

# GREENBELT LAND TRUST: ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating Success and looking toward the next 20 years*

As we look forward to the 20th anniversary of the Greenbelt in 2009 it is a good time for us to celebrate our successes, strengthen our organization and reach out to our communities to increase the pace of conservation in the Willamette Valley. Growth, escalating land costs and attacks to the Oregon land use system are accelerating the need for land conservation, habitat restoration and nature education in our region. Accomplishing these multiple goals requires that we allocate time and resources to all of our program areas. In 2007 we spent a good deal of time developing a new Strategic Plan and Business Plan to guide our conservation work over the next five years.

Our work over the last year has focused on all of these areas as well as securing the future direction of the Greenbelt. This work is only possible due to the support of our donors and the multitude of conservation partners who assist with this work.

**Land Conservation-** Requests for our assistance in land conservation continued to grow in 2007. We received over 50 requests for assistance in 2007 and have six current land conservation projects under negotiation.

A good deal of our land conservation efforts in 2007 went into securing funding and negotiating the Lone Star Ranch Conservation Easement. We are excited to complete this project and look forward to it serving as the nucleus of other private working land conservation projects in the future.

In June 2007 the Greenbelt became the proud owner of the 58-acre Lupine Meadows. We purchased a conservation easement on the property in 2005 and have been performing stewardship activities to protect and enhance rare upland and wetland prairies, including a large population of the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. The landowner

and the Greenbelt agreed it was best to place the property under the ownership of the Greenbelt. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board provided \$ 30,000 in funds that allowed us to purchase the remaining interest in the property. We thank them for the support and are excited to continue our restoration and enhancement work at this site.

**Stewardship-** Work on a long-term management plan for Lupine Meadows continued in 2007. Tom Kaye at the Institute for Applied Ecology has been preparing the plan with a working group of local scientists and community members. This plan will guide our habitat restoration, public use and scientific research at the site. We co-hosted a number of workdays

for local schools at Owens Farm and Lupine Meadows with the Institute for Applied Ecology. Students from Lincoln Elementary School and Corvallis Waldorf School helped us plant native camas bulbs, seeded with native plant seeds and helped us prepare the site for native grass restoration. Keep an eye out this spring for the beautiful camas blooms.

**Organizational Stability-** The Greenbelt has been selected to undergo evaluation for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We were accepted as part of the first group of land trusts to test the new accreditation process. Accreditation will provide public recognition of land trusts that are engaged in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest. This will increase public awareness of, and confidence in, land trusts and land

## Statement of Financial Position

FISCAL YEAR: OCTOBER 1, 2006 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

### Income

Membership Donations	\$164,102
Donation for Land Acquisition	\$11,280
Donation for Stewardship	\$5,879
Grants	\$49,477
Other	\$35,307
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$266,045</b>

### Expenses

Education/Outreach	\$4,574
Office Expenses	\$44,509
Personnel	\$157,599
Professional Fees	\$56,098
Miscellaneous	\$6,461
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$269,242</b>

### Assets

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	\$4,221
Investment Accounts	\$978,417
Fixed Assets	
Equipment	\$3,259
Land	\$1,136,884
Other Assets	
Conservation Easements	\$474,345
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,597,126</b>

conservation.

Our new Strategic Plan and Business Plan adopted in September 2007 outlines the path the Greenbelt will take to increase our land conservation impact by becoming a regional land trust for the mid-Willamette Valley. Our new service area includes Benton, Linn, Polk and Marion counties. The habitats and species we protect in Benton County rely on protected habitats in surrounding counties to ensure their survival through conservation corridors.

**Education and Outreach-** In December 2006 we hired Steve Lilly as our full time outreach and education coordinator. Steve has helped us to increase our contact with the next generation of conservation supporters, recruit new members, reach out to a more diverse constituency, and create more opportunities for existing members to help with restoration and trail building activities.

One of our primary areas of emphasis is to connect children with nature. A study by Kaiser Family Foundation showed that children between the ages of six months and six years spend an average of 1.5 hours a day with electronic media, and youths between the ages of 8 and 18 spend an average of 6.5 hours a day with electronic media—that's more than 45 hours a week. We tried to shift this balance through our work this year. We reached 900 children ages 4-17 through Steve's work with school groups, environmental education and partnerships with other groups. One of our favorite outings was picking wild strawberries at Lupine Meadows while we led a hike for 4-6 year olds from

Philomath Head Start. At the end of the hike we asked the kids what they remembered they answered "lupine and strawberries...yummy!"

Our fall and spring hikes attracted a number of participants who joined us on walks at significant natural areas in Benton, Polk, Linn and Marion counties. These hikes highlighted our conservation work on significant habitats throughout the Willamette Valley.



**Partners in Conservation-** Conservation work is dependent upon collaboration. In 2007 we worked with a number of conservation partners to accomplish land conservation, restoration and education efforts. We wish to thank all of our partners who help make conservation a success story in the Willamette Valley.

During the year we met with USFWS, ODFW, Oregon Habitat Joint Venture and The Nature Conservancy to review conservation priority habitats in the Willamette Valley and identify significant conservation projects. We also participated as a stakeholder in development of the Benton County Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with us on a number of projects including Lone Star Ranch, Volunteer Appreciation Day and evaluation of conservation/resource values on properties in Benton County. The Corvallis Audubon Society combined outreach efforts with us at Kids Day for Conservation. We have continued our partnership with the Marys River Watershed Council on land conservation and restoration at sites in Wren, along Muddy Creek and other tributaries to Marys River.

We partnered with Friends of the Refuge and Corvallis Audubon Society to dedicate the Homer Campbell Trail at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. This raised boardwalk commemorates Homer Campbell, a great man and a caring Greenbelt member extraordinaire. Donations totaling \$8,500 received by the Greenbelt in honor of Homer were donated for construction of the boardwalk. ❖

