

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



WWW.NISQUALLYLANDTRUST.ORG

SUMMER 2009

720 ACRES ADDED TO MT. RAINIER GATEWAY INITIATIVE *Land Trust Completes Largest Purchase to Date*

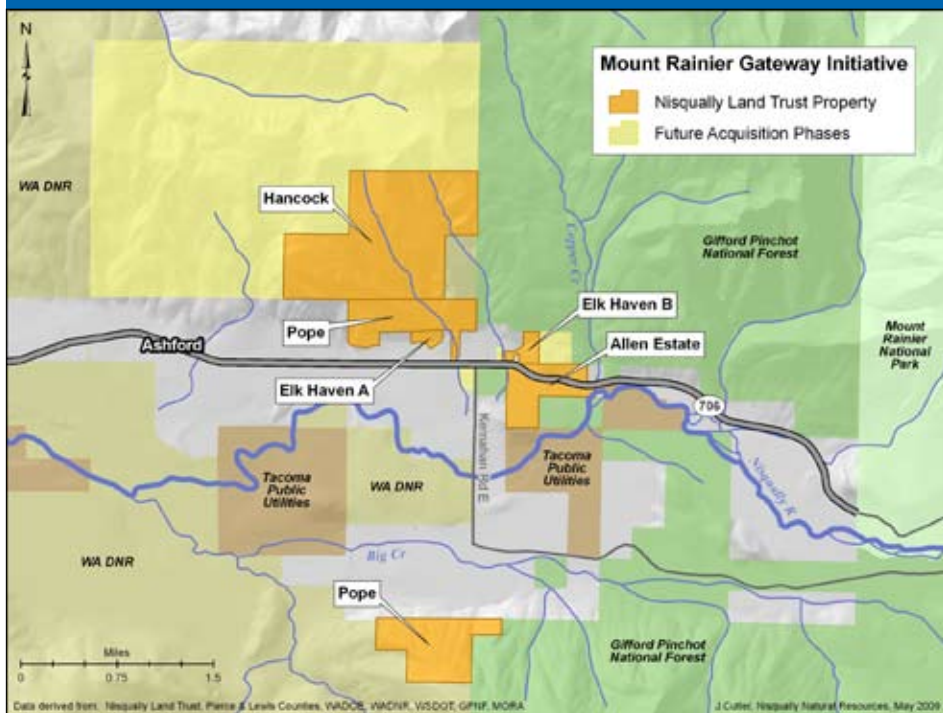
In April the Land Trust acquired the largest and most expensive property in its history, permanently protecting 720 acres of timberlands and wildlife habitat near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

Purchased for \$2.56 million from Hancock Forest Management, the property rests on the flanks of a ridge just above the town of Ashford, on the main highway into the park, and adjoins another 592 acres already protected through the Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative.

The purchase permanently protects habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and at least nine other species that are of concern to state and federal wildlife agencies.



View of the Upper Nisqually Watershed from the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative, above. The Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative has now protected 1312 acres, below.



The purchase was funded by a \$2.16 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and a \$350,000 donation from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The Washington Department of Natural Resources will hold a conservation easement on the property, and the Nisqually Tribe will help the Land Trust manage the site to enhance its wildlife values.

Located between Elbe Hills State Forest and old-growth forest reserves in Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the site has tremendous natural beauty and offers an excellent opportunity to create a wildlife corridor between the two forests. The Land Trust is grateful to Hancock Forest Management for working so diligently with us to complete the sale.

The site contains forest stands as old as 238 years. It also includes portions of the Mount Tahoma Trails Association cross-country ski trail, including the popular Copper Creek Ski Hut, and helps protect scenic vistas that are vital to the tourism economy of Ashford.

LAND TRUST ACQUIRES
1.1 MILES OF NISQUALLY
SHORELINE - PAGE 5

OUR BEST YEAR YET – STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDES THE WAY

By Joe Kane, Executive Director

The Land Trust is already enjoying the best year in its twenty-year history. We've acquired 795 new acres – roughly a third of our total land holdings – expanded our staff and board, and launched major restoration work on our properties.

This success isn't accidental. All of these goals, and many more, are laid out in the ambitious three-year strategic plan we adopted in January – the product of an intense, year-long effort by our board, staff, and supporters.

We started with a fundamental question: Clean water, abundant wildlife, inspiring vistas, healthy habitats for people, plants, and animals – the Nisqually River watershed has it all. How can we assure that these precious natural treasures will be passed along to the next generation, and the generations after that?

To help answer this question – and to better respond to the rapid pace of development we saw around us – we convened focus groups in local communities, conducted individual interviews with key stakeholders, and staged a series of facilitated retreats and study sessions for board and staff.

On a positive note, we learned that people throughout the region value the Land Trust because we achieve concrete results – we protect habitat, and we protect it forever. We won particular praise for our approach to conservation: voluntary, cooperative, private.

We heard also that we must step up our work. Poorly planned development is proceeding too rapidly, and the watershed

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST LAND ACQUISITIONS 1989 - 2009



is losing its most precious natural places at a frightening pace. As one participant noted, "People are growing more distant from the land."

We were also given a challenge: The Land Trust must lead, and we must engage even more closely with watershed communities and develop a broad array of partnerships and innovative strategies.

And, finally, we heard that we must take good care of ourselves, because our work is long-haul, marathon work: Build our capacity, train our staff, secure long-term support.

The tangible result of that process is a document that lays out a plan to take the Land Trust to the next level of effectiveness over the coming three years. The plan is now available on our website (www.nisquallylandtrust.org). We invite you to take a look, tell us what you think, and find a place to plug yourself in.

As you'll see, the plan is really two documents. The first, "Strategic Direction 2009-2011," shows where we intend to go. It defines our mission, values, and goals, and the benchmarks by which we will measure success.

The second document, "Three-Year Plans," tells how we're going to get there. Year by year, goal by goal, it maps the

steps we will take to meet the challenges of our times and grow the Land Trust to the next level.

Here's the short version: We are going to protect more land, we are going to restore and steward that land to even higher standards, and we are going to engage our partners and supporters in ever deeper ways.

We're looking forward to it, and we hope you are, too.



The Land Trust's new three-year strategic plan is the result of a year-long effort by board, staff and supporters.

Nisqually Land Trust

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NEW FACES JOIN BOARD, STAFF

As the Land Trust ramps up to execute the goals of its new strategic plan (see page 2), we are adding new staff and board members. Recently, we hired Kim Bredensteiner as our Stewardship Coordinator and Candi Ziegert as our administrative assistant, and we welcomed long-time supporter and volunteer Judy Scavone onto our board.



Kim Bredensteiner,
*Stewardship
Coordinator*

When it comes to stewardship, Kim Bredensteiner thinks big—really big. That’s what inspired her to become the

Nisqually Land Trust’s new Stewardship Coordinator. “I’m a systems ecologist,” she says. “With the Land Trust, I have an opportunity to restore and protect whole ecosystems. *That’s big.*”

Before joining the Land Trust Kim spent five years as salmon-recovery coordinator for Island County, where she worked extensively with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, a key Land Trust project partner. She also brings to the Land Trust strong skills in project management and Geographic Information Systems.

This year, Kim will focus on restoration work at Powell Creek, where the Land Trust, the Nisqually Tribe, and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group are restoring salmon access to the largest confluence wetland complex on the main stem of the Nisqually River.

She will also play a critical role in the \$10 million, multi-partner project to restore the natural meander of Ohop Creek to make it more productive for salmon, and she will guide the Land Trust’s management of its 1300-acre Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative near the main entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park.

Her immediate goals including drafting managements plans for each of our eight management units, building a strong volunteer base, and tapping more deeply into technical resources in the community, particularly in the areas of forest ecology and native plants

Kim recently moved to Yelm. She says she loves small communities, and she’s

looking forward to working with local landowners. “We can’t own it all,” she says. “But there are special places that need better protection than state and local governments can provide. That’s where we come in.”



Candi Ziegert,
*Administrative
Assistant*

Candi Ziegert joined the Land Trust as its administrative assistant in March, after graduating summa cum laude

from Pacific Lutheran University in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies.

Before joining the Land Trust, Candi completed internships with the Tahoma Audubon Society, where she helped coordinate the citizen-science components of programs like the Great Backyard Bird Count, and with the United States Forest Service, as an interpretive guide at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, where she put her German language skills to use with visiting tourists.

More recently, Candi interned at the Thurston Conservation District, where she trained elementary and high-school students in water-quality testing and assisted in restoration projects.

As our first administrative assistant, Candi works on everything from answering phones and email to publishing plans and manuals to fieldwork on our latest restoration project. As the youngest member of the Land Trust organization, Candi represents the next generation of Nisqually watershed conservationists. Welcome aboard, Candi!



Judy Scavone,
Board Member

Almost anyone familiar with the Land Trust’s Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative will recognize the name of Judy Scavone.

In 2005, alarmed by the threatened harvest of timberlands surrounding the community of Ashford, near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, Judy helped found the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition, a grassroots group that has since worked tirelessly with the Land Trust to identify, acquire and permanently protect some 1300 acres of critical wildlife habitat and scenic vistas in the Upper Nisqually Valley.

Judy works for Mount Rainier National Park and is also a director of the Mount Tahoma Trails Association, which maintains North America’s largest no-fee hut-to-hut cross-country ski trail system, near Ashford. A resident of Ashford, she is an avid hiker, bicyclist, and cross-country skier.

Judy is also a long-time Land Trust supporter and volunteer. She brings with her great passion and energy for land conservation and a vision that extends through the generations.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER?
CALL KIM BREDENSTEINER AT (360) 458-1111, OR
EMAIL HER AT NLTSTEWARD@NISQUALLYLANDTRUST.ORG.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Kim Bredensteiner and Joe Kennedy

Volunteers needed: Stewardship of our 2700 acres of conservation lands is one of the most important things we do. We will be planting tens of thousands of native plants over the next few years. Here is an update:



The Nisqually Tribe's field crew helped us remove agricultural debris and three miles of fencing from Ohop Creek in preparation for restoring the creek's natural meander and improving salmon habitat.



This past fall and winter we planted over 4500 trees and shrubs along two salmon-bearing streams on our Red Salmon Creek property in the Nisqually Delta. Thanks to nearly 300 volunteers, including local students, the Pierce County Stream Team, military families, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and Intel employees, the planting went smoothly. Once choked with stream-killing weeds, this important conservation property is now recovering quickly.

Ohop Creek

The beautiful Ohop Valley, along the Mountain Highway to Mount Rainier, is the site of one of the most ambitious collaborative stream-restoration projects ever undertaken in the Nisqually watershed.

In Phase I, this summer, over one mile of Ohop Creek, all of it on Land Trust properties, will be restored to its natural meander, greatly improving habitat for native salmon. (Ohop Creek was channelized for agriculture in the 19th century.) The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will manage the project, which has taken years of planning and has many partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural

Resources Conservation Service, and the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

This fall and winter, we will replant forty acres with 28,000 trees and shrubs. Please join us!

Ashford-Mount Rainier Gateway

The Nisqually River Knotweed Control Project will host **the first annual knotweed-bending party on the Land Trust's Allen Estate, next to Copper Creek Inn, on June 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Volunteers should contact Paul Nerge (360-569-2767) for more information. Japanese Knotweed is an aggressive invasive plant that can tower

over native vegetation and outcompete it.

Wilcox Flats

Our work at Wilcox Flats, next to Wilcox Farms in McKenna, will continue this summer as we prepare sites for fall and winter plantings. This fall, **we will plant a small area on the main Nisqually River side channel with live cottonwood and willow stakes, and we will plant the north side with 4,200 trees and shrubs.** Funding comes from the Landowner Incentive Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Williams Pipeline Mitigation Fund, and the National Resources Conservation Service. We hope you will **come out and help us plant!**

Powell Creek

This spring we've been applying for permits for restoration work on the northern end of our Powell Creek management unit in Thurston County. This summer, we will demolish old buildings and remove bank armoring, and **this fall and winter we will plant 6,500 trees and shrubs.**

STEWARDSHIP WISH LIST

- Pickup truck (F150 or equivalent) for field work
- Corona brush loppers
- Stihl brushcutter
- Truck ramp
- Arborist services
- Surveyor services

LAND TRUST PURCHASES 1.1 MILES OF SALMON SHORELINE

One of Last Large Private Holdings on Nisqually River

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of a key stretch of salmon-producing shoreline on the main stem of the Nisqually River, between its confluences with the Mashel River and Ohop Creek.

The property includes 70 acres and 1.1 miles of shoreline, making it one of the most significant protection projects to be completed on the river in recent years. It was the last substantial piece of privately owned, unprotected shoreline in this reach of the river. With the exception of a handful of small lots, both banks of the river from Alder Dam down to Tanwax Creek – twenty miles of salmon-

producing shoreline – are now under some form of permanent protection by the Land Trust or its watershed partners. All told, with this purchase 73 percent of the Nisqually River's salmon-producing shoreline is now permanently protected.

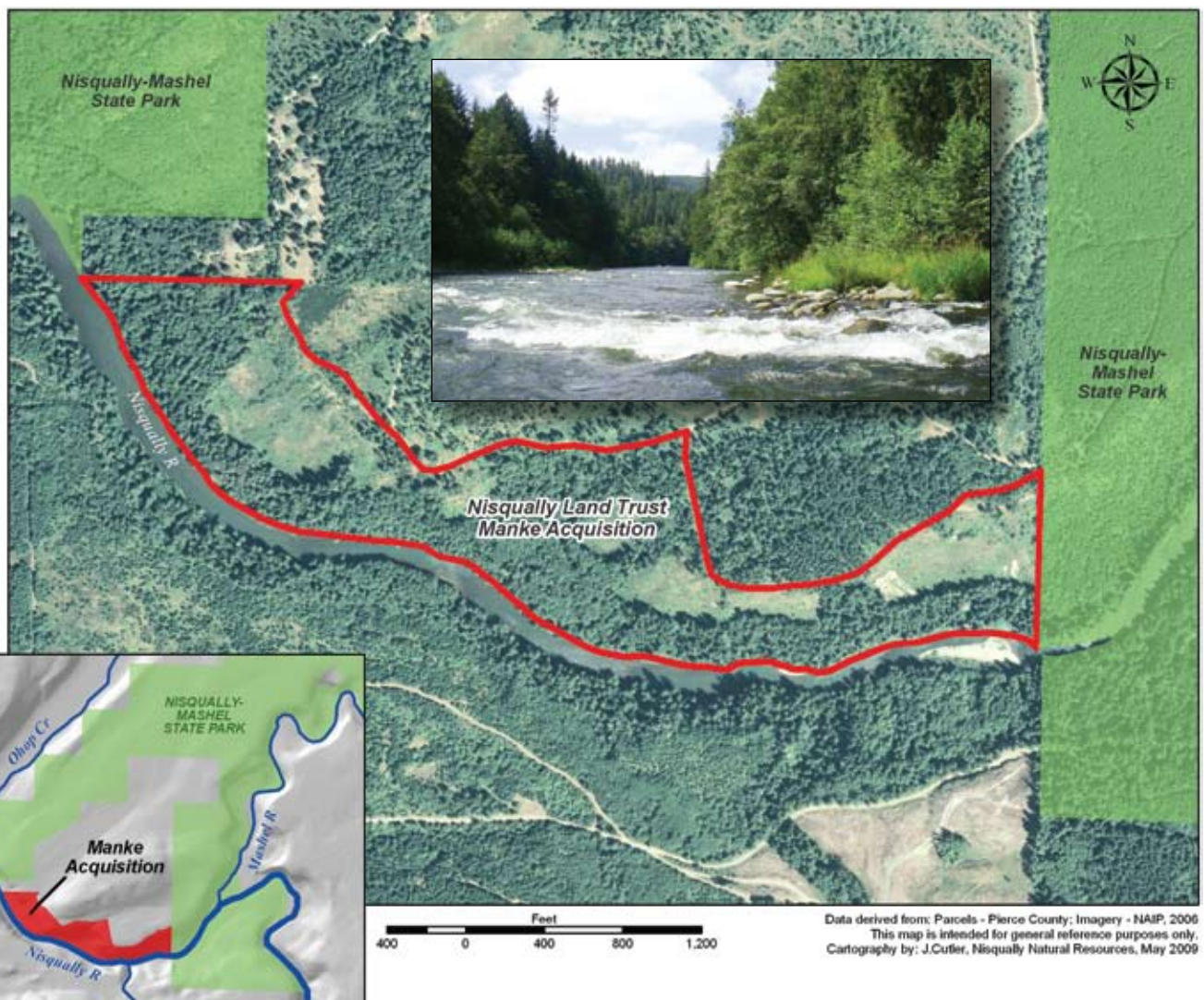
The property adjoins the new Nisqually-Mashel State Park, effectively connecting the park and the river, and is directly across the river from a large block of permanently protected wildlife habitat owned by Tacoma Power.

Salmon, in particular threatened Chinook and steelhead, use this shoreline area 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, which was ripe for subdivision into ten- and twenty-acre forested home sites.

The Land Trust purchased the property from the Manke Timber Company with a grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and proceeds from our 2006 auction. As well, the purchase would not have been possible without the Manke family's generous agreement to sell the property at a significant discount to its appraised value.

View of the Manke shoreline (right) from the Nisqually River



Data derived from: Parcels - Pierce County; Imagery - NAIP, 2006
This map is intended for general reference purposes only.
Cartography by: J.Cutler, Nisqually Natural Resources, May 2009

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CONTRIBUTORS

October 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

Contributions from our supporters are our most important source of operating revenue. We thank everyone listed below for your generous support of permanent conservation in the Nisqually River Watershed.

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WITH THANKS AND FOND FAREWELLS...

We would like to thank three people who played major roles in the Land Trust's current success and have moved on to other things – and whom we will always consider part of the Land Trust “family.”

Linda Kunze founded our stewardship program in 2005 and built it so successfully that it outgrew her half-time position. (In fact, the program now employs two full-time staff!) Not wanting to increase her workload while her daughter, Claire, is still in school, Linda hired and trained her successors, Kim Bredensteiner and Joe Kennedy, and

staked a claim as “life steward” of our Red Salmon Creek site, where she executed the Land Trust's first complete restoration project. .

Dana Botka joined the Land Trust board in 2004 and served two terms, during which the Land Trust tripled the scope of its work. As the creator of Washington State's “Plain Talk” program, Dana has helped hundreds of state employees improve their writing skills. She brought the same clear-eyed and level-headed perspective to our often complex projects, and in particular to our strategic-

planning process.

Kelly McAllister joined the Land Trust board in 2003 and served as secretary from 2006-2009. A renowned wildlife biologist, a direct descendant of the Nisqually basin's earliest white settlers, and a talented photographer, Kelly brought with him a deep knowledge of, and infectious enthusiasm for, the history and biology of the watershed. His generous donations of time, expertise, and wisdom contributed to the success of many Land Trust projects.

2009 AUCTION DONORS

The Land Trust extends a big “Thank You!” to the businesses and individuals listed below, who generously donated the goods, services, and time that made this year's auction a success. Held March 21, and sold out three weeks in advance, the auction netted \$46,522 for permanent conservation in the Nisqually Watershed.

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Hancock Forest Management

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A SECRET REVEALED: FLOAT THE NISQUALLY RIVER THIS SUMMER

The Nisqually River is one of the best-kept secrets on the West Coast. With 73 percent of the river's lower 42 miles – from Alder Dam to the delta – virtually undeveloped and permanently protected, the Nisqually rivals federally designated Wild and Scenic rivers in the quality and quantity of its natural habitat.

But protection means limited access, which is why the Nisqually is such a secret. It's just not that easy to get down to the river and see it up close. This summer, though, as we do each year, the Land Trust is offering two opportunities to do just that.

And we mean *up close* – we'll travel the river by raft, right on the water.

These will be gentle trips, rated for those aged six years and up and run by a professional outfitter. They last from four to six hours and include a catered riverbank lunch. There is no better way

to see the river.

The first trip, Saturday, July 18, will float the “upper” river, from its confluence with the Mashel River, near Eatonville, to Wilcox Farms, in McKenna. This 13-mile trip will pass along one of our newest acquisitions (see Page 5) and travel the three-mile length of one of our largest management units, Powell Creek.

On Sunday, July 26, we will raft ten miles of the lower river, from Yelm down

through Fort Lewis and the Nisqually Indian Reservation, through some of the largest old-growth forest stands on the river.

These are always fun trips, and space is limited, so make your reservations early. Seats are \$75 for Land Trust members and \$100 for non-members and include lunch.

For reservations and further information, call us at (360) 458-1111 or visit our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

CALENDAR

June 27 • Rain Garden Workshop, Pack Forest

June 27 • Knotweed Party, Allen Estate (Copper Creek)

July 18 • Nisqually River Float Trip

July 26 • Nisqually River Float Trip

September 20 • Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake

March 13, 2010 • Annual Auction & Gala

Volunteer Planting Parties: Throughout next Fall and Winter. Check our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org, or call Joe Kennedy at (360) 458-1111



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