



Winter 2016

# WallowaLands

News from Wallowa Land Trust

Keep It  
Rural!

**Wallowa Lake  
Shoreline Protected**

photo by Leon Werdinger



# KIMBALL PRESERVE

by Katy Nesbitt

## Wallowa Lake Shoreline Protected

As a memorial to their mother, three brothers have donated a piece of family history to Wallowa Land Trust. Thanks to the generosity of Fred, Steve and Frank Kimball, a stretch of Wallowa Lake shoreline will remain in its natural state in perpetuity.

Fred Kimball says that in the early 1950s his father received the lakeside property as payment for legal fees. The property reached from the Wallowa Lake Marina at the south end of the lake to Trouthaven, a guesthouse on the lake's west shore. According to Fred, "He took 15 acres and sold the remaining to Clyde Harris of Harris Pine Mills."

For more than 60 years the Walla Walla family has enjoyed their lakeside get-away, but Fred says the family's relationship to Wallowa Lake dates back to early in the twentieth century. "My grandfather's parents and grandparents used to camp all summer at the head of the lake to get away from the heat - before the dam was built." In 1956 the brothers' father built a cabin on the property as a 25th wedding anniversary present to his wife. For a while the family had

a dock and a boat at the cabin, but unpredictable windstorms prompted its removal.

In 2013 the three Kimball brothers began working with Wallowa Land Trust to keep the cabin along with four acres, and donate the remaining nine acres to the Trust. Fred says the gift fits with the family's sensibilities. "We love the privacy and beauty of the Wallowas and we wanted to give something back to the county in memory of our mother. We are really pleased to keep that native Wallowa look and know there will be no development."

According to Fred, it's not just the beauty of Wallowa County that has the family so invested. "We feel very strongly about preserving the appearance; but we like the people over there - they are real individuals and believe in freedom. I've taken the Chieftain for a jillion years and look forward to getting it."

The property has 1,500 feet of shoreline lined with ponderosa pines. Current zoning would allow at least four homes along the property, making it highly desirable for development. However, now that Wallowa Land Trust owns

the land, no development will occur and it will be managed to maintain and enhance its natural features and habitat.

"The Kimball brothers were clear from the beginning that they didn't want to see houses on the shoreline and wanted to keep the forest and springs intact. I'm so proud we could help them fulfill their dream," says Wallowa Land Trust's Conservation Director Julia Lakes.

Protection of the Kimball property is in line with one of the Land Trust's key conservation goals: to conserve the Wallowa Lake Moraines. In addition to the Kimball property, the Land Trust owns a 30-acre preserve on the West Moraine and holds a conservation easement on 40 acres on the East Moraine.

*Katy Nesbitt is a Wallowa County-based freelance journalist, avid cross-country skier, hiker and highly skilled dog trainer.*



*We love the privacy and beauty of the Wallowas and we wanted to give something back to the county in memory of our mother.*



photo by Leon Werdinger



# Welcome to the Board Paul Flanders



The oldest of six children, I spent a large portion of my childhood in Irvine, California. When we arrived in 1968 there were orange groves, tomato fields, and cattle all around, and I grew up immersed in 4-H and agriculture. However, over time the rural nature I so loved about Irvine began to disappear. Tomato fields disappeared, orange groves receded and cattle on the land became rare. When I left for Modesto Junior College (MJC) on an agriculture scholarship, a sub-division was being built that would double the population of my small hometown.

I spent six years in the San Joaquin valley of California, two attending MJC studying animal science (beef, sheep and swine), and four working for an agriculture equipment manufacturer. During those years living

in the Central Valley I watched prime farmland being developed and paved over, and witnessed the decline of the family farm as corporate agriculture replaced the family farms. I saw the same thing happening again during my time cowboying around the Flathead Valley in Montana.

I arrived in Oregon in 1987 where I met my wife Sharon. We moved to Wallowa County in 1993 when I accepted a position with the Wallowa County Mental Health Clinic. It wasn't long before I began to see similarities between the Wallowa valley, the Flathead valley, the San Joaquin valley and Irvine, and became concerned about the threat of development and decline of the working family farm.

I'm excited to join the Board and be a part of Wallowa Land Trust.

# Tigers in the Wallowas

by Jim Hansen

A colorful predator surveys the horizon for a potential meal. But this beast has wings, three pairs of legs, and a hard shell covering its body – it is the Wallowa Tiger Beetle!

Tiger beetles belong to the genus Cicindela, family Cicindelidae. They are about a half inch long and range in color from metallic bright green to black with white markings depending on the species. There are over 100 species in the US. They prefer open areas like dusty pathways and sandy lakeshores, all habitats found around Wallowa Lake.

Like other beetles, tigers have four distinct life stages. Translucent, oval eggs are laid separately about a half inch deep in sandy soil during the summer. The tan larvae are wormlike with three pairs of legs and distinct mandibles. They make tunnels about a foot deep and dwell near the openings where they nab passing victims, then devour

them at the bottom of the burrows. The fifth abdominal segment has hooks that anchor the predator in the tunnel when the prey struggles. Larvae pupate inside the burrows.

Adults have a characteristic body shape. The head has threadlike antennae and bulging eyes. Their vicious sharp pointed overlapping mandibles that can inflict a painful bite also give them the name “tiger” beetles. Next follows a narrow thorax, then a broad abdomen. The legs are long and powerful making them among the fastest running insects. They are also strong fliers. When disturbed, they often land facing the observer as though contemplating how to consume such a large meal!

When walking along Wallowa Lake's shore or hiking one of its trails, be on the lookout for this fascinating insect. You will enjoy the experience!

*Jim Hansen is a retired entomologist with a long connection to Wallowa County.*



photo by Kevin Hall

# Community Helps Set Priorities

By Kathleen Ackley

When you think of all the beautiful areas throughout Wallowa County – forests, farms, grasslands, canyons and ranches - how can you possibly begin to prioritize which places should be protected? This is a question we are faced with regularly at Wallowa Land Trust, particularly since demand for our services has increased over the past several years. Should we devote more time to working with local farm and ranch families to prevent lands going out of production? What about working forests? How important are the wetlands and river corridors? Should we focus more on public access to recreational lands?

These are tough questions, but in order for us to be the most effective and efficient land conservation organization we can be, we need to think and act strategically. Our time, energy and money are all limited resources and we must use them wisely. To that end, Wallowa Land Trust is developing a

strategic Conservation Plan.

As a community-based land trust whose success depends on voluntary land conservation, we understand that our work must be rooted in community values. Since October we have been working with a consultant to help us engage community members and leaders and natural resource experts in understanding community values and needs around the diverse natural resources here in Wallowa County. Together we are prioritizing the conservation values most important to the community from social, economic and ecological perspectives. When we complete our work later this year, we will have a Plan that will guide our limited resources for the future and hopefully make the answers to these questions easier.

We will keep you posted as we continue to make progress on this important work.



photo by Wallowa Land Trust Staff

# Welcome to new staff Heidi Wilson



photo by Amberlee Harder

As a child I spent summers and holidays on my grandparents' cattle ranch in Lostine. I fell in love with this valley and community at a young age and always had a dream of building a life here and raising my family. After graduating from college in 1998, my husband Ian and I moved to Lostine and into my great grandparents' old farmhouse on the ranch. Our children, Ashley and Malachi, are the fifth generation of my family to live in the house. It's been a labor of love working to bring it back to life!

In the 18 years that I have lived here I have owned and operated two local businesses,

Wallowa Outdoors and The Blonde Strawberry. I have also been employed by the Forest Service, the Northwest Interpretive Association and most recently the Lostine Tavern. Through all of these experiences I have gained a rich understanding and respect for the community, the landscape and the way of life here. I am dedicated to protecting the rural nature of the Wallowa Country and am very excited to be working with Wallowa Land Trust.

*Heidi is the Land Trust's first and best Office Assistant. Stop by and say hello!*



# All Hands on Deck

by Julia Lakes



photo by Mark Lacey

On the last Wednesday of each month, a meeting of the minds (a.k.a the Lands Committee) occurs at Wallowa Land Trust’s office in Enterprise. Dick Burch usually walks in first – a retired BLM career man who has done his time in public meetings and planning. Dick now provides his expertise to the Land Trust, although without having to fill out endless requisition forms or undertake exhaustive environmental impact studies. Next through the door is Larry Nall – a forester who audits timber around the world for FSC certification, when he’s not hiking in the Wallowas. Lindsey Jones joins us too; a recent transplant from Florida, she assists with weed control efforts in the canyon country

via Wallowa Resources. The crew would not be complete without Mike Hansen, Assistant District Biologist with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Dapper in his ODFW regalia – brown hat, shirt and all – Mike always has an interesting story to share of an osprey he untangled from blue bailing twine or a mountain goat sighting at Wallowa Lake. Dick, Larry, Lindsey and Mike, along with board members Mark Lacey and Benjamin Curry, make up this vital committee. The Lands Committee is tasked with reviewing potential conservation projects and guiding the Land Trust’s stewardship efforts. It serves as a technical advisory committee, vetting projects before they go to the Board and

ensuring the Land Trust is holding up its promise to “Keep It Rural.” Each month I am excited to update these volunteers on what’s transpired over the last four weeks and to get their expert opinion on where to go from here. Sometimes, we even get out of the office to visit potential projects, perhaps most memorably gliding across Wallowa Lake in a jet boat on a blustery November day to survey the Kimball property, which has since become a Wallowa Land Trust preserve. We couldn’t do it without these dedicated volunteers – thank you Dick, Larry, Lindsey, Mike, Mark and Benjamin for bringing your passion and wisdom to our work!



“Mike always has an interesting story to share of an osprey he untangled from blue bailing twine or a mountain goat sighting at Wallowa Lake.”

## Calendar of Events

**Conservation Options for Landowners**  
Saturday May 21st  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
St. Katherine’s Parish Hall  
301 NE Garfield St., Enterprise  
Is a conservation easement right for you and your land? How will an easement change the way you manage your land? How will it affect your finances? Come learn the answers to these and many other questions from the experts.

**Art & Science on the Prairie**  
Saturday June 11th  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Join Wallowa Land Trust, The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture and The Nature Conservancy for a spring celebration on the Zumwalt Prairie. We’ll be hiking, drawing, painting and learning about prairie ecology at the height of wildflower season. Registration is required and lunch will be included.

**Wallowa Land Trust’s Annual Picnic**  
Sunday August 21st  
4:00 PM  
Lunde Home  
601 South Main St., Joseph  
Join us to celebrate our conservation successes with good food and drinks and live music.

**Portland Cello Project**  
Thursday November 10th  
8:00 PM  
OK Theater  
208 W Main St., Enterprise  
Join us for an evening of unexpected and genre-bending music – proceeds support Wallowa Land Trust.

For more information on any of the events listed above and to keep up-to-date on new ones throughout the year, visit our website at [www.wallowalandtrust.org](http://www.wallowalandtrust.org).

photo by Tarina Westlund



photo by Leon Werdinger





Wallowa Land Trust  
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*Our mission is to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Country by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indian tribes, local communities and governmental entities to conserve land.*

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photo by Leon Werdinger

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## National Recognition for Wallowa Land Trust

Wallowa Land Trust has just been awarded accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We are extremely pleased and proud to join the growing cadre of nationally accredited land trusts. Of the 1,700 land trusts across the nation, only 341 have been awarded accreditation – 342 including us! Our staff and board worked tremendously hard over these years to ensure Wallowa Land Trust meets the highest standards of quality for land conservation, stewardship and nonprofit management.



photo by Leon Werdinger

The goal of the national accreditation program is to promote public trust and ensure permanence in conservation of America's lands.

For Wallowa Land Trust, the seal of accreditation demonstrates that our land trust has a solid foundation and delivers a professional program.

We are extremely proud of this achievement and extend our thanks to the people who made it possible: Donna Erickson, Rick Bombaci, Nancy Clarke, Elnora Cameron and the entire Wallowa Land Trust board.



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