



Annual Report



2012

SOUTHERN
OREGON
LAND
CONSERVANCY

Dear Friends,

2012 was a milestone year for the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. Five extraordinary events occurred that were unprecedented in our history. To start the year off, we published a Conservation Plan, the first in our 35-year history.

Consequently, we launched our VISION 20/20 initiative with a goal to conserve 20,000 acres of high priority land by 2020. In order to implement that goal, we approached two Oregon Foundations, the Meyer Memorial Trust and The Collins Foundation, to see if they would support this effort. They liked our Plan and collaborated with us in a matching grant campaign.

With the support of our community, we raised the funds needed four months later, so that along with the grant funding, we now have \$300,000 to implement our conservation strategy.

Later in the year, we received a grant from the Yarg Foundation. This family foundation was established in 2012 by John Gray, an Oregon philanthropist, who announced his intention to invest 10 million dollars in Oregon land trusts over the next ten years. Sadly he passed away in November, but his legacy continues.

These grants - along with the funds we raised - enabled us to hire Craig Harper as our first Conservation Project Manager in December. Craig has a long and deep connection to the land in our area, and he will be responsible for working with landowners and our conservation partners to reach our 20,000 acre goal.



Lastly, we applied to become an accredited land trust in 2012. The application is a rigorous process that is meant to demonstrate that our operations meet or exceed the national standard and that our conservation efforts are permanent. We are now one of only 201 land trusts in the country (there are 1,700 in the US) that have received this prestigious designation.



Of course our work is about protecting land, and in 2012 we completed a collaborative project that involved many partners. The Wildlands Conservation Project permanently protects 132 acres of unique vernal pool habitat along Crater Lake Highway near Eagle Point. Projects like this one, done cooperatively with other agencies and groups, demonstrate how important the lands in our region are.

And, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our members and partners.

If you are reading this now, it is more than likely that you are helping make this kind of conservation possible. You may be a member, a partner, a business donor, a landowner, a volunteer, or an interested community member. As we celebrate our 35th year, we extend our deepest thanks to each and every one of you who care about this beautiful part of the world and are helping us protect it for the generations to come.

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Mt. McLoughlin towers over the valley floor near Eagle Point. The newly-protected property is in the foreground.

132 Acres Protected Near Eagle Point

After several years of negotiation, the Land Conservancy completed a conservation project in 2012 on 132 acres of land along Crater Lake Highway north of Eagle Point in Jackson County. This property is managed as part of Oregon's newly-formed Vernal Pool Mitigation Bank, which was established to protect the last remaining intact vernal pool systems in Southern Oregon.

Working with numerous local, state, and federal partners, the conservation easement on the property protects the pastureland, the scenic view along the highway, and the rare vernal pool habitat.

Vernal pools are temporary, seasonal pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals. They are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring, and usually completely dry out for most of the summer and fall. The unique environment of vernal pools provides habitat for numerous rare plants and animals that are able to survive and thrive in these harsh conditions, such as the federally endangered vernal pool fairy shrimp. These small (about 1 inch) crustaceans spend their entire lives (a few weeks) in a vernal pool. Eggs hatch in late winter/early spring and adults may be observed in pools in the spring. Females eventually drop an egg case which remains on the pool bottom after the pool dries. The eggs pass through a cycle of drying and

freezing, and then hatch another year when water returns.



Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp

Vernal pools are a valuable and increasingly threatened ecosystem. More than 90% of California's vernal pools have already been lost. Great efforts are being made to protect the remaining vernal pools, as their disappearance marks the loss of rare and important

habitat and some of the associated plant and animal species as well.

The Agate Desert near White City is an area in Oregon that has a large concentration of vernal pools. Yet only 23% of the Agate Desert vernal pool habitat remains intact, making the protection of this property extremely important on a landscape scale.

In addition to the endangered fairy shrimp, over 500 large-flowered woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *grandiflora*) plants, a federally and state-listed endangered plant endemic to the vernal pools of Jackson County, are also documented on this property.

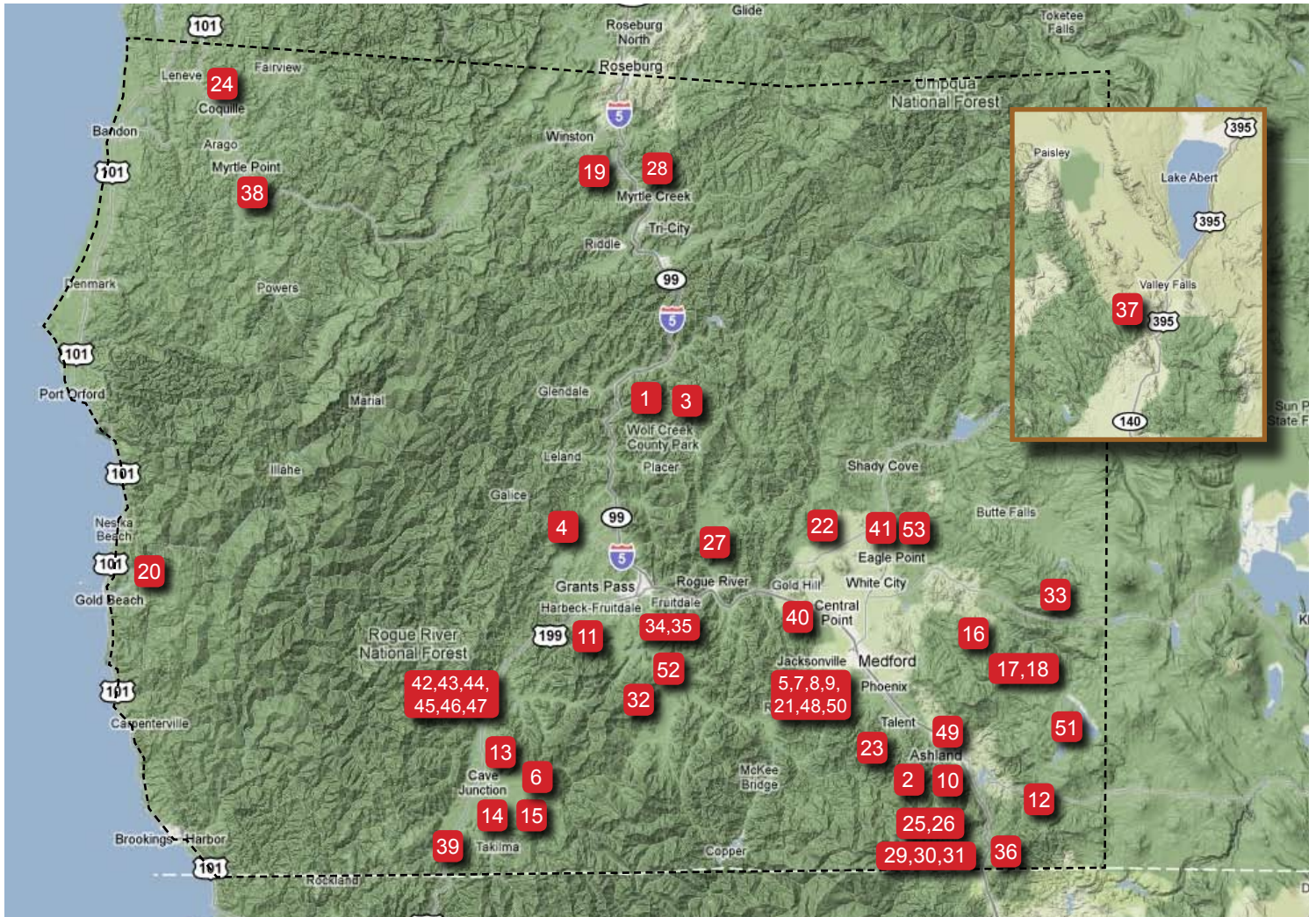


Large-Flowered Woolly Meadowfoam

Thanks to landowner Running Y Land and Cattle, a subsidiary of Wildlands, Inc., this land is now permanently protected through the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. We will continue to work with Wildlands and state and federal agencies to ensure that the important conservation values present on this property remain intact for generations to come.

53 Protected Places

8,589 Acres of Southern Oregon land, permanently safeguarded



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Wolf Creek | 16-18. Little Butte Creek | 36. Siskiyou Summit |
| 2. Siskiyou Mtn Park, Ashland | 19. Alder Creek Community Forest | 37. Valley Falls (inset map) |
| 3. Golden | 20. Ranch Creek, Gold Beach | 38. Myrtle Point Wetlands |
| 4. Dog Creek | 21. Burkhalter Property, Jacksonville Woodlands | 39. Woodcock Mountain |
| 5. Beekman Woods, Jacksonville Woodlands | 22. Sams Valley | 40. Twin Creeks Park, Central Point |
| 6. Sucker Creek | 23. Wagner Creek | 41. Wood House |
| 7. Britt Woods, Jacksonville Woodlands | 24. Walker Creek | 42-47. One River Farm |
| 8. Begley Property, Jacksonville Woodlands | 25-26. Colestin Valley | 48. The Quarry, Jacksonville Woodlands |
| 9. Beebe Property, Jacksonville Woodlands | 27. Sykes Creek | 49. Eagle Mill Farm |
| 10. Oredson-Todd Woods, Ashland | 28. Myrtle Creek | 50. The Grove, Jacksonville Woodlands |
| 11. Cheney Creek | 29-31. Colestin Valley | 51. RHP Mountain Lodge, Howard Prairie Lake |
| 12. Buckhorn Springs | 32. White Oak Farm | 52. Williams Creek |
| 13. Sucker Creek | 33. C2 Cattle Ranch | 53. Agate Desert |
| 14. East Fork Illinois River | 34-35. Rocky Creek Farm | |
| 15. Althouse Creek | | |

Land Conservancy Staff Makes Local Discovery



The Broom Gall Mite infects a Scotch Broom plant

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) estimates that Scotch Broom, an invasive species found throughout Southern Oregon, costs Oregon more than \$47 million annually due to lost timber harvest.

It grows on disturbed sites, natural areas, and public and private forest lands. Maintenance of rights-of-way, facilities, parkland and private property costs millions *more* dollars each year because of rapid growth of young plants and the plant's persistent nature.

One of the reasons it has become such a scourge is that the plants - other than the flowers - offer little nutritious value to foragers and have no known natural pests. Until now.

The *broom gall mite* has now been documented in Oregon. It devours Scotch Broom buds and causes them to grow abnormally and even die. In early 2012, Land Steward Kristi Mergenthaler discovered the mite devouring a Scotch Broom plant - the southern-

most discovery in Oregon. Kristi reported the discovery to the ODA, which was surprised by the news.

While it helps to keep a cautious attitude about such seemingly simple solutions to complex problems (the broom gall mite is also a non-native, invasive species), scientists, landowners, and land managers are hopeful that this mite will help reduce the amount of Scotch Broom in Oregon.

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts Formed

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) officially formed in 2012. Its mission is to serve and strengthen the land trust community in Oregon.

Oregon's land trust community is working at local, regional, and statewide scales with landowners, communities, public agencies and other partners to maintain the state's natural heritage and the economies it supports.

COLT will accomplish its mission by

- strengthening public policies and programs that are supportive of land conservation,
- helping to build capacity within and across land trusts, and
- communicating to key audiences about the role of land trusts in conserving Oregon's natural heritage and healthy human communities that depend on it.

There are currently 18 land trusts that are members of COLT. The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy was a founding member and Diane Garcia, our executive director, serves on the COLT board.





2012 Financial Snapshot

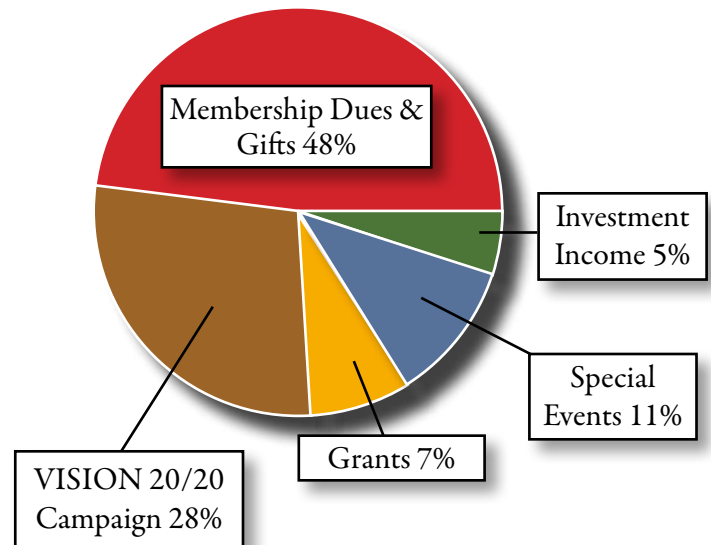
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

Stewardship Fund	\$282,490
Endowment	\$5,699
Lands Project Fund	\$46,000
Operating Reserve	\$69,211
Cash and Receivables	\$224,183
Property & Equipment	\$57,101
Pledges Receivable	\$144,000
Deferred Revenue	\$100,000
Mitigation Bank Endowment	\$41,216
Total Net Assets	\$923,900

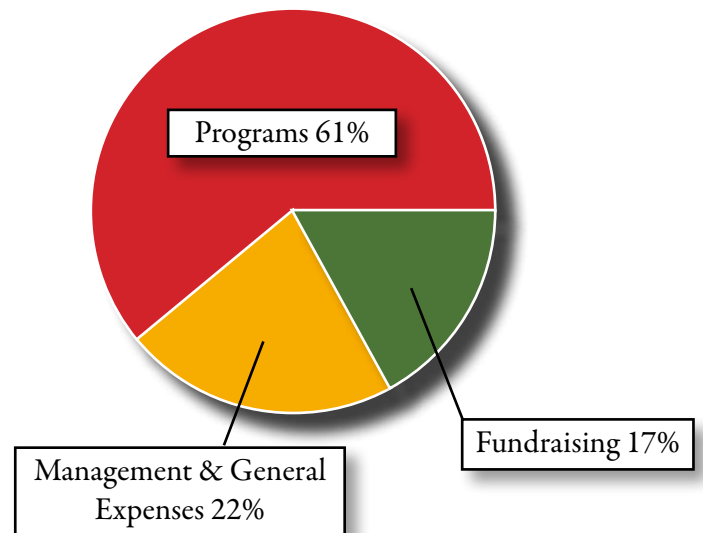
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue	
Membership Dues and Gifts	\$207,953
VISION 20/20 Campaign	\$123,166
Grants	\$32,665
Special Events	\$47,748
Investment Income	\$22,663
Earned Income	\$192
Total Revenue	\$434,387
Expenses	
Programs	\$201,909
Management and General Expenses	\$73,981
Fundraising Expenses	\$57,134
Total Expense	\$333,024

Percent of Total Income



Percent of Total Expenses



Karen Smith Receives Conservation Award

At our Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on June 23, Karen Smith received the Land Conservancy's 2012 Conservation Award. We give this Award annually to a local person who has made a significant contribution to protecting our landscape.

Karen is a 5th generation Ashland resident who knows the landscapes and people of Southern Oregon very well. She appreciates the beauty and complexity of our lands and has worked to preserve and enhance them.

Karen worked for Jackson County for over 30 years on a variety of projects and issues, but is well known for coordinating and developing the Bear Creek Greenway. She collaborated with people from around the State and Region to organize support and make the Greenway sustainable and accessible to all. Her vision and creativity are embodied along this important riparian feature that bisects the Bear Creek Valley.

Karen is a founding member of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy as well as the Lower Table Rock Stewardship Committee. She is also past president of the Oregon Parks Association and served as an Ashland City Councilwoman. Karen's overall contribution and influence has not only made a difference on the ground, but has been used as a model for developing community capacity. She has been a huge part of building a great community. Congratulations, Karen!



Board Member Pat Acklin with Karen at the Award Presentation Ceremony at our 2012 Annual Meeting

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We honor the individual donors, organizations & businesses contributing \$500 or more. Thank you for making 2012 a success!

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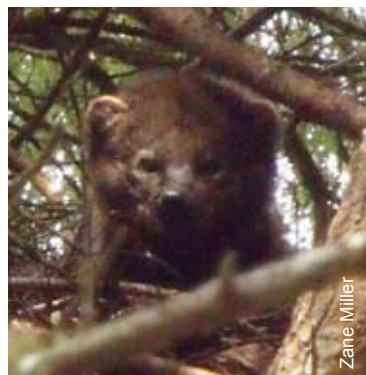
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 Dagoba Organic Chocolates
 Darex
 Deer Creek Center
 Encanto Press
 Evergreen Ballroom
 Flower Tyme
 Fly Water Travel
 Frank Lang
 Frank Lospalluto
 Giordano Architecture & Planning
 Giseppi's Pizzeria
 Great Harvest Bread Co.
 Greenleaf Deli
 Greensprings Inn & Cabins
 Hinode Farm
 Horsefeathers of Ashland
 Illinois River Hideaway
 Jackson County Parks
 Jacksonville Inn
 John Dowling
 Kaleidoscope Pizzeria & Pub
 Karen Amarotico Catering
 Kellogg Kin Farm
 KenCairn Landscape Architecture
 Kokopelli River Guides
 L. Donovan Wines

La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club
 Market of Choice
 Medical Eye Center
 Bill and Eva Marie Morrish
 Mystic Paso Fino Ranch
 new sammy's cowboy bistro
 Nimbus
 Northwest Nature Shop
 Oregon Shakespeare Festival
 Out 'N About Treehouse Resort
 Paddington Station
 Plant Oregon
 Porter's
 Raven Maps and Images
 REI
 Roxy Ann Winery
 Running Y Resort
 ScienceWorks
 Screenmobile
 Shop N' Kart
 Small Change
 Smithfield's Restaurant
 The Spa at Medical Eye Center
 St. Clair Productions
 Stacy Poole Massage Therapy
 Standing Stone Brewing Co.
 SunDay Afternoons
 The Blue Giraffe Spa & Salon
 Treehouse Books
 Up and Dancing
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Willow-Witt Ranch
 Wooldridge Creek Winery
 Yala Designs



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In memory of Dave Derby

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 Trudy and Bruce Duncan
 Carol Ferguson
 Robert Glass
 Mary Hoskins
 Sally Kirkwood
 Frank and Suzanne Lang
 Joachim and Regina Lehner
 Cheryl Leighty
 Helaine Noble
 Don and Phyllis Reynolds
 Julia Sommer
 Miriam and Marshall Umpleby
 Janet Wheat

In memory of Jim Moore

Bruce and Liana Brewer
 Don and Kristy Denman
 Bernie Hartman
 Marc and Marjorie Ratner
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