



2023

A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR



**PACIFIC
FOREST
TRUST**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Love, fear, and disaster seem to be primary motivators for us. So, one might think that people who love their home planet, fear its collapse, and see disaster all around would be highly motivated to act significantly to address climate change.

Governor Gavin Newsom signs Robert Rivas's AB 1757, elevating nature-based solutions in CA's fight against climate change.

There is overwhelming evidence that restoring and conserving forests is a core climate solution—in fact the only way to meet our goals (see Mo, et al, *Nature*, 11.12023). As such, we should be seeing a massive turn to revaluing and managing forests for climate, something that PFT has advocated for for over 30 years. Now, with some hope, we are beginning to see this happen, though at far from the pace and scale we need.

In 2023, PFT advanced major actions to scale and demonstrate forest climate solutions across the fields of policy, direct conservation and stewardship. (As practical problem solvers, we like to both think and do.) PFT led California's newly empaneled AB 1757 Expert Advisory Committee on Natural and Working Lands, issuing a clarion call for climate action at scale in forests and other lands. We conserved thousands of acres of well-managed forests which store, collectively, many tens of thousands of tons of carbon safely and forever. We laid the groundwork to demonstrate prescribed burns in managed private forests at unprecedented scale. And we were honored by a film on our work, winning Best Documentary awards, educating many hundreds of people about new, practical, and radically effective forest climate solutions.

Thanks to your support, we can scale this solution to this most pressing global threat while working right here at home. Please join us in protecting a safe healthy future for people and the planet!

Thank you,
Laurie A. Wayburn



STEWARDING OUR BIODIVERSITY

PFT works in the most biodiverse and productive conifer forests on earth.



STEWARDSHIP

Susan, Blair and Alex Hart have ensured their family's permanent legacy through a conservation easement held by PFT.

PFT plans for forever, a rare thing indeed. We currently have responsibility for 38 perpetual conservation easements covering some 115,000 acres, and own and manage 14,000 acres.

PFT is entrusted with the perpetual stewardship of these lands, and we practice that with the highest integrity. We are a thrice accredited land trust and committed to honoring our landowner's trust. The stewardship of these lands is a great joy for our staff. Part of our pioneering heritage is to test and scale new approaches to forest stewardship that complement commercial management.

One such effort we advanced in 2023 is with prescribed fire. With generous funding from California's Wildlife Conservation Board and State Coastal Conservancy, we set in motion reintroduction of prescribed fire on two PFT-conserved properties, the van Eck redwood forest and the McCloud Soda Springs mixed conifer forest. Our goal is to demonstrate the compatibility of prescribed fire with commercial management at scale, and facilitate a proactive transformation in fire management.

On the Mount Ashland Demonstration Forest in southern Oregon, we completed our innovative forest-management plan and hired new staff, thanks to a grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust. The plan drives management for climate and fire resilience, restoring more natural forest composition with fire-resilient species such as cedar and Douglas fir and lays out the restoration of low-intensity fire to this landscape.



PFT's conserved forests are home to over 800 species, and many are at risk, including the Northern Goshawk and Willow Flycatcher.



The Trinity Headwaters Forest is in a global biodiversity hotspot and protects 10% of the Upper Trinity River watershed.

PFT conserves forests at landscape scale, bringing climate benefits, protecting biodiversity, and securing critical watersheds.

In 2023, we made huge strides conserving additional, strategic acreage in our Klamath-Cascade focal area. Working with our partners at Campbell Global, a JP Morgan Chase Company, we conserved the 7,500 acre Shasta Timberlands Working Forest. This connected a patchwork of public and working private forests that make up critical habitats and migration pathways for hundreds of species. This project, itself supporting over 250 species, links the Shasta Trinity and Klamath National Forests, as well as the Hart's Butte Creek Ranch that PFT conserved in 2015.

We also made substantial progress towards completing the protection of a remarkable 11,000-acre forest at the headwaters of the Upper Trinity River. With extraordinary biodiversity, this project fills large gaps within the Shasta Trinity National Forest, stitching together a much larger landscape to the benefit of myriad species and watershed function. Thanks to Congressman Jared Huffman, we were awarded a first of its kind Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant for Community Development. We were also very grateful for a major grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the project, moving us closer to completing the conservation of Trinity Headwaters. Protecting 10% of the upper Trinity River, this project is a key contributor towards securing California's water supply.



Our forests protect the habitats and supply the cold, clean water for Redband Trout, Coho Salmon, Cascade Frogs, people, and other species to thrive.



POLICY

Health advocates, Indigenous fire practitioners, scientists, ranchers, and foresters all share PFT's goal of restoring "good fire," to the landscape, reducing risk to people, property and ecosystems.

PFT's work drives historic legislation, promoting older, more natural working forests as a key strategy addressing climate change.

In 2023, California's AB 1757 Expert Advisory Committee, chaired by PFT, laid out its recommendations for climate targets for California's natural and working lands sector. These recommendations, a first-in-the-nation effort, would contribute up to 400 million tons in carbon reductions over the next decade—greater than that of all combined efforts to green the transportation sector. This is a transformational opportunity in climate solutions, and for California to continue its pioneering role in innovative solutions addressing the root causes of climate change.

PFT also continued its leadership in advancing a new approach to fire management, catalyzing a shift to managing for beneficial fire, and thereby reducing the impacts of catastrophic fire. Building and leading broad, diverse coalitions of stakeholders to advance shared solutions to the fire crisis is a hallmark of PFT's approach. Paired with our on-the-ground demonstration of how this can be scaled up (see Stewardship), PFT brings both practice and innovation to help address the challenge of returning the West to a more natural, beneficial fire regime.

In this vein, we were pleased to be the recipients of a lead grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Wildfire Resilience Initiative, focused in Siskiyou County and its associated watersheds to help catalyse large-scale restoration of a beneficial fire regime to this iconic region.

Snakes and amphibians, like the Giant Garter Snake and California Tiger Salamander, are critical players in supporting forests!



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.

INDIVIDUALS

\$100,000+

Anonymous	Ken Fisher	Robert & Suzi Given	Jan & Cynthia van Eck
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\$50,000-\$99,000

Anonymous	Judson M. Parsons	Laney and Pasha Thornton
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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Kathleen Bennett & Thomas Malloy	Peter & Pamela Hayes	Glenn & Cherida Collins Smith	Sigrid van Eck
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\$500-\$999

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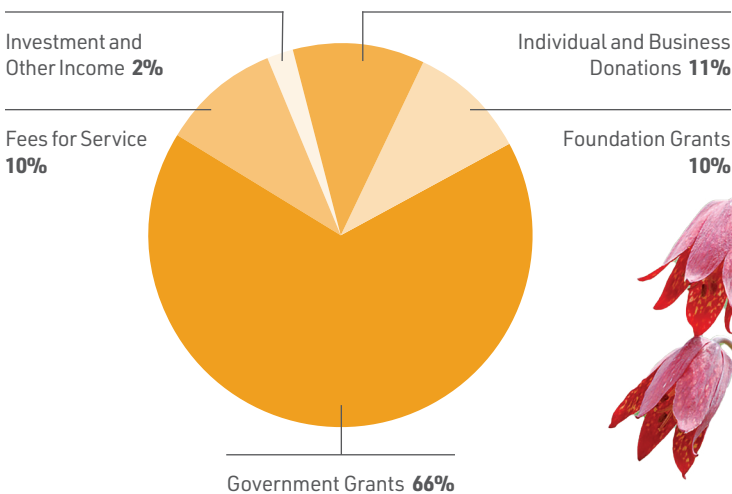
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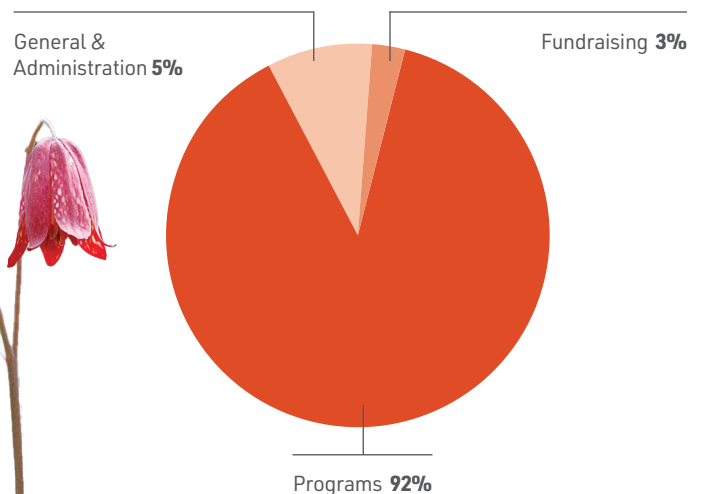
*1% for the Planet

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USES OF FUNDS



Siskiyou Mariposa Lily, Yreka Phlox, and Gentner's Fritillary—all of which are endangered.



**PACIFIC
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www.pacificforest.org

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**Laurie A. Wayburn,
Co-founder & President**

Pacific Forest Trust's mission is to sustain America's forests for all their public benefits of wood, water, wildlife, and people's well being, in cooperation with private landowners and communities.

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BUILDING MOMENTUM

The forest climate solution is right in front of us, but most people are unaware of its massive, immediate potential.



Beyond the Trees was featured at The Economist's 9th Annual Sustainability Week.

PFT, thanks to the generosity of our key partner VanEck, aims to change that with a new documentary debuted in 2023, *Beyond the Trees*. This short documentary, about our innovative work on the van Eck forests of Oregon and California, brings PFT's message to a whole new audience with showings from Los Angeles, to Portland, to New York—and beyond! The film has received much praise, and eight festival laurels, including Best Environmental Film at the Los Angeles Documentary Festival. Our unique conservation and management model has caught the eye of conservationists and entrepreneurs alike. It was recently introduced to the global business community at a showing during *The Economist's* Sustainability Week.

PFT was also sought out as an authority on forests and climate with increased visibility in major media outlets. From the New York Times, where we detailed the merits of conserving private, working forests, to featured quotes in *USA Today*, *Bloomberg*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, amongst others, there is a growing receptivity to PFT's unique message, approach, and impact.