LAND TRUST PROFILE

The Nature Conservancy in Idaho

Founded in: 1965 · Service Area: Idaho · Acres Protected: 450,000
For more information, visit: www.nature.org/Idaho

A Conservation Partnership at the Landscape Scale

For over a decade, The Nature Conservancy in Idaho has been working to protect land between Craters of the Moon National Monument and the Pioneer Mountains. This work has been a landscape-scale effort to conserve an area vital to sustaining wildlife and working ranches as they adapt to climate change. TNC has public funds in hand to leverage private contributions for the purchase of a conservation easement on a 5,000-acre ranch in this core conservation area.

The ranch encompasses high-quality sagebrush steppe plant communities along with abundant wet meadows, wetlands, and riparian areas, all providing high quality habitat for species identified in the Idaho State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The ranch also provides important habitat for pronghorn and other wildlife, which migrate long distances between winter and summer ranges. Easement provisions will ensure native habitat remains intact, address climate resiliency, and require wildlife-friendly fencing. With your support, we will secure this easement and protect a critical remaining piece of this landscape.

Landscape Context

This property is a key piece of a larger long-term vision to protect over 100,000 acres in the Pioneers to Craters. This will ensure that wildlife can move freely from Idaho’s deserts to its high peaks, and that all lands within this landscape remain healthy and resilient to change.

How the project advances climate resilience

TNC is using climate resilience science to identify and conserve the places most likely to retain high-quality habitat and continue to support a diverse array of plants and animals as the climate changes. The Pioneers are identified as one of the most climate resilient areas in the region.

Highlights

- Project will protect over 5,000 acres on a working ranch rich in habitat and well positioned to advance landscape-scale resilience
- Funding in hand from the NRCS, but match funding needed
- Conservation easement prevents development and habitat conversion, and includes climate resilience provisions
- Located at the southern edge of the largest contiguous area of climate resilient and highly connected lands in the Pacific Northwest
- Continues a partnership that has conserved easements over 94,000 acres

Additional Conservation Values

- A key parcel for maintaining habitat connectivity within the Pioneers-Craters landscape
- Four streams lined with willow, aspen, and cottonwood provide riparian habitat for songbirds and a host of other fish and wildlife species
- The working and recreational lands of Pioneers-Craters are part of the social fabric and economic sustenance of communities
Sweeping vista of the Pioneer Mountains.

“Protecting climate resilient areas like the Pioneer Mountains is critical to ensuring our natural and human communities can adapt and thrive.”
— Tess O’Sullivan, TNC Conservation Manager