



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

November 7, 2019

Dear Friend,

“There it is!” My husband said, pointing at a **large fin thrashing in the shallow water**. My son was on his shoulders, and I held the hand of my daughter as we rock-hopped up a small channel of the Upper McKenzie River. **Then, suddenly, we saw it ... the mighty body of a wild Chinook salmon** pulsing back and forth above a cleared section of the river bottom where it was going to lay eggs. At that moment, we all knew we were watching something special. An ancient migration, a wild fish.

Sadly, this has become rare, as the McKenzie wild Chinook salmon is now on the brink of extinction. The salmon run is estimated to be at 1% of its historical levels.

But, there's hope

One of our member organizations, The McKenzie River Trust, is working to bring back the river through land protection and restoration.

[The McKenzie River Trust](#) is one of the 27 nonprofits that make up our coalition. We are a statewide movement working to build connections and advancing policies that help protect our natural world – our water, wildlife and open space – for all people, forever. **Thank YOU** for being part of this movement and for being a champion of conservation in Oregon.

Oregon would not be what it is without the work of land trusts and YOUR SUPPORT empowering this coalition. [Consider a gift today!](#) And it can be matched! Every dollar you donate by Dec 31, 2019* will be matched by our generous board!

Together, we are building a web of protected lands, that provide havens for great migrations and clean air and water. And we need your help!



My kids the day they saw the Chinook salmon this year! Photo by Kelley Beamer

Connected corridors for wildlife

As we look to the future in Oregon, the work you are supporting is more important than ever. A recent study, published this fall in the journal *Science*, reported that **bird populations in the US and Canada took a major hit since 1970 and are down by 29%!.** What's happening to our migrations?

And Western monarch populations are a less than 1% of what they once were. **We need a fabric of connected, protected places to ensure our treasured species – birds, butterflies and more – survive. Our members are already doing just that!** Support our work today.



Monarch work by Deschutes Land Trust. Photo by Jay Mather

Protecting drinking water

The north coast of Oregon is a wild and dramatic landscape where towering mountain peaks rise up from the sea. This condensed geography hosts incredible biodiversity – and drinking water sources for local communities – that [North Coast Land Conservancy](#) is working passionately to protect.



Rainforest Reserve, North Coast Land Conservancy.
Photo by Mike Bragg

Their Executive Director, Katie Voelke, will tell you, “If protected, the Rainforest Reserve will create a conservation corridor of more than 29 square miles, resulting in the first Oregon coastal watershed protected from headwaters to the ocean.”

It's important for land and species, and can help keep sources for community drinking water cleaner. Katie and her team and partners want to eliminate the need for the Arch Cape community to have to turn off their water regularly.

The North Coast Land Conservancy is **thinking big and bold about how we can protect large landscapes for community benefit.** So are we.

You support allows us to ADVOCATE and BUILD COMMUNITY. We help our members with connections, tools and resources they need to protect the places you care about the most. [Please consider a \\$100 contribution today.](#)

A changing climate

With a rapidly changing climate causing more drought, fire and floods, we need robust and healthy lands to support our communities. Our coalition is committed to advancing a carbon reduction program in Oregon. Efforts to pass a climate bill in Oregon have failed for the past three legislative sessions, but we are at a tipping point, where your voice is needed. As the climate discussion continues, COLT will join **with [our 27 members](#) to lead the charge and advocate for how climate investments can support rural communities.**

By giving to COLT today, you are helping to advance our [2020 policy goals](#):

- 1) advance a climate program for Oregon
- 2) support clean and secure water for all
- 3) create new funding for agricultural land protection

Health and universal trail access

Just north of Corvallis you will find Owens Farm, a testing ground for collaboration aimed at building a universal “trail for all” to promote healthy people in a healthy environment. [Greenbelt Land Trust](#), a COLT member, is a key partner.

“Our vision,” said Rocio Munoz with the Benton County Health Department, “is to make the healthy choice the easy choice.”

Science tells us that **experience in the outdoors can support mental, emotional and spiritual well-being for us all. And land trusts can help!**

Our conservation member organizations have a large land base, **over 90,000 acres, open to the public.**



Friends and legislative officials toured Owens Farm this fall. Photo by Greenbelt Land Trust

How might we better connect communities to that resource? By supporting COLT, you are developing creative ways for connecting how nature supports individual and community health.

From the Columbia River Gorge to the high desert, our members not only protect and connect land for wildlife but for you, your friends and family.

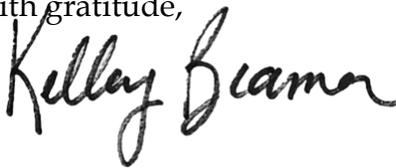
[How can you help? Consider a donation.](#)

These stories are just a few highlights of the inspiring work we see across our coalition. At COLT, we are uniquely positioned to advocate for a coalition of nonprofits and for the millions of Oregonians who experience the benefits of that work – healthy water, recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat and healthy communities.

With your support, we help our coalition members do what they do best – protect wildlife and wild places, defend working farms and forests, provide recreation and parks, champion clean water for all, drive climate and science, and engage Oregon communities.

[Join with me today with a gift of \\$100, or more, and support COLT in serving and strengthening the conservation community across Oregon.](#)

With gratitude,



[Kelley Beamer](#)

Executive Director

PS

You are a champion of our natural world, land trusts and Oregon communities. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate you!

PPS

Join our matching challenge! Every dollar you donate by Dec 31, 2019* will be matched by our generous board!

*Our board will match up to \$5,000

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts is a 501(c)3 organization. Our tax ID is 45-1510255.
Your Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. No goods or services are provided in exchange for this donation.

22 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: BLUE MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT COLUMBIA LAND TRUST DESCHUTES LAND TRUST DUCKS UNLIMITED FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE LAND TRUST GREENBELT LAND TRUST KLAMATH LAKE LAND TRUST LOWER NEHALEM COMMUNITY TRUST MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY NORTHWEST RANGELAND TRUST OREGON DESERT LAND TRUST PACIFIC FOREST TRUST SOUTHERN OREGON LAND CONSERVANCY THE CONSERVATION FUND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN OREGON THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND THE WETLANDS CONSERVANCY WALLOWA LAND TRUST WILD RIVERS LAND TRUST

6 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOREST PARK CONSERVANCY EAST MULTNOMAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HELVETIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY TUALATIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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