



**OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS** powers conservation of nature statewide—from the Olympic Coast to the shrub steppe of eastern Washington. Tackling climate change and supporting the resilience of nature and people rest at the center of The Nature Conservancy’s efforts. The stories below come from staff members who are working to restore and steward lands across the state, support recovery from wildfire, enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, and so much more. Thank you for supporting such vital projects for our state.

## Moses Coulee: From Burn Scar to Sagebrush Recovery

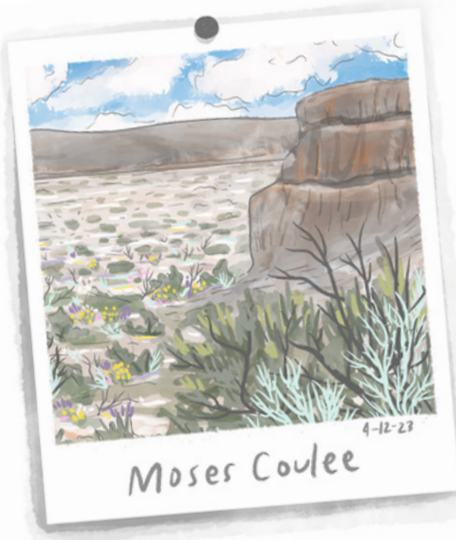
by Daniel Misch, Moses Coulee Assistant Manager

### SAGEBRUSH IS THE LIFEblood

of shrub-steppe ecosystems in eastern Washington. It provides essential food, shelter, and water for the wildlife and communities that rely on this arid landscape. Today, only a fraction of the nearly 300 million acres that once spanned North America is considered intact and in immediate need of conservation. TNC Washington stewards nearly 33,000 acres of sagebrush through a complex of four preserves.

TNC’s land stewards are in the process of restoring the iconic sagebrush, following the devastation caused by the 2020 Pearl Hill Fire burning approximately 400,000 acres in central Washington including 3,000 acres of TNC property in Moses Coulee. TNC staff and volunteers have

collected locally adapted sagebrush seeds from plants that had been spared by the fire. And over the course of a year, BFI Native Seeds in Moses Lake grew the seeds into 5,000 healthy shrub plugs. With sagebrush growing back in across the landscape, there is a renewed sense of hope for wildlife and communities that rely on the land.



Moses Coulee



Illustrations by Erica Simek Sloniker

Learn more about wildfire recovery at [wanature.org/sagebrush-recovery](https://www.nature.org/sagebrush-recovery)

# When Restoration Gets Explosive at Port Susan Bay

by Molly Bogeburg, Marine Conservation Manager; Amber Parmenter, Puget Sound Stewardship Manager; Randi Shaw, Stewardship Director; and Emily Howe, Aquatic Ecologist

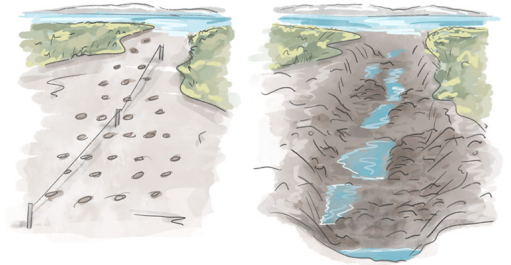


Learn more about our innovative restoration strategies at [wanature.org/port-susan-bay-blast](https://wanature.org/port-susan-bay-blast)

**USING DYNAMITE FOR RESTORATION** may seem like a paradox, but at TNC's Port Susan Bay Preserve, we explored dynamite as a way to create estuary channels. The inspiration behind this method was to see if explosives could reduce the ecological impact of channel creation in comparison to using heavy machinery. In the summer of 2022, TNC trialed this innovative restoration strategy with our first test blast in Port Susan Bay.

The results helped us understand how we could use blasting to reduce impacts to the marsh surface while improving efficacy and precision of channel restoration. Due to the additional permit

requirements involved in using a blasting approach, TNC will be moving forward with restoration at Port Susan Bay without blasting at this time. However, the learnings from this test blast will serve as a baseline of information that can be used by TNC and others in future estuary restoration projects.



# Bringing Back Good Fire in the Central Cascades Forest

by Emily Heber, Media Relations Manager

**WASHINGTON'S FORESTS AND EASTERN LANDSCAPES** evolved with a naturally occurring cycle of fire, and from time immemorial Indigenous communities have used fire as a tool to maintain the health of these lands. Bringing back prescribed fire to the landscape is an essential step for restoring the health of forests and ensuring communities are resilient and can recover quickly following wildfires. This is knowledge that Indigenous communities have had for centuries: fire can be a tool for good.

“Washington's forests and fire-prone landscapes require urgent restoration, and a significant part of

that entails using prescribed burns,” notes Sami Schinnell, TNC Cooperative Fire Director. “By conducting prescribed burns on TNC lands, supporting partner and community-led burns, and providing training opportunities for fire practitioners across Washington, TNC aims to increase the use of prescribed burns as a tool for improving ecosystem health and ensuring communities are more resilient to the impacts of fire.”



Learn more about our fire work at [wanature.org/good-fire](https://wanature.org/good-fire)

## HELP FUND OUR WORK IN WASHINGTON

TNC's yearly expenses for restoration and stewardship across the lands and waters we manage total approximately \$6.3M. Over 60% of these expenses are supported by gifts from donors like you, with your collective generosity helping cover native grass plantings, fence repairs and other projects—tangible efforts that directly benefit Washington's natural places and communities. Increasing your support or joining our Legacy Club provides direct funding to these and other conservation efforts. [Learn more at wanature.org/donate](https://wanature.org/donate)