



Protecting Special Lands in Western Oregon

CURRENTS

Fall 2011

An Investment in Time and Place

The Tenmile Creek watershed south of Yachats is one of western Oregon's most treasured places. Surrounded by Wilderness Areas, the watershed is part of the largest coastal temperate rainforest remaining in the lower 48 states. Filled with towering Sitka spruce that harbor spotted owls and marbled murrelets and coastal streams that still support strong runs of native salmon, trout, and lamprey, Tenmile is a window to a more abundant past in the Coast Range.



BRANDI FERGUSON

Hans and his wife Karin emphasize the importance of the next generation of landowner stewards: the Radtke children. "This land is in an irrevocable trust for them," Hans says. "It's really their decision what to do from here on out."

"I used to catch a lot of fish here," Hans Radtke admits with a wry smile.

And that connection to water led him and his family to make a home for themselves on a bluff high above Tenmile Creek. With an eye to the forest and its distinctive natural wealth, the Radtkes looked for alternatives to logging and raising cattle.

That's when a different take on land stewardship came to light.

"In 2002," Hans remembers, "I heard what was going on along the John Day River. There was an older homestead family working on a conservation easement there with the Bonneville Power Administration. They wound up dedicating a lot of their acreage and some water rights to Chinook salmon conservation. It was impactful, their decision to do an easement."

The commonsense, incentives-based approach to stewardship impressed Hans – a respected natural resource economist by trade – just as it had the John Day ranchers. "Conservation easements make economic sense. Putting things aside can provide a good economic return."

The Radtkes and other neighbors sought out the McKenzie River Trust in 2004 to develop conservation easements, eventually protecting more than 430 acres of streamside forest and meadow.

By collaborating with the McKenzie River Trust, the Radtke family gained economic value from their land while protecting what makes it so special. Since then, their home has become a gathering place for people from around the world interested in how financial incentives can protect healthy forests and wild fish runs.

As an angler, Hans' eyes light up at the thought of all those fish returning

each year. "I always put them back," he says. That gesture, like the Radtke Family's commitment to conservation, is a both a nod to the past and an investment in the future.



MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST



JEREMY MONROE / FRESHWATERS ILLUSTRATED

Tenmile Creek is one of a few places where Coho salmon populations are still strong. The lure of big fish like this initially brought recreational fishermen like Hans to the basin.

Connecting to the Land

As your local land conservation group, we want to connect you to the unique natural landscapes you've helped us conserve in western Oregon.



T. GRAUDIER

Volunteer helping to restore wildlife habitat.

We hope you joined us for a guided tour of the floodplain forest and future demonstration farm on the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area or a bird tour on Green Island. Did you plant a tree, helping to restore vital wildlife habitat? Perhaps you purchased one of the special release beers brewed locally by Ninkasi or Oakshire with proceeds going to help protect the #1 ingredient, water from the McKenzie River. Were you in the crowd of over 700 people at the Shedd for our Living River concert with Misty River? Or maybe you shared our work with a friend after visiting our website or Facebook page.

However you chose to connect to the conservation of the natural landscapes that surround you, we thank you and look forward to keeping you connected in 2012.

Your annual support of our work is critical to our future efforts. To give, please visit mckenzieriver.org and click on DONATE or use the envelope provided. Thank you!

Plan Looks to Land Trusts as Key Players in Salmon Recovery

Scientists have estimated that prior to the arrival of Europeans more than a million salmon and steelhead returned to spawn in Oregon's rivers and streams in the Upper Willamette basin. Over the course of the last two centuries, the combined effects of fish harvest, hatchery fish interactions, flood control and hydropower operations, and habitat alterations have led to drastic declines in these populations.

This excerpt from the recently enacted **Upper Willamette Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan** highlights the challenges faced by these populations, so vital to the economy, culture, and history of the Pacific Northwest.

But the Plan also recognizes that **incentives-based approaches to private land conservation are a key factor in salmon and steelhead recovery.** The McKenzie



R. SUNDOT

Read the Recovery Plan online: <http://tiny.cc/salmonplan>

River Trust provides those incentives by compensating landowners for habitat protection through land and conservation easement purchases and donations.

With your support, we can continue to provide those incentives, protecting and enhancing intact, functioning ecosystems in strategic areas of the Upper Willamette Basin and the seven other watersheds where we work.

Strength in Numbers



JOHN C. BRUEKMAN

MRT's Executive Director Joe Moll meets with other northwestern land trust leaders.

Across the country, land trusts have conserved about 37 million acres, an area equal to the size of New England.

In Oregon, you can find those conserved landscapes from the coast to the crest of the Cascades and inland mountains, from the lush Willamette Valley to the serene High Desert. Oregon land trusts are protecting working farms and forests and helping create local parks and nature preserves.

Seventeen land trusts from around the state recently came together as inaugural members of the Coalition of Oregon Land

Trusts (COLT), a new organization that will provide a collective voice for the land trust movement in Oregon. COLT will facilitate bringing new resources to the table for member land trusts, help to coordinate land trust efforts in parts of the state where those resources are limited, and work with state agencies and legislators to ensure that Oregonians enjoy the lasting benefits of smart investments in land conservation.

The McKenzie River Trust is excited to be a COLT member. Look for more news about COLT in the months and years ahead.

Above and Beyond!

Thanks to the following people for their ongoing support of the McKenzie River Trust and local land conservation.



BRANDI FERGUSON

Tim Giraudier

We first noticed Tim's work at the Mushroom Festival, but you may have also seen him at the Saturday Market or on his website, headwatersphoto.com. His striking photography – landscapes, wildlife shots, and intimate botanical close-ups – helps connect us to the natural world around us. Throughout this year, Tim has accompanied us on technical tours, photographed

landowners on newly acquired properties, and explored Green Island with an eye to sharing the beauty and wonder of this special landscape. Not only do his shots help us see the places we protect in a new way, they also help us show you, our supporters, how land conservation happens and why it matters. Thank you, Tim!

Are you a photographer interested in helping MRT? Stay tuned for opportunities to join us on a Photo Tour in partnership with the Emerald Photographic Society.



BRANDI FERGUSON

Bruce Newhouse & Peg Boulay



Dan Gleason talking to a tour group

Tour Guides

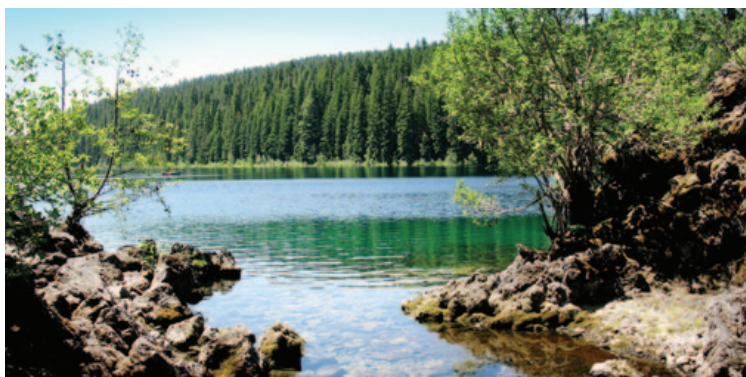
As the busy summer field season winds down, we'd like to thank all the volunteer tour guides who have helped us this year. Without them, we couldn't offer so many fascinating, engaging experiences for our supporters to get outside with us. Our tour guides are experts in their fields, from botany to birding, native plants to insects, and they generously share their knowledge with us.

Kit Larsen, Bruce Newhouse, Peg Boulay, Dave Eisler, Steve Gordon, Cary Kerst, Margie Paris, Dael Parsons, and Dan Gleason: Thank You!

We're expanding our tours program in 2012, and we're looking for new guides to help! If you're interested in getting involved, contact Liz at 541-345-2799 or llawrence@mckenzie-river.org.



BRUCE NEWHOUSE



R. SUNDT

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OUR MISSION

T. GRAUDIER

The McKenzie River Trust protects and cares for special lands and the rivers that flow through them in western Oregon.



RAPID NEWS

- The 4th Annual 2-Fly Tournament hosted by the Caddis Fly Angling Shop raised over \$4,600 for MRT. Special thanks go to Chris and Shauna Daughters and to all the participating local river guides!
- 2012 is the 200th Anniversary of explorer Donald Mackenzie's trip to the McKenzie Valley. Look for upcoming events next year to celebrate and learn more about the history and future of the McKenzie River.
- Coming soon... Skookumchuck Wild Ale, the 3rd Oakshire beer celebrating EWEB's Centennial year of service. "Skookumchuck" means "powerful water" in Chinook. Proceeds benefit the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area demonstration farm.



THIS COLUMN: T. GRAUDIER

MELANIE KNAPP

