

Rebecca Biddle Wood Hardesty and Mary Christina Wood

Rebecca Biddle Wood Hardesty is a commercial real estate attorney who has her own firm in Boise, Idaho. Prior to that, she was a real estate attorney for Albertson's, Inc. in Boise, ID and for the law firm of Gray, Cary, in San Diego, CA. Rebecca graduated Order of the Coif, at University of California, Davis Law School in 1987. Although Rebecca's expertise is complex commercial real estate transactions, she has focused a great deal of her professional energy on conservation issues and has taught several workshops and skills seminars on conservation transactions at the University of Oregon, School of Law. She is actively engaged in several environmental causes in the Northwest, including the protection of Oregon's Metolius River Basin from resort development and safeguarding urban areas in Boise from pesticides. Rebecca leads the "Green Team" for the Treasure Valley YMCA in its mission to develop an environmentally responsible youth camp. Rebecca is also a professional water color painter and teaches art to children in the Boise School District. Her paintings have been exhibited in numerous shows and galleries throughout Idaho and appear on the book covers of several Oregon and Idaho history books. She is the mother of four children (including twins), and is an avid cyclist and skier.

Mary Christina Wood is Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon School of Law, where she teaches property law, natural resources law, public trust law, federal Indian law, and other courses. She is the Founding Director of the school's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program and is Faculty Leader of the Program's Conservation Trust Project. After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1987, she served as a judicial clerk on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and then practiced with Perkins Coie, a Pacific Northwest law firm. She is a co-author of a leading textbook on natural resources law and has published extensively on environmental and native law issues. Mary is speaking throughout the Northwest to bring attention to the urgency of climate crisis and is currently working on two books, one entitled, *Planetary Patriotism: A Civic Manifesto for Climate Crisis*, and the other entitled, *Nature's Trust: A Legal Paradigm for Protecting Land and Natural Resources for Future Generations*. She is the mother of three boys and is an avid cyclist, skate skier and backpacker.

Rebecca and Mary are identical twins and come from a long line of conservationists. They grew up at Wood's Landing on the Columbia River, a place that represents the juncture of two families -- the Woods and Biddles -- both notable in local and regional conservation history. Their great-grandfather, Henry J. Biddle, purchased the Columbia River property, which he called the Columbia Grove, in 1889. He was a collateral relative of Nicholas Biddle, who edited the Lewis and Clark Journals. A conservationist with civic spirit, Henry J. Biddle also purchased Beacon Rock upriver on the Columbia to save the sacred monolith from being blown up by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Biddle family later donated Beacon Rock and surrounding lands to the State of Washington for use as a park. Rebecca and Mary's father, Erskine Biddle Wood, spearheaded a family effort to donate lands that are now named the Henry J. Biddle Park, located next to the Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. Rebecca and

Mary's grandmother, Rebecca Biddle Wood, married Erskine Wood, who was the son of C.E.S. Wood, a well-known lawyer, artist, writer, and champion of many conservation and Indian causes. As a boy, young Erskine lived for two seasons with Chief Joseph, the great leader of the Nez Perce Band of Wallowa Indians. As an adult Erskine lived with his wife Rebecca on the Columbia Grove and hosted Nez Perce dignitaries at special welcome dinners – a tradition that today is hosted by Mary and Rebecca's brother, Erskine, and his wife Sandy, and other Wood family members at the same historic location.

When their father Erskine died in 2001 just short of 90 years old, he left his property on the Columbia River to Rebecca and Mary and their three siblings. Learning that the site was habitat for an imperiled population of chum salmon, the family donated a conservation easement to the Columbia Land Trust protect the spawning grounds in perpetuity. As the transaction was being finalized, the adjacent parcel of habitat across Joseph's Creek – which historically had been their grandfather's home -- was purchased by a developer. That parcel, as well as other parcels providing a water source for the chum's spawning habitat, were subject to imminent development threats.

During the period from 2000 – 2005 Rebecca and Mary, along with their siblings, spearheaded and managed what grew to be a four year, six million dollar conservation project involving a six parcel assemblage along the Columbia River to preserve the full spawning habitat for the chum salmon. This complex real estate project involved 12 different property owners, over 26 interested governmental agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations, and charitable organizations and included a combination of several different conservation easements and ancillary real estate transactions. The project, known as the "Columbia Grove Project," involved a partnership between the City of Vancouver, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Columbia Land Trust, the Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, and the Wood Family. Mary was responsible for the grass roots organizing, coordination with agencies, and part of the fund raising, and Rebecca was responsible for the legal and business structuring, negotiating, implementation and closing of this complex conservation project. In 2005, the project received a 2005 SAMMY award from Clark County, Washington and a Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission Partnership Award.

Their keynote address for the 2008 Sammy Award is entitled *Saved by the Salmon*.