

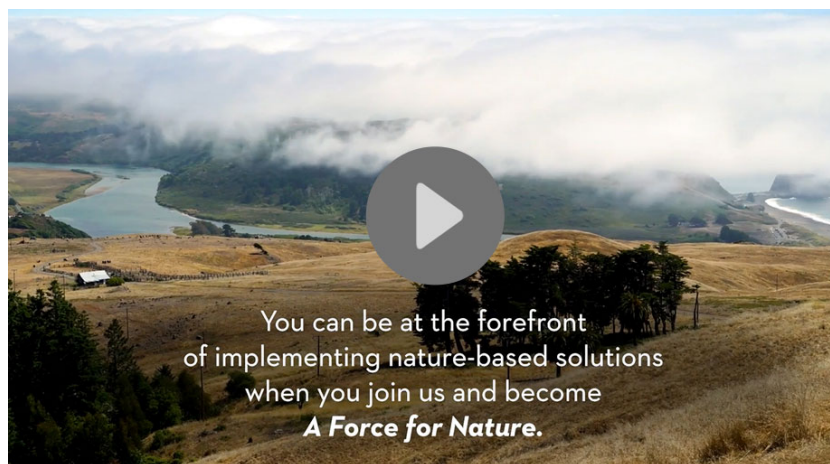


TODAY

... to protect the land forever | December 2021

Thanks to you – look what we were able to do!

[DONATE NOW](#)



At Sonoma Land Trust, we know that the solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges lie right under our feet. With your support, we are implementing nature-based solutions to tackle climate change that consider the health of our land, water and community members. We are already seeing success in mitigating flood risk, offsetting carbon emissions and adapting to catastrophic wildfires. Enjoy this video to see what you helped us accomplish this year – like protecting one of the largest remaining ranches along the Russian River and helping to expand Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. Tune in to learn what we will be working on in the coming years as well. We will continue to take bold action to build a more resilient Sonoma County – but we need your help to do so. Give to our End-of-Year \$1.3 Million Challenge and **join us as A Force for Nature**. Your donation will help us leverage additional funding that will be vital in the year ahead.

[DONATE](#)

“Fighting fire” at our Sonoma Valley preserves

Now open! Trails at Sears Point



We have completed our pioneering levee erosion project at the Sears Point Wetland Restoration and the trails have reopened! Learn more about our nature-based solution to a common problem around the bay by [watching this new short video](#).

Doug McConnell on SDC & the wildlife corridor



Doug McConnell, popular host of NBC Bay Area's OpenRoad TV series, recently visited us at Glen Oaks Ranch to speak out on



(Top) Before and after (bottom) vegetation thinning at Glen Oaks Ranch.

Circuit Rider's fuel reduction crew recently completed 10 acres of understory thinning on our Glen Oaks Ranch and Stuart Creek Hill preserves. Circuit Rider helped us with native plantings along Stuart Creek in 2005, so it was exciting to welcome them back to the land in this different capacity. Funded through the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative's CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant, this effort improves forest health, helps lower the intensity of future wildfires that may burn through the forest and prepares the land for the re-introduction of prescribed fire. The oak woodlands on both properties burned in the 2017 Nuns Fire with relatively minor impacts, but in the intervening years, we have noticed more tree mortality and, in particular, significant die-off from the lack of water this year. The crew felled and dispersed small diameter dead trees, trimmed resprouting bay and madrone, and limbed branches up off the ground.

vulnerable parts of the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor on the Sonoma Developmental Center property. Enjoy his earlier story on the wildlife corridor here, with new commentary both before and after.

[Watch the video](#)

Tues, Jan. 11, 6-7pm New virtual hike to The Cedars



Discover the most unique and intriguing landscape in Sonoma County — The Cedars! Join us on a virtual exploration of this remote corner of our county that harbors unexpected red rock canyons, ultra-alkaline springs and plants found nowhere else on earth.

[Register here](#)

Extended till Dec. 31 Hike to Pole Mtn top & win a cap!



Through Dec. 31, we're still offering a free Land Trust cap to all who reach the summit

Pete and Patty Mattson leave \$1 million legacy to Sonoma Land Trust



Peter and Patty Mattson lived at Sea Ranch for decades and shared a passion for redwoods and open space. Pete, as he liked to be known, was a longtime board member of Sonoma Land Trust. Patty worked with Pete both in his business and in conservation and, together, they made a formidable team. In 2016, Patty passed away with Pete following her in early 2021. Recently, the Land Trust received \$1 million from the couple's estate. Pete served as board chair from 2005–2009, during which time, the organization was actively raising \$20 million to purchase the 2,300-acre Sears Point Ranch in the Baylands and \$32 million to acquire the 5,630-acre Jenner Headlands Ranch along the coast — the two largest acquisitions in Sonoma Land Trust's history. "We are very grateful to Pete and Patty for all they did and contributed toward land conservation through the years," says Eamon O'Byrne. "While they are deeply missed, they left an incomparable legacy of which their family can be very proud."

Monitoring rangelands for ecological health

these four things.

1. Take a selfie at the summit next to the Sonoma Land Trust sign,
2. Post your photo to either Facebook or Instagram (or both) and tag @SonomaLandTrust,
3. Also use the hashtag [#sonomalandtrust](#), and
4. Email a screenshot of your post to info@sonomalandtrust.org.

Update

Retirement plan giving

Last year, the minimum age for taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) was changed from 70½ to 72. However, if you are 70½ or older, consider making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. With this option, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to Sonoma Land Trust without having to pay income taxes.

Contact [Reta Lockert](#) for more info.

SLT in the news



San Francisco Chronicle

What President Biden's infrastructure bills will mean to Bay Area



Sonoma Land Trust is partnering with Point Blue's Rangeland Monitoring Network (RMN) program to assess the health of our coastal working lands – the Pole Mountain and Estero Americano preserves as well as the Jenner Headlands – the very first project of the RMN program. These preserves are all coastal grasslands on which conservation grazing is utilized to improve native flora, maintain optimal coastal prairie habitat, and reduce dense thatch and brush for wildfire fuel reduction. Point Blue's scientists are tracking indicators, such as soil health, breeding bird presence and vegetation composition across a broad swath of California to help land managers better understand how various livestock grazing practices can improve ecological function and maintain grassland habitat for a multitude of wildlife species.

[Read it here](#)

On SDC:

Kenwood Press

[Community split on developing expansive state property in wildlife corridor](#)

[Another alternative for the future of the Sonoma Developmental Center](#)

Press Democrat and Sonoma Index-Tribune

[Editorial: A path forward for Sonoma Developmental Center](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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