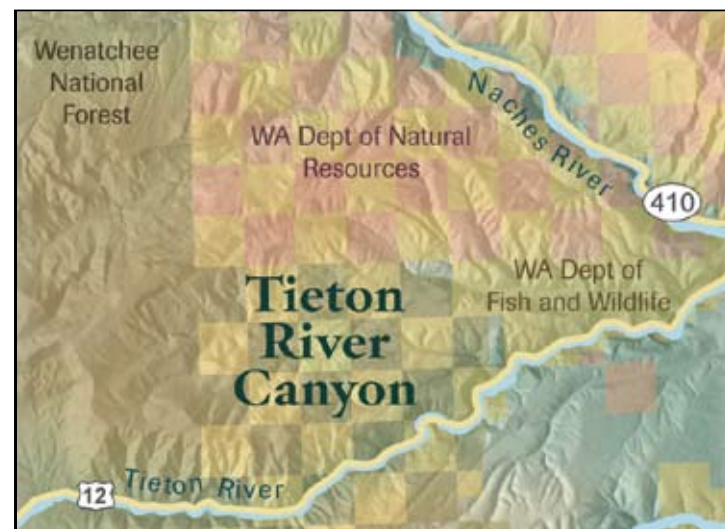


Tieton River Canyon



There's a grandness to the Tieton River Canyon, a larger-than-life magnificence that suggests the kind of place Ansel Adams might have photographed had he come upon it. Twenty miles west of the city of Yakima, the Tieton River Canyon extends from the forested flanks of the East Cascades to the arid, sage-dotted hills of the Columbia Basin.

As with many other parts of the central Cascades, the land around the Tieton River Canyon was owned in a checkerboard pattern, a legacy from the 19th century when Congress gave alternating square miles to railroad companies. The resulting fragmented landscape has been a bane to both timber companies and conservationists. But it also gave the Conservancy and its partners the opportunity to weave the Tieton back together, connecting more than 20,000 acres into a contiguous landscape of protected habitat.



Conservation Actions

- » The Conservancy has purchased about 10,000 acres from Plum Creek Timber Co. and transferred the land in phases to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Oak Creek Wildlife Area, retaining one square mile at the heart of the project to maintain a voice in the canyon's future.
- » Nearly eight miles of the Tieton River and all of the adjacent uplands have been conserved. This is a place of remarkable ecological diversity because of its location between the Columbia Basin shrub-steppe and the forested eastern front of the Cascade Mountains.
- » The acquisition project has also spurred formation of a larger coalition for healthy forests, the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative. The Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Yakama Nation have agreed to collaborate on forest health, river recovery and recreation on nearly 2 million acres of forest.

Future Conservancy Goals

The Tieton project is a “platform site” from which to launch new protection, restoration and policy strategies. The Conservancy envisions working throughout the east slope of the Cascades to:

- » Acquire strategic private lands from willing sellers and facilitate private investments in working forests in the Naches basin and Simcoe Mountains that connect public lands and allow healthy fires to return to the landscape.
- » Work with partners to design and implement cost-effective forest practices that will reduce the fuel for catastrophic wildfires and demonstrate the use of new economic tools, including certified wood products and carbon markets in the Naches, Upper Yakima and Okanogan watersheds.
- » Advocate for public policies across the east Cascades to prevent catastrophic wildfires, promote markets for ecosystem services, and improve the performance measures used for public lands management.

Partners

Audubon Washington
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Natural Resources

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Yakama Nation
Yakima County Board of Commissioners
Yakima Kayak Club
Yakima Valley Community Foundation



LEE TRIVETTE

Species of the Tieton

Amphibians

Cascade torrent salamander
Foothill yellow-legged frog
Red-legged frog
Western toad

Williamson's sapsucker
Willow flycatcher
American yellow rail

Fish

Bull trout
Steelhead

Birds

American white pelican
Black-backed woodpecker
Common loon
Golden eagle
Harlequin duck
Lewis's woodpecker
Northern goshawk
Northern spotted owl
Northern waterthrush
Peregrine falcon
Pileated woodpecker
Red-necked grebe
Sandhill crane
Swainson's hawk
Western snowy plover
White-faced ibis

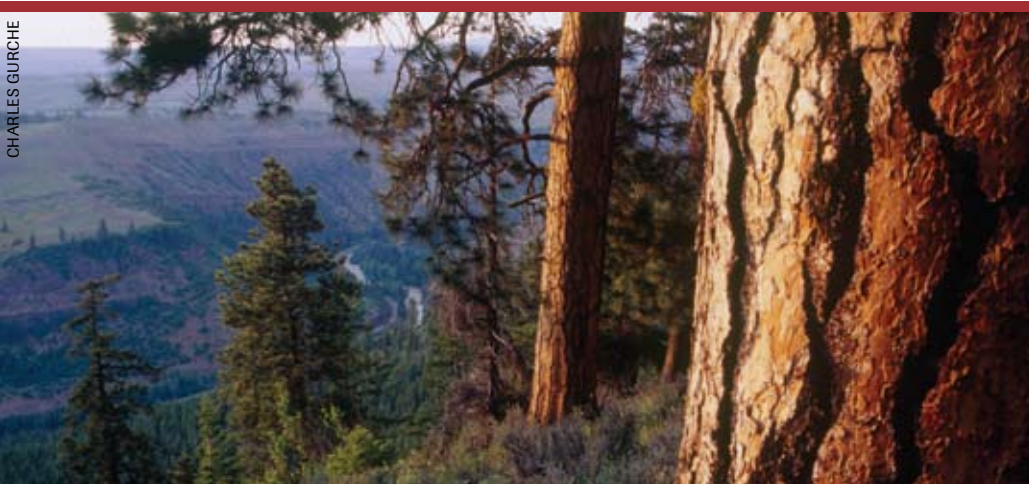
Mammals

Marten
Mountain lion
Bighorn sheep
California wolverine
Fisher
Fringed myotis
Long-legged myotis
Mountain goat
Pygmy rabbit
Ringtail
Sierra Nevada red fox
Townsend's big-eared bat
Western gray squirrel

Plants

Kittitas larkspur
Oregon white oak
Ponderosa pine

CHARLES GURCHE



The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

For more information on the Tieton River Canyon, call The Nature Conservancy's South Central Washington office at (509) 665-9920, or find us on the Web at nature.org/washington.

The Nature Conservancy | South Central Office
1001 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 325 | Yakima, WA 98902