

## A Note from the Executive Director

outhern Oregon Land Conservancy not only expanded our impact in 2021, but laid Strong foundations for a dynamic future. We secured new conserved lands, grew our staff, and gradually re-started in-person volunteer and youth activities.

SOLC reached new heights: protecting land with more than 70 conservation easements and adding the iconic Pompadour Bluff to our owned lands. Our staff extended to double digits for the first time in our 44-year history, building capacity for growth.

And the generous support of our board, members, partners, businesses, and grantors strengthened our finances and ability to meet permanent conservation commitments. Staff, board, and community leaders also collaborated to craft an updated 3-year Strategic Plan. Updated priorities incorporate climate resilience and center justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion (JEDI), adapting in a changing world, to serve Southern Oregon as it is becoming.

We are proud of the steps SOLC has taken to involve more of the whole community, and grateful to the many supporters, partner organizations, volunteers, and businesses who make our lasting land conservation success possible.

Sincerely.

Executive Director









# 2021 Highlights at Rogue River Preserve

- days the Preserve is open to the public for self-guided exploration with interpretation and guidance provided by volunteer docents
- Initiated a volunteer Site Steward program to help care for the land
- Completed the Gnatcatcher Trail, creating a 1.5-mile loop trail
- Removed six acres of invasive Scotch broom
- Pulled 28 acres of noxious yellow starthistle and pulled other weeds

- Obtained funding from PacifiCorp for intensive habitat restoration for 2022-2025
- Conducted an annual bird point count and Klamath Bird Observatory erected a Motus wildlife tracking station
- Led four community
  size-restricted work parties,
  14 site steward days, and four
  youth service learning days with
  the help of 262 volunteers
- Rogue Native Plant Partnership collected native plant seeds for regional habitat restoration
- Understory Initiative volunteers planted over 800 pollinator plants
- 522 elementary school students visited the Preserve for nature journaling and observation











# LENDING A HAND: 2021 Community Volunteer Work Parties

A long with the wee flowers, the songbirds, and the fence lizards, we thank everyone who provided a helping hand at Rogue River Preserve (RRP) during four community work parties and numerous site steward Wednesdays. Volunteers built and maintained trails, pulled gigantic (and very small) Scotch broom, collected bunchgrass seed, yanked yellow starthistle, and picked up trash. Youth from Cascade Academy, John Muir School, and the Scouts also visited for service learning

days. Our friends at Rogue Native Plant Partnership coordinated native plant seed collecting for regional habitat restoration and volunteers from the Understory Initiative planted more than 800 plugs of pollinator plants at the Preserve! Two hundred and sixty-two individuals volunteered 925 hours at RRP in 2021. Additionally, volunteers at the Harry and Marilyn Fisher Preserve assisted in cleaning up the property, removed internal fencing, and pulled starthistle at the summit.



# Land-Based Learning in the Rogue Valley

In 2021, SOLC facilitated education programs for local students at the Rogue River Preserve, Oredson-Todd Woods, Jacksonville Woodlands, and the Twin Creeks riparian conservation easement, building relationships with the land and experiencing firsthand the dynamic magic of the natural world. We also welcomed the general public to the Rogue River Preserve during our Open Lands Days, providing opportunities for self-guided exploration and facilitated hikes. And beyond our own

conserved lands, we collaborated with partners to introduce students to other publicly accessible open spaces, such as the Ashland watershed and state parks along the Rogue. We are delighted to offer education programs that invite learners of all ages to explore protected lands, experience the restorative joy of nature, and examine the role of land conservation in building and sustaining ecosystems that serve natural and human communities alike.

# **2021** Conservation Group Partnerships

Protecting and caring for gorgeous land and wildlife habitat is only possible with considerable help from our friends, our community partners. We are grateful for the following organizations and agencies who support our work and are planning for a beautiful future in Southern Oregon:

Ashland Parks & Recreation Cascade Academy Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts **Jackson County Cooperative** Weed Management Area **Jackson County School Districts** 4 (Phoenix/Talent), 5 (Ashland), and 6 (Central Point) Jacksonville Woodlands Association Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network John Muir Outdoor School Klamath Bird Observatory Native Plant Conservation Program North Mountain Park Oregon Bee Project Oregon Hunters Association Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Oregon Natural Resources Education Program Roque Basin Partnership

Roque Native Plant Partnership Rogue River Watershed Council Rogue Valley Audubon Society Selberg Institute Small Woodlands Association Scouts/BSA Troop 17 Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon Southern Oregon Fire Ecology **Education Project** Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leaders SOU Environmental Education Master's Program Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition The Nature Conservancy The Understory Initiative US Fish & Wildlife Service Vesper Meadow Restoration and Education Program





# 2021 Financial Snapshot

\$768,744

Figures represent unaudited totals.

## Revenue

Contributions to operations \$476,641
Grants \$61,691
Paycheck Protection Program \$106,000
Loan (forgiven)
Other Income \$124,412

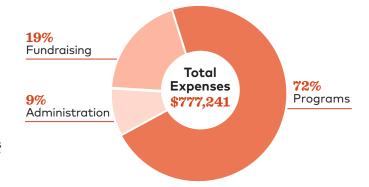
Total Revenue



## Expenses

Programs \$564,597
Fundraising \$148,991
Administration \$70,574
Total Expenses \$784,162
Total Net Revenues \$-15,418

Photo by Frank Lospalluto



### **Current Assets**

Total Current Assets	\$4,403,287
Prepaid expenses	\$4,184
Receivables	\$27,639
Investments	\$3,841,924
Cash and cash equivalents	\$529,540

In-kind Land Contribution \$906,530

### **Non-Current Assets**

Receivables

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Property and equipment	\$93,455
Conservation lands	\$3,269,996
Conservation easements	\$3,321,700
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	\$747,364
Endowments	\$772,832

\$13.742

Total non-current assets \$8,219,089

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Other Current Liabilities \$75,093
Total Net Assets \$12,547,283



In 2021, SOLC gained two more conserved areas, one land ownership and one conservation easement resulting in permanent protection of 214 additional acres of habitat and scenery. The new preserves brought our total acres conserved to more than 12,000 for the benefit of our natural and human communities.

A conservation easement is a very effective tool that

enables landowners to leave a legacy of conserved land. Conservation easements restrict and limit activities that degrade the natural qualities of land, such as clear-cutting, mining, subdivision, and development. Conservation easements keep land intact and "run with the land," ensuring the important conservation qualities remain in perpetuity, regardless of who owns the property.

#### Kanutchan Creek

This property is located in our Little Butte Creek Focus Area. This 159-acre conservation easement protects the primary habitat types on the property which are oak woodlands with chaparral along with mixed forests of pines and firs, and native bunchgrass meadows. Kanutchan Creek flows seasonally through the property and drains into Little Butte Creek, an important salmon-bearing stream and tributary of the Rogue River. The property provides habitat for the special status western pond turtle, Lewis's Woodpecker, and the flowering plant Delting's microseris (sunflower family). It is located in an important winter range for deer and elk. Strategically, the property is adjacent to federal lands and near another property protected by SOLC and a preserve owned by The



Nature Conservancy, thereby enhancing the conservation benefit and connectivity for wildlife on those lands as well. The property was affected by a wildfire in 2020, and SOLC's monitoring of the conservation easement over time will enable us to document the land's response to wildfire.



## Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff

In 2021, SOLC finalized the conveyance of 55 acres of conservation land, the result of a bequest of land and assets from an SOLC supporter to whom we are deeply grateful. This stunning property is located in our Cascade Foothills Focus Area and features the outstanding and highly scenic rock formation giving the property its name. The rocks and cliffs, with ledges and cavities, host rocky plant communities and provides habitat for birds and wildlife. The other primary habitat types are mature oak woodlands, which support an excellent cover of native bunchgrass, along with chaparral. The property supports special status animals including Acorn Woodpecker, Western Bluebird. Western Meadowlark, and western rattlesnake, as well as rare plants, lichens, and mosses. SOLC is honored to conserve this gem of a property, a beautiful landmark in the upper Bear Creek Valley.

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# 2021 Volunteers in Review

New programs launched with people power

↑ fter 2020's slowdown of volunteer tasks, we took 2021 on with new vigor. We launched the Volunteer Docent program at the Rogue River Preserve (RRP) plugging newly trained docents into our Open Lands Days and school group events. The Site Stewards group started up and met regularly to care for RRP and newly acquired lands like the Harry and Marilyn Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff. Our board and various committees ushered in new projects, and created our new three-year strategic plans and policies. Southern Oregon University (SOU) students partnered with us on public engagement, and corporate and school groups came out for private stewardship days.

We are thankful for these groups and all of our volunteers who pluck, pull, and dig; who greet, speak, and guide; who repair and paint; who read, write, advise, and share; who take photos and video; and who proof publications and organize data! We are eternally grateful for our community. You make conservation happen.



298 total volunteers



 $\bigcirc$  1,872 total hours



**\$53,430** value of volunteer time

At Rogue River Preserve:

924 hours with 262 volunteers



### **Community Members at Large** who Serve on Committees

**Lands Committee** Pat Acklin Charles Bennett Michael Derrig Randy Frick Donna Rhee Eugene Wier Rich Whitley

Development Committee Pat Acklin Billy Crawford Sabin Phelps

#### **SOLC Staff**

Steve Wise. Executive Director Paul Belson. Conservation Project Manager Rebekah Bergkoetter, Land Steward Alex Liston Dykema, Attorney Teresa Fernandez, Communications & Outreach Coordinator Kelly Gonzales, Development Director Lyndia Hammer, Stewardship Manager Tara Laidlaw. Education Program Manager Kristi Mergenthaler, Stewardship Director



Left to right: Kristi Mergenthaler, Kelly Gonzales, Tara Laidlaw, Paul Belson, Rebekah Bergkoetter, Steve Wise, Teresa Fernandez, Lundia Hammer



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# Year in Review VOUR EVENTS

#### New Member Event June 19, 2021









#### Landmark Member Event September 25, 2021







## Member Picnic & Annual Meeting October 9, 2021















### Virtual Nature Pub Talks







Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • 84 Fourth St • PO Box 954 • Ashland, OR 97520 • 541.482.3069 • LandConserve.org

# With gratitude to all of our members and supporters

## YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES CONSERVATION POSSIBLE

## **Donors**

#### Visionary: \$25,000+

Gardner Grout Foundation Land Trust Alliance Piper Grace Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation Cory Ross and Greg Conaway

#### Guardian: \$10,000-\$24,999

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We strive to record all names and gifts accurately. The donors listed reflect cash or stock contributions made between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. If we have made an error or omission, please let us know so we can correct our records.

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in Memory of Tom Cushman

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Will Small

