

Collaboration between a farming family and conservation groups give new hope for Greater sage-grouse in Washington State.

CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS

The early morning sunlight dances across the hill tops, slowly lighting up the canyon walls. On the surface, nothing is different about this day. The birds sing, mule deer wind their way through the sagebrush, and the Keane family readies for another day working with the land. It's a scene that has played out since 1886 and now involves the fifth generation running around getting mud on their boots.

But things *have* changed. This land will forever be a working farm and ranch because the Keanes have protected it with an agricultural conservation easement, held by CDLT.

Located in prime sage-grouse and mule deer habitat, the Keane Ranch is operated by brothers Jeff and Dane Keane and their families. The brothers have been farming and ranching this ground their whole lives and know everything about the land. While taking a drive with them, the stories pour out.



The Keane Family has been farming this land since 1886. The tradition will continue, along with protection for the habitat that wildlife depend on.

"This turn here in the road is where dad ran the truck off the road and had to walk back to the ranch... Take a look over at that hill. See that old road? That's the road we used to get the wheat off the ground with."

The history is everywhere, and it lives on in the way the family cares for the land. Dane Keane's son Kellen also works the ranch and he said, "I have a son and a daughter,

3 and 5 years old, and I want them to be able to see the exact same things that I was seeing when I was growing up. And I want the same for their kids."

The agricultural conservation easement forever protects the Keane Ranch from development and connects the ranch's 6,724 acres with adjacent state and federal lands. Combined, the amount of land protected and usable by Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife exceeds 8,000 acres. The ranch is in the heart of the strongest remaining population of Greater sage-grouse in

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MANY WAYS TO PROTECT THE LANDS WE LOVE

Curt Soper
Executive Director

*Varied conservation
projects reflect the
diverse lands of North
Central Washington.*

photo: Drew Gaylord

Your Land Trust is honored to be working on your behalf to conserve and care for your natural lands and waters in North Central Washington.

Our area is incredibly geographically diverse – from glacier-covered peaks to sagebrush plateaus, from deep wilderness to apple orchards to city streets. And everyone loves this place in their own way and for their own reasons.

It only makes sense that to protect land in a region like this, we need a wide range of tools to reflect the wide range of relationships to the land.

A hallmark of the Land Trust is that we work *only* with willing landowners. Our first meeting on a potential project usually focuses on identifying the vision and wishes of the landowner for their property. That helps determine what tool we might use to protect the land.

Of the 21,000 acres permanently conserved over the years, about half are owned by the CDLT or its partners and half are in conservation easements.

In the case of the conservation easements, the property remains privately owned and managed but cannot be legally subdivided or developed, as is the case with the recent Keane Ranch conservation easement. Public access is typically not allowed on conservation easement properties.

On land owned by the Land Trust, we often provide public access and trails when it makes sense, as is the case in the Wenatchee Foothills, on Mountain Home Preserve, and along the Entiat, Wenatchee and White Rivers.

Whichever conservation tools we may use in the future, your Land Trust staff knows that our success is only possible due to your incredible commitment and support. We appreciate you!

Gratefully Yours,



*Curt Soper
Executive Director*



Thank you to Cascade Autocenter for our high-clearance, safe and stylish Land Trust Subaru!

WORKING LANDS *(continued from page 1)*

Washington State, which has lost over 90% of its historic range due to habitat loss and fragmentation. The ranch's combination of dryland grain and native plant shrub-steppe supports the bird's habitat needs.

The funding for this project came primarily from the Agricultural Land Easement Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These voluntary agreements between farmers and ranchers help to protect sensitive species and habitat while allowing agriculture to continue on the land. These agreements can help sustain wildlife without giving them a federal "listing" and the need for regulatory restrictions. This enables responsible stewarding of the land and benefits both wildlife and farmers.

The Keanes credit their parents, Lucille and Delbert Keane, and earlier generations with building the ranch and persevering through many hardships, allowing the family to carry on the ranching tradition. As the Keanes say, *"We're keepers, not sellers."* This agreement allows them to do just that – keep their farming legacy and continue that tradition for generations to come.

The Keane family worked with CDLT, The Trust for Public Land, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Sage Grouse Initiative, and Pacific Power to develop and fund the agricultural conservation easement – the largest in the state.

"It has been a real honor to work with the Keane family and our conservation partners," said Mickey Fleming CDLT's Lands Program Manager. *"A project like this shows what can be accomplished when we work together around a common goal – protecting this beautiful land that is productive for both food and wildlife."* 📌



Our members made this special project possible!

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE?



photo: Warren Cook

Well, there is no denying that they are fancy dancers, but there is more to the Greater sage-grouse than smooth moves.

The presence of this iconic bird signals that the sagebrush habitat is of high quality. In 11 western states, 366 other wildlife species of concern depend on this sagebrush habitat – which is shrinking.

By December, sage-grouse transition to a diet of strictly sagebrush. The leaves are full of harsh chemicals called terpenoids — the same basic chemical found in turpentine — that sage grouse are able to remove during digestion and excrete separately as a "cecal dropping," which looks like a silver-dollar-sized drop of tar.

Since 2010, 1,800+ ranchers across the West have enrolled in voluntary, proactive conservation programs that benefit the "bird and the herd." This is *good news!*



photo: Greg Homel

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

September 2019 through February 2020, these individuals & businesses have joined the Land Trust. Thank you for your generous support!

Glenn Adams	Dennis Gradoville	Dr. James & Ivy Murray	Griffin Smith
Jessica Adams	Eric & Anna Gullickson	Yvette Nameth	Kerry Smith
Jeff & Susan Ashton	Glen Hammond & Nancy Larson	Thomas & Linda Newlon	Connie Soper
Cristina Barone	Hammond	Mindy Norris	Susie & Jim Stenkamp
Aloise Bates & Mark Early	Mike & Heidi Hartnell	Bradley Nysether	Emily Storer
David & Lisa Bender	Hans Peter & Terri Hettinger	Meshach Padilla & Dawn Thomas	David Straub
Teresa Bendito	Amanda Huber	Charles & Lynn Patten	Katherine Tackman
Kmbris Bond & Rich Trifeletti	Jennifer & Rob Jorgensen	Natalie Pawlikowski	Lloyd & Mary Thompson
Janet Bowen	Caroline Kennedy	Deanna Penwell	Steven & Joan Thomsen
Tracy Bowerman	Paul & Megan Kinser	Brett Peterson	Scott Tiedeman
Dick & Sally Brigham	Joe Larkin	Leah & Garrett Potter	Ruth & Ben Traxler
Michael Brown & Sarah Alderks	Michael Lawson	Andrew & Mimi Reid	Phillip Unterschuetz
Brown	Miles LeFevre	Ronald & Patricia Richter	Michele Vallor
Josh Burnell & Noreen Shinohara	Sarah Lindell	Dwight & Sandra Jensen,	Matt & Michelle Van Bogart
Kenneth & Lisa Bus	Anna Lively	Riverview Enterprises LLC	Huib Van Leeuwen
Matthew Carmichael	Nicole & Steve Long	Mercy Rome & Canuche	Karina Vega-Villa
James Carroll	Elisa Lopez & Jaime Cuellar	Terranella	Tierra Village
Jorge & Alma Chacon	Jon Magnus	Wayne & Renee Rubin	Edward Wallgren
David Craig & Gaile Moe	Kevin Majeau	Dean Running	Neal & Jeanette Wanner
Ana Diaz	Chris & Michele Maly	Joanne Sanford Young	Cherié Warren
Ryan Ericksen	Janet Mano	Zane Schafer	Catherine Waterston
Lois Eulberg	Christa Matson	David Schaub	Barb Wehrer
Lou Faehnrich	George Mazur	Arthur Schile	Kurt & Cathy Westman
James & Mary Ann Farr	Steve McKenney	Rollie Schmitt	Dan & Rebecca Wilkinson
Carol Finn	Heather Merritt	Rebecca Schwaegler	Gayle Willett
Gregory & Lynda Fischer	Mike Howisey	Robert Scott	Jennifer Witherbee
Harriet Fox	Susan Miller	Trisha Self	Susan Ricigliano, Yakima Valley
Crystal Gandy	Jay Monnahan	Wendy & Ray Sharp	Feed & Jim Floris, Floris
Umar Gebril	Clare Morrison	Mary Shima	Livestock

WEEKDAY WEED WARRIORS WANTED!

Does getting outside this spring with a group of like-minded people, while getting something accomplished sound good to you? Sign up to be a Weekday Weed Warrior! This spring, CDLT is launching a volunteer project at our newly acquired *Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve*. Between late April and June, our goal is to hand-pull knapweed as a first step in a habitat improvement plan. Conversations will flow as we work in the shade of cottonwood trees, listening to birdsong along the Wenatchee River.

By pulling the weeds before they flower and set seed, we can leave the plants on site with no need to bag them. Easy!

To sign up to get work party notifications, email Susan Ballinger (susan@cdlandtrust.org) or call the office 509-667-9708.

And, if you want to learn about weed identification or backpack sprayer training, check out the options under *Volunteer Opportunities* in this newsletter or visit our website, cdlandtrust.org. 📖

Jet & Ed Quaid, seasoned Weed Warriors



"Although it sounds odd, I look forward to pulling weeds," says Jet. "It's not strenuous work. In the spring the soil is still damp, so with my favorite tool, a worm screw driver, I get down on my hands and knees and PULL! So join us and with the social network that is the Land Trust. I guarantee that you'll have fun."

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Visit us online for updated info about outings, events, details & to sign up!
cdlandtrust.org or call 509-667-9708

**PLEASE NOTE: We are suspending and in some cases canceling upcoming events until further notice in consideration of our community's health. Check our website often for updated info.*

MARCH

- 14** White River Snowshoe Tour
9AM-4PM @ White River (various locations)
- 14** Hike for Health Series
9-11 AM @ Horan Natural Area
- 26** Birding at Mountain Home Preserve
7:30-11 AM @ Mountain Home

APRIL

DATE TBA

Foothills Trails Opening Day
Opening date will be dependent on mule deer counts & trail conditions.
More info coming soon!

- 2** Explore Saddle Rock with CDLT & NREL. Bilingual Nature Story time, activities & more!
FREE Link bus transportation
10AM - noon @ Saddle Rock Trailhead
- 11** Hike for Health Series
9-11 AM @ Reach 1 Trail

- 14** Upper Valley Nature Walk
1-4 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 22** Earth Day Wildflower Walk
5:30-7 PM @ Jacobson Preserve
- 23** Birding at Mountain Home Preserve
7:30-11 AM @ Mountain Home
- 28** Leavenworth Earth Day Fair: Upper Valley Nature Walk
1-4 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill

MAY

- 9** 8th Annual Horse Lake Trail Run
7AM - 2 PM @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 9** Hike for Health Series
9-11 AM @ Saddle Rock Natural Area
- 13** Upper Valley Nature Walk
2-6 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 15** Bird Fest: Cashmere Canyons Birding
6-11 AM @ Cashmere Canyons Preserve

- 17** Bird Fest: Cashmere Canyons Birding
6-11 AM @ Cashmere Canyons Preserve
- 21** Birding at Mountain Home Preserve
7:30-11 AM @ Mountain Home
- 27** Upper Valley Nature Walk
2-5 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 28** Sam Hill Wildflower Walk
5:30 PM @ Sam Hill Property

JUNE

- 13** Hike for Health Series
9 - 11 AM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 25** Birding at Mountain Home Preserve
7:30-11 AM @ Mountain Home
- 25** Up & Over Saddle Rock Evening Hike
7:00 PM @ Saddle Rock

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Visit www.cdlandtrust.org for changes & updates!

**PLEASE NOTE: We are suspending and in some cases canceling upcoming events. Check our website often for updated info.*

MARCH

- 18** Trail Work Party
3-6 PM @ Jacobson Preserve
- 26** Trail Work Party
3-6 PM @ Balsamroot Trail

APRIL

- 4** 3rd Annual SageFest
Co-sponsored by Central WA EMBA
9AM-1PM @ Horse Lake Reserve
new trail & maintenance
(if cancelled, will reschedule for Apr 11)
- 9** A Weed or Not a Weed
Free Weed I.D. workshop (NPS)
7-8:30PM @ Wenatchee Valley Museum
- TBD** New Trail Finish Work
3-6 PM @ Horse Lake Reserve

- 21** Workshop: Become a Weed Warrior
Learn to identify noxious weeds-free
6-7:30 pm @ CDLT office
- 23** Backpack Sprayer Training
With CDLT's Neal Hedges
10-11 AM @ TBD Foothills trail
- 25** Sat. Trail Maintenance Work Party
8:30AM -1 PM @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 28** Wire Fence Removal
lunch provided
9am-3pm @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 29** Wire Fence Removal
lunch provided
9am-3pm @ Horse Lake Reserve

LATE APRIL:

Weekday Weed Warrior Work
Apr through July (dates/times TBA)
Email olivia@cdlandtrust.org
or 509-667-9708

MAY

- 7** Trail Prep for HL Trail Run
2:30-6PM @ Upper Horse Lake Reserve

DATE TBA:

Saturday Trail Work Party
8AM-2PM @ Cashmere Canyons Preserve

JUNE

DATES TBA:

Saturday Trail Work Party
8AM-2PM @ Cashmere Canyons Preserve

Officers:

Suzanne Hartman
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Vice President

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Kathy Peven
Communications Coordinator

Olivia Schilling
Stewardship & Trails Coordinator

Aimee Sheridan
Director of Philanthropy

Michelle Tiegel
Lands Program Coordinator

Joe Veverka
Stewardship Assistant



LEAVE A LEGACY INCLUDING CDLT IN YOUR WILL ENSURES THAT YOUR VALUES LIVE ON

Pride. That’s what Karen’s two kids feel about the Wenatchee Foothills. “*They love that the foothills are in their backyard,*” says Karen. The kids like taking hikes with their mom and learning about wildflowers and wildlife in the area.

Connecting kids to nature and nurturing the desire to protect and care for the land is an example of the kind of legacy that a gift from your estate to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust can create.



Karen Pleas and her daughter making memories on a trail in the foothills.

If you’d like to learn more about including the Land Trust in your estate plan, call *Aimee Sheridan* at 509-667-9708 or email aimee@cdlandtrust.org.

PUT SPRING IN YOUR STEP ON ONE OF THESE TRAILS!

Thank you for respecting the seasonal closure of trails and properties north of 5th Street in the Wenatchee Foothills. Soon, when the trails open, you’ll be able to find your way through the foothills all the better with one of our newly redesigned *Foothills Trail Maps*, available at area trailheads and online!



A new trail segment will be added at Horse Lake Reserve this year, which will create another loop option off of the popular Homestead Trail in the lower elevation part of the Reserve. If you are inclined to help build this trail in good company and with great views, join CDLT and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance for upcoming trail work parties! Check for updates at cdlandtrust.org

We are continuing to make progress on designing a trailhead and trail system at *Cashmere Canyons Preserve*. When completed, we expect to provide 20 parking spots and over 8 miles of trail to explore. Access to the preserve will be limited to foot traffic only (*no bikes or horses*), and no dogs will be permitted. **Happy Trails!**