

this year in

Oregon

annual report 2006





welcome from the director

Dear friends:

On a sunny late October day, hundreds of friends of conservation gathered at the Oregon Zoo to applaud The Nature Conservancy's sixth annual Conservation Leadership Award winners. You'll find their heartwarming stories on the following pages.

I hope that you, as a friend and partner in our work, realize how much your steadfast support makes possible these inspiring stories of success.

Each year, we single out several Oregonians for special recognition. But as they always remind us, achievements in conservation depend on shared commitments from many people working together. They teach us that everyone has an important role to play in preserving the diversity of life in the places we care about, across Oregon and around the world.

As we look ahead to Oregon's future, I'm excited to see our options for conservation expanding, not shrinking, even in the face of pressures from a growing population and other challenges. Our science-based, long-range plan tells us where we need to focus our work with partners to have the greatest impact. And the information and strategies we can bring to bear are increasingly potent.

Consider Oregon's vast forests. Conservancy scientists using new data recently determined that 15 million acres of public forest lands in Oregon urgently need treatment with thinning or prescribed fire, or both, to restore more natural conditions. Good work is underway, but we've calculated that the pace of treatments needs to quadruple – to between 500,000 and 750,000 acres annually over the next 20 to 25 years.

To meet this challenge, we are engaged in a dialog with public forest managers, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, the Oregon

Business Council, elected officials and others to develop solutions that will return vast areas of Oregon to safer and healthier conditions – while sustaining local communities with jobs and improving habitats for fish and wildlife.

At Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, where we've just added over 6,000 acres to the largest privately managed natural area in Oregon, we're working with local ranchers on a "grassbank" that would offer grazing to those who are resting or restoring their own lands. Extensive research with Oregon State University on how grazing impacts ground-nesting birds and other wildlife could potentially help shape the management of grasslands far beyond our borders.

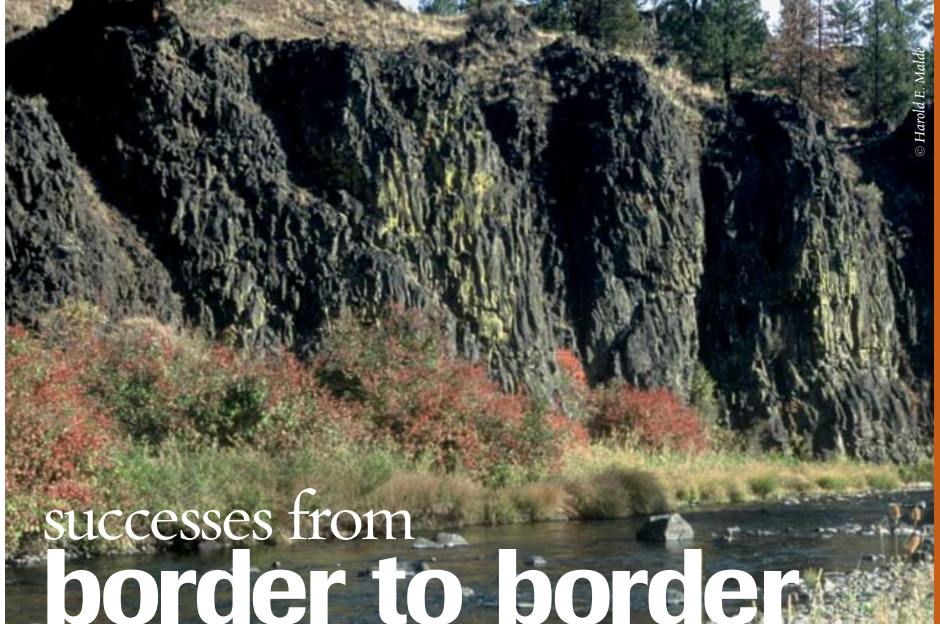
The Willamette Valley harbors some of the most endangered habitats on Earth. Our strategies to protect and restore native oak woodlands, prairies and salmon-bearing rivers can provide a model to similar regions where development is already extensive and growing.

When it comes to safeguarding our natural heritage, Oregonians have often led the way. Today, our opportunities to set the pace with innovative and large-scale strategies are as great as ever.

The stories of "conservation heroes" throughout this report remind and inspire us; everyone can make a difference, at home and around the world. Thank you for your thoughtful and heartfelt contributions to the hopeful cause of preserving the diversity of life on Earth.

Russell Hoeflich
vice president and Oregon director

Members and partners of The Nature Conservancy are making a difference across Oregon and beyond, ensuring healthy lands and waters are there for future generations. Some highlights of the year:



© Harold E. Maida

Middle Fork John Day River

BLUE MOUNTAINS

With the purchase of 6,065 acres, Zumwalt Prairie Preserve grew to over 33,000 acres, becoming our largest Oregon preserve. The new addition harbors rare plants, including Spalding's catchfly and Wallowa needlegrass, and includes 13 miles of streams important to federally protected runs of Snake River steelhead downstream. The vast and remote Zumwalt Prairie in Oregon's northeast corner is the largest remaining native bunchgrass

prairie in North America, supporting remarkable numbers of breeding birds of prey and other wildlife. Special thanks are owed to generous donors helping to make this \$3 million land purchase possible, including John and Julie Dixon (Searle Family Trust), Charlie and Mary Gibbs, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Bennett, the LaVelle D. Allison estate, Mr. and Mrs. William Swindells, Jr., Jane E. Werner, the Crane Creek Foundation and others. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved a significant grant through its Cooperative Endangered Species Recovery Program.

Nature Conservancy volunteers spent weekends in May and October removing barbs and lowering fences at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, making them easier for area wildlife to traverse.



© Ward Smith

The Conservancy acquired a 310-acre conservation easement including nearly six miles of the Middle Fork John Day River and a key tributary stream. The John Day is the longest free-running river in the Columbia Basin and Oregon's largest river system reserved exclusively for wild fish. An endowment of \$400,000, in memory of Betty Guthrie from her family, will enable the Conservancy to expand restoration of habitats for wild chinook salmon and bull trout at this site and at the Conservancy's Dunstan Homestead Preserve upstream.

this year in oregon

At Juniper Hills Preserve east of Prineville, a dam on Lost Creek has been restructured to restore fish passage for native redband trout while preserving open water habitat on this tributary to the Crooked River. Staff have begun to restore former farm fields to native grasses grown from locally gathered seed, and have also been hard at work with volunteers rehabilitating the historic farmhouse on the property to provide much-needed quarters for staff, interns and volunteers. Ecologists are monitoring the results of extensive prescribed burns over 2,400 acres last year to facilitate the restoration of fire as an essential ecological process in central Oregon native grasslands.

Conservancy staff planned and executed a 40-acre controlled burn at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area near LaGrande in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service. The burn was designed to control invasive medusahead and encourage the growth of newly planted native grasses and shrubs.

COLUMBIA PLATEAU

The Conservancy helped launch the Oregon Sagebrush Cooperative in Oregon's high desert country to advance sagebrush habitat conservation strategies through partnerships among public land managers, private ranchers and conservation groups. Sagebrush grasslands, also known as shrub-steppe habitats, have declined as much as 90 percent in recent decades, but are critical to many species including sage grouse, sage sparrows, ferruginous hawks, burrowing owls, pygmy rabbits and pronghorn. With a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support sagebrush-focused restoration efforts, the cooperative initiated its first on-the-ground project this summer, mapping invasive weeds on the Owyhee Uplands in Oregon's southeast corner.



White-faced ibis pair, Klamath Basin

A new technique for harvesting native grass seed is helping to expand prairie restoration on 50 acres at the Conservancy's Boardman Grasslands Conservation Area in north central Oregon. A rig called a "seed-stripper," loaned by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, can efficiently gather large quantities of seed to plant back on the site the same year. This technique reduces our reliance on seed grown out in a nursery, which can take two years and is more expensive.

KLAMATH BASIN

Earthmovers launched full-scale restoration of 6,000 acres of marshlands at Williamson River Delta Preserve on Upper Klamath Lake. A plan endorsed by local leaders envisions extensive removal of dikes along the river and lakeshore, converting farmlands back to wetlands to improve water quality and boost habitats for endangered fish and other wildlife. Funding partners for this five-year, multi-million dollar effort include the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Reclamation, PacifiCorp and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Program.

WEST CASCADES

An award-winning effort to remove invasive knotweed from the banks of the Sandy River has liberated more than 145 miles of river and streams, thanks to cooperation from hundreds of private landowners and funding from the Bureau of Land Management, Portland General Electric, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and other partners. Led by Conservancy staff, AmeriCorps and other volunteer teams removed nearly 4,500 knotweed patches from 800 sites where it threatened to overcome habitats for salmon and other wildlife.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

A prescribed burn over 65 acres at Willow Creek Preserve in West Eugene is restoring healthy conditions to native Willamette Valley prairie and oak savanna habitats, benefiting an exceptional diversity of more than 200 plant, 100 bird and 25 butterfly species. The preserve celebrated its 25th anniversary this year.

STATEWIDE AND BEYOND

The Salmon Habitat Fund has supported 31 restoration projects across Oregon thus far, benefiting over 100 miles of rivers and streams. Chosen by Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to direct funds provided by renewable power customers, the Conservancy selected projects including restoration of Bethel Creek, an important coho salmon stream south of Bandon, and improvements to fish passage on northeast Oregon's Billy Creek, prime habitat for wild summer steelhead.

Thanks to a \$25,000 Metro grant, Conservancy staff and volunteer teams are removing invasive Douglas fir trees at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn. The resulting open space will help reduce threats of catastrophic wildfire while restoring imperiled oak woodlands and other native plants.

Using the most recent data on forest conditions, Conservancy scientists determined that over 15 million acres of public forest in Oregon need treatment with thinning, controlled fire or both, and that current efforts must be quadrupled to restore healthy conditions within 20-25 years. A forest health partnership involving the Conservancy, Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Business Council is exploring policy and funding options designed to ramp up forest treatments, restore healthy habitats for fish and wildlife, create jobs in local communities, and provide a source of renewable energy from woody biomass. Partners hosted a leadership tour in August to explore these options while visiting the Conservancy's Sycan Marsh forest restoration project and other sites in the Klamath Basin.

More than 800 volunteers played a critical role in our conservation work across Oregon this year, contributing over 25,000 hours. Providing assistance in multiple ways, including research and monitoring, mapping, habitat restoration, administrative tasks, special events and community outreach, our dedicated volunteers make many of our conservation successes possible.

Thanks to the incredible dedication of our friends and partners, the Conservancy's Oregon Legacy Club grew to over 700 members, and we had record-breaking results in new life income gifts. By naming the Conservancy in their will or estate planning, Legacy Club members help ensure that protected natural areas will be a lasting gift to future generations.



Honoring partners, families and individuals for their leadership in conserving Oregon's natural lands and waters, The Nature Conservancy hosted its sixth annual Conservation Leadership Awards luncheon at the Oregon Zoo in October.



© LeeAnn Gaudier

Award winners included the Diack Family (see page 13), Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin (see facing page) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see below).

“We live in a state with exceptional biological diversity, and The Nature Conservancy is proud to honor outstanding Oregonians who lead the way in conservation,” said Russell Hoefflich, vice president and Oregon director.

Oregon's senior senator, Ron Wyden, welcomed 350 attendees to the event. Nature Conservancy President and CEO Steven J. McCormick (above, with philanthropy director Carrie Walkiewicz, left, and Conservancy supporters Dick and Doris Waring), gave the keynote address, detailing the Conservancy's ambitious plan for conservation on a global scale.

Presenting sponsor of the Conservation Leadership Awards was The ODS Companies, with additional support from *The Oregonian*.

inspiring hope and action

Over the years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has demonstrated an exceptional ability to engage Oregonians in conservation, working closely with The Nature Conservancy and other partners.

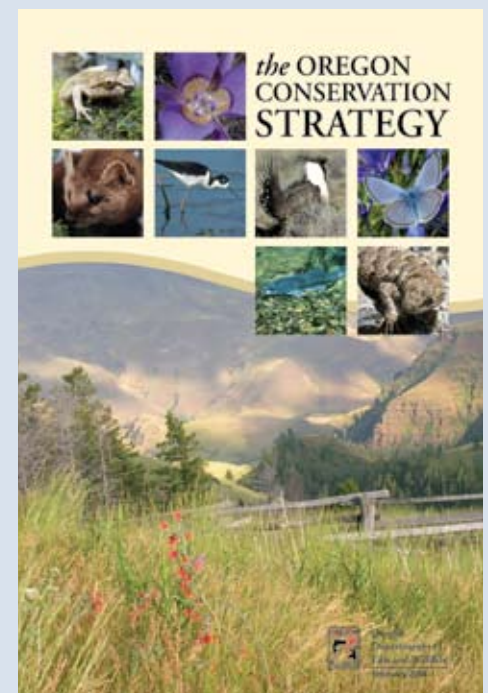
Recently, the department completed the *Oregon Conservation Strategy* and the *Oregon Nearshore Strategy* to set priorities and identify the voluntary conservation actions that will be most effective in protecting our fish and wildlife into the future.

Part of a national planning effort, Oregon's two *Strategies* are considered among the best in the nation. The department wove scientific information, diverse opinions, and local knowledge into Oregon's first

comprehensive strategy for long-term conservation. Oregonians can explore the *Conservation Strategy* and discover how they can help at www.dfw.state.or.us.

“ODFW is doing great work to conserve our natural heritage and inspire others to join the cause,” said Cathy Macdonald, the Conservancy's Oregon director of conservation programs. “We applaud past accomplishments and congratulate them for the vision they've created for Oregon's future.”

To recognize their accomplishments, the Conservancy presented its Community Partner Conservation Leadership Award to ODFW in October.



© ODFW

beyond our borders

Great Bear Rainforest, Canada

A couple's commitment to preserving a remarkable place and its people

It was August and raining. Incessantly. Despite the weather, Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin kayaked along an inlet edge and a symphony of sound greeted them. Water. Water moved over, around and through the land. It streamed down mountains, canyons and from the sky. It was a symphony Stephanie finds herself replaying.

The Great Bear Rainforest of northern British Columbia is part of the largest coastal temperate rainforest remaining on Earth and supports some of the oldest surviving cultures in the Western Hemisphere.

It fascinated Fowler and Levin and persuaded them, through their Renaissance Foundation, to pledge a remarkable leadership gift of \$1 million to support the Conservancy's Great Bear Rainforest campaign.

They hadn't intended a gift that large. But being there and savoring moments like discovering (when waiting for a delayed flight) the small New Nations community center in Bella Bella and the proud woman working there, or watching at dusk on the first night in the rainforest, from a boat anchored 200 feet away, a pack of wolves play on the grassy shore, captivated them.

Stephanie and Irving's foundation supports various conservation and human service organizations including the Oregon Food Bank, Doctors Without Borders and Mercy Corps.

Their Great Bear Rainforest contribution will go toward the 21-million-acre campaign, a pioneering collaboration among First Nations, governments, industry and conservationists working together to preserve a rich land and its resources.

In October, Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin were presented with the Conservancy's Individual Conservation Leadership Award for 2006.

"They made an extraordinary contribution for the protection of one of the last, truly vast wildernesses remaining on Earth – and the people who live there," said Russell Hoeflich, the Conservancy's Oregon director.

Fowler, after a career in broadcasting, is a psychotherapist and a trustee for the Conservancy in Oregon. Levin is a successful entrepreneur in the financial services and consumer credit industry and is also a concert cellist. They live in Portland, but spend part of their year on Salt Spring Island, at the edge of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Irving Levin (left) and Nature Conservancy trustee Stephanie Fowler explore Canada's Great Bear Rainforest.



Your generous support makes our conservation successes possible.

thank you

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The following Oregon donors have made gifts of \$1,000 or more to programs or projects outside the state of Oregon between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

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* Gift includes matching gift

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* Gift includes matching gift

** Denotes multi-year pledge

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We are pleased to recognize the following individuals who notified us between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 of their intent to remember the Conservancy in their will or estate plans or have funded a life income gift. Their legacy of protected natural areas will be a lasting gift to future generations.

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If you are 70 or older, a new law (Pension Protection Act of 2006) allows you to make tax free gifts to The Nature Conservancy from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The law is in effect for 2006-2007. *Contact The Nature Conservancy today to find out how you can take advantage of this two-year opportunity to make a gift that will fund our conservation efforts.*



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pioneers in conservation

A family tradition of conservation continues today.

Fran Diack, at 98 years old, is tenacity and charm rolled into one. She, her husband, Arch, and his brother, Sam, came to live by the Sandy River in the 1940s. It was her urging that led the family to donate 156 acres on the Sandy to The Nature Conservancy in 1970, creating what is now the Sandy River Gorge Preserve.

But conservation perseverance doesn't end with Fran, the Diack family matriarch. This extended family has, for two generations, demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to stewardship of Oregon lands and rivers.

Arch Diack won a landmark Oregon Supreme Court case that mandated waters of the Sandy River be managed as a whole, not as segments, setting a precedent for river conservation statewide. Arch's daughter, Katharine, served as a Nature Conservancy trustee for eight years and was the first editor of

the Conservancy's Oregon newsletter. Sam's son, Sam Jr., has been involved in planning and managing the Sandy, and has served as a lifetime volunteer steward at the preserve.

The Diack's activism helped spur the designation of the Sandy as a State Scenic Waterway and congressional designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The family's work contributes to why the Sandy River is a wild, pristine, salmon-bearing river right on the doorstep of Oregon's largest populated area.

Each also has a passion for environmental education. They partnered with Reed College to host research students and

endowed the Diack Ecology Education Program, providing grants to schools and teachers across Oregon to get students into the outdoors for hands-on study of the natural world.

"This pioneering family set in motion a chain of events that will continue to benefit the lives of Oregonians long after those of us here are gone," said Russell Hoeflich, the Conservancy's Oregon director. "Their commitment to conservation is inspiring."

In October, the Conservancy presented the Diack family with the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award for 2006.

The extraordinary commitment of Fran Diack (below center) and her family (from left: Samuel Diack, Margaret and David Stearns, and Sam, Katharine and Conni Diack) has helped protect the Sandy River Gorge (above) for future generations.



conservation heroes

Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers who advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2006 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, George Greer and Dottie Waddell.



George Greer

George Greer understands the nuts and bolts of effective conservation. Literally. He's tightened a few on weed eaters and seed harvesters. For five years, George has dedicated over 1,200 hours to improving habitats at the Conservancy's southwest Oregon preserves. He's completed a host of projects including native seed production, noxious weed control, monitoring, prescribed burn assistance, GPS mapping and more. George has also supported the Conservancy's mission beyond Oregon. Chosen from hundreds of applicants, he spent six weeks enduring heat, drenching humidity and flies while preparing trails for eradicating non-native rats to protect Palmyra Atoll's sooty tern habitat.

"George is a vital cog in our wheel of stewardship work," says Molly Sullivan, southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator. "He creatively solves our most challenging problems and always cheerfully goes the extra mile." George sees volunteering as a way to make a positive difference. "I want to leave the Earth a better place than I found it," he says.

Dottie Waddell has tirelessly devoted more than 1,300 hours to managing projects for our Enterprise office since 2002. Also an accomplished multi-tasker, Dottie tackles whatever needs doing, such as office and volunteer management, financial reconciliation and research. Her skills, however, reach beyond the office. Dottie's also led crews and cooked meals during numerous Zumwalt Prairie Preserve volunteer work parties.

"Over the years, Dottie has been a valuable and trusted asset to our office," says Ray Guse, northeast Oregon stewardship coordinator. "She's aided our conservation efforts in too many ways to list." Dottie's happy to use her skills to help The Nature Conservancy. "I especially enjoy working alongside the wonderful volunteers and staff," Dottie explains. "There's always something interesting to do, and it's clear they appreciate my work."

Congratulations and sincere thanks to both George and Dottie. Without committed supporters like you, our success would not be possible.

Dottie Waddell



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financial information

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon¹ (Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2006)

Support and Revenue

Contributions (individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations)	6,610,605
Grants and contracts	1,801,382
Investment income	3,123,745
Sales of land to government and other conservation agencies	2,900,419
Other revenue	709,333
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$15,145,484

Expenses and Capital Allocations

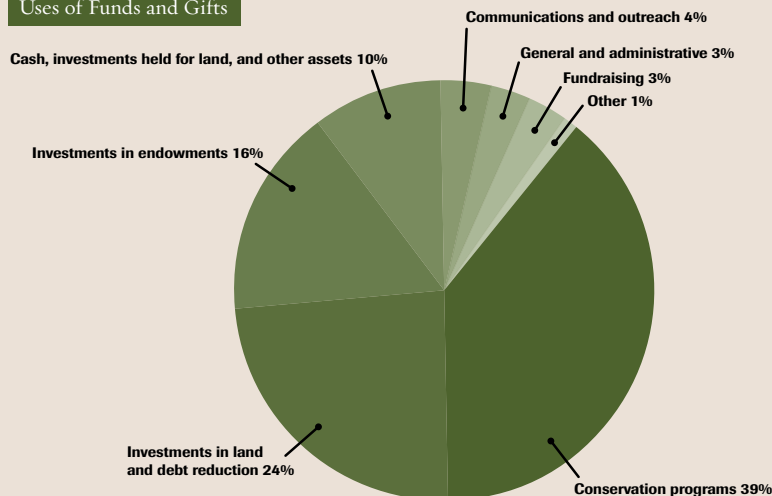
Conservation programs	5,636,625
Conservation lands held ²	(2,640,930)
Cost of land sold to government and other conservation agencies	2,820,930
Communications and outreach	550,736
Fundraising	398,524
General and administrative	365,574
Support for Conservancy activities outside Oregon	849,282
TOTAL EXPENSES AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS	\$7,980,741

NET RESULT: SUPPORT & REVENUE	
less EXPENSES & CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS	7,164,743
Endowment growth	2,268,285
Investments held for land acquisition	1,558,534
Operating reserves and cash	27,273
Net payments on loans for acquired land	3,213,093
Other assets and depreciation	97,558
TOTAL	\$7,164,743

Asset, Liability and Net Asset Summary

	6/30/06	6/30/05
Conservation lands ²	32,391,279	35,032,209
Investments held for land acquisitions	6,339,750	4,781,216
Endowment investments	20,041,417	17,773,132
Property & equipment (net of depreciation)	3,473,666	3,558,679
Operations cash, reserves, and gov't receivables	2,775,236	2,747,963
Other assets	1,119,387	936,815
TOTAL ASSETS	\$66,140,735	\$64,830,014
Total liabilities	2,394,978	5,608,071
Total net assets	63,745,757	59,221,943
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$66,140,735	\$64,830,014

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¹ These unaudited figures represent The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. For comparable figures for The Nature Conservancy as a whole, please contact us.

² Change resulting largely from transfer of a conservation easement at the Williamson River Delta to the USDA Wetland Reserve Program for \$2.1 million, and sale of 640 acres to the Bureau of Land Management for conservation in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

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Tolmie's mariposa lily at Willow Creek Preserve © Matthew Benotsch/TNC

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