



THE
WILDERNESS
LAND TRUST

Keeping Wilderness Wild

2015 ANNUAL REPORT THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST

YOUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ANSWERED

Private inholdings are a threat to the globally unique, 109 million acre preservation system that millions of people have spent 50 years creating. **Nearly 180,000 acres of private lands in 2,883 parcels remain within Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas in the lower 48 states.** Each landowner has the right to develop their property as they see fit.

How do we determine which properties to acquire?

The Trust developed what is now a nationally recognized method for prioritizing the acquisition of wilderness inholdings with Colorado State University in the early 1990's. Go to most Forest Service and BLM offices and ask for information on their wilderness inholdings—you'll likely get one of our statewide reports.

The prioritization method measures three major components for determining the highest priority properties to acquire:

1. Its development potential;
2. The property's ecological importance to the surrounding wilderness; and
3. The recreational and management impact of the property on the surrounding wilderness.

We look at and score 17 unique factors. Lands with road access that fragment threatened and endangered species habitat crossed by a trail go right to the top. We then tenaciously contact landowners, partnering with federal agencies and local wilderness advocacy groups to identify good projects from willing sellers.

How is the Trust funded?

We implement our land acquisition program through the development of two funds. Each is supported by donors and private foundations who believe that securing our National Wilderness Preservation System is of the utmost importance—and know that the Trust proves its ability to add land to wilderness each and every year.

Wilderness Opportunity Fund (WOF)

We use this to buy land—it is comprised of grants and loans that are restricted to specific properties, or land acquisition in general. In the case of loans, the Trust uses the funds to purchase the property and pays the lender back when the Trust sells the parcel to the United States. **After loans are paid, we return the money to our fund - then go out and buy more land.**

Sentinel Fund

These funds enable us to complete the work to buy land and transfer it to the public. Each project we take on has two transactions, the acquisition and the sale (or donation) to the federal government. This fund pays for work performed by our professional staff, including landowner contacts, appraisals, environmental assessments, legal documentation, coordination with agency staff, and land stewardship. **These resources are the lifeblood of our work and enable us to tenaciously be there and ready when landowners want to sell.** For the third year in a row, gifts to the Sentinel Fund have been doubled by an anonymous donor!

WILDERNESS PROTECTED



This year, we worked on securing 10 wilderness areas in six states - completing projects that removed private home development, reclaimed abandoned mines, created access, and unified wildlife habitat. (The average length of time between first contact with these owners and when they agreed to put the property under contract is 6.8 years!)

ARIZONA

MT. TIPTON WILDERNESS

Marble Canyon (140 acres transferred)

SWANSEA WILDERNESS

Horne (10 acres, purchased)

CALIFORNIA

AVAWATZ MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Denning Springs (20 acres, purchased)

CACHE CREEK WILDERNESS

Bruns (40 acres, purchased)

VENTANA WILDERNESS

Milpitas (29 acres, transferred)

Hennickson's Ridge (120 acres, purchased and transferred)

IDAHO

HELLS CANYON WILDERNESS

Bald Eagle Lode (13 acres, transferred)

OREGON

HELLS CANYON WILDERNESS

Imnaha River, Bob Creek, Somers Creek (146.3 acres purchased and transferred)

NEVADA

JARBIDGE WILDERNESS

Mary's Creek (280 acres, transferred)

RUBY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

Murphy Creek (413 acres, transferred)

WASHINGTON

GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS

Olympic Lode (100 acres, transferred)

TOTAL

*7 parcels, 336.3 acres purchased
23 parcels, 1241.3 acres transferred*

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS INVENTORY



The Trust recently expanded its mission to include lands that *directly protect wilderness values*, such as private lands within protected public lands surrounding wilderness. Most often, these properties are within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Conservation Lands System (NCL).

The Trust is undertaking an inventory and prioritization for private inholdings within this system. This is an ambitious undertaking with an estimated 440,000 acres of private inholdings that may well amount to over 7,000 parcels. We expect this inventory to be complete by early 2016.

The scope of a nationwide inventory is 38 areas:

- 21 BLM National Monuments with ~ 290,000 acres of private inholdings;
- 16 BLM National Conservation Areas with ~ 85,000 acres of private inholdings;
- 1 BLM Cooperative Management and Protection Area (Steens Mt., OR) with ~ 68,000 acres of private inholdings.

(These estimates do not include roughly 350,000 acres of State owned lands)

The Painter Mine: Tenacity in Action

FRANK CHURCH—RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS, IDAHO

Last year, we announced the acquisition of a 39 acre historic gold mine on the banks of the Salmon River. The transfer of this property to public ownership requires more than the exchange of legal documents between a landowner, the Trust, and the US Forest Service. For the federal government to accept and include this property into the National Wilderness Preservation System it has to be reclaimed, including closing an abandoned open mine, cleaning up the site from a century of human habitation, and removing a vacation home.

In November 2014, the Trust partnered with the Idaho Department of Lands to remediate the mine—**closing the open adits (horizontal tunnels) by installing bat gates to secure much needed habitat and sealing an open mine shaft that went deep below the level of the river, a possible source of water pollution.**

Through the generosity of the Maki Foundation and our members, we followed up with a waste and trash removal project in July 2015. Fourteen volunteers and staff from The Wilderness Land Trust and the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, supported by two local jet boat operators, completed the clean-up of the Painter Mine site. **An estimated 3,000 pounds of junk and debris were removed** and transported to a landfill, with credits for recycling that reduced landfill charges to zero.

The site is now clean of debris and the mine reclaimed. The final clean-up step will be to remove the vacation home. A local lodge owner will disassemble it and transport it out of the wilderness (by jet boat!) this upcoming summer. Only then can we transfer the Painter Mine inholding to the public.

Boaters will now be able to stop and enjoy the shaded shoreline, experience the property's mining history, and hike to the rock outcroppings overlooking the Salmon River. **Removing the threat of mining, eliminating a home site and cleaning up the remnants of long abandoned mining activity on the banks of the Salmon River protects a pristine Wild and Scenic River and the wilderness experience of the thousands who are lucky enough to float its waters each year.**



THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

BEGINNING NET ASSETS \$ 1,811,781

OPERATING INCOME

Contributions	\$ 308,954
Operating Grants	\$ 174,428
Land Sales	\$ 34,490
Other Income	\$ 22,805
Cash from donated land sale*	\$ 190,000
Total	\$ 730,677

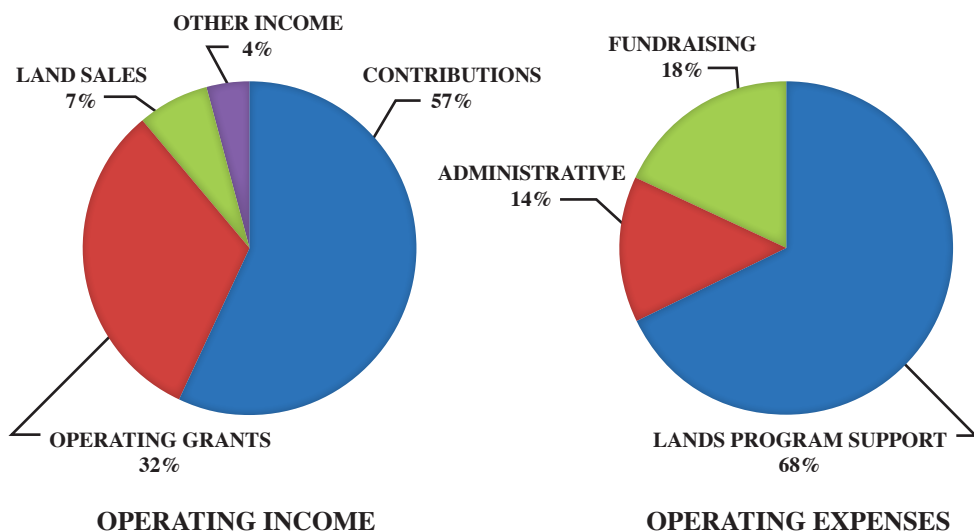
OPERATING EXPENSES

Lands Program Support	\$ 481,161
Administrative	\$ 101,756
Fundraising	\$ 124,848
Total	\$ 707,765

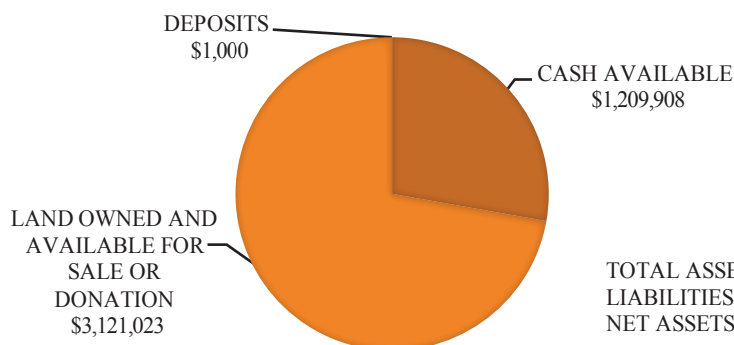
ENDING NET ASSETS \$ 1,644,694

* Included in this year's cash received is \$190,000 planned for and received from the sale to the US of lands donated to the Trust in the prior year, where it was booked as income.

The Wilderness Opportunity Fund (WOF) is our source for land acquisition funds. This fiscal year, we invested \$164,000 in new land acquisition. The chart to the right shows how all of the donations, grants and loans in the WOF are currently allocated. **Thank you to our generous lenders and donors!**



THE WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY FUND ASSETS RESTRICTED TO LAND ACQUISITION



TOTAL ASSETS: \$4,331,931
LIABILITIES (LOANS): \$3,266,171
NET ASSETS: \$1,065,760

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Cover photo: A WLT project in the Sabinoso Wilderness, New Mexico

WLT Staff and Board Members, US Forest Service Staff and Selway Bitterroot Foundation Staff and Volunteers offloading junk from the Painter Mine cleanup, July 2015.





Dear Friends,

Purchase of just one private parcel of land can complete and secure an entire wilderness area.

And, one private parcel can put it all at risk.

This year, our members made 1.4 million acres of designated wilderness more secure. The Trust removed or prevented wilderness mines, cabins, roads and home sites across six states in ten wilderness areas.

As an example, for more than 100 years, generations have prospected for silver and lead on the Olympic Lode in Washington's Glacier Peak Wilderness. The most recent owners were three families who continued to pack in mule trains with the hopes of striking it rich. With fond memories of climbing up to Mix Up and Cascade Peaks to search for their fortune, the time came for the families to sell and permanent protection as wilderness was an ideal outcome. **One landowner fondly remarked that "the land is now where it belongs" - part of the Wilderness - Forever.**

In Idaho, we transferred a small 13 acre mine to the US Forest Service. This project **completes the Idaho side of the Hells Canyon Wilderness**, saving unbroken vistas of the Seven Devils Mountains, and protecting the Seven Devils Loop trail and a critical wildlife crossing. This work opened the door for our first acquisition over the state line in Oregon, a major milestone for the Trust. The bi-state Wilderness now has only three remaining private inholdings, down from five a few short months ago.

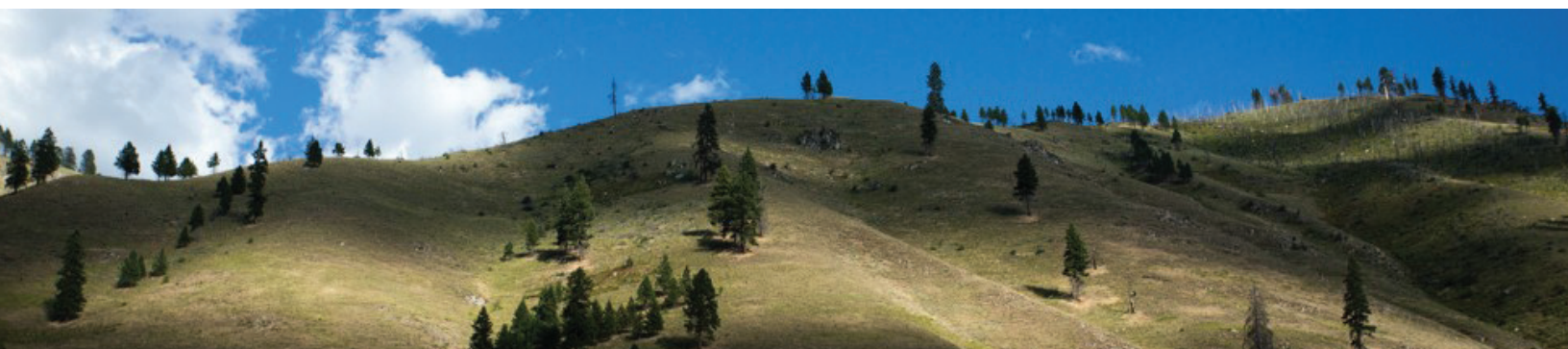
These successes were years in the making. The average length of time between our first contact with landowners and their reaching a decision to sell is 6.8 years. Our longest conversation lasted more than two decades. Sometimes we meet owners just at the right point and, a few months later, we own that inholding. **Membership support means we are there, ready to purchase when it's time for owners to sell.** Tenacity is something we're proud of – tenaciously working to acquire land – then tenaciously working to transfer it to the United States for permanent protection – two deals each time.

Our 2014-2015 year was one of tenacious success. The enclosed Annual Report highlights this year's new projects. We also continued to work on parcels we own and will soon transfer to the US for permanent protection, including 1,257 acres adjacent to Northern California's Castle Crags Wilderness and 40 acres adjacent to Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness in California, both of which provide increased access to hiking, climbing and hunting. Likewise, we worked on the last private inholding in Colorado's Mount Massive Wilderness; the one parcel left to complete that wilderness area for all – and for future generations.

Enjoy learning about our work this last year and please contact us if we can answer any questions.

Jean Hocker, Board Chair

Reid Haughey, President



Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Contributors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY FUND

A capital investment bridge fund for wilderness land acquisitions. The fund includes donations, grants and loans – including project specific funds and revolving funds.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
David and Lyn Anderson
Jabe Blumenthal
Tom Campion
Catto Charitable Foundation
Karen Fisher and Sam Roberts
Gladys and Roland Harriman
Foundation
John Hiatt
Vicky Hoover
Karen Ferrell-Ingram and Steve Ingram
Shaaron Netherton
Estate of Murrough O'Brien
The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
Lynn Ryan
George Sardina
Jean Schuyler
The Wyss Foundation
Doug Walker
Paul Torrence

SENTINEL FUND

The Society includes those who give at least \$1,000 a year to advance our work of securing and completing wilderness.

+ Sentinel Society Member

Operating Grants

The Moniker Foundation
Maki Foundation
The Wyss Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

Corporate Gifts

Deckers Outdoor Corporation / Ahnu
Footwear
Ahnu Footwear / Plus 3 Foundation
Shell Oil Matching Gifts Program
TeamEstrogen.com
Amazon Smile

Sentinel Society Lead Gift \$100,000+
Anonymous +

Sentinel Society \$10,000-\$50,000

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Doug Walker +

Sentinel Society \$5,000 to \$9,999

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