



# THE LAND REVIEW

INSIGHTS ON IDAHO CONSERVATION

Celebrating 26 Years  
of Stewardship!

Fall 2019

*"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free." ~ Aldo Leopold*

## A Message from the desk of the Director



Fall flew by for the PLT!

Here's a quick look at some of what we have been up to.

### Regionally

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally in Raleigh North Carolina. The LTA is the national overarching umbrella organization for Land Trusts across the country. By attending the annual meeting, I was able to network with other land trust members, staff and supporting agencies. The Rally also offered educational seminars on everything from successful grant writing, organizational accreditation to watershed conservation initiatives.

### Statewide

The PLT continues to participate on the **Advisory Board for Idaho Climate-Economy Impacts Assessment**. The assessment will connect the latest scientific research on Idaho's changing climate with economic risks and opportunities to help Idahoans better understand these economic risks and opportunities linked to Idaho's changing climate.

The Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts (ICOLT) held their annual fall meeting in Boise the second week in November. Land Trusts from around the state gathered to give updates on local projects and address private land conservation issues affecting Idaho.

### Locally

The PLT initiated their Community outreach and Education program this fall by partnering with Roots Forest school and Alzar. The Roots Forest school event brought preschoolers to the Huffman property on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Niki LeClair, author of Critter Story, who lives adjacent to the property helped guide the little ones around the trails system. Halfway through the visit, during snack time, she read to them from her book and gave a sneak preview to her upcoming work. A few weeks later PLT partnered with Alzar high school in Cascade and brought students to help document current land use and presences of wildlife on the property. There was a classroom day on the Alzar campus followed by a day in the field gathering data. Both opportunities gave students a chance to slow down and explore the natural world around them. These stories are featured in this newsletter.

The Payette Land Trust cannot exist without your generous support! If you have supported the PLT this year, Thank you! If not, please consider a financial contribution in December as a part of you end of year giving. By doing so you help further the cause of private land conservation in the West Central Mountains of Idaho. You can donate online by visiting [payettelandtrust.org](http://payettelandtrust.org) or by mailing a contribution directly to the PLT.

*Craig Utter*

# Payette Land Trust and Roots Forest School Partner for Special Event

On a recent Sunday afternoon, current and alumni Roots Forest School families joined local author Niki LeClair and Payette Land Trust's (PLT) Executive Director, Craig Utter, for a special walk around one of the first pieces of land acquired by PLT.



Children followed flagging, looking for animal signs posted on this property to lead the way. "M-O-O-S-E...moose!" they exclaimed, both sounding out the letters and finding the photo of a moose for evidence of the trail name and then ran to find the next sign.

Niki points out the sign marking the start of the Moose Trail.



Halfway through the walk, children and parents gathered on blankets for a snack and a special reading of *critterstory* by LeClair. Another special guest was in the audience, Janet Murphy, the illustrator of *critterstory*.



## Roots Forest School

A preschool in the forests of McCall, ID

Utter took this time to speak with the adults about PLT and their mission of conservation. Through partnerships and events like this one, which expose the larger community to otherwise inaccessible pieces of land, the organization hopes to raise awareness and involvement around the value of open spaces in our area.



# Student Community Conservation at Work



*Students preparing for the field day*



*Morning briefing before going into the field*



*Data Collection on the Huffman property*



*Gathering at the end of the day to submit data and close out*

## PLT fall fundraiser at Ruby's kitchen

The chefs prepared a 5 course locally sourced meal paired with regional wines. This was a fun and elegant way to support locally grown food and private land conservation. Seating was limited to 35 and tickets were priced at \$150 a plate. The event sold out in just one week. It was such a success, plans are in the works for more in 2020!

# An Evening of Epicurean Delights

Brought to you by the Payette Land Trust

With exquisite and locally sourced food items from Ruby's Kitchen.

November 15th, 2019  
6:00 - 9:30 PM  
324 W Lake St, McCall, ID

### First Course Meet & Greet

Appetizers including Yak and Beef Sliders, Cucumber English Tea Sandwiches and Buffalo Caprese  
Paired with a Sparkling Wine

### Salad Course

Beet & Goat Cheese Salad  
Paired with a White Wine

### First Entree

Duck Confit  
Paired with a Red Wine

### Main

Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Local Seasonal Vegetables and Cauliflower Smashed Potatoes  
Paired with a Red Wine

### Dessert & Social Hour

Assortment of Summer Cream Cheese Berry Cakes, Layered Peanut Butter/Chocolate Cake Bites, Custard-Filled Churros and Ruby's House Cookies  
Paired with Red Wine



# ICL Artist-in-Residence to Visit McCall

Monday, December 16 with evening reception 5:30-7:00pm

Idaho artist, Carl Rowe, will be visiting McCall briefly in December to share his artwork as part of a statewide exhibit. An accomplished painter, Rowe served as the Artist in Residence for the Idaho Conservation League through 2019. As he traveled the state, he captured the diversity of Idaho's beautiful natural places on canvas. Rowe is now traveling to key points in Idaho throughout the month to share his work and experiences, to garner support for conservation efforts, and to celebrate Idaho's unique landscapes. Rowe's work will be on display at Idaho First Bank throughout the day, Monday, December 16. Later that evening, from 5:30-7:00pm, a free reception will be held at the bank and community members are invited to come meet the artist at this time and learn more about the Idaho Conservation League and Rowe's residency experience. Light refreshments will be served. This presentation is supported locally by the McCall Arts and Humanities Council and Idaho First Bank





## **CONSERVING THE RURAL LANDSCAPE OF WEST CENTRAL IDAHO SINCE 1993**

Dear Friends of Conservation: We need your support!

The Payette Land Trust has been working hard this past year to create multiple ways for private landowners to participate in conserving our fantastic corner of the world. Whether you are a Farmer, Rancher, Logger, Jogger, Hiker, Biker, Homeowner or Visitor, PLT is focused on conserving the lakes, rivers, open spaces and fantastic views we have all come love.

PLT has accomplished a lot in the past year. Here are a few highlights:

Permanent Staff -Hiring an executive director with 25 years of experience in agriculture and private land conservation.

Creation of the Payette River Basin Initiative- focusing local, regional and national resources to permanently conserve the natural, recreational, agricultural and hydrological resources throughout the basin.

Meeting with Governor Little - PLT Board members and Staff met with the Governor on the shores of Payette Lake to discuss conservation and access to open spaces within the region.

Membership in the Heart of the Rockies Initiative- Being accepted into the Initiative puts the PLT at the table with Land Trusts and Conservation organizations from Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Utah.

With your support we can continue our work. Here are a few of our current projects:

Current potential Easements-We are in discussions with Four Agricultural families and Five landowners to permanently conserve their property (Easements usually take 2-3 years to complete)

Idaho Climate-Economy Impacts Assessment advisory board – U of I McClure Center for Public Policy Research initiative. PLT is the only Land Trust on the Advisory Board.

Local Educational Outreach- PLT is working with Roots Forest School and the Alzar School to provide access to PLT properties and help foster a connection between local students and the outdoors.

We would like to think what we have been doing is enough to conserve our secret corner of Idaho, but as we all know the Central Mountains of Idaho are no longer secret. As more people visit, work and live in our area there is increased pressure to develop. PLT is not anti-development, we all need a place to live, but there are places which need to be conserved to help balance development.

**With your help we can continue our mission.**

**Donate online at [payettelandtrust.org](http://payettelandtrust.org) or by mailing a contribution directly to PLT at 309 Lake Street Suite 5 McCall, ID. 83638**