



2015
ANNUAL
REPORT
Pages 6-9



Nisqually Land Trust

Spring 2015
Newsletter

Land Trust Acquires 202 Acres on Ohop Lake

Key Salmon Property Adjoins Northwest Trek

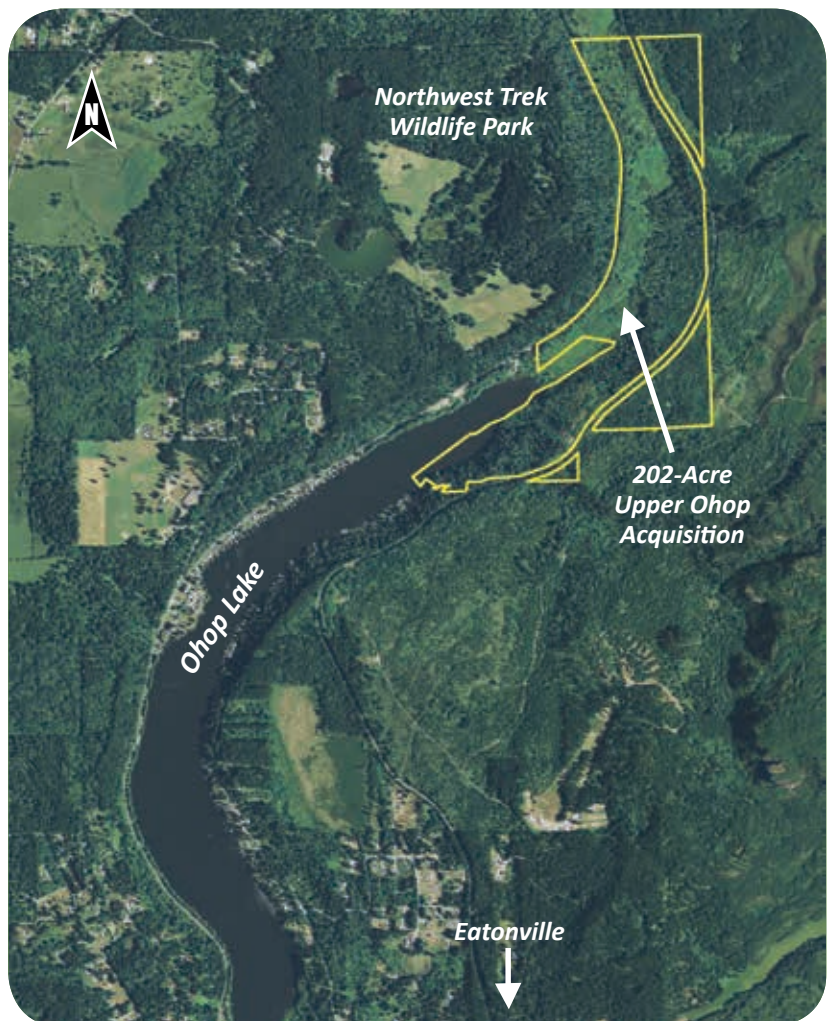
The Land Trust is pleased to announce that it has acquired 202 acres of salmon habitat at the headwaters of Ohop Lake, adjoining Northwest Trek Wildlife Park near Eatonville.

The property includes nearly half a mile of lake frontage and 1.2 miles of upper Ohop Creek and contains important habitat for four species of Pacific salmon native to the Nisqually Watershed, including spawning and rearing habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The property also contains two eagle nests, an extensive wetland complex, and stands of mature conifer forest along the lake shoreline.

The Land Trust acquired the property from Hancock Forest Management for \$415,000. The Pierce County Conservation Futures Program provided 90 percent of the funding, and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, through the state's Recreation and Conservation Office, provided 10 percent in matching funds.

(continued on page 5)





OUR MISSION

The Nisqually Land Trust acquires and manages critical lands to permanently benefit the water, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed.

OFFICE

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Old Education Center
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Olympia, WA 98516

MAILING ADDRESS

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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.

September 13th
4 to 7:30 pm

at Odd Fellows Park
in Olympia, WA

2015 Annual Meeting and Salmon Feed



Join us for a picnic-style dinner and an update of Land Trust activities.
Watch our website for more information at
www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

Thank You for Your Service!

Heartfelt thanks go out to **Nano Perez**, who stepped down from the Land Trust Board of Directors in December. Nano's positive attitude and field experience made him an asset to the board and his service to the organization is greatly appreciated.

We are excited to welcome two new board members to the Land Trust's Board of Directors, **Martin McCallum** and **Brian Sullivan**. Both became acquainted with the Land Trust as dedicated stewardship volunteers. In addition to his regular board member duties, Brian has also assumed the role of Treasurer.

In December **Nicole Hill** accepted a position with the Pierce County Conservation Futures Program. We are grateful for her years at the Land Trust and her excellent work under the many hats she wore, most recently as Associate Director. Best wishes Nicole!

Over the last year the Land Trust has enjoyed extra assistance in both the field and the office from several college student volunteers.

We'd like to recognize our hardy and helpful Habitat Restoration and Land Management interns:

- **Mary Birchem**, University of Washington Tacoma
- **Michele Boderck**, Evergreen State College
- **Carly Perez**, Pacific Lutheran University
- **Shannah Young**, Pacific Lutheran University
- **Devin Geiger**, Evergreen State College
- **Gabe Chavez**, Evergreen State College
- **Kevin Cammon**, Clover Park Technical College
- **Christian Craft**, Evergreen State College

We hope that all of our friends have enjoyed their experiences with us. Thank you for sharing your time and talents. 🌿



Nano Perez



Martin McCallum



Brian Sullivan



Nicole Hill

Land Trust Project Protects City of Olympia Water Supply

Also Generates Scholarships for Local High School Students

In the first deal of its kind in Washington State, the Land Trust and a consortium of partners recently completed a “natural benefits” transaction that helps protect the main source of domestic water for City of Olympia residents, generates college scholarships for North Thurston School District high school seniors, and conserves some of the oldest trees in Thurston County.

The deal places an innovative conservation easement on 40 acres of lush conifer forest on the east shore of Lake St. Clair, in east Thurston County. The forest sits directly over the underground “capture zone” for the City of Olympia’s new water well, which opened last year. The Nisqually Watershed will provide some 80 percent of the city’s water for at least the next fifty years.

“The Nisqually Watershed will provide some 80 percent of the city’s water for at least the next fifty years.”

Working with the Nisqually River

Foundation and the Northwest Natural Resource Group, the Land Trust brokered a transaction between the Lacey Rotary Foundation, which had recently inherited the property, and two buyers, the Nisqually Indian Tribe and a local private party.

The buyers agreed to grant conservation easements on their new properties to the City of Olympia, which contributed funds toward the purchase. Broadly, the easements require that a specific amount of tree cover be kept on the property permanently, and that it be distributed across the property in a specific way.

“Mature trees are one of the best tools we have for protecting water quality and quantity,” said Dr. Paula Swedeen, a specialist in environmental economics and a project consultant. “They deliver a host of services – they filter out contaminants, they regulate flow, they help maintain healthy water temperatures.

“And they are ‘natural capital’ – unlike the human-built structures we would have to build to replace the services the trees now deliver, this forest will

(continued on page 5)

The Land Trust helped broker a transaction that protects Olympia’s water supply and conserves some of the oldest trees in Thurston County, on Lake St. Clair.



VOLUNTEERS

Are A Gift To The Watershed



Each of these **SUPERSTARS** volunteered over 25 hours in 2014:

- Marti Anderson ♦ Dwight Bergquist-Moody
- ♦ Sharon Bergquist-Moody ♦ Mary Birchem
- ♦ Michele Boderick ♦ Tony Burmeister
- Steve Craig ♦ JW Foster ♦ Mary Foster ♦ Nikki Foster
- ♦ Dyson Fowler ♦ Bill Funk ♦ Mary Gentry
- ♦ Tom Ginsburg ♦ Nick Gosling ♦ Chris Hoff
- ♦ Brad Jones ♦ Megan Kelly ♦ Ed Kenney
- ♦ William Kogut ♦ Julia McCain-Burmeister
- ♦ Martin McCallum ♦ Nano Perez ♦ Judy Scavone
- ♦ Brian Sullivan ♦ Lea Swearington ♦ Crow Vecchio
- ♦ George Walter ♦ Cathy Williams

Marti Anderson volunteered **52** hours for the Land Trust in 2014!



2015 Conservation Dinner & Auction



Mashel River Nov 2014



No time to volunteer? Support management of protected lands by donating an item from the

STEWARDSHIP WISH LIST

- ♦ 7+ ft diameter patio umbrella (for outreach events)
- ♦ Garden/Landscape carts
- ♦ Locking truck bed toolbox
- ♦ Coffee (for volunteer work parties)

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



Wilcox Flats April 2015



Thurston Ridge June 2014

Thank You Volunteers!

Want to know more about volunteering with the Land Trust? Visit our website or e-mail Cris at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org to sign up for our weekly work parties, learn about our Site Stewards program, or plan an internship.

Ohop Lake (continued from page 1)

Though long managed for timber production and currently undeveloped, critical parts of the property are zoned for one residential unit per ten acres. As a condition of acquiring the property under the state and county funding programs, the Land Trust has permanently removed all development rights, which will help maintain the integrity of the lake and creek shorelines.

The Land Trust will also change timber management on the steep forested slopes that rise from the lake, to help control sediment, support wetland functions, and protect overall water quality.

In addition to its habitat values, the property also provides an extensive buffer for Northwest Trek, one of the region's most popular recreation destinations, and is identified for trail development in Pierce County's Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

As well, the Land Trust has received a grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to begin control of invasive nonnative plant species that have infested key areas of the property.

The Land Trust will also begin cleanup of the trash and household debris that for many years have been dumped along portions of the property that front on a county road. ↻



Recently acquired property on Ohop Lake and upper Ohop Creek will permanently protect critical salmon habitat.

Protecting Olympia Water Supply (continued from page 3)

continue to grow and increase its services over time.”

The Lacey Rotary Foundation, for its part, raised some \$400,000 for college scholarships for North Thurston School District high school seniors. “This is the essence of win-win-win,” said John Masterson, the Foundation's president. “We've kept the trees standing, we've helped protect a critical water source, and we've generated financial support for deserving kids who can really use the help.”

The deal grew out of a 2010 directive from the state legislature to the Washington Department of Natural Resources: Create a pilot “environmental services” project that generates revenue for a forestland owner by paying them for the services their trees provide to the public.

A University of Washington forum determined that the Nisqually Watershed's record of cooperative conservation made it the site most likely to succeed and to produce a template that could be used throughout the state. ↻



Former Nisqually Tribal Council Chair Cynthia Iyall and Olympia Mayor Stephen Buxbaum raise glasses of good Nisqually water at the dedication of the city's new wellhead in the Nisqually Watershed. Photo: City of Olympia

Small Watershed, Big Ideas 2014



It was quite a year – the Simpsons, the Internet, and your Nisqually Land Trust all turned twenty-five years old in 2014.

I don't know what the first two did to celebrate, but we worked harder than ever:

- We acquired the largest private conservation easement ever on the mainstem of the Nisqually River, permanently protecting 1.1 miles of salmon shoreline and 230 acres of the Petersen Family Ranch in Yelm.
- Our maniacally dedicated volunteer corps set all-time records for its size and for the number of hours folks spent stewarding our lands and our organization.
- Our incredibly generous supporters set new fundraising records at our 2014 Conservation Dinner and through our year-end Conservation Appeal.
- We incorporated the first community forest in Puget Sound – the Nisqually Community Forest, which is dedicated to building an “economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable” community-owned working forest at “landscape scale”

(10,000 acres or more).

- We laid the groundwork for the state's first “natural benefits” transaction (page 3), which will help permanently protect the City of Olympia's domestic water supply and creates a template for similar projects across the state.
- We completed the first acquisition for the next stage of the Ohop Creek restoration, already one of the largest and most ambitious stream-restoration projects in the state.
- We had the top-ranked projects, for a total of \$7.6 million, in two of the state's most competitive conservation programs (which as we went to press were caught up in the legislature's budget negotiations).
- And we completed Phase III of the Mashel Shoreline Protection Initiative, finishing a 2.75-mile protected river corridor through the heart of Eatonville and seeing the dedication of the town's hugely popular Bud Blancher Trail (page 11).

Twenty-five years old: Still young, strong, and ambitious! 🌿

Joe Kane
Executive Director

The first property that the Nisqually Community Forest hopes to acquire includes over a mile of Busy Wild Creek, headwaters of the Mashel River. Photo: Jed Moore

- Over **two miles** and **250 acres** of salmon shoreline permanently protected
- 2,788 hours** donated by **322** volunteers to improve wildlife habitat on Land Trust properties
- 19,365** native plants installed this year; over **186,000** planted to date
- Tons** (literally!) of invasive ivy, blackberry and scotch broom removed to improve wildlife habitat

2014 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Condensed Balance Sheet

Cash	\$684,385
Conservation Land	\$22,289,989
Equipment (minus depreciation)	\$12,881
Investments & Other	\$787,032
Receivable	\$99,848
Prepaid Expense	\$4,782
Total Assets	\$23,878,917
Current Liabilities	\$25,693
Other Liabilities	\$0
Net Assets	\$23,853,224
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$23,878,917

Condensed Statement of Activities

<i>Support and Revenue</i>	
Grants and Contributions	\$1,191,063
In-Kind Donations	\$12,500
Fundraising	\$94,607
Earned Income	\$113,137
Interest and Dividend Income	\$30,380
Other Revenue	\$18,382
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,460,069
<i>Expenses</i>	
Land Acquisitions	\$230,213
Conservation Program Services	\$1,039,377
Management and General	\$112,074
Fundraising	\$97,387
Total Expenses	\$1,479,051
Net Result	-\$18,982

Building On Our Success



What a way to start the new year! Our annual fundraising auction was a great success (see page 10), thanks to the hard work of our staff and volunteers. And thanks to our generous donors and attendees, we exceeded our financial goal while having a very good time. How great is that? Pretty great!

But more than just putting money in the bank so we can continue our good work, we reaffirmed as a family that what we are doing is important to us. That's even prettier greater – well, you know what I mean, I'm excited.

I'm excited by our accomplishments, and I'm excited by what we have in store for the near future. Over the past year we've been looking at our mission statement and our goals and strategies and adjusting them to encompass a bolder vision.

We're going to expand our work to include protection of the "nearshore" marine environment that our Nisqually River nourishes, and we're going to increase our protection of the upper waterways that feed the river. It's all one unit.

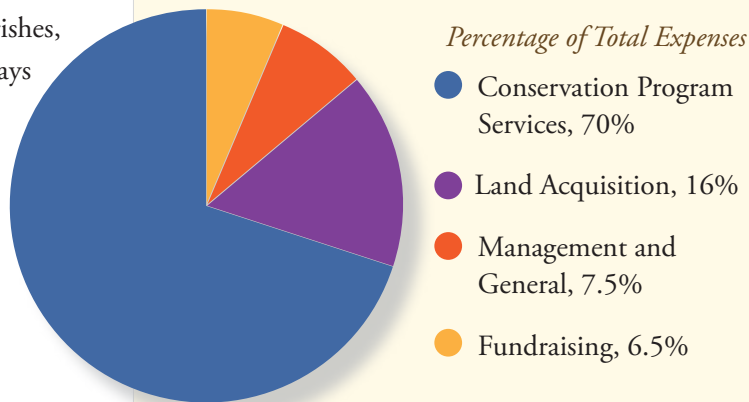
And we'll also be working to develop safe access to the river and to create a locally-owned forest that generates jobs that benefit our own community economies.

And why do we want to do all of this? So we can work and play and enjoy it all. Join us in making our dreams come true. It's our staff, interns, and volunteers that get all this done, and there's room for you, too!

Check out our website for volunteer opportunities, sign up for a work (fun) party, or call the office. Fellow Land Trustians are standing by to take your call! ☘

See you on the river...

JW Foster
Board President



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, 2014. For more information or copies of our audit, visit our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org or call us at 360.489.3400.

Thank You

2014 DONORS

The Nisqually Land Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies that have generously supported our work. Reflected below are contributions received or pledged between January 1 and December 31, 2014.

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 WA State Recreation and Conservation Office: Salmon Recovery Funding Board & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund
 Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation

Program Partners

Evergreen State College
 JBLM Personnel
 Mount Rainier National Park
 Mount Tahoma Trails

Association
 National Civilian Community Corps
 Nisqually Indian Tribe
 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
 Nisqually River Council
 Nisqually River Education Project
 Nisqually River Foundation
 Nisqually Stream Stewards
 Northwest Natural Resource Group
 Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
 Pierce Conservation District/ Stream Team
 South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
 Thurston County
 Thurston Conservation District
 Thurston County Conservation Futures
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 Washington Conservation Corps
 Washington Environmental Council
 Washington Service Corps/ AmeriCorps
 Yelm Community Schools

We have made our best effort to produce an accurate list of Land Trust supporters.

Please contact Nikki Dizon at staff@nisquallylandtrust.org to note any corrections.

This beautiful conifer forest, near Ashford, is protected by the Land Trust.

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 e-mail jkane@nisquallylandtrust.org to learn more.

23rd Annual Auction Sets Fundraising Record!

**Congratulations
Partners of the Year:**

South Puget Sound
Salmon Enhancement Group

Nisqually River
Education Project



Thanks to the generous hearts of our sponsors, attendees, and item and event donors, the Land Trust's 2015 Conservation Dinner and Auction netted over \$100,000 – a new record – for land protection and stewardship in the Nisqually Watershed. This show of support was humbling and inspiring. Thank you!

We'd also like to express our appreciation for the hardworking volunteers who made this even such a success – especially Cindy Schorno, of Schorno Auction Company. Thank you, too!

Make plans to join us for our 24th Annual Conservation Dinner and Auction in Spring 2016. Event details will be posted on our website this summer. ☘

As Board Secretary Tom Ginsburg can tell you, Live Auction can get pretty exciting!

*Thank you to the generous sponsors of our
2015 Nisqually Land Trust Conservation Dinner & Auction:*



Van Ness Feldman



Alex B. Young
Assistant Vice President
Senior Financial Advisor
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Judy Scavone

And to our in-kind supporters:

Cindy Schorno of Schorno Auction Co. ♦ Top Rung Brewing Co. ♦ Terra Blanca Winery ♦ Generous Auction Item Donors

A full list of event sponsors and auction-item donors may be viewed on our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org

Float the Upper Nisqually River!

Sunday, July 26th

9 am - 4 pm (return time is approximate)
departure from Wilcox Farms in Roy, WA

Tickets are \$120 per person
(Lunch, guides, and equipment included)

Make your reservation by calling
Nikki at 360-489-3400 or register
online at www.nisquallylandtrust.org

Space is Limited!
Don't
miss
the boat!



Eatonville's Bud Blancher Trail an Instant Hit

Land Trust's Salmon Recovery Work Contributes to Trail's Success

Proving once again that good conservation is good business, Eatonville's new Bud Blancher Trail is quickly becoming the town's most popular attraction and a centerpiece for development of its recreation-based economy.

The Land Trust played a key supporting role in the trail's development by helping the town to acquire some \$1.2 million in salmon-habitat properties along the river that could also be used for the trail, both now and for future expansion.

The hiking-and-cycling trail runs through the heart of town and along the Mashel River, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. Protection and restoration of habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout on the Mashel are critical for the survival of both species.

The trail starts in town, at the first-ever pedestrian bridge across the Mashel. The bridge was completed last November and is also an excellent platform

for viewing spawning salmon.


The trail itself is currently 2.3 miles long and connects to over 40 miles of foot and bike trails in the University of Washington's Pack Forest, including popular trails to the upper and lower falls on the Little Mashel River.

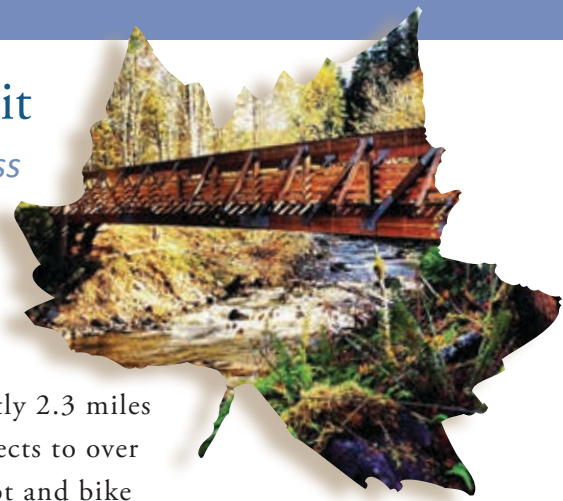
"We opened the trail near the start of winter, but that didn't seem to matter," said Eatonville Town Administrator Doug Beagle. "It's been busy every day since. Build it and they will come – it's just been amazing."

The trail traverses Eatonville's Smallwood Park, also on the Mashel River. The town is exploring the possibility of converting the park from a day-use facility to an overnight campground, which would boost economic activity downtown and spur the town's re-birth as a recreation hub.

Howard "Bud" Blancher was a longtime Eatonville resident with a passion for flying, hiking, and cycling, which he did all over the world. He died in 2007, when the trail was still in the planning stages – and while he was serving on the Eatonville Regional Trail Plan Advisory Committee – and left a substantial bequest to support its development.

Meanwhile, a generous donation from Peter and Christine Koch assured that a bridge over the Little Mashel River would also be built, thus connecting the trail to Pack Forest.

The Land Trust properties were purchased with funding from a robust partnership that includes the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Pierce County Conservation Futures, the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund. 



*The new pedestrian bridge spans the Mashel River.
Photo: Craig Hill*




Bud Blancher Trail. Photo: Bob Walter, EatonvilleNews.net



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Suite C PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516-2302

www.nisquallylandtrust.org

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 Save a tree! Sign up to receive this newsletter by e-mail at www.nisquallylandtrust.org. Please recycle or pass on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper.



Hikers take a closer look at a native jewelweed plant on a Nature Walk in Yelm.

Join us! 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 at 360-489-3400 or staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.

RSVP is required to attend these FREE events. Sign up today!

Nature Walks

JUNE

Van Eaton Homestead & Mashel River in Eatonville
Saturday, June 6th from 12:30 - 2 pm & 2:30 - 4 pm

Powell Creek Pastures/Tatrimima Property near Yelm
Saturday, June 20th from 10 am – 2 pm

Red Salmon Creek near DuPont
Saturday, June 27th from 12:30 – 2 pm

JULY

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

AUGUST

Bud Blancher Trail in Eatonville
Saturday, August 8th from 12:30 - 2 pm

Mount Rainier Gateway near Ashford
Saturday, August 22nd from 10 am - 1 pm

SEPTEMBER

Ohop Creek near Eatonville
Saturday, September 12th from 10 am – 12:30 pm