

KFOI Radio - Shasta Environmental Alliance Program Nov. 2, 2018

David Ledger: This is David Ledger reporting today on KFOI Radio's Shasta Environmental Alliance Program. This is a weekly program that starts every Friday at 1:00 PM. Today we have with us Paul Vieno from the Shasta Land Trust who will be discussing how the Shasta Land Trust is preserving thousands of acres of land in Shasta County and saving it from development.

The Shasta Environmental Alliance is a nonprofit organization which has 14 supporting groups. You can see our website at ecoshasta.org and we have a Facebook page @ [facebook.com/shasta](https://www.facebook.com/shasta) Environmental Alliance.

Leave It As It Is

A recent article in the National Sierra Club magazine *Sierra* has an article about Bears Ears National Monument. The article is called *Land Grab* and it is about Ryan Zinke, head of the Department of Interior, and his push to vastly reduce the recently established Bears Ears National Monument. In the article, the author David Gessner discusses a speech President Teddy Roosevelt gave in 1903 at the edge of the Grand Canyon, an area that he was trying to preserve from development. Here is a section of Roosevelt's speech:

"Leave it as it is," Roosevelt told the crowd. "You can't improve upon it. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it. What you do is keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you as one of the great sites which every American, if he can travel at all, should see."

Roosevelt created the Grand Canyon as a National Monument when he met resistance in Congress to preserving it. Later, it became a National Park.

President Obama created Bears Ears as a National Monument in December 2016 due to the perseverance of five native tribes: the Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Zuni, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The monument is a place of beauty and it was 1.3 million acres, which would preserve many Native American archaeological sites as well as the beauty of the place.

Ryan Zinke is representing special interests, in this case uranium mining interests, reducing the size of the monument by 84%. There was no "America First" in this case; Zinke is working for a Canadian uranium mining company. Uranium mining can pollute the water and the air in the greater area and would destroy many archaeological sites. This case is currently being fought in the courts. For more information, contact the Bears Ears Coalition on bears earscoalition.org, or you can just Google Bears Ears National Monument. The U.S. Justice Department is currently investigating Ryan Zinke on a violation of ethics that was referred by the inspector general of the Department of the Interior.

Interview: Paul Vieno (Shasta Land Trust)

In the spirit of leaving it as it is, today we have with us Paul Vieno, Executive Director of the Shasta Land Trust. The mission of the Shasta Land Trust is to conserve the beauty, character, and diversity of significant lands in Northern California. Paul became executive director of the Land Trust in December 2015. He has a diverse background: he was born and raised in Shasta County, and then he went away to school. He has a law degree from La Verne College of Law, a master's degree in public administration, and in his master's program, he specialized in water conservation and water ownership rights. He worked and did research at the City of Upland. These same issues of water conservation, water ownership rights, and the technology involved with that, along with the knowledge of water issues, is a very valuable asset in our area with our vast complex of water districts, dams, and water projects. Welcome to KFOI Radio, Paul.

Paul Vieno: Thanks for having me, David. I appreciate it.

David Ledger: Let's talk about some of the basics of Land Trusts and conservation easements, and then we can discuss some of the exciting lands that you have preserved from development. First, can you explain to us, what is a Land Trust?

Paul Vieno: Sure. So a Land Trust is normally a private nonprofit organization with the mission of land conservation being its main goal, such as the Shasta Land Trust, which has been around for 20 years. This year, celebrating our 20th anniversary, we work with willing landowners to form conservation easements. This can also be done through governments as well, but typically across the United States, it is handled through private nonprofit organizations.

David Ledger: You work with private landowners in this area primarily, yes?

Paul Vieno: Yes. So historically for the last 20 years, we have worked with private landowners to put conservation easements on their properties. These are willing landowners who come to us with the interest of conserving their properties.

David Ledger: Why do we have a Land Trust in Shasta County, and why was it established? I mean, is there a need for one, or?

Paul Vieno: Yeah. So it was established by Kathleen Gilman about 20 years ago. There are land trusts across the United States, as well as other countries as well. The need is that across Shasta County and Northern California in general, there is a vast amount of open agricultural land. These properties are sometimes third or fourth-generation cattle ranches, or small farms up in Fall River Mills specializing in wild rice production, alfalfa production, as well as grazing up in Fall River. These are ranches that are under the threat of development by nearby cities and small townships. So we move in to go ahead and help the landowners preserve the agriculture that for them has been part of their family for so many years.

David Ledger: OK, so that means—let's say someone owns a ranch and he wants to preserve it, and he gets a conservation easement on it. What's a conservation easement? If you could explain that a bit as to what exactly is a conservation easement.

Paul Vieno: So a conservation easement is a legally binding contract between the Land Trust and the property owner. These conservation easements are public knowledge; you can pull them up when you do a title search on any property and you'll see there's a conservation easement on the property. A conservation easement is a contract that is in perpetuity, meaning it lasts forever. It can only be broken by the courts. And these conservation easements have the goal of preserving certain conservation values on the property. These can range from protecting the agriculture, protecting the open space, sometimes the recreation values, as well as vital habitat and watersheds.

David Ledger: Now, what if the owner wanted to, you know, say: "I think I'll sell just part of this land here, a couple of parcels, to a developer so he can build some houses on there." Is that allowed in the conservation easement?

Paul Vieno: No, no. So the majority of conservation easements, while they are there to protect conservation values—which I said could be agriculture, open space, and such—the vast majority of conservation easements do not allow for additional development. They allow for the landowners to do what they've been doing on their property. If they've been ranching, they can continue to ranch. If they've been doing wild rice production, they can continue to do that. But the selling of the property to a developer for a development would be a violation of the conservation easement.

David Ledger: Let's see now. How do you determine the price of a land conservation easement?

Paul Vieno: Yeah. So we work with local appraisers that are specialized in these types of appraisals. What the appraisal will do is provide the value of the property unencumbered, meaning without a conservation easement. And then they will demonstrate the value of what the property would be with a conservation easement, and then that's how we come up with the value of the conservation easement. Essentially, it is determining oftentimes what the development rights are worth on the property, and that's the value of the conservation easement.

David Ledger: So if a parcel had, let's say, 1,000 acres, and it could possibly be subdivided into 20 large ranches, they would have that estimated price that it might sell for, and then come up with a conservation easement that they couldn't get from that? I'm not quite sure.

Paul Vieno: Yeah, well, they can go ahead and they can subdivide. Subdivision is often allowed in conservation easements as long as the values are conserved on the property and maintained as one ownership. So let's say a property is 1,000 acres and let's say it's valued at \$1,000,000, OK? If that's the situation, the appraisal will come in and say the development rights, or the conservation easement value, is going to be valued at

let's say 30% of the value of the property. So \$300,000 would then be the value of the conservation easement.

David Ledger: Are most of yours written so that they cannot subdivide it or put any more houses on it?

Paul Vieno: It oftentimes depends on the landowner's wishes. Conservation easements are very specific as to what the landowner wants to do. We work with the landowner; it's a very beneficial arrangement for both the property as well as the landowner to allow the landowner's wishes to follow through. If they don't want to subdivide it, we can discuss that with the landowner.

David Ledger: Let's go to a specific property that's really valuable that the Land Trust has saved, and that's the ranch on the Sacramento River—Fenwood. Yes? Can you tell us what that ranch is and what the conservation easement has preserved there?

Paul Vieno: So Fenwood is a really special property. Fenwood is right off of Dersch Road. It is several miles of acreage along the Sacramento River. Within that property, there are some amazing vernal pools. It's primarily used for agriculture. That was one of our first conservation easements; it's an amazing success for both the Land Trust and the landowners. That property originally, many, many years ago, was slated to be a major development—consider a second Palo Cedro, if you may, out off of Dersch Road. And luckily, the landowners of that time decided that they would rather conserve the property. They contacted the Land Trust back then, which would be Kathleen Gilman at the time, and put a conservation easement on the property.

David Ledger: I read on your website that there's 2-1/2 miles of the Sacramento River, on one side of the river, that's preserved.

Paul Vieno: Yes, great. The view shed there is absolutely stunning. There's a large ridge you can walk along, and it's just amazing to see the cows and the river running right through.

David Ledger: Now, at one time I actually did walk on that property when you had a field trip there. And as I recall, it was primarily just land grazing of cattle and it was a blue oak woodland. There were a lot of open fields for, like you said, vernal pools. Did they have many crops, or was it mainly just the cattle there?

Paul Vieno: No crops, and it is not irrigated. So it's primarily open range grazing land, and the cattle will move from higher elevation to lower elevation depending on the time of the year.

David Ledger: And that was 5,000 acres if I recall, I believe approximately. That's a great land conservation. How about another one? Can you tell us a little bit about another conservation easement that you have, perhaps the Hathaway Ranch?

Paul Vieno: So Hathaway is actually one of our largest ranches. Hathaway comes in around 6,600 acres off Oak Run Road. It's on both sides of Oak Run Road. It is very similar to Fenwood in that it does have vernal pools, has some very large open meadows, and some amazing views of Mount Shasta. That as well is also used for open grazing, so the Hathaway family has been grazing that property for years. Along with Fenwood, it was one of our earlier easements.

David Ledger: And why did they want to have a conservation easement on that property there, that 6,000 acres?

Paul Vieno: The Hathaway family determined at that point that they would like to conserve the value of that property. That was long before I came along, but I would imagine they saw the threat of development coming within shaking distance from Palo Cedro and coming from the Redding area as well, and recognized the true value of that property. It's really one of our most stunning lands, and the property owners have been very excited to have a conservation easement on that property, have been great landowners, and we hope to have that continue on through the family.

David Ledger: Is that on Oak Run Road? I'm not sure where... can you explain where that is located?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, it's on Oak Run Road, I would say approximately 15 minutes outside of Palo Cedro on both sides of Oak Run Road. If you're traveling down Oak Run Road, you can actually see a large sign demonstrating the Shasta Land Trust conservation easement.

David Ledger: Let's see... the Richard Brothers Ranch. I think I've been on that parcel once when you had a big picnic there for the Land Trust. Can you tell us about that property?

Paul Vieno: So the Richard Brothers Ranch is irrigated, so it's also grazing as well, but it's irrigated farmland. They have alfalfa they grow out of that, and that's right outside of Bella Vista.

David Ledger: For those three that you just mentioned, that's about 15,000 acres, correct? I'm guessing. Can they subdivide any of that or can they put any houses on that, or maybe just like, what's the easement?

Paul Vieno: So those properties, all three of them have homes on the property—the owners' homes are on the property. As well as some outside buildings for the farming operations, they cannot place any additional homes. So they would have what's called a building envelope, and that would be mentioned in the conservation easement and shown on the document. We call it a baseline documentation report, or a baseline documentation. That would show where the home can be built, and those homes are already there. They can go ahead and rebuild the home in the same area, but they cannot go ahead and build outside of that zone.

David Ledger: That's great, yeah. Can you explain some of your easements up in the Fall River Mills area?

Paul Vieno: Sure. Fall River Mills is an incredibly special area. We have several conservation easements in Fall River Mills. Some of them have grazing, and they also have wild rice production, which is an amazing advantage for Fall River Mills. If you ever get a chance to go up there during the harvest season, it's amazing to watch the harvesting of the Fall River wild rice taking place. Fall River is a very, very special area. We have some easements actually on the Fall River. The majority of all our easements have some acreage along the Fall River; they range in size from less than 50 acres to a few thousand acres, and that's an area where we are continuing to push for conservation efforts.

David Ledger: And I forgot to mention before—maybe you did, but I didn't catch it—the Fenwood Ranch, as I recall, is on Dersch Road and Ash Creek Road. Is that the two roads that it's on? And then the Sacramento River is on the south?

Paul Vieno: Fenwood would be on Dersch and Parkville Road.

David Ledger: On Parkville, OK. Now let's talk... how about, you know, the PG&E land? Remember when PG&E went bankrupt and the state had to bail them out? They had a lot of lands that they had to give back to the state, I'm not quite sure of all the legalities of that. Were you able to acquire any of those, or did you help other groups get a conservation easement on that or acquire them?

Paul Vieno: Thanks, David, for mentioning that. That's one of our most exciting projects I would say we have right now. We've been working on it for the last three to five years, and we hope to have it wrapped up in the next three years. You're correct, the mid-2000s PG&E went through bankruptcy hearings where they had to go ahead and release several thousand acres of land. These areas of land were selected to be donated for conservation needs and purposes. So out of the over 100,000 acres that were slotted for donation or at least slotted for conservation efforts, the Shasta Land Trust was selected to receive 33,000 acres.

David Ledger: Wow, that's a lot.

Paul Vieno: Yeah, it's a lot of acreage out of the State of California we're receiving. We're in the top group of Land Trusts that received the largest amount of conservation easements through the PG&E projects. So when PG&E filed for bankruptcy and went through these hearings, they formed what's called the Stewardship Council. The Stewardship Council is a nonprofit that was slated to go ahead and handle these projects. We hope to have them wrapped up by 2021. There are over 10 conservation easements from the Cow Creek Basin all the way up into Burney, along the Pit River, along Hat Creek, and along the Fall River Mills area.

David Ledger: Is that like both grazing and forested land, or what's the type of land?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, these properties are wide-ranging, and we're really excited about it. Several of these properties are going to some landowners that are going to be using them as demonstration forests to go ahead and follow the effects of global warming. These are some large research organizations that are going to be tracking the effects of global warming over several years. That's the benefit of having a conservation easement in perpetuity. Several of these properties are also going to be open for grazing as well, and some of them will be open for just open space and view shed areas.

The most amazing benefit for these properties is that the majority of them are going to be opened up to public access. We shouldn't forget these properties, while being PG&E properties, have been widely used by the public and we don't want that to stop. These have been widely used areas for hiking and fishing and such, and now that will continue on with the new landowners. And then I should say some of these properties will be staying with PG&E due to their hydro facilities that they need to maintain, and all of them will have conservation easements. So we will hold all the conservation easements, and it just depends on who's going to be maintaining ownership of the property.

David Ledger: Now this might have been before you started in 2015, but as I recall the Pit River Tribe, the Land Trust was helping them out a bit or are they in the mix with this PG&E land?

Paul Vieno: Some of it, yes. The Pit River Tribe is expected to go ahead and be selected for—they've already been selected for several properties up in the Pit River area along Hat Creek.

David Ledger: That's great. Now on Cow Creek, whereabouts is the land?

Paul Vieno: Around the Cow Creek watershed, off of Old 44, there are some old powerhouse facilities off of a private road most people wouldn't really know about that have been widely used for hiking and fishing and hunting. So they'll be in those areas.

David Ledger: Do people ever just donate a conservation easement to the land? And if so, can you explain some of those?

Paul Vieno: Yeah. So one of our most exciting projects aside from PG&E that we're getting ready to close right now is a donated conservation easement along Bear Creek. So Bear Creek is right along the Fenwood Ranch as well as Parkville Ranch, which are two conservation easements we hold. The Bear Creek Nature Preserve is a donated easement that was donated from a couple in the Bay Area who fell in love with this property of about 150 acres. They're going to have virtually 100% open space that has a few miles of frontage along Bear Creek and some amazing vernal pools as well.

So yes, we do get donated easements. Those donated easements come in the form of a landowner willing to go ahead and donate the value of what a conservation easement would be on their property for tax-deductible donations as well. And also they'll provide

funding for the Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Fund is what we hold to go ahead and maintain the monitoring activities we have to do yearly as an accredited Land Trust, and to defend the easement in case of a violation.

David Ledger: Now by monitoring, you go out every year and make sure nobody's built a house there on the property or something like that?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, we always want to make sure it's not a 7-Eleven. So I would say we go out there and we walk with the landowner oftentimes and make sure that the landowner has not violated the easement. In addition to that, a third party has not violated the easement in the form of tearing down a fence, building a new barn, or doing any types of disturbance of the soil.

David Ledger: All right. And that property you were talking about next to the Fenwood Ranch—is that north of the cemetery there on Parkville Road, or is that?

Paul Vieno: Yes, I believe it would be.

David Ledger: OK, now and then in Redding, I know there was a 40-acre parcel someone donated on Boulder Creek, as I recall. Did they donate the property outright, or just the conservation easement?

Paul Vieno: No, so they normally donate the easement. We don't hold any properties in fee title, which means we don't hold title to any property; we're not owners. So that is, I believe you're speaking of the Lillian Nelson Preserve.

David Ledger: Yeah, and that was along—

Paul Vieno: Boulder Creek, I apologize. And that was donated to us as a formal conservation easement, and that is located between Churn Creek Road and then going north up towards I-5, that 40-acre parcel, correct?

David Ledger: OK, if I recall, there's city property on the downstream side of that, and north of that is Bethel Church, correct? And the other side you would have the new development.

The Ishi Wilderness Area—I looked over your website and I saw there was a parcel, I'm not sure quite how this happened, that you donated to the federal or the state as a part of the wilderness area. Can you explain about that one?

Paul Vieno: So this happened long before I came along, but from my understanding, it was a rezoning of the property and then turned around and donated it back, correct. And now it's held under the Ishi Wilderness Area, which is federally protected. So it followed by the mandates of basically leave what you have found, make it a very untouched area.

David Ledger: Leave it as it is.

Paul Vieno: "Leave it as it is," yes.

David Ledger: Now does that land have any roads on it, which is roadless too? It's wilderness, I assume it would be, but is that roadless too?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, it's very hard to access. There's actually very little even foot traffic on that property, but it is a very hard property to access.

David Ledger: How do you—where do you get the funds to buy these conservation easements? I assume some of them are \$300,000 or so, I don't know, but where does the money come from that you can purchase these easements?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, we get our funds from several different areas to get these properties purchased. So if it's a donated easement, oftentimes a landowner will go ahead and pay for the stewardship funds and sometimes pay for the operation dollars for us.

David Ledger: When you say stewardship funds, that means monitoring it over the next decades or so?

Paul Vieno: Correct. We take the funds and we put them into a non-wasting account. We currently have our funds invested in an organization that specializes in nonprofit management, and those funds are put away and we don't touch that principal. We utilize those funds on a yearly basis to go ahead and cover the monitoring expenses. Now, as far as paying for a large conservation easement, we usually tap into state funds—state funds through the State of California. We work with the Wildlife Conservation Board, we work with NRCS, and right now we have several grants through public conservation.

David Ledger: And just before I forget this because this is kind of exciting: you've already preserved about 25,000 acres with conservation easements, and coming up in 2021 you will have added 33,000 for the PG&E, so that'll be—can't do the math here—58,000 or so approximately.

Paul Vieno: Yeah, and we expect to get possibly a few more thousand acres out of the PG&E lands, putting us close to around 60,000 acres. And that doesn't include the projects we're working on right now with two easements up in Fall River Mills and one down in Redding that aren't quite closed yet, and we hope to announce those soon.

David Ledger: Can you tell us about how large the conservation easement is near Redding?

Paul Vieno: It'll be a little less than 1,000 acres. Still great.

David Ledger: Now do you run into resistance from, let's say, people who are opposed because basically you're tying up the land from development? So do you run into some flack from certain politicians or individuals in the greater area?

Paul Vieno: We've been lucky over the last 20 years; we have been very well received in the community. You know, we get a large level of support from the local ranching community, which plays a vital role in Shasta County, and they understand the value of what a conservation easement brings. Many of these landowners take the funds that go to them from the value of the conservation easement and they put them right back into the land, and it allows for them to go ahead and make the land more beneficial to both themselves and their future family. So we, in 20 years, have been very lucky not to receive any negative press or negative reviews. We have largely a good amount of support from local politicians and regional politicians as well.

David Ledger: That's great, that's great. Now your day-to-day funds—I know you have a lot of people that donate, supporters that donate, I don't know, \$50 or \$100 a year. Where do you get your like day-to-day, you know, running the office, paying the rent? Does that come from grants, or where do those funds come from?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, so we get our funds from a whole host of areas. We do fundraising through our Wild Ways program—about 20 events throughout the year put on by supporters and members of the Land Trust that donate their time and money to put these events on. We also get a significant portion of our funding through donations; donations make up about 25% of our overhead costs. We also work with other land organizations to do the monitoring for them, so we do contract work, and a large portion of our overhead right now is covered through fee-for-service work.

David Ledger: I see. I know you have these Wild Ways parties every year, and I went to a few of those. I guess they run about \$40 to \$50, and then you get a nice lunch and some sort of field trip, usually on one of your properties that you have an easement. Are those more just to—maybe they're both, but to show off your properties, just let the public see those? Is it to raise money? Is it just a combination of those?

Paul Vieno: I mean, it's a combination of that. I think that our biggest attempt with the Wild Ways program is to get the message out. I feel that in 20 years, we've always struggled with getting the message out of what we actually do, so people understand what a conservation easement is and understand what conservation work entails. So over 20 years, these events that we've titled as being Wild Ways provide both the overhead expenses for us to go ahead and continue our operations, as well as provide an amazing opportunity for us to get the message out at every event.

We attempt to go ahead and showcase something unique in the area—something that can't be done by the general public, either. Whether that's a horseback ride on a private property, one of our conservation easements, a bike ride, or a wildflower hike that you've led—several of those we appreciate that you've done. We've done events that will showcase certain facilities that do honeybee production, honey production, as well

as queen bee production. Last year we did an event showcasing the wild rice in Fall River Mills. So I think that we are trying to showcase what makes Shasta County amazing. We have so many amazing things going on all around us, we don't always recognize it, so it's our time to go ahead and both get our message out and also showcase some amazing work being done by other people in the area.

David Ledger: And I assume a lot of businesses support you, because I remember one field trip that you had—I was leading it, volunteering—and I felt I didn't really need a lunch, but I was told the lunches were all donated by Moonstone Bistro.

Paul Vieno: Yeah, Che and Tanya have been amazing at Moonstone Bistro. They've donated lunches for several events, both this year, a few weeks back at the event that you were at, and last year. And so they've been amazing at donating the food as well, and then businesses throughout Shasta County have been very generous in donating both the food and the water and the tables and everything we need for the events.

David Ledger: If you can talk about this: the place you're renting now, is someone giving you a discount on the rent, or do you own the building, or what?

Paul Vieno: So we work with our landowner, no, we pay rent. I think we're always looking for a future Land Trust home; it's always in the back of our minds. We'd like to go ahead and have a spot that is ours, and we're always working towards that goal, but the landowner we work with is great and we've been there for several years now.

David Ledger: You used to have these weekly—or maybe they're just kind of intermittent—sort of functions where people could just come during the lunch hour, bring a sack lunch, and you would have speakers. Are you still doing that?

Paul Vieno: We are, yes. That's called the Conservation Lunch Series. It's essentially a one-hour brown bag session, and we'll bring in leaders in the area that can showcase. Last year we had somebody who focused on archaeology and geology in the area and brought in some specimens to look at. We've had property visits to the Diestelhorst Bridge to showcase the ground clearance there to go ahead and allow for a greater view shed of the Sacramento River. And we have several coming up we're looking into. So yeah, we do those occasionally when we have the speakers able to go ahead and make the visit.

David Ledger: And how would someone find out about those events you have there, the intermittent speakers?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, so we send that out via our e-news. So I would say if anybody wants to get more information on what we do, go to our website, shastalandtrust.org, and go ahead and fill out your email to be part of our e-news. And that gets you information, conservation news in the area and also across the country, what we're working on specifically here, as well as future Wild Ways events and Conservation Lunch Series events as well. It's also on our website as well.

David Ledger: And so to contact you, they would go to shastalandtrust.org. I went on that before I came in to talk; I wanted to know a little more about the Land Trust, and it appears that every conservation easement that you own is on there and you can click on that and see photographs and a little description of it. Is that correct?

Paul Vieno: Yeah, so on the top menu of the website, you'll see "Properties Conserved," and you can then click on every property we've conserved to date, and you can get a little description of where it's at, when it was conserved, and sometimes a little history of the family and the values on that property.

David Ledger: If someone wanted to volunteer—do you have volunteers? You probably have to be kind of selective for volunteers, but do you have opportunities if someone wanted to volunteer and help out the Land Trust?

Paul Vieno: We do, yes. We have volunteer opportunities—opportunities to volunteer at our annual Wild Ways kickoff event. So we do a kickoff event, this year it's going to be in April, and we're planning that right now. We also have opportunities to go ahead and help out with monitoring. Some of the most exciting work I find for our volunteers to do is to go ahead and actually get on our properties, meet the landowners, walk around, and get to see the work firsthand. We'll start monitoring season up again in the spring, and then as these PG&E properties progress, we'll have many more properties to monitor. And we brought on a new staff member as well, Tessa Blevins, our new Conservation Project Manager, so she'll be working with volunteers to get a team out there to start in the spring.

David Ledger: Is there anything else you want to add and tell us about the Land Trust? We've covered a whole wide area, but I might be missing something. Is there something here—you talk quite a bit, but that you can think about?

Paul Vieno: We've covered a lot of good stuff. I think that the greatest message out to the community is that the Land Trust is here, you know, our community organization. We're the only Land Trust in Shasta County, but our involvement has been for 20 years pretty solidified in the conservation work we've been doing. And we have an amazing board of directors, we have an amazing staff, and our community support has been incredibly strong. And I believe that is a result of seeing the work we're doing—25,000 acres is no short feat. The work we're doing over the next three years is going to preserve, you know, more than double and sometimes actually possibly triple our land conservation values and our acreage.

So I would just say, you know, if you're interested in learning more about us, give me a call. I'll drive you out to a property, meet a landowner, come see what we do, come visit the office. We have some amazing photographs taken by ourselves as well as our members over the last 20 years of some phenomenal properties. And just get out there and recognize that there's conservation work being done all around Shasta County.

David Ledger: And what is the address of your office?

Paul Vieno: 1768 West Street.

David Ledger: And the phone number?

Paul Vieno: 530-241-7886, 241-7886.

David Ledger: Well, Paul, we really want to thank you for being on the Shasta Environmental Alliance program. I want to tell our listeners, remember that for more information, go to shastalandtrust.org, and their website has about everything you need to know about the Land Trust. So thank you for being here, Paul.

Paul Vieno: Thanks, David, really appreciate it.

David Ledger: This is David Ledger with KFOI Radio 90.9 FM on the Shasta Environmental Alliance program. Thank you for listening.