


Palouse Land Trust

2018 Newsletter



“If you’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a
mark on the world that can’t be erased,”
-Maya Angelou



The Legacy of Land

Thank you so much for your support for conservation in our local region. As a land trust supporter, you are caring for the land you love far into the future. You're giving the gift of permanence and helping us do what we do best — upholding the conservation values of land for all of time.



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I'm so grateful to be part of a community that looks far into the future and sees a landscape where our natural areas and working lands surround us with beauty and nurture our well-being. A place where the changing seasons bring about sights and smells that are unique to this little corner of the world.

One thing that holds true for all of us is that time bounds our memories. Many of you have called this region home for decades, some only a short time. You each have a story about your memories of the landscape that surrounds us. But what excites me is that collectively, you are supporting work that has no time boundaries — special protections mean that places will exist as they do today. What a tremendous thing to be a part of!

Permanent land conservation depends on enduring public support and engagement from our local community. As we approach the end of 2018, take a moment to celebrate what you have achieved over this past year as you read through the pages of this newsletter. I am optimistic about what is to come in 2019. When I reflect back on the past few months since I joined the land trust in early June, I'm inspired by the support you provide every step of the way. I have every reason to be hopeful about what we will continue to do.

Thank you for letting me lead the way as your new executive director. As always, my door is open and I hope to hear about how I can help you put your charity and passion to work for land conservation.

Take care,

Lovina



PLT board members Libby Walker, Helen Stroebel and Callie-dog assisting with monitoring at the Dave Skinner Preserve.



Moscow Central Lions Club volunteers help make Idler's Rest more accessible for all!

YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE LANDS YOU LOVE THIS YEAR:



2,070 CONSERVED ACRES

MONITORED AND
STEWARDED



3 SPECIAL PLACES

CONSERVED WITHIN THE
LAST 12 MONTHS



1,740 VOLUNTEER HOURS

CONTRIBUTED BY THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND THE COMMUNITY



250+ YOUTH INSPIRED

THROUGH EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMING, FIELD TRIPS,
AND ACTIVITIES

Per·pe·tu·i·ty

noun

1. A bond or security with no fixed maturity date;
2. A restriction making an estate inalienable perpetually, or for a period beyond certain limits fixed by law;
3. The state or quality of lasting forever.

When you give to the Palouse Land Trust, you're not just ensuring that a family farm will be preserved today. You're not just protecting the most endangered ecosystem in the lower United States for the next couple of years. You're ensuring that the land trust can make good on our promise and our duty of perpetual protection of lands that are important to all of us — *forever*. ***Thank you for creating such a powerful conservation legacy!***

Castle Rock Ranch



For the land, for the water,
for the future



“Development along the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River has been steadily increasing over the past decade, with RV parks and camper sites lining the valley as far as the eye can see. In a floodplain, it seems to be the way development is going around here, and that just wasn’t in the cards for our family,” says Albert Walsh, ranch manager at Castle Rock Ranch. The ranch lies in northern Shoshone County, nestled up to the Coeur d’Alene National Forest.

Rather than bowing to heavy recreational tourism pressure over the last several years, Castle Rock Ranch has been home to 50 head of cattle and other livestock, extensive gardens, and a land ethic that is shared with dozens of young ladies aged 8-15 who attend a special working ranch camp each summer.

“My uncle Homer purchased this property in 2010, partly as an investment, but also as a place for our family to gather and where we could practice regenerative agriculture and share our love of the land with the next generation of conservationists.”

“The conservation easement we placed on the property in late 2017 really helped us to define the goals we have for the property and helped the family find a perfect balance between our culture of conservation and our needs as landowners. It also ensures that the vibrant wildlife habitat in the river valley thrives today and always, and that the

incredibly scenic corridor is unspoiled forever.”

Now completely free of synthetics, Albert uses progressive ranching techniques to naturally combat invasive species and improve ecosystem health. Moving the cattle upwards of 3 times per day with the use of temporary electric fencing ensures that the pasture is never overgrazed, and that wildlife have an unfettered travel corridor when crossing the property. Albert has seen a noticeable uptick in wildlife since management practices have changed, including herds of elk, deer, and even a wolverine traversing the property.

Protecting the 99-acre property in perpetuity was a critical step in the family’s vision for the land. “It really helped us clarify and focus our actions. We’re able to make meaningful investments that not only help the ranch thrive, but ensure the vital wildlife habitat and other natural resources are protected.”

Thanks to you, this beautiful river corridor will be protected forever. Wildlife will gather in the bottomlands below the forest that could have otherwise turned into RV lots — an all too common scene along North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River. You’re helping families like Albert’s protect special places now and always.

Above, left: The ranch is home to cattle, native wildlife, and the foundation for a lifelong love of and respect for the lands that sustain us. Photos by Castle Rock Ranch.

Protecting the Prairie

The last two years have seen amazing advances in Native Palouse Prairie protection and conservation. Today, thanks to willing landowners and your continued support, over 400 contiguous acres of Palouse Prairie habitat between Paradise Ridge and Gormsen Butte has been protected, a critical step to ecosystem recovery — and that's where the real work begins.

What's in a weed

For most of us, a weed in the garden or on the land is little more than a nuisance, but within an endangered ecosystem, non-native species encroachment can have

Protection from human, animal, and natural spread of non-native species is a crucial component to Palouse Prairie restoration and Spalding's catchfly recovery efforts across the Paradise Ridge and Gormsen Butte Key Conservation Area. Thanks to grants from the Cadeau Foundation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Moscow Giving Circle, leveraged with gifts from private donors, funding has been secured to hire a part-time management position to ensure that invasive species threats can be identified, mapped, and managed through low-disturbance control methods.



dire consequences. The native Palouse Prairie habitat is under constant pressure from invasive non-native species such as ventenata, rush skeletonweed, and hound's tongue, to name just a few.

Take ventenata, for example. This seemingly innocuous little annual grass can spread and reproduce rapidly in any soil condition, creating a thatch over the soil surface that chokes out other native plants. Not only is it useless to wildlife, this small plant is very difficult to control and has the capacity to decimate a sensitive habitat such as the critically endangered Palouse Prairie ecosystem.

This land stewardship role is a joint position, shared between the Palouse Land Trust and the Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm, owned by Wayne and Jacie Jensen. Not only are the Jensens neighbors to the Skinner Preserve, they are notably pioneers in Palouse prairie restoration efforts.

Under this shared position agreement, the Skinner Preserve is now under the watchful eye of Thorn Creek's Mattie Schmidt, a newly minted graduate student at the University of Idaho.

“As part of my non-thesis master’s project, I’m developing a management plan template for landowners with Palouse Prairie on their property. My work on the Skinner Preserve will be the basis for key pieces of the plan, especially weed control,” says Mattie. Having grown up on the Palouse, she is keenly connected to the landscape and brings passion and expertise to the job.

Over the next several years, we are poised to deepen and expand local partnerships and develop opportunities for research to better understand weed pressures to the ecosystem, and improve outcomes for species and habitat recovery initiatives. But this great work can’t be accomplished by just one person, or one organization alone — and thanks to this partnership with Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm, the future of the Palouse Prairie is looking very bright.

increases the risk for spreading non-native species into the site, but also threatens sensitive plants and soils, and hinders restoration efforts of the federally threatened Spalding’s catchfly.

With support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, contractor GS Fencing, LLC of Nez Perce is on the job to make sure our fences are as great as our neighbors. Owner Mike Gerten and crew are specialized fencing contractors, working across the western US for federal and state agencies, National Parks, and environmental organizations in need of habitat and wildlife friendly fencing options. “We exercise as much caution and care as possible to preserve the vegetation and landscape during the project.”



Good neighbors, good fences

Ensuring that this special ecosystem not only survives, but thrives, requires more than active restoration, management, and invasive weed control alone. It requires great neighbors like Jacie and Wayne Jensen, and our other Palouse Prairie remnant easement owners — and some equally great fencing.

Vehicular and human trespass pose risks to ecologically sensitive lands. Unintentional — and unfortunately, intentional — trespass on the Skinner Preserve not only

GS Fencing is currently installing minimally invasive boundary fencing that will protect the entire Preserve boundary, as well as adjacent prairie remnant easements, ensuring that unauthorized human, ATV, and other vehicle trespass cannot occur, while allowing for native wildlife and pollinators to easily access the habitat and travel corridor, a win-win for the whole ecosystem!

Far left: The Skinner Preserve is the very capable hands of Mattie Schmidt.

Center: Full bloom at the Preserve, spring 2017.

Below: Yellow Bell (*Fritillaria pudica*).



A long history, a bright future

The business of heritage, history, and permanence is not for the sprinter, nor is it for those devoid of passion for place, space, and community.

Since 1995, the Palouse Land Trust has ardently embraced the challenge that is perpetual protection of a landscape we all love and cherish, but we certainly haven't done it alone. It takes a movement to protect the lands that define us for today, tomorrow, and forever. One such member of this movement on the Palouse and north-central Idaho is Cindy Fisher.

“My love affair with the Palouse began in 1967 when I was treated to my first big-sky sunsets from the 13th floor of my dorm room at Stephenson North on the WSU campus. It has only grown stronger since my

husband, Jim, and I returned to make Moscow our home in 1985,” muses Cindy.

“The ever-changing views of rolling hills where one learns the meaning of the words ‘amber waves of grain,’ the moon rising over Tomer Butte, the chance to count 82 mountain lady slippers on a seven-mile walk on Moscow Mountain, the remnants of Palouse prairie with its native grasses and wildflowers, biking the lonely rural roads and the rails to trails, are all part of what make this area such a special place.”

“When John Norton approached me in 1995 with his vision for starting a land trust for the Palouse region, I was excited at the endless possibilities that it could bring for preserving some of what makes our area so special and I agreed to join the first board. The Palouse Land Trust was born and has grown to exceed my expectations in every way. “

Today, your continued support is critical in forging the way into a bright future for our region and our community. You're making it possible to connect local youth with our abundant natural spaces, for more families to achieve their conservation legacies, and for more community members to get involved with the lands that form the fabric of our shared experience, quality of life, and wellbeing. Thank you for being part of this amazing legacy and for continuing to invest in the future.

Above: Healthy wildlife habitat is made possible by supporters like you! Photo by Charles Wheeler.

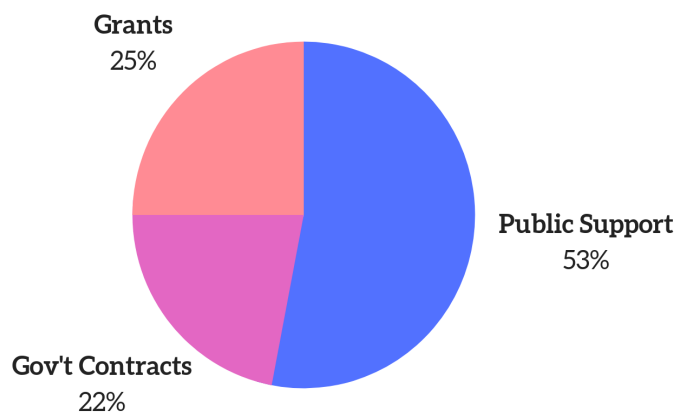
Left: Spring on the Dave Skinner Ecological Preserve, a 62-acre preserved stretch of native Palouse Prairie, purchased by PLT in 2016.



We believe that our financials should be completely transparent and open to the public. When you make a gift to PLT, you're making a gift to the community we all love.

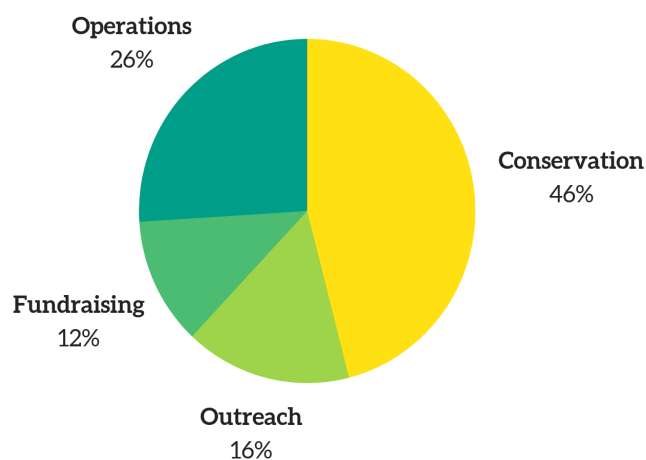
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FY '18 Operating Income



Individual Contributions	\$137,427
Grants	\$64,749
Government Contracts	\$58,513
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TOTAL	\$260,689

FY '18 Operating Expense



Conservation Work	\$96,809
Outreach	\$27,667
Fundraising	\$26,166
Operations & Management	\$54,335
Opportunity Fund & Restricted Funds	\$55,712
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$260,689



Your investment in the lands we love means more than just an important financial commitment — it is your way of adding your voice to a growing community of supporters who recognize just how incredible our region is.

THANK YOU to everyone who is ensuring that the special landscape that makes up the Palouse and north-central Idaho endures for today, for tomorrow, forever.

Thank you to the following contributors who gave generously in fiscal year 2018. If you believe you have been omitted from this list in error, please contact Jaime at 208-596-4496

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Conservation Hero Profile: James Ekins

“My parents visited me soon after I moved to Moscow, around 2006. We walked the trails at Idler’s Rest, and we found an old, haggard, bent and brambly apple tree on the hill above the creek and road. The apples were ripe and as sweet as candy, so we stood there and carefully ate a couple (watching out for the inevitable worm), and cemented a favorite memory of my times in Moscow. It’s protecting this sort of natural and human heritage through conservation measures and community building that encouraged me to become a Conservation Hero and dedicated supporter of PLT.

The Land Trust does so much more than working with willing landowners to establish conservation easements. Land trusts in north Idaho, and especially PLT, embrace the essentiality of community building to support their mission of greater landscape protection. PLT supports community gatherings, information sessions, and historic recreation areas, like Idler’s Rest Nature Preserve. Supporting these efforts through a regular payroll deduction is seamless and provides a steady stream of income for continuing this good work.”





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

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Conservation Excellence

**The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but
the things you do for others remain as your legacy,”**

-Kula Kulau

Leave your legacy

Are you ready to create your conservation legacy to ensure that the lands you love today will thrive and endure for generations to come? If you're over 70 1/2, you can make a lasting impact on your community and the lands that mean so much with a charitable contribution from your IRA. It's a convenient, tax-free way to invest in the forests, rivers, farms, and open spaces that are so vital our region. Call us or visit palouselandtrust.org/ira-charitable-rollover to learn more.

Planned gifts are another wonderful way to leave your mark on local land conservation across our region. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how you can shape your legacy.

