

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

A letter from our Executive Director and Board President

It is undeniable that where we live matters to us. We care about what it means to be home.

Many of us have lived here for ages, choosing to stay because we deeply value a life here. Many of us made the thoughtful decision to live here after carefully considering what we were looking for. We left places that didn't feel quite right and came here because it did, whether we were drawn to the mountains, sunny days, vibrant communities, or the river running through town.

Our Central Oregon home is more than just a physical place. It is a connection to each other and our environment. We know we are home when we see the outline of the Cascades along the horizon, hear the sound of the Deschutes River on a walk through town, or see familiar faces at our local coffee stop.

Whether it is the access to trails, the local food movement, the charming and walkable downtowns, or the myriad other reasons, the love that we feel for our high desert home is undeniable.

Our connection to this place goes beyond words. It is what keeps us drawn to Central Oregon and unites us to ensure that as our region grows, we carefully consider all that defines our connection to our home.

During the past year, our resolve was tested many times, and we came together as a community to safeguard what we love. From an outpouring of opposition to a public land sale at Cline Buttes to a federal lawsuit to protect mature and old-growth forests, we defended wild places. From securing funding for the Bend Central District to launching the Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative, we've got big plans for vibrant cities that protect our surrounding landscapes.

As you explore this impact report, we hope you are reminded of the impact our community can make. Thank you for standing alongside LandWatch to defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future.

We celebrate your tenacity and support, without which our work would not be possible.

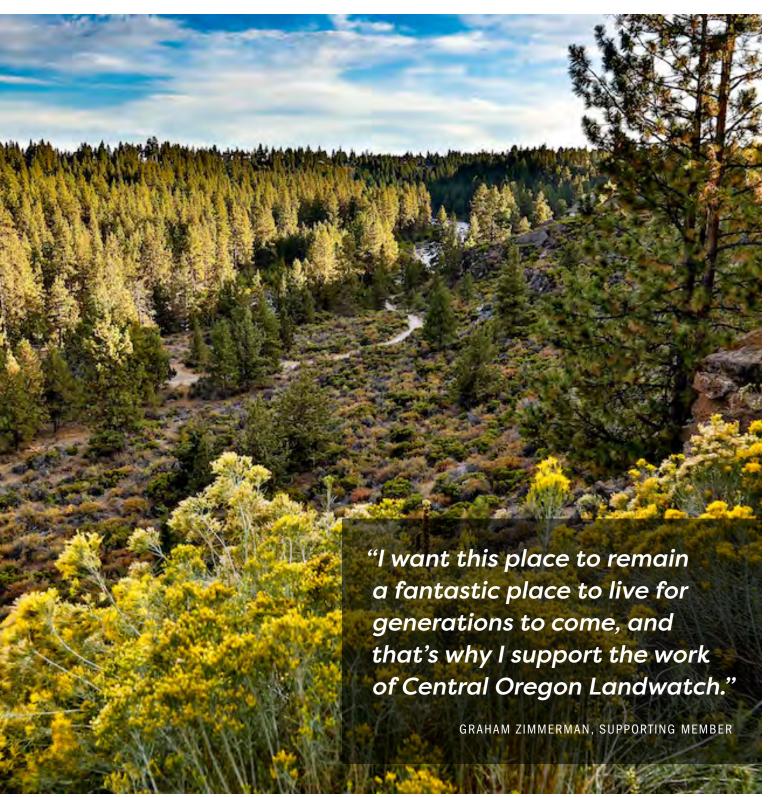
Together for Central Oregon,

Ben Gordon
Executive Director

Jesse Rosenzweig
President, Board of Directors







ABOVE PHOTO: DESCHUTES RIVER CANYON, BOB POOL COVER PHOTO: WASIM MUKLASHY

WILD LANDS AND WATER

Defending wild lands

As we face the mounting threats of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, our work to protect the ecological integrity of wild places is more critical than ever.



PHOTO: NORTH FORK CROOKED RIVER, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



20,000 acres

In 2022, we pursued multifaceted efforts to protect big trees and sensitive plant and animal habitats from industrial logging in Central Oregon.

LandWatch filed a formal objection to the Forest Service's Green Ridge Project, a **20,000-acre** logging project in the Deschutes National Forest near Sisters. Our core objections included extensive logging in spotted owl habitat and sensitive riparian areas.

We also engaged with the US Forest Service to improve several projects, including the Mill Creek and North Fork Crooked River projects in the Ochoco National Forest. We expressed concern over large tree logging, excessive road densities, and extensive tree removal in sensitive riparian areas and within the North Fork Crooked River Wild and Scenic River Corridor.





PHOTO: COYOTE

The Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife **Passage Initiative**

Last year, we launched a major initiative to improve motorist safety and wildlife passage along Highway 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), this area is one of the most dangerous stretches of road statewide for wildlife-vehicle collisions.

LandWatch is working with ODOT, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and conservation partners to pursue safe wildlife crossing projects. Throughout 2023, the Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative will be convening, focusing on securing funding and designing projects to keep wildlife and motorists safe along this key Central Oregon thoroughfare.

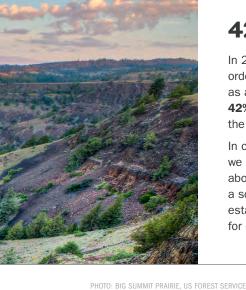


In 2022, President Biden issued an executive order to protect mature and old-growth forests as a way to combat climate change. In Oregon, 42% of all carbon stored in the forest is held in the largest 3% of trees.

In our work with the Eastside Forest Coalition, we continue to push the national conversation about Oregon's forest management, asking for a science-backed and inclusive process that establishes long-term, durable forest protections for ecosystems east of the Cascades.

7 million acres of national forests

LandWatch and five other conservation organizations filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Forest Service's decision to allow the logging of large trees in national forests across Central and Eastern Oregon. This decision removed protections for large trees (over 21 inches in diameter) on over 7 million acres of national forest. Oral arguments are scheduled for May 2023.





WILD LANDS AND WATER

Restoring rivers and streams

LandWatch is committed to restoring rivers in the Deschutes Basin by improving water management. We are pushing to increase stream flows, reduce water waste, and make it easier to move water to where it is needed most.



PHOTO: THE CROOKED RIVER AT BIG CREEK CAMPGROUND, JEREMY AUSTIN



3,215 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers

Last year, we supported federal legislation that would add **3,215 miles** to the Wild and Scenic River System in Oregon, including tributaries to the Crooked River, Tumalo Creek, tributaries of the Metolius River, Paulina Creek, Fall River, the Upper Deschutes, and several streams in the Ochocos. While the bill would not address issues related to how water is allocated across the Deschutes Basin, it would provide important protections from new mining claims, and other land uses that impact a river segment's Outstanding Remarkable Values.





PHOTO: DESCHUTES RIVER, TUMALO STATE PARK

Data-driven water monitoring

To restore waterways across a vast landscape, we must start with an accurate and accessible system to monitor instream flows. We can't enforce what we can't measure.

We've been working to develop an automated system that gives real-time assessments of instream monitoring data across the Deschutes Basin. This system tracks river flows and compares them to instream water requirements, notifying staff when flows are out of compliance. It's the first step towards a comprehensive and data-driven understanding of Deschutes River restoration goals.

1,200 years

The West is experiencing the driest conditions in over **1,200 years**. As drought persists across our region, we are collaborating with local partners to involve Central Oregon community members in meaningful conversations about water use, and building support for fundamental changes to water management.

In 2022, our efforts involved addressing complex issues, like the interpretation and application of "beneficial use," monitoring canal piping plans, and identifying how saved water can meet the needs of our rivers and working farms.

10 cubic feet per second

Last year, the Crooked River reached historically low flows, stranding native fish and creating low oxygen and extreme temperature environments. In October, flows out of the dam were reduced to a trickle of just 10 cubic feet per second, falling well below the minimum flows needed to support healthy fish and wildlife populations.

LandWatch met with state and federal agencies to present our concerns, identify how drought conditions were considered under the Habitat Conservation Plan, and determine the next steps to prevent the river from running dry again.





CITIES AND TOWNS

Here to deliver Complete Communities



A RENDERING OF THE CATALYST PROJECT FROM PETRICH PROPERTIES

By thoughtfully guiding growth, we can create Complete Communities across Central Oregon. These are places where everyone can find a place to live, nature is close by, and it's safe to get around without always using a car. These areas are mixed-use, so the businesses and services people need are always nearby. Together, we are making real progress.

Under 3 miles

In Deschutes County, well over half of our daily car trips are under 3 miles, according to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation. Many people could opt to walk, bike, roll, or take public transit if safer and easier routes existed throughout town. Our Cities and Towns program focuses on planning and funding efforts that create more convenient, safe ways to get around town – an essential part of Complete Communities.



Complete Communities are climate-friendly communities

As Central Oregon grows, we can fight climate change by advocating for Complete Communities that protect our surrounding wildlands.

40% of emissions

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 big moves to reduce climate pollution.

That's why we spent 2022 advocating for Oregon's Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules 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." These rules place tackling climate change, providing more affordable housing options, and creating more equitable transportation choices at the center of how Oregon's cities are planned, built, and funded.

\$30 million for Midtown Crossings & Bend Central District

2022 was a huge year for the Bend Central District (BCD). The stage is set for transformative changes. LandWatch worked with community partners, local businesses, and the City of Bend to help deliver over \$30 million to support transportation and infrastructure investments to the BCD. Over the next five years, these investments will make Franklin, Hawthorne, Greenwood, and 2nd Street safer, more welcoming, walkable, bikeable, and rollable.

One of the initial projects underway is The Catalyst. This project will create an active and vibrant public gathering space at 2nd Street and Hawthorne Avenue in the heart of the BCD. As a part of this project, beloved Bend business Spoken Moto is moving to this new spot and began relocating their iconic Pine Shed building in March.

And there's more. A new Development Partner Program (DPP) will help prevent gentrification and displacement by helping existing businesses invest in their buildings and operations and continue to flourish as the area changes. The DPP will also help move larger affordable housing and mixed use projects forward. These public investments will help catalyze an estimated additional \$250 million of private investment in additional, much-needed housing and development projects in the area.



Sisters Country

How and where will Sisters grow over the next twenty years? The answer to that question is being determined now, and the City of Sisters is planning ahead. Throughout 2022, LandWatch engaged in the City of Sisters' process to grow with intention in ways that preserve livability and support a Complete Community. We advocated for key efficiency measures and housing plan updates that will help deliver more abundant and affordable housing options and promote mixed-use, walkable areas in town. We were excited to see many of these measures adopted! Over time, these measures will create more vibrant neighborhoods and local economies while protecting the farms, forests, and stunning landscapes nearby.



1,600 members strong

The Oregon Climate Action Coalition is **1,600 strong**. LandWatch was instrumental in creating and leading this broad, statewide group of organizations, businesses, and individuals, to support and advise on the Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rulemaking process. The coalition worked to ensure these rules tackle climate change in tangible ways.

Climate-friendly and equitable communities ahead!

Following a year of sustained advocacy and statewide coalition building, Oregon's Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Rules were adopted on July 21! The final rules reflect LandWatch's priorities to address the urgency of the climate crisis and the transportation and housing needs of all Oregonians.

These rules significantly strengthen transportation and housing planning in regions with over 50,000 people, including Bend. They focus on reducing the time and distance people travel by car to access work, school, and services. Over time, they'll result in smaller urban growth boundary expansions, protecting the surrounding farmlands and open spaces. The adoption of these rules is a huge win for Central Oregon's livable future – now on to implementation!



WILDFIRE

Wildfire safety and preparedness

In 2021, Oregon legislators passed a comprehensive bill (SB 762) to address wildfire preparedness and resiliency across the state. Last year, we tracked the many implementations of that bill and made policy recommendations to best protect Central Oregonians from wildfire.

As Central Oregon continues to grow, we are seeing new development in high-risk fire areas across the region. We can prevent devastating loss tomorrow if we are wise about how we plan for our regional growth today.



PHOTO: WILDFIRE SMOKE OVER BLACK BUTTE, RYDER REDFIELD

Protecting our wildland-urban interface

We were active in the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) priority-setting process. We focused on advocating for safe, thoughtful, and minimal development plans, like Deschutes County's Westside Transect Zone, in high-risk fire areas along the wildland-urban interface. We engaged our membership and saw hundreds of Central Oregonians ask for priorities like safe evacuation routes, efficient firefighter access, and inclusive community engagement in creating wildfire-adapted communities.

We engaged in Oregon's Department of Forestry process to map wildfire risk and define Wildland-Urban Interface Identification criteria. We pushed for data transparency and improved language for defining the wildland-urban interface.

LandWatch also supported and offered policy recommendations to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services in their work to establish wildfire protection standards for new construction in high-risk wildfire zones. We highlighted the need to include accessory dwelling units and other infill structures to best protect Oregonians and their homes from wildfire.



RURAL LANDS

Preserving open space, habitat, and a farming future

As a local watchdog for Oregon's renowned land use planning system, we are proud to uphold the laws that make Oregon, Oregon. From farms to forests, wildlife habitat to flourishing agricultural economies, our rural lands are the backdrop for what makes our region unique.

Highlights from the legal team

- 2,500+ rural land use and development applications reviewed
- 6 appeals filed with Oregon's Land Use Board of Appeals
- 15+ land use hearings
- 6 local appeals at the county level

5 years

As a watchdog for Oregon's land use system, we monitor proposed development across Central Oregon's rural lands and litigate when we see something that clearly violates the law. Often, these victories can take years. In 2022, we celebrated one such victory for farmland in Jefferson County **5 years** in the making. After years of appeals, Jefferson County officially denied an application to develop high-quality farmland. Often, and as in this case, the work of a watchdog can span years, and we are thankful to our supporters who share our long-term vision for our farming future.

No resort without water

For over a decade, LandWatch has been fiercely opposing the proposed Thornburgh luxury resort development. 2022 was no different. We raised legal arguments in several appeals on the status of the parcels and the validity of the water right at local and state levels. Our position is clear: The proposed resort has no water. The resort has proposed to replace its existing plan to protect fish and wildlife habitat with an uncertain plan that does not provide the cool, clear instream flows needed to protect native fish from the effects of groundwater withdrawals by the resort. We side with ODFW in opposing this new fish and wildlife mitigation plan. As stewards of our region's water and wildlife habitat, we will continue to oppose this resort and push for public involvement at every level.

Where's the ranch?

LandWatch opposed the revival of a guest ranch near Black Butte that was previously approved in 2002 but never developed. Such land use approvals become void after two years with extensions. Nevertheless, Deschutes County approved the continuation. We then appealed that decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals, arguing that the permit had been lost to abandonment after twenty years. Additionally, guest ranches in Oregon are designed to support working ranches. In this case, neighbors testified there was not and never had been a working ranch on the property. We are happy to report we prevailed at LUBA.

This is part of a larger effort to protect the farm and forest land bases in Deschutes County by limiting commercial uses on farmland to those that supplement income on a working farm or ranch.



PHOTO: CLINE BUTTES OVERLOOK, CAITLYN BURFORD

4,764 voices for 400 acres

In 2022, we celebrated a remarkable victory in opposing the privatization of public land at Cline Buttes. The area is known for its mountain bike trails, hiking access, spectacular views, and golden eagle habitat. In March, we learned of a proposed land sale from the State Land Board to the developers of Thornburgh Resort. This was the first case since an Oregon Supreme Court ruling that the State Land Board must consider recreational and scenic values in their land sales. The community response was swift and unified in resounding opposition. These efforts paid off when the resort developer withdrew the application to purchase the land in July.

It is an understatement to say the community made this happen. Thanks to the **4,764** individuals and groups who signed on in opposition and the hundreds of people that testified, 400 acres of land at Cline Buttes remain in the public trust.

710 acres in the Lower Bridge Valley

Over the last year, we opposed Deschutes County's decision to rezone 710 acres of agricultural land in the Lower Bridge Valley. This decision would remove farmland protections to allow for low-density residential development. The property is zoned for exclusive farm use and is recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as vital mule deer winter range.

LandWatch worked closely with neighboring farmers and state agencies, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), in opposing the proposal. After hundreds of public comments in opposition, this highly controversial application was approved by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners in a 2-1 vote.

That's why we're taking the issue up at the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) in 2023. We are joined by the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and neighbors. We're standing with the farmers and ranchers concerned about the impact of this development on water, wildlife habitat, and the local agricultural economy.

No new destination resort in Crook County

LandWatch has been vigilantly monitoring destination resort proposals across Central Oregon, and our efforts paid off! Last year, we tracked a proposal in Crook County for a destination resort in the Powell Butte farming community. We opposed this proposal over a decade ago, and the developer put it on hold until this year. At an initial hearing in July, dozens of neighbors spoke out against the resort, with no one testifying in favor. We recognized the many concerns a resort would bring, including impacts on groundwater use, displacement of wildlife, wetlands, transportation, and more. Thanks to the unanimous community opposition and our persistent advocacy efforts, the applicant ultimately withdrew their resort application in August – a big win in Crook County!

24 miles

In October 2022, LandWatch formally asked Deschutes County to amend its zoning code to limit new destination resort development. Longstanding Oregon state law limits destination resorts within **24 miles** of cities with a population of 100,000 or more. As Bend has reached the population threshold, it's time to recognize enough is enough. As concern continues to mount over groundwater, wildlife habitat, and rural sprawl, we are happy to submit this request on behalf of our members. We'll be calling on you to support this effort throughout 2023.

SKYLINE FOREST



best to make this happen in the year ahead.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

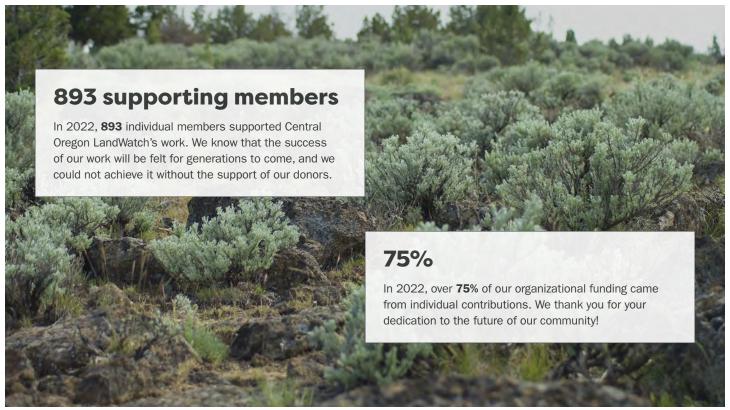
Together, for our livable future

A cohort of land use advocates

LandWatch partnered with 1000 Friends of Oregon to host the 2022 Central Oregon Land Use Leadership Initiative (LULI). In nine sessions over four months, LandWatch, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and LULI participants have engaged in issues like housing, transportation, water, wildlife, wildfire, and farm and forest land protection. This initiative has been a real opportunity to build up a cohort of powerful land use advocates in the region.



PHOTO: LAND USE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE COHORT, 1000 FRIENDS



I FGISLATIVE

Civic Engagement at the Legislature

PHOTO: OREGON STATE CAPITOL



The Wildlife Crossings Investment Act

Thousands of wildlife-vehicle collisions occur annually in Oregon, resulting in human and wildlife injury or loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage. Wildlife crossings, like highway underpasses and overpasses, are highly effective in reducing these collisions, making roads safer for both people and wildlife. That's why we were proud to support the Wildlife Crossings Investment Act, which appropriated funding to the Oregon Department of Transportation for wildlife passage projects. This bill enjoyed broad support and was rolled into the budget bill, HB 5202, which was successfully passed. We are proud to have been part of the advocacy efforts that led to the passage of this important legislation.





PHOTO: MULE DEER IN WINTER RANGE, RYDER REDFIELD



27 bills

Landwatch was engaged in the fast-paced and high-stakes 2022 legislative short session. At the beginning of the session, roughly 275 bills were introduced, and we identified 27 bills of interest that aligned with our mission and values. We tracked these priority bills throughout the session and celebrated wins for wildlife, housing, forest health, and more.



CENTRAL OREGON LANDWATCH STAFF

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Manager

Rory Isbell

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Caitlyn Burford Communications &

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Amy Stuart Science Advisor

2022 CONTRIBUTORS

Kavi Chokshi Membership and **Engagement Manager** Adam Eno Legal Intern, Summer 2022

Amy Stuart

Annika Burke

Board of Directors

Skyline Forest Engagement

Intern, Summer 2022

IN MEMORY

Adam Albright

We mourned the loss of a giant of conservation in February 2023. Adam was a true force for the environment and dedicated his life to creating a better future for all of us. As a board member for many years, he brought his visionary and brilliant ideas to the table to better our organization. His commitment to his community was unwavering. He is profoundly missed by all of us at LandWatch.

2022 Financials

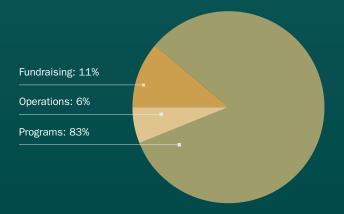
January - December

Income

TOTAL INCOME	\$1,487,177.44	
Individual Donations	\$1,152,677.44	
Government Grants	\$10,000.00	
Foundation Grants	\$289,500.00	
Corporate Contributions	\$35,000.00	

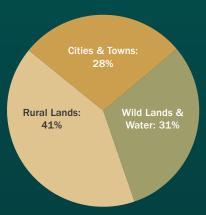
Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,200,313.53	
Programs	\$993,645.52	(83%)
Operations	\$76,169.34	(6%)
Fundraising	\$130,498.67	(11%)



Program Breakdown

(3170)
(31%)
(41%)
(28%)



COMMUNITY IMPACT

A communitysupported organization

In 2022, our work was made possible by the financial support of those who share our vision for Central Oregon's livable future. Because of the generosity of those around us, we continue the work to champion healthy and sustainable communities and defend what we cherish most about living here.

Become a member 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.

Stock gifts

Considering making a charitable gift by donating appreciated stock and receiving a tax deduction? Reach out to us for more information.

Tribute and memorial gifts

Make a legacy contribution to honor a special person or a special place.

Business partnerships

Our business partners are committed to making a significant, lasting impact on Central Oregon's future. If your business is not yet a supporting member, we'd love to help you remedy this!







Firstname Lastname 1234 NE Street Way Bend, OR 971212

"Central Oregon LandWatch demonstrates that modern life and sustainability can and must coexist. Finding balance between development and conservation is profoundly impactful both for Central Oregon and communities near and far that can look to this work as a model for the future."

JESSICA B., 2022 SUPPORTING MEMBER



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE

IMPACT REPORT

PHOTOS: LANCE REIS, WASIM MUKLASHY

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