

Wallowa County Vitality Summit – Presenter Questionnaire

Organization: Wallowa Land Trust (WLT)

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Mission and purpose in Wallowa County:

Wallowa Land Trust's mission is to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Valley and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indian tribes, local communities and governmental entities.

WLT uses economic and other incentives to help conserve the valley's natural, historical, cultural and agricultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Trust works to secure important lands threatened by development by purchasing or accepting donations of land or conservation easements. In the case of conservation easements, the landowner retains ownership of their land while giving up development rights.

Key metrics/outcomes/impact for the past year:

- Wallowa Land Trust's organizational development plan, *Gaining Ground*, completed and initiated to increase organizational capacity. Ensuing \$150,000 commitment from Oregon Advancing Conservation Excellence Fund to help implement the plan.
- Increased collaboration with partner groups and landowners on key conservation and stewardship/restoration projects.
- 500 participants in education program (*Winter Lecture Series, Into the Wallowa Summer Outings & Evening Lectures, Conservation Easement Workshop*).
- *Wallowa Lake Moraines* book

Current top 3 priorities/focus areas:

- 1) *Wallowa Lake Moraines*: permanent protection of this landscape, starting with the East Moraine, with primary goals of: maintaining working lands, providing public access, and protecting open space.
- 2) *Working Lands*: Work with landowners to put conservation easements on their property to help farms and ranches remain intact and in agricultural production.
- 3) *Wallowa River Corridor*: permanent protection of properties along the river corridor from Wallowa Lake to Rondowa.

Challenges that you most need help with, either from another organization or the community at large:

- Educating the public (landowners as well as organizations & agencies) about the services we provide.
- Generating more landowner interest in donating conservation easements or land to WLT.
- Protecting the Wallowa Lake Moraines, especially connecting with visitors who have the resources to help fund protection and public access.

Top 3 opportunities you see for the coming year:

- Increased landowner interest in donating conservation easements to WLT.
- Increased staff capacity (plan to hire first Executive Director later this year).
- Increased volunteer and board support.

of current active/serious collaborators:

At least 10.

Who would you like to collaborate with more?

Regional governmental agencies, including NRCS, ODWF, SWCD, and OSU Extension.