



Nisqually Land Trust

Fall/Winter 2014
Newsletter

Going the Extra Mile for Ohop Creek

By Candi Tobin and Kim Bredensteiner

This summer one of the most ambitious restoration projects ever undertaken in the Nisqually Watershed picked up speed once again. Phase III of the Ohop Creek Restoration Project began in June with the construction of a new meandering stream channel, engineered logjams and other habitat enhancement features that benefit fish and wildlife.

Ohop Creek is the second-largest tributary of the Nisqually River and provides critical rearing and spawning habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon, both of which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

In the nineteenth century the Ohop Valley was converted from a swampy wetland into pastureland for dairy farming. Part of that transformation involved diverting flows and ditching the creek, which resulted in higher water temperatures and

turbidity that lessened water quality and contributed to diminished Nisqually River salmon runs.

Nearly 125 years later, led by the Nisqually Indian Tribe, conservation partners and agencies from across the South Puget Sound have united to reclaim the floodplain and rescue devastated salmonid populations. By early September construction crews and engineers had dug over a mile of fish-friendly channel.

Next summer the restoration will add another quarter-mile of meandering creek that will connect the previously restored sections to an unscathed section in the Nisqually-Mashel State Park and bring the total channel restored to over 2.5 miles! 🌿

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\$10 million project will restore vital habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout

Matteus Rabel, representing the fifth generation of the Burwash family in the Ohop Valley, moves a shovelful of new channel dirt during the Ohop Creek Phase III groundbreaking ceremony. This critical phase of the restoration takes place entirely on land purchased from the Burwash family. (Photo: Emmett O'Connell)



Land Trust poised to acquire 202 acres adjoining Northwest Trek! Read more on page 11.



OUR MISSION

The Nisqually Land Trust acquires and manages critical lands to permanently protect the water, wildlife, natural areas, and scenic vistas of the Nisqually River Watershed.

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The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nisqually Land Trust Day

"Nisqually Land Trust Day" was celebrated in Yelm on September 23. Proclaimed by the mayor, the big event even made the front page of the Nisqually Valley News. Don't worry if you missed it, Joe Kane and I were there and toasted the occasion on your behalf.

Why all the fuss? Because we are celebrating 25 years of protecting the Nisqually River and its tributaries, and we're just a little proud of that - as we should be. Especially this year, when so many tremendous projects were completed or started: the Petersen Ranch easement acquisition; the next phase of Ohop Creek restoration; and, suddenly, the Nisqually Community Forest "idea" becoming a very cool reality!

We're doing real, important work here, friends!

At our annual meeting (read: "fun salmon bake"), 26 Land Trust supporters received special T-shirts and recognition for 25 hours or more of volunteer work this year. Unique shirts with a graphic designed by our very own Charly Kearns, they symbolize commitment and dedication and proclaim that, for some, every day is Nisqually Land Trust Day. It certainly is for me.

I see "our" river nearly every day, and I literally smile every time. I look up at Mount Rainier and can almost see the Nisqually Glacier melting into headwaters. I am constantly reminded of the great work done by our own good people and others who work with us to make our vision a reality. And though the 400 steelhead trout that survive in the Nisqually can't tell us how they feel about all this, I'm glad for them. The biologists have confirmed that without the protections we've put in place, that species of salmon would likely be extinct in the Nisqually Watershed. So far, we've prevented that from happening. It doesn't get much more important than that.

Soon, hundreds of school kids will be connecting with the river as their teachers and the Nisqually Education Project help them learn how to test water and enrich the riparian ecosystem by throwing harvested salmon back into the river. And they will come to understand what all that means to them and the world they are due to inherit. I think the next 25 years will be in good hands.

See you on the river!

Oh, and if you want one of those commemorative T-shirts, there is still time to get your 25 hours in. Just call Cris at the office and he'll get you signed up. ☘



Joe Kane
Board President

Land Trust, Tribe Proposals Earn Highest Rankings

Could bring \$7 million for steelhead habitat

Two eleventh-hour proposals to acquire critical habitat for threatened Nisqually steelhead trout have received the top rankings in their respective grant competitions and will be proposed to the state legislature for funding in the next biennium budget.

Jointly prepared by the Land Trust and the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the proposals could bring \$7 million into the watershed for protection of almost two thousand acres of forestlands and nearly fifteen miles of salmon shoreline and feeder streams.

"This news could not have come at a better time," said Chris Ellings, Salmon Recovery Manager for the Nisqually Watershed. "We're down to average spawning runs of just 400 adult steelhead. We have a species on the verge of blinking out. Protecting this habitat is an absolute top priority to keep this species viable."

A proposal for \$6 million is ranked first in the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund's Large Capital Project category, and a complementary proposal for \$1.1 million is the top-ranked project in the Riparian category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

The properties are located along Busy Wild Creek, the headwaters of the Mashel River. The Mashel is the largest tributary to the Nisqually River and was once one of the Northwest's premier steelhead streams, with annual spawning runs of up to 8,500 fish.

Last December the Nisqually Indian Tribe developed the state's first steelhead recovery plan for a Puget Sound species, which

dramatically documented the fragile condition of the watershed's steelhead population and called out the seven miles of Busy Wild Creek as highest priority for protection and restoration of steelhead and Chinook salmon spawning habitat.

Shortly thereafter, the Land Trust learned that critical areas of the upper Busy Wild were scheduled for commercial timber harvest in the summer of 2014, which the Tribe's fisheries biologists believed could have a devastating impact on the remaining steelhead population.

Alerted to the potential threat to steelhead viability, the landowner, Hancock Natural Resource Group, agreed to postpone harvest pending Land Trust acquisition of at least a portion of the property by the close of this year, with the remainder to be secured over the next two to three years.

"These acquisitions are a long way from a sure thing," said Land Trust Executive Director Joe Kane. "They depend on many variables, including the legislature's willingness to fund the grant programs and our ability to reach agreement with the landowner on fair-market value for the properties. And even in the best case, the funds won't be available until next year."

Based on the grant rankings, however, and a history of successful conservation projects with Hancock, the Land Trust will take the risk of borrowing money for the first purchase in advance of funding certainty. "There really is no question that we have to do it," said Kane. "When weighing risks, the possibility of losing a species is the one we can't afford to take." ☘

The headwaters basin of Busy Wild Creek, where the Land Trust and the Nisqually Indian Tribe hope to protect 1,920 acres of steelhead habitat.

Join the Nisqually Legacy Circle

The amount of land protected by the Land Trust and our partners is growing rapidly – and so is the need to build a robust, permanent fund to support its stewardship in perpetuity. One great way for our supporters and friends to help do this is to provide for a gift to the Land Trust in their estate-planning documents, such as wills, trusts, annuities, and insurance policies.

Join Us!
February 25, 2015

For the individual or family with a history of supporting the Land Trust, such provisions continue that support after death. For those for whom a financial contribution is not an option during their lifetime, a bequest is a way to make such a contribution without jeopardizing needed resources. There are many options in the estate-planning arena that a qualified professional can explain and help establish.

Because identifying members of a cause attracts more like-minded folks, we're launching the Nisqually Legacy Circle, a cadre of committed supporters who are willing to publicly declare that they have remembered the Land Trust in their testamentary documents.

You are invited to attend the first meeting and discussion of the Legacy Circle on Wednesday, February 25, 2015. We hope you will sign up and sign on. ✍

For more information, please contact Nicole at nhill@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-489-3400 ext 105.



The wetland complex near the headwaters of Powell Creek. (Photo: Charly Kearns)

Thurston County Proclaims “Conservation Week”

Work of local land trusts recognized

In September, Thurston County Commissioners Karen Valenzuela, Sandra Romero, and Cathy Wolfe signed a proclamation to declare September 14-20, 2014, “Conservation Week” in Thurston County. The proclamation recognized the work of five local land trusts: Nisqually Land Trust, Capitol Land Trust, South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, and Creekside Conservancy.

“Land trusts have been operating in Thurston County for over 25 years,” said Joe Kane, executive director of the Nisqually Land Trust and vice-president of the Washington Association of Land Trusts. “I don’t think there’s any other county in the state that has such a concentration of conservation expertise and such a record of accomplishment.”

“It’s deeply satisfying to have the county commissioners recognize the role these organizations play in protecting the county’s most special places for all of us. But it’s also worth noting that the county itself has played a vital role in that success. In the end, it’s about partnerships.”

In recognizing the Nisqually Land Trust, the commissioners highlighted the Land Trust’s role as “a leader in the robust partnership of local, state, federal and tribal partners that has now permanently protected an astonishing 77 percent of the shoreline of the main stem of the Nisqually River, Thurston County’s wildest river.” ✍

Reflections on 25 Years: What a Journey It’s Been!

By George Walter

Since 1979 I have been the Nisqually Indian Tribe’s environmental-program manager, working to protect salmon habitat in the Nisqually Watershed. When I first learned that a local group could create a non-profit charity to protect land, I thought – and said to others – “We’ve got to have one of these!”

It took awhile, but in 1989 we incorporated the “Nisqually River Basin Land Trust” (later shortened to Nisqually Land Trust). What was most attractive about land trusts is that they are non-governmental. They protect habitat by acquiring property through donation and by purchase from willing sellers: an environmental goal achieved through private means.

This mix was reflected in the list of our incorporators: Larry Schorno (farmer, private-property advocate), Mary Martin (then president of the Nisqually Delta Association), Karen Fraser (elected official) and others. I was elected the first president. Later J.T Wilcox, a partner in the Wilcox Family Farm, joined the board.

There probably were political issues that we didn’t agree on, but we all did agree to work together to use the tools available to a nature conservancy to protect the Nisqually Watershed.

Our first land deal was a two-acre donation of shoreline property. Only two acres, but a start. I remember Ken Braget telling me, “If you’re only getting two acres at a time, you’ll never reach your goals.” I said something that I have repeated many times since: “It may be two acres, but it’s permanent. And two acres by two acres, we’re going to protect this river corridor.” And we have!

In the early years I laid out two goals. First, protect and enhance salmon by protecting and enhancing land along the Nisqually River and its major tributaries. Second, recognize that the Nisqually Watershed is the main entrance to Mount Rainier

National Park and protect the scenic and habitat values along this travel corridor. I think we’ve done a great job in meeting these goals.

Finally, I want to identify three key accomplishments over these past 25 years.

- The first, of course, was to get established and actually survive. But the real accomplishment is that we have convinced so many people that we are a viable organization worthy of support, and that we are a permanent part of the Nisqually Watershed’s future.

I believe that ordinary folks direct their hard-earned money our way because they realize that together we are creating a substantial legacy. I am always amazed, and humbled, that so many are willing to donate so much to the Land Trust, and to include it in their estate planning.

- A second accomplishment is our transition to a professionally staffed organization. We now have employees who have built their careers on making the Land Trust thrive. This is essential. Can you imagine managing thousands of acres only with volunteers?

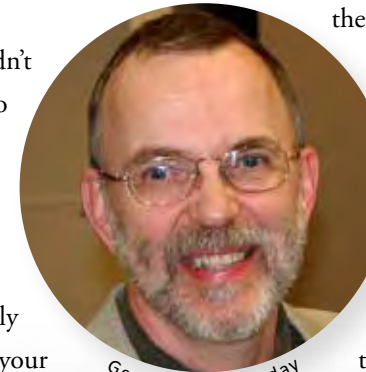
- A third accomplishment is developing a strategic plan, and using it. Now we all know how our efforts fit into the larger picture. This is a vital part of making the Land Trust permanent. You may wonder why I have not mentioned the land itself; after all, we have protected some

5,000 acres of shoreline, forest and wetland. In my view, protecting land is the result of our other accomplishments. These lands are the dividends, and they’re wonderful – I just love to walk our wild properties.

Finally, on a personal note, we have accomplished a succession of leadership within the Land Trust governing board. I no longer feel the need to be president to make sure that the Land Trust succeeds. I know that it will! ✍



George Walter, circa 1989



George Walter, today

The Hauge (pronounced How-guh) parcel was donated in 1989 and became the first property acquired by the Land Trust. (Photo: Kim Bredensteiner)

2014 Ohop Valley Restoration Project Activities

Continued from cover



Mini-Bioblitz: On April 4, teams of volunteers descended on the lower Ohop Valley to do a pre-construction bioblitz – an intensive one-day survey of the plants and critters utilizing the valley. Guided by expert biologists and botanists, these volunteers braved foul weather to document the plants, mammals, birds and amphibians on the property. Just like Nature Mapping, volunteers recorded the wild sights, sounds and signs of the Ohop Valley ecosystem. The event was hosted by Nisqually Stream Stewards in collaboration with Northwest Trek and the Land Trust.

Volunteers scour the bank of Ohop Creek for otter tracks during the Ohop Mini-Bioblitz event. (Photo: Laurie Fait)

Groundbreaking Ceremony: Phase III of the Ohop Valley Restoration Project kicked off in early July and we celebrated with a groundbreaking event at the Burwash Farm. Mr. Stephen Burwash, who is 93 years old and first lived on the farm when he was 14, sold the property to the Land Trust in 2012 and said at the ceremony that "...this is just a good send off for this old place." Without the acquisition of this property, restoration of Ohop Creek between Highway 7 and the Nisqually-Mashel State Park would not be possible.

Leadership and representatives from the agencies and partners involved in the restoration project dig into soil scooped from the new creek channel. (Photo: Emmett O'Connell)



Ohop under Construction: Crews from RV Associates Inc. worked tirelessly through the summer to dig over a mile of new creek channel and install habitat-creating logjams. Staff from South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and CardnoENTRIX provided project management and oversight. Restoring the meandering channel in the center of the valley is the first step toward recreating a mosaic of native wetland habitats across the valley floor. Over time, the improved Ohop Creek will offer slower, cooler waters and enhanced habitat conditions for wildlife, particularly coho and other vulnerable salmonids.

The construction team used heavy machinery to dig the new channel. (Photo: Brian Combs)



Construction of Phase III of the Ohop Valley Restoration project kicked off in July. (Photo: Charly Kearns)



Fish-Out: It took dozens of staff and volunteers several hot August days to collect over 7,000 creatures from the channelized section of Ohop Creek and sort, count and relocate them to an undisturbed part of the creek downstream of the active construction zone. A variety of techniques, including pumping water out of the old channel and around the new, helped personnel round up the critters for re-homing. Salmonids, freshwater mussels, crayfish, lampreys and aquatic snails were among the multitude of species recovered during the fish-out.

Volunteers and staff search for fish, amphibians, mussels, invertebrates, and other critters to rescue from the receding waters in the old channel. (Photo: Charly Kearns)

A New Channel Is Born: By the beginning of September, water was flowing through the newly-constructed section of Ohop Creek. Once the earthen plug that isolated the new channel during construction was removed, waters from upstream began moving freely through it. Willow stakes installed at the logjams were already starting to grow new leaves. There is approximately a quarter-mile of channel restoration remaining in Phase III that will be completed in summer 2015. Upon completion, the restored channel will once again be connected to a natural, unaltered reach of Ohop Creek. Native trees and shrubs will be planted along the channel this winter.

A bend in the newly-constructed channel of Ohop Creek. (Photo: Kim Bredensteiner)



Revegetating the Floodplain: This fall and winter, the Nisqually Indian Tribe will coordinate over 20 acres of planting in the Ohop Valley in collaboration with the Nisqually River Education Project and the Land Trust. Volunteers, school groups and the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Restoration Crew will install over 15,000 plants in the lower Ohop Valley this year. Planting for this phase of the project will continue over the next two winters.

Volunteers hard at work during one of the first plantings of the Ohop Restoration Project, in 2009. (Photo: Anita Kennedy)

Ohop Creek Restoration Project Funders & Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service • Nisqually Indian Tribe • Nisqually River Council • Northwest Trek Wildlife Park • Pierce County Conservation District • South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group • Puget Sound Partnership • Students & Volunteers • Tacoma Public Utilities • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • WA Department of Ecology • WA Department of Fish and Wildlife • WA Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Board • WA State Parks

Join the Land Trust Stewardship Team for a Volunteer Work Party!

We are in the field every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at various sites throughout the watershed.

Help us plant trees, pick up trash, control invasive species, and much more! Volunteering is a fun way to see the properties, exercise, and improve wildlife habitat around the Nisqually River Watershed. Are you too busy on Wednesdays? Visit our online event calendar at www.nisquallylandtrust.org/events to sign up for any of our multiple Saturday work parties scheduled each month. 🌿

For more information, visit our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org, or contact Cris at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-489-3400 ext 106.



Site Stewards Workshop Coming Soon!

Are wild places important to you? Do you enjoy walking through the woods in your free time? Are you interested in helping to care for critical habitat throughout the Nisqually River Watershed? If you answered yes to the questions above, then becoming a Site Steward might be for you!



You are invited to come learn about the Land Trust's Site Steward Program and potentially adopt a property. This year we are pleased to offer two Saturday workshops; join us from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on either January 31 at the Lion's Club Cabin in Yelm or February 28 at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Auditorium in Olympia. 🌿

For more information or to register for this free training event, please contact Cris at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-489-3400 ext 106.

2015 Conservation Dinner and Auction

Mark Your Calendars!

The Nisqually Land Trust's annual Conservation Dinner and Auction will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2015**, at Saint Martin's Worthington Center in Lacey. Join us for fine dining, music, and a spirited live auction.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event or donating an auction item, please contact Nicole at nhill@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-489-3400 ext 105. 🌿



The live auction traditionally offers many fine Pacific Northwest Native American art pieces up for bid.



Nisqually River Float Trips Return in 2015!

By popular demand, our summer float trips on the Nisqually River are back! Float trip details will be posted to the Land Trust website as they become available – stay tuned!

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Our deep thanks to the agencies below for supporting our work (grants received since October 2013)

- Burning Foundation • *Strategic Planning*
- Darden's Restaurant Community Grants Program (Olympia Olive Garden and Olympia Red Lobster) • *Yelm Shoreline Restoration*
- The Mountaineers Foundation • *Nature Walks*
- Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Fund • *Stewardship and Volunteer Activities*
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance • *Riparian Forest Restoration*
- Tides Foundation • *Nature Walks and Operations*
- Thurston County Conservation Futures • *Petersen Ranch Conservation Easement*
- Pierce County Conservation Futures • *Mashel Shoreline Property Purchase*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Connecting People With Nature Program • *Ohop Bioblitz*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program • *Mount Rainier Gateway Forest Reserve Habitat Enhancements*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and Wildlife Program • *McBride Parcel Habitat Restoration*
- Washington Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant • *Ohop Phase III Floodplain Restoration*
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program • *Yelm Shoreline Protected Area Riparian Enhancement*
- Washington Employment Security Department Washington Service Corps Individual Placement for AmeriCorps Term 2014-15 • *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board • *Mashel Shoreline Property Purchase*
- Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation • *Nisqually Community Forest Project*

Nisqually Community Forest Board Members

In July the Land Trust incorporated the Nisqually Community Forest as a wholly-owned subsidiary dedicated to building



a locally-owned, landscape-scale forest managed for the benefit of the Nisqually Watershed community. Pictured here at its first meeting, held July 10 on the banks of upper Busy Wild Creek, is the new Nisqually Community Forest Board of Directors, from left: Justin Hall, Vice-President; Joe Kane, Secretary; Paula Swedeen, Treasurer; Kirk Hanson, At Large; George Walter, At Large; Bryan Bowden, President. 🌿

For more information, see our website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

25 Hours for 25 Years Campaign

What could be a better gift than the gift of time? In honor of our 25th anniversary, the Land Trust is asking you to give us 25 hours of your time to help us improve the watershed. Come celebrate with us by planting trees, removing invasive plants, and joining in other volunteer events.

Anyone who participates in and documents 25 hours of service between January 1 and December 31, 2014, will receive a cool T-shirt designed by our own Charly Kearns. The volunteers who completed those hours prior to September were recognized at Salmon Bake. There's still time to get your hours! 🌿





New Website!

The long-awaited overhaul of the Land Trust's website is complete! If you haven't visited it recently, go to: www.nisquallylandtrust.org to check it out. Now it is easier than ever to learn about the Nisqually Land Trust, donate, and sign up for events and volunteer opportunities.

Take Control of Your E-mail Destiny!

The Nisqually Land Trust is busy, **BUSY, BUSY** and we're excited to tell you all about it, but we don't want to overwhelm you with e-mails or postal mail. Please take a minute to fill out a painlessly brief **communications survey** to tell us exactly what type of information you are interested in receiving and we'll make sure that we share what's most important to you. The survey can be found on our website at: www.nisquallylandtrust.org

Fred Meyer Rewards Program

You can help the Nisqually Land Trust earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

For more information, please visit our website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org/how-to-help



Salmon in the Sunshine

Thank you to everyone who joined us for food and fellowship at our Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake on September 14. It was a gorgeous day; we hope that you had a great time!



The event, which celebrated the Land Trust's 25th anniversary, was sponsored by Puget Sound Energy. Attendees dined on a delicious Nisqually salmon dinner and sweet treats. Entertainment included a raffle with a terrific grand prize: deluxe overnight accommodations for two, donated by Wellspring Spa in Ashford, near Mount Rainier National Park.

Volunteers who have already contributed at least 25 hours of service to the Land Trust this year were also recognized as part of our "25 Hours for 25 Years" volunteer campaign, which runs through the end of 2014.

There wouldn't have been much of an event if it were not for the day's small but mighty troop of volunteers, who did so much behind-the-scenes work. We greatly appreciate everyone who helped make our celebration a

Thank You Ann Ryherd!

The Land Trust would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Ann Ryherd who, after three years of dedicated service, stepped down from the Board of Directors this year. A former civil servant and very active in her community, Ann further served as Treasurer during her tenure. Thank you for your service to the Nisqually Watershed. ☘



Land Trust to Transfer Nisqually River Shoreline Property to Nisqually Indian Tribe

Property to be incorporated into new state park

By Joe Kane

The Nisqually Land Trust Board of Directors has approved transfer of a property totaling 71 acres, including over a mile of Nisqually River shoreline, to the Nisqually Indian Tribe for incorporation into the new Nisqually-Mashel State Park near Eatonville.

In a history-making relationship, the Nisqually Indian Tribe is partnering with Washington State Parks to cooperatively build and manage the new park. The property adjoins timberlands the Tribe recently acquired for the park and is located between the river's two largest tributaries, the Mashel River and Ohop Creek, an area with deep historical and cultural significance for the Tribe.

The Land Trust acquired the property in 2009 with funding from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board and donations from supporters and the landowner, Manke Timber. Threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout use the property's shoreline for spawning and rearing, and adult Chinook

use it for holding while waiting to enter the Mashel River.

The property was threatened by development of the bluffs above the shoreline, where were ripe for subdivision into ten- and twenty-acre forested homesites.

"As the lead entity for salmon recovery in the Nisqually Watershed," said Land Trust President JW Foster, "the Nisqually Indian Tribe is well-positioned to protect and enhance this property's salmon-producing characteristics while also developing the site for public access to the Nisqually River shoreline, which is a rare and precious commodity. We're proud to be a partner in this effort."

The Tribe's park properties adjoin land already acquired by the state and are located across the river from a large block of permanently protected wildlife habitat owned by Tacoma Power. ☘

Land Trust to Acquire 202 Acres on Ohop Lake

Key salmon property adjoins Northwest Trek

By Joe Kane

The Land Trust is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with Hancock Natural Resource Group to purchase 202 acres of Hancock land at the headwaters of Ohop Lake, adjoining Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, near Eatonville.

The property includes nearly half a mile of lake frontage and 1.2 miles of upper Ohop Creek and contains important habitat for four species of Pacific salmon native to the Nisqually Watershed, including spawning and rearing habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The property also contains two eagle nests, an extensive wetland complex, and stands of mature conifer forest along the lake shoreline.

Though managed for timber production, the property is zoned for residential development.

Upon acquiring

the property the Land Trust will remove the development rights, which will protect critical habitat by maintaining the integrity of the shoreline area and the steep slopes that rise from the lake. This will help reduce erosion, support wetland functions and protect overall water quality.

The property also provides an extensive buffer for Northwest Trek, one of the region's most popular recreation destinations, and is identified for trail development in Pierce County's Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The Land Trust will acquire the property for \$415,000, with Pierce County Conservation Futures providing about 90 percent of the funding and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board providing the rest. The Land Trust hopes to complete the acquisition by the end of the year. ☘


The Land Trust will acquire this lake frontage and 1.2 miles of upper Ohop Creek, which provide habitat for four species of Pacific salmon



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Protected upland forests in our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve provide critical habitat for threatened northern spotted owls and marbled murrelet. They also buffer streams flowing into the Nisqually River, provide inspiring scenic vistas that support the local tourism economy, and help offset the impacts of climate change.

25th
Anniversary
Conservation
Appeal

**Clean water. Healthy forests.
Vibrant communities.
Inspiring scenic vistas.
People connected to the land.**

That's our vision. But, did you know that...

The heart of the Nisqually River Watershed lies amid the fastest-growing regions of Puget Sound? Renewed development, looming changes in timberland ownership and the impacts of climate change threaten our past conservation efforts?

Please help us meet these challenges with your gift today!

To donate, visit our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org or call us at 360-489-3400.