



Palouse Land Trust

2016 Highlights

*"Go into the world and do well.
But more importantly, go into the world and do good."*

-Minor Myers



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Taking a leap of faith, together

Are you someone who likes to know what to expect? I am.

I review the instructions all the way through before assembling furniture. I've been known to read the last few pages of a book first. Believe it or not, I studied the safety information card in the seat pocket in front of me while on a recent flight to Boise. (In my defense, I *was* sitting in the emergency exit row and felt I should be prepared.)



So you can imagine the feeling that I get when a tremendous opportunity presents itself and it's unlike anything we've done before. It's sort of scary, in an exciting way—*wouldn't it be phenomenal if we could pull it off?*

Five years ago, people came to us with a vision: to protect the best remaining patches of our endangered Palouse Prairie and start working to link them together. Audacious? Yes. These prairie remnants are few and far between; they're scattered and owned by many different families; and the conservation agreements would be more complex than what we've done in the past. But, *wouldn't it be phenomenal if we could pull it off?*

It's happening. Because you've been there, we've been able to build relationships with landowners and are working to develop solutions that will work for everyone. Because you believed in the possibilities, we're starting to see all those years of work start to come to fruition. Your support made it possible this year to permanently protect just over 100 acres of native prairie remnants, forever, and this is just the beginning.

You're helping farm and ranch families, forest owners, and people who own wildlife habitat conserve the special places in our region. You are also helping to create new and exciting recreational opportunities for our community.

***"It's impossible," said Pride.
"It's risky," said Experience.
"It's pointless," said Reason.
"Give it a try," whispered the Heart.***

-author unknown

How is this possible? Because of you and growing community support. We reach and stretch and calculate risk, and at the end of the day, we come together and take a leap of faith for that thing that we know is right. Thank you for being there and taking that leap with us. Thank you for being courageous. We couldn't do it without you.

Amy

Amy Trujillo, Executive Director

Cover photo by Matt Dolkas
Next page, photo by Erica Sloniker

Your support makes it possible

Have you seen a Palouse Prairie remnant in the spring time? The bluebunch wheatgrass gently blows in the breeze and beautiful wildflowers make the prairie come to life with the blue of the western iris, the yellow of the arrowleaf balsamroot, and the green-white colors of the elegant mariposa lily. It makes for an incredible oasis and home for songbirds, raptors, and small and large mammals alike.

With less than 1% of our native prairie remaining, Palouse Prairie is one of the most endangered habitats in the world – and it's right here, in our own backyard. Most Palouse Prairie remnants are less than one acre in size and are isolated from other remnants and the pollinators needed to keep native plants healthy.

Thanks to the support of our members – people like you – we've been able to work with a group of landowners to permanently protect a significant amount of Palouse Prairie habitat in Latah County.

These families have put in years of their precious time and money to restore their prairie remnants. And after years of this hard work, they want to make sure that those efforts are protected long into the future. That's where you come in – you make it possible to preserve these lands for future generations.

This year, thanks to you, we've protected just over 100 acres of this critically endangered ecosystem. But there's more to be done. We still have more families wanting to participate, and we'll keep working on creative solutions to make sure that our kids and grandkids can experience this beautiful part of our heritage.



Cultivating the seeds of conservation

What could have been covered in urban development and homes is now celebrated as a sanctuary in the middle of Moscow.

In 1951, Maynard and Margaret Fosberg bought their place “way outside of town.” Sixty years later, their 20-acre homestead sits on one of the busiest intersections in Moscow, surrounded by housing developments, schools, and manicured playing fields. As the city grew around them, Maynard and Margaret knew the deeper value of their land within this growing community and worked with the Land Trust to preserve it as an oasis for conservation and learning.



Whether you are 8 years old - or 98, like Maynard - "The love and care of nature is not just a thing you do, it's who you are and how you live."



Just blocks from McDonald Elementary School, the Fosbergs' conserved farm and prairie makes the perfect outdoor classroom where the love of the land comes alive.

Long-term conservation of our wildlife habitat and open space depends not only on people like the Fosbergs, but the next generation. This spring, Maynard and Brenda Erhardt, our partner at the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District, welcomed 75 students from nearby McDonald Elementary School to take learning outside and onto the Fosberg farm. By touching, hearing, and *feeling* nature amid the bustle of traffic and the daily routine, the Fosberg Farm conveys far more than any book or lesson plan ever could.

The Fosberg farm serves as a working and living outdoor classroom, where urban agriculture, preservation, and respect for the land are made real and tangible. Each day at the farm, the conservation ethic gets a bit stronger in the eyes and hearts of these students; partnerships with schools and people like Maynard are what the future of conservation depends on. Thank you for making that possible.



Preserving mind, body, and spirit

Right out your back door lies a natural playground of mountains, forests, trails, and adventure.

Often easily accessible, you'd think it would be teeming with kids of all ages, wouldn't you? Yet there is a growing disconnect between the youth of today and time spent in nature.

We know from research that for many kids, the conservation ethic has to start young, yet in a typical week, only 6% of children ages 9-13 play outside on their own (and for less than an hour a day) and kids ages 8-18 spend a whopping 53 hours per week consuming electronic media¹. Childhood obesity rates have doubled in the last 20 years and the US has become the largest consumer of ADHD medications in the world².

The good news? You're helping kids experience nature with the improvements and programming at Idler's Rest Nature Preserve.

"Put me in the woods and I'm happy,"
-15-year-old Nathaniel Falen

At Idler's Rest, kids can play in the stream, climb on logs, build stick forts, and inhale the sweet forest smells. People of all ages can enjoy a book during Tales on the Trails, build trails and improve habitat, write poetry and connect with nature in all sorts of ways.

Time spent in nature is proven to increase physical health, reduce stress, improve thinking and social skills, and foster a life-long respect and love of the environment. You're ensuring that children, and adults alike, will always have a special place to get outside and be active in mind, body, and spirit. More than that, you're giving the next generation a priceless gift: a meaningful connection with the natural world. Thank you!

Do you have ideas for how to make Idler's Rest even better?

Please join us for a public listening session on
Monday, November 14, 5:30pm
Fiske Room, 1912 Center
412 E Third St
Moscow, ID 83843

From playing along the trails to a life-long commitment to nature, Idler's Rest has become a community treasure.

1: Nature.org
2: NWE.org





Jim and Zoe share laughter, love, and commitment to the land. Photo by Erica Sloniker.

Living the legacy of conservation

In a home made from hand-hewn timbers cut from the saw out back, where the warmth from the hearth is all the richer for each rock being hand-placed and mortared, you'll find Jim and Zoe Cooley living a vibrant life built on respect for nature and sustainability.

For Jim and Zoe, responsible stewardship of the land isn't just a passing fad, it's their life. It's something they feel so strongly about, that they wanted to take a stand. That stand was to conserve their land.

Nestled in the steep canyon overlooking the West Fork of Little Bear Creek, the Cooleys have carefully managed and cared for their 100-acre property for decades. Jim and Zoe epitomize what it means to 'practice what you preach' when it comes to conservation. Upon learning how important their property and stream frontage were for the health and habitat of wild steelhead populations, Jim and Zoe knew they had to protect it forever, whatever it took.

"This was our way of thinking globally and acting locally,"

- Zoe Cooley

You helped make that possible. Thanks to you and other partners, Jim and Zoe were able to create a very personal, and very important, conservation legacy that will forever preserve and protect the quality of wildlife habitat in our area, and the quality of life that we all enjoy. They still own the land and the conservation agreement will conserve the land into the future, no matter who owns it. Every year, you are assisting local families like the Cooleys to conserve the special places of Palouse. Together we are creating a stronger, healthier community for generations to come.

Are you ready to take the next step in your conservation legacy?

If you or your family is thinking about conserving your land, we're here to help. Please call our Conservation Projects Manager, Nicholas Norton, at 208-596-4496 or email nick@palouselandtrust.org today to learn more about the process, options, and benefits. All conversations are private and confidential and there is never any obligation or pressure.



Small Deeds, Big Difference

Have you ever wished you could make a bigger impact with your donation? Conservation needs you more than ever and becoming a local hero couldn't be easier.

Small monthly donations add up quickly and provide a reliable, consistent stream of support for the conservation projects that matter the most.

Simple. Affordable. Meaningful. Become a Conservation Hero today.

Visit www.palouselandtrust.org/conservation-heroes-program.php to sign up or call us at 208-596-4496 to learn more.

"Great acts are made up of small deeds."

-Lao Tzu

Photo by Matthew Dolkas

Your donations are hard at work protecting family farms and forestland, wildlife habitat, and native prairie.



2015 Operating Income

Contributions	\$74,925
Foundation Grants	\$51,980
Agency Contracts	\$42,338

TOTAL \$169,243



2015 Operating Expenses

Land Conservation	\$55,804
Community Outreach	\$42,507
Administration	\$22,499
Fundraising	\$8,552
Reserved for 2016 Conservation Projects	\$39,881

TOTAL \$169,243



*Working together for open space, wildlife
habitat, and working lands on the Palouse.*

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You're Invited...

**Annual Conservation Celebration
Wednesday, November 2nd**

Social Hour & Silent Auction: 6:00pm ~~ Program: 7:30-8:00pm

Join us for a fun, festive evening to celebrate the difference you're making in land conservation on the Palouse! This complementary event is a terrific way to connect with your land and your community. Share in the great accomplishments made this year and learn how you can play an even bigger role in what's to come.

Make merry with delicious hors d'oeuvres, tasty wine and beer, great people, and the chance to bid on fantastic silent auction items— be sure to check them out online at palouselandtrust.org.

