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## Land Trust Organization Profiles

### **American Farmland Trust**

**Location:** Oregon agricultural lands, particularly in northern Willamette Valley

**Established:** Created in 1980; Oregon Field Office established 2001

**Properties: As of 2002**

3 properties (all conservation easements)

2,285 acres (3.57 square miles)

100% productive farmlands

Easements are located in Marion, Clackamas and Willamette counties

**Mission:** The American Farmland Trust (AFT) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to protect our nation's farmland. AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. Its action-oriented programs include public education, technical assistance in policy development and direct farmland protection project.

**Successes:** An Oregon AFT member received the national 2002 Steward of the Land Award. Judges selected the Bailey family of The Dalles from among 111 nominees in 40 states. The Bailey's 1,400-acre orchard was established in 1923. In recent years, the family developed innovative approaches to pest management, irrigation, weed control and soil conservation. Then they shared what they learned with their neighbors, demonstrating positive land stewardship by example. The family members are also active in organizations that advocate land-use and planning laws to help preserve agricultural lands and prevent urban development on productive farmlands.

### **Columbia Land Trust**

**Location:** Columbia River, Oregon and Washington shores

**Established:** Created in 1990

**Properties: As of 2002**

50 properties

3,407 acres (5.32 square miles)

17% forest

51% riparian/wetland  
32% former ranch

**Mission:** Conserving signature landscapes and vital habitat in partnership with the communities of the Columbia River region.

**Successes:** In 2000, CLT assisted the residents of Mosier, Oregon in conserving a local natural landmark and in creating the town's first city park. At the center of the 14-acre park is 50-foot Mosier Creek Falls. In February 2000, the waterfall property was put up for sale as a residential development. Volunteers worked with the land trust to raise funds for a purchase. The landowner agreed to sell to the trust and gave residents time to complete fundraising. The project was ranked second out of 67 applicants for a \$159,400 matching grant from Oregon Parks & Recreation. At a meeting of the grant panel, a panel member was so impressed by the number of the town's 260 residents that showed up to support the project, he asked "if there was anyone left back in town." Volunteers succeeded in raising the funds to buy the initial 9.5 acres; Mosier residents David and Lavonne Povey donated an additional 4.5 acres of adjacent land.

### **Deschutes Basin Land Trust**

**Location:** 11 counties in eastern Oregon

**Established:** Formed in 1995

**Properties: As of 2002**

12 properties  
4,263 acres (6.66 square miles)  
75% forest  
5% riparian/wetland  
20% former ranch  
Properties are located in 3 out of 11 counties in basin.

**Mission:** Conservation and restoration of open spaces and native fish habitat within the Deschutes River drainage system.

**Successes:** In 2000, the DBLT successfully completed a 3-year effort to acquire land for the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve. The purchase was made possible in large part by funds provided by a Portland-based utility. The nearby community of Sisters has embraced the concept of the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve as a place to reconnect with central Oregon's history and to re-establish a connection with the land. The Preserve has become the focal point for DBLT efforts to restore Squaw Creek's historic steelhead trout run, and also serves as a natural sciences educational resource for area schools.

### **Greenbelt Land Trust**

**Location:** Benton County

**Established:** Founded in 1989

**Properties: As of 2002**

8 conservation easements  
1,450 acres (2.27 square miles) owned outright

**Mission:** The mission of the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) is to secure and protect, in perpetuity, open space that preserves natural beauty and provides a connection to the natural world.

**Successes:** In 2001 the GLT worked with the city of Corvallis to protect the Owens Farm property. The GLT raised \$1 million in just 6 months in order to purchase a portion of this property. This was truly a community effort, made possible due to 10 years of hard work by community members. Through this effort the GLT was able to give a "voice" to our members, who for 20 years had identified Owens Farm as a critical link in the open space network that surrounds the city.

## **McKenzie River Trust**

**Location:** Lane and Douglas counties

**Established:** Formed in 1989

**Properties: As of 2002**  
11 properties  
754 acres  
32% forest  
68% riparian/wetland

**Mission:** To provide for the care of the waters, wetlands, habitat, scenic and recreational values, and agricultural lands of the river basins for the benefit of the general public and the ecological sustainability of our vital watersheds.

**Successes:** The MRT recently concluded a decade-long effort to orchestrate permanent protection of more than 70% of Big Island, one of the last examples of healthy river habitat on the lower McKenzie. The island is situated between the metro areas of Eugene and Springfield. The 10-year project required multiple partnerships, a good rapport with landowners, and the cooperation of local utilities and state government agencies. The island provides important juvenile salmon habitat, breeding areas for northern red-legged frogs and western pond turtles, and the Oregon chub, which was thought to have vanished from the McKenzie 100 years ago. Other animals spotted on the island include mink, otter, beaver, deer, bobcat, cougar, raptors and herons.

## **North Coast Land Conservancy**

**Location:** Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln counties

**Established:** Founded in 1986

**Properties: As of 2002**  
20 properties  
438 acres (.68 square miles)  
20% forest  
80% riparian/wetland

**Mission:** To serve as a resource for northwest Oregon coastal communities and landowners, to conserve and protect the land in perpetuity for its ecological, passive recreational and cultural values.

**Successes:** During the last decade, the NCLC has worked with state and federal agencies, leadership of the city of Seaside, the citizens of Seaside and Gearhart and a host of other partners to ensure the continued function of the ecological process of the Neawanna Estuary system. Over 100 acres of tidal marsh and riparian spruce forest have been purchased from, or donated by, private landowners to help develop the Neawanna Wetland Reserve. Excellent runs of native Coho salmon in this system have validated the efforts that have been put forth by the many partners in this cooperative project.

### **Three Rivers Land Conservancy**

**Location:** Greater Portland Metro Area

**Established:** Created in 1991

**Properties: As of 2002**

20 properties  
160 acres (.25 square miles)  
80% undeveloped urban space  
20% riparian/wetland

**Mission:** To preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic and recreational areas and historic lands in metropolitan Portland.

**Successes:** TRLC believes that individuals have a role in preserving and protecting natural areas, and that the regulatory framework is not sufficient to protect and preserve key natural features in areas threatened by development. In order to accomplish its preservation mission in metro Portland, TRLC recently completed a land conservation map highlighting the most critical natural resource areas. The map visually depicts a TRLC plan called "Keeping Natural Areas Close to Home." TRLC is now working with private landowners, citizen groups and local governments to preserve key pieces of the mapped watersheds.

### **The Wetlands Conservancy**

**Location:** Wetlands throughout Oregon

**Established:** 1981

**Properties: As of 2002**

26 properties  
800 acres (1.25 square miles)  
100% riparian/wetland

**Mission:** Promoting and supporting the conservation of Oregon's wetlands.

**Successes:** In 2001, TWC launched the "Oregon's Greatest Wetlands Project," setting an ambitious goal of working with others to permanently conserve 12,000 acres of wetlands in Oregon. In the last 6 months, we logged over 5,000 miles traveling across Oregon, meeting with land trusts, watershed councils, building networks and partnerships, and providing technical assistance, which will result in the conservation of wetlands. Since the publication of "Heroic Tales of Wetland Restoration," TWC has become an advocate for increased technical assistance and reduced red tape for rural landowners interested in federal and state wetland and riparian conservation programs.