

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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SUMMER 2010

LAND TRUST ACQUIRES 600 ACRES NEAR MOUNT RAINIER

Permanent Wildlife Corridor Nearly Complete

In April the Land Trust expanded its Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative to 1940 acres with the purchase of an additional 600 acres of timberlands and wildlife habitat near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

The purchase brings the Land Trust a “huge” step closer to completing a permanently protected wildlife corridor between Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Elbe Hills State Forest, said Executive Director Joe Kane. “With one more purchase, we can complete the link. And we have the funds to do that.”

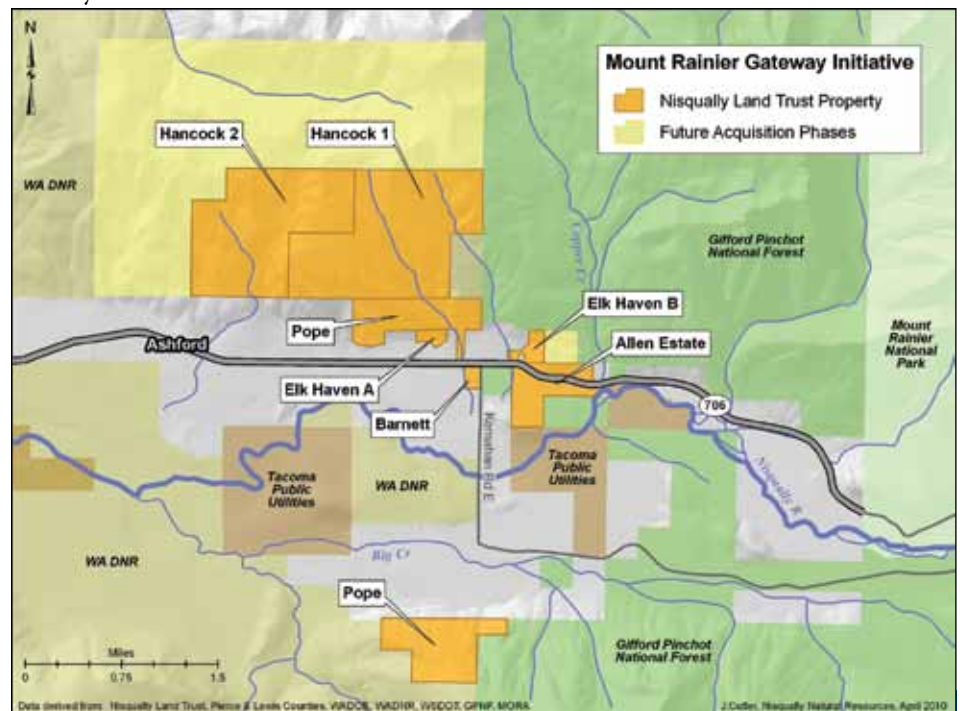
Acquired for \$1.96 million from Hancock Forest Management, the property represents the second-largest deal in the Land Trust’s 21-year history and follows on the heels of its purchase, last year, of 720 acres that are immediately adjacent.

The Land Trust met the purchase price with a \$1.83 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and a \$130,000 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.

Specifically, the federal grant was intended to protect 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 resource agencies. In addition, the site is located on the flanks of a ridge just above the town of Ashford and includes areas within the viewshed of State Route 706, the main approach to the national park, that had already been permitted for timber harvest. As well, the site includes an extensive stretch of the Mount Tahoma Trails Association’s hut-to-hut ski-trail system, the largest no-fee system in the country.

“We’ve come a long way,” said Kane. “Not that long ago the spotted owl was a pariah. Now the owl is everyone’s friend. It helped the timber company sell its property at a good price in a down market, and it helped preserve scenic vistas and recreational opportunities that are critical to the local tourism economy and business community. Deals like this take a lot of patience from all sides, but they really are the essence of win-win.”



With the acquisition of 600 acres in April, the Land Trust’s Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative now protects 1940 acres of timberlands and wildlife habitat. This purchase was part of Phase II of the Initiative, and a major step toward completing a permanently protected wildlife corridor between Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Elbe Hills State Forest.

RESCUED SPOTTED OWL FINDS NEW HOME NEAR LAND TRUST'S MOUNT RAINIER GATEWAY INITIATIVE



Rehabilitated and ready to return to the wild, this female spotted owl was released near Nisqually Land Trust protected habitat.

Last summer, after reportedly being hit by a car near Yelm, an injured female northern spotted owl was brought to the Yelm Veterinary Hospital, a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitation center that takes in raptors (hawks, owls, etc.) in need of care. Hospital staff stabilized and treated the owl, and sent it to the Sarvey Wildlife Center north of Seattle for rehabilitation.

A few months ago, working with National Park Service biologist Ellen Myers, the owl was released in spotted-owl habitat buffered by the Land Trust's Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative, near Mount Rainier National Park.

Spotted owls are listed under the Endangered Species Act and are one of the species specifically protected by the Gateway Initiative. Kudos to everyone who helped this young female survive, especially Yelm Veterinary, where most of the wildlife care is done with volunteer labor and donated supplies. We hope she lives a long, healthy life in the forest and hatches many chicks.



Next time you visit Mount Rainier, stop and see the new sign designating the Allen Memorial Forest. Located along State Route 706 opposite the Copper Creek Inn, the sign was a gift from the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition to the Nisqually Land Trust, which purchased the Allen Estate for permanent protection in 2008.

The sign commemorates the contributions of Oscar Allen and his sons, Edward and Grenville, to the stewardship and protection of Mount Rainier's natural resources. Oscar, a retired Yale University botany professor, homesteaded the Estate in the 1890s and compiled the first scientific collection of the mountain's flora. Grenville became the first acting superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, and Edward worked closely with Gifford Pinchot in the development of the U.S. Forest Service. Among the brothers' many achievements was the creation of the park's ranger force, which became a national model.

Ashford resident and Land Trust Board Member Judy Scavone coordinated the sign's complex, time-consuming creation; Catharine Gallagher, Copper Creek Inn owner, contributed her graphic-arts expertise; and Marty Logan volunteered to professionally install it. Thank you to Nisqually Headwaters and everyone who helped create this handsome and informative commemoration.

TWINSTAR PAPERLESS STATEMENTS CAMPAIGN BENEFITS NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

TwinStar Credit Union members can help the Land Trust plant trees and restore habitat on our protected land by choosing to receive monthly statements online. TwinStar will donate a dollar to the Nisqually Land Trust for each account that switches to paperless "eStatements" between May 3 and June 30, 2010.

"The idea of planting trees and improving the forests in Southwest Washington is a natural extension of the eStatement campaign," said TwinStar's Chief Strategy Officer, Jeff Kennedy, who explained the campaign could save in excess of 240,000 sheets of paper and 120,000 envelopes per year if 10,000 members make the switch.

"Directing these resource savings to a long-lasting, natural object like newly planted trees provides a link to the important step taken by TwinStar members," said Kennedy. He said TwinStar chose the Nisqually Land Trust as its partner for this promotion because the trust per-

manently protects important habitat near communities they serve. TwinStar has over 300 employees and almost 80,000 members.

"TwinStar Credit Union sees community commitment as one of the strategic objectives of operating our organization," Kennedy explained. "We plan to be here for a while and think that education and environmental stewardship are two good ways to increase the quality of life for everyone in this beautiful part of the country." He noted that the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce recognized Twin Star as the Green Business of the Year in 2009.

Customers who switch from paper statements during the May-June campaign will also be entered into weekly drawings for a set of two Mariners tickets. TwinStar wants customers to know that they can sign up online and that e-statements are free, secure and encrypted for safety, and are archived online for accessibility.

FLOAT THE NISQUALLY JULY 17 AND 25 WITH THE LAND TRUST

There's No Better Way to See the River



Spend a relaxing day on the Nisqually River and see habitat the Land Trust is working to protect.

It's just not that easy to get down to the Nisqually River and see it up close. 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 this summer, as we do each year, the Land Trust is offering two opportunities to experience the Nisqually River. And we mean *experience* – 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 17**, 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 some of our properties, including the three-mile length of one of our largest management units, Powell Creek. This trip requires some walking over uneven ground.

On **Sunday, July 25**, 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 \$80 for Land Trust members and \$105 for non-members. For reservations and further information, call us at (360) 458-1111 or visit our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CONTRIBUTORS

February 1 – April 30, 2010

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the donors listed below, many of whom responded to our fall appeal, sponsored our auction, or made donations at the auction. These gifts support operations and underwrite the development of grant proposals, strategic partnerships and innovative conservation tools. They are the reason we can protect habitat, water quality and scenic landscapes in the Nisqually watershed.

Watershed Patron—\$1,000-\$4,999

Hancock Forest Management
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Judith Scavone
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Habitat Guardian—\$500-\$999

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Rita & Ward Willits

River Steward—\$200-\$499

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Copper Creek Inn
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Ed Fleisher
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Kim Freeman
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TwinStar Credit Union

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Fred & Barbara Michelson
Lee Overland
Storman's Inc.
Marilyn Williams
Candi Ziegert & Tim Tobin

A Special Thanks to...

J.W. Foster
who provided CPR and defibrillator training for Nisqually Land Trust staff.

TACOMA POWER DONATES 3,000 DOUGLAS FIR SEEDLINGS

A team of Nisqually Land Trust volunteers gathered at the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest near Eatonville to pot 2,000 sturdy Douglas fir seedlings so they can grow and be planted on Land Trust properties next fall and winter. Another 1,000 seedlings have been heeled in at one of the Land Trust's Yelm Shoreline properties. Thank you to Tacoma Power for the seedlings and to Myrna Lopas for organizing materials for the work party and agreeing to water the potted seedlings during the summer.



Volunteers and stewardship staff pot 2,000 seedlings donated by Tacoma Power.

WISH LIST

Our stewardship team can tell you that restoration work is never done, but the following items would sure help the work get done faster, better and safer. If you can provide any of the items below, please call Kim Bredensteiner at (360) 458-1111.

Walkie-talkies

Cell phones don't work on many of our properties. Walkie-talkies would speed communications when we're working beyond shouting-range.

Small weed wrench

Medium weed wrench

You can't beat these tools for yanking out unwelcome squatters, like Scot's broom—they are big plants.

Pre-paid gas cards

Make the stewardship truck go! Gas stations near our office and properties include: Shell, Arco, 76, and Safeway.

Atlas rubber-coated work gloves

Volunteers and staff can't get by without these stewardship necessities.



Land Steward Joe Kennedy uproots a stubborn plant with the help of a borrowed weed wrench. Weed wrenches make an impossible task do-able and are on the Land Trust's wish list. Photo by Martha Anderson

STEWARDSHIP JOURNAL

Monitoring in Progress

Spring is a pleasant time to take a walk along the river, and Land Trust staff and site stewards have been busy monitoring Land Trust properties. Among other things, we've been responding to unauthorized horsetail harvest and installing new fences to discourage off-road vehicles. Soon we'll be posting new signs to indicate Nisqually Land Trust boundaries. If you see or suspect trespass or harvesting on our lands, please contact Kim Bredensteiner at 360-458-1111.

50,000 Trees and Shrubs

The 2009-10 planting season is complete. With help from our partners and many, many volunteers, we planted more than

50,000 native trees and shrubs on Land Trust property last winter. Thanks!

Next, Please

This spring we'll focus on maintaining our new plantings and planning next winter's projects. We will plant at Trestle Farm, Powell Creek, Wilcox Flats, Ohop Creek, and Mount Rainier Gateway next, so we are drawing up planting plans and ordering plants. Volunteers, staff, the Nisqually Tribe field crew, and several Washington Conservation Corps crews have been working hard to control invasive species – Himalayan blackberry, Scot's broom, and ivy, oh my! Ivy and Scot's broom work parties seem to be the favorites. Thanks to U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, the Nisqually Tribe, and The Nature Conservancy for the loan of weed wrenches.

Out, Out Obnoxious Weed

Throughout April and May we were busy controlling weeds at the sites planted in the last three years – Red Salmon Creek, Wilcox Flats, Powell Creek, and Ohop Creek. Controlling the grass and weeds around new plants is crucial to getting these plants established.

This summer we will continue to work on controlling invasive species. We also have plans to remove debris and derelict homes from several properties.

NLT CALENDAR

Don't miss our fun events and work parties

DATE	EVENT	
June 12	Powell Uplands Scot's Broom Control Work Party	
July 17	Nisqually/Mashel Float Trip	
July 25	Lower Nisqually Float Trip	
August 21	Powell Uplands Scot's Broom Control Work Party	
September 19	Salmon Bake & Annual Meeting	
September 18, 20 & 21	Ashford Planting	
October 15	Powell Uplands Scot's Broom Control Work Party	Call our office at 360/458-1111 for more information, or email us at staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.
October 30	Ohop Planting	
November 12, 13, 14	North Powell Planting	
April 2, 2011	Nineteenth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala	

MEET INTERN EMILY BROWN



Emily Brown

Yelm High School Senior Emily Brown let her fingers do the walking—right into an internship with the Nisqually Land Trust.

“Last July,” she said, “bored and looking through telephone book listings” she came across the Land Trust. “I went right to the website and signed up to volunteer,” she said. Helping with our annual salmon bake, she met Kim Bredensteiner, our stewardship coordinator, who offered Brown an internship that led to her culminating project for graduation from high school.

Brown took on the important, and ongoing, task of compiling and categorizing the Land Trust’s property files. She said that sorting through stacks of paperwork, including thick folios that haven’t seen the light of day for decades, doesn’t faze her. “I

never wake up and think, ‘I don’t want to go in today,’” she said.

“Emily has done an exceptional job of bringing order to chaos” said Bredensteiner, who is supervising Brown’s project. “She’s organized our records into an efficient system that is a real benefit to the work we do.”

Brown also enjoys volunteering at Land Trust stewardship and fundraising events because, she says, she feels that such work serves her community. “The Land Trust brings a lot of people together. They don’t have to have the same views or goals, but everyone is working to accomplish something specific for our community. And that’s a lot of fun.”

Brown’s favorite Land Trust experience took place on our beautiful Tatrimuma property, along the Nisqually River, working with stewardship staffers Candi Ziegert and Joe Kennedy and a Washington Conservation Corp team. “My job was removing English ivy—just rolling it up like an old carpet. I was sweaty and smelly and dirty and had the greatest time. I worked for four hours, but it just flew. It was a great feeling of accomplishment.”

Brown has already completed nearly a year of college through Washington State’s Running Start program and wants to finish her associate of arts degree at Seattle Central Community College. Her goal is to work for a nonprofit organization and she has volunteered for several. “You can tell which organizations are growing and which one’s aren’t,” she says. “The Land Trust is definitely growing, which means it’s open to change and new challenges.”

“The same can be said for interns,” said Bredensteiner. “Emily is a person who enthusiastically seeks new experiences. We’re truly grateful for the work she does. She’s been a great help not just to the Land Trust, but to the entire Nisqually watershed.”

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST NAMES PIERCE COUNTY “PARTNER OF THE YEAR”

A highlight of our Annual Dinner & Auction Gala in March was the presentation of the Land Trust’s President’s Award for “Partner of the Year” to Pierce County.

“This award recognizes the tremendous contributions Pierce County has made toward the protection of the Mashel River and Ohop Creek, the two most important salmon-producing tributaries of the Nisqually River,” said Land Trust President George Walter. “Both projects made enormous strides this past year. That would not have been possible without Pierce County’s commitment to conservation both now and over the long term.”

Last summer, the Land Trust, the Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department, and Cascade Land Conservancy collaborated on the first acquisition project to be carried out under Pierce County’s new Transfer of Development Rights program. Through the program, development rights for a 25-acre parcel on the Mashel River were

purchased from the Van Eaton family. This greatly reduced the purchase price of the property and enabled the Land Trust ultimately to acquire it in fee simple.

The Van Eaton property is critical to the recovery of threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead because it contains the confluence of the Mashel and Little Mashel rivers. The confluence is a focal point of the Mashel River Protection and Restoration Initiative, through which the Land Trust, the Nisqually Tribe, and the Town of Eatonville are restoring some 2.2 miles of the Mashel.

The Pierce County Conservation Futures program, administered by Pierce County Parks and Recreation, also played a key role in the Mashel restoration. In 2006, Conservation Futures acquired 34 acres on the Mashel known as Boxcar Canyon and transferred them to the Land Trust for salmon recovery. Boxcar Canyon anchors one end of the restoration project and was one of the first sites to be used for engineered logjams, which create salmon-friendly pools along the river.

In 2006, Conservation Futures also purchased 36 acres along Ohop Creek, in the Ohop Valley, and transferred them to the Land Trust. This land became part of Phase I of the re-meandering of Ohop Creek. Completed this summer, Phase I restored six-tenths of a mile of straightened and ditched creekbed to its natural meander, lengthening the shoreline to 1.1 miles and anchoring it with 42 salmon-friendly engineered logjams and 86,000 native trees and shrubs. This will greatly enhance Ohop Creek’s salmon-producing capacity and is especially important for the recovery of Chinook salmon.

Also last year, the Pierce County Council created the Pierce County Open Space Task Force, which is charged with evaluating the county’s open-space needs over the next ten years and designing a plan to meet them. “We’re proud to be part of the Task Force,” said Walter, “and to have the opportunity to work so closely with the many people in Pierce County government who treasure the natural resources our region is blessed with.”



The Nisqually Land Trust 2010 President’s Award for Partner of the year was presented to Pierce County in recognition of contributions toward protection of the Mashel River and Ohop Creek. From left: Pierce County Parks Department Director Kathy Kravit-Smith, Nisqually Land Trust President George Walter, and Special Assistant to the Pierce County Executive Randy Harrison.

SAVE THE DATE – 2010 SALMON BAKE AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, September 19, 4-7:30 p.m. • Odd Fellows Park, Olympia WA

Free barbecued Nisqually River salmon dinner with all the trimmings!

Help us celebrate a successful year of habitat conservation and find out what your Land Trust will be doing next year.

All Nisqually Land Trust supporters are welcome. For information, reservations and directions to the park visit our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org or call 360-458-1111.



As usual, we will be enjoying the water and a great view of Mount Rainier at our annual Salmon Bake and Annual Meeting. Don't miss it!

Salmon Bake volunteers needed:

- Set up and take down tables & benches
- Greeter
- Parking attendant
- Cook's assistants
- Clean and pack up

Call Candi at 360-458-1111 or email staff@nisquallylandtrust.org if you would like to volunteer.

2010 AUCTION RAISES \$50,000

Our Eighteenth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala opened on March 13 to a full house. The businesses and individuals listed below set the stage with generously donated goods and services attractively displayed by our volunteers; then Auctioneer Larry Schorno got our fun, fast-paced live auction underway. Thanks to everyone's help and participation, we met our fundraising goal.

AUCTION SPONSORS

Hancock Forest Management
CalPortland
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Westwood Chalet at Mount Rainier
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Alpine Experience and Olympic Outfitters
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Anthony's Restaurant
Art House Design, Olympia
Ashford Creek Pottery
Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters
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Pendleton Northwest & the Northwest Museum Store, Tacoma
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Judy Scavone

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Stellar Flutes
Joanne Stellini & Gwill Ging
Stewart's Meat Market
Stone Creek Lodge at Mt. Rainier
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Des Whitchurch & Barbara Karschner
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Wolf Haven International

Wood Loved by Larry

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NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

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.

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PIERCE STREAM TEAM: BECOME A STREAM MONITOR

Since the beginning of the Pierce Stream Team program in 1994, water-quality volunteers have provided historical stream data that might not otherwise exist and have alerted authorities to water-quality violations that would likely have gone undetected.

Through water-quality monitoring, volunteers gain an understanding of

stream ecology while collecting chemical, physical, and biological data. The information they collect can be used to track water-quality trends, determine whether water quality standards are being met, highlight areas where non-point pollution is a problem, and increase the amount of water-quality data available to decision makers at all levels of government. Many of our local streams

would not be assessed if volunteers were not out there collecting data.

The Stream Team needs volunteers to monitor a number of open stream sites in Pierce County. If you are interested please contact Isabel Ragland at (253) 845-2973 or isabelr@piercescountycd.org to schedule training.

Sign up for Email

Share your email address with us and we will send any or all of the following to your online mailbox:

- News updates
- Stewardship and other volunteer opportunities
- Event invitations and news
- Reminders, maps and information for events you are attending
- Newsletters

We will not share your email address with others.

To sign up, email cbond@nisquallylandtrust.org, or call 360-458-1111.