

Local ownership of Nason Ridge means that it will be managed for local benefit.

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NASON RIDGE—WHAT OUR NEW COMMUNITY FOREST MEANS FOR US ALL

Underneath the duff and dappled sunshine of the forest floor above Lake Wenatchee, tiny white tendrils creep in and around the mighty roots of an old, red-barked Ponderosa.

These mycorrhizal fungi help the tree gather nutrients and water from the soil in return for carbohydrates. A squirrel scampers up the flaking, puzzle-shaped bark, carrying a pinecone in its mouth and fungi spores in its gut. Later, it spreads these throughout the forest.

These three species are reliant on each other. Together, they create a world in which they and hundreds of other living things can thrive on Nason Ridge.

In much the same way, many different groups are working together and rely on each other to ensure a bright future for Nason Ridge, Chelan County's new Community Forest.

As of April 14 of this year, this 3,714-acre property above Lake Wenatchee will be managed by Chelan County for forest health and local benefit.

This historic achievement is the result of a years-long effort by the members of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, the local Lake Wenatchee community, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC), and Chelan County.

Together with the support of our members, our community accomplished together what could not be done alone.

Between 2017 and 2018, CDLT, WRC, and community members worked to raise the funds that allowed WRC to purchase the property from then-owner Weyerhaeuser.

This quick action was crucial to ensuring the continuing health of the forest and access to its miles of hiking, biking and ski trails.

But the partners and the community agreed from the beginning that local management was the best future for the land.

Soon, the partners were joined by Chelan County in the effort to find Nason Ridge a permanent home. Together, we dreamed that Nason Ridge would become a community

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Interdependence: the quality or condition of being mutually reliant on each other.



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LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUED SUCCESS!

Nason Creek

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Hello Land Trust Family,

As many of you know, I come from an island off the coast of Massachusetts, a very different landscape from here. I come from a place of ocean horizons, scrub forests and dunes. North Central Washington is not a horizontal place. I look up at the verticals of high forested green mountains, the everchanging colors of the foothills, and the expansive beauty of the plateau under this endless sky. It takes my breath away and I look forward to learning about the special places you all have loved and protected.



*Eunice Youmans
Executive Director*

I have some big shoes to fill! My predecessors Gordon, Bob and Curt built a foundation of support for conservation and a dedicated Land Trust community. Most recently, Curt came to the Land Trust with a singular vision—to conserve more land—and he did that in spades! Under his leadership, the Land Trust conserved 22,000 acres including 10,000 acres of farmland and nearly doubled the miles of recreational trails our organization cares for.

My path to this seat is a little different than Curt's. I have had leadership roles in conservation for over a decade. I began my work on a global scale, working with scientists to identify the land management strategies that had environmental, financial, and climate benefits. Much of this work included balancing the equally important and competing demands of development, jobs, agriculture, habitat, conservation, and recreation. I managed conservation lands which included miles of recreational beach front and trails, as well as a large farm. We also built a financially successful food waste collection, and a compost production facility which enriched our soils to generate more local produce.

At the beginning of my time here at the Land Trust, I will rely upon you—the folks who have loved and cared for this land. My door is open, please reach out to me to tell me what you hope for, what concerns you and what you see as the future for the Land Trust. I look forward to getting to know you!

With warmest regards,

Eunice
eunice@cdlandtrust.org

Nason Ridge *(continued from page 1)*

forest. This forest would be managed for long-term forest health, and any benefits—economic, environmental, recreational—would remain local.



Families will always be able to connect with nature on the Nason Ridge Trail.

Like the relationship between the Ponderosa, fungi, and squirrel, this partnership between CDLT, WRC, the local community, and Chelan County did not only benefit the partners involved. The effort to protect Nason Ridge inspired a brand-new statewide Community Forests Program. Now, communities across the state can apply for funding through the State Recreation and Conservation Office to preserve their working forest heritage.

Now, the forest is protected, forever—a **HUGE** win. Its management is guided by a Community Forest Management Plan created with community and partner input. This Forest Management Plan will serve as a model for other communities across the state as they envision the future of their own local forests.

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will always have a seat at the table to ensure that Nason Ridge is stewarded for the benefit of forest health, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreation access.

The protection of Nason Ridge fits into a larger effort to conserve and restore the lands that support our rivers, lakes and streams in Chelan County. For decades, the Land Trust has cared for land along the White River, which flows into Lake Wenatchee. In recent years, protection and restoration of land along Kahler and Nason Creeks—another partnership effort—is ensuring that endangered native fish can survive and thrive.

Collaborating with partners, we can always accomplish more than we can on our own. Our human communities are part of the woven web of the natural world—one that thrives and relies on interdependence. Thanks to the support of people who care about this web of relationships (*people like you*), the Land Trust will always be there to support and nurture that web. 🌲

Nason Ridge is part of the homelands of the P'Squosa (Wenatchi) people. After becoming part of the United States, it was owned by the federal government, then granted to **Great Northern Railway** in a checkerboard pattern as an incentive to bring rail transportation to the West. Just prior to the Great Depression, the land was sold to **Schmitt Lumber Company**, who left the land unlogged.

1973— Schmitt Lumber Company was bought by Pack River Lumber Company.

Post-1973— Ownership changed & was logged multiple times 1973—eventually owned by Longview Fibre.

2000— Longview Fibre plans to log 310 acres of Nason Ridge (NR). Lake Wenatchee residents seek CDLT's help to protect NR from logging. CDLT helped mediate a compromise between Longview Fibre and the Friends of Lake Wenatchee Forests. Longview Fibre listens and a compromise is reached.

2008-2010— CDLT & The Trust for Public Land try to buy Nason Ridge. Longview Fibre puts 3700+ acres up for auction. Concerned citizens contact CDLT. CDLT, community members, State Park, other stakeholders, negotiate to buy the land.

2009— Longview pulls out of negotiations & attempts to sell the property at auction again—not sold.

2012— The property offered again by auction—not sold.

2013— Weyerhaeuser acquires Longview Timber LLC, thereby acquiring Nason Ridge.

2015— CDLT begins the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan. Nason Ridge identified as a priority for protection.

2017— Weyerhaeuser gets permit to log almost all the trees on 210 acres above Lake Wenatchee. Residents, concerned about water quality, unstable slopes, etc., start a petition. Weyerhaeuser agrees to pause. CDLT & Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) begin working to purchase the property.

2018— CDLT launches the **Save Nason Ridge** campaign. SUCCESS! WRC buys NR & is temporary owner.

2022— WRC conveys ownership to Chelan Co. with funding from WA State Community Forest Program & others. It is now locally owned and managed for local benefit! CDLT will be involved with the stewardship of the forest.

IT'S ALL FOR THE BIRDS

The Land Trust has been working hard to restore important habitat at our Spiva Butte Nature Preserve since right after the wildfires in 2020. Historic use by both Greater Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse make this preserve important to the birds' survival.

Even before the fires of 2020, Greater Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse occupied only 8% and 3%, respectively, of their historic range within the state of Washington.

Then, much of the remaining birds' shrub-steppe habitats in Washington State burned in 2020, including at Spiva Butte.

This fall, CDLT will be starting two big restoration projects at Spiva Butte Nature Preserve:

- 1) Planting nineteen 2-acre plots of big sagebrush that will act as a seed source for the property. Big sagebrush is critical to the survival of Greater Sage-grouse.
- 2) Planting 12 riparian species of native trees and shrubs within the Deep Creek drainage on the preserve. Sharp-tailed Grouse rely on riparian habitats within shrub-steppe.

Habitat restoration at Spiva Butte Nature Preserve got a boost recently from a \$25,000 grant awarded from the Cornell Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative. Additional funding is being provided from NCW Audubon Society and the Wenatchee Valley chapter of the WA Native Plant Society—as well as from our wonderful members!

We will also begin a volunteer-powered bird monitoring program at Spiva Butte through our partner, North Central Washington Audubon Society, to collect and enter data into eBird, a global database.

These endangered birds, once plentiful throughout the west, need all the help they can get if they are to survive. With your support, we are able to help in the effort to save these iconic birds. 🌱



photo: Ferdi Businger

Because Spiva Butte has riparian areas—both Crosetto Lake and a creek—it has habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse and is a haven for many types of birds, wildlife, plants and insects.



photo: Ferdi Businger

Greater Sage-grouse will rely almost solely on sagebrush for food in the winter. Planting sagebrush gives the birds a greater chance of survival.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Larry Benedict
Julie Briselden
Elizabeth Browning
Melissa Cadd
Martha J Calus-Mclain
Kathleen Cassou
Heather Dappen
Marti Elder
Robin Henderson
Braden & Shelby Hourigan

Becky Mahon & Ben Hudson
Daniel Hypes
Sally Lancaster
Jane Lee
Gail Linville
Jeff Martin
John J. McCabe
Brett, Tracy, & Wesley Newell
Rosanne Nicholson

Becka Silvert
Anna M Singh Deo
Marsha & Carl Sjoberg
Stanton Land Solutions
Greg Struble
Omar Tellez
Amanda Ward
Michael Ward
Katherine Wyatt

BECAUSE WE LOVE THIS LAND

Monthly donors make a huge impact—they are there by our side, taking care of the land, all year long. We asked CDLT members Caroline & Shelly Kennedy why they choose to make a monthly gift to care for local land, water, and trails.

“We are monthly donors to the CDLT because we LOVE this land.

We moved to the Wenatchee Valley seven years ago and having such immediate access to the great outdoors has truly changed our lives. Our minds, bodies, and spirits thrive when we are connected to nature. The time, effort, and thoughtfulness that go into caring for and protecting this beautiful place we call home is a cause we want to always be a part of.

When we support the CDLT, we support one another. We’ve chosen to be monthly donors because we’ve found that contributing a little bit every month not only keeps us connected to our community but also helps to remind us to align our finances with our values.

With gratitude, Caroline & Shelly Kennedy”



Monthly donors, like Caroline & Shelly, make a big impact!

If you are interested in becoming a monthly donor, visit our website at cdlandtrust.org/support-us/monthly-giving or email Hillary Clark at hillary@cdlandtrust.org, or call her at 509-667-9708.

NATURAL LANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This past summer was one of the hottest and driest in the Wenatchee Valley in the last 10 years. The summer months saw nearly *twice* as many days over 100 degrees than in 2012.* This trend in warming temperatures and decreased summer rainfall that we're experiencing is due to greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. These gases trap heat from the sun in the atmosphere which insulates the Earth. The increase in hot temperatures—both hotter days and nights and the number of hot days, put stress on human communities, wildlife, agricultural systems and forests. This increase in temperatures is forecasted to continue in the future along with a decrease in precipitation during summer months.

Not good news.

It's easy to look out our windows and see the effects of this warming trend. Trees are turning brown, both from lack of water and from increased disease brought on by stress. Birds and animals' migration and feeding patterns are changing. Smoke from local wildfires fills the skies more often.

The good news...

The open lands that CDLT works to protect, such as forests, grasslands, wetlands and shrub steppe habitat, help absorb some of these gases from the atmosphere. And as a bonus, lands that are kept out of development keep future gas emissions from happening and reduce urban heat islands that are created when vegetation is lost and more surfaces are paved or covered with buildings. Another example that preserving natural lands is good for all of us!

In the future, you'll see an increased focus on climate resilience from CDLT when we look at new land protection opportunities. Large parcels of land or parcels that are contiguous to already protected land will be of greater importance as we seek to increase carbon storage potential on our lands, create corridors of protected lands for animal and plant migration, and work with neighbors and partners on improving region-wide forest health and fire reduction.

As time goes on, conserving our natural lands will become even more important than it is already. We are grateful for your help and support in making this happen! 🌿

*NWS NOAA Online Weather Data

HEAT ISLANDS:

An urban or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to man-made surfaces such as roadways, concrete and rooftops. These surfaces absorb and emit heat to a greater extent than most natural surfaces. Low-income communities are disproportionately affected by urban heat islands, contributing to environmental injustice.

CLIMATE VS WEATHER:

Climate refers to average, long-term conditions while weather refers to specific, short term conditions such as day to day or week to week temperatures and precipitation. *Climate is what you expect; weather is what actually happens.**

GREENHOUSE GASES:

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and warm the planet. The main gas emissions responsible for this warming include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor (which occurs naturally) and synthetic fluorinated gases.



OUTINGS, EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

Visit our website — we add events, volunteer opportunities and updates frequently: www.cdlandtrust.org

October

New StoryWalk® Book

I Know the River Loves Me

by Maya Christina Gonzalez

Take a walk & read with a child in your life!

@Jacobson Preserve

8 Stewardship Work Party

Help remove old barbed wire fencing

9am–3pm

@ Horse Lake Reserve

registration required

15 Trail Work Party

Trail maintenance work

9am–12pm

@ Sage Hills Trails

registration required

22 Make-A-Difference Day

CDLT & City of Wenatchee will be planting almost 2,000 native plants to help restore the remediated areas at Saddle Rock.

time TBD

@ Saddle Rock Natural Area

registration required

29 Trail Work Party

Give some love back to the Sage Hills trails - fall maintenance.

9am–12pm

@ Sage Hills

registration required

Late-Oct to mid-Nov:

Native Plant Restoration

Planting 900 native grass plugs

dates & times TBD

@ Horse Lake Reserve

registration required

4 Annual Celebration Dinner

Gather with other land conservation folks to celebrate this year's successes!

6:00–9pm

@Kuykendall Hall, Wenatchee

tickets required

19 Trail Work Party

Fall trail maintenance at Horse Lake—all ages welcome.

9am–1pm

@Horse Lake Reserve

November

early November:

Sage Hills Native Plant Restoration

Over several days, we will be working with youth groups & adult volunteers to plant over 1,000 native shrubs.

dates & times TBD

@NEW Kenzie's Landing Trailhead

3 Trail Work Party

Trail maintenance work—all ages welcome.

4–6pm

@ Jacobson Preserve

registration required

December

1 WENATCHEE FOOTHILLS TRAILS CLOSE UNTIL APRIL 1, 2023.

Work party scheduling is often dependent on weather & soil conditions. Visit our website for updated info, to register for an event, and to get on the **Volunteer List!** cdlandtrust.org/outings-events

FALL BLOOMER!

There once was a bee from Wenatchee.
She sang, "winter is coming," a tune oh-so-catchy.
But the land was so dry,
Not a bloom she could spy,
Til rabbitbrush wafted to her from its patch-y.



How do Bees Locate Flowers?
Scan



For more info about Rabbitbrush
Scan



This native bumble bee couldn't resist the wafting scent of Rabbitbrush.



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Joe Veverka
Trails Field Coordinator



MORE AND BETTER ACCESS COMING SOON!

You may have noticed several construction closures to trails in the Foothills this year, but the work being done behind those closure signs will mean improvements to our communities' ability to access the open spaces and natural areas of the Wenatchee Foothills. The City of Wenatchee is managing the clean-up of old mining waste rock at Saddle Rock, and this created an opportunity. Thanks to the success of the Foothills Campaign nearly a decade ago, the Land Trust has funding available to take advantage of the heavy equipment on-site this summer and perform some major maintenance on the main trail at Saddle Rock. The park should reopen to public access sometime in October 2022. In 2023, CDLT will utilize the community input we gathered about trails at Saddle Rock this year. We will work with key stakeholders and representative community members to develop a phased trails plan for the property to guide further implementation of trail improvements.



Meanwhile, at the north end of the Foothills, construction of the Kenzie's Landing Trailhead is well underway, providing another formal access point in that area with designated parking, a restroom, and a picnic shelter. While we expect to be able to open up the trail segments that are currently closed for this construction project in time for some use this fall, we don't expect the new trailhead to be open to vehicle parking until spring of 2023. 📍



Remediation work at Saddle Rock should be complete later this fall.

Our field staff love our high-clearance CDLT Subaru! Thank you to Cascade Autocenter!

"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