



PACIFIC FORESTS

FOREST STEWARDSHIP IN CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON

Building Sustainability, Block by Block

Imagine a jigsaw puzzle. Next, imagine you've assembled a corner or two, and perhaps a small interior section — just enough to give you a sense of accomplishment, and a tantalizing taste of the Big Picture.

Finally, imagine fitting together a few crucial pieces from the heart of the puzzle. This, of course, is the turning point. From this moment on, your destination is clear. And each new piece brings you closer and closer to your goal.

For PFT, that moment is at hand.

The puzzle we're working to solve is, in one sense, a strategic one. In addition to our efforts on the ground, PFT is working to integrate a number of critical fronts — including policy issues, communications and fundraising — which, together, form the nucleus of our strategic plan for the next three years. (See story, page 2.)

But the puzzle is also a literal one. Protecting key properties is a crucial step in preserving and restoring entire forest ecosystems. And that's just what PFT is doing in the world's most biodiverse conifer forest, the 6 million-acre Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion on the Oregon-California border.

Here's a closer look at a top-priority, high-impact project we regard as a key piece in the forest conservation puzzle: PFT's Klamath-Siskiyou Initiative.



DAVE WILLIS

Pilot Rock overlooks the 6 million-acre Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, as alluring to developers as to recreationists.

Unique — and Endangered

The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion is home to 30 different species of conifers, a dazzling array of fish and wildlife (including Pacific salmon and northern spotted owls) and an estimated 3,500 plant species, at least 130 of which are found nowhere else on the planet. It features seven officially designated wild and scenic rivers, the greatest concentration in the U.S. It is deemed an "area of global botanical significance" by the World Conservation Union, and ranks among the World Wildlife Fund's "Global 20" — places it views as "crucial to the conservation of global biodiversity."

"This is the Everglades of the West," says PFT President Laurie Wayburn.

The description is apt in more ways than one. Like Florida's 'Glades, the Klamath-Siskiyou is a unique ecosystem, as critical for the region's economic wealth as for its

ecological health. Fed by ribbons of rivers that include the Klamath, Scott, Shasta and headwater tributaries of the Sacramento, this rugged, varied terrain is especially beloved by outdoors enthusiasts — and especially anglers, who are lured from around the globe by what might be the finest flyfishing on earth.

Yet many visitors to the Klamath-Siskiyou would be surprised to learn how much of it is privately owned, and thus vulnerable to development, fragmentation and parcelization. Throughout the region's vast national forests, in fact, are millions of acres of private land, all of it lacking the government protection afforded its neighboring forests. The possible conversion of this private forest acreage — made more likely by its proximity to Interstate 5, which carries visitors from as far south as Disneyland — poses a serious

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Building Sustainability

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threat to the integrity of the entire region.

“This extraordinary ecosystem is only as safe as the private lands that hold it together,” says Wayburn. “It’s up to us to create a true bulwark against development, and preserve the values that make this such a magical place. That’s why PFT launched the Klamath-Siskiyou Initiative.”

Preserving Public Values by Protecting Private Land

Over the past months, PFT has met with forest owners who control millions of acres in the Klamath-Siskiyou region, and who have expressed a clear interest in conserving their properties to help keep the ecosystem intact, well-managed and productive. These include owners with property in a number of key watersheds throughout the 6 million-acre ecoregion, offering the chance to ensure its ecological and economic health for generations to come.

The list also includes owners with inholdings inside one of the area’s jewels, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, one-third of which is privately owned. Legal designations notwithstanding, such a high proportion of unprotected land inside its planning boundaries jeopardizes the Monument’s conservation



Rugged and varied, much of the region is privately owned.

goals. But PFT has determined that roughly 80 percent of these private inholdings could be acquired in the near term, a feat that would make the Monument whole and healthy, once and for all.

With that crucial piece of the puzzle in place, the Big Picture could become even more promising. Placing conservation easements on land adjacent to the Monument would provide a much-needed buffer from development. Protecting properties farther out could knit the region’s patchwork of national forestlands and wilderness areas into a truly safe haven for its multitude of rare plant and animal species — as well as

for the countless residents and visitors who look to the Klamath-Siskiyou for inspiration, relaxation and escape from asphalt and industrialization.

And the time to act, Wayburn notes, is now.

“This is an investment in the future,” she says, “but our window of opportunity is brief. The longer we wait, the higher the price of protection will become — assuming the developers don’t get there first.

“It’s imperative that we give private landowners the option to conserve,” she adds. “That’s the last, best hope for the Klamath-Siskiyou forests.” 🌲

Think Globally, Act Strategically

Since our founding in 1993, PFT has pioneered the incentives-based approach to forest conservation. We’ve led the way in expanding management options that reward landowners for long-term stewardship, and educating policy-makers about the threats to private forests and the myriad public benefits these forests provide.

Yet as proud as we are of our achievements — and of our record of leveraging scant resources — development pressures on private forests are growing rapidly. We must do better still. And that’s the focus of PFT’s three-year strategic plan.

The plan has three overarching goals:

- Focus on high-impact conservation projects. These are defined as (a) projects with a landscape impact due to scale, ecological values, proximity to other protected areas and importance to the surrounding ecosystem, and (b) projects that can serve as models of managed forest conservation, either regionally or nationally.

- Build the constituency for private forests. Employing a communications strategy that includes media, publications and public education, help create a wider understanding of the importance of private forests, the threats they face, and the most effective ways to preserve them.
- Expand the benefits landowners can derive from protecting the public values of private forests. Identify and develop new revenue streams and other benefits to private forest owners based on the conservation and enhancement of public values — including achieving the goals of the Endangered Species Act — with a particular focus on the emerging carbon market.

PFT’s Klamath-Siskiyou Initiative is just one of the high-impact projects on tap in the coming months and years. We’ll keep you posted on our progress on all of our strategic goals in future issues of *Pacific Forests*. 🌲

Our Forests, Ourselves

Reflections on the Civic Commons

By Gregory A. Hicks, PFT Board of Directors

The idea that a conservation organization should exert itself to conserve private forestlands lies a bit outside the mainstream of the American conservation movement. The reason, I believe, is that private ownership, with its conventional associations of exclusion and the pursuit of individual opportunity, does not fit easily with an idea that lies at the heart of the conservation movement in America — the idea of conserved nature as a civic commons.

Our more usual hope for conservation is not simply to preserve natural places, but to create places that will belong to us all. Conservation is an expression of collective hopes, and draws much of its strength from the idea that we define ourselves as a people through preservation of places that are meaningful to a wide community and that are owned by the public. Our dream of conserved nature is a dream of a civic landscape of wilderness, parklands and heritage lands. Part of that dream's meaning is the natural virtue of the saved places; another part is public ownership and the creation of a national landscape belonging to us all.

Into this tradition comes the Pacific Forest Trust, offering a vision of landscape conservation for the common good that depends on encouraging private owners to keep their lands as forest and to manage those lands for conservation values. It is an approach that recognizes the public interest in encouraging private action to save the land, and to encourage a spirit of “right relation” between people and place.

It is a strategy that is uniquely necessary at this stage of the conservation movement. This is partly due to the simple, hard fact of the continuing rapid loss of forestlands to development. Privately owned lands must be engaged if landscape conservation at meaningful scales is to be achieved. But there is a more elusive reason for the timeliness and necessity of PFT's strategy.

We are in each other's hands as never before, and we will find our shelter — if we find it at all — from each other's acts and forbearances. What it comes down to is this: Our hopes for the protection of loved landscapes and of the natural world depend on people choosing to earn their livelihoods in ways that are situated in,

An invitation to see and understand connections... and build authentic lives and selves.

and depend upon, the survival of natural landscapes. Otherwise, those landscapes will be swept away. PFT, at bottom, is about defining new relationships between people and the living world that sustain them. PFT shows possibilities for richer engagements with land, and encourages relationships to place, grounded always in a determination that we will not earn our bread through the destruction of the land.

Christian Norberg-Schultz, a great student of landscape and of how people arrive at a right-relation to place, called attention more than 30 years ago to a hope once voiced by the poet Holderlin: “Full of merit, yet poetically/ Man dwells on this earth.” What does this mean? Holderlin is

not inviting us to share a soft-focus tour of the woods. The idea of poetic dwelling is about tougher stuff. To dwell poetically is not to be lost in reverie. The invitation to poetic dwelling is instead an invitation to see and to understand connections, and to live accordingly. It is an invitation to build authentic lives and selves through a right-relation to place.

This is hard work in the best of times. The pressures of the market and the sheer difficulty of realizing better possibilities for the land mean that help is needed. Deliv-

ering that help to landowners is the work that PFT chooses to do, so that they and the land can abide. It is work that reflects a new understanding of conservation and of the nature of civic landscape. The civic commons must, in the years to come, be a commons that flows through us all, more than an array of designated places saved from uglier realities. It must be embodied in working landscapes and found in the choices and even the needs of the people who own the land and who earn their living from the land.

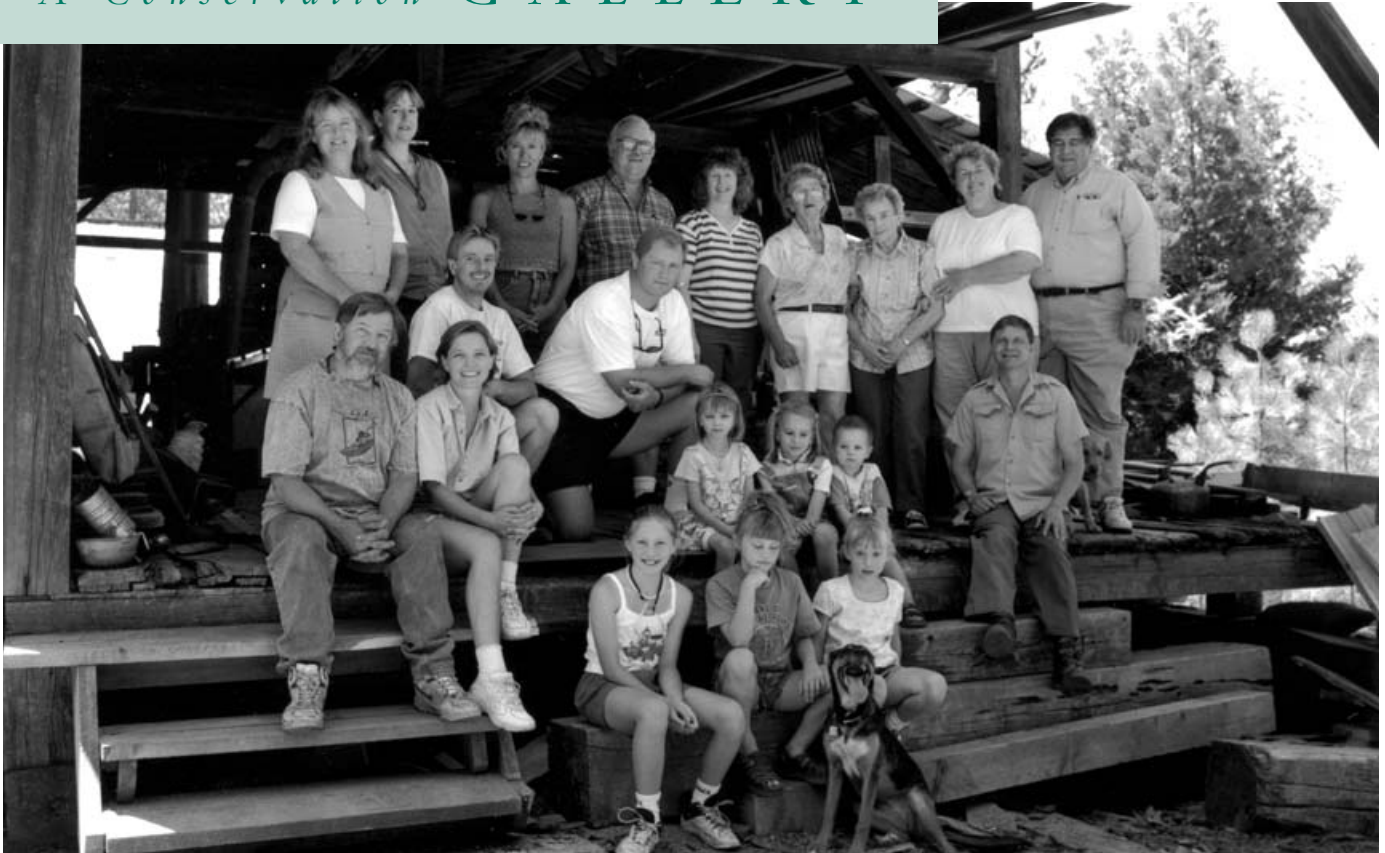
It is the work of the Pacific Forest Trust to help our neighbors and ourselves begin to create that commons, that community of poetic dwelling on this earth. 🌲



JIM ROSE

A Conservation GALLERY

MARTY KNAPP



Our hopes for the protection of loved landscapes and the natural world,” writes PFT board member Greg Hicks (page 3), “depend on people choosing to earn their livelihoods in ways that are situated in, and depend upon, the survival of natural landscapes.”

As it happens, that perfectly describes the landowners who have entered into conservation easements with PFT over the past decade. Sadly, we don’t have the space to show them all. But here’s a small sampling of the people who have made the choice to conserve their private forests — and to preserve the many public values that benefit us all. 🌲



MICHAEL M. HENTZ

Top: The Phillips family in Shasta County, Calif., where Isaac Phillips began homesteading in the 1850s. Today, the 920-acre property is dominated by ponderosa pine forest, with trees averaging 80 to 90 years old and significant old-growth.

Bottom: The Hacketts of Howe Creek Ranch, 3,640 acres of forested land overlooking the Eel River in Humboldt County, Calif. Owned by the Hackett family for five generations, the ranch is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including salmon and spotted owls.



Olive Twining with daughters Eloise Twining (left) and Mary Bocchetti and former PFT staffer Parker Godar. The family worked with PFT to place a conservation easement on their 1,500-acre properties in California's Mendocino County, the adjacent Twining and Oracle Oak ranches.

The late Fred van Eck and his 7,200 acres of Douglas fir and hemlock forest along the Oregon coast, site of the largest working forest conservation easement in the state.



PURDUE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS



Michael Addison (left), pictured here with PFT's Laurie Wayburn and Greg Hendrickson (now PFT's counsel), on the 567-acre property he owns with his wife, Susan, in Mendocino County, Calif. The Addisons have been actively restoring the land's forested areas since the early 1990s.

Worried About Warming? Befriend a Forest.

PFT's mission is to "preserve, enhance and restore America's private, productive forests." So why are we playing a key role in California's Climate Action Registry, a trailblazing state-level effort to combat global warming?

It's simple, really.

Carbon dioxide is a bona fide planetary scourge. Most scientists agree that CO₂ in our atmosphere is a major factor in global climate change, and is already contributing to major environmental disruptions, from melting glaciers to rising sea levels. The most abundant of all heat-trapping greenhouse gases — emitted by power plants, heavy industry and our own automobiles — carbon dioxide poses significant threats to the earth's plants and wildlife, as well as to water and food supplies for all its creatures, humans included.

Trees, however, literally eat the stuff up.

Forests are both carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide as they grow, and carbon sources, releasing it when they're harvested or converted to other uses. The forest sector, in fact, is the second-largest source of CO₂ emissions globally. Forests, on the other hand, are the world's most effective and expandable carbon sinks, able to store vast quantities of carbon dioxide for up to thousands of years.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to deduce that private forests — all 430 million acres of them — are an invaluable weapon in the fight against global warming. Or that failing to stop the loss of 3 million acres of forestland each year, the current U.S. rate, is like turning that weapon on ourselves instead.

The tricky part is giving those who emit CO₂ into our air the incentive to help preserve the forests that can counteract it. That's where PFT comes in.

For the past several years, PFT has been at the leading edge of efforts to develop a robust market in carbon trading, and to encourage carbon producers and forest owners to cooperate in ensuring that forests are part of the solution to global climate change — not part of the problem.

PFT made news, for example, with a pair of landmark transactions, selling carbon "offsets" to Green Mountain Energy and London-based Future Forests. The sales were the first in the U.S. based on conservation and sustainable forestry, as opposed to tree-planting; the offsets were secured by perpetual conservation easements on thousands of acres of privately owned forestland in California on which PFT owns carbon rights.

CO₂ initiative in the country, and the only one to recognize the importance of forests in slowing climate change. At the state's request, PFT has been facilitating the creation of protocols under which carbon producers and forest owners may take part; they are expected to win formal approval in 2004.

A number of New England states, joined by New York, New Jersey and Maryland, are eyeing California's forest carbon protocols

Forests are the world's most effective and expandable carbon sinks, able to store vast quantities of carbon dioxide for up to thousands of years.

Now, as a direct result of PFT's leadership, California's Climate Registry — which encourages entities to start voluntarily reducing their greenhouse gas emissions — enables the registration of forest carbon emissions, stores and reductions. California boasts the most developed state

as they prepare to make their own regional assault on global climate change.

What all of this proves, says Michelle Passero, PFT's director of policy initiatives, is the social, economic and political desirability of PFT's approach. What remains to be done, she adds, is to generate broad

Continued on facing page

Out and About

The PFT staff has been busy spreading the word about working forest conservation easements, and about PFT's role in expanding incentives for private forest stewardship.

Connie Best, PFT's managing director, spoke in Racine, Wisc., to a meeting of the "Select Panel on Family Forests," convened by groups including the Sustainable Forestry Board and the Yale Program on Private Forests. She led a panel on "Changing Forest Ownership and Implications for Conservation" at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Sacramento, Calif. And she traveled to Buffalo, N.Y., to take part in a panel on "Trends in America's Family Forests" at the Society of American Foresters' annual convention. (And that was just October!)

Not to be outdone, President **Laurie Wayburn** spoke in July before the California Board of Forestry in Aptos, Calif., about preserving old-growth forests on private land. Among other public appearances, she recently moderated panels hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, College of Natural Resources (on forestry education), and by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association (on carbon markets).

In August, **Michelle Passero**, PFT's director of policy initiatives, was featured in a front-page story in the San Francisco *Daily Journal* about a proposed plan to conserve 140,000 acres of forested land owned by the bankrupt Pacific Gas and Electric Company (see page 7). In October she gave a presentation on forest conservation and carbon sequestration at the kick-off meeting of the West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Worried About Warming?

Continued from previous page

investor confidence in the fledgling carbon trading market.

“We’ve created the models,” she says. “Now we need to build the market.”

Toward that end, PFT plans a major outreach and educational campaign to promote a greater awareness of the importance of forests as part of an overall strategy to fight global warming. Especially crucial, says PFT President Laurie Wayburn, is the need to work with other states to ensure consistent guidelines throughout the country, and provide a rational basis for traders to enter the market.

“Markets dislike risk and uncertainty,” she explains. “Buyers and sellers must have confidence that a ton is a ton is a ton.”

Wayburn emphasizes that this is a critical time for the carbon market, noting that technological solutions to carbon emissions are costly and apt to take years to develop and implement. Proven approaches like carbon sequestration, by contrast, not only have an immediate impact on global warming, but can continue to make a significant difference long after other technologies are in place.

“Forest conservation is a technology that’s available right now,” says Wayburn. “California is just the first state to recognize it. Once we’ve shown that it can be done, we think the rest of the country will come around, too.” 🌲

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A High-Voltage Boost For Forest Conservation

Under terms that track closely with those advocated by PFT, nearly 140,000 acres of ecologically strategic lands owned by Northern California’s bankrupt utility, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, appear headed for permanent protection.

If a bankruptcy settlement proposed by PG&E is approved by the state Public Utilities Commission and in bankruptcy court, this remarkable swath of forested water-

sheds — home to diverse fish and wildlife and popular with hikers, campers and boaters — would remain undeveloped and intact, much of it through the use of conservation easements.

The land, central to the utility’s generation of hydroelectric power, runs along California’s Sierra Nevada range and north to the Cascades. PFT, aware of its extraordinary conservation values and historic public use, has been calling for its permanent protection since the 1990s, with conservation easements as a vehicle. As part of a consortium that includes the California

Hydroelectric Reform Coalition, Environmental Defense, the Trust for Public Land and state resource agencies, PFT has played a crucial role in shaping the terms of the proposed settlement. The plan could be finalized early in 2004.

“This represents an extraordinary commitment to protect more than a hundred thousand acres of ecologically valuable land,” says Michelle Passero, PFT’s director of policy initiatives, who has worked closely with the consortium. “PFT will stay involved to make sure that promise of protection is fulfilled.” 🌲

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Keep Forests Working!

We've said it before, and we'll say it again. Private forests will be preserved only if they remain productive. And they'll continue to produce only if they're preserved.

With 60 percent of all remaining U.S. forestland in private hands, it's up to everyone — those who own the forests, and those of us who enjoy the myriad public benefits they provide — to keep working forests working.

Your contribution to PFT can help protect thousands of acres of prime forestland from conversion and fragmentation, raise public awareness of the threats to private forests nationwide, and support PFT's work to pioneer new conservation-based markets for "ecosystem services" such as cleaner water and healthier air.

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is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to enhance, restore and preserve private, productive forests.

The Pacific Forest Trust is:

- a specialized land trust for working forestland;
- an information, education and research center for stewardship forestry; and
- a policy institute promoting incentives for long-term forest stewardship.

A collaborative, problem-solving organization, PFT works with landowners, forest managers, public agencies and others to sustain private forestlands for the wealth of goods and services they provide.

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