



THE WILDERNESS LAND TRUST
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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:
Heading home.
Teton Wilderness,
Wyoming.
Photo by Zack Porter

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

Thanks to you and your generous support of our work, our 2022 annual report includes a joyful celebration of accomplishments to add to the 30-year history of The Wilderness Land Trust.

This year we completed the purchase of 31 separate parcels totaling 1,361 acres within and adjacent to federally designated wilderness, as well as the transfer of more than 400 acres to public ownership for you and generations of your family to enjoy.

More than just transactions, they are places that each carry a story greater than the total of their acres. They tell of rugged, remote landscapes, of family histories entwined with the land, and of experiences that have nourished the souls and inspired the imaginations of people from all walks of life.

From Alaska's Kootznoowoo Wilderness, a "fortress of the bears" in the language of the native Tlingit Tribe, with one of the highest concentrations of brown bears in the world; to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho that is home to critical habitat for grey wolves, bighorn sheep, lynx and wolverines; to the Holy Cross Wilderness in Colorado named for the craggy, cloud-scraping, summit-worthy 14,005-ft peak of Mount of the Holy Cross. Each has a story to tell.

Their stories aren't just written in the past – they are unfolding every day. As the only conservation organization solely dedicated to removing the threat of industrial, commercial and residential development within federally designated wilderness, we are honored to ensure that the next chapter is one of conservation.

Every one of our donors, supporters, and partners in the past 30 years have had a hand in our history of success. Together we have permanently protected more than 55,000 acres to date, placed 532 privately-held parcels under public ownership, and removed the last remaining inholding within 17 wilderness areas. That's 17 million acres of wilderness that has been positively impacted by our lands program, a steady and significant contribution to a larger, collective effort to save our wild planet's invaluable biodiversity for future generations.

Together, let's do even more.

In conjunction with our 30th anniversary, the Trust completed a strategic planning process that provides us with a blueprint to protect more of the wild places you love. We'll be looking beyond the West to inventory wilderness inholdings in Alaska, the Midwest and eastern regions of the country, map the highest value edgeholdings to pursue for acquisition, increase staff capacity and grow our governing board to ensure it represents our nation's rich cultural heritage.

On behalf of the entire staff and board, our sincere thanks for your generous investment in our work and congratulations on 30 years of success. Here's to the past, present and future!

Denise Schlener, Board Chair

Brad Borst, President



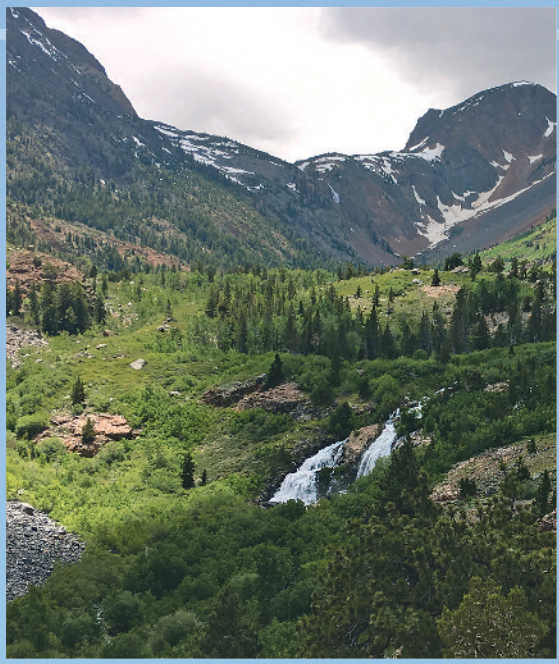
ACQUIRED

The Trust acquired the Surprise Lode property in the **Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness** in Idaho, the largest contiguous wilderness area in the lower 48. It supports a wide variety of wildlife including grey wolves and bighorn sheep, and provides some of the most critical habitat for wolverines in the Lower 48. Through the heart of the wilderness area runs the main Salmon River, a designated Wild

and Scenic River that supports spawning grounds for everything from native westslope cutthroat trout to the federally endangered sockeye and chinook salmon. The 38.7-acre Surprise Lode is adjacent to the Painter Mine parcel, a property we transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS) in 2017. Surprise Lode builds on this previous work, ensuring the banks of the main Salmon are free from development.

TRANSFERRED

The Upper Lundy Lake property, near Yosemite National Park, includes 10 acres located within the **Hoover Wilderness** and 39 acres on the edge of the wilderness in the viewshed of the popular Lundy Canyon trailhead. The Trust purchased the property in March 2019 with the help of Resource Legacy Fund, the Eastern Sierra Land Trust, the Mono Lake Committee and several other private donors.



Aimee Rutledge



ACQUIRED

The Stranger Lode parcel is located along the shores of Cleveland Lake in the **Holy Cross Wilderness** of Colorado. This property is close to the wilderness boundary, within a mile of a road, and has flat scenic areas that extend to the lake shores.

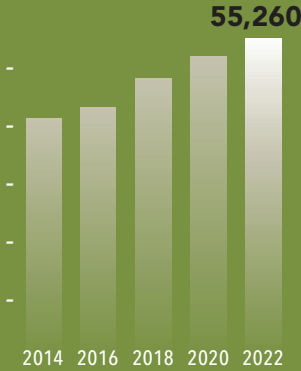
Because of these factors, the likelihood of a cabin being built was high. The Trust acquired this property and replaced that potential with the assurance that Cleveland Lake will always be free of structures.

WILDERNESS PROTECTED

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

PROPERTY	WILDERNESS AREA	AGENCY	PARCELS	ACRES
ACQUIRED				
Surprise	Frank Church-River of No Return, ID	USFS	2	38.7
Lockwood	Wild Sky, WA	USFS	2	38.9
Lil Anne	Holy Cross, CO	USFS	1	5.1
Straeder	Raggeds, CO	USFS	1	10.3
Cross Mountain	Fossil Ridge, CO	USFS	11	183.0
Hat Creek	Proposed Lost Creek, CA	USFS	3	35.4
Bodie Hills	Mount Beidemen Wilderness Study Area, CA	BLM	3	880.0
Copper Glance	Maroon Bells-Snowmass, CO	USFS	1	10.3
Northern	Holy Cross, CO	USFS	1	10.0
Chance Hercules	Holy Cross, CO	USFS	2	24.7
Chuck River Bend	Chuck River, AK	USFS	1	28.0
Idaho Power	Hells Canyon, OR	USFS	1	82.6
Wheeler Creek	Kootznoowoo, AK	USFS	1	5.0
Stranger	Holy Cross, CO	USFS	1	9.0
TOTAL			31	1,361
TRANSFERRED				
Mormon Cricket	Juniper Dunes, WA	BLM	1	236.0
Jumbo/Mt. Vernon	Mt. Baker, WA	USFS	1	38.2
Upper Lundy Lake	Hoover, CA	USFS	1	49.0
Idaho Power	Hells Canyon, OR	USFS	1	82.6
Blue Lake	Mount Massive, CO	USFS	1	20.6
TOTAL			5	426.4

TOTAL WILDERNESS ACREAGE PROTECTED



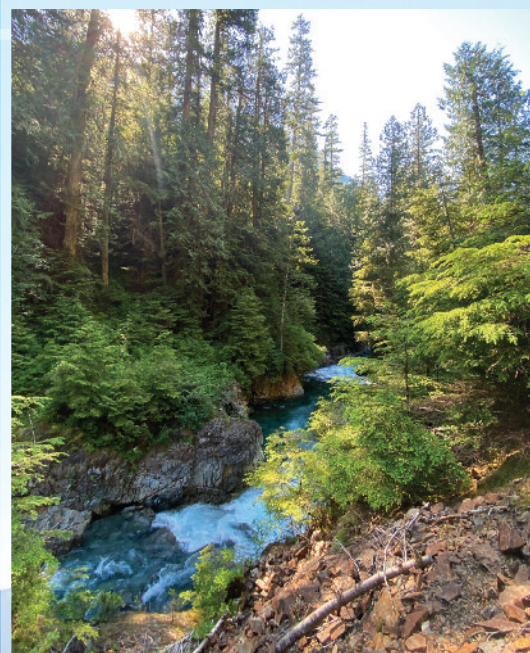
TRANSFERRED

The Trust's 82.6-acre Idaho Power property, a private inholding in the **Hells Canyon Wilderness** of Oregon, was a high priority property for the USFS and they had been working directly with the landowners, Idaho Power to acquire it. When the two groups came to a legal stalemate, The Wilderness Land Trust was called to act as a third party in the deal. The Trust worked

directly with the landowner to acquire the property from them and, on the same day, transferred the property to the USFS to become part of the Hells Canyon Wilderness. The Trust's approach is to be quick and nimble, and to take risks when needed. Because of this, we were able to assist in this land deal and ensure that the property became wilderness.

ACQUIRED

The **Fossil Ridge Wilderness** of Colorado is one of long, glacial valleys and jutting limestone ridges. The Trust acquired 183 acres along a flat, scenic shoulder just below Cross Mountain. This property is one of only two private inholdings in the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. With this purchase, the Trust is only one acquisition away from making the Fossil Ridge Wilderness whole.



Kelly Conde

ACQUIRED

The Trust purchased the 38.9-acre Lockwood Lode property in the **Wild Sky Wilderness** in the Northern Cascades of Washington. Rugged and unkempt, the Northern Cascades are home to diverse habitat teeming with wildlife, including the charismatic gray wolf, Canada lynx, wolverine, and even the occasional grizzly bear. The temperate rainforests

of western Washington are unsung heroes in the fight against climate change, storing vast amounts of carbon that would otherwise warm the planet. Thick with both old growth and second growth trees, this acquisition ensures that the vegetation in the part of the wilderness remains intact.

WLT file photo

ACQUIRED

Located south of Juneau, Alaska on Admiralty Island, the **Kootznoowoo Wilderness** ("Fortress of the Bears" in Lingít) is aptly named. The island is said to have the world's highest concentration of brown bears in the world – an estimated 1,600 bears. That is more than

one bear per square mile! The Tongass National Forest is the largest intact temperate rainforest on the planet. The Wilderness Land Trust partnered with the Southeast Alaska Land Trust to acquire the 5-acre Wheeler Creek inholding.



VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Bureau of Land Management
California Wilderness Coalition
Conservation Alliance
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
DeChambeau Creek Foundation
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of the Eel River
Friends of the Inyo
Independence Pass Foundation
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Mono Lake Foundation
Mount Shasta Trail Association
National Park Foundation
National Park Service
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Resource Legacy Fund
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter
Siskiyou Land Trust
Southeast Alaska Land Trust
U.S. Forest Service
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Whatcom Land Trust
Wildlands Conservancy
Willits Environmental Center

TRANSFERRED

The Trust originally acquired the Blue Lake property in the **Mount Massive Wilderness** of Colorado in 2012. This 20.6-acre parcel was the last private inholding in the wilderness area. It took ten years to transfer this parcel, a testament to the Trust's patience and tenacity. This year we were able to finally make the Mount Massive Wilderness whole.



Kelly Conde



Bureau of Land Management (2)

RETURNING TO WILD

How the story of the Bodie Hills is being rewritten through conservation

Looking out across the rolling hills blanketed with sage brush and juniper, painted with vibrant splashes of wildflowers, with the high peaks of the Sierra rising in the distance, the Bodie Hills feel every bit as wild as they are. Just an hour or so outside Yosemite National Park, the roughly 123,000-acre Bodie Hills stretch between the Sierra Nevada mountains to the west and Great Basin to the east.

Scattered throughout the hills are reminders of the countless people who tried to make a hard living off the land. The ghost town of Bodie, now a State Park, gives a snapshot of their lives, frozen in time as the gold and silver mines went bust: dishes left in the cupboard, a baby carriage abandoned in the corner, prospecting tools leaned against a wall. Across the hills the corrals of ranchers have fallen to a scattering of sun-bleached poles. If you know what you're looking for, prospecting pits and tailings can be found overgrown and reclaimed by the land, covering their stories of hope

The ghost town of Bodie is a reminder of the countless people who tried to make a hard living off the land.



Kevin Noble

and disappointment. Thousands came to make their fortune in the 1860s, each with their own story and connection to the land, but in less than 60 years they were gone again, leaving the juniper, the sage grouse, pika, pronghorn antelope and golden eagles to reclaim their old territories. Even the wild horses and burros who roam the Bodie Hills tell the story of what was once domesticated becoming wild once again.

Well before and well after the boom and bust of mining, the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a and Bridgeport Tribes have been a constant presence as stewards in the Bodie Hills and throughout their homelands. Today the Bodie Hills have been classified as some of the highest ecological intactness and species richness in the region. Three Wilderness Study Areas cover much of the Bodie Hills, but large parcels of private land and 200 active mining claims are also scattered throughout. For years The Wilderness Land Trust has been working to acquire these parcels and transfer them to public ownership, having successfully protected over 6,400 acres. Our work there continues as we pursue transfer of three large parcels and conduct sage grouse habitat restoration on them in partnership with local organizations and tribes. Protecting these lands under public ownership will help ensure their story continues to evolve to one of balance, where the riches of their biodiversity and beauty are shared by all.



The Bodie Hills are home to rare species like the Bi-State Sage Grouse.

Today the Bodie Hills have been classified as some of the highest ecological intactness and species richness in the region.

Lahontan Cutthroat trout. The story of how people are connected to the landscape of the Bodie Hills is changing, away from one about what can be taken from the land toward one about what can be preserved on the land. Their value has shifted from what lies in veins under the ground to their recreational opportunities and vibrant ecosystems which hold 1.95 mega tons of sequestered carbon.

Three Wilderness Study Areas cover much of the Bodie Hills, but large parcels of private land and 200 active mining claims are also scattered throughout. For years The Wilderness Land Trust has been working to acquire these parcels and transfer them to public ownership, having successfully protected over 6,400 acres. Our work there continues as we pursue transfer of three large parcels and conduct sage grouse habitat restoration on them in partnership with local organizations and tribes. Protecting these lands under public ownership will help ensure their story continues to evolve to one of balance, where the riches of their biodiversity and beauty are shared by all.

Meet the behind-the-scenes supporters of the staff

Behind every great staff are the people, or in some cases pets and plants, who make the work possible. They keep the morale high, our feet warm, and the mailman in check. Join us in celebrating the unsung heroes behind our team.



Jane
Director of Licking
Favorite wilderness area: Sawtooth Wilderness, ID
Favorite thing about wilderness: The squirrels and the sticks



Casey
Assembly Organizer
Favorite Trails: Mount Helena, MT
Ideal wilderness day: Curling up at Brad's feet



Pete
Chief Napping Officer
Favorite wilderness area: Cloud Peak Wilderness, WY
Favorite trail treats: Huckleberries off the bush



Duckie
Stick Durability Analyst
Favorite wilderness area: Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, MT
Ideal wilderness day: Napping in the sun on a mountain pass



Ocotito
Plant Therapy Associate
Favorite wilderness area: Quebradas Backcountry Byway, NM
Favorite trail treats: Monsoon rain and very rocky soil



The Janeway Boys
Chief Insect Inspector & Director of Rock Redistribution
Favorite wilderness area: Mt. Evans Wilderness, CO
Ideal wilderness day: "Climbing on rocks and splashing in creeks and then getting ice cream. But, no lightning."



Lily
Gear Tester
Favorite wilderness area: "I wouldn't know, they never take me with them..."
Favorite thing about wilderness: See above



Red
Pecking Specialist
Favorite wilderness area: Anywhere with bugs
Favorite trail treats: Bugs

HONOR ROLL

For 30 years, The Wilderness Land Trust has been focused on one thing: making wilderness areas complete and secure. With sincere gratitude, we thank each and every one of you for your generous investment in our work.

Fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Sentinel Society Donors

Sentinel Society members provide essential support for ongoing wilderness lands projects by generously contributing \$1,000 or more annually.

Anonymous (2)
Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel,
Joe Albright & Marcia Kunstel
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Mark Blitzer

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.

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The Conservation Alliance
Independence Pass Foundation
National Park Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund

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Wilderness Opportunity Fund

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

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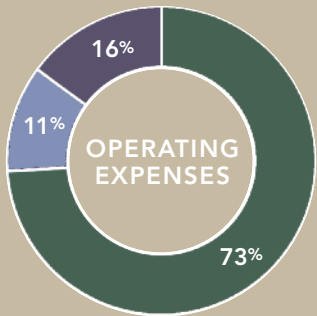
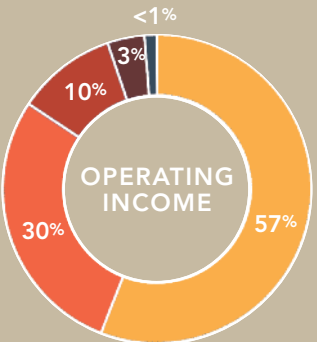
We appreciate the opportunity to recognize every donor. The Donor Honor Roll above includes gifts received during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. If you find an error or omission please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Unaudited – see audited financials on our website in November 2022

Beginning Net Assets	\$3,594,212
OPERATING INCOME	
Contributions	\$573,512
Grant Income	\$305,000
Other Income	\$104,226
Reimbursements	\$27,250
Land Sales	\$2,967
TOTAL	\$1,012,956
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Lands Program	\$664,450
Administrative	\$99,665
Fundraising	\$147,577
TOTAL	\$911,692
Ending Net Assets	\$3,695,476



Future Generations Will Celebrate Your Wilderness Legacy

Our National Wilderness Preservation System is a treasure trove of wild landscapes that need our help to protect them from the threat of private development.

Help ensure this legacy of wilderness will be passed on to future generations through the creation of a bequest in your will. This simple and powerful tool can provide vital financial support for our programs to conserve and expand the wild places you and your family love. Speak with a knowledgeable financial advisor to help you get started.

To learn more contact Brad Borst, President, at 206-397-5240 or brad@wildernesslandtrust.org.

Please let us know if The Wilderness Land Trust is in your future plans.

Thank you for your generosity.



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*In 2022, The Trust purchased the 10.3-acre Copper Glance Lode property in the **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness** of Colorado. This property is in Queen Basin, an area that was once bustling with mining activity. The Copper Glance Lode is the last remaining private inholding within the basin.*



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