The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is inviting the whole community to join our Wenatchee Foothills Campaign, a multi-year effort to protect and care for key properties and trails in the Wenatchee Foothills.

On February 20 we kick off a major outreach effort to engage a broad cross-section of the community in celebrating the Wenatchee Foothills and to raise the remaining money needed to ensure the Foothills remain a treasure for future generations.

To date, we have permanently protected 2,379 acres through the campaign and set aside $443,000 in a dedicated Stewardship Fund at the Community Foundation for the ongoing care of these lands. Early leaders, Board members, Saddle Rock donors, and land donations have contributed $6.38 million towards our $8.145 million goal. We are delighted that we are 78% of the way there, but we know we have considerable work ahead to raise the remaining $1.8 million.

The Foothills are key to the Wenatchee Valley’s sustainability. Conserving the Foothills makes us a far more livable community, enhances our region’s economy, and lays the foundation for future successes.

When this project is completed, the acreage available to the public more than doubles. Residents and visitors will enjoy improved access with the addition of trailheads, and better care and maintenance of trails and critical habitat through a strong stewardship and trail restoration program.

Who will benefit? Wildlife, businesses, students, mountain bikers, hikers, East Wenatchee residents who enjoy their view, birders, tourism, neighboring landowners—the list goes on.

What we will have is a world-class, regional asset that other communities would love to have. And one that strikes a unique balance between development, natural areas, and recreation.

Beginning in March, we will present a series of community-wide events that will continue throughout the year. See additional information on the next page.

Together, we have the power to ensure that future generations will enjoy even more beauty and better access than we do today.

**Background** Mindful of increasing development pressures in the Foothills, the Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) brought together more than 1600 residents over two years to develop a shared vision for the Foothills. Landowners, the business community, developers, real estate professionals, conservationists and recreationists agreed on which lands should be conserved. Now, the Land Trust, with support from TPL, has launched this campaign to implement the community’s shared vision.
Early in the project, several prominent local businesses immediately embraced the Wenatchee Foothills Campaign, as they recognized that this investment will yield many returns to the economic well being of our community. Alcoa, Locatel Communications, Stemilt Growers, Subaru-Cascade Autocenter, Wenatchee Anesthesia Associates, and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center contributed $300,000 to the community’s goal of conserving one of our cherished assets—the Wenatchee Foothills.

Caring for the Foothills is key to a successful economic development strategy for Wenatchee and the surrounding areas. That’s why these industries stepped forward and why the Foothills Campaign is endorsed by the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development District, and other regional business interests. They have a vision for our future: a vision of a robust and healthy community.

It is instructive to compare our community with similar Western cities, including Helena, Montana, Missoula, Montana, Bend, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho. Each city forged private-public partnerships to manage its surrounding hillsides for public benefit, and it paid off substantially in many respects. Interestingly, the City of Boise just evaluated the economic benefits of its Foothills, and found that an initial $10 million investment by that community to “create an interconnected system of natural areas, recreation trails, and wildlife corridors to ensure the integrity of public land values in the (Boise) Foothills” resulted in an estimated $12 million economic benefit for the year 2011 alone.

Obviously direct spending is a major source of revenues, but developing recreation on natural areas leads to indirect financial benefits for a community. It promotes healthy individuals and health-care savings. It reinforces our sense of community through a shared experience. It strengthens economies by attracting high tech and service based industries and affluent retirees. Also, by adding recreation opportunity with aesthetic beauty of natural areas, it improves values of nearby homes.

Other communities have invested into their foothills, and it has paid off. For the future of our valley, we can too.

**Upcoming Campaign Events**

“My Foothills” visual art contest (March 25-May 4) — Open to children and adults, with accompanying divisions and categories for paintings, drawings, photos and videos. The winning entries will be displayed at the Performing Arts Center on May 11 as part of Foothills Day (see below).

Foothills Hiking Challenge (April 1-Nov. 30) — Community members will be challenged to hike five Foothills trail sections. After completing all five, they will receive a limited edition shirt that notes their accomplishment. Guided hikes of each section will be offered.

Hands Across the Foothills (April 20) — Save the date for this major participatory event, which will be announced once permits are finalized!

Horse Lake Trail Runs (May 11) — The first timed trail runs ever held in the Wenatchee Foothills will unfold on the Horse Lake Reserve on May 11, with a 5-mile and 10-mile run. This will be a fundraiser, with a maximum of 200 participants. The runs are being organized by RunWenatchee, which is donating its services to the Land Trust.

Foothills Day (May 11) — The celebration will begin in the morning with trail runs (see above) and guided walks in the Foothills. In the early afternoon, enjoy a day full of music, educational activities, active entertainment, and other events the Performing Arts Center. Details coming soon!
Snow has been hiding much of the Foothills blackened by last fall’s wildfires, but as it melts we will soon see what’s happening in the sagebrush-steppe habitat. If you saw the hills in early December you’ll remember how green they looked. The mild temperatures and gentle rains were ideal for the recovery of many plants that come to life in cool weather. Cool season grasses begin growing in fall, lie dormant during the coldest months of winter, and are ready to go again as soon as the ground begins to warm in late winter. Nutrients in the ash will boost growth, and by May we should see a remarkable transformation of the once burned hillsides.

Most of our native wildflowers recover well from fire. Sagebrush buttercups, yellow bells, and prairie star flowers will be among the early bloomers followed by desert parsley, balsamroot and lupine. The diminutive native Sandberg’s bluegrass will compete with introduced bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass on the lower slopes. Higher up, bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue will emerge from their root crowns. Many woody plants such as rose, serviceberry, and chokecherry survive fire and will begin to sprout but most of the two dominant shrubs, big sagebrush and bitterbrush will have to start over from seeds that survived in the soil or fell from surviving plants.

Most animals survived the fire but their habitat will take time to recover. Grassland and shrub-nesting birds lost nesting material and cover. Songbirds that nest and feed in riparian thickets have lost their summer habitat for a few years as have resident mule deer that depend on these areas to hide and raise their fawns.

Although the fire did not torch a large number of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees, it killed or damaged enough to provide ample habitat for wood-peckers and raptors and flycatchers that hunt from open-topped and dead trees. We might not know for two or three years about the survival of trees whose crowns were scorched by heat and flame. As a general rule, trees that have lost less than 50% of their crowns are likely to survive.

The trails will open in April but expect to encounter burned brush and debris that will tumble into the path on windy days. While the land recovers, visitors should stay on the trails as much as possible to protect fragile soils and give the vegetation a chance to recover. We’ll need volunteers to help maintain the trails so contact us if you would like to help.

Get Involved With The Wenatchee Foothills Campaign!
Would you like to learn more, volunteer, or make a contribution? Contact Sharon Lunz at (509) 667-9708 or visit www.cdlandtrust.org/foothills-campaign.
**Welcome New Members**

Since August 2012, these individuals have joined the Land Trust. Welcome, and thank you for your generous support!

- Zak Adams & Jess Cohen
- Janis Baker
- Cordi Blackburn
- John Brandt
- Marilyn Bromiley
- Kathleen Brooks
- Kip & Jennifer Burke
- Bobette Bush
- Vicki & Clarence Carr
- Barbara Caruso
- Janet Collins
- Cathy Covey
- Selina & Todd Danko
- Cheryl Dawes
- John & Tammy Doyle
- Jill Fineis
- Brad & Jan Flatten
- Liz Forrer
- Shelly Forster
- Byron & Lisa Gatin
- Tom & Judy Graham
- Susan Griggs
- Mila Hart
- Matt Honor
- Robin Judd
- Doug & Christie Lewis
- Sarah Leyrer
- Tracy Maynard
- Mr. McKenna
- Lyle & Cynthia Mettler
- Patti Milos
- Dan & Myrna Moody
- Cindelia de la Mora
- Mary Murphy
- & Larry Hibbert
- Ron & Barbara Myles
- Jenny Netz
- Rob & Tamara Newson
- Charlie Osgood
- & Julie Mitchell
- Krista Perelberg
- Beverly Phillippi
- Paul Phillips
- Brad & Chris Rich
- Mandy & Craig Robertson
- Sue & Rick Rose
- Tom & Ruth Ross
- Dawn Saffington
- Simone & Jim Scheibler
- Mark Schuetzler
- Kelsey Schuttie
- Makrina Shanbour
- Peter Smytheman
- Bryan Triplett
- Martha Tucker
- Donnell Wiley
- Richard & Caroline Williams
- Chris Yankoviak
- Randy Zimmerman

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**Icicle Creek Public Access Secured**

*Tina Duffey, Stewardship & Trails Assistant*

Through a project facilitated by the Land Trust, the public will always have legal access to lower Icicle Creek, and 1,350 feet of prime fish and wildlife habitat are permanently protected. The Land Trust secured grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Icicle Fund to set aside 6.5-acres for management by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Just off East Leavenworth Road, and known locally as “The Stump Hole”, the property, with its small gravel parking area and foot trails to the water, attracts much public use.

Over the years, the Fromm family has generously allowed public use of their property, but increasing use has created challenges for them. After several years of conversation between the Land Trust and the Fromm family, a win-win solution was agreed upon, enabling this fourth generation family to sell their property. The WDFW will maintain the property for salmon habitat and walk-in access to Icicle Creek for non-commercial recreationalists. With grants secured by the Land Trust, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will install a kiosk with interpretative signs at the site.

This is a great success: 1) public access to Icicle Creek will be managed by WDFW; 2) habitat for threatened fish is protected, and importantly, 3) the Fromm family was very pleased with the outcome, saying, “Letting go of a piece of land that has been in the family for generations is not easily done, but we are satisfied that this small piece along the Icicle ...has found its right new home and will be preserved and enjoyed by many for all the years ahead.”

The facilitation by the Land Trust highlights how a collaborative approach can benefit all involved parties. This key property on the Icicle is now in public ownership and will remain protected forever.
Volunteer Opportunities

Call the office at (509) 667-9708 for details and to register.
You can also sign up online - go to cdlandtrust.org and click What’s New for details.

Mornings and/or Afternoons

April 16, 17, and 18th

Shrub Steppe’n Up Saddle Rock Volunteers
Teach natural history lessons to groups of 5th grade students at Saddle Rock. No experience is necessary and each lesson comes with detailed lesson scripts and ready-to-go supplies! 12 volunteers are needed.

April 18th – June

Early Evenings

Trail Thursdays
Every other Thursday from April 18th until late June, come out and help us keep the Wenatchee Foothills trails in great shape.

April 20th

All Morning

Hands Across the Foothills Volunteers
We need over 100 volunteers to make this major event happen! Details will be announced once permits are finalized.

April 24th & 25th

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Weed Control in the Wenatchee Foothills
Help control noxious weeds on Land Trust property in the foothills.

May 11th

All Day

Foothills Day Volunteers
We need over 40 volunteers to help run this all day community celebration of the Wenatchee Foothills.

May 15th

7:00 AM

Leavenworth Bird Festival Scouting Trips
Help with reconnaissance surveys before the Leavenworth Bird Festival. Look and listen for bird species for trip leaders to highlight on the later Bird Fest hike.

May 18th & 25th

9:00 AM – 12:00PM

Trail Building at Horse Lake
Ready for a new trail at Horse Lake? Come out and help us build a 3/4 mile trail above the old lake bed.

Events and Outings

Call the office at (509) 667-9708 for details and to register.
You can also sign up online - go to cdlandtrust.org and click What’s New for details.

March 19th

7:00 PM

Environmental Film Series – The Salmon Forest
The Environmental Film Series continues with The Salmon Forest. At the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, $5 donation suggested.

April 1st

Trails Opening Day
All trails north of 5th Street officially open for use! Hike, bike, run or walk the Wenatchee Foothills.

April 12th

Spring Social
Bring your neighbor, co-worker, or family friend to learn more about the Land Trust! At the Cashmere Riverside Center

April 20th

All Day

Hands Across the Foothills
Save the date, details coming soon!

April 27th

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Sam Hill Wildflower Walk
Join CDLT board member Ann Schaecktel and her husband Don for a wildflower walk on our Sam Hill property located just outside of Leavenworth on the slopes above Icicle Creek.

May 11th

All Day

Foothills Day
Celebrate the Wenatchee Foothills at this fun, family friendly community event.

May 16th

7:00 PM

Environmental Film Series – Play Again
The Environmental Film Series continues with Play Again. At the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, $5 donation suggested.

May 18th

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Butterflies, Bugs & Blooms
Join biologist Phil Archibald for an exploration of full-blown spring glory on the Land Trust’s Stormy Creek Preserve. Learn about spring wildflowers, songbirds, and butterflies along the Entiat River.
MISSION STATEMENT

Conserving our land, our water, and our way of life through voluntary land agreements, education, partnerships, stewardship, and well-planned growth.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Spring Social

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 • 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
Cashmere Riverside Center, 201 Riverside Drive, Cashmere

Please join us for a fun, free evening featuring desserts, savories, coffee and lively conversation!
Bob Bugert and Geordie Romer will provide an update on Land Trust projects and recent successes. This evening is a great opportunity to invite your friends to come and learn about the work of the Land Trust and socialize with others who care about conserving our natural heritage.

RSVP appreciated, (509) 667-9708

Foothills Day
Saturday, May 11 — Save the Date.
See page 2 for more information.