



Newsletter
FALL 2021

UNCOMMON PARTNERS WITH A COMMON GOAL

The phone calls that come into the Land Trust office are often interesting. But seldom do we have a caller ask, “We are looking for properties with high-quality natural habitat and wetlands that we could purchase for conservation. Do you know of any?”

“Why, as it so happens, yes we do!”

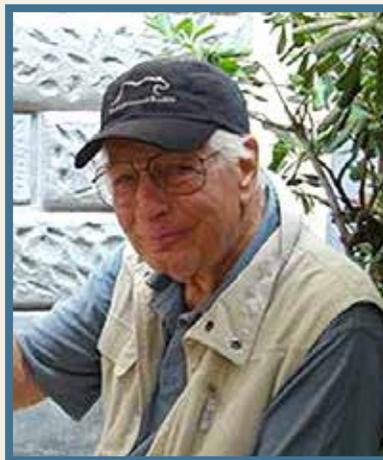
This phone call began a three-year project that culminated in over 2,100 acres of land protected near Lake Chelan, creating CDLT’s new Chelan Coulees Reserve.

The phone call was on behalf of Rio Tinto, a leading global mining and metals company that has been managing the restoration and mitigation of the Holden Mine for the past 9 years. The Holden Mine was located about 40 miles up Lake Chelan and operated until the 1950s. While Rio Tinto never operated the mine itself, it assumed responsibility for remediation through a series of acquisitions.

In a somewhat-unlikely partnership, CDLT and Rio Tinto were after the same goal—identify productive habitat in the Lake Chelan area for permanent protection. Thanks to this partnership and the support of our members, CDLT secured more than 2,100 acres of wildlife habitat for protection on August 5th. Chelan Coulees Reserve is located about 7 miles south of Chelan and hosts intact wetlands and diverse forest. CDLT will manage the Reserve with an emphasis

on fire safety, wetland preservation, climate change adaptation and wildlife protection. Rio Tinto’s contribution to the project was done as part their environmental offsets for the Holden Mine remediation project.

The property varies in terrain and environmental conditions. From the dry shrub-steppe habitat at lower elevation to ponderosa pine forests at mid-elevation, giving way to mixed conifer in the northwest, the Reserve is diverse. Most notably, the Reserve is



Jerry Scofield – his care for this land left a light touch after 50 years of ownership.

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BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The success of the Land Trust is due to our members and supporters. Even during this recent time of pandemic and divisiveness, your steadfast support in protecting our natural areas made it possible to continue moving forward on projects—some years in the making—scoring some big wins for our local lands and waters.



Curt Soper
Executive Director

This past year has seen the protection of more habitat in Douglas County for the threatened Greater sage-grouse, through sustainable ranching.

The new Chelan Coulees Reserve near Lake Chelan provides the 2,100-acre puzzle piece that connects over 20,000 acres of protected natural land for wildlife and native plants in our warming climate.

The permanent protection of beautiful Cashmere Canyons Preserve and the new trailhead, opened up some 10 miles of glorious hiking trails to the public. This success story started with the generosity and vision of two members, Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth, who also happen to own the preserve. They worked closely with the Land Trust to place protective conservation easements on their property and develop public access for hiking. Their foresight in conserving the land and generosity in sharing it with the community, is a rare gift. We asked them why they were doing this, and here is what they said:

“Our hope is that 100 years from now, when the population of the Valley has doubled or tripled, there will still be places where one can see deer and bear, cougars and coyotes, rattlesnakes and raptors, and on lucky days walk in total solitude surrounded by a sea of wildflowers; where people can be neither above nor separate from nature, but in its midst. If that’s still possible, it won’t be by accident nor the result of ‘business as usual’. It will happen, or not, because of the conscious choices and investments made by the people and institutions of the Wenatchee Valley today.”

From my perspective, you can’t describe the mission of the Land Trust and why we all care about this work any better than this. You have been the heartbeat of this organization for 36 years and we are so grateful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curt".

*Jabe & Julie out on their
Cashmere Canyons Preserve
property.*

UNCOMMON PARTNERS *(continued from page 1)*

home to wetlands rare to the area, making it essential to wildlife.

In addition to the varied habitat, nearly 90 percent of the property borders public land. Not only does the Land Trust acquisition protect the site from being developed or fragmented into multiple small ownerships, but it connects to other protected lands. USDA Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources all share borders with the Reserve, allowing wildlife to migrate naturally across more than 20,000 acres of protected land. These large, unrestricted areas with few barriers (roads, fences, structures, etc.) are especially important as species' ranges change due to our warming climate. For now, the Reserve will remain closed to the public to protect these critical habitats.

The property was conserved as an informal wildlife reserve by previous owner Jerry Scofield until his death in 2014. His care for the land left a light touch after 50 years of ownership. His widow Mary Pat Scofield, spokesperson for the family, is delighted with CDLT becoming the permanent owner and steward of the property. "This is a legacy to my husband's vision for responsible development that values the beauty of the land and the creatures who live there," said Mrs. Scofield.

The project qualified for funding under the Resilient Landscapes Conservation Fund from the Oregon Community Foundation. The fund supports protection of scientifically targeted lands that are climate resilient. Climate resilience is the ability for land to adapt to changes with limited stress or impact to its natural systems. The Chelan Coulees Reserve lies within a corridor identified as climate resilient due to its



Varying topography, wetlands, and connectivity to other protected lands make Chelan Coulees important land for wildlife and plant communities.

abundance of varying topography, diverse habitat, connectivity to other protected lands, and presence of water and wetlands in a generally dry climate. As our climate continues to change, bringing hotter, drier conditions, it is imperative we protect those landscapes most adaptable to future conditions.

"This project was possible due to the collaboration of many partners, with a common goal in mind. Due to the strong support of our membership and a track-record of successful, collaborative work, CDLT was chosen as the trusted entity to steward and protect this special property in perpetuity – forever," said Mickey Fleming, CDLT Lands Program Manager. "This has been a fulfilling project for everyone involved."

The protection of the Chelan Coulees Reserve represents another piece in the puzzle toward making sure that wildlife and native plants have places to migrate and adapt as our climate changes. By working creatively with partners, and with your support, the Land Trust aims to continue to identify these unique properties for conservation. 🌿

CONSERVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE RANCHING

Thanks to Vernon and Lorianna Breiler, another 2,480 acres on Badger Mountain are permanently protected for wildlife habitat and working lands in Douglas County. CDLT and fourth generation rancher Vernon Breiler entered into an agricultural conservation easement in April, ensuring that this land will stay intact, forever. Breiler raises dryland wheat and maintains over half the property in shrub-steppe community of native grasses, forbs and sagebrush. With the conservation easement, the rancher, CDLT and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work in partnership to see that best practices are used to manage grazing of cattle with habitat conservation, in perpetuity.

Voluntary conservation agreements with private landowners are the key to survival of the Greater sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, pygmy rabbit, and Washington ground squirrel, all of which are populations at risk. Once plentiful in Washington State, the sage-grouse has lost over 90% of its habitat in the state to development and fragmentation. The remaining population is primarily on privately-owned lands in Douglas County. When property is developed and broken into disconnected pieces, wildlife struggle to survive. The Breiler Ranch is adjacent to another conservation easement completed by CDLT in 2019 on the 6,723-acre Keane Ranch.

The conservation easement was funded by NRCS and the State of Washington's Farmland Preservation program, as well as generous donations by the Scull, Sorom and Griffin families to the Tina Scull Opportunity Fund.



"It was Important to us to keep the land natural for wildlife. And we'll be able to keep working the land, just like it's been for the last hundred years," said Breiler. "It's been great working with CDLT and the good people down there."

– Vernon & Lorianna Breiler



This work is endorsed by the Sage-Grouse Initiative, NRCS, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Douglas County Commission, and has been praised by Rep. Dan Newhouse.

The Breiler Ranch remains private property and does not have public access.

For more information about Washington's shrub-steppe habitat and conservation efforts, visit *Working Lands for Wildlife* on the NRCS website. 

Vernon breaks up ice at a stock water container on a frosty morning.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February 2021 through September 2021, these individuals & businesses have joined the Land Trust. Thank you for your generous support — and welcome!

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Marcella Lyon | Chris Brushwood | Carolyn Nelson | Plaza Super Jet |
| Jim Freeburg | Ryan Lefler | Cynthia Chandler | Catherine & Jeffery Lau |
| Jeff & Beverly Neher | Patricia Freeburg | Ben Rogoza & Talia Lauren | Robert & Patricia Strand |
| Katherine & Robert Valaas | Bruce & Karen Keleman | Thomas Kinsman | Michael Parnell |
| Michael Daines | Andrew Mills | Karen Claeys | Tamara & William |
| Rhona Baron— | Cathi & Brian Wengreen | Bradley Spangler | Parkinson |
| Savor Central WA | Gail Roberts | Rachel Reeg | Carol Oliver |
| Mary & Nate Sutton | Dan & Anne Linge | Alice Knudsen | David Bray III |
| Hazen Free | Mary Hill | Timothy Burns | Marci Peterson |
| Sandra Baker | Warren and Linda Bjork | George & Le Anne Seaver | Garrett Lienhard |
| Ian Woodruff | Jill Perrigoue | William & Karen Barchet | Michael Katell |
| Kenneth Wiljanen | Alex Taylor | Celeste Ross Honsinger | Michael & Tamara Kintner |
| Andy Veenstra & Ali Gray | Katrina Freeburg | Danny Zavala Real Estate | Laurence & Sonya |
| Greg Jourdan | Juan Campos | Susan & Fred Rose | Chamberlain |
| Lisa Reed & Eric Wolfe | Lauren Scanga | James & Pamela Wonn | Karen Kelly |

TRAILS & ACCESS

On a spring day that felt like summer, CDLT and landowners Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth officially welcomed the public to Cashmere Canyons Preserve. Eager hikers quickly worked their way uphill and out of sight, bound for the fresh breeze, flowers, and views they’d find along the ridgeline. CDLT’s Stewardship Assistant Joe Veverka spent many hours preparing the trailhead and trail system for visitors, and he enjoyed finally interacting with people over this first season of access at the Preserve.

Joe commented, “Visiting with hikers at Cashmere Canyons Preserve reinforces my belief that trails concentrate good people or brings out the good in them. Likely both! Our conversations have made it clear that hikers are enthusiastic about these new trails, the landscape they wander through, and the expansive views of our valley. It’s a joy sharing in their enthusiasm.”

In addition to the excitement of Cashmere Canyons, CDLT completed a new segment of connector trail at Horse Lake Reserve for our third annual SageFest collaboration with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. Despite wind and snow, volunteers expressed how great it was to be outside, on trails, and safely sharing the experience with other people—a rarity during the ongoing pandemic.

We look forward to more shared excitement and camaraderie around trails and access as we start to engage the community around trail planning at Saddle Rock in the coming spring of 2022. We hope this will be an opportunity to learn why people choose to go to Saddle Rock now, and how people would like to use it in the future. This input will be crucial to developing a durable and community-led trails plan for our most iconic trail system. 📍



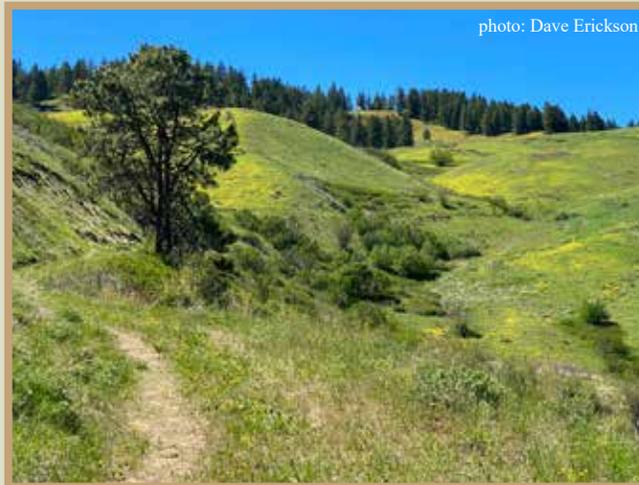
CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDS—PART OF THE SOLUTION

In our 2021-2026 new strategic plan, readers will notice an increased focus on *climate resilience*. So, what is climate resilience? Simply stated, it is the ability to adapt, the capacity to recover quickly and rebound in response to changes in climate, weather events and fire in our communities.

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has been doing work that helps in these areas for years, both when we acquire land and in the ways we manage these lands.

When we consider a new property, we evaluate how it is likely to change over the next few decades due to a hotter and drier climate. Because not all areas will be affected in the same way, we focus our efforts on lands that are more likely to retain or develop habitat characteristics that are beneficial in terms of responding to climate change. Some of these characteristics include:

- areas with a wide variety of plants and wildlife,
- properties that improve migration corridors due to their connection other already protected lands,
- and lands that help rivers and creeks stay cool for fish.



Varying topography and connections to other protected lands are key.

Once the land is protected, it is CDLT's responsibility to manage it in ways that protect these important characteristics. At times that might mean cutting trees to improve the health of the forest, other times it could mean adding more trees and shrubs to rebuild lands that have been burned or invaded by noxious weeds. Some lands are best left alone to allow the soil, trees, and plants to absorb carbon dioxide from the air, release the oxygen

back into the atmosphere and store the carbon. Each piece of land has its own plan that will help it be ready for changes in temperature and water availability.

As CDLT works to care for the lands we protect, we will also strive to do so using methods that have the smallest carbon footprint possible to accomplish our goals. We will address how climate change will alter lands in ways we may not have previously considered, and we will be intentional about picking options to do our work with a smaller impact on the climate. Both aspects of climate resilience are essential parts of the solution to the challenge.

By conserving and stewarding land now, we can better prepare our communities for future climate changes, all the while providing clean water for fish and people, healthy habitat for wildlife big and small and access to some of the best trails in the region. Land conservation is our promise of a pathway to a healthy future. 🌿



Wenatchee Mountains Checker-mallow
(*sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*)
This rare, endangered plant is found only in Chelan County and only in five locations.



photo: Paul Ballinger



OUTINGS, EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

We are still limiting our group events, per Chelan-Douglas Health District guidelines. Visit our website for added events and updates — www.cdlandtrust.org

OCT

New StoryWalk® Book
Because of an Acorn
by Lola Schaefer
@Jacobson Preserve

23 Make-A-Difference-Day
Planting bunchgrass seedlings
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required

30 Trail Work Party
Annual fall trail maintenance
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required

NOV

5 Annual Celebration Dinner
Join us in celebrating a successful year of conservation and learn about what's ahead for 2022. Look for your email invitation coming soon!
@ Virtual via Zoom
registration required

11 Natural Science Illustration: Columbia Basin Ecology
Explore our area ecology and learn science illustration techniques with artist-conservationist Jeanne Dodds.
1 - 3pm
@ Saddle Rock Trailhead shelter
registration required

13 Trail Work Party
Annual fall trail maintenance
@ Sage Hills trails
registration required

TBA Sagebrush Seedhead Collecting
Several dates will be chosen to collect seedheads for restoration at our Spiva Butte Nature Preserve. Stay tuned for details.
@ various shrub steppe locations
registration required

Visit our website for more info, to register for an event and to get on the Volunteer List!
www.cdlandtrust.org/outings-events/events



NEW BIKE STATION

If you're biking at Horse Lake Reserve and need to adjust or repair your bike, you are in luck! There is a new field bike repair/maintenance station at the trailhead. This was a project by Eagle Scout Matt Drolet. Kudos to Matt!

"When approached about the possibility of supporting the Land Trust with a vehicle, it was a no-brainer to bring Subaru into the picture. The mission of the Land Trust fully aligns with that of Cascade Subaru and Subaru of America. A Subaru would provide improved fuel economy over a larger truck, yet still provide the ground clearance needed for when they have to venture off paved roads."

—Will Summers, Cascade Autocenter



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

Officers:

Bruce Williams
President

Suzanne Hartman
Past President

Steve Jacobs
Secretary/Treasurer

Board:

Randy Asplund

Celeste Barry

Bill Gaines

Cody Gillin

Paul Hessburg

John Lehmkuhl

Jack Mynatt

Rob Shurtleff

Scott Volyn

Elizabeth Wilson

Legal Counsel:

Todd Kiesz

Staff:

Curt Soper
Executive Director

Susan Ballinger
Conservation Fellow

Hanne Beener
Trails Program Manager

Mickey Fleming
Lands Program Manager

Rebecca Frank
Stewardship Assistant

Kate Galambos
Data & GIS Manager

Braden Hourigan
Membership & Donor Relations
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Olivia Schilling
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Aimee Sheridan
Director of Philanthropy

Michelle Tiegel
Lands Program Coordinator

Joe Veverka
Stewardship Assistant



photo: Peter Bauer Photography

AN EASY WAY TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

If you want to ensure that the natural areas you love are protected and cared for in the future – there is an easy way. It doesn't require an attorney, and doesn't require that you have a will.

Making sure the natural areas you love are protected and cared for in the years after your lifetime is as simple as naming the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), pension or life insurance at a percentage you choose. With the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust as a beneficiary, you can be assured that your legacy gift will be impactful in the future while you still have access to the funds while you need them.

Whether you designate the Chelan Douglas Land Trust at 10% or up to 100%, every gift makes a difference to a cause that has been important to you during your lifetime.

If you want information about how you can make an impact now and in the future through a gift to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, call Aimee Sheridan at 509-667-9708.

**Please consult with your professional financial planner or attorney for tax advice. We can only provide you with how to give a gift to CDLT in your estate plan and what impact it will make on protecting and caring for our natural areas.*



*Take some time to visit one of the many
properties you helped protect while they
still wear their fall colors!*

**WHITE RIVER PRESERVE
–MARTINSON**
40 acres
protected 2019