



OVLC News

Dedicated to maintaining the unique qualities of the Okanogan Valley,
Okanogan Highlands and Western Ferry County

Okanogan Valley Land
Council

July 2009

eNewsletter

OVLC Names Its First Executive Director

The Okanogan Valley Land Council named Berent Culp as its first executive director in January of this year.

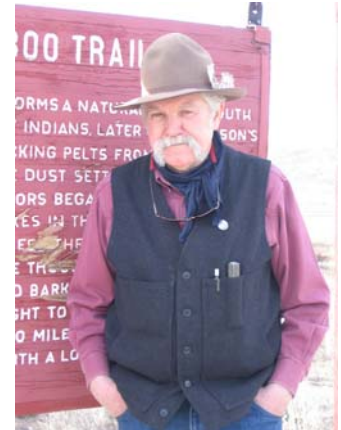
Berent (Ber) Culp comes to the Land Council with a long history of experience in ranching, natural resource management, collaborative problem solving and community participation. He most recently worked for the United States Forest Service, in range and timber management and archaeology (cultural resources). Culp feels his most significant contribution, as an agency employee was the building of improved relationships between the ranchers who pasture cattle on National Forest lands and adjacent communities.

Culp has been a longtime member of the North Cascades Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The fundraising activities of this chapter have contributed significantly to the success of elk and other wildlife habitat conservation in the state of Washington.

Under Culp's direction, the OVLC is uniquely positioned to foster sustainable growth in Okanogan County, strengthen community ties to the land, and unite residents around the local preservation of the "Okanogan Valley way of life". According to OVLC Board President, Todd Thorn, "Ber brings a unique set of skills and experience compli-

mented by a long family history in the county and personal knowledge of the landscape and many of the people who manage it."

Prior to being employed by the Forest Service in 1989, Culp was employed by a number of area ranchers. He also worked at the Okanogan Livestock Market and as a livestock feed supplement salesman. He is well versed in what it takes to make an Okanogan County ranch tick and is looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and building new relationships in the livestock production and agricultural community as well as other landowners and persons who share the mission of OVLC.



Berent Culp— OVLC's first Executive Director

Volunteers Needed!

Support OVLC with your gift of time and service

In an effort to further our success in the Okanogan Valley, OVLC is looking for volunteers to help with the outreach and fundraising effort. Join our Executive Director and staff as we reach out to our community to find those who share our vision. Please call the office at (509) 486-2765 or (509) 846-3394 if you would like to share your time or ideas with us.

OVLC awarded WDFW Organization of the Year Award

OVLC is the recipient of the Organization of the Year Award from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Each year WDFW awards one organization that demonstrates excellence in working with landowners to benefit wildlife. OVLC was selected by the Executive Management Team in Olympia from a collection of nominations. We are thrilled for the recognition of our work in the Okanogan Valley. We would like to thank our many supporters for their part in this award.

Open House

We moved to a new office!

Our office is now located at 416 1/2 South Whitcomb Avenue Suite 3 in Tonasket. Please join us for an open house on July 30 from 3-7pm.

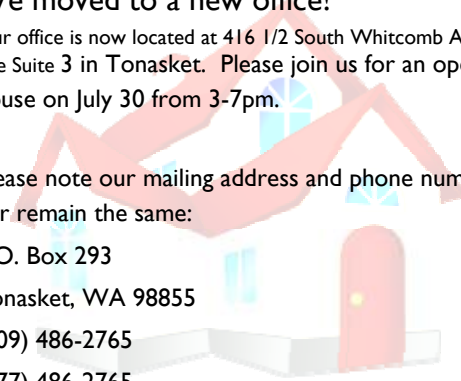
Please note our mailing address and phone number remain the same:

P.O. Box 293
Tonasket, WA 98855

(509) 486-2765

(877) 486-2765

ovlc@communitynet.org



Changes to the Ranching Economy in the Okanogan Valley

Excerpts from the Trust for Public Land Website Posted 6/2009

Over the last two years, The Trust for Public Land has worked in partnership with a number of organizations including the Okanogan Valley Land Council, and local landowners to sustain the ranching economy and conserve important natural areas and recreation opportunities in north-central Okanogan County.

To better understand the pressures and changing land-

scape of ranching in the Okanogan Valley, TPL contracted with Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit research group based in Bozeman, Montana, to analyze landownership and ranching trends.

The report summary, which highlights some of the most surprising and pertinent information in the final report, and the entire final report are both posted on the website at [www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?cont](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22998&folder_id=262)

[ent_item_id=22998&folder_id=262](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22998&folder_id=262).

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. To learn more visit www.tpl.org

To learn more about Headwaters Economics and its work on ranching in the West, visit www.headwaterseconomics.org.

OVLC Completes Organizational Assessment Program

Using grant funds from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington's *Built to Last for Good* Program and the Land Trust Alliance, OVLC worked with two consultants to complete an organizational assessment program that is a required first step to accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance.

The assessment helped OVLC organize its policies and procedures to ensure they follow the LTA Standards and Practices.

The next step for the organization is to further develop its policies in order to build and maintain the strength and effectiveness of its land conservation work. The final step

will be to seek accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, the national certifying organization.

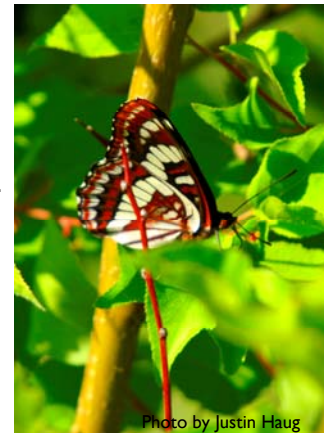


Photo by Justin Haug

Lorquin's Admiral Butterfly

Cari Haug Joins OVLC as New Administrative Assistant

Cari Haug was hired in April of this year to fill the administrative assistant position. This position was previously held by Christine Olson. OVLC would like to send a warm thank you to Sue Edick for filling this vacancy while we worked through the hiring process. We appreciate her valuable efforts.

Cari has recently moved to the Okanogan Valley with her family.

Cari's background is in chemistry. Most recently she was the laboratory assistant at the Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes, WA. Her job entailed managing the laboratories' schedule and equipment,

providing training and workshops to students and faculty and performing chemical analysis of various marine aspects.

Cari is excited about being a part of OVLC and looking forward to meeting the many people and places that support the conservation efforts of the Okanogan Valley.

President's Message

Dear Friend,

There are people who have accomplished tremendous conservation totally on their own. With the Land Council, we do most of our conservation work as a team. For nearly all our land conservation projects, the team starts with the landowner. These are people dedicated to their land and resources who want to create a permanent legacy of landscape productivity and open space with their land. Their objectives may include maintaining farm or forest capability, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, special plant communities, open space and a beautiful landscape.

The team fills out as OVLC staff, board, and volunteers collaborate with the landowner doing the groundwork to create a conservation easement. One crucial step is an inventory documenting the property's features and conservation values. Summer is a great time to be on the land doing these baselines. One doesn't need to be a natural resource specialist to participate. The easement process utilizes various skills.

The scope and capabilities of this team really take off when we partner with other groups as happened this past year. Collaboration with Trust for Public Land, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Okanogan County generated our successful application to the state Farmland Preservation Program funding protection of a 1,000-acre ranch in the Highlands. With the Colville Confederated Tribes, we created an easement protecting habitat of a federally threatened species, steelhead, along a quarter mile of Wildhorse Spring Creek.

Regarding the Land Council team, if you haven't met yet, you'll find Ber and Cari are two great people and accomplished staff, driving our conservation efforts. But our accomplishments really rely on a larger team and the entire community! And that makes it especially rewarding and fun. Many hands make light work.

Todd

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Lee Root
Vice President

Fernne Rosenblatt
Secretary

Walter Henze
Treasurer

Dale Swedberg
Director

Staff

Berent Culp
Executive Director

Cari Haug
Administrative Assistant

Donate Now!

The mission of The Okanogan Valley Land Council is to enhance wildlife, fish, agricultural, and forestry values in the Okanogan by accepting and overseeing conservation easements from private landowners, creating educational opportunities and projects for people interested in land conservation issues, and assisting private landowners who wish to preserve family land for future generations.

We are a community based, non-profit and rely on your support.

Become a volunteer or member, send this newsletter to a friend or two, make a donation, find out more or call with ideas and comments!

Contact us at PO Box 293, Tonasket, WA 98855 or (509) 486-2765.