

PALOUSE LAND TRUST

2015 Newsletter

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order."

John Burroughs





A place to unwind, to heal, to connect

Letter from the Executive Director

Can you recall times in your life that were full of chaos and confusion and then, suddenly the direction you were supposed to be moving became very clear? I can remember times like that in my own life, and each and every time it happened, I was out on the land.



I was fresh out of school and knee-deep in a salt marsh when I knew I wanted to work in land conservation. I was under a starlit sky in the mountains, my kids sleeping peacefully in the tent, when I knew moving to Moscow was the right thing for our family. And I was on a bench at Idler's Rest when I finally stopped denying the return of my mom's cancer and came to terms with how to spend the rest of our time together.

These moments of clarity are not unique to me and my life. Research is demonstrating that regular connection to land and water is important for our psychological health—just as much as our physical health. As the world flies by in a sea of electronic images, the peace and pace of nature is increasingly important to both children and adults.

Your support of the Palouse Land Trust—as a volunteer, a member, a conservation landowner, or program partner—is making sure that kids and families will always have a place to unwind from this hurried world.

You're giving kids places to unplug, climb on logs, get muddy, and develop a life-long appreciation for nature. When you support local land conservation, you're saving places where the quiet woods create space for personal reflection and healing.

Barry Lopez, a gifted nature writer, once told me that, "on the surface, it looks like you guys are saving land. You're putting together deals, and protecting acreage. But in reality, it's much, much more. You are in the business of spiritual recovery."

Our connection to the land has the power to heal and foster great things within us. Your support is making this happen for people every day. Thank you for making it possible.

All the best,

Amy Trujillo

A hearty "thank you!" goes out to all who submitted photographs to the photo contest. Your submissions were all beautiful and reflected a deep love of the land. The judges had a tough job of choosing the winning photos. Thank you to Eric Demattos, Gerry Queener, Don Crawford, and John Bolles for carefully reviewing all the submissions.

You can see all the photos on our Facebook page and vote for the People's Choice Award at www.facebook.com/PalouseLandTrust



On the cover & right: The overall winner of the photo contest was Matthew Singer's photo "Rays of Light." This image captures so well the sense of peace that a walk in the woods can provide.

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About Us

- Founded in 1995
- We currently steward 14 easements and own 1 property covering over 3,600 acres
- We work across 8 counties in Idaho and Washington

Our mission is to conserve the open space, scenery, wildlife habitat, and water quality of the Palouse region for the benefit of current and future generations.

Contact Us

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ABOVE: Matthew Singer won the People on the Land category with his photo "Walking with Giants" taken at the Hobo Cedar Grove.



RIGHT: Charles Wheeler submitted "Coopers Hawk," taken near the Palouse River, which won the Wildlife category. Your support helps protect habitat for these beautiful animals.

Photography Contest

If you ask most people why they love living here, more often than not they'll tell you it's the beauty of the area, diversity of the landscape, and access to countless outdoor recreation opportunities. This summer, we asked you to submit your favorite photos that represent what you love about the Palouse. We are pleased to announce the winners.



ABOVE: Karen Baumann captured the beauty of our region's landscape with "Light and Lines" taken near the Palouse River. Her photo won the Farm and Ranch category.

BELOW: Karen Baumann's photo "Steamy Morning in the Palouse," taken near Colfax, Washington, won the Habitat category for its depiction of tiny islands of habitat scattered throughout the landscape.



An amazing place, brings joy to many

Tom and Cheryl Kammerzell do something special. Every year they work with Youth Outdoors Unlimited, a group that provides once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing opportunities for disabled and terminally ill children who have a dream to hunt or fish on their own outdoor adventure.

With specially outfitted blinds to allow for wheelchair access and enough room for a hunting mentor and either family or medical assistants, dreams come true. Lives that face enormous challenges, that are often facing ongoing pain or in need of constant assistance, suddenly are freed when they are out in nature. And Tom and Cheryl see that change, every year.

“When you see the size of the grin on a young man’s face who just got his first deer, on his own, against all sorts of physical odds,” says Tom, “well, it just doesn’t get much better than that.” “This is a really special place,” adds Cheryl. While they didn’t know it when they purchased the property, years ago, the land has become a life changing gift to many. And the Kammerzells wanted to make sure it stayed that way.

A special place, a special chance

The land consists of nearly two miles of the South Fork of the Palouse River, and it is some of the best wildlife habitat left in Whitman County. The natural wildlife corridor is used by deer, elk, moose, golden eagle, and more. And while the wildlife love it, the Kammerzells have been working to improve the habitat ever since a fire came through in 2006 and damaged most of the timber on the hillside buffering the floodplain.

Now, working with the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Board, and state and local governments and resource agencies – twelve partners in total—your support allowed the Palouse Land Trust to work with the Kammerzells to conserve this amazing place for kids to go, and for wildlife to call home.

“It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, just like it is for so many of those kids,” remarked Tom, continuing, “sometimes you only get the chance to do something great once. We are lucky. We work with those kids every year, and we were able to conserve the land for future generations too.”



The prairie gets a boost, thanks to you

Did you know that only a tiny amount of the prairie that used to be in our area still exists? It’s true. Less than 1% of the prairie remains—and now, thanks to you, we are assisting four families to voluntarily conserve their lands on about 500 acres of critical prairie land.

That’s a lot of prairie land when even a postage stamp amount (an acre or less) is considered to be important wildlife habitat. Indeed, our prairie—the Palouse Prairie—is considered endangered.

Using a voluntary conservation agreement called a “conservation easement,” families can continue to own their land, and the land remains on the tax rolls. However, these conservation agreements will help conserve the prairie lands so that if and when the property is sold, passed on to other family members, or given away, it will never be dug up, paved over, or built upon.

You are helping to ensure that animals like the grasshopper sparrow will have a place to call home among the prairie bunchgrasses and beautiful flowers. Without these prairie lands, they too become more at risk.

Many families can’t wait. They need to transfer the land to other family members. Some need to sell. Others face estate planning issues. And conservation can help. We couldn’t assist these families to conserve some of our region’s most special landscapes without your support.

Your gift can conserve more land in the coming year

You can make even bigger things happen. Given the urgency to help local families conserve their land, and manage more trails and wildlife habitat, two local foundations have stated that they will match any new membership gifts, or increases in donations.

Here’s a great way to make a big difference. We need to raise the final \$20,000 to complete the foundation’s matching requirements by January 15th so we can start the New Year off by conserving more land. *Your support matters. Big time.*



A very special place for the community

Volunteers like you are making sure that Idler's Rest Nature Preserve remains a local favorite for people of all ages. Thanks to the commitment of people like you, the trails remain open and available for kids to explore the wonders of the forest, students to study ecology with their classes, and adults to forget about the worries of the world for a short time.

To stay up-to-date on happenings at Idler's Rest and sightings from our wildlife camera, sign up for our e-newsletter at www.palouselandtrust.org or "Like" the Idler's Rest Nature Preserve page on Facebook.

"There's no place in the world I'd rather be than right here."

-- note left by a visitor to Idler's Rest

Your support: Making big things happen for 20 years

Thank you

3,310
acres of wildlife
habitat conserved
so far

201
more acres added
soon

270
acres of farms
and forests
protected so far

520
more acres added
soon

160
acres of
Palouse Prairie
preserved so far

510
more acres added
soon

9
miles of streams and
rivers protected
so far

1
more mile added soon

2
special places to
connect with nature
so far

1
more coming soon

Thanks to you, amazing things are happening. Every year, with your support, there are more places for wildlife to roam, more farms and forests are conserved, and more trails, streams and quiet woodlands are conserved for our community.

Thank you to the following members who have given so generously in 2014-2015. If you believe you have been left off this list in error, please call Amy at (208) 596-4496.

◆ **Alternative Giving Market** ❖ **Conservation Heroes**

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**You're Invited: Come join us to celebrate local land conservation!
Wednesday, November 4th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Bring your family and friends to the 1912 Center in Moscow and celebrate what we can accomplish for local land conservation when we work together. It's a chance to hear about the farms, prairies and forests, and miles of streams you've helped protect. We want to thank you, the landowners, the partners and the volunteers that made it happen.

You'll enjoy lovely hors d'oeuvres with great company, and wonderful stories about how you're making a difference that will last for generations. Please RSVP to amy@palouselandtrust.org or (208) 596-4496 to ensure adequate food.

For more information on these and more upcoming events, visit www.PalouseLandTrust.org/calendar-of-events.php