

Dear Reader.

A level of trust goes into supporting a watchdog organization like ours. That conviction makes you unique and visionary.

With some organizations, impact can be easily measured. In the case of Central Oregon LandWatch, our impact is often hard to define. That is precisely because it is often the absence of impact that confirms our contributions to Central Oregon's livable future.

When you look around the region and see the working farm lands that haven't been built over, the public lands that haven't been paved, and wildlife that hasn't left the region—that is how we measure our impact.

Our work starts with monitoring and evaluating proposed development in and outside our cities, forest management activities, and measuring river flows throughout Central Oregon. After taking all of this information in, we consider the relative compliance with the policies and laws that give our work teeth. When we find an issue that needs to be addressed, we define the best outcome for our region and evaluate how to achieve it; through community engagement and education, advocacy, policy reform, legal action, or all of the above.

Because of our work in 2021, critical elk and riparian habitat remains intact, farming communities won't be besieged by industrial development and incompatible urban uses, and policy solutions make more efficient use of land within cities and towns to provide missing middle housing without adding unnecessary sprawl.

These achievements would not be possible without the dedicated support of our community. It is because of you that we have been able to serve as a local watchdog organization for the past 37 years so that Central Oregon retains its "it factor", the intangible set of values that make living where we do extraordinary.

As you consider this impact report, we hope you come to the conclusion that we have: it isn't enough to simply love something. But by blending love of place with vision and direct action, anything is possible.

Together for Central Oregon,

Ben Gordon

Executive Director President, Board of Directors

Karen Lillebo

Karen & Jillebo

RURAL LANDS

Preserving forests & farm land



15 years

Skyline Forest is a vast, intact landscape covering 50 square miles just west of Bend. This privately-owned area is beloved by locals and visitors alike—and it's currently up for sale. Our aim is to protect this treasured landscape between Bend and Sisters. For 15 years, we have kept a watchful eye out for any proposed development in Skyline Forest, and we're not done yet. LandWatch has a new campaign in the works for 2022, so keep your eye out for ways to get involved!

For nearly half a century, since the creation of our statewide land use planning program, Oregon has championed strong policies to maintain vibrant, livable towns and protect farms and forests as working landscapes. LandWatch supports Central Oregon's agricultural communities by stopping sprawl from encroaching on farm and forest land and preserving open landscapes. By ensuring effective implementation of Oregon's land use laws, we can protect Central Oregon's rural economies, wildlife habitat, and productive agriculture.

5 APPEALS TO LUBA

LandWatch brought 5 appeals to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) this year.

16 LAND USE HEARINGS

In 2021, LandWatch filed 6 local appeals and participated in 16 separate land use hearings at the county level, challenging proposals that would have fragmented intact

2.321 applications

In 2021, LandWatch monitored 2,321 land use and development applications on rural lands. As a watchdog for Central Oregon, we monitor land use actions across Deschutes, Crook. and Jefferson counties. challenging and defending against inappropriate development in rural areas.



67 acres

Jefferson County is home to the most productive agricultural land in Central Oregon, so LandWatch became concerned when an urban growth boundary expansion was approved to permanently convert farmland away from agricultural use without a demonstrated need. In May 2021, LandWatch was joined by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau in filing an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals, challenging the County's decision to convert 67 acres of farm land into urban land. In October, LUBA issued a decision in favor of LandWatch, resulting in continued protections for farmland from development in Jefferson County and across the region.

Thornburgh Resort development

Over a decade ago, a destination resort was proposed for development near Cline Buttes just west of Redmond. We've been concerned about the development plans from the very beginning, and the resort is currently seeking permits to begin construction. We are following a number of permit applications that could have a dramatic effect on the surrounding community and groundwater use. The use of scarce groundwater resources and the impact on fish and wildlife of the Deschutes River has us alarmed, so we are joining forces with neighbors to advocate for the proper application of the laws in place that affect destination resort development.



CLINE BUTTES, CAITLYN BURFORD



256 PUBLIC **COMMENTS**

Last year, LandWatch participated in ongoing hearings surrounding the proposed destination resort concerning their water mitigation plan. When Deschutes County held a public hearing last August, we mobilized the public and a whopping 256 people submitted testimony in opposition. We will continue to fight unlawful development at every corner.

With the right laws in place, we have the tools we need to ensure a sustainable future for all of Central Oregon.

Protecting the region's farm, range, and forest land requires constant vigilance, and LandWatch will continue to be here to heed the call in 2022 and beyond.

Success in Jefferson County

Low-density residential development on agricultural land is one of the biggest threats to both Oregon's billion-dollar agricultural industry, and farming and ranching as a way of life. Last spring, LandWatch joined with neighboring farmers in successfully opposing a dwelling on working irrigated farmland in Jefferson County. As a result, the application was withdrawn and the land remains in productive farm use. However, anytime a development application is withdrawn the applicant can always try again. That is why the work of a watchdog is never done.

2nd largest driver of Oregon's economy

LandWatch is opposing two proposals to rezone lands protected for exclusive farm use to zones that would allow sprawling rural residential subdivisions. One is for an 80-acre tract on lands northeast of Bend, and the other is for a 710-acre tract on lands west of Terrebonne. Farm production value is the second-largest driver of Oregon's economy according to the Oregon Legislature and Policy Office (2018) and an unfragmented agricultural land base is critical to the continued success of the state's agricultural industry. Once farm and ranch lands are developed and paved, they are rarely farmed again. LandWatch supports neighboring ranchers and farmers who want to prevent these lands from being permanently converted to rural subdivisions.

Rural industrial development

LandWatch won our appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals opposing a Deschutes County decision to rezone farmland for industrial use. In November, the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld LandWatch's win at LUBA. As of now, this rural landscape remains protected for rural uses.



WILD LANDS AND WATER

Making sure our region's

the heart of what we do.

as a legal voice for our

wild lands, wildlife, and

water. Our Wild Lands &

Water Program continues to

defend wildlife habitat and

support biological diversity

and ecosystem health with

a focus on enforcing federal

environmental policies

across Central Oregon.

iconic places endure is at

Protecting wild lands and restoring waterways

ng waterways

The second of th

MOLE DELL, AND ALW COOP

30% intact

During the summer, mule deer migrate to higher elevations and rely on forested areas that provide safe shelter and sufficient food. The Deschutes National Forest Plan ensures public forests keep at least 30% of designated mule deer summer range as in-tact and suitable habitat, protected from excessive logging and other disruptions such as roads or recreational use.

That's why two recently released forest service project plans caught our eye. The Green Ridge Landscape Project and the Klone Vegetation Management Project fail to meet these requirements by reducing deer hiding coverage below 30%. In November, we submitted comments on the Green Ridge Project and urged the public to do the same. Throughout the year, we will continue to monitor these projects and enforce the environmental protections that exist for the benefit of our wild species.

56% population decline

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, local mule deer populations declined a startling 56% between 2004 to 2021. This year, Deschutes County began a wildlife inventory update to examine the habitat needs for mule deer, elk, golden eagles, and bald eagles. In 2021, we advocated in support of Deschutes County's Wildlife Inventory Update for all four species to be adopted by Deschutes County. We need the most up-to-date research available to make good decisions that sustain wildlife populations. Deschutes County will use the updates to decide whether or not to expand or extend protections for struggling wildlife populations. When the time comes, we'll call on you for support.

3% of trees

Big trees make up only 3% of central and eastern Oregon's forests, but these ancient giants are key to combating climate change. Based on a 2020 peer-reviewed study of Washington and Oregon's eastern forests, while few and far between, these trees store 42% of the forest's carbon. Throughout the year, we have worked alongside a coalition of organizations across Oregon and Washington pushing to restore protections for Oregon's biggest trees on a federal level.

150 TO 300 FEET

This year, we celebrated a legal victory to keep excessive and illegal logging out of delicate ecosystems in the Ochoco National Forest. The Black Mountain Project, which also included the development of new roads, would have been dire for elk and other species, as well as sensitive habitat along streams, wetlands, and other riparian areas. Central Oregon LandWatch and Oregon Wild filed a lawsuit challenging the project, and the U.S. Forest Service came to the negotiating table. The Forest Service agreed to refrain from logging within 150-300 feet of streams, protecting hundreds of acres of sensitive riparian areas and wetlands for fish and elk species.

60% BY 2024

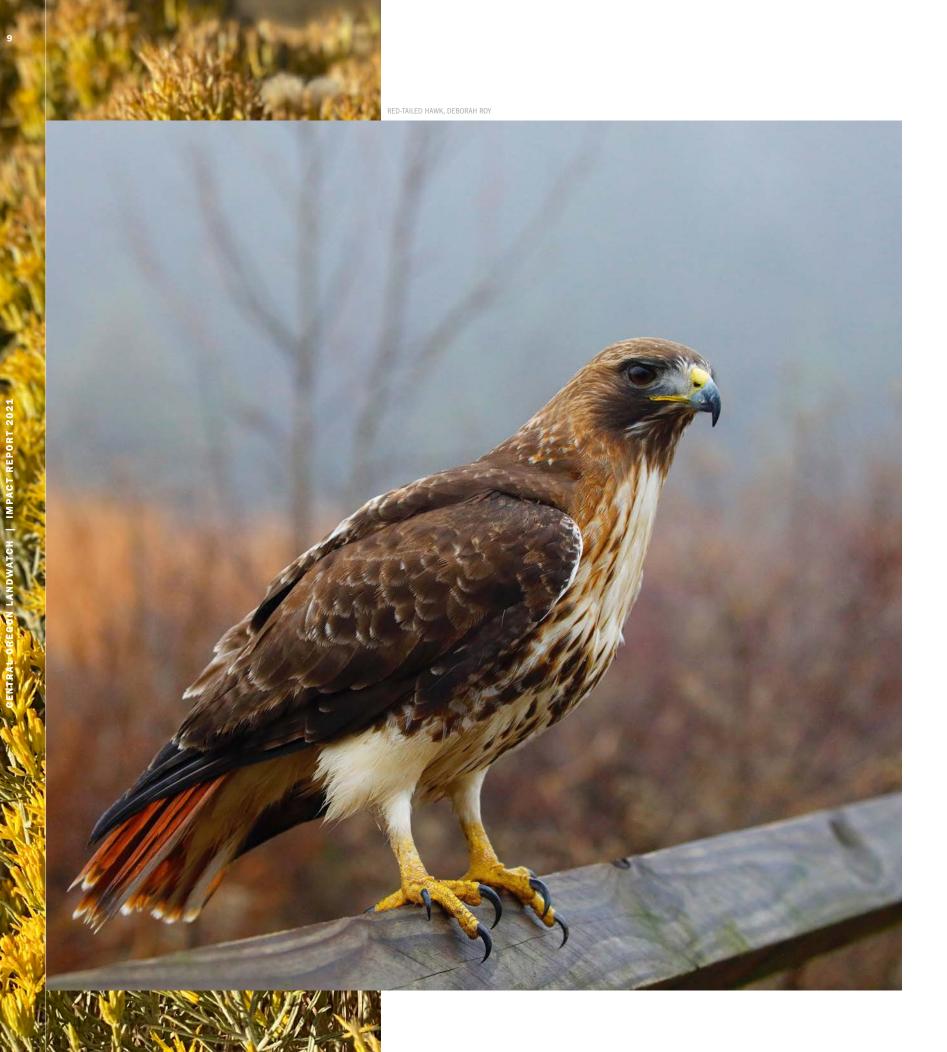
A 2019 study from the U.S. Forest Service forecasts big changes for the Pacific Northwest, reporting that changes in snowpack will influence regional river flows. Flows will be higher in the spring and lower in the summer, with summer flows projected to decline by up to 60% by 2024. The time is now to plan for the future and protect our delicate wetlands and aquatic ecosystems. In 2021, LandWatch worked to restore the amount of water flowing into the Deschutes River Basin by assuring compliance with state and federal water laws to keep water flowing through vital tributaries and streams.



21 INCHES

The biggest, oldest trees on Oregon's public lands have been protected for decades. Unfortunately, these trees east of the Cascade range, categorized as trees larger than 21-inches in diameter by the Forest Service, lost their protections in January of 2021 under the Trump Administration and are now vulnerable to logging projects. These large trees foster forest resilience as they are naturally more resistant to wildfire, and they keep forest temperatures cooler and groundwater levels higher to prevent fire ignition and spread. This year, we've been working to restore protections for Oregon's biggest trees.

DESCHUTES RIVER, ARIAN STEVENS



19,991 ACRES Central Oregon LandWatch and its supporters have been defenders of the Metolius Watershed since it was first threatened by timber thefts in the 1980s. That's why we've been keeping a close eye on the proposed Green Ridge Landscape Restoration Project since 2017. This project would include thinning and logging on 19,991 acres of forest just north of Sisters. The draft environmental assessment was released this year and LandWatch submitted comments to push for a better plan that would reduce the amounts of detrimental logging along riparian areas, keep northern spotted owl habitat protected, and limit the development of roads in mule deer and elk habitat.

80% OF WILDLIFE Approximately 80% of all wildlife in Deschutes County depends on riparian areas along rivers and streams. Across our scope of work at LandWatch, protecting and restoring these areas is central. From working to restore riverbanks along the Deschutes River to protecting sensitive riparian areas from logging in the Ochoco National Forest, we will continue to stand up for the

With the increasing threats of climate change, climate-driven wildfire, and rapid growth across Central Oregon, careful management of our wild lands and waterways remains critical now more than ever.

In 2022 we will continue in our watchdog role to review, comment, and litigate when needed, against harmful encroachment into wild spaces.

delicate ecosystems that sustain wildlife. 4 FEDERAL PROJECTS In our role as a watchdog, we continually review decisions made under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to make sure proposed projects, developments, and area management practices uphold federal environmental laws. In 2021, we identified four federal projects in our region that threatened old growth habitat, old trees, and the many species they support, and submitted comments on how the projects would harm wild lands. **60.7 MILES OF WATERWAYS** When the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968, it did a great service to protect many free-flowing major rivers. However, currently, only 2% of Oregon's rivers and streams are protected under the Act. Earlier this year, Oregon Senators

introduced the River Democracy Act to Congress to add protections on 4,700 miles of Oregon's waterways. Central Oregon LandWatch nominated Tumalo Creek and its tributaries and several tributaries to the Metolius River for inclusion in this bill. If passed by Congress, 24.7 miles along Tumalo Creek and 36 additional miles along the Metolius tributaries would be designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, increasing protections for 60.7 miles of Central Oregon waterways.

5% The once biologically rich Deschutes River had historically stable flows in summer and winter. Now, as the Deschutes River flows through Bend in the spring, multiple irrigation channels divert most of the water from the river. In some years, only 5% of the water remains by the time the river makes its way out of town. This dewatering is devastating to the plants and animals that depend on it. Because of the shallow water, water temperatures spike to lethal levels for fish in the summer months. That is why we continued to work tirelessly throughout the year to find solutions to restore the Deschutes River and ensure water equity for our farmers, our fish, and our future generations.

Complete communities for people and planet

We can grow sustainably when we work together to advocate for complete and equitable neighborhoods accessible to all. Central Oregon's population is growing, increasing the need for smart planning and development strategies that ensure the ongoing livability of our communities. Day in and day out, our Cities & Towns Program is working to ensure we can welcome newcomers and protect the place we live in and love.

7,397 PEDESTRIANS

In a month's time, 7,397 pedestrians and 4,200 bikers traveled through the Franklin Underpass according to the Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Bend Central District needs safe and accessible routes for people walking, biking, or using mobility devices to travel between east and west Bend.

20 YEARS

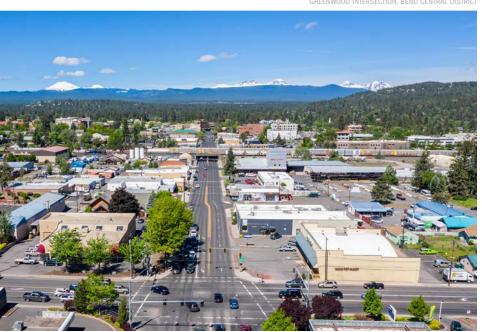
In 2021, the City of Sisters underwent a Comprehensive Plan Update to plan for the next 20 years! We wanted to make sure this plan took community input to heart and reflected the desire for more affordable housing, complete communities, and the protection of natural spaces. Through several virtual events, we hosted community advocacy sessions to encourage public participation and help navigate the process of

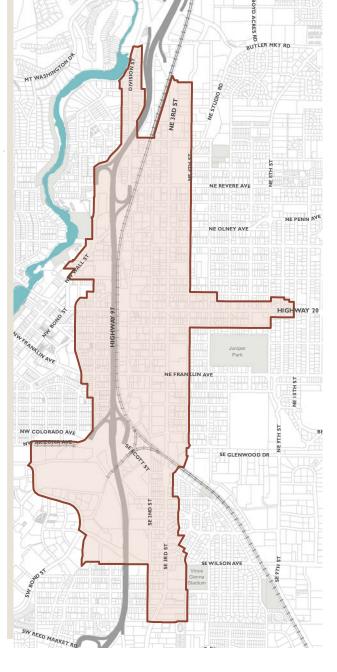


9 members

In January of 2021, we asked Bend's newly-elected City Council to take actionable steps to support Bend's Core Area, which includes the Bend Central District (BCD). This area in the heart of town holds a community vision for a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive mixed-use neighborhood. After more than a decade of planning starts and stops, a new Core Area Advisory Board was established in December, whose 9 members will recommend public projects in the core area that will bring the BCD vision to life. Corie Harlan, LandWatch's Cities and Towns Program Manager, will serve as the Vice-Chair.







BEND CORE AREA BOUNDARY, CITY OF BENT

80 VOLUNTEERS

In June, we celebrated the completion of Proyecto Mural, a creative placemaking project in the Franklin Avenue underpass. The mural was co-designed by two local artists and Latinx stakeholders to express cultural values and themes to be shared with the broader community. Over 80 volunteers showed up over three weeks to help prime, paint, and install the mural. Improving this connection and the other Midtown Crossings remains key to the Bend Central District's transformation into a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive mixed-use neighborhood.

As Central Oregon responds to the regional growth, LandWatch is showing up to meet this moment. Whether you feel the urgency in tackling climate change, or see the need for accessible transportation and housing options around town, LandWatch is moving these efforts forward in cities across Central Oregon.



we move around our cities are years in the making. significant improvements at 3 midtown crossings: Franklin Avenue. More than a decade of analysis and public outreach revealed the need for safe and convenient midtown crossings for people who bike, walk, and roll across town. This year, we rallied public support and advocated for these 3 major projects, all approved by the Transportation Bond Oversight Committee and City Council to move forward within the next five years.

First year of projects

In 2021, the City of Bend began rolling out Transportation GO Bond Project funds for projects that improve safety and traffic flow in Bend, specifically for pedestrian users. The Wilson Avenue Corridor project was given the green light to improve pedestrian safety at this key intersection. In planning for complete communities that foster equity and more climate-conscious cities and towns, accessible and safe transportation is critical.

40% of emissions

Right now, transportation accounts for 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon, making it the largest contributor to climate change. If we can change how we get around and travel, we can make some big moves to reduce climate pollution. That's why we spent the fall garnering support for Oregon's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking process, designed to "transform Oregon's communities to be safe, equitable, sociable, and pleasant places where driving is not required, and the amount of driving is reduced." As this process continues into 2022, it is front and center of our Cities and Towns work.

House Bill 2001

Last year, the Oregon State Legislature signed House Bill 2001 into law, requiring cities across the state to make zoning changes that allow for more affordable and different types of housing. This bill expands 'middle housing' opportunities to homes like townhouses, cottage housing, and duplexes that are smaller, more affordable, and have a smaller carbon footprint to all zones.

We advocated in support of HB 2001, which the Bend City Council officially adopted in September. To grow sustainably and make our communities inclusive and climate-resilient, we must use land within city limits more efficiently and provide more options for smaller housing that meets the needs of people in all stages of life and income levels.

"Central Oregon LandWatch is the best there is for monitoring and holding the line for protecting our farm and forest lands. Since the passage of the Oregon Land Use Law in 1973, there has been consistent attempts to challenge and push the boundaries for protecting this valuable landscape of Oregon. LandWatch is the organization that keeps 'watch' to make certain we stick with the law, which is designed to support the need to develop the lands within the county and city comprehensive land use plans. Their work with city and county planning groups helps enhance the livability of the area. This is especially important during the current population growth. I am proud to support this work."

GLORIA O., SUSTAINING MEMBER SINCE 2020



AFRIAL VIEW OF BEND MIKE ALBRIGHT



248 new supporting members

This year, LandWatch welcomed 248 new members to the organization as financial supporters. Thanks to our

members, we've been able to defend the region's unique character for more than three decades and continue to build healthy, sustainable, and livable communities.



105 people

Let's recognize the folks here for the long haul! We have 105 members that have been active supporters of LandWatch for over three years. We feel so lucky to find people in this community who share our vision for a livable future in Central Oregon and make a commitment to help get us there. Whether you began supporting the organization a decade ago, or have plans to start now, we're looking to 2050 and beyond!

51.5 square miles

Spanning 51.5 square miles between Bend and Sisters, Skyline Forest makes up the foothills of the Three Sisters Wilderness. In 2021, we received a grant from Democracy's Edge to save the Skyline Forest, and honor the legacy of the late Harry Lonsdale who generously funded LandWatch for many years prior to his passing. Co-founder of Bend Research and three-time senatorial candidate, Harry was a visionary entrepreneur, tireless activist, and champion for the environment. He imparted his fighting spirit onto LandWatch and continues to inspire us to be fearless in our defense of Central Oregon.

ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY

A common purpose

As we plan and prepare for the next few decades, engaging the community in our work is essential. As LandWatch scales to meet the emerging challenges facing Central Oregon, we are working to broaden our community of advocates and members.

26% INCREASE

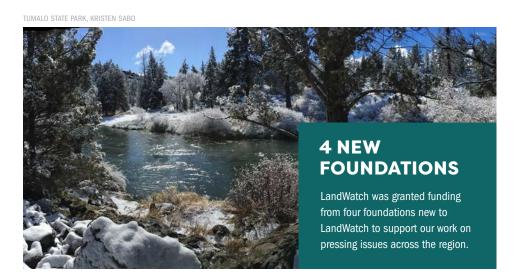
In 2021, we expanded our communications and outreach to meaningfully engage with the community by circulating action alerts and important updates to different audiences. We have 3,231 people following along with us each week through our email newsletters, a 26% increase over last year.

7 EVENTS

In navigating today's tricky world for events, we hosted 7 public events, virtual and in-person in 2021. From gathering at Worthy Brewing Company and discussing old-growth forest conservation to a virtual open house, we held community conversations about the poignant issues facing Central Oregon.

75%

In 2021, LandWatch was supported through the generosity of the community. Nearly 75% of our organizational funding comes from individual contributions. When we say you make our work possible, we mean it.

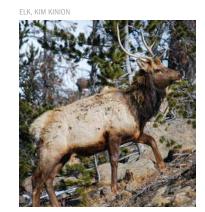


In 2022, we hope to build further support for our region's bright future. Amid the pressures of increasing development and a changing climate, the effects of local population growth are on everyone's mind. How we respond to the change and welcome newcomers will define what it is like to experience this landscape for generations to come.

LEGISLATIVE

Engaging our legislators

OREGON STATE CAPITOL INTERIOR



83 bills

At the beginning of the session, we sifted through the thousands of bills as they were introduced to the legislature. Next, we searched to identify and track bills of interest and narrowed our focus to 83 bills we closely monitored throughout the session, either lending our support or expressing concern.

During Oregon's 2021 legislative session, LandWatch pursued proactive strategies around four key issues that intersected with our work: wildfire, rural development, housing, and public participation in land use decisions. During the session, we reviewed bills, presented policy recommendations, offered expert testimony, and advocated for

issues that would affect us all

15 TESTIMONIES Throughout the legislative session, we sharpened the focus of our efforts, and LandWatch staff and board members offered expert testimony on 15 bills of interest.

House Bill 2610

across Central Oregon.

We celebrate good bills that are passed into law at the end of the session, just as we celebrate the defeat of harmful bills. One such celebratory defeat this year was House Bill 2610 which, if passed, would have waived fish passage requirements for dams and different obstructions of waterways. At LandWatch, we know regional fish populations are facing immense strain with increasing river temperatures and loss of safe habitat. Current requirements for fish passages allow for fish to migrate and move upstream safely, and we were happy to see those protections remain in place with the defeat of this bill. As our legislative work continues to evolve in 2022, we will be on the lookout for bills that lead to policies that hold the best interests of our wildlife at heart.



As we find ourselves wrapping up the 2022 short session at the Oregon State Legislature, we continue to deepen our legislative advocacy work through collaborative statewide partnerships and conversations with key legislators to work to ensure we see strong statewide policies for Central Oregon's future.

CENTRAL OREGON LANDWATCH STAFF

Caitlyn Burford Communications & Outreach Manager

Rory Isbell Rural Lands Program

Kavi Chokshi Membership & **Carol Macbeth** Staff Attorney

Manager, Staff Attorney

Engagement Manager

Kristen Sabo

Executive Director Corie Harlan

Environmental Planner & Staff Attorney Kori Sparks

Cities & Towns Program Manager

Operations & **Grants Manager**

Tod Heisler Rivers Advocate

Ben Gordon

*FORMER 2021 STAFF

Moey Newbold Director of Urban Planning

CONTRACTORS

Paul Dewey Strategic Advisor Nathan Hovekamp Naturalist & Legislative Liaison

INTERNS

Alex Hardison Skyline Forest Campaign Internship, Winter 2021-22 Ally Mullen **BCD Communications**

and Latinx Engagement Internship, Spring 2021

Henry O'Brien Legal Internship, Summer 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Lillebo President

Rachel Albright Quinn Keever

Jesse Rosenzweig Vice President

Jeff Perreault **Amy Stuart**

Gavin Burke Treasurer

John Casey Secretary

Adam Albright **Emeritus**



Becoming a member of LandWatch for 2022

With the support of the Central Oregon community, LandWatch remains committed to safeguarding what we all love most about living here.

Find out more and learn how to get involved at www.colw.org.

Sustaining memberships

Our sustaining members provide an enduring, reliable financial base for the organization with a monthly recurring donation.

Corporate partnerships

Our corporate partners are committed to making a significant, lasting impact on Central Oregon's future.



Stock gifts

Considering making a charitable gift tax deduction for donating appreciated stock? Reach out to kavi@colw.org for more information.

Tribute and memorial gifts

Make a legacy contribution to honor someone special.

"I support organizations that protect beautiful spaces from overdevelopment, urban sprawl, and resource/access inequalities. Thank you for your work!"

AMANDA P., 2021 MEMBER

2021 Financials

We thank you for your generous support and investment in our future.

Central Oregon LandWatch is proud to report a strong financial year because of our members.

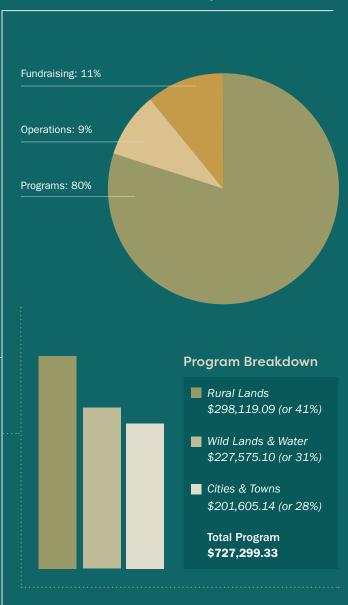
Financial position

Assets	\$1,577,884.87
Liabilities & Equity	
Total Liabilities	\$5,344.49
Total Equity	\$1,572,540.38
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,577,884.87

Activities

Revenue	\$1,485,391.59
Expenses	
■ Fundraising	\$97,498.61 (or 11%)
Operations	\$78,719.32 (or 9%)
Programs	\$727,299.33 (or 80%)
Total Expenses	\$903,517.26

Expenses Breakdown





Firstname Lastname 1234 NE Street Way Bend, OR 971212



IMPACT REPORT

PHOTO: MOUNTAIN CREEK AT BASE OF MT. BACHELOR