



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for the lands and waters that sustain Central Oregon, so local communities and the natural world can flourish together for generations to come.



LAND TRUST

From Our Executive Director

Last year marked a major milestone for the Land Trust—our 30th anniversary. Thirty years ago, a small group of people came together with a vision: if we protected the land, we could also protect the heart of our community, our plants and animals, and our future. Since then, together, we've permanently conserved more than 18,000 acres of meadows, rivers, forests, and canyons. Places where salmon return, where deer migrate, and where kids and families discover the wonder of nature. That legacy belongs to all of you.

But as we celebrate, we must also acknowledge the challenges before us. Last summer more than 5,200 acres of Land Trust Preserves were impacted by the Cram and Flat Fires. These fires remind us that climate change is not a distant threat, but a daily reality, and our forests, rivers, and neighborhoods are more vulnerable than ever. Fires also remind us of the power of conservation, stewardship, and restoration. They remind us of the power of community. That's why the Land Trust is more committed than ever to ensuring our conservation, stewardship, and community engagement expands our collective resilience for the future.

To honor that commitment, we launched a [new Strategic Vision](#) to guide the years ahead. The visioning process included conversations with more than 100 partners, members, volunteers, and donors, asking about people's wildest dreams for the impact of the Deschutes Land Trust. The end result is four core commitments illustrated at right.

We believe that by upholding these commitments, we can honor the past 30 years and prepare for the next 30. It will take persistence, creativity, and continued collaboration. But if the past three decades have taught us anything, it is this: when people come together around a shared love for the land, extraordinary things are possible.

Together, we can ensure that Central Oregon's rivers still run clean and cold, that wildlife still have safe passage, and that future generations can still look up at the Cascades and know they are home. Thank you—for your trust, your support, and your shared belief that the land connects us all. Here's to 30 years of conservation, and to many, many more to come!



With gratitude,

Rika Ayotte

Rika Ayotte
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST STRATEGIC VISION 2025-2030

Our Mission: to conserve and care for the lands and waters that sustain Central Oregon, so local communities and the natural world can flourish together for generations to come. To achieve our mission, we make the following core commitments:

COMMITMENT #1

Scale up conservation, stewardship, and restoration across Central Oregon.

Climate change and our rapidly growing region are placing enormous pressure on our life-sustaining resources: clean air, clean water, and native plants and animals. We will work with our communities and partners to prioritize, conserve, and restore lands in Central Oregon using place-based, data-driven, landscape-scale approaches.

COMMITMENT #2

Connect everyone—to the land, nature, and each other.

We believe that people are a part of the natural world. Together we can create places for ALL communities to connect with the Land Trust and the lands we conserve.



Restore access, stewardship, and ownership of land to Tribes and Tribal communities.

The Land Trust upholds the Tribal rights of sovereign nations, and we honor and support their role as the original stewards of the land and water. We will work collaboratively with these Nations to return access, stewardship, and land.

Grow the Land Trust's leadership role and organizational capacity.

Strong organizations can create lasting change in our community. We strive to build the Land Trust of the future to help conserve and care for the lands and waters our region needs to thrive.

COMMITMENT #3

COMMITMENT #4

Photos clockwise from top: Karen Walsh, Land Trust, Jay Mather, and Wasim Muklashy.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org

Equity Report

In 2025 the Deschutes Land Trust continued our efforts to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion across our organization. We built on our previous progress implementing the goals on page five.

1ST

Oregon land trust to adopt a Tribal Engagement Policy

20%

of staff and board who self-identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+



Pride Bird Walk

The Land Trust was proud to host our first Pride Bird Walk in 2025. Members of Emerging Conservationists of Central Oregon (ECCO) planned and partnered with Bo Lyons of Birders to hold a Pride Bird Walk at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. Attendees enjoyed watching birds while celebrating the diversity of both nature and our community. We look forward to continuing to offer this outing!



1 Goal: Use an equity lens to root equity into all policies and systems. This includes our bylaws, strategic plan, conservation strategy, community engagement plan, and stewardship work. Progress in 2025:

- Adopted and utilized an organizational equity lens to ensure all policies, plans, and programs are rooted in best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Completed an accessibility assessment and designs to improve accessibility at the Metolius Preserve.

2 Goal: Expand cultural community partnerships. While the Land Trust works with dozens of community partners each year, we will endeavor to work with and lift up new partners whose perspectives and engagement will make our work better and more impactful. Progress in 2025:

- Co-led effort to develop a state-wide, tribally-informed land trust template for Tribal Engagement Policies.
- Sponsored Bend Summer Pride Fest and worked with ECCO to host our first Pride Bird Walk.

3 Goal: Refine our employment process to improve staff diversity, retention, capacity, and professional development. We want to better reflect the communities we serve. Progress in 2025:

- Adopted a professional development policy and created incentives for staff-led learning around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Grew organizational diversity and representation through Board and ECCO membership.

4 Goal: Embed equity training for staff, Board members, and volunteers. We want our team to reflect our values in their work and interactions with our communities. We seek to reduce bias and increase awareness across our organization. Progress in 2025:

- Supported staff participation in a local Tribal Learning Series.
- Offered a volunteer training focused on inclusivity and people-first programming.

Financial Summary

The Land Trust's fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31. This financial summary comes from the Land Trust's yet-to-be audited 2025 financial statements and are subject to change. Audited statements are available upon request. A copy of the Deschutes Land Trust's Form 990 can be found at www.guidestar.org.

18,742

acres conserved



Where did our support come from this year?

TOTAL \$6,518,050

Restricted Donations

50%

\$3,283,913

Unrestricted Donations

35%

\$2,246,894

Grants

11%

\$706,013

Investments + Other

4%

\$281,230

What did your support make possible this year?

TOTAL \$5,892,661

Conservation + Stewardship

80%

\$4,699,537

Education + Outreach

10%

\$589,406

Organizational Sustainability

8%

\$479,406

Management + Support

2%

\$124,312

Number of donor households:

1,865

Volunteer hours donated since 1995:

132,457

Endowment for stewardship of conserved lands:

\$3,042,290

Value of conserved lands:

\$21,533,452



Stay up-to-date with Land Trust news! Join our e-newsletter: deschuteslandtrust.org/enews



The Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for more than 18,742 acres in our region for today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

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