**Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network Seeks Network Manager**

San Cruz, California, January 5, 2016. The Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network has announced that it is seeking a qualified individual to serve as Network Manager to coordinate the network’s activities.

The Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network was formed in 2015 as an inclusive, region-wide collaboration of 19 large landowners in the Santa Cruz Mountain region that extends from south of San Francisco to the Salinas Valley, east to the Santa Clara Valley, and west to the Pacific Ocean. The Network includes individuals and organizations representing local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, research institutions, private landowners, and community and tribal groups, nearly all of whom either own or are responsible for managing both protected and working lands throughout the region. The network is committed to working together to balance both ecological and economic goals to foster a resilient, vibrant regional ecosystem where human and natural systems thrive for generations to come.

The Network Manager’s primary responsibilities will be to cultivate collaboration between network members and to act as the network’s organizational coordinator. The Network Manager will be responsible for connecting network members with each other and with other important contacts in the region, identifying and advancing opportunities for collaboration and information sharing between member organizations, helping to secure more resources for land stewardship, and educating the public about the importance of caring for land throughout the region. The Network Manager will work closely with the network’s leadership team and report to the entire network.

“The position requires the exercise of several skill sets that are actually quite different in practice,” said Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and member of the network’s selection committee for the position. “On the one hand, the Network Manager must be a skillful facilitator who is capable of bringing people together and building consensus among sometimes divergent points of view. On the other hand, the same person must also have the capabilities of an effective office manager, who can manage the logistics of overseeing a diverse group of organizations and individuals, including budgeting and planning, as well as handling all aspects of internal and external communications. Finding this range of skills in a single individual may be challenging, but we are optimistic that there is someone out there with these capabilities who is attracted to this unique opportunity to work at the cutting edge of large landscape conservation.”

The Network Manager position requires a two-year minimum commitment to ensure the continuity of the network as it evolves. Annual contract renewal thereafter will depend on additional funding. Initially, the Network Manager position will be funded in part by a grant awarded to the Stewardship Network in December 2015 by the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the Stephen Bechtel Fund. The grant will also fund a case study to document the model for coordinating stewardship across a large region that the network is pioneering. The Stewardship Network and Network Manager position will also be supported by a grant awarded in November 2015 by the Resources Legacy Fund. The San Mateo County RCD will serve as the grant administrator for the Bechtel grant, and provide an office and administrative support for the Network Manager.

With the need for financial support for land stewardship increasing throughout the region and the effects of climate change becoming more evident, the members of the Stewardship Network have come together to coordinate activities, resources, and information in an attempt to leverage their collective capabilities and identify opportunities for greater efficiency among their stewardship efforts. Based on an understanding that the region's ecosystems function without regard to property boundaries, network members’ intention is to work together to enhance water quality and watershed health, maintain biodiversity and endangered species, manage invasive plant and animal species, support climate change adaptation, provide access to public lands, monitor resources and conduct research, educate the public, and build citizen engagement and strong human communities throughout the Santa Cruz Mountain region.

The Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network was formed during a series of multi-day meetings in March, June, and September 2015. During the meetings, participants identified common interests and established agreements that would provide a basis for sharing information and resources to achieve common objectives in land stewardship. The Stewardship Network was founded on the agreement that effective stewardship of the region requires the promotion of a wide range of beneficial uses of the land, including ecological, economic, recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and spiritual.

The model of collaborative, large landscape stewardship that the network is developing is currently advocated by conservation scientists, practitioners, and policy makers as one of the most promising strategies for mitigating the effects of climate change and other potentially negative impacts to the natural environment. Impact networks like the Stewardship Network have proven to be powerful organizing mechanisms for addressing systems-level challenges that are too complex to be effectively addressed by any single stakeholder.

The Network Manager position includes medical, dental, and vision benefits, as well as PTO, a 401K, and a flexible workplace. The San Mateo Resource Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates reflecting the social diversity of California are strongly encouraged to apply.

Individuals interested in applying for the Network Manager position with the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network should visit [scmsn.net/apply](http://www.scmsn.net/apply) for more information about the Network Manager position and instructions on how to apply. For additional questions about the Stewardship Network or the Network Manager position, contact David Ehrlichman at [dce2020@convergeforimpact.com](mailto:dce2020@convergeforimpact.com).