



Editorial Board | You leave a lasting mark, Bob

World Editorial Board | July 31, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

It has been quite inspiring to witness Bob Bugert exercise his quiet, humble and effective leadership in executive roles with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust for the past decade.

Last year, Bugert stepped down as executive director of the organization and took on the role of creating strategic partnerships. At the end of July, he'll be leaving the organization to look for other opportunities.

Bugert built on the successes of the Land Trust's initial executive director, Gordon Congdon. He has passed the leadership baton on to Curt Soper, who is furthering the work of the organization. The organization works with willing landowners on conservation projects and is widely trusted and admired.

Bugert embodied all of the attributes of great leadership — courage, a strong ethical compass, flexibility, vision and an unwavering commitment to help strengthen communities rather than just focus on only improving the environment.

He led the Land Trust on its successful Foothills Capital Campaign that exceeded the goal in reaching \$8.6 million in funding for purchasing and providing stewardship funds for lands in the Wenatchee Foothills a few years ago. He and his staff worked tirelessly to make that campaign successful in a tough economic time.

There is a tremendous emphasis in North Central Washington these days on working together to solve local challenges. The TEDx “connecting the dots” event in 2014 and the Our Valley Our Future community-building endeavors are notable examples of the culture of collaboration being created here.

The Land Trust has for more than 30 years modeled collaboration and cooperation. Bob Bugert earned widespread respect and admiration for his ability to bring people together in service of strengthening the community

We have a feeling he's not done yet in terms of contributing to our region. We look forward to seeing how he applies his talents and abilities in the future.

Thanks, Bob, for making a difference in North Central Washington.

This is the opinion of The Wenatchee World and its Editorial Board: Publisher Rufus Woods, Managing Editor Cal FitzSimmons, Features Editor Marco Martinez and Editorial Page Editor Kelli Scott.
