

Mendocino County



POINT ARENA LIGHTHOUSE

There is no part of California that is more spectacular than the Mendocino County coast. Beautiful and breathtaking, it offers panoramic ocean vistas above rocky shores and close contact with the surf on beaches both wild and restful. Just inland are quiet groves of towering redwoods and ancient pygmy forests. Salmon and steelhead migrate through nine rivers and dozens of creeks as they have for millennia. Natural resources, and nature itself, characterize the region.

POPULATION: >87,000

LENGTH OF COASTLINE: 130 miles

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >120

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$78 million

The Coastal Conservancy has worked for more than 35 years to protect and improve the natural environment of the Mendocino coast and boost local economies. The Conservancy has helped communities acquire and develop parks and beaches and build many miles of trails for use by residents and visitors. Critical habitats for salmon and steelhead trout have been protected through conservation of neighboring lands and barriers to fish migration have been removed from streams. Conservancy funding has helped to ensure that thousands of acres of working lands remain in agricultural production or be available for sustainable timber harvesting.

The Conservancy intends to continue its work with the people of Mendocino County to:

- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors
- Protect and improve the health of forests and waterways
- Keep farmland and timber lands in production
- Meet the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Parks, Beaches, & Waterfronts

The Coastal Conservancy has contributed to the purchase and development of beaches and parks along much of the Mendocino coast and in inland areas and has helped several communities improve their waterfronts for residents, visitors, and commercial uses.

FORT BRAGG/MENDOCINO AREA

- The Conservancy helped acquire nearly three miles of the **Fort Bragg Waterfront** to transform the site of a former lumber mill into a showcase for the City's coastline and provided funding for purchase of **Glass Beach** on the north and **Pomo Bluffs Park** on the south.
- Just south of Fort Bragg people can enjoy **Hare Creek Beach** on a beautiful ocean cove and **Caspar Headlands State Reserve and State Beach**, which contain a popular sandy beach and trails along the nearby ocean bluffs.
- Many years of Conservancy work assured that the spectacular **Point Cabrillo Light Station and Preserve**, just north of the town of Mendocino, was protected, restored, and opened to the public.
- South of Mendocino the Conservancy assisted with additions to **Mendocino Headlands State Park** and **Van Damme State Park**.

OTHER COASTAL AREAS

- Conservancy funding enabled the community of Westport to purchase the **Westport Headlands** and construct a beach stairway.
- An addition and improvements to **Seaside Beach** north of Fort Bragg helped ensure and enhance use of this popular family beach.
- The Mendocino Land Trust used Conservancy funding to purchase and open **Navarro Point**—the first coastal bluffs seen by travelers from Highway 128 to the coast.
- The Conservancy helped purchase more than 1,300 acres around the Point Arena Lighthouse that have become part of the spectacular **Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands**. The Conservancy also helped construct and purchase property for the **Arena Cove Pier**.
- **Moat Creek Beach**, south of Point Arena, is particularly popular during abalone season, and a little farther south the **Hearn Gulch Beach & Headlands** offers a sheltered pocket beach and panoramic views to travelers on Highway One.

INLAND AREAS

- The Conservancy helped add 1,200 acres to **Montgomery Woods State Reserve** and develop **Riverside Park** in Ukiah

Trails & Education

The Conservancy has been a leader in developing the **California Coastal Trail** in Mendocino communities from the Lost Coast to Gualala. The Conservancy has also helped to build and operate many stairways and pathways to beaches and to assist environmental education programs. The more than two dozen Conservancy-supported projects include:

- Construction of trails in the **Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness** that will soon connect to neighboring State parklands in the Lost Coast
- The **Kibesillah Coastal Trail** with stunning coastal views along 1 ¼ miles of Highway One south of Westport



Lars Dugatzky



Sheila Semans



Mendocino Land Trust



Mendocino Land Trust



THE COASTLINE OF STORNETTA RANCH



MENDOCINO COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS



FINDING TREASURE AT GLASS BEACH



BIG RIVER ESTUARY

Trails & Education *continued*

- The four-mile **Ka Kahleh Coastal Trail**, under construction, which will open the **Fort Bragg Waterfront** to the public for the first time in generations, plus development of the waterfront's **Noyo Center for Science & Education**
- Purchase of and improvements to the popular **Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens** just south of Fort Bragg
- Slated improvements to the **Jug Handle Creek Farm & Nature Center** near Caspar, including new educational and lodging facilities and an improved trail system
- The **Mendocino Bay Viewpoint**, a great picnic spot, and the **Little River Blowhole Trail**, a favorite of local residents
- The **Gualala Blufftop Trail** just west of the town's commercial district, built in large part with volunteer labor.

Forests & Waterways

Conservancy-assisted purchases of more than 55,000 acres of Mendocino's forested lands have prevented the fragmentation of vast working forests while protecting water quality and wildlife habitats and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Conservancy has also worked along many of the County's waterways to restore the natural environment and remove barriers to the migration of salmon and steelhead trout. Conservancy-supported projects include:

FOREST LANDS

- Protection of 7,100 acres that became the **Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness** and an addition to **Sinkyone Wilderness State Park**
- Purchase of almost 1,000 acres within the **Usal Redwood Forest** including the popular visitor destination **Trees of Mystery**
- Acquisition of more than 7,300 acres along **Big River** just south of Mendocino, including the river's mouth and entire 8.2-mile estuary
- Protection of almost 40,000 acres in the watersheds of **Big River**, **Big Salmon Creek**, and the **Garcia River** to allow sustainable timber harvesting while protecting salmon and trout habitats

RIVERS & CREEKS

- Comprehensive improvements within the **Navarro River** and **Garcia River** watersheds to restore habitats for fish and wildlife, improve water quality, and protect streamside properties
- Removal of **barriers to fish passage** within many of the County's creeks to open miles of historic spawning and rearing habitats
- Decommissioning of abandoned logging roads in **Sinkyone Wilderness State Park** to protect nearby streams
- Eradication of giant reed from the upper reaches of the **Russian River** to restore native habitats and protect neighboring properties.

"The State Coastal Conservancy is an essential partner in protecting open space and providing public access in coastal Mendocino County. Partnering with the Conservancy is a privilege, and its existence has been a key component to our success."

Ann Cole, Executive Director
Mendocino Land Trust



MONTGOMERY WOODS

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS :

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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