

# *The Pacific Forest Trust's McCloud Project*

## **FACT SHEET**

### ***The Property***

The *McCloud Project* working forest conservation easement is comprised of two tracts within Bascom Pacific's Ponderosa Tree Farm totaling approximately 9,200 acres. These undeveloped forest properties are located at the base of Mt. Shasta in Siskiyou and Shasta counties, along scenic state Highway 89, near the historic mill town of McCloud.

- The McCloud River tract encompasses 4,860 acres and drains into the McCloud River
- The Bear Creek tract is 4,342 acres and drains into the Fall River

### ***Terms of the Easement***

The *McCloud Project* working forest conservation easement will:

- Prevent any residential or other development on the property as well as prohibit any subdivision of the tracts into small parcels
- Enhance the natural diversity of the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forestlands through forest management goals, including limits on overall rates of harvest and restoration of both young and old forest conditions
- Protect water quality and preserve abundant flows from the McCloud and Bear Creek watersheds into the Sacramento system through large riparian buffers and dedication of in-stream flows for habitat
- Establish six Special Habitat Management Areas to protect and enhance rare and sensitive valley bottom and headwater meadows as well as aspen groves
- Conserve or restore critical habitat to more than 250 species, including nine listed species among them threatened bald eagles, spotted owls, willow flycatchers and northern goshawks, and native redband trout
- Secure spawning areas for the world-famous Fall River rainbow trout and protect critical migratory habitat for elk and deer herds
- Provide public access for recreation to the south side of the popular McCloud Falls area, contiguous with the National Forest trail and campgrounds, and from the Pacific Crest Trail
- Support the perpetual harvest of high quality timber products
- Sustain stewardship management practices at levels higher than legal minimums and in manner consistent with requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council

## ***The Partners***

- The Pacific Forest Trust (conservation organization and easement grantee)
- Bascom Pacific (landowner and easement grantor)
- Forest Systems (forest manager)
- California Wildlife Conservation Board (funder)
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and its *Acres for America* program sponsor Wal-Mart (funders)
- Richard and Rhonda Goldman Fund (funder)

## ***The Resources***

### **Forests**

Under commercial forest management for 100 years, the forests of *McCloud Project* are diverse and well-stocked, comprising mixed conifer and ponderosa pine stands, interspersed with stands of black oak, aspen, deciduous riparian species and other montane hardwoods.

### **Wildlife**

The varied elevations, diverse forests, scattered meadows and ample water provide habitat for a rich range of more than 250 species from black bear, elk, bobcat, mountain lion and rainbow trout to eleven special status species including northern spotted owl, bald eagle, northern goshawk, willow flycatcher, Pacific fisher, pine marten and the imperiled redband trout. Includes critical winter range for deer.

### **Water**

Both tracts are located in the headwaters of the Sacramento River, whose waters sustain more than 20 million Californians. The northern border of the McCloud tract runs along eight miles of that river and comprises the watersheds of nine streams that flow into the McCloud including key refugia for the imperiled red band trout. The Bear Creek tract includes 3.5 miles of Bear Creek and almost half of the upper Bear Creek watershed, including portions of the sole spawning grounds for the world-famous Fall River rainbow trout. The Fall River is impaired by sedimentation, and protecting the snow-fed flows of upper Bear Creek, as well as enhancing the sediment catching action of the main stem, are essential to restoring the Fall's water quality.

### **Landscape**

The tracts border the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and, as such, play a key role in providing connectivity for habitat across 2.1 million acres of protected land. Protection of the McCloud and Bear Creek tracts will help achieve the habitat goals of the Northwest Forest Plan and the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project.

### **Climate**

Preventing development and ensuring model forest management on the *McCloud Project* properties will enhance the forests' long-term carbon stores, which in turn helps combat global warming.