

A Partnership to Conserve an Iconic Volcanic Landscape

BLACK BUTTE WORKING FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

FORMED BY VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS FROM FRACTURES ON THE PERIPHERY OF MOUNT SHASTA, THE LAVA DOMES OF BLACK BUTTE ARE CENTRAL TO THE ICONIC VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. PACIFIC FOREST TRUST AND THE FAMILY-OWNED MICHIGAN-CALIFORNIA TIMBER COMPANY ARE PARTNERING TO CREATE A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR BLACK BUTTE'S WORKING FOREST TO ASSURE THE INTEGRITY OF A GEOLOGIC MARVEL, MAKE LASTING CONNECTIONS FOR WILDLIFE ROAMING ACROSS MOUNT SHASTA'S WILDERNESS, AND PROTECT JOBS IN THE WOODS.

Extending from the dome's northern slope, the Black Butte Working Forest encompasses 5,006 forest acres toward Mount Shasta's Diller Canyon. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest surrounds the property on 3 sides while the City of Weed and Interstate 5 form its western edge.

It's One Big Mountain

Conservation of the Black Butte Working Forest will sew together and permanently protect the sweeping landscape of public and private land on the western side of Mount Shasta, where Black Butte formed eons ago. With easy access from I-5, commercial and residential subdivisions already flank the property to the west. The cities of Weed and Mount Shasta border the tract to the west and south. This conservation easement will ensure houses don't also sprawl across

these mostly gentle slopes. Instead, this land will remain as one well-managed forest, a home to wildlife, as well as a source of critical water supplies for people and critters. Cementing this connectivity across Mount Shasta's wild and working forests is essential for animals on the move, adapting to changing climate.

Waters from a Rare Volcanic Spring

Mount Shasta's melting snow and pelting rain percolate deep down into the porous volcanic soils, vanishing and then reappearing in amazing springs. Black Butte Spring is one of these, where an estimated 300,000 gallons of clear, cold water gush out of the ground daily, forming a source of the Shasta River, a key tributary to the Klamath River and critical watershed for threatened salmon. The southern side of the property that includes Black Butte itself falls



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within the Spring Hill watershed, one of the sources of the Sacramento River. The conservation easement will provide stringent protection for the quality of these headwaters, protect diverse riparian habitat, prevent future water diversions, and restrict sediment-generating activities. Downstream residents, ranchers, and wildlife will all benefit.

An Awesome View and a Popular Hike

Motorists along I-5 and visitors from all over the world enjoy the vastness of Mount Shasta and its cinder cones, looming over the highway, visible for many miles. The Black Butte trailhead, one of California's most popular hikes, is located on this private property. Continued access for this hike to the summit will be assured. Recreational uses like this are the foundation of Siskiyou County's outdoor-based economy.

A Refuge for Plants and Wildlife

The Black Butte Working Forest is in an area identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as both having high species diversity and serving as an Essential Connectivity Area for wildlife migration. The conservation easement will ensure that the rich Klamath mixed conifer, ponderosa pine and montane hardwood forest habitats of Black Butte are conserved and well-managed for generations to come. Years of careful management by the landowner, including restoration of conifer forests on flammable brush-fields, has enhanced the habitat value of the

property, benefiting an estimated 136 wildlife species. These include ten threatened or sensitive species known to be on or near the property, such as the gray wolf and Sierra Nevada red fox. Pacific fishers are known to inhabit this private, working forest located just two miles from Mount Shasta's wilderness. Rare volcanic plants such as Pallid's bird beak also occur.

Managing for Resilient Forests in a Changing World

By enhancing habitat elements, like large older trees, reducing fire risks through thinning and active management and linking critical wildlife corridors, the Black Butte Working Forest will be more resilient as California's climate changes. Wildlife will have more options and room to move. The conservation easement and on-going stewardship of the property will also increase forest carbon stocks, pulling dangerous greenhouse gas from the atmosphere for long-term storage.

And Resilient Jobs, Too!

This voluntary, cooperative project will keep Black Butte's forests in one large private ownership, intact, so they are never broken up and developed. Forestry guided by the terms of the conservation easement will not only protect a key water source and enhance wildlife values, it will provide sustainably produced wood products to support local and regional economies for the future.



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