

# 2015

ANNUAL REPORT



*Southern Oregon*

**LAND**

CONSERVANCY

For people. For nature. Forever.





Protecting and enhancing precious land in the Rogue River region since 1978 to benefit our human and natural communities

Rogue River Preserve / John Riha

## From the Director

**Diane Garcia, Executive Director**

You know how it takes a village to raise a child? The same can be said of creating a healthy environment to live in. Every year Southern Oregon is noted by a national publication for its outstanding outdoor offerings. Whether it's named a top wine region, hiking destination or Bee City, I find it life-affirming that so many people and organizations are working to sustain our natural heritage. My thanks to the orchardists and farmers and wine growers for providing us with fresh, healthy food, great wine, and organic meats and fruit. Thanks to the ranchers for following in their family's tradition. Thank you to the local, state and federal agencies who protect and monitor our public lands. And to all the rafting companies, park concessionaires and recreation businesses that give us opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, thank you! We each play a part in keeping Southern Oregon a strong, vital and beautiful place to live.



And to all of you who support the work of Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, my deepest gratitude. Thank you for your dollars, your Facebook "likes", your attendance at our events, your service to our community and your trust in our work. Because of you, 2015 was a fantastic and successful year.

For the Land,



# Stewardship means caring for the land and people

“I’m passionate about getting kids connected to the outdoors. These hands-on stewardship projects strengthen students’ self-confidence and helps them learn valuable life skills like communication, non-competitive team work and problem solving.”

Marcia Ososke, John Muir School Teacher



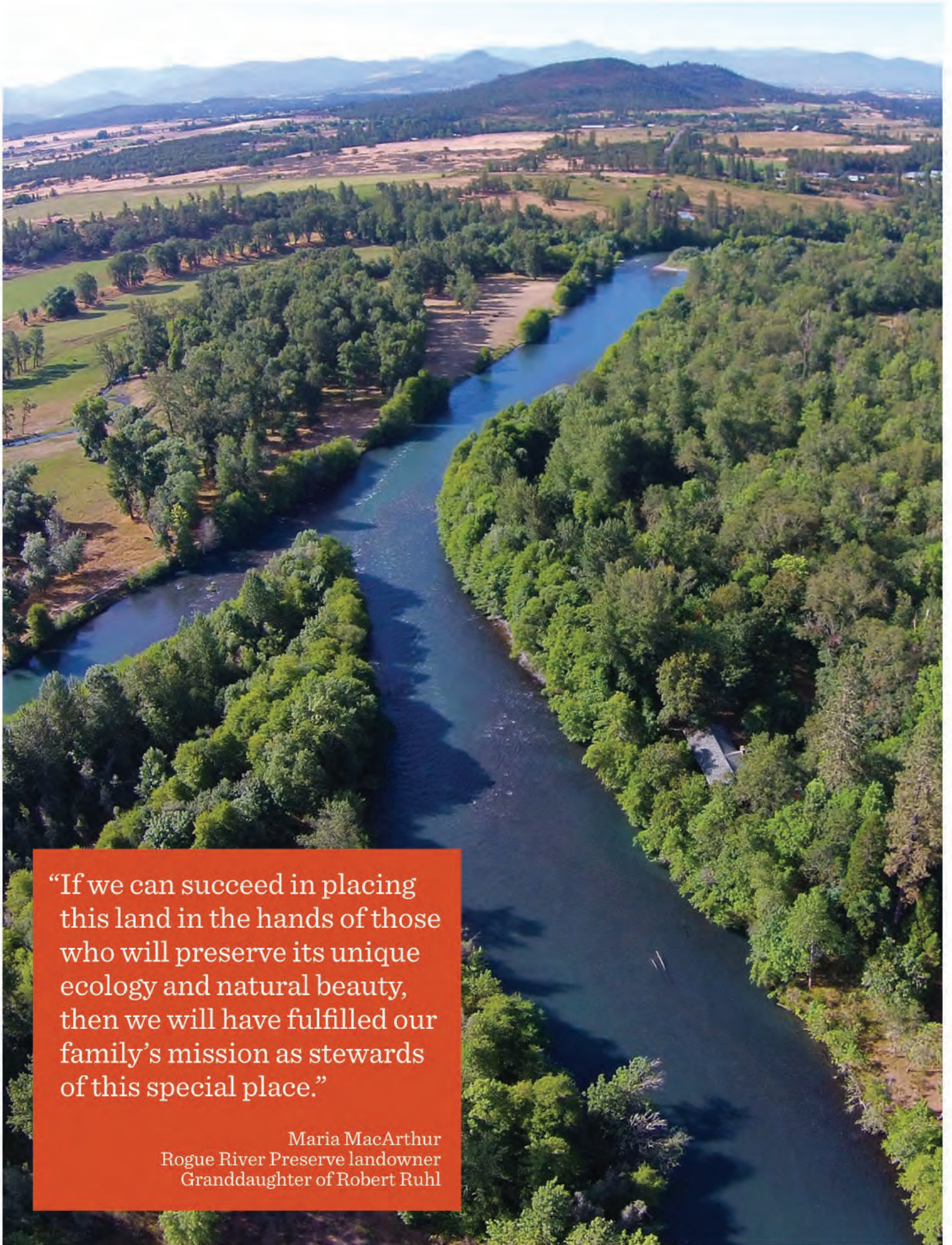
For the past 38 years, we’ve been adding more land and acres to our inventory of protected lands. We’re halfway to our goal of permanently conserving 20,000 acres of land across the Rogue River region by 2020. With every acre conserved, we take on a responsibility that lasts forever. This responsibility includes developing and sustaining a relationship with the landowner(s) as well as building and maintaining relationships with future landowners. Each time a property changes hands, we are obligated to introduce the new landowner to any conservation restrictions on the property, to help them understand those restrictions, and to share with them best management practices on their land.

In addition, we visit each property at least once a year, and we often visit two or three times to assist with on-the-ground management or to provide species lists or other resources. This happens on all 62 properties currently under the purview of our trust. Our Stewardship Director, Kristi Mergenthaler, with the help of volunteer land stewards, accomplishes this very important task each year, making it possible for us to say that the lands we conserve are protected in perpetuity...and mean it.



Students from John Muir School work their magic in the Oredson-Todd Woods four times a year.





“If we can succeed in placing this land in the hands of those who will preserve its unique ecology and natural beauty, then we will have fulfilled our family’s mission as stewards of this special place.”

Maria MacArthur  
Rogue River Preserve landowner  
Granddaughter of Robert Ruhl



# Conservation: It all starts with a willing landowner

## Gray Fox Tree Farm

Early in 2015 we completed a conservation project on the Gray Fox Tree Farm near Ruch in the Applegate Valley. This 82-acre property is remarkably diverse with a mix of evergreen forest, oak woodland, meadow, and chaparral that provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and plants. The conservation easement donor, Pat Gordon, had always hoped that her land would remain well managed and undivided, a goal we were honored to help her achieve.

## Rogue River Preserve

For the first time in our history, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy launched a project in 2015 to purchase, own and manage the 352-acre Rogue River Preserve. This property is extraordinary, with nearly 2 miles of river frontage, meadows, vernal pools, oak savanna and a large, relatively untouched streamside forest. Our goal is to conserve and restore the land and water, renovate a historic home on the river's edge, and to invite children and adults to the property to learn, explore and delight in its many attributes. Make sure to check out our website for more details about the Heart of the Rogue campaign and look for upcoming events this spring and summer on the property.

**“I live here because I love the Rogue. I’m a river user and a landowner, but most of all I’m a father, hoping that his kids will be able to see the Rogue as it wants to be: wild, free and full of giant fish splashing in tree-lined pools.”**

Eugene Wier, Heart of the Rogue Steering Committee Member



Eugene Wier and son, Bodhi



Gray Fox Tree Farm



Rogue River home circa 1940



Members tour the Rogue River Preserve at the 2015 Annual Picnic



# Community outreach and education



## Outdoor Youth Education

Our Loving the Land Program offers 250+ students from Ashland, Talent and Phoenix a unique hands-on learning adventure in the outdoors every year.

## Where Ya At?

This new, innovative learning program based on the Petra Kucha model of fast paced learning has been wildly successful and popular. Typically held in a restaurant, look for it in a town near you soon!



## Student Volunteers

In 2015 student groups from as far north as Portland spent time caring for conserved lands in our area, pulling weeds, clearing trails and serving as stewards for our precious places.

## Community Hikes

Hundreds of people participate in our spring/summer hike series on conserved lands led by talented and trusted hike leaders. Check out the schedule for Spring 2016 at [landconserve.org](http://landconserve.org).



## New Member Farm Dinner

Each year we invite our newest members to enjoy a locally sourced meal at a nearby farm and learn about the work Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is doing to sustain agricultural lands in our region.

## Partnerships with Conservation Groups

Our work conserving and caring for land offers us an opportunity to work and partner with other conservation groups (like The Nature Conservancy, pictured below left, surveying vernal pools at the Rogue River Preserve), sharing resources, expertise and common goals.





# 2015 financial snapshot

## Revenue

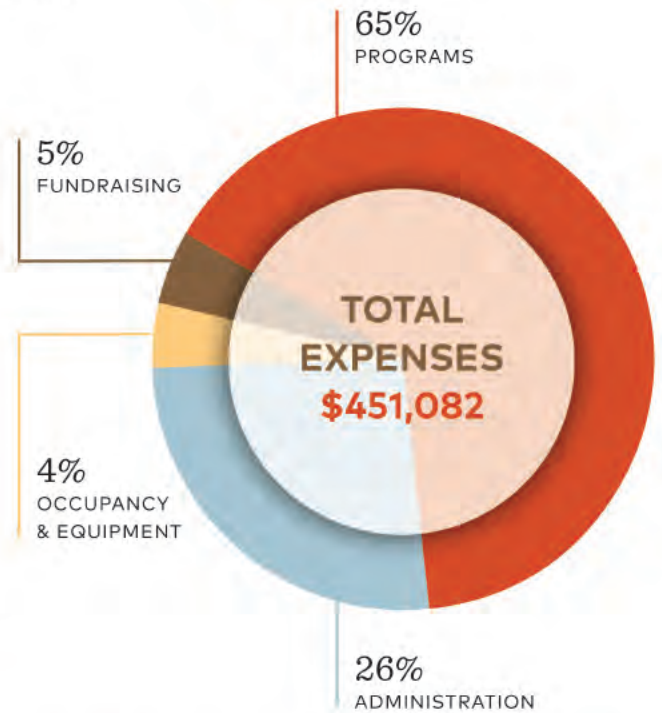
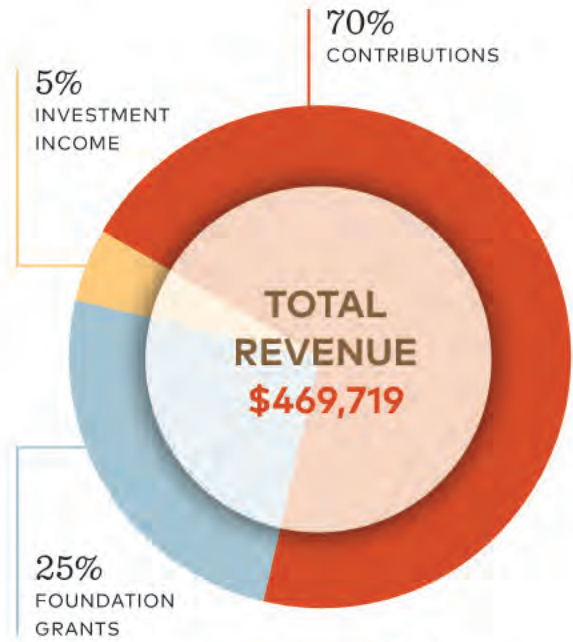
Contributions	\$330,289
Foundation Grants	117,726
Investment Income	21,704
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$469,719</b>

## Expenses

Programs	\$294,271
Administration	117,704
Occupancy & Equipment	17,867
Fundraising	\$21,240
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$451,082</b>

## Fund Balances

Stewardship	\$437,509
Endowment	\$5,684
Mitigation Bank Endowment	\$60,203
Rogue River Preserve	\$119,180
Operating Reserve	\$127,000
Lands Project Fund	\$70,000
Cash Accounts	\$85,518
<b>Total Fund Balances &amp; Cash Accounts</b>	<b>\$905,094</b>



Patrick Duffy stole the show at the 2015 Conservation Celebration. We raised over \$60,000 to support our land conservation efforts with Patrick serving as Master of Ceremonies. It was a night to remember!



Left to right: President Pat Acklin, Carlyn Duffy, Patrick Duffy and Diane Garcia.

“We’re dedicated to the success of the Rogue River Preserve project, and can’t think of a better organization to work with than the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.”

Patrick Duffy, Heart of the Rogue Campaign Co-Chair



# Thanks to all the people who made 2015 a fantastic year!

Many talented and inspiring people come together each year to make Southern Oregon Land Conservancy a vibrant and successful organization. A big shout out to everyone!

## Yay volunteers!

Our volunteers are impressive! Not only because they volunteered more hours in 2015 than ever before, but because of how talented and passionate they are about the land. We are grateful for every hour spent mowing, clearing trails, pulling weeds, surveying, leading hikes, sharing knowledge, attending meetings, and advocating for conservation.



## TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Al Buck	Sarah Sameh
Karen DeBoer	Karen Smith
Paul Hill	Nancy Tait
Dr. Paul Imperia	Jeanne Taylor
Kara Olmo	Bill Thorndike
Jud Parson	Sam Whitford

“With minimal resources, dedicated volunteers, and a clear vision, SOLC helps so many Rogue Valley landowners protect and conserve their cherished properties, using a collaborative approach; that’s why I’m such a strong advocate.”



Nancy Tait

Nancy Tait, Trustee



**Board Members:** Back left to right Keith Emerson, Jeff Beaupain, Charles Bennett, Julie Lockhart, Kevin Talbert, Dan O’Connor. Front: Kathleen Donham, Donald Rubenstein, Pat Acklin, Eric Poole. Not pictured: Bill Morrish, Tom Atzet & Dan Kellogg (Emeritus).



# Many thanks to all of our members and supporters!

## YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES CONSERVATION POSSIBLE.

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“It is a pleasure to work with the board in a mature, accredited organization with a highly professional staff.”

Pat Acklin, Board President



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**“I am filled with deep admiration  
 for the role of SOLC and, in  
 particular, the Board  
 and the community  
 members who help  
 SOLC to fulfill its role.”**



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With immense gratitude to those who have donated a conservation easement or land to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

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 Jim & Elise Scheffel  
 Jack & Suzan Shipley  
 Taylor Starr  
 Lawrence Tesler  
 Paul Torrence  
 Oshona Turtle Catronides  
 Tim & Toby Tuttle  
 Marilynn Walther  
 Judith Wible MD  
 Wildlands, Inc.

*Due to limited space, all donations are not listed. We have attempted to record all names as accurately as possible. If we have made an error, please let us know so that we can correct our records.*





Southern Oregon  
**LAND**  
CONSERVANCY

PO BOX 954, ASHLAND, OR 97520

Nonprofit  
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Medford, OR  
Permit #149

# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Get involved in conserving Southern Oregon

Check out our website at [LandConserve.org](http://LandConserve.org) for upcoming hikes and volunteer opportunities.  
Stay connected on current happenings by following us on Facebook.  
Become a member by making a donation online.

541.482.3069

[LandConserve.org](http://LandConserve.org)



Juvenile Great Horned Owl / Frank Lospallute

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- Craig Harper  
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Stewardship Director
- Erik Rolstad  
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