

CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST

PRESERVING OUR LANDS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME *

FALL/WINTER 2003

CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

Hans Slette, Stewardship Director

Sweat dripped down my forehead and burned my eyes as I struggled up a steep, open slope near Warm Springs Canyon. I reached up to wipe my sweaty, sunburned neck, and got a handful of dusty grime that coated me from head to toe. The morning's cool comfort had dissipated, and the temperature had climbed into the upper nineties. As I climbed, occasionally finding a tall Ponderosa pine that offered shade in which to rest, I contemplated the following phrase, which had become a sort of a mantra for me that day:

“Because of time constraints and weather limitations, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) was not able to prepare a complete baseline documentation report for the property subject to this Grant Deed for Conservation Easement between the Grantor and the Grantee, executed contemporaneously with this Acknowledgement”. This is legalese for, “In north central Washington, you can't do a baseline assessment in the middle of winter”.

The objective of the day was to gather mapping and photographic information for a baseline assessment. The property was a 280-acre conservation easement that protects the riparian zone in Warm Springs Canyon, north of Wenatchee. The easement had been signed in December, when the donor and the CDLT also signed a preliminary baseline summary. However, the full baseline assessment had to be postponed until the snow had melted.

A baseline assessment contains narrative and photographic descriptions of the property, supplemented with resource maps. The baseline serves as

a “snapshot” of the property at around the time the CDLT acquires a legal interest in it. Baseline assessments typically require multiple property visits over the period of a growing season, in order to document seasonal changes in the flora and fauna. With the assistance of Native Plant Society volunteers and local bird experts, we had already gathered substantial bio-



Sue Hoover helping with a Bird Survey at Warm Springs Canyon Conservation Easement

logical information, especially regarding the lush green strip that buffers the seeps and springs of the canyon bottom. Even in mid summer, the dense vegetation of the canyon bottom is a cool, green eden hidden in an arid landscape. However, to complete the baseline, we needed additional photographic and mapping documentation. On that searing day, that meant scrambling the hillsides of the canyon to get photos and GPS readings from the ridge tops.

(continued next page)

STEWARDSHIP IN PERPETUITY

Hans Slette, Stewardship Director

Since December 1999, when the CDLT accepted its first donation of land, we have gained increasing community recognition as a dynamic, professional conservation organization. Each acquisition or conservation easement since then has been a conservation milestone, a measure of our organization's vitality and the relevance of our mission. We have celebrated and publicized these events, and are rightfully proud of our successes. But land conservation does not end with property acquisition or the signing of a conservation easement. In fact, it is just the beginning.



Stewardship means caretaking land. The stewardship requirements on CDLT lands vary, depending on factors such as the structure of the transaction (conservation easement vs. acquisition), the conservation values being protected, the property's condition, location, and extent of public use (if any). For example, conservation easements generally require less frequent stewardship visits than CDLT-owned land, and land that receives heavy public use requires more intensive stewardship than land that does not. Although we evaluate these factors prior to making a decision regarding whether to accept an interest in a property, we cannot anticipate every event that will affect a property's conservation values or result in a stewardship expense.

The CDLT's current stewardship responsibilities cover about 1,400 acres, and include preservation of riparian, forested and shrub-steppe properties in five separate areas in north central Washington. Fulfilling our stewardship responsibilities is thus a complicated and expensive endeavor. In recent years we have been fortunate to receive grants from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for stewardship and public education projects, and have also benefited from many hours of generous volunteer efforts. Grant funding and volunteer labor has been indispensable for achieving short-term stewardship goals. Unfortunately, grant money for long-term stewardship is much more elusive.

Yet, for any land trust, long-term stewardship planning must be an unconditional priority, and should include creation of a financial buffer against unforeseen future expenses. In order to pay for stewardship in perpetuity, in 1999 CDLT established a stewardship endowment fund. Our goal is to build this fund so that it generates enough interest annually to pay our stewardship expenses for an average year, with the principal of the endowment as the buffer. It is CDLT policy not to accept an easement or acquisition unless a source of stewardship funding has been confirmed, and all stewardship payments to date have been added to the endowment. We are exploring ideas for supplemental funding of the stewardship endowment, though no plan has yet been implemented. If only birds had bank accounts, I'm sure they would invest...

ON THE GROUND *(cont. from page 1)*

With each conservation transaction, whether an easement or acquisition, the CDLT pledges to protect the land's conservation values in perpetuity and for public benefit. Of course, to protect the conservation values, we need to make a record of what is there, devise a stewardship plan designed to protect the conservation values, and periodically monitor the property to record any natural or man-made changes on the

land. In addition to tapping the scientific expertise in the local community, the tools we use include a GPS receiver for mapping and marking photo points, a digital camera, and geographical information system (GIS) software to create maps. In north central Washington, one might add a sombrero and some sunscreen, because no matter what the attorney calls it, you can't do a baseline assessment in the middle of winter.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Eugene Kupferman, President of the Board

Unlike some people involved with CDLT, I do not have a long history of activism in the conservation movement. I decided to contribute more time and energy when I realized that there are many aspects of our beautiful region that are now being threatened by the needs of an increasing population. Following visits to the Puget Sound region, or family in the Bay Area of San Francisco, I return home with a sigh of relief to the quiet of our mountains and forests. We live in a very special place. I would like to see the balance between the natural landscape and the human landscape retained for future generations.



The question of how to retain this balance in times of expanding population and needs for employment is tough to address. People point to the large amount of public land here in Chelan County as accomplishment enough. I disagree. This is a good beginning but most publicly held lands are at high elevations and don't protect habitat for fish and birds that live at lower elevations. Also most people live at the lower elevations and need natural places to recreate and learn.

In my opinion, if we can find a way to integrate tourism with outdoor recreation in publicly held spaces, the region can prosper economically while keeping in balance with nature. Public natural places are in the best interest of our community and our economy.

I am willing to spend more of my time to see this vision happen. The land trust model of working with land owners who voluntarily want to conserve their land appeals to me. It makes good sense to act now. I hope that you will join with me to protect the wonders of our valley for generations to come.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is responsible for stewardship of over 1400 acres of conserved land. Volunteers can assist CDLT in a variety of ways, from bird and plant surveys to weed control work parties. We also occasionally need help with special events and projects, and in the office with mailings. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Hans Slette at 667-9708 or hans@cdlandtrust.org.

- ◆ Volunteers needed in early December to help with distributing posters for the Art Wolfe slide show. Contact Sharon Lunz at 667-9708 or sharon@cdlandtrust.org.
- ◆ Volunteers needed to help with remodeling the Land Trust office. If you have carpentry skills or are good with a paint brush and would like to help, give us a call.



Griffin-Bugert family doing trail restoration work in the Sage Hills

FALL CAMPAIGN

Community support for our fall fundraising campaign has been very generous, and we are close to our \$30,000 goal! The following individuals and businesses contributed to the campaign - thank you for your support!

(If you have not been contacted individually yet, look for a letter in early December.)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ray & Edith Aspiri | Wally & Anne Gibbons | Joseph & Merry Roy |
| Randy & Cici Asplund | Gerald & Barb Gibbons | Gerry Salkowski |
| Shawn & Julie Ballard | Bob Gix | Larry & Neomah Scharps |
| Susan & Paul Ballinger | Ralph Haugerud & Martha Bean | Eugene & Linda Schatz |
| Brent & Christine Barber | Ken Heinle & Kristen Cameron | Robert Scott |
| Peter & Janet Bauer | Fred Higgins & Brenda Dunn | Eliot & Christine Scull |
| Jay Bean | Peter & Joanne Hill | Grant & Carrie Scull |
| Betsy Bloomfield & James Tayer | Ann Hoyt | Gene & Carol Sharratt |
| Richard & Dolly Buckingham | Rita Hsu & Eric Thorson | Mark & Rosemary Shipman |
| Bob Bugert & Carolyn Griffin-Bugert | Dave Jaecks | Rob & Cindy Shurtleff |
| Christopher & Michele Church | Thomas & Patricia Janisch | Mimi & Greg Slyngstad |
| Jeff & Brigid Chvilicek | Karl & Dawn Kranz | Terry & Suzanne Sorom |
| Irwin & Judy Conner | Keary & Karen Kunz | Jean & Russ Speidel |
| David & Betsy Cook | Gene & Gloria Kupferman | Scott & Lisa Stroming |
| Darl & Aletha Cusick | Bill Layman & Susan Evans | Greg & Kristen Taylor |
| Matt & Lisa Dahlgreen | Kim Lohse & Phil Archibald | Ray & Betty Lee Taylor |
| Andy & Janet Dappen | George & Merrienne Makela | Jeff Thiel & Bettjean Collins |
| Marc & Margareta Dilley | Tom & Lorraine Mathison | Larry & Penny Tobiska |
| Carol Doane | Kathy Mattern | Peter & Susan Valaas |
| Tom Ettinger & Jill Larue | Edgar & Jean Meyer | David & Karen Wiggum |
| Jack & Susan Evans | Charles & Katheryn Mussen | Marilyn Wilson |
| Don & Thea Fager | Robert & Pat Ogburn | Rufus & Mary Woods |
| Leroy Farmer & Sandie Switzer-Farmer | Monte & Judith Olson | Wilfred & Kathy Woods |
| Mauro & Adriana Felizia | Ken & Kay Paton | Dirk & Mary Ellen Wybenga |
| William Gaines & Susan Thomas | Elizabeth & Frank Peryea | |
| Dennis & Jean Garrity | Antje Prey | Business Contributors: |
| Craig Garver & Barbara Hume | Mike & Sara Rolfs | The Wenatchee World |
| John & Joanne Gardner | Tom Rowe | |

GIFTS OF LAND

Have you considered donating land or other property to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust? Gifts of land, homes, buildings, or other property can support the work of the Land Trust and benefit the donors. Land with or without conservation values can be donated to the Land Trust.

The donation of land with conservation values directly advances the conservation mission of the Land Trust. These lands may be held in perpetuity by the Land Trust or we may put a conservation easement on the property and work with a private owner to protect the conservation values of the property. Land or property without conservation values can be donated to the Land Trust with the understanding that the Land Trust can sell the property and use the proceeds to support the conservation mission of the Trust.

In either case, donating land or other appreciated property to a non-profit can provide substantial income and estate tax benefits to the donor. Donations of land or property can also fund charitable gift annuities or life estates that provide the donors or their heirs with annual payments. The estate-planning benefits of these options can be surprisingly attractive to donors, especially given the economic uncertainties in the market today. Apart from the financial benefits of donating land, the donors will have the satisfaction of making a lasting gift to future generations. Please call Gordon Congdon at 509-667-9708 if you would like more information about donating land or other appreciated property to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

OFFICERS:

Gene Kupferman
President

Peter Bauer
Treasurer

Theresa Druzak
Secretary

BOARD:

Susan Ballinger
Andy Dappen
Paul Hessburg
Peter Hill
Kim Lohse
Kathy Mattern
Edgar Meyer
Eliot Scull
Tina Scull
Jean Speidel
George Velazquez
Rufus Woods

ADVISORY BOARD:

Craig Garver
Mike Kaputa
John Lehmkuhl
Monica Lough
Larry Riegert
Dick Rieman
Mark Shipman
Dan Stephens
Nancy Warner
Rick Woodsmith

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Todd Kiesz

STAFF:

Gordon Congdon
Executive Director
cdlt@cdlandtrust.org

Hans Slette
Stewardship Director
hans@cdlandtrust.org

Sharon Lunz
Administrative Director
sharon@cdlandtrust.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 28 3:00 - 4:30 PM ART WOLFE SLIDE SHOW AT SLEEPING LADY
Art Wolfe, renowned wildlife photographer, presents *Edge of the Earth/Corner of the Sky*. This entertaining multi-media presentation is informative and visually thrilling as Art Wolfe shares his personal experiences and adventures in filming for his new book, *Edge of the Earth, Corner of the Sky*. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Land Trust, thanks to the generous support of Art Wolfe and Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat. \$15/adults, \$12/children. For reservations call Sleeping Lady at (509) 548-6344. His last show for us was a sell-out, and a second show may be added if the first sells out quickly.

JANUARY 20 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES
"Rainforest: Heroes of the High Frontier" This Emmy Award winning film allows viewers to explore the lofty world of the rain forest canopy in the company of daring researchers working to understand the complex web of life among the treetops. At the Wenatchee Valley Museum.

JANUARY 24 9:00 AM DOUGLAS CREEK HIKE OR SNOWSHOE WALK
Join Gene Sharratt for an easy winter hike (or snowshoe) on the new trail along Douglas Creek. Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours building this trail through a beautiful basalt canyon. Please call the office for details, and for an update on snow coverage.

FEBRUARY 17 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES
"The Harriman Alaska Expedition Retraced" Two scientific expeditions to Alaska, 100 years apart, give us an unparalleled view of 100 years of change in Alaska and in attitudes towards the environment and indigenous peoples. At the Wenatchee Valley Museum.

MARCH 18-21 HAZEL WOLF ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL
The festival is the premier northwest event for those interested in environmental films. The sixth annual festival will once again be held at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth.



215 members attended the recent Annual Celebration Dinner! Land Trust volunteers were honored, and "Volunteer of the Year" awards were presented to Robin Woodsmith and Randy Riggs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is dedicated to helping people preserve and enhance the rich diversity of landscapes and lifestyles in our region for the benefit of present and future generations.

ART WOLFE SLIDE PRESENTATION A BENEFIT FOR THE CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST

“EDGE OF THE EARTH - CORNER OF THE SKY”

Sunday, December 28, 2003 • 3:00 PM

Sleeping Lady Chapel Theater

\$15/Adults, \$12 Children

Phone (509) 548-6344 for reservations

*It is in the wild places, where the edge of the earth
meets the corners of the sky, that the human spirit is fed.*



P.O. Box 4461
Wenatchee, WA 98807
(509) 667-9708
www.cdlandtrust.org

ADDRESS
SERVICE
REQUESTED

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wenatchee, WA
Permit No. 65