

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



*Protecting Forested Land and Supporting
Rural Communities Through Working Forests*





Greetings & Thanks From the Executive Director

Our Board and Staff are pleased to share this report with you. It truly reflects an exciting year. In 2022, we welcomed a Conservation & Outreach Coordinator, Bennett Gould. By now, many of you have met Bennett in person— at our Friends of the Foundation Dinner last September, by headlamp at a vernal pool in early spring, or somewhere in between. He continues to be an impactful member of the FSF team.

FSF gratefully accepted two donations of land in 2022. Ten acres of former railroad grade in Caldwell Creek Valley were donated by Bob & Jane Slagter. The property is being improved as a walking trail, adjacent to our 1,000-acre forest block and a public fishing access corridor along Caldwell Creek. We look forward to introducing the trail when it is ready for public use. In Chautauqua, New York, Subagh & Linda Winkelstern donated a 40-acre forest as a capstone to the year. We look forward to partnering with the family, who has tenancy on a portion of it, to care for the land. We will be hosting walks and providing other opportunities to visit the property in the year ahead.

In the woods, we conducted several “worst-first harvests” and understory projects on FSF lands, especially invasive plant control. Some of our properties require big investments to move the forest's trajectory towards a more balanced state of health. To that end,

we are excited to participate in the 2023 Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation, hosted by the PA Society for Ornithology. We are one of three partners selected to receive funds raised during the upcoming Blitz in June. They will be used for invasive plant control at our Florarozze Forest in Erie County, PA.

2022 also saw the 2nd year of the National Aviary's study of forest bird diversity and habitat in our forests, led by Dr. Steven Latta. Having the crew on site was definitely one of the year's highlights. They are a dedicated, knowledgeable, and energizing bunch. Dr. Latta gave the featured presentation at our Friends of the Foundation Dinner in September, which was insightful and very well received. We are so fortunate to be partnering with them and look forward to another year of study.

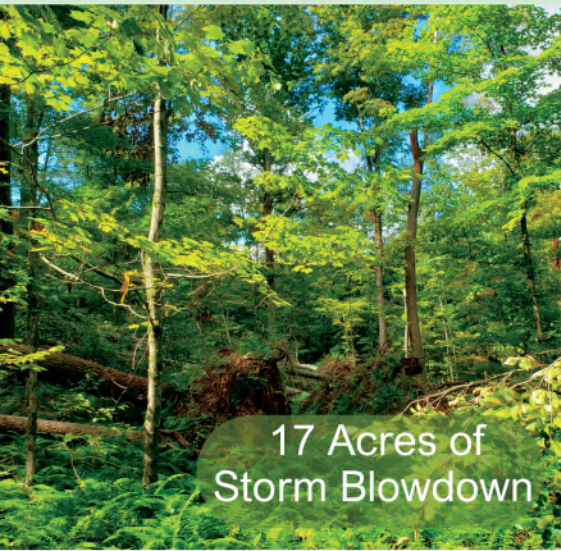
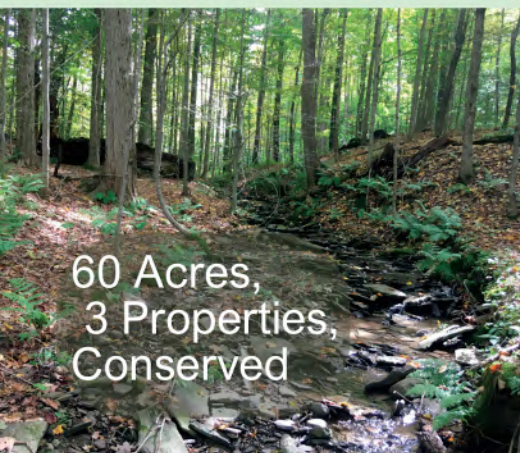
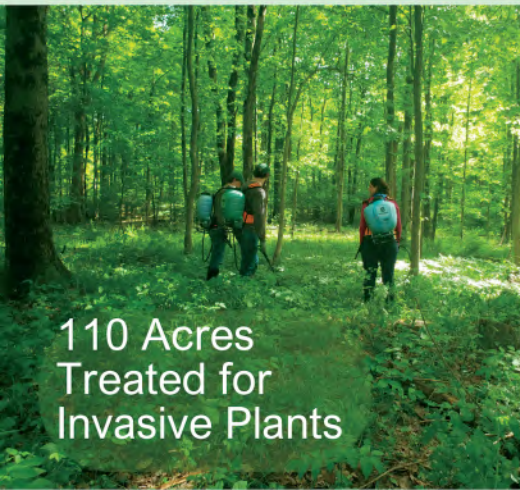
2022 was also defined by what you *don't* see in this report, as much as for what you *do*. Conservation requires a great deal of patience, tenacity, and diligent, behind-the-scenes work. This year, FSF set in motion an impressive scope of acquisition projects that we look forward to sharing with you as each becomes a reality. And, you are needed! We are hoping for grant funds to support the lion's share of this work, but there will be a critical need for additional support to move these high-impact projects across the finish line. We will share more as we are able, and look forward to partnering with you. Thank you for all that you do.

Annie Maloney

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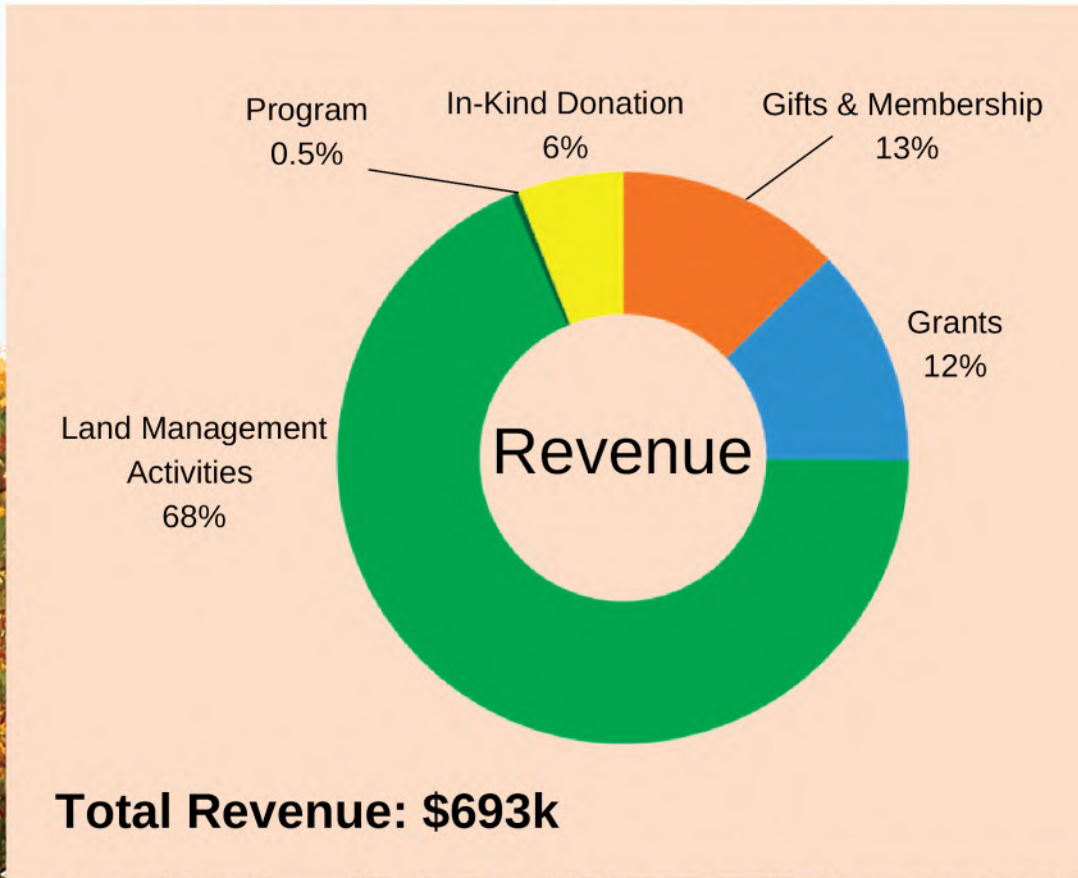
2022 At-A-Glance



2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests saw strategic growth in its operating budget this year with the addition of the full-time Conservation & Outreach Coordinator, and unplanned expenses to conduct a salvage harvest on 17 acres of Lay-Dopyera Forest in Warren County after a blowdown storm. The salvage also increased land revenue for the year, which will carry over into supporting FSF's operations in 2023.

A capacity-building grant from Richard King Mellon Foundation supported the new Coordinator position for the year. A grant from USDA-NRCS will reimburse some of our non-commercial stewardship activities



Mark your calendars!

Loving the Land through Working Forests



**Saturday,
Sept. 16, 2023
8am to 4pm**

**Blooming Valley Forest
Meadville, PA**

This forest-based conference features a diverse program of presentations, woods walks, and demonstrations. All are welcome!

**Preregistration Required, Lunch Provided
\$25 per person, \$10 for FSF members**

For program & registration information visit:
[FoundationForSustainableForests.org/events](https://www.FoundationForSustainableForests.org/events)



James & Connie
Thompson

Craig & Monica
Schwegman

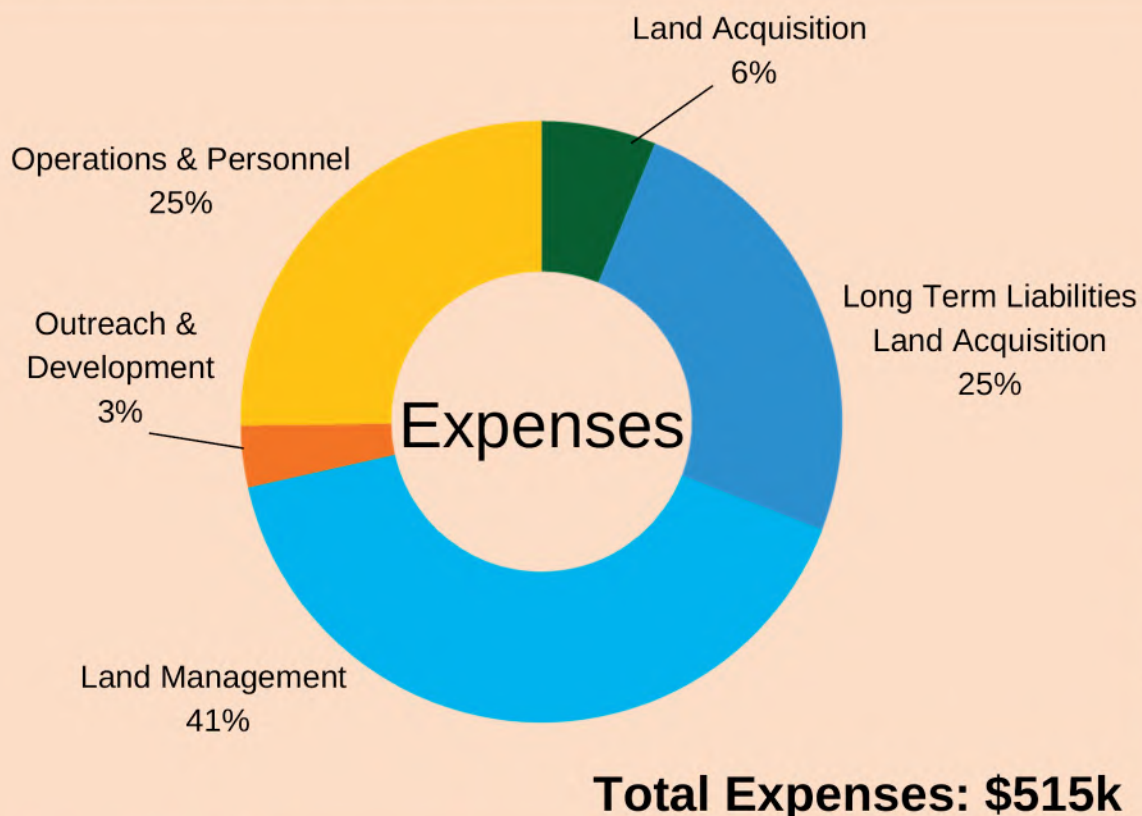


Robert & Jane
Slagter



in 2022. These included invasive plant treatment on 110 acres of FSF-conserved land. Invasive plant control is a costly, recurring management need in order to restore and/or maintain forest health. The ability to receive grant support alongside the availability of contractors to do the work on the ground is crucial to this effort.

The ratio of land acquisition expenses and long-term liabilities relative to operating and outreach expenses is in proportion to FSF's stage of development as an organization: our long-term liabilities cover the acquisition of nearly 700 acres of forested land in three counties and comprise an important portion of FSF's "timber endowment".



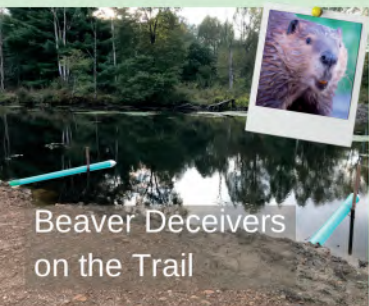
Acquisition Spotlight

FSF conserved three properties totaling 60 acres. Near Caldwell Creek, Bob & Jane Slagter donated a 10-acre former railroad grade to create a 1.7-mile trail that connects FSF properties and fishing access along the creek. We are improving the trail (see photo of "beaver deceivers", for example), and look forward to introducing it to you. FSF also purchased a 10-acre forest, an addition to our 1,000+ acre conservation area in the watershed.

In Mayville, NY, Subagh & Linda Winkelstern donated the 40-acre Subagh Preserve, a mix of forest and meadow with a tributary to Chautauqua Lake. We are hosting Chautauqua Bird, Tree, & Garden Club for a woods walk in July of 2023, and look forward to introducing the property to the general public as well.



Stony Hollow Trail



Beaver Deceivers on the Trail



Subagh Preserve



Caldwell Creek conservation area

2022 Membership & Support



The Lynn Firth Giving Society recognizes donors who have made a single cash gift of \$1,000 or more to FSF, and is distinct from supporters who have donated land. Below are the inaugural members, who were inducted in 2022 in recognition of any qualifying gift made between 2004 and 2022.

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In Memoriam

The Foundation for
Sustainable Forests
community lost the
following treasured friends
and supporters in 2022.
We thank these individuals
for their commitment to
healthy forests and
communities.

Tom Erdman
Laura Heeschen
Joanne Kleinhanz
Elizabeth Kubiak
Sandy Johnson
Robert "Bo" Schindler
Cy Wellman

*Protecting forested land
and supporting
rural communities
through working forests*



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Conservation & Outreach Coordinator

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to conserving and stewarding working forests, and promoting forestry practices that enhance health, resilience, and habitat diversity across the region.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 8 - Erie Gives Day



Aug. 27-29 - Crawford Gives Days



Sept. 15 - Friends of the Foundation Annual Dinner

Iroquois Club, Conneaut Lake, PA

Sept. 16 - Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference

Blooming Valley Forest, Meadville, PA

Oct. 1 - Walk in Penn's Woods

Location to be determined



Jim Finley Stewardship Day

Date & Location to be determined