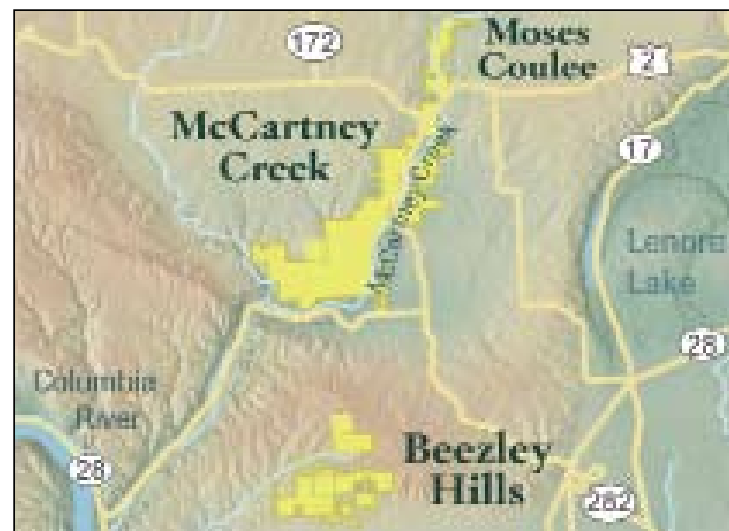


# Moses Coulee/Beezley Hills



KEITH LAZELLE

**The spectacular landforms of the Columbia Plateau reflect some of the most dramatic geological history on Earth.** With its Ice Age flood-carved, steep-walled coulees, its pothole lakes, dunes, haystack boulders, waterfalls and scablands—this area is home to a rich and fragile mosaic of rare living things. Totalling more than 30,000 acres, The Nature Conservancy’s Moses Coulee/Beezley Hills Preserve is an especially rich and diverse example of Washington’s shrub-steppe, also known as “sagebrush country.” Spring-fed creeks thread through Moses Coulee, providing crucial breeding and foraging habitat in an otherwise dry environment. Waterfalls give rise to hanging gardens on canyon walls and create plunge pools replete with life. Between the shrubs and grasses grow a profusion of wildflowers, including sulfur lupine and the vibrant bitterroot, long a favorite food harvested by native peoples.



## Conservation Action

Nearly a third of Washington's entire land mass was historically comprised of the shrub-steppe. Today, more than two-thirds of our shrub-steppe has been lost to agriculture or urban development. The Conservancy is taking the following actions to ensure the long-term conservation of this habitat and its resident species:

- » Partnering with public and private landowners to advance the long-term conservation of 400,000 acres of functional shrub-steppe by identifying lands that connect existing shrub-steppe and by evaluating strategies that improve management and support conservation on private lands.
- » Working with partners to restore riverbank and stream habitat that has been degraded or modified, ensuring the protection of the seeps, springs and small pools that are critical to life in this arid environment.
- » Collaborating with management and regulatory agencies, farmers and ranchers to ensure that appropriate habitat, knowledge and management capacity are available to support viable populations of sage grouse, Columbia sharp-tailed grouse and pygmy rabbits.
- » Providing habitat for 14 of the 15 bat species reported in Washington, the Moses Coulee Preserve is known as the single most important location for this key group of animals in the state. Working with partners, researchers and volunteers to create an inventory and monitoring program to gain the knowledge needed to ensure that appropriate conditions exist and support the long-term conservation of Washington's bat species.

## Future Conservancy Goals

To conserve a large, fully functional example of Washington's shrub-steppe ecosystem through the collaborative efforts of private and public landowners supported by the greater community. To begin the healing process necessary for the long-term survival of one of Washington's most important and imperiled ecosystems.

## Partners

Chelan Douglas Land Trust  
 Douglas County Watershed  
 Planning Unit  
 Foster Creek Conservation District  
 Harriet Bullitt  
 Icicle Fund  
 Murdoch Foundation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
 Administration, Fisheries  
 National Park Service  
 South Douglas Conservation District  
 Dale and Doris Swanson  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural  
 Resource, Conservation Service

U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
 U.S. Department Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Washington Department of Fish and  
 Wildlife  
 Washington Department of Natural  
 Resources  
 Washington State Parks



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## Species of the Moses Coulee/ Beezley Hills Preserve

### Animals

Spotted bat  
 Townsend's  
 bigeared bat  
 Mule deer  
 Coyote  
 Pygmy rabbit  
 Whitetail jackrabbit  
 Washington ground  
 squirrel  
 American badger  
 Porcupine  
 Western rattlesnake  
 Nightsnake

Sage thrasher  
 Sage sparrow  
 Sharp-tailed grouse  
 Loggerhead shrike

### Plants

Wyoming big  
 sagebrush  
 Stiff sagebrush  
 Gray rabbitbrush  
 Bluebunch wheatgrass  
 Sagebrush buttercup  
 Silky lupine  
 Bitter root  
 Hopsage  
 Balsamroot  
 Thyme-leaved  
 buckwheat  
 Needlegrass

### Birds

Golden eagle  
 Prairie falcon  
 Sage grouse



NANCY WARNER/TNC



For more information on the  
 Moses Coulee-Beezley Hills Preserve, call The Nature  
 Conservancy's Wenatchee office at (509) 665-9920,  
 or find us on the Web at [nature.org/washington](http://nature.org/washington).

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