



The Wilderness Land Trust

Annual Report 2015-2016



From The Board Chair and The President

The work of transforming private inholdings into public Wilderness demands that we tackle projects both big and small, when measured in acres or dollars. But they are all big when measured in wilderness values!

This year, we proudly celebrate the completion of two big complex projects, as well as many smaller and simpler, but no less important accomplishments for securing wilderness.

After acquiring the 38-acre Painter Mine property in the **Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness** (the largest wilderness complex in the lower 48) in 2014, we have now completed its extensive mine remediation and property clean-up, as well as arranging for the home on the property to be recycled elsewhere. It can now be added to this iconic wilderness – no longer a tear in the wildlands fabric – no longer a disruption to habitat or a threat to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River or a jarring intrusion for visitors from across the world who use the wilderness each year.

In California, we are ready to transfer 1,257 acres of formerly private timberland adjacent to the **Castle Crags Wilderness**. Visitors who come for hiking, back country skiing and world-class climbing will now be able to walk from Interstate 5 to the heart of this wilderness in hours, rather than taking a full day to circle the perimeter to access the Crags.

Painter Mine and Castle Crags are examples of big and complex “marquee projects.” But no less important are our smaller undertakings that secure wilderness trails, habitat and other resources.

For example, we worked very hard this year to add a ten-acre private parcel (known as the **Roscoe Conklin Lode**) in southern Colorado to the **Uncompahgre Wilderness** that surrounds it. The owner described how his father-in-law had worked this goldmine in the 1930’s, sending his kids out to work it in the summer to keep them out of trouble. He then thanked us “for rescuing the mine,” grateful that it will be part of wilderness, rather than owned by a future buyer who would try to mine it again ruining it and the surrounding land. It’s a small parcel, but it took over two years to do all the work needed to complete the project.

We are equally proud of the 144 acres in the **Cedar Roughs Wilderness** of California that created trail access -- and the 40 acres in Nevada that now prevents road trespass into the **South McCullough Wilderness**. They may not be our largest, most complex transactions, but they are all big conservation achievements!

Our ability to do this work depends heavily on our dedicated donors and partners who share our passion for wild places. You are essential in building a strong financial foundation for our work. We hope this annual report gives you a good sense of how that support helps us achieve our mission to “Keep the Promise of Wilderness”. And we hope you take pride in knowing **you are a big part of every success**. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Reid Haughey,
President



Jean Hocker,
Board Chair



The Roscoe Conklin Lode in the Uncompahgre Wilderness is now protected from mining and other development.

Cover photo: This year for the first time, the Trust extends its wilderness protection work to Alaska with a project above Windham Bay, Chuck River Wilderness Area.

“I consider this a high-value parcel from a wilderness perspective. It would help consolidate in the public domain additional acreage for the Chuck River Wilderness, including cedar forest and historic mining relics.”

-Kevin Hood, the Wilderness Program Manager for the Tongass National Forest

Survey Results

*What is your favorite Wilderness Area? Complete the survey enclosed to share your favorite! Survey results so far show the **Bob Marshall Wilderness Area**, Montana as the most popular. The most often noted wilderness value: Knowing that future generations will have Wilderness Areas.*

What's Yours?

Coming Soon: Easy Public Access to Castle Crag

Driving I-5 in Northern California, into the Shasta-Trinity National Forest through trees as far as the eye can see, suddenly dramatic towering rock formations beckon. These are the Castle Crag. Majestic spires seem close enough to touch, but actually require a very steep all day hike to reach.

Now, after four years of work you supported, the Trust is excited to announce that a large part of the Crag now directly connect to a nearby public road. Improved public access will now be made easy with the Trust's addition of 1,256 acres of once private timberland to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Soon, you, hikers and rock-climbers will be able to stop, stretch and easily visit this newly protected part of the Crag. Go for a walk, picnic, backpack or climb. Waterfalls flow off the Crag into Little Castle Creek, now protected from future logging impacts. Salmon can run and bald eagles, Pacific fishers and bears can safely occupy the forest.



Celebrating improved access to Castle Crag with area Forest Service managers.

We celebrate with you, success in adding access and ecological value to the Castle Crag Wilderness.

“The (Castle Crag) acquisition is a great example of a large-scale win-win for conservation, cultural resources, and recreation, including access to incredible wilderness climbing. We are delighted to play a supporting role in assisting the Trust.”

- Joe Sambataro, Access Director for the Access Fund

“This land is very sacred to our people; our ancestors once died in battle in this place to protect the land. Members of our Tribe return to this land to gather medicine and seek spiritual healing and guidance.”

- Wade A. McMaster, Tribal Chairman, Wintu Tribe of Northern California/Toyon Wintu Center.

“Wilderness values are an essential aspect of our economic development. Outdoor recreation translates directly to jobs and dollars spent in our communities,”

- Kathy Morter, Member, Mt. Shasta City Council.

Together with people like YOU, here's what we did last year for Wilderness:

Made **10 Wilderness Areas** in **8 states** secure from threats of development

Purchased **4,712 acres** in **4 states** to return to Wilderness

Turned **5 private properties** over to public Wilderness Areas in **5 states**

With conservation results that include:

The **largest concentration of amphibians** in northern New Mexico now protected

Solitude along a **Wild and Scenic River** preserved

Access to a public Wilderness Area never before accessible to the public



Wilderness Land Trust donors and partners helped protect this scenic vista in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, Washington from the scars and erosion of road cuts along with commercial, residential and industrial development.

Here's what we are working on this year:



The Wilderness Land Trust's Windham Bay project protects clean water resources for a fragile ecosystem teeming with wildlife.

Pursue the purchase of **33 Wilderness inholdings and edgeholdings** that threaten the adjacent Wilderness in **9 western states**

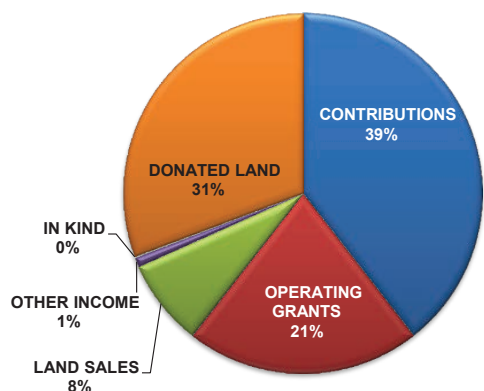
Return the only developed inholding in Wild Basin, Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness, Colorado to Wilderness

Prevent mining, logging and roads at Windham Bay, Chuck River Wilderness, Alaska

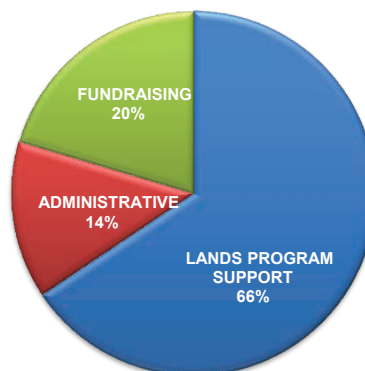
Help SECURE **26 Wilderness Areas** from threats of development

Check out the charts—the big blue pie pieces show your support and where it went! **The Trust leveraged your gifts of \$583,090 to purchase \$3,494,333 of land to add to Wilderness Areas.** Your support provided places for salmon to spawn, kids to cannonball into Wild and Scenic Rivers, and water that will remain for wildlife (not livestock), feeding the desert. Blue equals your legacy. Thanks!!

Operating Income



Operating Expenses



FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Beginning Net Assets \$ 1,644,694

Operating Income (Sentinel Fund)

Contributions	\$ 380,090
Operating Grants	\$ 203,000
Land Sales	\$ 75,093
Other Income	\$ 8,204
In Kind	\$ 853
Donated Land	\$ 296,100
Total	\$ 963,340

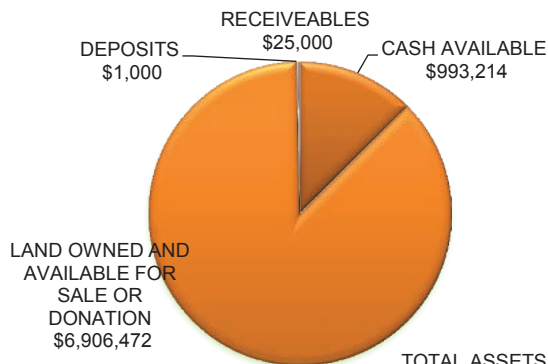
Operating Expenses

Lands Program Support	\$ 511,127
Administrative	\$ 109,235
Fundraising	\$ 158,853
Total	\$ 779,215

Ending Net Assets \$ 1,827,262

THE WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY FUND

ASSETS RESTRICTED TO LAND ACQUISITION



TOTAL ASSETS: \$7,925,686
LIABILITIES: \$6,479,518
NET ASSETS: \$1,446,168

A third generation of kids get ready for a trek into the Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness, California from Redwood Adventure Camp. The Trust protected this property on the Eel River for juvenile humans, salmon and steelhead trout.



Your Support Helps The Trust

- Choose projects with the highest Wilderness values
- Purchase private property within or adjacent to Wilderness Areas
- Remove threats of development in Wilderness Areas and
- Return the land to Wilderness



Thanks to YOU!

For 24 years, the Wilderness Land Trust has been focused on one thing - make Wilderness Areas complete and secure. With sincere gratitude, we thank each and every one of you for your support of our mission.

Gifts received last fiscal year, July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Donor Honor Roll

Sentinel Fund

The Sentinel Fund advances The Trust's critical lands work. From identifying high priority inholdings and edgeholdings to obtaining and transferring these lands to public ownership and Wilderness protection, this is how WLT meets its mission.

Sentinel Society Members

Sentinel Society Members provide support essential to ongoing Wilderness lands projects by generously contributing \$1,000 or more annually.

Sentinel Society Patron

(\$10,000+)
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Anonymous
Anonymous
craigslist Charitable Fund
Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth
Edward L. and Linda R. Golding

Sentinel Society Partner

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Dr. George Sardina

Sentinel Society Member

(\$1000 - \$4999)
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Wilderness Patron

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Vawter "Buck" Parker
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(\$100 - \$249)
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Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Story Clark and Bill Resor
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Kevin McClelland
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Diane L. Sipe
Stephen and Sandy Stay
Steve Stein

Elizabeth Stephens
Glenda Torrence
Joel G. and Barbara J. Vignere
Jim and Stephanie Wernitz
Pamela Yurasek

Gifts Up to \$49

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Anonymous
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Michelle Eaton
Neil W. Elliott
David and Patty Epstein
Barbara J. Ferges
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Doug and Peggy Graybeal
David Hansen
Wayne and Judi Harris
Charles Haseltine
Stanley Hecht
Jacquelyn Kasabach
Joan Klose
David A. Langebartel
Steven and Linda Galipeau
David N. Mastronarde
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Rachel E. Richards
Aimee Rutledge
Erich Franz Schimps
Douglas W. Scott
Rosalinda Shearwood
Jon Sirkis
Carlyle Stem
Edward M. Sullivan
Linda Weathers
Margaret Weesner
Lornie White

Grants

The Trust partners with grantors specializing in wilderness lands projects. We are very grateful for the essential resources they provide as well as their guidance and counsel.

Anonymous
The Cinnabar Foundation
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

Wilderness Opportunity Fund

Wilderness Opportunity Fund Donors invest in The Trust's revolving capital fund for wilderness land acquisitions. The fund includes donations, grants and loans – including project specific funds and revolving funds.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Warren Malcolm and Sharon Raven Clark
John E. Hiatt
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

We appreciate the opportunity to recognize every donor. The Donor Honor Roll above includes gifts received during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. If you find an error or omission please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records.

Donations and Grants Specific to Rimrock Rose Ranch

*Many donors listed above made it possible for The Trust to obtain Rimrock Rose Ranch in New Mexico. Rimrock Rose will secure the Sabinoso Wilderness and make it accessible to the public for the first time ever. The following donors recently stepped up to help finish the work of preparing the ranch for donation to the Sabinoso. * denotes Sentinel Society Members*

Anonymous*
David Bonderman*
George Bren
Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth*
Karen Fisher and Sam Roberts*
Martin B. Hoffmann and Penn P. Richmann
Raymond William Hohenberger*
Scott Jonas*
Peter Loomam
Barbara Roastingear and Henry Oliver, III*
William T. Pope*
Audrey C. Rust
Dr. George Sardina*
Carol Wood and John H. Stansfield
Carlyle Stem
Bryan L. Wyberg

Gifts in Memory of Thomas Pfeifle

Thomas Craig Pfeifle was an avid young outdoorsman dedicated to the exploration and conservation of America's wild spaces. He took every chance he could to hike, run, ski, climb and camp, believing time spent in nature was key to living life to its fullest. In his will, Tom named his choice of charity to be one "dedicated to the unflinching support of American wilderness west of the Missouri." The Wilderness Land Trust is honored to be a recipient of Gifts in Memory of Thomas Pfeifle.

Marian and Craig Alexander
Judy and Fordyce Anderson
Jeffrey and Cynthia Bailie
Vicki and Douglas Bailie
Tamara U. Baker
Cindy and David Bakke
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Terry C. and David N. Whiting
Kay and Murray Widdis
Anne B and Brian K Williams
Paul Robert Winter
James L Wipf
Jeanne S. and Richard O. Wold

Our Partners Rock!



New Mexico Wilderness Alliance volunteers remove cattle fences to help open up public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness.

Partners:

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
US Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
National Park Trust
Access Fund
Land Trust of Napa County
Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
Redwood Adventure Camp
University of New Mexico Archaeology

*"Partners help us reach the next handhold, like better access to world-class rock climbing at Castle Crag, and lift more, like 3,000 pounds of junk removed from the Frank Church, to protect Wilderness."
- Aimee Rutledge, Vice President and California Program Manager, Wilderness Land Trust*



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Retiring Board Member

The board and staff will miss **Dr. Paul Torrence** who recently retired from the WLT Board of Directors. Paul's unshakable love of wild places and wild creatures has inspired us and will continue to guide us in our labors to Keep Wilderness Wild.

In a recent interview Paul shared some accomplishments from his time on the Board.

"Small projects can make the biggest difference! I am most proud of a Mendocino National Forest one-square-mile project. It was a former ranch with a 15-mile road that went through and left a scar on the Wilderness. This project eliminated the road and the damage it caused the surrounding Wilderness.

Of course, the Sabinoso Wilderness (Rimrock Rose Ranch, New Mexico) is a premier acquisition and a crown jewel accomplishment. In the Sierra's, The Trust's Sacatar Trail/Domeland Wilderness Area (California) connected two wilderness areas together. This is very vital work, getting these inholdings placed into Wilderness. So much has been done, and there is so much left to do."



For the full interview and to read Paul's Wilderness Land Trust article published in the **International Journal of Wilderness** go to <https://wildernesslandtrust.org/annualreport.html>.