

Welcome to the new look of the Okanogan Valley Land Council (OVLC) e-Newsletter! You'll be receiving this newsletter quarterly so that we can communicate with you in a frequent and timely way. Our articles about conservation efforts and resources will be short and to the point, keeping you in touch with our work in the Okanogan and in the wider community of land trusts and conservation. Please let us know if there are topics of interest which you would like to see addressed in the newsletter. As always, we hope you enjoy this resource; of course, please feel free to unsubscribe at any time by sending an email to info@ovlandcouncil.org with the message "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Enjoy!

OVLC News: Land Protection Efforts Top 1,000 Acres

After recent negotiations with landowners, total acreage protected from subdivision by four conservation easements held by OVLC has reached more than one thousand. OVLC holds these easements to permanently protect specific conservation values—wildlife habitat, open space, scenic views, and agricultural and forested working lands. We're pleased to work with each of the landowners who have chosen to protect their land in this way, supporting their continued good management and stewardship of their land.

OVLC News: Upcoming Events

Local History through the Eyes of Middle-School Students at the 3rd Annual Oral History Project: Middle-school students participate in this project by interviewing elders in the community and relating their findings in essays. This year's theme is "Historic Food Sources in the Okanogan." Join students and families and hear winning essays at our awards ceremony, open to the public, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 14th at the Omak City Council Chambers at Omak City Hall, 2 North Ash Street. Please call (509) 486-2765 for more information.

OVLC News: Wenatchee Valley Medical Clinic Matches Donations

OVLC is grateful to the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center for its second consecutive year of matching donations made by its physicians and staff to OVLC. The matched donation total topped \$8,000 and has been an important source of support for our ongoing work. Thank you!

Other Conservation News: County Seeks Input on Comprehensive Plan

Here is an opportunity for your voice and love of the land to be heard. Okanogan County is currently working on its comprehensive land use plan. The new comprehensive plan will be written to reflect the vision and goals of "neighborhood groups." Each group covers a specific area of the county and offers individuals the opportunity to speak up and develop common goals for growth and land use issues. More information about the meetings and locations can be found at www.okanogancounty.org/planning

Conservation Programs and Resources: Forest Legacy Program Works to Protect Working Forests

The USDA Forest Legacy Program works to assure that America's forest landscapes, and traditional uses of those forestlands and their natural resources, are protected into the future. In Washington State, efforts are focused on protecting private forestlands that

have been identified to be in danger of conversion to non-forest use, for residential, commercial, and/or other purposes. The Forest Legacy Program acquires conservation easements to protect forestlands into the future. Washington State has currently identified several key forest parcels, including some in Okanogan County, that are at especially high risk for conversion to other uses. More information can be found at www.dnr.wa.gov/hdocs/amp/forest_legacy/intro.