

# PETER DONOVAN

501 South Street  
Enterprise, Oregon 97828  
managingwholes.com@gmail.com  
541-263-1888

## Profile

Peter Donovan helps land managers, citizens, and communities combine social, economic, and technical assets toward what they need and want on working landscapes, and toward a shared intelligence on the immense power and potential of the circle of life. He is interested in combining appropriate technical and social design elements to combine theory and practice, knowing and doing, and in setting up effective feedback loops so that people can take responsibility for what matters to them.

## Skills

Facilitation: enlisting people's creativity, ability to listen, and diverse perspectives toward outcomes that are inclusive of the needs of all.

Web development: HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Python/Django

Data processing, mapping, and visualization. Python: Pandas; Javascript: d3, Leaflet

## Formal education

1997: Completed 2-year educator course with Allan Savory (Center for Holistic Management). Ecosystem function, monitoring, decision making and planning, and community development from a holistic or systems framework inclusive of people, land, and money.

1986: MA, Piano performance, University of Washington

1974: BA, Classical languages and literature, University of Chicago

## Professional and community engagement

**2008–present:** founder of the Soil Carbon Coalition ([soilcarboncoalition.org](http://soilcarboncoalition.org)), a 501c3 nonprofit working for an evidence-based, shared local and regional intelligence on soil health, soil structure, and watershed function. Board chair from 2008 to 2017. Principal in site selection and establishment of over 330 Soil Carbon Challenge long-term ecological plots across North America, working with hundreds of landowners, ranchers, and farmers, and doing workshops and presentations on soil health, watershed function, and monitoring.

**1999–2005:** Founder, board member, and board chair of an innovative entrepreneurial development project for Wallowa County which helped create over 180 jobs in a county of 7000 population. This program was driven by the skills, hard work, and passions of would-be entrepreneurs rather than on the need for economic development and jobs.

**1996–97:** Co-founder and director of Wallowa Resources, a community-based nonprofit focusing on natural resources and forestry in Wallowa County, Oregon.

**1986–2008:** Freelance editorial work; teaching, reporting, and publishing on land management, community and entrepreneurial development, and low-stress livestock handling.

**1974–1985:** Work in natural resources: reforestation contracting, trail maintenance, livestock herding, and operating small range sheep ranch.

### **Written work**

Most of the articles, and some of the documents, on [managingwholes.com](http://managingwholes.com) (1994–2010)

Most of the articles and documents on [soilcarboncoalition.org](http://soilcarboncoalition.org) (2008–2018)

*Measuring Soil Carbon Change: A flexible, local, practical method.* 2010.  
[soilcarboncoalition.org/files/MeasuringSoilCarbonChange.pdf](http://soilcarboncoalition.org/files/MeasuringSoilCarbonChange.pdf)

*A field guide to the most powerful and creative planetary force.* 2016.  
[soilcarboncoalition.org/files/guide.pdf](http://soilcarboncoalition.org/files/guide.pdf)

*Atlas of Biological Work: growing a shared intelligence on soil health and watershed function.* 2019. [soilcarboncoalition.org/files/atlasbooklet.pdf](http://soilcarboncoalition.org/files/atlasbooklet.pdf)