



# 2019 Annual Report

Mount Rainier and the Nisqually River above our Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, lower left foreground. Photo by Paula Cobleigh





## Still a Small Watershed with Big Ideas

Our deepest thanks to all of our friends, supporters, and partners. This story is your story, too. We wouldn't be here without you.

permanently protected, high-quality wildlife habitat.

And with the help of the Nisqually Tribe's native-plant restoration team and thousands of volunteers and students, our hard-working stewardship staff has restored hundreds of acres and planted hundreds of thousands of native trees and shrubs.

All of which is to say: Land conservation is a marathon, not a sprint. And as we look back at 2019 (sure seems like a long time ago, doesn't it?), we're pleased to contemplate a year that was most remarkable perhaps for being unremarkable: We continued to do what we do.

We acquired and restored critical lands. We engaged – and were engaged by – hundreds of students and volunteers. Our board and staff worked hard and in high spirits all year long. We had some great parties. And we ran a tight fiscal ship, with an independent audit (available at [www.nisqually-landtrust.org](http://www.nisqually-landtrust.org)) that certified your Nisqually Land Trust is in sound financial health.

This report tells that story. From the vantage point of mid-2020, of course, we know there's another story coming. But the river will still be here, and so will we.

Meanwhile, our deepest thanks to all of our friends, supporters, and partners. This story is your story, too. We wouldn't be here without you.

See you on the river (from at least six feet away).

Joe Kane  
Executive Director

Ten years ago the *New York Times* ran a front-page story on conservation innovation in the Nisqually Watershed. It came as no surprise to the Land Trust and our many partners here at home. We'd long known that the Nisqually is a small watershed with big ideas – ideas that resonate far beyond our borders. That hasn't changed.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's salmon-recovery program is still the best in the state and a model for cooperative conservation.

The restoration of the Nisqually estuary is still the largest estuary restoration ever completed in the Pacific Northwest.

Our Nisqually Community Forest helped spawn a movement that is now growing rapidly throughout Washington and Oregon. So did our carbon-credit project with Microsoft, which was also the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

Permanent conservation of the Nisqually River now totals an incredible 78 percent of the river's salmon-producing shoreline, or 65 of 84 shoreline miles—an exceptional level of protection for a river so close to two major metropolitan areas.

We've expanded aggressively into the Watershed's Mashel River and Ohop Creek sub-basins and the Nisqually Delta marine area, more than doubling our portfolio of

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

**\$9,281,758** raised for acquisition of conservation properties

**\$436,688** raised for stewardship and restoration of conservation properties

Close to **4 miles** of salmon-producing shoreline permanently protected

**2,394** hours donated by **281** volunteers to restore protected areas

**178 acres** permanently protected in 2019; **7,737 acres** protected to date

**21,933 native trees** and shrubs planted; over **317,350** planted to date

**62 acres** of invasive weeds removed

**709 students** learning on Land Trust properties through the Nisqually River Education Project



Land Steward Addie Schlüssel loads salvaged Douglas Fir into the stewardship truck. This native plant salvage event was in partnership with the Center for Natural Lands Management.



In 2019 we acquired these 90 acres and 1.1 miles of Ohop Creek shoreline for the next phase of the Lower Ohop Creek Restoration project, one of the largest stream-restoration projects in the state. See pages 3 & 4 for more land-protection news.

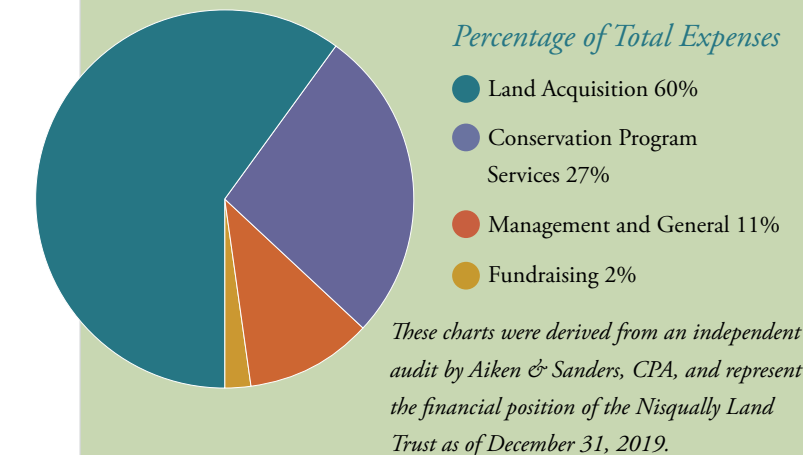
### 2019 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps
- Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts Troops 45261 & 40116
- Joint Base Lewis McChord
- Mount Tahoma Trails Association
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Nisqually River Council
- Nisqually River Education Project
- Nisqually River Foundation
- Nisqually Stream Stewards
- Northwest Natural Resource Group
- Northwest Trek
- Pierce Conservation District
- Stream Team
- South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
- Sunrise Movement
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- The Conservation Fund
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Climate Action Team
- Thurston County Economic Development Council
- Thurston County United Way
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Washington
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Washington Environmental Council
- Washington Service Corps / AmeriCorps
- Youth In Service Corp

### 2019 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Condensed Balance Sheet	
Cash	\$972,002
Conservation Land	35,067,774
Equipment (minus depreciation)	31,356
Investments & Other Assets	1,238,268
Other Receivables	190,025
Prepaid	5,862
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$37,505,287</b>
Current Liabilities	\$65,4610
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$37,439,826</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$37,505,287</b>

Condensed Statement of Activities	
Support and Revenue	
Grants	\$1,956,185
In-Kind Donations	76,653
Contributions	465,192
Earned Income	59,306
Interest and Investment Revenue	50,917
Other Revenue	148,543
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,915,526</b>
Expenses	
Land Acquisitions	\$1,173,713
Conservation Program Services	538,585
Management and General	216,877
Fundraising	36,438
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,965,613</b>
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>\$949,914</b>





In 2019 the Land Trust returned to the basics. We expanded existing blocks of high-priority salmon habitat along the main stem of the Nisqually River and acquired a beautiful run of shoreline property in the Ohop Valley in preparation for the next phase of the Ohop Creek Restoration project.

Meanwhile, we were hard at work developing a string of major transactions scheduled to close in 2020 and 2021, raising over \$9 million for land acquisition.

As always, this level of success would not be possible without the support of our donors, volunteers and project partners. Thank you!



*Nisqually River Wilcox Reach Property | Scotch broom work party.*

## NISQUALLY RIVER WILCOX REACH

The Land Trust acquired 49 acres of Nisqually River floodplain along Lackamas Creek, a salmon-producing tributary to the Nisqually in the Wilcox Reach, one of the most dramatic and dynamic sections of the main stem river.

Although the property doesn't contain Nisqually River shoreline now, it likely will soon – in this part of the watershed, the river channel shifts significantly every winter. Currently, the Nisqually is within two hundred feet of the newly acquired property, which adjoins our 212-acre Lackamas Flats Protected Area, and it is eating away shoreline at a steady pace.



*Nisqually River Wilcox Reach | Shoreline bluff near Camp/Lippincott home. Photo by Meredith Rafferty*

## NISQUALLY RIVER WILCOX REACH

In June the Land Trust purchased five acres and a home on a rapidly eroding stretch of shoreline along the Nisqually River's Wilcox Reach and granted a life estate to the sellers, Bill Camp and Sandy Lippincott – that is, the right to continue to live on the property for as long as the river and Bill's health allow.

Bill suffers from heart disease related to Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War. The river has already taken the homes on either side and is within a hundred feet of theirs. The Land Trust has acquired the adjoining properties, and Bill and Sandy have provided funds for habitat restoration.



*Nisqually River McKenna Reach | Girl Scouts replant the river shoreline.*

## NISQUALLY RIVER MCKENNA REACH

In January we acquired a small but strategic parcel of shoreline property along the McKenna Reach of the Nisqually River, in McKenna. It totals just two and a half acres, but it fills the center of a ten-acre habitat block at a salmon-rich but highly vulnerable point in the river's shoreline.

The purchase helps block further residential development in a fragile zone that has already been heavily impacted and needs to recover. Girl Scout Troops 45261 and 40116 have helped restore the habitat block.

## MID-OHOP VALLEY

To secure the heart of the Ohop Valley's salmon-spawning beds and protect them from livestock depredation and residential development, we acquired 33 acres of floodplain and upland forest along Ohop Creek just outside of Eatonville.

The property adjoins 32 acres we acquired in 2016. In total, they contain almost two thousand feet of the creek's spawning area.

All five species of Pacific salmonids native to the Nisqually Watershed use Ohop Creek.



*Mid-Ohop Valley | Ohop Creek spawning grounds*



# Many Thanks to Our Supporters

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, 2019.

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- ◆ Charter Members
- ★ Forever Fund Donors
- Three consecutive years

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In honor of Kiel and Noora Petersen  
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In memory of Ladd and Kathleen Smith

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Nisqually Indian Tribe Pierce County Conservation Futures Pierce County Conservation District USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service WA Department of Ecology WA Department of Fish & Wildlife WA State Recreation &	Conservation Office: Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration Fund Salmon Recovery Funding Board WA Wildlife & Recreation Program
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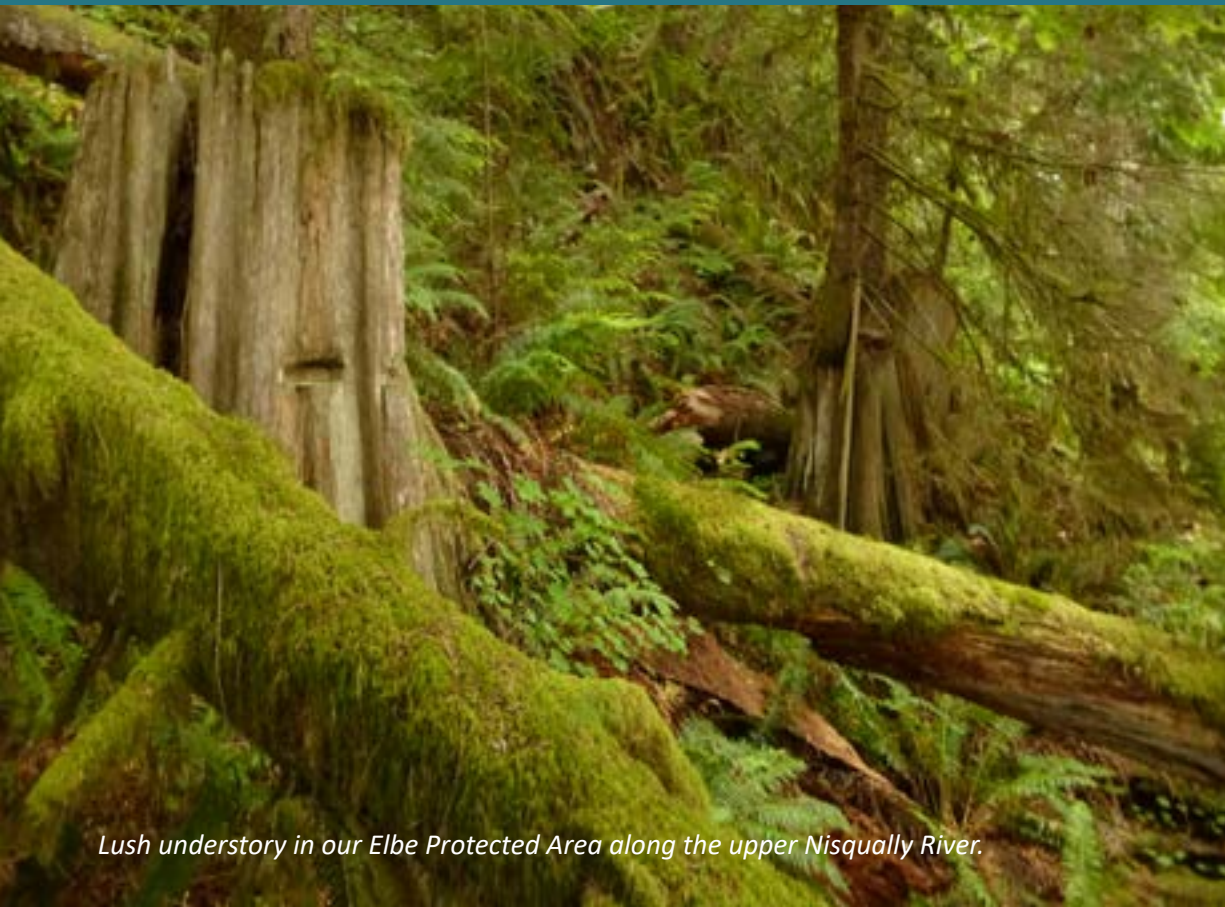
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## OUR MISSION

*Founded in 1989, the Nisqually Land Trust acquires and manages critical lands to permanently benefit the water, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed.*



*Lush understory in our Elbe Protected Area along the upper Nisqually River.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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