
WALLOWA RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT

22



CELEBRATING 26 YEARS

Since 1996, Wallowa Resources has invested in the land and community stewardship, sustaining the valuable connection that rural communities have to their landscapes, and the critical service that local landowners and managers provide. Investing in local people and the land pays is paying dividends. Stewardship economies are rising up across the west. To sustain this, thriving rural communities must have strong education opportunities, a commitment to taking care of the land and water, and diverse, locally owned businesses. We work with public and private partners to support Wallowa County and other rural communities in Northeast Oregon.

Local grade school students participate in a wild scavenger hunt near Lostine Wildlife Refuge with Wallowa Mountain Institute's Outdoor School Program.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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WALLOWA RESOURCES

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nils Christoffersen



Greetings Friends!

After 26 years of operation, the scale, scope and impact of our mission driven work continues to grow. While our focus remains on Wallowa County, the impact from our land and water stewardship, education and community has spread across NE Oregon thanks to strong partnerships and local community leadership. In 2022 we supported forest and range restoration across more than 100,000 acres, and initiated a county energy strategic plan to improve the reliability, affordability and resilience of energy across our community.

Working with tribal, federal, state, and private forest management partners, we're playing a central role in the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership – a nationally recognized leader in all-lands restoration which spans 10.4 million acres across northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. Our rangeland program led the development of an annual invasive grasses strategic plan – which created opportunities for more integrated range stewardship with private landowners and the USFS.

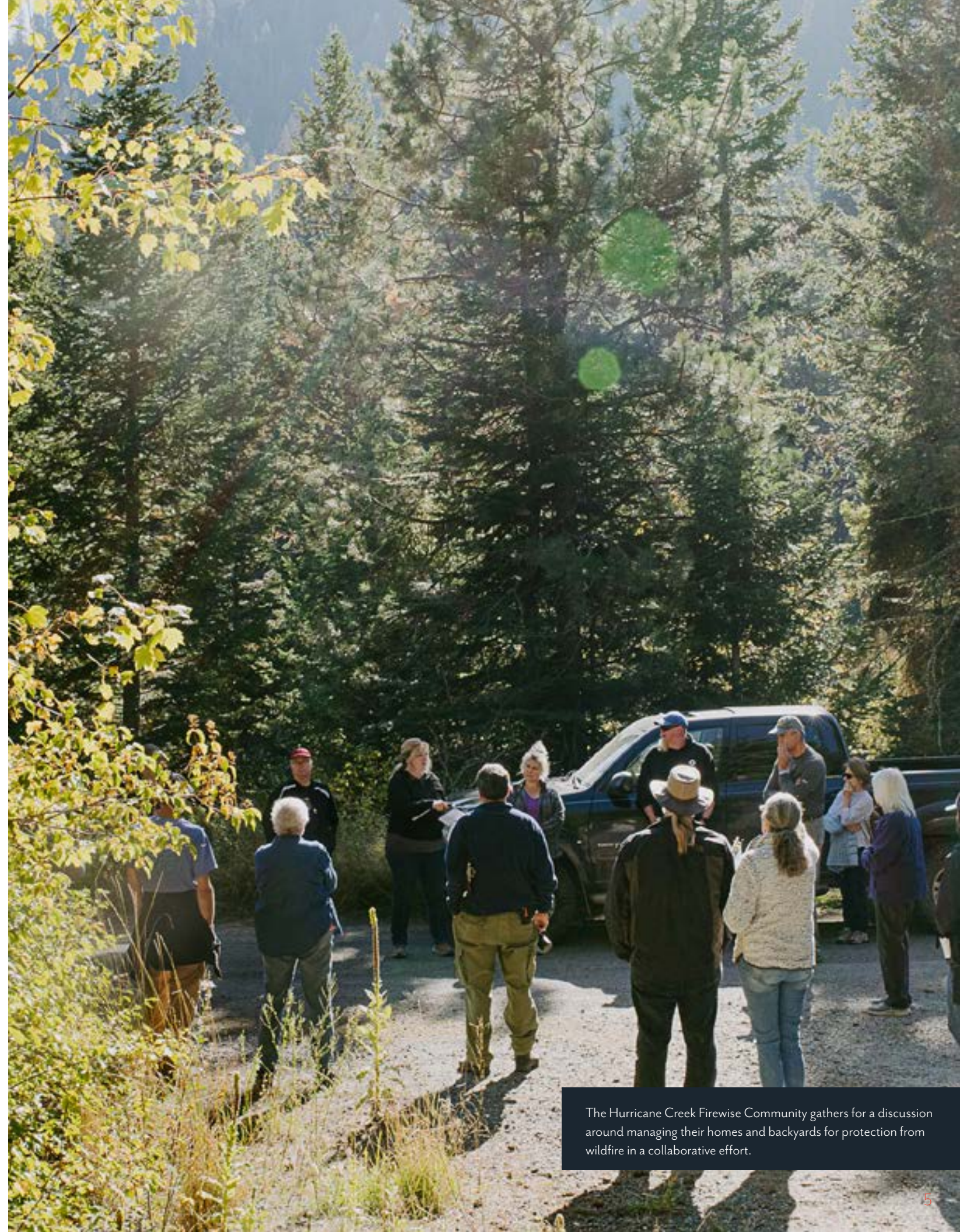
Our education programs doubled the number of youth and young adults served, provided a broader range of applied-learning experiences – and introduced them to a wide range of career opportunities. Through the Rural and Vitality Center, a joint venture with Eastern Oregon University, we provided socio-economic analysis to the Blues Intergovernmental Council and Blue Mountain National Forest Plan Revision. And we contributed to a new national strategy to achieve greater wildfire resilience across the West.

We also increased our investment and commitment to monitoring – once again in partnership with landowners and other partners, including the CTUIR and Nez Perce Tribe – to assess the effectiveness and impact of our work, and share those lessons. This is a priority given the complexities and uncertainties confronting us – and need to use scarce resources well.

This all places Wallowa Resources in a good position for further growth, and even greater impact, in 2023. As has been true since our founding in 1996 – realizing this opportunity depends on our community and partners – starting with our private landowners and contractors whose livelihoods are based on land stewardship. Together we're building vibrant stewardship economies that care for the land and our communities.

Thank you!

NILS CHRISTOFFERSEN
Executive Director



The Hurricane Creek Firewise Community gathers for a discussion around managing their homes and backyards for protection from wildfire in a collaborative effort.

WALLOWA RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP ECONOMY

CREATING STRONG ECONOMIES AND HEALTHY LANDSCAPES
THROUGH LAND STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION, AND JOB CREATION

The Stewardship Economy is a place based model that values and invests in the people and natural resources in a community to support long term human prosperity and ecological resilience.

This model recognizes the knowledge, skills, and passions of local people and their surrounding landscapes as the greatest assets of rural communities across the west. Vibrant stewardship economies advance long term perspectives and innovative adaptation to local environmental, social and economic dynamics.

This model centers on innovative, adaptive strategies that maintain and enhance the productivity of our The Stewardship Economy Model values the shared role that private and public lands play in sustaining biodiversity, clean water, habitat connectivity, and other ecosystem services while providing direct economic benefit to the local community.

The Stewardship Economy connects each community and family to place and requires long-term investments and conservation strategies. Stewardship practices reflect their landscapes and include a wide variety of sustainable agriculture practices, including regenerative agriculture, forest and watershed restoration, and community-based renewable energy developments. They are sustained by multi-generational and multi-cultural access to resources and capital, place-based learning for all ages, cross-jurisdictional projects, and mutual respect for the values inherent to a specific community. The model requires continuous learning through thoughtful monitoring and builds upon the resources we do have to create a brighter and more resilient future.

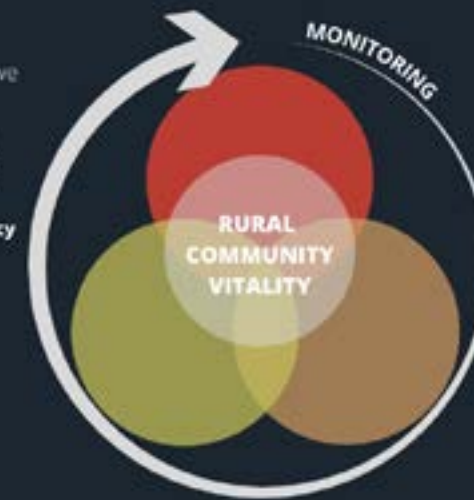
THE FIVE PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP ECONOMY



OUR ROLE

Since our inception in 1996, we have, and continue to, work hard to bring our vision of a Stewardship Economy to life.

- Education, Training & Advocacy
- Land & Water Stewardship
- Economy & Community



AN ECONOMY SHAPED BY THE
NEED, AND RESPONSIBILITY,
TO MANAGE FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF BOTH
LAND AND COMMUNITIES.



WALLOWA RESOURCES 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RANGE & CANYONLANDS STEWARDSHIP

The Range Stewardship Wallowa Canyonlands Program is focused on intersecting rangeland management, invasive weed management, and forest fuels management. Our primary goal is to enhance the diverse and rugged landscapes of Wallowa County by implementing a variety of best management practices that result in more resilient and robust vegetation conditions county-wide, those that are more resistant to invasive species. Our projects focus on individual landowners while connecting the dots between private and public land ownership. Collaborative efforts promote cohesive land stewardship goals that integrate ecological and economical management actions to foster rangeland health and support healthy working relationships.

In 2022, the Range Program completed the Invasive Annual Grass Strategic Action Plan and secured funding to execute the plan through a landscape-level outreach and implementation effort targeted at supporting and empowering landowners to make progress towards land health objectives. The goal is to raise awareness and support to defend and grow core grasslands county wide, and mitigate impacts imposed by invasive grasses and rangeland health stressors.

Equally important, the Canyonlands Program (WCP) continues to support wildfire restoration on all lands, including monitoring post fire impacts and most importantly, noxious weed treatments and native plant reseeding. By assisting in these efforts, our relationships with private landowners have grown significantly. The WCP has the unique ability to assist those unable to mitigate the effects of wildfire on their own. It is important for WCP to grow and sustain partnerships with all entities involved with wildfire rehabilitation in order to ensure the minimization of environmental and economic impacts on working lands. Lastly, WCP continues to monitor all treatments on the land with inventory and monitoring plots in project areas to show the successes and failures of all of our work. Moving forward, this will help prioritize and shape our treatment methods.

2022 METRICS

- 65 Partnerships with Private Landowners
- Completed a County Wide Invasive Annual Grass Strategic Action Plan and the Basic Range Management Plan which will result in a variety of rangeland management projects
- Treated 3500 acres & seeded nearly 1000



MONITORING

The Monitoring and Assessment Program's overarching goal is to learn how all our program work impact our communities and the land where we live. We work with various partners to implement ecological, social, and economic monitoring and report its results to stakeholders. By incorporating qualitative and quantitative monitoring into our work, we can continue to move forward, adapt, and innovate.

In 2022, we continued ongoing monitoring and added new components to the Program. We hired annual and seasonal staff to implement ecological monitoring on the effects of regional forest treatments, such as prescribed fire and thinning. We continued working with partners to implement recovery actions for the rare plants Spalding's catchfly and MacFarlane's four-o'clock. We supported the regional economic analysis of the effects of Federal lands, forest treatments in Northeast Oregon, facilitated by the Blues Intergovernmental Council. Additionally, we continue to support all WR programs in developing monitoring questions and understanding the collective impact of our work.

2022 METRICS

- Recover 250 Spalding's catchfly plants located in Hells' Canyon with the help of various partners
- One work party for staff, board, and USFS staff at Target Springs aspen stands with 7 stands repaired
- Worked with federal and state partners to locate and, ultimately, expand the known population boundaries of MacFarlane's four-o'clock in the Imnaha River canyons
- The seasonal monitoring crew monitored 303 plots for upland conifer, riparian, First Foods, aspen, white-headed woodpecker and invasive species on federal, private and tribal lands this year

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Forest Stewardship Program operates multiple projects and partnerships on public, private, and tribal lands. Together these programs support large landscape forest restoration across more than 10 million acres of the Northern Blue Mountains - including 13 counties in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. Making it one of the largest restoration projects in the country and unique in its all-lands approach that includes work with individual homeowners on defensible space, with tribes promoting and protecting First Foods, and broader restoration including thinning and beneficial fire, across forested landscapes.

2022 METRICS

- 232,000 acres of restoration treatment completed by the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership and \$15.8 million invested
- 164 Forest Management plans completed for private landowners on 111,000 acres
- Monitoring crew completed 239 Forest Monitoring Plots on public, private, and tribal forestlands

WALLOWA RESOURCES 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YOUTH EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING

The Wallowa Mountain Institute (WMI) encompasses all k-12 youth education initiatives and programs as well as expanded youth and young adult education and workforce opportunities. The primary focus areas for WMI include: (1) increasing Natural Resource/STEM education in the county, (2) developing a deeper connection to the land and community for the next generation, (3) and fostering long term stewardship goals through leadership and workforce education and opportunities. Over the last year, all education programs have seen an increased demand from both families and in the community to partner in other efforts going on. We had the busiest year on record, ever. This has only clarified for us the need to expand staff capacity, increase capacity for existing programs and create even more opportunities for young people in our county.

2022 METRICS

- We served more youth than ever before, with over 1074 youth contacts (this is not unduplicated) within all programs
- We have 670+ hours engaged in direct instruction with youth and young adults with over 117 individual days of instruction delivered by staff
- Provided instruction in over 36 unique program offerings (Includes in house as well as partner programs)

RURAL ENGAGEMENT & VITALITY (REV) CENTER

The Rural Engagement & Vitality Center (REV) continued to grow and expand in 2022. The REV participated in 17 community driven projects with 30 partner organizations and created 14 paid internship positions. Cori Quillan was hired in the fall to serve as the Project Coordinator and the REV's founding team member Julie Keniry accepted a new position within EOU.

REV projects address a diverse array of community needs and strategic objectives ranging from workforce housing and outdoor education to community needs data analysis and ecological monitoring that draw on the talent of EOU students and the expertise of faculty. In October, the REV released the Blues Intergovernmental Council Socioeconomic Report that analyses 14 counties in eastern Oregon and SE Washington and measures each county's exposure to changes in USFS management, and their resilience in the face of socioeconomic shocks.

2022 METRICS

- 17 community-drive projects
- 14 paid internships for EOU students
- Awarded funding for a Regional Innovation Hub planning grant through Business Oregon, and for a Rural Transportation Equity grant to facilitate work in Morrow County
- Facilitated a second Regional Workforce Housing webinar
- 20 active projects & over 40 active partnerships

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Since the dissolution of Community Solutions Inc (CSI) and the rebranding the renewable energy program in early 2022, the WR Community Energy Program (WRCEP) continues to evolve. The broader role of the program is being realized as the Wallowa County Community Energy Strategic Planning (CESP) process has brought to light the more comprehensive energy needs of Wallowa County residents. Based on input from the CESP leadership team and community stakeholders, we have identified 7 Guiding Principles for the planning process, which are as follows; 1) Conservation, 2) Efficiency, 3) Energy Resilience and Security, 4) Local Renewable Energy Development, 5) Financial, 6) Environmental Stewardship, 7) DEIA – Social Responsibility. These principles are guiding the development of goals, strategies and future energy projects for the CESP and, with excellent timing, have also become instrumental in steering the WRCEP team and our objectives to be in alignment with the needs and values of the community.

The Wallowa County CESP project completion is on track for late summer of 2023. The complex pre-development of three micro-hydro projects is on-going. Residential rooftop and community solar project consultations are routine, with frequent inquiries. The Home Energy Assessment program anticipates increased participation with an additional, full-time staff member added in November 2022 and additional funding across all project areas from Energy Trust of Oregon. Energy Trust has been and continues to be a vital program partner.

The Wallowa County Resilience Microgrid Corridor project was kicked off with the planning grant award notification received from Oregon Department of Energy in November of 2022. Considering the sheer size of this project, the increasing State and Federal energy-related funding opportunities, and the evolving additional scope of the WRCEP program, it is clear that increased and diversified funding for the program will be necessary. The WRCEP continues to manage the USFS / Wallowa County campgrounds maintenance program for ten campgrounds located on the upper Imnaha River and the Chesnimus, with 100 total campsites. The campsites are maintained from mid-April through mid-October by a seasonal employee and contractors as needed.

2022 METRICS

- Identify at least two new Micro Hydro project locations
- Conduct farm and ranch irrigation energy assessments
- Secure funding for implementation the Community Energy Strategic Planning Project
- Maintained 100 USFS campsites

For more info on our programs, visit www.wallowaresources.org



THE MEDIA ROOM

STORYTELLING AT WORK

OUR FIRE
Indigenous Fire Stewardship Documentary Film

In 2022, Wallowa Resources continued production of a new full-length feature documentary film on Klamath Basin Indigenous Fire Stewardship. This film project seeks to provide an educational platform for Native American fire and forestry personnel, researchers, and advocates who are working to restore fire adapted landscapes across the U.S. and restore traditional stewardship relationships with ecosystems through collaborative forest restoration projects, research, policy advocacy, and public engagement. The project is supported in partnership with the Klamath Tribes, The Nature Conservancy, the TJ Educaiton Fund of OCF, the Mitzvah Fund at OCF, and Roundhouse Foundation.



STEWARDSHIP SERIES
A Space for Land Stewards

In 2021, formation began of the Stewardship Series. This Wallowa County selection of posts continued into 2022 and highlighted and celebrated the diverse land stewards of Northeast Oregon, their work, their values, and deep connection to this place. Our goal is to offer these land stewards a platform and tell their story, in their very own voice, with wishes to inspire reflection on personal connection to place and the human role of this precious landscape. Posts included the stories of Liza Jane McAllister of 6 Ranch, Montana Pagano of the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries, and Tyler Houck of Zumwalt Guiding and the Nature Conservancy.

THE WEST IS BURNING
The Way Forward in the Era of Megafire

In 2021, in partnership with the University of Arizona, Wallowa Resources produced the West is Burning, a documentary film that examines the history of forest management and litigation that led to the current conditions which are causing catastrophic fire nearly year-round. The film explores the potential to generate positive change in our forests, watersheds, and communities. In 2022, screenings were held in Portland with Lewis and Clark College, virtually with EPA regions 9 and 10, YMCA earth service corps in Washington, University of Washington, at Sonoma State University, with Walking Mountains Science Center at their Sustainable Film Series, and with Mt Adams Resources Stewards in Washington

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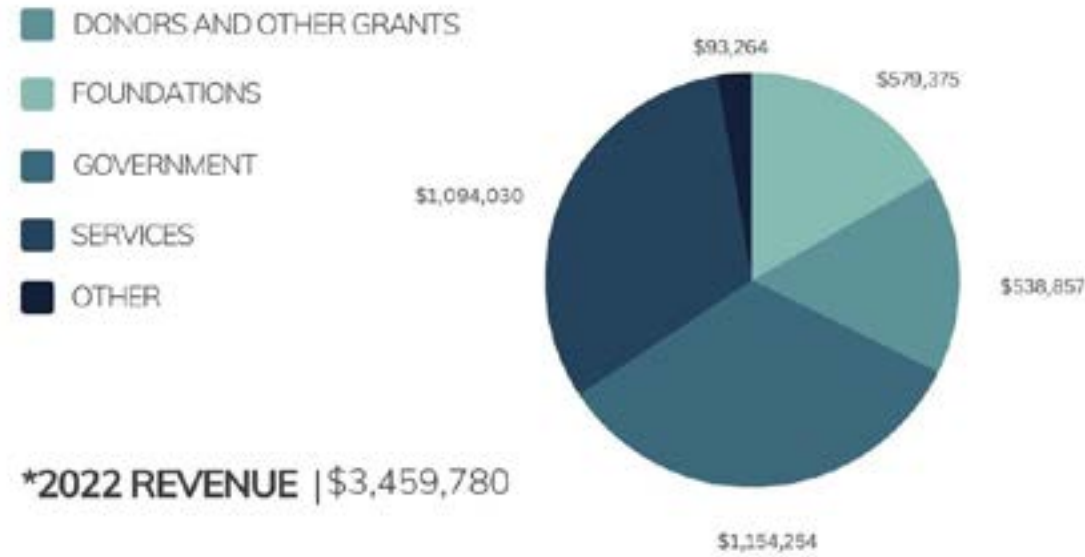
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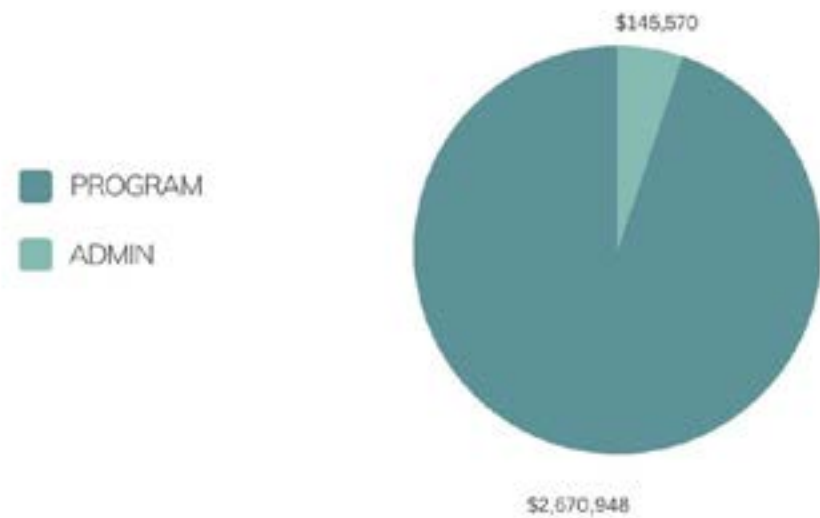


2022
REVENUE



*2022 REVENUE | \$3,459,780

2022
EXPENSES

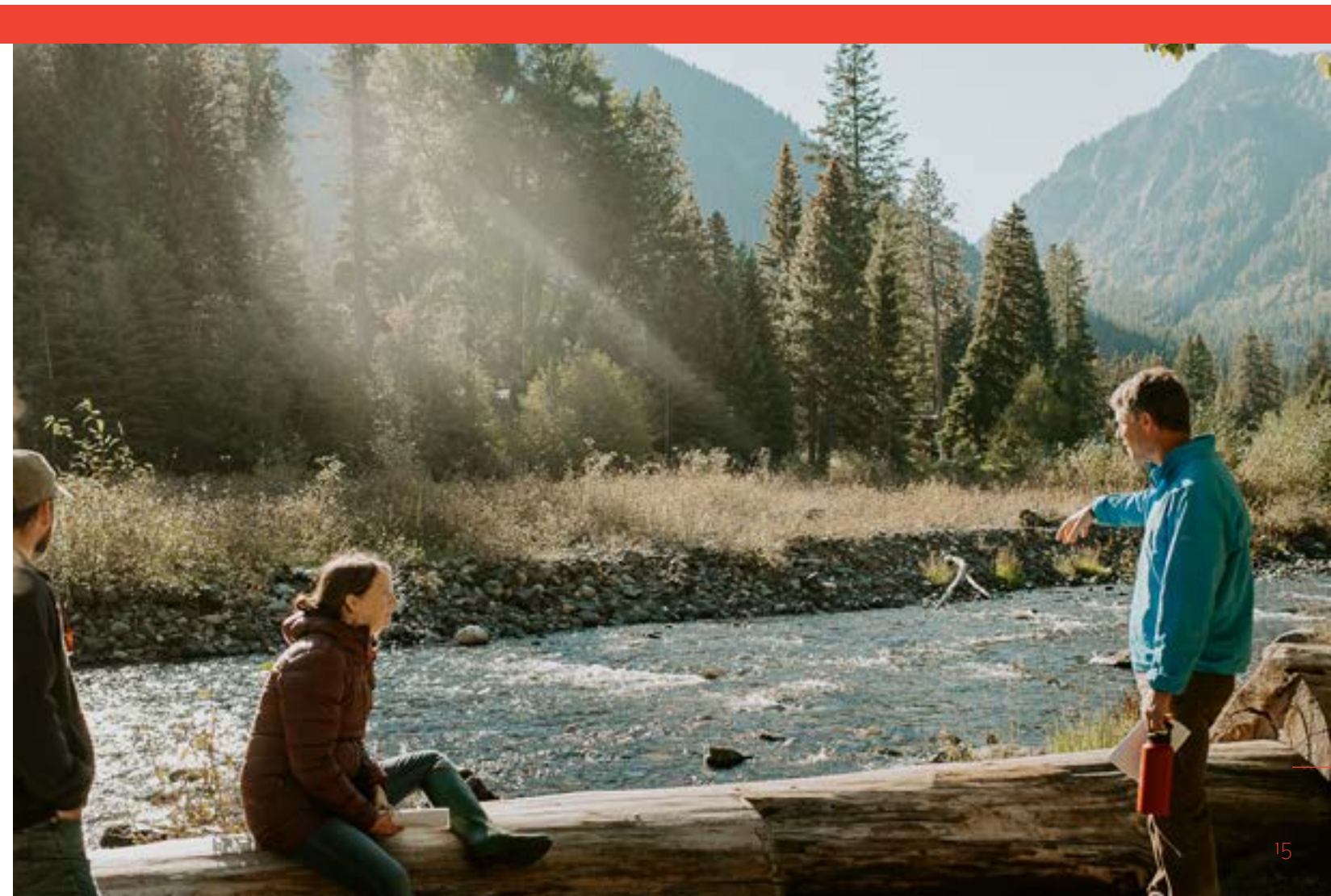


*2022 EXPENSES | \$2,816,518

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022
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