



Conserving the natural and agricultural legacy of the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley



SRT Director Jim Wells and his son, Tyndall, wander through expansive blue oak woodlands near the Kaweah River in Three Rivers, California. - Photo by Garry Crabbe/Enlightened Images ©

Highlights & Accomplishments

Growth in grant support, membership and partnerships with agencies and landowners facilitated exciting progress in conservation, community outreach and scientific research positioning Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) to better capture future opportunities:

- Provided permanent protection for the 445-acre Battle Mountain Ranch through a voluntary conservation agreement, conserving two miles of the North Fork of the Tule River, extensive blue oak woodland, rare wildflowers and remnants of local history
- Purchased a 951-acre property in the Tule River watershed, creating a nature preserve with rolling blue oak woodland, chaparral and portions of Sycamore Creek
- Added 550 acres to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, providing additional habitat for rare wildlife species, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project Conservation Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Preserving Wild California Program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- Afforded protection for 300 acres of alkali vernal pools, amid the convergence of several creeks, rivers and sloughs in the proximity of Tulare Lake's ancient shoreline in the southern San Joaquin Valley
- Continued restoration of native plant communities at the James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve by reintroducing 48 Valley oaks and 135 alkali sacaton, a perennial bunch grass; mapped and monitored all nesting bird species; and improved the quality of forage through prescribed fire and planned grazing, creating high-quality habitat for native plants, livestock and wildlife
- Recontoured spoils piles; removed artificial barriers that prevented natural stream flows; sowed 20 exposed acres with native grasses and forbs; and planted over 100 Valley and blue oaks at Dry Creek Preserve, a former gravel quarry currently under intensive restoration
- Presented curriculum-based education programs at Kaweah Oaks Preserve, fostering awareness of natural and agricultural systems to 1,103 Tulare County youth, doubling the number of students reached from last year
- Awarded the 2005 Lee Wilson Scholarship for Youth Service to our Environment to Nolan Jenkins, Tulare Union High School graduate, now studying environmental engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Purchased an historic building in Visalia to house our talented staff and volunteers and allow SRT to better accomplish its conservation goals



Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Conserving California's Heartland

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT)

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Conservation Leadership

Leaders from the agricultural, business, planning, education and scientific communities donate a bounty of time, talent, and financial and in-kind gifts to help SRT realize its conservation goals. Thank you!

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Mike White, *Seasonal Restoration Technician*

Hired after July 1, 2005

Chuck Ellis, *Director of Development*
Donnie Ludekens, *Operations Manager*

Photo by SRT, 2004 ©



Dear Members, Friends and Partners,

With your generous support during the past year, Sequoia Riverlands Trust permanently protected over 2,250 additional acres in our treasured foothills and valley floor environments. These beautiful lands—expansive oak woodlands, unique sycamore alluvial woodlands, grasslands and precious rivers and streams—represent some of the best places in Tulare County. Together, we can be proud to pass these special places on to your children and mine.

As one of the only land trusts in the nation focusing on education, Sequoia Riverlands Trust is uniquely positioned to bring high-quality, standards-based education programs to local youth, right on our own resource-rich preserves! With an established history of teaching thousands of youngsters about the value of science, nature, agriculture and the outdoors, Sequoia Riverlands Trust focuses now on helping educators and parents increase students' test scores and improve matriculation rates to colleges.

At the Dry Creek and James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserves, Sequoia Riverlands Trust showcases restoration efforts that remind us all that the land around us continually changes. By composing a natural landscape through earth moving, seeding native grasses and trees and removing weeds, we create additional habitat for wildlife, protect water quality and ensure adequate forage for livestock grazing.

As you can see, your partnership with Sequoia Riverlands Trust, through your financial donations, in-kind gifts, volunteer time and support, helps to do so much in addition to protecting the working farms and ranches and scenic beauty we all cherish. From the Board of Directors, Advisors and staff of Sequoia Riverlands Trust, thank you for your growing level of support and your assistance in bringing Sequoia Riverlands Trust to its current level of success.

Together, we achieve great strides in conserving California's heartland. Thank you.

With warm holiday wishes,

R. Scott Spear
President

“The fight to save family farms isn't just about farmers. It's about making sure that there is a safe and healthy food supply for all of us. It's about jobs, from Main Street to Wall Street. It's about a better America.” – Willie Nelson

Financial Statement for July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

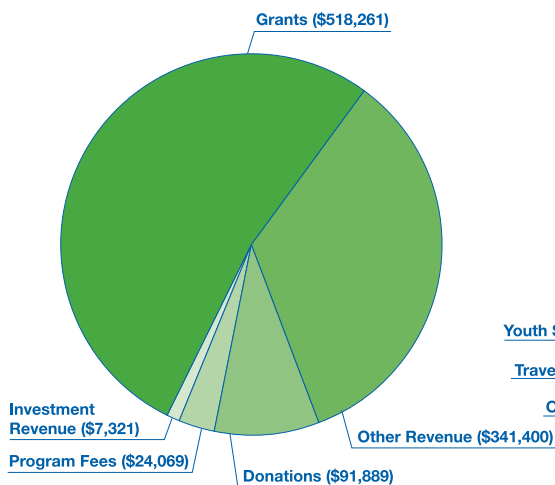
Assets

Cash & Operating Reserves	\$83,832
Accounts Receivable	\$60,603
Other Current Assets	\$7,263
Endowments	\$170,226
Note Receivable	\$238,850
Fixed Assets	\$9,652,025
Total Assets	\$10,212,799

Liabilities & Equity

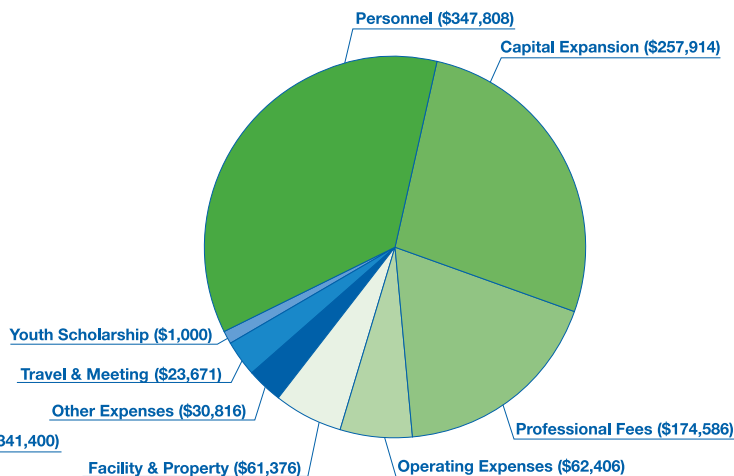
Current Liabilities	\$149,864
Note Payable	\$207,008
Equity	\$9,855,928
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$10,212,799

Support & Revenue



Total Revenue \$982,940

Expenses



Total Expenses \$959,577

Additional grant revenue for land acquisition totaled \$3,762,400 this fiscal year.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) is a local, community-based, 501 (c)(3) non-profit conserving the natural and agricultural legacy of the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. A copy of the latest financial statement and registration filed with the Registry of Charitable Trusts may be obtained by contacting the SRT office. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Grant Support

The following businesses, organizations, foundations and government agencies provided invaluable support and assistance for operations and conservation activities. Sequoia Riverlands Trust thanks you!

Bank of the Sierra, Sierra Grant Program
 California Department of Transportation
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, Preserving Wild
 California Program
 State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
 The Nature Conservancy

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation & U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 Service, Central Valley Project Conservation Program
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wildlife
 Habitat Incentives Program
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service,
 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

'Above & Beyond' Recognition

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) sincerely expresses appreciation and gratitude for the extraordinary assistance given to the organization by the following individuals, helping to bring us to our current levels of success:

- Docents Lee Akins, Carol Manning, Steven Peterson, Shirley Vierra and Dave Wachner for leading exceptional standards-based programs for youth at Kaweah Oaks Preserve
- Jim Allen, Athena Demetry, Travis Godeaux, Melanie Keeley and Elizabeth Palmer for their instrumental assistance guiding the Dry Creek restoration plan implementation; and Merrill Bates for his skill and conscientious approach to restoration earth work at Dry Creek Preserve
- Nancy and Wayne Badovinus and Jane and Ronald Olson for generously opening their lovely homes to host informative events exposing donors to SRT's successful conservation work
- Caroline Berry and Jody Graves for providing outstanding training opportunities and organizational development guidance to SRT's Board and staff
- Amanda Bohl, Ed Hastey, Jim Maddy, Michael Mantell, Kristen LaVine Merrill, Maureen Rose and Julie Turini of the Resources Law Group and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for their steadfast support and conservation vision for important natural areas in Tulare County
- Buckeye Flats, Mike Chrisman, John Dofflemyer, Doug Hansen, Rob Hansen, Supervisor Allen Ishida, Henry Little, David Mas Masumoto, Maya Ricci, Don Sharp, John Spivey, Patti Torrey and the students of Susan Silva-Treadwell for their invaluable assistance in delivering wonderful public events at Homer Ranch, the Fox Theatre, Kaweah Oaks Preserve or in southern California
- Grazing lessees, Ed Carroll and Ron Frazier for their good stewardship of grazing practices at the SRT preserves on which they graze cattle
- David Castellon, Bethany Clough, Shannon Darling, Claudia Elliot, John Elliot, Laura Florez, Ann Gerard, Lew Griswold, Chieko Hara, Mike Hazelwood, Sarah Jimenez, John Lindt, Terry Novak and Henry Winckel for their thoughtful coverage of SRT's conservation successes in their respective newspapers
- Carole Combs for her commitment, passion and careful work in grant management, preserve monitoring and stewardship at the James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve during her time as a dedicated member of the Board



John Dofflemyer shares cowboy poetry at the dedication of the 1,819-acre Homer Ranch. - Photo by SRT 2005 ©



Jane Olson delivers powerful testimony at her Pasadena home about Sequoia Riverlands Trust's great conservation work. - Photo by SRT ©



Rob Hansen, Doug Hansen and David Mas Masumoto (left to right) relax before sharing stories and art of the Central Valley at Visalia's Fox Theatre. - Photo by SRT ©

- Ted Estelle and Prevalent Design for the incredible skill and talent that puts the “face” on SRT's publications and outreach materials
- Jeanine Fontana for promoting SRT's high-quality youth internships throughout Tulare County's educational system
- Robert Forbes, Bill Hobbs and Susan Silva-Treadwell for their dedication to improving outdoor education facilities at Kaweah Oaks Preserve
- Vicki Hildreth for her countless hours dedicated to assisting with complex real estate transactions
- Nolan Jenkins, Tulare Union High School intern, for his passion and hard work promoting conservation through public outreach and event support
- Bobby Kamansky for enhancing SRT's capability to use prescribed fire as a restoration tool in land stewardship and for adding to our knowledge of the James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve's ecology through his masters research on the effects of fire and livestock grazing on wetland prairie plant and animal communities
- William Kaneversky, caretaker of Kaweah Oaks Preserve, for his conscientious tending of native plants in the picnic and caretaker areas, for weed management and trail maintenance efforts and for facilitating the work of preserve volunteers
- John Lockhart for single-handedly conducting bird monitoring at Dry Creek Preserve, documenting 40 species, including a wide variety of water birds and neo-tropical song birds
- Facilitator Wayne Miller and participants Lee Akins, Ed Carroll, Carole Combs, Robert Forbes, Alan George, Jody Graves, Bill Hobbs, Bobby Kamansky, William Kaneversky, Shirley Kirkpatrick, Bill Lovett, Mary Merriman, Elizabeth Palmer, Ashton Porter, Bryson Ribeiro, Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Robin Ryburn, David Shanhair and Scott Spear for their ideas, creativity and hard work on collaborative planning for the future of Kaweah Oaks Preserve
- Nathan Pollet, Ezra Williams, Kate Wiseman, Quyen Vo and the advising faculty of the Cal Poly Pomona 606 Studio, a masters-level landscape design class, for their Dry Creek watershed study and creative recommendations for design of visitor facilities and ongoing restoration strategies at Dry Creek Preserve and Homer Ranch
- Nicole Spear, former SRT administrative assistant, for her skills, talent, hard work and humor during her time with the organization
- The Nature Conservancy's talented staff, including Alex Mas, Fryar Calhoun, Graham Chisholm, Mark Eaton, Jennifer Graham, Christopher Hest, Mark Kramer, Sam Lawson, Glennis Lees, Henry Little, Greg McCollum, Mark Sanderson, Mike Sweeney, Genevieve Turcotte, Chris Unkel, Shari Weaver and Charmeen Wing for their dedication to the productive partnership between The Nature Conservancy and Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- Randy Wallace and Tulare County Office of Education for providing financial support for an SRT summer youth internship and for recognizing, through their *Partnerships for Education* program, the high-quality experience SRT's student internship program provides for Tulare County youth



Bobby Kamansky (right) and Mike White patrol revegetation plots during a prescribed burn at the James K. Wetland Prairie Preserve. - Photo by SRT ©



Ed Carroll keeps a watchful eye over his grazing livestock at Kaweah Oaks Preserve. - Photo by Garry Crabbe/Enlightened Images ©

Sequoia Riverlands Trust's Committees

Sequoia Riverlands Trust appreciates the support, guidance, talents and contributions from our committee members who selflessly give to furthering conservation efforts in the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley:

Community Outreach – Soapy Mulholland, Chair; Julie Allen, Alex Mas, Mike Olmos, Maya Ricci, consultant Terry Watt

Development – Johanna Lombard, Chair; Leslie Caviglia, Jill Cherneff, Dagny Grant, Jody Graves, Don Kaplan, Barbara Kidd, Donnie Ludekens, Soapy Mulholland, Nicole Spear, Scott Spear
Thank you to Carole Combs for your work on this committee.

Education – Nancy Bruce, Chair; Jane Caputo, Robert Forbes, Carol Manning, Elizabeth Palmer, Denise Robertson, Robin Ryburn
Thank you to Kirsten Came and Susan Silva-Treadwell for your work on this committee.

Finance – Barbara Kidd, Chair; James K. Herbert, Soapy Mulholland, Teri Van Huss, Jim Wells
Thank you to Carole Combs for your work on this committee.

Four Creeks – Brian Newton, Chair, Greg Collins, Robert Forbes, Bill Hobbs, Barbara Kidd, Robin Ryburn, Elizabeth Palmer, Susan Silva-Treadwell, Scott Spear

Land Protection – Bill Christian, Chair; John Grant, Rocky Laverty, Alex Mas, Soapy Mulholland

Stewardship – Hilary Dustin, Chair; Cathy Capone, Rob Hansen, Nathan Higgins, Terry Manning, Alex Mas, Soapy Mulholland, Susan Silva-Treadwell, Jim Wells
Thank you to Carole Combs for your work on this committee.

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 Members & Donors

The following members, donors and businesses provide Sequoia Riverlands Trust with a solid financial base from which to accomplish its conservation goals in education, restoration and land stewardship. Thank you!

Valley Oak Circle \$2,500+

Nancy & Wayne Badovinus
James K. & Carol Sellers Herbert
Dale Lincoln & Sandy Greenamyers
Morgan Stanley
Annette & Scott Spear

Blue Oak Circle \$1,000+

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Judy & Brian Newton
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Kathleen Tweed
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Dirk (left) and Dane Nelson, grandchildren of California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, play on old sycamores at SRT's Homer Ranch. - Photo by SRT 2005 ©



Gifts in Memory

- Leslie & Gary Caviglia and Holly & Ed Kuykendall in memory of Morris Russell
- Sopac McCarthy Mulholland in memory of Frank Bartlett

Gifts in Honor

- Dagny Grant in honor of Elli Norris
- Judy Lawsen, Judy & Brian Newton and Carolyn & Wilson Pendery in honor of Carole Frate & Larry Schwankl
- Thomas McHenry in honor of Bill Christian
- Idabelle & Philip Schmuck in honor of Nancy Bruce

In-Kind Donations

From the donation of a trailer to house the Dry Creek Preserve field office and a 4x4 truck to get around the preserve, to delightful silent auction prizes or equipment and supplies to help staff do their jobs, the following individuals and businesses help Sequoia Riverlands Trust immediately direct more funding to conservation projects. Thank you for your lasting gifts!

Julie Allen	Kathleen L. Landon	Art Shahzade
Megan Assaf	Eric Lima	Annette & Scott Spear
Jack Benigno, Benigno Tree Service	Gary Lindquist	John Spivey
John Colbert & Nan Mensinga	Scott McLellan	Hartley & Wally Spycher, Spycher Bros.
Greg Collins	Rhonda Michalk	Starbucks
Carole Combs	Soapy Mulholland	Tazzaria
Leo Costa, Optimum Training Techniques	Tom Mulholland	Trader Joe's
Dean Doerksen	Jeremy Munoz	Tulare Union High School
John Dofflemeyer	Brian Newton	Visalia Coffee Company
Beverly & Richard Garcia	Mike Olmos	Ramona Walker
Wilma Hobbs	Elizabeth Palmer	Whole Foods
Tony Kaneversky	Robin Ryburn	Virginia Wilson
Kent Kaulfuss, Wood Industries	Beau Searsey	
Barbara Kidd	Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	

“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.” - Frank Lloyd Wright

Special Thanks & Support

Many individuals and businesses in our community provide Sequoia Riverlands Trust with discounted services, assistance and products; jump in to lend a helping hand when needed; organize volunteers for special projects or deliver conservation news throughout the county, helping to increase public awareness. Thank you!

Gary Adest	Hanford Sentinel	Clayton Osborne
Atherton Properties	Heyday Books	Porterville Recorder
Avis	Hurley & Laird	Radisson Hotel
Bank of the Sierra	Idea Printing	Southern Sierra Messenger
Jana Botkin	The Kaweah Commonwealth	Springville Inn
Barbara Brydolf	Kinko's	Jeff Thompson, Golden West High School
Buckman-Mitchell Insurance	KMJ AM 580	United Signs
Centex Homes	KMPH News Radio 107.5 FM	Valley Voice Newspaper
Circle J-Norris Ranch	KTIP 1450 AM	Visalia Chamber of Commerce
Details Party Rentals	Law Office of J. William Yeates	Visalia Coffee Company
Dooley & Herr LLP	Law Offices of Zad Leavy & Robin Jepsen	Visalia Times-Delta
The Exeter Sun	LE Cooke Nursery	Anne M. Ward, Pine, Pedroncelli & Aguilar, Inc.
Fox Theatre	Garth Maze	Wildflower Cafe
The Fresno Bee	Doug McIntosh	Paul Willmore
Glick's Old Fashioned Meat Market	Mike's Quality Cameras	Will Wood



SRT Director Rob Hansen shows participants native plant communities during the Kaweah Oaks Preserve Banquet Under the Oaks. - Photo by SRT 2005 ©

Volunteers

Sequoia Riverlands Trust especially acknowledges individuals who gave of time and talent by maintaining trails, removing non-native plants or promoting native plant diversity through the use of prescribed fire at SRT's preserves; leading fantastic tours and making fun events for the public; working hard to move SRT into its new office; or by teaching youth about the value of nature, science and agriculture.

Jan Akins
Lee Akins
Alex Alvarado
Rick Arend
Jasimen Bailey
Paula Bayard
Lori Berger
Darren Blair
Lori Bono
Jack Borbolla
Nancy Bruce
Linda Caputo
Joseph Casillas
Anthony Chao
David Chatterton
Lewerence Cidro
Lucy Clark
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Agency, Community & Non-Profit Partners

Officials at the federal, state and local level help Sequoia Riverlands Trust achieve important conservation goals with their contributions of skills, expertise and time. Hats off to our talented partners:

Berghold Ag Services: Gordon Berghold

California Department of Fish & Game: Gail Hickman Davis, Steve Juarez, Eric Kleinfelter, Bill Loudermilk, Michelle Selmon, Jeff Single

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection: Dave Hillman, Robin Peretto, Rob Stone

California Resources Agency: Elaine Berghausen, Mike Chrisman, Cyndy Paulsen, Linda Smith

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Central Valley Joint Venture: Ruth Ostroff, Bob Shaffer

City of Visalia: Steve Salomon, Don Stone

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Great Valley Center: Theresa Kiehn, Holly King, Carol Whiteside

Imagine U Children's Museum: Angela Reyna

Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District: Bruce George, Larry Dotson

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The Sierra Fund: Shawn Garvey, Joey Jordan

Tulare County Board of Supervisors: Connie Conway, Phil Cox, Allen Ishida, Jim Maples

Tulare County Environmental Education Council

Tulare County Fire Safe Council

Tulare County Office of Education: Nancy Bruce, Jonathan Janzen, Faye Johnson (retired), Rick Mitchell, Jim Vidak, Randy Wallace

Tulare County Resource Conservation District: Tom Daly

Tulare County Resource Management Agency: Alison Anderson, Patrick Ford, George Finney, Deborah Kruse, Teresa Szymanis, Mike Whitlock

Tulare Union High School: Jeanine Fontana, Robin Ryburn, Susan Silva-Treadwell

University of California: Jorge Aguilar (Merced), Mathias Kondolf (Berkeley), Eric Larsen (Davis), Jeff Mount (Davis), Sam Traina (Merced)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Phil Deffenbaugh, Denise Robertson

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: Steve Larson, Steve Laymon

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: John Thomson

U.S. Congress: Devin Nunes, 21st Congressional District, Bob Jennings

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Kerry Arroues, Travis Godeaux, Larry Norris, Elizabeth Palmer, Joe Williams

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Tim Vendlinski

U.S. Forest Service: Robin Galloway

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Scott Frazer

If Sequoia Riverlands Trust overlooked any gifts of time, talent or treasure, please accept our apologies and be sure to let us know. We appreciate your support and dedication to conserving California's heartland.

About Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT), a community-based non-profit, is dedicated to conserving the natural and agricultural legacy of the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. This region is blessed with unique and diverse habitats and species owing to dramatic elevation changes, rivers cascading from high in the Sierra and the seasonal extremes of our Mediterranean climate. The San Joaquin Valley and adjoining foothills also rank among the most productive agricultural regions in the world. We seek to encourage vibrant relationships among community, economy and nature so all of these systems may flourish. *To this end we...*

- ...engage willing landowners in land protection, stewardship and conservation.*
- ...draw on the best available science to care for lands owned and managed by SRT.*
- ...foster awareness and understanding of our unique natural and agricultural heritage.*
- ...educate local youth and the community about the value of conservation.*
- ...showcase the results of effective conservation efforts.*

Horses graze near productive vineyards at Battle Mountain Ranch, North Fork Tule River, where SRT protected a classic working ranch in the Sierra foothills. - Photo by SRT ©



Conserved Lands

Sequoia Riverlands Trust owns and manages seven nature preserves, protecting 4,382 acres:

- **Dry Creek Preserve (152 acres)** - restoration of this former gravel mine will provide the first example of an ecologically-based aggregate mine reclamation in Tulare County
- **Homer Ranch (1,819 acres)** - features portions of Dry Creek, one of the largest remaining sycamore alluvial woodland communities in the world and expansive blue oak woodlands
- **James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve (725 acres)** - conserves the greatest density of northern claypan vernal pool habitat in the southern San Joaquin Valley
- **Kaweah Oaks Preserve (324 acres)** - displays the largest protected example of Valley oak riparian forest on the Kaweah River Delta
- **Lewis Hill Preserve (110 acres)** - safeguards the rare and beautiful striped adobe lily (*Fritillaria striata*) and San Joaquin adobe sunburst (*Pseudobahia peirsonii*)
- **"Springville's Splendor" (951 acres)** - features rolling blue oak woodland, chaparral and portions of Sycamore Creek, nestled among Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Park
- **Westside Preserve (300 acres)** - protects alkali vernal pools in the proximity of Tulare Lake's ancient shoreline, amid the convergence of several creeks, rivers and sloughs

Through partnerships with dedicated landowners, voluntary conservation agreements protect 2,211 acres on 10 properties:

- Battle Mountain, Circle J-Norris and River Ridge ranches in Springville protect 1,776 acres of rolling blue oak woodland and sensitive streamside habitat along the North Fork of the Tule River
- In partnership with the City of Porterville, a 7.3-acre property contains examples of the riparian forests and adjacent grasslands that were once typical of the Central Valley
- Five properties in Three Rivers protect 411 acres of Kaweah River streamside habitat, wildlife corridors or the rare Kaweah brodiaea (*Brodiaea insignis*)
- One property on Dry Creek safeguards 17 acres of unique sycamore alluvial woodlands

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Please consider a special, additional gift to
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