

Sierra Scapes

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust Newsletter www.eslt.org Fall/Winter 2022

“Throughout the Eastern Sierra’s changing seasons, our stewardship of this land depends on our strong connection with an inclusive community.”

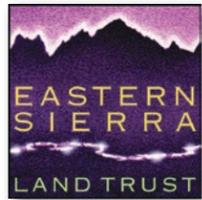
-Kay Ogden, ESLT Executive Director/CEO

In this issue . . .

30x30 Initiative: Giving Voice to the Sierra

© Heather Freeman

Inside: Moving Forward Together



Eastern Sierra Land Trust

was officially incorporated as a public benefit nonprofit on January 29, 2001.

It was the result of the strong vision of landowners and conservationists in Inyo and Mono counties who recognized the need to create a land trust with its unique tools to protect the wildlife habitats and open spaces of the area's spectacular rural landscapes.

Our Roots Run Deep

Like the luminous aspens that beautify the Eastern Sierra landscape, we are connected together.

Above the ground, aspens stand straight and tall as individual trees, but underneath the surface they are nourished by one interconnected root system. That's what makes them strong and able to withstand winter's harsh winds and snow and years of withering drought.

We should look to the aspens for inspiration and an important lesson. As individuals who love the Eastern Sierra with its vistas of wide open meadows and boundless sagebrush, you are strong. But together, we are much stronger.

As a new year approaches, I hope you will again work alongside us in our conservation efforts; that you will generously give us your valuable time and support.

Despite adversity, we've accomplished so much this year. Let's build on those successes as we work together as stewards of this wonderful place.



Kay

Kay Ogden,
Executive Director/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

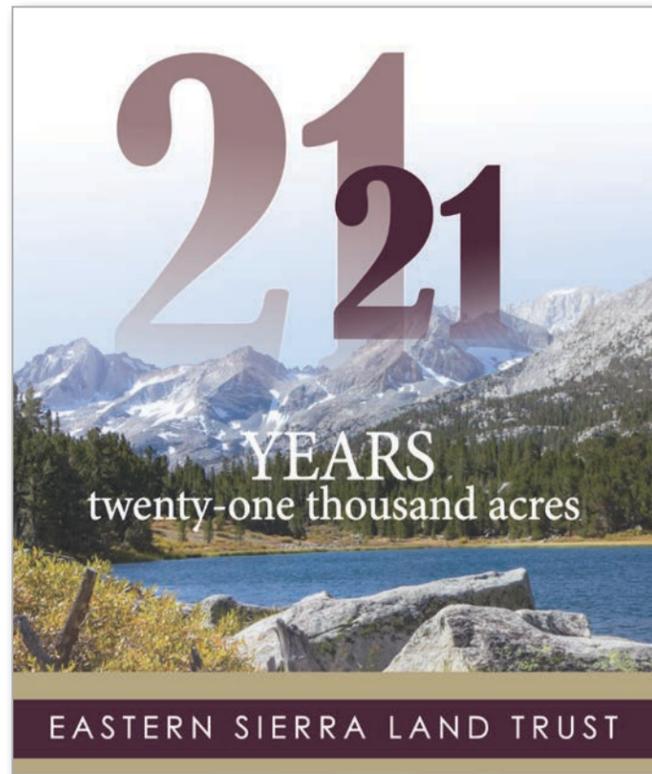
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Correction

The original printed version of the 2022 Spring/Summer SierraScapes newsletter contained a mistake and an omission on page two that has been corrected in the online edition. The correction clarifies that in 2003, the first protected 20 acres in Swall Meadows came to ESLT through an outright donation of the Ingram Conservation Easement from ESLT co-founders Karen Ferrell-Ingram and Stephen Ingram rather than through a donation of land.



STAFF

Kay Ogden, Executive Director/CEO (FT)

Harrison Covert, Education Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member (FT)

Heather Freeman, Development and Marketing Director (FT)

Carissa Gospodinoff, Operations Director (FT)

Claire Marvet, Program Associate (PT)

Byron Roos-Collins, Communications Manager (FT)

Amanda Serenyi, Membership Coordinator (PT)

Emmalyn Snead, Land Stewardship Program Director (FT)

Amy Sturgill, Land Conservation Program Director (FT)

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mammoth • lakes 395 • wildlife crossing project

The Mammoth Lakes 395 Wildlife Crossing Project will solve an ongoing problem along Highway 395 in the Eastern Sierra. The Round Valley Mule Deer Herd's migration route cuts across this very busy highway, putting the deer and motorists in danger. Moving their migration route to a safer location is not an option. It is ingrained behavior, passed down from a doe to her offspring.

Caltrans is the lead agency on the project which includes other agencies and ESLT. It will create undercrossings, overcrossings and exclusion fencing along Highway 395 between Crowley Lake and Mammoth Lakes where most Wildlife Vehicle Collision (WVC) problems happen. Research shows such structures reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by up to 90 percent. "ESLT was founded to protect the mule deer's migration corridor," Kay Ogden, Executive Director/CEO, explained. "This is pulling the history and foundational aspect of ESLT into the future."

\$3.17 million grant funding approved

On November 15, 2022, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), a state agency that, "protects, restores and enhances California's spectacular natural resources for wildlife and for the public's use and enjoyment . . ." approved a \$3.17 million grant for the project. "This funding fits into our wildlife corridor program," Deputy Executive

Director Rebecca Fris said. "We are very interested in securing wildlife corridors . . . This project is key in that area." The project also contributes to the goals of Governor Newsom's 30x30 Initiative for land, waterway and habitat conservation.



According to Katie Rodriguez, Caltrans Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor and project lead,

"Funding will be used to complete the next phase of the project (completing the CEQA and NEPA Environmental Document and a Project Report), getting us one step closer to implementation."

This project won't be completed overnight. As Fris explains, "Planning usually takes 2-4 years then they have to look for more money for the implementation phase." Rodriguez says the project kickoff will begin in March 2023, but agrees, "The remaining phases needed to get us to construction are dependent on future available funding that has not been secured yet." For updates, please visit www.eslt.org/wildlifecrossing.

Accreditation Renewed. TRUST RENEWED.

Receiving accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission reflects a Land Trust's excellence in land conservation.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust recently applied for the five-year renewal of its accreditation and our renewal was accepted in August 2022. This is ESLT's second renewal since earning its initial accreditation in 2011.

Receiving accreditation is no easy task. It involves a comprehensive review by the Land Trust Commission of all aspects of the organization, including finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting land stewardship. ESLT is one of approximately 450 accredited land trusts in the country, 32 of which achieved renewal or first-time accreditation this year.

"Our renewed accreditation means that ESLT is doing an outstanding job. Landowners can be assured that when we

agree to protect their lands forever, we will do it fairly and effectively," Marie Patrick, ESLT Board Chair, affirmed.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust partners with willing landowners to ensure that their land is permanently protected from development and will remain valuable open space where wildlife will thrive and future generations can enjoy the majestic Sierra landscape.

Since its founding in 2001, ESLT has protected nearly 21,900 acres of natural and working lands. Our work also includes outreach and education to help build a strong community of conservation.

"The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is tough. It's their job to verify that land trusts across the country are ethical and deliver on their duty to protect conserved lands in perpetuity."

- Randy Keller, ESLT Board Secretary



California's wild spaces are under threat. In October 2020, Governor Newsom signed the Nature-Based Solutions Executive Order committing our state to preserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. The effort is being directed by the California Natural Resources Agency which launched the 30x30 Partnership to support the implementation of these objectives.

chair, explained, "Natural and working lands are important factors to consider, as well as recreational activities across all seasons as we work to accomplish 30x30 goals. The Sierra is a global biodiversity hot spot . . ."

Equity Is Essential

30x30 strategies, which fit perfectly with what ESLT is already doing in the Eastern Sierra, include increasing voluntary conservation easements, expanding and accelerating environmental restoration and stewardship and advancing and promoting complementary conservation measures.

Equal Access. Equal Enjoyment.

The goal of 30x30 is to bring many voices together to protect and preserve California's irreplaceable natural resources. The more inclusive the effort, the more likely to be successful. It's not just conserving the land, it's also opening up the beautiful mountains, grassy valleys and resilient sagebrush for the public to enjoy—all the public.

ESLT has already begun implementing this objective by donating land to public ownership and opening up preserves that we own like Black Lake Preserve to public access. This will allow more families and children to get



A Strong Voice for the Eastern Sierra

The California Natural Resources Agency created the 30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee (PCC). It is made up of 18 environmental leaders from throughout California, including Kay Ogden, ESLT's Executive Director/CEO.

It coordinates 30x30 efforts from public and private groups across the state and fosters public communication and involvement by reaching out to identify, organize and coordinate working groups.

Open Lines of Communication

"The job of this committee," Ogden emphasizes, "is to have eyes and ears on the ground in our local communities to see their desires and challenges, but also to work on the state level. We will share information in both directions."

Ogden, along with one other committee member, represents the entire Sierra. She represents you, and will be welcoming your input and active participation as 30x30 moves forward.

She is also the representative for the California Council of Land Trusts and shares information with the land trust community throughout the state. "The state views private land protection as one of the clearly stated priorities of 30x30," she emphasizes. "So often, the Eastern Sierra is under represented. Elected officials don't have an understanding of where it is. 30x30 is a direct way to bring new resources and funding to this special region."

The Sierra Nevada is a critical area for the 30x30 Initiative to protect. It is a water source for irrigation that produces half the nation's fruit and vegetables and serves as a drinking water source for millions of Californians. In a letter to the California Natural Resources Agency in February 2022, as the 30x30 Initiative was being designed, the Sierra Nevada Working Group, of which Kay was co-

But, according to Ogden, there is one other element of equal priority. "That's the unique part about this initiative. It isn't just large scale conservation of diverse wildlife and plant species. It's also about people. That's what makes it so exciting."

She points specifically to the importance of working with the Native American community in the Sierra as our partners in the 30x30 process. Historically, California's Native American nations have been underserved with regard to conservation funding. "It's getting everybody to the table to get resources and make decisions for our entire community."

As the Pathways to 30x30 strategy document put it, "It is essential to strengthen government-to-government partnerships with tribal nations and collaboration with all tribal communities." Ogden adds that she has already begun to open the lines of communication with a wide variety of groups locally and statewide to jumpstart implementation of the 30x30 strategies.

on the land hiking, fishing and camping, and experience firsthand all the wonder and beauty our Eastern Sierra landscape has to offer.

(See Page 11, "An Open Invitation," for more.)

What's Next?

The Partnership Coordinating Committee is a hub that empowers a wide range of groups to embrace 30x30. "We had a kickoff event in September," Ogden said. "There was a reception and a full day when people could walk around and talk to everyone involved. It was inspiring, exciting, a great exchange of information."

Representing both the Sierra and land trusts, she will be working on local and state levels setting up workshops and other opportunities for inclusive collaboration to make 30x30 a reality. For more information on 30x30 and how you can become involved, please visit the ESLT website at www.eslt.org and www.californianature.ca.gov.

New Staff.

Emmalyn (Emmie) Snead

LAND STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CONNECTED TO THE LAND

Emmie Snead grew up on a small farm in Virginia. “We had tomatoes, apples, every kind of vegetable you could imagine.” Her deep connection to the land took root there, both literally and figuratively, and determined her future career path.

After graduating with a B.S. in Biology from Randolph College, she held a number of environmental positions, the latest as Natural Resources Program Manager for the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) in Joshua Tree. There she focused on the stewardship of California’s vast and diverse desert ecosystem.



“The desert has a long history of abuse from humans,” she explains. “Many people consider it a wasteland, a dumping ground. It doesn’t have the respect that other ecosystems have.” Working with

volunteers, she did restoration of the land, cleanup of dump sites, and protection of the desert tortoise’s habitat.

In her new job as Land Stewardship Program Director at ESLT, she will continue to be closely connected to the land. She is in charge of the annual monitoring of conservation easements, to ensure that conservation values are upheld on properties that ESLT either owns or holds conservation easements on. “My skill set,” she said, “is more aligned with in-person and ‘boots on the ground’ work. Being raised in the farming culture, I’m very comfortable doing that kind of work.”

Monitoring involves revisiting existing easements at specific “photo points,” and taking photos—graphic evidence—of the current condition of the easement. Snead is looking forward to the chance to get to know landowners and meet with them in person on their land. “I’m in my comfort zone conversing with farmers. I want



to keep strong relations with landowners, keep in touch. To do that, I have to be out there in person.”

ESLT has protected many areas in the Eastern Sierra, but in the portion classified by the State as desert, it has not yet been able to complete significant projects. The reaches of desert east of

the Sierra Nevada are both vital and expansive. Emmie’s desert experience will be key in expanding ESLT’s work in this area. “I have worked in several desert ecosystems—the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran. I’ve been in conservation for years. I think that applies. I’m quite familiar with this desert. I’m just moving up in elevation.”

In September 2021, Governor Newsom signed a bill creating the California Desert Conservation Program at the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The press release noted it is, “. . . aimed at providing state funding opportunities to help protect California’s deserts.” This funding, administered through WCB, also helps fulfill the goals of Newsom’s 30x30 executive order committing the state to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030.

ESLT’s area of work includes both low desert and high desert. According to Executive Director/CEO Kay Ogden, ESLT hasn’t had the capacity to focus on desert protection in the southern portion of the Eastern Sierra. Given the expertise in that area Emmie can provide, and the potential for outside funding, it may be a possibility in the future.

Right now, Emmie is concentrating on getting oriented and reviewing ESLT’s long history of land stewardship.

“I am super excited about this position and taking ownership of it. My biggest passion in life is land conservation. It’s a path I’ll never leave.”

-Emmalyn Snead, Land Stewardship Program Director

New Insights.

Amy Sturgill LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR



EXPERIENCE AND ENTHUSIASM

are the two words which best describe what Amy Sturgill brings to her new role as ESLT’s Land Conservation Program Director.

Raised in California’s Central Valley near the foothills bordering Yosemite National Park, Amy learned early to appreciate the wonders of the natural world. After studying Environmental Science at CSU Chico, she served as a Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership member with Friends of Deer Creek in Nevada City followed by a number of science-based positions with various non-profits and government agencies before moving to Bishop in 2013. “I was drawn by the sheer magnitude of the Eastern Sierra landscape,” she says. “That special confluence of mountain and high-desert ecosystems found here is both complex and striking.”

Amy’s previous professional experience saw her working with various groups to protect specific species and their habitats, from the desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert to bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada to sage-grouse in the Bi-State region. Stepping into the role of ESLT’s Land Conservation Program Director is a natural progression. “I am excited to take a wider angle view of conservation,” Amy states. “So often working with individual species seemed like addressing ecological issues through a narrow lens. Working with Eastern Sierra Land Trust will provide me with the opportunity to work more proactively and to conserve landscapes that provide habitat for a diversity of species.”

Amy spent the last four years working as the Bi-State Sage-Grouse Coordinator for an interagency working group focused on protecting Bi-State sage-grouse populations and their habitats. Amy comes to ESLT with a deep understanding of the sagebrush ecosystem and the ecological challenges it faces. She has well-established relationships with many conservation partners in eastern California and western Nevada.

One key program she will be working with is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This is an \$8 million program funded through the National Resource Conservation Service to assist agricultural producers in the Bi-State region to enact conservation measures on their property to help preserve the existing sage-grouse population. ESLT is the lead partner in the RCPP. The program is winding down at the end of this year, but ESLT has already helped many landowners secure funding through it. While working with sage-grouse, Amy came to understand the balance between agricultural production and wildlife habitat conservation. She points to the saying, “What’s good for the herd is good for the bird.” She adds, “If a landowner is maintaining the health of their lands, both their operation and wildlife will benefit.”

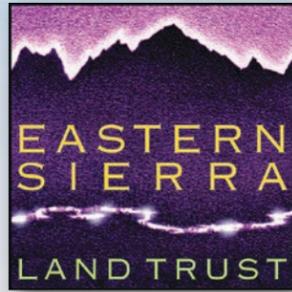
Amy is looking forward to expanding on ESLT’s conservation accomplishments and building partnerships with state and federal agencies, landowners, and local tribes. “I’m very grateful to have joined the land trust team and hope to continue the great work ESLT has been doing for decades.”



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“I’d like to use my role to progress landscape conservation from a holistic perspective; to widen that lens, protecting lands for the multitude of benefits they provide for all plant and wildlife species and for all of us who work, live, and recreate in this incredible area.”

-Amy Sturgill, Land Conservation Program Director



LIKE THE ASPENS . . .
Our strength is in
our connection to each other.

Moving Forward Together

As this year comes to a close, I am proud of all we've accomplished together. We've permanently protected more of our magical Eastern Sierra lands and increased public access, giving children, their parents, and future generations the chance to enjoy the rich, awe-inspiring landscapes and diverse species of this region.

The generous support of our members, local communities, landowners and conservation partners is essential for us to continue our work. That support helped us achieve major successes this year like the Centennial Point Ranch Conservation Easement in beautiful Bridgeport Valley.

We came together virtually for our 21st Anniversary Lands & Legacy Celebration. Despite the physical distance between us we remained connected by our love of the Eastern Sierra. I am so grateful that on May 20, 2023, we will be celebrating together in Bridgeport Valley.

Until then, I am counting on your continued support to help us protect and preserve the special lands and wildlife entrusted to our care.



Marie Patrick

Marie Patrick
Chair, ESLT Board of Directors

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California Desert Conservation Program

Emmalyn (Emmie) Snead, ESLT's new Land Stewardship Program Director, has extensive experience with desert ecosystems through her work with the Mojave Desert Land Trust in Joshua Tree. "I did a lot of monitoring and stewardship in Joshua Tree . . . the desert has a long history of abuse by humans." The California Legislature agreed when it passed Assembly Bill 1183. On September 28, 2021, Governor Newsom signed it into law, creating the California Desert Conservation Program.

Conserving a Fragile Asset

Assemblyman James C. Ramos, author of the bill, said in a press release, "This bill would aid a neglected but important state program and aid in addressing climate change, restoring desert habitat and ancestral lands and aiding public access and recreational amenities . . . Our desert region is a precious but fragile asset and is home to the largest still-intact ecosystem in the lower 48 states."

The bill was sponsored by the Defenders of Wildlife and is supported by the California Council of Land Trusts. The program will provide funding for projects in 18 counties in California that are officially defined as part of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. This includes counties where much of ESLT's conservation work already takes place.

The program is administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), a state agency focused on protecting biodiversity, improving climate resilience and providing access to outdoor spaces. While there is no specific funding attached to this program, WCB Deputy Director Rebecca Fris explains, "WCB has different funding sources; in this year's budget we received Nature-Based Solution money for our Desert Program. The 30x30 effort is the reason we did get some of the General Fund monies we did . . . we are in a good position to implement those 30x30 goals . . . this program meets those goals."



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© Johnny Adolphson

"I think the desert is underappreciated," she noted. "WCB has always done projects in the desert. The intent of this bill is to heighten the focus . . . people don't think about some of the benefits of the desert." Assemblyman Ramos' press release agreed, "These lands perform critical environmental roles, including capturing and storing carbon to help us fight the climate change crisis."

ESLT Executive Director/CEO Kay Ogden is excited about the program and the possibility of participation. "It's important for ESLT because we have both high desert and low desert in the Eastern Sierra. Our region goes from Inyo County to Mono County, all of Alpine County and part of Western Nevada. There are many multi-level desert ecosystems here."

A Fit with ESLT's Goals

Ogden feels it fits well with ESLT's overriding goals. "The desert is an important region of our vast service area. It includes a lot of sacred tribal lands. But the funding for the desert ecosystem just hasn't been there. Now we have a new staff person who comes from working in that ecosystem—new funding, new staff."

Applications are taken by WCB for this and all their other programs using one online application process. Applicants must first develop what Fris termed "a good restoration or public access project," and submit a pre-application. WCB then reviews it and decides if they would like a full proposal submitted for consideration by their board.

Fris added that working with tribes "is a big priority for the state," and that WCB is hoping to expand its applicant pool for projects to accomplish "more equity in funding moving forward." Joint applications between local tribes and organizations like ESLT will be welcomed.

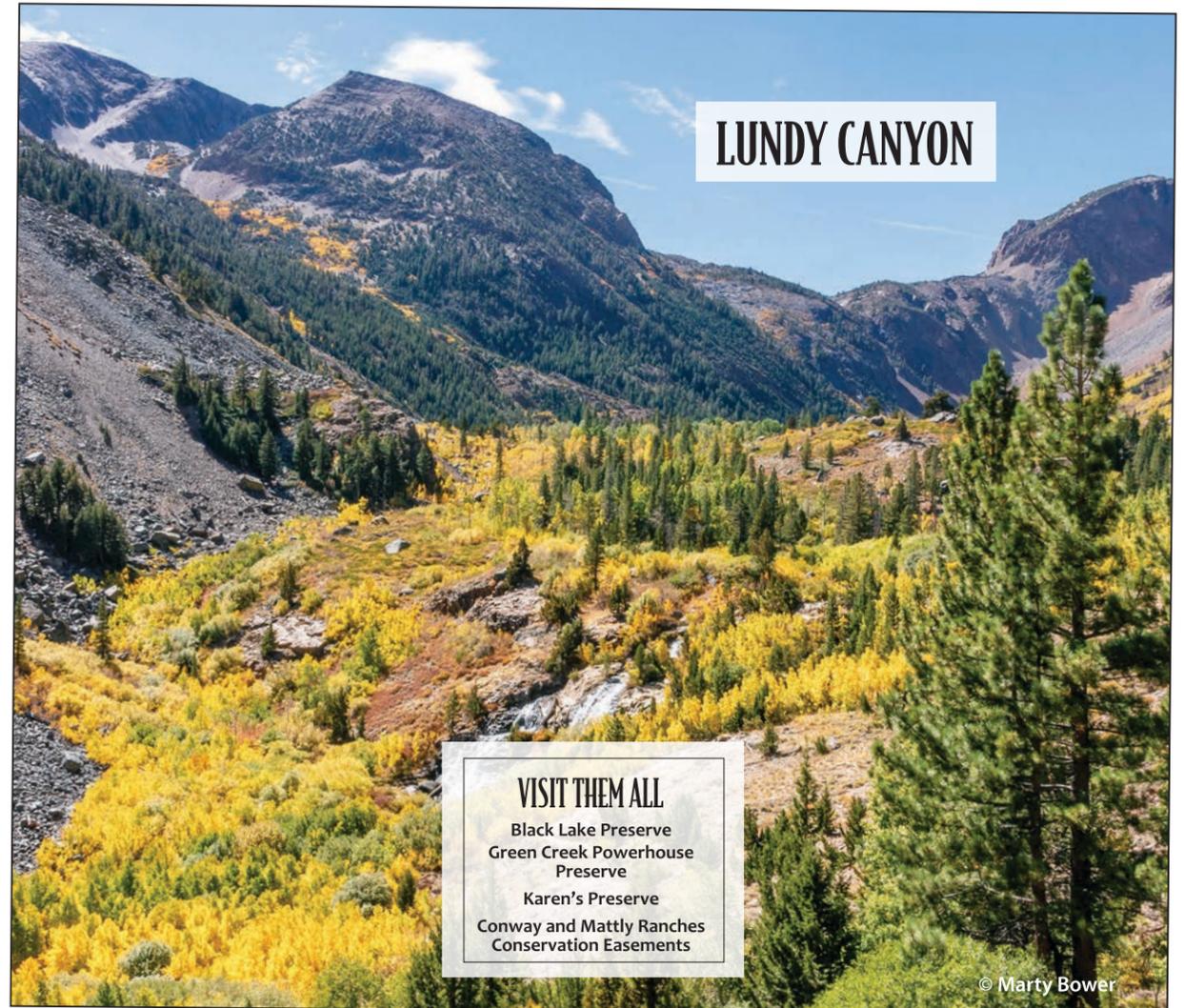
AN OPEN INVITATION to explore wild places

Increasing access to California's many spectacular landscapes is a key objective of the 30x30 Initiative. Together with our partners, we have not only donated land to public ownership, but also have opened up all of the preserves that we own and protect to public access.

When you visit these wild and wonderful places, you will see firsthand the positive impact that supporters of our conservation work are having. Rugged mountains, free-flowing

streams, lush wetlands, native plants and diverse wildlife are all there to experience as they have always been. Once you visit these natural treasures for yourself, you will understand why protecting them is so important.

To learn more about how you can visit and explore Lundy Canyon and the other permanently-protected ESLT properties in the list below, please check out our website at www.eslt.org/visit-our-protected-lands.



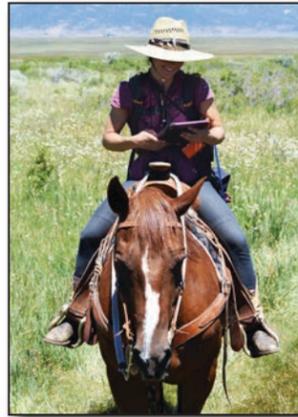
LUNDY CANYON

VISIT THEM ALL

- Black Lake Preserve
- Green Creek Powerhouse Preserve
- Karen's Preserve
- Conway and Mattly Ranches Conservation Easements

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FROM THE FIELD



Sara Kokkelenberg in the field monitoring a conservation easement.

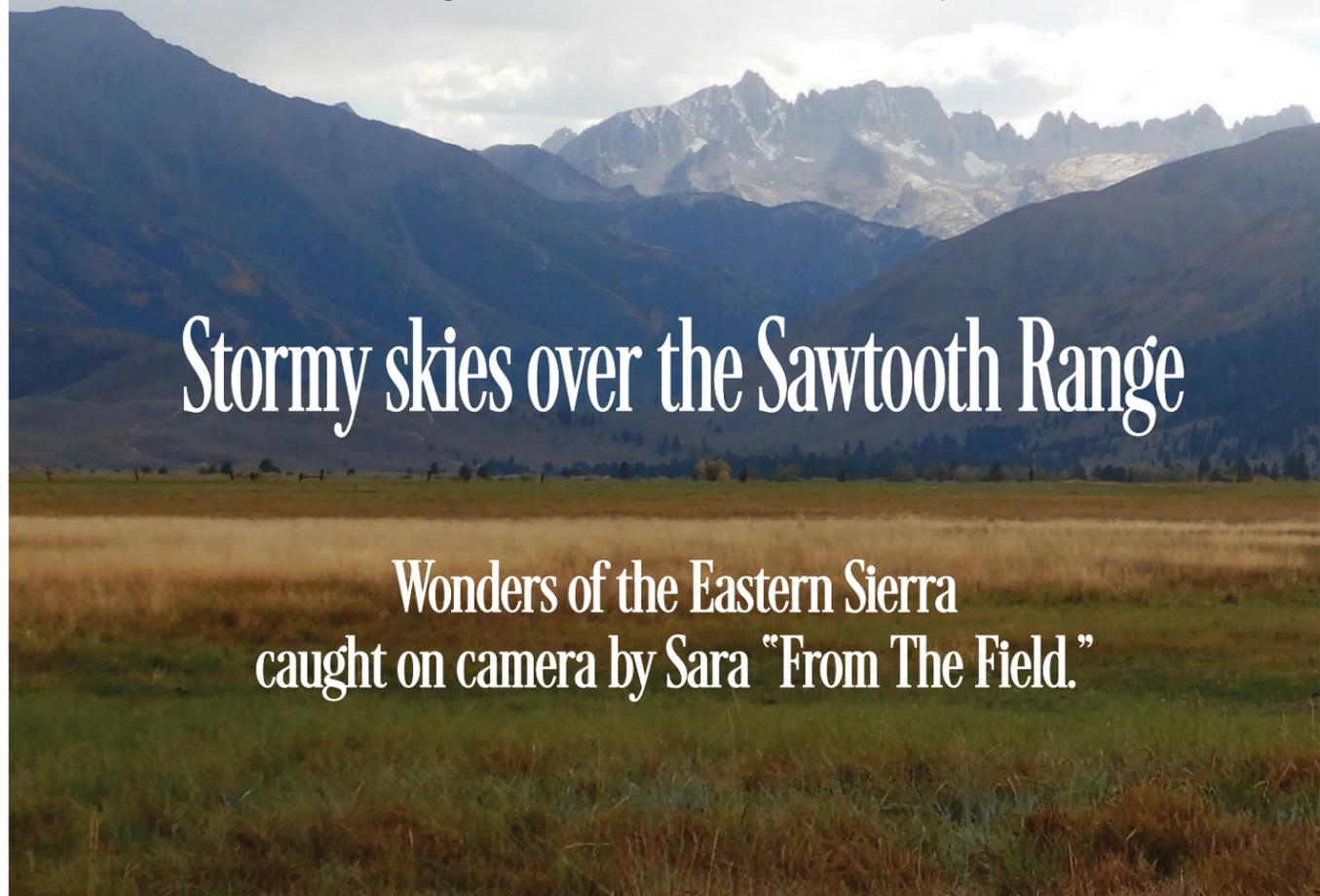
To ensure that conservation values are upheld on all the properties that ESLT either owns or holds conservation easements on, we monitor them annually. It is our legal obligation as a land trust; but it is much more. On-site monitoring allows us to connect with landowners and their lands on a personal basis and broaden our understanding of the history and uses of our wonderfully diverse region.

It is this connectivity that is so vital to the preservation of the Eastern Sierra. Just like the aspens that cover the landscape, we all share the same root system. If one of us thrives, we all thrive.

Whether it is rich agricultural land, healthy wetland ecosystems or windswept open spaces, our aim is to permanently protect the land. The pictures on these pages were taken "From The Field" by Sara Kokkelenberg, our previous Stewardship Manager, who helped monitor properties this fall. They show the wonderful vistas, snowcapped mountains, fascinating creatures, and unique plants that share the thousands of acres of Eastern Sierra land that ESLT and willing landowners have made a commitment to protect forever.

Stormy skies over the Sawtooth Range

Wonders of the Eastern Sierra caught on camera by Sara "From The Field."



Luminous aspens at Sinnamon Meadows Conservation Easement



A squirrel's winter jerky



Friendly goats at Hunewill Ranch Conservation Easement



A stand of aspens framed against a striking mountain landscape

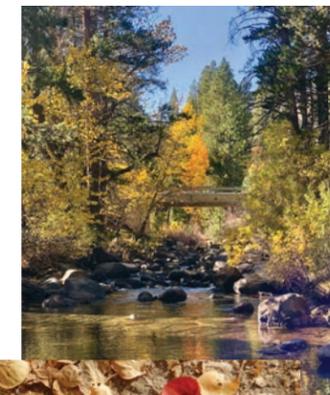


Colors of the fall season

The wonders of the Eastern Sierra come in many forms

The landscape provides peace—simple moments like standing silently in a grove of rustling aspen, or stepping from the forest and gazing out over a wide-open vista. Small treasures catch the eye, mushrooms hidden in trees by squirrels for winter food, shiny rocks made smooth by a bubbling mountain stream. Special moments, like those captured here, make monitoring an adventure and a joy.

This wide-open meadow landscape is home to bighorn sheep



A sparkling stream at Hunewill Ranch Conservation Easement



A mosaic of color beneath the aspens



Bear scratches and arborglyphs on an aspen

Claire Marvet A YEAR WELL DONE. A NEW ROLE.

Each year, the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) places AmeriCorps members with organizations throughout the Sierra, including ESLT. SNAP members commit to a year of service protecting Sierra natural resources and sustainable communities.

Claire Marvet just concluded her 11-month service term as our AmeriCorps Member/Education Coordinator, but the positive effects of the work she performed remain. She led the Community Connections, Sunflower Kids, and Eastside Pollinator Garden programs, organizing popular events and teaching outdoor education classes.

Of the Sunflower Kids program she said, “I loved working with ESLT’s native plant garden—the kids got a lot out of that . . . Since those visits are in the spring, lots of different plants are blooming, and the pollinators are out.” She also led a lesson on plants and pollinators at the Lone Pine Tribal Environmental Youth Camp, connecting with the Native American community and took part in the Taking Root and Branching Out programs which are a partnership between the Inyo County Office of Education and the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

“Coming into the program,” she explained, “I wasn’t sure that education was the thing that I wanted to do. Coming out of it, I know that outdoor education is very important and that teaching can really help you grow as a person in the environmental field.” She added, “I love the ‘aha’ moment when the kids are really interested in something.”

Claire worked closely with the local conservation community, taking part in volunteer events like the Great Sierra River Cleanup. “It’s a great community. There are so many people that want to steward the land . . . ESLT is very community driven.”

Claire has accepted a new role at ESLT as part-time Program Associate. She is helping orient and train Harrison Covert, the incoming AmeriCorps Member. She is also doing additional work in the conservation field with the California Council of Land Trusts.



AmeriCorps

Harrison Covert A YEAR OF SERVICE BEGINS

Harrison grew up in Denver, Colorado. He has a B.S. in Finance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and extensive experience in community organizing, volunteer recruitment and education.



He began his college studies focused on finance, but halfway through, he changed his mind. “At the end of college, I had a finance degree,” he explains, “but I had lost that passion. I was looking forward for what to do in my life. What was really important to me when I graduated college was to have purpose in the work that I did.”

For him it was, “meaningful work, work that was hands-on, working directly with people, to see the tangible impact of the work I was doing. It needed to be grassroots and outdoors.” Before coming to ESLT,

he led a 4,300-mile cross-country bicycle service trip supporting people with disabilities. He taught adaptive skiing to students with a range of disabilities, creating individual programs, and was a volunteer assistant coach for a youth baseball team.

This is the first strictly environmental conservation-based job he has had, but he feels his past work forms a solid foundation. He hopes to learn more about how to communicate with people of different backgrounds, to train, educate and inspire them.

He will be overseeing the same programs as Claire Marvet did, which all involve outdoor activities and education. “I look forward,” he said, “to learning about the biology, ecology and native wildlife of this area.”

At the end of his year of AmeriCorps service he hopes he will have, “pushed the needle a little bit for some people, giving them a connection to nature and to the land and wildlife that surrounds them.”



22ND ANNIVERSARY LANDS & LEGACY CELEBRATION

At last. For the first time in three years, this spring we will meet together in the daytime to celebrate our shared commitment to the preservation of the Eastern Sierra. And no better place to do it than in the scenic and historic Bridgeport Valley.

The celebrating will begin on May 20, 2023, at Bridgeport Barns & Terrace. This unique event venue offers outdoor meeting spaces with panoramic views of some of the 15,000 acres that ESLT and partner land trusts have protected in Bridgeport Valley. Framed against the majestic Sierra, they are a visible testament to the work we’ve accomplished together.

There will be food, festivities, special speakers and most importantly, time to share in person with friends from near and far. The highly-anticipated Paddle Raise will challenge everyone to raise their paddles in enthusiastic support of ESLT’s ongoing projects.

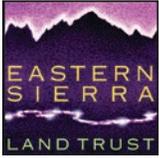
The event will also include special tours on private conservation easements in Bridgeport Valley. Participants can experience firsthand

the fresh air and wonders of the wide-open spectacular landscape of this special place.

Registration will open four to six weeks before the event. Be sure to mark your calendars.



We are so excited that we will all meet together in a place we’ve worked so hard to protect. We look forward to seeing you there!



P.O. Box 755
Bishop, California 93515

Return Service Requested

WWW.ESLT.ORG
(760) 873-4554



They are looking to us . . .

To permanently protect and connect the open lands
of the Eastern Sierra where they live and thrive.

We Can't Do This Alone

Your support ensures that the place we all love
remains wild and wonderful.