

CONSERVING ESSENTIAL LANDS AND WATERS

The Pacific Northwest Resilient
Landscapes Initiative

Land Trust Alliance · Oregon Community Foundation · Seattle Foundation
Idaho Community Foundation · Doris Duke Charitable Foundation



A large, textured tree trunk in a forest, with a person's hand touching it.

OUR LANDS DEFINE US

Rugged. Diverse. Interconnected.

The beauty and abundance of the Pacific Northwest is integral to the identity and well-being of our region. Our outdoor places are our heritage. They are the homelands of Native Americans since time immemorial. They are the basis of our farming, ranching, forestry and fishing. They are our family spaces, where we paddle, hunt, hike and ski. They give us our fresh air and our clean water.





YET OUR LANDS – AND OUR QUALITY OF LIFE – ARE AT RISK



The Pacific Northwest's quality of life and economy depend on our lands and waters. Yet the accelerating effects of a changing climate, along with population growth and other factors, are putting unprecedented pressure on them.



THE FASTEST RATE OF NATURAL AREA LOSS IN THE AMERICAN WEST

In the decade between 2001 and 2011:

Idaho lost

96,000+

acres of natural land
to development

Washington lost

290,000+

acres of natural land
to development

Oregon lost

260,000+

acres of natural land
to development

We must act now to strategically conserve our irreplaceable lands.

Source: <https://disappearingwest.org/>

Photo by Carla Timentwa

But there is a way to help our communities, our lands and our waters thrive in a changing climate.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST RESILIENT LANDSCAPES INITIATIVE



Five leading organizations — the **Land Trust Alliance**, **Oregon Community Foundation**, **Seattle Foundation**, **Idaho Community Foundation** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** — have formed the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative.

Our goal is to unite and empower people from across our region to protect our lands and waters so their many benefits can be enjoyed by all people — now and for generations to come. Launched with a generous grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, this initiative

will help to ensure nature thrives in a changing climate. By supporting land trusts — and the communities they serve — we will strategically identify and permanently protect thousands of acres of climate-resilient natural lands across Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

“Climate change demands that we work with more careful focus, effectiveness and innovation. This includes working with new partners in new ways, and this initiative is an exciting collaboration between a national foundation, regional community foundations and the Land Trust Alliance.”

— Sacha Spector, Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation



AN UNPRECEDENTED PARTNERSHIP

The Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative is a unique partnership between a national foundation, leading community foundations and the Land Trust Alliance, with the support of land trust state associations. With a vast network of community leaders, nonprofit organizations and donors, community foundations are in a position to

advance solutions for some of the region’s most pressing challenges. As the national leader in conservation policy, standards and education, the Land Trust Alliance brings with it deep conservation expertise and relationships with the local and regional organizations working across the nation to make a lasting difference.



RESILIENCE SCIENCE

Together, we can chart a better course.



Scientists have identified natural places that are predicted to withstand the growing impacts of our changing climate, offering refuge to a diverse array of plant and animal life.

These lands include corridors that connect large undeveloped areas, as well as sites that already provide clean air and water for so many. These areas can provide habitat for plants and animals that are vulnerable to climate

change and safeguard our quality of life. They are also the places that allow us to connect with the outdoors and to enjoy the activities we love. **These are our resilient landscapes.**

✓ Our rivers, mountains and coastlines connect and define our region.



RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

for Resilient Communities



The Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative links natural resilience with community resilience, supporting projects that strengthen access to clean water, reduce the risks of flooding and bolster local economic opportunity. It also encourages projects that advance social equity by benefiting communities disproportionately impacted by our changing climate.



RESILIENCE SCIENCE ON THE GROUND

What does climate-responsive land conservation look like on the ground? At the Deschutes Land Trust in Oregon, it means conserving lands that have a better chance at resisting the impacts of climate change — places where there is a diversity of soil, geology and topography that will support plants and animals in perpetuity. This includes lands that maintain key migration corridors, lands that help wildlife move freely, and working lands and open spaces that store carbon.

It also means caring for these protected lands differently. “We are committed to using the best available climate and management science to guide our decision-making. This means climate change is an integral driver of our work, and we are focused on strengthening natural systems in order to support healthy lands in a warmer, drier, less certain future,” says Brad Chalfant, executive director of the Deschutes Land Trust.

The Deschutes Land Trust’s strategy provides a climate-responsive road map to inform new land acquisition, manage the land it already protects and engage the community in its work. By strengthening natural systems so they can better adapt to climate change, the Deschutes Land Trust can protect streams and forests so they are able to respond to disturbances like fires, floods and drought. It can also engage its communities with climate science in simple, action-oriented ways that empower people personally to make a difference.

Together, these efforts will help the Deschutes Land Trust conserve and care for lands forever by creating a stronger, more resilient Central Oregon for humans, plants and animals alike.

PROTECTING OUR RESILIENT LANDSCAPES



The partners will work to **permanently protect resilient landscapes** in the Pacific Northwest in two ways:

First, we will deliver grant funding directly to land trusts to help them permanently conserve the most climate-resilient lands in their communities. Together, these lands will help sustain our region's plants and animals and safeguard our shared future.

Second, working closely with the region's state associations of land trusts, we will invest in strengthening the organizational effectiveness of land trusts and provide them with the technical resources they need to identify, conserve and steward these climate-resilient lands in perpetuity.



Given the region's ongoing habitat loss and the intensifying impacts of our changing climate, **we must act urgently**.

We must dramatically increase the pace of conservation and do so strategically. There is a limited window of opportunity to conserve these climate-resilient landscapes and ensure that our region will help plant, animal and human

communities adapt to a changing climate. Investing in the protection of natural lands — and in land trusts to protect them — can improve our quality of life now and for future generations.

"I started my career in conservation in Oregon, and I make a point of visiting my family there every year. This initiative gives me hope that together we can save what makes this region special."

— Andrew Bowman, President & CEO of the Land Trust Alliance



WHAT IS A LAND TRUST?

Land trusts are our local partners to conserve resilient lands.

As private, community-based, non-governmental nonprofit organizations, land trusts work to protect the places people most cherish and value. Working with willing sellers and donors on a voluntary basis, land trusts have already conserved more than 2.3 million acres in Washington, Oregon and Idaho — and they do much more than protect undeveloped land. With authentic

connections to landowners, land managers and community leaders, land trusts are ideally suited to link the conservation priorities driven by climate science with the needs and aspirations of their local communities.

As their national leader, standard-setter and capacity builder, the Land Trust Alliance has a singular relationship with land trusts all across the United States. By empowering and mobilizing land trusts, we can catalyze conservation in the Pacific Northwest.



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

Community foundations are grant-making public charities that are dedicated to improving the quality of life in their region.

By engaging donors, community leaders and residents, community foundations identify issues and advance solutions to address the social, economic and environmental challenges of our communities.

The three community foundation partners in this initiative have deep roots in the region: Collectively they have spent over 150 years working with passionate donors and partners to enrich the quality of life in their communities.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Powered by \$5.3 million in seed funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, **the partners are seeking at least \$3 million in additional funding** to ensure the permanent protection of thousands of acres of natural lands in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Join us to conserve our region's natural lands and protect our healthy, balanced and vibrant communities.

This is the moment for those who care about the Pacific Northwest region to make a permanent difference. By joining forces in this collaborative, science-driven effort, you will have an impact far beyond the reach of any one individual.

Each community foundation has created a fund so you can leverage your tax-deductible gift with like-minded donors.

For more information on how you can make a difference in your community and join the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative today, please reach out to one of the partner representatives listed below.



ACT NOW TO PROTECT THE LANDS YOU LOVE

Contact your community partner today to donate your tax-deductible gift.

Idaho Community Foundation

Kris Kamann
Chief Development Officer
(208) 342-3535 x14
kris@idahocf.org

Seattle Foundation

Elizabeth List
Senior Philanthropic Advisor
(206) 515-2138
e.list@seattlefoundation.org

Oregon Community Foundation

Carlos Garcia
Environmental Resource Officer
(503) 227-6846
cgarcia@oregoncf.org

Land Trust Alliance

Owen Wozniak
Land Transactions Program Manager
(503) 460-7045
owozniak@lta.org

Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative Partners



The Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance works to strengthen and support land trusts so they can conserve and steward more land. Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance, a national leader in conservation policy, standards and education, has a proven track record of catalyzing land trust success. Notably, through a visionary commitment from John Gray and his family and robust and strategic grant-making, the Alliance has helped land trusts throughout the Pacific Northwest raise money, add staff, implement best practices, embrace new technology and be more inclusive, engaging more people in land conservation and conserving more land.



Idaho Community Foundation

The Idaho Community Foundation connects Idahoans to a generous statewide network through the power of collective giving. Our grant-making, community impact work and relationships with local philanthropists have strengthened nonprofits, schools and communities in every Idaho county for more than 30 years. We believe that shared philanthropy is more powerful than giving alone.



Seattle Foundation

Using our philanthropic expertise, deep roots in the community and network of partners, Seattle Foundation develops targeted strategies to quicken the pace of progress toward a stronger community for all. We are an agent of change. Every day, we convene, communicate with and catalyze our philanthropic partners to advance this ideal, uniting passion and discipline to create lasting impact. Our mission is to ignite powerful, rewarding philanthropy to make greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all.



Oregon Community Foundation

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) puts donated money to work in Oregon — more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships annually. Since 1973, OCF grant-making, research, advocacy and community-advised solutions have helped individuals, families, businesses and organizations create charitable funds to improve lives for all Oregonians. Impactful giving — time, talent and resources from many creates measurable change.



Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's awareness of climate change as the greatest emerging threat to biodiversity — and the need to aggressively mitigate it without unnecessarily sacrificing wildlife habitat — shapes its environmental grant-making priorities. More than \$415 million in grants related to the conservation of wildlife in the United States have been made by the foundation since it was established in 1997. To learn more, visit: www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/environment.



“Thirty-four years of caring for our Coast Range forests have taught our family many valuable lessons. The forests teach us the importance and wisdom of restoring their resilience and regenerative potential in preparation for the new stresses that increasingly challenge the forests and us.”

— Peter Hayes, Co-Owner, Hyla Woods and Oregon Community Foundation Donor

Land plays a critical role in addressing our climate change challenges. **Invest in the permanent protection of natural lands.**

Learn more at www.landtrustalliance.org/PNW-resilient-landscapes



ACT NOW TO PROTECT THE LANDS YOU LOVE

Contact your community partner today to donate your tax-deductible gift.

Idaho Community Foundation

(208) 342-3535 x14

kris@idahocf.org

Oregon Community Foundation

(503) 227-6846

cgarcia@oregoncf.org

Seattle Foundation

(206) 515-2138

e.list@seattlefoundation.org

Land Trust Alliance

(503) 460-7045

owozniak@lta.org

