

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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WINTER 2010

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST AND PARTNERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Coastal America Confers Spirit Award for Red Salmon Creek Restoration

The Coastal America Partnership has chosen the Nisqually Land Trust and its partners to receive its prestigious "Spirit Award." This national award recognizes the Red Salmon Restoration Team (Nisqually Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Veterans Conservation Corps, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Pierce County Stream Team, school groups, local businesses and many, many volunteers) for successfully collaborating to restore important salmon-producing habitat in the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek Management Unit.

Coastal America chose the project because it contributed to the restoration of the Nisqually Delta, the largest estuary restoration project on the Pacific Coast, and because it included science classes from the local community. Coastal America is a partnership of federal agencies, state and local governments and private organizations working together to protect America's coastlines.

Linda Kunze was the Land Trust's



These young conservationists from area schools helped restore Red Salmon Creek by planting native trees and shrubs in February 2009.

stewardship coordinator during project implementation and is currently the volunteer steward for the site. "People who do this kind of work are doing so from their hearts and to reconnect

with the land, and they don't expect any recognition," she said recently, after a day pulling ivy. "So it's very special when their work is recognized."

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ACQUISITION PROTECTS RED SALMON CREEK HABITAT

Not satisfied with the completion of an award-winning 30-acre restoration (see article above), the Nisqually Land Trust has added 3.5 acres to its Red Salmon Creek properties near the Nisqually Delta.

Protection of this property provides a water-quality buffer for the headwaters of

Red Salmon Creek. A seasonal wetland there collects I-5 run-off, and springs located on the property drain into the creek. About one-third of the land is forest that provides a scenic corridor along I-5. The remainder consists of an abandoned homesite and gardens.

Restoration of the property will begin this spring with the removal of the derelict home and a host of invasive plant species: Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Scot's broom and herb robert. Following site preparation, we will begin plantings to restore forest on the entire parcel.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

George Walter

For the many years I have written this column, what I have enjoyed most is writing about our latest land acquisitions. I find each acquisition project exciting and noteworthy.

But in this newsletter, I want to tell you about something equally exciting - the restoration of Ohop Creek's natural meander. From Highway 7, the Mountain Highway, you can see a sinuous new channel for Ohop Creek that has been dug on Land Trust property above and below the highway.

This richly curving channel replaces the straightened canal-like channel that was dug in the 1930's. It includes 42 engineered logjams that will stabilize the creek and provide salmon-friendly pools. Next summer, Ohop Creek will occupy this new, more natural channel, which, all told, has been lengthened from .6 miles to 1.1 miles.

And that's not all. Our Land Trust volunteers and others already are planting trees and other streamside vegetation on the property. In a few years Ohop Creek



This newly dug channel will restore meanders to Ohop Creek. Forty-two engineered logjams like the one above will provide salmon-friendly pools.

will be a wooded, meandering stream, with much better salmon habitat.

So, how does a project like this come about? In 1999 the Nisqually Tribe and others, as part of the Nisqually Fall Chinook Recovery Plan, included Ohop Creek restoration as a high priority. In following years we found abandoned farm fields in the area being sold, and, on the promise of future restoration, the Land Trust won acquisition funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

A project like this doesn't succeed without many partners. The Nisqually Tribe's salmon recovery program has been essential, and the design and implementation of the project is being led by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

I hope that, as you drive up Highway 7 this year, you'll stop and take a look at this restoration project. It represents your dollars at work, both through your taxes and through your ongoing support of the Nisqually Land Trust. Thank you!

MARY GENTRY JOINS LAND TRUST BOARD



Mary Gentry

The Land Trust is pleased to announce that Mary Gentry has joined our board of directors. Mary brings with her a long history of community service in Thurston County as well as thirty years

of experience as an estate-planning and probate attorney with the firm of Bean, Gentry, Wheeler and Peternell, where her husband, Fred, is a principal, and from which she retired in 2007.

"Fred and I have been hikers, climbers, and skiers forever," Mary said recently. "Still, I'd say I'm a homebody, but my passport wouldn't support that." In the last three years alone, she's traveled twice to Africa and to China and the Maritimes. She is also a trustee of Saint Martin's University and a director of Olympia Federal Savings, and has served on the Providence Saint Peter Hospital Community Board and the boards of Washington's National Parks Fund and many other organizations.

Mary's expertise in estate planning and planned giving fill a priority need identified in the three-year strategic plan adopted by the Land Trust board in 2009.

"I'm excited about joining the Land Trust board, but I have to confess that I'm doing it in my own self-interest as much as anything else," she said. "It gives me an excuse to get out and see more and do more in my own backyard. And I've always been impressed by what the Land Trust and the rest of the Nisqually community have accomplished. It's really been an amazing demonstration of partnership, from the Delta up to the national park.

"Philosophically, it's all too easy to live in this world thinking that nobody gets along with anybody else. But the way conservation is practiced in the Nisqually proves that that's just not true."

LAND TRUST ADDS 32 ACRES OF WILD NISQUALLY SHORELINE



The Blake property is located downstream on the left in this photo.

In January the Land Trust added 32 acres and one-quarter mile of salmon-producing Nisqually River shoreline to its portfolio of permanently protected lands. Located between Yelm and Fort Lewis, on a high bench overlooking the river, this new property includes a beautiful stretch of wild shoreline that provides spawning and rearing habitat for all five species of native salmon, and in particular threatened Chinook salmon.

The property is a significant addition to what is known as the Lower Reach of the Nisqually, which now boasts over eight miles of permanently protected shoreline. (All told, some 74 percent of the Nisqually's salmon-producing shoreline is now permanently protected.)

The Land Trust received the property through the generosity of the Blake family. Ed Blake said that his father

purchased the property from a retiring U.S. Army sergeant in 1952 and that the family has used it ever since as a "hidey hole." He and his siblings grew up fishing and camping on the property and as kids virtually lived on it during the summer. "We always enjoyed that land in its natural state, and we never wanted to change that," Ed said.

In the 1970s the family logged part of the property and used the proceeds to set up an account to pay property taxes. Beyond that, the property was never developed, and after the tax account ran out, back taxes accrued. The Land Trust will pay these off and will also clean up and restore the property.

Generally, the property is in good health, with mature second-growth Douglas fir timber and a diverse understory of salal, Oregon grape, sward fern, ocean spray, and hazel. But over the years there has been some dumping – appliances, television sets, household garbage – and four-wheel drive recreational vehicles have significantly torn up sensitive areas.

To help raise restoration funds, the Land Trust is exploring the sale of carbon credits from the property through the Northwest Natural Resource Group's NW Neutral program.

Continued from the front page.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST AND PARTNERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Kunze said the project brought together a wide variety of partners—neighboring landowners, school and volunteer groups, local businesses and government agencies—to protect Red Salmon Creek and critical downstream estuary habitat.

"When you think of how this property could have ended up, it is especially wonderful to see it restored," she said. "If Red Salmon Creek's nutrients or temperature were degraded, the entire east side of the Nisqually Delta would be negatively impacted. Every little creek matters. Restoring them, even one at a time, makes a difference."

The Land Trust was the lead for this 30-acre restoration on its properties along Red Salmon and Washburn Creeks. With the help of our partners and more than 200 volunteers, we removed five acres of blackberry and ivy from marsh, wetland and upland habitat. Then we planted over 8,500 native trees and shrubs that will improve spawning habitat for chum salmon and rearing habitat for threatened Chinook and steelhead. The restoration also protects water quality and prevents the spread of invasive vegetation.

Our most recent survey shows that the trees and shrubs survived the hot, dry

summer of 2009 and are doing very well. The Land Trust thanks Linda Kunze, our partners and our many enthusiastic volunteers for making the project so successful.

Controlling invasive species is an ongoing challenge at this site, and there will be periodic work parties to control obstinate blackberry and ivy patches. The Land Trust will also begin restoration of the nearby Bannister property this spring. To receive work-party notifications, please call (360) 458-1111 or email Joe Kennedy at landsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org.

OHOP CREEK

Halloween Planting a “Spooktacular” Success

It threatened to be a dark and stormy morning—perfect for a Halloween planting party. The grey stillness of the Ohop Valley was broken only by the ominous tap of Stream Stewards Coordinator Don Perry’s mallet as he put up parking signs.

Our first volunteer arrived just after 8; by 8:30 all of the project partners were on site and volunteers were devouring tempting treats from Truly Scrumptious Bakery in Eatonville.

Volunteers vanished into the fog with their trees and shovels—individuals, couples, and families, all eager to plant. By 9 a.m., the fog crept away and the sun peeked through the clouds. Soon the sky cleared and the sun warmed us up.

Volunteers were everywhere—75 or more of them, organized and determined. By 10 a.m., it was obvious that we were going to finish planting all of the plants we had—1,700! Mission accomplished, we toured the Ohop Creek channel restoration. As we packed up and headed for home the clouds closed in and it started to sprinkle.

We are already looking forward to the 2010 Halloween planting at the Ohop. Check our website (www.nisquallylandtrust.org) this summer for more information.

Ohop Creek Restoration Continued

Following the successful October work party, several school groups joined us for our November and December plantings. Volunteers from the Halloween planting were so efficient that they didn’t leave a tree or shrub for the children to plant the next week.

The students’ dismay with this turn of

events was fleeting—instead of giving them shovels we gave them hammers! Rubber mallets, plastic tubes and stakes in tow, elementary students from the Charles Wright Academy and Clarkmoore, McKenna, Southworth, and Columbia Crest Elementary Schools tackled the task of securing plant protectors on the vulnerable new residents of the Ohop with zeal. Working in pairs and small groups, the youths quickly installed all of the protective tubes and stakes available at the site. We’d like to extend special thanks to the students for their hard work in helping to restore Ohop Creek.

In December, we found elk prints frozen into the mud, a reminder of the many creatures that are benefiting from the restoration of the creek and the riparian wetland forest. In January, the new channel was half full with water at the south end of the restoration site. As this newsletter goes to press, the area north of Peterson Road is a landscape of row after row of plants secured within tubes to keep rodents away from their sweet, tender bark. Willow and cottonwood live stakes are in, along with all of the potted plants, and the Nisqually crew anticipates that this year’s planting will conclude by the end of February.

Funding for this phase of the Ohop floodplain planting comes from the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nisqually Tribe.

Next steps in the Ohop Valley include maintenance of this season’s plantings and preparation of an additional 40 acres to be planted next winter. The stream restoration will be completed this summer.

WILCOX FLATS

Restoration Update

Our December plantings at Wilcox Flats got off to a bright – but cold – start. Below-freezing temperatures couldn’t stop Joe Kennedy and a Washington Conservation Corps crew from installing 600 7-foot cottonwood and willow poles along the south bank of the Nisqually River’s primary side channel. The crew chipped holes in the frozen soil surface to get a start, and then pushed and hammered the poles into the ground. These poles will grow into a dense canopy of trees that will shade out a large unwanted patch of reed canary grass.

Cold weather did postpone our December planting party by a week, but fourteen hearty volunteers came out on December 16th, 18th, 19th, and 22nd to help install over 2,000 trees and shrubs across the northwest corner of the property. There was something magical about planting hemlocks, cedars, and spruce in the understory of the foggy forest, even when rain worked its way under our collars.

This planting replaced plants lost during the heat wave of July and August 2009. We plan to water plants that are in the full sun again this year, and we hope you’ll join us in wishing for some rain during the summer to help get this latest batch of plants established.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Nisqually Tribe helped fund this planting. Future activities at Wilcox Flats include maintenance of the existing plantings and preparation of 25 acres that will be planted next winter.

Site Stewards Program **Adopt a Property**

Connect with nature and discover the beauty of our protected lands up close by becoming a Site Steward. You can work at your convenience

and help us protect a Land Trust property. Site stewardship is a great activity to do with family and friends.

POWELL CREEK COMPLEX

Pasture Planting

On January 23rd, 25 volunteers got us off to a great start on our riparian forest restoration project by planting 750 cedar and hemlock trees in the understory of the woods that border the pasture at the end of Hobson Road (often referred to as the Kist-Duncan properties).

Additional volunteers and a Washington Conservation Crew are completing the planting as this goes to press. This site is just upriver from Wilcox Flats and shares the same sandy soils and active river channel.

This year, thanks to funding from the Nisqually Tribe and the U.S. Department

of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, we will plant over 7,500 native trees and shrubs at this site.

Follow-up includes maintenance and irrigation of these plantings and preparation for additional planting on the north end of the site under a recently secured Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant.



Nisqually Land Trust volunteers “treat” the Ohop with native plants and trees at our Halloween planting. They planted 1700 plants in record time!

Site Stewards commit to a minimum of one day per quarter to visit, monitor and work at their site. We'll provide monitoring guidelines and a background history of

the property. Since our first call for Site Stewards in the fall newsletter, we've heard from seven volunteers. We are nearly a quarter of the way to our goal of having at

least 30 active Site Stewards by the end of 2010. To join the Site Stewards program, contact Joe Kennedy at landsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-458-1111.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CONTRIBUTORS

October 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010

We thank our generous contributors listed below, many of whom responded to our Fall Appeal, which has brought in nearly \$18,000. Your gifts support operations and underwrite the development of grant proposals, strategic partnerships and innovative conservation tools. Your support is the reason we can protect habitat, water quality and scenic landscapes in the Nisqually watershed.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Stan Engle
Helen Engle

In Memory of Delores Dickey West
Michelle Hawkins

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In Honor of Dana Howard Botka
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THANK YOU FOR THE TRUCK!

Gerald Suzawith and Kristin Blalack responded to our appeal for a truck by donating their Mazda pickup to the Land Trust. Our stewardship staff quickly put it to work hauling trees, shrubs and other materials for our recent plantings.

Thanks!

WISH LIST

- 18V Cordless Drill for Restoration and Property Management
- 3 Pairs of Corona Loppers for Site Maintenance
- T-Post Pounder for Fence Installation
- Sledge Hammer for Fence Installation
- 100 Wood Posts for Boundary Fences (8"x4")

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE WATERSHED

Join a Stewardship Committee

We are looking for two community members to join our Lower Nisqually stewardship committee.

Committee members meet on a quarterly basis to evaluate stewardship needs, review management plans, implement stewardship activities, and pursue partnership and funding opportunities.

Occasionally we will visit properties—one of the “perks” of the job—to assess stewardship needs.

The Upper Nisqually Stewardship Committee works with Land Trust staff on stewardship activities in the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative management unit, and the Lower Nisqually

Stewardship Committee addresses issues related to our management units from the Mashel River to the Nisqually Delta.

Our newly-formed Upper Nisqually and Lower Nisqually stewardship committees met for the first time in December to review the Land Trust’s 2010 stewardship and restoration work plan. The Land Trust thanks Dr. Andrew Carey, Mary Foster, J.W. Foster, Janet Liddle, and Judy Scavone—our first stewardship committee members.

NISQUALLY TRIBE GRANT FUNDS REPAIRS TO HISTORIC BARN

This spring the Land Trust will undertake much-needed repairs to the roof of a historic barn that overlooks the Ohop Valley, thanks to a \$27,000 grant from the Nisqually Tribe’s Charitable Fund.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife donated the “Ohop Milk Barn” – the first barn to be entered into the state’s Heritage Barn Registry – and surrounding

property to the Land Trust in 2008 as part of the restoration of Ohop Creek. We envision the eventual transfer of this historic building to the new Nisqually-Mashel State Park.

The grant will also fund clean-up of debris and invasive species on Land Trust properties in the Ohop Valley.

Please call Kim Bredensteiner at 360-458-1111 if you are interested in planning stewardship and restoration projects for Land Trust properties.

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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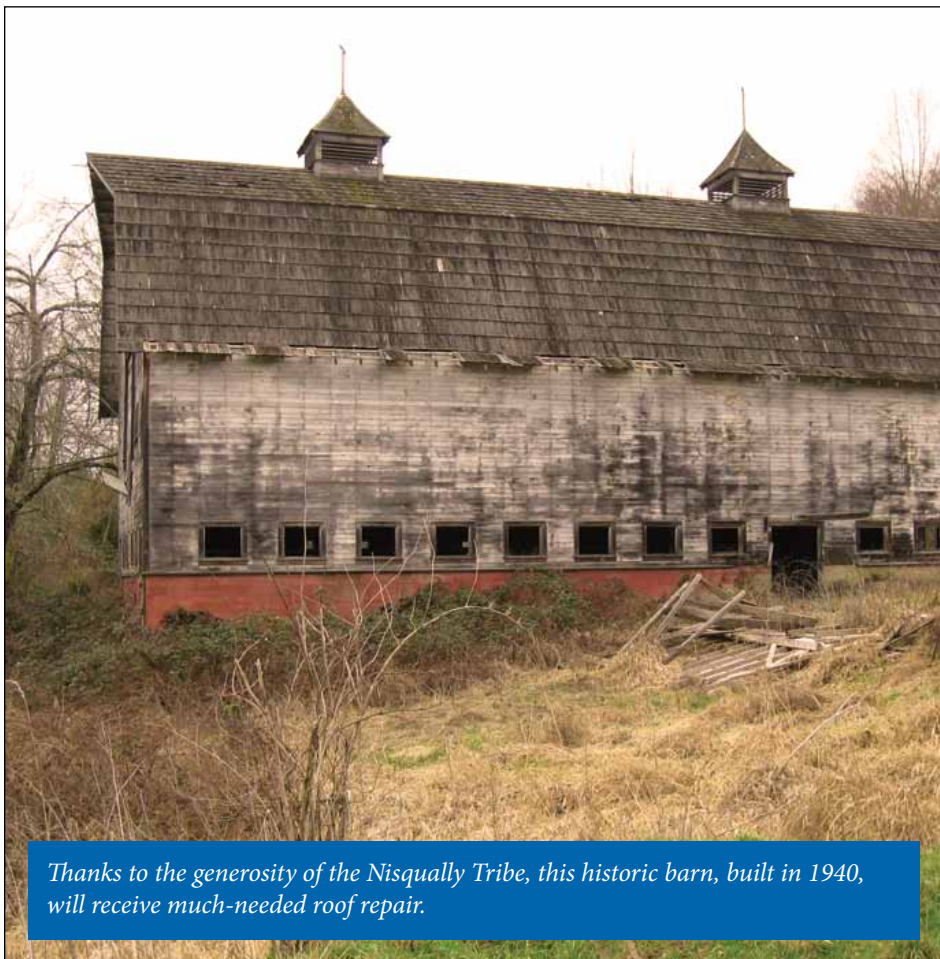
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Thanks to the generosity of the Nisqually Tribe, this historic barn, built in 1940, will receive much-needed roof repair.



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EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER GALA

March 13, 2010, 4-9 p.m.

St. Martin's University Worthington Center, Lacey, Washington
Reservations: \$60 for Land Trust members, \$70 for non-members

Grab your partner, your best friends too and make your reservations for the Land Trust's premier fun-and-fund-raising event, our Eighteenth Annual Dinner and Auction Gala from 4-9 p.m. on March 13.

We open the doors at 4 p.m. You'll have time to converse with friends old and new while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and peruse our silent auction. At 6:30 you'll enjoy a delicious dinner and dessert. Then we pick up the pace with our live auction, where you can out-manuever your rivals and make a winning bid for that gotta-have item. Temptations include relaxing getaways, unique items and experiences, and the fine Native American and Northwest art you've come to expect. Don't wait until all of our tickets are gone—make your reservations today!

Call Candi at 360-458-1111 for information and reservations.

MARCH CALENDAR

March 13, 4-9 p.m.: Eighteenth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala

Contact Candi at 360-458-1111 or staff@nisquallylandtrust.org for reservations, to volunteer or for more information.

March 20: Powell Creek Work Party

Contact Joe Kennedy at landsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org or 360-458-1111 for times and directions.