

# McKenzie River Trust

## Community Profile

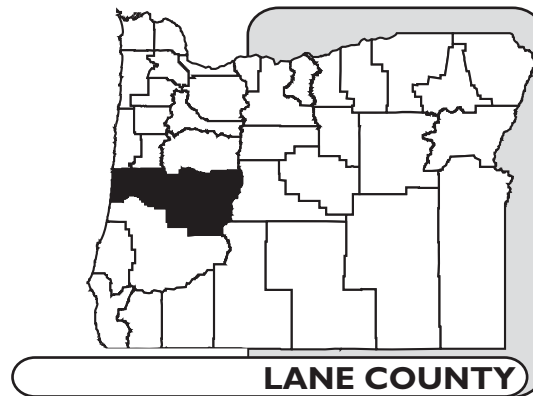
**Population** 137,893

**Location** Eugene

## Position Description

**Sponsor** McKenzie River Trust

**Supervisor** Joe Moll  
Executive Director



**Assignment** **Natural Resource Management.** The McKenzie River Trust (MRT) is a nonprofit land trust formed in 1989 to protect the critical habitat and scenic lands in the McKenzie basin. In 2000, MRT expanded its service area to include the Siuslaw, Long Tom, Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette, and Umpqua watersheds. MRT works with landowners and diverse partners to protect over 2,250 acres of special lands in Lane and Douglas counties.

The RARE participant placed with (MRT) is focusing on all aspects of a new land acquisition. As part of the acquisition, the participant is developing a partnership framework, conducting a collaborative assessment of project feasibility, and creating an implementation strategy. During the acquisition period, the participant gathers and records field data, develops water quality monitoring approaches, creates outreach materials, and is writing a management plan. The RARE participant is learning to understand how to integrate new parcels of land into an existing trust and how to work with multiple stakeholders to encourage good stewardship of floodplain and riparian lands.

## RARE Participant



Melanie Knapp

**Melanie Knapp** grew up in Evansville, Indiana. She graduated from Indiana University of with a BS in Biology. As a student, Melanie worked as a research assistant and a natural sciences lab manager. Following graduation, she volunteered, worked, and interned at numerous small farms in Indiana and Oregon. Currently, Melanie is also pursuing concurrent master degrees in Environmental Science and Community and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon. Her focus is on conflict resolution and policy analysis.