Humboldt County

phoca2004

STONE LAGOON

At the heart of the Redwood Empire, Humboldt County has the tallest trees in the world, the most rivers of any California county, and one of the best bays anywhere. For thousands of years its coast, forests, and waterways have provided a good home for native peoples, and later arrivals have been well served by its natural wealth. Natural resources and a spectacularly scenic coast remain key to the County's character and the backbone of its economy.

POPULATION: >134,000
LENGTH OF COASTLINE: 125 miles
CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >170
CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >$35 million

The Coastal Conservancy has worked for more than 35 years to protect and improve the natural environment of the Humboldt County 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 keep thousands of acres of working lands in production for agriculture and sustainable timber harvesting.

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

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

Natural & Working Lands

The Coastal Conservancy has helped protect more than 11,000 acres of Humboldt County's forests, farmland, and natural lands. Conservancy-supported work has restored critical fish and wildlife habitats, improved water quality in rivers and streams, and opened many natural areas for the public to enjoy. Projects include, from north to south:

- Multiple scientific studies aimed at improving the water quality and fisheries habitats of the **Klamath River** plus restoration of the **Redwood Creek** estuary near Orick and **McDonald Creek** upstream of Stone Lagoon
- Design and development of the **Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary**, renowned worldwide for combining wastewater treatment with wetlands restoration
- Additions of almost 200 acres to the **Arcata Community Forest** and purchase of the **McKay Community Forest** on the edge of Eureka to integrate sustainable forestry with recreation and habitat protection
- In and around **Humboldt Bay**, purchase of more than 100 acres of **Eureka's baylands**; restoration of wetlands and neighboring habitats on **Indian Island**, in **Palco Marsh**, at **Freshwater Farms**, and along a dozen creeks and sloughs; eradication of invasive ***Spartina***, a cordgrass that threatens native plants and wildlife; and comprehensive management plans for the bay's natural resources and underwater habitats
- Restoration of hundreds of acres along the lower **Eel and Salt rivers** to provide flood protection, improve fish and waterfowl habitats, reduce soil erosion, and maintain water flows for farming operations
- Protection of **working forests and farmland** on almost 5,000 acres near Rio Dell and 1,500 acres near Petrolia
- Purchase of more than 1,100 acres of old growth forests along the **Mattole River** plus extensive restoration of fisheries habitats
- Removal of **barriers to fish passage** within many of the County's creeks to open miles of historic spawning and rearing habitats for salmon and steelhead trout.

Parks, Waterfronts, & Scenic Lands

The Conservancy has helped purchase and develop the County's parklands and beaches and has worked with many communities to open and improve their waterfronts for residents and visitors. Projects include:

- Around the spectacular coastal lagoons near Orick, additions to parklands along **Freshwater Lagoon** and **Big Lagoon** and improvements to the **Stagecoach Hill Azalea Preserve**
- In and near Trinidad, purchase of the ancient **Tsurai Village Site**, reconstruction of **Trinidad Pier**, and planning for management of beaches from **Moonstone Beach** to **Clam Beach**
- Between McKinleyville and Manila, purchase of dunes and forest at the mouth of the **Mad River** and almost 700 acres of the **Ma-le'l/ Lanphere Dunes** on Humboldt Bay's North Spit
- Revitalization of Eureka's **Old Town Waterfront**, which now boasts Seaport Village Square and connecting promenades, a popular boardwalk on the water's edge, and the Fisherman's Terminal Building serving fishermen and the public

Friends of the Dunes

HUMBOLDT COASTAL NATURE CENTER

Greg O'Leary

HICKSHARI' TRAIL STEWARDS

outdoorPDK

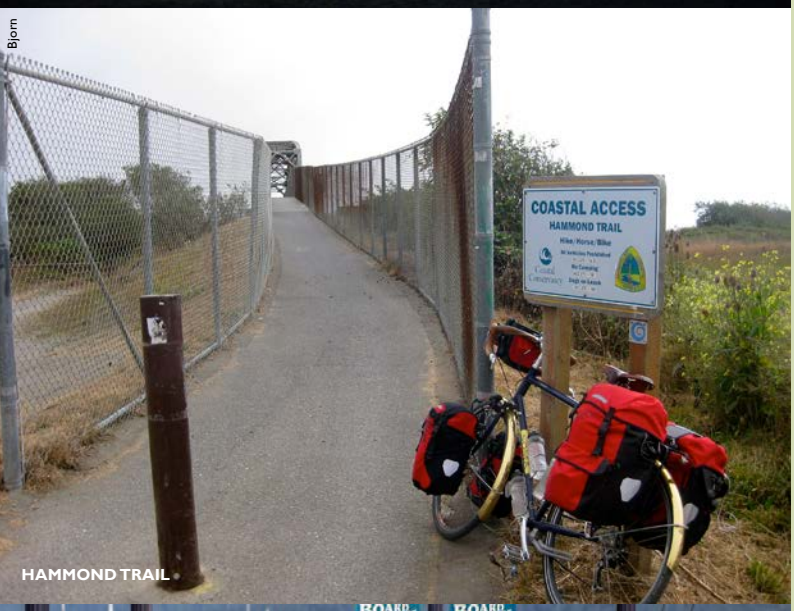
JERSEYS GRAZING IN THE EEL RIVER DELTA

Chris Nelson

THE LOST COAST

Alex Green

MOONSTONE BEACH



Bjorn

HAMMOND TRAIL

Charles Nadeau

EUREKA WATERFRONT BOARDWALK

Leslie Sanders

TRINIDAD PIER

Parks, Waterfronts, & Scenic Lands *continued*

- Along southern Humboldt Bay, improvements to **Humboldt Botanical Garden** on the College of the Redwoods campus and the purchase of **Lighthouse Ranch** on scenic Table Bluff
- West of Ferndale, purchase and protection of more than 400 acres of the **Lost Coast Headlands** containing beaches, scenic bluff tops, grazing land, and habitats for fish and wildlife
- Farther south, purchase of dozens of lots on the **Shelter Cove Waterfront** for public use, rehabilitation of the marina's breakwater, and construction of fish waste disposal facilities.

Trails & Outdoor Recreation

The Conservancy has worked to plan for and build more than a dozen trails and trail systems in the County, including major additions to the **California Coastal Trail**. The trails have opened many areas that had previously been closed to the public. Projects include:

- On the County's north coast, trails to beaches in **Trinidad** and **Houda Point** and an upcoming section of the **Coastal Trail** between **Moonstone Beach** and **Little River State Beach**
- Development of the popular **Hammond Trail** from McKinleyville to the Arcata Bottoms
- Miles of new trails within the **Ma-le'l Dunes** and **Manila Dunes** on Humboldt Bay's North Spit and construction of the Friends of the Dunes' **Humboldt Coastal Nature Center**
- Planning and design of the **Arcata Coastal Rail with Trail** project, which aims to build almost four miles of the **Coastal Trail** along an unused rail corridor from northern Arcata to Humboldt Bay
- Plans for development of the **Humboldt Bay Trail** circling the bay and the **Humboldt Bay Water Trail** within it
- Development of the 1½-mile **Hikshari' Trail** at the mouth of the Elk River in southern Eureka, offering close-up views of wildlife
- New picnic areas and improvements to trails, roads, and parking areas in the **Mike Thompson Wildlife Area** on Humboldt Bay's South Spit
- Construction and upgrade of trails, parking areas, and other visitor facilities on the **Lost Coast Headlands** southwest of Ferndale.

Climate Change

The Conservancy is funding preparation of a plan to help communities in the Humboldt Bay region develop strategies to protect against and adapt to sea level rise and an additional plan for Arcata to protect its shoreline lands using, among other techniques, construction of a "living shorelines" area to serve as a buffer against rising seas.

"The Coastal Conservancy continues to be a highly respected and valued partner in Humboldt County. It has consistently helped us enhance our county's natural resources and provide innovative opportunities for public access and recreation."

Jimmy Smith
Humboldt County Supervisor, 2000-2012

Igor Krivokon

ARCATA COMMUNITY FOREST

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 habitats
- 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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