



STATE OF THE LANDS 2019

Fostering place & community
across Oregon



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Monarch butterflies, salmon and sandhill cranes



These migrating species capture our wonder and remind us that we are part of a landscape that's interconnected. As a land trust community, we are the same. COLT's 26 members

all work to conserve land throughout Oregon's diverse and varied geographies. Together we are building a web of protected lands, that—combined with everything from State Parks to community gardens—provide havens for these great migrations, and each other. (Read about monarchs on Page 6!)

Oregon land trusts are anchored in community, both by the local regions they serve and through our statewide coalition. The strength of these communities position us to ask, "what can we do together that we can't do alone?" The answer is powerful and pressing. In the face of climate change and the rapid decline of migrating species, we can provide solutions for connectivity, for the protection of water and for connecting people to nature, through their hearts and feet. **Join me in celebrating what connects us** and we hope you enjoy this year's collection of inspiring stories from across Oregon.

Kelley Beamer

KELLEY BEAMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

ON THE COVER: Short-eared owl
by Karie LeFebvre Gonor

Our community

26



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

720



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

protecting **415,796 acres** via
218 conservation easements
241 acquisitions and
261 reconveyances

96,691



ACRES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

6,312



ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

281



BOARD MEMBERS

301



FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

data from 2018



**HIGHLIGHT:
ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

Forest Park Conservancy, Portland

Forest Park Conservancy's vision for "greater" conservation

PARTNERING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS, WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY

Forest Park wins at Venn diagrams. Culturally, it's on the bucket list for tourists and lunch break list for locals. Physically, it shoulders the city of Portland, serving as a peaceful oasis in a growing metropolis. And, at 5,200 acres, it's one of the largest urban parks in the nation (yes, much bigger than Central Park).

The park's champion—the Forest Park Conservancy—is also one of the newest members of COLT.

"You can just walk in the park with flip flops or dress shoes and feel a sense of peace," said Alejandro Orizola, the Conservancy's Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative (GFPCI) coordinator. "As someone fairly new to the city, I loved that I could be in nature just five minutes from downtown, and there were no barriers."

Orizola's been at the Conservancy just over a year, after a career as a lawyer and conservationist in his home country of Chile. The GFPCI is the Conservancy's roadmap to a healthy and resilient Forest Park—with over 15 project partners involved—to restore and protect not just the popular Forest Park, but the entire surrounding ecosystem. The GFPCI highlights projects that enhance water quality, connectivity, forest complexity and wildlife diversity. This includes new attention to 14 old conservation easements in the neighborhood, that are held by the Conservancy.

The Conservancy's engagement with these landowners and collaborative easement stewardship approach continues to get a warm reception. The idea of learning together is central to the success of the easements, and the GFPCI, Orizola said.

And he doesn't take the park for granted, either. Orizola's often found on the trails in his off hours, with his wife and new son (see photo at right).

"This place," he said, with an impassioned arm wave toward the forested hills, "is really something we can all be proud of."



Forest Park Conservancy protects and fosters the ecology of Forest Park and inspires community appreciation of our state's iconic urban forest.

forestparkconservancy.org



Photos: Forest Park Conservancy



PROTECTION

Wallowa Land Trust, Enterprise

East Moraine closer to protection

AFTER 10 YEARS, AGREEMENT SIGNED TO BUY 1,791 ACRES ALONG WALLOWA LAKE

Standing there, you could see where the houses would go. Big houses, probably, with that lake view. This development, according to Kathleen Ackley, executive director of Wallowa Land Trust (WLT), would dramatically change the nature of her community. Many agreed. Which meant hatching a new plan.

The Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership is trying to buy the East Moraine, to the tune of \$6 million, to be used for recreation, grazing, community forestry and ecological values—keeping habitat healthy and intact.

“Big landscapes are rapidly disappearing across the state, especially close to population areas,” Ackley said. “This opportunity is so rare—and has required vision and patience.”

Wallowa Lake in Eastern Oregon, near trailheads for Oregon’s Eagle Cap Wilderness, is a summer fishing spot and flanked by moraines—dramatic hills shaped by glaciers long ago. In 2011, the largest landowner on the East Moraine, the Ronald C. Yanke Family Trust, announced intentions to sell or develop their land.

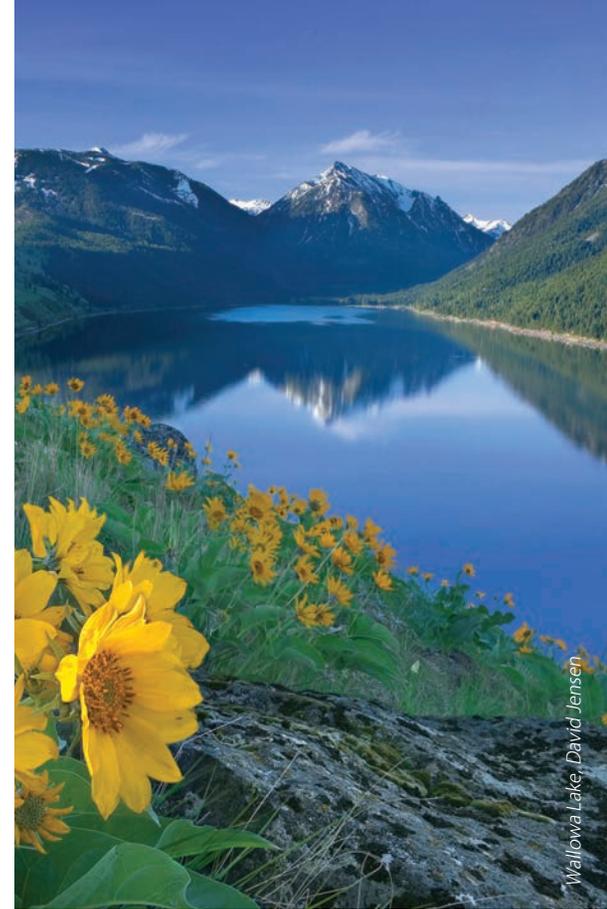
A housing development was a real possibility given the zoning. The partnership was established, of which WLT is a founding member, to determine an alternative approach to the moraine’s future.

Since then, discussions with the landowner have continued and, in early 2019, the group entered into a binding agreement to purchase the land. The group has until the end of January, 2020 to raise the money. (So far they’ve raised more than half and are seeking support.)

“This story demonstrates that a small community can keep their culture and come together to manage big landscapes for multiple uses—including conservation,” Ackley said. “Our strength is that we’re doing this together, with all kinds of partners and supporters. We wouldn’t dream of doing this alone.”

Wallowa Land Trust protects the rural nature of the Wallowa country. wallowalandtrust.org

Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership members are Wallowa Land Trust, Wallowa Resources, Wallowa County and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. morainecampaign.org



Wallowa Lake, David Jensen



Molly Verhey



An oyster grower and a fish monger. Photo: The Wetlands Conservancy



The Wetlands Conservancy



PARTNERSHIPS

The Wetlands Conservancy, Portland

From the dock to the dinner plate

CONNECTING OYSTER CONSERVATION TO GROWING FOOD TREND

There's a cocktail inspired by her. Yes, fish sauce is in there—along with lemon, walnut bitters and a slug of Maker's Mark whiskey. It's earthy. Lively. And, well, unusual. Which sums up Esther Lev, executive director of The Wetlands Conservancy, pretty well.

"We're not exactly doing work the way everyone else does," she said, with a grin. "At Wetlands, we do things a little differently and connect more broadly to what people care about."

Like food. Some people might not know that oysters are filtration superstars, keeping water clean. But they do know oysters are tasty. Lev's a big supporter of the urban food scene and she works directly with fishing folks, chefs and coastal dwellers. She's been a voice and a nonprofit beneficiary of Shuck Portland, a culinary festival with thousands of participants celebrating oysters and their role in the ocean ecosystem.

The Conservancy also hosts their own events, like Wetlands and Wellies—most recently held at a trendy urban wine bar. It's an annual fundraiser to celebrate wetlands, water and local foods that thrive with healthy ecosystems.

Native oysters were harvested to almost extinction in the 1920s. Now, they're making a comeback. For almost 20 years the Conservancy has been working with partners to conserve and enhance estuaries and oyster habitat to help restore the briny bivalve. Over the last five years, they've worked with The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Oregon Oyster Farms to re-establish native oyster populations.

"We have this amazing bounty on the West Coast and we want to bring attention to it,"

said Maylin Chavez, chef/owner of Olympia Oyster Bar and co-founder of Shuck Portland. "We want to have a good time, eat and drink and do what Portlanders do best, but it's really about bringing awareness to our ecosystem."



DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to being a food many love to eat, oysters are filter feeders—**naturally cleaning up to 50 gallons of water a day** (that's more than what a typical bathtub holds) just by being alive. These little bivalves are a vital part of keeping waterways clean.

Above photo: Bobby Hayden, TWC

The Wetlands Conservancy partners with communities across our state to permanently protect, conserve, enhance, and restore Oregon's wetlands. wetlandsconservancy.org



3 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR MONARCHS

- 1) Plant native milkweed—showy milkweed or narrow leaf milkweed
- 2) Plant other native blooms and nectar sources
- 3) Get involved in monarch groups like the Monarch Advocates of Central Oregon, Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates, Xerces Society and Monarch Joint Venture

Above photo: Jay Mather



SPECIES FEATURE: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Deschutes Land Trust, Bend

Corridors of hope

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLIES SOAR

Amanda Egertson was biking and she saw it—native milkweed by the sidewalk. She was rearing monarchs and casing her neighborhood. The young caterpillars feed exclusively off the plant and she needed food for her growing brood. So she approached her neighbor.

“I answered the door,” said neighbor Don Davidson, who, by happenstance, is a member of Deschutes Land Trust. “She was there with her kids and a big smile on her face. She was just so happy and effusive and asked if she could harvest some of our milkweed for caterpillars. We said sure.”

Egertson, the south region conservation director for Deschutes Land Trust, has been studying butterflies for years. Western monarchs make a multi-generational migration from as far as Canada to California—relying on native milkweed to lay their eggs and feed their young. Central Oregon is a known monarch migration route, but populations and habitats are fragmented and scattered (which is why monarch and pollinator work has been a land trust priority). In 2018, Egertson got a call from the US Forest Service that a monarch was spotted at their seed extractory’s milkweed patch. Egertson dropped everything and drove over, and found that the butterfly had, in fact, laid tiny, white eggs. She took her kids out of summer camp and they all went back to carefully collect some of the eggs.

So began the land trust’s first monarch raising journey. Working with partners, Egertson expertly designed and managed the tedious raising of 15 monarch butterflies, from egg to caterpillar to jade chrysalis to butterflies. Many were then tagged and released at the land trust’s Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, where the organization has regularly planted native milkweed and other nectar sources. She said her whole family was enraptured by the process, as was the land trust staff (many of whom, upon a text alert, drove to Egertson’s house to watch new butterflies first emerge from their chrysalides).

“Plant native milkweed and other nectar sources,” Egertson said. “It’s one of those conservation issues you can do something about. With Monarchs, you actually feel empowered. Which is amazing.”

Deschutes Land Trust conserves land for wildlife, scenic views and local communities.
deschuteslandtrust.org



Photos: Deschutes Land Trust

Jay Mather



“Plant native milkweed
and other nectar sources.
**It’s one of those
conservation issues you
can do something about.**
With monarchs,
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DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Xerces Society, researchers and citizen scientists estimate that this epic migration could be on the verge of collapse.

The western monarch population is less than 1% of what it was in the 1980s, mainly due to a lack of suitable habitat and nectar sources across the monarch’s range.

But we can do something about it. COLT members around the state (list below) are working on monarch habitat maintenance and development or milkweed planting to help reverse that trend.

To learn more about the work of our members, reach out to:

Columbia Land Trust

Deschutes Land Trust

Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Land Trust

Klamath Lake Land Trust

McKenzie River Trust



AT A GLANCE

Highlights from across the state

EDUCATION



Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

SO SWIFT: Thousands of Vaux's swifts pour into Hedrick Middle School's chimney in Medford, Oregon. Last fall, SOLC partnered with the school and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society to add swift-related curriculum to science, math, English and social studies classes. And students helped count the birds as they entered the chimney.

The birds rest there for the night before continuing their long migration journey to Central and South America. Vaux's swifts once relied on hollow, old-growth trees but now old chimneys are often where they rest.

Photo: Pepper Trail

LEADERSHIP



Blue Mountain Land Trust

FUTURE IS FEMALE: Blue Mountain Land Trust opened their Oregon office in John Day in July, 2017 when they hired Amanda Martino as their southern region conservation director.

In November 2018, Genevieve Perdue joined the team as conservation outreach specialist—doubling the local staff. These two women are strengthening and building a new diverse conservation community in Eastern Oregon.

Photo: Blue Mountain Land Trust

FOOD



Lower Nehalem Community Trust

GIVING BACK: Alder Creek Farm, Lower Nehalem Community Trust's property, has a thriving garden tended to by 34 local community members. The garden plots, unlike most community gardens, are not individual. Rather, gardeners commit to donating 3 hours a week to its care.

For the last 10 years, the farm and the committed gardeners have grown fresh produce and fruit and donated it to the North County Food Bank. As the single provider of fresh produce for the bank, the 1 ton (2,000 pounds) of food that is annually donated is truly inspiring.

Photo: Lower Nehalem Community Trust

INFRASTRUCTURE



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

GOING GREENER: The Nature Conservancy's Oregon office remodel, newly named The Oregon Conservation Center (OCC), is complete after a year of renovation.

With a core focus on reducing environmental impact, the OCC project sourced regionally harvested and locally manufactured materials like Oregon juniper, cross-laminated timber, boulders, river rock and even seeds for the eco-roof. The Portland building is on course to achieve LEED Gold sustainability certification. Staff members just moved back in the building this spring.

Photo: Kendra Manton

HEALTH



Greenbelt Land Trust

WIN-WIN for health and the environment. Recently Greenbelt Land Trust and the Benton County Health Department created a partnership to envision a universal access trail system on the protected Owens Farm outside Corvallis.

Still in process, the project is underway with support from private landowners, the City of Corvallis, Benton County and Samaritan Health Services. Here, a Greenbelt member and her puppy enjoy a romp down a paved path at Bald Hill Natural Area.

Photo: Ricardo Small

ACQUISITION



Klamath Lake Land Trust

PURCHASE: The Klamath Lake Land Trust had a vision—that the Sycan River in Southeast Oregon could be a corridor for wildlife.

The land trust's recent purchase (785 acres) last November helps secure that dream. It establishes nearly 1,000 protected acres along the riverbanks, places like wet meadows, sage steppe, cliffs, quaking aspen groves and old-growth pine. The project was supported by numerous partners including Craft3, Marc Valens and Anne Golden and The Rose Tucker Foundation.

Photo: Crystal McMahon



LITERARY FEATURE

Poem by guest artist
Kim Stafford, poet laureate

Earth Trust

Step lightly from the road into tall grass
if you wish to be lost in blessing
by the wet green swish as you
push through to the pond's edge
where sky on the water skin
shimmers, quivers, blurs your
worries, trues your crooked thoughts,
and a hidden bird, singing,
completes your to-do list,
along with the frog's declaration
of interdependence, merganser in flight,
a symphony of light, the ring
of a fish mouth rising
for the scent of dusk.

REPRINTED FROM EARTH VERSE, BY KIM STAFFORD (LITTLE INFINITIES, 2017), BY PERMISSION

OREGON Poet Laureate



Kim Stafford, a native Oregonian, was named the Poet Laureate of Oregon in 2018.

He has published a dozen books of poetry and prose, earning awards and honors from the National Endowment for the Arts, Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award and a Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to Oregon literature. As the poet laureate he travels across the state, and as he says, bringing "poetry to the people."

At COLT, we

serve and strengthen the land trust community
in Oregon by building connections and
advocating for policies that protect
our natural world
for all people, forever.



Megan Zabel Holmes

POLICY SUCCESS

Oregon partners support national effort to save LWCF



Brady Holden/TNC

LWCF permanently reauthorized

In fall of 2018, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—America’s most important program to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation—was set to expire. As part of a national effort to save the LWCF, Oregon partners—The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, COLT, KEEN and Oregon Outdoors, all pictured above (left to right)—came together in May 2018 and invited community members and business leaders to champion the importance of LWCF.

In early 2019, in a landmark bi-partisan national effort, LWCF was permanently reauthorized by the House and Senate. **Thank you for your support!**

ANNUAL EVENTS

Land trusts host events on Get Outdoors Oregon day, June 1, 2019



Kendria Manton

Mark your calendars

Get outside! On this day we encourage Oregonians to explore, discover and learn about Oregon’s special places.

This year on June 1, nine Oregon land trusts are offering events. Find one near you!

getoutdoorsoregon.org



Our members

STATEWIDE WORK:

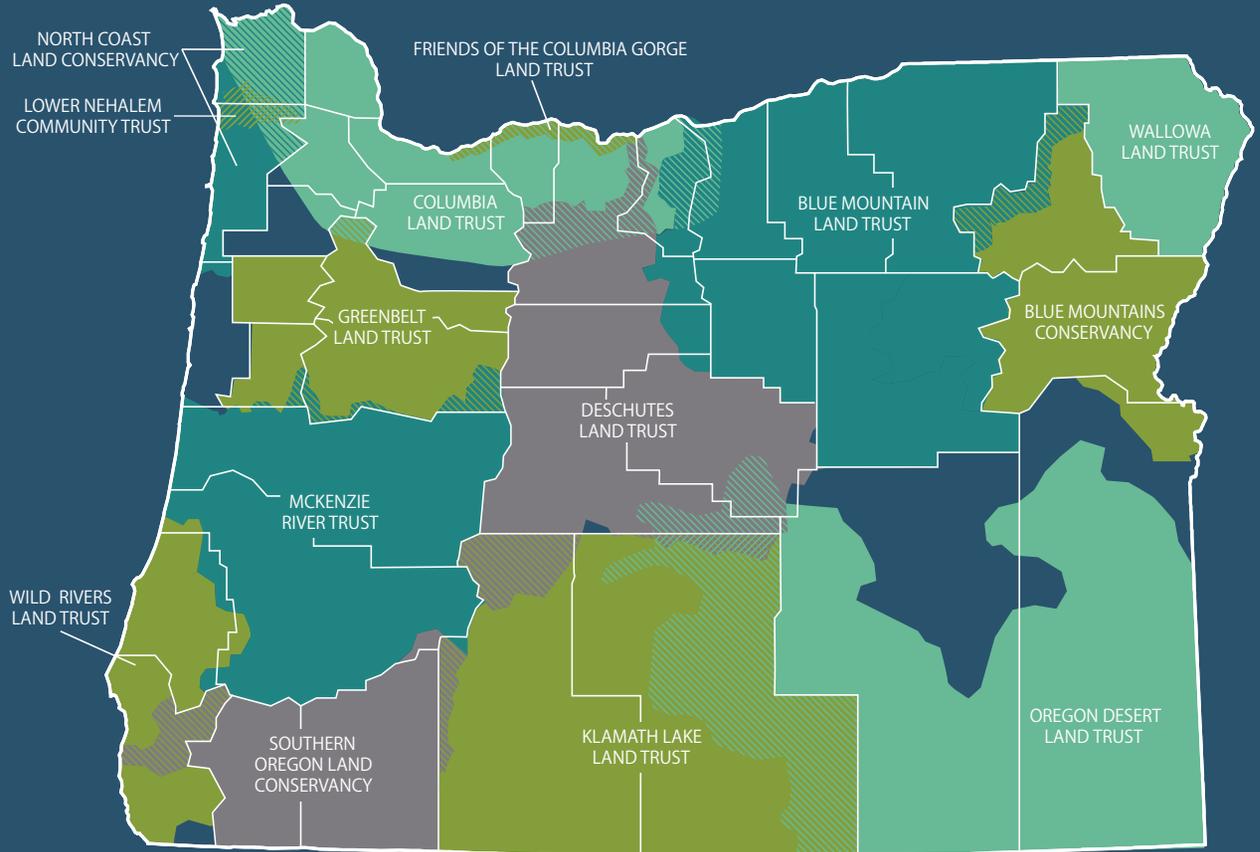
- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Northwest Rangeland Trust
- Pacific Forest Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Wetlands Conservancy

REGIONAL WORK, see map:

- Blue Mountain Land Trust
- Blue Mountains Conservancy
- Columbia Land Trust
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Klamath Lake Land Trust
- Lower Nehalem Community Trust
- McKenzie River Trust
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Oregon Desert Land Trust
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Wallowa Land Trust
- Wild Rivers Land Trust

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Clackamas SWCD
- East Multnomah SWCD
- Forest Park Conservancy
- Tualatin SWCD
- Western Rivers Conservancy



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 our 2018 year in review
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We redesigned our website!
 Take a look
oregonlandtrusts.org



Kyle Straus