

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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SUMMER 2011

LAND TRUST ADDS 57 ACRES OF NISQUALLY RIVER SHORELINE



Nisqually River, seen from our new 23-acre Yelm Shoreline acquisition, which protected over a thousand feet of shoreline.

The Land Trust recently completed two major purchases on the mainstem Nisqually River, permanently protecting 57 acres and one-half mile of salmon-producing shoreline. With these purchases, 75 percent of the Nisqually River shoreline, or 63 of 84 miles, is now held in permanent conservation status by the Land Trust and its many watershed partners.

Both properties provide spawning grounds for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout as well as chum salmon and are ranked highest priority for permanent protection in the Nisqually Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan.

The smaller of the two properties, totaling 23 acres and .2 miles of shoreline, directly adjoins the Land Trust's Yelm Shoreline Management Unit, bringing the total unit to 195 acres and 1.5 miles

of continuously protected shoreline and adding substantially to protection of its overall conservation values.

Over the past five years, these values have been compromised by a wide range of activities on the property, including development, livestock grazing, dumping, off-road-vehicle use, and vehicle abandonment. Acquisition will eliminate or significantly curtail these activities and also provide an opportunity to restore the property to full ecological health.

The Land Trust purchased the property with its own funds to take advantage of a short-sale opportunity. The Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board subsequently awarded the Land Trust a grant to recover some 80 percent of that cost, and Thurston County Conservation Futures will provide the remainder.

The second property, totaling 34 acres and .33 miles of shoreline, is located in Pierce County and has been incorporated into the Land Trust's 457-acre Powell Creek Management Unit. The property is zoned for residential development but contains superior salmon habitat, including the entirety of Tanwax Creek's confluence with the Nisqually River.

The property was purchased with state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds and a donation from the Nisqually Indian Tribe.



A view of the Nisqually River and Tanwax Creek confluence from our new Powell Creek Property. This 34-acre acquisition protected one-third mile of Nisqually River shoreline.

Ohop Creek Restoration Demonstrates the Power of Partnership



No load was too heavy, no mud too mucky! Thank you to the 75 awesome volunteers who came out October 30 and planted 1,800 trees in just a few short hours.

Going back to the “good old days” is more difficult than it sounds, especially when you are renovating a creek and its surrounding habitat back to its century-ago splendor. The story of the Ohop Creek Restoration began ten years ago, when the plan to return the straightened and channelized creek to a more natural state was conceptualized and the Land Trust began acquiring properties for the project. The cooperation, skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals were required to make restoration possible—testimony that big ideas can be converted into realities by solid partnerships.

The physical restoration began two years ago and there has been a flurry of activity on Land Trust property ever since. Phase I of the project, which created a new meandering channel, complete with engineered fish-friendly log-jams, was completed by South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and RV Associates this past fall. As a part of this project, volunteers and staff members gently scooped fish, mussels, crayfish and other aquatic animals out of the old channel and released them into the friendly winding waters of their new home.

In a nearby field, an abandoned manure lagoon was decommissioned and graded to match the surrounding contour. For environmental health and safety reasons, the lagoon was pumped and the materials were spread on local farmers’ fields as fertilizer—waste not, want not! Mycofiltration bags, installed by Evergreen State College students at the down-slope edge of the old lagoon site, provide added water quality filtration for runoff from this area.

With the completion of Phase I construction, the Land Trust and its partners stepped up habitat restoration activities. On October 30 eager volunteers turned out for a Halloween-themed planting next to the new creek channel. In raingear and costumes, 75 volunteers braved muddy, messy conditions and planted a phenomenal 1,800 trees and shrubs in just a few short hours. Partners included the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team, Nisqually Stream Stewards, and the Nisqually Tribe. School groups, coordinated by the Nisqually River Education Project, also helped with the planting. The 42-acre planting was completed this winter by the Nisqually Tribe restoration crew.

By the end of March over 30,000 trees and shrubs were in the ground, bringing total plantings on Land Trust property in the valley to 82 acres in the last two years. An additional 10 acres will be planted next year and maintenance activities are ongoing. This multi-year planting project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Wetland Reserve Program, and the Nisqually Tribe. *The next Ohop volunteer planting is scheduled for October 8, 2011.*

A historic milk barn on a Land Trust property above the valley also received some much-needed repair to the barn’s roof apron, thanks to a grant from the Nisqually Tribe’s Charitable Foundation. Land Trust staff and volunteers also removed massive amounts of farm debris, garbage, Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom from the property. These activities extended the life of the barn, which is listed on the Washington State Heritage Barn Register, and dramatically improved the habitat for native species.

The Washington Ecology Oil Spill Response Team was also busy in the Ohop Valley in November. Some oil, spilled in an accident on State Route 7 on November 11, made it to the eastern Ohop side channel. Absorbent materials were placed in the creek and surrounding drainages to remove as much of the spilled diesel and motor oil as possible. Fortunately, quick clean-up actions minimized the impacts to the creek restoration area.

This spring, volunteers again converged on our Ohop valley property, on April 16th. Some fought back tenacious ivy strangling trees on the edges of the valley. Others collected wildlife data with Jessica Moore from Northwest Trek as a part of the quarterly Nature Mapping that has been happening at this site for the last four years.

With the completion of this first of three phases of creek restoration proposed for the Ohop, work has begun on the design for the next phase, downstream of the completed phase. Project partners hope to secure funding and begin construction on Phase II within the next three years.

For the Land Trust, creek restoration is ongoing. Planting, site monitoring and invasive plant control will be part of the Land Trust’s work forever, and the joy of experiencing the recuperation and beauty of a salmon stream and its surrounding habitat is ours forever, too. Seems like a fair trade-off.

Stewardship Wish List

- Extension ladder (24-30 ft) for repair and maintenance of Land Trust structures
- Floor mats and seat covers to protect the interior of the Land Trust’s 4WD truck
- PVC Rain overalls and jackets (the Grundens type)
- 5-gallon buckets with lids and handles
- Do you have a hardware/tool drawer that you’d like to clean out? We can use nuts, bolts, screws, nails, hinges, and extra tools, etc. that are in good condition.

Shout-Out to Stewardship Volunteers

Many thanks to all of our magnificent volunteers who helped with planting, weed control, and monitoring over the last six months. We’re taking a break from our work parties over the summer, but we look forward to working in the field with you again in September. You can always contact us about independent projects and site stewardship opportunities if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity this summer.



2010 aerial view of the Ohop Creek meander restoration, which added more than a mile of salmon-friendly shoreline and pools to the creek. Inset: 2008 aerial view of pre-restoration Ohop Creek.

Interested in scheduling a guided tour of the Ohop Valley restoration for a school or community group? Please contact the Land Trust at least one month in advance of your requested tour date.

NEW STAFF MEMBER TO GROW TRUST'S LAND-PROTECTION CAPABILITIES

Nicole Hill has joined the Land Trust as our conservation project manager, thanks to a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency coordinated by the Nisqually River Foundation.

Nicole's task is to develop the Land Trust's conservation easement program. The Land Trust has historically focused primarily on outright acquisition of lands. Adding Hill to our team enables us to utilize another important land-protection option, which will be especially useful in reaching out to and working cooperatively with agricultural and timber landowners in the watershed.

Nicole has worked professionally in the conservation field for more than ten years, partnering with businesses, agencies, and individuals to conserve natural areas, park space, and working forests and farms amounting to more than 20,000 acres. Prior to joining the Land Trust, she managed Cascade Land Conservancy's Olympic Peninsula Program.



Nicole Hill
Conservation Project Manager

LAND TRUST COMPLETES FIRST TIMBER HARVEST

The Land Trust recently completed its first-ever timber harvest – a conservation thinning of twelve acres of Douglas fir trees in uplands along the Nisqually River above Yelm.

The harvest removed approximately 20 percent of the trees from stands that had been commercially planted as a monoculture Douglas fir forest some 70 years ago but never thinned.

The Land Trust's forester, Professional Forestry Services, of Tumwater, designed a harvest plan that gives the remaining trees room to grow with less competition and thus to develop the superior habitat qualities of an old-growth forest more quickly than they would if the site were not actively managed.

The plan also provides an opportunity to replant with a variety of native species and thus to develop a more diverse habitat than had existed before the harvest.

The Land Trust's stewardship staff was pleased to see that the harvest trees were removed so selectively across the site, and so carefully, that it is difficult to tell that any were taken.

Northwest Certified Forestry certified the harvest as meeting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards, which are



We thinned 20 percent of the trees from twelve acres of upland forest in our Thurston Ridge Management Unit to help the oldest trees "grow old faster." Timber sales from the harvest will support restoration of the site.

widely recognized as the nation's most ecologically rigorous standards for timber harvest.

Most of the Land Trust's proceeds from

the sale – approximately \$17,000 – will be used for stewardship of the site and adjoining Land Trust property, with a portion going toward acquisition of further salmon-producing shoreline.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE
Yelm Shoreline Hike <i>(reservations required—space is limited)</i>	Saturday, August 6
Salmon Bake and Annual Meeting Call (360) 489-3400 to RSVP	Sunday, September 18 4 to 7:30 p.m.
Thurston Ridge Scotch Broom Pull	Saturday, September 24 9 a.m. to noon
Ohop Planting	Saturday, October 8 9 a.m. to noon
Mount Rainier Gateway Forest Reserve Work Party	Saturday, October 22 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Twentieth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala	Saturday, March 24, 2012 4 to 9 p.m.

For information about Land Trust events and work parties, call us at 360-489-3400 or email staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.

MORE NISQUALLY WATERSHED EVENTS:

- Volunteer for the Nature Mapping Project, which documents biodiversity on properties (including the Land Trust's) and disseminates that information to help protect habitat and species. Contact Jessica Moore at (360)832-7160 or jessica.more@nwtrek.org for information.
 - Ohop Creek October 15
 - Powell Creek October 1
- *Weekly Bird Walks at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*, Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Check out the new Boardwalk! Call Phil Kelley (360)459-1499 for information and to sign up or email scrubjay323@aol.com.
- *Open Trails at Morse Wildlife Preserve* in Graham August 14, 12 – 4 p.m. Best for ages 2 and up and free to Audubon members. Special visits and educational field trips available by prior arrangement. Call (253)565-9278 for information and directions.

The twenty-first annual Nisqually Watershed Festival is Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (100 Brown Farm Rd NE, Olympia WA). The festival is a family-friendly multi-cultural celebration of the history, economy, and environment of the Nisqually Watershed. See www.nisquallyriver.org for more information.

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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Lacey, WA 98516-3878

Phone: (360) 489-3400
Email: staff@nisquallylandtrust.org
Website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org

OFFICERS:

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Kim Bredenstener, Stewardship Coordinator
Nicole Hill, Conservation Projects Manager
Joe Kane, Executive Director
Joe Kennedy, Land Steward
Candi Ziegert, Administrative Assistant/Field Technician

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Writers: Joe Kane, Connie Bond, Nicole Hill
Photography: Connie Bond, Joe Kane, Joe Kennedy, Larry Lomax, Richard Frederick, Florian Leischner, Loweyn Young
Design: Wide Design Team

SAVE THE DATE!

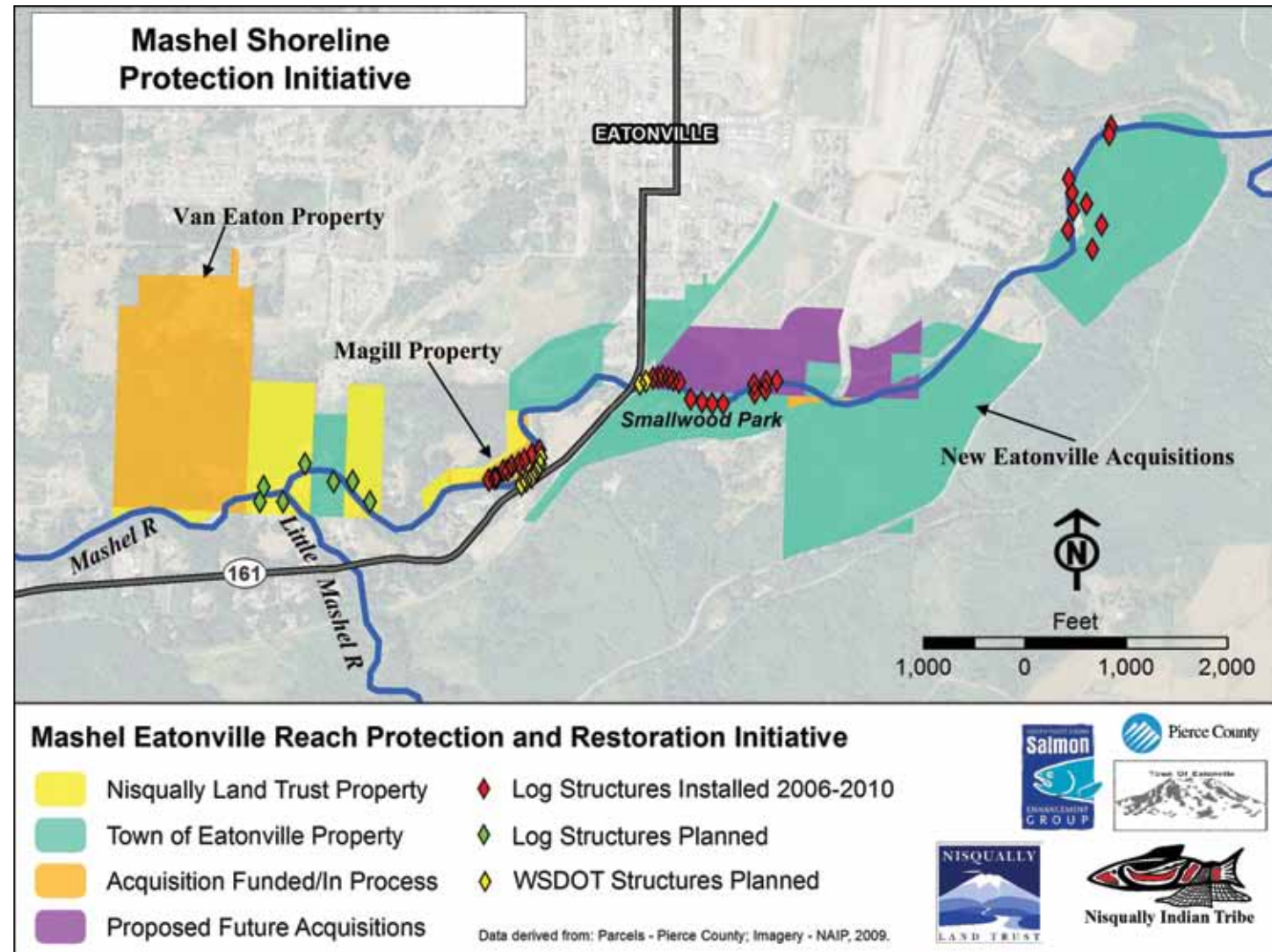


Nisqually Land Trust Salmon Bake and Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 18, 4 to 7:30 p.m. • Odd Fellows Park in Olympia
We'll be serving up perfectly barbecued Nisqually River salmon and a recap of the past year's accomplishments at Nisqually Land Trust's Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake. Call 360-489-3400 or email staff@nisquallylandtrust.org to save your place.

LAND TRUST, EATONVILLE ACQUIRE 79 ACRES OF MASHEL SHORELINE

Purchases Expand Mashel Initiative to 201 Acres, 1.8 Miles



The Land Trust and the Town of Eatonville are pleased to announce the acquisition of properties totaling 79 acres and over two-thirds of a mile of salmon-producing shoreline on the Mashel River, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River and a river critical to the recovery of threatened steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.

The properties are in the center of the Mashel River Protection Initiative, which has now protected a total of 201 acres and 1.8 miles of Mashel shoreline through the heart of Eatonville.

Eatonville acquired a 72-acre block with an \$823,286 grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The Land Trust provided \$835,000 in match for the grant by transferring a further 50 acres of Mashel shoreline property into Town ownership. The Land Trust also raised \$100,000 in acquisition funds through the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund.

The 72-acre block contains excellent riparian habitat and includes part of a proposed loop trail along the river for public access. The block's permanent protection prevents its development as residential real estate and assures access for river restoration work by the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

Thus far the two groups have installed more than 40 engineered logjams along the Mashel to create salmon-friendly pools and stream conditions. Forty years ago, the Mashel was one of the finest steelhead rivers in the Pacific Northwest, but in the 1970s and 1980s overfishing and intense timber harvest wiped out the fish population and scoured and silted the river, impacts that are still felt today.

The Land Trust also purchased of 7.1 acres of Mashel shoreline from Larry and Donna Magill, also in the heart of the Initiative. The Nisqually Tribe has already installed 22 engineered logjams on and near the Magill property, which was acquired with funding from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.



Over 40 salmon-friendly engineered logjams, like this one have been installed on Land Trust and Eatonville properties along the Mashel River by the Nisqually Tribe and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

Efforts Underway to Acquire Original Van Eaton Homestead

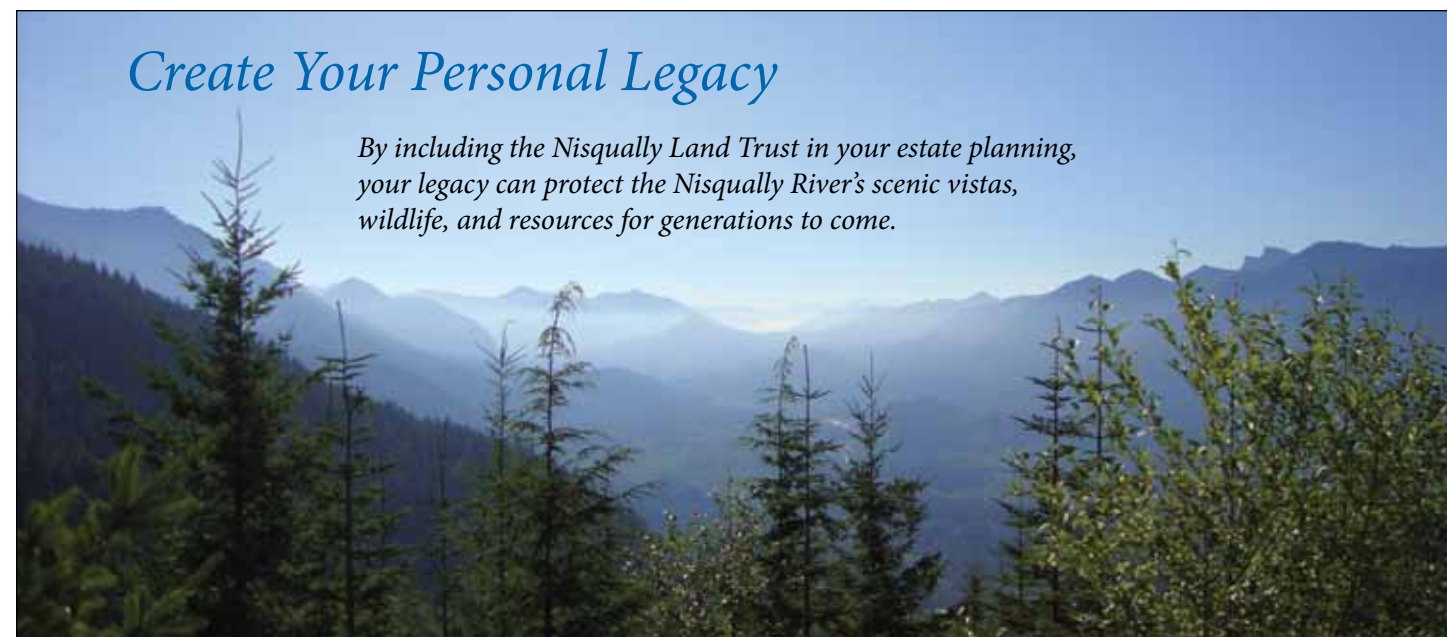


Pierce County Conservation Futures 2011 has awarded top ranking for the Land Trust's proposed acquisition of the crown jewel in the Mashel Initiative, the 68-acre Van Eaton property, near the confluence of the Little Mashel and Mashel rivers.

Site of the original Van Eaton homestead and the founding of Eatonville, the property includes excellent shoreline, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat and would provide the only permanent access to the next phase of stream-restoration work on the Mashel. The Land Trust is now working with the Van Eaton family to try to complete the purchase.

Create Your Personal Legacy

By including the Nisqually Land Trust in your estate planning, your legacy can protect the Nisqually River's scenic vistas, wildlife, and resources for generations to come.



NINETEENTH ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER GALA RAISES \$65,000

Eager bidders snapped up Native American artwork, vacation getaways, landscaping packages, and much more, making the Nisqually Land Trust's Nineteenth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala our most successful ever. Net proceeds for the event topped \$65,000, including \$10,100 in pledges to the Land Trust's "Forever Fund," which supports stewardship activities on our properties.

We'd like to thank our full-house crowd for their support and for a fun-filled evening—it was quite a party! And we thank our excellent volunteers, whose many hours of work made the event so enjoyable. We'd like to especially recognize and thank our sponsors and the 112 businesses, individuals and organizations that generously donated items to auction.



Cheers! Auction attendees found lots to celebrate as they raised a record \$65,000 to protect the Nisqually River.

- ◆ Forever Fund donors
- ♥ Members for the past three or more consecutive years
- ★ Charter members

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Spicy Soul
Steamboat Island Nursery♥
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Yelm Farm & Pet

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING LAND TRUST PARTNERS

(From left): Land Trust President George Walter presents Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and Tara Galuska, senior grants manager with the RCO's Salmon Recovery Funding Board, with the Land Trust's 2011 Agency Partner of the Year Award in recognition of the 27 acquisition projects the Land Trust and the RCO have completed together.



The Land Trust presented two President's awards at our April Auction & Dinner Gala. These awards recognize special partnerships that help the Land Trust accomplish its mission to acquire and protect important habitat in the Nisqually River Watershed.



Land Trust President George Walter (left) presents Hancock Forest Management's John Davis with the Nisqually Land Trust's Business Partner of the Year award. Hancock was recognized for its partnership in protecting critical wildlife habitat near the gateway to Mount Rainier National Park, near Ashford.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Twentieth Annual Auction & Dinner Gala, Saturday, March 24, 2012

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST PARTNERS

The following businesses, agencies and organizations provided grants and services that helped the Land Trust protect and restore important lands in 2010.

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nisqually Charitable Foundation
Nisqually Indian Tribe
Nisqually River Education Project
Nisqually Stream Stewards
Northwest Trek
Olympia Federal Savings
Pierce Conservation District
Pierce Conservation District Stream Team
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
TwinStar Credit Union
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board



TwinStar Partnership Brings Funds, Volunteers to Stewardship. From left: NLT Executive Director Joe Kane and Land Steward Joe Kennedy visit the Land Trust's Yelm Shoreline Management Unit with Matt Devlin, Vice President of Marketing for TwinStar Credit Union. Devlin presented the Land Trust with a check that represented a one-dollar donation for each credit-union member who switched to online bank statements during May and June 2010. TwinStar employees also participated in a February tree-planting at Yelm Shoreline. Photo courtesy of TwinStar Credit Union

2010 MEMBERSHIP

The Land Trust extends a big "Thank You!" to our members—contributors who generously donated cash and other resources during 2010 to protect Nisqually watershed habitat forever.

♥ Members for the past three or more consecutive years
★ Charter Members

Legacy Circle—\$25,000-\$100,000

Nisqually Indian Tribe Charitable Fund

Conservator's Circle—\$5,000-\$10,000

Olympia Federal Savings
Tides Foundation

Watershed Patron—\$1,000-\$4,999

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Hancock Forest Management-Natural Resource Group♥
JZ Knight
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Virginia Walter♥
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Habitat Guardian—\$500-\$999

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Joanne Stellini & Gwill Ging♥
Brian Sullivan & Anna Leon-Guerrero
Jean Takekawa♥
David Troutt & Jean Carr♥
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River Steward—\$200-\$499

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

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Land Trust Has New Office at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

The Land Trust has moved its office to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Now with a full-time staff of six employees, we had outgrown our office space in Yelm, and the Refuge site offered more space as well as a great opportunity to work even more closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on conservation of the Nisqually Watershed.

The Land Trust would like to extend deep thanks to Margaret Clapp and Prairie Park Properties, who were our kind and generous landlords for the eight years we were in Yelm.



From left: Candi Ziegert, Kim Bredensteiner, Joe Kane, Nicole Hill and Connie Bond. Not pictured: Joe Kennedy.

Don't Miss Land Trust Hikes and Events.

- Register online for Nisqually Land Trust hikes, special events and volunteer opportunities!
- Keep up with the latest Land Trust news!

Many of our events, like our property hikes, fall in between our printed mailings and are available only by email and on our website. Stay in touch by sending your name and email address to staff@nisquallylandtrust.org. If you are currently receiving email from the Nisqually Land Trust, you do not need to contact us.