

Feather River Land Trust

LEARNING LANDSCAPES



Nurturing a child's relationship to land and learning

LEARNING LANDSCAPES

A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP

Nurturing a Child's Relationship to Land and Learning

Learning Landscapes is the Feather River Land Trust's conservation and education program designed to greatly enhance children's contact with the natural world, place-based learning, and hands-on stewardship experiences. We partner with public schools and visionary landowners to conserve and enhance natural areas as "outdoor classrooms" within a 10-minute walk of every public school in the Feather River Watershed and support teachers to "teach from the land."

A land conservation and stewardship ethic is grown by minutes, hours, days, and years. By conserving lands near public schools where rich, daily outdoor education experiences can occur, we create the opportunity for every schoolchild in the region to forge their own lasting relationship with the ground at their feet. No matter where they eventually settle, children from the Feather River Country will have learned how to get to know a place, to love a place, and to take care of a place.

AT A GLANCE

- 6 communities
- 13 schools
- 3 school districts
- 14 landowners
- 16 properties
- 2,900 schoolchildren annually

Photo by Adrienne Stenson

LEARNING LANDSCAPES' MISSION To conserve riparian, meadow, and forest lands adjacent to every school in the Upper Feather River, while supporting teachers to independently use these "Learning Landscapes" effectively and sustainably.

LEARNING LANDSCAPES' VISION All students in all schools in the Upper Feather River are engaged in quality outdoor education and the stewardship of their local environment. www.frllt.org

CONSERVATION

ALWAYS & FOREVER

Landowners Help Conserve Nature's "Classrooms"

"I want kids to learn that we can have economically viable agricultural production *and* preserve our natural resources. We need to teach our kids how," says local rancher Rick Leonhardt. In 2012, Rick and his wife Tiffany partnered with FRLT to conserve the Leonhardt Ranch Learning Landscape for Quincy's schoolchildren—forever. The 46-acre ranch provides a unique, living classroom for students to explore, learn, conduct research, and become land stewards. With a visionary gift from local donors, FRLT is building an educational barn on the ranch as a home base for student learning, agriculture, and restoration projects.

With fourteen landowners like Rick and Tiffany, Learning Landscapes is conserving riparian, meadow, forest, and agricultural lands as outdoor classrooms for children throughout the Feather River Country. By creating opportunities for students to steward the same landscapes year after year, we hope to create a culture of care that students will carry with them for their lifetimes.

FRLT's Learning Landscapes program partners with local landowners and schools to conserve natural "outdoor classrooms" within a 10-minute walk of every public school in the Feather River Watershed. www.frlt.org

Photo Shannon Morrow

PARTNERSHIP MAKES CONSERVING OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS POSSIBLE Visionary landowners like the Leonhardt Family, local schools, CalTrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mellam Family Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, Grant and Cindy Edwards, Frank and Helen Davis, and generous supporters like you.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

PATHWAY TO WONDER

Learning Landscapes Takes Class Outside

Wonder. Curiosity. Play. Hands-on learning. Vitamin D. Love of place. Local food. A land stewardship ethic. These are all part of the mix for supporting healthy kids and healthy land. That's why we believe in making it easy for teachers to take students outside to learn, play, and steward this very special place.

By 2013, Learning Landscapes had installed trails, signs, and outdoor seating areas on ten school campuses and adjacent lands, with more in the works. These improvements create ideal outdoor learning environments for kids. Teachers report that in the short time since installing the trails and seating areas they have more than doubled their outdoor learning activity. With a full school year on the way, we anticipate teachers and kids getting outside even more to explore, play, and learn.

Once we secure educational access to natural areas, Learning Landscapes partners with students, teachers, and our community to improve and enhance the educational value of these "outdoor classrooms." www.frlt.org

PARTNERSHIP MAKES OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS FOR KIDS POSSIBLE Financial support from the Stewardship Council, Susan Hopkins, Tom and Rosemary Tisch, Plumas Bank, and generous supporters like you, plus wonderful collaboration with local landowners, school districts, teachers, students, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, and local contractors and suppliers.

TEACHER SUPPORT

INSPIRED TEACHERS

Teachers Make Outdoor Education a Daily Reality

“Kids are capable of taking great action to take care of what they care about. Knowledge plus action equals power.” With this, Learning Landscapes coordinator Rob Wade kicked off a three-day “Teaching from the Land” workshop for teachers on FRLT’s Heart K Ranch. The key to empowering kids? Inspiring K-12 teachers’ connection to the land and empowering them as outdoor education leaders. Teachers guide all aspects of FRLT’s Learning Landscapes program, from site conservation to core curriculum development. We support teachers through hands-on field immersion workshops, curriculum planning sessions, and outings with natural resource professionals. We equip every school with a field kit stocked with field guides, binoculars, hand lenses, and restoration tools.

Inspired and equipped, teachers lead their students in outdoor learning and hands-on restoration projects on their schools’ own Learning Landscapes properties. Learning Landscapes provides teachers with the resources they need to make outdoor learning and stewardship a daily reality.

FRLT’s Learning Landscapes program trains and supports K-12 teachers to “Teach from the Land” and lead their students in hands-on restoration and stewardship projects. www.frlt.org

PARTNERSHIP EMPOWERS TEACHERS Local schools, dedicated teachers, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Stewardship Council, Dean Witter Foundation, Strong Foundation, Pacific Gas & Electric, Feather River College, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management, Plumas Audubon, Feather River RCD, Susan Hopkins, Ceci Reynolds, Tom and Rosemary Tisch, Laverne and Doug Leach, and generous supporters like you.

STEWARDSHIP

DIRTY HANDS



Learning Landscapes Grows Future Stewards

“Today you stepped up. You’re building a legacy. This is the time, and you are the people to make Chester High and Chester Meadows even better.” With these words, Learning Landscapes coordinator Rob Wade congratulated a weary but satisfied group of 7-9th graders after a long day’s work to restore riparian and meadow habitats. With your help, FRLT’s Learning Landscapes program trains and supports K-12 teachers to “Teach from the Land” and lead their students in hands-on restoration and stewardship projects.

In 2012 alone, 564 empowered students throughout the watershed removed invasive weeds, planted 1,600 native plants, installed 56 bird nesting boxes, and stabilized creek banks and riparian habitats. Together, we are creating a long lasting culture of care and stewardship among the children of the Feather River Country.

FRLT’s Learning Landscapes project conserves natural “outdoor classrooms” within a 10-minute walk of every public school in the Feather River Watershed and then supports teachers to lead their students in hands-on stewardship of these lands. www.frlt.org

PARTNERSHIP GETS KIDS OUTSIDE RESTORING LAND National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management, Strong Foundation, Feather River College, Pacific Gas & Electric, Susan Hopkins, Tom and Rosemary Tisch, Ceci Reynolds, Feather River Resource Conservation District, Plumas Audubon, gracious landowners, dedicated teachers, and generous supporters like you.



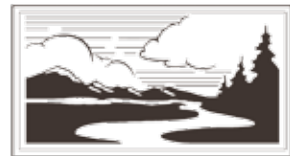
FRLT + YOU

a great team

In the Feather River Country, thousands of schoolchildren are outside learning, exploring, and learning how to take care of the land. This is only possible because we're all working together: the Feather River Land Trust, public schools, dedicated teachers, enthusiastic students, visionary landowners, countless skilled community partners and volunteers, and generous supporters like you. Thank you.

To learn more about Learning Landscapes and how you can help, visit www.frlt.org.

FEATHER RIVER



LAND TRUST

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This booklet was produced with generous support from the Morgan Family Foundation, 6L/Asset Management (Rick Leonhardt), American Valley Baking, Denny M. Churchill Consulting Soil Scientist, Flanigan-Leavitt Insurance Agency, Plumas Bank, and Satscan Electronics.

Cover Photos by Adrienne Stenson and Staff