



PACIFIC
FOREST
TRUST

2024

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Conservation management on private forests is pivotal to addressing and adapting to climate change; PFT's partnerships are inspiring positive progress.

2024's storms, fires, and floods—intensified by climate change—brought widespread devastation. We continued the worst emissions trajectory projected by scientists, with global temperatures breaking records annually. Federal setbacks make action feel daunting—but there is significant progress at state and private levels to celebrate and expand.

PFT's work with private landowners in Oregon and California drove lasting conservation, demonstrating enormous opportunity. We advanced a major shift in fire management that prioritizes landscape resilience and community safety. Our landmark prescribed burn of 740 acres of private commercial forest near McCloud, CA was embraced by local landowners and communities. We led two major bills making prescribed fire easier to implement by landowners and agencies.

A groundbreaking new approach to managing and conserving working and natural lands for climate benefits was adopted by California based on a process PFT led. In Oregon, we began welcoming a new generation of forest stewards—high school juniors and seniors—to our Mount Ashland Demonstration Forest, engaging them to be the face and force for climate adaptive management. They are jazzed and ready for more; their future is at stake!

Ignoring climate change won't make it disappear. By partnering with landowners, managers, and communities, PFT is forging a resilient forest future—thanks to your support.

With gratitude,



Laurie A. Wayburn

ABOVE: Progress is underway—our work with landowners in California and Oregon drives lasting conservation and restoration.

RIGHT: Governor Newsom and PFT's Laurie Wayburn celebrate historic climate targets on Earth Day 2024.





FOREST

Forests sustain life—providing clean water, critical wildlife habitats, and a stable climate.

PFT's conservation of the Trinity Headwaters Forest protects 11,000 acres of vital watershed and wildlife habitat.

Pacific Forest Trust has conserved 360,000 acres, stewards 38 conservation easements, and manages 13,000 acres to ensure these lands thrive for generations.

In 2024, PFT reached a historic milestone conserving the Trinity Headwaters Forest. This 11,000-acre property safeguards nearly 10% of the Upper Trinity River watershed, a vital water source for California, while connecting large portions of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Located in one of the state's most biodiverse regions, it protects habitat for at least 250 species, including the Pacific fisher, Sierra Nevada red fox, and other threatened or endangered species, and strengthens climate resilience. We were delighted to transfer ownership to the Watershed Research and Training Center under a conservation easement that ensures its restoration and sustainable management.

Funded by a \$15.5 million collaboration of state and federal agencies—including an unprecedented Community Development grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—Trinity Headwaters exemplifies the power of partnerships in conserving ecosystems vital for biodiversity and climate adaptation.

With another 16,000 acres of conservation in progress across Oregon and California, PFT is working with dedicated landowners to conserve working forests, farms, and ranches, preserving their legacy.

Through strategic conservation, PFT ensures forests remain productive, support biodiversity, and sustain essential natural services, like watersheds, that benefit us all.

360,000+

PFT has conserved over 360,000 acres of private forestland in the western United States.

FIRE

PFT leads efforts in restoring forests, reducing wildfire risks, and shaping policies for safer, healthier landscapes.

Low to moderate fire intensities are essential for resilient forests, but decades of fire suppression and forest degradation have left forests vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires. PFT is reversing this by combining stewardship with innovative policies to make “good fire” a reality across the landscape.



Over 7,000 viewers watched CBS Evening News showcased PFT's transformative prescribed burns, complementing our *Giving Fire Back to the Forests* video series and educating millions nationwide on the power of proactive forest stewardship.

In 2024, PFT conducted the largest prescribed burn on commercial forestland in two decades at the McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest. This burn strengthened forest health, reduced wildfire risk, and restored natural fire regimes. We created an accompanying video series, *Giving Good Fire Back to the Forests*, which documented the process to educate forest landowners, managers, and communities. The burn also earned national attention, including a CBS Evening News feature, that illustrated PFT's work as a model for managing fire while sustaining working forests and safe communities.

In policy, PFT sponsored two landmark California bills—SB1101 and AB2276—that make it easier for both landowners and agencies to accelerate fuels and fire management. These laws remove barriers to proactive fire management and wildfire mitigation. PFT's work with “pro-fire” coalitions fosters healthier, more resilient landscapes.

By integrating on-the-ground action with policy innovation, PFT sets the standard for advancing good fire. Every burn, partnership, and policy victory supports fire-resilient landscapes and thriving communities.



CLIMATE

PFT harnesses the power of nature to combat climate change.

PFT advanced bold climate action, shaping historic policies and restoring working lands for resilience.



Even as 2024 was a year of climate crises, PFT drove groundbreaking climate action through policy and practice. In California, Governor Gavin Newsom adopted core recommendations from the state's AB 1757 Expert Advisory Committee, charged with developing land management targets to achieve climate goals, chaired by PFT President Laurie Wayburn. This is a pioneering achievement. California is the first state or nation to adopt comprehensive climate actions for natural and working lands. These targets, covering all land types and uses, will vastly increase forest conservation management to restore safer fire regimes, enhance sequestration, conserve biodiversity, improve water security, and support rural jobs.

We also played an instrumental role in passing Proposition 4, the \$10 billion California Climate Bond. Shaped with PFT's expertise, this investment directs funds to restoring safer landscapes, conserving biodiversity, and ramping up conservation for climate action. PFT also worked with partners nationwide championing the Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act (H.R.9602, Garamendi), improving public-private conservation partnerships.

In forest management, we "walked the talk," putting prescribed fire on the ground. Our annual harvests restored more fire-adapted stand spacing, structure, and species diversity. Spanning work in Douglas fir plantations to mixed conifer, Ponderosa Pine, and Redwood forests, our management strengthened resilience to pests, disease, and extreme weather.

595,000

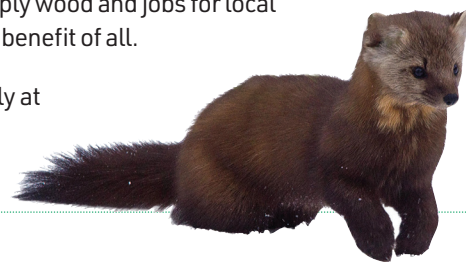
California's new climate targets include **595,000 acres** of working forest conservation and restoration a year.



DONOR REPORT

We rely on the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations to safeguard healthy water supplies, provide safe habitat for wildlife, supply wood and jobs for local communities, and remove CO2 from the atmosphere for the benefit of all.

To learn more and support our work, contact Kevin Connelly at kconnelly@pacificforest.org or call 415.561.0700 x32.



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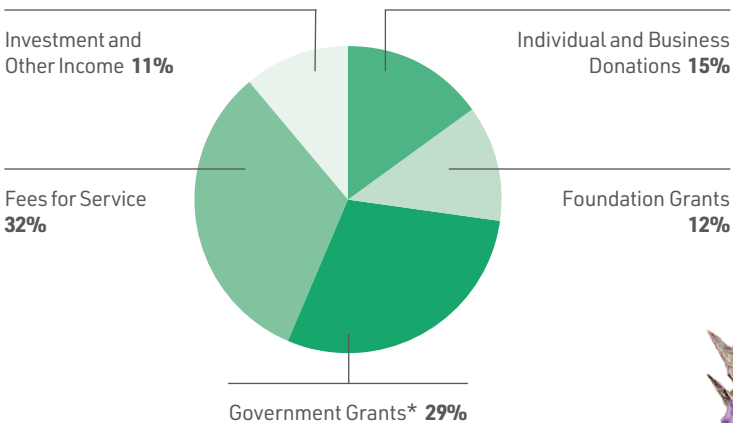
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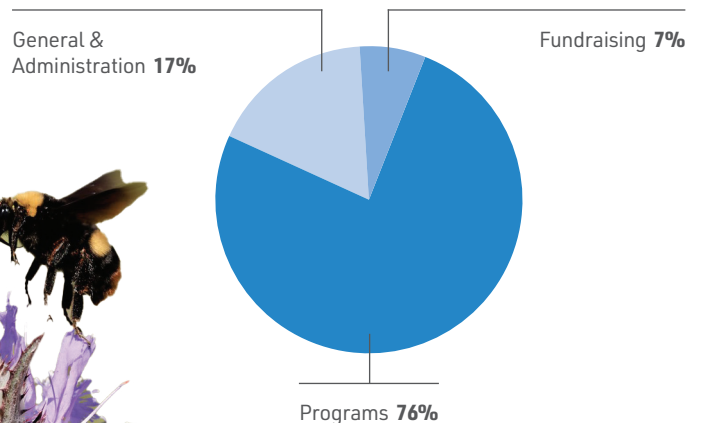
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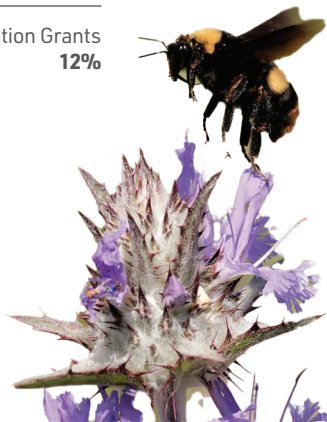
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* Exclusive of \$15,514,454 for conservation acquisitions





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Pacific Forest Trust's mission is to sustain America's forests for all their public benefits of wood, water, wildlife, and people's well being, in cooperation with private landowners and communities.

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Empowering youth through hands-on learning at PFT's Mount Ashland Demonstration Forest.

Sustaining communities, bridging across silos to build communities of interest, and supporting the future of well managed forest communities is at the heart of PFT's work.

We need a powerful new generation of stewards to restore and sustain vibrant forests and forest communities. PFT's Mount Ashland Demonstration Forest is a dynamic outdoor classroom where we engage these future stewards. 2024 marked a burgeoning collaboration with local schools, welcoming students to take part in hands-on learning about forest restoration management. Complementing classroom studies, our foci include wildlife studies, tree identification and aging, and forest health. A key focus is the importance of restoring beneficial fire regimes to improve forest resilience. With 2021's Alameda Fire, most of these students have experienced catastrophic fire first-hand. So, learning how to manage fire for beneficial outcomes is key. As one student shared, "This was such a great experience; I learned that fire can be a good thing."

Nationally, PFT solidified its position as a leader in forest conservation and climate solutions. Our president, Laurie Wayburn, presented PFT's innovative work at TEDxBoston, Yale's Forest Forum, and the Techonomy Climate conference in NYC, among other events. PFT's expertise was also featured on major podcasts, including *Path to Zero* and *Forces for Nature*, further broadening our reach.