

# NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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SUMMER 2006

## LAND TRUST RECEIVES 81 ACRES IN OHOP, MASHEL HABITAT VALUED AT \$1.1 MILLION

This spring, Pierce County Conservation Futures purchased 81 acres of critical salmon habitat in the Ohop and Mashel watersheds and donated those lands to the Land Trust for permanent protection. They were purchased for a combined total of \$1.1 million.

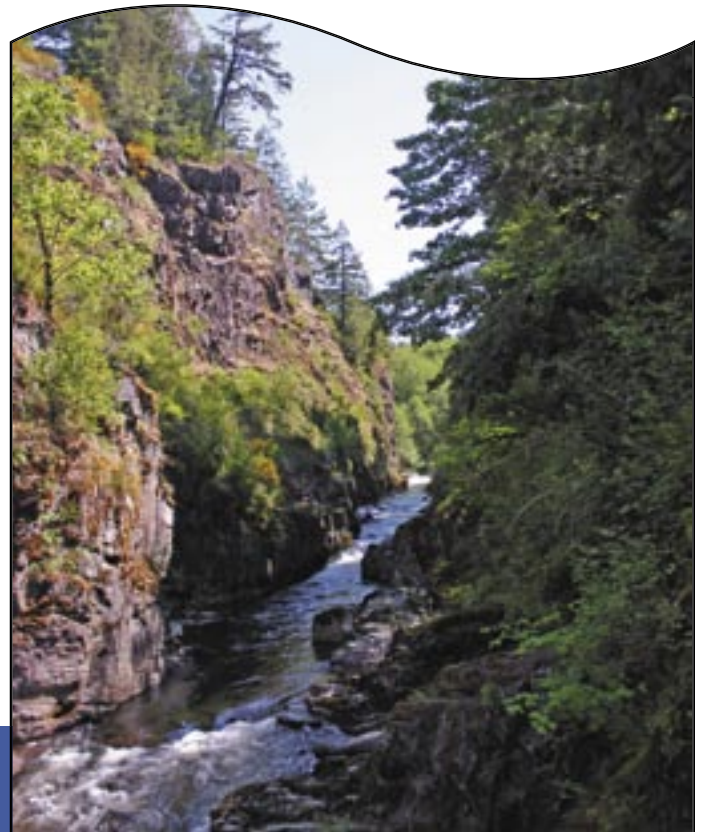
The properties play strategic roles in long-term restoration plans for Ohop Creek and the Mashel River, the two principal salmon-producing tributaries of the Nisqually River.

The Mashel acquisition, near Eatonville, includes 45 acres and spawning grounds for steelhead and Chinook, coho, and pink salmon. The crown jewel is a stunning rock-walled gorge known as Boxcar Canyon.

The property was settled by the Mensik family in the early 1800s and has remained in family ownership since then.

*continued on page 7*

*The Land Trust's newest acquisitions include Boxcar Canyon, a stunning gorge on the Mashel River.*



## LAND TRUST WINS \$3.3 MILLION FOR 734 ACRES

The Land Trust is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$3.3 million toward the purchase and permanent protection of 734 acres of critical wildlife habitat.

In January, the Land Trust won \$560,000 from the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for two key parcels in the lower watershed. Together, they total 90 acres and a mile and a quarter of Nisqually River shoreline.

In March, in partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Land Trust won a \$1.44 million U.S. Interior Department grant to purchase 404 acres of mature forest near the entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park. The property is under threat of immediate timber harvest.

In May, the Land Trust received a \$400,000 habitat grant from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. This grant

will be combined with a \$500,000 SRFB grant and \$300,000 in spotted-owl mitigation funds to purchase 240 acres with three and a half miles of salmon-producing shoreline.

The Land Trust has secured title to one property and is negotiating for the others. Our fall newsletter will have an update.



## BUYING LAND IS NOT ENOUGH

Linda Kunze

The Land Trust is good at buying land. But buying land is not enough to truly protect it. To do that, you have to manage the land. And management means volunteers. It is gratifying to see our volunteers developing relationships with the properties they are working on, and with each other.

**Roger Bessey** and his **Black Hills High School horticulture classes** have agreed to pot, tend, and plant plants for restoration of our MaGee property in the Nisqually Delta. They also have potted up plants for the Lundgren property in the Ohop Valley and will plant them in October. **Fred Fiedler** and **Patt Brady** are removing blackberry in preparation for the planting.

**Keith Kusler** continues to control weeds on the Mashel property adjacent to his home and is exploring the Weyco-Mashel property and keeping tabs on unwanted use.

In the Ohop Valley, **John Sparrow**, **Steve Pruitt** and **Keith Kusler** helped **David Hymel** remove a fallen tree and recyclable materials from the Lundgren property. David and John and a group of local volunteers have begun to dismantle dilapidated buildings on the Peterson Farm, and David has been working with other volunteers to clear blackberry. **Bob Smith** helped prune the fruit trees.

**Cheryl Stephan** and **Mary Fitzpatrick-Netz** continue to remove Scots broom on the Browder property.



Weed removal at the McBride property is nearly finished, thanks in part to, from left: Bob Zimmerman; his daughter Diane Ludwig; Curran Foster; Kristi Eckroth; Coltan Foster; J.W. Foster.

**Jim Harmon** has begun monthly visits to the Wilcox Flats property and is picking away at the blackberry.

**Clyde and Kathryn Powell** are continuing their visits to the Trent property.

The McBride property weed-control project is complete thanks to **Greg Arnold, Kristi Eckroth, Curran, Coltan, Taegan, Nicki, and J.W. Foster, Dianne Ludwig, Laura Lynn, Kelly McAllister, Al Schmauder, Amanda Sullivan, Lynn Villella, and Bob Zimmerman**. The ivy, Scots broom, and holly have been pulled or cut.

Please contact Linda (360-458-1111; nisquallysteward@ywave.com) if you'd like to help out on a project—we've got a million of 'em!

## Nisqually Land Trust

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Writers: Constance Bond, Joe Kane, Linda Kunze and George Walter  
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Special thanks to: Capitol City Press

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## GREAT LAND FOR \$141 AN ACRE

Joe Kane



Every \$141 in membership support translates to one acre of protected habitat, such as this salmon-spawning shoreline in the Wilcox Flats.

*“Buy land, they’re not making it anymore.” —Mark Twain*

2006 is off to a remarkable start for the Land Trust. We’re on track to nearly double the amount of wildlife and fish habitat we’ve permanently protected over the last sixteen years. By year’s end, we expect to have added some 800 acres valued at over \$4 million.

Compared to that total, your membership dollars might seem insignificant. They are not! They’re our base. Without them, we couldn’t pursue the grants and negotiate the deals that buy critical habitat.

Membership donations leverage a tremendous amount of purchasing power. We’ve calculated that over the last two and a half years—since January 1, 2004—every \$141 in membership income translates to an acre of land purchased.

That’s because winning, say, a \$1 million grant takes a lot of work. Researching and documenting the conservation values of a property, negotiating with the potential seller, arranging a timber cruise and

appraisal, coordinating with partners and governmental agencies, keeping the lights on and the computers running so we can actually write the grant proposal—membership support is what allows us to do all of that. And then it allows us to close the deal and purchase the land.

And that’s not just any land. It’s high-quality shoreline habitat that salmon use for spawning and rearing. It’s dense old-growth forests that harbor spotted owls, bald eagles, marbled murrelets, and many other species threatened by habitat loss. It’s viewsheds and working forests that support sustainable family-wage jobs in local communities.

It’s land that helps protect the water supply of some 60,000 people, including the entire city of Olympia.

And it’s land protected in perpetuity. For you, your children, your children’s children. Your generosity and support are what make it all possible. Thank you.

Major donations from the individuals and organizations listed below have been critical to the Land Trust’s success over the last six months. Many thanks to:

- Anonymous
- The Burning Foundation
- Pierce County Community Salmon Fund
- Sandy Desner and Laura Hogge-Desner
- The Estate of Jocelyn Dohm
- Glacier Northwest
- The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
- The Nisqually River Foundation
- The Nisqually Tribe
- Parametrix
- John and Clare Sleeter
- Charles Stephens and Rebecca Liebman
- Virginia Walter
- Weyerhaeuser
- Ward and Rita Willits
- Richard and Cathy Williams

**The Land Trust thanks the following donors for their generous support of our Volunteer Stewardship Program:**

- The Burning Foundation
- The Agnes J. Waterhouse Endowment Fund of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The Nisqually Indian Tribe Stream Stewards Program
- The Pierce County Community Salmon Fund
- The Sue D. Nilsson Endowment Fund of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# HORIZONS ELEMENTARY QUILT HELPS SET AUCTION RECORD

More than two hundred people turned out for the sixteenth annual Nisqually Land Trust Auction Gala in March. The auction netted \$39,835, a new record. Our spirited auctioneers, Joe Hyer and Jeff Kingsbury, kept the bidding friendly but competitive as they built to the evening's highlight—the “Salmon Run” quilt created by Peggy Cameron's 2004-2005 fifth-grade class at Horizons Elementary School in Lacey and donated to the Land Trust to help protect salmon.

The quilt drew a high bid of \$2,900, which will be used as matching funds for a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant. Because the grant leverages matching dollars at seven to one, the quilt will purchase more than four acres in the 70-acre salmon-spawning site that was the evening's acquisition target.

The winning bidder, Land Trust member Kim Malcom, put the quilt on display in the Washington State Labor and Industries building in Tumwater. “We've been getting a lot of comments from employees and visitors alike,” he said. “People are really getting a bang out of it.”



*Land Trust Executive Director Joe Kane with Horizons Elementary students and their “Salmon Run” quilt, which they donated to the Land Trust auction. The quilt drew \$2,900 to buy salmon habitat.*

Proceeds from the auction will be used for land acquisition, stewardship and management.

“I want to thank our donors, who do so much for the watershed,” said Connie Bond, Land Trust programs manager. The quality and variety of their donations, from artwork to plants to you name it, make our auction fun

and successful.”

Bond added that while our donors come from throughout the United States and even Canada, most are businesses in our own community. “I encourage our supporters to patronize these businesses and let them know that their contributions are appreciated,” she said.

## Thank you to our auction sponsors:

Alpine Experience  
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## A special thank you to businesses and individuals who donated cash, items and services.

Their support allows the Land Trust to continue to grow, and to fulfill its mission—conserving and restoring natural areas and wildlife habitat throughout the Nisqually River watershed.

# NISQUALLY TRIBE RECEIVES LAND TRUST PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is the first recipient of the Nisqually Land Trust President's Award, which honors outstanding achievement in support of conservation in the Nisqually watershed. President George Walter presented the award to Dorian Sanchez, Nisqually tribal council chair, at our Auction Gala in March.

"The Nisqually Tribe does an incredible amount of work to restore

salmon habitat," said Joe Kane, the Land Trust's executive director. "The Tribe is the main reason the Nisqually watershed's recovery plan for Chinook salmon is considered the best in the state."

The award specifically recognizes the Nisqually Tribe as the Land Trust's "Partner of the Year." "The Tribe has provided the Land Trust with substantial monetary

support, enabling us to protect and restore important salmon habitat that otherwise would have been lost to development," Kane said. "They've also donated extensive labor, expertise, and materials. Our relationship is a great example of the spirit that has made the Nisqually watershed community a state leader in salmon recovery and a national leader in cooperative conservation."

*Volunteers (from left front)*  
*Letha White, Fred Fiedler,*  
*Dana Botka, Joanne*  
*Stellini, Patt Brady, Ginger*  
*Phalen, Don and Angela*  
*Perry, Betsy Loyer, David*  
*Hymel and Ned White take*  
*a break from auction setup.*



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## **A big thank you to our auction volunteers**

Our volunteers are the brains and brawn behind the auction—it couldn't happen without them! Our thanks to the folks listed below, and to those whose names have escaped us, for all of your help. (Please let us know if you should be on this list, as we would like to acknowledge your contribution!)

Fazli and Leila Arbab  
 Grace Bell  
 Eva Bhagwandin  
 Karen Bond  
 Stephen Bond  
 Steve Bond  
 Dana Botka  
 Jill Brady  
 Patt Brady  
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 Jeff Kingsbury  
 Betsy Loyer  
 Cheryl Loyer  
 Evan Marks  
 Todd Millus  
 Kimberly Moore  
 Louis Olivera  
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 Ginger Phalen  
 The Steinweg Family  
 Joanne Stellini  
 Gerald Suzawith  
 Letha and Don White  
 Robert and Audrey Zimmerman

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- Osprey - \$100
- River Steward - \$200-\$400

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

## OUR “MOUNT RAINIER GATEWAY INITIATIVE”

*George Walter*

For many years one of my great joys has been driving up to Mount Rainier National Park along beautiful Highway 706, from Elbe through Ashford and on to the park. I'm sure many of you have enjoyed this scenic drive as well.

When we created the Nisqually Land Trust in 1989, a big part of our agenda was to work on protecting this upper Nisqually scenic corridor. For our first 15 years, however, we have invested primarily in protecting land along the lower Nisqually River. Now, things are changing a bit.

In the past year a number of folks have become concerned about the future of timberlands along the

Highway 706 corridor, particularly in the vicinity of Ashford. Some forests were being scheduled for harvest, including clear cuts, and others were being proposed for conversion to non-forest uses. These activities were sure to impact both the scenic character of the highway and the habitat values of these mature upper-basin forests.

The Nisqually Land Trust has stepped in to address these concerns; we must protect our precious forestlands and the critical economic, habitat and scenic values they provide for us. With this newsletter we are announcing our “Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative.” Our goal is to insure that the upper Nisqually forests, outside the national

park, remain as forests. This effort includes protecting habitat for the northern spotted owl and other threatened and endangered species.

In future publications we will be describing our Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative in greater detail. We are fortunate to have many partners in this effort, including upper Nisqually residents, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ultimately, however, it is through your continuing support of our Nisqually Land Trust that we have been able to respond to this call for help. I trust that, as you learn more about our initiative, you will be very pleased with our efforts.

## LAND TRUST RECEIVES OHOP, MASHEL PROPERTIES

*from page one*

“When my mother was a child, the salmon ran so thick they said you could cross the river on their backs,” said David Anderson, who like his brother Kurt and sister Angela is a direct descendant of the Mensiks.

As housing developments have sprung up around Eatonville, however, the property has become a de facto public dumping ground. “We’ve always believed in good stewardship, and we didn’t want to develop the land,” Anderson said. “But now we haul trash and cars out of there every year.” Passing title to the Land Trust was “a perfect solution,” he said.

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and the

Nisqually Indian Tribe have received a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant to restore in-stream and shoreline habitat on the property. “For me, bringing back salmon would be a dream come true,” Anderson said.

The Ohop Valley property, 36 acres, was purchased from the estate of Harry Witt, who died earlier this year. Mr. Witt first contacted the Land Trust in 2003, offering to sell a nine-acre parcel if the Land Trust could guarantee that it would never be developed. By 2005, he had agreed to sell his entire 36-acre holding, which adjoins the Land Trust’s one-hundred-acre Peterson Farm.

Mr. Witt, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, had also agreed to help the Land Trust develop a

stewardship plan for the property. “Harry Witt loved this land,” Land Trust President George Walter said. “It was his piece of paradise, and we were looking forward to that partnership. We are deeply saddened by his passing.” As Mr. Witt wished, his property will be protected in perpetuity.



*The Witt property on Ohop Creek.*

# “FLOAT THE NISQUALLY” WITH THE LAND TRUST



The best way to see the Nisqually River is to step into a raft and float it! This summer, join us for a relaxing raft excursion along seldom-seen stretches of scenic wildlands. We offer two trips, each exploring a different region of the river.

**Saturday, July 22**, journey 13 miles down a remote, mostly undisturbed

stretch of the Nisqually. This trip departs from the future site of the Nisqually-Mashel State Park, near Eatonville.

**Sunday, July 30**, float ten miles through a beautiful natural river corridor protected by Fort Lewis and the Nisqually Indian Reservation.

Both trips are peaceful four-to-six-hour floats past cedar and fir trees and sweeping undeveloped landscapes. Our professional outfitter, Wildwater River Tours, rates them as fun, easy, and family friendly, suitable for most people age six and up. You can keep an eye out for eagles, hawks, deer and other wildlife, and you'll get to see some of the wonderful habitat the Land Trust is protecting.

Seats on the raft trip are \$75 per person for Land Trust members, \$100 for non-members. A delicious catered lunch, served on the riverbank, is included. Space is limited, so make your reservations early.

For reservations and information, telephone the Nisqually Land Trust at (360) 458-1111 or email us at [staff@nisquallylandtrust.org](mailto:staff@nisquallylandtrust.org).

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SALMON BAKE!

**Sunday, September 24, 4-7 p.m.**

Plan to attend this year's Salmon Bake and Annual Meeting at Odd Fellows Park near the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Join us for a tasty dinner of Nisqually River salmon, delicious side dishes and desserts. Help us celebrate a successful year and find out what the Land Trust will be doing next year.

The dinner is free and all Nisqually Land Trust supporters are welcome. Call 360-458-1111 or email [staff@nisquallylandtrust.org](mailto:staff@nisquallylandtrust.org) for reservations.



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