

Board of Directors

Tom Lisle, President  
Leonel Arguello, Vice President  
Nancy Correll, Secretary  
Emily Sinkhorn, Treasurer  
Judy Haggard  
Greg Jaso  
Joyce King  
Zia Schatz  
Emily Teraoka

**McKinleyville Land Trust**  
**P.O. Box 2723**  
**McKinleyville, CA 95519**  
**707-839-LAND**  
**mlandtrust.org**



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## **2016 Annual Report**

### **McKinleyville Land Trust**

#### **Board membership**

Zia Schatz joined the Board in June. Zia currently works as a Program Coordinator for the Watershed Stewards Program. Her interest in joining the Board stems from her passion for conservation, environmental education, civic engagement, and the quality of life in McKinleyville.

#### **Fundraising/publicity**

MLT held its annual fundraisers, which were financial and publicity successes:

- Annual Dinner on March 6 (with speakers Tiana Williams and Chris West discussing the Yurok Tribe's California condor reintroduction efforts on the north coast)
- The gyros booth at the North Country Fair on September 17-18.
- Pints for Non-profits at Six Rivers Brewery on November 10.
- Our annual newsletter, which garnered some generous donations.

#### **Budget**

We ended 2016 with a net loss of \$3538 resulting from total income of \$16,729 (\$10838 from fundraising events) and total expenses of \$12,941. Our realized income and expenditures tracked our projected budget well and are in line with the previous year's budget. These figures do not include the CGC grant and expenditures.

The reason for additional expenses leading to a deficit is as follows. The land trust received a grant from Coast Central Credit Union in 2014 towards the Chah-GAH-Cho trail project. The land trust needed to spend that grant by the end of 2015, although the trail project would not begin in earnest until 2016. The land trust decided that it should purchase gravel for the trail beforehand from a local contractor, Hooven & Co. Hooven accepted the advance payment and kept a credit on their books for the land trust for gravel and delivery totaling \$9,498.31. The land trust Treasurer at the time, Brenda Pease, entered this expense as a "pre-paid asset" under the 2015 fiscal year.

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During the course of 2016, the land trust utilized the credit at Hooven and the gravel was delivered for the trail project. However, the pre-paid asset still on the books in 2016 had to be balanced out. Brenda Pease suggested making a journal entry to credit the “pre-paid asset” and debit the expense account for the CGC Trail Project (general ledger 7111). Thus \$9,498.31 that was actually spent in 2015 was “expensed” during the 2016 fiscal year. Without this occurrence the land trust would have shown a profit of almost \$6,000 for 2016.

**Cha-Gah-Cho (CGC)**

MLT hosted over 100 attendees at the grand opening of the CGC trail system on October 2. MLT partnered with Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) on a successful grant through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program of the California Natural Resources Agency. This grant enabled the development 0.68 miles of formal trail, signage and trailhead improvements, and vegetation management. The California Conservation Corps constructed the trails, and dozens of community partners including the McKinleyville Area Fund, Coast Central Credit Union, and numerous McKinleyville residents gave monetary and in-kind support to bring this project to fruition. Since the new trail system was opened, we have observed trail use during nearly every one of our patrols and visits and the absence of campers. Trash is manageable with weekly patrols and drop-offs of trash and McKinleyville Sanitation.

**Mad River Bluffs (MRB)**

Mad River Bluffs continues to be our most popular property for the recreating public. MLT’s volunteer organization -- Friends of Mad River Bluffs – is meeting the extra challenges of maintaining the property, including servicing dogipot dispensers, clearing trails, pulling invasive ivy, and coordinating management with the adjacent Hiller Park. The California Conservation Corps has helped with ivy pulling. Chris Heppel constructed new display cases at three locations, and Vicki Ozaki posted photos and nature notes.

**Dows Prairie Educational Wetland (DPEW)**

- We continue to provide an outdoor classroom for natural-history education at Dows Prairie School, and have improved our communications with staff following the reorganization of McKinleyville schools.

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- A large, handmade redwood sign marking the location of DPEW was installed on Grange Road directly behind Dow's Prairie School. Two years in the making, recent McKinleyville High graduate David Coelho completed the sign for his Eagle Scout Project.
  - We continue our ongoing battle with invasive Scotch broom and Himalaya berry with biannual weed pulling by SWAP crews.

**Property easements**

We monitored all six of our easements.

**Coordination with other land trusts**

We continue to meet with regional, state, and national land trust organizations.

**Capstone projects** with Humboldt State University included vegetation mapping on the spit west of MRB and compiling a habitat and conservation field guide of DPEW for teachers.

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