



Blue Mountain Land Trust Executive Director (Half-Time)

Walla Walla, WA

Background

We are one of the few nonprofit land trusts east of the Cascade Mountains in the Pacific Northwest. Our sphere of influence is the greater Blue Mountain region of southeastern Washington and northeastern Oregon. Anchored by the beautiful Walla Walla Valley, this is an agricultural area of incomparable scenic beauty, with historic communities, a nationally-acclaimed wine industry, and a relaxed lifestyle. Established twelve years ago, BMLT is experiencing considerable momentum, having consummated half a dozen conservation easements in the last two years under the leadership of our current executive director (retiring this spring), having landed a major capacity building grant by a private foundation, and having put together a committed staff and an energized Board of Directors. We are currently preparing for LTA accreditation, conducting an organizational assessment, and updating the strategic plan. Preserving the balance of wilderness, working lands, watershed, and wildlife habitat in the Blue Mountain region makes fundraising a major priority for us. We're looking for a strategic Executive Director who shares our passion for conservation, who can help us achieve our ambitious goals, and who is an accomplished fund raiser. Our budget allows \$26,000 per year in salary for this half-time position. The Board has a keen interest in migrating the ED role to full time status to support BMLT's growth, contingent on the Director generating enough sustained funding to support this model.

Position Description

Blue Mountain Land Trust, located in Walla Walla, WA is seeking an Executive Director to lead the organization's land conservation initiatives, focused on working farms and forests, watershed habitat and scenic viewscales, in voluntary partnerships with private land owners. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will be responsible for managing the organization, which includes a part-time Membership Coordinator and a part-time Conservation and Stewardship Director, both of whom are seasoned professionals. Major emphasis will be placed on fund raising, community outreach, marketing communications, and strategic planning. In collaboration with the Board and the staff, the ED will focus efforts on the following accountabilities:

- Planning, developing, and implementing BMLT's projects and programs, strategic plan, policies and operational procedures, annual fundraising and communications plans, and annual budget.
- Serving as the overall manager of BMLT, including hiring and managing staff, working closely with the board of directors, interacting with the public and private land owners, and overseeing the development of land conservation projects, stewardship activities, and related grant requests.
- Building strong working relationships with members and supporters of BMLT, local media, partners and stakeholders, government entities, civic groups and the community at large, and philanthropic organizations, to communicate BMLT's mission and goals, accomplishments, activities, and events.

- Representing BMLT at meetings with the public, landowners, natural resource agencies, political leaders, and other conservation groups in order to develop partnerships with other entities.
- Developing and managing an annual budget and program of work, and providing information and periodic reporting to the Board that accurately portray the financial condition and operational activities of BMLT. With the Board Treasurer, overseeing BMLT's financial activities including bookkeeping, bank deposits, bill paying, and payroll.
- Meeting the annual and long-term financial needs of BMLT. This will involve fund raising strategies, grant writing, meeting with donors and land owners, coordinating fundraising events, and other development efforts.
- Supervising preparation of the BMLT newsletter and other communication pieces for distribution to BMLT donors and other interested individuals and groups. Overseeing the Trust's website content.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will have experience as a nonprofit executive director or be qualified for promotion to the ED role, with preferably 3-5 years in a conservation-related organization. Broad exposure to land and habitat conservation, working lands, budgeting, fund raising/development, strategic planning, and organization management are required. In particular, a strategic perspective and a proven track record of advancing fund raising in an emerging nonprofit organization are essential qualifications. Must have the ability to work effectively with a diverse set of constituents, including Board members, donors, land owners, partners, the community, and BMLT members and volunteers.

To Apply

We welcome applications from all qualified candidates. Persons with diverse backgrounds and experiences are strongly encouraged to apply. Please submit by email attachment a letter of interest, a current resume, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of three references, to the following:

Dennis Hopwood
BMLT Executive Director Search
bmlt.search@gmail.com

Applications will be considered until the position is filled. We welcome referrals of prospective candidates and we will gladly contact them and invite their applications. Please direct all inquiries to the above.

Walla Walla

Historic Walla Walla is a thriving community, located in the heart of southeastern Washington's beautiful wine country. Although not a large city (pop. 32,000), Walla Walla enjoys a strong sense of community, culture, and place. Museums abound, as do art galleries, shops, theater productions, indoor and outdoor concerts, cafes and restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms. Nationally-recognized Whitman College, Walla Walla University, and Walla Walla Community College lend a 'college town' atmosphere. Abundant year-round outdoor activities, including nearby snow skiing and snowmobiling, fishing in rivers and lakes, hunting, hiking in the mountains, road and mountain biking, and horseback riding make Walla Walla an attractive destination and a satisfying place to live.