



## OUR LAKE COUNTY – RURAL VOICES ON A CHANGING LAND PROJECT 2020

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Do Lake County folks have a deep understanding and appreciation of their land - the diverse landscapes and nature?

From the dynamic vastness of the ever-changing sky and clouds, to weather changes sweeping in, to the incredible vistas that change dramatically with the shifting light, to the soil, grasses, forests, rivers, to the most delicate of wildflowers, to the drama of impacts to the land like fire, juniper encroachment, all the choices in recreating in special places, and so much more.

The answers to these questions is a resounding **YES!**

There is a wonderful opportunity to capture and share the many ways that the community of Lake County understands the land they live in and with. A project - "RURAL VOICES ON A CHANGING LAND" - funded through grants from Oregon organizations along with community partners, has activities and community conversations with the goal to distill the community's love and understanding of the landscape and environment in distinctive words and photographs that can be shared.

The project is a partnership of artist Carolyn Law and a couple non-profit organizations in the county. Law first came to Lake County six years ago for a residency at PLAYA Arts & Science Residency on the west side of Summer Lake. She had seen a lot of the western US but in truth, the landscape of Lake County is one of the more amazing with all its diversity in the landforms, vistas, and environments. When first at PLAYA she interacted with the grade 2-5 kids at Paisley school where the kids were asked to share their love of their special places in the landscape. Law then talked to various community folks about their Lake County landscape. Then she talked with Jim Walls at Lake County Resource Initiative and the head librarian, Amy Hutchinson, at the Lakeview Library about the idea of creating a project for the Lake County community to share their deep understanding and love of this landscape and environment with stories and photos capturing what they observe is changing, what places have specific memories, and what parts of their landscape are just plain loved. From all the collected stories and photos, the community would help to distill these thoughts and images down to a description of their land coming directly from this deep understanding and experience.

The project, "Rural Voices on a Changing Land", is the result. Phase 1 took place in 2018 with a grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust. During this phase there were photography workshops; a community landscape photography show exhibited in Lakeview, Paisley and Christmas Valley; launched an interactive website for people to overlay their photos and written thoughts over a goggle earth map of the county and

“Re-Map” the county with markers at locations that linked to an individual’s words and photo describing that specific place; had in-depth interviews with 18 people all over the county; and finally three community conversations in 3 locations to share thoughts about the land.

NOW -- We are launching Phase 2 of this exciting, interactive project through a grant from Oregon Humanities. Partners are Lake County Resource Initiative and the Lake County libraries.

We will have an on-going collecting of landscape photographs and words through a group Facebook page, virtual field trips into the landscape, another community landscape photography show, the [www.ourlakecounty.org](http://www.ourlakecounty.org) interactive website, transforming of the interviews into different formats to share, a movie/conversation event and a final town hall conversation event to craft the final unique language and images that captures and describes the relationship between the people and their land.

Dates and events will be advertised by posters, Facebook group, and community groups.

STAY TUNED!!