed is the most important producer of coho salmon in the entire Klamath Basin.

Inspired by the opportunity to create positive change for salmon recovery, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) purchased the property when it went up for auction in 2017 and began a partnership with SLT to place a conservation easement on the 1,596-acre ranch.

The ranch, which is almost entirely forested, contains 2.5 miles of the South Fork Scott River and miles of perennial streams. These upper watershed tributaries offer refuge for juvenile fish through the heat of summer and keep flows up and temperatures lower downstream.

The Scott River has been identified as integral for salmon population health, particularly for threatened coho salmon, which spawn and rear at the project site. WRC collaborated with the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences to create a management strategy to most effectively dedicate water in-stream for the benefit of salmon and steelhead.

SLT joined the project for its ability to protect the integrity of the upper watershed of the Scott River by preventing subdivision and development. It will preserve the pristine streams on the ranch, improve their quality by changing forestry practices, limiting
water diversions at critical times, and ensuring that restoration work on the river can continue. The conservation easement will support sustainable forest stewardship practices and prevent habitat fragmentation.

The property sits downstream of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, downslope from the Russian Wilderness, and immediately adjacent to mixed conifer stands of the Klamath National Forest. WRC purchased a second property in the area to protect viewsheds along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Working on timber projects like Bouvier Ranch and the Scott River Headwaters project with Ecotrust Forest Management, we create connections between conservation easement projects SLT is engaged in along the Scott River on the valley floor. The ranch and its miles of stream corridors provide a vital link between the floor of the Scott Valley at 3000’ and the surrounding mountains that reach up to 8000’.

Western Rivers Conservancy is actively working in eight western states. In the lower Klamath River watershed, WRC recently created the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary, permanently protecting Blue Creek, the cold-water lifeline of the Klamath.

Read more about the project on Western Rivers Conservancy's website at http://www.westernrivers.org/projectatlas/scott-river/
Gardening together - a work in progress

The past 12 months in the garden at the Garden Greenway in Mt. Shasta have been full of achievements and successes. Working with partners, we've completed infrastructure projects, planted perennial fruits and grown a garden with the Boys & Girls Club of the Siskiyous. It's been an exciting time made possible by an amazing group of volunteers.

Our partners -
• Rotary Club of Mt. Shasta and District 5160
• Boys & Girls Club of the Siskiyous
• Bear Wallow Herbs
• Crazy Old Guys and MSTA volunteers

Our 2018-19 achievements

Infrastructure projects -
• Finish fence and gates
• Install drip irrigation system
• Install 6 raised beds with soil
• Place 2 picnic tables (built by an Eagle Scout)
• Build and install workbenches

Perennial plantings -
• Blueberry bushes
• Golden raspberries
• Grapes
• Strawberry plants
• Fruit trees
The vision for the garden here at the Garden Greenway was born from community and grew out of the Garden Share, a group of gardeners who tended this land for nearly a decade and planted the seeds for growing food and community collaboratively.

In late 2018 gardening started again with a few fall crops planted by the Boys & Girls Club. Then in 2019 they got the plant more – tomatoes, onions, squash, beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, greens and fennel, even as infrastructure projects were being finished. Club members helped plant berry bushes and fruit trees, too. Now that the construction is complete, we're looking forward to 2020.

The community garden is a place for people to grow food, community and skills together. We aim to bring together folks of all ages to grow food by sharing tasks, responsibility, creativity and the harvest. Growing food at the Garden Greenway is about more than taking home fruits and vegetables; it’s also about forging connections with other community members, working together and responding to the changing needs of both plants and people.

In 2020 we aim to bring more community into this space. The approach is to bring in partners who will work cooperatively to care for the space and grow food alongside each other. The Boys & Girls Club play a central role and Bear Wallow Herbs is launching a native herb garden and learning program. SLT is recruiting for the Community Garden Core, a self-guided group of people who will garden together in partnership with the other members of the garden (learn more at www.siskiyoulandtrust.org).
Conserving a family ranch, supporting stewardship

The Fowle Ranch outside of Etna is home to three generations living and working on this land that has been in agricultural production since the late 1800s. Jeff and Erin Fowle, with Jeff's mother Melanie, are pursuing a conservation easement (CE) to keep the ranch whole in perpetuity. The 487-acre ranch lies on both sides of the Scott River, where the Fowles grow hay, raise sheep and cattle, and host natural horsemanship clinics.

The long-term commitment to agriculture is illustrated by the family's history on the ranch. Melanie Fowle’s parents moved to the Shasta and Scott Valley region in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Most of the family ranch has been run as a commercial hay and livestock operation since it was purchased in the 1950s.

The family, including Jeff’s parents, Ken and Melanie, started talking about an easement several years ago. Ken passed on in 2016, but the vision for conserving the ranch remained.

A CE for the whole property is in process, with partial funding in place. This project links the existing 24,000 acres of conserved land comprised of the Plank, Whipple, Spencer, and Merlot ranches in the Scott River watershed. Placing a conservation easement on the ranch will benefit the land, the family and the larger ecological community in a number of ways.

The Fowle Ranch lies in the valley floor between the Spencer and Plank ranches, with a mile of the Scott River flowing through the ranch providing critical salmon rearing and spawning habitat during drought years and a migration corridor to French Creek. The
three ranches link five miles of river. This strategic corridor is identified by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries as critical habitat for coho salmon. Enhanced by nearby French Creek’s cold temperatures and presence of beavers, this stretch of river has hosted over 30,000 young salmon when drought conditions blocked tributary access for adult spawners in the fall. The land sits downslope of the Scott River Headwaters project, further enhancing landscape scale effectiveness.

The Fowles have installed soil moisture detectors in many of the irrigated fields, allowing them to adjust water application in real time as the need arises. This greatly reduces water use and helps build soil health. The CE funds will enable them to install updated water delivery systems on the east side of the ranch, including technology to greatly conserve water and track water use. Conservation easement proceeds will also help restore a 1850s barn.

By supporting ranch infrastructure needs, this project frees up time and resources for planned stewardship projects for habitat restoration and enhancement in the Scott River corridor. The family has plans to turn the irrigation sump on the east side of Scott River into a pond for waterfowl and wildlife. This riparian restoration effort will also support the beaver dam analogue that is on-site, helping to restore floodplain connectivity.
Monthly donors

Christina and Jason Benz
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John and Susan Brennan
Renee Casterline and Vinnie Poch
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Thank you Land Trust community!

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Ecotrust Forest Management
Richard Eastman
Domenic and Joan Favero
Glen and Susan Fine
Lon and Liz Fitton
People supporting the Land Trust mission...

How do you measure one man’s life?

In the case of Keith Whipple, born Feb. 14, 1922, it would be what he contributed not just to present society, but to future generations. His last contribution was to plant over 2,000 trees on his ranch in the Scott Valley, inventing a watering system and fabricating a specialized auger to plant them. This was all done in his early 90s.

He put his ranch into a conservation easement in his late 80s to preserve open spaces for future generations of all species. Working with Siskiyou Land Trust over 8 years, Keith and his family preserved 5,680 acres. In his 50s, he was one of the key players in developing the Scott Valley Plan to keep the valley floor open for agriculture and scenic beauty.

Keith and his wife, Harrie, celebrated 70 wonderful years together on June 27, 2018. He is survived by his children, Jennifer Whipple, Millie Whipplesmith Plank, and Keith W. (Kip) Whipple; his grandchildren, Amanda Schmalenberger, Ian Smith, Emilie Smith, Elizabeth Whipple and Abigail Whipple; and great grandchildren, Liam and Greta Schmalenberger.

Adored by his family, he passed away on Aug. 3, 2018, and will be much missed.
Financial summary of 2018-2019

Total Income: $114,022

- Membership & Donations: 55%
- Acquisition: 12%
- Education and Outreach: 3%
- Holdings and Investments: 21%
- Stewardship: 9%

Total Expense: $168,719

- Stewardship: 14%
- Outreach & Education: 7%
- Administration & Operations: 29%
- Fundraising & Membership: 22%
- Acquisition: 22%

SLT's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

We appreciate our business sponsors

Thank you!

On the land

Conservation easements (in acres)
- Ward Trinity River - 70
- Plank & Whipple Ranches - 5,680
- Spencer Ranch - 1,116

Lands owned by SLT (in acres)
- Hammond Pond - 70
- Sisson Meadow - 7.5
- Kingston Meadow - 5
- Garden Greenway - 2.89
- Sisson Meadow annex - .2

Total acres conserved: 7,548

Trail easements held- 3.5 miles City Park to Kingston Meadow Spring Hill Trail

Trail easements are held in support of Mt. Shasta Trail Association

In process to close by 2022
Conservation easements (in acres)
- Spencer Ranch 2 - 342
- Bouvier Ranch - 1,596
- EFM Wildcat block - 8,269
- EFM Whiskey block - 18,683
- Fowle Ranch - 487

Land ownership in 2020 -
- Wherrit Rainbow Ridge - 597
Join the crowd - make a gift on Dec 3rd

Now you’ve read about the great work we’re doing. You can power that work by making a gift to SLT during North State Giving Tuesday on Dec 3rd from 6am to 8pm.

Three ways to join in:
* Make a gift online Dec 3rd at NorthStateGives.org and help us win prizes by watching Facebook
* Come into the office that day to make a gift in person
* Starting November 19th, you can schedule your gift at NorthStateGives.org in case you're unavailable on the big day.

We appreciate your support! Come down to the SLT office on Dec 3rd from 5:30-8pm to celebrate together!

North State Giving Tuesday
Make an impact in your community!

Siskiyou Land Trust
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siskiyoulandtrust@gmail.com
www.siskiyoulandtrust.org

Learn more about this day of giving at NorthStateGives.org