



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

## Conserving Land in the North Valley Since 1990

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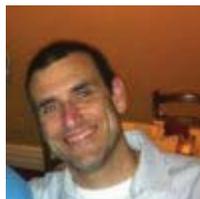
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### Fall 2012 e-Newsletter

#### A Message from the Executive Director

A fall farewell



I've recently accepted the executive director position with the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) and will begin in January of 2013. While our love for this special place in Northern California has made it a very, very difficult decision for my wife and me, we are excited by the opportunities that await us in the North Bay.

The last six years with NCRLT have been deeply fulfilling for me both personally and professionally, and characterized by non-stop work and unprecedented growth. Since 2006, when I began as a part-time employee, our budget has grown by almost 600%, our acres protected have tripled from approximately 4,800 to over 15,100, and eight more easements and our first property in fee-simple-title have been added to the fold. Working with our partners, we've increased public awareness of the importance of watershed protection and stewardship, and have successfully created the most dynamic local food system program in Northern California. More than these accomplishments, however, have been the numerous and lasting *relationships with people* that I'm most proud of and will miss the most. Bringing people together who are as passionate as I am about the land and its permanent protection has become one of the true loves of my life. My parting wish is that you, our members and supporters, and the Land Trust staff and board, continue growing our local land community and

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Little Chico Creek Linkage Project

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**Staff:**

**Jamison Watts**  
*Executive Director*

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**Angie Carpenter**  
*Office Manager*

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**Noelle Ferdon**  
*Director of Local Food Systems*

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**Zach Mendes**  
*Land Projects Coordinator*

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**Kristina Schierenbeck**  
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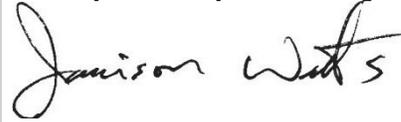
**Richard Harriman**  
*Secretary*

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**Burt Bundy**

the living legacy of working land and wildland that has been created. We do this together so that those who come after us can continue to live within the interwoven community to which we all belong in this very special place we call home.

Thank you all for your amazing support and dedication to the land!



Jamison Watts  
Executive Director

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**Harvest Dinner Under the Stars**

The Land Trust would like to thank everyone that attended our second annual *Harvest Dinner Under the Stars* at historic Llano Seco Rancho on October

6th. It was a wonderful evening filled with a ranch tour, wine tasting, silent auction, and a delicious dinner under a canopy of majestic oaks. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves, and if you were unable to attend, we hope that you'll join us next fall!



The Land Trust is extremely grateful for all of the generous businesses and individuals who donated all of the auction items. We would also like to thank the following sponsors for making

the event a success: The Foor Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, The Nature Conservancy, PG&E, Nicolaus Nut Company, Morrison & Company, Llano Seco Rancho, 3CORE, Matson & Isom, Western Nut Company, Northern California Farm Credit, Vanasek Insurance Services, Smuckers, Long Creek Vineyards and Bertagna Son Kissed Vineyards. Visit our [Facebook](#) page to see a few more pictures from the event!

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**Strategic Farmland Protection Project Update**

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**Colleen Hatfield**

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**Jake Brimlow**

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**Jim Saake**  
*Advisory Member*

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**Upcoming Events:**

[Check Our Calendar](#)

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Click the Photo Below to Learn More About the Land Trust's Conservation Easements!



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The Land Trust is continuing to work on the Strategic Farmland Protection Project made possible by a grant from the Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP). The project aims to protect high-quality farmland within high priority areas in Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties.

Tehama counties.

With partners Butte County Farm Bureau and Butte Local Agency Formation Commission, the Land Trust is currently in the beginning stages of assisting Butte County in drafting and adopting an agricultural mitigation ordinance per sections AG-A2.1 and AG-A2.2 of the 2030 General Plan. These sections respectively state the need to "Create an agricultural mitigation ordinance in which developers will be required to permanently protect agricultural land," and "Encourage municipalities in Butte County to adopt similar agricultural mitigation ordinances."

Butte County lost 10,888 acres of agricultural land between 2004 and 2010 making the need for an agricultural mitigation ordinance of paramount importance.

Want updates? Go to [www.buttecounty.net](http://www.buttecounty.net)

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**Local Food Systems Update**

The Land Trust was recently awarded grant funding by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to continue our work strengthening markets for local farmers by forming an online food hub. This food hub will provide the essential electronic purchasing infrastructure needed in our rural, tri-county region to connect farmers, consumers and buyers with local food. Additionally, using the existing networks we have with our Buy Fresh Buy Local-North Valley members and beginning farmers and ranchers, we will promote the food hub as a tool for accessing new markets and overcoming barriers for direct-market farms interested in accessing new markets. This project will strengthen the livelihood of our farms while also increasing healthy food access in our rural communities.



We are also happy to announce that we have received funding to establish the first land-link program specifically serving the North Valley. In collaboration with California Farmlink, the North Valley Farm Link Project will: 1) develop a database comprised of available ag land, and beginning and retiring farmers; and 2) directly facilitate access to and ownership of land for those interested in getting started in farming. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the greatest barrier to farming today is access to land, and half of all current farmers are likely to retire in the next decade. An innovative land-link program in the North



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Are you interested in volunteering?

The Land Trust's Outreach & Fundraising Committee is looking for fresh ideas and lots of energy to help plan, organize, and carry out events, hikes, and other fun activities! Contact Angie for more info: [angie@landconservation.org](mailto:angie@landconservation.org)

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Valley will help address this changing demographic by increasing access to our region's agricultural land for beginning farmers and ranchers, helping to ensure that the next generation of agriculturists continues to thrive.

For more information on our Local Food Systems program, visit our [website](#).

**Little Chico Creek Linkage Project Update**



The Land Trust is in the final stages of the Little Chico Creek Linkage Project. With an estimated closing date of March 2013, it will permanently protect three large, private properties totaling approximately 364 acres within the Little Chico Creek Watershed

approximately 0.6 mile east of Chico's Upper Bidwell Park and would create a linkage to already-protected land (170 acres) owned by the Department of Fish and Game. The project will conserve oak woodland, annual grassland, mixed chaparral, valley-foothill riparian habitat, spring-fed wetlands, approximately one river mile of riverine/riparian habitat, and several sensitive species and habitats, including Butte County Checkerbloom, Foothill Yellow-legged frog, and Northwestern Pond Turtle.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

[www.landconservation.org](http://www.landconservation.org)



***Keeping Working Land Working  
and Wildland Wild for Future  
Generations***

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[Learn more about the Land Trust's  
conservation programs here!](#)

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