



Sierra Cascade LAND TRUST COUNCIL

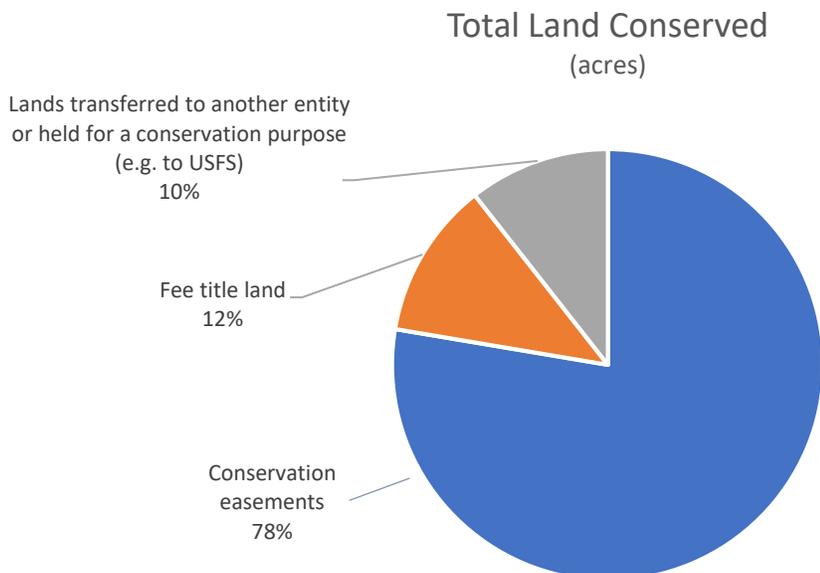
LAND CONSERVATION IMPACT REPORT

California’s Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade region span the forested Oregon border to the desert Tehachapis, and from the rugged eastern Sierra to the golden foothills of California’s Central Valley. Land trusts have been conserving land in this resource-rich region for more than 80 years. Fourteen local land trusts together with five state and national partners—comprising the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council, are protecting California’s most precious natural, historic, recreational and agricultural resources for generations to come.

1,037,799 acres of Land Conserved as of Dec. 31, 2018

Total land conserved includes 659,125 acres recorded and an additional 378,674 acres in the process of closing (landowner agreements are finalized), bringing the total to 1,037,799 acres. The total aggregated acreage surpasses the size of the Tahoe National Forest which is 850,000 acres.

Breaking this down by type of conservation instrument used, 78% of the land is protected with a conservation easement. This means the landowner and land trust work in partnership to ensure the land will be maintained as open space and that conservation values are protected in perpetuity.



2018 LAND CENSUS

Over 1 Million Acres Conserved



78% Are Private Land Conservation Easements



77% Are Working Landscapes: Primarily Cattle Ranches



Vegetation Type Is Evenly Split between Forest and Oak Woodland



Land Trusts Hold \$41 million in Stewardship and Defense Endowments



19 Land Trusts Have Operated in the Region, More than 80 Years

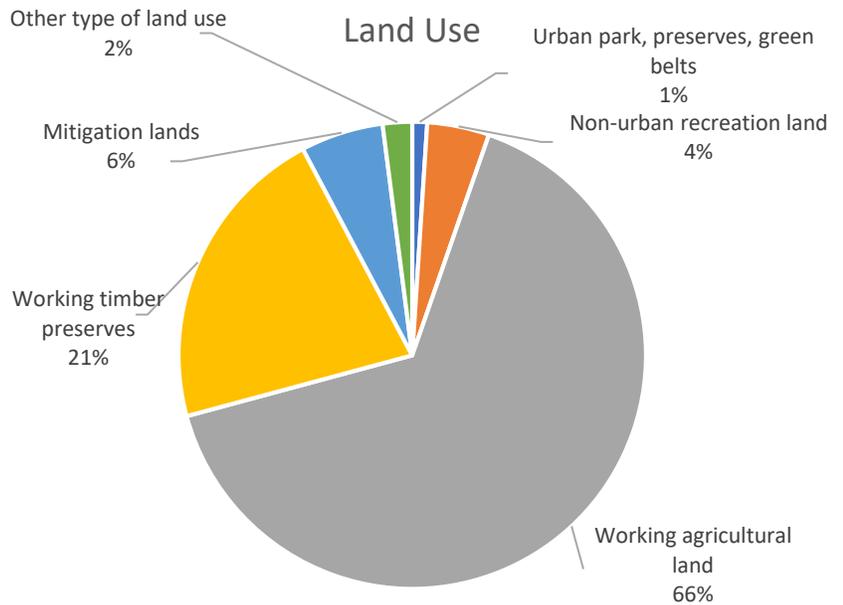
Land Use: Working Landscapes

Conservation land is protected for a variety of public benefits including:

- Agricultural production
- Timber production
- Public access and recreation
- Open space & natural habitat
- Historical & cultural

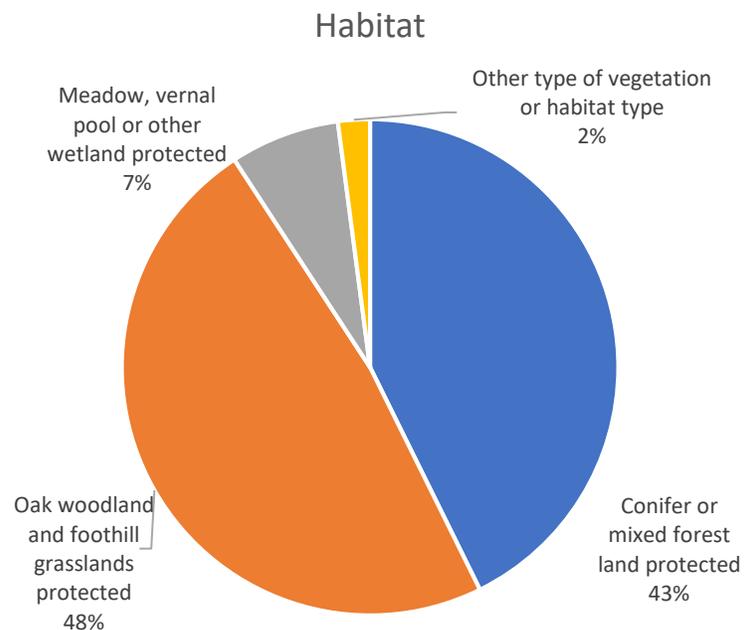
Land conservation does not mean land will be left untouched or unmanaged, nor is land of zero economic value. In the region, conservation land use is mainly in agricultural (cattle ranches) or timber production, providing important co-benefits. **Working landscapes are the actively managed by landowners who are vested in land health, and in adding to the economic vitality of the region through jobs and the production of agricultural commodities.** This land will remain in production forever supporting a cultural heritage for the region.

Because urban development is low, a small amount of land is dedicated to mitigate development impacts or as urban greenways and parks. Recreation tourism is a significant economic driver here and land trusts support this with **public access river parkways and other recreation lands, plus in dedicating 150 miles of public trails.**



Habitat: Mixed Forest and Oak Woodland

The primary habitats protected are split fairly evenly between conifer forests and oak woodlands (includes savanna grasslands.) More study is needed to better understand the range of ecosystem services that are protected. Meadows and wetlands make up a small percentage, which may be due to other restrictive regulations that curtail development in these sensitive habitats.



Growing Capacity for Vital Natural Resource Conservation: 19 Land Trusts

Local land trusts have operating budgets of more than \$12 million but are also supported by many local volunteers. Land trusts hold permanent endowments in excess of \$41 million restricted for land stewardship and defense. (Note: Regional and national land trusts financials are not included in these figures.)

Among the 19 member land trusts of Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council, 16 are nationally accredited and operate based on a set of standards and practices as defined by the Land Trusts Alliance designed to ensure permanence and a standard of excellence that supports ethical and sustainable operations for conservation.



Each year SCLTC conducts a census of all private land that has been permanently protected in this region either by a conservation easement held by a land trust, the fee title ownership of property by a land trust, the acquisition of a property and subsequent transfer to a public entity in a permanently protected status, or has been protected by another conservation instrument.