



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | May 2021

How are you A Force for Nature?

DONATE NOW



Cows on our lands



‘At Sonoma Land Trust, cow grazing not only helps conserve wildlands, stewardship director Bob Neale says, but “Cows also play an important role in conserving biomass and reducing burnable fuels.”’ Read more about how managed grazing is keeping preserves and parklands healthier and reducing fire intensity in this May 23 Press Democrat story.

[Click here](#)

Thank you to the more than 300 supporters who joined our [A Force for Nature](#) virtual launch event Tuesday evening to learn how *your* land trust is taking bold action to build a more resilient Sonoma County. If you weren’t able to attend, please enjoy [this recording of the event](#). Co-hosted by Doug McConnell of [OpenRoad TV](#) and Seair Lorentz from the [Petaluma River Park](#), we presented [six natural solutions](#) to the challenges posed by climate change that take into account the health of our land, water and community members. An \$80 million investment in natural solutions, this campaign raises money and awareness for land protection, land restoration, stewardship and inclusive educational programming – because land conservation is crucial for reducing the impacts of climate change. With this public launch of our campaign, we are 74 percent of the way to our goal. Join us and be A Force for Nature!

[Learn more at our new campaign website](#)

June 6 – New OpenRoad story!



Newly protected Russian River ranch offers numerous natural benefits



Brand new story about *your* land trust on [OpenRoad TV](#) with Doug McConnell: Sun., June 6, 6:30pm on NBC Bay Area. You'll see land acquisitions program manager Sara Press and consultant Tom Robinson talking with Doug about our new Russian River subwatershed strategy to help Coho salmon thrive.

Fast on the heels of our [Fitzsimmons Ranch acquisition](#), Sonoma Land Trust has now protected one of the largest remaining ranches along the middle reach of the Russian River – a cattle ranch on a breathtaking peninsula of rolling hills and grasslands one mile east of Healdsburg and bounded on three sides by the Russian River. On April 30, the Land Trust closed escrow on a conservation easement over the 758-acre [Walter and Jean Foppiano Ranch](#) belonging to their daughters, Ruth Ann Foppiano and Christine Foppiano Haun. “My mother and father worked hard their whole life and were both very proud of the ranch,” says Haun. “They would be pleased with this result that my sister and I chose for it.” Land acquisition program manager Sara Press says, “This charismatic ranch is really close to Healdsburg, but feels a world away. With an easement over this biologically rich property, we’re protecting the ecological function of an important stretch of the Russian River.”

[Learn more in this Press Democrat article](#)

Congratulations to Misti Arias, new head of Ag + Open Space

Feeling proud



In honor of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and in solidarity and recognition of the challenges the LGBTQ+ community has faced and continues to face, Sonoma Land Trust has committed to supporting the inclusion of those who identify within this community and their allies to ensure that they are respected and able to live and work with dignity and free from discrimination.

Petaluma River Baylands



On April 27, Sonoma Land Trust and the [Sonoma Resource Conservation](#)



Sonoma Land Trust congratulates Misti Arias on her appointment as new general manager of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Ag + Open Space). We are grateful to her for being such an incredible ally and partner to us over the last 25 years. Hired in 1996 by Ag + Open Space, Misti has a deep and sophisticated understanding of Sonoma County's natural and agricultural environments, community needs and conservation challenges. She has worked with us on numerous acquisitions, like the Jenner Headlands, Pole Mountain and Tolay Creek Ranch, and forged strategic partnerships that raised over \$75 million for more than 150 land conservation transactions. Misti and her team at Ag + Open Space work with our staff on a daily basis and we greatly value the collaborative partnership. We look forward to coordinating our strategic objectives and, most importantly, demonstrating together how nature-based solutions are key to building climate resilience for Sonoma County.

[Read Press Democrat article](#)

Firefighters hold chainsaw training at our Laufenburg Ranch Preserve

...minute meeting to share and seek feedback on conservation planning efforts with community stakeholders in the Petaluma River Baylands. The webinar provides an excellent overview of the project, so we are making the recording available to you.

[Watch it here](#)

June 17, 7pm A sense of place at Bodega Head



Join us for a Language of the Land virtual presentation by Jackie Sones of UC Davis's Bodega Marine Reserve featuring 16 years of photographic highlights to celebrate the natural history of Bodega Head. We'll discuss the benefits of developing a sense of place as well as ideas for connecting with the landscapes and seascapes around us.

[Register here](#)

Guided virtual hikes in June



Over these past several months, Sonoma Land Trust staff, in partnership with [Sonoma County Ag + Open Space](#), have developed and led many guided virtual hikes featuring conservation lands throughout Sonoma County. If you missed the “hikes” to Pole Mountain or the Estero Americano, you have one more chance to participate this June before we begin featuring different properties over the summer.

[Sign up today!](#)

Last month, we partnered with [Northern Sonoma County Fire District](#) to host a chainsaw training for local firefighters at Laufenburg Ranch in Knights Valley. The training offered firefighters an opportunity to expand their skillsets in safely operating chainsaws, forest thinning, ladder fuel reduction and obtaining necessary certifications in preparation for this year’s fire season. On the advice of foresters, the training teams thinned Douglas fir trees spaced too closely together and removed dead and dying wood. Firefighters who participated in this training simultaneously honed their chainsaw skills and helped create a shaded fuel break to better manage fire as it moves across the landscape. We are deeply grateful for this partnership with the Fire District and excited about the mutually beneficial work we accomplished together.

Boy Scouts clear a ranch road on Little Black Mountain

Grants for our work

In recent weeks, we’ve been awarded three significant grants that will enable needed projects to proceed:

- \$20K from [United Way Wine Country](#) to support our Teen Conservation Council;

- \$150K from the State Coastal Conservancy’s [Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program](#) to implement healthy forest activities on Little Black Mountain, Pole Mountain, Laufenburg Ranch and Live Oaks Ranch; and

- \$25K from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation for forestland stewardship projects at Little Black Mountain Preserve, which



...ence family.

We are very grateful for this vital funding.

Twelve energetic Boy Scouts in two teams from Troop 14-San Francisco transformed the roads and trails of our Little Black Mountain Preserve earlier this month armed only with hand tools, sheer determination and dedication to the scouting motto, "Be prepared." A forested section of the ranch road that had been completely impassable due to tanoaks downed by Sudden Oak Death and overhanging vegetation is now open for emergency access in advance of the fire-danger season ahead. The Scouts also maintained the Lone Antler Lookout footpath so that we can continue to share the scenic vistas of this ridgetop knoll as part of our youth education and guided hikes program. The Scouts made a visible difference in the landscape and we are grateful for their enthusiastic hard work in service to the land and community. *Thank you, Scouts!*



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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