

**Nisqually Land Trust**  
**POLICY ON PUBLIC USE OF LAND TRUST LANDS**

April 21, 2016

Revised November 17, 2016

Nisqually Land Trust strives to provide opportunities for appropriate public use of its properties in ways that are consistent with the Land Trust's mission of acquiring and managing critical lands to permanently benefit the water, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed. While protecting and restoring natural areas does provide both direct and indirect benefits to the public, the Land Trust also fosters connections between people and the natural world. Through this policy and related procedures, the Land Trust defines three categories for Land Trust properties.

All of the Land Trust's Protected Areas contain sensitive habitats, such as wetlands, riparian corridors, and shorelines. Many of the Land Trust's Protected Areas provide refuge for threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species. These properties are managed to promote the most beneficial habitats for fish and wildlife species.

The Land Trust recognizes that appropriate public access to these protected habitats will promote connections with these species and habitats; understanding of the natural processes that support these species and habitats; and a culture of conservation.

Nisqually Land Trust facilitates public access on an ongoing basis through stewardship, education, and recreation activities led by Land Trust staff and partners. These supported activities include: nature walks; environmental education for K-8 school groups; service learning and research opportunities for high school and college classes; stewardship work parties; wildlife surveys; water quality monitoring; an annual Nisqually River float trip; and the Site Stewards program. When acquiring property, the Land Trust evaluates the opportunity to provide public access as one criterion in the overall evaluation of the conservation values of the property.

Nisqually Land Trust properties are not managed as parks and do not have developed facilities or visitor amenities (e.g. parking lots, restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, maintained trails, trash containers; boat ramps; etc.). As resources are available, the Land Trust will seek to develop infrastructure to expand public access opportunities at one or more sites.