

CHELAN-DOUGLAS

 LAND TRUST
 Our Land, Our Water, Our Future

Newsletter
SPRING 2022

Light filtered through the slatted walls of Burts Barn creates interesting patterns.

A NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD BARN *by Dee Riggs*

The old barn stands alone amid golden fields of brown and green in the foothills above Wenatchee. Its wooden walls, shrunk by time and the elements, allow winds to blow in and through its frame. The no-trespassing signs have been ignored for years by passersby, some intent on mischief. And the power lines hanging above the barn are too close for comfort for local fire officials.

The barn, built in the early 1950s, has become a danger:
 — to anyone who might break in and be harmed by a falling timber or wall.
 — to the foothills and even the city if it is ever set on fire by vandals or is engulfed by wildfire.

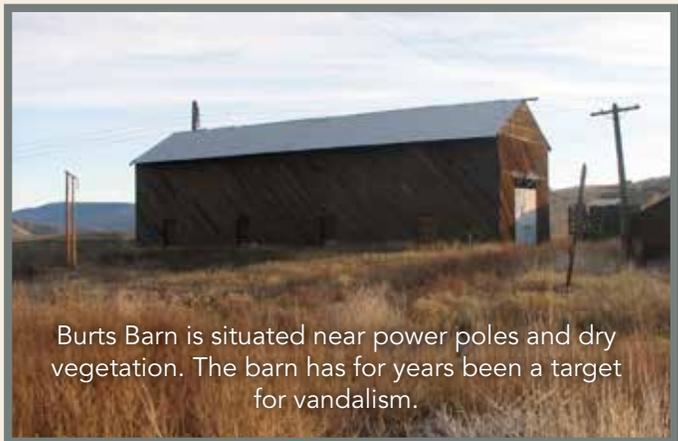
“It could produce a huge source of embers and sparks that could blow down the valley and into the city,” says David Morgan, stewardship director for the Land Trust.

The barn, located at the Horse Lake Reserve, is also not a building that can be fire-proofed, Morgan says. As global warming continues to accelerate, we must expect and prepare for more dangerous, frequent and intense fires.

The building, known as the Burts Barn, is on land previously owned by the Burts family, which farmed the

land during the last century. In a story written about his memories of growing up on the land, the late Everett Burts wrote:

“The barn that now stands on the ranch was built during 1953 and 1954. Lumber used on the walls was rough and freshly cut at the time it was nailed onto the studs. The gaps between these boards today resulted from shrinking of that green lumber as it dried. Dad was not disappointed about the shrinkage, remarking that the gaps would allow increased air circulation to help dry any hay stored inside. The barn is 100 feet long and 30 feet wide. Its outside walls are 24 feet high.”



Burts Barn is situated near power poles and dry vegetation. The barn has for years been a target for vandalism.

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MESSAGE FROM CURT



It was in late August of 2016 when I arrived in Wenatchee and started as Executive Director of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. My first hike on a Land Trust property was across the Sage Hills trails. I was enjoying a pleasant early morning walk when I noticed a bird of prey hunting in the distance. I pulled out my binoculars and recognized a distinctive shape and hunting style—it was a peregrine falcon! The fastest living thing on planet earth and a rare and threatened species. I took this as a sign that I had landed in the right place.



Curt Soper
Executive Director

Since that first hike, I've been gratified to see the impact our organization has made—and continues to make—in North Central Washington. While working on exciting projects and doing our best to conserve salmon, sage grouse, clean water, healthy forests, shrub-steppe, access to outdoor recreation, and all the things that make our part of the world so special, I've been continually amazed by the passion and support of our members.

Fast forwarding to today, I *know* I landed in the right place. It has been such a pleasure to serve as your Executive Director these past few years and a true highlight of my career. The encouragement and support that our members provide inspires the entire team here at the CDLT and makes it possible for us to deliver on our important mission to conserve land and connect people to nature.

As the Land Trust board and staff work on finding our next Executive Director, I look forward to being a part of more tangible and lasting accomplishments in the next several months, and I look forward to welcoming our new leader when that person arrives.

Thank you for your friendship and camaraderie and I hope to see you soon on the trails, in the office, or at a future annual celebration dinner!

With sincere gratitude,

A NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD BARN *(continued from page 1)*

This past year, the Land Trust determined that the barn should be dismantled. Its materials will be used in the reconstruction of another old barn that was relocated about 3 years ago from CDLT’s Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve. CDLT has a partner with a successful track record who can carefully dismantle the Burts Barn and repurpose the material when he reconstructs the Sleepy Hollow barn near Monitor in the coming years.

“Almost everything that cannot be repurposed will be reused elsewhere or recycled. Not only do we consider this the right thing to do, rather than simply demolishing the barn, it is less expensive and will cause less disturbance to the property and conservation values,” Morgan says. “We didn’t want to just hire someone to haul it to the landfill. This man is passionate about the architectural beauty and heritage of an old barn.”

Among the factors considered in the decision to dismantle the barn was a report written by Jon Riley, the Community Wildfire Liaison for Chelan County Fire District 1. He writes that, because of the steep



Burts Barn at CDLT’s Horse Lake Reserve



In 2016, illegal activity near the barn sparked a wildfire which resulted in several old structures near the barn being destroyed.

gravel road, which runs about three miles and has several hairpin turns, a fire engine would be unable to reach a fire at the barn. A brush truck could reach the site but would be insufficient to put out a structure fire. He notes that the barn is a serious fire hazard.

The barn can be seen from the parking lot at Horse Lake Reserve, and a trail runs next to it. Hikers should not be impacted by the removal work, which is expected to be done in May.

“We know some people will be sad that the Burts Barn is being dismantled, but we hope they will understand the Land Trust’s decision.” Morgan says. “It’s beautiful, and we wish we could leave it, but the risks are too great. But, we’re happy to know that it will have a second life—nearby.” 📖

RIGHT IDEA IN THE WRONG PLACE

Sometimes in conservation work, like the rest of life, we have to look at two valued principles that are found in conflict, in a specific location, or specific circumstances. So it is with large scale solar power and sage grouse habitat protection on Badger Mountain. Permanent protection of Douglas County ranches that sustain agriculture and are the home of the endangered sage grouse has been a focus of CDLT work in the last 5 years.

So, when we learned that large, out-of-state companies were proposing to put thousands of acres of solar panels on Badger Mountain, we had to learn more: Why there? Why not on already degraded lands or built environments (*think flat roofs of large buildings, covered parking lots, etc.*) without critical wildlife habitat? What would be the effect on the habitat and wildlife if these projects are installed? How long would the damage last? Is there any way to mitigate the loss of habitat? CDLT attended several meetings in Douglas County and consulted with wildlife experts, and has been participating in sessions before the Energy Facilities Siting Evaluation Council (EFSEC).

We learned that a primary attraction of this site is a very close (and therefore inexpensive) connection to Bonneville Power Administration interstate transmission lines, in order to sell the solar produced on Badger Mountain to more expensive markets like California. While the developer treated these wheat and rangeland acreages as “*wasteland*”, they neither knew nor seriously studied the species that the habitat supports, or the neighboring humans whose resources would be impacted. For the first

time, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) has opposed an alternative energy project before the state’s siting agency, stating:

“In closing, WDFW considers the proposed siting of the BMSP to pose a significant risk to the survival of State Endangered sage-grouse. The proposed project also represents a threat to the ongoing occupancy of established golden eagle breeding territories and has the potential to negatively impact foraging habitat for the State Endangered ferruginous hawk. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that the project proponent relocate BMSP to a more suitable location that avoids adverse impacts to endangered and candidate wildlife species.”

While CDLT favors alternative energy as an essential component in fighting climate change, these large facilities must be sited in locations that minimize conflicts with neighboring uses, including wildlife habitat. CDLT will continue to work with stakeholders, including landowners, industry representatives and conservationists in a process led by Washington State University to model the “least conflict” locations for wind and solar development in the State of Washington.

Evaluation of the Badger Mountain Solar Project proposal by the EFSEC continues. To learn more and comment, see:

www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/badger-mountain. 



While sage-grouse and rotational grazing can find a balance on the shrub-steppe, solar panels would displace both.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October 2021 through February 2022, these individuals & businesses have joined the Land Trust. Thank you for your generous support — and welcome!

Leanne Alexander
Linnea & Matthew
Augustine
Rene Baca
Steve Balling
Carrie Barham
Janet Barsy
Mari Beall
Lorraine Betts
Kristin Beyerl
Scott Boggs
William P Brown
Kathy & Tim Carson
Clyde & Ruth Ballard
Michael & Valerie Doneen
Jena & Ben Edwards
Winona Forme

Peter Frenzen & Denise
Fidel
Danielle Gamache
Kelly Gillin
Ann Hadden-Cornelius
Neil Heinitz
Leah Hemberry Ricketts
Laura Holloway
Gary Kamen
Frank Koontz
Kirk Koontz
Kristiane Koontz
Paul Krupin
Matthew Kurjanowicz
Melissa LaFayette
Julie Lane
Barb Larimer
Ben Long

Mark Lord
Teresa & David Loui
Marty Lyman
Mike Mackey
Mathew & Runelle Davis
Peggy C. Mead
John Miles & Susan Morgan
Milton & Janet Herman
Aaron & Brandi Mynatt
Adam Neff
Justin & Kelley Neilson
Neil Neroutsos
Nysether Family Foundation
Ryan Peterson
Joseph & Bernadine Reichlin
Rich & Diane Bennion
Ken Robertson
Brad Ryckert

Anthony Sains
Laurel Schmidt
Leonard & Karen Schmitt
Bruce Senior
Seniors Delight AFH Oasis
John Sirois
Rob & Kathleen Spitzer
Melanie Thornton
Andrew Valaas
Margie Van Cleve
Karen & Gary VanDusen
Janet & Dan White
Thomas White
Keith Wiggins
Jason Williams
Jesse Wolff

LEGACY CLUB

Open spaces. Clean rivers. Thriving wildlife. Trails surrounded by balsamroot, lupine and larkspur in the spring. Making sure our region's lands, waters and trails are protected and cared for in future generations. These are things you care about.

You can continue to help care for our region's lands, waters and trails by pre-planning a legacy gift to the Land Trust.

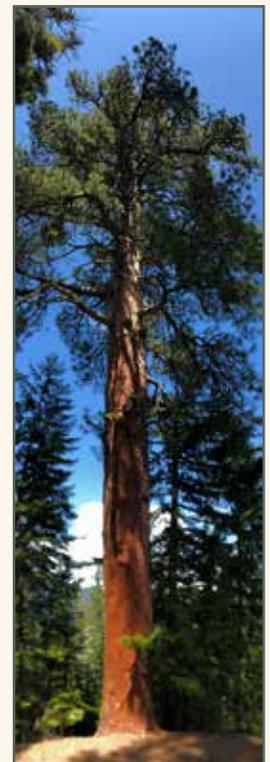
Working with your financial planner or estate attorney, you can leave a gift to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust as a bequest in your will or a gift through charitable remainder trusts.

You can also make a gift, sometimes without the help of a professional, through a qualified pension plan (IRA, 401k, 403b) or by naming CDLT as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy.

With a planned future gift, you will become a part of the Land Trust's *Legacy Club*, a like-minded group of supporters who have expressed their lasting commitment to conservation.

If you are interested in talking more about a planned gift to CDLT, please email Aimee Sheridan at aimee@cdlandtrust.org, or call her at 509-667-9708.

When considering a Planned Gift to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, we encourage you to consult with your legal or financial advisors, as the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust cannot render legal or tax advice.



CHANGE STARTS WITH US

The land trust has protected over 26,600 acres of land that could have been converted to developed lands. Instead, these lands provide natural climate solutions along with healthy habitat for plants, wildlife, and people. This is **WHAT** the land trust does, but it is time for us to start thinking about **HOW** we do our work.

This year CDLT is going to begin incorporating climate change considerations into our work in a more intentional way. For example, in addition to planning for the consequences of climate change, we will also look at how we contribute to the problem. Our goal is to look at the changes we can make now that will have big impacts later.

Some of the ways we will be proactive when it comes to climate change:

- ▶ **Track our Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.** Learning how much carbon dioxide our vehicles and office furnace use will allow us to be more intentional about their use.
- ▶ **Make changes to the way we travel.** We can minimize our travel by consolidating visits to properties and by carpooling. We can choose to use personal electric or hybrid vehicles in place of CDLT gas vehicles.
- ▶ Participate in Chelan PUD's **energy audit program** to learn about other ways to reduce energy consumption in our office—including, rebates to **upgrade** our old electric water heater and HVAC system.
- ▶ Consider the possibility of adding **solar panels** on the roof of our downtown office.
- ▶ **Power down** all computer equipment when not in use.
- ▶ Continue to use our electric chainsaw, pole saw, and string trimmer **instead of gas-powered tools** whenever possible.
- ▶ **Encourage our contractors to minimize their GHG emissions** on behalf of CDLT by looking at the vehicles and tools they use to perform their work at CDLT properties.

CDLT knows we have an amazing community that wants to take care of our lands and water. Big changes can start with small steps. Yvon Chouinard, environmental advocate and founder of outdoor gear company *Patagonia* says, "Every one of us has to step up and do what you can according to what your resources are." 🌱

What can **YOU** do to minimize your contributions to climate change? Here are a few ideas:

- ▶ Take public transportation, ride a bike or carpool with friends or co-workers whenever you can.
- ▶ Check out your PUD's rebate program to see if you are eligible for any home upgrades that would lower your energy needs.
- ▶ Turn off lights and unplug devices when not in use.
- ▶ Wash your clothes in cold water and only do full loads in the washing machine. Air dry clothes in warm weather.
- ▶ Consider an electric or hybrid vehicle for your next auto purchase.
- ▶ Choose local and seasonal foods instead of those that have to be transported from far distances.
- ▶ Eat more plants and fewer animals.
- ▶ When buying new appliances, look for those with Energy Star ratings.
- ▶ Turn down heat - even by 1 degree; use window coverings to block out sun in warm weather and hold in heat in cold weather.
- ▶ Install electric heat pumps at home for both water and air. They are much more efficient than other heating systems.
- ▶ Limit airplane travel.



OUTINGS, EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

Visit our website for added events, updates, info and to sign-up: www.cdlandtrust.org

March

- 28 Early Morning Birding**
Join Susan Ballinger for this easy, Community Science eBird outing
7-11am
@ Mountain Home Preserve
registration required

April

- 1 Wenatchee Foothills Trails OPEN!**
- 1 New StoryWalk® Book**
Wildflowers of the Foothills
up through summer
@Jacobson Preserve
- 9 Trail Work Party**
Trail maintenance
9am-12pm
@ Sage Hills Trails
registration required
- 13 Wildflower Walk**
wildflowers after wildfire
5:30-7:30pm
@ Balsamroot Trail
registration required
- 14 Botany Hike**
with CDLT Botanist Olivia Schilling
9am-2pm
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required
- 16 SageFest**
Trail work party
9am-1pm
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required

- 20 Early Morning Birding**
Join Susan Ballinger for this easy, Community Science eBird outing
6-10am
@ Mountain Home Preserve
registration required
- 21 Celebrate Earth Day Eve**
Join CDLT and partners for family activities for Earth Day.
5:30-7:30pm - drop in anytime!
@ Jacobson Preserve

May

- 2 Fuzzy-Tongue Penstemon Walk**
Join Susan Ballinger to celebrate this rare flower found in our foothills
4:30-5:30pm and
5:30-6:30pm
@ Castle Rock Trailhead
registration required
- 5 Trail Work Party**
Trail maintenance
2-6pm
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required
- 11 Early Morning Birding**
Join Susan Ballinger for this easy, Community Science eBird outing
6-10am
@ Mountain Home Preserve
registration required
- 16 Birding at Horse Lake Reserve**
Join Susan Ballinger on this birding outing
7am-1pm
@ Horse Lake Reserve
registration required

- 17 Birding at Cashmere Canyons**
Birding with Joe Veverka
7am-12apm
@ Cashmere Canyons Preserve
registration required
- 18 Birding at Mountain Home**
Birding with Joe Veverka
7-11am
@ Mountain Home Preserve
registration required
- 28 Firewood Collecting**
Part of post-forest thinning clean up. Details to come. Contact David Morgan for more info.
@ Mountain Home Preserve
email: david@cdlandtrust.org

June

- 7 Workshop: Become a Weed Warrior**
Learn how to identify the 15 most worrisome noxious weeds that threaten our native plants
5:30-7:30pm
@ Saddle Rock Trailhead
registration required
- 8 Early Morning Birding**
Join Susan Ballinger for this easy, Community Science eBird outing
6-10am
@ Mountain Home Preserve
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

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Rob Shurtleff
Vice President

Steve Jacobs
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Celeste Barry

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Todd Kiesz

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Curt Soper
Executive Director

Susan Ballinger
Conservation Fellow

Hanne Beener
Trails Program Manager

Mickey Fleming
Lands Program Manager

Rebecca Frank
Stewardship Assistant

Kate Galambos
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Braden Hourigan
*Membership & Donor Relations
Manager*

Joan Krause
Bookkeeper

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Olivia Schilling
Botanist

Aimee Sheridan
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Tiffany Theden
Stewardship Assistant

Michelle Tiegel
Lands Program Coordinator

Joe Veverka
Trails Field Coordinator



BIG THINGS COMING TO WENATCHEE FOOTHILLS TRAILS

Spring of 2022 will mark the beginning of planning and development projects that will enhance the Wenatchee Foothills Trail System. A few of the more tangible examples of these projects include a community engagement process around **Saddle Rock trail planning**, and the construction of the new **Kenzie's Landing Trailhead** by the City of Wenatchee.

Saddle Rock, our well-known and well-loved icon along the western skyline of Wenatchee, has been important for generations of Indigenous people. Saddle Rock and the lands surrounding it have been a destination for quick access to open space and recreation opportunities for over 100 years, and there is a unique sense of ownership of the area by many in our local communities. In late summer and fall of 2022, the City will complete a second and final phase of remediation work on the property to remove waste rock from mining exploration. The upcoming completion of the remediation work and the planned expansion of the Saddle Rock Natural Area provide a unique opportunity to prepare for significant trail improvements. The Land Trust has secured funding for this work, but it is imperative that this is truly a community-supported trail system. The land managers are sensitive

to the importance of Saddle Rock to our local communities. Now is the time to hear from people who love Saddle Rock or who *could* love Saddle Rock, and the reasons why this place is special to them. We are seeking public input in determining how the trail system at Saddle Rock can help provide the experiences people seek while visiting this local icon. To that end, all are invited to fill out a **Saddle Rock trail user survey**, which you will find on our website which will remain open until May 15, 2022:

www.cdlandtrust.org/saddle-rock

In the summer of 2022, the City of Wenatchee will be constructing a new trailhead at the end of Maiden Lane that will provide access to the middle and north end of the Sage Hills area trails. The new trailhead will feature a restroom and 12 parking spaces, including one ADA accessible spot, as well as other amenities. The construction will likely begin in late May and last for a couple of months. Trail access (including connectivity to the Balsamroot Trail) will be impacted by this construction. Plan ahead and visit our **Trail Conditions** page on our website for updated information. 🌿