



Land and Community

How do we build community? The dictionary defines community as, “people with common interests living in a particular area.” In this definition place is important.

The place, the land, helps us to truly live; helps us connect with ourselves and others; and creates community. This concept plays out every day in the way that people from all walks of life come together around Idler’s Rest Nature Preserve.

Idler’s Rest is 33 acres of forest land north of Moscow. Preserved for the community years ago, quiet and unassuming, it may not look like much from the road, but it adds so much to our lives.



Volunteers of all ages repair and improve trails for National Trails Day in June. (Justin Trujillo)

For the lone hiker, it is a place to find clarity, solace, and peace as she walks quietly along the soft forest trails.

For mothers and fathers on hot summer days, it is a place to bring children to play in the cool cedar grove and splash in the creek.

It is a place to inspire others, when a 13 year-old girl foregoes a party for her bat mitzvah and instead invites her friends and family to build bridges and trails and lasting memories together in the Preserve.

It brings history and science alive, when a 6th grade teacher adopts the Preserve as his outdoor classroom; his students becoming Lewis and Clark for the day mapping trails, or young fire ecologists surveying the forest.



Opportunities for exploration abound in nature’s playground. (Dennis DeHart)

And it becomes a gathering place for diverse sets of people who come together to make at least a small difference in a world where our problems can seem so big.

Yes, place is important. The land grounds us, restores us, renews us, and connects us. We see it every day at Idler’s Rest. And we see it every day as we work with families who want to preserve their land so the land will continue to be there for future generations to feel that connection as well. Your support makes all this possible – thank you.



UI students - from fraternity brothers to theater majors - come together to restore habitat and trails in September. (Colleen Kulesza)

Conserving farms, wetlands, streams, forests, and prairies

The year so far has been a busy one at the Land Trust. We've been working with local farmers, families, and state and federal resource agencies to move an impressive variety of projects closer to permanent protection.

We continue to work with families whose commitments to our communities and the region are leading them to donate conservation easements. We're working with them to establish the permanent agreements that will preserve not only their land, but also their legacies of good stewardship.

We've also moved into the new realm of grant funded conservation projects. This summer we presented our first farmland protection project to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office's Farmland Preservation Program. **Of the 26 projects proposed statewide, our potential project ranked 8th for funding consideration.** Competition was fierce, with only 2 points separating our project from the #1 ranked project. We'll need to wait for the state's budgeting process this spring to find out how many of the ranked projects will receive funding, but we're pleased that our project is being given such high consideration.

The work behind the scenes takes a tremendous amount of time and energy – by our staff, board members, and partners – and we know that all that work will be worth it when these incredible lands are conserved forever.



Your donations make sure we can work with state and federal wildlife agencies, resource managers, and families to conserve the best habitat and working lands in our region.

Your support is making BIG things happen

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 the 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 have been working with a group of landowners to permanently protect a significant amount of Palouse Prairie habitat. We've just received official word that we will receive funding to implement Phase I of a project that will result in the largest contiguous area of protected Palouse Prairie in the region.

The process of working out the conservation agreements and purchasing land could take up to two years, which is why your support is so critical so we can continue to work out the details to make this project a reality. To stay up-to-date on the progress of this exciting project, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter or 'Like' us on Facebook.



Thanks to you, we're making serious progress toward preserving and restoring endangered Palouse Prairie habitat.

Thank you for all your support

Your generous support is protecting forests, streams, prairies, farms, and ranch land for our future. Our working lands will continue to thrive. Wildlife will be at home in protected lands and future generations will enjoy clean water and beautiful scenery. A heartfelt thanks goes out to our 2013-2014 members. We couldn't do this work without you.

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** A special thank you to donors marked with an asterisk who participate in our Conservation Heroes program by donating via payroll deduction or monthly donations.*

*** These people generously gave at the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse in 2013.*



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

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*Our Mission is to conserve the open
space, scenery, wildlife habitat, and
water quality of the Palouse region
for the benefit of current and future
generations.*



Excellence - Trust - Permanence

Almost 20 years ago, a handful of people got together to talk about conserving the local family farms and forests that make this region so special. They went on to form the Palouse Land Trust, a group of people dedicated to working with local landowners with a commitment to quality work that will stand the test of time.

The national land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Palouse Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. "Going through the accreditation process confirms our commitment to integrity and transparency," says Executive Director, Amy Trujillo. "It is an important measure of that commitment to our supporters, landowners, and our community."

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Palouse Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards, see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or mail your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Palouse Land Trust's application will be most useful by November 24, 2014.

Land Trust 
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An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance