



TRUST TALK

Volume 14, Issue 1

Spring 2007

Conserving signature landscapes and vital habitat together with the landowners and communities of the Columbia River region

A wild & scenic success

Fifteen miles along Klickitat River purchased for conservation

By Cherie Kearney

In late winter, before even the earliest signs of the plum blossoms predict spring, the bald eagles along the Klickitat River are looking for salmon. It is along this river that Columbia Land Trust just made its largest river-front land purchase: 15 miles of Klickitat River waterfront, 10.7 miles of it riparian and floodplain. The Land Trust purchased an old timber haul road and five parcels of land from Hancock Timber Resources Group.

"This reach of the Klickitat River has the greatest habitat complexity of any reach in the lower Klickitat and provides critical spawning, migration and rearing habitat for federally threatened winter and summer steelhead, Chinook salmon, and coho salmon," says Will Conley, fisheries biologist and geomorphologist with Yakama Nation Fisheries. The land Columbia Land Trust purchased is in the heart of the 14,000-acre Washington State Klickitat Wildlife Area and is surrounded primarily by wild lands.

The Klickitat River is rich habitat for returning salmon and also for the abundance of wildlife species supported by the life cycle of salmon. It is one of the watersheds in Washington that remains wild and sparsely populated. Ninety-eight miles long, the Klickitat is Washington's longest free-flowing river. The headwaters form in the Goat Rocks and the glacial river runs nearly half its course through the Yakama Indian Reservation. In the mid and lower reaches, the Klickitat is famous for its fishing, recreation and natural beauty.

The Land Trust received a grant from the Washington State Salmon Fish Recovery Board and a match by the Wildlife Forever Fund to purchase the "old haul road" and five adjoining parcels of land totaling 480 acres. In the 1920s a timber company originally purchased the ribbon of land along the river for a railroad. Later, in the 1960s it was converted to a road for trucks to haul timber from the forested canyons 15 miles along the river's edge to the Klickitat mill in the town of Klickitat (at river mile 14). Today, with the Land Trust's purchase, it has become conservation land dedicated to salmon habitat and future river riparian restoration.

Since 1998, Columbia Land Trust has worked with local



Bike riders enjoy birdwatching on the haul road

"This reach of the Klickitat River has the greatest habitat complexity of any reach in the lower Klickitat . . ."

Will Conley

Fisheries Biologist and Geomorphologist with Yakama Nation Fisheries

landowners to conserve more than 2,000 acres in the lower Klickitat River watershed. Now, with this acquisition, the Land Trust has brought 2,500 acres and about 18 miles of riparian and floodplain habitat into conservation in the Klickitat and Little Klickitat watersheds.

This extraordinary project was the result of a cooperative vision held by conservation and community partners. For decades, the roadway along the river has created an unnatural barrier between the river and backwater channels, preventing salmon from accessing ideal spawning and rearing habitat. In the 1996 floods the river took out substantial sections of the haul road and a natural process for its river restoration was begun. The Land Trust, in partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries, has also received a Phase II Salmon Recovery grant to begin work on the haul road to restore natural historic river flows to some sections.

Board of Directors

President - *E. Bronson Potter*
Vice President - *Jennifer Sims*
Secretary - *Dave DeAntonis*
Treasurer - *Jennifer Vail*

Scott Campbell

Terry Cornelius

Kathy Dietrich

Dennis Hopwood

Greg Kimsey

Marc Smiley

Jane Van Dyke

David Williams

Land Chairs

Kathleen Sayce
Coast & Estuary

Robin Dobson
Gorge & East Cascades

Terry Cornelius
Mid-River

Staff

Glenn Lamb
Executive Director

Brad Paymar
Associate Director

Ian Sinks
Conservation Director

Cherie Kearney
Land Protection Manager

Jeff Foisy
Mid-River Conservation Lead

Lindsay Cornelius
Gorge & East Cascades
Conservation Lead

Andrea Berkley
Conservation Coordinator

Mila Carey-Brucke
Conservation Assistant

Eric Allen
Development Director

Hollie Pietila
Annual Campaign Manager

Tammy Bjorkman
Membership Coordinator

Stuart Johnson
Controller

For information
(360) 696-0131
(503) 224-3601

www.columbialandtrust.org

Printed on recycled paper

A lifetime away

Glenn Lamb's muse

Yesterday, my wife's father died.

Over the last 84 years, Don Knight lived within five miles of the bedroom in Hatboro, Pennsylvania where he drew his last breath - holding hands with his daughter, my wife Sue.

When he was born in 1922, Hatboro was a small village surrounded by farms and forests, 20 miles north of Philadelphia. The main road was a cowpath, just a narrow dirt road. Many of the few cars in town were repossessed during the Depression. There was no postman, so you had to walk a mile to the post office to get mail. There were farmlands right out the back door. If you needed milk, you'd walk to the farm next door and get milk right from the cow. Kids went swimming in a natural pool just below the sweeping turn of the stream. Except for a small grocery store, where town folk could add to their tab if they were short on cash, there were no businesses.

Today, the cowpath is a four-lane paved road lined with businesses, many of them car dealers. The streams are now narrow and isolated between patches of asphalt.

Three days before Don died, the local paper ran an article about one of the last farms in town. The owners - a widow and her daughter - are being called weekly to sell the farmland. They truly love their farm. They don't want to see it developed. But they don't know what to do.

In the 1920s, no one could have predicted what was to come. Places long established as farms and homes are now gone. Natural corridors for fish and wildlife are constricted to the point of disappearance. The only other remaining slice of farm and forest is protected by the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust.

In his lifetime, Don saw change that he never could have imagined when he bought his first Model A Ford. Eighty-four years is a good long life, long enough to see amazing changes. And yet, what a short time it is compared to the permanent responsibilities that we take on in caring for our lands.

We must look far into the future, to imagine the unimaginable, to picture the millions more people that will live in Portland, Hood River, Vancouver, Long Beach, Astoria and The Dalles. The inconceivable will happen, unless we conceive of an alternative.

We must take action today.

May we live to know that we looked far ahead and did what we could to save this precious ground for those yet to come.

Thank you for helping me, for helping us, do this work.



Mill Creek ridgeline
Wasco County, Oregon

Photo: Stuart Johnson

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust awards \$251,000

More land conserved in the face of increasing development pressures; challenge laid out for increased gifts from individuals

By Glenn Lamb

Jack Murdock, born in Portland, Oregon, on August 15, 1917, surely could never have foreseen the dramatic growth and changes here in our region. Upon graduating from Franklin High School, Jack purchased a shop for the sale and service of radios and electrical appliances. Over time, he built his small shop into Tektronix, one of the world's prominent electronic instrumentation companies and a major employer in Oregon. As a hobby, he loved flying his Piper Super Cub along the Columbia River.

The great lands that he would see today along the Columbia River are a little safer, thanks to a recent \$251,000 grant to Columbia Land Trust from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, which was established through the estate of Mr. Murdock. The grant will be used to conserve dramatically more land by hiring additional conservation and administrative staff.

"This grant is an endorsement of the tremendous progress that Columbia Land Trust has made in the last few years, in scope, in region, in programs, in membership, and in infrastructure. They've built everything in a logical and highly organized way. That kind of planning leads to very effective conservation," said Kit Gillem, Program Director for M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

Specifically, the Land Trust will be able to conserve tens of thousands of acres of important habitat lands and working farms, ranches, orchards and forests in Oregon and Washington, with a focus on lands threatened by development. In addition, the grant will allow the Land Trust to

This grant is an endorsement of the tremendous progress that Columbia Land Trust has made in the last few years, in scope, in region, in programs, in membership, and in infrastructure. They've built everything in a logical and highly organized way. That kind of planning leads to very effective conservation.

Kit Gillem
Program Director for M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

work to save the last of the "crown jewels" of greenspaces in the Portland-Vancouver urban area through collaboration with other conservation groups. It will also allow the Land Trust to expand science-based research, restoration, and monitoring, and will greatly increase public outreach activities.

Work has already begun with identification of lands most at risk and initial meetings with landowners. In addition, new partnerships are being established with other conservation groups and with area universities.

In receiving these two grants, Columbia Land Trust has accepted the challenge of greatly increasing gifts from members and donors. Specifically, an additional \$200,000 must be raised in 2007 and in future years to accomplish this new conservation vision. Please contact Glenn Lamb or Eric Allen for more information about how you can help.

Important tax incentives to expire this year

Conservation efforts throughout the U.S. have benefited greatly from provisions in the Pension Protection Act of 2006. These include tax incentives for donating conservation easements and for making charitable contributions from IRAs. Unfortunately, these provisions are only available through the end of 2007 unless renewed by Congress. This means 2007 is the time to take action!

Summary of the key incentives:

- **Increased deductions for donating conservation easements.** Landowners can now deduct up to 50% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and carry the deduction over for 15 years. For qualified farmers or ranchers under certain conditions, the deduction can be as much as 100% of AGI. For more information, please contact Land Protection Manager Cherie Kearney at (360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601.
- **Tax-free distributions from IRAs to charitable organizations.** If you are 70½ or older, you can now donate to a qualified charity, such as Columbia Land Trust, directly from your IRA, up to \$100,000 - without paying taxes on the distributions. These contributions can even satisfy your IRA's required yearly minimum distribution! Please contact Development Director Eric Allen for more information at (360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601.



Photo: Eric Bjorkman

Ash-throated Flycatcher
(*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

Habitat reserve created through partnership

North Coast Land Conservancy and Columbia Land Trust partner to conserve property near Astoria, Oregon

By Brad Paymar

"By partnering with the professionals at Columbia Land Trust, we were able to accelerate conservation work in the Young's River Watershed. This success will help us connect with even more landowners in this important area."

Neal Maine
Executive Director of North Coast Land Conservancy

Collaborating with other organizations has always been a core value of Columbia Land Trust and is a major focus of our five-year strategic plan. In fact, much of Columbia Land Trust's success over the years can be attributed to strong partnerships. The Land Trust has always viewed partnerships as a way to conserve more land by leveraging scarce resources and ensuring we are not duplicating efforts.

Columbia Land Trust has partnered with North Coast Land Conservancy a number of times over the years, most recently on the acquisition of the 121-acre Crosel Creek Habitat Reserve. The property, located just a half-mile south of Astoria, Oregon, is surrounded on three sides by Oregon State Forest lands and encompasses the majority of the Crosel Creek watershed. The Creek drains into Youngs Bay which is a priority area for Columbia Land Trust. The Crosel Creek drainage is unique in the Youngs Bay system



Crosel Creek Habitat Reserve

because it is one of the few drainages still connected to its floodplain. The property provides important salmonid rearing habitat and is a known nesting site for great blue heron. It also provides habitat for northern spotted owl, pileated woodpeckers, Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer.

Columbia Land Trust provided funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North American Conservation Act grant to help purchase the property. North Coast Land Conservancy owns the Crosel Creek property. The property will serve as a research site for students from Astoria High School, who will use it to add real-world context for studies relating to fisheries science and watershed and aquatic education.

Forest & riverfront habitat conserved

Creation of the Copper Creek Forest Conservation Area protects acres along East Fork Lewis River from development

By Lindsay Cornelius

North of Battle Ground, Washington, the East Fork Lewis River charges through its rocky and tree-lined course, down from the slopes of Mt. Adams. The river here is prime steelhead habitat and a favorite area for white-water kayakers. Until last December, nearly one mile of East Fork Lewis River frontage was poised for development, already carved in to 33 five-acre lots.

But thanks to grants from the Clark County Conservation Futures Program and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Columbia Land Trust has acquired all 33 lots and established the 169-acre Copper Creek Forest Conservation Area. In a high-priority area for summer steelhead, the property also provides habitat for elk, deer, bear, river otter, beaver and a variety of other flora and fauna.

The forested uplands are dominated by regenerating red alder stands. The forest conservation area will be actively stewarded toward a mature Douglas fir, western red cedar and western hemlock forest. The Land Trust will manage the Copper Creek Forest Conservation Area for wildlife habitat, sustainable forestry and passive public enjoyment.

New additions & transitions

Thanks to significant grants from Meyer Memorial Trust and the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust as well as vital support from our members, we've expanded our staff to 12!

Jeff Foisy

Last November, Jeff Foisy joined Columbia Land Trust as the new Mid-River Conservation Lead. Jeff manages new conservation projects and the urban conservation initiative around the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area and the surrounding region between the Coast Range and the West slope of the Cascade Mountains. Jeff grew up in the Pacific Northwest and is a graduate of the Huxley Environmental College at Western Washington University and Oregon State University's Department of Geosciences graduate program. Most recently, Jeff was a senior spatial analyst for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Science Division and a Lands Committee volunteer for the Capitol Land Trust in Olympia, Washington. He likes a challenge and has recently competed in Ironman distance triathlons and ultra-marathon events. He also reports being an extremely unaccomplished fly-fisherman and long-board surfer. Please feel free to contact Jeff with conservation and stewardship questions in the mid-river area, as well as with pointers for steelhead fishing.

Andrea Berkley

In March, Columbia Land Trust was pleased to welcome Andrea Berkley as the new Conservation Coordinator. Andrea comes to the Land Trust with experience working for the Peregrine Fund, Idaho Department of Lands,

The Nature Conservancy, and the Audubon Society. Andrea can run a GIS machine as well as vanquish noxious weeds. She is pack-tested and certified as a Wildland Firefighter II, and can climb hills like a forester. She also brings a strong science background to the conservation program to assist with our science-based stewardship of conservation lands. As a Conservation Coordinator, Andrea will work throughout the Land Trust's service area to implement site stewardship plans (including monitoring), manage the volunteer program, and assist with bringing lands into conservation.

Lindsay Cornelius

Lindsay Cornelius is taking over as Conservation Lead for the Gorge and East Cascades portion of the Columbia Land Trust service area. Lindsay has been working on restoring oak woodlands along the Klickitat River and Mosier area for the past several years. She knows intimately the Land Trust's conservation lands in the Gorge and east of the Cascade Mountains, the partners and landowners, and the need for conservation in that area. Lindsay's talents run from practical forestry and fire management to creative writing, from wielding a chainsaw to inspiring others through her public speaking. With her unending enthusiasm and optimism, we are looking forward to watching our Gorge and East Cascade conservation efforts continue to blossom.

KLICKITAT: continued from page 1

Where there is rich salmon habitat there is characteristically abundant wildlife. And that is the case on this reach of the Klickitat. Bob Altman, Pacific Northwest Bird Conservation Coordinator with American Bird Conservancy who has helped bring funding to the Klickitat watershed conservation projects through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act says "From a bird perspective the Klickitat functions as a migratory corridor, particularly for early spring migrants coming up the Columbia and east slopes of the Cascades. The Klickitat canyon also has the largest breeding population of Washington State threatened Lewis' woodpecker because of the oak and pine habitat and vast openness which Columbia Land Trust helped preserve."

In the deep winter, bald eagles congregate in large groups to feed on salmon carcasses. During spring and fall, the willows and cottonwoods along the water are full of the color and song of lazuli buntings, western tanagers, and countless warblers. The air currents in the canyons carry other migrants, prairie falcons, merlins, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks and golden eagles. The area is yet wild and remote enough to be without road access, and therefore the expanses of

river and woods are unbroken for birds, salmon, wildlife and people to wander through and enjoy.



Land Protection Manager Cherie Kearney leads a tour of the newly conserved haul road along the Klickitat River

Tours

All tours are free of charge and open to the public. Gifts to support our work are always appreciated.

Tours include lunch, snacks, beverages and transportation. We leave from the Columbia Land Trust office at 9:00 am and arrive back by 5:00 pm. Space is limited - Reserve your spot today! Call Tammy at (360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601.

Get restored

Learn how restoration is making a difference

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Our Conservation Director, Ian Sinks will lead this informative tour of restoration projects you've read about in past Trust Talk newsletters.

Willow Grove

Germany Creek

Nelson Creek

Kandoll Farm

Devils Elbow

Enjoy a full day touring the lower Columbia River and learn how Columbia Land Trust is taking action to save our great Northwest wildlife species and their habitats.

What the heck is that?

A guided tour of the Klickitat River

Friday, May 4, 2007



Join our Gorge & East Cascades Conservation Lead, Lindsay Cornelius and Mid-River Conservation Lead, Jeff Foisy on a visit to the wild and scenic Klickitat River. After gathering at Columbia Land Trust, we'll load up the vans and head east through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area to see:

- One of Washington's longest undammed rivers
- The Northwest's largest contiguous oak woodland habitat and Columbia Land Trust's efforts to protect and restore it
- The latest conservation project in the Klickitat: the old haul road... 15 miles of riverfront conserved forever!

There will be plenty of stops along the way to see and learn more about conserved Land Trust properties and opportunities to take in those beautiful Gorge views and stretch your legs. Bring your camera!

Celebrate great blue heron week

A guided tour of Clark County greenspaces with a special visit to the Vancouver Lake lowlands to view a great blue heron rookery.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

Executive Director, Glenn Lamb will be your guide on a tour of conserved lands along the Vancouver Lake lowlands, Lacamas Lake and the Columbia River.

Volunteer opportunities

Help with new member acquisition mailing

Tuesday, April 3 through Monday, April 23 (15 work days - weekends excluded)

Help personalize and prepare a 15,000 piece new member acquisition mailing. Take your pick between various task hand addressing, personalizing, assembling, sealing, stamping, etc. We especially need volunteers who are willing to hand address envelopes. Switch tasks throughout the day, if you desire. Lunch, beverages and snacks provided.

Spice up our auction committee

Contribute your genuine enthusiasm for events by helping us plan and hold another successful, lucrative auction. Give input on entertainment, decorations and speakers. More importantly, help procure silent and live auction items and sponsors.

Contact: Hollie Pietila, hpietila@columbialandtrust.org or Tammy Bjorkman, bjorkman@columbialandtrust.org at (360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601.

Member profile: Don and Pat Burnet

By Lianne Bannow

A precious treasure. That's how Pat and Don Burnet describe the Columbia Gorge.

"It's a tremendous privilege to have the Gorge as part of our lives," says Pat. "The Gorge is in our backyard, and we believe it's our responsibility as citizens to conserve it in its natural state for future generations."

Pat's family moved to a ranch southeast of Hood River when she was 20 and still retains 80 acres of forested property in the area. She says that repeated drives up the Gorge increase her appreciation for the beauty and wonder of the area.

Don, who grew up in Prineville, didn't need convincing. Married 57 years and now living in Portland, he and Pat are avid hikers and have hiked most of the trails in the Gorge.

"We have a strong emotional attachment to the Gorge," Don says, "but we're also very interested in other areas that are focal points for the Columbia Land Trust. Important natural sites in other parts of the country have been ravaged by development, and we don't want to see that sort of exploitation happening here."

The Burnets' conservation leadership is inspirational. They've mentioned Columbia Land Trust in their will, given a special gift through the IRA tax-free giving plan recently adopted by Congress, and provided the trust with a sizable interest-free loan to help with a critical acquisition.

The local nature of the Columbia Land Trust especially appeals to them. "We see where our money is going and the

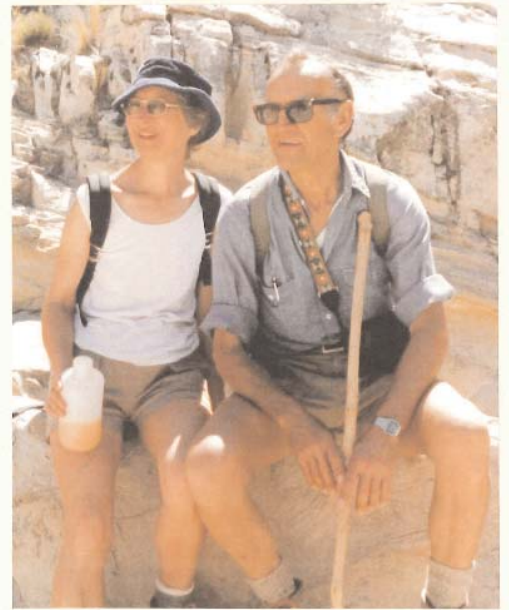
"... it is extremely important that we not be complacent and assume that these natural areas will remain that way. We can't stop working. There's an ongoing need for protection, and it requires constant vigilance."

results of those efforts," says Don. "We trust the Columbia Land Trust's effectiveness and have the utmost respect for how they do business."

Look for Pat and Don on tours of land trust properties - outings they encourage other members to take. Beyond sheer enjoyment, they say it reinforces their appreciation of the land. "We value the insight these tours provide," says Don. "Not just a sense of the land itself but also of its history."

Pat is forthright: "So many people these days live rushed, pressured lives. Nature is the most effective antidote - and we have a huge advantage living in such close proximity to natural areas. But it is extremely important that we not be complacent and assume that these natural areas will remain that way. We can't stop working. There is an ongoing need for protection, and it requires constant vigilance."

The Columbia Land Trust is capable of inspiring others, say the Burnets. Clearly, so are they.



Lianne Bannow is a volunteer and Columbia Land Trust member

Create a legacy of conservation



Columbia Land Trust has pledged to care forever for land that you as a member are helping conserve today. By including Columbia Land Trust in your estate planning, you can continue to make a difference for generations to come.

In fact, a planned gift may help you give more to conservation than you thought possible! For more information, check the box on the enclosed reply envelope and mail it back to us or call Development Director Eric Allen, at (360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601.

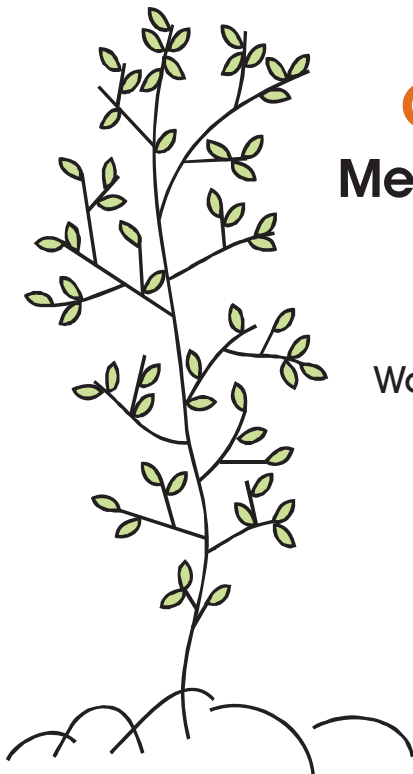
conserving land forever



Columbia
LAND TRUST

1351 Officers' Row
Vancouver, WA 98661

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Vancouver, WA
Permit No. 419



Columbia Land Trust
Membership Meeting and Dessert Social
Wednesday, April 18, 2007

6:30 to 8:30 pm

at

Water Resources Education Center - Community Room
4600 SE Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98663

RSVP by April 16

(360) 696-0131 or (503) 224-3601

A scrumptious array of desserts and beverages provided.

\$5 suggested donation welcomed.

www.columbialandtrust.org