

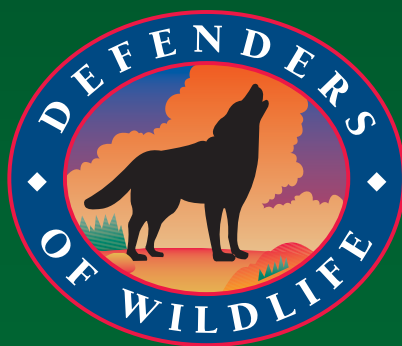
# Protecting and Restoring High Priority Habitats

Land Trust Alliance  
Northwest Regional Conference  
May 18, 2007

Bruce Taylor, Defenders of Wildlife  
Rob Cavallero, Teton Regional Land Trust  
Lindsay Cornelius, Columbia Land Trust  
Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust

# Living Lands:

## Helping Land Trusts Conserve Biodiversity



# Living Lands Mission

To support and increase the capacity of the land trust community to conserve biodiversity on private lands through financial and technical assistance.



# Living Lands Project: Why Now?

- Standards 8, 11 and 12
- IRS and taxpayers need conservation donations to be worthy of a federal tax benefit
- Land trusts need to document “conservation purposes” in easement language
- Funders want strategic planning
- New State Wildlife Action Plans

# Living Lands Project: Why Defenders?



- **Private lands important for biodiversity**
- **Incentives**
- **Making conservation more strategic**
- **Land trusts' tremendous potential**
- **Support from Biophilia Foundation**

# Living Lands: Survey

- Purpose: Determine the current extent of local land trust work that contributes to biodiversity conservation
- Interviews with LTA staff, land trusts, conservation organizations
- Web survey, January 2006:
  - Sent to approx. 800 land trusts
  - 135 responded (18%)
  - 28 states

# Survey Results

- Total response: 135 land trusts
- Mission includes habitat: 97%
- Habitat is primary focus: 63%
- Protect agricultural lands: 71%
- Want to increase capacity for biodiversity conservation: 89%

# Survey Responses

- Major barriers:
  - Limited stewardship / monitoring funding
  - Limited staff capacity
  - Limited staff expertise
  - Not a local community priority
  - Uninterested landowners



# Survey Responses

- Assistance or training needs:
  - Conservation planning
  - Habitat restoration and management
  - Monitoring
  - Identifying funding sources

# Living Lands Project

- Land Trust Alliance regional conferences and Rally (2006, 2007, 2008)
- Written resources for land trusts:  
[www.defenders.org/livinglands](http://www.defenders.org/livinglands)
- Case studies
- Small grants for biodiversity pilot projects

# Pilot Projects

- \$59,300 awarded to 7 land trusts
  - Teton Regional Land Trust, ID
  - Nisqually Land Trust, WA
  - Washtenaw Land Trust, MI
  - Sudbury Valley Trustees, MA
  - Greenbelt Land Trust, OR
  - Eastern Sierra Land Trust, CA
  - Taos Land Trust, NM

# Living Lands Contact Info

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# Today's case studies

## Teton Regional Land Trust (Rob Cavallero)

- strategic conservation

## Columbia Land Trust (Lindsay Cornelius)

- restoring oak woodland habitats

## McKenzie River Trust (Joe Moll)

- Green Island project