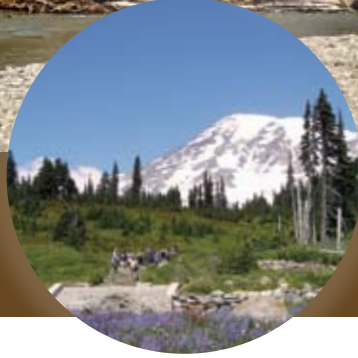




2013
ANNUAL
REPORT
Pages 6-9



Nisqually Land Trust

Spring 2014
Newsletter

Petersen Easement Continues Family Legacy

By Nicole Hill

It's rare today to grow up on a piece of land and live long enough to see your great-granddaughter walk the same paths you explored as a child. Harry and Jerrilee Petersen have had that good luck. And with the Land Trust's recent purchase of a conservation easement on their 230-acre Petersen Ranch, along the Nisqually River near Yelm, it will continue. The family's ranch will be kept intact and its rivers and creeks protected for all future generations.

The easement will also assure protection of over two miles of shoreline habitat on the Nisqually River and Yelm Creek that

The family's ranch will be kept intact and its river and creeks protected for all future generations.

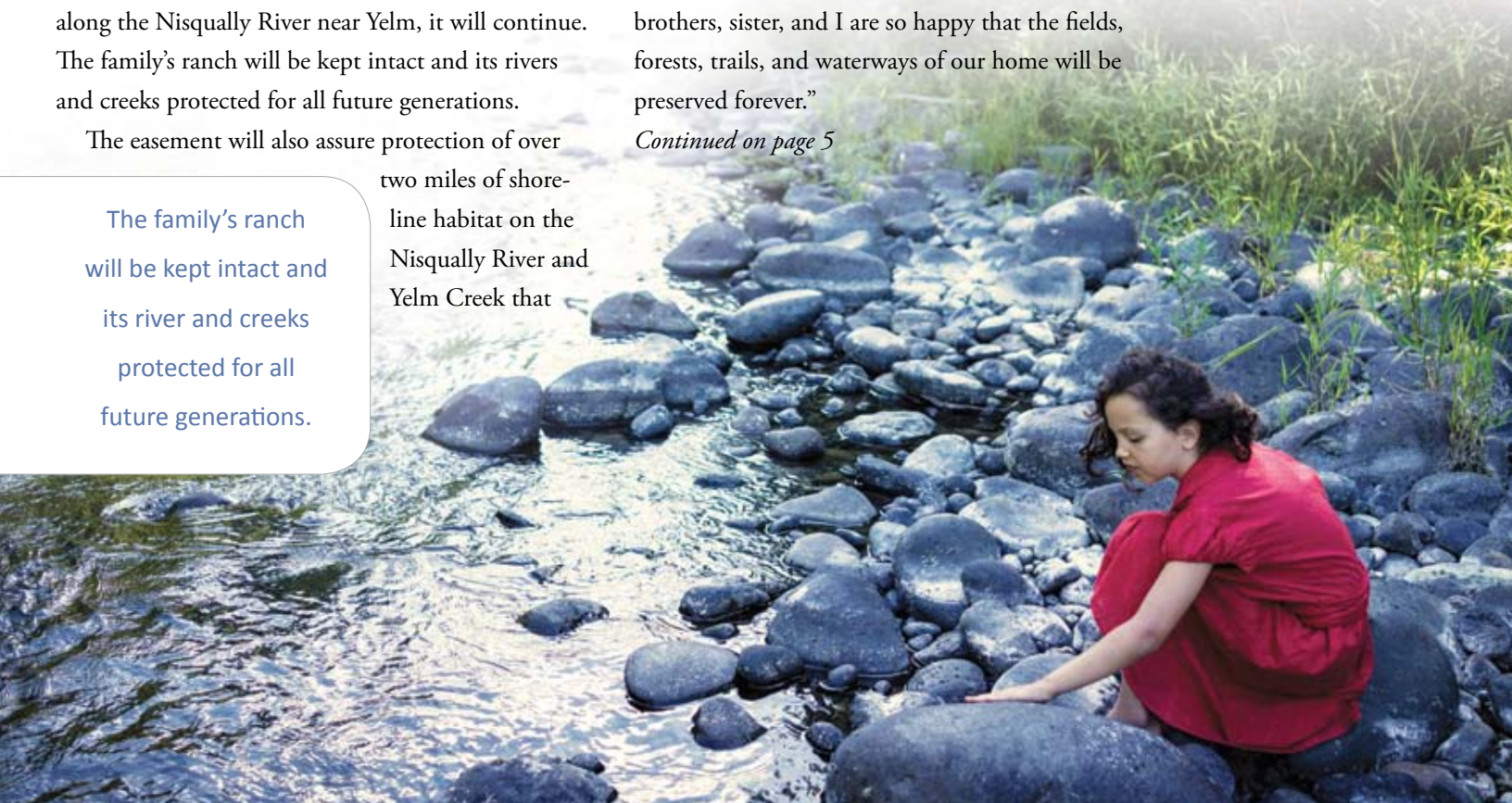
is vital for all five species of Pacific salmon native to the Nisqually, including threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

"I have lived all around the country, but the one constant in my life has been our family ranch," said Jeff Petersen, Harry and Jerrilee's oldest son. "My brothers, sister, and I are so happy that the fields, forests, trails, and waterways of our home will be preserved forever."

Continued on page 5

A fifth-generation Petersen explores the Nisqually River shoreline that her family has conserved.

Photo: Barnaby Britton





OUR MISSION

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.

OFFICE

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Old Education Center
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Olympia, WA 98516

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The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

Ivers Family Donates Forest to Honor Parents



The Land Trust is pleased to announce that Cathy Ivers and her brother, Keven, have donated 39 acres of forestland near Muck Creek, an important Nisqually River tributary, in honor of their parents, Warren and Catherine, who fell in love in the shadow of Mount Rainier and first purchased the property so that they would always have a view of the mountain.

Warren and Catherine met at a St. Patrick's Day dance at Fort Lewis in 1944. Warren was stationed at the fort and Catherine had recently taken a teaching job in Olympia. They were married that summer and honeymooned at Paradise, in the heart of the national park.

Being from the "flatlands" of Oklahoma, Warren was struck by the dramatic views of Mount Rainier, and he and Catherine explored trails all around the mountain for many years. While driving home one weekend, they stopped to look at property for sale with a "mountain view"—three 20-acre lots, two in forest and one in pasture.

Warren asked Catherine to pick one of the lots, and said he would build her a home on it.

"She picked all three, of course!" said her daughter, Cathy, who was raised on the property. Cathy teaches kindergarten at Eatonville Elementary School and will continue to live on the family home adjoining the donated land.

The Land Trust is honored to be able to conserve the Ivers forest, and with it the memory of such a generous family. ✂

Warren and Catherine Ivers (above) were the inspiration for their children's donation of property to the Land Trust (below). Photos: Courtesy of the Ivers family, Nicole Hill



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Nisqually Steelhead on Verge of Extinction

By Joe Kane

By the best estimates, Nisqually steelhead trout are just 400 fish from extinction. A run of wild salmon that only forty years ago numbered up to 10,000 fish annually is on the verge of "blinking out" – of disappearing forever – within a few short years.

That they continue to exist at all is due largely to the network of protected habitat within the Nisqually River system, which sends 275 smolts, or juvenile steelhead, out into Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean for every one adult that survives to return and spawn.

And so it was with great urgency but also great hope that the Land Trust recently acquired the Anderson Property, in Eatonville, along the Mashel River. The Mashel, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River, contains some of the watershed's most important steelhead habitat and was once one of the richest steelhead rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the past six years, through the Mashel Shoreline Protection Initiative, the Land Trust, the Nisqually Tribe, and a team of local, county, state and federal partners have permanently protected some 2.75 miles of the Mashel through the heart of Eatonville.

Though small – just under five acres – the Anderson property is the final, connecting piece in a complex habitat mosaic that includes 27 different properties and 285 acres. The purchase was funded by a generous donation from the landowner, David Anderson, grants from Pierce County Conservation Futures and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and contributions from our supporters.

Anderson Purchase Advances Battle to Save Species

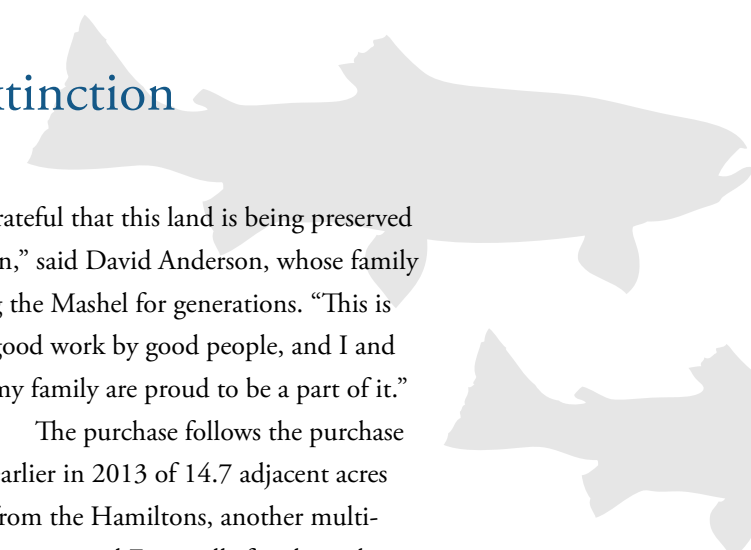
"I'm very grateful that this land is being preserved for wild salmon," said David Anderson, whose family has lived along the Mashel for generations. "This is good work by good people, and I and my family are proud to be a part of it."

The purchase follows the purchase earlier in 2013 of 14.7 adjacent acres from the Hamiltons, another multi-generational Eatonville family, and 10 acres from David's mother, Nora Thureson, in 2010. But our work has just begun.

The Nisqually Tribe recently completed the state's first Steelhead Recovery Plan. It paints a dire picture for Nisqually steelhead, which must travel further, through more lethal conditions, than any other Puget Sound salmon.

The draft plan identifies protection and restoration of the upper Mashel and its headwaters – from Eatonville to within a few miles of Mount Rainier National Park – as a highest priority due to impacts from sedimentation, high water temperatures, and low water quantity.

The Land Trust is now working to protect as much habitat as it can in those reaches. The fight to save Nisqually steelhead is at the point where, almost literally, every foot of river counts. ✂



The recently acquired Anderson Property, on the Mashel River, the largest tributary to the Nisqually. Over the past six years the Land Trust, the Nisqually Tribe, and a team of partners have permanently protected some 2.75 miles of the Mashel, which is critical for recovery of threatened steelhead. Photo: Nicole Hill



Right Plant, Right Place

By Kim Bredensteiner and Candi Tobin

Each fall, the onset of wet weather is the Nisqually Land Trust's cue to kick off our planting season. The best weather for establishing seedlings makes for soggy planters, but the outcome is well worth it—just ask our volunteers!

Last season we added over 24,600 native trees and shrubs to Land Trust properties along Ohop Creek and the Nisqually River. Twenty-four grade school classes, countless volunteers, the Nisqually Tribe's restoration crew and our staff installed over 9,500 plants in the Ohop Valley alone.

The bulk of this season's restoration activities were in critical riparian areas. We focus on restoring and enhancing streamside habitats because the riparian zone is the interface between upland areas and the water bodies used by salmon, trout and many other species.

The Land Trust is sometimes asked about why we focus so much effort on these riparian projects; after all, western Washington is known for having abundant vegetation. Unfortunately, that includes many fast-growing, exotic species. Removing these weeds and planting native species is critical to protecting and restoring the Nisqually riparian zone.

The key is to select the right species for the site conditions – soil characteristics, seasonal soil moisture patterns, and exposure to wind and sunlight. We evaluate the site conditions for each project and identify a mixture of species to create a mosaic of forest structure and food and shelter for wildlife. We aim to use only native, western Washington plant stock. Wetland sites, where the soils may be wet year-round, require trees and shrubs that can tolerate saturated soils. Common species include: black cottonwood, red osier dogwood, western crabapple, swamp rose, native willows, and Douglas spirea.

The Land Trust is very grateful to its network of volunteers, partners and donors for their elbow grease and support in installing and maintaining our plantings this season. A grant from Boeing has funded many of our recent Wednesday work parties.

Green Mountain Coffee and the Yelm Food Bank were the very generous suppliers of the more than 25,000 pounds of burlap installed by volunteers as weed barrier, as well as the coffee that you've enjoyed at our work parties over the last few months. Native Plant Salvage and All Seasons Sustainable Plants donated over 550 native plants to the recent Ohop restoration plantings.

Thanks for all you do to support the health of our watershed. ☘

Petersen | from page 1

The Petersen Ranch started in 1933, with 47 acres on the Nisqually, when Harry James ("Pete") and Jessie Petersen moved to the ranch with young son Harry. They grew beans and hay until World War II. After the war they purchased adjacent lands and assembled 230 acres that included a mile of Nisqually River shoreline and lower Yelm Creek.

By the 1960s the family had moved into cattle ranching. Their son Harry left the ranch for a long career as a teacher and high school administrator and along the way married Jerrilee Hjelm. They raised four children in central Puget Sound but spent many weekends on the ranch. After Pete died in 1960 and Jessie needed assistance, Harry and Jerrilee moved the family to the Ranch full time.

After he retired, Harry managed the Ranch and immersed himself in the community, including service on the Yelm School Board, the State Board of Education, and the Nisqually River Council.

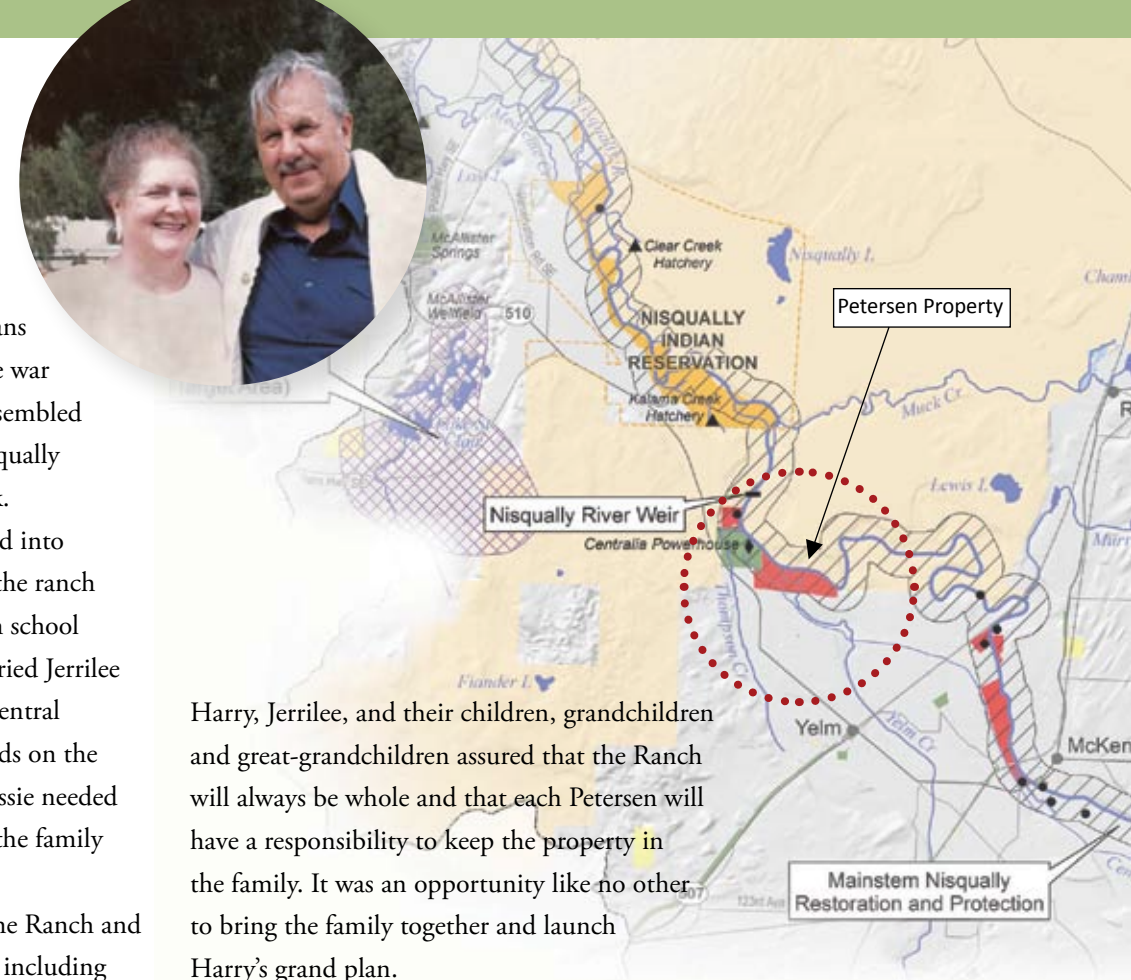
In the 1990s Harry and Jerrilee put the Ranch assets into a corporation to be shared among their children. They thought this would be fair and might keep the ranch intact. But they'd been following the growth of the Land Trust since its founding, and as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren came along and Jerrilee's health declined, Harry recognized the need for a grander plan and called the Land Trust.

Last month, the Land Trust secured the future of the Petersen Ranch with the purchase of a conservation easement funded by the Thurston County Conservation Futures Program and the Nisqually Tribe. With the easement in place,

Top: Through a combination of sale and donation, Harry and Jerrilee Petersen protected their 230-acre ranch on the Nisqually River with a conservation easement. Photo: Courtesy of the Petersen Family

Inset: A young Harry Petersen poses with his Nisqually River catch. Photo: Courtesy of the Petersen Family

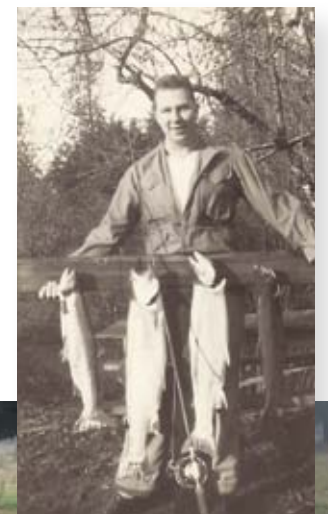
Bottom: Today, his son and granddaughter feed their cattle on the family ranch. Photo: Barnaby Britton



Harry, Jerrilee, and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren assured that the Ranch will always be whole and that each Petersen will have a responsibility to keep the property in the family. It was an opportunity like no other to bring the family together and launch Harry's grand plan.

Harry passed away on April 6th, a few short days after the completion of the conservation easement. It is our great privilege to honor the life he lived and the visionary plan he set in motion. It assures a natural legacy not only for the present and future generations of Petersens but also for all of us who treasure the health and beauty of the Nisqually River.

That's the ultimate good luck. ☘



Top: In preparation for planting, volunteers install a burlap bag weed barrier to suppress invasive reed canary grass. Photo: Charly Kearns

Right: JBLM Army personnel pose with the mountain of tires that they and other volunteers removed from the Wilcox Flats Protected Area. Photo: Cris Peck



STEWARDSHIP WISH LIST

- 7+ foot diameter patio umbrella for tabling events
- 2012 or newer waterproof digital camera
 - Atlas work gloves
 - Coffee beans

If you can help, please contact Kim Bredensteiner at 360-489-3400 or email nlsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org

An Acorn of Effort Is No Small Peanuts

When we moved our family to Yelm, 17 years ago, we had just a vague sense of the future. Life was happening: Four kids to raise, a mortgage, critters to care for, jobs, second jobs.

But we had three acres of land to play on, mostly pasture, bordered on one side by an established Gary oak wood. So we planted trees. Fruit trees for us and the birds, western cedars, spaced 16 feet apart, nine-bark and smoke tree in between. We told the kids that these trees were for them; that in a few years the cedar limbs would touch, and all the while there would be shelter and food for the birds and squirrels.

On other parts of the property we allowed the prairie to regenerate, inviting even more critters to join us. And other than the moles, they were welcome. Opossum, raccoon, fox, coyote, and deer all visit the Foster Family's free buffet. And we feel like we are good stewards, part of the land we live on.


My favorite tree was a gift from some jay or crow flying over from the oaks. I noticed it that first spring, barely an inch out of the soil, the halves

of the shell still attached: an acorn tucked into the protected nook of an old fir stump. I watched it but didn't do much other than keep the weedeater away. Watered by nature, protected and fed by the slowly decaying stump, it's now 18 feet tall and producing its own acorns. And here come the squirrels.

That beautiful tree reminds me of our mission at the Land Trust. The trees we plant today may not mature in our lifetime, but they will in our kids' lives. The shade they produce will eventually cool the river and the leaves they shed will provide a nutrient base for the smallest aquatic creatures, which in turn will feed young salmon and steelhead.

Who knew, 25 years ago, that the Nisqually River would be so well protected today? We are grateful to those who laid the foundation for this impressive work. But what will future generations say about us? Can we make as big an impact?

We can all do our part. A little or a lot, it all helps. Can you afford a donation to fund the restoration and protection of our lands? Can you spare time to get your boots on the ground and help with the work yourself? Both? Do you have a friend you can bring with you? That's how we got to where we are today, and that's how we'll keep this thing going. One little oak begets a forest. One volunteer, one ivy-pull, one dollar at a time nourishes a "Forever Fund" to keep the Nisqually River and its tributaries the treasure that they are.

See you on the river! 



John Foster
Board President



Photo: Candi Tobin

OUR IMPACT IN 2013

\$1.8 million raised for acquisition of conservation properties.

\$255,831 raised for stewardship and restoration in 2013.

Completion of the Mashel Shoreline Protection Initiative — **285 acres** and **2.75 miles** of the Mashel River through the heart of Eatonville that are now permanently protected for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and public access to the Mashel shoreline.

1,490 hours donated by **266** volunteers to restore Land Trust properties.

16,930 native trees and shrubs planted this year; over **170,000** planted to date.

Tons (and tons) of invasive ivy, blackberry and scotch broom removed to improve habitat.


Decommissioned almost **2 miles** of old logging road, bringing the total to **3.4 miles** in the last 2 years.

Help Plan the Land Trust's Future

Even as we celebrate the Land Trust's 25th anniversary, it's time to set course for the next 25 years: How can we best assure that the rich natural legacy of the Nisqually Watershed is passed along in good shape to the next generation, and the generations after that?

To help answer that question, and to best respond to the rapid pace of development projected for the South Puget Sound region, the Land Trust is launching a new strategic planning process, one designed to chart our course from 2015-2019.

Over the coming months, we'll convene focus groups in our local communities, conduct interviews with folks from throughout the watershed and beyond, and stage a series of retreats and workshops for board, staff, and key stakeholders and supporters.

Clean water, abundant wildlife, inspiring vistas, and healthy habitats for people, plants and animals don't happen by accident, at least not anymore. They're the product of careful planning and a well-cultivated spirit of support and cooperation. We hope you'll join us in this effort. Look for more information on our website in the coming months. 

2013 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

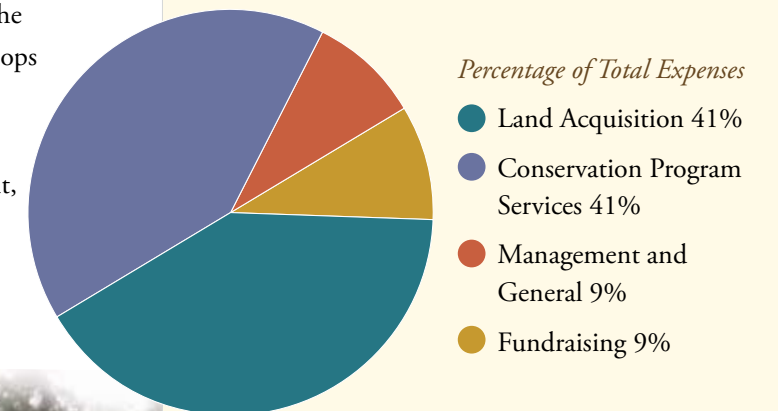
Condensed Balance Sheet

Cash	\$590,187
Conservation Land	22,317,882
Equipment (minus depreciation)	15,375
Investments	731,664
Receivable	83,935
Prepaid	5,338
Total Assets	\$23,744,471
Current Liabilities	\$49,029
Other Liabilities	0
Net Assets	23,695,442
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$23,744,471

Condensed Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue	
Grants and Contributions	\$1,036,463
In-Kind Donations	290,280
Fundraising	73,886
Earned Income	605
Interest and Dividend Income	33,822
Other Revenue	2,149
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,437,205

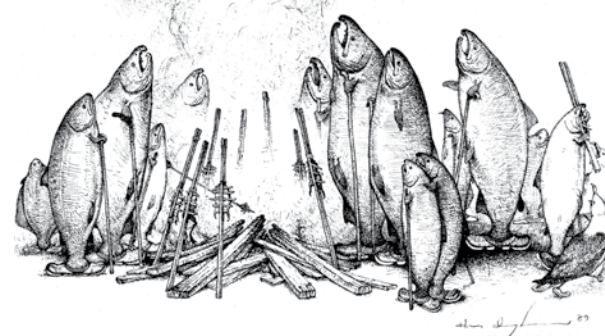
Expenses	
Land Acquisitions	\$512,500
Conservation Program Services	507,870
Management and General	104,128
Fundraising	114,101
Total Expenses	\$1,238,599
Net Result	\$198,606



These charts were derived from an independent audit by Aiken & Sanders, CPA, and represent the financial position of the Nisqually Land Trust as of December 31, 2013. For more information or copies of our audit, visit our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org or call us at 360.489.3400.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Membership Meeting and Salmon Bake



September 14th, 2014
4 to 7:30 pm

Location To Be Announced

Join us for a Nisqually Chinook salmon barbecue dinner and an update of Land Trust activities. Watch our website for more information at www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

Thank You

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The Nisqually Land Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies that generously supported our work. Reflected below are contributions received or pledged between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

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- Please contact Nicole Hill at nhill@nisquallylandtrust.org to note any corrections.*

What is your conservation legacy?

By including the Land Trust in your estate plan, you will protect the health of our land and water for future generations. Talk with your family, talk with your advisor, then talk with us.

Call Executive Director Joe Kane at 360.489.3400 ext. 103, or email jkane@nisquallylandtrust.org to learn more.



25th Anniversary Auction Raises Record \$99,108

With the generous support of sponsors, item donors, attendees and volunteers, our 25th Anniversary Auction and Conservation Dinner raised a record \$99,108 for land protection and restoration in our beautiful Nisqually River Watershed. Auctioneer Cindy Schorno raised spirits and paddles during the high-energy live auction, where a good time was had by all. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a huge success!

This year the President's Awards went to Thurston County and to the Petersen Family of Yelm for their central roles in the permanent protection of the 230-acre Petersen Ranch, which includes over a mile of salmon-producing Nisqually River shoreline.

The Land Trust's purchase of a conservation easement on the ranch was made possible by a \$475,000 Conservation Futures grant from Thurston County and a generous donation from the Petersen Family, with further project support from the Nisqually Tribe. Future Petersen generations will continue to operate the ranch, as the family has since the 1930s, while maintaining critical salmon habitat.

Included in the evening's totals were contributions to the Forever Fund, which supports stewardship of our conservation lands. Attendees generously donated \$38,330, far exceeding our goal. This wonderful show of support was fueled by a combined \$15,000 match challenge from Caroline Feiss, Brad Jones & Retail Management Solutions, Connie & Dennis Gradoville, Judy Scavone, Mary Foster, and Linda Hoffman. Thank you! 🌿

Jerrilee Petersen accepts The President's Award with a smile on behalf of her family (top left). Auction attendees toast the 25th anniversary of the Land Trust (bottom). Photos: Scott Haydon



25TH ANNIVERSARY Conservation Dinner *and* Auction

Conservation Champion



Habitat Hero



Watershed Steward



River Advocate



RE•SOLVE

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25 HOURS FOR 25 YEARS CAMPAIGN

What could be a better gift than the gift of time?

In honor of our 25th anniversary, the Nisqually Land Trust is asking you to give us 25 hours of your time to help us improve the watershed. Come celebrate with us by planting trees, removing invasive plants, and joining in other volunteer events.

Anyone who participates in and documents 25 hours of service between January and December 2014 will receive a token of appreciation from the Land Trust. Volunteers who complete those hours prior to September will be recognized at our Annual Meeting.

Goodbyes and Grateful Hearts

This winter Patt Brady and Linda Hoffman have stepped down from the Land Trust board. At various periods in her 20 years on the board, Patt served as treasurer and secretary. Linda has served for six years, most recently as Vice President.

Both Patt and Linda have long been very involved in the Land Trust, participating in special committees, auctions, annual meetings and other events. We greatly appreciate their commitment and years of service to the organization and to the watershed.

In December the Land Trust's first Director of Philanthropy, Sheila Jackson, transitioned back into the private sector. When she's not tearing up the ski slopes in Utah, Sheila provides consultation to non-profits, including the Land Trust. Sheila's artistic eye and skillful manipulation of design elements were a great boost to our publications, and her easy-going nature made her a pleasure to work with.

This January we also bid farewell to the Land Trust's first paid employee, Connie Bond. After 11 years of service to the Nisqually River Watershed,

Connie is looking forward to spending time with her expanding family and rambunctious beagles. For over a decade she expertly coordinated operations big and small, from day-to-day administration to our annual auction and salmon bake, and we will miss her.

We were fortunate to have had two such wonderful women working for the Land Trust. We wish both Sheila and Connie the best as they turn the page on the next chapter of their lives.

We'd like to extend a hearty thank you to our Spring 2014 Habitat Restoration and Land Management interns, Megan Kelly and Dyson Fowler.

Megan is a sophomore at The Evergreen State College majoring in Environmental Studies. Dyson, a senior at Evergreen, is studying forest ecology and land management in pursuit of a B.S. in Environmental Studies. Land Steward Charly has taken them on many adventures (including the boat ride on the cover), and we are very happy to have had this hardy pair in the field to assist in our conservation work. 🌿



Linda Hoffman



Patt Brady



Sheila Jackson




Connie Bond



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Nature Walks

JUNE

Van Eaton Homestead in Eatonville
 Saturday June 7th from 12:30 – 2 pm & 2:30 – 4 pm

Powell Creek Pastures near Yelm
 Saturday June 14th from 10 am – 2 pm

Allen Property at Mount Rainier Gateway near Ashford
 Saturday June 21st from 1 – 3 pm

JULY

Van Eaton Homestead in Eatonville
 Saturday July 19th from 12:30 – 2 pm & 2:30 – 4 pm

Trestle Farm at Yelm Shoreline in McKenna
 Saturday July 26th from 10 am – 1 pm

AUGUST

Red Salmon Creek near DuPont
 Saturday August 2nd from 10 am – 1 pm

Hogum Bay near Olympia
 Saturday August 9th from 10 am – 1 pm

Margaret Neyman leads a walk along the banks of the Mashel River on the Van Eaton property last July. You are invited to explore special Land Trust protected areas on these free guided tours.

For more information and to sign up please contact Nikki Dizon at 360-489-3400 or staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.

Sign up
 online for e-mail
 notice of volunteer
 and event info

Photo: Charley Kearns