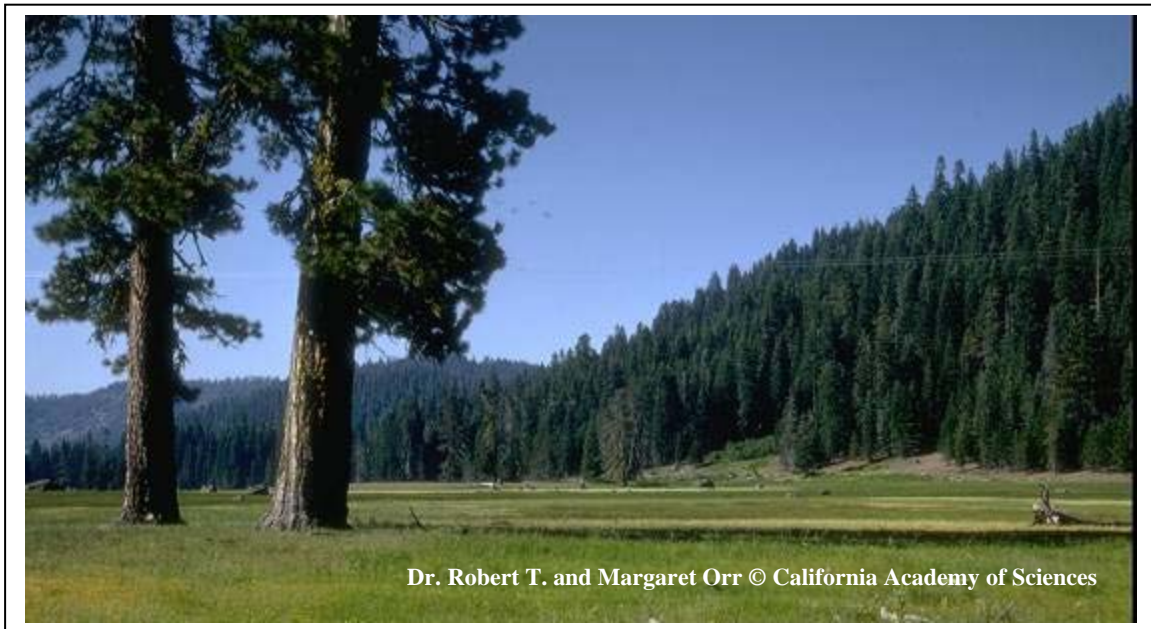


LASSEN COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 4,720 sq. miles (12,225 sq. kilometers)

Population: 33,828 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Eastern Sierra

Official Website: www.co.lassen.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

Land Trust Preserves the Lassen Creek Conservation Area

In December of 2003, Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) purchased the 149-acre Soule Family property. The property contains a section of Lassen Creek and a valuable watershed habitat for the Willow Flycatcher, a small bird listed as both a State of California threatened species and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sensitive species. The Soule family property also contains protected mule-deer winter range and wildlife habitat that was otherwise threatened by “ranchette” style development in the Honey Lake Valley of Northeastern California.

With development encroaching on many sides of this prime habitat, LLTT recognized a need to protect the last viable strip of open space between Bass Hill Wildlife refuge and the Lassen National Forest in the Diamond Mountains. The trust's vision was for a "habitat corridor," or a means for wildlife to move between seasonal locales.

LLTT then began work on its second acquisition, the 116-acre Charles W. Beckett Family Trust property.

Acquired in February of 2005, the Beckett Family Trust property lies between the Soule property and 100 acres set aside for wildlife habitat protection by the County of Lassen in the late 1990's. The Beckett acquisition was made possible by a \$100,000 grant through the Preserving Wild California (PWC) program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, and a \$65,000 one-year no-interest bridge loan from Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

With this momentum, LLTT prepared a "Capp" – a Conservation Area Protection Plan, to outline the threats, values, and means to protect the corridor from fragmentation. This "Capp," is a system put in place by the Wildlife Conservation Board of California, and now serves as the main planning document for the successful implementation of the project. Lands within the "Capp" comprise a total of 4,340 acres, and include possible acquisitions, as well as potential conservation easements on lands within the habitat corridor.

By December of 2007, LLTT officially paid off all remaining debts on the two parcels thanks to the sale of a Conservation Easement to the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board. This easement secured the "Lassen Creek Conservation Area" (LCCA) as wildlife habitat in perpetuity, and with the pending donation of 100 acres of bordering Lassen County land, moved the size of the preserve up to 365 acres.

But as circumstance often demands, LLTT's hard work has currently shifted to a new focus at LCCA – fire.

A fire burned roughly 165 acres of land owned by the LLTT at the Lassen Creek Conservation Area on Saturday, June 23 2007. Though fire is part of a natural cycle, many non-native and invasive species of plants take advantage of the open space left from a fire in the early stages of recovery. Currently, the LLTT Conservation Committee has developed a rehabilitation plan for the LCCA to ensure re-vegetation of the Bitterbrush and other native species that were lost in the fire. These plants are vital to the migratory deer that frequent the preserve, and their success will be vital to the winter-feeding grounds that the herd relies on.

LLTT has been working hard with many local partners in this rehabilitation: California Department of Fish & Game, the Eagle Lake office of the Bureau of Land Management, Antelope Fire Camp, the US Forest Service, The Susanville Rotary Club, Lassen County, and the numerous valuable professional volunteers that comprise the LLTT Conservation Committee.

Re-seeding the burned area of the preserve is ongoing, and thankfully, the most valuable wetland portion of the property did not burn in the fire. The re-seeding of the preserve is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2008, and LLTT is continuing its ongoing efforts to complete the “Capp” with the cooperation of conservation minded landowners and partners.

To volunteer with, become a member of, donate to or find out more information about the Lassen Land and Trails Trust see the organization’s contact information in this section of the Directory or visit www.lassenlandandtrails.com.

ORGANIZATIONS

Lassen Land & Trails Trust

Contact: Jan Heid

Address: PO Box 1461
Susanville, CA 96130

Phone: 530.257.3252

Fax: 530.257.3252

Email: lltt@psln.com

Website: www.bizzjohnsontrail.com

County of Activity: Lassen

Issue Focus: land use, global warming, wildlife and habitat

Methods: land trust

Public Events: (contact Lassen Land & Trails Trust)

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: To conserve and restore land and historic sites in Lassen County. We also own and operate the historic Susanville Railroad Depot as a museum, visitor center, and trailhead for the Bizz Johnson Trail. We also operate a summer nature camp for kids and own and manage the Lassen Creek Conservation Area, a 265 acre wildlife habitat area which is part of a 4,000 acre conceptual conservation plan to protect wildlife habitat, particularly a mule deer migration route and mature stands of bitterbrush. We also promote and develop trails to connect people with their natural environment.

Mountain Meadows Conservancy

Contact Name: Steve Robinson

Address: P.O. Box 40, Westwood, Ca 96137

Phone: 530-256-3982

Email: mmc@mtmeadows.org

Website URL: www.mtmeadows.org

County of Activity: Lassen
Issue Focus: all
Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Mt. Meadows Conservancy)
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Mountain Meadows Conservancy was formed to protect and restore lands in the Mountain Meadows watershed, a unique high mountain meadow, riparian and wetland ecosystem. Preserving these lands and water resources for ecological purposes will also protect local Mountain Maidu cultural and burial sites.

The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project

Contact: Jake Jacobson
Address: 500 Main Street
Chico, CA 95928
Phone: (530) 897-6370
Email: jjacobson@tnc.org
Website: www.nature.org

Counties of Activity: Tehama, Shasta, Lassen
Issue Focus: botanical, forest, global warming, land use, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat
Group Type: volunteer, staffed
Methods: conservation(monitoring/restoration)

Public Events: guided tours
Volunteer Opportunities: occasional restoration and docent opportunities
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters the need to survive. TNC is an international organization that takes a non-confrontational approach to conservation work. In the Lassen Foothills, TNC works collaboratively with landowners and other partners to preserve the important biological and ecological resources of eastern Tehama county and southeastern Shasta county.

The Lassen Foothills Project area includes seven important tributary streams to the Sacramento River, extensive blue oak woodlands and four vernal pool complexes. Conservation targets include Steelhead trout, several wild Chinook salmon runs, neo-tropical migratory birds, vernal pool plants and animals, the largest migratory deer herd in California and numerous other at-risk species.

TNC's primary protection tool in the Lassen Foothills is the acquisition of conservation easements, typically over large cattle ranches. TNC owns three properties in fee in the Lassen Foothills: the 4,600-acre Vina Plains Preserve (a vernal pool complex north of Chico), the 1,844-acre Wildcat Ranch (an oak woodland on the North Fork of Battle Creek) and 1,440-acre Childs Meadow (a mountain meadow near Lassen Volcanic National Park). TNC also manages the 37,540-acre Dye Creek Preserve (an oak woodland in multiple watersheds east of Los Molinos) on behalf of the State Controller Environmental Trust.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Lassen County Board of Supervisors

Address: 221 South Roop St., Ste. 4
Susanville, CA 96130

Phone: (530) 251-8333

Fax: (530) 251-2663

Email: coadmin@co.lassen.ca.us

Website: <http://www.co.lassen.ca.us/govt/dept/bos/default.asp>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>