

# VOICES FOR THE LAND

## JOHN STERLING

*John Sterling first got involved with the Land Trust 15 years ago when the Metolius Preserve was poised for acquisition.*

“At the time, we felt fortunate to live in a community that supported an organization that could quickly jump on acquisition opportunities like the Metolius Preserve. We feel strongly that Central Oregon communities need to do all we can to protect our special lands, both public and private. The Land Trust represents our community’s commitment to preserving important private lands, which are a crucial part of the matrix of open space we enjoy every day here in Central Oregon.

My favorite project is one that has not yet crossed the finish line: Skyline Forest. Connecting the City of Bend to the National Forest lands that dominate our western horizon, Skyline Forest is an outstanding opportunity to bring our



COURTESY OF JOHN STERLING

private and public lands into alignment. The Land Trust has done a great job defining the value of Skyline Forest. Let’s hope our community—and the current owners—have the vision and courage to steer this large parcel into conservation ownership. We believe conservation is a marathon, not a sprint, and the Land Trust has served our community well!”

*John Sterling is the executive director of The Conservation Alliance, a group of outdoor companies that work together to support conservation. John spends his free time exploring—with his wife and two kids, or with friends—the many wild places in our backyard and throughout the West. —*



TIM COTTER