



photo by Mark Darnell

# Trout Creek Ranch

Oregon Desert Land Trust established one of the state's largest conservation projects by purchasing the 16,645-acre Trout Creek Ranch in the Pueblo and Trout Creek Mountains. The property helps connect several conservation areas, including national wildlife refuges and a wilderness area. It also has livestock grazing permits on nearly 500,000 acres of public land that allow for innovative grazing management in this climate resilient area.

Partnering with The Nature Conservancy and others on research efforts and conservation management will help establish regional conservation goals, test innovative restoration techniques, and develop new, collaborative land management strategies on wild and working lands for wildlife and people.

## Pueblo & Trout Creek Mountains

These mountains provide unparalleled habitat diversity with watersheds that include a variety of habitats: aspen woodlands, grasslands, creeks, wet meadows, and sagebrush-steppe. Many mountain creeks drain to Oregon's driest spot—the Alvord Basin—providing critical water to a desert landscape that supports plants and animals unique to this portion of the Great Basin, several which are threatened or endangered. California bighorn sheep, pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope, and Lahontan cutthroat trout are among many species that will benefit from conserving and restoring Trout Creek Ranch's abundant wet meadows and high-elevation areas.

## How the project advances climate resilience

This dramatic conservation area—ranging in elevation from 4,005' in the Alvord Desert to 8,632' at the summit of Pueblo Mountain—provides climate-resilient connectivity between more than one million acres of wildlife habitat, including Steens Mountain Wilderness and the Hart Mountain and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuges. Limiting fragmentation, restoring sensitive habitats, and facilitating innovative public land management are critical to maintaining this resiliency and connectivity.

## Project Highlights

- **Wilderness Values**  
The project includes 334,000 acres of wilderness study areas and will help maintain connectivity between 170,166 acres of federally-protected wilderness and 572,896 acres of national wildlife refuges.
- **Climate Resilience**  
Approximately 85% of the area is within The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Network. These lands are highly resilient and closely connected to other important habitats in the Columbia Plateau.
- **Innovative Grazing Management**  
Grazing permits on nearly 500,000 acres of public lands create opportunities for innovative management across a vast landscape with spring-fed mountain streams, extensive quaking aspen, willow stands, and diverse native grasslands.

## Restoration & Management

- Restore thousands of acres of wet meadows for sandhill cranes, long-billed curlews, snowy egrets, and other birds in this critical migration and breeding area of the Pacific Flyway
- Restore native grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees in floodplains, grasslands, sagebrush-steppe
- Manage innovative grazing, introduce regenerative agricultural practices, track progress with remote sensing technologies
- Remove obsolete infrastructure and unnecessary fences, and rehabilitate buildings for research, public education and visitation, and ranch management



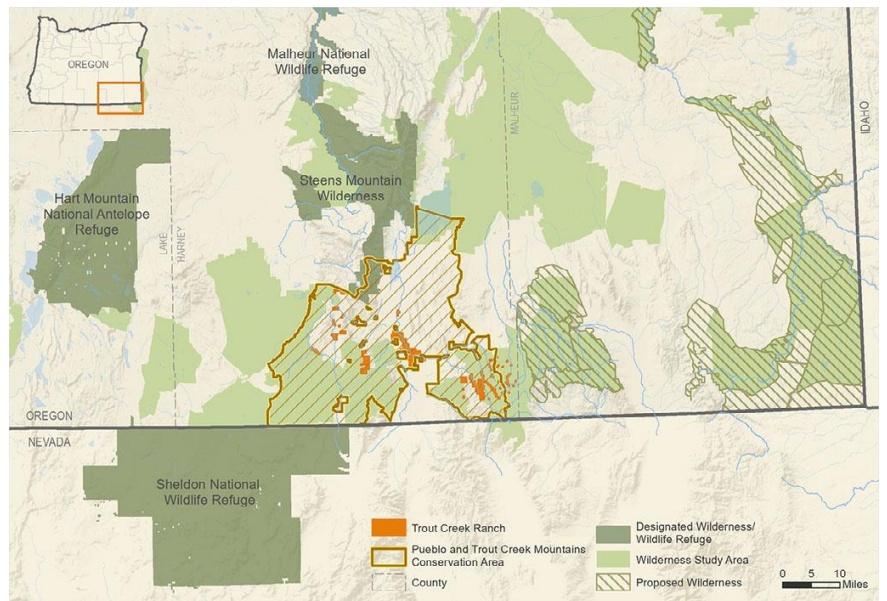
For more information, please call 971-350-9458 or visit [OregonDesertLandTrust.org](https://OregonDesertLandTrust.org)

“ODLT embodied a collaborative attitude during the discovery, negotiation, and closing process, and we are personally confident that we made the right choice in terms of passing stewardship of the property. We thank the team and donors at ODLT for their vision and culture and stand ready to offer what assistance we might...”

— Duane Grant, Grant 4D Farms



Trout Creek Ranch is in south Harney County near Fields, Oregon.



The project area spans nearly 800 square miles and helps connect several established conservation areas, including national wildlife refuges and a wilderness area.



California bighorn sheep are one of this area's iconic species and they prefer rugged, open areas with clear views of their surroundings. (Photo by Greg Burke)



The Pueblo and Trout Creek Mountains are part of the rich heritage of the Northern Paiute people, support the local ranching community and are increasingly valued for public recreation, including access to the Oregon Desert Trail. (Photo by Mark Darnell)