

New Llano Seco Rancho Conservation Easement

We are delighted to announce our newest and largest conservation easement—the Llano Seco Rancho. This breathtaking property is unique because of its close proximity to the Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.

Of the original 18,434 acres associated with the Llano Seco Rancho, a conservation easement covering approximately 4,235 acres has been purchased by the California Dept. of Conservation, the California Dept. of Fish and Game and the California Wildlife Conservation Board. This area

will be maintained as a wildlife refuge while the remainder of the Rancho will be subject to the terms of the conservation easement.

The placement of the easement ensures that virtually all of the Rancho's 17,000 acres will be protected from development and maintained as a working landscape in perpetuity. The Rancho will be subject to two management regimes including "intensive agriculture," where orchards and row crops will be allowed, and "maintenance," where grazing and small grains will be allowed without the topography being altered.

A celebration in honor of the acquisition was held May 28, 2006, by the landowner, Richard



Llano Seco Rancho Celebration

Bob Langgan

Thieriot. Affiliates from all of the agencies and organizations involved were among the invitees. Presentations on the history of the ranch, a van tour, a catered picnic and live bluegrass music were all part of the festivities.

NCRLT is looking forward to sharing this gem with its neighbors in the community.



Richard Thieriot describes Llano Seco geography to Jim Saake and audience

Bob Langgan



Llano Seco Rancho

Our Mission:
"Assisting northern California landowners and public agencies in the voluntary protection of land and other natural resources."

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Legislative Victory for Land Conservation

Section 1206 of the pensions bill (HR 4) recently signed into law by President Bush will help family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners get a significant tax benefit for making the extraordinarily valuable donation of a conservation easement, thereby restricting future development of their land to protect a resource important to the public. Most donations are made to local, community-based charities such as NCRLT that are dedicated to keeping land in agriculture, conserving habitats, and protecting important open space and historic resources. This legislation:

- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

This provision will be effective for donations made from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. After that, the law would revert back to previous provisions, unless Congress extends the provision prior to the deadline.

For more information go to:

http://www.lta.org/Publicpolicy/tax_incentives_updates.htm



Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) at the September reception held to thank members of congress and other supporters of the tax incentive.

New Staff Joins NCRLT

Jamison Watts is our new Executive Director. He has a M.S. in Biology and over 12 years of experience working as a wildlife biologist in northern California's Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coastal Mountain Ranges, and Sacramento Valley. While working as an environmental consultant in Chico for the last 5 years, he specialized in federal and state Endangered Species Act compliance and compensatory mitigation. Through the years he has developed a strong desire to conserve the resources he has seen disappear and is passionate about responsible land use, habitat conservation planning, and viable ecological mitigation. He is thrilled to be with us and we're glad to have him aboard!

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (LTA) Rally 2006

On October 13-15th, NCRLT Executive Director Jamison Watts attended the 19th Annual National Land Conservation Conference in Nashville, Tennessee where he connected with more than 1,700 conservation leaders at the world's premier gathering of land trust professionals, volunteers, board members, public agency staff, attorneys, appraisers, and land conservation advocates. For more information on Land Trusts nationwide see the LTA web site at: www.lta.org.



Executive Director,
Jamison Watts



Stewardship Coordinator,
Margot Harry

Margot Harry has been with NCRLT since February as an administrative assistant. Now she fills the position of Stewardship Coordinator. She has a B.A. in Geography, Resource Management and comes to us with a strong desire to make a difference in land preservation and is looking forward to being part of NCRLT's upcoming projects. She relocated from the state of Washington one year ago where she was a docent for a local land trust and worked in riparian restoration and wetland delineation. She also works part-time for the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance and North State Renewable Energy in Chico.

New Board Members and Committees

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Gerald Armour is our new Board Vice President. He has an M.S. in Horticulture and his affiliations include: CFO and Secretary, Western Nut Company, Inc., and member of the Almond Board of California.

Three new Board Members joined NCRLT this summer —

- Laurie Lofland, M.B.A., is our new Treasurer and is a Senior Research Analyst for FOCUS Marketing Services.

Her affiliations include Founder/Director of the Seeds of Life Foundation.

- Bill Haas, M.S., is a wildlife biologist specializing in endangered species. His affiliations include Board CEO/President of Pacific Coast Conservation Alliance.
- Ralph Meuter, Ph.D., is a retired Dean of Regional and Continuing Education and retired professor of Geography (Emeritus), CSU, Chico.

NEW COMMITTEES

In the past few months NCRLT has created two new committees: a Finance Committee and a Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship Committee is establishing a new, more in-depth monitoring protocol for existing and future easements that includes photo-documentation and biological assessment on each site. These committees add to our Land Projects, Executive, Board Development, and Fundraising and Public Relations Committees, all of which help NCRLT move forward in a more productive manner.

Waterfowl Field Trip at Llano Seco Rancho, Winter 2007

Bring the whole family for a fun and informative morning exploring the region's spectacular waterfowl on the Llano Seco Rancho, NCRLT's newest conservation acquisition. Hundreds of thousands of wintering migratory waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway are attracted to this area, as well as numerous migratory and non-migratory neo-tropical and raptor species. We'll make lots of stops as we look for birds that spend the winter in the area. Executive Director Jamison Watts will be your guide and will also point out other signs of wildlife spending the winter on the Ranch. Plan on seeing huge flocks of snow geese, American wigeon, northern pintail, mallard, green winged teal and perhaps a blue winged teal and Eurasian wigeon. We may also see white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes and a variety of raptors. A meal including sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink can be purchased the morning of this tour. The time and date are still undetermined but information will be forthcoming.

Call (530-894-7738) or e-mail Margot (mharry@landconservation.org) for registration information.

More Upcoming Events

This Way to Sustainability II Conference, **Nov. 2-5:**

CSU, Chico—Sat., Nov. 4th,
10:30-11:20 AM - *Land Trusts, Conservation Easements and Mitigation Banks*

This presentation will discuss ecosystem value provided by range and farmland, as well as information about easements and mitigation. For more information go to:
<http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/events/program.shtml>

Farm-City Week: CAPE
(Center for Applied and Professional Ethics) at CSU, Chico—Wed., Nov. 8th,
7:30-9 PM
Forum on Farmland Protection,
California Agriculture - Sustainable or doomed?

The focus will be on trends of farmland loss and urbanization and the potential and opportunities for protecting farmland in northern California.



Llano Seco Rancho

Bob Langran



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COMING SOON . . .

Our new e-newsletter!
Please contact us with
your

e-mail address at
ncrlt@landconservation.org
so we can send you one.

Board Members

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Allen Harthorn

Staff
Executive Director
Jamison Watts
Stewardship Coordinator
Margot Harry



Bob Langan

Jerry Armour and audience applauding Jim Saake for his dedication and efforts on the Llano Seco project

A Special Thank You

- Ken Grossman and the Tides Foundation for their generous financial support towards the Llano Seco Rancho acquisition.
- Marcia Briggs, NCRLT Advisory Board Member, for her long-time support and great friendship.
- Bob Langan for photographs of the Llano Seco Rancho celebration.

Together We Can Make A Difference!

Renew your membership or join us!

(look for envelope inside)

- Friend \$35
- Patron \$50
- Steward \$100
- Benefactor \$250
- Sponsor \$500 and up

The California Council of Land Trusts recommends “Yes” on Prop 84 and “No” on Prop 90