



Summer 2016

WallowaLands

News from Wallowa Land Trust & Annual Report

Keep It
Rural!



photo by Dave Jensen



2015 Year in Review

Dear Supporter,

Recently I was asked what Wallowa Land Trust has been up to over the past year. I had to stop and consider what to say and where to begin because the list is long. Indeed, the list of all the things keeping our small organization busy gets longer and longer each day. Over the past year we've:

- Conserved more land by acquiring nine acres on Wallowa Lake (the Kimball Preserve);
- Collaborated with the community and natural resource experts to develop a strategic Conservation Plan which we look forward to sharing with you this Fall;
- Stewarded our conserved lands by planting trees, pulling weeds and surveying for rare plants and animals;
- Connected more people with our mission through our full calendar of events, including our ever-popular *Into the Wallowa* outings;
- Responded to multiple requests from landowners to discuss options for protecting their land, a service that is increasing in demand every year;
- Raised more than \$3 million to permanently preserve the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake.

And that was just in 2015! Since then we earned national accreditation, hired new staff, expanded our board, updated our website, and are close to cinching another million dollars for land conservation in Wallowa County. We also continue to serve on the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts' board and be an active members of the Land Trust Alliance – ensuring our voice is heard in Salem and in Washington DC.

Essentially, we have been working nonstop to protect what makes Wallowa County such an incredible place to live, work and play – open spaces, farms and ranches, and beautiful natural areas. We couldn't do any of this without the support of our members and partner organizations and the hundreds of hours of volunteer time from all of you.

Thank you to all our supporters who continue to help us protect this special place. Together we will "Keep it Rural!"

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ackley,
Executive Director



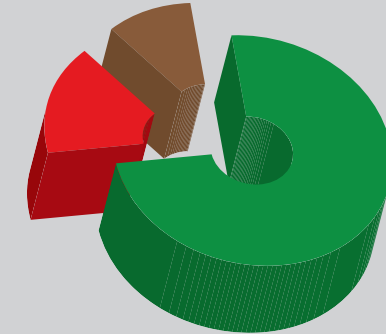
Assets as of 12/31/2015

Cash & Receivables:	\$ 328,889	Total Liabilities:	(\$ 8,981)
Conservation Property:	\$1,395,720	Total Net Assets:	\$1,985,109
Investments in Real Estate:	\$ 268,500		
Equipment net of depreciation:	\$1,663,903		
Total Assets:	\$1,994,090	Total Net Assets & Liabilities:	\$1,994,090

2015 Expenses

Conservation Projects/Stewardship:	\$ 160,903
Management & General:	\$ 34,400
Fundraising:	\$ 21,743
Total:	\$ 217,046

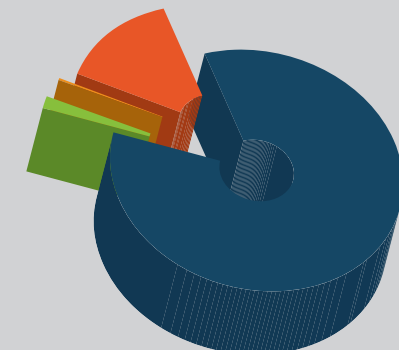
- Conservation Projects/Stewardship - 74%
- Management & General - 16%
- Fundraising - 10%



2015 Income

Restricted donor contributions*:	\$1,293,100
*includes land	
Grants:	\$ 216,646
Unrestricted donor contributions:	\$ 25,213
Other:	\$ 4,007
Total:	\$1,538,966

- Restricted donor contributions - 84%
- Grants - 14%
- Unrestricted donor contributions - 1.75%
- Other 0.25%



2015 Accomplishments

 **830** volunteer hours

360 people enjoyed

Into the Wallowa outings
work parties & the Annual Picnic

50 acres surveyed and treated for noxious weeds on the Wolfe Farm and the Kimball Preserve

75 acres surveyed for rare plants at Wallowa Lake

1,500 feet of shoreline conserved on Wallowa Lake

102 spotted frog egg masses found on Wolfe Farm

Thank you to our 2015 donors

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* **All Seasons Club** *(monthly donor)*

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Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
Land Trust Alliance
Meyer Memorial Trust
The Mountaineers Foundation
Oregon ACE Program

Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Humanities
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
Oregon Parks Foundation Fund
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition
Yarg Foundation

Thank you to all the individuals and businesses who supported us in 2015 with volunteer hours and in-kind gifts!
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.



photo by Dave Jensen

Welcome to the Board Nick Lunde

I was born and raised on the outskirts of Corvallis, Oregon and enjoyed an idyllic childhood exploring the fields, creeks and forests within bicycle range of my home. As I approached high school graduation and began thinking about my future, I knew for sure I did not want to wear a necktie to work and wanted to be outdoors as much as possible so I decided to pursue a career in forestry. I married my high school sweetheart, Angie in 1973 before graduating from Oregon State University with a BS in Forest Management in 1975.

With a forestry career, I saw first-hand the influence of surrounding areas on rural communities. Even in the late 1970's the influence of money and development on the rural landscape was troubling to me. Timber management provided me the opportunity to prioritize resource protection and use my skills to reach mutually agreeable solutions between parties that did not see eye to eye.

Soon after moving to Wallowa County in



photo by Angie Lunde

1989, my wife Angie and I decided we didn't want to uproot our family again and settled into making Wallowa County our permanent home. When we arrived, the Marr property (now protected as Iwetemlaykin State Heritate Site) was being proposed for development and we became interested in local land conservation efforts.

With 27 years of living in Wallowa County, I am deeply invested in preserving the livability of this special place. I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve on the Wallowa Land Trust Board.

Speaking up for Conservation on Capitol Hill

by Kathleen Ackley

Each year more than one hundred land trust leaders from across the nation descend on Capitol Hill to build relationships with key legislators, learn about national policy issues that impact our work and strengthen the land trust community's political influence.

I was lucky enough to participate in this gathering this past April on behalf of Wallowa Land Trust and all land trusts in Oregon. This annual event is organized and led by the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization that represents more than 1,100 member land trust across America of which Wallowa Land Trust is a member.

During my three-day stint in DC I spoke out in support of federal policies and programs that impact land conservation and rural communities like Wallowa County. Together with Katie Voelke, Executive Director of the North Coast Land Conservancy based in Seaside, Oregon, and Brad Paymar, Northwest Program Manager for the Land Trust Alliance, we met with the Oregon

delegation. I particularly appreciated meeting with Senator Ron Wyden, who explicitly stated that what land trusts do is vitally important to the future of our nation's economic and environmental well being. It's encouraging to know we have elected leaders like the Senator pushing for federal policies that support our work. It's even more encouraging to see these legislators put this into practice.

Our push to protect the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake hinges on funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Thanks to a concerted effort by Oregon senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, among others, this critical conservation program was reauthorized for three years after it expired in late 2015, giving our project a \$3 million boost.

I will continue to strengthen my relationships with the Oregon delegation - it's a privilege to represent the landscapes and communities of Wallowa County.



photo by DJ Gilsson/Firefly Imageworks

Spotted Frogs Thrive on the Wolfe Farm

“ The Wolfe Farm provides excellent habitat for Columbia spotted frogs and the Land Trust observed 102 egg masses this spring. ”



Rana luteiventris



photo by Kenneth P. Wray

Since 2012, Wallowa Land Trust staff and volunteers have spent countless hours each spring searching for glutinous masses floating in side channels and ponds adjacent to the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers on the Wolfe Farm. These masses each contain up to 1,300 eggs of the Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*). A medium-sized green/brown spotted frog, this amphibian is a Species of Concern in the state of Oregon due to habitat degradation and fragmentation, toxic chemicals, climate change and non-native species predation.

The Wolfe Farm provides excellent habitat for Columbia spotted frogs

and the Land Trust observed 102 egg masses this spring. Females lay only one egg mass per year. Interestingly, it is the male frog that determines where the eggs will be laid. The eggs hatch in 8 to 22 days, depending on temperature and the tadpoles metamorphose from mid-summer to fall.

Columbia spotted frog tadpoles are grazers and munch on algae and detritus. The adult frogs feed day or night opportunistically, consuming many types of insects, mollusks, and even other amphibians. Males, which are much smaller than females, reach sexual maturity after two winters and females after three winters. While the oldest Columbia

spotted frogs documented were 12 to 13 years, most males live 3 to 4 years and females typically survive 5 to 8 years.

For more than 20 years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered whether or not to add this amphibian to the endangered species list, but in October of 2015 they were removed from the candidate list based upon long-term, proactive, collaborative conservation by partner organizations like Wallowa Land Trust to significantly reduce threats. Our thanks to landowners Woody and Megan Wolfe for stewarding their farm in a manner that allows this amphibian to thrive.



photo by Leon Werdinger



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Wallowa Land Trust's mission is to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Country by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indian tribes, local communities and government entities to conserve land.

Staff

Kathleen Ackley, Executive Director
Julia Lakes, Conservation Director
Heidi Wilson, Office Assistant



photo by Leon Werdinger

Board

Mark Lacey, Chair
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Benjamin Curry
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Nick Lunde
Rich Wandschneider

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Into the Wallowa Outings - 9am to 12pm

Space is limited; to sign up or receive more information on an outing, contact info@wallowalandtrust.org or (541)426-2042.

July 2 - Words of Nature on the Wallowa Lake Moraine

Event Sponsors: Fishtrap & Wallowa Land Trust

July 9 - "First Foods" at the Tamkaliks Grounds

Event Sponsors: The Homeland Project, Building Healthy Families & Wallowa Land Trust

July 16 - Geology of the East Moraine

Event Sponsors: Wallowology & Wallowa Land Trust

July 23 - Music of Nature at the Confluence

Event Sponsors: Wallowa Valley Music Alliance & Wallowa Land Trust

August 6 - Meander the Wallowa

Event Sponsors: Wallowa Resources, Building Healthy Families & Wallowa Land Trust

August 13 - Prairie Creek Farm Tour

Event Sponsors: Prairie Creek Farm & Wallowa Land Trust

August 20 - "Plein Air" Art on the Wallowa River

Event Sponsors: Josephy Center for Arts and Culture & Wallowa Land Trust

OTHER EVENTS

July 14 - What We Want from the Wild: A Conversation with Adam Davis

7pm at the Josephy Center (403 N. Main St., Joseph)

Event Sponsors: Oregon Humanities, Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, Fishtrap & Wallowa Land Trust. No RSVP required.

August 21 - Wallowa Land Trust Annual Picnic

4pm at the Lunde Home (601 S. Main St., Joseph)

Join us to celebrate our conservation successes with good food and drinks and live music.

November 10 - Portland Cello Project performance

8pm at the OK Theater (208 W. Main St., Enterprise)

Join us for an evening of music to support Wallowa Land Trust.



photo by Leon Werdinger

For more information on any of these events, visit wallowalandtrust.org