



Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

1,493 ACRES OF PRIME FARMLAND, RIPARIAN HABITAT, AND FLOODPLAIN IS NOW PROTECTED FOREVER!

The land trust has been incredibly busy these past 6 months, closing two big easement projects: The Bear River Preserve and the Danna Farms Agricultural Conservation Easement. Together the two projects create approximately 1,493 acres of contiguous protected land, which contributes to other State and private conservation and recreational areas located along the Feather River, currently providing over 3,000 acres of conserved habitat and open space.



BEAR RIVER PRESERVE

The Bear River Restoration Area and Ecological Preserve is a partnership between Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (Grantor), Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (Grantee/Easement Holder), and Sacramento Valley Conservancy (Preserve Manager) to fulfill required mitigation for levee updates required for flood protection. The project permanently protects approximately 618 acres of high-quality riparian habitat, valley oak woodland habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, open grassland habitat, and emergent wetland habitat. Other benefits associated with the easement include protection of floodplain habitat that provides

for nesting, foraging, and cover for numerous wildlife species, including migratory and resident songbirds, Swainson's hawk and other raptors, habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and cover for numerous fish species during periods of high flows.

DANNA FARMS AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Danna Farms Agricultural Conservation Easement is a partnership among the Danna family, Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust to protect and preserve prime agricultural land, riparian habitat, viewshed, and open space.

The project began in 2018, when the Danna family approached the land trust about permanent land protection options for their farm. The Danna family identified conservation of their 876-acre property as a priority, to protect their farming heritage and the property that's been in their family for generations. On February 17, 2023, that goal became a reality with the closing of the Danna Farms Agricultural Conservation Easement, forever protecting this important piece of California farmland. Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (SBRLT) worked with the Danna family to create a flexible agreement that would protect their Yuba County property from development. The easement permanently dedicates the land to farming and prohibits the conversion to non-agricultural uses, even if the land is sold or inherited. SBRLT holds title to the easement and will monitor the terms of the easement annually to ensure that the purposes of the easement are fulfilled.

The land trust is grateful for conservation minded landowners like the Danna family, who have a deep respect for the land and environment. Their commitment to conservation and willingness to engage in the easement process shows their dedication for land protection. The Danna family passion for farming and their connection to the land go back to 1894 when Steve and Joe Danna's great-grandfather Angelo Danna emigrated to San Jose from his native Sicily. Building on the foundation laid by their parents and grandparents, Steve, Joe, and Dee to grow the

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business, providing quality products with a commitment to sustainability. The easement will not only protect their way of life but their family legacy, ensuring that future generations will reap the benefits of their conservation efforts.

A portion of the easement acquisition was funded through a Strategic Growth Council grant awarded under the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC), which is administered through the Department of Conservation. SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in

disadvantaged communities. The remaining funding was covered under an additional grant awarded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

The land trust conservation work helps to sustain the region's working lands and natural resources through a network of protected landscapes. SBRLT recognizes that our natural resources, farmland and the region's unique historic and scenic character are vital to a healthy economy and community well-being. SBRLT acquires land and conservation easements by purchase or donation. For more information please contact Executive Director, Lisa Lindman at 916-549-2355. Danna Farms ACE was funded by the following partners:



NEXT FALL'S CALIFORNIA SWAN FESTIVAL PROMISES TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

California's Sacramento Valley is the artery of the Pacific Flyway, through which an estimated billion* birds fly south over our heads every fall! How fortunate we are that Colusa, Sutter and Yuba Counties are at the heart of it all. Such a spectacle amazes all of us every year, even those of us who have lived here all our lives.

Several communities up and down the valley have created regional festivals to highlight some of the bird species, while farmers and ranchers have learned to live with this magnificent procession, and manage their lands to accommodate Nature's cycles.

Local city planners created a swan festival here eleven years ago to draw attention to the most graceful and the most endearing of the hundreds of migrating avian species - the Tundra Swan. This past year they invited our nonprofit organization to help plan and promote the festival this upcoming fall.

November 10, 11, 12, 2023, is the weekend selected because the fall migration season is upon us.

Area naturalists, nature guides and agency personnel will show the public how to find and identify swans, and point out their amazing adaptations that have secured their unique niche in the array birds that settle around us in Central California.

All the 350 migrating bird species will create a dramatic background for the distinctive Tundra Swan, like a huge choir singing behind the star of the show!

This opportunity will increase public awareness 100-fold about how our Land Trust partners with area farming and ranching families and our connections with conservation agencies and regional organizations work to preserve local families' heritage and the wildlife their farming operations support.

The success of the California Swan Festival will depend upon community involvement and volunteer participation from the public and local organizations. Contact the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust to help.

-Mike Hubbarth, Board President

CALIFORNIA SWAN FESTIVAL PLANNING IS UNDERWAY!

With the land trust acting as the new lead for the festival, we have been hard at work coordinating with partners, securing our event locations, and developing marketing materials.

The festival gives us the opportunity to work with a variety of local partners who contribute to natural resource protection and management. Together we are helping to sustain our natural resources and create more resilient communities, capable of withstanding challenges related to climate change and growing development pressure. The festival creates a space to bring everyone together, increase public awareness for the conservation work being done, and showcase important project successes, locally and at the landscape level. For the land trust, developing these partnerships will help us further our conservation work and gain understanding of how our work contributes to other efforts underway throughout our region. Working together we can help sustain our natural resources and create a balanced community.

In April the Yuba County staff and Supervisors approved our request to use the Yuba County Government Center for our “Swan Festival Hub” and cover security costs. A generous contribution to support our efforts to bring this community festival back to our region. The “Swan Festival Hub” will host vendors, presenters, workshops, and check-in for tours. A variety of unique speakers and guided tours are being organized. The tours will require registration and include wildlife viewing as well as family friendly outings, all with the intention of getting people outside, enjoying our region’s rural landscape and position in the Pacific Flyaway, which hosts millions of migrating waterfowl each winter. Sutter County Museum will be our “Swan Festival Kid’s Zone”, providing activities for children, including nature-themed crafts, family move night, and live animal presenter. The event is sure to have something for everyone, from bird watching to family-friendly activities!

A graphic design class at Sacramento City College has graciously offered to create all our event marketing materials for free! We are so grateful for the students and teachers, Robyn Waxman and Missy Anapolsky, for taking this project on for us. The students will create a website, save the date

cards, flyer, and social media posts for the festival. We can’t wait to show you all the final designs!

We look forward to seeing you all at the festival on November 10-12, 2023! As the planning continues, you can get more updates when you “Like” our Swan Festival Facebook page:



 Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaSwanFestival>

California Swan Festival | Facebook

Alyssa Lindman
Executive Director



Photo by David Rosen

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

If it weren't for the generous donations from our members, the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust wouldn't be able to continue to make a difference in our region. Because of YOUR direct support, SBRLT has been able to provide managing and monitoring services for 4 easements and 2 in-fee properties, with more currently in negotiations.

Do you want to hike the Sutter Buttes? Many of our membership levels come with discounts and gift certificates for Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes who provide guided hike tours most weekends from October through May. Gift certificates can also be given as gifts.

Join & Support Today. Together we can protect the land that defines our heritage.

LEVEL	MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT
\$25 Donor	Newsletters and Event Info
\$50 Friend	10% off a hike, Event Info, Newsletters
\$100 Associate	One hike certificate, Event Info, Newsletters
\$250 Sponsor	Two hike certificates, Event Info, Newsletters
\$500 Conservator	Four hike certificates, Event Info, Newsletters
\$1,000 Patron	Six hike certificates, Event Info, Newsletters
\$2,500 Benefactor	1 charter hike for 10, Event Info, Newsletters
\$5,000 Corporate	2 charter hikes for 10, Event Info, Newsletters

Credit Cards accepted on our website. Or you can contact us at info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-755-3568.



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/SutterButtesLandTrust



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is to protect and maintain the natural and agricultural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations.

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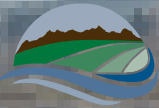
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