

THE WILDERNESS
LAND TRUST

SPRING 2022 NEWS

2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
DREAMS COME
TRUE

3 SNAPSHOT
OF RECENT
SUCCESSES

5 CONVERSATIONS
WITH TWO
SUPPORTERS

SPECIAL INSERT

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS



MISSION

We Keep the Promise of Wilderness – by acquiring and transferring private lands to public ownership to complete designated and proposed wilderness areas, or directly protect wilderness values.

VALUES

We revere our remaining wild places, a legacy to pass on to future generations, the tenacity to work until the job is done and treating everyone with fairness.

VISION

We envision a National Wilderness Preservation System that is complete, secure and accessible.

On the cover: Alpine sunflowers, also called “Old Man of the Mountains” in the Mount Massive Wilderness in Colorado. John Fielder photo.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy 30th birthday. Close your eyes and make a wish.

If you dream of landscapes where wildlife are free to roam, rivers and streams run cold and clear, and the opportunity for solitude amongst breathtaking beauty abounds, **The Wilderness Land Trust can help make those dreams come true.**

It's been three decades since Jon Mulford, a young attorney working in Aspen, Colorado realized that private inholdings were creating significant management challenges for the government agencies who oversee federally designated wilderness.

Gaping holes in the heart of a wild place with legal access for commercial, residential or industrial development demanded an urgent need to create an organization that could move quickly to stave off this threat to the land.

Thus, The Wilderness Land Trust was born.

Smart, creative and designed to be nimble, the Trust quickly established itself as the go-to organization that didn't shy away from taking on a challenge, with **the grit and perseverance to get the job done.**

As word spread throughout federal agencies and requests for help poured in from across the American West, that tenacity helped guide the Trust through its second, and now third, decade as our projects stretched from Alaska to Arizona.

The impact you are having stretches well beyond the project numbers.

Today, I look upon our current project list with pride for **the work that we have completed together.** With 55,200 acres permanently protected and 523 parcels of formerly private land now under public ownership, the impact you are having stretches well beyond these project numbers.

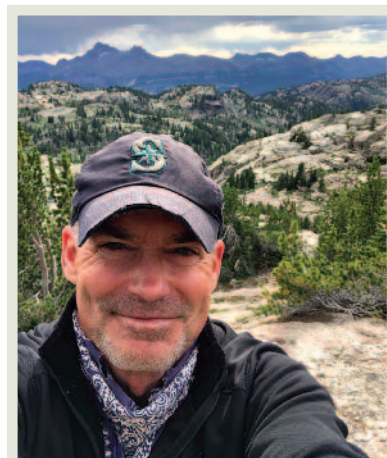
Add up all the wilderness areas where the Trust has successfully removed an existing threat of development and our projects have positively impacted more than 17 million acres – meaningful work as part of a larger national and global conservation strategy.

Again, happy birthday to The Wilderness Land Trust and all that has been accomplished over the last 30 years thanks to you – our generous donors, project partners, land management agencies, and landowners – who believe in protecting our cherished wild places for future generations.

Enjoy the evidence of this good work in the pages ahead, and I hope you take a moment to pause, reflect, and celebrate while continuing to dream big about all that we will accomplish together during the next three decades.

With gratitude for your generous support,

Brad Borst, President



John Dittli; Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership

A SNAPSHOT OF RECENT SUCCESSES

THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST is dedicated to acquiring private land within and adjacent to designated wilderness and transferring it to public ownership to be incorporated into the surrounding wilderness. Each land purchase represents the removal of mining or development threats and provides another step toward climate resilience through the protection of connected landscapes, wilderness and wildlife corridors. Successes over the past seven months include:

FRANK CHURCH – RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS, IDAHO

The Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness is the largest contiguous wilderness area in the lower 48 states. The Trust acquired the 38-acre Surprise Lode property just above the Main Salmon River. This land provides needed habitat for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, grey wolves, lynx, black bears, and wolverines. The rivers and tributaries of this wilderness area are critically important for the long-term survival of native westslope cutthroat trout, endangered sockeye and chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.

HENRY M. JACKSON WILDERNESS, WASHINGTON

Straddling more than 30 miles of the north Cascade Mountains, this wilderness boasts deep glacial valleys

surrounded by rugged ridgelines, sharp spires, and imposing rock towers. Silver Creek, which flows out of the Henry M. Jackson, provides critical water flow for salmon that spawn in the connected North Fork Skykomish River. The Trust acquired a 39-acre parcel, marking the eighth acquisition within the creek drainage. These projects will permanently protect vital fish habitat.

FOSSIL RIDGE WILDERNESS, COLORADO

The Fossil Ridge Wilderness is more than 32,000 acres of raw granite, high mountain lakes and glacier carved valleys. The Trust acquired a 183-acre mining property along a steep ridge just below the summit of Cross Mountain. This land significantly supports wildlife habitat for deer, elk, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep.

BODIE HILLS, CALIFORNIA

This 880-acre property is located in California's Eastern Sierra, overlooking Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra on the south side of the Mt. Biedeman Wilderness Study Area. The Bodie Hills link the Sierra Nevada to the high desert plains and wetlands of the Great Basin in California and Nevada. The size and connectivity of these wild lands provide a high level of resilience in the face of climate change that allow flora and fauna, including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse, to thrive.

MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS, COLORADO

Colorado's fourth-largest wilderness boasts 100 miles of trail and nine passes above 12,000 feet. Six peaks rising above 14,000 feet attract mountaineers from across the globe. The Trust acquired the 10.33-acre Copper Glance Lode in the scenic Queen Basin. With the Trust's purchase of this parcel, Queen Basin is now free of the threat of development.

continued...

RECENT SUCCESSES, CONTINUED

HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS, COLORADO

The Holy Cross Wilderness is characterized by rugged ridgelines and glacier-carved valleys complete with spruce-fir forests, cascading streams, and dozens of lakes, providing excellent opportunities for day hiking and backpacking trips. The Trust acquired the 5-acre Little Anne Lode, eliminating the risk of building and mining. It also purchased the 10-acre Northern Lode property on the eastern side of the wilderness, and the Chance and Hercules Lodes, totaling 25 acres, located on the southwest side of the wilderness.

RAGGEDS WILDERNESS, COLORADO

Northwest of the Fossil Ridge Wilderness sits the 64,304-acre Raggeds Wilderness, where the Trust acquired a 10.33-acre mining property just outside the boundary of the designation, removing a significant threat of mining and development from the area.

PROPOSED LOST CREEK WILDERNESS, CALIFORNIA

The 35-acre Hat Creek property connects to the proposed Lost Creek Wilderness area in California that totals more than 20,000 acres. This stunning refuge hosts two trout streams – Hat Creek and Lost Creek.

We have eliminated the threat of private development so this land can continue to host deer, bear, elk, northern spotted owl, and many other species. This landscape is also part of the Klamath-Siskiyou wild area – 11 million acres of connected protected landscapes in northern California and southern Oregon, reaching from the Pacific Coast to the High Sierra, and including six designated wilderness areas that provide critical resilience in the face of climate change for many species, including wolves.

HOOVER WILDERNESS, CALIFORNIA

The Wilderness Land Trust has transferred a 49-acre mining claim in Lundy Canyon in the Eastern Sierra to the Inyo National Forest for permanent protection. This high priority property is part of the iconic view from a popular hiking trail into the upper entrance of Lundy Canyon. The Trust has now protected the property from private development to conserve Mill Creek, safeguard wildlife habitat, and ensure recreational access with protected views for the public. The Trust partnered with the Mono Lake Committee and Eastern Sierra Land Trust to raise both public awareness and the funds needed to purchase and transfer this property.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

We look forward to sharing more success stories with you. We are actively working in designated and proposed wilderness areas in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Keep up with our work by following our adventures on Facebook, Instagram, and at www.wildernesslandtrust.org.

Our e-news is also a great way to be the first to hear about our wilderness projects. If you aren't already signed up, email Lisa@wildernesslandtrust.org to be included. We promise to never sell or share your information with anyone.

**Thank you for your
unwavering support of
our work to protect our
wilderness landscapes!**

PROTECTING WILDERNESS AS A LEGACY GIFT

Thanks to you, The Wilderness Land Trust has been at the forefront of protecting our nation's treasured wilderness areas for 30 years by removing the threat of private development within and adjacent to designation's boundaries.

One way to ensure this work continues is to support the mission of the Trust via a planned gift. Bequests are a relatively simple and powerful way you can support our work via your will, while allowing you to continue to use your

investments or property during your lifetime that you will eventually leave to the charity. Bequests are also flexible, easy to update, and offer the opportunity for an individual or family to reduce their estate taxes.

Speak with a knowledgeable, reputable financial advisor to get started today, and let us know if you've included us in your estate plan by contacting Brad Borst, President, at 206-397-5240 or brad@wildernesslandtrust.org

Thank you!

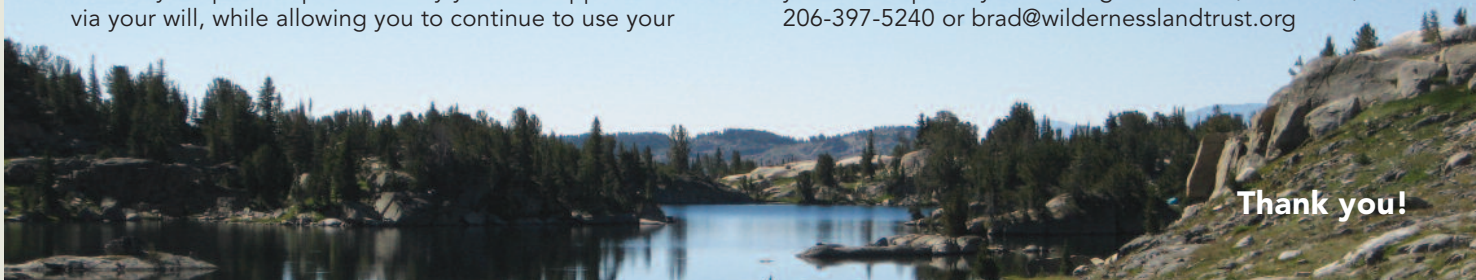
THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST

CELEBRATING



YEARS

1992-2022



THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST

was founded in 1992 with an ambitious, long-range mission: acquire unprotected private land within designated wilderness and return it to public ownership.

The organization embraced a set of values including a reverence for all wild places, a responsibility to pass on our country's wilderness legacy to future generations, a tireless work ethic and tenacity to get the job done, and a commitment to treating everyone with respect, professionalism, and fairness.



"Nationwide, private lands within wilderness areas totaled several hundred thousand acres."

—Jon Mulford, Wilderness Land Trust founder

Founder Jon Mulford felt it was important to establish a professional, business-like approach to working with landowners, federal land managers, elected officials, and project partners that would ensure the long-term success of the organization.

The Trust developed a system to inventory and prioritize wilderness inholdings, becoming the national standard to rank private inholdings for acquisition. **Joined by his wife Sharon**, Jon used this system to solely focus on obtaining private inholdings and transferring them to public ownership.

In 1994, two landowners approached Jon Mulford with a 1,320-acre parcel in the James Peak area, which encouraged designation of the James Peak Wilderness in 2002. "It's really fine what The Wilderness Land Trust does." —Giles Toll, landowner

1992

The Wilderness Land Trust's first acquisition was a 160-acre inholding within the **Indian Peaks Wilderness**. "It all started in Colorado."

1994

Transfer of the Toll property made the James Peak Wilderness possible

1995

That same year, the Trust made two firsts when it completed its first wilderness area and entered a new state by acquiring the last inholding in the **Rattlesnake Wilderness Area** in Montana.

Continuing to expand in 1995, the Trust purchased and transferred its first property in New Mexico. It's appropriate that this inholding was in the **Gila Wilderness**, the world's first protected wilderness area, administratively designated on June 3, 1924 and Congressionally designated as part of the original Wilderness Act in 1964.

People of the agricultural Mogollon culture made the Gila area home, as evidenced by this 800-year-old structure in the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, surrounded by the wilderness area.

AMBITION

1995 was a banner year for The Wilderness Land Trust as it expanded beyond Colorado to Arizona, California, Montana, and New Mexico. The first expansion was south to Arizona in September 1995 when the Trust purchased 21 parcels and transferred over 500 acres to the BLM in the **Swansea Wilderness**, all in one transaction.

The year of also saw the Trust expand into California, which contains half of the inholdings in the lower 48 states, and made its presence known in the **Matilija Wilderness** where it secured critical habitat for Condors.

California Condor

The Wilderness Land Trust moved north to Washington State in 1998 when it acquired two parcels in the **Glacier Peak Wilderness**.

As one of Jon Mulford's last negotiations, the Trust acquired 638 acres within one mile of the Pacific Crest Trail in a popular recreation area of the **Trinity Alps Wilderness**, one of California's largest, containing 550 miles of maintained trails and 17 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

1998

2000

2002

In 2002, Jon Mulford stepped down as president and was replaced by **Reid Haughey**, based out of Colorado. Over the next 15 years, Reid continued this track record of excellence, building the Trust into a nationally recognized leader in acquiring private inholdings within designated wilderness, and helping to pave the way for proposed wilderness across the western United States.



"Wilderness needs humans in order to be wild now. I appreciate the Trust's relationship with public and private lands. The closer we are to nature, the better we are as humans."

—Joaquin Murrieta-Saldivar, board member

30 YEARS

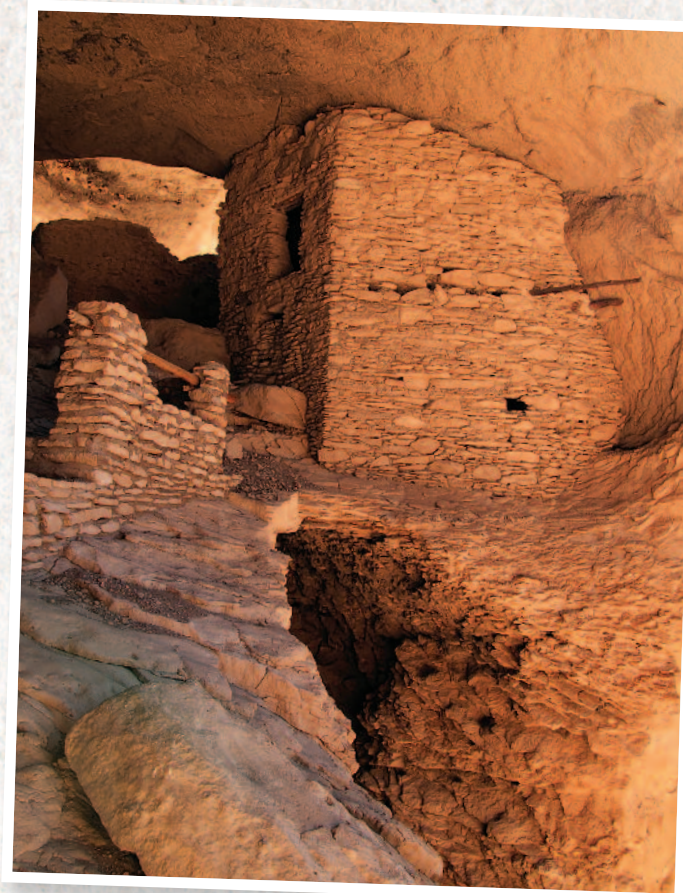
ADDED ACREAGE TO

114

DESIGNATED AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS



Wilderness Land Trust file photo



"The Wilderness Land Trust has piece by piece added to the long-term security not only of wilderness areas but also to the ecological security of the planet. And this is just a beginning for what the Trust can do."

-Thomas E. Lovejoy, speaking about the Trust's 20th anniversary

STRATEGY

The Wilderness Land Trust made an important policy decision in 2003 when it expanded its focus on inholdings to include proposed wilderness areas, a move urged by board member Doug Scott: "In addition to acquiring inholdings after wilderness boundaries are drawn, it's about resource conservation before they're drawn."

DEDICATION

Timing was everything with the acquisition of the Big Horn Mine and the Trust was able to acquire this gold mine just in time. The 277-acre inholding in California's **Sheep Mountain Wilderness** is situated at the headwaters of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River and is home to Nelson's Big Horn Sheep.

"Without the hard work and dedication of The Wilderness Land Trust and its partners this opportunity to enhance the Sheep Mountain Wilderness would not be possible."
-Jody Noiron, Forest Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest

Nelson's Big Horn Sheep, at home in California's Sheep Mountain Wilderness



30 YEARS
TRANSFERRED
457
PARCELS TO PUBLIC LANDS



Saguaro in Hells Canyon Wilderness

David Kirk

2008

PERSEVERANCE

For years, the BLM sought to purchase the largest inholding in Arizona's **Hells Canyon Wilderness** with no success. The Wilderness Land Trust was able to step in and acquire the 640-acre property, fulfilling the vision of not only the Trust's supporters, but also the late Arizona Senator Morris Udall who endorsed the wilderness area as an Arizona treasure.

Also acquired by the Trust in 2008, the 2,430-acre Sacatar Trail property expanded and connected the **Domeland and Sacatar Trail Wilderness Areas** in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and spared them from potential future development. BLM honored The Wilderness Land Trust with an award of special recognition. "The BLM continues to appreciate the vision and support provided by The Wilderness Land Trust to protect these important lands," said Tim Smith, BLM Bakersfield Field Manager.

CREATIVITY

Sometimes acquiring inholdings calls for creative solutions as was the case with this 2,450-acre inholding in California's **Death Valley Wilderness**. The owners of the mining company would only sell the land if they could sell the company too. And so The Wilderness Land Trust became the owners of a mining company, promptly issuing 500 shares of stock to the shareholders then disbanding the corporation. The land was then donated to the BLM which allowed the **Avawatz Mountains Wilderness Area** to be designated in 2011.

Avawatz Mountains Wilderness in California's Death Valley

Wilderness Land Trust file photo



2011

In late 2011, The Wilderness Land Trust ventured into Nevada when it purchased a parcel completing the **East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness Area**, a remote wild horse landscape in the northwest corner of the state.

2013

At the request of local wilderness groups, the Trust worked to consolidate private land in the then-proposed **Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness** in California. Our work paid off with the designation of the wilderness in 2010. This property is located next to the Eel River, a Wild and

Scenic River that provides critical habitat for the endangered steelhead trout and Chinook salmon and excellent whitewater rafting. With the acquisition and transfer of this property, the Trust opened up public access to the river and adjacent wilderness area.

2014

The 38-acre Painter Mine, located on the banks of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, added valued riverfront acres to the **Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness** in Idaho and provided more public land for recreational boaters to explore as part of their adventures on the Salmon. "We're happy to see the land return to public ownership for the enjoyment of all."
-Mike Wilson, landowner

By cleaning up 3,000 pounds of trash and removing a cabin over three days with 14 volunteers, the Trust, with the partnership of the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and the US Forest Service, restored the old Painter Mine and added 38 acres of riverfront to the banks of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River.

David Kirk



"The Wilderness Land Trust has developed a reputation for being impartial, for having no ax to grind. We are someone landowners can trust."

-Andy Wiessner, board member

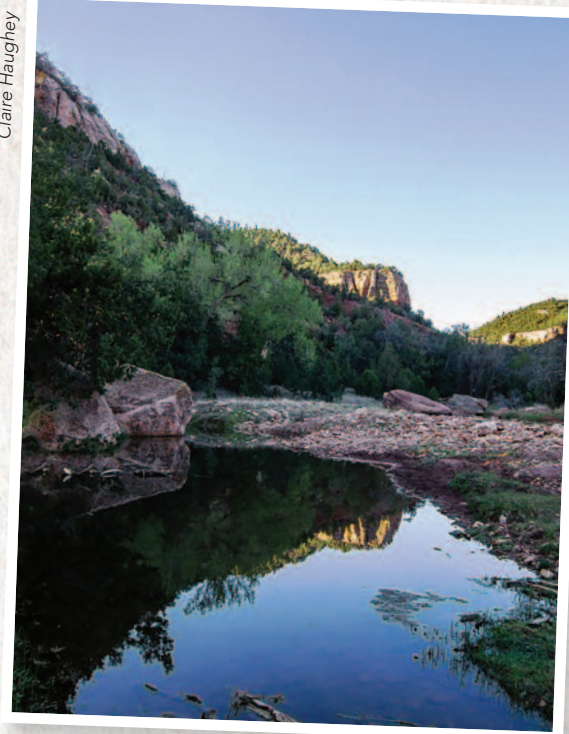
COLLABORATION

The **Sabinoso Wilderness** in New Mexico was the only wilderness area in the nation at the time that lacked any public access. The Wilderness Land Trust worked to change that, and in 2015, with the help of a grant from the Wyss Foundation, acquired the Rimrock Rose Ranch. This 3,595-acre property connected the wilderness area to a public road, thereby opening up the Sabinoso Wilderness to the public.

"Through this collaborative effort... we will safeguard this special landscape for our children and all future generations."

—U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)

2015



The 3,595-acre Rimrock Rose Ranch acquisition opened up the Sabinoso Wilderness to the public.

2016

In an effort to protect the critical habitat found in the Trout Creek watershed in the **Santa Lucia and Garcia Wilderness Areas** of California, The Wilderness Land Trust sought to remove all private lands along Trout Creek. The Trust acquired four properties in the span of five years totalling 951.5 acres within a watershed that supports everything from the federally threatened red-legged frog to the highly imperiled California spotted owl.

Four acquisitions in the Trout Creek watershed protect critical habitat for the imperiled California Spotted Owl.



2017

The Windham Bay property was the largest remaining private inholding in the **Chuck River Wilderness** and The Wilderness Land Trust's first project in Alaska. This 154-acre property is located in the Inside Passage across from Admiralty Island National Monument. Today, with its banks loaded with blueberries and waters full of salmon, it is a fecund home of the Alaska brown bear.

In 2017, President Reid Haughey handed the baton to **Brad Borst**, currently based in Montana. Only the third president in more than a quarter century, Brad is dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the Trust, and insuring the organization remains one of the most respected and successful land trusts in the West.



Chrissy Post



Windham Bay in Alaska's Chuck River Wilderness

PERSISTENCE

In the late 1990s, The Wilderness Land Trust founder Jon Mulford established a relationship between the Trust and a company that owned a 345-acre mining property in the **Wild Sky Wilderness** of Washington state. In early 2000, board member Bill Pope picked up the torch and continued the Trust's connection with the landowners.

In 2018, the Trust finally acquired the Evergreen property. This critical land will continue to provide clean water for spawning salmon, old growth Douglas Fir and western Hemlock, and the abundance of wildlife that call this area home.

2018

The Trust purchased a 60-acre mining claim adjacent to the Little Chetco River, the last remaining private inholding within the 180,000-acre **Kalmiopsis Wilderness**. This southwest Oregon wilderness contains the headwaters of three national wild and scenic rivers – the Chetco, North Fork Smith, and Illinois – clean, clear waters that provide critical habitat for salmon and steelhead.

30 YEARS

COMPLETED

17

DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS



Steven Fey

Above, the endangered Castle Crag harebell

Left, the Wild Sky Wilderness: critical land providing clean water for spawning salmon, old growth Douglas Fir, and an abundance of wildlife.

TENACITY

After 10 years of effort, The Wilderness Land Trust transferred the last remaining parcel of private land in Colorado's **Mount Massive Wilderness** to public ownership. This 20-acre parcel sits below the beautiful and accessible Blue Lake and runs across the popular North Fork Lake Creek trail. A fitting way to celebrate 30 years!

2022



Protection of headwaters in Oregon's Kalmiopsis Wilderness provides critical habitat for steelhead.



Steve Matson

"The impacts of even small parcels of land are enormous given the impacts they can have for miles around on wildlife, vegetation and biological diversity of wilderness, the things we are trying to preserve."

-Paul Torrence, board member

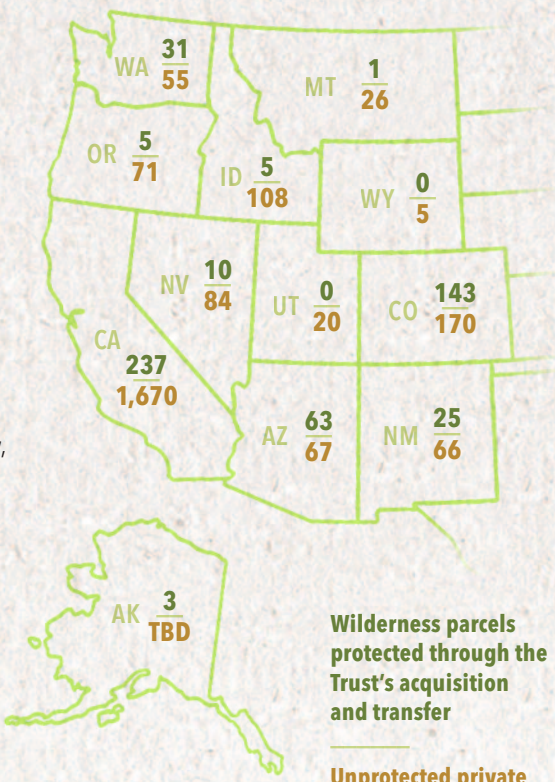


Zack Porter

This map shows numbers of private land parcels inside federally designated wilderness acquired by the Trust over the past 30 years, along with remaining unprotected private inholdings.

The Trust has also acquired tens of thousands of acres in proposed wilderness to encourage future designation by Congress, as well as lands directly adjacent to wilderness, to enhance biodiversity, provide resilience in the face of climate change, and strengthen connectivity to surrounding protected landscapes.

The Wilderness Land Trust has also worked on acquisitions and consulted with local and regional partners in Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Wisconsin.



Wilderness parcels protected through the Trust's acquisition and transfer

Unprotected private inholdings remaining

THE NEXT 30 YEARS

The Wilderness Land Trust looks upon all the projects we have completed with pride and humility, grateful for the opportunity to partner with you to make a meaningful difference.

Together, let's do even more.

In concert with our 30th anniversary, the Trust is undergoing a strategic planning process to guide the organization over the coming decade and beyond, creating a blueprint to protect more wilderness, conserve more wildlife habitat, and save more of the invaluable biodiversity of our wild planet for future generations.

Your continued investment in our work sets the stage for the next chapter in our history of accomplishments. Thank you for your generosity.



wildernesslandtrust.org

PASSIONATE ABOUT CALIFORNIA

A conversation with Dr. George Sardina

Dr. George Sardina is extremely passionate about wilderness and the effect it has on himself and others. "I've traveled quite a bit in my lifetime, and there are many places in this country where I have witnessed the miracles of wilderness," says Dr. Sardina about his outdoor adventures. "The more wilderness that is available to people, the more opportunities there are to spread the love for our natural world."

Dr. Sardina is a retired physician who grew up in an orphanage on a ranch in upstate New York where he fell in love with animal care and nature. After completing medical school, he left the East Coast for California where he was instantly drawn to its rugged central coast, towering redwood trees, majestic mountains, and desert landscapes. At 85 years old he is still proud to call California his home.

"I've always been interested in protecting California, it's an amazing place with incredible plant and animal diversity. We are lucky to have all of this nature so close to us," adds Dr. Sardina. "California is full of people but it is a large state. It's important we protect what we have to preserve what makes it unique."

Dr. Sardina shares the concerns of so many other wilderness enthusiasts about climate resilience and protecting our natural spaces.

"Mankind has done a lot of damage that has put our wilderness areas in danger," he explains. "And nature has a way of letting us know when something isn't right. The increase in wildfires has made us all aware of our deficiencies."

When Dr. Sardina learned about The Wilderness Land Trust, he says he realized that, although small, the Trust was taking big steps to protect wilderness and build climate resilience that is so desperately needed for the health and well-being of nature and all of its inhabitants. In 2017, he accompanied staff members from the Trust on a visit to the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico, and says he was thrilled to learn that the Trust's purchase of Rimrock Rose Ranch in 2016 resulted in access to the wilderness for the first time since its designation.

"Awareness grows from experiencing the great outdoors and then bringing stories and pictures back to people who have yet to experience the landscapes that need their protection," says Dr. Sardina. "The Trust not only protects these landscapes,

they provide stories and information about important landscapes that many people didn't even know existed."

And his hope for the future of wilderness? "A lot can still be done. There are so many great places where people can have a brush with wilderness and learn about its importance. I hope that we can introduce more people to our natural environment, show them how wonderful it is and how important it is to protect it."

Dr. Sardina hopes, along with the rest of us, that everyone can become smitten by nature.



"Awareness grows from experiencing the great outdoors and then bringing stories and pictures back to people who have yet to experience the landscapes that need their protection."

Reid Haughey

GIVING BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS

A conversation with artist Katherine Case

Katherine Case's love of wilderness can be traced back to a little cabin built by her grandfather in 1933 in northern Wisconsin. "That's where I grew up," says Katherine. "I spent every summer there as a kid, canoeing and exploring." The fact that there was no electricity or running water didn't seem to bother her. On the contrary, she says her summers on the lake fueled her passion for spending time in, and eventually giving back to, wilderness.

Katherine left the Midwest 24 years ago and moved to the West Coast, where she was immediately drawn to the Sierra Nevada mountains. An avid backpacker and camper, Katherine was amazed to be living so close to the

"I wanted to invest directly into helping the Sierra combat climate change and chose the Trust to help me with this."

mountains that she could hike up into them whenever she wanted and says she and her husband routinely drove to the trailheads on the east side to explore the high Sierra.

Katherine's work as a poet and printmaker is deeply inspired by her introduction to the diverse and abundant landscapes and wildlife found throughout the Sierra. "After living in the bay area for 13 years, my husband and I moved to Reno, Nevada. As we pulled into our driveway on our first day in Reno, two red tailed hawks flew over the house," says Katherine. "The house was next to a sagebrush ravine and I realized that Reno was a bird mecca. There were so many species."



Katherine's work can be found at www.etsy.com/shop/MeridianPress

Inspired by her surroundings, Katherine founded Meridian Press, a print company that reflects her love of wilderness in linoleum-cut prints, greeting cards, poetry and books. For Katherine, Meridian Press gave her the opportunity to give back to the mountains that provide so much joy to her and her family.

"After a few years at Meridian, I decided I needed to start giving back to Sierra Nevada. I did some reading about the importance of climate resilience. Wildlife corridors can give species the flexibility to move around when their environment gets too hot. I did some research and found The Wilderness Land Trust. I wanted to invest directly into helping the Sierra combat climate change and chose the Trust to help me with this." Katherine's business gives a percentage of net profits to the Trust to purchase and protect land that is critical for the protection of climate resilient landscapes and wildlife corridors.

Katherine and family in Castle Crags Wilderness



Katherine Case

Katherine and her husband have children now, and her relationship with the Sierra has shifted from hiking to camping. And perhaps influenced by her summers on a Wisconsin lake, she is providing memorable wilderness experiences for her children. "Every August we camp in the Sierra at a lake for a week or so. My kids have been there nearly every summer since they were born," says Katherine. "It's such a great experience to go back to the same lake every year and create new memories."

Last year, wildfires came within five miles of that lake. Katherine also recalls fishers being asked to bring a thermometer with them when they fished the lake because the fish became distressed if the water hits 60 degrees.

"This is why we need to emphasize wilderness corridors," says Katherine. "There are corridors that can reach from the California Coast to the north Sierra. The more acreage that is added to wilderness, the higher the chances that wildlife species can move to an unburned area."

Katherine says she will continue to promote the Trust's work on her website and at art shows. "The people I talk to are always impressed when I tell them The Wilderness Land Trust is creating more wilderness to protect climate resilient landscapes and help mitigate climate change. It's a virtuous cycle. I spend a lot of time in the Sierra with my family, then I make art about the Sierra and turn some of the profit back to protecting the Sierra."

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH A FOREST SERVICE PARTNER

Janine Prout could only laugh when asked what her favorite wilderness area might be. "I have so many," she admits. She is, however, quick to add the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon to her favorites. "My first wilderness experience was in the Eagle Cap. My dad took me backpacking there when I was young and I still visit family and spend time there."



Janine earned a degree in outdoor leadership and, after spending a year or two as a self-proclaimed "ski bum" she discovered she could put her passion for the outdoors to work with the United States Forest Service (USFS) in Colorado.

As a realty specialist, Janine works with organizations like The Wilderness Land Trust to purchase private lands within designated wilderness areas that then become public lands protected as part of the surrounding wilderness.

"The Trust is able to do the land, environmental, and title research that is needed before we can consider acquiring a property," says Janine. "We really couldn't engage in such a

long process to protect land without partnering with the Trust."

Last summer Janine accompanied Kelly Conde, lands specialist with The Wilderness Land Trust, on a hike to Blue Lake, a property the Trust transferred to public ownership in May. The day was spent scrambling up and down the steep property, looking for (and finding) property corners, and soaking in the views. "It was a great hike," say Janine, adding that she is grateful to visit properties that are being protected for public enjoyment.

The Trust acquired the 20-acre Blue Lake Property in the Mount Massive Wilderness of Colorado in 2012 and transferred it to the USFS for permanent protection in Spring 2022. As one of the longest held properties and last remaining inholding in the Mount Massive Wilderness, The Trust and its Forest Service partners held a celebration in March to mark its transfer – a very fitting success story to help kick off the Trust's 30th anniversary.

Janine Prout and daughter Kayden in Muddy Creek Wilderness, Utah



"We really couldn't engage in such a long process to protect land without partnering with the Trust."

Janine Prout



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SPRING 2022 NEWS

PLUS SPECIAL 30-YEAR INSERT



After 10 years of effort, The Wilderness Land Trust transferred the LAST remaining parcel of private land in Colorado's Mount Massive Wilderness to public ownership. This 20-acre parcel sits below the beautiful and accessible Blue Lake (pictured) and runs across the popular North Fork Lake Creek trail.

Thanks to your continued support, WLT has now permanently protected the 30,540 acres that make up the Mount Massive Wilderness from development. What a way to celebrate spring and 30 years of Keeping Wilderness Wild!

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