



**SOUTHERN
OREGON
LAND
CONSERVANCY**

Terra Firma Times

Spring 2006

1,660 Acres Protected!

One of the largest working ranches in Jackson County has been permanently protected by the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy for the benefit of the citizens of Jackson County.

The Coonan Family, owners of C2

Cattle Ranch, donated a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy to protect 1,660 acres of working forestland on the ranch. The ranch covers over 9,000 acres located along Highway 140 northeast of Medford near the town of Lake Creek. Stretching for miles along the road, the property can be seen from both sides of the Highway.

This historic ranch is highly visible and an important working landscape in the area. It's a spectacular view—from the creek bottoms to the rolling hills and up to the forest areas.

James and Lurline Coonan created the C2 Ranch in 1963. The Ranch was an operating cattle ranch as well as a premier Quarter horse farm for many years. It was

Lurline's vision to protect the Ranch that led the family to donate a conservation easement to the

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The Coonan family was in the timber industry for many years and ran mills throughout Southern Oregon and northern California.

"I think my father and uncle would have approved action to preserve the health and beauty of our forest," says Jim Coonan, James and Lurline's son who helped bring the project to fruition.

The conservation easement encourages ecologically sensitive and sustainable forest management. Over time this ensures the area will remain forested and won't be clear cut or mismanaged. That's great news to the more than 3,000 drivers who travel Highway 140 every day and to the many species of plants and animals that reside in or adjacent to the property.

Over 150 wildlife species are likely inhabitants of older forest areas within the Ranch. Of this number, 93 bird species can be

continued on p.3



MAIN OFFICE
84 Fourth St.
P.O. Box 954
Ashland, OR 97520
541.482.3069
541.482.6601 (fax)

COAST CHAPTER
PO Box 1113
Bandon OR 97411
541.347.5157

info@landconserve.org
www.landconserve.org

We now protect 4,227 acres of special land in Southern Oregon, nearly twice as much as one year ago!

Clarification: In the December newsletter we reported that the Land Conservancy purchased 33 acres of land on Williams Creek. The Williams Creek Watershed Council made the purchase and the Land Conservancy holds title to the property.

160 Acres in Colestin Protected

160 acres located in the Colestin Valley south of Ashland were protected with a conservation easement at the end of 2005. The easement was donated to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy to permanently protect the natural, scenic, open space and wildlife habitat values of this beautiful property.



The land borders Colestin Road southwest of Ashland in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains and is partially within

the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. It provides critical habitat for elk and deer and serves as an important land bridge between the southern Cascades to the east and the Coast range to the west. Stunning views of Mt. Shasta can be seen from portions of the property.

Many thanks to those who made donations to protect this property at the 2004 Conservation Celebration. Your contributions will keep this land protected forever!

In Memoriam

With tremendous sorrow we said goodbye to Jim Eisenhard, long-time Board member and outdoor enthusiast, who died last December. Jim steered the Land Conservancy toward adopting project selection criteria and will always be remembered for his love of life and devotion to land conservation.

Many thanks to all those who made donations to the Land Conservancy in Jim's memory. He will be deeply missed.

Kids Head to the Woods

Studies show that kids today have less connection to the outdoors than previous generations. That's about to change for some 3rd through 5th grade students in Ashland. Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Parks Foundation, over 100 students are headed to the City-owned Oredson-Todd Woods to learn about nature and the importance of conserving land.

In the Woods students will rotate through four activity stations and hike to a waterfall. Each student also receives a workbook for classroom and onsite use.

The Oredson-Todd Woods, located southwest of town, is part of a 330-acre park owned by the City of Ashland and protected by the Land Conservancy.

Many thanks to April Azary Thomas, Su Rolle, Dave Garcia, EthelAnn Ackerman and the many volunteers who worked on this program.

Annual Member Meeting

Saturday, June 10 ❖ 10:00 am - 1:00pm

Hillcrest Orchard and Roxy Ann Winery

corner of Hillcrest and N. Phoenix Rd. in Medford

GUEST SPEAKERS: JUD PARSONS & JON MEADORS

Join us for a walking tour of the orchard with family owner Jud Parsons and hear about the future of the orchard industry from orchard and winery manager, Jon Meadors

Complimentary lunch provided

Please Join Us!

RSVP 482-3069 or info@landconserve.org

Hike Upper Table Rock on May 9



Have you ever wondered how the Table Rocks were formed? Or missed seeing their spectacular display of wildflowers in the spring? If so, we invite you to hike Upper Table Rock with BLM park ranger and founding Land Conservancy Board member, Dave Garcia. He'll share his knowledge of the history, geology, and flora

and fauna of this unique Southern Oregon landmark.

The hike will be on Tuesday, May 9th, beginning at 9:45 am and is open to Land Conservancy members and friends. Please RSVP to info@landconserve.org or call 482-3069 for more information.

Williams Farm Protected

A conservation easement was recently donated to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy to protect 62 acres of farm and forestland in Williams as an organic farm and educational center. The



property is owned by the nonprofit organization, White Oak Farm, which provides organic farming and sustainable living education programs to youth and adults and coordinates a community supported agriculture program.

In light of the threats that exist for small farms throughout our area, we are very excited to permanently protect this important agricultural property for the benefit of the local communities.

The property is in the Siskiyou Mountains in the Williams Creek Watershed of the Applegate River Watershed. North Marble Gulch flows through the property, and several ponds and seasonal creeks dot the landscape. A high diversity of vegetation exists in the forested portion including Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Pacific madrone, California black oak, and white oak as well as a unique stand of knobcone pine.

The conservation easement on White Oak Farm protects the agricultural and educational uses and prohibits subdividing and clear cutting the land in the future. These restrictions last forever, ensuring that White Oak Farm can continue its agricultural activities far into the future.

Welcome New Members

Ron and Paula Gardener
Stephen and Barbara Bradley
Allen Crutcher
Edward and Laura Winslow
Marshall Malden
Jeanette Stewart
Gary and Sunny Chang
John and Julia Burns
Marianne Strong and Harvey Rupp
Sarah Sameh
Bob and Jeanne Arago
Home Builders Association of Jackson County
Sylvia and Noel Chatroux
Roberta Jaffee

continued from front page

found on C2 Ranch that use mature or old-growth forest.

The forest areas also serve as critical hiding and thermal cover for big game animals. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has classified C2 Ranch as "especially sensitive winter range" for blacktail deer and also important winter habitat for Roosevelt Elk. The forests also offer habitat to several species with special status. In addition, the protected forested areas encompass much of the upper watershed, thereby increasing water quality and lowering temperatures in the creeks and rivers that support anadromous fish.



We are very grateful to the Coonan family for donating the easement to the Land Conservancy and to Jackson County for their support of this project.

Nonprofit
Org.
Postage
PAID
Medford, OR
Permit # 113

Return Service Requested

PO. Box 954 ! Ashland, OR 97520
541.482.3069
info@landconservancy.org
www.landconservancy.org



Message From the President: Saving our working farms

It's spring and our newsletter is full of good news! Several parcels of special lands have recently been protected. They are a superb example of what we all love in Southern Oregon: working farms and forests and beautiful natural areas.

As I think about these lands, I can't get the old '60s song, "Where Have all the Flowers Gone" out of my mind. Yes, we are having a very slow-to-come spring, but it is more than that. Southern Oregon is changing, and the changes are occurring fast enough that one need not be here long to notice them. Forecasts suggest that our population will increase 40% by the year 2020. As a result, we can expect to see a growth in development to support this population.

Our annual meeting at Hillcrest Orchard on June 10th may help us come to grips with some of these changes. I encourage you to attend to learn how we can support the working farms that at one time defined our region. Jon Meadors, Orchard and Vineyard manager for Roxy Ann Winery and Hillcrest Orchard, will talk about the current state and future of the orchard industry. Jud Parsons, a member of the family that owns Hillcrest Orchard, will take us on a walking tour of the orchard where we'll also learn its history.

It's time to think about what it is that we love about Southern Oregon and what we want to keep and protect.

For the Farms,
Donna Rhee

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Board of Directors

President: Donna Rhee - Ashland
Vice President: Dan Kellogg - Gold Hill
Secretary/ Treasurer: Bill Morrish - Ashland
Pat Acklin - Ashland
Tom Atzet - Merlin
Charles Bennett - Phoenix
Jon Deason - Medford
Carol Doty - Bandon
Mike Claassen - Bandon
Myra Lawson - Bandon
Larry Medinger - Ashland
Sarah Sameh - Ashland

Staff

Diane Garcia, *Executive Director*
Alex Dykema, *Attorney*
Su Rolle, *Stewardship Coordinator*
Leslie van Gelder, *Administrative Assistant*