



california

Protecting exceptional grassland habitat, including California's Ramona Grasslands, is a focus of the Conservancy's protection efforts in California and around the world. © Richard Herrmann

California Innovation Drives Global Conservation



A lone Joshua tree and colorful poppies thrive in the fragile desert ecosystem of southern California.
© Lindsey P. Martin

California is justly world famous for its natural beauty. Traveling from north to south takes you from lush groves of towering redwoods to the stark beauty of the Joshua tree. With a breathtaking coastline, golden savannahs studded with green oaks, snow-capped mountains and otherworldly deserts, California is a wonderland of stunning landscapes.

Forests, rivers and lakes, deserts and aridlands, grasslands and oceans — these are the land- and seascapes in which we live, work and play. These five habitats underpin our lives. They sustain our livelihoods, provide for basic necessities such as clean water and nourish our spirit.

Yet these basic habitats so essential to our collective well-being are at risk.

“We have been so effective at reshaping our planet; our science tells us that we now risk damaging the nature that sustains us all. We face the prospect of a changed world — one devoid of thousands of species, lacking vibrant natural places that enrich our lives, depleted of fresh water and abundant oceans, missing even the natural systems that shape our climate,” said Mark Tercek, president and CEO of The Nature Conservancy.

In response to the unprecedented threat, the Conservancy has launched the most ambitious effort that any organization has undertaken to protect the natural world on which we all depend.

Inspiring Conservation



Executive Director of the California Program,
Mike Sweeney. © Ian Shive

Introduce yourself as a Californian to a room full of conservationists and you are likely to snag people’s attention. While part of that interest is due to California’s astounding geography and species, another reason for it is the state’s reputation as an environmental leader. Our cultural will, political environment and world-class innovative talent and perspectives make California an ideal place to accomplish cutting-edge conservation.

You’ve read in past issues about places like Santa Cruz Island and our extraordinary restoration results. The island is important for its own sake and is equally important as a prototype for global island restoration. In this issue you’ll read about other examples of local initiatives serving to inform and direct global conservation, from transforming the fishing industry to protecting mediterranean habitats around the globe. Creating innovative solutions here in California and sharing our experience with fellow conservationists is especially important as the Conservancy sets its most ambitious goal yet.

This summer we welcomed new CEO and President Mark Tercek to lead this effort. Mark joins us from Goldman Sachs, where he was managing director and head of their Center for Environmental Markets as well as the firm’s Environmental Strategy Group. Mark’s global business experience and recognized leadership on climate change and other environmental issues position him to lead the Campaign for a Sustainable Planet, the Conservancy’s push to dramatically accelerate conservation across every habitat on Earth.

In California, we have an opportunity not just to make our lives better. We have a chance to inspire conservation around the world. The opportunity is now. Let’s make it count.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| California Innovation Drives Global Conservation | 1 |
| Conservation Highlights | 4 |
| Beyond Our Borders | 5 |
| California Photo Essay | 6 |
| A California Field Guide | 8 |
| Shaping California: Places We’ve Protected | 9 |
| The Last Great Places Society | 10 |

Your Voice.

Thank you for participating in the Spring/Summer Reader Survey. Your words of encouragement propel us forward and inspire us in our mission. Your feedback helps us shape future communications.

In this issue you’ll see some new features, including more conservation highlights from around the world and a new series featuring surprising places we’ve protected.

Congratulations to the winners of *Native Grandeur*: Pat and Ted from Aptos, Anita from San Francisco and Elizabeth from Indio. We would also like to apologize to photographer Felix Rigau, whose photograph of the Dorrance family that appeared in our Spring/Summer issue was mistakenly credited. Our sincere apologies.

To learn more about what members had to say and to share your additional comments with us, check out: nature.org/california/survey

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The Nature Conservancy California Program

201 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: [415] 777.0487
fax: [415] 777.0244

nature.org/california
e-mail: calweb@tnc.org

continued from page 1

The Campaign for a Sustainable Planet calls for protecting at least 10 percent of each of the world's habitat types by 2015. That translates into protecting double the amount of lands and waters in less than 10 years than have been conserved around the globe during the last 70 years.

"Doubling the amount of conservation by 2015 is simultaneously an extremely audacious and an undoubtedly necessary goal," said Mike Sweeney, executive director of the Conservancy's California Program. "Clearly, California is a very important part of this global effort. We have more habitat types here than any other single state or country. But protecting our iconic land- and seascapes is just one way we contribute to worldwide conservation."

"People around the world look to California for new technology, new scientific breakthroughs, new policy ideas," added Sweeney. Experience has shown that the conservation solutions the Conservancy develops and implements in California can have a profound impact on conservation in other parts of the world.

The Garcia River Forest was one of the first working forests — and the largest — to be certified under California's stringent new carbon credits standards, which are the most rigorous in the world. In this project the Conservancy is demonstrating to the national and international policy community that forests provide real, scientifically credible benefits to the climate and that forest conservation is a necessary element in addressing global warming.

Another example of the influence of California conservation comes from our marine program. We are sharing our local efforts to develop an economically and environmentally sustainable fishing industry with our colleagues in Chile who are facing similar challenges.



Forest conservation prevents global warming emissions that come from cutting down trees. © John J. Bishop

"Since the Gold Rush there has been a connection between California and Chile," said Francisco Solis, country representative for the Conservancy in Chile. In a global economy our similar habitats and climates mean that the two regions are often home to the same industries. "California provides inspiration for Chilean business, policy makers and conservationists. While being economically successful and innovative, California serves as a role model — for Chile and South America — by taking tangible action and leadership for conservation," Solis added.

We are exporting the solutions we've tested in California, both on land and at sea, to other parts of the world. This is what makes the Conservancy's model so exciting — our global network enables us to leverage our innovative programs to trigger conservation successes both here and abroad.

"The Campaign for a Sustainable Planet challenges us to take conservation to the next level, to make that innovative leap that not only advances conservation at a specific place, as amazing as that place inevitably is in California, but also provides an example for the world," remarked Sweeney. "Our mission, our future, our children's future are too important to do anything less."

Conservation Highlights

Carving a Niche for Nature in California's Climate Change Crusade

California — Last summer, California's state government released the country's most ambitious plan to date to fight climate change. The plan, set to be finalized this fall, includes recommendations by The Nature Conservancy and partners that utilize the role of California's forests to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Conservancy is also advocating public funding to help wildlife survive the impacts of climate change. Stay tuned as this topic heats up (pun intended).

Wildlife Preserve Established in Ramona Grasslands

San Diego County — By acquiring an additional 480 acres, the Conservancy has accomplished its goal of protecting at least 4,000 acres of the Ramona Grasslands for the establishment of a viable wildlife preserve. The Conservancy's multi-year effort to protect this area, which is one of southern California's last remaining expansive grasslands, was achieved through long-standing partnerships with San Diego County and a number of local, state and federal agencies.

Preserving California's Fishing Heritage and Our Oceans

California's Central Coast — Building on the Conservancy's 2006 purchase of seven federal groundfish trawl permits, which protected 6,000 square miles of ocean habitat off California's coast, we've leased one permit to a Morro Bay fisherman to test innovative methods for making fishing more sustainable and economically viable. In addition, the Conservancy is partnering with fishing communities to evaluate the benefit of leasing its remaining permits to commercial fisherman using more selective gear — hook and line and traps — to reduce bycatch and conserve habitat. These experiments could have significant implications for stressed fish stocks and local commercial fishermen in other regions.

A Conservation Champion

Palau — When the President of Palau made a commitment in 2005 to protect an astounding 30 percent of marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources in the Northern Pacific, he inspired conservation momentum around the world. Just last month, to signal Palau's early successes, the Conservancy contributed \$1 million in seed money to support Palau's network of national parks, the first in Asia to be financially self-sustaining.



Rock Islands in the Republic of Palau, Asia Pacific. © Jez O'Hare

For more information about these projects and others, visit nature.org.



California poppies frame the foreground of a wildlife corridor made possible by a conservation easement on Parker Ranch. © Ian Shive

Connecting Nature's Highway

A stone's throw from where Interstate 5 climbs the Grapevine through the Tehachapi Mountains is nature's own highway. A mosaic of oak woodlands, desert grasslands, forests and mountain ranges forms one of North America's most vital wildlife corridors. By establishing a conservation easement preventing future development on the 10,000-acre Parker Ranch, the Conservancy has secured a key link in the corridor, which connects the southern Sierra to protected landscapes in nearly every direction.

Wildlife corridors are strips of land connecting natural areas and preserves that are often separated by cities, freeways and subdivisions. These corridors boost the survival rate of wildlife by providing greater ranges in which they can seek food, raise young, escape fire and adapt to climate change.

Rare species like the Bakersfield cactus and the Cooper's hawk all live in the Tehachapis. And animals that require large, intact landscapes to survive — like the San Joaquin kit fox — pass through this area.

"As development moves up from L.A., our plants and animals are under increasing pressure," said L.A.-Ventura Project Director E.J. Remson. "Corridors along the South Coast are becoming increasingly scarce." Protecting this continentally important corridor is part of the Conservancy's strategy to establish a network of landscapes linking some of the largest wildlife areas in the west: Sequoia National Forest, Los Padres National Forest and the newly protected Tejon Ranch.

Beyond Our Borders: Schwarzenegger Signs Conservancy-Influenced Accord

The Nature Conservancy played a vital role in drawing up the 2008 environmental protection and sustainable development accord signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and Chilean President Bachelet.

California and Chile have much in common. Along with southwest Africa, southwest Australia and the Mediterranean Basin, we share climates and habitats that classify much of our land as mediterranean. These shared climates have long influenced trade between Chile and California, with agricultural products being shipped between the two countries during opposing seasons in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Additionally, California-based companies are participants in the explosive growth of Chile's wine industry.

With its long history as a trusted partner in both regions, the Conservancy was invited to help the Californian and Chilean governments implement the vision laid out in the recent agreement. In response we are expanding our work with private landowners and industry in Chile to protect their most significant mediterranean habitat areas and to continue developing sustainable practices by key industries. We are also sharing lessons learned so that Chile and California can each benefit from the other's successes.

This agreement was the result of an initiative the California Program launched earlier this year. The goal



The Chilean coast can be mistaken for our own. So similar are California and Chile and the environmental threats they face that the California Program has launched an initiative to accelerate the pace and scale of mediterranean ecosystem conservation in California and around the world. © Mark Godfrey/TNC

of the Conservancy's Global Mediterranean Habitat Conservation Program is to accelerate the pace and scale of mediterranean ecosystem conservation around the world.

Mediterranean regions are extremely desirable places to live and are being developed at twice the rate of the global average. As a result, Earth's mediterranean habitats are among the most threatened on the planet, with less than 1 percent protected in Chile.

"The California-Chile agreement and our involvement in shaping it is a great example of how the Conservancy works as a global organization across multiple regions to produce results of enormous

significance for conservation," says Jeff Parrish, the Conservancy's director of global mediterranean conservation. "Combining and coordinating the talent of our Chilean and Californian teams means that we can make conservation happen faster and on a much more dramatic scale."

For Parrish, this is the first of many of these environmental protection agreements and cross-region collaborations to "save the med."

To learn more about the Conservancy's work to save the world's mediterranean ecosystems for people and the planet, visit: nature.org/california/med.

Mediterranean regions – in California, Chile, Africa, Australia and the Mediterranean Basin – are extremely desirable places to live and are being developed at twice the rate of the global average. The California Program has launched an effort to protect these highly threatened habitats, both here in California and around the world.

From a Small Seed to a Mighty Forest

Celebrating 20 years of restoration

The Conservancy's Sacramento River Project reached a major milestone this year in restoring a 100-mile stretch of riverside habitat. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of creating a 30,000-acre wildlife corridor and developing innovative tools to restore other watersheds. Even more extraordinary is that the footprint of our earliest restoration work has become invisible, as if we were never there.

To learn more, visit: [nature.org/sacriver](https://www.nature.org/sacriver)

Since 1988, the Conservancy has planted more than 1 million native seedlings, resulting in vibrant, healthy forests along the Sacramento.

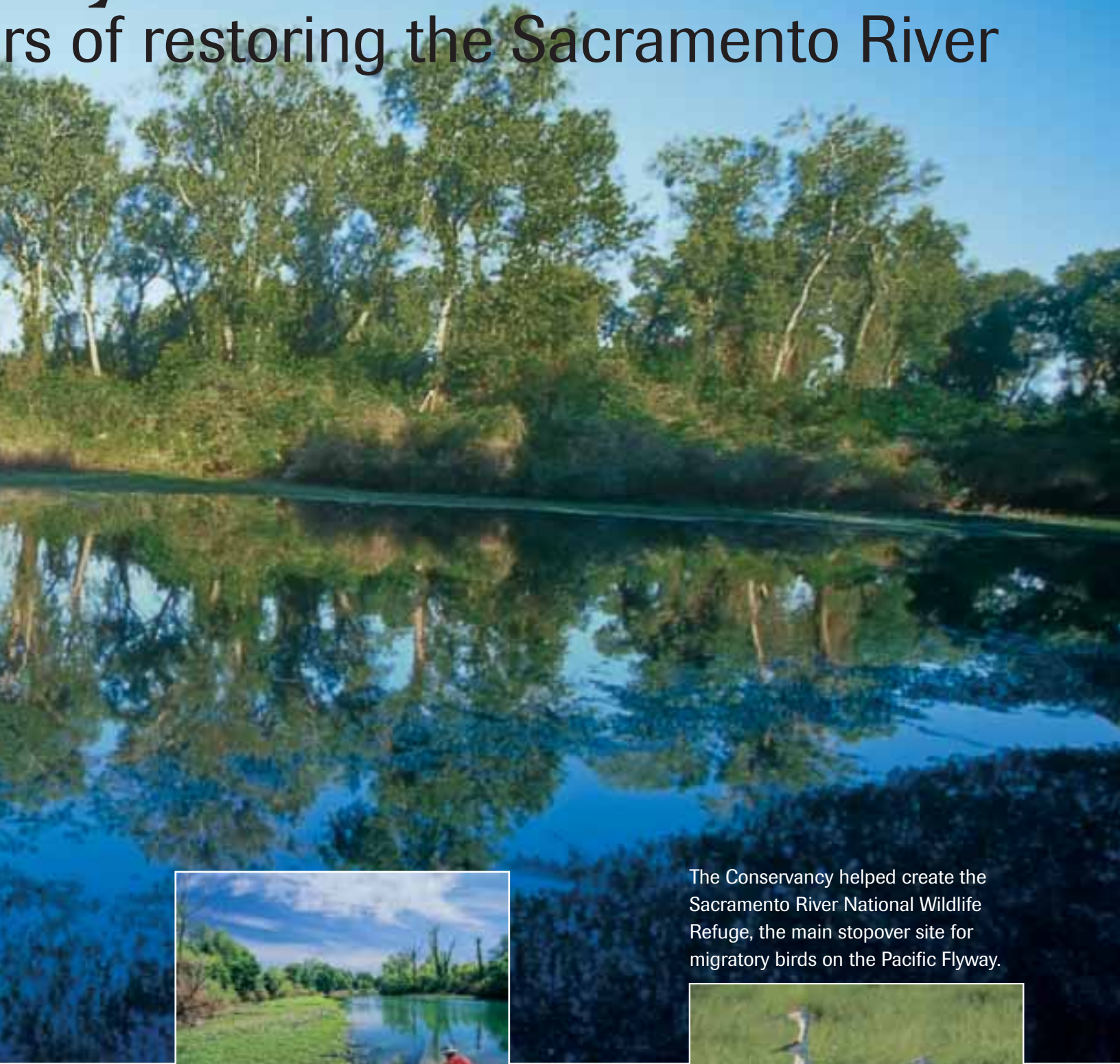
“It is virtually impossible for birds, insects and even the human eye to distinguish the original forests from those we have restored.”

— Ryan Luster, restoration ecologist



hty Forest

rs of restoring the Sacramento River



The Sacramento supplies Californians with 35 percent of our water, nourishes crops and provides a setting for peace and recreation.

The Conservancy helped create the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, the main stopover site for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway.



A California Field Guide



Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is a hidden desert oasis located between the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. Melting snow from the surrounding San Bernardino Mountains feeds a series of perennial springs throughout the preserve. Big Morongo supports a wide variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, lizards, tree frogs and more than 240 species of birds.

In 1968 The Nature Conservancy purchased the first 80 acres of the future wilderness preserve. Since then, the Conservancy and its partners have worked together to protect more than 31,000 acres. Currently managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the preserve is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to sunset, year-round.

For more information:
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
[760] 363.7190
nature.org/california/explore

Ring Mountain

Ring Mountain boasts a remarkable array of native plants and wildlife just 15 miles north of San Francisco. This special corner of Marin County features unusual serpentine soils and distinctive rocky outcrops that provide a haven for seven rare and endangered plants, including the Tiburon Mariposa lily. Ring Mountain's rolling ridgeline offers stunning 360-degree views of the Bay Area, making it a favorite among botanists, geologists and hikers alike.

The Nature Conservancy originally acquired 74 acres in 1982 to preserve this land from encroaching development and expanded the preserve to 377 acres in 1985. Now managed by the Marin County Open Space District, the preserve is open year-round during daylight hours.

For more information:
Marin County Open Space District
[415] 499.6387
nature.org/california/explore

Elkhorn Slough

Located at the center of the Monterey Bay coastline, Elkhorn Slough is the second-largest remaining salt marsh in California. A wellspring of life, the slough is home to more than 340 migratory and native bird species, 400 species of invertebrates and 80 species of fish. In 1971 The Nature Conservancy first purchased wetlands here to protect this threatened habitat from further development. Today, more than 5,000 acres of critical watershed habitat are protected by the Conservancy and its partners.

With five state beaches, several parks and preserves and two wildlife areas nearby, the slough area offers a wide range of outdoor activities such as kayaking, fishing, hiking and bird watching.

For more information:
Elkhorn Slough Reserve
[831] 728.2822
nature.org/california/explore

The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 1.2 million acres in California. Visit nature.org/california/explore for more information on exploring these and other beautiful places the Conservancy has helped save.

Shaping California: Places We've Protected

“My work instills in me a strong sense of responsibility to my family and to the land itself,” says Peter Steel, Heath Angelo’s grandson and the current resident manager of the Conservancy’s first California acquisition. “It’s important to me to carry on that commitment.”



California Update is introducing a new feature with this issue. From now on, in each issue we'll bring you to a place we have protected. Our name may not be on the front gate, and the property may be owned or managed by a partner or a public agency; in fact, there may be no indication that the Conservancy once played a part in ensuring that these places would remain part of our collective natural legacy. But these intact landscapes testify to our past successes.

A Legacy of Conservation at Angelo Coast Range Reserve

The story of saving 7,500 acres of virgin redwood and Douglas-fir forest in Mendocino County begins in 1931, when the proprietor of a box and basket company from San Francisco traveled north looking for a less expensive source of wood. Instead, he fell in love with the Mendocino woods and the rural life, bought 160 acres and moved his family north. In the next 20 years Heath and Marjorie Angelo bought as much land as they could to protect it from being logged and increased their holdings to 3,100 acres.

Then, in the 1950s, the Angelos were in danger of losing their land. The tax laws changed so that land owners with timber on their property were taxed for the value of their timber every year, whether it had been harvested or not.

The Angelos turned to The Nature Conservancy. Their negotiations led to a viable way for the family to sell their land and protect it from development, yet retain a right to live on it by creating a life estate for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.

In 1959 the Conservancy acquired the property, making it our first preserve in California and effectively launching what was to become the Conservancy's largest and most innovative state program.

Over the next 35 years, the Conservancy, in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, increased the size of the preserve. Today the 7,500 acres harbor the state's largest remaining old-growth Douglas-fir forest and provide habitat for an array of animals, including spotted owls, gray foxes and black bears. River otters play along the banks of the South Fork of the Eel River, which winds through the property and serves as a spawning stream for salmon and steelhead trout.

In 1994 the Conservancy transferred its lands to the University of California's Natural Reserve System.

Today, Heath Angelo's grandson Peter Steel manages the reserve, which serves as a test bed for the University's research and study programs on topics ranging from salmon to food webs to climate change.

“My grandfather's love for the north woods rubbed off on me,” Peter says. Peter became the only one of his generation to exercise his right to the life estate established by Heath Angelo for his children and grandchildren. Yet Peter didn't come just to live here; he came to further the preservation work his grandfather had begun.

At a Glance

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 | The Conservancy's first acquisition in California |
| \$100,000 | Price the Conservancy paid for the Angelos' land |
| 1959 | The Conservancy purchased the 3,100-acre homestead |
| 1994 | Reserve transferred to the University of California |
| 7,500 acres | Size of today's Angelo Coast Range Reserve |

In This Issue:



“Now more than ever, the world needs the Conservancy’s practical and effective solutions.”

— MARK TERCEK, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

*In an effort to be even more environmentally responsible, starting with this issue we are printing on a lighter weight paper. By printing **California Update** with vegetable-based ultra-low VOC inks on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, we saved:*

124 trees
5,812 lbs. of landfill
10,904 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions
45,260 gallons of water
86 million BTUs of energy



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**The Nature Conservancy
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San Francisco, CA 94105

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