

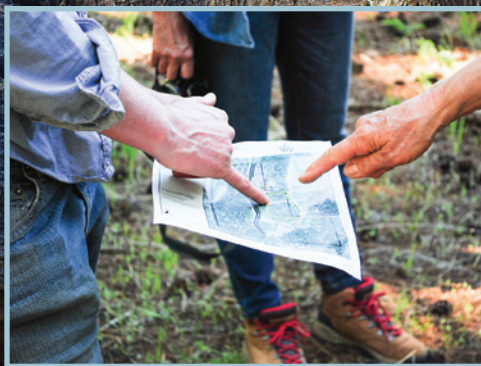


*Southern Oregon*

**LAND**

CONSERVANCY

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



**Strategic Plan**  
*2022-2024*



## Building Resilience, Celebrating Ecological and Community Diversity

### *A note from the SOLC Executive Director*

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy's vision for conservation embraces Oregon as it is becoming. Our first 40-plus years of conservation have occurred amid dramatic changes in our region: increases in summer temperatures, decreases in winter snowpack and summer stream flows, and significant growth in the intensity, frequency, and severity of wildfires. Through all this time, peoples' desire to protect the landscapes and their rare and distinct inhabitants has also grown.

We have experienced demographic changes that are transforming parts of the Rogue Valley. Our population reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity that will build a vibrant future for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Land conservation is part of the solution to accelerating ecological challenges. We also need to serve the entire living community including plants, birds, animals, and ecosystems that are characteristic of the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion. The next years of SOLC's work must engage with people of all backgrounds who inhabit the Rogue River region, particularly those who share our commitment to conservation but have been historically excluded from land ownership and access.

Our plan for the coming years will continue to protect essential habitats, build resilience to emerging ecological changes, and offer the benefits of functioning, intact landscapes to the broadest possible community. Together with our partners, we will continue to preserve the natural wonders that are so extraordinary in Southern Oregon and connect people with healthy places and the quality of life that everyone deserves.

*– Steve Wise  
Executive Director*



Photo by Harry Brindley

## Mission, Vision, Values

### Our Mission

We conserve and enhance land in Southern Oregon to sustain our human and natural communities forever.

### Our Vision

We envision a vital network of conserved lands that deepens the connection between healthy ecosystems and successive generations.

### 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

*“Protecting the legacy of those who came before us and inspiring those after us to understand and appreciate the precious lands in Southern Oregon.”*

—SOLC Board President  
Keith Emerson



## An Organization Growing to Meet the Moment



### GOAL: Scale our capacity to meet the opportunities before us.

As SOLC's conservation commitments grow, our organizational infrastructure needs to keep pace. Land conservation at impactful ecological and social scales requires proportional financial resources, staffing, increasingly diverse organizational leadership, and partnerships that reflect the broad communities in our area. Integrating a commitment to [Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JEDI\)](#) will strengthen future conservation efforts and SOLC's service to community needs.

#### Goals

- » Build upon the financial strength and stability of the organization.
- » Meet more of the demand for our services by expanding capacity through strategic partnerships, fundraising, and staffing.
- » Continue to strengthen organizational governance and leadership to extend the range of expertise, resources, and connections to diverse networks.
- » Enhance the board's role in fundraising, outreach, and relationship building for SOLC.
- » Evolve our use of a [Justice/Equity/Diversity/Inclusion \(JEDI\)](#) lens throughout all our work.

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*"If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth."*

– Roberto Clemente

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## Connecting Conservation Corridors and Community Engagement

### GOAL: Plan and implement robust, connected conservation actions.

Refining the ways in which we choose where to concentrate our efforts and the types of land to conserve will build the cumulative impact of SOLC's work. Connecting networks among individual conservation projects multiplies their value. Extending conservation corridors will build ecological resilience to emerging future conditions. Consideration of community engagement opportunities with conservation projects opens doors to greater stakeholder involvement, awareness, and long-term stewardship.

#### Goals

- » Adapt and refine strategic conservation project priorities.
- » Expand conserved connectivity and land corridors.
- » Integrate climate resilience into our conservation work.
- » Build partnerships to conserve working lands (farms, forests, ranches).
- » Explore opportunities for conserving new lands that have community access.
- » Pursue fee-owned land acquisitions.

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*"To be whole. To be complete. Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from."*

– Terry Tempest Williams, naturalist and "citizen writer"

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# Conserved Places & Focus Areas



**Total Acres Conserved: 12,458    Total Conservation Easements (CE): 72**

**Total SOLC Fee-Owned Lands: 5**

*Data as of July 2022*

## Agate Desert-Middle Rogue 7 CE, 560 acres; 3 fee, 546 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

## Applegate Valley 6 CE, 329 acres; 1 fee, 31 acres

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

## Cascade Foothills 2 CE, 282 acres; 1 fee, 55 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

## Colestin-Siskiyou Summit 11 CE, 2,258 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 6 CE, 2,208 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

## Upper Illinois River 12 CE, 576 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



## Cultivating Conservation with the Whole Community

### GOAL: Engage new audiences, increase connection with the land, and generate broad support.

SOLC's growing volunteer stewardship and education programs directly connect people of all ages and backgrounds with land conservation, cultivating a lifelong stewardship ethic and involvement opportunities regardless of age, economic resources, land ownership or other socioeconomic status. Partnerships to listen and learn with Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x and other communities of color will create pathways for historically underserved groups to join and guide future SOLC conservation efforts.

#### Goals

- » Build relationships with the potential for strategic partnerships to meet conservation, JEDI, and financial goals.
- » Maintain, improve, and expand stakeholder, docent, education, and school field programs to connect people to the land and extend our support base.
- » Include stakeholder perspectives in our deliberations about land acquisition or conservation easements, outreach events, volunteer opportunities, and education events.

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*“We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own—indeed to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty, and wonder.”*

– Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner  
and Kenyan conservation hero

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## Stewardship at the Core of Conservation

### GOAL: Practice exemplary care of conservation easements and fee-owned lands.

Perpetual stewardship of conserved lands is at the heart of SOLC's conservation commitment. Planning, coordinating, and executing stewardship activities ensures the conservation values of lands, whether in conservation easements or increasingly in preserves owned and managed directly by SOLC. Partnerships with volunteers and potential collaboration with neighboring land trusts will continue the organization's conservation leadership into the future.

#### Goals

- » Develop management and utilization plans for all new fee-owned lands within one year of acquisition.
- » Maintain and enhance the incredible conservation values at Rogue River Preserve, Williams Creek Reserve, Pompadour Bluff, and Agate Desert preserves while continuing to foster outreach, research, and education programs.
- » Maintain and increase communication, support, and outreach to conservation easement landowners.
- » Develop a site steward program for new fee-owned lands (Agate Desert Preserve, Whetstone Savanna Preserve, Pompadour Bluff).
- » Increase access to conserved lands by underrepresented groups.
- » Work with accredited land trusts to transfer conservation easements outside of our primary service area.

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*"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own."*

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– Andy Warhol



Photo by Nick Viani

## 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 social media, 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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