



FROM THE PRESIDENT

2023 marks the 30th year of our work. We founded PFT to establish a new approach to private forest conservation.

We wanted to make it easier and more financially rewarding for landowners to do good things – restore and maintain whole forests for *all* their values: watersheds, climate services, wildlife habitats, and economic security for forest communities, and not just rely on timber products or development to pay the bills. While public attention was focused on saving the last remaining old growth, we focused on conserving and managing for *old growth function* to the vast swathes of private forest in the US, reweaving and rebuilding the whole forest landscape.

We have had significant success in some areas: our landmark book, **America's Private Forests**, raised the awareness of the hidden crisis of private forestland loss as never before; we sponsored the first law to incorporate conservation and management of standing forests in binding, economy-wide climate legislation; developed what is now the national standard for working forest conservation; pioneered and advocated new approaches in forest management, from canopy restoration to good fire to endangered species habitat protection; and conserved over 350,000 acres of private forests. And more!

Our approaches have become widely adopted, expanding that impact, and 2022 continued our tradition of innovation and practicality, as the following report highlights.

But the problems we face have also intensified. We have just a few short years to reverse the momentum of climate change. Conserving and restoring fully functional forests is a critically needed but vastly underutilized solution to climate change and to enable adaptation. Our need for these forests – and their need for us – has never been greater. It is urgent that we dramatically ramp up our efforts to conserve and restore those older, more naturally climate-resilient and carbon-rich forests.

And, with your support, we will.

Thank you,
Laurie A. Wayburn

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS

OF OUR WORK OVER THE YEARS



CONSERVATION



Mount Ashland
Demonstration
Forest

Hawk Rosales,
ITSWC Executive
Director, with PFT
Board Member
Andrea Tuttle.



PFT focuses on reweaving and conserving our vital forest landscapes, partnering with private landowners to conserve their lands and legacies and directly managing forests.

Our Working Forest Conservation Easements (WFCEs) protect critical wildlife habitat, life-sustaining watersheds, and powerful climate benefits – all while maintaining forests' economic and ecologic productivity. These voluntary and legally binding agreements restore and protect whole forests, forever.

In 2022, PFT continued this legacy by partnering with this year's Forest Champion Awardees Melissa and Mike Haglund (right) to permanently conserve their Alsea River Bend forest in Oregon. The property's productive forest has numerous conservation values, including critical wildlife habitat for threatened species like the northern spotted owl and Coho salmon.



We also purchased 1,100 acres on Mt. Ashland as our new Demonstration Forest! This is a huge step in extending the conservation corridor between the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and the Rogue Siskiyou National Forest and provides an amazing opportunity to deploy cutting edge ecological forest management, restoring this uniquely biodiverse forest.



OVER THE YEARS: MORE CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

1995

PFT authors Assessment of Need and sponsors the bill that creates California's Forest Legacy Program.

1997

PFT completes its first two easements: InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (ITSWC) (4,000 acres) and Bea Breese's Outlet Creek forest (640 acres).

2003

PFT gains protection of PG&E's 140,000 acres of forests in perpetuity through a ruling petitioned with Judge Barbara Hale.

2016

PFT conserves 13,000-acre McCloud Dogwood Butte Forest with Hancock Timber Management (now Manulife).

CLIMATE



PFT is honored with the Climate Action Reserve's Climate Action Champion Award. From left to right: Mary Nichols, Andrea Tuttle, Laurie Wayburn, Linda Adams and Senator Byron Sher.

PFT spearheaded a movement to place the restoration of carbon-rich, climate-resilient forests front and center of the fight to reduce CO2 emissions to safer levels.

From the early 1990s, PFT has championed the essential role of forests in providing practical, large scale and immediate climate solutions. From securing the inclusion of forests in economy-wide state climate policy (2002, 2006), to managing the first emissions-reduction project registered under California's first offset protocols, PFT continues to be a key strategic advisor to policymakers, advocating and shaping effective, ambitious and practical climate policies.



Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Laney Thornton and PFT President Laurie Wayburn at the UN COP26 Summit, 2021.

In 2022 this included California's Natural Climate Solutions Bill, signed in September by California's Governor Newsom, which requires state agencies to set measurable implementation targets for carbon removal and emissions reductions on natural and working lands.

This is the first such requirement for the Natural and Working Lands sector as a whole. This bill marks a significant victory moving policy action to the forest sector more broadly than carbon offsets alone.

We also worked successfully with US Congressman Huffman's office to request that the FTC investigate opportunities to provide transparent rating standards for voluntary carbon offsets on natural and working lands to enhance the function and effectiveness of the voluntary carbon offset market.

5m acres across 29 states engaging in compliance projects

OVER THE YEARS: MORE CLIMATE HIGHLIGHTS

2002

PFT sponsors SB 812, establishing California's carbon offsets program; works with CAR to develop first standards for forest offsets.

2006

Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) mandates bringing the state's GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, including the role of forests.

2009

Laurie Wayburn and Connie Best are honored with the EPA Climate Protection Award.

2021

Oregon adopts a Climate Change and Carbon Plan with incentives for private landowners to help meet statewide sequestration goals.

WATER



PFT's leadership has led to watersheds being legally recognized as part of state water systems, putting them on equal footing for funding eligibility with other water infrastructure.

PFT's Healthy Watersheds California program is a model for state policies and actions to invest in watershed restoration and conservation, aligning that policy work with our efforts to permanently conserve and connect broad tracts of key watersheds.

The continued impact of drought and unprecedented rain events is shining a spotlight on the value of and need for a new watershed management regime. **In 2022**, working with Assemblymember Richard Bloom and Senator Bob Weickowski, PFT championed a historic budget allocation of nearly \$400M for comprehensive conservation in watersheds in the Sacramento Headwaters region as well as Southern California.

PFT is a leading voice in advancing a new approach to fire management in California and the West.

FIRE



Fire is a natural part of our western landscapes. Managed well, it can be a positive force in landscape health and climate resilience. PFT is a leader in building momentum and funding to advance the restoration of "good fire" to the landscape. Our coalition across California brings together Tribal and cultural burning practitioners, clean air and health advocates, agricultural, range and forest voices, environmental justice leaders and more to support a safer, healthier fire regime across the state. **In 2022**, we succeeded in driving another \$700M into forest and fire resilience in California and advocated for federal EPA PM 2.5 M standards to allow prescribed fires.

OVER THE YEARS: MORE WATER AND FIRE HIGHLIGHTS

2011

PFT-sponsored California Watershed and Forestland Conservation Act (SB 455) creates landowner incentives to protect California's forests for their climate benefits.

2016

AB 2480 (Bloom) recognizes watersheds as a critical part of California's water system infrastructure.

2017

PFT leads coalition advocating for increased funding for prescribed fire. A \$10M grant revives CalFire's prescribed fire grant program.

2018

AB 2551 (Wood) gives legal definition to critical watersheds that make up PFT's Healthy Watersheds California program.

PFT helps to pass AB 1260, paving the way for increased prescribed burns with less air quality impact.

2020

PFT gains historic \$500,000 for fire management and forest resilience

WILDLIFE



PFT easements protect and manage for essential habitat for over 600 species.

Forests are treasure troves of biodiversity. PFT's focus is on conserving and managing habitats for vulnerable species, ensuring critical wildlife refugia within the private managed forest landscape while providing operational certainty for landowners.



From the pygmy rabbit to the giant garter snake to the wolverine and hundreds of other species, our work has fostered the conditions for at-risk species to thrive in their native habitats.

Our conservation projects often link protected public lands, protecting crucial habitat and safe passage for wildlife in the most biodiverse conifer forests globally. Among these projects are 7 easements we hold in the Mt. Shasta Headwaters of the Klamath-Cascade region of southern Oregon and northern California. These easements alone provide a bridge linking critical habitat across more than 2 million acres in California's most important climate change refugia.



In 2022, we successfully championed two wildlife overpass options on I5 at the Siskiyou Crest in Oregon, working with the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition. The Siskiyou Crest is a vitally important "land bridge" connecting habitat for hundreds of species threatened by climate change.



OVER THE YEARS: MORE WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

2008

The California van Eck Forests, managed by PFT, are granted a Safe Harbor Agreement, setting a model for endangered species recovery.

2015

For the first time in 100 years, the endangered Gray Wolf returns to California, found on the Hart Family's Butte Creek property, managed through a PFT easement.

2016

PFT is awarded Section 6 funding for conserving Mountcrest conservation easement in Oregon, a first for endangered species recovery.

2018

SB 473 passes, improving operational certainty under California's ESA for landowners engaged in critical habitat restoration.

DONOR REPORT

We rely on the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations to safeguard healthy water supplies, provide safe habitat for wildlife, supply wood and jobs for local communities, and remove CO2 from the atmosphere for the benefit of all.

To learn more and support our work, contact Kevin Connelly at kconnelly@pacificforest.org or call 415.561.0700 x32.

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\$100,000+

Nancy Nordhoff
Jan & Cynthia van Eck

\$50,000+

Ken Fisher
Robert & Suzi Given
Laney & Pasha Thornton

\$25,000-\$49,999

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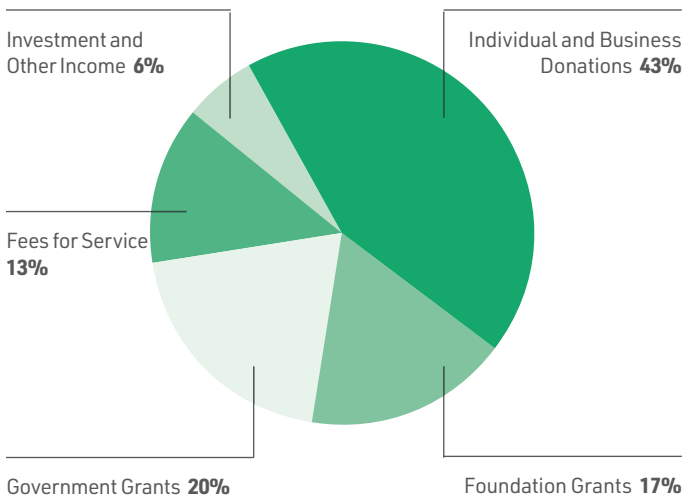
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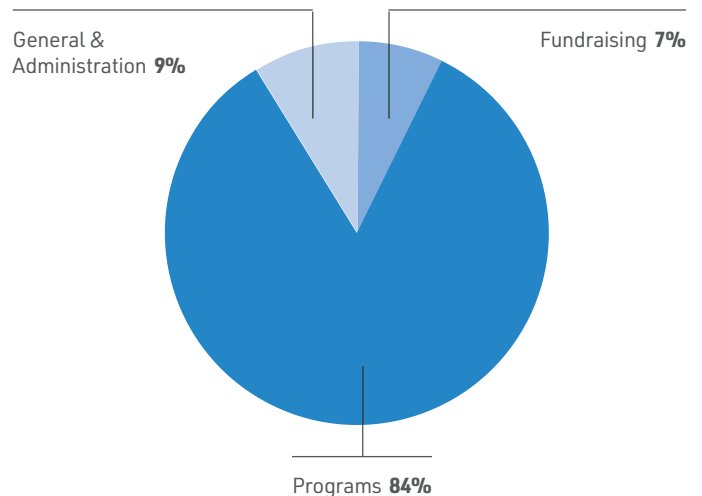
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A major facet of our impact is communicating our work and that of our many partners. It is essential that we communicate the "why" of what we do, and not just the "what" and the "how," if we are to continue to inspire change on the scale that is needed. Through publications like this, creative media partnerships, and on-the-ground interactions, we work to enlist broader constituencies and new generations in the vital work of private forest conservation, recognizing that we all have a stake in the flourishing of forest ecosystems. To that end, in 2022 we partnered with VanEck to film the documentary "Beyond the Trees." In a short time, the film has already won in its category at California's Big Sur Film Festival and been listed as an official selection for the Venice, LA and Oregon Documentary Film Festivals – and we're excited for what's to come!



2000
2007

We publish *Forest Carbon in the United States*, highlighting the role of forests as carbon absorbers and providing a framework for a viable forest carbon marketplace.

2001

Island Press publishes *America's Private Forests* by PFT co-founders Connie Best and Laurie Wayburn, a major call to action to conserve private working forests and the first to highlight the crisis of US forest loss.

2016

A Risk Assessment of California's Key Source Watershed Infrastructure is published. It is the first comprehensive assessment of and maintenance plan for the 7M acres that form the core of the state's water supply.