



# WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

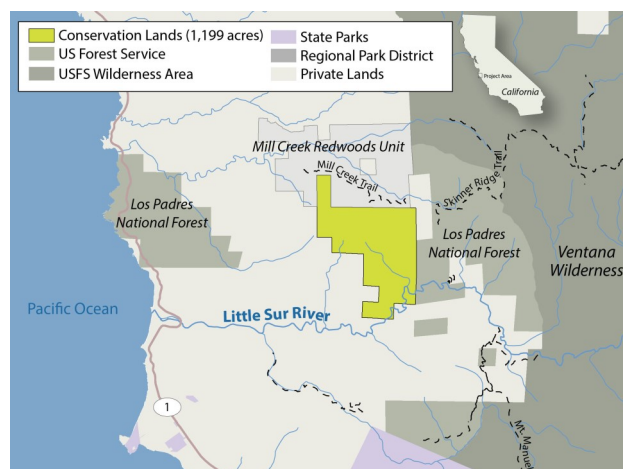
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Global Giving  
Project Report Photos  
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## *Little Sur River, California: In Big Sur, a Big Win for Fish, Wildlife and the Esselen People*

The majestic Big Sur Coast has a new sanctuary for fish and wildlife along a mile of the Little Sur River, the result of our recent accomplishment in partnership with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County. In July, Western Rivers Conservancy transferred 1,199 acres of old-growth redwoods, rolling oak woodlands, chaparral forest and redwood-shaded riverbanks to the Esselen Tribe. Located just beyond earshot of Big Sur's crashing waves, and with sweeping views of the sea, the property is the first land returned to the Esselen people since the Spanish displaced their ancestors 250 years ago. In this magnificent place, where condors soar over ancient redwoods and some of the last pristine steelhead streams still flow freely to the sea, WRC's and the Esselen's partnership is a landmark accomplishment. The completion of this project will benefit wild steelhead, Big Sur's imperiled wildlife and the tribe's own cultural resurgence for generations to come.

*Doug Steakley Photo*



## *Nisqually River, Washington: Protected! 172 acres along Washington's Nisqually River*

Just 20 miles southeast of Olympia, Washington, WRC and the Nisqually Land Trust have completed an effort to conserve a beautiful and critically important stretch of the Nisqually River. The Nisqually is a vital salmon and steelhead river and one of the least developed streams flowing into the south Puget Sound, and it supports an impressive seven native salmonid species, including threatened fall Chinook, winter steelhead and bull trout, runs that all remain very fragile. While the Nisqually is protected along much of its length, the lower river is pressured on all sides by residential growth. When one of the largest private reaches of the lower river was listed for sale in 2019, WRC negotiated its purchase and eliminated the risk of 34 homes being built along the river. The Nisqually Tribe, which has lead salmon recovery efforts throughout the basin, and the Nisqually Land Trust, which owns land upstream and downstream of the property, have sought to conserve this parcel for years. Now, this effort has permanently conserved 172 acres and a full mile of the Nisqually River.

*Tom and Pat Leeson photo*

