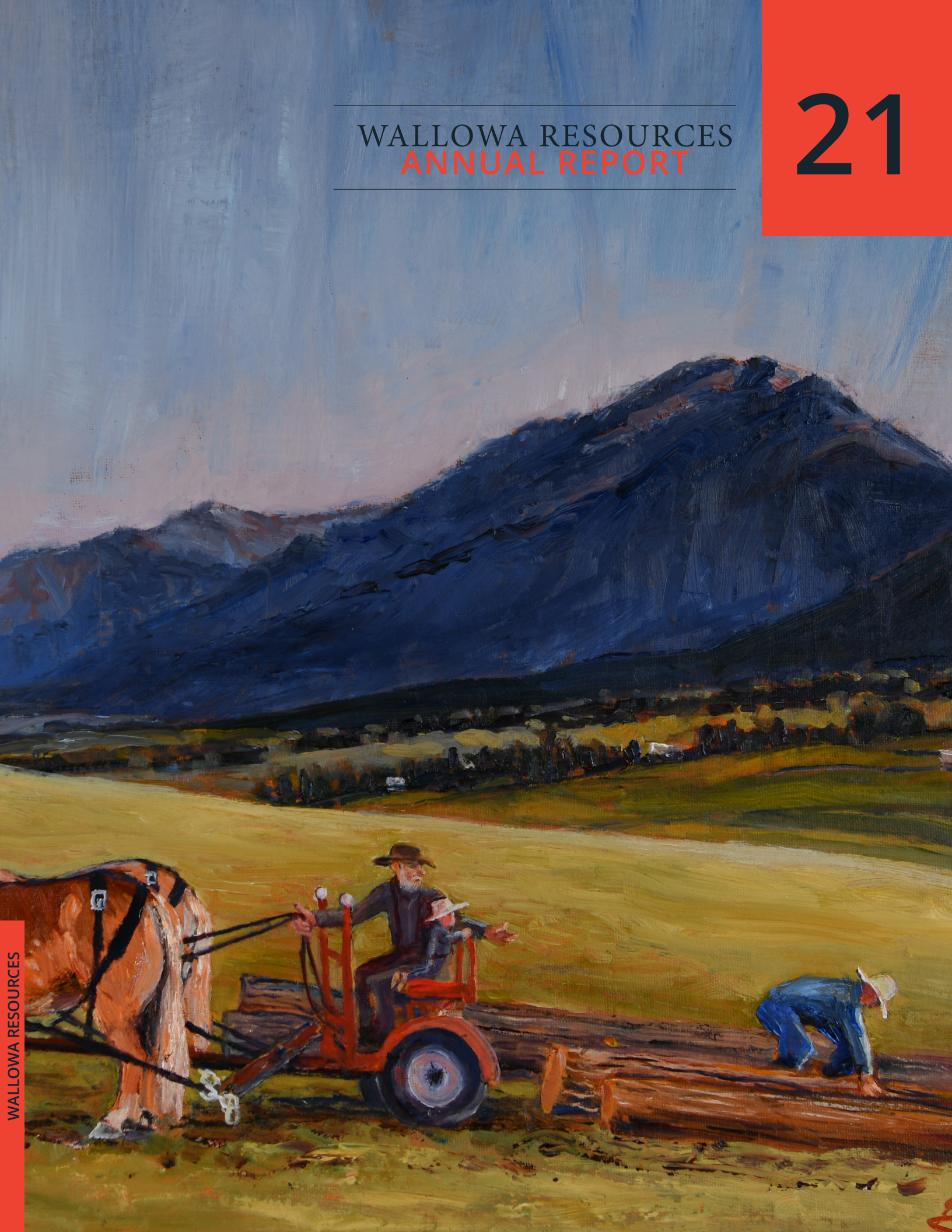

WALLOWA RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT

21



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Since 1996, Wallowa Resources has enhanced opportunities on our forests and grasslands while caring for the land and water for future generations. 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.

Montana Pagano, Watershed Specialist for the Nez Perce Fisheries, assesses the sediment quality of the Wallowa River for juvenile salmonids to feed and rest.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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COVER: Painting by Kirk Skovlin

WALLOWA RESOURCES

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Mike Hayward



Greetings,

It's hard to believe that we are celebrating Wallowa Resources' 25th anniversary, but it is true. It began with a few dedicated Wallowa County residents and friends who brought the community together to put differences aside and look at the whole community; economically, socially and environmentally. At a time of considerable unrest in our county, these individuals dared to think and act big. Did they anticipate, or envision, the organization's growth and impact? Probably not. The annual impacts certainly exceed my original hopes.

Over the past 25 years, Wallowa Resources has expanded its work throughout Northeast Oregon and the intermountain west, while still focused in Wallowa County. To advance our vision of a stewardship economy, programming has expanded from our initial focus on forest restoration to include youth education, renewable energy development, watershed restoration work, and invasive species control, with assistance to both public and private land managers.

The development of the Doug McDaniel Stewardship Center has created a hub for Wallowa Resources and other for-profit and non-profit entities to grow, partner, and create positive outcomes for our community.

How has this all happened? First and most important, it is the work of a talented and dedicated staff. Numbering more than 20 people, the organization's growth is tied directly to their creativity, their desire to strengthen Wallowa County and assist other rural communities.

The 2022 Annual Plan, coupled with the work of our partners, will see the organization continue to grow and be a leader in natural resources and economic development. As you read this plan, think back to where we have been, but focus on where we are and where this organization is going. We are still setting our differences aside and making the community a better place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hayward'.

MIKE HAYWARD
Chairman of the Board



Farmers at Lazy Mule Farm drag mules over rows of soil on Alder Slope (Wallowa County) to plant garlic seed, pictured for one of our new Stewardship Series stories.

WALLOWA RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP ECONOMY

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

Wallowa Resources was established in the 1990s in response to shifts in technology and national policy that resulted in the loss of nearly 70% of the county's timber harvests and the closure of three sawmills. The county lost its primary manufacturing capacity and many of its highest paying jobs. Our community and founding board members responded with a mission to restore the jobs, dignity, and prosperity of rural working families, small businesses, and rural towns through an approach we call the Stewardship Economy - a solution rooted in place and a connection to the land that offers hope and new opportunities for rural communities.

Today, the ecological and political landscape of the rural west is primed for innovation. But not the kind that is brought in from afar. It is emerging from the knowledge, skills, passion, and vision of community.

Care and long-term management of the land are core values of the Stewardship Economy, rooted in local knowledge where community members find solutions based on their understanding of place and community. These values ensure sustained rural revitalization and job creation over time. This model also recognizes that private ranches, farms, and forest lands are vital to the production of high-quality food, fiber, and renewable energy, as well as the preservation of biodiversity and habitat connectivity. Together, and in feedback with each other, this approach restores the land and generates dignified jobs, high-quality

products, and a sense of purpose. Our model builds first on natural resource production, and the ideal of respect and reciprocity between people and the land. This is used as a foundation to support and create value-added businesses that bolster working lands and local employment. It is a suite of mechanisms that blends broader public values with appropriately scaled market opportunities and leverages the land for public benefits such as improved community health and climate resilience. Scaling local innovation and setting up the foundation for a stewardship based economy requires time – and our approach is to think beyond years, to decades. Success lies in networking across communities where new ideas and lessons can be shared, and new partnerships generate greater access to capital. Collaborative networks can inspire adaptations from one location to another, or new ideas altogether. With limited resources in rural communities, network connections as well as access to capital are crucial to getting projects completed through resource-sharing and collaboration.

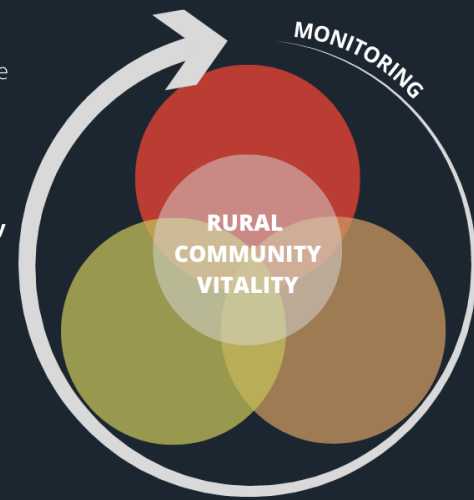
THE FIVE PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP ECONOMY



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 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LAND & WATER STEWARDSHIP

Wallowa Resources **Forest Team** coordinated with multiple partners to collaboratively plan and implement thinning, prescribed fire, and multi-party monitoring of cross-boundary forest restoration treatments on 6 project areas across nearly 10 million acres. This past year we also received funding that allowed two high school internship programs to participate in this work – the Wallowa Resources HAWK interns and the Baker Resources Coalition interns - and start a new three-person seasonal monitoring crew. All together, these crews monitored more than 250 forest stands across the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, private lands in Wallowa County, and CTUIR's Rainwater Wildlife Area. Forest monitoring ensures that restoration treatments are effective and provides a meaningful, supportive, and skills-building experience for the next generation of forest stewards.

Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership (WCP) was awarded several grants that will support efforts to rehabilitate the recent Joseph Canyon and Elbow Creek fires that occurred in 202. This includes working on both private and federal lands with focus on herbicide treatments and reseeding with native vegetation. These proposed actions will take place throughout 2022 and will continue until 2024 with the majority of that funding from BLM Aerial treatments are planned for BLM land while on the ground herbicide applications will occur on private lands. Since funding was reduced in 2021 herbicide efforts were primarily in house and utilized a temporary hire for the field season. Treatments occurred on private, USFS and BLM properties that have been in regular rotation. In 2022 these efforts will continue as well as our outreach efforts to more landowners to create a more uniform treatment effectiveness.

Additionally, WCP continues to work towards management actions that result in resilient and resistant rangeland systems resistant to invasion. In conjunction with the Invasive Annual Grass Partnership, the goals of the Wallowa County Strategic Action Plan are near completion. Focused on a “grow and protect the core” (perennial) vegetation strategy, the aim is to shift the paradigm regarding invasive species. Our vision is focused on an intersection of rangeland management, invasive weeds, and forest fuels. Once funding is acquired, a landscape scale project will develop a plan of action for individual property owners while connecting the dots between private and public land. Our goal is to raise awareness and support to defend and grow core vegetation, and mitigate impacts imposed by invasive grasses and other stressors to rangeland health. While there is no silver bullet to achieve success, multiple tools and long-term maintenance will lead us to sustainable rangeland systems.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

With the dissolution of Community Solutions Inc (CSI) at the beginning of this year, the renewable energy program has been moved to and rebranded under WR as the **Community Energy Program**.

The new branding helps illustrate a more broad role of the program that now includes home energy assessments as well as our major new project, the Community Energy Strategic Plan (CESP) as well as micro-hydro and solar renewable energy development. The Wallowa County CESP was initiated with endorsement by the County Commissioners under funding primarily by Energy Trust of Oregon beginning in September of 2021.

The CESP is estimated to be an 18-month community driven planning project that is facilitated by the WRCEP team and led by a diverse group of leadership team members and stakeholders.



MONITORING

The **Monitoring and Restoration Program** had a big year in 2021! All of our efforts are fueled by the idea of adaptive management- using data to better understand how our management activities affect the land.

Highlights from 2021 include hiring our first monitoring crew team members for forest stand monitoring to support upcoming forest thinning treatments, and working with public and private partners to help manage two rare plants currently listed on the Endangered Species List. WR completed a habitat management plan for Spalding's catchfly on The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, completed a round of monitoring and a report for the same species on FS lands, and coordinated with partners to create habitat management plans for populations of MacFarlane's four-o'clock, located in remote grassland canyons of Idaho and Oregon.

We will continue to work across all of our organizations programs to meet monitoring and assessment needs, such as efficacy of weed treatments, and socio-economic impacts of forest management work.

YOUTH EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING

This past year has not been without challenges given the pandemic, yet has also been a year full of triumphs unique to the **Youth Stewardship Education Program** (YSEP). We had a strong education team that was able to adapt and create amazing programs in spite of the restrictions and uncertain landscape due to COVID-19. Through lessons learned over the last year and a half, we were able to bring back in-person learning for our county's youth for all out-of-school programs, while keeping our kids and community safe. Through adapted programming and modifications aligned with safety measures, we were able to provide nearly 90% of our pre-COVID programming with 26 unique education programs representing over 64 individual days of youth instruction for kids spanning 2nd-12th grade. All along our goal has been to help support our schools, families and community.

Additionally, we once again offered our high school youth internship program, with expanded capacity. Taking on 4 youth interns for a total of 8 weeks and an impressive 195 hours of workforce education. All students remarked at what an enriching experience it was for them, introducing them to career prospects and field experiences that they wouldn't have had elsewhere. We've worked closely with partners throughout all of this, supporting each other's efforts in the community and it is our hope that we will come out of all of this stronger and more resilient with new skills under our belt to help future efforts in the program



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The **Rural Engagement & Vitality Center** (REV) grew substantially over the course of 2021, currently facilitating a slate of 21 projects, up from seven the previous academic year. These projects reach across eastern Oregon working with over 35 different partners and provide meaningful experiences for 24 EOU students and nine faculty members who are engaged in the work. Our projects address a diverse array of community-driven issues and interests ranging from workforce housing to ecological monitoring. With partners in Northeast Oregon, we offered two webinars to share information specific to resolving rural workforce housing shortages and also provided support for action teams located in four counties.

In 2022, we will release a socioeconomic report developed for the Blues Intergovernmental Council. This report includes a new socioeconomic assessment tool with specific analysis of 14 counties in eastern Oregon and SE Washington. Several new projects are on the horizon with the potential for expanded staffing to better support our communities across Eastern Oregon.



THE MEDIA ROOM

Storytelling at Work

CARRYING THE FLAME

Indigenous Fire Stewardship Documentary Film

In 2021, WR began production on 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 New York Times



PODCAST

Stories are Powerful

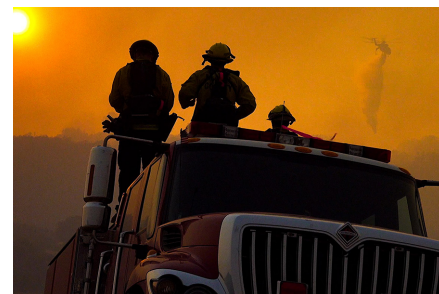
Giving people a platform to share their stories has the potential to connect our community to others around the world. The Wallowa Resources Podcast was created to tell the stories of this place and of the incredible people who care for it, from the land and water stewards to the educators and community leaders. Since its debut, the Wallowa Resources Podcast has been played 482 times in 6 different countries, creating that connection we've always strived for.



STEWARDSHIP SERIES

A Space for Land Steward Storytelling

In 2021, formation began of the Stewardship Series. This Wallowa County selection of posts will highlight and celebrate the diverse land stewards of Wallowa County & NE 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.



THE WEST IS BURNING

The Way Forward in the Era of Megafire

In partnership with the University of Arizona, WR 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 2021, the film had a notable 1,302 total PBS airings across 50 states, 3,600 private screenings and 17 community screenings that took place in 7 states.

BOARD & STAFF

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LARRY NALL BOARD CHAIR
PAUL ARENTSEN VICE CHAIR

STAFF MEMBERS

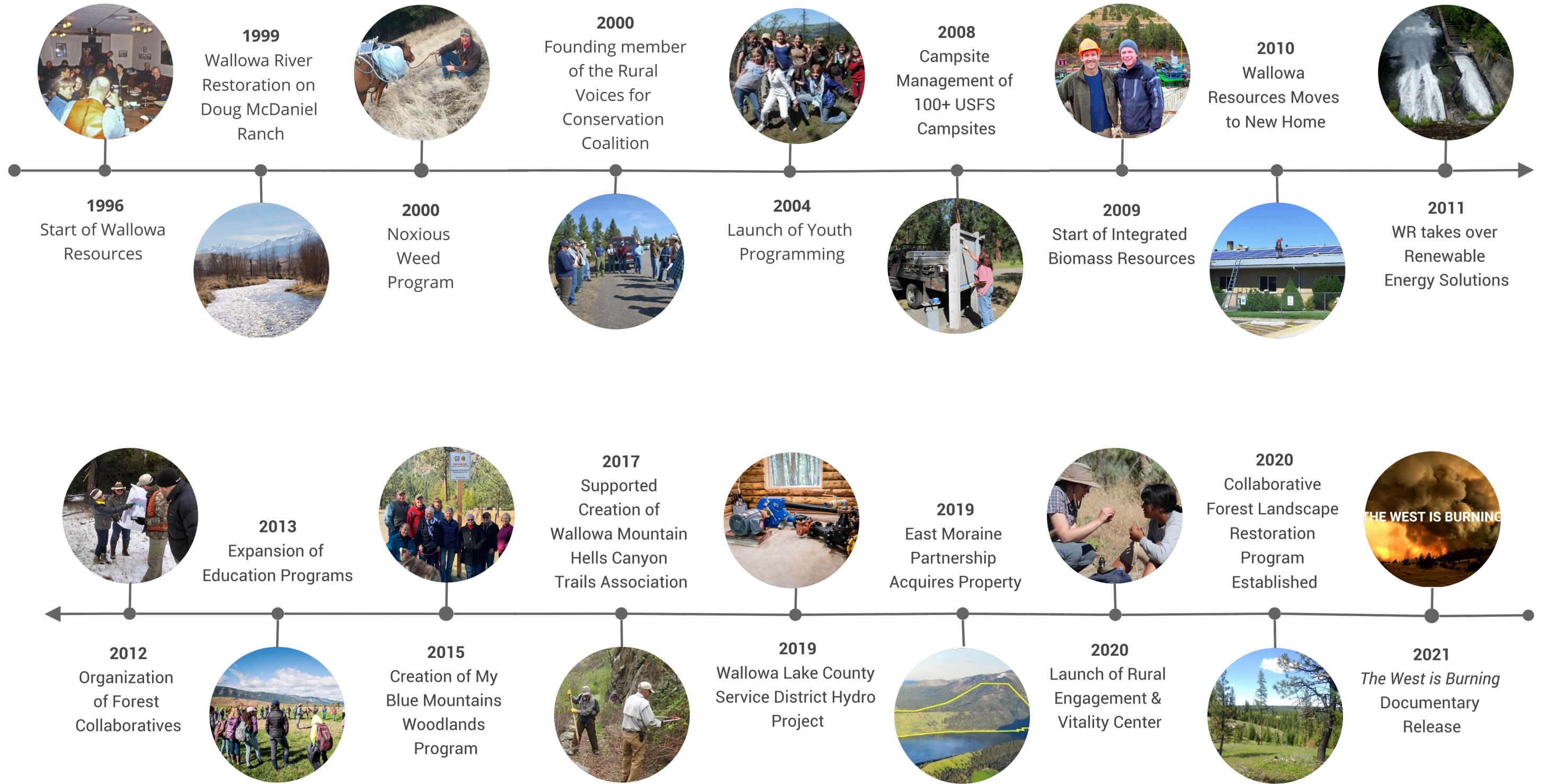
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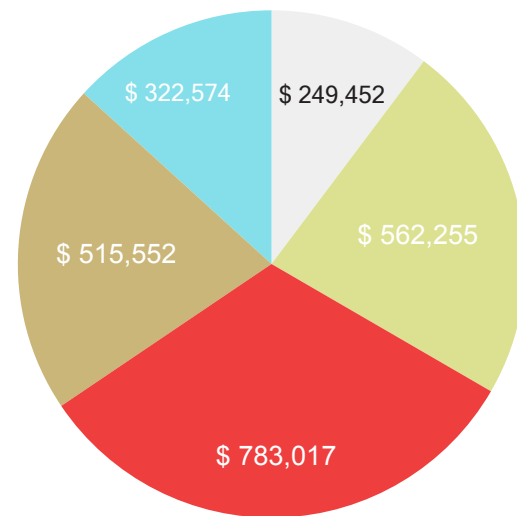


JOURNEY TO NOW



2021
REVENUE & EXPENSES

- Donors & Other Grants
- Foundations
- Government
- Services
- Other



2021 REVENUE

\$2,432,850

2021 EXPENSES

\$2,042,739

- Program
- Administration



AJ Frank Foundation • American Forest Foundation • American Forest Resource Council • Bill Healy Foundation • Bonneville Environmental Foundation • Building Healthy Families • Bureau of Land Management • City of Enterprise • Collins Foundation • Energy Trust of Oregon • Evergreen Hill Education Fund • Federal Lands Access Program • Ford Family Foundation • Hope Fund Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Gray Family Foundation, Greenwood Resources, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation • Hewlett Foundation • Hope Fund • Lora & Martin Kelley Family Foundation • Lincoln Foundation • Meyer Memorial Trust • Mills Davis Foundation • MJ Murdock Trust Mills Davis Foundation • Mitzvah Fund of OCF • National Environmental Education Foundation National Forest Foundation • Ned & Sis Hayes Family Fund • Northern Trust Charitable Giving Program • Chicago Community Foundation • Northwest Forest Foundation • Oregon Community Foundation • Oregon Dept. of Energy • Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Oregon Dept. of Forestry • Oregon State Weed Board • Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board • OSU Extension Service • Pacific Power Foundation • Phoenix Fund of OCF • Reser Family Foundation • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation • Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation • Roundhouse Foundation • Sills Family Foundation • The Forest Stewards Guild • The Freshwater Trust • The Nature Conservancy • The Nez Perce Tribe • Roundhouse Foundation • Lamb Foundation • Trail Blazers Foundation • TJ Education Fund of OCF • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • United States Dept. of Agriculture • Natural Resource Conservation Service • Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation • Whitman University • Wildhorse Foundation • Youth Development Council •

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2021
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