



WallowaLands

Spring 2018
News from Wallowa Land Trust & Annual Report

Keep It
Rural!



Rare Plant Finds Refuge on Moraines

Kendrick Moholt and Dave McCullough with Bio-Resources join Gretchen Sausen of the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Heidi Becker of the Nez Perce National Historical Park to survey for Spalding's catchfly on the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake.



Spring greetings friends of Wallowa Land Trust!

It is with pleasure that I present to you Wallowa Land Trust's 2017 Annual Report, with the goal of providing you an overview of the overall health and sustainability of the organization. It is also a great opportunity to share with you all the positive conservation outcomes we achieved thanks to your continued investments of time, energy and money.

As you will see on page 5, we started off the year in excellent financial health, with almost \$2M in net assets. This figure includes two properties that the Land Trust owns and manages on the West Moraine of Wallowa Lake.

In terms of conservation, 2017 was a particularly fulfilling and productive year for us. After more than a decade of working with the Wolfe Family, we were able to close on the final phase of the Wolfe Farm Conservation Easement, bringing the total acres protected to 463. This project was truly a labor of love started by our founders back in 2004. The first conservation easement was completed in 2011 and much to everyone's delight, we closed on the second easement in August 2017. Hats off not only to all the staff and board who pulled together to make this happen (especially Julia Lakes), but also to the Wolfe Family who patiently persevered with us throughout the entire process. We look forward to future collaborations with this multi-generational farming family.

The Wolfe Farm wasn't the only conservation success we celebrated. We also completed a second conservation project resulting in the permanent protection of 52 acres on the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. The Ham Family generously donated a conservation easement that



permanently prevents future subdivision or development. Not only is the East Moraine a scenic icon and geological wonder, but this section of the moraine is a haven for mule deer, especially during fawning season. The Hams are particularly keen to see deer habitat maintained and enhanced on their property. We are excited to be a part of that effort and hope you are too. You'll be hearing more from us about opportunities for habitat restoration.

When we weren't busy ushering the Wolfe and Ham projects to the finish line, we continued to help other landowners in the county consider conservation options for their land. We also bid a bittersweet farewell to Julia Lakes while welcoming Eric Greenwell to our team (see page 13 for more on Eric). More highlights of the year include:

- Helping get the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program passed by the state legislature, a new program to protect Oregon's farms and ranches (see page 12 for more on this new program);
- Hosting our ninth year of *Into The Wallowa* summer outings;
- Conducting stewardship activities on our fee-owned properties and conservation easements;
- Leading the seventh year of surveys for the threatened wildflower, Spalding's catchfly on the Wallowa Lake Moraines (see page 8 for more on our work protecting this rare plant);
- Conducting the sixth year of surveys on the Wolfe Farm for the amphibian, Columbia Spotted Frog, listed as a federal species of concern;
- Hosting a special educational program for school kids along with a successful fundraising concert with the talented band Good Company; and,
- Publically releasing our Conservation Plan, which outlines our strategic priorities for land protection.

A big thank you to all the donors, foundations, volunteers and partners that were instrumental in helping us accomplish so much last year. It is an honor to serve our community and to work with you on our shared vision for Wallowa County, where unique natural treasures are conserved for future generations. Together we can ensure that working farms and ranches, forests and grasslands are economically and ecologically viable parts of our landscape; where fish and wildlife resources are abundant and supported by interconnected habitats; and, stewardship and restoration activities improve the quality of our natural resources and support the economy.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ackley
Executive Director



Photo by Leon Werdinger



107

Columbia Spotted Frog Egg Masses Found on the Wolfe Farm

318

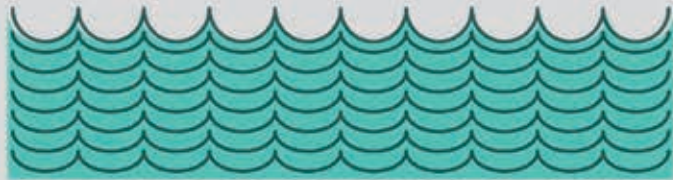
acres conserved in 2017 for a total of

591

acres since 2004

2.2

miles of the Lostine & Wallowa Rivers protected since 2004



people participating in Land Trust events

766

119 Spalding's catchfly surveyed on the East Moraine



567

individual donors in

24 states



800

hours donated by

93

volunteers

Wallowa Land Trust ended 2017 in a strong financial position. Our total net assets of \$1.9 million include cash and cash equivalents (\$312,618), the value of two conservation properties we own on the West Moraine of Wallowa Lake (\$1,395,720), our Stewardship Fund (\$134,541) and our Endowment (\$60,231). While we continue to receive significant grant funding, individual contributors play an important role in supporting the day to day operations of the Land Trust. Individuals and families contributed \$97,520 to Wallowa Land Trust in 2017, critical support that allows us to pursue our mission on behalf of you, our community.

2017 Foundations and other Grantors

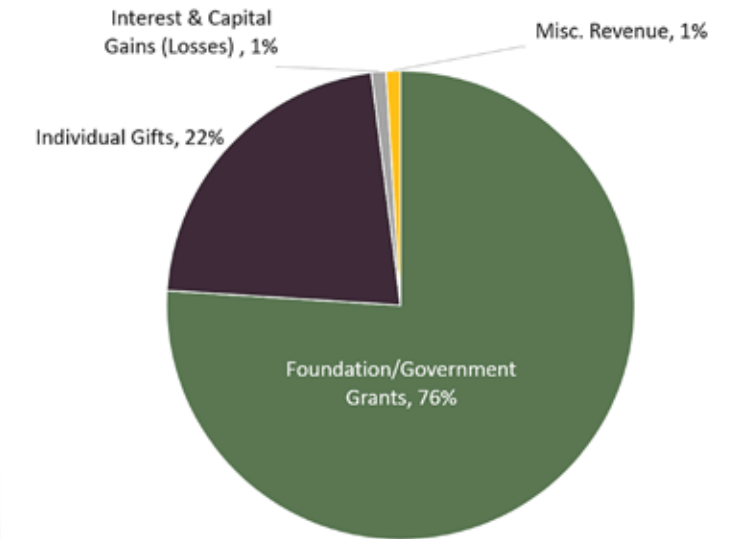
- Oregon ACE Program
- Bergstrom Foundation
- Collins Foundation
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- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Oregon Community Foundation
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Consolidated Statement of Financial Position*

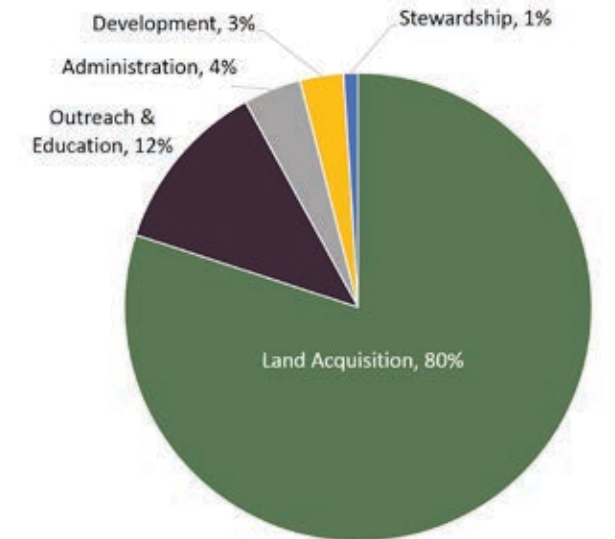
	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016
Land and related assets	\$ 1,395,720	\$ 1,395,720
Cash and investments	\$ 507,390	\$ 594,301
Total assets	\$ 1,903,110	\$ 1,990,021
Liabilities	\$ 14,415	\$ 16,953
Net assets	\$ 1,888,695	\$ 1,973,068

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 1,903,110 \$ 1,990,021

Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



* Wallowa Land Trust engages certified public accountants Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts, LLC to annually undertake an independent review of our financial statements. Our Stewardship Fund is invested with Fidelity Investments and our Endowment is held by the Oregon Community Foundation.

Thank you to our 2017 donors

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We apologize for any oversight we may have made in recognizing your support. Please call our office at (541) 426-2042 and we will update our records.

** All Seasons Club (monthly donor)*

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Megan & Woody Wolfe

Rare Plant Finds Refuge on Moraines

Threatened Wildflower Benefits from Conservation Efforts



Photo by Eric Greenwell

Wallowa County's expansive grasslands are known for their plethora of gorgeous flora. A spring walk across Zumwalt Prairie reveals a seemingly endless rainbow of blossoms, a veritable who's who of the best-dressed wildflowers in the kingdom. Enamored by them, however, you might pass by one of the rarer and unassuming species around, without even noticing.

In all honesty, Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) isn't much to look at, unless you have a particular affinity for humility, and you're patient. Its corolla, or petals of an individual flower, accent it only slightly in an elegant, if not muted and diaphanous white. Unless you know what to look for (and even then) the catchfly tends to blend in with the expansive weave of green beneath your feet. If you add to its inherent camouflage the fact that the catchfly is a perennial herbaceous plant that can remain dormant for potentially three years in a row, you get a sense of its overall aloofness.

When it does bloom, the catchfly only shines late in the season, as other grasses and forbs turn brown and crunchy (see photo). Its long taproot allows it to access water held deep in the ground. This is an adaptive trait. By staying alive and healthy late in the season, it has less plants to compete with for pollinators. But this doesn't come without cost. Because it begins to stand out, albeit mildly, it becomes a late-season beacon for grazing ungulates like deer, cattle, elk, and horses.

Other factors have led to a historical decline in the species, earning it a place on the list of threatened species in the Endangered Species Act. The Oregon Department of Agriculture listed Spalding's catchfly as endangered in the State of Oregon in 1995. Originally spread across Northeast Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northwestern Montana and the Southern edge of British Columbia, the plant thrived on the Palouse of Eastern Washington where the soil is deep and rich. Unfortunately, it did not weather the advent of till farming in that region well and now exists on the fringes of its original habitat, in places like Wallowa County.

Several organizations in our area work together and share information to monitor Spalding's catchfly and better understand the plant's viability. The Nature Conservancy has conducted extensive monitoring and research on the Zumwalt Prairie.

by Eric Greenwell



Photo by Julia Lakes

Biologist Kendrick Moholt examines a healthy specimen of *Silene spaldingii*

Wallowa Land Trust has partnered with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service for 7 years to monitor Spalding's catchfly on the Wallowa Lake moraines. Monitoring on the moraines is especially relevant. They have some of the longest and richest history of people interacting with the land. Wallowa Valley's first inhabitants, The Nez Perce, camped and kept livestock at the foot of the lake. Today, the Nez Perce Tribe is also active in monitoring and research.

When monitoring catchfly, and helping the plant to recover, we have to speak in broad terms. It potentially has up to a thirty-year lifespan, perhaps more. Multiple, successional years of data collection, perhaps even decades, is necessary to determine if plants are thriving, dormant, or gone or if the average age of plants is rising at an alarming rate or new plants are sprouting. Wallowa Land Trust is currently working with landowners to negotiate conservation easements on the East and Terminal moraines. These easements allow Wallowa Land Trust to work with landowners to preserve and steward critical habitat for this modest wildflower for generations to come.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Karen Schilling

by Katy Nesbitt



Photo by Steve Schilling

Steve and Karen Schilling enjoying Lake of the Woods

Karen Schilling and her husband Steve like to hike. The Colorado native said they came to Wallowa County from Portland, eager to get to the high country. The mountains seem to rise out of the farmland, similar to where Karen grew up in Colorado. For Steve, a geologist, the landscape and geologic features are a big draw too.

"The first time we came over was middle of July," Karen said. "We thought we'd go hiking, but it had been a big snow year so there weren't many trails open." Karen and Steve persevered and came back multiple times to hike and bring friends and family who come to visit them in Portland. Their last 20-mile day hike was to the top of Eagle Cap!

As the former planning director for Multnomah County, Karen said it is good to see Oregon's land use laws incorporated to protect scenic

views in Wallowa County. The Wallowa Land Trust's conservation easements with farms and ranches keep the rural nature of the region while encouraging agriculture-based business – values she holds dear. Three years ago when she was facing retirement, she started looking for volunteer opportunities. Karen and Steve have been long-time donors to the Trust and Karen thought she might be able to contribute in other ways. She met with Executive Director Kathleen Ackley, previous Conservation Director Julia Lakes and Mark Lacey, then chairman of the board, when they were in Portland. A short time after that meeting, Karen received a call asking her to manage the publication of the Trust's quarterly newsletter.

Karen has been managing the production of the Wallowa Land Trust's publications for three years now including the Strategic Plan, the Conservation Plan and the newsletters. Karen coordinates with the graphic designer, proof reads and edits the stories and helps choose photos. "I'm the point person," Karen said. "The graphic designer does the heavy lifting, but I relieve a lot of the pressure from the staff so they can focus on other things for the Land Trust."

Working on publications as a volunteer to protect a place she loves, Karen said, is fulfilling. "Karen is amazing," says executive director Kathleen Ackley. "I can't say enough good things about her. She has literally saved our staff hundreds of hours. She manages the entire publication process from start to finish, taking a huge load of stress off our shoulders and I am always pleased with the end product. We owe a huge debt of thanks to her!"

An Evening With Curtis Salgado to benefit Wallowa Land Trust

With a career spanning forty years, award-winning soul, blues and R&B vocalist/harmonicist/songwriter Curtis Salgado is a one-of-a-kind talent.



Curtis Salgado
OK Theater
November 9, 2018
Tickets on sale
September 9, 2018

Landmark Bill Passes to Help Preserve Oregon's Farms and Ranches

In September of 2017, a landmark bill was signed into law by Governor Kate Brown, establishing the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). Passed with broad bipartisan support, OAHP provides tools to help farmers and ranchers pass their legacies on to the next generation. These tools include a grant match for conservation easements on farms and ranches, an important resource for Wallowa Land Trust in our efforts to protect working lands and the fish and wildlife habitat they support.



Photo: Leon Werdinger

The passage of this bill comes in advance of the 2018 Farm Bill, which includes land preservation programs that can provide match funding for Oregon's new program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Agricultural Land Easement program is an example. Wallowa Land Trust accessed this funding pool to complete Phase II of the Wolfe Farm Conservation Easement in 2017. Passage of the OAHP means more

opportunities to bring these federal dollars aimed at protecting farms and ranches into Wallowa County. Although the state bill did not receive funding to fully implement its programs this biennium, with the OAHP in place, Oregon is well on its way to joining the 29 other states that have funded working lands easements to protect farm and ranch land. The bill gained widespread bipartisan support in the Oregon House and Senate because it addresses key issues farmers and ranchers face in Oregon: the fragmentation and development of farmland and the challenge of transferring this land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Wallowa County is no stranger to changing land use with the Census of Agricultural showing a 13% decrease in average farm size between 2007 and 2012.

The timing couldn't be better for the OAHP with the average age of farmers and ranchers in Oregon among the nation's oldest (60 years old). This means a massive transfer of agricultural lands will be taking place in the next two decades. Ensuring these lands are not lost to development and fragmentation means protecting the future of our rural economies.

Wallowa County native Woody Wolfe has two agricultural land easements on his family farm, protecting 463 acres from future development or subdivision. This includes 318 acres of prime farm ground and 145 acres of wetlands. The Wolfes used the sale of the easements to help buy down debt and invest in on-farm infrastructure. They will continue to farm their land while conserving more than two miles of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers



"I don't want this valley to look like a suburb. The tools in this program offer a way to capitalize on the land's economic value while preserving what people like here," says Woody.

In addition to grants for permanent working lands easements and temporary covenants, the OAHP contains other tools for farmland preservation and farm succession, like conservation management plans and succession planning workshops.

"Agriculture is Oregon's second largest economic driver, with an economic impact of \$8.2 billion dollars per year," says Kelley Beamer of the Coalition for Oregon Land Trusts. "But it's also the heart and soul of rural communities, and it provides migratory corridors, riparian areas, forest edge and other values that are essential to fish and wildlife habitat. It is imperative that we preserve this natural and cultural resource for generations to come. If we drop the ball now, we can never un-develop the land and bring it back to open spaces and habitat, or into our local food systems."

Eric Greenwell Joins Wallowa Land Trust Team

I grew up on the Mississippi River, and moved to Idaho in 2011 to earn my master's degree from the University of Idaho. While attending, I learned of Wallowa County. I'll never forget my first descent into the valley on the north highway, mountains looming to the south and a herd of elk grazing an eastern hillside.

I have interacted with the land in many roles, in many places. I worked summers on a small cattle farm in Pike County, Illinois. I worked with ranchers breeding Egyptian-Arabian Horses in Idaho's Panhandle. Last year, my partner Belinda and I managed a 92-acre inholding and homestead in the Siskiyou-Rogue River National Forest. Through these experiences, I have gained a diverse appreciation for wilderness, open space, and land use.

In addition to the unique and dramatic landscapes of Wallowa County, I'm drawn to its inexhaustible sense of community. I'm inspired by the motivation of individuals and independent organizations that shape this place. People here are certainly passionate. There is always space for civil discourse, and I perceive that good intentions are often the norm. I'm honored to be part of Wallowa County and to help conserve its rural nature as Wallowa Land Trust's Conservation Program Manager.



Welcome to the Board Yun McFall & Angela Bombaci



Born and raised in South Korea, Yun McFall first came to the United States as a teenager. After graduating with a degree in pharmacy, she spent almost a decade as a pharmacist in North Carolina. Yun felt the pull to move west and in 1989 arrived in Seattle to be the pharmacy director at Fairfax Psychiatric Hospital. Eventually she became a Clinical Specialist at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System. Both Yun and her husband Miles retired from the VA in 2015 and are now happily ensconced in their home outside Joseph along with their two cats Elvis and Oscar.

After growing up in the dense urban environment of Seoul, Korea, Yun has a special appreciation for the tranquility and splendor found in rural northeast Oregon. This appreciation and love of the land has fueled Yun's desire to be a part of preserving Wallowa County. When she is not volunteering for Wallowa Land Trust, you can find Yun hiking, quilting, or cooking up a gourmet meal for friends and family. She is famous for her incredible hospitality in support of her favorite Wallowa County community organizations.

Angela Bombaci has an MBA in Sustainable Enterprise and spent seven years with Apple, Inc. focused on hiring and talent development. But after 15 years in the crowded San Francisco Bay Area, she was ready to return to her hometown of Lostine. She finally arrived in 2017 and now finds her interests turning towards work that strengthens ties between neighbors and inspires collaboration, including conserving the open spaces and working lands that make Wallowa County so special.

Angela currently works as the Program Coordinator for the Nez Perce Homeland Project in Wallowa. Along with volunteering for Wallowa Land Trust, Angela is making the most of her new and improved country life by getting outside with her two-year-old son Cosmo every day, inspiring a new generation of Wallowa County stewards.



2018 Calendar of Events

STEWARDSHIP DAYS

Help us steward our protected lands this summer. We'll be pruning vegetation, marking boundaries, pulling invasive weeds, removing old fences and building bird boxes.

Fridays from 9am - 12pm
 May 25th
 June 22nd
 July 27th
 August 24th

OTHER

Annual Picnic

Join us to celebrate the work of the Wallowa Land Trust
Sunday, August 12th

Annual Benefit Concert

Curtis Salgado at the OK Theater
 Tickets on sale starting Sept. 10th
Friday, November 9th



SATURDAY OUTINGS

National Get Outdoors Day

Explore The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie with naturalists Andie Lueders and Janet Hohmann
Saturday, June 9th

East Moraine Hike

Learn the geologic history of the Wallowa Lake Moraines with Ellen Morris Bishop
Saturday, July 14th

Tick Hill Hike

Explore the Tamkaliks grounds and hike Tick Hill with the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland
Saturday, August 11th

Lostine Fish Weir Tour

with Shane Vatland of the Nez Perce Tribe
Saturday, September 8th



Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.
 For more information call or email us at (541) 426-2042, info@wallowalandtrust.org



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Eric Greenwell, Conservation
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Heidi Wilson, Office Administrator



Photo: Leon Werdinger

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Photo: Leon Werdinger