



Conservation easement held by the Blue Mountain Land Trust



Conservation Easements in Oregon

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

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Today's (short) presentation

- Introduction to COLT and Oregon's land trusts
- Conservation easements 101
- Easements in nationally, and in Oregon
- Challenges and opportunities
 - Agriculture and forest producers



Sprague River Valley near Klamath Lake

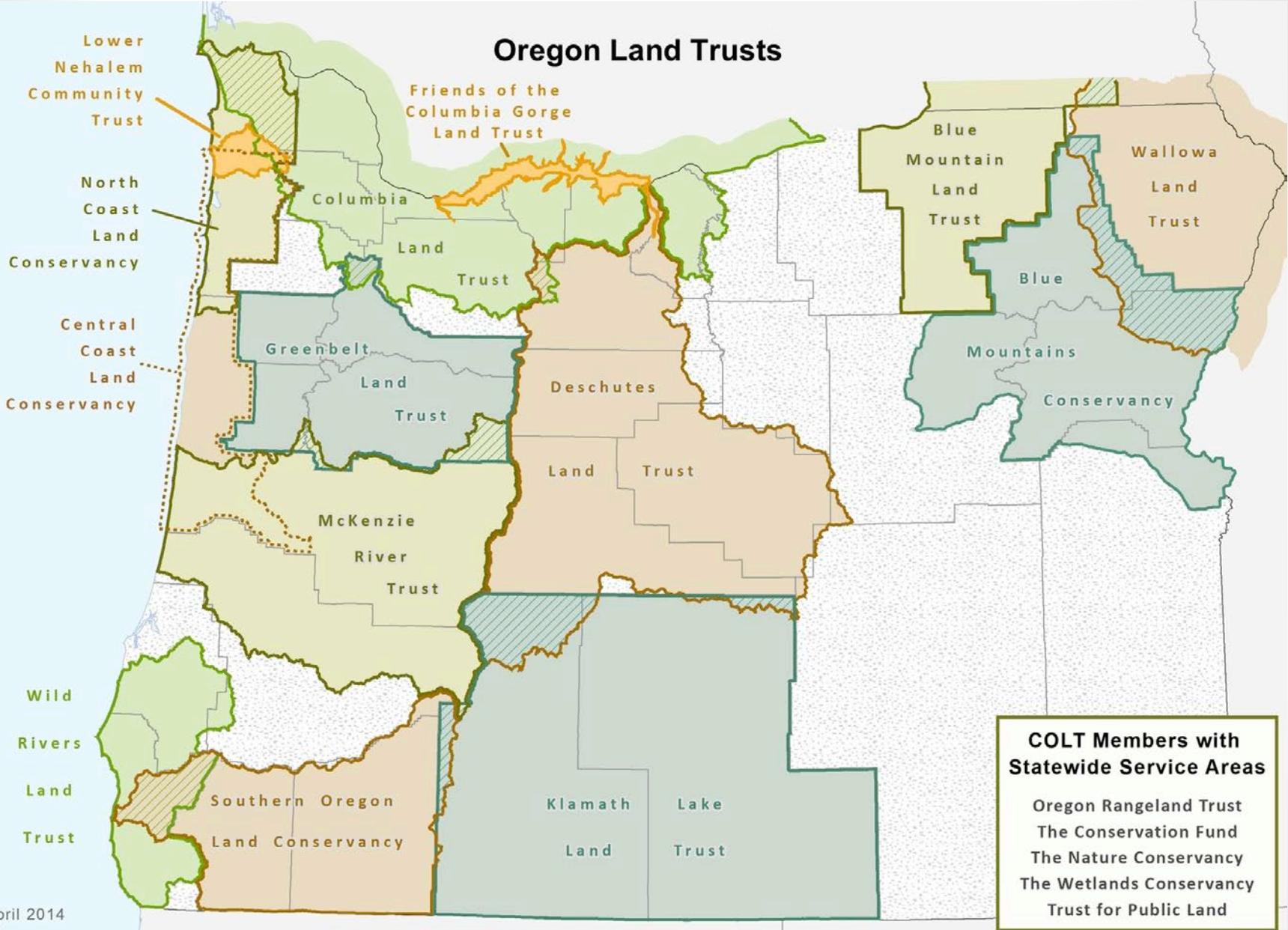
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

- Serve and strengthen the land trust community.
- State association
- 19 member land trusts
 - Non-profit organizations
 - Work with willing landowners to conserve Oregon's unique and natural character
- Conservation easements
 - Fee title acquisition
- Collective impact
 - 300,000 acres conserved
 - 5,000 volunteers
 - 36,000 supporters



Tour on a property protected by
Greenbelt Land Trust

Oregon Land Trusts



COLT Members with Statewide Service Areas

- Oregon Rangeland Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wetlands Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land

Conservation Easements 101

- A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a qualified “holder” that allows a landowner to limit the type of uses on their property while retaining private ownership of the land.
 - The landowner retires some of the bundle of rights with an easement
- Granted in perpetuity
 - *Seriously a long time...*
- State statute, and in common law
- Most holders are a government agency or land trust
- Donated or purchased
 - Federal and state tax benefits



The Hagen family on their land, conserved with an easement held by the McKenzie River Trust

Conservation Easements 101

- Perpetuity is a very long time
- Long-term stewardship and monitoring
 - An easement is only as good as it is enforceable
- Considerations
 - Organizational capacity
 - Conservation goals
 - Landowner's goals
 - Funding and feasibility
 - Stewardship capacity
- Very effective tools available to landowners and organizations
 - Variety of uses: open space, habitat, agriculture, forestry, recreation, wetlands, etc.



Owners of the Lone Star Ranch protected with a conservation easement by Greenbelt Land Trust

Easements Nationally



NCED NATIONAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT DATABASE

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View easements by Easement Holder

- Federal
- Native American
- State
- Regional Agency
- Local Government
- Non-Governmental Organization
- Private
- Jointly Held
- Unknown Landowner
- Territorial
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NCED Partners

- Conservation Biology Institute
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Ducks Unlimited
- Trust for Public Land
- NatureServe
- The Other Firm

NCED At A Glance

Number of Conservation Easements: 105,884
Total Acres: 22,204,790
Last Update: October 2014

What is the NCED?

The National Conservation Easement Database (NCED) is the **first national database of conservation easement information**, compiling records from land trusts and public agencies throughout the United States. **Voluntary and secure**, the NCED respects landowner privacy and will not collect landowner names or sensitive information. This **public-private partnership** brings together national conservation groups, local and regional land trusts, and state and federal agencies around a common objective. The NCED provides a comprehensive picture of the estimated 40 million acres of conservation easement lands, recognizing their contribution to America's natural heritage, a vibrant economy, and healthy communities.

Purpose

In collaboration with land trusts and public agencies, create a single, up-to-date, sustainable nationwide system for managing and accessing data about conservation easements.

Download NCED Data

The NCED database was last updated on **October 2014**. The [Updates Table](#) shows what has been added and changed since June 2012. The [Completeness Maps](#) provide estimates of how complete the NCED data are for each state.

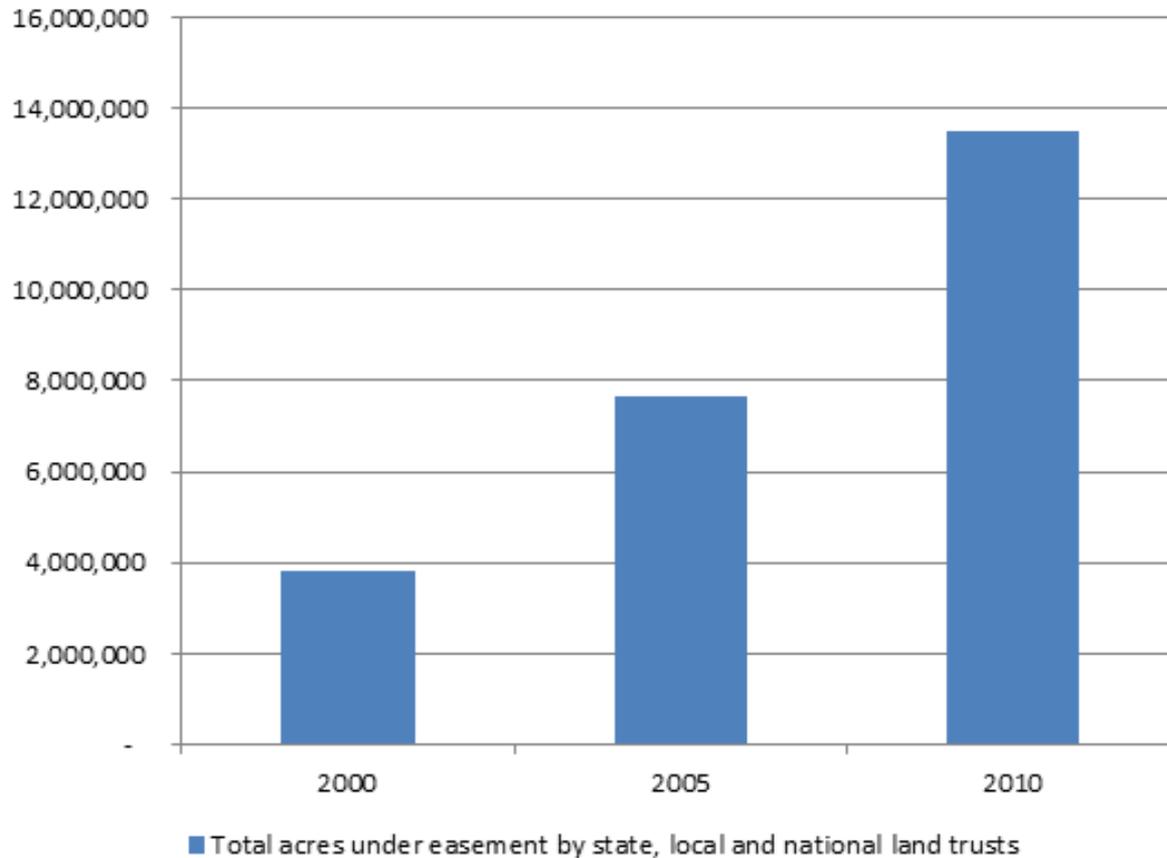
Please note that, by downloading or viewing this data, no right has been created to access lands with conservation easements. Most conservation easements are not open to the public. Entering an area that is not open to the public subjects an individual to possible sanctions for trespass, as determined by the state in which the easement is located.

The NCED can download from the [NCED Data Download page](#).
Login required.

<http://www.conservationeasement.us/>

Easements Nationally

Growth in Acres of Land Protected Under Easement by Land Trusts



2014:

105,000 easements

22,000,000 acres

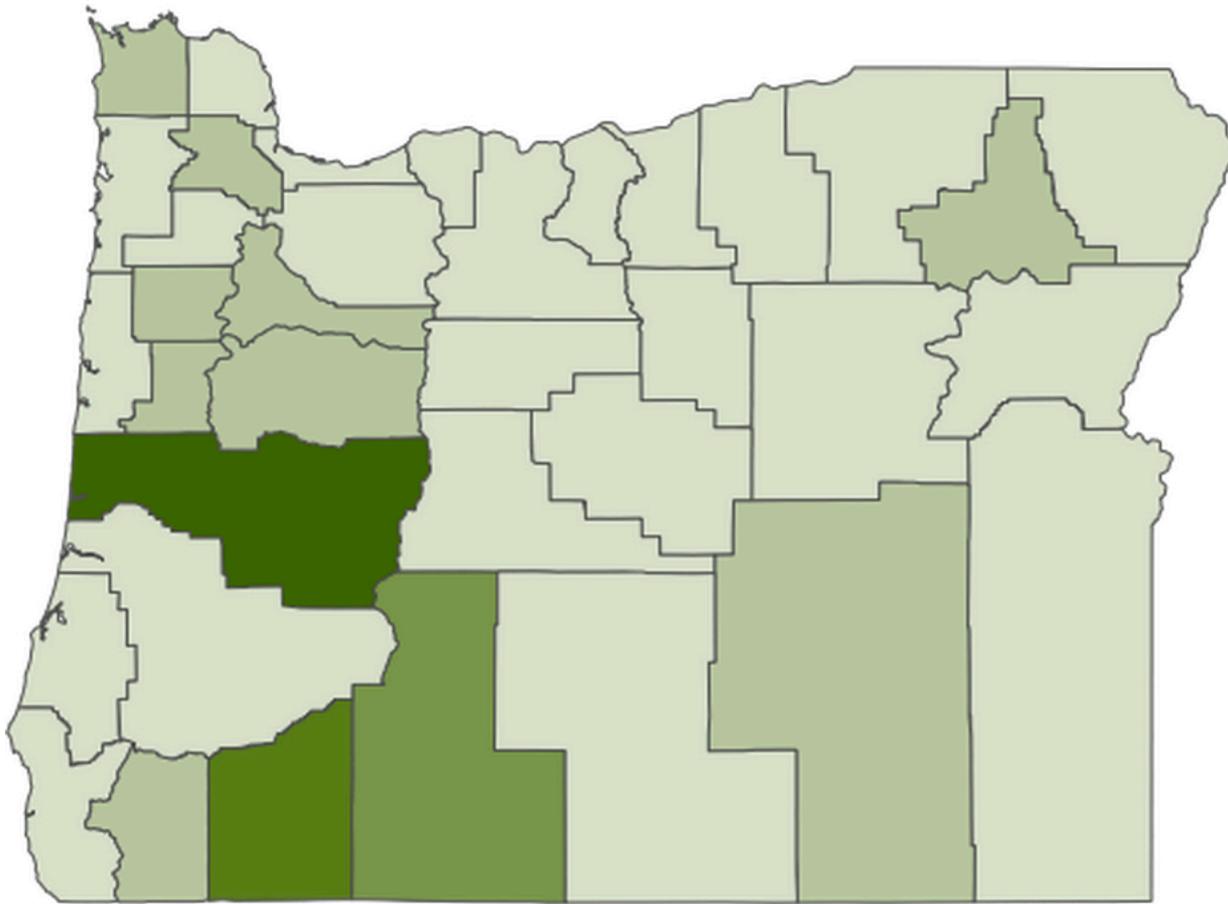


Easements in Oregon

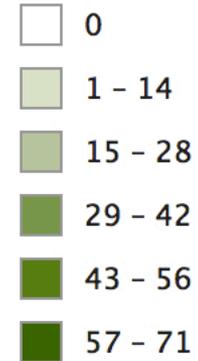
- **460 conservation easements** in Oregon (rough number)
- **Protecting 156,500 acres**
- Non-profit orgs (land trusts) hold 189 easements
- Federal government holds 252 easements
 - Mostly through NRCS's WRE program
- Some organizations / agencies not included in data
 - E.g. TNC (7,315a) and ORT (11,800a) not included on right

▲ Easement Holder	↕ Count	↕ Acres
Bonneville Power Administration	3	208
Central Coast Land Conservancy	4	220
City of Eugene	2	5
City of Portland	1	41
Deschutes Land Trust	8	4,996
Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Wetlands America Trust)	5	559
Klamath Lake Land Trust	1	15
McKenzie River Trust	26	1,392
Metro Portland	12	316
North Coast Land Conservancy	16	897
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	1	100
Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department	1	5
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	3	1,232
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	13	29,435
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	74	3,148
The Trust for Public Land	1	29
The Wetlands Conservancy	6	230
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	9	268
U.S. Farm Service Agency	2	196
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	71	1,301
U.S. Forest Service	15	22,195
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service	156	61,697
Unknown	2	598
Wallowa Land Trust	1	226

Easements in Oregon



Number of easements



Easements in Oregon compared with other states

- **460 conservation easements**
- **Protecting 156,500 acres**
- **Washington State**
 - 3,500 easements
 - Protecting 322,800 acres
- **California**
 - 2,661 easements
 - 1.3 million acres
- **Maryland**
 - 4,402 easements
 - 400,000 acres
 - *5% of the state*



160 acres of farmland protected by the Maryland Environmental Trust along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway

Why the limited use of easements in Oregon?

- **SB 100** Comprehensive land use program
 - 16.3 million acres in zoned for farm use – *55% of private land*
 - 10.5 million acres in forest or farm/forest zone
 - *27 million acres “protected” from subdivision, development, etc.*
- Easement valuation is limited here in Oregon
 - Before and after appraisals
- Tax benefits limited
- Challenges for agriculture and forest producers



1,600 C-2 Cattle Ranch in Southern Oregon protected with an easement with the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Opportunities and the future of easements

- **Oregon Conservation Easement Assessment Project**
 - Looking at ways to incentivize easements
- **Conservation Districts**
 - Developing easement programs
 - Strong relationship with the ag community
- **Farm Bill programs**
 - Agriculture and Conservation Easement Program
 - ALE, WRE, etc.
- **OWEB and other funding sources**
- **More attention on protecting working landscapes**
 - 3 million more people in next 50 years; 850,000 acres developed
 - The Trust for Public Land's Working Lands Databank project



197-acre Woody Wolfe Ranch in Wallowa County, protected with an easement by Wallowa Land Trust

Thank you....



Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

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