



photo: Michael Sherman



photo: Pamela Berndt

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

Our pathway to becoming more resilient

Pamela Berndt, Development & Communications

There are times in life when by shifting our perspectives, even just slightly, we may see a situation in an entirely new light. Trying this might open your mind, senses and awareness to notice a variety of things that are often outside of our typical view, and allow us to think outside the box.

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, scientists worldwide noticed a dramatic drop in planet-warming fossil fuel emissions and how much cleaner air conditions were after just a few months. It was also noticed that wildlife began venturing into empty cities – back to areas they had once inhabited. This is exciting because it clearly illustrates the power of resiliency and how significant changes in human behavior can bring back a thriving and flourishing environment.

The focus of Wild Rivers Land Trust has been to preserve and protect places that provide resiliency in our natural surroundings. The best method of maintaining resiliency is to preserve the areas that have not been altered or revitalize lands using restoration methods. By continually adding to our now 1000+ acres of protected lands, Wild Rivers Land Trust and its members are assisting in solutions that will turn the tides on climate change and ensure a more sustainable future. In our southern coastal region, we are fortunate to live amongst beautiful forests where trees live for centuries, where wildlife roam freely and our rivers run wild. By maintaining these wild lands, we are ensuring a healthy, sustainable landscape into the future.

Navigating a sustainable future - local actions to mitigate climate change in our coastal ecosystem:

Forests- areas containing old growth trees provide water and carbon storage which make them most valuable for preserving our natural resources. Younger trees require more water to grow than they preserve while older forests store, filter and slowly release huge amounts of water. Maintaining our forests is key to keeping temperatures below the 2° mark established by the Paris Climate Agreement.

Waterways- the quality and quantity of cold, clear water is vital to the wildlife that live in and around rivers and streams. Water is our lifeblood and sustaining our drinking water sources is essential to our existence, especially water located high on mountains and hillsides, where it originates.

Estuaries- our saltwater marshes provide nurseries for fish and shellfish during critical times of their lifecycles as well as absorbing the highest carbon stock per unit, known as blue carbon. Read more about blue carbon at EarthCorps.org.

Agricultural & Grasslands- many ranchers are adopting regenerative farming methods that focus on healthy soil. By rotating crops and livestock, the energy and resources required to raise food is drastically reduced. These areas offer 1/5 of total natural climate solutions mitigation to hold warming below 2°.

Read more in our **Conservation Plan**, located on our website: <https://www.wildriverslandtrust.org/conservation-priorities/>

Climate change will be the largest challenge faced by multiple generations until we find ways of taking serious global actions. **As supporters of Wild Rivers Land Trust, you are joining our team of advocates to mitigate issues caused by our changing climate.** We welcome your input, questions and suggestions.



Together, we are keepers of this wild place.

WildRiversLandTrust.org

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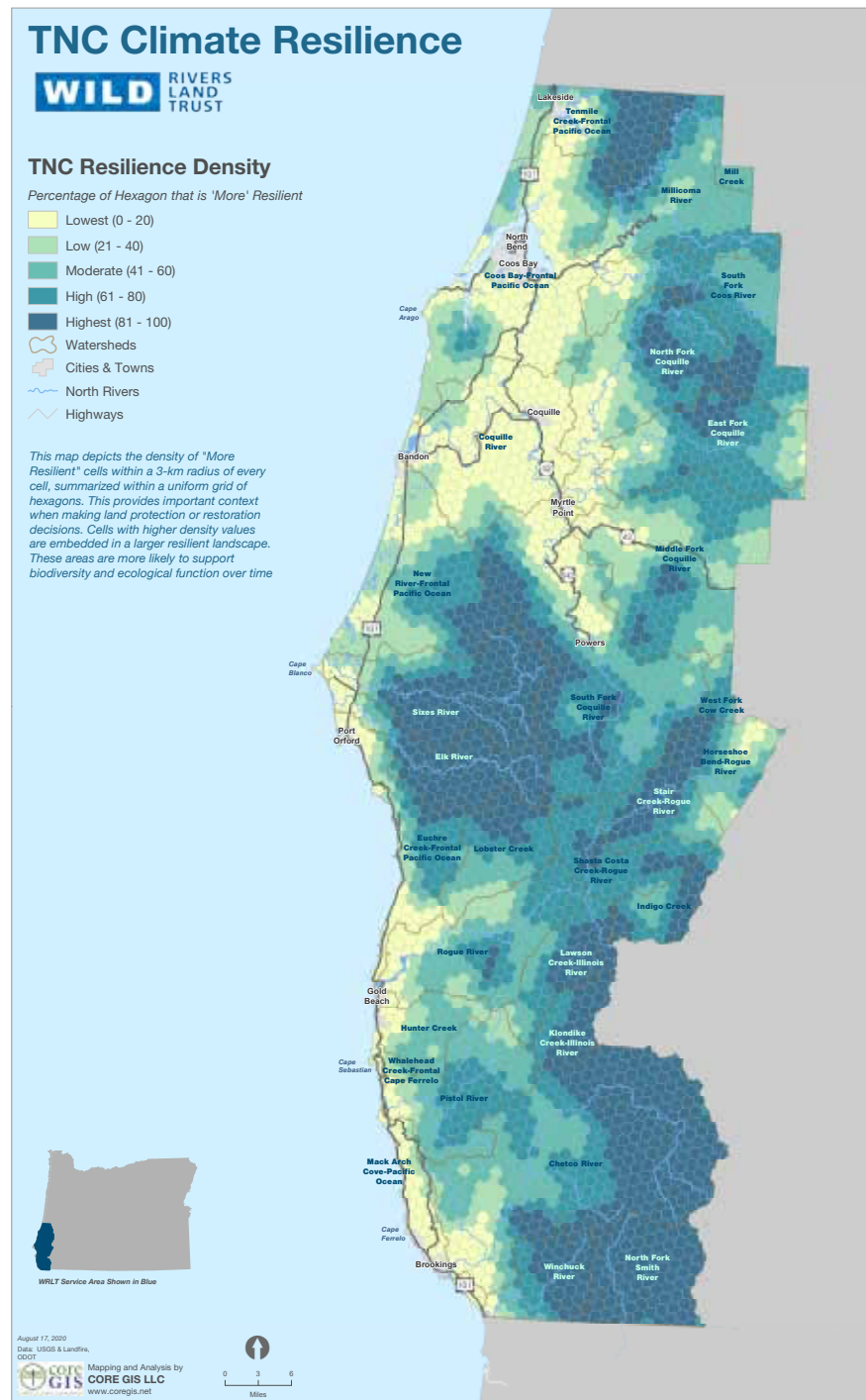
Want to help make a difference? Take action today! Become a member, renew an existing membership or make a contribution. Donate via our website, complete the attached form and mail it to us, or call us at 541.366.2130. Thank you for supporting Wild Rivers Land Trust and being a significant part of our resilient future.

Collaborative Mapping Tools

Max Beeken, Conservation Director

Wild Rivers Land Trust has just started an important project with our partners at the South Coast Watershed Council and Lower Rogue Watershed Council to determine the highest priority watersheds on the south coast for habitat restoration and protection. By using data collected by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other publicly available data, we are able to map which stretches of our rivers are the most used by fish and pinpoint how to improve conditions to increase fish populations with targeted restoration projects. We will also be adding information about other wildlife and climate change to help us evaluate where our work will be the most effective at addressing multiple issues simultaneously.

We are in the beginning stages of this project and will be working with a technical advisory team over the next year with a wide variety of partners to help us evaluate the results of our work. We will then combine all of our information into a single tool to help us evaluate each sub-watershed on the south coast, from Twomile Creek near Bandon to the Winchuck River near the Oregon-California Border. This effort should help to build on a strong legacy of strategic conservation work on the South Coast.



Spotlight: Our Dynamic Board

Barbara Grant, Board member

I've worked with ranchers and foresters for clean water and sustainable, secure food production for most of my 21 years as a South Coast resident, and I have loved it. When I was introduced by a local ranching family to Wild Rivers Land Trust (then Elk River Land Trust) and invited to apply for a seat on the board, I saw an opportunity to support world-class ranchers, foresters, and wildland managers.

Excellent resource management means we all get a place to live. WRLT brings important contributions to a big, diverse land-management toolbox. Strategic investment means that every acre conserved for wilderness and managed for ecological uplift improves the outlook for responsible community development and a sound economy. Dynamic markets, a changing climate, and a growing population demand a combination of stability and flexibility that a land trust is uniquely qualified to provide.

Amazing landowners and local control, dedicated professionals and a mission that helps protect and enhance the quality of life in my home region made it an easy decision to support WRLT with my time and a modest monthly donation. I'm thrilled to have been a part of the Land Trust's strategic growth over the past several years and excited about the future.

Ask a Friend & Neighbor Challenge

We are asking all our supporters to talk with your friends and neighbors about the conservation work we do at Wild Rivers Land Trust. Please invite them to become members, share newsletters and join us in keeping the irreplaceable lands and waters of the southern Oregon coast forever wild and abundant. Thank you for your continued support!

WildRiversLandTrust.org



Keeping our wild & working lands forever abundant