

THE
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LAND
TRUST**
INCORPORATED



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The Newsletter of The Anderson Valley Land Trust
Fall 1994

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY AWARDS \$98,000 GRANT TO ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST TO ORGANIZE NAVARRO RIVER BASIN STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Thanks to the widespread support shown by the local community, the California State Coastal Conservancy Board approved a grant of \$98,000 to fund substantially the generation of a scientifically-based Navarro River Basin Strategic Assessment, under the direction of the Anderson Valley Land Trust. These funds will be leveraged by cash and in-kind donations from the local community, foundations, the Pacific Forest Trust and various state resource agencies. A Clean Water Act 205(j) grant for the water quality portion of the study is also being sought from the State Water Resources Control Board. The Assessment will focus on identifying the limiting factors on salmon production in the 303 square mile Navarro watershed, studying the geomorphology, hydrology and fishery (including temperature and population studies and habitat typing), as well as in-stream water supplies.

Watershed Restoration in the Mattole Valley: Slide Show and Talk by Freeman House

Join us **Saturday, October 15 from 2 - 4 PM** at the **Sound Bite** in Boonville to for a slide show and talk by **Freeman House, co-founder of the Mattole Restoration Council, about that community's 18 years of work in watershed restoration.** The focus will be on problems solved and unsolved, lessons learned. Are the salmon coming back? Find out.

In another of AVLT's free educational workshops on voluntary resource conservation, Anderson Valley Land Trust president, Connie Best, will also talk about the **upcoming Navarro River Basin Assessment** and how conservation easements can protect riparian and other habitat for the benefit of the soil, fish and wildlife, as well as the rest of us. ***Delicious refreshments will be served up with this stimulating discussion.***

Tax deductible donations to help cover the expense of this workshop are welcome. The Sound Bite is located in the heart of Boonville, on the east side of Highway 128, across from the Fairgrounds.

"The Coastal Conservancy is really pleased to be a partner in this project, bringing the expertise and resources we have to the Navarro Assessment," commented Julia McIver, Project Manager for the Conservancy. "We've learned a lot working with the local communities around the Garcia River and Russian River plans that will be of real value to the process in Anderson Valley. This project can form a strong basis for effective restoration work on the Navarro."

DEDICATED TO THE VOLUNTARY PRESERVATION
OF THE LAND AND ITS ABUNDANT
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT
OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

Based on a more holistic understanding of the basin, specific sub-basins, stream reaches and upland areas better appreciated for their contributions to the whole. They can then be prioritized for restoration and enhancement projects. With the foundation of the Assessment's data and recommendations, these projects will have a better chance to obtain the competitive funding needed to implement them.

This project is designed to involve all interested stakeholders in the Navarro, which is the largest coastal watershed in Mendocino County and supports a rich range of productive uses. The involvement of the valley's landowners is essential to the success of the Assessment. All landowners, whether of timberland, agricultural land or residential land, do things that impact watershed health. This Assessment is about identifying problems that may exist in the watershed and proposing cooperative, community-based solutions to them.

The Assessment has already received wide community support (thank you!), including that of the Anderson Valley Community Services District, the Wine Growers, the Grange, the School Board, Friends of the Navarro, Louisiana Pacific (the largest landowner in the watershed), the County Board of Supervisors, Congressman Dan Hamburg, State Senator Mike Thompson, Assemblyman Dan Hauser, the State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Dept. of Fish and Game, the Parks and Recreation Dept. and others.

"The Navarro River historically has had the greatest amount of coho and steelhead habitat of any coastal watershed in the county," noted Connie Best, President of the Anderson Valley Land Trust. "Therefore, even though salmon populations have declined significantly, there is potentially the most intact and restorable habitat here of anywhere in Mendocino," she continued.

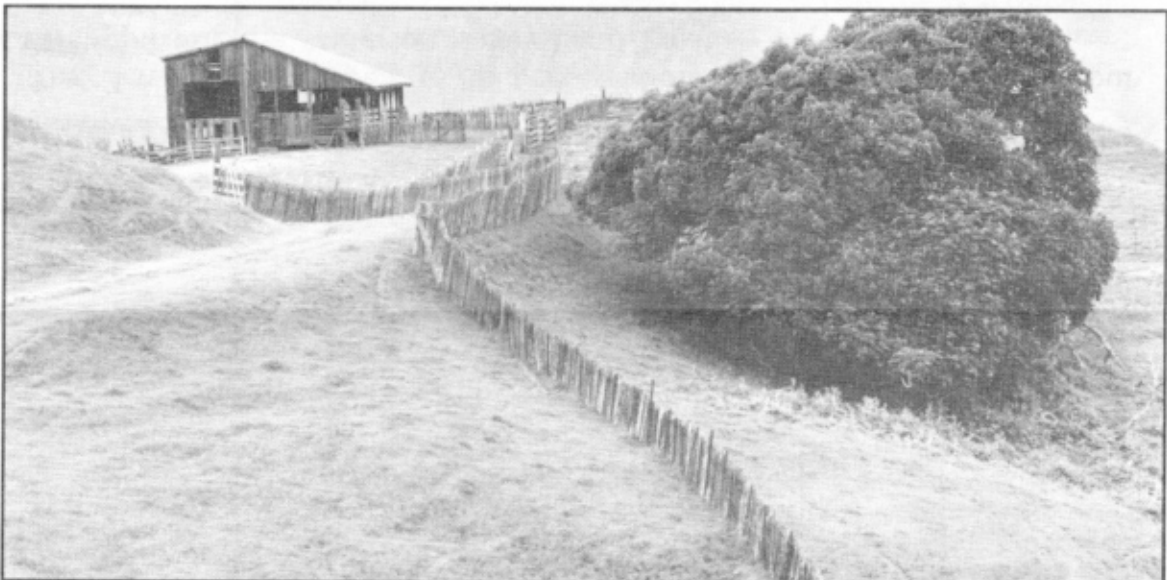
"We are very grateful for this grant and for the Coastal Conservancy being our partner in this project. It's time to examine carefully the ecological state of the Navarro today for the sake not only of the coho -- which are in critical condition -- but for us all. We all depend on water. Acceptable levels of water quality and quantity are essential to the sustainable production of the commodities on which our local economy depends -- whether they are fish, timber, grapes, apples or livestock. Healthy salmon habitat is a signpost of watershed health. If the fish are thriving, we know that the other 'beneficial uses' of water are in good shape, too. With more data and better understanding of the status of the Navarro's watershed functions, we as a community will be in a much better position to individually and collectively take actions to protect the salmon *and* enhance our water resources in general. And do so voluntarily and locally -- not because of requirements imposed on us from the state," she concluded.

The crisis in the coho salmon fishery is now sufficient for the species to be a candidate for listing as a threatened or endangered species according to both the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. Locally, the shortage of summer instream flows in the Navarro, and very high instream temperatures for where there is water, have led to the filing of several complaints with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding water diversions. The Navarro River is already on California's list of impaired waterbodies because its aquatic and recreation resources are threatened.

A Community Advisory Group will be formed this fall to provide a forum for community involvement in and advice to the management of the Navarro River Basin Assessment. The Assessment will also receive valuable support from a Technical Advisory Community, including representatives of the County and State resource agencies as well as other volunteer scientists. If you would like further information or wish to volunteer to be part of this project, please contact Connie Best at 895-3616.

General Plan Amendment Passed by County Recognizes Resource Conservation Work of Land Trusts

Mendocino County has amended its General Plan to acknowledge the public benefits of voluntary resource conservation work done by land trusts. Specifically, the conservation easements that land trusts hold which further the resource conservation policies and goals of the General Plan are being recognized as official land use development tools. While land trusts have long been helping landowners achieve their resource conservation goals through conservation easements, without the benefit of County recognition, this General Plan amendment is very valuable to landowners. Now that conservation easements held by non-profit land trusts are an official part of the County's General Plan, landowners will have an easier time with the IRS, getting the charitable tax deductions they deserve for their conservation easement donations. The income tax -- and estate tax -- benefits that come from donations of conservation easements are the best form of compensation available for voluntarily restricting your land use to protect the natural qualities of your property. *Call us to find out more!*



The Johnson Ranch in Boonville (photo courtesy of Evan Johnson)

U.C. Extension and the Pacific Forest Trust Present

ESTATE PLANNING FOR FAMILY FORESTLANDS

Anderson Valley's family forestland owners shouldn't miss this upcoming workshop co-sponsored by the Pacific Forest Trust and the Mendocino U.C. Extension/Farm Adviser on estate planning on Saturday, October 22, from 1 to 5 PM at the Ukiah Civic Center Council Chamber at 300 Seminary Avenue. Topics covered include the Basics of Estate Planning; Forest Management Plans and Your Estate; Forestland Valuation; Estate Planning Tools; and Conservation Easements for Family Forestlands. The featured speakers will be: William Hutton, attorney and professor of tax law at U.C. Hastings, a national authority on conservation law and tax planning; Larry Camp, the forestland appraiser from the Internal Revenue Service; Greg Giusti, the County Farm Adviser and wildlands ecologist; and Connie Best and Laurie Wayburn, of the Pacific Forest Trust.

*Special thanks from the Anderson Valley Land Trust to Micki Colfax
for her four years of work as a Board Member!*



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___ Yes! I want to contribute to the preservation of the natural heritage of our
valley by supporting the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

___ I want to learn more about the Anderson Valley Land Trust and private
land conservation. Please send me additional information.

___ I want to volunteer my time to work with the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Membership Category:

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer (\$100) |
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Thank you!

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:
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