

2016

Progress Report

In all of our work, Ecotrust is powered by the vision of a world where people and nature thrive together. Since 1991, we have partnered with local communities from California to Alaska to build new ways of living and doing business. In our three core program areas—Food and Farms, Forests, and Fisheries—we pursue ideas and opportunities that balance equitable economic growth with the restoration of these natural systems. We are proud to share some of the ways we are having impact with our partners and donors in 2016.

Food and Farms

Ecotrust's Food and Farms program aims to grow a robust, regional food system that is healthy, equitable, and just. This year, our focus has been on developing the essential infrastructure for small to mid-sized farmers, ranchers, and fishermen while at the same time growing a network of institutional buyers that will enable the regional food system to thrive.

The Redd on Salmon Street

The Redd on Salmon Street is a new Ecotrust development located in the heart of Portland's historic Central Eastside that is designed to support local food-related enterprises, connect them to independent farmers, ranchers, and fishermen in the region, and help scale a robust, regional food economy across the Pacific Northwest. Informed by our research into key gaps in Oregon's food system infrastructure, the Redd has been designed to remove some of the most critical barriers that mid-sized family farmers and producers face in growing their business: things like cold storage, warehousing, processing, and distribution.

Ecotrust demonstrated that investing in farm to school reaps real benefits for communities: For every \$1 spent on farm to school, \$2 is returned to the local economy.

photo by Shawn Linehan



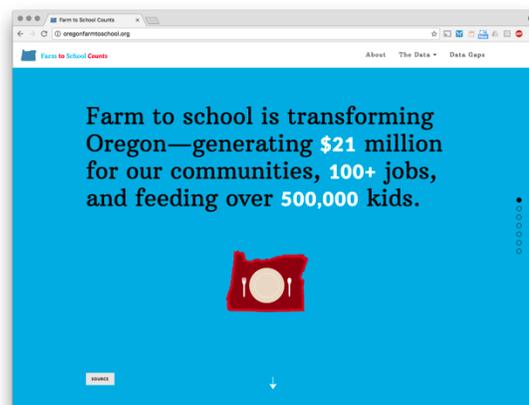
Redd West—the first of two buildings included in the project—opened for business in 2015 with an inspiring community of tenants like B-Line Sustainable Urban Delivery and FoodCorps. We plan to begin our second phase of construction by building out the second building, Redd East, in 2017, which will host a range of businesses and initiatives aimed towards improving access to nutritious, sustainable, delicious food for all.

Farm to Institution

In partnership with The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, a group of 900 advocates for farm to school programming in Oregon, Ecotrust completed an ambitious initiative this summer to track our decade-long efforts to improve access to healthy, local food in our school lunchrooms.

A new interactive website, Farm to School Counts (oregonfarmtoschool.org) tracks progress and measures the success of farm to school dollars at putting more money in the pockets of Oregon's farmers, teaching students about where food comes from and how it is grown, increasing access to local, healthy foods in schools and preschools, and stewarding the land for future generations. We are proud to play a big part in farm to school initiatives that have brought healthy food to more than 500,000 kids, while creating more than 100 jobs and \$21 million in economic benefit for Oregon's communities.

Oregon has been a leader in the farm to school movement for more than a decade. We recently completed the development of a new website to make the case for investing in this critical driver of change in our food system.



We're also taking our commitment to democratizing good food to new heights with the Northwest Food Buyers' Alliance. Ecotrust supported the launch and coordination of this powerful association of schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and other large-scale food buyers to bring together the people who are collectively making millions of dollars of food-purchasing decisions in Oregon. Participants share best practices, visit one another's kitchens, and compare notes on local purveyors. By facilitating local food purchases at scale, we are helping to spur the growth of our regional economy—creating jobs and keeping food dollars here at home. There are now 62 participating institutions in the Northwest Food Buyers' Alliance serving 125,000 meals per day.

Fisheries

Ecotrust's Fisheries program works to restore the health of marine and freshwater fisheries, along with the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them. This year, we made important strides in our work to support small-boat, community-based fisheries as well as in coastal and watershed restoration.

Community Fisheries Network

Commercial fisheries contributed \$200 billion to the U.S. economy in 2014. However, our marine ecosystems are under threat from multiple stressors, including climate change and ocean acidification. The need for innovation and stewardship in our fisheries has never been greater. Local, small-boat fishermen are at the forefront of building resilient coastal

communities, environments, and fisheries. They are striving to protect at-risk towns whose futures depend on the recovery of this important resource.

“My children are a part of our family’s business. They get to see what we do, understand the challenges, the fish, the ocean, so there’s a future for them.”

—Linda Behnken, CFN member

*photo by ASMI and
Joshua Roper*



To support these local leaders, Ecotrust has convened the Community Fisheries Network—a 13-member collective of community fisheries organizations working to support responsible small-boat fishermen across the nation. This year, the Community Fisheries Network helped fishermen connect and coordinate around shared challenges, while providing locally-caught seafood to eaters across the country.

Estuary and Watershed Restoration

Washington’s Elwha River is ideal habitat and critical spawning ground for 11 species of salmon and trout, yet for more than a century this treasured habitat was compromised by damming at the river’s mouth on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. After the dam’s historic removal in 2011, the promise of restoring this important ecosystem to its wild and full potential became real. In Spring 2016, Ecotrust supported partners on the Olympic Peninsula to clean up debris in the Lower Elwha, spurring long-term coastal restoration.

This work is complemented by the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative (WWRI), a public/private partnership coordinated by Ecotrust to direct restoration resources to targeted watersheds with the greatest potential for recovering salmon. After a decade of coordinated work on the ground and with local partners, WWRI has directed \$10 million to the restoration of more than 600 stream-miles of priority salmon habitat in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, while generating more than 250 stable restoration jobs for local communities.

Forests and Ecosystem Services

Ecotrust’s Forests program aims to transform the way we manage our forests to better provide for the range of benefits our forests offer, including: high-quality habitat for native fish and wildlife, recreational and economic development opportunities, clean and abundant water, as well as a robust and reliable forest products industry. Over the past year, we have done important work with landowners, natural resource managers, and public agencies to advance ecological forest management practices.

Forest Planner

Forest Planner (forestplanner.ecotrust.org) is a cutting-edge tool for landowners to practice climate-smart forestry specific to their locations. This free, online tool enables small to mid-sized forest managers to implement ecological forest management practices on their properties. Users can visualize alternative management scenarios on their lands, and receive immediate feedback on how decisions might pay off in terms of timber harvests and financial returns, along with environmental benefits such as carbon storage, habitat preservation, and source-water protection.

Ecotrust staff work alongside partners and communities to restore hundreds of thousands of acres of critical salmon habitat and forested land in the Northwest, while creating jobs, protecting watersheds, and ensuring that local partners are well-equipped to protect these vital natural resources into the future.

photo by Carla Hudson



This year, we partnered with the Pinchot Institute to work with forest landowners in Washington to use tools like Forest Planner to manage their forests for carbon—a project that was recently **featured in the New York Times**. And we are proud to now have nearly 600 landowners, students, and others using Forest Planner to better manage 330,000 acres of forestland in Oregon and Washington for the long term.

Climate-Smart Forestry

Climate change has serious impacts for the forests and coastlines of Northwest communities, like the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in Northwest Washington. In partnership with the Tribe, Ecotrust is working to create an innovative new model for forest banking that would fund the transition of their forest parcels to ecological forest management—an approach designed to restore the integrity of the Tribe's forestlands while mitigating the increasing effects of climate change. This year, we saw a promising launch of this unique and potentially transformative partnership that connects forest restoration to climate adaptation and mitigation.



None of this work would be possible without the generous support of our partners and donors. Thank you. To learn more about how to generate impact with Ecotrust, please contact our VP of Development, Lily Abood at labood@ecotrust.org, or 503.915.8684.