



*Nisqually Land Trust*

2012 Community  
Conservation Report





# The Audacity of Perpetuity

As this report went to press, we received great news: Your Nisqually Land Trust has been accredited by the Land Trust Alliance as meeting its rigorous national standards for excellence – a benchmark thus far achieved by fewer than 15 percent of the nation’s land trusts.

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

\$3.9 million raised for acquisition of conservation properties

\$305,659 raised for stewardship and restoration of conservation properties

Over 2 miles of salmon-producing shoreline permanently protected

1,050 hours donated by 312 volunteers to restore Land Trust protected areas

695 acres permanently protected in 2012; 4,557 acres protected to date

40,650 native trees and shrubs planted; over 160,000 planted to date

Accreditation was one of our main goals in 2012, and we devoted hundreds of hours to review and revision of our policies and procedures. As the Alliance noted, accreditation signifies that the Land Trust “meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust, and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent.”

That’s right: *Permanent*. The Land Trust regularly makes an audacious promise: We’re going to protect the most precious parts of the Nisqually River Watershed *forever*.

When we launched this ship 24 years ago, we joined our watershed partners in another audacious promise: To protect 90 percent of the Nisqually River’s salmon-producing shoreline. This when just 3 percent – just 2.5 of its 84 shoreline miles – enjoyed permanent conservation status.

Today, we’ve reached 75 percent (63 of those 84 miles), with over \$5 million secured for further protection over the next few years.

The key to protecting the Nisqually back in 1989, protecting it today, and protecting it forever is one and the same: you and our many partners collaborating to keep it the precious place we love.

This spirit paid off big in 2012. As this report documents, it was one of our best years ever. Thank you for helping to make our conservation successes possible, and for sharing the good times. That’s another key to perpetuity.

Joe Kane  
Executive Director

JW Foster  
Board President

## Our Strategic Goals

### I. PERMANENTLY PROTECT CRITICAL LANDS

We added 695 acres to our portfolio of permanently protected lands in 2012, bringing it to 4,557 acres. Almost all is land we own outright – the most expensive form of conservation, but also the most effective, because it gives us the ability to restore our lands to the highest level of ecological health. In 2012 we:

- *Protected 576 acres of forestlands and endangered-species habitat near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.* These purchases completed our 2,500-acre Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, a permanently protected wildlife corridor connecting a vast matrix of public lands.
- *Protected over a mile of Ohop Creek,* laying the foundation for restoration of habitat for five species of Pacific salmon, including threatened Chinook and steelhead trout. Our Ohop Valley Protected Area now includes a habitat block of 364 acres and over two miles of Ohop Creek.
- *Protected 5 acres on the Mashel River.* Though small, this acquisition has strategic importance for the recovery of threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as it serves as the “gateway” and only access point to a large block of protected habitat on the largest tributary to the Nisqually River.
- *Completed our first acquisition and transfer of conservation land* into the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, including structure demolition and habitat restoration.

### II. RESTORE AND STEWARD OUR PROTECTED LAND

With every acre we protect we also promise to maintain and improve its ecological health. In 2012 we:

- *Monitored and maintained habitat quality at 25 sites within our 13 Protected Areas.* Volunteer Site Stewards supported Staff Land Stewards as extra eyes and ears in the field. We expanded our stewardship staff by half a position, to help care for our growing portfolio of protected lands.

- *Planted 40,650 trees and shrubs* at 14 sites and cared for the more than 100,000 plants previously planted.
- *Engaged over 165 volunteers who donated over a thousand hours to steward our properties.* Volunteer support was essential to control invasive plants, help with supplemental plantings of native trees and shrubs, and remove trash from our protected areas.
- *Hosted more than 300 local children and their chaperones on our protected lands* in partnership with the Nisqually River Education Project.
- *Completed our first road decommissioning project.* To improve wildlife habitat, we removed culverts and restored over a mile of logging road.

### III. ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN CONSERVATION

We believe that to be sustainable, conservation must support healthy communities, productive economies and vibrant cultures. In 2012 we collaborated with watershed communities through our:

- *Nisqually Community Forest Project.* We completed Phase I, the conceptual plan for the Project. In collaboration with project partners, we are exploring the design and feasibility of a landscape-scale working forest owned and managed for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of the Nisqually Watershed community.
- *Environmental Services Pilot Project.* We began work with the City of Olympia to prevent potential contamination of the city’s main water supply, in the Nisqually Valley, by permanently protecting forest cover near the city’s new wellfield.
- *Mount Rainier Scenic Byway Project.* We began work with communities along the main highway into Mount Rainier National Park to publicize and protect recreational amenities, historic sites, scenic features, and natural areas that attract some 1.5 million annual visitors.

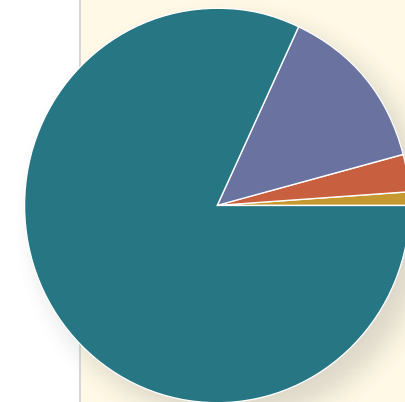
## 2012 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

### Condensed Balance Sheet

Cash	\$1,156,512
Conservation Land	21,883,582
Equipment (minus depreciation)	20,376
Investments	41,097
Note Receivable	240,000
Other Receivables	74,227
Prepaid	4,576
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$23,420,370</b>
Current Liabilities	\$56,720
Other Liabilities	0
Net Assets	23,363,650
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$23,420,370</b>

### Condensed Statement of Activities

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	
Grants and Contributions	\$4,955,224
In-Kind Donations	244,300
Fundraising	55,071
Earned Income	40,571
Interest and Investment Revenue	30,411
Other Revenue	273
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,325,850</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Land Acquisitions	\$3,979,098
Conservation Program Services	676,757
Management and General	160,656
Fundraising	68,514
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,885,025</b>
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>\$440,825</b>



Percentage of Total Expenses

- Land Acquisition 82%
- Conservation Program Services 14%
- Management and General 3%
- Fundraising 1%

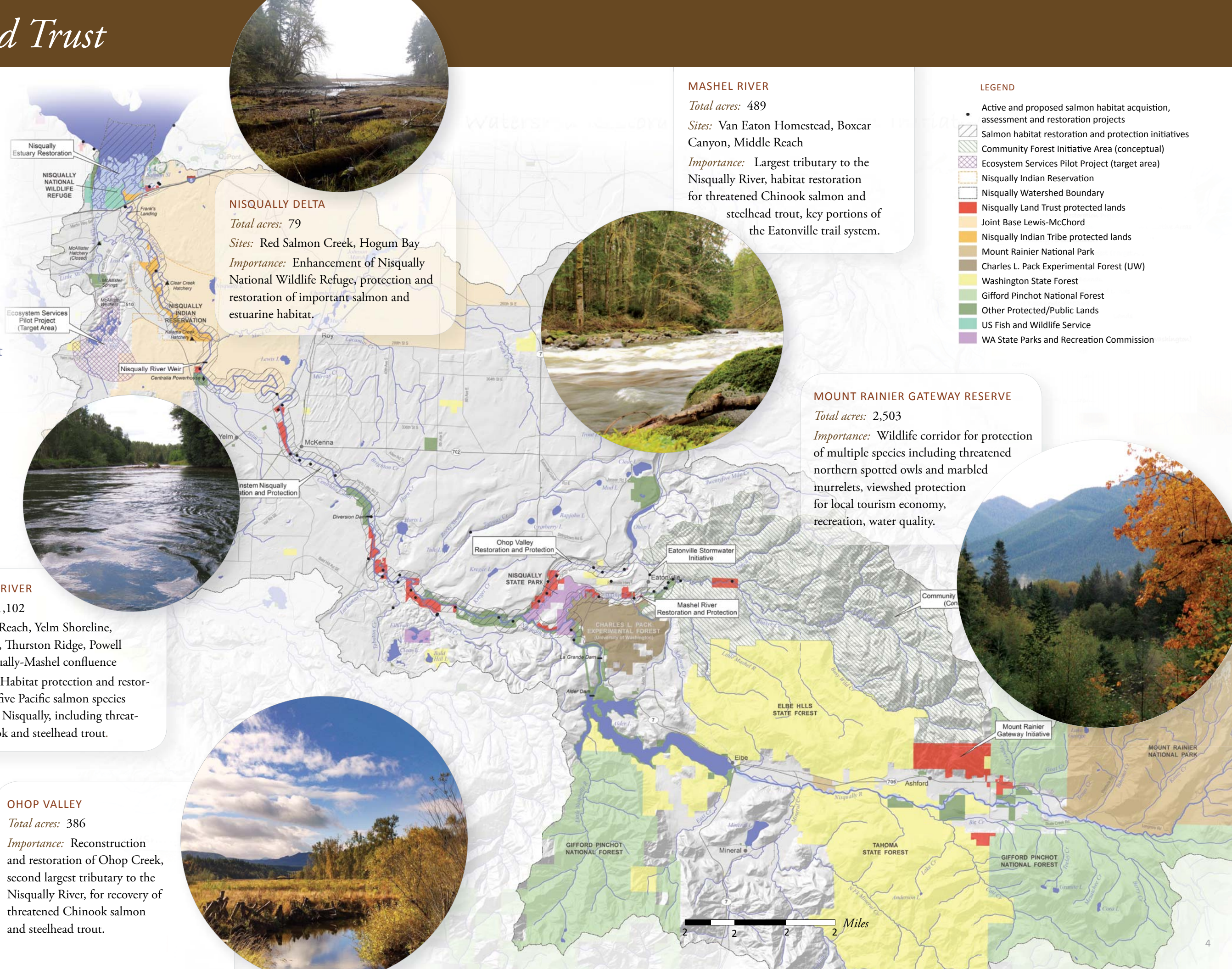
These charts were derived from an independent audit by Aiken & Sanders, CPA, and represent the financial position of the Nisqually Land Trust as of December 31, 2012.

For more information or copies of our audit, visit our website at [www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org) or call us at 360.489.3400.

# Nisqually Land Trust

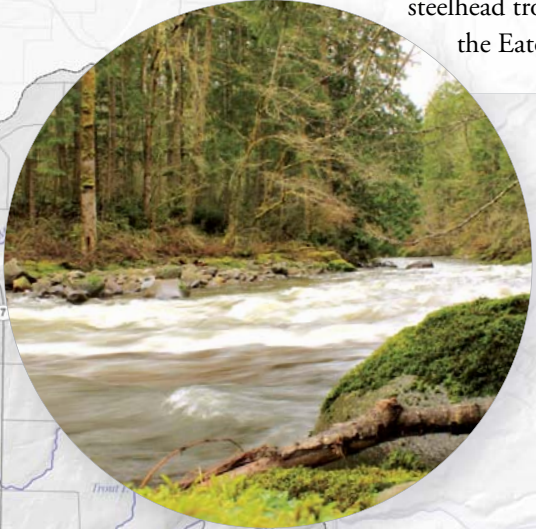
The Nisqually River Watershed is one of the Pacific Northwest's most pristine river habitats, but its location in the heart of one of the most rapidly developing regions of Puget Sound makes smart conservation more urgent today than ever.

To that end, and with the support of our members and partners, the Land Trust remains committed to conservation that is voluntary, cooperative, and innovative and that promotes the environmental, economic, and cultural health of our communities.

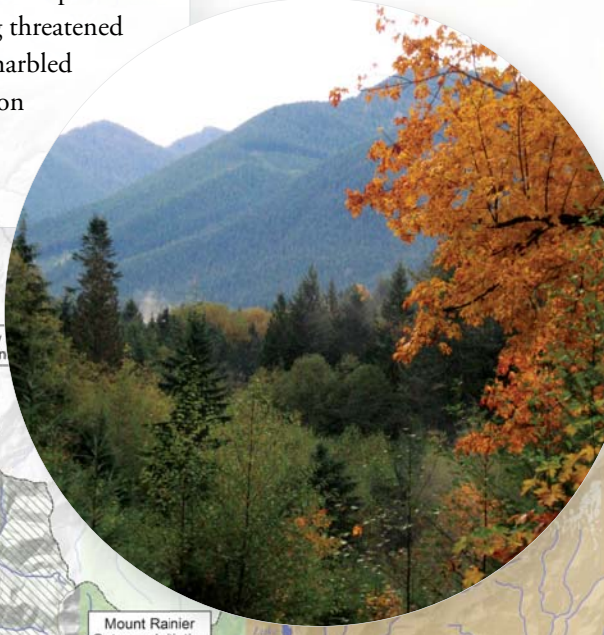


**NISQUALLY DELTA**  
 Total acres: 79  
 Sites: Red Salmon Creek, Hogum Bay  
 Importance: Enhancement of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, protection and restoration of important salmon and estuarine habitat.

**MASHEL RIVER**  
 Total acres: 489  
 Sites: Van Eaton Homestead, Boxcar Canyon, Middle Reach  
 Importance: Largest tributary to the Nisqually River, habitat restoration for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, key portions of the Eatonville trail system.

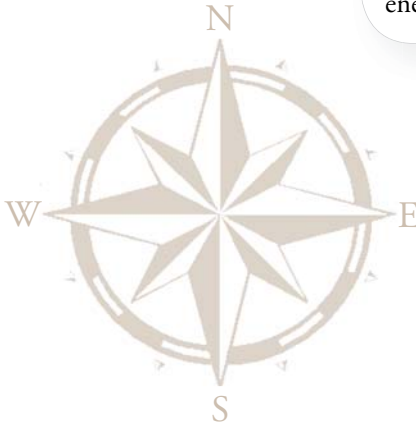


**MOUNT RAINIER GATEWAY RESERVE**  
 Total acres: 2,503  
 Importance: Wildlife corridor for protection of multiple species including threatened northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, watershed protection for local tourism economy, recreation, water quality.



**NISQUALLY RIVER**  
 Total acres: 1,102  
 Sites: Lower Reach, Yelm Shoreline, Wilcox Flats, Thurston Ridge, Powell Creek, Nisqually-Mashel confluence  
 Importance: Habitat protection and restoration for all five Pacific salmon species native to the Nisqually, including threatened Chinook and steelhead trout.

**OHOP VALLEY**  
 Total acres: 386  
 Importance: Reconstruction and restoration of Ohop Creek, second largest tributary to the Nisqually River, for recovery of threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.



# Many Thanks to Our Supporters

The Nisqually Land Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies that generously supported our work. Reflected below are contributions received or pledged between January 1 and December 31, 2012.

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- ★ *Forever Fund Donors*
- *Three consecutive years+*

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Many thanks to the donors who contributed gifts to honor remarkable lives.

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"The Nisqually Land Trust is a reliable partner that knows how to blend community values with conservation needs."

Joanne Stellini, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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We have made our best effort to produce an accurate list of Land Trust supporters. Please contact Sheila Jackson at sjackson@nisquallylandtrust.org to note any corrections.

The Land Trust is pleased to report that once again in 2012, 100% of our board members contributed to our operating support.

"It is a joy to be Site Stewards and protect the Nisqually Watershed. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of an effort that works."  
Dwight and Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Land Trust Volunteers and Donors



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## 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.*



### OFFICE

100 Brown Farm Road NE  
Olympia, WA 98516

### MAILING ADDRESS

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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.*