



# wallowaLands

Wallowa Land Trust  
Spring 2022

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last month, Wallowa Land Trust hosted our first event in more than two years. Like mushrooms popping up from the damp forest floor, we gathered together for food, drink and fellowship in honor of Earth Day.

Earth Day was significant this year as it coincided with the release of a United Nations' report asserting that stopping climate breakdown will require nothing less than a complete transformation in our energy supplies, economic models and land stewardship.

Wildfire, drought, shrinking glaciers -- the effects of climate change are already happening. Carbon emissions have to decline by 43% by the end of this decade to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C (2.7° F).

If you are like me, contemplating this is exhausting and demoralizing. Reading today's headlines leaves me feeling overwhelmed and helpless. But it doesn't have to be this way because it's not too late to make the fundamental and transformative changes necessary to avert a climate catastrophe. Humans have proven time and again that we can rise to the challenge and achieve unimaginable feats.



We live in an amazing world and we are an amazing species. The incredible achievements by human societies throughout time are mind blowing. We have figured out how to send people into space, build particle accelerators, and create telescopes powerful enough to see back in time to the beginning of the universe. If we can do all that, WE CAN DO ANYTHING!

As you witness the unfurling of spring this year, I hope you will do so with a sense of optimism for the future. Yes, the dilemma we face is daunting, but certainly not impossible. Wallowa Land Trust will continue doing our part by protecting important ecosystems, restoring habitat and advocating for sustainable land stewardship practices. What about you? Will you be an ally for our planet? **Speak, act, commit.** Be the change you want to see in the world!

With hope,

Kathleen Ackley, Executive Director

# WALLOWA GATHERING

BY AJ WHITEPLUME-TWOMOOONS



Image of Ramona Whiteplume, Jasmine Sammaripa, Jaxcee Henry and Maleah Wheeler during the 2022 root scouting trip to Wallowa County taken by Wetalu Henry

**ANNUALLY, WALLOWA LAND TRUST WORKS WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND THE NEZ PERCE WALLOWA HOMELAND TO HOST INDIGENOUS GATHERERS IN WALLOWA COUNTY. THE GOAL IS TO WELCOME TRIBAL FAMILIES BACK ONTO THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS TO GATHER TRADITIONAL FOODS AND MEDICINES, SUCH AS THEIR RELATIVES HAVE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, PRIOR TO THEIR DIASPORA FROM THESE LANDS. THE EVENT HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL GROUP OF WOMEN GATHERING IN 2018 TO MORE THAN 100 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN 2022 TRAVELING TO WALLOWA COUNTY TO TAKE PART IN THIS EVENT OF HEALING AND RECONNECTION.**

## RECONNECTION

'INIM WANIIKTWAAS HUNMATUWINUNMY NA'IIC NIITALA NA'TOT WIS-WE-YEL-WIT KAA NA'QALAC ANNIE KAMALA NA'PALAX DARRYL DAVIS KAA NA'AL JACKIE WAPATO-MOODY NA'CLAC BURRNETT WHITEPLUME, SR.

My English name is Andrea (AJ) Whiteplume-TwoMoons. I was born and raised on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, ID. This home is where my husband Redwing TwoMoons and I are raising our four children together, immersing them in as much Nimiipúu culture and language as we can. A key part of these learnings include teaching our children about our ancestral homelands and the First Foods our people gathered there since time immemorial.

My family and I attended the 2021 Wallowa Gathering Event hosted by Wallowa Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy for the first time, along with many other families from Lapwai, Colville, and Nespelem. It was a truly great experience returning to these lands together. There was a lot of support for Nimiipúu families to reconnect with the homelands through this root gathering event, and the atmosphere felt welcoming and comforting. I remember feeling though that it was missing a key piece to make a positive, lasting impact on our communities, and this aspect was Indigenous leadership.

Fast forward to early 2022, when I felt the connection to join the Wallowa Land Trust team as the Wallowa Gathering Project Manager because of these deep ties to the Wallowa homelands. I see my goals in this role including helping to restore and replenish families, friends and relatives' relationships. This can be done by providing Nimiipúu led tribal engagement with all displaced Walama Band Peoples to build relationships and support Walama Band Peoples on their Homelands. My role in this position of overseeing the 2022 Wallowa Gathering Event has allowed an authentic perspective as Wallowa Band People.

**"Gatherers bringing  
their children to the  
Wallowa homelands to  
develop relationships is  
important because this  
hasn't been done at  
this scale since  
displacement."**

- AJ Whiteplume-TwoMoons

Tú·kes (digging sticks) of the Nimiipúu

Image of AJ Whiteplume-TwoMoons with her family taken by Tac' Cnim Silu



## ANCESTRAL ROOTS

I come from ancestral lineage ties to Walama/Lamtaama, Celiloym, Niixyawi, Lexhyuw, Nanaoei. (Nez Perce, Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama, Colville and Northern Arapaho). I am a direct descendant of Taklasunmy (medicine woman) who was a Nez Perce war survivor. She was exiled to Indian Territory in Oklahoma with Joseph and returned to the Nez Perce Reservation when released from US government prisoner of war captivity.

The connection of conservation work and tribal gatherers is important because Indigenous peoples are a part of the ecosystem and we have functioned together since time immemorial. Our ancient relationships to land have been disrupted by westernization of our homelands. But with rekindling of relationships between tribal communities and our homelands, positive change is happening under foot.

# SPRING AT THE OLD WILLETT HAY SHED

By Cameron Scott

Cameron Scott, a local teacher, husband, and father, is made of 60% water, 10% fish, and 30% invertebrates, which he often ties together in a tangle called fly-fishing.

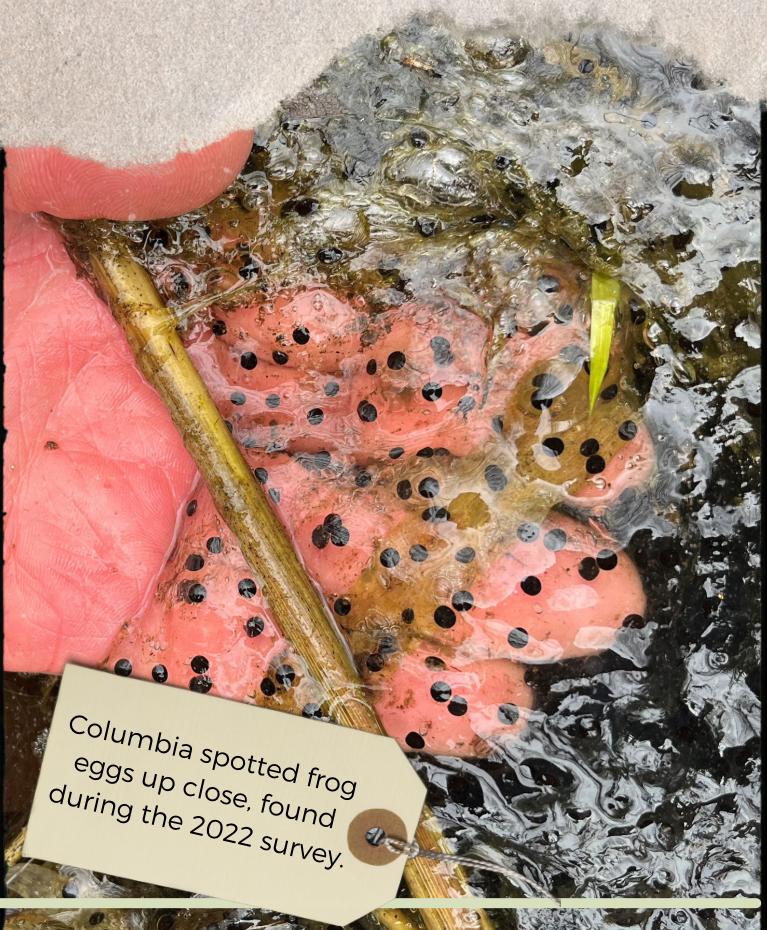
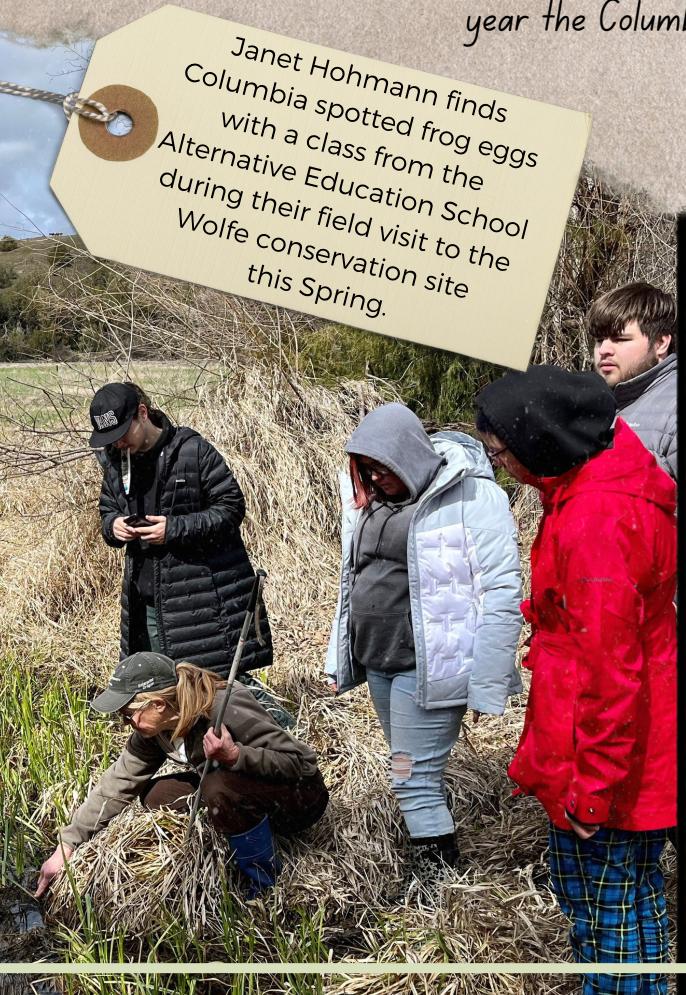
The Old Willett Hay Shed sits on 463 acres of protected property on the Wolfe Ranch in Wallowa, OR, and the conservation easement encompasses one of the healthiest, most intact stretches of the Lostine River in the Wallowa Valley.

On this late April day, intermittent clouds and afternoon sun push against winter's edges, green blades poke through mats of dead grass, buds break green on branches. Between the shed and river, bottom land sits wet with snowmelt, intermittent water runs old streambeds, cobbles warm in the afternoon sun along current seams. Nearby, a steelhead breaches the confluence eddy and disappears.

## SPRING CONT.

In the still edges of the year-round spring that winds its way through rich vegetation to the river, a Columbia spotted frog sings. Its song is almost like the earthy thumping of a grouse, but lighter, knocking the old skin from the world, calling in sunshine and breath, calling the world awake.

It loves to wander between different water bodies for breeding, summer feeding, and overwintering. Luckily, with 145 acres of protected wetlands on the ranch, it has room to roam. Even luckier, the spring here serves all three purposes, a gentle current moving through the deep cold of winter, a shallow bog interlacing summer vegetation perfect for egg laying as each year the Columbia spotted frog makes things new again, knocking spring wide open.



Janet Hohmann finds Columbia spotted frog eggs with a class from the Alternative Education School during their field visit to the Wolfe conservation site this Spring.

Local wildlife expert and volunteer Janet Hohmann helps with the frog survey each year.

Columbia spotted frog eggs up close, found during the 2022 survey.

# PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

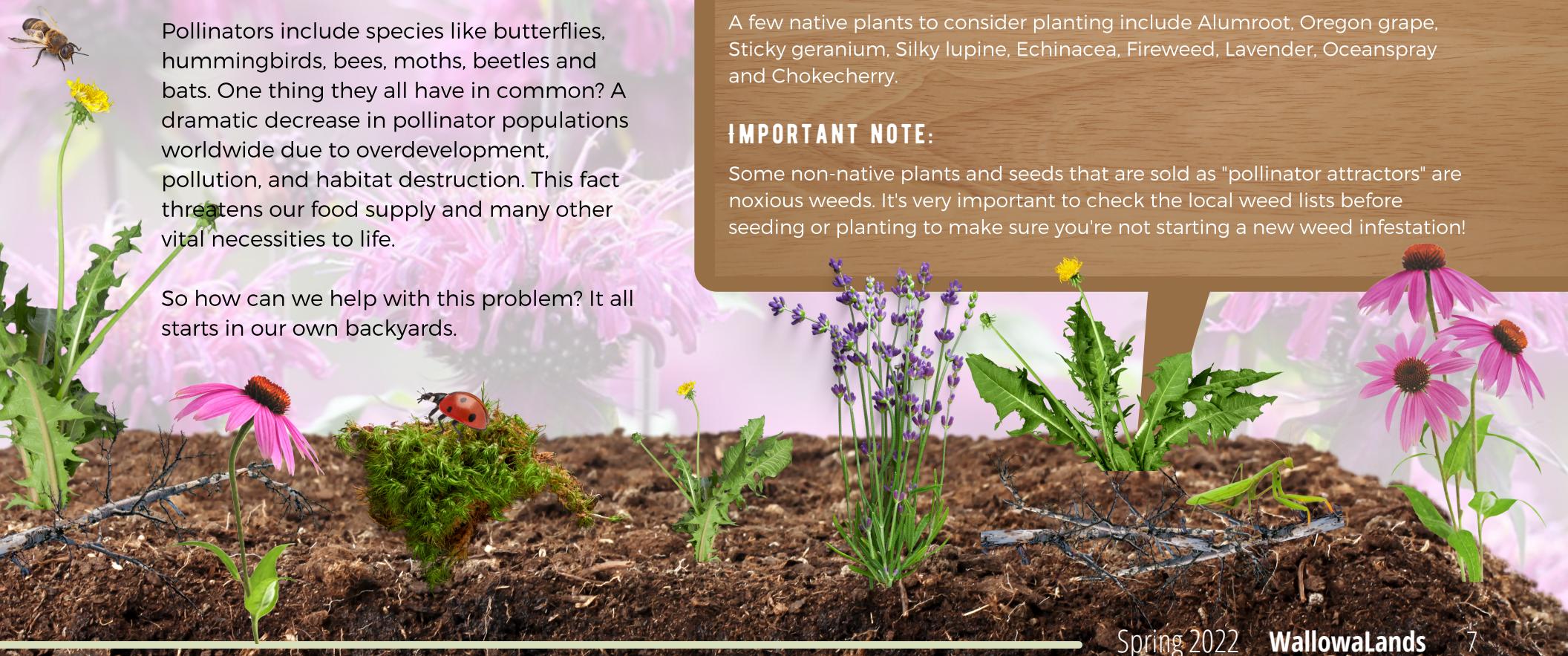
By Sarah Kleinhanzl and Heidi Schmalz



Springtime is filled with a sense of new hope, fresh beginnings and excitement for growth in all its many forms. When we look outside our windows to the budding trees and greenery, our very own yard spaces can be places of such inspiration and fresh starts. Creating a space where we can coexist with pollinators is truly one of the best things we as individuals can do to aid biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem; and it's as simple as reimaging what our lawns could be.

Pollinators include species like butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, moths, beetles and bats. One thing they all have in common? A dramatic decrease in pollinator populations worldwide due to overdevelopment, pollution, and habitat destruction. This fact threatens our food supply and many other vital necessities to life.

So how can we help with this problem? It all starts in our own backyards.



## STEP 1: REIMAGINING YOUR YARD

Pollinators need both food and habitat. Food is usually from flowers, though larval stages need leaves as well. Habitat is anything other than concrete and manicured lawns. They need debris, old dead branches, leaf piles, etc. So don't keep your gardens and yards too tidy! It's best to leave everything over the winter, holding off on garden clean-up until late spring.

## STEP 2: CHOOSING NATIVE PLANTS

Pollinators need food availability across the entire season - so planting things that flower early, middle, and late is critical. In Northeastern Oregon, a lot of the early flowering plants are shrubs. Most of these shrubs are also favored by the deer that live in town, so they need protection from browsing.

A few native plants to consider planting include Alumroot, Oregon grape, Sticky geranium, Silky lupine, Echinacea, Fireweed, Lavender, Oceanspray and Chokecherry.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Some non-native plants and seeds that are sold as "pollinator attractors" are noxious weeds. It's very important to check the local weed lists before seeding or planting to make sure you're not starting a new weed infestation!



# Wallowa Land Trust

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Wallowa Land Trust's mission is to protect the rural nature of Wallowa County by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indigenous people, local communities and governmental entities to conserve land

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