



Strategic Plan 2020-2025

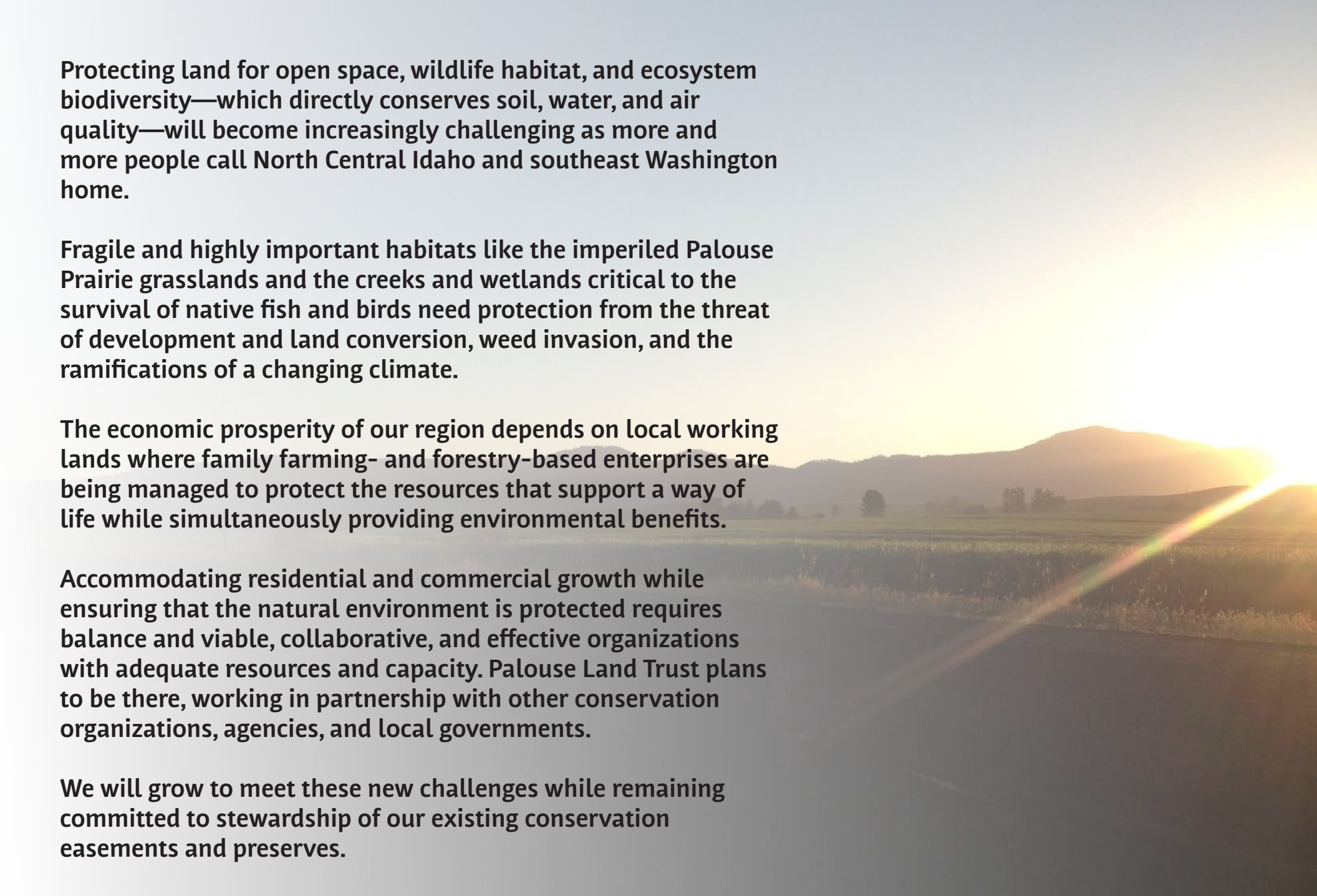
mission + vision

Palouse Land Trust works with landowners and communities to conserve the lands we love, now and forever, and to enrich connections to the natural world.



Palouse Land Trust was founded in 1995 by a group of citizens concerned about the future of open spaces, wildlife habitat corridors, native ecosystems, and working family farms and forests. Our work is built upon relationships—local people dedicated to the future of this place we cherish for its outstanding beauty and small-town quality of life.

We envision a future where natural beauty persists, lands are cared for and connected, and healthy soils, wildlife, and clean water are abundant. A place where communities intertwine with the natural world, complementing one another, whether within neighborhoods or on farms, ranches, and forests. A region with an unrivaled quality of life and vibrant economy, where people live knowing that some of the most special places will be protected forever as working lands, preserves, wildlife corridors, and places to recreate or connect with the natural world.

A landscape photograph showing a wide, flat field in the foreground, possibly a farm or prairie. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a bright, hazy sky. The sun is low on the horizon to the right, creating a strong lens flare and casting a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

Protecting land for open space, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem biodiversity—which directly conserves soil, water, and air quality—will become increasingly challenging as more and more people call North Central Idaho and southeast Washington home.

Fragile and highly important habitats like the imperiled Palouse Prairie grasslands and the creeks and wetlands critical to the survival of native fish and birds need protection from the threat of development and land conversion, weed invasion, and the ramifications of a changing climate.

The economic prosperity of our region depends on local working lands where family farming- and forestry-based enterprises are being managed to protect the resources that support a way of life while simultaneously providing environmental benefits.

Accommodating residential and commercial growth while ensuring that the natural environment is protected requires balance and viable, collaborative, and effective organizations with adequate resources and capacity. Palouse Land Trust plans to be there, working in partnership with other conservation organizations, agencies, and local governments.

We will grow to meet these new challenges while remaining committed to stewardship of our existing conservation easements and preserves.

planning for the future

land conservation + stewardship



Expand and accelerate the impact of local land conservation.

The need for land conservation is greater than ever before to help protect our most treasured spaces, iconic landscapes, and critical habitat. Your continued investment in the Land Trust will allow for prioritization of conservation projects that will protect our most resilient and important lands in the face of a changing climate and ensure their long-term stewardship needs are fulfilled.



Create and increase access to nature for more people in our community.

The increasing demand for access to natural spaces for the health and vitality of our entire community is palpable, now and forever. Connecting with landowners and projects where there is a strong commitment to expanding public access and/or community trail systems will be a top priority, particularly those projects which contribute to a more diverse, inclusive conservation movement.



Participate in creating the future we envision.

The value of collective action to creatively solve community problems and address needs cannot be understated. Working together, we can maximize conservation outcomes, advocate for robust funding, and expand relationships with partner organizations. Through active participation in local and regional planning initiatives, we can amplify the impact of local land conservation to create the future we wish to see.

community engagement + outreach



Enhance the wellbeing of our community through community conservation.

Providing leadership and resources for community-oriented conservation projects will strengthen and expand opportunities for the public to get involved and become champions of conservation themselves. Whether you rent a studio apartment, own a small home in town, or work thousands of acres of land, private land conservation is a critical component of the high quality of life we all enjoy on the Palouse.



Offer creative and meaningful programs to foster a love of nature in the next generation of conservation leaders.

Strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones with local schools, nonprofit organizations, city and county leadership and agencies opens windows of opportunity. Stonger together, we can provide more structured and unstructured nature play, educational activities, and programming to connect youth with the wonder of the natural world.



Illustrate the value of conserved lands through connection.

Expanding opportunities to showcase the values and the special qualities of the lands we conserve draws more people to our mission. Offering experiential outings, wellness programs, and enrichment and educational activities on our preserves and other conserved properties connects more people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with our work and the power of the land.

organizational capacity + sustainability



Foster and sustain a positive, thriving organizational culture.

To ensure that generations to come can enjoy the special places we all love, PLT is committed to growing capacity to support five full-time staff members to serve the growing needs of our community. Our staff will be provided with the resources, training, and capacity needed to function at a high level of excellence and effectiveness. Fostering a culture of learning and collaboration will be at the center of this initiative.



Empower effective leadership and promote a culture of partnership internally and externally.

To assure our sustainability, relevance, and embody more equity and inclusivity, we will recruit board members and advisors who can connect PLT with new segments of our community and bring diverse voices to leadership. By supporting and fostering forums for discussion, collaboration, and story-telling, we will invite all voices to the table to achieve greater long-term impact.



Build a stable financial foundation. Permanence is a promise we take seriously.

To reach goals for the lands we love, we will take a long-range approach to financial planning and strategic budgeting. Always focusing on dutifully utilizing your investments, PLT will create meaningful and important conservation solutions that benefit everyone. Working together with our supporters and funders, PLT will build a strong and solid foundation to realize the conservation goals of our community today, tomorrow, and forever.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a land trust?

Land trusts are created by committed community members who are passionate about the lands that define us, inspire us, and sustain us. Palouse Land Trust is focused on the communities and lands of Whitman County, WA, and Latah, Benewah, Shoshone, Clearwater, Shoshone, Lewis, and Idaho Counties in Idaho. Across the country, there are around 1,400 land trusts working to conserve land that is important in their communities.

Palouse Land Trust works with families and individuals across the Palouse and north-central Idaho to conserve and protect the lands that mean so much to all of us: working agricultural land and forests, healthy waterways and wildlife habitat, iconic landscapes, open spaces, outdoor recreation sites, and special ecosystems like the Native Palouse Prairie. Through voluntary conservation agreements, we work to ensure that the landscape that not only endures, but thrives for today, tomorrow, and generations to come.

Are you a political group?

No. We are a non-partisan group with no affiliation with any political party. Our goal is to help landowners conserve their land.

Are you a government agency?

No. Like almost all land trusts, we are a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving vital natural resources. We function with a board of directors, a small staff, and many dedicated volunteers.

What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement created by the landowner and Land Trust that details the way the land can and cannot be used into the future. The agreement is tied to the deed to the land and all future owners are bound by the agreement.

Is it really forever?

Yes. This is a permanent way for a land owner to ensure that the land they love will be preserved for future generations.

Who pays for this?

Money to accomplish this work comes from partner landowners, donations, and grant funding. We do not receive any tax dollars. Approximately 65% of our funding comes from generous community members like you.

Who owns the land?

The landowner continues to own the land. He/she may still transfer the land to heirs, give it away, or sell the land. The conservation easement gives the Land Trust the authority to make sure the protections put in place by the landowner are followed.

Can I still use my land?

Yes. The property may continue to be farmed, ranched, timbered, or maintained or restored for wildlife habitat. A conservation plan is established as part of the process, often restricting certain types of development in order to preserve special natural values of the property.

What are the benefits of a landowner working with a land trust?

Beyond the security of knowing that your land will forever be protected, there are some tax benefits that you can receive. (Our website has more details.)

Do conservation easements take property off the county's tax rolls?

No. Your land will remain on the tax rolls and will not be open to the public unless you choose to allow it.

How does a land trust benefit my community/region?

So many people who live in the Palouse region talk about the beauty of the area and its amazing natural resources and wildlife. We work to protect that and ensure that the quality of life in this area is protected. If you care about our working lands heritage, clean water, homes for wildlife, and places to play and recreate, then the Land Trust is working for you.

For more detailed information, visit our website at www.palouselandtrust.org, give us a call at 208-596-4496, or stop by our offices in Moscow, ID.

palouse land trust



VISIT: 121 S Jackson Street, Moscow, ID 83843

MAIL: PO Box 8506, Moscow, ID 83843

PHONE: (208) 596-4496

www.palouselandtrust.org

info@palouselandtrust.org