



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST



WASIM MUKLASHI

2022 IMPACT REPORT

THIS YEAR, YOU MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE!



This year you truly made Central Oregon a better place.

Thanks to your dedicated support, we were able to connect people to the lands that sustain them, care for the lands entrusted to us, and conserve more land for a climate-adapted future. Together we are building a network of resilient, protected meadows, creeks, canyons, and forests that will sustain us all—people, plants, and animals—long into the future. We also continue to strive toward a future where everyone feels welcome and connected to the natural places that provide our communities with so many benefits. Thank you for being by our side and for continuing to build a brighter future for Central Oregon!

With gratitude,

Rika Ayotte
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Here's how you made an impact in 2022!



Connecting people to place. There's no better way to understand our connection to the land than by spending time outside. Dedicated volunteers led more than 100 free, guided walks and hikes this year to do just that. They helped share the wonder and joy of birds, wildflowers, geology, and more with hundreds of people both young and young at heart. The Land Trust also embarked on a new effort to develop a community vision for Skyline Forest. Together with a coalition of community groups, we are working to create a robust, community-wide effort that engages local organizations, leaders, and community members in creating a shared vision for Skyline Forest's future conservation and management. Our hope is that this effort will help lead to a permanent conservation solution for Skyline Forest that connects our community to Skyline for years to come.



RICK DINGUS

Taking cues from nature's ultimate engineer, the crafty beaver, we kickstarted the Willow Springs Preserve restoration with a low-tech restoration approach. Crews built more than 130 wooden structures by hand to help restore habitat in and along Whychus Creek. The goal of this kind of low-tech restoration is to let the creek and its natural processes lead. Over time, with the addition of high flows, the log structures throughout the restoration will jumpstart these processes which will change the creek and build much better habitat for fish and wildlife. Stay tuned to see how it evolves!



Restoring fish and wildlife habitat for a healthier future.

At one point this year, the Land Trust had restoration projects underway at six different Preserves! From forest restoration to stream and native plant restoration, all are creating better habitat for native plants and wildlife, but one project is truly changing the face of its Preserve. The Ochoco Preserve Project kicked off this year with a major renovation to the McKay Creek portion of the Preserve. When this first phase is complete, we will be on our way to building a new version of the Preserve with healthy streams, flourishing native plants and wildlife, and new connections for the community.

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Conserving new places.

Thanks to your ongoing support, the Land Trust continues to conserve new lands throughout Central Oregon.

This year we were pleased to add a 160 acre section of Ward Creek to Priday Ranch. Ward Creek is a jewel in this high desert landscape. It is home to summer steelhead and resident redband trout as it flows into Antelope Creek at Priday Ranch and then eventually joins Trout Creek. Ward Creek provides year-round, cool water habitats that are vital for the young summer steelhead that mature in these creeks and for the larger steelhead population that needs these refuges during drought years as our climate continues to warm.



Caring for the land. If progress was measured in miles of barbed wire removed, pounds of weeds pulled and bagged, or number of trails tended, the Land Trust would be at the top of the charts! Volunteers put in hundreds of hours this year caring for the land, helping wildlife roam freely, monitoring bird populations, sharing natural history with our community, and keeping our Preserves open and accessible. Thank you for making a difference each and every time you volunteer!



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