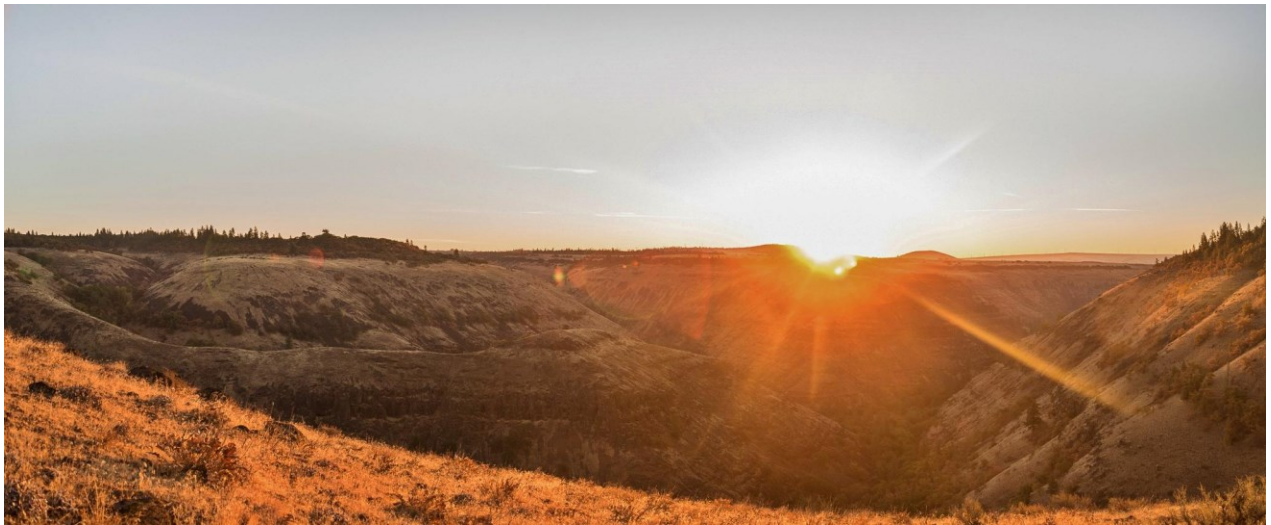


# RAINBOW SPRINGS

*Seventy-three acres of critical habitat, a year-round spring, and old-growth oak forest in the Rock Creek watershed will be permanently protected within the Sacred Earth Foundation land trust.*

*SEF placed a \$20,000 down payment on the property in 2017, with \$40,000 carried over the next six years. Please consider helping us finish this project with a contribution to the Conservation Fund today.*

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## **The importance:**

Rainbow Springs is a jewel on the upper reaches of Rock Creek, eastern Klickitat County's most important watershed. A natural year-round spring provides critical water in a dry region. A stand of ancient Garry Oaks (Oregon White Oak) provides rich habitat and food for wildlife. This land is a home and corridor for cougar, bobcat, lynx, black bear, coyote, porcupine, deer, a wide variety of birds, and the Western Grey Squirrel, a threatened species.

## **The risk:**

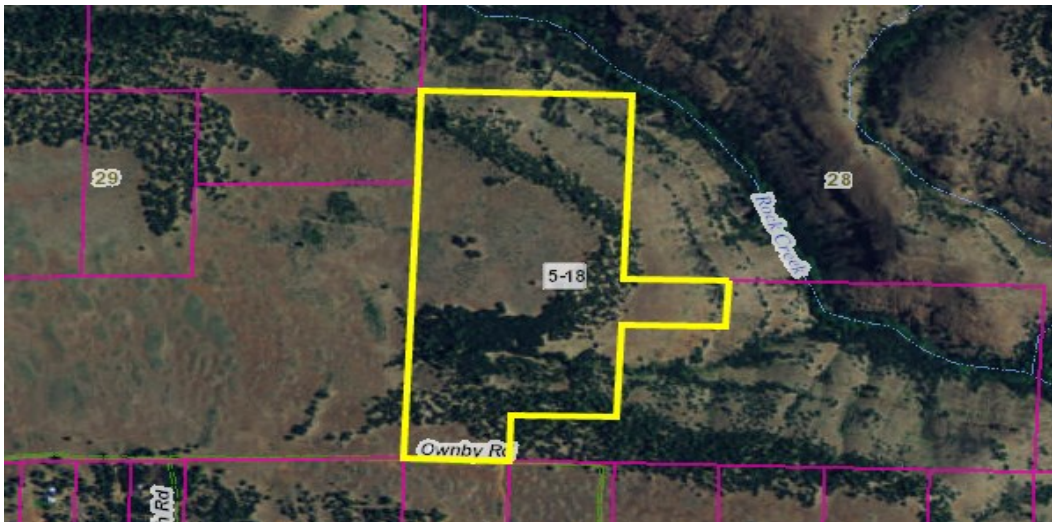
The risks of this parcel being on the open market was potentially disastrous for the land, spring, and wildlife that depend on it. Klickitat County's zoning allows parcels as small as 5 acres. There is no other development on the rim of upper Rock Creek, but this spectacular overlook would be a tempting location for a trophy home. Hunters and ranchers made inquiries about acquiring the parcel for hunting, off-road vehicle trails, and cattle. Oak is prized firewood. Any of these outcomes would jeopardize the fragile soils of the canyon rim, the wildlife corridor, the purity of the spring, and the integrity of this special habitat.

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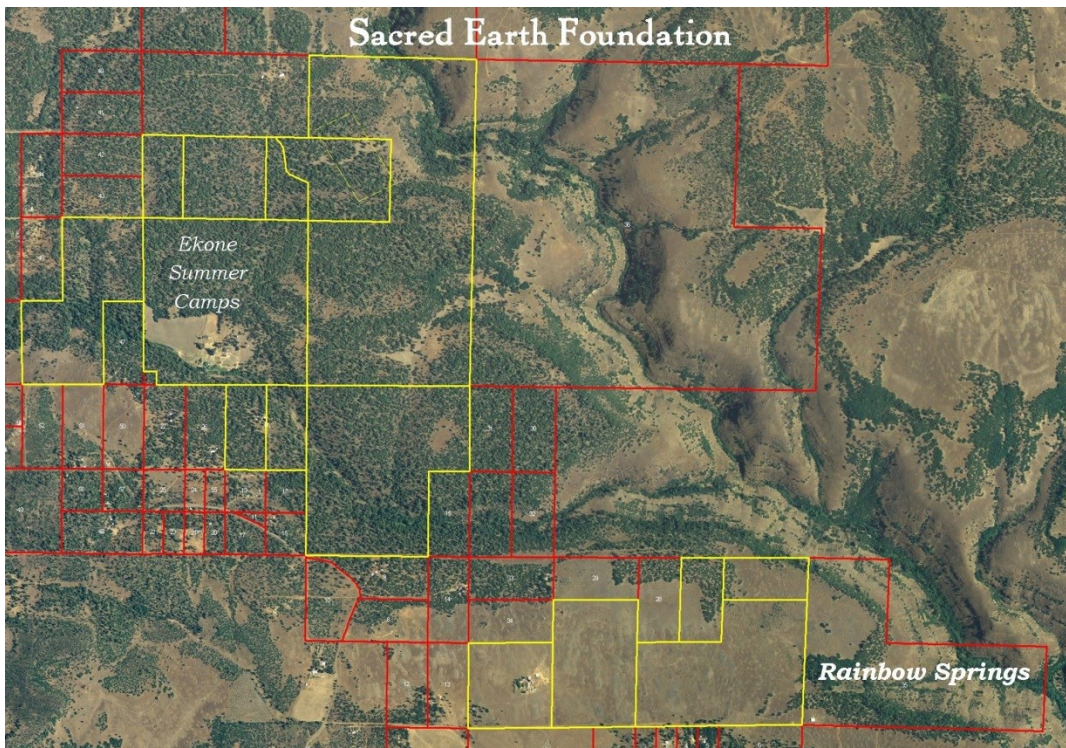
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## Maps

The parcel under consideration is outlined in yellow (parcel #0518280000200). To the west is Sacred Earth Foundation; to the north is Bureau of Land Management; to the east is land held by a conservation-minded friend of SEF.



In the map below, all of the parcels outlined in yellow are current Sacred Earth Foundation holdings. Rainbow Springs (in its previous 160-acre parcel size prior to recent division) is noted at bottom right. This parcel is integral to the conservation priorities of SEF.





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## The opportunity:

When a previous long-term owner put Rainbow Springs on the open market, a generous conservationist stepped in as a bridge buyer to protect the land from harm and speculation, while Sacred Earth Foundation worked towards acquisition of the most critical habitat on the parcel. Seventy-three acres were identified as the most valuable to wildlife and vulnerable to misuse, and was offered to SEF at below market value and on favorable terms.

SEF has a long history with Rainbow Springs. For thirty years of Ekone Summer Camps on SEF land, Rainbow Springs has been a special destination for trail rides, picnics, campouts and retreats. We have an intimate knowledge of this land and are well prepared to serve as its stewards. Under SEF care, Rainbow Springs will continue to inspire the next generation of earth stewards, while prioritizing the land itself and the interests of the wild things that depend on it for home, food, water, and safe passage.

## The need:

When we launched the Conservation Fund, Ekone's community responded generously. This enabled us to put a \$20,000 down payment on the property, with \$40,000 carried over the next 6 years. These generous terms enabled us to reserve a portion of the Conservation Fund for other acquisitions, including the Aspen Grove and, eventually, the Fir Forest.

Please consider making an investment in the permanent protection of this priceless property, with a donation to the [Conservation Fund](#).

## You're invited:

Please come experience Rainbow Springs for yourself. Sit on the edge of the bluff with the world dropping away before your feet and acres of balsam and lupine at your back. Listen to the music of Rock Creek far below and feel the wind parting the air around you. Taste the cold, sweet spring water, and watch for the shy bushy tails of the grey squirrels diving into gnarled holes in the old oaks. Let us bring you a picnic, and we'll talk together about making sure this place remains whole and healthy for generations to come.

## Contact:

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## Photographs





