



Conserving a Heritage of Biodiversity, Clean Water, and Community in the Cascade-Siskiyou

WILLOW-WITT RANCH WORKING FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Not far from Ashland, up in the Cascade Mountains of southern Oregon, lies the 450-acre Willow-Witt Ranch. Thanks to the vision of owners Suzanne Willow and the late Lanita Witt, the ranch is home to diverse conifer forests, oak woodlands, sweeping meadows, springs and wetlands. The loving ecological stewardship of this family ranch enriches the surrounding Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). Help Pacific Forest Trust assure the legacy of Willow-Witt Ranch is permanently protected for future generations thanks to a conservation easement.



Conserving Willow-Witt Ranch Enhances Biodiversity within the CSNM

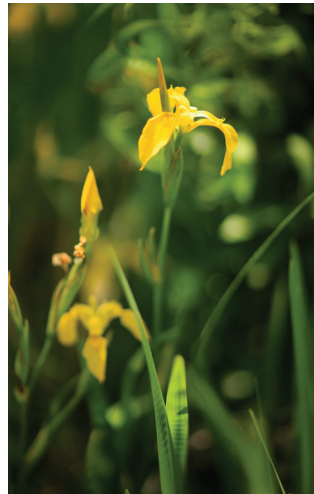
The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was the first federal land protected for its globally outstanding biodiversity. Yet its patchwork of federal and private ownership can make it hard to achieve its goals. This conservation easement with Willow-Witt Ranch extends Pacific Forest Trust's work with private landowners, connecting the CSNM to support its rare plants and animals. Willow-Witt Ranch's restored biodiversity is a key treasure of the Monument. By expanding the network of interconnected, protected private lands within the CSNM and across the Siskiyou Crest, plants and animals will have more opportunities to move and adapt to climate change. Forests and other habitats can be managed for more resilient and better functioning ecological processes. and preserve the region's natural heritage.

Safeguarding Our Water While Providing Refuge for Wildlife

This high elevation ranch is at the the headwaters of both Frog and Babe Creeks, providing cold, spring-fed flows to the Middle Rogue and Upper Rogue watersheds that benefit the region's agriculture and communities downstream. Threatened steelhead salmon also depend on clean water that originates on Willow-Witt Ranch.

Nearly 6 miles of meandering streams, 17 springs and surrounding wetlands are found on Willow-Witt Ranch. A pond created originally to water cattle is now the home of the highest-elevation breeding population of northwestern pond turtles, visible to visitors from a nearby viewing blind.

While nearby development on other private lands within the Monument fragments habitats, Willow-Witt Ranch's owners have invested in making it an



Connecting People and Nature at Willow-Witt Ranch

important refuge for wildlife and plants — all the more important as climate change creates hotter, drier weather. The water-saturated soils of its seasonal wet meadows and its montane riparian woodlands along its flowing streams moderate temperatures and maintain higher humidity levels, offering a buffer against heatwaves and droughts for wildlife such as yellow-legged frogs and the Shasta pebblesnail. Together with the older mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forest stands and upland Oregon white oak savannah, these habitats are identified as priorities for protection on the Oregon Conservation Strategy and as Priority Ecological Systems by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

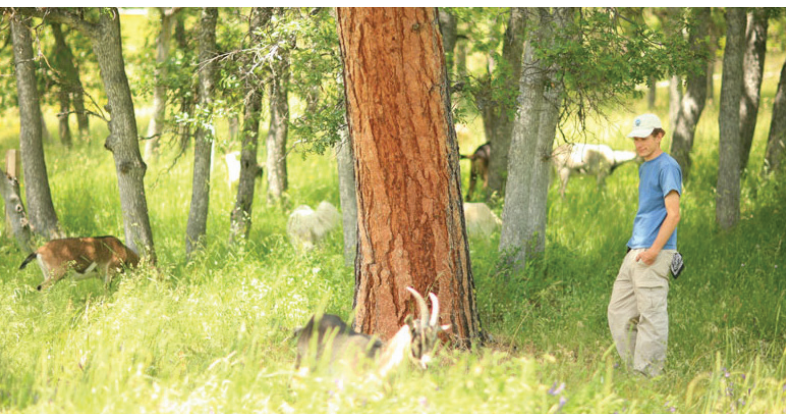
Sandhill cranes enjoy the wet meadows while great grey owls nest in the older conifers that ring the meadows where they hunt. Golden eagles, pileated and Lewis's woodpeckers call Willow-Witt Ranch home, and the northern spotted owl lives next door on the CSNM.

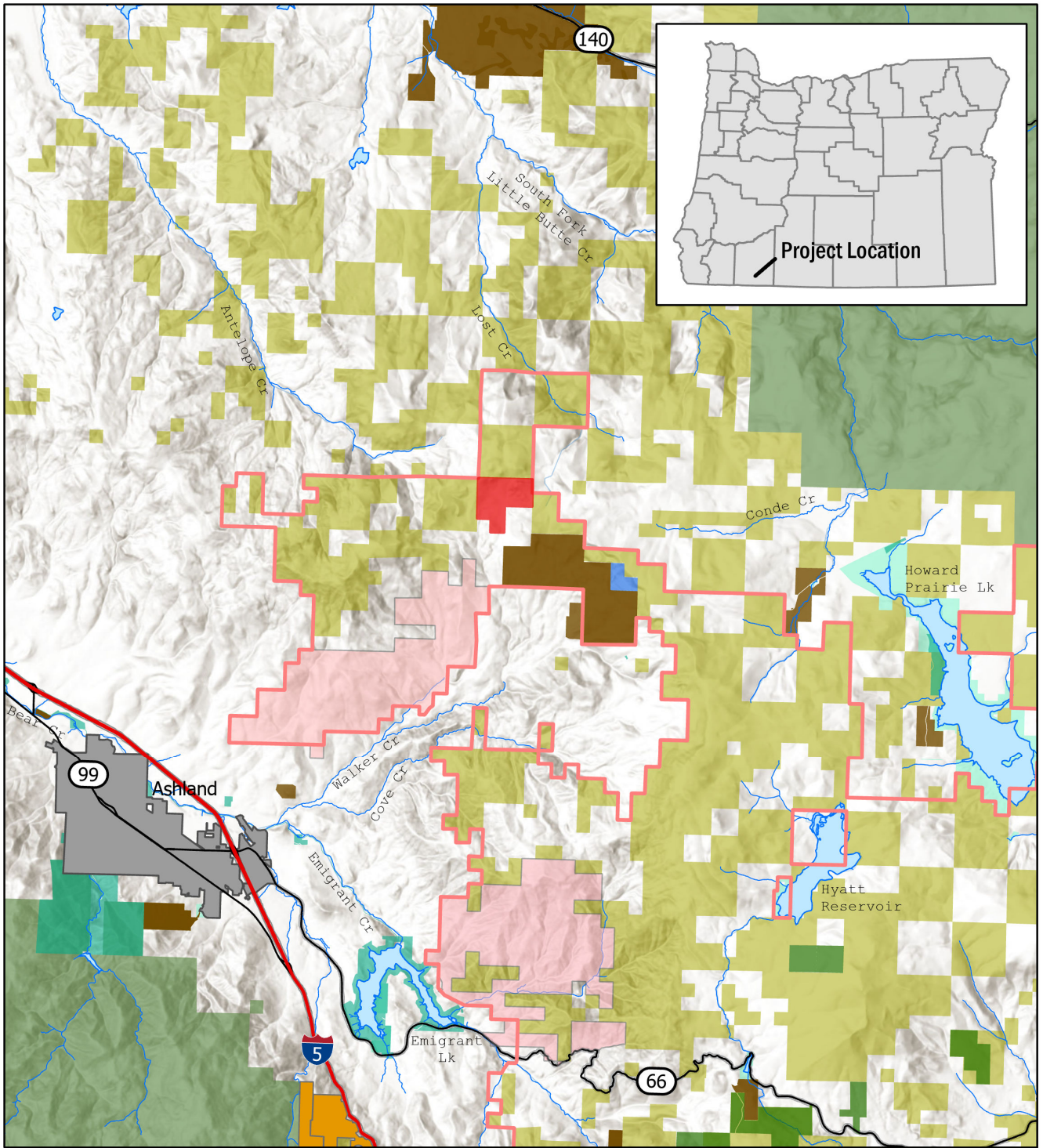
Willow-Witt Ranch is part of the traditional territories of the Shasta, Upland Takelma, Athabaskan, and Latgawa Indigenous people who likely used it seasonally. First homesteaded by Euro-American settlers around 1860, it became a cattle ranch and was successively logged over the years, altering and degrading its the rich habitats.

Purchased by Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt in 1985, the ranch has since been an indispensable community hub for decades, expressing the landowners' commitment to sustainable practices and social care. The Ranch supports numerous enterprises and opportunities for people to connect with the wonders of nature, including environmental education, recreational trails, and an organic farm producing eggs, milk, vegetables, and livestock. It also hosts Oregon's first green burial ground and a pet cemetery.

Willow-Witt Ranch's forests have benefitted from active forest management to improve forest health and reduce increasing threats of pests, drought and catastrophic wildfire driven by climate change. Forestry is a tool being used for ecological outcomes, to restore more resilient stands dominated by the bigger, older trees that were removed before.

The Ranch and its conservation easement are models for how rural properties can meet multiple community and ecological needs while preserving its agricultural and forestry heritage and promoting environmental stewardship.





Map produced March 2023 by Shay Brown for Pacific Forest Trust | Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic | Datum: North American 1983.

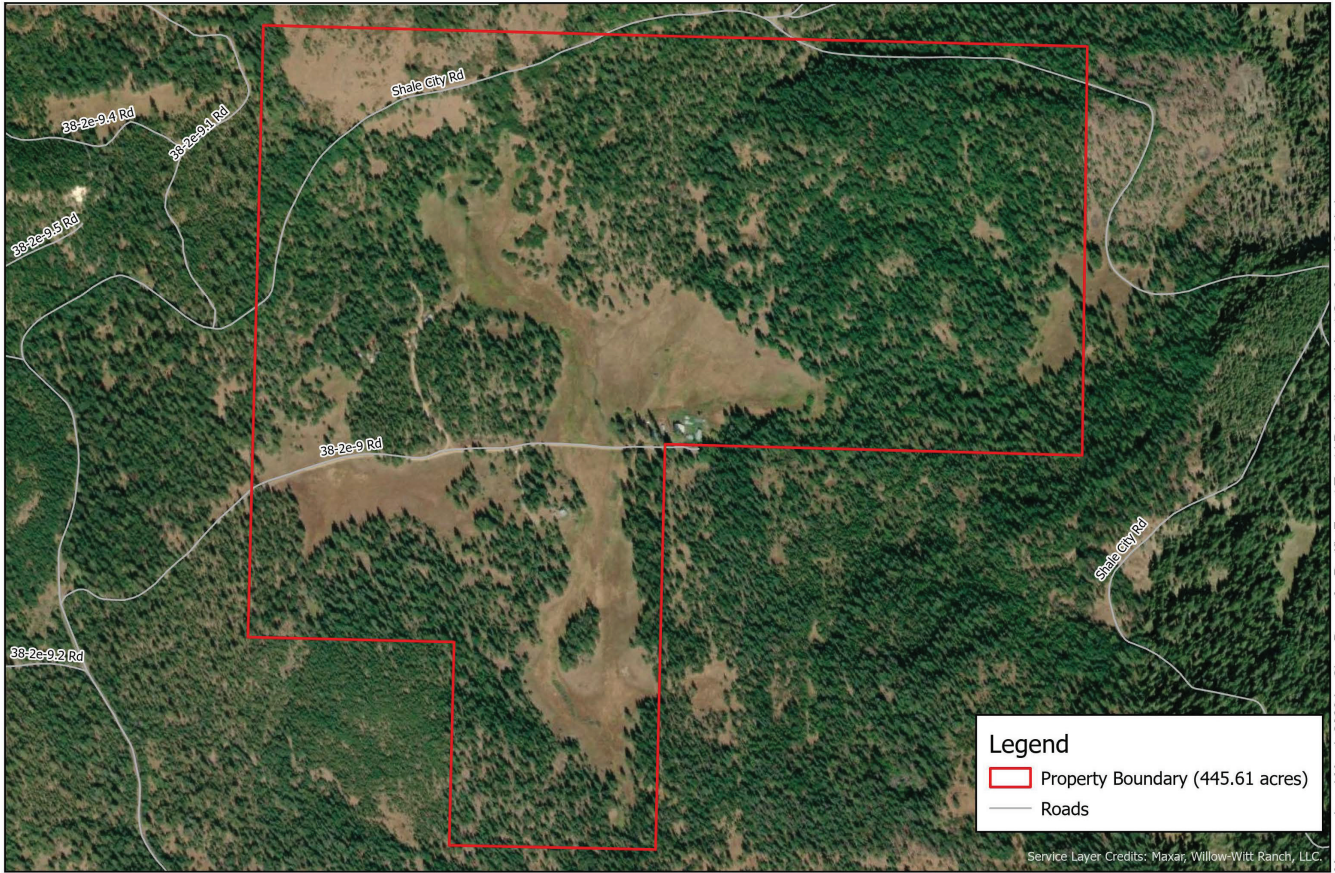
Legend

■ Willow-Witt Ranch	■ Bureau of Reclamation
■ Cities	■ United States Forest Service
— Interstate	— Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Boundary
— State Highways	■ PFT Completed Transfers in CSNM
— Lakes	■ PFT Conservation Easements
— Rivers	■ Other Conservation Easements
Protected Areas	■ City & County Land (Recreation)
■ Bureau of Land Management	■ The Nature Conservancy
	■ Selberg Institute



Willow-Witt Ranch Property Location

Service Layer Credits: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, County of Jackson, OR, Oregon State Parks, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA.



Map produced March 2023 by Shay Brown for Pacific Forest Trust | Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic | Datum: North American 1983.

Service Layer Credits: Maxar, Willow-Witt Ranch, LLC.



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 US Feet

Willow-Witt Ranch Satellite Imagery