



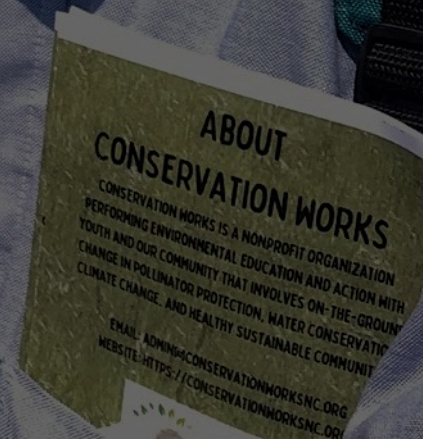
# 2021 Annual Report

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# Conservation Works

The environmental crisis is complex. But, the solution is simple: **Action**. When we all decide to do just a little bit more, those small collective actions add up to a world of difference. Conservation really works.

This annual report shows how we have been able to **amplify local actions in 2021** that provide positive neighborhood and global impacts for our environment and communities.

Our programs **are funded by donors and grants** and implemented by hundreds of community **volunteers**. This kind of support provides us with capacity to create targeted solutions to local problems in the **North Coast**. If this year has taught us anything, it's that we all can – and must – do more to think of the common good to be able to create a better future together.



Oona Heacock  
Executive Director

# What We Do

Conservation Works **amplifies local actions to** provide positive neighborhood and global impacts that improves our environment and communities in Sonoma, Marin, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

In 2021 our staff and board of directors continued to work with community partners, volunteers and funders to help create and implement environmental education and action programs that involve:

- Pollinator and salmonid habitat protection
- Water conservation and water quality protection
- Climate change action
- Fire resiliency projects
- Protecting biodiversity in redwood forests
- Supporting BIPOC farmers



Our college intern Warren Cardimona is a phenomenal mycologist with a great deal of experience identifying, foraging and even growing mushrooms. Warren is leading an innovative research project in Mendocino County to explore the use of native mushrooms as a way to reduce fuel loads in managed forests.

# Restoring Ecosystems

This year we adopted the Otis R. Johnson Wilderness Park in the city of Fort Bragg and began a new watershed community engagement program for watershed stewardship.

This park is threatened by dozens of exotic plants that have escaped from neighborhood gardens and established themselves in the park – threatening the native Coastal Redwood Forest Ecosystems in the area. Many of these plants are invasive species and need to be manually removed and replaced by native species. With funding from the George & Ruth Bradford Foundation, Waste Management, Inc., and several other community donors we have:

- Removed 10+ cubic yards of invasive acacia saplings and english ivy
- Planted 42 redwood trees, ferns and local forest seed and berry producing native plants
- Mobilized students enrolled in the Anchor Academy at Fort Bragg High School to become park stewards



## Thank You Anchor Academy

Conservation Works Empowering Youth to  
Protect our Redwood Forest Ecosystems

# Protecting Pollinators

Our pollinators are struggling as habitat loss and other stressors reduce their populations around the world, and Northern California is not immune to these declines. Our habitat planting projects in 2021 continued our work enhancing biodiversity and adaptability in working lands, schools and parks.

With funding from Thanksgiving Coffee Company's Bee Bold Alliance, Clif Bar Family foundation, Jackson Family Wines and the Strong Foundation for environmental values we have:

- Planted 1,000 + square feet of new pollinator habitat and provided 3 virtual environmental education workshops during Covid with 97 tribal members living on and around the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo California.
- Planted 2,000 + square feet of new native pollinator habitat with 54 youth and community volunteers at the Noyo Food Forest, Westport Headlands Park, Living Room, and S. Lincoln Street Community Garden



Youth watering the new native pollinator and culturally significant plants adjacent to the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo California's community garden.

# Enhancing Water Quality

Funding from the Rose Foundation For Communities and the Environment, the City of Santa Rosa & Sonoma Water Creek Stewardship Program, Exchange Bank Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Department of Fish and Wildlife supported our 2021 work to:

- Provide opportunities for local teens in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties to gain knowledge and skills to restore, advocate and protect Colgan, Roseland and Pudding Creeks
- Fiscally sponsor four of Gold Ridge RCD's large landscape level water conservation projects to save endangered salmonids in Green Valley, Dutch Bill and Salmon Creeks
- Collaborate as a partner and fiscal sponsor to the Russian River Confluence and help drive community action towards a healthy, resilient and regenerative Russian River watershed



Elsie Allen and Roseland University Prep high school students performing water quality tests on Roseland Creek.

# Caring for Farms and Farmers

Systemic disadvantages limit the ability of socially disadvantaged people and small farmer and ranchers to become agricultural producers and thrive sufficiently to help shape the local food system.

In 2021 we received funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's California's Underserved and Small Producers program and the National Association of RC&D Council to address this issue by providing direct technical assistance to individual small-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including urban farmers in our region.

We also provided Pro-Bono grant writing support to the Bay Area Ranchers Cooperative to help them access USDA funding to expand their business operations.



# Building Fire Resiliency

With the threat of wildfire looming over our north coast communities, we continue to increase outreach and implement fire resiliency actions that make a difference.

In 2021, with funding from the Goodman Family Foundation, CalFire, Sonoma County Vintners Foundation, Strong Foundation for Environmental Values and the James G. Cummings Foundation, we have:

- Fiscally sponsored Gold Ridge RCD's development of Camp Meeker's Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Planted over 10,000 square feet of carbon sequestering native grasses to keep fuel loads down in recently burned areas near the town of Willits
- Held three community workshops to provide education on fire dependent ecosystems and fire resiliency actions
- Experimented with brush removal using emerging technologies and alternative approaches to herbicide use in forestry practices



At left, Forester and Board Member Darcie Mahoney works with Intern Conservationist Warren Cardimona to demonstrate inoculating a freshly logged tan oak with native Turkey Tail mushroom plugs to slow resprouting.



# Slowing Climate Change

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. It is transforming our way of life, our food systems, our economy and our local communities along the north coast.

We invigorated our 2021 efforts with support from California Volunteers and the generosity of our community donors, to:

- Host three new California Climate Action Corps Summer Fellows to help advance climate actions and engage community members, cultivate change, and leave a lasting impact by restoring native grassland habitats to sequester carbon along the Willits Watershed.
- Collaborate with the Sonoma County Library and Enrichment to develop a Climate Circle Book Club that provides an opportunity for people to engage in deeper dialogue about the climate crisis and build community around real and tangible solutions.
- Collaborated with Mark West Elementary School to support an onsite school composting project that will help reduce and sequester climate warming gas



Climate Action Corp Summer Fellow, Katharine Gabor leads an ecosystem scavenger hunt for workshop participants at a Willits Watershed community workshop.

# Every Litter Bit Helps

Every piece of trash that is taken away to be recycled or deposited in a landfill protects wildlife habitat and removes one less dangerous item for birds, turtles or whales to swallow. We facilitate clean up events for businesses, schools and neighborhoods by providing tools and support to allow us all to come together and take collective action and contribute to the greater good.

With funding from Weeks Drilling and Pump company, Recology and Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery we have:

- Partnered with Coast Walk California to adopt Shell Beach in Sonoma County. Engaging 23 community volunteers and removing 4 bags of litter from this section of the coast
- Worked with the PEW Charitable trusts to sign letters of support for:
  - Kelp Protections
  - Eelgrass Conservation
  - Oppositions to Seabed Mining
  - Support for a Halibut Fishery Management Plan Prioritization
- Worked with 26 youth, teachers and families living along Colgan and Roseland Creeks to pick up 21 bags of litter during two creek clean up events



Two sisters working together to pick up litter and clean up Colgan Creek before the first rains of the year

# 2021 Highlights



## Increased Organizational Diversity

Increased BIPOC participation on our Board of Directors and staff.

We are continuing to develop new strategies to increase justice, equity, diversity and inclusion into our organizational culture and projects.

## Engaged Youth Interns and Climate Corp Fellows

We provided seven new college and high school internship and three Climate Action Corp Fellowship positions this year

## Adopted the Otis R Johnson Wilderness Park and Shell Beach

Adding these two beautiful locations will allow us to do more community stewardship projects in our service area.

## Increased Biodiversity and Fire Resiliency

Preserved ecosystem health, fire resiliency and biodiversity with new grasslands and pollinator habitat plantings and support for Gold Ridge RCD's salmonid habitat conservation and Fire Prevention Projects projects

## Formed New Tribal Partnerships

Started working with the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo of California to partner together on pollinator conservation and sustainable agriculture projects .

# Donors

Thank you for investing in local actions to make the world a better place for our environment and community.

Kasey Ashley  
Lynn Ashmore  
Steve & Kathleen Amend  
Manuel Baldenegro  
Kay Joy Barge  
George and Ruth Bradford Foundation  
Shari Lyons & Peter Braudrick  
Ann Cassidy  
CalFire  
Lavender Grace Cinnamon  
City of Santa Rosa & Sonoma Water  
Creek Stewardship Program  
CDFA  
CDFW  
Clif Bar Foundation  
Pam Collins  
Randy Sue Collins  
Wendy Cohen  
Christ Church United Methodists  
Community Foundation of Mendocino  
County  
Community Foundation of Sonoma County  
Dripworks  
John Dolinsek & Kathy Kent  
Tom Dunbar  
Fred Euphrat  
Charlete Epifanio  
Exchange Bank Foundation  
Harmony Farm Supply  
Sunny Galbraith  
Vicky Garcia  
Elaine Gasser  
Katherine Gabor  
Kandis Gilmore  
Jeffry Gould  
Goodman Family Foundation  
Gregory Hanson  
Ellen Harrington  
Karen Howard  
Judith Hutting

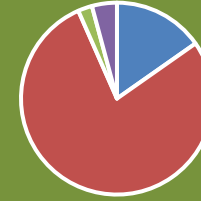
Innovative Wealth Solutions  
James G. Cummings Foundation  
Jackson Family Wines  
Theresa Jackson  
Brittany Jensen  
Allan Kaku  
Thomas Kisliuk  
Leadership institute for Ecology  
and the Economy  
Nancy Kaufman  
Jeanne Knapp  
Julia Lavrouchin  
Shin Roei Lee  
Marilyn Leroy  
Holly Lundborg  
Harry & Roberta Lyons  
Mooney Cycling  
David Miles  
Darcie Mahoney  
Charlene McAllister  
Mary Kate McKenna  
Charles McKimson  
Darlene & John McGinnis  
William Massey  
Gina Morrison  
Diane Namkung  
NARC&DC  
Elizabeth Owings  
Dan Nuebel & Karen Thompson  
Karry Padgett  
Jovita Pajarillo  
Paula Pearce  
Jessica Pollitz  
Sara Press  
Katy Pye  
Recology, Inc.  
Luis Rivera  
Nancy Robinson  
William Rogina  
Gail Rolf  
Marie and Ron Rolleri

Rose Foundation for Communities  
and the Environment  
Monique Rubin  
Hilary Sardinias  
Sheryl Schaffner  
Jean Schultz  
Gail Seymour  
Ute Scott-Smith  
Joseph Scriven  
John Short  
Savings Bank of Mendocino  
County  
Sonoma County Vintners  
Foundation  
Stanford Inn  
Strong Foundation for  
Environmental Values  
Sydney Stern Memorial Trust  
Thanksgiving Coffee Co,  
Bob and Cindy Tancretto  
Janet, Ron and Brian Tajii  
James Tischler  
Leah Thorsen  
Amy Valla  
Thea Vierling  
Elizabeth Warner  
Laura Warner  
Irving Warner  
Susan Warner  
Chris and Deidra Warner  
Weeks Drilling & Pump  
The Wonderful Company  
Whole Foods Market  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
Theresa Wistrom  
Bradford Wylie  
Franny Minervini-Zick

## Revenue

- 15% Grants
- 78% Fiscal Sponsorship pass thru
- 3% Corporate Contributions
- 4% Individual Contributions

**Total: \$379,982**



- Grants
- Fiscal Sponsorship
- Corporate Contributions
- Individual Contributions

## Expenditures

- 89% Programs
- 2% Fundraising
- 9% Administration

**Total: \$370,130**



- Programs
- Fundraising
- Administration

## Board

Peter Braudrick, President  
Darcie Mahoney, Vice President  
Kandis Gilmore, Secretary  
Susan Warner, Treasurer  
Ron Roller  
Ann Cassidy  
Rose Caltzontzi  
Luya Rivera

## Staff

Oona Heacock, Executive Director  
Brian Tajii, Conservationist  
Marianna Zavala, Farm Community Outreach Coordinator  
Katharine Gabor, Conservationist  
Alina Nuebel, Conservationist  
Stefan Stehling, Conservationist  
Makayla Freed, Conservationist  
Warren Cardimona, Intern Conservationist  
Nancy Robinson, Volunteer Administrative Assistant