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Support for Local Agriculture Continues

Buy Fresh Buy Local North Valley, a partnership between Northern California Regional Land Trust and Community Alliance with Family Farmers, continues to grow its membership with more farmers, retailers and restaurants looking for opportunities to make the most of the growing market for locally produced food. The membership base, made up of local farmers, ranchers, community members, restaurants and retailers, currently amounts to nearly 30.



The Comanche Creek Conservation Easement, 145 acres just west of Chico, is part of NCRLT's Farmland Protection Program.

Throughout the summer and fall, Buy Fresh Buy Local North Valley has had a booth at various farmers' markets throughout Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties in an effort to grow its membership base and promote the program in general.

In September Buy Fresh Buy Local North Valley hosted a stakeholders' meeting to review and finalize goals for the *Eater's Guide to Local Food*, due out early next year. The guide will include a comprehensive listing of local growers, along with retailers and restaurants that serve locally grown foods. The meeting was followed by a reception for farmers and ranchers, restaurateurs and retailers, and other community members interested in the local food movement.

Interested in becoming a member of Buy Fresh Buy Local North Valley?

Applications available on our website www.landconservation.org

Become a Fan!



For information on upcoming events look for us on Facebook under the headings "Buy Fresh Buy Local – North Valley" and "Northern California Regional Land Trust"

Keeping Working Land Working and Wildland Wild for Future Generations





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Telling Our Story in the Information Age

Today, more of us rely on television, the internet or radio for our news and information and fewer of us read newspapers and print magazines. The handwritten letter has all but disappeared in favor of e-mail, a phone call or even a text message. If you are a young adult in America, you are far more likely to be proficient at texting than producing legible cursive.

Everyone has a story and these days that story is best communicated through visual media. Taking note of the trend, we at the Land Trust have produced a short video piece that tells our story, the story of our home, the lands we cherish and the mission of the Northern California Regional Land Trust to protect these lands for the benefit of generations to come.

We invite you to view this story at our website, www.landconservation.org.

A warm thank you goes to landowners, supporters, board members and staff for the generous gift of their time and a special thanks to the dedicated Communication and Design students at California State University Chico who volunteered their time and considerable talent conducting interviews, producing video and skillfully editing a final product that tells our story with passion and sincerity.

*Jerry Armour
Board President*

Project Updates

Tuscan Headwaters Project

NCRLT continues outreach regarding watershed health and protection with collaborating watershed conservation groups in Butte and Tehama counties. Since the onset, the goal of the project has been to significantly increase stakeholder awareness and the permanent protection of private lands within the upper reaches and areas adjacent to the headwaters of ten prominent creeks contained within the Tehama Land Formation.

As a result of the project thus far, NCRLT has received six land protection applications and is currently working with five landowners on several conservation projects in two watersheds. One such project aims to permanently protect 5,545 contiguous acres along Rock and Pine Creeks in the Mill-Big Chico Watershed.



Area along Little Chico Creek, site of what could result in 590 contiguous acres of protected riparian habitat within the Little Chico Creek Watershed in Butte County.

New Land Projects Coordinator



The Northern California Regional Land Trust hired Zach Mendes in April 2010 and recently made him their full-time Land Projects Coordinator. Zach grew up near his grandparents' dairy farm in Glenn County, before moving to Chico when he was 12. He enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family and friends. Zach left the North Valley in 2000 to attend UC San Diego, where he received a B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning and gained professional experience in project planning and permitting. He was very excited to join Northern California Regional Land Trust after a 10-year absence from the region he grew up in and appreciates so much. By joining NCRLT, Zach is committed to assisting Northern California landowners and public agencies in the voluntary protection of land and other natural resources.



The Home Place Conservation Easement, 520 acres along the Sacramento River.

Pending Conservation Easements

Comanche Creek – The Comanche Creek Conservation Easement includes 145 acres located just west of Chico. The project is part of NCRLT’s Farmland Protection Program, 140 acres of which qualifies as “Prime Farmland” as designated by the USDA.

Home Place – The Home Place Conservation Easement, also part of NCRLT’s Farmland Protection Program, includes 520 acres located in central Tehama County near the Sacramento River. It includes 425 acres of irrigated farmland, 378 designated as “Prime Farmland.”

Red Bank – The Red Bank Conservation Easement is part of NCRLT’s Rangeland Protection Program. The project is made up of two adjacent private properties located approximately 16 miles west-southwest of the Red Bluff city limits and will conserve approximately 7,132 acres including 4,275 contiguous acres of oak woodlands.

Pine Creek – The Pine Creek Conservation Easement is part of NCRLT’s Wildland Protection Program. It is located in Tehama County, along the Tehama and Butte County border within the Mill-Big Chico Watershed, and will result in the permanent protection of 5,545 contiguous acres. The conservation easement would also protect habitat supporting Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, Northwestern Pond Turtle, California Beaked-rush, White-stemmed Clarkia, Mildred’s Clarkia, Valley Foothill Riparian Habitat, and a variety of oak woodlands.

Little Chico Creek Linkage – Part of NCRLT’s Wildland Protection Program, the Little Chico Creek Linkage Project is made up of four adjacent private properties along Little Chico Creek totaling approximately 414 acres. These properties are also adjacent to Department of Fish and Game owned and protected land which, if protected, would result in the permanent protection of approximately 590 contiguous acres and two river miles of riparian habitat within the Little Chico Creek Watershed in Butte County.

Big Chico Creek Linkage – Also part of NCRLT’s Wildland Protection Program, the Big Chico Creek Linkage Project is currently made up of two adjacent private properties totaling approximately 447 acres straddling Big Chico Creek. The overall goal of the project is to connect Bidwell Park’s 3,616-acres and the 4,144-acre Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve to a protected 1,058-acre private estate upstream. This linkage would result in the permanent protection of nearly 9,474 contiguous acres and 16 river miles of riverine/riparian habitat along Big Chico Creek in Butte County.

Land Trust Celebrates 20 Years

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Northern California Regional Land Trust. The Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room hosted a lively celebration on August 21st to commemorate the occasion.

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner featuring foods from Rancho Llano Seco, Comanche Creek Farms, Sawmill Creek Farms, Bertagna Orchards, Massa Organics, Sierra Nevada Cheese Company, and North Valley Farms Chèvre. We also enjoyed wine from Bertagna Son Kissed Vineyard and Indian Peak Vineyards. Dinner was accompanied by the musical talents of Daun Weiss and Sandra Wright.



A video about the Land Trust was followed by a live auction featuring locally produced items, including chickens from Wookey Ranch, beef from Douglass Ranch, lamb from Sierra Farms, and a sailboat trip around San Francisco Bay provided by Nicolaus Nut Company. The celebration concluded with a great performance from The Mossy Creek Band.

Special thanks to the Foor Foundation for making this event possible. In addition, we would like to thank all those who attended, as well as those who made the event possible through their hard work, partnerships, donations and continued support. Because of you, Northern California Regional Land Trust is able to continue its mission of *Keeping Working Land Working and Wildland Wild for Future Generations.*



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Help us Keep Working Land Working and Wild Land Wild for Future Generations!

Northern California Regional Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is committed to protecting open space and agriculture in our region, but in order to carry out this mission successfully we need your help!

Yes, I want to protect local open space and agriculture for future generations. Enclosed is my donation in the amount of:

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