

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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SUMMER 2012

Land Trust Completes Its Largest Salmon Shoreline Acquisition



This acquisition protected two-and-a-half miles and 240 acres of Mashel River shoreline.

Last December, the Land Trust successfully closed on a 240-acre Mashel River property with over two miles of salmon habitat – a great finish to another exceptionally good year.

The Mashel is the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. This property, located some two miles above Boxcar Canyon (see story below), near Eatonville, is our first acquisition in the Mashel's Middle Reach, which the Nisqually Salmon Recovery Plan ranks as the most important reach in the entire watershed

for restoration of threatened steelhead-trout habitat.

As well, the property contains both banks of one and one-third miles of the Mashel River, or more than two-and-a-half miles of salmon-producing shoreline – the most such shoreline we've ever picked up in a single acquisition.

The property was acquired from Hancock Forest Management with grants of \$400,000 from the Nisqually Indian Tribe and \$230,000 from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Land Trust Acquires Another Key Mashel River Salmon Property

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of five more acres of Mashel River shoreline at the entrance to Boxcar Canyon, near the Town of Eatonville. Though small, the acquisition has great strategic importance for the recovery of threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout on the Mashel, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River.

The property stands between Alder Cut-off Road – the main highway from Eatonville on the route to Mount Rainier – and Boxcar Canyon, a fifty-acre tract of shoreline properties acquired by the Land Trust through the years.

The newly acquired property is the "gateway" to the larger conservation unit and protects the unit at its most vulnerable point, the highway.

The new property also adjoins and protects the site of one of the earliest in-stream salmon-habitat restoration

projects on the Mashel River – a series of artificial logjams, built from downed trees, that create cool, deep pools for salmon.

The Land Trust purchased the property from its longtime landowner, Nora Thureson, with a grant from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. It was the only property in Boxcar Canyon without permanent protection of its conservation values.

The Land Trust transferred ownership of Boxcar Canyon to Eatonville in 2010 for the Town to use as match for further conservation purchases and for incorporation into the Town's planned trail system. The new property was deeded to Eatonville for management with the other Boxcar Canyon properties. The Land Trust will hold a conservation easement on the property to assure protection of its conservation values in perpetuity.



Acquisition of five critical acres (outlined in yellow) protects fifty acres of conserved Mashel River shoreline at Boxcar Canyon.

Land Trust Transfers Property to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge See Page 8

Contributors

October 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

- ♥ Members for past three or more consecutive years
- ★ Charter Members
- + George Walter Recognition Fund

We often measure the Land Trust's accomplishments in acres of land and shoreline miles, but equally significant are the many people who contribute money and goods to help protect the Nisqually Watershed forever.

Thank you.

Benefactors—\$25,000-\$49,999
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Create Your Personal Legacy

Naming the Nisqually Land Trust in your will is an excellent way to create your conservation legacy.

To learn more, call Sheila Jackson
(360) 489-3400 ext. 110

Sheila Jackson Named Land Trust's First Director of Philanthropy

Sheila Jackson, our new Director of Philanthropy, brings to the Land Trust strong expertise in nonprofit development and a lifelong dedication to conservation.

Sheila spent 15 years in corporate communications before entering the nonprofit sector, where she merged her love of communications with a passion

for connecting people to causes that make their hearts sing.

A Puget Sound resident for the past 30 years, Sheila enjoys skiing, hiking, gardening and the arts, and she's always looking to learn something new. She holds a BFA in graphic design from the University of Washington and a

Certified Fund Raising Professional credential.

In 2009, the Land Trust embarked on an ambitious strategic plan to guide its conservation efforts. The addition of this position accomplishes a key goal in building a robust program for long-term financial sustainability.

I am very pleased to join your Nisqually Land Trust as its first director of philanthropy. I feel humbled and lucky to be a small part of the deep legacy of conservation shaped in the Nisqually by people, like you, who are committed to protecting its water, wildlife, natural areas and scenic vistas. What a legacy you have created!

Not only is our watershed fed by one of the Pacific Northwest's most beautiful rivers. It is also a watershed known for collaboration and innovation—a model of how communities can come together to protect a unique and critically important landscape. It is truly a small watershed with big ideas.

Working together with board, staff, key partners and people like you who support our mission, my charge is to strengthen relationships, celebrate donors and generate new sources of funding to help the Land Trust protect, restore and steward our watershed. Forever.

I would love to hear your stories and learn why the Nisqually is a special place to you. I can be reached at the Land Trust offices at 360.489.3400, ext. 110. --Sheila



Sheila Jackson
Director of Philanthropy

Goodbye and Thanks, Joe Kennedy



Joe and wife Anita, dancing at their wedding.

Joe Kennedy can rip out six-foot Scot's broom in 94-degree heat and look like he's having the time of his life. The Land Trust has been lucky to have him as our first land steward, and we want to thank him for his dedication

and hard work and wish him the very best as he departs the Pacific Northwest.

Joe was our land steward for over four years and had the hands-on job of managing fieldwork on nearly 4,000 acres of watershed habitat. Trained in sustainable forestry, he particularly loved the Land Trust's Mount Rainier Forest Reserve.

Joe was also caretaker for the Land Trust's Elledge Ranch property in Yelm, where he lived on the banks of the Nisqually River and was known to host some pretty awesome barbecues.

Joe had a knack for connecting people to land, and he taught hundreds of volunteers, from school children to senior citizens, how to plant native trees and shrubs.

Joe married Anita Goodrich in June and is moving to Colorado, where Anita will pursue her master's degree. He looks

forward to exploring new forests and rivers, yet will sorely miss the land he has nurtured and the many friends he has made during his time with the Land Trust.

But he says he'll be back—to see how tall the trees have gotten and how big the Land Trust has grown.

Staff Members Take On New Roles

Candi Tobin will be a familiar sight on our properties now that she has assumed the land steward position vacated by Joe Kennedy. She manages fieldwork on our conservation lands and works with our stewardship volunteers. Candi joined the Land Trust as our administrative assistant in 2009, later adding field technician duties to her job description.



Nikki Dizon
Administrative Assistant

Nikki Dizon, who just finished an internship with the Land Trust, is our new part-time administrative assistant. She does everything from answering phones and email to helping stage our events. Nikki began her internship last fall, working both in records management and stewardship, and graduated this spring from Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment.



Candi Tobin
Land Steward

Land Trust Seeks National Accreditation

Your Nisqually Land Trust was recently accepted as an applicant for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, a national body that awards the accreditation seal of excellence to land trusts that meet the highest standards for protecting and stewarding conservation lands.

The Land Trust will submit its full application in September. The application will then undergo extensive review by the Commission, including interviews with Land Trust staff and board. The review and a final determination can take up to six months.

Accreditation is a rigorous process, and thus far only 135 of the nation's 1,700 land trusts, and only six of the 24 land trusts in Washington State, have qualified for it.

The Land Trust has spent the last two years preparing its application. The process began with a detailed assessment of our policies and procedures, which we then systematically updated to meet current standards for best practices. From now

through September, Land Trust staff will compile supporting documentation and finalize the application package.

As part of its review of our application, the Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on organizations with pending applications.

The Land Trust invites you to submit comments to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. They must relate to how the Land Trust complies with national quality standards addressing ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

For the full list of standards, please see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices. Comments may be made online at www.landtrustaccreditation.org. You may also submit comments by fax (518-587-3138) or mail (112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866). Comments made after October 15th will be most useful to the Commission.

2011 Financial Report

Last month, the Nisqually Land Trust completed a successful audit of our 2011 books, conducted by Aiken & Sanders, CPA. The abbreviated statements below were derived from fully annotated statements presented to our Board of Directors. We are pleased to note that we continue to receive a clean bill of financial health and that our management and general operations accounted for just four percent of our 2011 expenditures.

Abbreviated Statements of Financial Position	
As of December 31, 2011	
Assets	
Cash	\$ 722,476
Conservation Land	17,660,984
Prepaid Expense	540
Equipment <i>(less depreciation)</i>	25,535
Investments	34,322
Receivables	775,654
Total Assets	\$ 19,219,511
Liabilities	276,348
Net Assets	18,943,163
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 19,219,511

Abbreviated Summary of Activities	
For the Year Ending December 31, 2011	
Support & Revenue	
Restricted Grants & Contributions	\$ 2,266,653
Unrestricted Grants & Contributions	1,364,576
Fundraising	51,465
Interest & Investments	18,542
Other Income	48,637
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 3,749,873
Expenses & Acquisitions	
Land Acquisitions <i>(Purchases)</i>	\$ 2,392,571
Conservation Program Services	538,138
Management & General	136,057
Fundraising	30,671
Total Expenses	\$ 3,097,437
NET RESULT	\$ 652,436

The complete audit and our 2011 tax return are posted on our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org.



Can You Donate?
Weed Wrenches
 We'd love to have two "light"-size weed wrenches (43 inch handle, 11.5 pounds) to remove invasive weeds. More info can be found at www.weedwrench.com.

Point-and-Shoot Digital Cameras
 We'd love to bring the river to you! Tough and waterproof cameras like the Olympus TG series work best to record property conditions and restoration progress. To donate, please call Kim at 360-489-3400, ext. 101 or email nlsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org.

From the President

Good People and Good Ideas are Land Trust's Strength



JW Foster
President

Stepping in as president of the Nisqually Land Trust Board of Directors this year, I find our Land Trust and the river it protects in good shape, and getting better. Acquiring land to protect the Nisqually and its denizens was a good idea 23 years ago – thanks for getting us started, George Walter! – and we've come a long way since then.

Good people tend to gather around good ideas, and although our mission is about the river, it really is about people after all. We preserve

the river so we can enjoy it now and pass it along in better shape to the generations that follow us. And in the process we come together with other like-minded individuals and work cooperatively toward a common goal. We build community.

The Nisqually Land Trust is stronger than ever today because good people care about it.

From students planting trees to retirees pulling ivy and patrolling our holdings as site stewards, we can all find a way to

contribute. Our enthusiastic staff members have found they can actually make a living while giving life to the river, and they support your board members, who donate their time and talents to acquire the financial means and develop policy structure to help us move ahead.

New ideas like the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative and the Nisqually Community Forest are bringing us new partners and new opportunities to improve the riparian environment and our community.

My wife and I, and our four children connected with the Nisqually River early on. It inspires us – we have come to see it not only as a beautiful place but also as an example of what we can do as part of a larger movement. From headwaters to mouth, and now even into Puget Sound, the Nisqually has had many hands joined together to afford it the protections it enjoys today.

And yet there is work still to be done. As president of the Land Trust, my role is just another way for me to pitch in, and I look forward to passing this responsibility on to a succession of future board members who will keep the mission strong. (Some, surely, are planting trees with their classmates this year.)

Then I can get back to yanking out Scot's broom and maybe even do some fishing with all my new friends.

Thanks for *your* help – hope to see you on the river! —JW

Remembering Bud McBride

By George Walter

Albert “Bud” McBride died earlier this year. We miss him greatly. Bud, a descendent of both Nisqually Indians and early American settlers of the area, was a great supporter of all the many efforts to protect the Nisqually Delta and the Nisqually River. His efforts spanned the years from the founding of the Nisqually Delta Association to his many contributions to our Land Trust.

The McBride Family owned a good-sized farm in the Red Salmon Creek watershed, just east of the delta, and Bud, in essence, lived his entire life there. He and his life partner, Richard Schneider, were always available to talk about the “old days,” making sure we understood something of the lives of those who came before. They also always wanted to discuss the latest efforts to protect the Nisqually. About ten years ago, Bud provided for the transfer of the remaining 30 or so acres of the McBride property to the



Bud McBride (left) talks with Past President George Walter about his life in the Nisqually Delta. Their conversations were recorded and will be transcribed.

Land Trust for permanent protection. He retained a life estate, the right to continue to live on the property after he transferred it to us.

Now, that life estate is over, and I feel an empty place in the Nisqually. But before Bud passed, the Land Trust's Volunteer Coordinator, Charly Kearns, and I had the good fortune to be able to sit with Bud to record an oral history of his life in

the Nisqually Delta. We hope to be able to edit this document soon and post it on our website.

Meanwhile, the Land Trust is exploring the creation of a memorial trust to provide for the care of the McBride property in perpetuity. Please let us know if you would be interested in contributing. Thank you.

Land Trust Auction the Best Yet—Past President George Wa

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From left: Robin Slate and Paul Rogers accept the 2012 Partner of the Year Award on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented by NLT President, JW Foster.

Walter and Natural Resources Conservation Service Honored

We can't say it enough—thank you! From donors who provided cash and auction items, to our enthusiastic and creative volunteers, to attendees who opened their hearts and their checkbooks, we are grateful for your support. You made our Annual Auction & Dinner our best ever!

We enjoyed a wonderful evening with friends and supporters and we also had the pleasure, thanks to many appreciative donors, of presenting Past President George Walter with a Grand Canyon raft trip to honor his 23 years of volunteer service as Land Trust President.

And new President JW Foster presented our 2012 Partner of the Year Award to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To top it off, Cindy Schorno, our volunteer auctioneer, led a record-setting evening that generated \$68,000 in net proceeds, including \$15,100 for our Forever Fund, which supports stewardship work on our properties.

We'd like to express our deep appreciation to our sponsors. Links for them and our item donors are on our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org.



Over 200 auction attendees honored George Walter (above, right) with a standing ovation for 23 years of service as Land Trust President .

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

OFFICE:

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Old Education Center
100 Brown Farm Road NE
Olympia, WA

MAILING ADDRESS:

1420 Marvin Road NE
Ste. C PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516-3878

Telephone: (360) 489-3400

Email: staff@nisquallylandtrust.org

Website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org

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Candi Tobin, *Land Steward*

Events and Activities Calendar

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge 25th Annual Summer Lecture Series

Every Wednesday in August.

These free lectures start at 7 p.m. in the Visitors Center. Seating is limited. Lecture topics available online at www.fws.gov/refuge/nisqually/.

Nature Mapping Field Trips —

September 22 – Powell Creek & October 20 – Ohop Creek

Go nature mapping with Northwest Trek on Land Trust properties. Observe, monitor and inventory local habitats. Collect data that can be used to help establish a healthy future for fish and wildlife. Field trips are free and no prior experience is needed. Contact Jessica Moore at 360-832-7160 or at Jessica.Moore@nwtrek.org.

Nisqually Salmon Watcher Workshop — Learn to Identify and Count Salmon

Saturday, September 22, or Saturday, December 1, 9 a.m. to noon

Call Don Perry at (360) 438-8687

Nisqually Land Trust Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake

Sunday, September 23, 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Odd Fellows Park, Olympia WA

Enjoy a barbecued salmon dinner and catch up with Land Trust plans and accomplishments. Call (360) 489-3400 for information and to RSVP.

23rd Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival

Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Olympia, WA

Music, food, guided walks, children's activities, educational displays and more! For information or to volunteer, call Michael Schramm at (360)753-9467.

Nisqually Land Trust 21st Annual Auction & Dinner

Saturday, March 16, 2013, 4-9 p.m.

St. Martin's University's Worthington Center, Lacey, WA



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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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Land Trust Property Transfer Enhances Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

In May the Land Trust completed its first transfer of property into the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, expanding the Refuge by two acres and, more importantly, allowing for the removal of an existing house on the property and preventing further development.

The property sits within the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek Management Unit and adjacent to Red Salmon Creek, a salmon-producing stream that feeds directly into the Nisqually Delta.

The Land Trust was able to move quickly to acquire the property when it became available in 2003 and to hold it until the Refuge was able to take title.

The Land Trust has performed extensive restoration work on the site already. The Refuge anticipates further work, including removal of the house.

The property was originally purchased with funds from the Nisqually Delta Environmental Mitigation Trust, which the Land Trust manages. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reimbursed the purchase expenses, which the Land Trust can use to acquire and steward additional properties within the Refuge's expanded boundary.



The transfer of two acres of the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek Management Unit to the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge (shaded yellow) will help prevent further development of the area.