

AUTUMN 2019



WallowaLands

News and Annual Report from Wallowa Land Trust

PERRY FARM
Conservation Easement Protects
482 Acres of East Moraine

Keep It Rural!

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2018 WALLOWA LAND TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 14-19



Cover Photo by Brady Holden.

GREETINGS!

2019 has been a big year for the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. Wallowa Land Trust has dedicated an immense amount of time, energy and resources to the Campaign for the East Moraine. However, we've been doing much more than that, and this newsletter showcases some of the things we have been pursuing over the past eleven months, including:

- Closing on two conservation projects on the East Moraine: the 175-acre Quint Farm and the adjacent 482-acre Perry Farm;
- Hosting tribal members for the first annual First Foods Gathering over the course of two days in May;
- Holding a successful *Into The Wallowa* outings series focused on the East Moraine; and,
- Stewarding protected properties thanks to the help of volunteers like Leigh Dawson.

The Land Trust also took the bold step of hiring me as their new Outreach and Communications Coordinator. I am delighted to be here in Wallowa County over the next year and look forward to getting to know our members and supporters. I invite you to send me any of your ideas about communications or events – I'm all ears and look forward to having some input from readers like you! Email me at tia@wallowalandtrust.org or call me at 541-426-2042.

Don't forget to look back on last year's accomplishments by perusing Wallowa Land Trust's 2018 Annual Report found at the end of this newsletter.

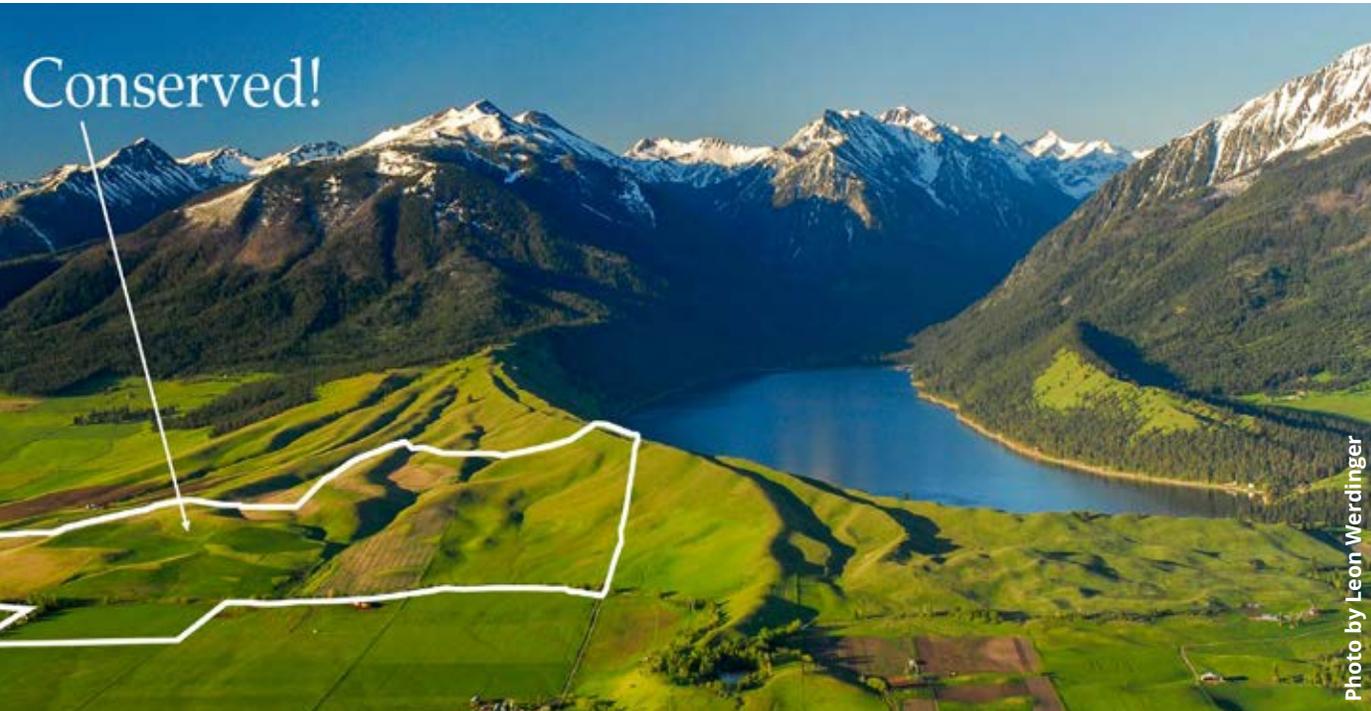
Thank YOU for supporting land conservation in this amazing corner of Oregon. Enjoy! ■



Tia Hatton, Outreach and Communications Coordinator

Photo: Perry Farm Conservation Easement by Ellen Morris Bishop.

PERRY FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENT



For thousands of years people have lived off the landscape surrounding Wallowa Lake – feasting on bunchgrass-fed deer and elk. For 200 years the bunchgrass fed the Appaloosa horses of the Nez Perce and later the new settlers’ cattle and sheep.

In the early 21st century the grass prairies continue to provide forage for wildlife and livestock as well contribute to the scenic

beauty of a pastoral landscape – scenery so precious its protection is included in Wallowa County’s land use code.

Louis Perry grew up in the shadow of the East Moraine in a fertile farming area in the upper Prairie Creek watershed and the Wallowa peaks overhead. In September of this year, he and his wife Deyette closed on a conservation easement with Wallowa Land Trust so their 482-acre parcel will remain a working

farm, while maintaining scenic, habitat, and economic values into perpetuity. The bunchgrass remains an integral part of the property.

Perry said, “When I was still in high school, I leased much of the property now protected [by the conservation easement] for my sheep operation. I bought the first piece of the property when I was nineteen and have been steadily adding to those original two acres as opportunity arose ever since.”

While the Perrys reserved the right to build one home on the property, they also extinguished the right to develop an additional house and most of the acreage will continue to be farmed, raising grain and hay. This vision helped garner half of the funding for the easement from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program.

“The reason NRCS provided the funding was because we were very specific that the land should continue to be farmed and not turned into a preserve – we are not particularly interested in locking it up or creating a park,” Perry said. “Because it’s been actively farmed for 100 years it needs active management to keep it in good shape.”

“

The boys were piling brush with me and I realized they are young enough to not quite realize the implications of managing our land – it was just work for them until I said, “Some days these trees will be worth harvesting, they are not marketable now, but someday you might get something out of it.” That’s when they realized the land will be theirs one day. Succession is difficult; you don’t want to force it on the kids, but hopefully they will want to do that.

Louis Perry

Eric Greenwell, the Land Trust’s Conservation Program Manager shared why this property aligns with the Land Trust’s conservation plan in multiple ways: “Not only does it have fertile soils for farming and provide habitat for grassland birds and mule deer in the winter, but it is also a key piece of a community vision to conserve Wallowa Lake’s East Moraine and the heart of NE Oregon.”

The Perry Farm Conservation Easement is directly adjacent to the 52-acre Ham and 175-acre Quint Conservation Easements, which Wallowa Land Trust completed in 2017 and 2019, respectively, as well as the Ronald C. Yanke Family Trust’s 1,800-acre East Moraine property. The Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership, led by Wallowa Land Trust, is currently working to purchase this property and convey it to Wallowa County to be sustainably managed as a mixed-use community forest.

The acres the Perrys have lovingly stitched together in upper Prairie Creek reflect the love and interest in management of the land his family has had for more than 100 years. “My great grandfather, George F. Dawson came to Wallowa County by horseback from Lewiston in 1902 at the age of 24. He and

his brother soon established a sawmill and retail lumber store,” Perry said.

The lumber store and a family farm in the upper Wallowa Valley are still in operation and the Dawson family has a long history in both the farming and timber industries. Perry, too, has diversified his business interests over the years running a construction company and pioneering solar energy in Eastern Oregon. He also home schools his three children, ages 12, 10, and 9. While Louis is focused on educating the kids and managing the family’s land, Deyette runs Perry and Associates, an accounting firm. Some of her clients request her help with succession planning, something Louis said his boys, Zander and Dawson, have learned about.

By working together, the Perry family and Wallowa Land Trust have ensured that working lands remain working in many facets, conserving rich soil, providing food, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas. These lands will also remain conserved to inspire and instill in generations to come a unique work ethic and set of conservation values. Lou expressed he is “happy to leave this as a legacy to the County and future generations.” ■

”



Perry family, October 2019. Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop.

By Katy Nesbitt & Tia Hatton

CAMPAIGN FOR THE EAST MORAINE UPDATE

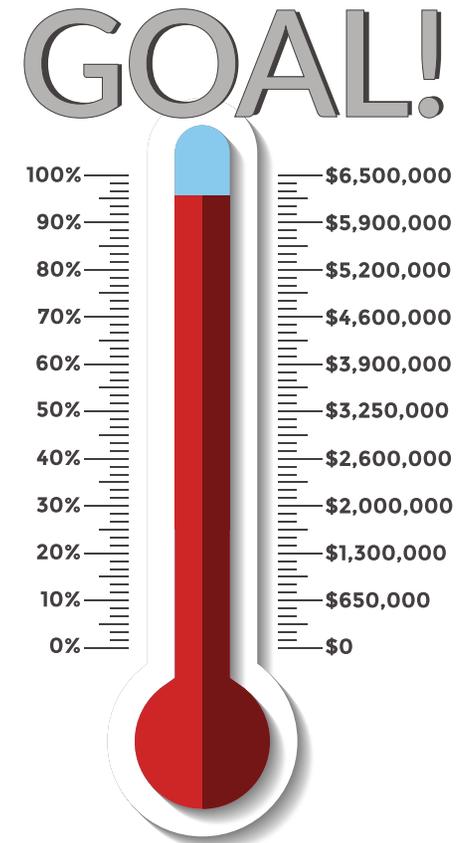
The Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership, comprised of Wallowa Land Trust, Wallowa Resources, Wallowa County and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, has been working tirelessly over the past ten months to secure more than 60% of the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. With less than three months left in the campaign, we have a mere \$324,000 to raise out of \$6.5 million! We are pulling out all the stops to make this project happen. From multiple trips to the west side of the state to submitting monthly grant applications, no stone is being left unturned.

The level of enthusiasm and generosity displayed by our long-time supporters and many new ones has been astounding! And a little humbling. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far - we have had gifts ranging from \$25 to \$250,000. No gift is too small and every single one is appreciated!

Our Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Ronald C. Yanke Family Trust gives us until January 29, 2020 to close. That means we need to have all funds in hand no later than January 15, 2020.

If you would like to contribute to this landmark campaign, visit the website at www.morainecampaign.org.

Once the property is acquired, all development and sub-division rights will be extinguished and the property will become publicly owned to be managed as a mixed-use community forest, protecting native plants, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources while providing non-motorized recreational access. We look forward to celebrating with you the acquisition and permanent protection of one of the most spectacular landscapes in Oregon!



CAMPAIGN NUMBERS

USFS Forest Legacy Program:	\$3,673,928
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department:	\$1,000,000
Private individuals:	\$962,756
Nez Perce Tribe:	\$300,000
Collins Foundation:	\$135,000
Oregon Community Foundation:	\$100,000
Conservation Alliance:	\$40,000
Yarg Foundation/Land Trust Alliance:	\$22,264
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust:	\$10,000

Grand Total Raised to Date: \$6,243,948

OTHER ACTIVITIES WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN INCLUDE:

STEWARDSHIP PLAN:

A team of experts is working on drafting a stewardship plan for the property that will be available for public input and review in the Spring of 2020. The team is addressing the following components: grazing, forestry, habitat, recreation and cultural resources. An important element of this plan is balancing the different uses and ensuring that the landscape is sustainably managed.

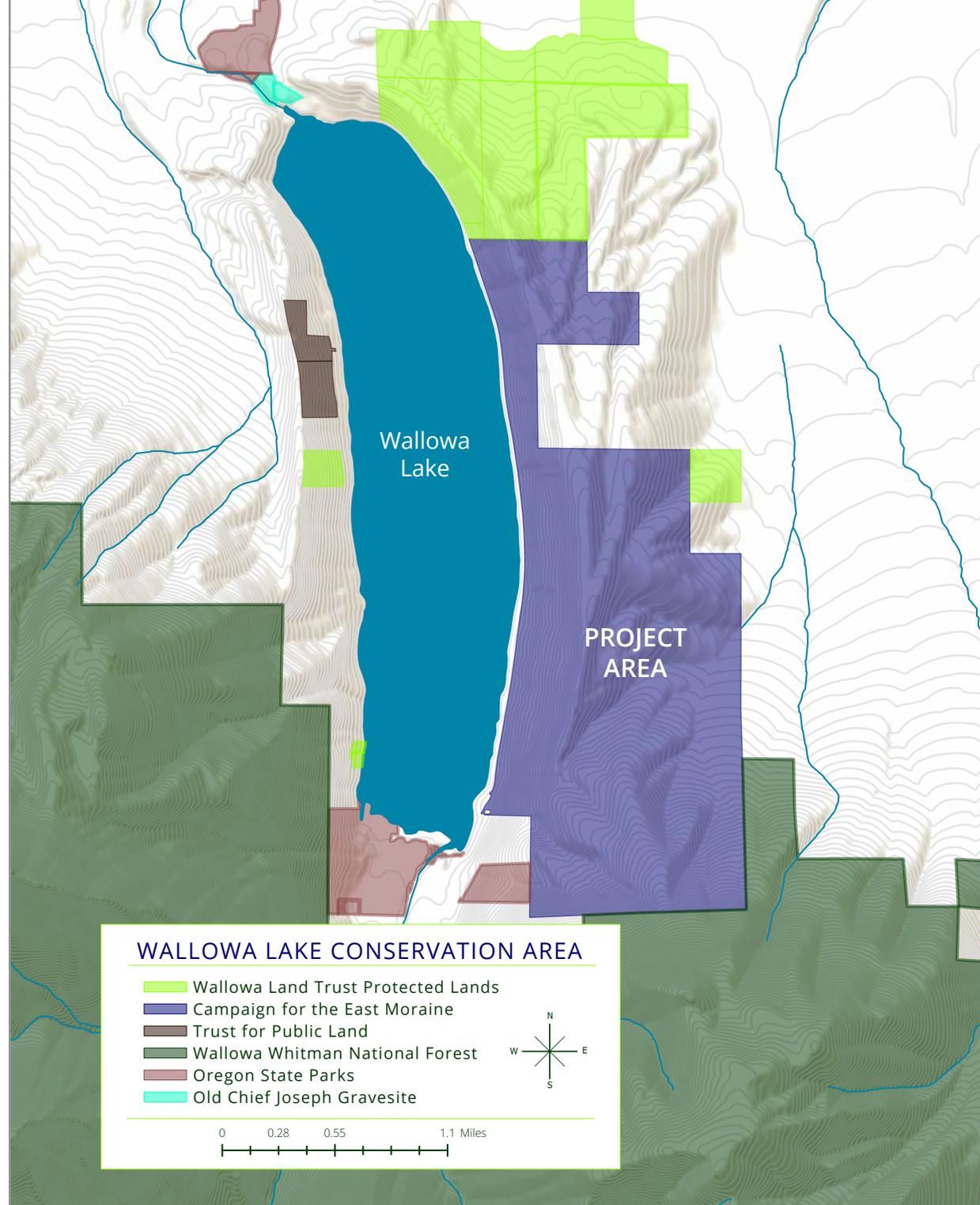
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT:

Staff are currently pulling together all the elements for a Baseline Documentation Report (BDR). The BDR documents the current conditions of the property, from where roads and trails are located to what plants exist, and the health of the forest and grasslands. The BDR will serve as the basis for future monitoring of the property and enforcement of the conservation easement.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT:

Together with legal counsel and the Oregon Department of Forestry, we are drafting a conservation easement that will define permitted and prohibited uses of the property. A conservation easement is a legal agreement that runs in perpetuity with the property regardless of the owner. The easement will allow for certain activities associated with the property to continue such as forestry and recreation, while permanently extinguishing other rights such as the right to subdivide, conduct any residential development or mining. Wallowa Land Trust and the Oregon Department of Forestry will co-hold the easement and will be responsible for ensuring that the terms of the agreement are met. ■

By **Kathleen Ackley**



TRIBAL GATHERING

In 2018, all of us at Wallowa Land Trust began taking a closer look at how we could strengthen our relationships with tribes around our service area. We hosted a series of lectures in our community led by indigenous speakers; we visited tribal committees; and we hosted listening sessions at several reservations. From these conversations, it became clear to us that one of the most common and pressing concerns was access to lands for gathering.

Since Wallowa Land Trust has relationships with several private landowners in Wallowa County, we saw an opportunity. And in the spring of 2019, we hosted gatherers from the Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, all of whom connected with private landowners and gathered first foods and medicines in Wallowa County.

What follows are the thoughts of one elder who participated in that gathering.

Eric Greenwell



17 tribal members from four different tribes came together in Wallowa County to gather roots at Grace Prairie (owned by Paul Flanders) and Midway (owned by the Locke Family). Photos by Carla Timentwa.

'The land remembered us'

With blue skies and wind blowing wisps of black hair into her eyes, her small hands searched the rocky ground for a link to her past: a small, edible root connecting her to both past and future as she assumes her rightful place as a Nez Perce child belonging to the land known as the Wallowa Valley.

This past May, Wallowa Land Trust invited Nez Perce from Idaho, Oregon and the Colville reservation in Washington state to gather traditional foods on private lands. It is significant because in May 1877, Chief Joseph and his people were forced out of the valley. The subsequent atrocities of war, imprisonment and division amongst the Nez Perce separated us from the land and the traditional gathering areas. The lands were then farmed or grazed over and native food gatherers became unwelcome.



It is significant because 142 years after Chief Joseph's exile from the Wallows, this was the first time in recent memory for descendants of a shared history to gather with a common purpose of reestablishing traditional digging grounds. It also was a rare occasion for private landowners to welcome us on their property. Our journey to the Wallowa Valley became a day of healing for the land and the people.

The elderly ladies who gathered to carry on this work brought memories to life once again as they shared in song and heartfelt words. The younger ladies and girls, in moccasins and traditional dress, listened intently before searching the sweeping hillside for the foods to gather. Over time and with the absence of traditional food gatherers, the roots themselves have become small. Yet they remembered to return every year waiting for us to come back home to the Wallowa Valley.

While we did not fill our digging bags, our hearts were truly filled with the beauty of the land, the laughter of the younger ones and the presence of our ancestors who watched over us all these years.

The snowcapped mountains, rolling hills and grazing horses made the rocks underfoot less intrusive. As we walked down the hill, I said a prayer, thankful the land remembered us and we remember the land. My granddaughter's footprints are now there, just as the footprints of her ancestors were placed here for her to follow. ■

By Carla Timentwa, *Carla is an enrolled Nez Perce Tribal Member*

Into The Wallowa OUTINGS 2019: YEAR OF THE MORAINE



Forester Larry Nall teaches the group about the connection between stewardship and forestry on the Working Landscape outing. The outing was co-led by Nall and professional Rangeland Manager, Kelly Birkmaier. August 31, 2019. Photo by Eric Greenwell.

As autumn clears the way for snow, leaf by fallen leaf, I recall how places change gradually and all at once—how we can never step in the same river twice, as Heraclitus said, and how the places we love have several shades and qualities.

This year Wallowa Land Trust has closed on over 650 acres of conservation easements on Wallowa Lake's iconic East Moraine and we are working with our partners to purchase and conserve another 1,800 acres of the East Moraine by January 2020.

Due to this momentum, we thought, what better way to honor the conservation of the East Moraine than to call attention to the facets that make it so central to us and our community? And our answer was our *Into The Wallowa* outings, now in its 10th year. From May to September, Wallowa Land Trust hosted 5 outings specifically designed to call to mind what Wallowa Lake's East Moraine has meant to people for thousands of years.

Our guides for these outings—Larry Nall, Kelly Birkmaier, Jacob Hasslacher, Chris Antemann, Rob Taylor, Andie Lueders, Amelia Marchand, Albert Andrews, and

Veronica Redstar—included artists, rangeland managers, Nez Perce elders, foresters, ecologists and geologists who led us up the East and West Moraine. We took in sweeping views of Wallowa Lake, the moraines basin, and Wallowa Mountains. On clear days, we looked out over Zumwalt Prairie, Hells Canyon, the Sawtooth Mountains to the east and the Wenaha Mountains to the northwest. We moved through lower elevations, talking about forests and grasslands, and toured a fine art studio which hosts and inspires artists from around the world at the foot of the East Moraine.



“ Thanks to the efforts of so many, we are on track to preserve 2,500 acres of Wallowa Lake’s East Moraine forever. This year’s *Into The Wallowa* series reminded me what that really means. When we are successful, the East Moraine will be here to learn from, to inspire, and to know—30 years from now, 30 years from then, and so on. ”

Eric Greenwell

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Vanilla Stag Bakery
BGood Bars
Old Town Cafe

Amelia Marchand, Environmental Trust Department Program Director for the Colville Confederated Tribes and descendant of Chief Joseph’s Wallowa Band Nez Perce presents at the final *Into The Wallowa* outing on the East Moraine in September 2019. Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop.

As one could imagine, we learned so much. We saw first-hand how glaciers carved out Wallowa Lake. We learned how this process began 300,000 years ago and how geologists deduced that number by taking samples from boulders those glaciers dropped on the moraine (called erratics). From these samples, they calculated how much time has passed by how much direct sunlight and gamma radiation altered the composition of the granite. We learned what an “ecotone” is, where mixed conifer forests give way to ponderosa pine woodlands, or ponderosa pine woodlands give way to bunchgrasses,

and we learned how fauna depend on such diversities of flora, all found on the East Moraine. We learned how tribes are talking about lands like the East Moraine, where the emphasis on natural *resources* shifts to natural *relationships* and interconnected systems of life.

We hosted some truly enlightening outings, and they reminded me how important the East Moraine is to many people for many reasons.

When I started working for Wallowa Land Trust in 2017, I attended an *Into The Wallowa*

outing led by a local steward, Doug McDaniel. Doug pioneered a restoration project on the Wallowa River on his property. He told me then “we have to live on a piece of land for 30 years or more to begin to understand it.” Unfortunately, we lost Doug this year, but I haven’t forgotten his words.

With the success of our communal conservation efforts, we will preserve the East Moraine for generations to come, to learn from and to know. ■

By Eric Greenwell

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

LEIGH DAWSON



On a recent fall morning as the sun rose over the East Moraine, two volunteer land stewards woke early to lead the way to monitor Wallowa Land Trust's West Moraine Preserve. One of these volunteers was Leigh Dawson, who's been monitoring the property since 2016 and been a supporter since Wallowa Land Trust's inception. A volunteer land steward helps monitor our preserves and easements; following a training, they will visit the property annually following a checklist, taking photos, and noting any changes they've noticed.

A nearly lifelong land steward, Leigh Dawson has lived in Wallowa County for about forty years and has spent that time taking care of the land, which is what sparked her interest in Wallowa Land Trust. Her thirty-plus-year career in the US Forest Service started in Wilderness and Recreation Management. In the later years of her career she developed a collaborative to manage invasive plant species populations. At home, this conservation ethic doesn't stop. She's consistently improving her small acreage where she's planted over 400 trees, manages weeds, takes care of the stream channel, and of course, repairs the fences.

Caring for this incredible land isn't one person or one agency's job. It is all of ours and we each have a role to play. Leigh encourages Wallowa Land Trust's supporters to take up the responsibility to be observant and know the land you're on, and she says; "monitoring is an excellent way to do it." To anyone thinking about becoming a Volunteer Land Steward, Leigh says, "Do it! It is a small investment on your part but has a greater wholistic benefit. And it is enjoyable!"

Anyone interested in becoming a land steward and who would like more information, please reach out to Conservation Program Manager, Eric Greenwell at eric@wallowalandtrust.org. ■

By Tia Hatton

OUTREACH COORDINATOR



**WELCOME
TIA HATTON**

In the coming year, Tia Hatton will be spearheading Wallowa Land Trust's outreach and communications. This will include, but not be limited to, creating a communications plan, helping on the Campaign for the East Moraine and tribal engagement. She comes to the Land Trust through the graduate-level AmeriCorps program RARE, Resource Assistance for Rural Environments. She'll be serving for 11-months. Her position is funded by the Land Trust Alliance and Yarg Foundation.

Tia grew up in Bend, Oregon. The youngest of six kids, her family spent a lot of time outside while she grew up - hiking, running, skiing and enjoying the diverse landscapes of Central Oregon.

A full ride scholarship, an interest in the Environmental Studies Program, and the competitive running club led Tia to attend the University of Oregon. She recently graduated in June 2019 with a degree in Environmental Sciences with a focus on earth and physical sciences, and a minor in nonprofit administration.

If you'd like to reach Tia, or have any interest in volunteering to help with outreach or communications in the future, please email her at tia@wallowalandtrust.org or call 541-426-2042. ■

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your patience in awaiting the 2018 annual report.

Wallowa Land Trust ended 2018 in a strong financial position. Our total net assets at the close of the year were \$1.85 million, mostly unchanged from 2017. This figure includes cash and cash equivalents (\$203,818), the value of two conservation properties we own on the West Moraine (\$1,395,720), our Stewardship Fund (\$167,977) and our Endowment (\$57,642). All total, we raised \$184,436 in 2018 with a significant portion coming from individuals and families (\$91,784). Those funds allowed us to not only continue our efforts to protect the rural nature of our beautiful corner of Oregon, but also to:

- Host the 10th year of our popular outreach and education program, *"Into The Wallowa;"*
- Lead the eighth consecutive year of Spalding's catchfly surveys on the Wallowa Lake Moraines;
- Host a benefit concert with blues legend Curtis Salgado at the OK Theater;
- Travel to Pendleton, Nespelem and Lapwai to conduct Listening Sessions with tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, The Colville Confederated Tribes and the Nez Perce Tribe;
- Host a five-week workshop series for our community partners on tribal history and culture, titled *"Nez Perce in the Wallowas;"* and,
- Conduct stewardship activities on protected properties - from pulling invasive weeds to picking up trash and hanging bat boxes.

Thank you for making 2018 a strong foundation for the game-changing 2019 we've had.



Kathleen Ackley, Executive Director

2018 FINANCIALS

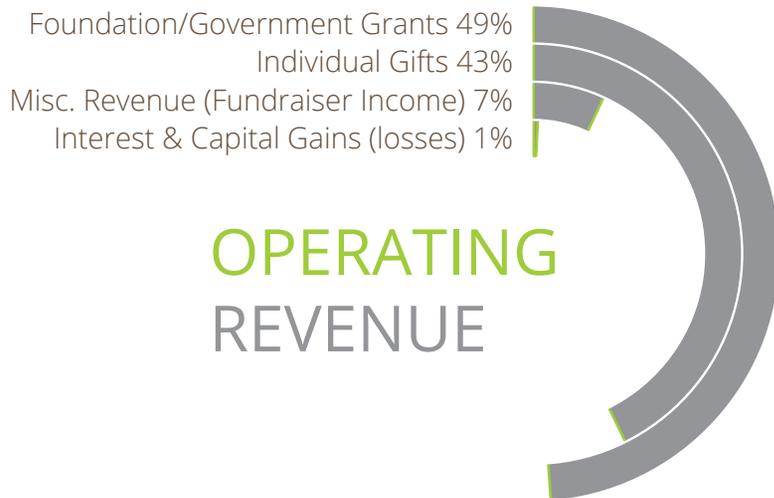
*Wallowa Land Trust engages certified public accountants Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson, & Roberts, LLC to annually undertake an independent review of our financial statements. Our Stewardship Fund is invested with Fidelity Investments and our Endowment is held by the Oregon Community Foundation.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION*

	Dec. 31, 2018	Dec. 31, 2017
Land and related assets	\$1,453,362	\$1,395,720
Cash and investments	\$403,527	\$507,390
Total assets	\$1,856,889	\$1,903,110
Liabilities	\$15,501	\$14,415
Net Assets	\$1,841,388	\$1,888,695
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,856,889	\$1,903,110



Photo by Leon Werdinger.



TRIBUTE GIFTS

Donor

Randall Magahay and Florence Dezeix
Sara Miller
David Lakes and Stephanie Fein
Kevin Gorman and Michelle Kinsella
Alison Wysong
Alison Estabrook
Bruce and Kristen Rogers
Maxine Stone
Jo Henderson
Danette and Matthew Henderson
Arthur Duncan
Polly Estabrook
William and Loralyn Young
Greg and Gail Johnson

Tribute

In honor of Jay Graves
In honor of Jean Pekarek
In honor of Julia Lakes
In honor of Kathleen Ackley
In honor of Nancy Brown
In honor of Polly Estabrook
In memory of Leigh Latta
In memory of Gloria Mensah
In memory of Jay Henderson
In memory of Jay Henderson
In memory of Jay Henderson
In memory of Mildred Butler
In memory of Regan Robinson
In memory of Walt and Carol Hearne

Geologist Dr. Ellen Morris Bishop teaches at the *Into The Wallowa* moraines outing held on the West Moraine Preserve. July 6, 2019.
Photo by Eric Greenwell.

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

20

BIRD & BAT BOXES HUNG ON CONSERVATION PROPERTIES



24

BIRD & BAT BOXES HANDED OUT



1,640

FEET OF OLD BARBED WIRE FENCE REMOVED FROM THE EAST MORAINE



74

DOCUMENTED COLUMBIA SPOTTED FROG EGG CLUSTERS ON THE WOLFE FARM



109

ESTABLISHED SPALDING'S CATCHFLY SITES ON THE EAST MORAINE



800+

PARTICIPANTS IN LAND TRUST EVENTS

400+

HOURS DONATED BY

50

VOLUNTEERS

\$91,000+

DOLLARS DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS

480+

INDIVIDUAL DONORS IN

16

STATES

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS!

Wallowa Land Trust is honored to recognize the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations whose contributions have supported our work in the 2018 year.

Jesse Abrams
George & Brenda Ackley*
Kathleen Ackley*
Stephen Adams & Sandra Purnell
Bob & Diane DeGrofft Alexander
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Jo Henderson
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Terence Hiatt

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Photo by Liz Lawrence

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Gary & Diane White
Geoff & Charla Whiting
Cheryl Wilfong
Wes Williams & Jennifer Schemm
Ian & Heidi Wilson*
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Woody & Megan Wolfe
Gail & Chuck Woosley
Alison Wysong
William & Loralyn Young
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PROTECTING THE RURAL NATURE OF THE WALLOWA COUNTRY



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