



Photo: Christopher Rachal (right), Ecotrust Community & Funding Partnerships Manager, poses with Aaron Vargas, former Ecotrust staff member, during a volunteer day at Wapato Island Farm; photo by Emilie Chen

2024 Progress Report

Ecotrust

2024 PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Partners —

You may not know me, but I feel your presence in my life nearly every day.

My name is Megan, and I'm on the communications team here at Ecotrust—my professional home for the past 14 years.

I've been contemplating the many seasons I've shared with Ecotrust, the many hats I've worn, and the projects I've been privileged to be a part of. In all that time, my favorite role has been champion and supporter: I'm a huge fan of my colleagues, our partners, and our work together. And, if you're reading this, I imagine you are too.

Because of your partnership and support, at Ecotrust, we never do anything alone.

Together, we're working toward a more livable future for our region. And we have a critical role to play in that future.

Time and again, I've seen my colleagues and our partners learn, grow, and lean in to test ideas and ask hard questions. We know that change doesn't happen overnight. Rather than short-term, immediate fixes, we look for lasting solutions. We're focused on projects that are both regionally relevant and tailored to meet the unique needs of communities. We foster and invest in connection. We believe that humble, respectful collaboration is the key to progress.

In this progress report, you'll see evidence of all of the above: from a training program for farm to school leaders, to technology that centers the needs of Indigenous land and water stewards; from partnerships bringing critical resources to underinvested communities, to places like the Redd on Salmon Street that offer nimble solutions for growing businesses. In sharing these examples, we hope you feel more connected with what your support makes possible.

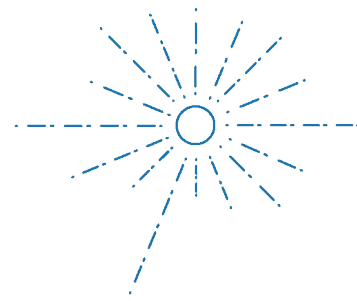
As we enter the final months of 2024, I'm so grateful to you, our partners, whether you've been with us for one season or many. I believe we can create the future we need together. Thank you for being with us today and in the work ahead.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Megan Foucht in blue ink.

Megan Foucht

Interim Communications Director



Our shared progress

With you, our diverse community of partners and supporters, we are working at the intersection of equity, the economy, and the environment toward a more livable future.

Investing in community resilience

Developing shared assets toward a more just, prosperous future



Deepening our work in Southeast Alaska

As a member of the Sustainable Southeast Partnership, we host regional catalysts for both mariculture and food systems in Southeast Alaska. This year, several food-focused projects are underway, including a regional food systems assessment, scoping a regional composting network, operating the Salt & Soil Marketplace, and continuing to support Indigenous communities to collect, harvest, and grow traditional foods. Our project sites in Southeast Alaska now span across 14 communities, from Metlakatla to Yakutat.

Photo: Harvesting kelp in southeast Alaska; photo by Bethany Goodrich



Place-making in Portland

In 2024, we continue living our guiding principle that place matters. In Portland's Central Eastside, the Redd on Salmon Street welcomed 7 Waters Sovereign Foods and the Sisterhood Kitchen Collective as new tenants. Across the river in Portland's Pearl District, the Natural Capital Center welcomed Willamette University as an anchor tenant. The space will serve as a nexus for the graduate and professional programming offered by the University. *Photo: A fundraiser for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, one of our community grant recipients, takes place in the Natural Capital Center; photo by Michelle Bush*

Michelle Bush

Advancing collective action

Fostering synergy through strong partnerships and movement-building



Expanding our farm to school offerings

This summer, we were pleased to bring together the first cohort of the Farm to School Institute for a three-day retreat. Nine teams from Oregon and Washington schools and districts gathered in Silverton, OR, for panel discussions and workshops to ground in their values, create action plans, enjoy locally-sourced meals, and participate in peer-to-peer learning. The Farm to Early Care & Education Institute kickoff will be held in October 2024 with our partners at Zenger Farm.

Photo: A child holds tomatoes from Adelante Mujeres' Children's Farmers Market; courtesy of Adelante Mujeres



Critical funding for underinvested communities

Throughout the region, federal agencies are looking to increase participation in programs that provide financial resources for land management to historically underserved communities. Ecotrust continues to be a trusted partner in this work through two cooperative agreements: In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, we're working to increase tribal participation in the agency's Landscape Scale Restoration program. In addition, with the USDA's Oregon Farm Service Agency, we are participating in a new urban agriculture center for the Portland region to support historically underserved farmers in accessing critical resources provided by the agency for land management. *Photo: Chickens at Wapato Island Farm; photo by Jason Hill*

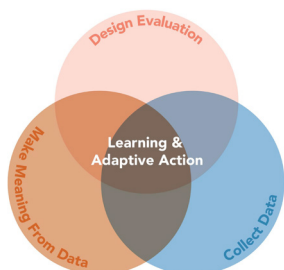
Centering community need and equitable impact

Tools for equity-centered, place-based learning and decision making



Tools and technology for a more resilient future

Our software development and technical teams continue stewarding tools that are responsive to community need: LandMapper, Ecotrust's free online mapping tool for forest landowners, has been updated to include Washington properties and now offers new resource guides to better support users. And tribes in both California and Oregon are using the Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Database developed by Ecotrust and the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation to store culturally sensitive, place-based information gathered by their communities. *Photo: Forestland managed by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians; photo by Sean Gutierrez*



Evaluating our progress with an equity lens

In partnership with Amani Austin, founder of Austin Advocates With, and Katie Winters of Insight for Action, we've developed a set of principles and tools for centering equity in evaluating the impact of our programs. To spread the practice of equitable evaluation with the wider network, we've shared our process, case study, and learnings in a written brief, along with a webinar and toolkit soon to be available on our website. *Photo: A graphic from Ecotrust's Equitable Evaluation toolkit*