COLUMBIA LAND TRUST

Fieldbook

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Conserving and caring for vital lands, waters, and wildlife of the Columbia River region through sound science and strong relationships.

THE BUTTERFLY MAN

pg. 2

Snowberry checkerspot butterfly (Euphydryas colon) on Indian paintbrush

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Columbia Land Trust has earned accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, which recognizes land trusts that adhere to national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust with rigorous ethical standards, and take steps to ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

› *We are applying to renew our accreditation and we encourage you to provide feedback at: columbialandtrust.org/reaccreditation*

Columbia Land Trust conserves and cares for vital lands, waters, and wildlife of the Columbia River region through sound science and strong relationships.

Cover photo: Snowberry checkerspot butterfly (Euphydryas colon) on Indian paintbrush by Caitlin C. LaBar
Inside cover: Mount Adams above the Klickitat River by Brian Chambers Photography

GLENN'S MUSE

This is my 28th year doing this work.

Early on, fellow board member Terry Cornelius, supporter Cherie Kearney, and I would share lunch once a week. As we ate, we discussed how we could assure that our conservation plans would stand the test of time. How could we predict what changes were in store, and be ready for them?

Indeed, in these three decades we have seen dramatic population growth, structural shifts in our local economy, five U.S. presidents, and changes to the national and global landscapes. We have learned that no one can predict what is around the corner. Today, more than any time in our history, the daily news describes change and tumult.

Yet, the Land Trust is moving forward for nature and for future generations. Terry's daughter Lindsay, a natural area manager today, has worked for the Land Trust for 15 years. Her three sons are being raised with the same appreciation for the wild she grew up with. Cherie, who was one of our first employees, is now our forest conservation director, and is often seen with her granddaughter by her side, both craning their necks to look at the tops of towering old trees.

Even with the dramatic world changes we have seen, it is reasonable to predict that Columbia Land Trust leaders sharing lunch in 50 years will look back on far more change than anything we have seen in the past 28 years, including today.

I remain convinced that we will succeed in assuring the permanence of our work because the people of the Northwest will not allow the essential nature of this place to be degraded. After 28 years, I can now see—and Terry and Cherie are great examples—how passion for nature is passed to the next generations. It is critical that we know and love nature so that we will care for it. The decisions we make as a society come directly from the shared values we hold as a people. I challenge each of us to consider what positive actions we can take to care for nature, and how we can spread our love for the natural world around us.

Glenn Lamb, *Executive Director*

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a |

THE BUTTERFLY MAN

Q&A with Robert Michael Pyle

BY SARAH RICHARDS

b |

It's hard to call yourself a Northwest nature aficionado unless you've read some of Robert Michael Pyle's writing. His works, with topics ranging from Bigfoot to butterflies, are represented in both poetic collections and practical field guides. As one of the region's leading lepidopterists (butterfly and moth scientists) and an author of more than 20 books, Pyle has spent over five decades devoted to conservation and education. His new book, *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest*, co-written with Caitlin C. LaBar, is a detailed guide to the more than 200 species of butterflies in Oregon, Washington, and surrounding territories, and it is set to be released by Timber Press in spring 2018. The guide will help both the inquisitive butterfly chaser and the more experienced lepidopterist find, identify, study, garden for, and conserve the natural butterfly fauna of the region.

Columbia Land Trust talked to Pyle about how he hopes this new book will influence the next generation of butterfly enthusiasts.

LEPIDOPTERISTS:

butterfly and moth scientists

Tell us how you went about studying the butterflies in your new book?

For this book, I mostly worked with other lepidopterists, who have been learning new things about Northwest butterflies. Caitlin C. LaBar, my co-author, and I had to round up all new digital images of all the species too.

I collected specimens for years, but my collections have long since been donated to several important university collections, which I use extensively for books like this. Both the University of Washington and Oregon State University collections were essential to it. Far fewer people collect, than watch or photograph, but their ongoing work remains essential for learning and conservation.

What can a person learn from simply observing these creatures?

Almost everything one can learn in nature can be learned by close observation of butterflies. They have taught me basic ecology, ethology (behavior), biogeography, plant-insect co-adaptation (and therefore botany—you can't be a good butterflier without becoming something of a botanist), and so much more. Especially the essentials of evolution: as Darwin, Wallace, Bates, and Beebe all said in their own ways, the wings of butterflies are canvases of evolution in action. I believe people can also model peacefulness, gentleness, and a becoming attention to the land and its life through close acquaintance with butterflies—not that they possess these traits themselves; they can be quite feisty, and they do what they need to do to survive. But their sheer beauty, grace, and fluid motion cannot help but influence our imaginations and minds toward our better angels, merely by paying them the close attention they demand and deserve.

> "...the wings of butterflies are canvases of evolution in action."

What are the main threats to butterfly populations, and what role can land conservation play in addressing those threats?

There are many threats, and they are tough on butterflies and getting worse: pesticides, especially the neonicotinoids; climate change, which will benefit some adaptable and expanding species but prejudice rarer denizens of specialized, moist, cool, and high-elevation habitats; and the sheer displacement of habitat by urban, suburban, and rural development. Intensive agriculture is a real problem for butterflies, as are some exotic plants, while others actually furnish replacement nectar sources for butterflies. Certain introduced species of parasitic flies and predaceous wasps are hurting native butterflies too. Collectors are not a threat; it is very difficult to damage populations with a net, and most netters are working to better understand and conserve butterflies. We cannot conserve that which we do not know, or know where it lives.

Butterflies are among the elements of diversity that constitute life on earth. They comprise important food for songbirds and many other organisms, they are fairly important pollinators of flowers, they serve as dramatic ecological indicators of change, and we all find them very beautiful and fascinating in their lifeways. Butterflies find themselves under growing threats from human-caused changes to the environment. Long-term research by Art Shapiro, professor of ecology and evolution at the University of California, Davis, had found that some butterfly populations in Northern California are collapsing, and British ecologists are documenting the sad loss of many colonies and even species of butterflies in the British Isles, despite heroic conservation efforts. We need to know why, so we can do something about it. The single most important thing we can do is to protect and carefully manage their habitat. Along with that, one of the very best things we can do for butterflies is to interest the young.

› Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest *will be available for purchase in spring 2018 from the Audubon Society of Portland bookshop or at powells.com. Learn more about how to help butterflies at backyardhabitats.org or at xerces.org.*

a | *Robert Michael Pyle. Photo by Benjamin Drummond*
b | *Red admirable (Vanessa atalanta). Photo by Caitlin C. LaBar*

THE HIDDEN CANYON

We Have a Bold Vision to Conserve 10,000 Acres of Forestland at Klickitat Canyon

BY JAY KOSA

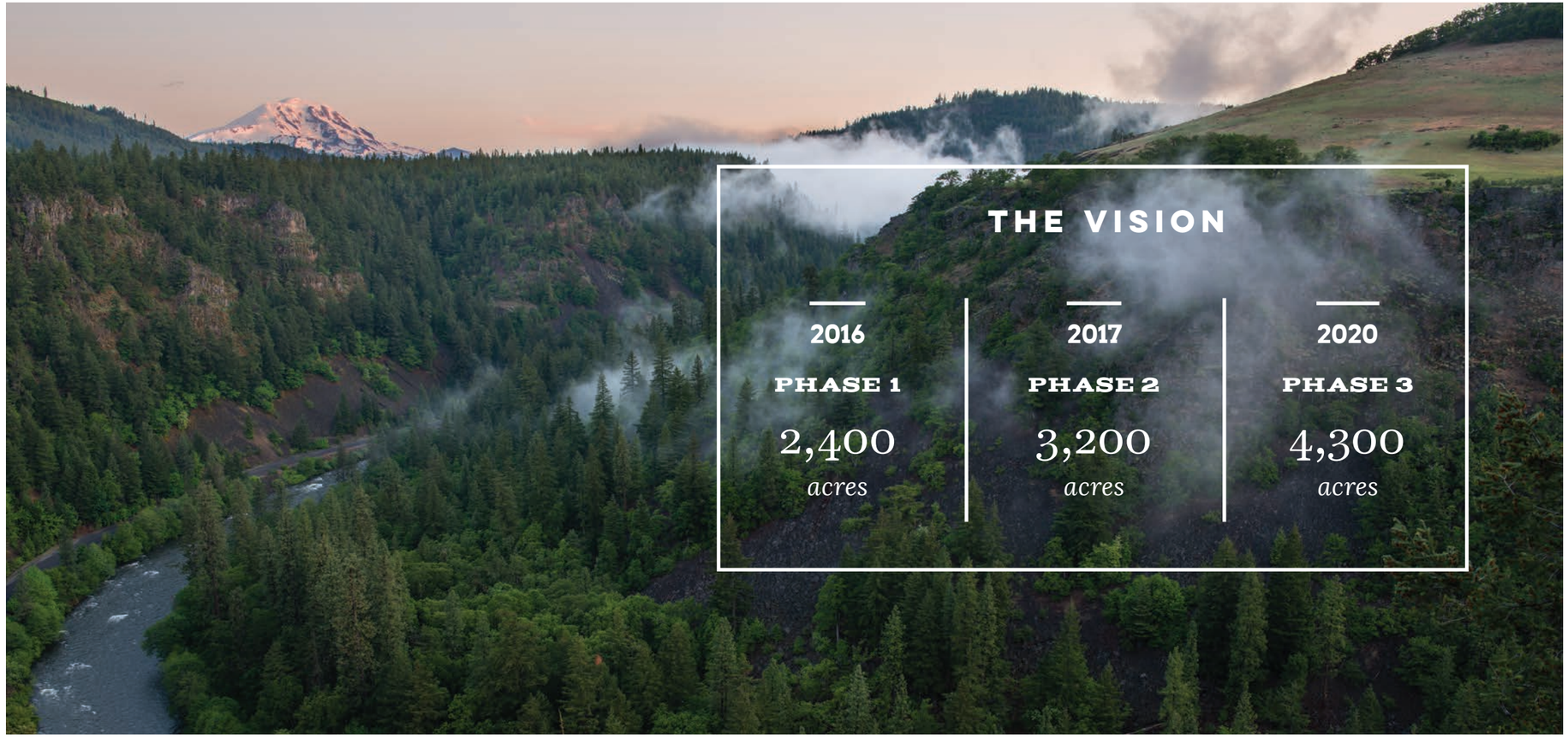
Nate Ulrich considers himself more of a botany guy. When Columbia Land Trust's conservation lead for the East Cascades and Columbia Plateau lists wildlife species found in Klickitat Canyon, he starts with rare wildflowers, such as penstemon and desert parsley. Ulrich also describes the canyon, which sits just below the northern border of southern Washington's Klickitat County, as a wildlife haven—home to black bears, black-tailed deer, elk, sandhill cranes, owls, hawks, and elusive golden eagles.

Anglers love the Wild and Scenic–designated Klickitat River for its legendary steelhead runs, along with its wild and stocked salmon runs. A combination of artesian springs, snowmelt from headwaters in Goat Rocks Wilderness, and glacial melt from Mount Adams supply the undammed river with the clean, cold water critical to fish.

"I always tell people Klickitat Canyon is the most beautiful part of Washington that they've never been to," said Ulrich. "It's a region characterized by its rugged remoteness and its gorgeous galleries of basalt canyons."

The canyon's unique transitional landscape offers a vital wildlife migration corridor, connecting oak-pine woodlands and grasslands to subalpine forests and meadows. Climate resilience data models* suggest the landscape could serve as a refuge for wildlife in the warmer, drier years ahead.

The region's human history is as rich as its ecology. Since time immemorial, the Klickitat River and its surrounding lands have served as the cultural lifeblood for the Yakama people. The canyon was also once part of a 114,000-acre tree farm based out of the town of Klickitat. Today, forestry persists as a cornerstone of the local economy.



While many people consider the canyon remote, our conservationists recognize that development threats often materialize quickly. Klickitat Canyon's proximity to the rapidly growing Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area and to outdoor recreation destinations in the Columbia River Gorge suggest that now is the time to conserve the watershed that Phil Rigdon, director of Yakama Nation's Department of Natural Resources, describes as the last of its kind.

Since first identifying the lower 40 percent** of the Klickitat River as a conservation priority in 2012, Columbia Land Trust has been hard at work, crafting a funding plan and a multiphase strategy to conserve nearly 10,000 acres of forestland at Klickitat Canyon.

The Land Trust collaborated with a private landowner and community stakeholders for four years before completing the plan's first phase in December 2016: conservation of 2,400 acres. These lands are now owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources under a Community Forest Trust designation, meaning community members will play an advisory role in the land's management, including forestry.

Moving forward, the Land Trust is turning its attention to Phase II of the project: conserving 3,200 acres of forestland southwest of the Phase I lands. Numerous private and public funders have rallied in support of the project, and we're seeking additional support from individuals to ensure these lands are permanently conserved by the end of 2017.

If all goes according to plan, by 2020 the Land Trust will have conserved the remaining 4,300 acres upriver from Phase I. We aim to acquire the Phase II and Phase III lands outright, and to manage forests for fire resilience and improved wildlife habitat. We're committed to contracting locally for forest management in order to economically benefit communities within the region.

Klickitat Canyon is an ambitious project that embodies the Land Trust's evolving approach to conservation. We're embracing a strategic, large-scale approach to protect swaths of our last, best natural lands through the application of sound science and collaboration with local, state, federal, tribal, nonprofit, and community partners.

Large conservation projects are inherently complex and nuanced, but the process is ultimately rooted in the art of listening. "Flexibility throughout the process is key," said Ulrich, "but we make sure to keep sight of our overarching goals."

We're planning for forever. We do this by finding common ground around desires for thriving rivers, healthy forests, community-responsive land management, and the shared hope that our children will inherit these lands in better shape than we found them.

** Columbia Land Trust is working with The Nature Conservancy to incorporate their climate change resilience data into our spatial analyses.*

*** The upper 60 percent of the river falls within the Yakama Indian Reservation or protected federal lands.*

c | *The sun lights Mount Adams above Klickitat Canyon. Photo by Brian Chambers Photography*

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Mourning Cloak Butterfly

BY SARAH RICHARDS

d |

Scientific name:
Nymphalis antiopa

e |

About 79 of the more than 200 species of butterflies living or traveling through the Northwest region can be found in the vicinity of the Klickitat River watershed in Washington, where Columbia Land Trust has conserved nearly 6,000 acres. A favorite for many observers is the mourning cloak butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*), often seen hugging the sunlit spaces of trees in the region's arid basin.

› *Learn more about butterfly fauna at, northwestbutterflies.blogspot.com or backyardhabitats.org*

d | *Mourning cloak butterfly by Robb Hannawacker*

e | *Mourning cloak caterpillar by Robb Hannawacker*

IDENTIFICATION

Rests on oak, willow, or cottonwood trees with wings toward the sun to absorb heat. Dorsal wings are black to purple-red, bordered by a narrow black band, iridescent blue spots, and pale yellow edges. Ventral wings are camouflaged with mottled black, brown, and cream. Wingspan between 2¼ – 4 inches.

LIFE

Overwinters in the region under loose tree bark. Often the first butterfly species to emerge in the spring to mate, sometimes before the snow melts. Lays pale yellow eggs in ring clusters on small branches, black caterpillars later develop with white specks, rubbery spikes, and red dots line their back. Adult lifespan up to 12 months.

STATUS

Widespread and common, but undergo large, natural fluctuations in population size. "Mourning cloaks increased from 2010 to 2013 and exploded in huge numbers across Washington," said author and photographer Caitlin C. LaBar. "They then suddenly disappeared and have only been seen in small numbers since. A similar pattern occurred in Washington about 15 years prior."

f |

g |

SUCCESS IN SALMON

A Conversation with Aja DeCoteau

BY JAY KOSA

Aja DeCoteau, the newest member of Columbia Land Trust's board of directors, recently sat down with the Land Trust's Jay Kosa to discuss her story, her work, and her hopes for the Columbia River. A citizen of the Yakama Nation, DeCoteau grew up in Wapato, Washington, on the Yakama Indian Reservation. Her deep connection with the land drives her in her work at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

Can you tell me about CRITFC?

The mission of CRITFC is to provide a unified voice in the management of the fishery resources and protect reserved treaty rights on behalf of our member tribes, which are the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes.

How do you think the missions of CRITFC and Columbia Land Trust align?

There's a tremendous respect for the river, fish, and wildlife. We share the view that we are stewards of the land and that we have a responsibility to protect the river for future generations. Both organizations understand how vital relationships are. I hope that, as a board member, I can offer a tribal voice for the Land Trust, strengthen tribal relationships, and help build new ones.

What significance does the Klickitat River hold for you?

Well, my daughter's middle name is Klickitat. Also, my grandfather fished the Klickitat his whole life, and he fished Celilo Falls before it was inundated. I have great memories of sitting on a scaffold with him at Lyle Falls and watching the fish as he'd dip net. That's one of the main reasons as to why I studied fisheries in college.

Describe salmon's importance among the tribes of the Columbia River.

It starts with our creation story. A long time ago, the Creator was preparing the world for people. He called a grand council of animals and plants and asked them how they would help the people. The salmon was the first to offer its body for food. Then the deer and elk, followed by the roots and berries. At the center of all of this is water, upon which all life depends. These are our first foods, and we have a reciprocal relationship in that they nourish our people and we protect them and their habitats. For us, natural resources are cultural resources. Without salmon, our religion and our culture would be devastated.

Columbia Land Trust has been looking ahead 25 years as part of its conservation planning. What are your hopes for the Columbia River region a generation from now?

Professionally, we measure results in the number of fish. *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* (Spirit of the Salmon) is CRITFC's 25-year plan with the ultimate goal of seeing 4 million salmon making it over the Bonneville Dam. We're halfway there now, so I see us striving forward over the next 25 years to ensure clean water and abundant fish. Personally, I want my children to have the resources available to continue their culture and traditions.

f | *Columbia Land Trust board member Aja DeCoteau*

g | *A fisherwoman (not DeCoteau) dip-nets for salmon at Lyle Falls on the Klickitat River. Photo by Brian Chambers Photography*

COASTAL RIVER ROUNDUP

Recent Conservation Success on the Pacific Coast

BY JAY KOSA

Multiyear conservation efforts culminated in permanent conservation victories early in 2017. Three recent property acquisitions highlight the breadth of the Land Trust's work to conserve and restore wildlife habitat along southwest Washington's coastal rivers and streams.

Seal Slough
Pacific County

In late December of 2016, the Land Trust acquired 374 acres of tidal wetland and upland forest along Seal Slough on East Willapa Bay, located just south of Lynn Point in Pacific County, Washington. The conserved property will support fish stocks to the benefit of local commercial and recreational fishing communities. The Land Trust plans to restore the upland areas to their historic, natural forest conditions, protecting tidal wetlands, sloughs, and creeks. In time, restored forested habitat could support endangered marbled murrelet.

Crooked Creek
Wahkiakum County

Early in January, the Land Trust conserved 31 acres along Crooked Creek and on the Columbia River, part of the Grays Bay watershed in Wahkiakum County, Washington. This acquisition builds on 120 acres of conserved lands owned by Columbia Land Trust upstream along the creek, which provides crucial habitat for Columbia River salmon and steelhead, eulachon, migratory shorebirds, and waterfowl.

Chinook River
Pacific County

In January, Columbia Land Trust acquired 285 acres along Washington's Baker Bay between Fort Columbia State Park and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Chinook Unit property. The newly conserved project protects one mile of the Chinook River, three fish-bearing streams, and 245 acres of associated wetland habitat. The Chinook River system supports 13 federally listed Columbia River salmon and steelhead species as well as eulachon.

› *For in-depth reports on each of these conservation successes, visit columbialandtrust.org/news.*

BE CURIOUS

Tour

$75

THE PLACES OF PIKA

Saturday, May 20

BEACON ROCK STATE PARK REGION

Perhaps the cutest bioindicator of climate change in the Northwest is the American pika. In fact, pika live at the lowest elevation in North America in the Columbia River Gorge. Travel with Clark College Professor of Biology Steven Clark in search of the sights and sounds of pika, view native springtime wildflowers, and learn how conserving habitat throughout the gorge plays a role in the survival of an important species.

Tour

$80

CANOES & COASTAL NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, August 19

LONG BEACH PENINSULA, WA

Many of us visit the beaches of the coast, but seldom have enough time to discover the true biodiversity of the plants, waters, and wildlife. Join the Land Trust's Conservation Manager Nadia Gardner this summer on a canoe trip across Island Lake on the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington. Learn how the preservation of the interdunal lakes and wetlands of the area not only provide habitat to species from rare marbled murrelets to stunning trumpeter swans, but also contribute to the water quality of the neighboring cranberry bogs.

Save the Dates

GUARDIAN CIRCLE

Thursday, May 18

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Annual Giving Circle

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, August 5

VANCOUVER LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Annual Gathering & Board Election

WILD SPLENDOR

Thursday, September 14

MONTGOMERY PARK PORTLAND, OR

Signature Event & Annual Gala

SIGN UP | **ColumbiaLandTrust.org**

@ColumbiaLandTrust | **#OURCURIOUSNATURE**

Wild onion field in bloom. Photo by Doug Gorsline

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HABITAP | DOUBLE MOUNTAIN BREWERY

Thanks to everyone who raised a pint for nature at our 3rd Annual Habitap. A big thanks to our hosts at Double Mountain Brewery and to our Emerging Leaders Council for planning the event.

Photography by Gabriel Olson

› *Learn more about our Emerging Leaders Council at columbialandtrust.org/elc*