

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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FALL 2006

LAND TRUST COMPLETES LARGEST DEALS IN ITS HISTORY

SECURES 644 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

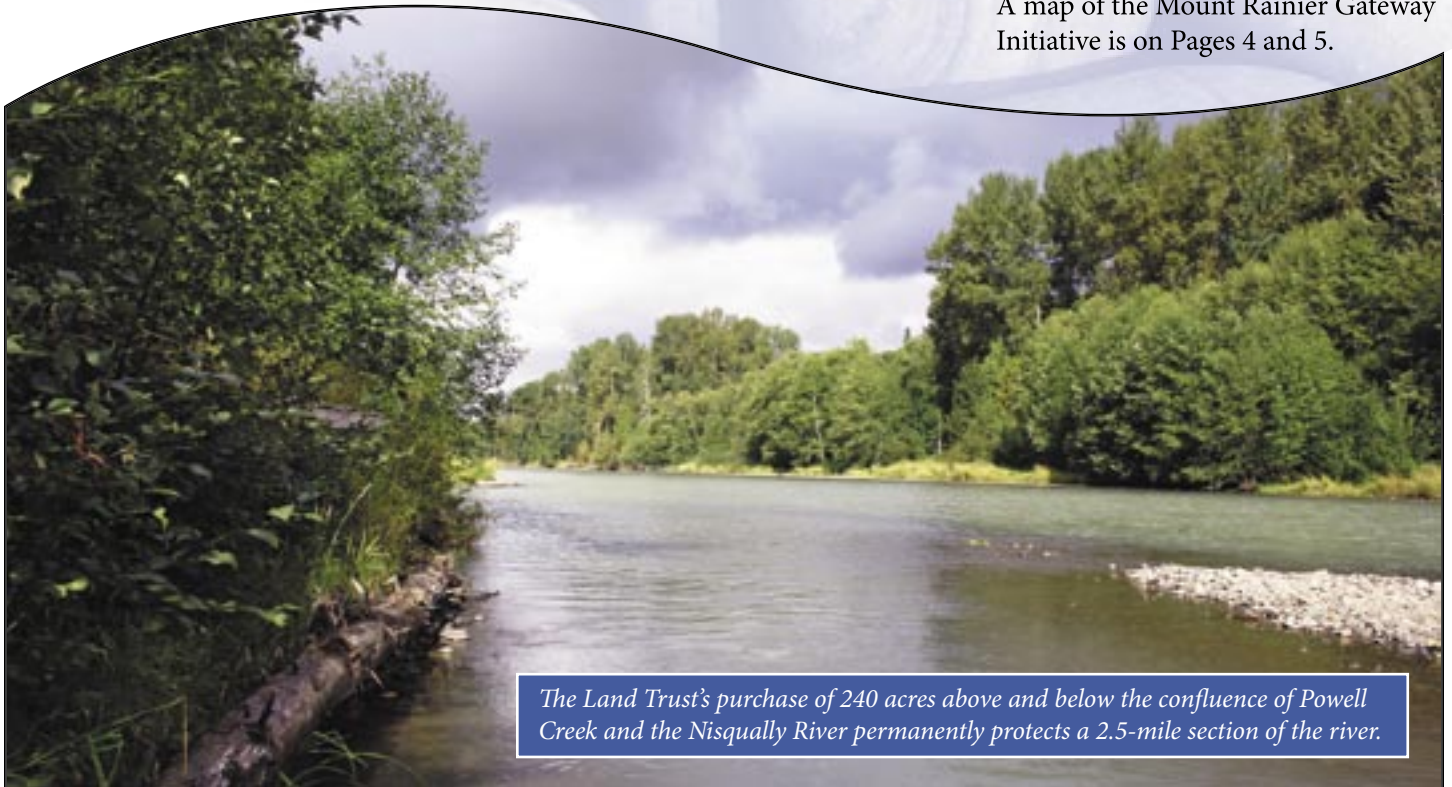
The Land Trust is pleased to announce the successful completion of the two largest land deals in its 17-year history.

In June, the Land Trust secured title to 240 acres and two and a half miles of salmon-producing Nisqually River shoreline in Thurston County, about ten miles upriver from Yelm. The parcel, known as Powell Creek, had a purchase price of \$1.2 million.

In August, the Land Trust purchased 404 acres of timberlands near the Nisqually entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. These timberlands contain important wildlife habitat that was under immediate threat of clear-cut logging. Their purchase, for \$1.4 million, marks the successful completion of Phase One of the Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative.

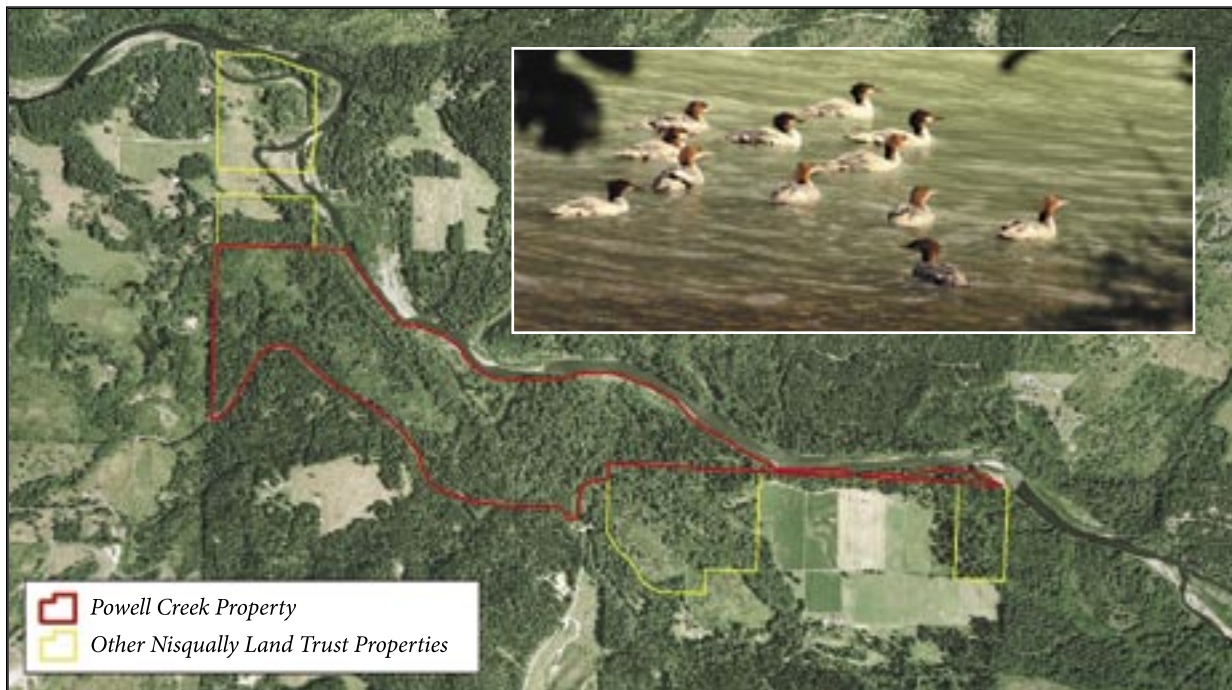
As part of the deal, the Washington Department of Natural Resources transferred into permanent conservation status an additional 406 acres of old-growth forest in the upper Nisqually watershed.

All of these properties will be protected in perpetuity as wildlife habitat. For more about them and the partnerships that led to their protection, please see pages 2 and 3. A map of the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative is on Pages 4 and 5.



The Land Trust's purchase of 240 acres above and below the confluence of Powell Creek and the Nisqually River permanently protects a 2.5-mile section of the river.

POWELL CREEK PURCHASE



The Powell Creek purchase, in red, connects other Land Trust properties, in yellow, to create a large block of protected habitat on the Nisqually River. Inset: Mergansers along the Nisqually River shoreline at Powell Creek

In June the Land Trust completed purchase of the largest privately held property in the salmon-producing section of the Nisqually River. This 240-acre parcel, known as Powell Creek, was a key acquisition for several reasons.

For one, the parcel includes two and a half miles of Nisqually River shoreline that is in excellent condition, with stands of mature forest the length of the river. It also includes a major floodplain wetland complex at the confluence of the Nisqually and Powell Creek. It is the most substantial such complex on the Nisqually but contains three culverts that hinder salmon migration. The Land Trust and its partners will remove the barriers and restore critical spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and possibly chum salmon.

Also, the Powell Creek property is strategically located between properties already under permanent protection by the Land Trust and several governmental agencies. Its acquisition thus creates a large

continuous block of protected habitat (see map), including a five-mile section of Nisqually shoreline that is now protected on both banks.

The Land Trust began discussions with the property's owner, the Covenant Church, in 2003, and in 2004 won a \$500,000 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant toward the \$1.2 million purchase price.

However, it was not until last May that the Land Trust was able to secure further funding, when the Nisqually Indian Tribe awarded the Land Trust

a \$400,000 habitat-mitigation grant.

In June, the Land Trust secured the final \$300,000 from the Williams Pipeline Company as mitigation for the company's impact on spotted-owl habitat in Fort Lewis. As part of that deal, the Land Trust will manage the Powell Creek property according to Fort Lewis's management plan for spotted-owl habitat on the base.

Williams contributed a further \$60,000 for the Land Trust to develop its management plan, and the SRFB grant contains additional funds for the culvert removal.



The Powell Creek purchase protects the largest privately held property on the lower Nisqually River.

MT. RAINIER GATEWAY PHASE ONE PURCHASE



The purchase and permanent protection of these forested ridges at the base of Mt. Rainier complete Phase One of the Land Trust's Mt. Rainier Gateway Initiative (see map on pages 3 and 4).

In August, in an eleventh-hour deal, the Land Trust completed the \$1.4 million purchase of 404 acres of threatened timberlands and wildlife habitat in the Upper Nisqually Valley, near the town of Ashford and the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

The deal marks the successful completion of Phase One of the Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative, which seeks to acquire and permanently protect 4,500 acres of privately held working forest, recreational property, and wildlife habitat along Highway 706, between Elbe Hills and Tahoma state forests and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest old-growth reserves.

These private timberlands provide important habitat for spotted owls, marbled murrelets, bald eagles, and many other species, some of which are in serious decline due to habitat loss. They also provide a spectacular backdrop to Highway 706, the main corridor into the national park. This

is a crucial amenity for the Ashford economy, which depends heavily on tourism.

The Initiative took shape in October 2005, when the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition, a grass-roots group based in Ashford, alerted the Land Trust and the Nisqually River Council about plans to log the forested ridges visible from town.

The River Council (a consortium of governmental, business, and nonprofit groups that coordinates long-term resource management in the watershed) convinced the landowner, Pope Resources, to postpone its plans while the Land Trust searched for funding to buy the property.

Pope had planned to log by the end of 2005 but extended its deadline to spring of 2006. This gave the Land Trust and its partner, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, time to win a grant from the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

As match for the grant, DNR placed an additional 406 acres of old-growth forest into permanent conservation status. Meanwhile, Pope further postponed logging while final sale negotiations took place.

"Pope Resources has been a full and patient partner in this effort," said Joe Kane, executive director of the Land Trust. "It had every right to walk away from this deal, and it didn't."

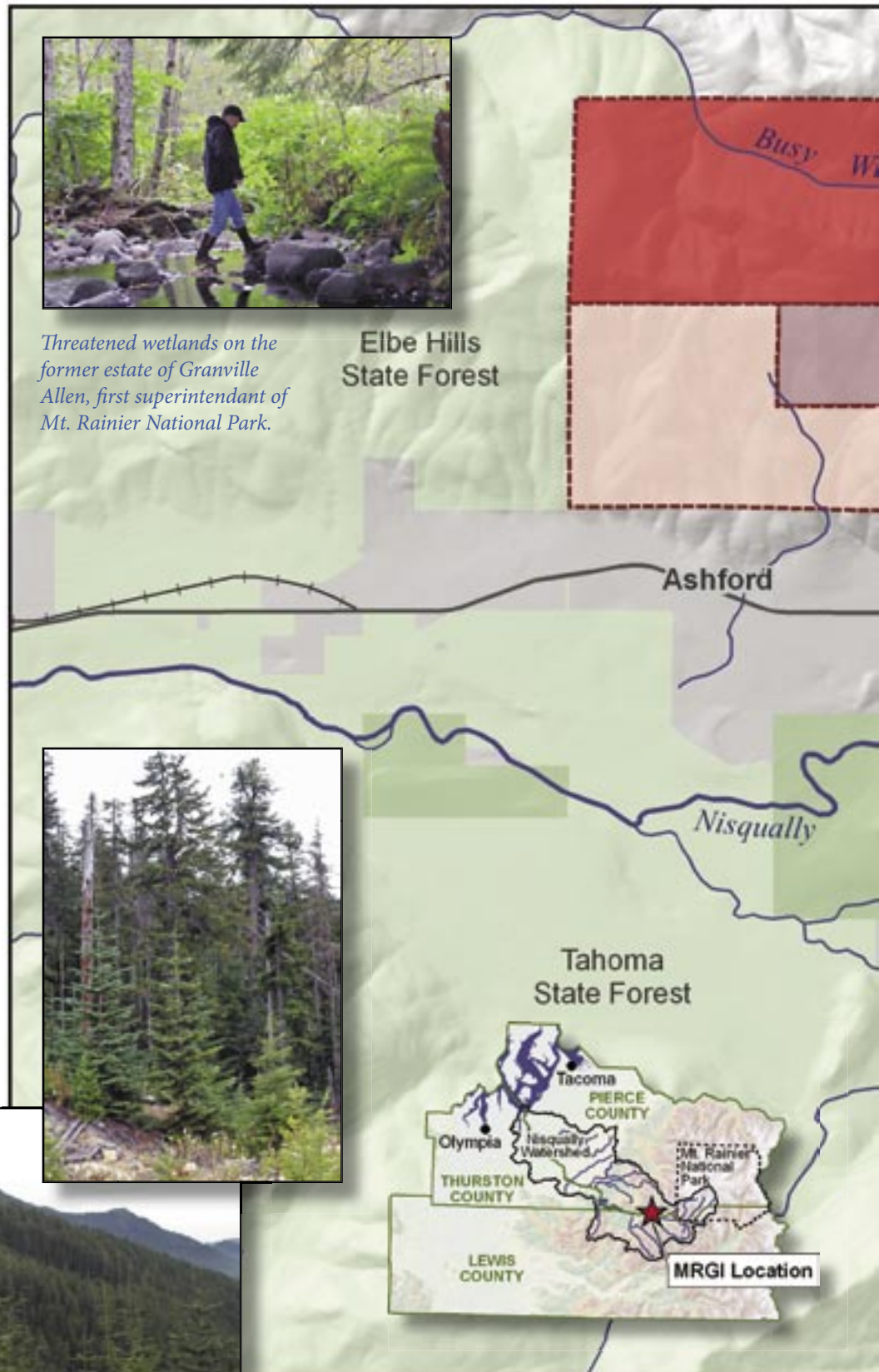
"This transaction is a great example of a 'win-win' outcome for both conservation and industry interests," said David L. Nunes, President and CEO of Pope Resources. "We have a responsibility to deliver economic returns to our investor owners, and in this case we were able to balance that objective with recognition of other important values, such as protection of wildlife habitat, view corridors, and water quality."

THE MOUNT RAINIER GATEWAY INITIATIVE

The Nisqually Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative is an ambitious, five-phase plan to permanently protect 4,500 acres of threatened forests in the upper Nisqually watershed, near the most popular entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. These forests contain important habitat for spotted owls, marbled murrelets, bald eagles, elk, cougar, and many other species.

The Initiative will create sustainable, family-wage forestry and tourism jobs by applying innovative ecological practices to working forests and safeguarding the area's scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. By preventing deforestation, the Initiative will help protect water quality down through the lower watershed, including fresh water for the Nisqually Delta and more than 60,000 people in Thurston and Pierce counties.

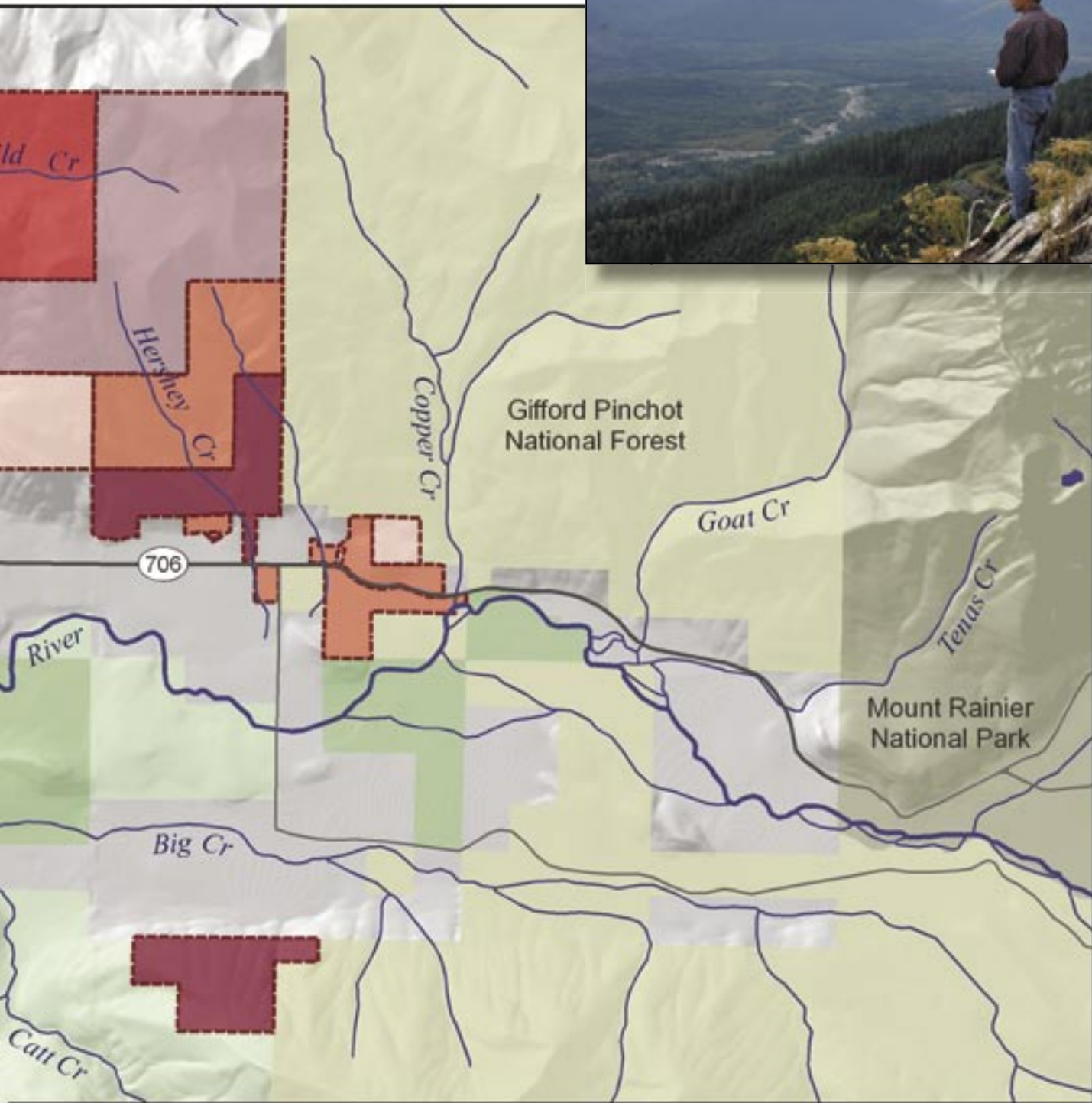
The Land Trust has already completed Phase One (see map), but with an estimated total cost of \$18 million, the Initiative remains the most difficult challenge we have yet undertaken. But is also a tremendous opportunity to practice landscape-scale conservation—and to pass a treasured resource on to our children and grandchildren. With your help, we can succeed.



Threatened wetlands on the former estate of Granville Allen, first superintendant of Mt. Rainier National Park.

Logging permits have already been issued for these forests, in Phase Two, which include tree stands as old as 238 years.

Land Trust Executive Director Joe Kane overlooking forests protected by Phase One of the Initiative.



	Phase 1 (Complete)		City of Tacoma Wildlife Area	 Nisqually Indian Tribe Cartography by: J.Cutler, Oct. 2006	 NISQUALLY LAND TRUST
	Phase 2 Goal		WA Dept. of Natural Resources		
	Phase 3 Goal		Gifford Pinchot National Forest		
	Phase 4 Goal		Mount Rainier National Park		
	Phase 5 Goal				

Data derived from: Pierce County, Lewis County, WSDOT, WADOE, WADNR, Gifford Pinchot NF, Mount Rainier NP

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN THE NISQUALLY RIVER WATERSHED



From left to right: Grillmaster David Troutt; President George Walter; Head Cook Patt Brady, Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze and Land Trust supporters at our Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake September 24.

THROUGH GIFTS OF MONEY, SUPPLIES AND TIME, OUR SUPPORTERS HELP US ACQUIRE AND RESTORE NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

GIFTS RECEIVED MAY 1, 2006 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Combined Fund Donations

Our thanks to state workers who include the Nisqually Land Trust in their Combined Fund giving.

Kimberley Alapai
Nancy Anderson
Helen Benson
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Jill Brady
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In Memory of Kenneth Bragat

Constance Bond
Dianne (Mounts) Weaver*

In Memory of Doris Bremner Erickson

All Wanderlands Travel*
Audrey and Bob Zimmerman

In Honor of Patt Brady's Retirement

Zoa Shumway

Acquisition Grants

Nisqually Indian Tribe
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Williams Pipeline Corporation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Watershed Patron (\$500 to \$999)

Susan Macomson Shafroth
Rick and Cathy Williams
Puget Sound Energy*

River Steward (\$200 to \$499)

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Robert and Audrey Zimmerman

Special thanks to our volunteers:

Greg Arnold
Patt Brady
Fred Feidler
The JW Foster family and friend
Mary Fitzpatrick-Netz
Jim Harmon
David Hymel
Keith Kusler
Dianne Ludwig
Clyde and Kathryn Powell
Zoa Shumway
Cheryl Stephan
Mark Williams
Robert Zimmerman

*new member



FROM THE PRESIDENT

KEN BRAGET

George Walter

I am thinking this evening, as I write to you about our Land Trust, of the passing of Ken Braget. Ken died in late August in his home at the Nisqually Delta. He was a farmer, a waterfowl hunter, a strong advocate of private property rights, and a caretaker of the land.

The Braget Farm is located on the Pierce County side of the Nisqually River and north of I-5. Ken spent his 74 years devoted to the stewardship of this farm. It is largely through his efforts that the Pierce County side of the Nisqually Delta, under development pressure for many years, remained a farm with outstanding wildlife and wetland habitat.

Ken was a Charter Member of the Land Trust and gave it his enthusiastic support. He often expressed to me how proud he was of the accomplishments of *his* Land Trust. For 14 years Ken donated a day of hunting at the Braget Farm for our annual auction. It was a feature item at the auction and those lucky enough to win the hunt were treated to the company of a skilled hunter and great storyteller.

Ken was a good friend and a truly unique person. He leaves us an impressive legacy of stewardship of and love for the land, and we pledge that his legacy will live on in the work of the Nisqually Land Trust.

Nisqually Land Trust

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

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Special thanks to: Capitol City Press

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MT. RAINIER GATEWAY INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTORS

The Land Trust and the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative. Their support underwrote the success of Phase One and has helped lay the foundation for Phase Two.

(\$4000)

Nisqually River Foundation

(\$1000+)

Bernard W. Abrams
Family Foundation, Inc.
GreatGetaways
Paul Nerge

(\$500)

Mary Foster
Deborah Sample

(\$300-\$450)

Erika Joeres-Broska
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(\$150-\$250)

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Alan Vaughn
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A free meal, a dazzling view of Mount Rainier, and a gorgeous fall evening greeted guests at our **Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake** on September 24. More than 100 Land Trust supporters dined on freshly caught Nisqually River Chinook salmon with all the trimmings, served on the banks of Puget Sound's Nisqually Reach. Following dinner, Board President George Walter, Executive Director Joe Kane and Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze described this year's successes and next year's plans and gave awards to outstanding stewardship volunteers. **Robert Zimmerman** was named "Stewardship Volunteer of the Year". Thank you to **Patt Brady**, **Fred Fiedler** and grillmaster **David Troutt**, who prepared the delicious dinner, and to helpers **Zoa Shumway** and **Karen Bond**.

SAVE THE DATE!

Nisqually Land Trust Fifteenth Annual Auction Gala

*Saturday March 17, 2007
5 to 10 p.m. at the Worthington
Center at St. Martin's University
Lacey, Washington*

Join us for a buffet dinner and silent and live auctions featuring Northwest and Native American artwork and many other exciting items.

Tickets are \$45 each for members* and \$50 for non-members. Call Connie at 360-458-1111 for reservations and information.

*Membership discount available to anyone who has made a cash contribution or donated items or services of \$25 or more to Nisqually Land Trust during the previous 12 months.



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– and protecting those lands in perpetuity.*