



REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Dedicated to protection of open spaces and natural resources from the Navarro to the Russian rivers

HEARN GULCH & COOKS BEACH PROJECTS NEAR COMPLETION

Thanks to years of steady perseverance, RCLC is close to completing two key coastal access projects at Cooks Beach and Hearn Gulch Headlands. After thousands of volunteer hours and innumerable consultations with county planners, Coastal Conservancy staff, Cal Trans surveyors, contractors, civil engineers, neighbors, trail designers and native plant experts, much of the major work has been completed on both projects.

The beach at Hearn Gulch is a sheltered cove nestled between steep bluffs, while Cooks Beach is an expansive sandy crescent. The trail



View of sea stacks from Hearn Gulch headlands.

Photo: Laurie Maeller



Photo: Rose Hacker

View from bluff overlooking Cooks Beach.

improvements made by RCLC contractors and volunteers will provide easier access to beautiful spots along our coast this summer and enjoy the improvements your support of RCLC has helped make possible.

Hearn Gulch Headlands is located off Highway One just north of Iverson Road. You can park at the pullout and walk along the trail to the headlands or down to the secluded beach. Cooks Beach is located two miles north of Gualala. To reach the bluff overlooking the beach, turn off Highway One at Old State Highway across from Glennen Drive and travel to the north end of the road. From there you can walk down Bonham Trail to the beach below.

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

Local residents devote their time and expertise to help RCLC protect our coast.

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RCLC is a member of the National Land Trust Alliance, California Council of Land Trusts, and the Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This year RCLC members and volunteers have much to celebrate. Two of our coastal access projects are nearing completion after many years of planning and hard work.

The Hearn Gulch Headlands project was begun in late 2001 with the purchase of the north end of the bluffs and the beach through grants from the Coastal Conservancy and CalTrans.

RCLC volunteers Dave Scholz and George Anderson have managed the lengthy process of planning the project, working with State and County agencies, acquiring the necessary funding and permits, and coordinating the construction of the parking area and trails to the headlands and down to the beach.

The Cooks Beach/Bonham Trail project was begun in 2003 when RCLC accepted the Bonham family's offer to dedicate a public right of access down to Cooks Beach. RCLC Board member Irene Leidner is heading up the effort to complete the project first undertaken by RCLC's late founding member Ray Van de Water. Although some work still needs to be done on the Bonham Trail and the platform overlooking Cooks Beach, many trail improvements have been made including a new set of steps down to the beach. You can read Irene's engaging tale of how RCLC volunteers and contractors met the recent challenge posed by a rogue redwood log on page four.

Of course, some challenges and obstacles still remain. We are waiting for Coastal Commission decisions before we can complete the section of the Bluff Trail behind Surf Super, and we are still working on a practicable engineering solution for the trail and viewing platform for the Saint Orres Cove.

But there are new opportunities as well. As we near completion on some projects, RCLC is exploring opportunities for possible new conservation and public access projects that will benefit our local community.

We want to thank you for your continuing support of RCLC. As your local land trust, RCLC relies on the perseverance of our volunteers and the support of our members to undertake and complete these projects to protect our natural environment.



RCLC President Laurie Mueller

Photo: Laurie Mueller



RCLC board members, friends and volunteers on site visit to local coastal property.

HEARN GULCH TRAIL TO BEACH IS IMPROVED

Project Leader David Scholz reports on the work that RCLC volunteers have done this summer to improve the trail down to the beach at the north end of Hearn Gulch

Ray Jackman has installed a couple of railroad ties to even out some of the overly steep steps down to the beach. However, there still is a need for one or more railroad ties to



View of Saunders Reef from Hearn Gulch Headlands. The reef is proposed as a new State Marine Protected Area because of its rich biological diversity.

All other pipes were sledge-hammered in (practically all by superman Ray). The rope railing over the last steep part of the beach trail is now in place. We ended up having more rope than we needed, so we left the extra length double-backed over the last two steel pipes. Next month, we'll decide on the best method to finish it off. We've already received compliments from some of the visitors on the value of the railing.



Photo: Dave Scholz

Ray Jackman sets pipes for railing down to the beach

complete the improvement of this section. Installing the pipes for the rope railing proved to be quite a task. We strengthened three key steel pipe "anchors" with cement bases, which required the rental of a two-man mechanical auger to dig the holes. We used four men on the two-man auger as the steep, narrow and rocky geography was a real challenge. (Unfortunately, since I was one of the four, no pictures were taken; probably just as well since all spouses might not agree this was typical volunteer work!)

The custom footing at the terminus of the trail on the beach itself also took quite some effort by Ray, George Anderson, George Marshall, et al, carrying, piling up and cementing large (heavy) native rocks. As with the rope railing, only time will tell how effective the approach we have taken here will be versus the original idea of cable steps.

What's next? After we put some final touches on the beach trail, we will be

working with Jon Thompson on invasive plant eradication. He will identify the plants later this summer and fall. Then we'll have a call for volunteers to dispatch the invaders.

Photo: Fred McElroy



Rope railing and cemented rocks improve access to Hearn Beach

HEARN GULCH VOLUNTEERS

RCLC would like to thank the following volunteers for their work on Hearn Gulch:

George Anderson
Ray Jackman
Harry Lutz
George Marshall

John Moelter
Fred McElroy
David Scholz
Jim Suhr

Thanks also to contractor Ken Spacek for his expert work with his mini-Bobcat and to consultant Jon Thompson for his guidance on native plant restoration.

REDWOOD LOG REMOVED FROM STORM-BATTERED BEACH

January storms, accompanied by heavy rains and high tides, battered and destroyed the steps at Cooks Beach and resculpted the beach itself to a significant degree. The photo to the right shows the beach right after the January storms, when significant bluff erosion was evident, and only a rocky shore remained. A very large redwood log, which had been a significant and highly prized feature of this scenic cove, acted as a battering ram, as the overflowing Glennen Creek pushed it out towards the ocean, and the heavy surf pounded it back in again towards the bluff. Consequently contractors Charlie Ivor and Brian Dillman advised RCLC that the log had to be removed.



Cooks Beach after winter storms. The large redwood is in back below the man sitting on the bluff.

Darryl Rippey, a local miller, agreed to bring his Alaskan SawMill to the beach, where he and his crew spent a week preparing and cutting slabs from this large piece of driftwood.

The first cuts showed this to be a prime piece of redwood, so rather than allow the pieces to drift out to sea, many volunteers, from both Gualala and Sea Ranch, experimented and struggled to get the slabs, each weighing from 100 to 400 pounds, up the trail. The first attempts to bring the slabs up the trail used a small 4-wheeled cart, five strong volunteers, and the (most welcome) use of a chainsaw- powered winch, donated for the job and expertly run by Ken Reynoldson.

The winch, which was moved a number of times due to the curvature of the trail, worked beautifully.

Darryl Rippey and crew cut slabs on the beach.



Dragging slabs up from the beach.

The little cart survived the first slab bravely, but succumbed during the second run with a broken axle and punctured wheel. Ken then put together a wooden “sled,” a piece of plywood on a couple of 2x4s, and this has gamely brought the remaining slabs up the trail. The pictures give you some idea of the immensity of this job, and RCLC is grateful not only to Ken Reynoldson, but also to regulars Larry Nelson, John Moelter, Bill Davy, Joel Chaban, Lois and Harry Lutz, and Charlie Ivor, who donated his time for this difficult task.

Two slabs have been earmarked for a bluff top bench, an appropriate use for this beach landmark.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE AT COOKS BEACH

By Irene Leidner, Bonham Trail/Cooks Beach Project Coordinator

Progress! Despite a few challenges along the way, significant progress has been made on the Cooks Beach project. The finished bluff top area above Cooks Beach is being enjoyed by many who either have just a short time to visit or are unable



Volunteers place shale on trail to beach

to negotiate the trail to the beach. Shale and bender board to control winter runoff have been laid on the trail for the first 25 yards towards the beach, and small pieces of driftwood have been placed along its edge.



Digging and digging down to bedrock to place forms for steps.

Steps down to beach

Once the redwood slabs were off the beach, RCLC contractor Charlie Ivor could begin preparation for the steps by digging down to

reach bedrock. Volunteers Ray Jackman, John Moelter, Larry Nelson, Joel Chaban, and Bill Davy worked with Charlie to move rocks and dig. And dig. And dig some more. They finally made it down to bedrock, but it was quite a bit below where they had hoped it would be.

Cement was poured in late June. Now that the steps are in place, trail improvements can be completed.



Contractors Charlie Ivor and Brian Dillman, with crew Dave Foster and Tom Lane, construct forms for the footings.



Brian Dillman, Dave Foster, Charlie Ivor and Tom Lane (seated front) take a break on the steps they have completed. The inlaid abalone shells on the side add a decorative touch.

Memorial and Commemorative Gifts

Many donors contribute gifts to RCLC in memory of friends, family members and colleagues or to honor significant events in people's lives. These gifts are used to enhance public enjoyment of our coastline and are a wonderful legacy for those who wish to preserve the beauty of our natural environment.

In Memory of

Marianne Ross
from Janann Strand

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Gifts from June 2007 through May 2008

RCLC wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions.

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Local artist Jeani Martini stands by her painting "High Point on Highway One" which won RCLC's 2007 Art In the Redwoods Environmental Award



Photo: Leigh Mueller

VISITORS ENJOY GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL AS SURF CENTER SECTION AWAITS COASTAL COMMISSION DECISION

By Mary Sue Ittner, Gualala Bluff Trail Project Coordinator

Local environmental groups and a number of individuals appealed the approval of landowner John Bower’s application for armoring the bluff behind the Surf Center to the California Coastal Commission. At its April meeting the Commission found substantial issues with this application and will do their own evaluation of the merits of this proposal and return the matter to the Commission at an unknown later date for a decision. Until it is known what will be permitted by the Commission, RCLC must wait to complete the trail.

In the meantime volunteers continue ongoing maintenance of the trail, weeding, watering, and adding new gravel and a sign so the public will be able to locate the finished parts of the trail. In May RCLC bid on Horicon School students who had offered to work for three hours in pairs of two to earn money for an eighth grade graduation trip. Thanks to a contribution from Cathleen Crosby and other RCLC donors



Photo: Leigh Mueller

RCLC volunteers and friends enjoy walk along southern end of Gualala Bluff Trail behind Breakers Inn on the fourth of July.

we had the services of four students who joined volunteers to work on the trail. RCLC has also used donations for the trail to hire someone to help a few hours a week keeping the trail free of weeds. The Gualala Bluff Trail is part of the California Coastal Trail and in April insignias for the Coastal Trail were added to the Bluff trail.

New volunteers to help with watering, weeding, or monitoring the trail are always welcome (both for regular and occasional help). Call Mary Sue Ittner at 884-4824 or email her at msittner@mcn.org if you are interested in learning more or to volunteer. It’s a very beautiful place to work and you often encounter enthusiastic people who appreciate the trail and the efforts of volunteers to take care of it.



Photo: Mary Sue Ittner

Horicon students Erica Mendoza (left) and Amanda Sanchez pull weeds along the bluff trail.

GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

The Gualala Bluff Trail is the result of the hard work of the many volunteers who have constructed it and are continuing to maintain and monitor the trail each week. Volunteers for this past year include:

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| John Moelter | Bob Aubrey | Mark Haveman | Harmony, Nell & | Paula Gordon |
| Jim Suhr | Max Anguillo | George Anderson | Sus Susalla | Chris, Chuck & |
| Ray Jackman | Harry Lutz | George Marshall | John & Jackie Petersen | Tessa Howard |
| Jerry O’Brien | Lois Lutz | Sue & Bob Lease | Liz Redfield | Nancy Killian |
| Don Mahaffey | Irene Leidner | Bob Rutemoeller & | Kathie Anderson | Gail Taylor |
| Dard Hunter | Bill Davy | Mary Sue Ittner | Trudy Armer | Cora Lee Seale |
| Dave Scholz | Marty Linker | | | Carol & Steve Chell |

NEW SIGN FOR BLUFF TRAIL INSTALLED

Eric Cogdill, owner of the Surf Motel (left) and RCLC Volunteers Ray Jackman and Bob Rutemoeller stand by new improved sign for Gualala Bluff Trail.

California poppies along the trail.



Photo: Leigh Mueller



Photo: Mary Sue Ittner

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An "07" in front of your name means that your most recent contribution to RCLC was during this year. If there is no number to the left of your name or an "07" (indicating that your last gift was in 2007) please consider making a contribution for this year to support the work of the RCLC. A contribution form is printed on the return envelope in this issue.



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LAND CONSERVANCY

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