



Newsletter
SPRING 2023

Habitat connectivity is vital to migrating wildlife, climate change resiliency and increases the impact of conservation lands.

CONNECTING THE PIECES by Dr. Paul Hessburg

People and their support systems seem to be everywhere these days, with new housing developments, startup companies providing more essential services, roads, rails, power and fiber distribution networks to serve expanding human communities, and more. And the spaces between these increasingly developed places are getting smaller and more isolated.

We call that *landscape fragmentation*, and it has a downside when it dominates a landscape. Fragmentation of a native landscape need not occur where human and ecological endeavors intermix. Landscape designs that harmonize human and ecosystem needs are increasingly possible, but it takes collaborative thinking and planning to find them. Original cultures that populated this continent knew these things and practiced them for 1,000s of years.

At the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), we work with willing landowners and funding organizations to maintain and restore many of these connections before fragmentation impacts cannot be undone. Together,

we can increase our ability to live gainfully on the land, with the future sustainability of natural habitats and native plants and animals also assured. The landscape with rivers flowing through it is indeed a life support system.

In the Entiat River drainage, our work with willing landowners has yielded reconnected spawning and rearing habitats for salmon in the Stillwaters reaches. There, our hope and that of our members is that wild salmon and steelhead will continue to thrive because natal streams have the needed habitat conditions to support migration

Connections. People with landscapes. Plants and animals with their habitats. Even these connections and fates are intertwined.



and juvenile fish rearing. Fish that migrate in the spring and fall typically find adequate cool water. But summers here can be hot, and adequate stream flows are no longer assured. Warming waters are now having an increasing impact on summer migrations and rearing areas. Fish nurseries matter.

Floodplains too are vitally important areas. Like the name suggests, floodplains are minimally sloped areas where rivers naturally slow down and deposit their sediments and gravels. These areas are later washed by spring

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Hello Land Trust Family,

Wow, what a winter. Now, the light seems a little brighter and there is a hum in the office as folks gather excitedly over photos of the latest wildflower sightings shared by our fields team—*Hanne, Molly, Joe, Tiffany, Susan, and Rebecca*. They report back on the state of the trails and are busy getting everything ready for the season.

I don't know about you, but we are so ready to get back out there! Our longtime volunteer and rockstar hiker – *Diane McKenzie* has agreed to hike our properties with me this spring. Please watch our website and social media pages for weekly hikes beginning in early April – everyone is invited to come along! We will also have guest hiking guides throughout the spring, so please join us if you can and tell me if you want to lead your favorite hike!



Eunice Youmans
Executive Director

Here in the office, we are embracing this season of rebirth with a renewed sense of purpose. We are focused on writing grants to maximize the impact of your generous support to ensure that we care for our lands in the best viable way. We are also thinking deeply about some old and new topics that I have heard in my meetings with many of you.

- As you know, **climate change** is a threat to our lands. So, we have created a working group of scientists, community members and staff to evaluate our current land management strategies. Using the latest scientific data will help to determine vulnerabilities and identify opportunities to manage our land both for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Here at CDLT, we have been talking for a decade or more about some sort of **public financing option for our community's recreational portfolio**. We are working with community leaders, the Trust for Public Land and other stakeholders to explore the funding tools available here in Washington State.
- Land Trusts across the United States are grappling with the recognition that the lands we hold in trust were first the homelands of **Indigenous Peoples** who were removed from their lands. On an international level, the United Nations and many global environmental organizations have begun to document and promote indigenous land management strategies for the greatest outcomes in terms of biodiversity, and carbon storage. Here at CDLT, we have put together a group of staff and community members led by John Sirois of the Colville Confederated Tribes to explore what a **partnership** could look like and recommend actions that CDLT could embrace.
- If we look at the Wenatchee Valley, the lands at greatest risk are **small family orchards**—many already gone. Since our founding, CDLT has recognized the vital role orchards play in our economic and cultural history, and considered ways to support agriculture here. We have put together a group of orchardists, community members and staff to quantify the conservation, economic, and cultural value of small family orchards and explore what role, if any, CDLT might have in conserving family farms in our valley.

If you are curious or feel passionate about any of these topics, please reach out to me, as I want to hear from you! The goal is to have short reports on each topic ready for the CDLT Board of Directors to review in October. We will update you along the way as we learn more about these important challenges.

I'll see you on the trails!

Eunice

Connections *(continued from page 1)*

runoffs each year yielding refreshed spawning and rearing habitats. For the Land Trust, reconnecting floodplains is a primary goal, where salmon habitat restoration and reconnection is a collective need.

In the cold waters of the White River, a part of the vast and wild Wenatchee River network, habitat protections have created an enduring necklace of connected and protected stream reaches that will provide similar spawning and rearing habitats for coldwater-loving bull trout and salmonids. The Wenatchee River system was once home to enormous fish runs, which have declined by 90% since the olden days. Members of the Land Trust have supported restoring these protection for more than 30 years. Investments are paying off.

In Douglas County, sagebrush steppe lands are home to the native sage grouse whose habitats are vastly diminished by development and agriculture. There, willing landowners are working with CDLT to protect remaining leks, habitats where adult grouse raise their young in groups. Each spring, male sage grouse perform an extravagant sunrise display on these communal breeding grounds. Sage grouse require undisturbed sagebrush landscapes to survive, but leks are often found in more open areas where males are better seen and heard by the females they are courting.

Native plants, animals, and fish. Each has habitat requirements that hinge on how big they are, how mobile they are, their life history, and seasonal migrations. And we can help maintain these vital connections on the landscape we too occupy. At CDLT, forests, rivers, and rangelands all have unique conditions and needs. As the climate warms and dries, and wildfires continue to worsen in frequency and intensity, these vital connections require new thinking and stewardship needs. Stream temperatures are warming too, especially in summer, and snowpacks are in decline. Summers are getting longer, while they get hotter, winters are shorter and warmer, and shoulder seasons are getting squeezed out as a result. Each of these changes will require new thinking and stewardship planning if we are to maintain the native species and habitats, we have grown to love and respect.

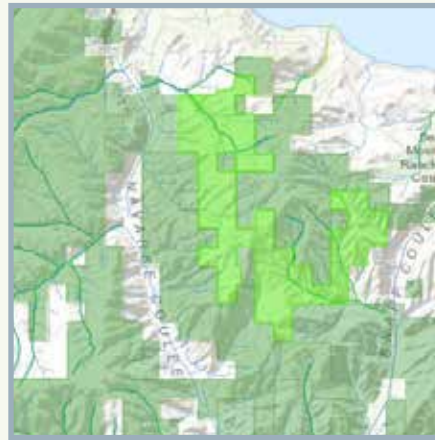
As the Entiat and Wenatchee rivers warm in summer, will we have enough deep, cold pools, adequately spaced, to support the comings and goings of fish? As fires become more frequent in shrub steppe lands, will sage grouse leks be consumed in single, large events or can they be protected? Are our forested lands ready for the coming fires, or are they covered in dead wood, in dense layered conditions? Each of

these questions has answers, and it will take all of our good thinking and work to provide forward-looking solutions.

Connections. People with landscapes. Plants and animals with their habitats. Even these connections and fates are intertwined. 🌿

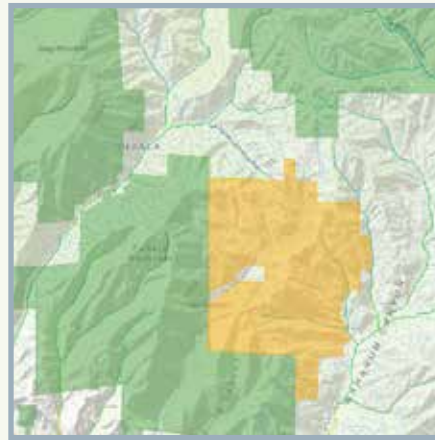
Contributing writer Dr. Paul Hessburg is a Senior Research Ecologist with the USDA-FS, PNW Research Station, and a former longtime board member and continuing member.

EXAMPLES OF CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS



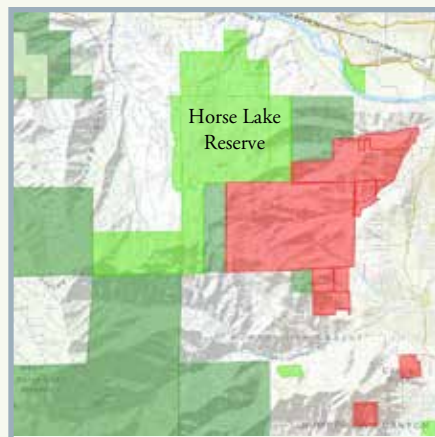
CHELAN COULEES RESERVE

This 2,100-acre CDLT reserve near Lake Chelan adjoins public lands. It is managed with an emphasis on wetland preservation, adaptation to climate change, fire safety and wildlife habitat.



CASHMERE CANYONS PRESERVE

CDLT holds a conservation easement on this 2,162-acre private preserve. Its large size, habitat diversity & connectivity to USFS lands will allow plants and wildlife to move and re-establish as our climate changes.



HORSE LAKE RESERVE

The 1,500-acre CDLT reserve connects to USFS, DNR, BLM, Chelan PUD and City of Wenatchee natural areas. It provides a haven for migrating mule deer, elk, birds and reptiles. It connects miles of recreational trails for multiple user groups.

TUCKED INTO THE GROUND

Last year was a big year for restoration planting! In 2022, volunteers, students and CDLT staff got a record number of native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses and trees tucked into the ground in areas that had been disturbed by wildfire or for other reasons. *Thank you to all our volunteers & partners—it couldn't happen without you!*

2022 NATIVE PLANT STATS

18,982 plants in the ground

204 volunteers

793 volunteer hours



Forty plants were salvaged from Kenzie's Landing construction site and later returned and replanted. Native plants, like this *long sepal globemallow*, have extraordinarily deep roots that search for moisture, stabilize soil and withstand wildfires.

December 2018—June 2022
The WHS Interact Club raised \$22,099.06 for the Kenzie's Landing trailhead project, including the purchase of native plants.

“The years-long commitment and dedication by the Wenatchee High School Interact Club to the Kenzie's Landing Project both by helping raise the funds needed to construct the project and also replant the natural area is greatly appreciated and will leave a lasting legacy for all those who visit in the years to come.”

—Dave Erikson, City Parks Dept. Director





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August 2022 through March 2023, these individuals & businesses have joined the Land Trust. Thank you for your generous support — and welcome!

Arlan Herbranson
Ayla Medina Ulloa & Daniel Curiel
Carrie & Michael Pruitt
Catherine Walker
Chad Henderson
Chong Jones & Kim Chong
Claire Ellwanger
Claudia Horton
Colchuck Consignment LLC
Craig Dodge
David & Sharon Damkaer
Dawson Pierre
Deanna Butcher
Debra Bumgarner
Derrell Ness
Elizabeth Sollie
Eunice Youmans
Inna Moskalets
James Johnson
Janet Winnie

Jerry Ellefson & Donna Parker
Joey Taylor
John A Dodge
John Rogers
Julie Janssen
June & John Darling
Kay Angona Lisch
Kendi Lebedinets
Kevin Krueger
Kirk & Tracy Beckendorf
Kyle & Sarah Sanford
Lori Claudon James
Maria Perales
Marie DeJournette
Mary & Bruce Vincent
Matt DeVore
Michelle Sutherland
Monica Valle & Nora Valle
Nancy & George Dunn
Nicole & Milt Douglas

Niki Stewart
Pamela Trudeau
Patti McGaughey
Rachel Soper
Robert & Arla Rosso
Robyn Reister
Rod Reineke
Scott Buchanan
Shannon Weldy
Shawn & Cindy Meeks
Shellee Heron
Skye Sugar
Stephen Hawes
Sue & Kevin Kane
Terry Sullivan
The Local Event Co.
Thomas & Suzanne Stanton
Thomas Croy

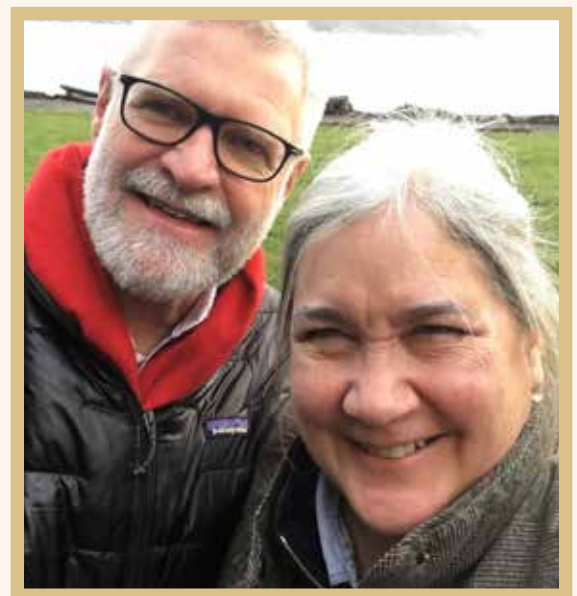
MONTHLY GIVING

A EASY WAY TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT

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

“Stu and I are proud monthly supporters of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. As a result of the CDLT’s efforts and thoughtful community engagement, over 27,000 acres of natural habitat are now protected. Our donations also support miles and miles of beautifully maintained trails, which we have enjoyed for years. A big Thank You to the staff and volunteers of the CDLT, for all you do to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy this beautiful region for years to come!”

—Stu and Sally Freed



If you’d like to know more about monthly giving, visit our website at cdlandtrust.org/support-us/monthly-giving or email Kathy Peven at kathy@cdlandtrust.org.

CONNECTING & CREATING FISH HABITAT

Aaron Rosenblum, Cascade Fisheries

The Land Trust, Cascade Fisheries, and the US Forest Service (USFS) recently partnered to design and implement a habitat restoration project on Nason Creek. The *Merritt Oxbow Reconnection Restoration Project*, located on CDLT and USFS lands, was completed in the summer of 2022. Like many streams in the Pacific Northwest, Nason Creek is pinched between a state highway, powerlines, and a railroad, reducing the creek's access to its floodplain.

The goal of the Merritt Oxbow project was to improve conditions for ESA-listed spring chinook, steelhead, and bull trout by **restoring floodplain connectivity**, which provides much needed slow-water habitat and food resources for young fish. The project required **raising the channel bed of Nason Creek three feet** and **digging a new, 700ft-long side channel to reconnect oxbow ponds to the creek year-round**.

Prior to project implementation, these oxbows were only connected to Nason Creek by surface water infrequently when the river was experiencing high flood flows. With the project complete, endangered fish now have access to over **2 acres of floodplain**

Oxbow ponds: 2 acres of floodplain habitat, now accessible to juvenile salmonids year-round.

habitat that will serve as an excellent place for juvenile fish to grow big and strong. To maximize the benefits of the project, **large wood habitat structures** were also installed in both Nason Creek and the new side channel to provide resting and hiding places for juvenile and adult fish, and to enable the creek to create and maintain habitat through the formation of pools, sorting of streambed sediments, and the capture of additional logs as they float downstream.

Complex projects like this one require years of planning and a team of partners to come to fruition. This project would not have been possible without the strong partnership between Cascade Fisheries, CDLT, and the USFS, and the funding provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (which also funded the CDLT acquisition of this property!) and the Bonneville Power Administration. Thank you to everyone that helped make this project a success! 🌱



raised channel bed

new channel connecting Nason Creek to floodplain



Scan this QR code to watch juvenile chinook salmon utilizing the new wood structures put in Nason Creek for their benefit.

OUTINGS, EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

More on our website! We add events, volunteer opportunities and updates frequently: www.cdlandtrust.org

APRIL

StoryWalk®

Wildflowers of the Wenatchee Foothills
Take a walk & read with a child in your life!
@Jacobson Preserve

19 Early Morning Birding

Open to all ages & abilities!
7–11am @Mountain Home
registration required

22 Earth Day Fair

Celebrate Earth Day with us at Pybus
Public Market
10am–2pm

Late April—May (date TBD):

Weeding for Restoration

Help us improve the success of our
native plant restoration efforts.
@Horse Lake Reserve
check website for date/time & to register

MAY

May (dates TBD):

Pulling Invasive Knapweed

Make an impact at this protected
floodplain not yet open to the public
@Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve
check website for date/time & to register

1 Fuzzy Tongue Penstemon Walk

Walk and keep an eye out for this rare
wildflower! Two time slots.
4:30–5:30pm
5:30–6:30pm
@Castle Rock Natural Area
registration required

4 Wildflower Walk

Explore the wildflowers in all their glory
at this gorgeous preserve!
9am–Noon
@Cashmere Canyons Preserve
registration required

11 Belonging in the Outdoors

Learning series about barriers and how to
address them. Hosted by various organi-
zations.
6–8pm @Wenatchee Valley Museum
registration required

15 Pre-Bird Fest Recon Trip

Great opportunity for all levels. Binocu-
lars provided!
6–7:30pm @Lower Sleepy Hollow
registration required

16 Pre-Bird Fest Recon Trip

Join CDLT staff as they recon their
routes for Bird Fest trips.
7am–1pm @Stormy Creek Preserve
registration required

17 Pre-Bird Fest Recon Trip

Join CDLT staff as they recon their
routes for Bird Fest trips.
7–11am @Cashmere Canyons
registration required

18 Pre-Bird Fest Recon Trip

Join CDLT staff as they recon their
routes for Bird Fest trips.
7–11am @Horse Lake Reserve
registration required

24 Early Morning Birding

Open to all ages & abilities!
7–11am @Mountain Home
registration required

JUNE

Fence Removal at Horse Lake

Date/time TBD
check website for date/time & to register

Pulling Invasive Knapweed

Date/time TBD
@Lower Sleepy Hollow
check website for date/time & to register

14 Weed Education Workshop

Learn about noxious weeds and the
threat to shrub-steppe habitat.
time TBD @Saddle Rock shelter
check website for time & to register

14 Early Morning Birding

Open to all ages & abilities!
7–11am @Mountain Home
registration required

21 Up & Over Saddle Rock

A solstice hike from Jacobson up and
over to Saddle Rock Trailhead.
check website for time & to register

*Visit our website for updated info,
added events, sign-ups, and to get
on the Volunteer List!*

*Interested in Community Science
independent bird monitoring?*

Contact Joe: joe@cdlandtrust.org

EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Scan the QR code to view a photo gallery
of common early wildflowers



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President

Bruce Williams
Past President

Steve Jacobs
Secretary/Treasurer

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Angela Morris
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Communications & Development Manager

Tiffany Theden
Stewardship Assistant

Joe Veverka
Trails Field Coordinator




ACCESS & TRAILS UPDATE

The Land Trust continues to work toward more and improved public access to open space close to our communities. As our seasons change to warmer and lighter days, we look forward to seeing people back out on the trails in our protected open spaces. We are excited to welcome you to the new **Kenzie’s Landing Trailhead** at the end of Maiden Lane! This trailhead is owned and developed by the City of Wenatchee, on land that CDLT acquired during the Foothills Campaign and is scheduled to be open on April 21 for public use.

Staff at CDLT are working with a group of community members to develop the **Saddle Rock Trails Plan**. We have sought to have good representation of all parts of our community providing input and guidance on the development of this plan, as we know how important this iconic place is for so

many. We plan to present the draft plan to the broader community in the middle of 2023, and we already have funding to dig into some trail improvements in the expanded Saddle Rock area in the fall of 2023.

Look for more information later in the year about new trails and access in our familiar Foothills, and major maintenance to keep our well-loved trails sustainable and durable for years to come. 



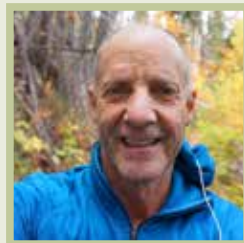
New and better access to our beloved Foothills!

OUR MIGHTY BOARD

We welcome four new Board Members who have agreed to lend their expertise and energy to CDLT. We are so lucky to have such talented, passionate and dedicated people who care about the natural world, community and the good work we are all a part of!



Jennifer Hadersberger



Steve Taber



Ariahna Jones



Ruth Traxler

We are so grateful to John Lehmkuhl for his 9 years of service to CDLT as a Board Member and past Board President. His thoughtful, dedicated engagement and expertise made our organization better. *Thank you, John!*



John Lehmkuhl

