



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2010

Feather River Land Trust

The Feather River Land Trust's mission is to conserve land in the Feather River region and steward its ecological and cultural values for current and future generations. Virtually anywhere you look in the West, you'll find something from the Feather River region. Its many rivers and streams power hydroelectric plants and provide water to 60% of California's population. Its grasslands and ranches have fed generations of Westerners and its timber has been used to build the West's great cities.

Lands in the Feather River region are irreplaceable. Large, intermountain valleys dominate the headwaters of our region and the wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, water quality, and working family ranches found within these valleys are increasingly threatened. FRLT believes that economic growth should occur in ways that respect our land, our communities, and our way of life. Protecting and restoring peoples' intimate connection to this land and its wildlife, beauty, and history is what the Feather River Land Trust is all about.

Since 2000, FRLT has been actively working with willing landowners to protect the places that make the Feather River region special. In just ten years, together with their members and partners, FRLT has successfully protected over 30,000 acres of private lands that support outstanding biodiversity, waterways, fisheries, recreational and educational opportunities, Maidu cultural sites, and spectacular scenery.

FRLT has always believed that their work is never just about conserving land, but also about maintaining and restoring peoples' relationship to the land. They foster this relationship by supporting sustainable livelihoods, protecting public access to open, scenic spaces, and facilitating place-based learning and low-impact recreation opportunities. They have helped many ranching families to realize their dream to stay on their ranches, continue to work them, and preserve them for future generations, and have successfully protected Taylor Lake, a Native American sacred site.

FRLT's school-based outdoor education program, Learning Landscapes, is designed to greatly enhance local children's relationship with the natural world through place-based learning, and hands-on stewardship experiences. They accomplish these outcomes through outings on their properties, and by conserving natural "outdoor classrooms" within a ten minute walk of every public school in the Feather River Watershed. Another educational program, the annual Sustainable Ag Workshop, focuses on introducing ranchers and farmers to innovative ways to improve the management of their existing or future business.

"This is where our Community Connections Sponsorship has made an extremely positive impact. Community Connections Members have helped us efficiently facilitate every facet of this day-long workshop from set-up, to food service, to breaking down the event. We have a very small staff and without the Community Connections Members' assistance, things would not run so smoothly.

Community Connections Members also help us with our annual fundraising event at the Heart K Ranch. Thank you!

Like land conservation, we intend to support and work with Community Connections for the long term!"



HEART K RANCH IN GENESEE VALLEY