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.

“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 Washington State.

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

...continued on page 3
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!
WHAT’S SO GREAT ABOUT THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE?

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!

Our members made this special project possible!
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

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

“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 worn 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.”

Jet & Ed Quaid, seasoned Weed Warriors
OUTINGS & EVENTS

*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 & NCRL. Bilingual Nature Storytime, activities & more!
FREE Link bus transportation
10AM - noon @ Saddle Rock Trailhead

11 Hike for Health Series
9-11 AM @ Reach 1 Trail

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

JUNE

*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
3-6PM @ Balsamroot Trail

APRIL

4 3rd Annual SageFest
Co-sponsored by Central WA EMBA
9AM - 4PM @ 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
President
Bruce Williams
Vice President
Steve Jacobs
Secretary/Treasurer

Board:
Randy Asplund
Celeste Barry
Ron Feld
Bill Gaines
Cody Gillin
Paul Hessburg
Jennifer Korfiatis
John Lehmkuhl
Jack Mynatt
Rob Shurtleff
David Visser
Scott Volyn
Elizabeth Wilson

Legal Counsel:
Todd Kiesz

Staff:
Curt Soper
Executive Director
Susan Ballinger
Conservation Fellow
Hanne Beener
Trails Program Manager
Hillary Clark
Community Engagement Manager
Judy Cleveland
Accounting Manager
Mickey Fleming
Lands Program Manager
Rebecca Frank
Stewardship Assistant
Neal Hedges
Stewardship Coordinator
Jessica Kendall
Associate Director
Joan Krause
Bookkeeper
David Morgan
Stewardship Director
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.

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!