Pictured: Our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, which permanently protects a popular cross-country ski trail as well as habitat for thirteen at-risk wildlife species.
Dear Friends of the Nisqually Land Trust:

Welcome to our 2017 report to shareholders. If you are reading this, that’s you. And if you have fins, paws, feathers or hooves and live wild in the Nisqually River Watershed, you’re a shareholder, too.

On the one hand, we feel lucky. We can say what we have so often since our founding, in 1989: Your Nisqually Land Trust had another successful year.

Fun fact: In 2017 we protected almost as much land as we did in our first fifteen years combined.

Not-so-fun fact: Climate change is real, it’s increasing, and nothing poses a bigger threat to our work.

Which means that our work isn’t just about protecting land. It’s about making that land resilient — as capable as possible of supporting plants and animals native to the Nisqually Watershed. Which requires that we think long-term, executing habitat projects today that will mature over the next two centuries.

So in 2017, with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and the Town of Eatonville, we launched an ambitious reconstruction project on the Mashel River, which is still recovering from clearcut timber harvests last century and undergoing another intensive round this century.

We installed nine “engineered logjams,” a technique for jump-starting restoration in salmon-producing rivers where the timber has been depleted. Logs are piled up to change the river’s hydraulics, which increases the complexity of pools and riffles and provides sheltered alcoves for juvenile fish until replanted forests mature.

Also in 2017, with the Northwest Natural Resource Group, we conducted an “ecological timber harvest” in our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, which encompasses over 2,500 acres. The Reserve was formerly managed in a way that left it with dense, stunted tree stands and diminished biological diversity.

We thinned the property strategically to promote old-growth characteristics — big trees, but also small and medium-sized trees, shrubs, ferns, and forbs. That benefits wildlife, and also the local economy, through the loggers and contractors we employed.

2017 also set us up for good work in 2018. We’re on pace to:

• Protect another mile of salmon-producing Nisqually River shoreline.

• Add 640 acres to the Nisqually Community Forest.

• Complete a major Puget Sound shoreline protection project.

• Have over 1,000 students and 400 volunteers help with everything from office management to tree planting.

And this year we find ourselves thinking about the word “trust.” We’re proud to have it in our name, and we cherish the bonds of trust we and our partners and supporters have built up over the decades.

That trust is based on principles that have proven themselves over time: Truth matters. Generosity nurtures. Good science is essential. Cooperation and collaboration yield effective and enduring outcomes.

To our “shareholders” — to all of you who place your trust in us: Thank you.

Joe Kane
Executive Director

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Financial Snapshot
As of December 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$634,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>30,564,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment (minus depreciation)</td>
<td>5,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments &amp; Other</td>
<td>1,570,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivable</td>
<td>169,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>32,955,539</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>226,271</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>32,729,268</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>32,955,539</td>
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Condensed Statement of Activities
As of December 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and Revenue</th>
<th>$4,033,847</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>419,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>155,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividend Income</td>
<td>50,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>42,945</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>4,701,701</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>3,961,595</th>
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<tr>
<td>Land Acquisitions</td>
<td>540,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>80,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>4,715,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 Expenditures
| Land Acquisitions                          | 84%       |
| Conservation Program Services              | 11%       |
| Management and General                     | 3%        |
| Fundraising                                | 2%        |
Our mission is to acquire and manage critical lands to permanently benefit the water, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed. Today, we own, protect, and steward 6,534 acres in the watershed and have planted 283,708 native trees and shrubs on our properties.

The Nisqually is the only river in the country with its headwaters protected by a national park and its delta protected by a national wildlife refuge. In between the two, the Land Trust has permanently protected ninety-four miles of salmon-producing shoreline on the Nisqually River and its tributaries.

We protect and restore wildlife habitat for threatened and at-risk species found throughout the Nisqually Watershed, including Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, bald eagles, northern goshawks, pileated woodpeckers and peregrine falcons.

As the lead nonprofit conservation group in the Nisqually, we work collaboratively with partners throughout the watershed and the Puget Sound region to protect land and water for the benefit of our local communities. We practice conservation that supports productive local economies and vibrant local cultures.

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**2017 Conservation Highlights**

- Protected: 686 acres and 13.7 miles of riparian shoreline; 6,534 acres protected to date.
- Contributed: 4,121 hours by 345 volunteers.
- Participated: 964 students, who used Land Trust properties as outdoor classrooms.
- Planted: 25,636 native trees and shrubs; total plantings to date: 283,708.
- Participated: 293 people, in Land Trust nature walks and float trips.
- Removed: 89 acres of invasive weeds and 1,400 pounds of garbage, from roadsides, waterways, and other Land Trust sites.

**Conservation Partners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Hills Audubon</th>
<th>Pierce Conservation District/Stream Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Base Lewis McChord</td>
<td>South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Rainier National Park</td>
<td>Sustainable Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Tahoma Trails Association</td>
<td>Tahoma Audubon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisqually Indian Tribe</td>
<td>The Evergreen State College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>U.S.E.P.A. Western Ecology Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisqually River Council</td>
<td>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nisqually River Education Project</td>
<td>Washington Association of Land Trusts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nisqually River Foundation</td>
<td>Washington Conservation Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nisqually Stream Stewards</td>
<td>Washington Environmental Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Natural Resource Group</td>
<td>Washington Service Corps/AmeriCorps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Trek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 Land Acquisition  (Numbers refer to map on next page)

1. **Yelm Shoreline Protected Area, Nisqually River**
The Land Trust acquired two more highly prized properties along the Whitewater Reach of the Nisqually River, near Yelm. They total 18 acres and nearly one-third mile of shoreline. The Whitewater Reach provides spawning and rearing habitat for all five salmonid species native to the Nisqually Watershed, and the Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead trout recovery plans rate it highest priority for permanent protection. The two sites also contain extensive wetlands, mature mixed deciduous forest, and second-growth conifer forest.

These two acquisitions expanded the Land Trust’s Yelm Shoreline Protected Area to 238 acres and 3.1 miles of shoreline.

One of the properties also has a strategic location along railroad tracks and a trestle owned by the city of Yelm. The trestle has the potential to be converted into the first pedestrian and bike crossing of the Nisqually River and to extend the Yelm-Tenino Trail into Pierce County.

2. **Lackamas Flats Protected Area, Nisqually River**
The Land Trust acquired 9.86 acres and one-third mile of salmon producing shoreline at the confluence of the Nisqually River and Toboton Creek. The property is located in the Wilcox Reach, one of the most dynamic stretches of the Nisqually River. Two years ago, just upstream, the river blasted away a hundred horizontal feet of riverbank in a matter of months and destroyed a family home.

Toboton Creek contains extensive coho salmon habitat, and the Nisqually Salmon Recovery Program rates the Nisqually River’s Wilcox Reach high priority for protection of Chinook salmon habitat and highest priority for protection of steelhead trout habitat. Both species are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

3. **Tenas Creek, Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve**
The Walker Family donated this 14-acre property to the Land Trust to be permanently protected as part of our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve. The family’s deep ties to Washington State and Mount Rainier go back to the turn of the twentieth century, when it acquired this property.

Situated along Highway 706, near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, the property’s towering fir and cedar trees have long lent a cathedral-like atmosphere to the approach to the park. The property is bisected by Tenas Creek, whose crystalline waters cascade out of the park on their way to the Nisqually River.

4. **Busy Wild Creek, Nisqually Community Forest**
We doubled the size of the Nisqually Community Forest with the addition of 640 spectacular acres along the upper reach of Busy Wild Creek, near Mount Rainier National Park. The new property adjoins both the first 640-acre section, purchased in 2016, and the Land Trust’s 2,500-acre Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, creating a landscape-scale block of protected land.

The heavily timbered property contains over 12 miles of stream shoreline and a key section of the most popular trail in the Mount Tahoma Trails Association’s cross-country ski system. Busy Wild Creek is the headwater tributary of the Mashel River and critical habitat for threatened steelhead trout.
We appreciate the hundreds of volunteers who helped us steward our lands in 2017, including those pictured above removing Scotch broom at our Yelm Shoreline Protected Area.

This property on the east shoreline of Toboton Creek, at the creek’s confluence with the Nisqually River, is a priority for habitat protection in the Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan.

The Walker Property, with its towering fir and cedar trees, added 14 acres to our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve in 2017.

Participants enjoy snowshoeing in our Nisqually Community Forest, which contains a key section of the most popular trail in the Mount Tahoma Trails Association’s hut-to-hut cross-country ski system.
Our 2017 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, 2017.

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The Estate of Caroline Feiss • The Estate of Thelma Gilmour
$10,000 and above
Olympia Federal Savings Ward and Rita Willits
$5,000 - $9,999
Anonymous Gair Crutcher • Bob & Patty Hayes Jeffrey Michelson Al Schmauder
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CalPortland Douglas Canning • Mary and Fred Gentry Connie and Dennis Gradoville Hancock Natural Resource Group
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Kathryn Athow and Greg Brown
In honor of Dana Bots
Greg and Linda Brown
In honor of Micki Buckley and Matt Drury
Brett Buckley
In memory of Ann Cooke
Brett Buckley
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Sara Butler
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Audrey Zimmerman
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Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County
Dawkins Charitable Trust
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Nisqually Charitable Fund
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Pierce County Conservation Futures
Pierce County Conservation District
Puyallup Indian Tribe
Thurston County Conservation Futures
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
WA Department of Ecology
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
WA State Recreation and Conservation Office
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA Wildlife & Recreation Program
Office
Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National
Wildlife Refuge
Old Education Center
100 Brown Farm Road NE
Olympia, WA 98516

Mailing Address
1420 Marvin Road SE
Suite C, PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516

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E-mail: staff@nisquallylandtrust.org
Website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org

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