

# NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.NISQUALLYLANDTRUST.ORG

FALL 2008

## LAND TRUST TO PLANT 50,000 NATIVE TREES

Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze has finalized plans for the Land Trust to plant some 50,000 native trees and 20,000 native shrubs on its properties over the next three years.

“This will be restoration on a landscape scale,” she said. “The plantings will help restore more than a hundred acres to ecological health, improve salmon habitat in critical spawning and rearing areas, and enhance wildlife habitat in a real way.”

Linda has secured much of the funding needed to execute the

project, through grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Williams Pipeline Mitigation Fund. But she is also counting on contributions from Land Trust supporters and will rely on Land Trust volunteers to help with the plantings.

Checks in the mail, boots on the ground—“This is a chance for folks to make a real difference,” she said.

During the past year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded site preparation—removing old fences,

tearing out ivy and blackberry bushes, hauling debris—and the Washington Conservation Corps did a lot of the hard labor. Support from the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge helped make the WCC crew available to the Land Trust.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Pierce Conservation District will help recruit and coordinate volunteers for the plantings. Over the last two years, more than 300 Land Trust volunteers have participated in restoration projects.

Plans call for planting 14,000 native plants in 2009, 28,000 more in 2010, and another 28,000 in 2011. Planting sites include the Land Trust’s Wilcox Flats, Powell Creek, and Red Salmon Creek management units in 2009 and the Ohop Valley management unit in 2010 and 2011.

“Four years ago, we didn’t even have a stewardship program,” said Land Trust Executive Director Joe Kane. “For Linda to have brought it to this level so quickly is amazing.”

The first plantings will take place February 17-18 and March 6-7, at Red Salmon Creek in the Nisqually delta. To volunteer, call 360-458-1111 or visit our website, [www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org).



*Red Salmon Creek, where we will plant the first of 50,000 trees.  
Come join us February 17-18 and March 6-7*

# LAND TRUST, PARTNERS COMPLETE SALMON RECOVERY PROJECT IN POWELL CREEK UNIT

## *Nisqually Tribe Donation Funds Key Purchase*



*Streambeds were graded into natural contours and lined with materials that will stabilize the banks until they re-vegetate.*

In the big picture, ten acres of wildlife habitat might not seem like much. But ten acres are huge when they connect the Nisqually River with 300 acres of salmon-producing wetlands.

The Land Trust and our partners made just such a connection in September, when we removed three culverts and a mile of old logging road that were blocking fish passage in the Trust's 431-acre Powell Creek Management Unit, near Yelm. The project reconnected the Nisqually with the largest off-channel wetland complex on the entire river, one that provides essential habitat for all five native salmon species, including threatened Chinook and steelhead.

Off-channel habitat is rich in food that salmon need, such as aquatic insects, and is vital if young salmon are to survive and return as adults.

The Trust bought the ten-acre parcel in July with a \$75,000 donation from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Then, with funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, we hired

the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group to deconstruct the road, which acted as a berm between the river and the wetland.

The Group then reconstructed channels that connected the river and wetland. It also removed old bridge abutments and rip-rap along the riverbank. Soon, with rain and a little luck, we expect to find salmon migrating into fertile grounds from which they have been blocked for decades.

As well, the project further strengthened the partnership between the Land Trust and the Nisqually Tribe in what is now widely recognized as one of the most effective salmon-recovery programs in the state.

“The Nisqually River and its salmon are an essential part of our culture and heritage,” said Cynthia Iyall, chair of the Nisqually Tribe. “Our contribution helps ensure the return of more salmon to our watershed and leads the way for future projects that will improve our environment.”



*Three rusted metal culverts blocked salmon passage into the largest off-channel wetland complex on the Nisqually River*

## Nisqually Land Trust

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Constance Bond, Joe Kane, George Walter  
Photography: Constance Bond, Kim Gridley, Linda Kunze, Myrna Lopas, Diane Yorgason-Quinn  
Design: Wide Design Team  
Special Thanks to Capitol City Press

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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### STAFF:

Joe Kane, Executive Director  
Constance Bond, Programs Manager  
Linda Kunze, Stewardship Coordinator  
Joe Kennedy, Land Steward

### OFFICE:

P.O. Box 1148, Yelm, WA 98597  
Telephone: (360) 458-1111  
Email: [staff@nisquallylandtrust.org](mailto:staff@nisquallylandtrust.org)  
Website: [www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org)

# LAND TRUST WELCOMES JOE KENNEDY

The Land Trust is extremely pleased to announce that it has expanded its stewardship staff by hiring Joe Kennedy as its first Land Steward. Joe will work half-time through the end of the year and become full-time on January 1.

Trained in sustainable forestry and conservation biology at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, Joe will have the hands-on job of managing fieldwork on the Land Trust's 1938 acres of conservation lands.

Joe brings a wide variety of skills to his new job. In addition to having a broad background in forest management, ecology, and volunteer supervision, he spent a year working with the homeless in inner city Philadelphia and three months working on water-protection projects with rural villagers in India.

Joe also spent five months living alone on an island off the coast of South Carolina, researching loggerhead sea turtles.

This past summer, Joe worked as a field technician for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, where he began his education in the flora and fauna of Western Washington. And he's already made his home on the banks of the Nisqually River—he lives on the Land Trust's Elledge Ranch property in Yelm, which he's been caretaking since last spring.

"Joe brings even more than his energy, skills and experience," said Executive Director Joe Kane. "One of the Land Trust's essential responsibilities is to help grow the next generation of conservationists, and to learn from them. Joe is our first step in that direction—and, I hope, far from our last."



*Our new Land Steward,  
Joe Kennedy*



*On October 25, a beautiful fall Saturday, more than 40 volunteers hiked into our Wilcox Flats Unit to help plant the first 1400 of the 70,000 native trees and shrubs we will plant over the next three years.*

*Our next planting parties are scheduled for February 17-18 and March 6-7 at Red Salmon Creek, in the Nisqually Delta. Come join us! For more information, call (360) 458-1111 and ask for Linda Kunze or Joe Kennedy.*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

OCTOBER 1, 2007 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

## CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

*New acres permanently protected: 267*

*Total acres permanently protected: 1938*

**Powell Creek Management Unit:** We added two key parcels: an eight-acre shoreline property that plugged a critical gap in the Powell unit and a ten-acre property on which we completed a major salmon-recovery restoration project (see p. 2). Home to bears and cougars, the Powell unit now contains 431 acres and 3.1 continuous miles of Nisqually River shoreline used by all five native salmon species

**Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative:** We won a \$5.6 million U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant to fund Phase II of the Initiative and purchased 185 acres of threatened forestlands and endangered-species habitat near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, including the historic 142-acre Allen Estate. We are now in negotiations for an additional 735 acres.

**Thurston Ridge Management Unit:** A generous donation from Wilcox Farms and a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant allowed us to purchase a heavily timbered, 11-acre shoreline property adjoining our Thurston Ridge Unit, on the Nisqually River east of Yelm. The Thurston Unit now includes 146 acres and 1.5 miles of salmon-producing shoreline.

**Ohop Creek Management Unit:** Negotiations with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife led to transfer into Land Trust ownership of a critical 40-acre parcel on Ohop Creek, one of the two main salmon-producing tributaries of the Nisqually River. The parcel sits in the heart of the Trust's 241-acre Ohop Unit and unites it into a single habitat block. Having the parcel under Land Trust ownership will greatly enhance a \$10 million project to restore the creek's natural meander and salmon habitat next summer.



*Allen Estate: Big trees that were slated for harvest*



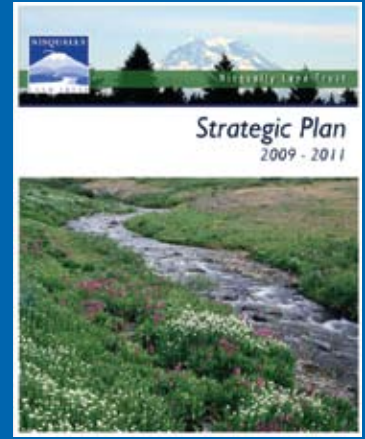
*Powell Creek Unit: The Nisqually River as viewed from the end of the decommissioned logging road.*

In September, the Land Trust received the Cascade Land Conservancy's "New Directions in Conservation" award for our Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative.



Accepting the award at a luncheon for 600 conservation supporters in Tacoma were, left to right, Land Steward Joe Kennedy, Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze, Programs Manager Connie Bond, Executive Director Joe Kane, Nisqually Headwaters founder Judy Scavone, and President George Walter

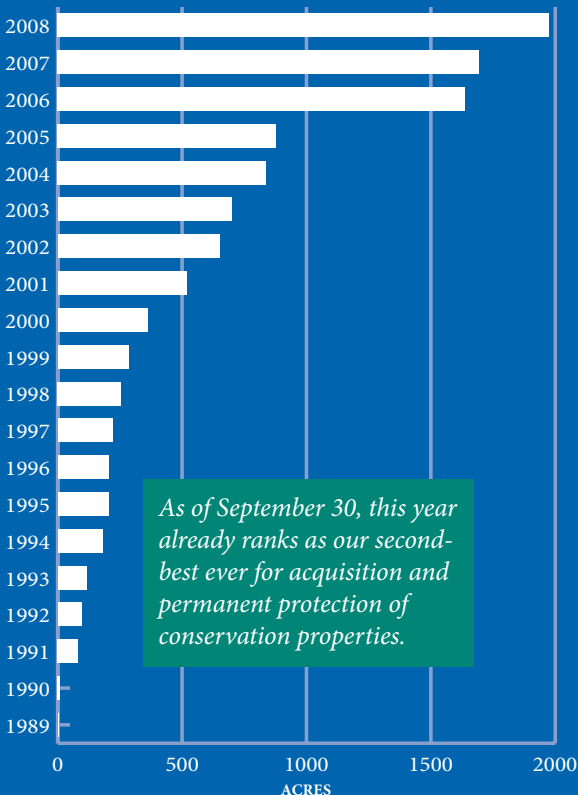
Under the guidance of consultant Marc Smiley, the foremost land-trust planner in the country, and with insights gleaned from 45 supporters and stakeholders in three focus groups, the Land Trust worked through the year to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to guide our growth through 2011. The board expects to adopt a final version of the plan by the end of this year and release it in early 2009.



Legendary auctioneer—and charter Land Trust member—Larry Schorno made our sixteenth annual auction our most successful yet. Held last April at St. Martin's College, the sold-out auction netted nearly \$60,000 for wildlife habitat conservation and stewardship in the Nisqually River watershed.



On a sunny day in September a record crowd of some 130 Land Trust members and supporters—from age 2 through 96—gathered along the Nisqually Reach to feast on a free dinner of freshly caught Nisqually River Chinook salmon and convene our annual meeting. We reviewed highlights from the past year and prospects for the next and enjoyed warm company and good food. It was a beautiful day in a beautiful place, and a happy reminder of why we all do what we do.



As of September 30, this year already ranks as our second-best ever for acquisition and permanent protection of conservation properties.

## CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Our partners were a major reason for the success of our conservation projects over the last year. Our thanks to:

- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- South Puget Sound Enhancement Group
- Nisqually River Council
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wilcox Farms
- Washington Conservation Corps
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Community Salmon Fund
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northwest Natural Resources Group
- Pierce County Conservation District
- Williams Pipeline Mitigation Fund
- Community Reserve Enhancement Program (USDA)

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial highlights since October 1, 2007, include a successful audit of our 2007 books, completed last July by the firm of Aiken & Sanders, CPA. The abbreviated financial statements below were derived from the fully annotated statements presented to our board of directors. We are proud to note that we once again received a clean bill of fiscal health, and that our management and general operations were just 5.3 percent of our total expenditures.

The complete audit and our 2007 federal tax return are posted on our website ([www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org); select *News and Resources*).

2008 highlights include our largest bequest ever, a \$225,000 gift from the estate of our friend Ken Braget, who lived his entire life in the Nisqually watershed and was dedicated to protecting this wonderful place. Our board of directors will use at least \$200,000 of Ken's gift to establish permanent endowments to help fund our work forever.

Meanwhile, we positioned ourselves for maximum liquidity well in advance of October's stock-market crash

by investing virtually all of our funds in secure cash equivalents. In addition to the proposed endowments, and in accord with our fiscal policy, we expect to finish the year with reserves equal to at least six months of next year's operating expenses.

We approach 2009 with great hopes, but also great caution. Our board is committed to building a professional staff that can perform at the level the times demand. That means hiring good people and paying them competitive salaries and benefits.

But we depend for a significant part of our support on the generosity of our donors, many of whom have been hard hit by the recent economic turmoil. We wish everyone good luck, we thank you in advance for such support as you can continue to give us, and we promise to put that support to work building a natural legacy we can all be proud of.

Joe Kane  
Executive Director

## ABBREVIATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

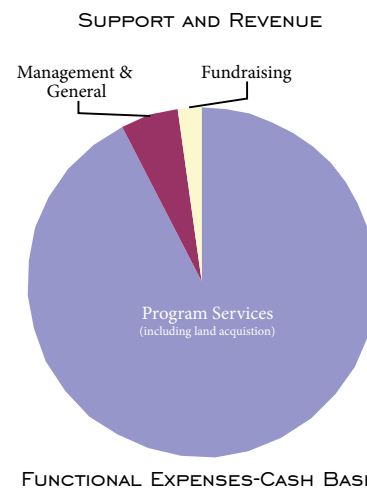
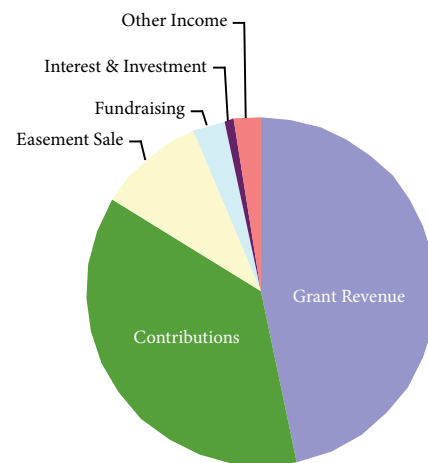
As of December 31, 2007

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	\$ 299,904
Conservation Land	8,484,431
Investments	12,746
Other	2,926
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,800,007</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 296,512</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,503,495</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,800,007</b>

## ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ending December 31, 2007

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	
Restricted Grants	\$ 686,280
Unrestricted Grants and Contributions	612,018
Fundraising	49,567
Interest and Investments	10,630
Other Income	188,398
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,546,893</b>
<b>Expenses and Acquisitions</b>	
Conservation Program Services	\$ 172,650
Management & General	78,944
Fundraising	35,370
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 286,964</b>
<b>Land Acquisitions (Purchased)</b>	<b>\$ 1,213,415</b>
<b>Total Expenses and Acquisitions</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,379</b>
<b>NET RESULT</b>	<b>46,514</b>





# LOOKING BACK, AND LOOKING FORWARD

*George Walter*

Perhaps the most important achievement of the Nisqually Land Trust over the past few years is the establishment of a vital and ongoing land-stewardship program. And for this achievement, we have to thank our Stewardship Coordinator, Linda Kunze. Linda is leaving her position early next year, and I want to take this opportunity to thank her for this monumental contribution.

Linda has taken a vague idea – we need to somehow address land stewardship – and turned it into a respected program that has fully met the Land Trust’s initial needs. And, as part of this recognition, we have received funding for multiple

restoration and stewardship grants. Most important, she has founded a program that I am certain will thrive and grow in years to come. All of us who love and care for our Nisqually protected lands owe Linda a great debt.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, 2008 has been a very successful year. To date we have acquired 267 acres for permanent protection and likely will increase that amount in the final two months of the year. Also, as I reported in my last president’s message, we have drafted and will soon adopt a strategic plan to guide our work for the next three years.

I hope you will take a few minutes to look over the financial summary published in this newsletter, and perhaps examine the detailed statement we have included on our

website ([www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org)). We are proud to report that nearly 95 percent of our total revenue this past year went directly to the Land Trust programs. Our management and general operations (so-called “overhead”) was only 5.3 percent of our total expenditures. That means most of each dollar you contribute goes directly to acquiring and managing Nisqually conservation lands!

The Nisqually Land Trust was founded in 1989, and next year will mark our 20<sup>th</sup> year. I trust that you, our members and supporters, are pleased with all that this organization has accomplished in that time. There’s much more work to do, of course. However, in 2009 we plan to take some time to recognize what has been accomplished to date and the many folks who have contributed to the effort.

## NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CONTRIBUTORS

*June 1 – September 30, 2008*

Contributions from our supporters are our most important source of operating revenue. They are the foundation for everything we do. Thank you to everyone listed below—for your generosity, and for your commitment to permanent conservation of the Nisqually watershed.

†pledge donors  
\* new members

### In Memory of Jo Ann Lysak

Frances & Mollie Shumway  
Norma Johnson

### In Memory of Venzel J. Kotas

Family members Ken, Shelly, Evan, Katie and Claudia

### Land Donation

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

### \$75,000

Nisqually Indian Tribe

### \$5000-\$9999

Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation  
Burning Foundation

### \$1000-\$4999

Combined Fund Drive  
Virginia Walter

### \$200-\$499

J.W. & Nicki Foster & Family  
Holroyd Co., Inc.  
Quadrant Homes  
Eric Slagle & Nancy Hanna  
Mark Williams\*

### \$100-\$199

Christopher Bayley  
Karen Fraser  
Eileen LeVan & Niel Lawrence  
Joseph Lovejoy, Jr.\*  
Thomas & Kathleen Rafferty\*  
Virginia Ratliff & Dennis Schaffer  
Kathleen Seel  
Joanne Stellini & Gwill Ging  
Catherine & Richard Williams  
Paul Wiseman

### \$50-\$99

Henry & Judith Bernard  
Ruth Ferris  
Trusten & Jean Hart  
Jack & Mary Horton\*  
Michael Ligrano  
Andrew & Sandra Smith  
Stanley Stahl

### \$25

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Margaret Heriot\*  
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Kathryn Wyatt\*  
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Ann-Kristin Sundell\*†

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Dana Botka  
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Larry Corbin  
(in memory of Noelle Corbin)  
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Karl Heller  
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Irene Hill  
Marijean Holland  
Kathleen Lynch  
Deborah McCurley  
Mark Pree  
Helen Pressley  
James Rainwood  
Gary Robinson  
Kristin Swenddal

# HELP COUNT SPECIES IN THE OHOP VALLEY

Itching to get out on one of the Land Trust properties you've helped to conserve? Here's a great opportunity: On December 7, you can help compile a species inventory on the Land Trust's Ohop Creek Management Unit in the beautiful Ohop Valley.

Tacoma Audubon will lead a "bioblitz" to compile a baseline inventory of flora and fauna species on the property. This baseline will be used to help measure the success of a \$10 million project to restore the creek's natural meander, set to begin next summer.

Teams of volunteers equipped with handheld computers running the University of Washington's Nature Mapping Program will patrol the Ohop properties for a day and enter data for every living thing they encounter—plants, birds, bugs, even pets!



*Species blitzer Sharon Hayden on patrol in the Ohop last July.*



*Count me! Song sparrow among pink thistles on the Land Trust's Ohop Creek Management Unit.*

This will be the third in a series of bioblitzes designed to collect Ohop species data in different seasons. The data will be used to create interactive maps that track each of the species

statistically. No special expertise is needed to participate. For more information, call Tacoma Audubon's Krystal Kyer at (253) 565-9278.

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## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 5

Salmon Watcher Training, Nisqually Stream Stewards

### DECEMBER 7

BioBlitz, Ohop Creek, Tacoma Audubon

### DECEMBER 13

Salmon Carcass Toss, Nisqually Stream Stewards

### JANUARY 24

Roy Salmon Homecoming

### FEBRUARY 17-18

Red Salmon Creek Planting, Nisqually Land Trust

### FEBRUARY 14

Salmon Carcass Toss, Nisqually Stream Stewards

### MARCH 6-7

Red Salmon Creek Planting, Nisqually Land Trust

### MARCH 21

Annual Auction Gala, Nisqually Land Trust

#### Contact:

Nisqually Land Trust: 360-458-1111

Nisqually Stream Stewards: (360) 438-8687 x2143

Tahoma Audubon: (253) 565-9278

## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL AUCTION GALA MARCH 21, 2009

Prepare to kick up your heels and have some fun with your Land Trust friends. Our Seventeenth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala will be held March 21, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Worthington Center at St. Martin's University in Lacey. Look for your invitation to this popular event in your mail in mid-January.

## SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST THROUGH THE COMBINED FUND DRIVE

Washington State employees who would like to support the Land Trust can do so through the Combined Fund Drive (CFD)—our charity code number is 0315004. CFD contributions provide a steady and predictable source of funding, which makes our planning more efficient and effective. Many thanks to all of you who already contribute through the CFD.

*Conserving and restoring natural areas and wildlife habitat throughout the Nisqually River watershed – and protecting those lands in perpetuity.*