

THE  
**ANDERSON  
VALLEY  
LAND  
TRUST**  
INCORPORATED



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# GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of The Anderson Valley Land Trust  
Spring/Summer 1995

## NAVARRO WATERSHED RESTORATION PLANNING UNDERWAY: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan is a community-based project sponsored by the Anderson Valley Land Trust. The process of creating this plan is meant to engage the range of stakeholders in the Navarro basin, including public, non-profit and private interests, in seeking scientifically-based solutions to long-standing water quality problems in the watershed.

The goal of the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan is to provide an overview of the ecological state of our 330 square mile coastal basin; and to recommend specific restoration and enhancement projects to benefit water quality in general and the salmon fishery in particular. The study will evaluate conditions that limit salmon production and impact water quality; and it will identify strategically the sub-basins and stream reaches where restoration and enhancement projects can have the greatest benefit.

### *Improve Watershed Health by Improving Your Roads: A Practical Workshop*

Poorly designed or maintained roads are a major source of sedimentation and erosion that silts up our streams and chokes off salmon production -- while costing lots of money in annual road work. Join us **Saturday, July 8 from 2 - 4 PM** at the **Grange Hall** in Philo to for a slide show and talk by **Tom Schott, of the Natural Resource Conservation Service**, when Tom will provide practical information about how to improve ranch, home and forest road design and maintenance to enhance watershed health.

In another of AVLT's *free* educational workshops Anderson Valley Land Trust and **Resource Conservation District director Laurie Wayburn** will also talk about cost effective resource conservation. **Dan Sicular**, Project Coordinator for the **Navarro River Watershed Restoration Plan** will be on hand as well with an update on that process.

*Delicious refreshments will be served up with this stimulating discussion.* Tax deductible donations to help cover the workshop expenses are welcome. The Grange Hall is located on the west side of Highway 128 between Boonville and Philo.

The Restoration Plan will have several parts: a hydrologic and geomorphologic assessment; a fish habitat and population assessment; and a water quality assessment, including stream temperatures and flows. Land uses and their impacts on water quality will also be analyzed. The project will begin its field work later this summer, after retaining a team of scientific consultants.

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

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Based on their research, the actual Restoration Plan, with its specific recommendations and extensive public review, is expected to be completed within two years.

The creation of the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan is a non-governmental, non-regulatory project. All data generated by it will be available to the public. **This process provides an opportunity for the local community to take the lead in answering questions about the health of the Navarro -- and to take responsibility for generating feasible solutions to water quality problems that are identified.**

The Anderson Valley Land Trust is grateful to its many partners in this project, including the California State Coastal Conservancy. The Coastal Conservancy was created by the Legislature to work toward preserving, enhancing and restoring coastal resources. It uses non-regulatory strategies to resolve conflicts where demands on coastal resources compete. Also, we thank the Mendocino County Water Agency for their commitment to our watershed. The Water Agency's Navarro funds come from the federal Environmental Protection Agency through a water quality planning program created under the Clean Water Act and administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The total budget for the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan is \$228,000, including private, charitable contributions. Not included are the many hundreds of volunteer hours already contributed by local residents as well as government agency personnel. All funds are being utilized for direct project expenses and none for the AVLT's regular operating budget. We invite everyone interested with time or money to help complete this ambitious project. *For further information, or a copy of the Project Work Plan, contact Dan Sicular, Project Coordinator, at 510-649-7624 or 895-3616.*

*Now Available:* **Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads**

*Perfect for every homeowner, agriculturalist, forestland owner or timber operator in Anderson Valley!* Published by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with CA Dept. of Forestry and the USDA Soil Conservation Service, this is a practical, "must have" manual for anyone involved with roads in the forest or on the ranch. Produced by William Weaver, Ph.D., and Danny Hagen of Pacific Watershed Associates, this handbook has over 190 pages of information on planning, designing, constructing, reconditioning, maintaining and closing wildland roads. With over 70 photographs, 40 illustrations, 40 charts and many building tips.

**Available for \$20/copy at Tom Schott's July 8 workshop (see page one) or directly from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, 405 Orchard Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482; 707-468-9223.**

**Come to the Next Meeting of the  
Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan Advisory Group**

Wednesday, July 12, 1995, 7 PM at the Philo Grange Hall

Join the Advisory Group in reviewing the finalists among watershed planning consultants who have submitted proposals to fulfill the scientific workplan for the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan.

*Questions and comments about  
the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan project are invited.*

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***Voluntary Preservation of the Land and Its Abundant Natural Resources for the Benefit of Generations to Come:***  
 Highlights of Conservation Easements in Anderson Valley



Oak woodlands on the bluff above the Navarro River at the Wellspring Renewal Center. (Photo: B. Goodell)

**I**n its five years of operations, the Anderson Valley Land Trust has consulted with numerous landowners about how they can protect what they value about their properties for the benefit of their families and everyone who loves Anderson Valley.

Conservation easements are a very useful tool for landowners to consider as a means to ensure that development is limited on their property to activities that are compatible with the natural resources and qualities of their land. Conservation easements can limit subdivision, help maintain land in agricultural or timber production, preserve important habitats such as riparian areas, and help keep the land in the family. Overall, the AVLT has received four donations of conservation easements to date, as well as the gift of timber rights on a forested property. About 200 beautiful acres of Anderson Valley have been protected in this way.

The first easement received was donated by Scharffenberger Cellars in 1991. A first of its kind, the terms of this easement limit the use of water from Indian Creek to increasing instream flows for salmon habitat. A pump and well placed in the Indian Creek flood plain on Scharffenberger's Philo ranch were pulled and capped. The flood

plain area of the property is now permanently protected from development and intended to be returned to its native redwood forest condition.

The next year we were pleased to be granted a conservation easement from Todd and Marge Evans which protects in perpetuity the beautiful Philo property known as the Wellspring Renewal Center. Protection of the forest and water resources of this long time Navarro River retreat also increases protection for the famous Hendy Woods State Park. The terms of the easement allow forest management that promotes the restoration of the old growth redwood forest and protects the Navarro from sedimentation as well as over-drawing of water.

Timber rights were acquired in 1993 from Hap Tallman on his property's vigorous, regenerating redwood forest in Navarro's Perry Gulch thanks to the gift of an anonymous donor. Hap also generously donated a conservation easement on the underlying land to ensure that development pressures never threaten the forest's recovery.

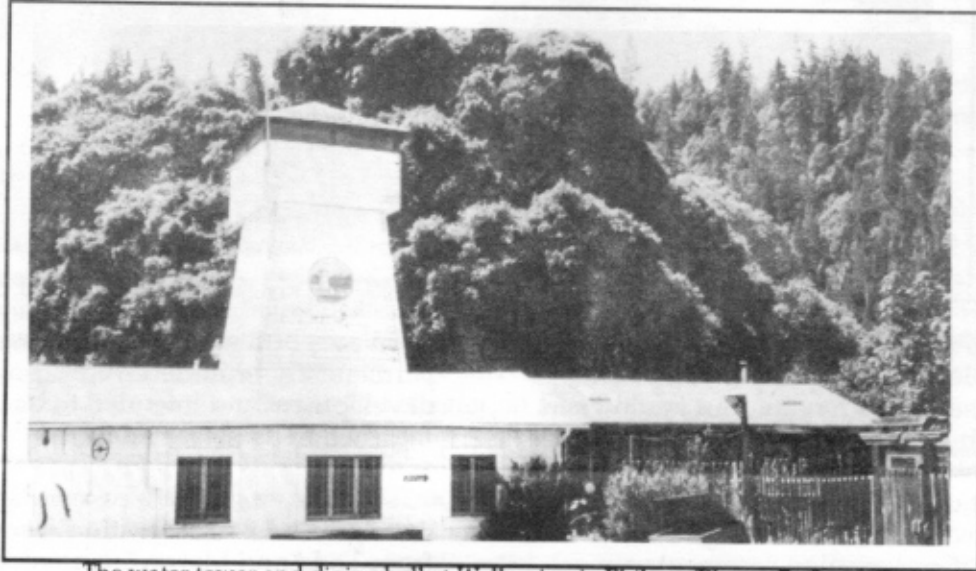
In 1994 AVLT Board member Connie Best donated a conservation easement on a 41 acre forested Yorkville

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property, permanently protecting its upland redwood and douglas fir habitats, especially approximately 10 acres of excellent redwood riparian land with numerous second growth trees larger than 30" in diameter. The water from the property's spring fed creek will only be used for habitat purposes under the terms of the easement, contributing to the flow of nearby Dry Creek, a historically significant salmon stream. This property was sold subject to the terms of the conservation easement

shortly after its donation, making it the first such property in Mendocino County to change hands. The buyer has committed himself to complying fully with the terms of the conservation easement.

The AVLТ is currently working on several more conservation easements, helping landowners protect many hundreds acres more of Anderson Valley. If we can be of service to you, please give us a call at 895-3616.



The water tower and dining hall at Wellspring in Philo. (Photo: B. Goodell)

### **DAN SICULAR, PH.D., HIRED AS NAVARRO WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN PROJECT COORDINATOR**

The Anderson Valley Land Trust is happy to report the hiring of Dan Sicular, a property owner on the Nash Ranch, as the Project Coordinator for the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan. Thirty-five resumes were received in response to the AVLТ advertising. A Board and Project Team committee interviewed eight candidates. Dan has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of California at Berkeley. Currently he consults in the field of integrated waste management, specializing in source reduction and recycling. Dan has also taught at UC Berkeley, in the Dept. of Geography, and at both UC Extension's and San Francisco State's Solid Waste Management Programs.

In his part-time role as coordinator Dan will manage the Navarro Watershed Restoration project on a day-to-day basis along with other members of the Project Team: Connie Best, AVLТ Board liaison; Julia McIver of the California State Coastal Conservancy; and Dennis Slota of the Mendocino County Water Agency. Dan's specific major duties include assisting in the selection of the Restoration Project's scientific contractors; preparing the Project's workplan; facilitating public participation in the Plan's development; producing a survey of Anderson Valley landowners on water quality issues; assisting landowners in their own water quality improvement efforts; coordinating activities among all Project personnel; and providing administrative support, including producing regular progress reports. **We hope that you will have the opportunity to meet and work with Dan as he leads the Navarro Watershed Restoration project over the next two years. He can be reached at 510-649-7624.**



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## Advisory Group Formed for Navarro Watershed Restoration Project: TWO MEETINGS HELD TO DRAFT WORKPLAN

The Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan's Advisory Group has met twice, once in April and once in May, to help design the goals for the project and comment on its overall Work Plan. At both meetings spirited exchanges of views showed the vitality and rich diversity of experience represented by the Advisory Group members. The Advisory Group consists of the following members, including representatives of local and governmental interests in the watershed:

Hillary Adams, Navarro Estuary Project  
Morgan Baynham, AV Grange  
Marty Bradford, Cattlemen  
Scott Butler, Louisiana-Pacific Corp.  
Bruce Fodge, State Water Resources Control Board.  
Greg Giusti, Farm Advisor/UC Coop. Ext  
Don Gowan, Farm Bureau/Farm Center  
Henry Gundling, Non-industrial forestland owners and sports fishermen  
Steve Hall, AV Community Services Dist.  
Eva Johnson, Woolgrowers  
Dick Jordan, 5th District Supervisor's Rep.  
Helen Libeu, Sierra Club/Redwood Chapt  
Michael Maahs, Salmon Troller's Assoc.

Rick Macedo, CA Dept. of Fish and Game  
Chaya Mandelbaum, AV Youth  
Ken Montgomery, AV Chamber of Commerce  
Cecile Morris, Regional Quality Control Board  
Diane Paget, Friends of the Navarro  
Renee Pasquinelli, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Tom Schott, Natural Resources Cons. Svc  
Wayne Scott, Salmon Trollers Association  
Karen Taussig, AV Unified School Dist.  
Chris Tebbutt, Redwood Coast Watersheds  
John Teie, CA Dept. of Forestry  
Steve Williams, AV Wine Growers

A representative of the valley's ranch subdivision and road associations is being sought to provide the perspective of homeowners and domestic water users. Representation by CALTRANS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was suggested by the Advisory Group; these agencies have been contacted and we hope to have their participation.

The first meeting allowed for the Advisory Group to express its views on the overall goals for the project which, in addition to other detailed comments, have now been incorporated into the workplan. In particular, the Advisory Group provided insight into the community's view that a healthy watershed is one which has: a minimum of accelerated soil loss; a sustainable population of fish, allowing one to harvest them without fear of damaging the resource; sufficient water for all uses, including in-stream; and both a diversity of native species and of economic activity.

At the second meeting the Advisory Group approved a Work Plan that stated **the prime goal of this process is to support the restoration of the water quality, salmon fishery and former abundance of other renewable resources within the Navarro watershed.** The other project goals include working toward:

- Sustaining a diverse, viable local economy that is in balance with a natural environment rich in diversity of native species and habitats.
- Enhancing the efforts of those who live and work in the Navarro Watershed in taking personal responsibility for managing their land and activities in order to minimize negative impacts on the health of the watershed, respecting both the rights and responsibilities of private property.
- Facilitating cooperation between government agencies and landowners so that government regulations help, and do not hinder, efforts to restore and maintain the health of the watershed.

The Advisory Group expressed strong concern that the project produce scientifically credible information, in a cost effective fashion. And that the local community -- residents and resource users -- be involved through the project in learning as much as possible about the status of the watershed's water resources and salmon fishery. The Advisory Group will be directly involved in the formulating the restoration project recommendations that are based on the scientific data generated by this project, drawing on the technical and practical expertise of its members and the scientific consultants. A complete copy of the project Work Plan is available on request.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$50)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Charter (\$1000)  |

**Thank you!**

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:  
**The Anderson Valley Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box One, Yorkville CA 95494**