

CHELAN~DOUGLAS



LAND TRUST

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future



# **Witnessing Change Project at the Jacobson Preserve 2011-present**

A CDLT citizen science photo monitoring program

# WITNESSING CHANGE

[HTTP://WWW.WITNESSINGCHANGE.ORG/](http://www.witnessingchange.org/)



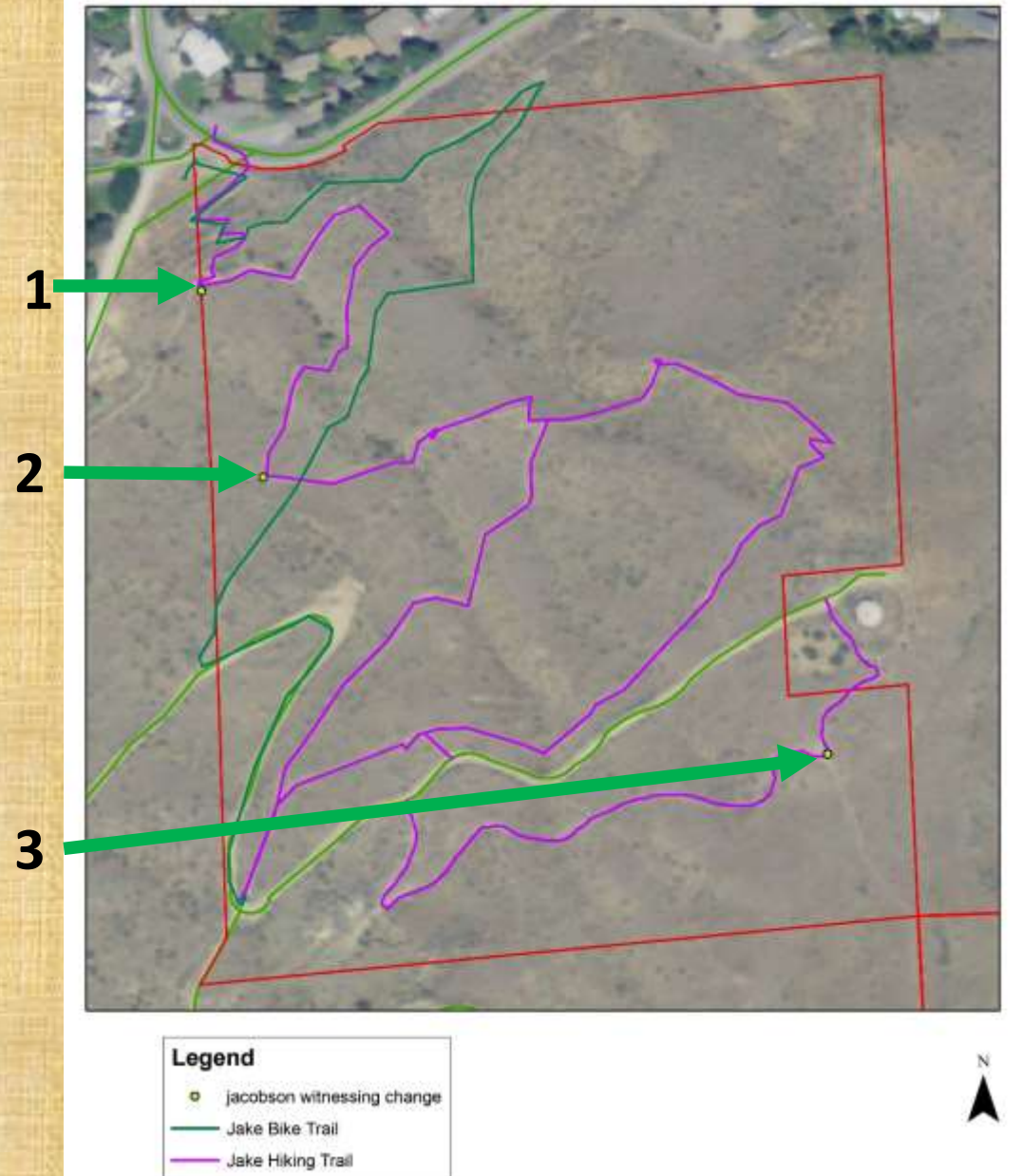
*Witnessing Change* is a program of the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) that provides citizens with opportunities to contribute to the management of designated public and private lands through the use of photo-monitoring, a protocol long-used by land managers and scientists for assessing landscape change. Citizens are invited to visit *Witnessing Change* sites, take photographs at designated locations along the trail, and then upload them to [www.witnessingchange.org](http://www.witnessingchange.org) where they can be compared with those taken in previous years. By engaging citizens in telling the story of how management actions are effecting changes in the landscape over time, landowners foster a sense of shared responsibility and community while strengthening opportunities for learning and connections with place.



Photo points established on the Jacobson Preserve in April 2011, as part of the “Witnessing Change” program Developed by IRIS (Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship <http://irisncw.org/Programs/Nature-of-NCW.html>)

**Witnessing Change** is a program that enables visitors to see the landscapes of this region through the eyes of a land manager working to improve the health of the land. Citizens are invited to visit locations in the Witnessing Change network, take photos at designated places along the trail and then upload their photos to the WitnessingChange.org website, where they can be compared with others being used to evaluate success of management actions.

The Jacobson Preserve is a north facing slope (elevation 1100 to 1440 feet) that is shrub steppe habitat just outside city limits of Wenatchee, north of Saddle Rock at the beginning of Canyon 2, managed by [Chelan-Douglas Land Trust](#), with 3 photo points monitored year round for observing ability of shrub steppe to heal after reclamation to native habitat.





## How to Participate with your camera

1. Stop and read the on-site Witnessing Change Kiosk (right) to learn how to participate, any day of the year!
2. Walk the trails to find three photo point post (below) to use to take your photos. Take your pictures
3. Submit your images via email to [HTTP://WWW.WITNESSINGCHANGE.ORG/](http://www.witnessingchange.org/)





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Continue viewing to see CDLT's cumulative series for each of the three photo points, that includes the 2014 Skyline Drive wildfire

**Become a CDLT citizen science volunteer!**

**Photo Point 1: Lower picnic table, facing uphill  
(47.4109, -120.3506)**

**Management Objective: Monitor the types of plants and how they change overtime in an area that was used for livestock grazing.**

Our goal with this photo point is to document the stability of the shrub-steppe overtime. This area was previously grazed by cattle and sheep and is important mule deer winter habitat. Shrub-steep is a fragile environment and sensitive to disturbances. Although not much change is expected, we want to know the long term dynamics of this area to better understand the complexities of our specific natural surroundings.

The deep-soil shrub-steppe environment surrounding you is a complex and sensitive environment. The plants and animals in this region are highly adapted to small amounts of annual rainfall and extreme temperatures. Despite challenging living conditions, the shrub-steppe contains amazing diversity. At the Jacobson Preserve alone, 8 mammal and 38 bird species have been identified as well as 85 flowering plant species. All of which fits in just 35 acres!

<http://www.witnessingchange.org/explore/photopoints.html>



4/8/2011



**Jacobson Preserve**

**Photo Point 1-**

UTM Coordinates:

10 T 0699864

5254235



April 8, 2011



**Jacobson  
Preserve  
Photo Point 1-  
UTM  
Coordinates:  
10 T 0699864  
5254235**



April 2012



**Jacobson  
Preserve**

**Photo Point 1-**

UTM Coordinates:

10 T 0699864

5254235



July, 2016



**Jacobson  
Preserve  
Photo Point 1-  
UTM  
Coordinates: 10  
T 0699864  
5254235**



July, 19, 2017



**Photo Point 2: Just before trails intersection, facing downhill**

**(47.4100, -120.3503)**

**Objective: Monitor the natural revegetation of a compacted trail bed closed in 2001 to see bare ground slowly covered by grasses and plants.**

Our goal with this photo point is to monitor how the shrub-steppe recovers over time in an area where a restoration project has already occurred. In particular we want to discover what type of plants (native or invasive) will begin the succession and in what time frame the succession will occur.

For many years, locals, starting at the bottom of the hill, hiked straight up the land to their favorite destinations. Over time, this created what is called a fall-line trail. Fall-line trails run directly up-slopes and are unsustainable and highly erosive. Water runs straight down the trail and people continually widen it as they look for better purchase on the side of the path.

In 2001, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and a group of volunteers reclaimed the trail with water bars, erosion matting, and plantings every 3 feet. Since that time, we have seen zero percent survival of the plantings. The ground was highly compacted from the years of use and plants struggle to get established in this hard ground with limited water. The erosion mat has disintegrated, but the water bars are still in place and surrounding shrubs have begun to grow over the old trail.

<http://www.witnessingchange.org/explore/photopoints.html>



4/8/2011



**Photo Point 1:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 2**

UTM Coordinates:  
10T 0699892  
5254139



April 8, 2011



**Photo Point 1:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 2**

UTM Coordinates: 10T  
0699892 5254139



April 15, 2012



**Photo Point 1:  
Witnessing Change**

**Objective 2**

UTM Coordinates:

10T 0699892

5254139



July 15, 2016



**Photo Point 1:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 2**

UTM Coordinates: 10T  
0699892 5254139



July 19, 2017



**Photo Point 3: Upper loop, east corner above water tower, facing uphill**

**(47.4087, -120.3466)**

**Objective: Monitor the types of plants and how they change over time in an area that was used for livestock grazing and thought to be disturbed by wildfire.**

Our goal with this photo point is to document the stability of the shrub-steppe overtime. This area was previously grazed by cattle and sheep and is important mule deer winter habitat. Wildfires are also believed to have disturbed the area because there are few big sage and bitter brush and these two plants do not re-sprout after a burn event. Shrub-steppe is a fragile environment and sensitive to disturbances. Although not much change is expected, but we want to know the long term dynamics of this area to better understand the complexities of our specific natural surroundings.

<http://www.witnessingchange.org/explore/photopoints.html>



4/29/2011



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates: 10 T  
0700175 5253996



April 8, 2011



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates:  
10 T 0700175  
5253996



April 15, 2012



# CDLT Jacobson Preserve Post-wildfire Photo monitoring & Witnessing Change Project



Skyline Drive Wildfire

July 6-7, 2014

400 acres

Started at Skyline Drive  
and moved S & SW to  
Saddle Rock City Park:  
Duration: <24 hours

Photo Gallery:

<https://www.wenatchee-world.com/news/2014/jul/06/photo-gallery-brush-fire-wenatchee/>



Source: Wenatchee World, July 7, 2014 <https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2014/jul/06/skyline-drive-fire-lights-foothills/>

— Eight homes on Skyline Drive were evacuated early Sunday morning as a brush fire moved up the hillside behind them, spreading to several ridge lines and creating a fiery glow visible from throughout the Wenatchee area. The fire, reported at 2:15 a.m., came within 20 feet of one house in the 1500 block of Skyline Drive, said fire spokeswoman Kay McKellar.

No structures had burned as of 6 a.m. Numerous residents along Skyline Drive were told to be ready to evacuate and fire officials were beginning to tell residents up No. 2 Canyon the same thing at 6 a.m.

Officers woke residents at three of the homes first threatened by the fire and told them they needed to leave said. Firefighters stationed trucks at each of the residences, said Sgt. Edgar Reinfeld of the Wenatchee Police Department. Winds were calm early Sunday, but the National Weather Service predicted a west wind would blow 8 to 13 mph later in the day. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

About 100 firefighters were on the fire scene Sunday morning, McKellar said.

In addition to many firefighters from Chelan and Douglas counties, they included crews from the U.S. Forest Service and the state Department of Natural Resources.

At dawn, a helicopter from Chelan County Fire District 1 was dropping water on the fire. The Red Cross was opening a shelter at the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Fifth Street and Western Avenue.



Source: Wenatchee World, July 8, 2014 <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2014/jul/08/skyline-fire-snuffed-trails-reopen/>

WENATCHEE — Roads and trails near the charred hillside of Sunday's Skyline Drive Fire are clear and open for public use. Roads and trails reopened around 6 p.m. Monday when the last of the firefighting crews pulled out, said Rich Magnussen, Chelan County Emergency Management specialist.

The Skyline fire was one of a handful of big and sometimes dangerous fires ignited in North Central Washington during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. ...

At least 15 small fires caused by fireworks were also reported in the Wenatchee Valley on the Fourth of July alone. Authorities have not yet announced a cause for the Skyline Drive Fire, although an ignition point has been pinpointed just off Skyline Drive. Investigators with the state Department of Natural Resources are expected to issue a report in the next few days, Magnussen said.

The blaze was reported around 2:15 a.m. Sunday and quickly threatened homes as it swept up the hillside. The fire also had the potential to threaten homes in No. 2 Canyon. No structures were damaged, but on Sunday eight homes along Skyline Drive were placed under Level 3 evacuation orders (residents advised to leave) due to expected high winds. Another 60 homes in No. 2 Canyon received Level 1 notices (be alert to nearby fire) and were urged to prepare for evacuation. All evacuation notices were lifted by 10 a.m. Monday.

About 100 firefighters hit the blaze hard on Sunday with aerial water drops, pumper trucks and hand crews. Crews successfully defended firelines through Sunday afternoon and worked through the evening and into Monday to extinguish hot spots, Magnussen said.



View from Castle Rock  
of entire burn area including private  
property, the southeast area of the  
CDLT Jacobson Preserve  
And the upper Saddle Rock City Park.



July 11, 2014  
4 days post-fire



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates: 10  
T 0700175 5253996

4 days post-fire



July 11, 2014



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates: 10  
T 0700175 5253996

4 days post-fire



July 11, 2014



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates: 10 T  
0700175 5253996

2 years post-fire



July 15, 2016



**Photo Point 3:  
Witnessing Change  
Objective 3**

UTM Coordinates: 10  
T 0700175 5253996

3 years post-fire



July 19, 2017



CDLT staff will continue to take annual post-wildfire photos to continue monitoring the natural regrow of native shrub-steppe plants after the Skyline Drive Fire at Jacobson Preserve.

Restoration efforts are on-going and include

- erosion control
- weed management
- trail user management



July 11, 2014  
4 days post-fire