



*Southern Oregon*

**LAND**

CONSERVANCY

**For people.  
For nature.  
Forever.**



**Strategic Plan**  
*2019-2021*

# A bright future starts with a strong organization

## *A note from the SOLC Executive Director*

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy has protected and enhanced precious lands in the Rogue River region, to benefit our human and natural communities, for more than 40 years. As we look to our next 40 years, we envision a functioning ecosystem that supports our unique biological diversity; a rich tapestry of working lands that contribute to a sustainable local economy; and a deeper connection between the diverse communities of the Rogue River region and the land they call home.

As one of the earliest land trusts in Oregon, we remain committed to our mission. In the next three years we will work to broaden our base of support and augment financial reserves, so we can continue to respond to critical conservation needs, meet stewardship obligations, and develop exemplary stewardship and access programs at the Rogue River Preserve. We will continue to partner with willing landowners from all over our region, though we will focus our conservation outreach in the Colestin-Siskiyou Summit, Cascade Foothills, and Little Butte Creek areas. These areas are our priorities because the Colestin-Siskiyou Summit provides an important land bridge between ecoregions, the Cascade Foothills is the scenic backdrop of the southern Bear Creek Watershed including Ashland, Phoenix, and Talent and an important wildlife habitat, and Little Butte Creek is a stronghold for threatened and endangered native fish.

Lastly, we will fulfill our promise to the many generous supporters who contributed to our Rogue River Preserve campaign. Our principal goal for the Preserve is to restore its rich variety of habitats to a healthy functioning ecosystem where native plants and animals thrive. In addition, we will establish access programs that meet community needs and foster new, and more meaningful, connections to nature.

Oregonians are proud of the natural resources and beauty of our state. We respect our heritage of working the land, fishing the waterways, and enjoying the outdoors. Our work provides wildlife connectivity, protects watersheds and rivers, and helps keep Oregon the place we all want to live, work, and raise families. Together, we have protected some of the Rogue River region's greatest treasures. As we begin our next 40 years we remain committed to our vision of a region enriched by a network of conserved lands that connect people to nature. Realizing this ambitious vision is up to you, your friends and neighbors—will you join with us, lend your support, and be an active participant in leaving this legacy?

– *Cathy Dombi*



Photo by Addington Pro Photos

## Mission, Vision, Values

### Our Mission

Our work is complex, but our mission is simple: to protect and enhance precious land in the Rogue River region to benefit our human and natural communities.

### Our Vision

We envision a vast network of conserved lands spanning the region, connecting people to nature, and enhancing the quality of life for all who live or visit this special corner of the Pacific Northwest.

We share a deep love for this land. It surrounds us every day, from the ridges of the Siskiyou Mountains to the verdant valleys of the irrepressible Rogue River. This is our home, our backyard, our hiking trails and fishing holes. It's the forests and farmlands that have sustained our livelihoods for generations. It's a place we cherish, and we are committed to keeping it in the public's trust for many generations to come.

### Our Values

- **Integrity** in all our actions
- **Openness** to learning and innovation
- **Inclusivity** in our leadership, governance, membership, and our work within the community-at-large
- **Collaboration** with diverse partners to reach common goals
- **Respect** for the environment, our members, partners, and the communities we serve
- **Excellence** in every aspect of our work

*“Nothing is more rewarding than conserving land in perpetuity!”*

–SOLC Board President  
Kevin Talbert



## Effective leadership, operations and partnerships

### **GOAL: Enrich organizational vitality and financial resilience to ensure mission delivery.**

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is planning ahead and shoring up our resources to ensure we have the capacity to deliver on our mission well into the future. Over the next three years we will explore new partnership opportunities, revise aspects of our business and funding models, and cultivate a broader base of support across our region.

Following on the success of our Vision 20/20 conservation campaign and Rogue River Preserve acquisition campaign, we will develop more capacity around sustained funding sources, including planned and major giving. We will also seek to diversify our support base by engaging businesses, younger donors, and a broad range of communities.

We will strengthen regional partnership opportunities to leverage resources for effective conservation to meet the increasing need for large-scale concerted conservation efforts. Finally, we will explore the feasibility of another capital campaign that can build on our current momentum and contribute to overall organizational resilience.

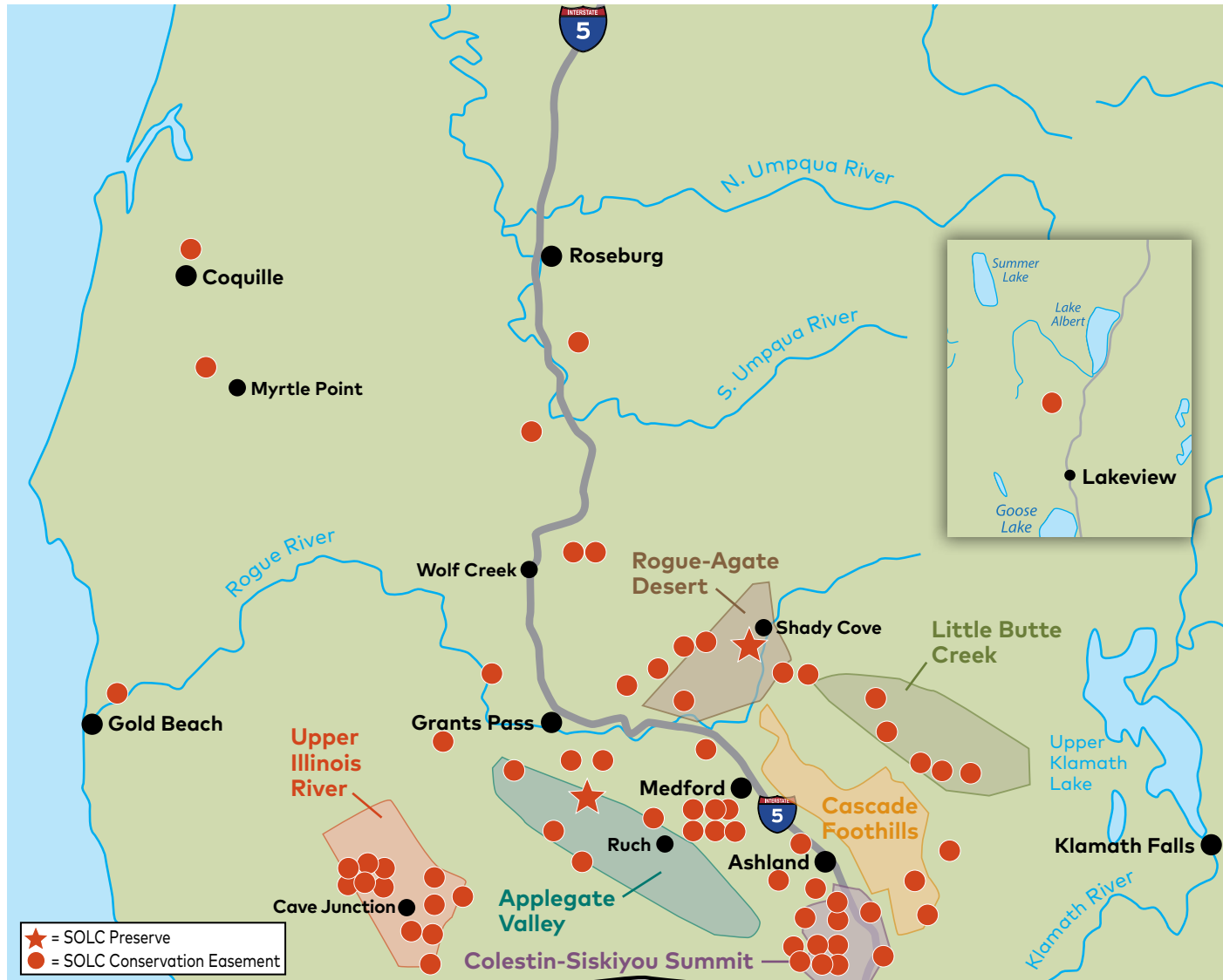
### **Strategies**

- » Amplify our operating income to implement the strategic plan, build reserves, and increase our staff capacity to meet the growing demands for our expertise.
- » Diversify funding sources, increase our membership, and create a broader appreciation for our mission and work.
- » Explore partnerships that leverage resources and increase conservation impact.
- » Prepare for a capital campaign opportunity.



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# Conserved Places & Focus Areas



**Total Acres Conserved: 10,440    Total Conservation Easements: 65**

**Total SOLC Fee-Owned Lands: 2**

*Data as of July 31, 2019*

## Colestin-Siskiyou Summit

10 easements, 2,071 acres

- Residential, ranching, forestry
- Grasslands, mixed conifers, oak woodlands, oak-pine, meadow & chaparral, juniper-oak woodlands
- Several bird species; native bunchgrass; very sensitive deer-elk winter range, Pacific fisher
- Land bridge between Klamath Mountains & Cascades, unique habitats, Pacific Crest Trail

## Little Butte Creek

5 easements, 2,048 acres

- Residential, farming & ranching, forestry
- Aquatic resources, fish habitat, mixed conifers, oak woodlands
- Coho & other salmon species, Gentner's fritillary, other special status plants & animals
- High priority habitat for coho salmon spawning & rearing in upper Rogue

## Cascade Foothills

2 easements, 282 acres

- Residential, farming & ranching, forestry
- Oak woodlands, grasslands, mixed conifer forests
- Very sensitive deer and elk winter range, important wildlife connectivity, declining grassland birds
- Rock outcroppings, Grizzly Peak, outstanding scenic view shed for I-5 and population centers

## Applegate Valley

6 easements, 267 acres; 1 fee-owned, 31 acres

- Farming, rural-residential, forestry
- Aquatic & riparian, grasslands, oak woodlands, mixed conifer forests, wetlands
- Steelhead, coho, Northern Spotted Owl, Siskiyou Mountains salamander, tailed frog, Pacific fisher, sensitive/very sensitive deer & elk winter range
- Applegate River fish habitat, stopover for migrating songbirds, beautiful farms

## Rogue-Agate Desert

5 easements, 431 acres; 1 fee-owned, 352 acres

- Residential, ranching, forestry
- Unique landform with less than 23% remaining of vernal pool-mounded prairie, wet prairie, wetlands, oak woodlands, chaparral, grasslands
- Cook's lomatium, large-flowered woolly meadowfoam, vernal pool fairy shrimp, salmonids, lamprey, Lewis's Woodpecker
- Vernal pool wetlands, Upper & Lower Table Rocks, Rogue River

## Upper Illinois River

12 easements, 636 acres

- Residential, ranching, grazing, farming, forestry
- Aquatic, mixed-conifer forests, serpentine soils, oak woodlands, fens & wetlands
- Abundance of rare & endemic plant species
- Serpentine lands subject to subdivision & they support many rare, endemic & special status plants, Illinois River, Eight Dollar Mountain

### KEY

- Primary Uses
- Habitat Types

- Key Species
- Special Features



## Protecting and caring for the land



### **GOAL: Conserve and steward properties to support functioning ecosystems and working lands in the Rogue River region.**

Southern Oregon boasts many unique and remarkable landscapes as well as a populace that deeply appreciates our working land heritage and natural habitats. As Southern Oregon Land Conservancy has grown, we have evolved from a more opportunistic conservation approach toward a more focused effort on conserving landscapes and properties that we know will have the greatest impact in the long run.

We will continue to partner with willing landowners from all over our region where our goals overlap. However, over the next three years we will concentrate our outreach efforts in three Focus Areas that support functioning ecosystems and healthy working lands. Our focus areas prioritize the protection of farms, forests, streams and wetlands, unique plant and wildlife habitats, and iconic viewsheds in the region.

We will also continue to exemplify excellent stewardship on all easements and properties in the short-term and shore up our resources for meeting this obligation in the long-term. As part of this work, we will refine our model for calculating and funding stewardship costs and assess, and build, capacity to ensure effective mission delivery in perpetuity.

### **Strategies**

- » Initiate conservation project reviews using SOLC's project selection criteria.
- » Pursue strategic conservation projects in the Coolest-Siskiyou Summit, Cascade Foothills, and Little Butte Creek focus areas.
- » Steward conserved lands.
- » Survey and assess conservation, stewardship, and restoration funding sources and strategies.



Connecting people  
to the land



## GOAL: Practice exceptional stewardship at the Rogue River Preserve to enhance natural habitats and build stronger community connections.

The acquisition of the Rogue River Preserve marked the beginning of a new era for Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. We could not have achieved this without the support of our many generous donors. We are focused on fulfilling the promises of the Rogue River Preserve campaign. We developed a comprehensive management plan that will enrich ecological values and create opportunities to deepen community connections to this beautiful example of the unique Rogue River valley ecosystems.

We will work to understand the natural disturbance patterns for each of the habitats present at the Preserve. As we develop exemplary stewardship practices that support the plants and animals of the Preserve, we will also work with our research and education communities, and the public, to build appropriate access programs.

### Strategies

- » Maintain and enhance Rogue River Preserve's conservation values.
- » Improve the Rogue River Preserve infrastructure.
- » Foster research projects on the Preserve.
- » Expand education and community engagement on the Preserve.

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*"It has been a joy to support SOLC as it has developed its strategic conservation goals, built its staff, and increased its membership and capacity. The conservation work it has accomplished in this valley is nothing short of amazing—but there is so much more to do."*

—SUSAN RUST, Longtime SOLC Supporter, Former SOLC Board Member

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Photo by Frank Lospalluto

## Connect

**JOIN US** — Come on a naturalist walk or attend one of our events, such as our annual picnic or Conservation Celebration.

**SPREAD THE WORD** — Sign up for our monthly eNews, follow us on Facebook, and tell a friend. Help us grow our conservation community!

## Support

**INVEST IN OUR WORK** — Make a gift today and become an active member of Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

**MAKE A LEGACY GIFT** — Include Southern Oregon Land Conservancy in your estate or financial plans to help our land conservation work continues into the future.

## Volunteer

**VOLUNTEER** — Join us outdoors with a shovel or indoors with a pen. There are lots of opportunities to dig in and help us get the good work done!



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



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