

COLUMBIA LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2016

VOL 23 | ISSUE 02

Fieldbook

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

Botanical Curiosities

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Carnivorous Round-Leaved Sundew
(*Drosera Rotundifolia*)

2015

Annual Report

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*Columbia Land Trust conserves
and cares for vital lands, waters,
and wildlife through sound
science and strong relationships.*

*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.*



Cover photo: Bernard Dupont (cropped from the original)
Inside cover: Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*). Photo by Doug Gorsline

Remembering Tom

Tom Moeller liked gardening, fly-fishing, barbershop quartets, and garage sales every Friday. He loved nature and contributed to Columbia Land Trust every year, although he claimed, "What I give is a pittance compared to everything you do."



Tom was all business. Calls were short and to the point. And yet in his last years, he reached out to me in new ways. He'd call and say, "I think it's porch time, Glenn. When can you get out here?" The first time I arrived for porch time, I was surprised when, in his usual direct way, he said, "Well, there's the chair. I've left you a few cookies and some milk. I'll be inside," as he closed the door behind him. Eventually Tom would come out and explain that he figured I must get awfully busy, and that everyone can use some time just sitting still.

Frank Groundwater called last July to tell me that Tom was gone. Tom had been fading badly and was very uncomfortable. I knew Frank would call when Tom died, because I'd told Tom that I'd scatter his ashes at his favorite lake. What I didn't expect was that Tom had left virtually his entire estate to Columbia Land Trust.

During his lifetime, Tom gave the Land Trust gifts that truly helped sustain our annual operations, just like each of you, our members. Through his will, Tom left a gift that has the power to transform the Land Trust, to significantly increase our impact. We're already doing more, thanks to him.

Tom loved the nature of the Northwest. He knew it from wading out in the water, with fly rod in hand. He also knew it from watching the swallows swerve across the meadow just off his porch and from seeing the eagles perch atop nearby Douglas-firs.

Each of us has the potential to conserve the nature that we love so dearly, through building a backyard habitat, volunteering, bestowing annual gifts, and, perhaps most powerfully, granting an estate gift. If you'd like to explore how to make such a gift, please give me a call.

In the meantime, I urge you to take Tom's advice and make sure you get some regular porch time.

Glenn

Glenn Lamb, Executive Director

*Introducing
our NEW logo!*

Learn more at:
columbialandtrust.org/logo

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A Columbia River Vasculum

A Brief Exploration of the Columbia River Region's Botanical Curiosities

BY JAY KOSA

For many, the word “wildlife” conjures thoughts of charismatic mammals, birds, and other animals. Indeed, members of kingdom Animalia tend to grab the majority of conservation headlines. However, when Columbia Land Trust’s mission refers to conserving and caring for the wildlife of the Columbia River region, the word implies the full spectrum of living organisms. Like most conservation organizations, we understand that one can’t protect a single species without appreciating its place within an intricate and interdependent web of life. Kingdom Plantae sets the table for the Pacific Northwest’s varied and complex ecosystems.

“Plants are foundational, but they are often implied when conserving habitat,” said Jen Zarnoch, a natural area manager with Columbia Land Trust. “It’s also easy to overlook understory plants, which provide so much biodiversity.”

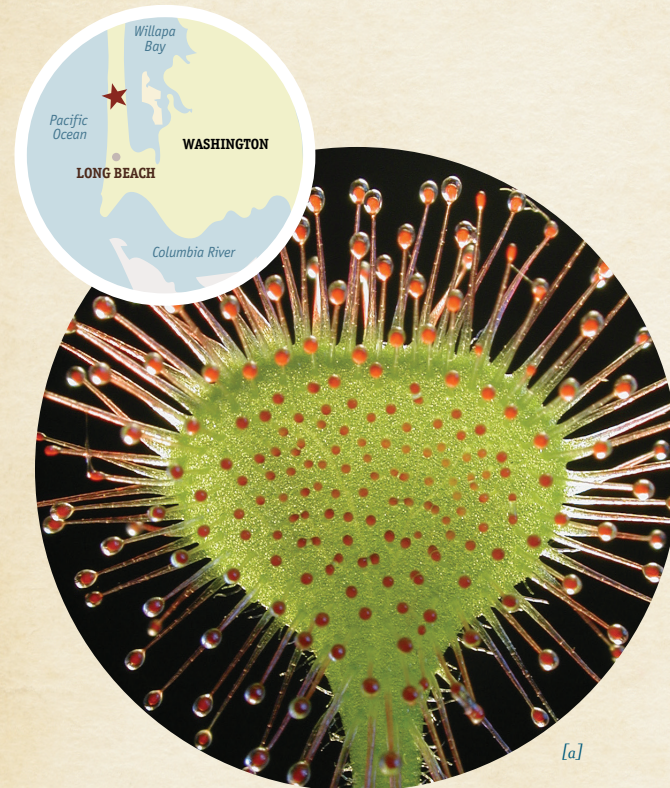
A dazzling assortment of plant life resides within our 13,760 square-mile service area along the lower Columbia River. While larger, more prominent tree and shrub species, such as the Douglas-fir, are celebrated icons of the Pacific Northwest, the vast majority of the region’s native plants grow in relative obscurity.

The Land Trust restricts access to both West Major and Pierce Island in an attempt to protect their threatened plant species from human disturbances.

[a] Photo from Wikimedia Commons

[b] Photo by Flickr user Jeff B

[c] Photo by Paul Slichter



[a]

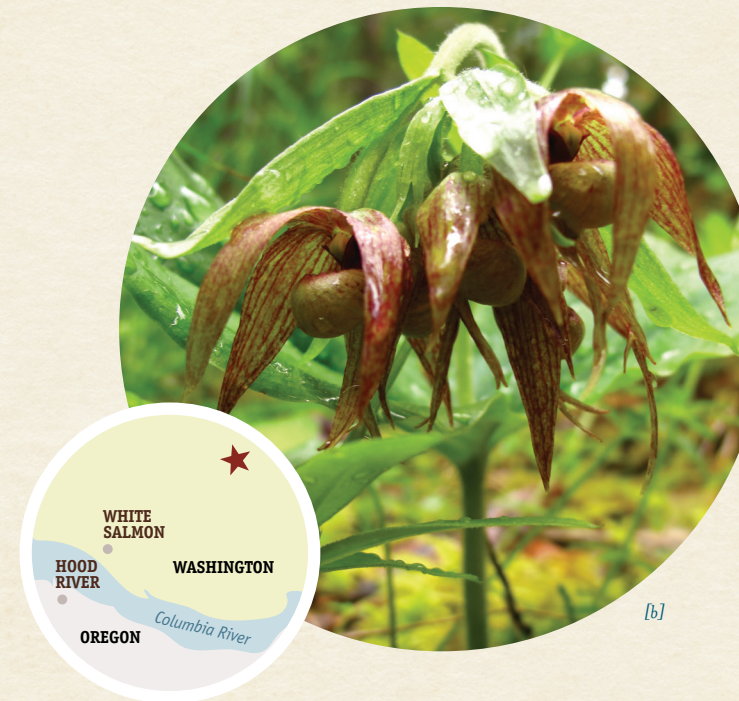
Carnivorous Round-Leaved Sundew

Island Lake Forest, a conserved area of Long Beach Peninsula comprised of coastal forests and interdunal wetlands, is home to peculiar yet fascinating specimens of the plant world. The carnivorous round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) employs glandular tentacles topped with sticky secretions to trap unsuspecting prey. With weak roots meant only for anchorage and water absorption, sundew gather necessary nutrients by devouring insects.

Beyond the overt benefit of conserving natural spaces threatened by development, the Land Trust’s restoration efforts seek to protect existing plant life and restore areas with the potential to support complex native ecosystems. These include increasingly rare habitats, like Willamette Valley wet prairie, Sitka spruce swamps, and old-growth forests.

The Land Trust restricts access to its West Major and Pierce Island properties in an attempt to protect their threatened plant species from human disturbances. Our stewardship staff also coordinates with local botanists and universities to facilitate research opportunities.

A small sampling—a figurative vasculum—of botanical rarities nestled throughout the landscapes of the lower Columbia.

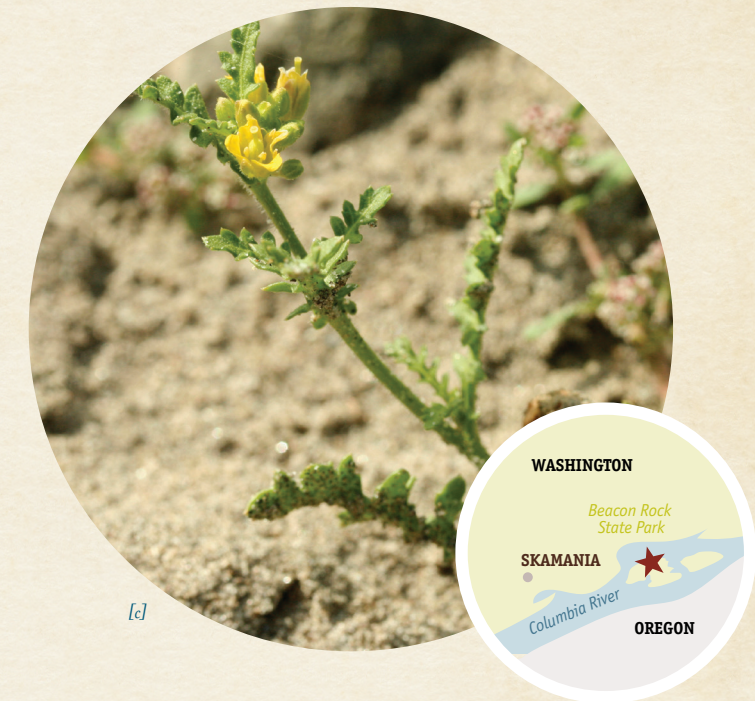


[b]

Clustered Lady's Slipper

The Land Trust’s West Major property in Klickitat County, Washington, is home to a small population of a rare orchid known as clustered lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*). Listed as a threatened species in the state of Washington, the terrestrial orchid features a drooping stem and delicate, slipper-shaped flowers ranging from greenish gold to reddish brown in color. Our stewardship staff keep an eye out for the elusive and elegant orchid during annual monitoring efforts, but it’s no easy feat to locate the small, earth-toned plants during their short late-spring bloom.

By conserving and restoring lands with the potential to offer valuable habitat, we safeguard tens of thousands of species, some prominent and some seldom seen. There are possibly plants on our conserved lands that remain undiscovered or whose myriad values are not yet fully understood. We already rely on plants to convert sunlight into food; to sequester carbon and produce oxygen; to clean our soils, water, and air; to absorb water and mitigate erosion; to provide habitat, lumber, and medicine; and to offer shade and inspiration. These services are fundamental yet routinely taken for granted. Rooted in place, solar powered, adaptive, interdependent, and beautiful, plants offer a model for sustainable human development, hidden in plain sight.



[c]

Persistent-Sepal Yellowcress

Another rare plant clings to the wet, sandy shores of Pierce Island, in the middle of the Columbia River just south of Beacon Rock. Persistent-sepal yellowcress (*Rorippa columbiae*), a small perennial herb—10 to 40 centimeters in length—is listed as endangered in the state of Washington and a federal species of concern. The plant, which is a member of the Brassicaceae, or mustard, family, grows best in seasonally wet environments like island shores and playas (dry lakes).

Aside from ecological, economic, and cultural values, the intrinsic value of plant life in the Columbia River region is reason enough for it to merit our protection. “If you need a compelling argument to conserve plants, just look at our Four Sisters property when its wildflowers bloom in spring,” offered Zarnoch.

In a time when the average American child can recognize more than 100 corporate logos but struggles to identify 10 plant species, opportunities for discovery abound. By observing nature both close to home and far afield, we can kindle new curiosities and begin journeys of learning, discovery, and stewardship. 🌱

2015

Annual Report

Klickitat River at Stinson Flats.
Photo by Doug Gorsline

President's Letter

STEPHEN SHIELDS

I thought about what compelling story from my time on the land I could offer for this letter, but in truth, that's not my style. I tend to think more about systems than stories. I think about what it takes to help build an organization that has the vision, the commitment, and the wherewithal to conserve lands in perpetuity. While many organizations aspire to build something lasting, for us it is an imperative. Land will outlive us all, and unlike other organizations, we're expected to fulfill the promises we make today for generations to come. This is what it takes to be a land trust, to be the people others count on to preserve what is precious in a changing world.

Land will outlive us all, and unlike other organizations, we're expected to fulfill the promises we make today for generations to come.

We have accomplished a good deal on the ground this past year, important projects that you can read about in issues of *Fieldbook* and on our website. What we don't often share is that conserving land is not easy. It takes conservationists and landowners, enthusiastic people who have the imagination and commitment to work at something for years before the

relationships they forge, the funding they secure, and the right moment for action converge to allow another piece of the natural world to be conserved. It takes stewardship professionals who understand how best to care for this land, how to plan, and how to ensure the plan is realized. It takes storytellers and supporters sharing why this matters in a world where day-to-day life can be quite disconnected from the natural world. Lastly, it takes all these people working together, day in and day out, so we create an organization others want continually to support, confident that we can and will do what they hope for but cannot achieve on their own.

In 2015 we completed our third strategic plan to guide us into the future. Making sure we have what it takes to conserve land forever was a key part of that plan. We have already come a long way as an organization, and we are on a strong foundation to ensure our mission is always achieved. I count myself fortunate to be part of what Columbia Land Trust is and will become. 🌱

2015

By the Numbers

SUPPORT



3,330
Donors

27
Staff Members

STEWARDSHIP



74,800
NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS
Planted by
Volunteers, Crew
& Land Trust
Stewards



992
WEED-TREATED ACRES

CONSERVATION



28,000
ACRES CONSERVED 1990-2015

758 **ACRES CONSERVED** In 2015
7 **PROJECTS CLOSED** In 2015

VOLUNTEERS



\$66,548
VALUE
of the Trust's
2015 Volunteer
Contributions



241
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



4,133
VOLUNTEER HOURS
(direct contribution and
driving contribution)



25
SITE STEWARDS

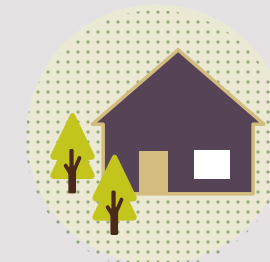


31
VOLUNTEER EVENTS



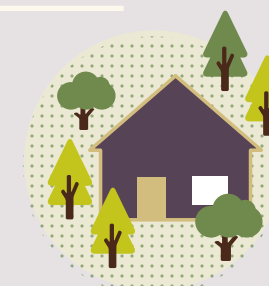
57
PROPERTIES
Monitored by
Volunteers

BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM*



162
ACRES ENROLLED

44
ACRES NEWLY CERTIFIED



14,015
NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS
Planted on Certified Projects

*A program run in partnership with the Audubon Society of Portland

2015

Project Highlights



[d]

286
ACRES

**Rainbow Farm
& Atfalati Prairie**
Washington County, OR

Two properties in the Tualatin River floodplain totaling 286 acres were conserved last summer to protect riverside forest habitat and allow for the restoration of rare, native wet prairie within the Portland Metro area.

51.5
ACRES

**East Fork Lewis
River, Rock Creek**
Clark County, WA

This acquisition protects 51.5 acres and a mile of Rock Creek shoreline in the East Fork Lewis River, an important site for spawning and egg incubation for winter steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

[d] Atfalati Prairie along the Tualatin River in Washington County, OR

80
ACRES

West Fork Grays River
Pacific County, WA

In August, we accepted the donation of 80 acres in the upper Grays Bay Watershed with two large tributaries and conifer forests hosting species from salmon to bear, and with forest restoration the site could support nesting marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owls.

30
ACRES

Deep River
Wahkiakum County, WA

An additional 30 acres was conserved in the Grays Bay Watershed in September, bringing the total conserved acreage in the area to 187 acres, a part of a larger project at the mouth of the Deep River where tidal restoration will benefit numerous listed fish species and waterfowl.

For comprehensive descriptions of all 2015 activities, download our 2015 Conservation & Restoration Report at columbialandtrust.org/2015CRR

2015

Financial Report

Where Your Dollars Go

We leverage your annual gifts to conserve and restore land. Our financial audit shows that in 2015, your gifts helped us add \$1.9 million of conserved land, spend \$1.4 million on direct restoration and stewardship of land, and grow our permanently restricted stewardship funds by \$520,000.

In addition, with your support, we conserved another \$2.1 million of land—one of the very last upland forests along the Columbia River lowlands—that is held by partners and not shown on our books. We also accepted a conservation easement on 161 acres of top-priority habitat in the upper Hood River Valley. When conservation property and our partner projects are factored in, program efforts accounted for 87 percent of expenses in 2015.

Assets

Cash & Savings.....	1,622,312.00
Receivables.....	925,593.00
Other Assets.....	33,999.00
Investments	6,061,570.00
Fixed Assets	49,375.00
Conservation Property.....	49,100,978.00
Total Assets.....	57,793,827.00

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	394,669.00
Contracts & Notes Payable	40,000.00
Conservation Property*	6,363,594.00
Total Liabilities.....	6,798,263.00

Net Assets

Unrestricted	44,531,477.00
Temporarily Restricted	2,613,873.00
Permanently Restricted	3,850,214.00
Total Net Assets.....	50,995,564.00

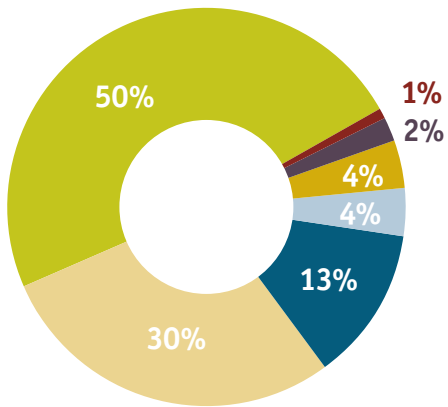
Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....	57,793,827.00
Change in Net Assets.....	2,249,506.00

Land Purchases

Donated Land	213,776.00
Purchased Land	1,740,724.00
Total Land Purchases	1,954,500.00

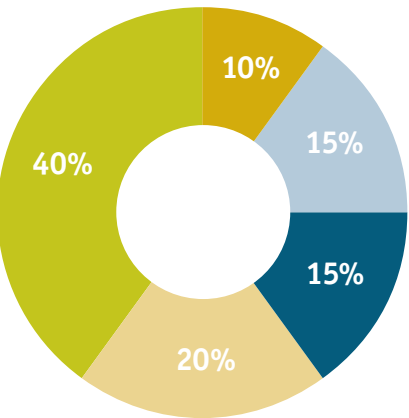
*held on behalf of local governments

Revenue



Grants.....	2,982,769.00
Donations.....	1,763,479.00
Other Income.....	746,008.00
Donated Land.....	213,776.00
Special Events.....	243,180.63
Private & Govt. Grants	105,000.00
In-Kind Revenue	61,616.00
Investment Income.....	(182,810.00)
Total Revenue	5,933,018.63

Expenses



Land Stewardship.....	1,468,737.00
Land Conservation	747,896.00
Administration	551,054.00
Fundraising.....	564,419.63
Public Outreach	351,406.00
Total Expenses	3,683,512.63



[e]



[f]

Eastern Muse

How an Ecoregion Spurred a Powerful Partnership

BY SARAH RICHARDS

The transitional zone of the Columbia River Gorge is where the wet of the west turns into the arid east, where temperate rain forests of Douglas-fir flow into dry ponderosa pine and oak habitat, where unrivaled and irreplaceable native plant communities unfold with botanic beauty and ecological wonder. The East Cascades is also home to Humble Roots Farm & Nursery, a business inspired by the region's biodiversity.

"I saw changes happening to local landscapes," said nursery co-owner Kristin Currin. "Instead of talking about what should be done, I just decided to do it."

In 2003, Currin purchased land that seemed to suit her future nurseries needs, but discovered a low-producing well couldn't properly irrigate her stock. She sold vegetables to restaurants to offset personal food and living costs as she diligently cared for her growing garden. Eventually, she moved her inventory to a rental property nearby.

Currin and her partner, Andrew Merritt, worked hard to remove invasive grasses and improve the oak woodlands on the new plot and watched as their native plants thrived. In 2005 the nursery was finally incorporated.

Meanwhile, the Land Trust was working to conserve meadows and riverbanks just miles away. Today, Humble Roots and the Land Trust have paired up to replant the region's disturbed natural places.

"There are no large wholesale nurseries that cultivate the plant species truly local to the region," said Land Trust Natural Area Manager Kate Conley. "Without local stock, our plant survival rates would be lower."

Over the past two years, the nursery has supplied more than 1,200 plants to revegetate the river's edge at the former Hood River Powerdale Dam and pipeline sites.

The nursery is also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish new populations of a rare plant called northern wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* var. *wormskioldii*), which could potentially thrive on our Pierce Island property. Historically, the plant was recorded at several sites along the Columbia River, but dam construction and subsequent flooding extirpated the population.

We never know who is just over the hill or across the river working for the same undertaking. It's a firm belief of ours, that not only can we be so moved by a landscape that we build our entire lives around it, but that in turn, the land can be moved by the people working to save it. 🌱

Learn more about Humble Roots Farms & Nursery at humblerootsnursery.com

[e] Humble Roots Farms & Nursery grounds in Mosier, OR

[f] Kristin Currin

[g] Northern Wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* var. *wormskioldii*)



[g]

Be Curious

EVENT

Picnic at the Ranch

Saturday, August 6

RAINIER, OR

As a valued supporter of Columbia Land Trust, you're invited to our annual summer picnic and gathering. Join us to elect new directors to our board and recognize our outstanding volunteers. Enjoy lunch catered by Tamale Boy and beer from Widmer Brothers Brewing. Plus, take part in a game of horseshoes, go on a guided nature walk with the kiddos, and learn about our upcoming floodplain restoration work at Columbia Stock Ranch.

VOLUNTEER

4th Annual Big River Cleanup

Saturday, August 20

NORTH BONNEVILLE, WA

It's time for our annual river cleanup event. Jump in a boat, join in a scavenger hunt, and remove debris from the Pierce Island shoreline near Beacon Rock State Park. Each year, summer's receding waters deposit trash on the island's three mile shoreline: an old tire, numerous sardine cans, lots of fishing gear, and a few surprises. This event will fill up fast, so make sure to seize your chance to spend a scenic morning with the Land Trust.

TOUR

\$75

Farms & Stars

Saturday, August 27

TROUT LAKE, WA

Enjoy an evening at the bucolic Mountain Meadows Dairy located at the base of Mount Adams. We'll meet the Schmid family and the dairy cows, plus Land Trust executive director Glenn Lamb will share how local conservation efforts protect prime farmland. Once the sun sets, we'll switch gears to the dark rural skies and stargaze with local astronomer Jim White over a farm-style dinner.

TOUR

\$75

Scat Taskforce

Saturday, November 5

CATHLAMET, WA

We've teamed up with the University of Washington's Center for Conservation Biology program, Conservation Canines, to create a unique outdoor adventure. Our quest? Find wildlife scat. We'll traverse our Upper Elochoman River property through moss-covered forests to identify and collect wildlife scat samples with a dog-and-handler team. Help us get a closer look at the wildlife living on our conserved lands and learn about the dogs and scientists leading this innovative approach to wildlife protection.

Sign up at:
columbialandtrust.org

Mill Creek Ridge



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An Evening Celebrating
our Curious Nature

Wild
Splendor

October 13, 2016

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 13, 2016

THE LOFT ON 8TH
2010 SE 8th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214

5:00 pm **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**
6:00 pm **REMARKS & AUCTION**
DINNER TO FOLLOW

#OurCuriousNature

Share the natural wonders you discover outdoors.

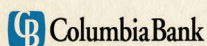
THANK YOU TO OUR 2015
WILD SPLENDOR SPONSORS

SUSTAINING

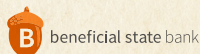


KILLIAN PACIFIC

PARTNER



PATRON



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tmikkelsen@columbialandtrust.org