



Photo by Ed Book: Busywild Creek Watershed taken from Mount Tahoma Ski Trails

Nisqually Land Trust

Spring - Summer 2021
Newsletter

Land Trust, Nisqually Tribe Complete Historic Purchase

Joint Project Doubles Size of Nisqually Community Forest

In April, in the largest transaction in its thirty-two year history, the Land Trust partnered with the Nisqually Indian Tribe to permanently protect 2,200 acres and over three miles of critical salmon habitat along Busy Wild Creek, which forms the headwaters of the Mashel River and provides a lifeline for threatened Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

In simultaneous transactions totaling \$9.6 million, the Nisqually Tribe purchased 1,240 acres and the Land Trust acquired 960 adjoining acres. In turn, both properties adjoin the Nisqually Community Forest and will be incorporated into its management plan, effectively doubling its size.

For the Nisqually Tribe, the property represents its first acquisition of industrial timberlands. "It's really a repatriation of lands historically used by Nisqually ancestors," said David Troutt, director of the Tribe's Natural Resources Department. "And we see this as just a beginning." "The Nisqually Tribe has

always been our primary partner," said Land Trust Executive Director Jeanette Dorner. "But this project brings that partnership to a new level, and one that we couldn't be more proud of."

Funding for the project came through two innovative new programs administered by the state's Department of Ecology.

Pictured below: Busy Wild Creek is at the headwaters of the Mashel River, a major tributary to the Nisqually River. The Mashel is a priority habitat in the Nisqually Chinook and Steelhead Recovery Plans.

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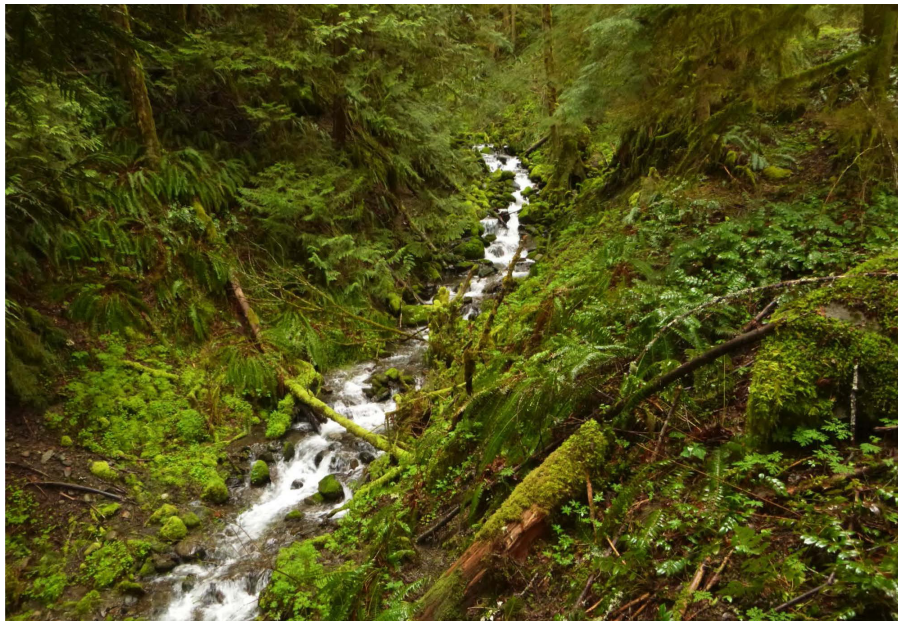


Photo: Courtesy of Justin Hall, Busy Wild Creek

Meet our new board members on page 4!



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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Our New Board President



This Spring is a season of hope. As vacci-
nations spread broadly to our population,
we look to what we can do together again,
in our personal lives and in our watershed.

Restoring salmon, permanently benefitting
the people, the wildlife, the water of the
Nisqually River and the watershed — this
is our mission.

I recently heard two experts in the resto-
ration of rivers talk about what gives them hope, particularly given
declining salmon runs. They both had the same answer — the resili-
ency of rivers.

One spoke of how indigenous peoples had seen cyclical drought or
other calamity, but the health of the land and rivers returned, once
balance was restored to the system. And these two individuals also
saw increasing opportunities, large and small, to restore rivers.

Here in the Nisqually we should have hope for the future. We have
the essential ingredient to restore balance to our watershed and the
resiliency to our River — a community of great supporters, commit-
ted partners, terrific staff, and a dedicated Board. We are together in
our pursuit of opportunities.

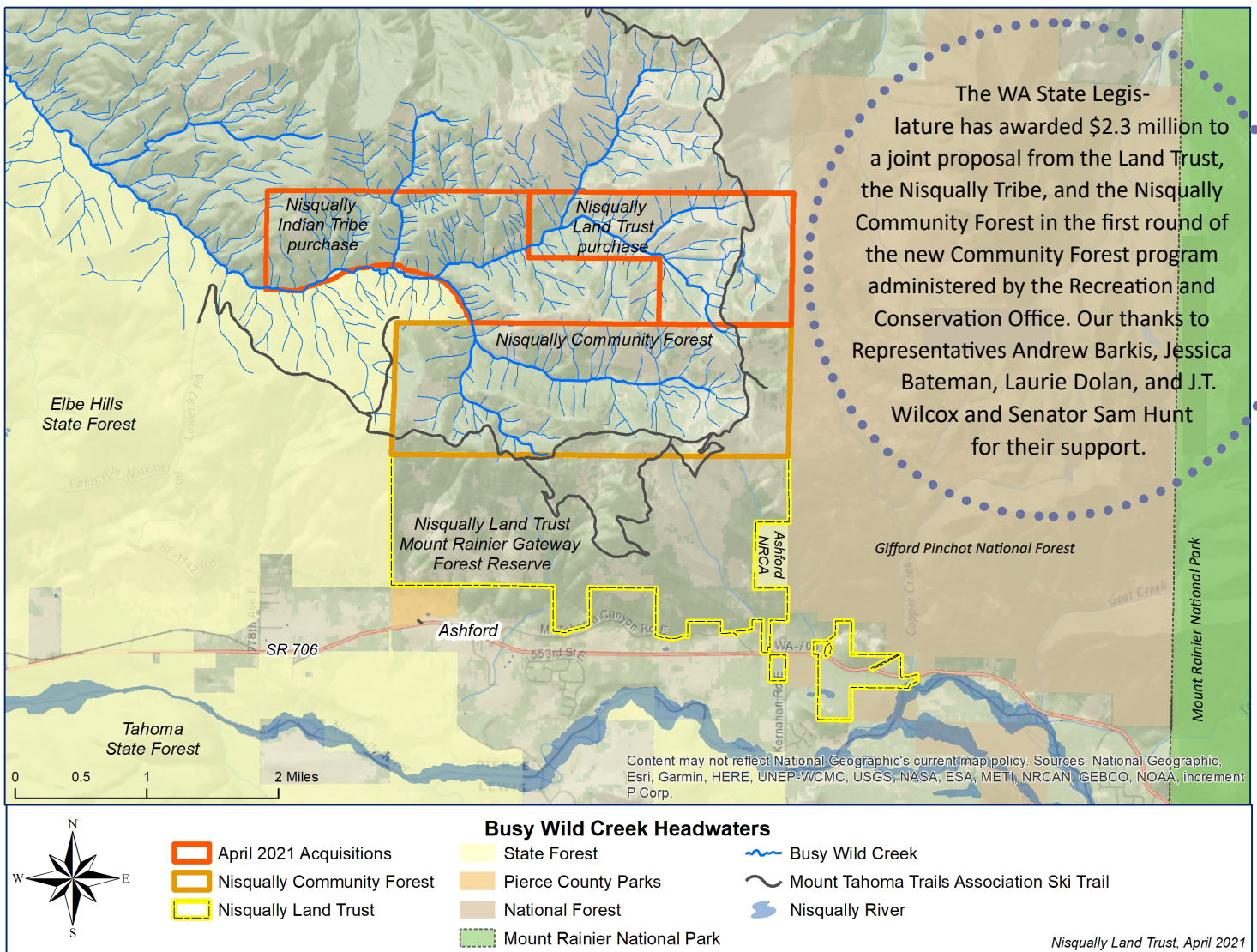
Look at a few of our successes, in just the last several months:

- Acquired the longest remaining run of unprotected salmon-
producing shoreline on the Nisqually River
- Completed the acquisition of a second major chunk of forested
land in the Busy Wild tributary system
- Staff and board showing up day after day with smiles and their
A-games
- Expanded protection in the aquatic reserve through a National
Wetlands grant

We thank you for your ongoing support in carrying out our mission.
We'll see you on the River. 

Kathy D. Mix

Kathy Mix
Board President



Busy Wild | Continued from page 1

The Tribe purchased its part of the property with a long-term low-interest loan through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which the Department recently revised to allow for land acquisition.

And the Land Trust financed its purchase by winning one of the first grants awarded under the state's new Streamflow Restoration program.

Former Land Trust Executive Director Joe Kane, now general manager of the Nisqually Community Forest, coordinated the project.

"Steelhead have taught us that we have to think big," he said. "They need big landscapes. They go high and they go far. They're telling us that we have to be

creative." The project also provides a permanent home for a popular portion of the Mount Tahoma Trails Association's hut-to-hut cross-country ski trail. "That trail is used by over five thousand people every year," Kane said. "It provides high-quality public recreation and it's a local economic driver.

"And we're also proud that as we've managed the forest to improve its habitat values, we've used local logging crews and sent every log to local mills," Kane said.

"Supporting local jobs is essential to keeping the 'community' in 'Community Forest.'" 

Top: The map above shows how the latest acquisition has doubled the size of the Nisqually Community Forest.

Welcome and Farewell



Peggen Frank

PEGGEN FRANK

Welcome Peggen Frank, who joined our board in April. Peggen is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe located on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming where she was born and raised. She is also Oglala Lakota.

She moved to the Nisqually watershed in the early 2000's to be with her husband, Nisqually Tribal Chair Willie Frank III. Peggen attended Evergreen State College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in sustainable business, human resources management, and marketing and a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Tribal Government. She is the Executive Director of Salmon Defense, a nonprofit that organizes education and advocacy for salmon and salmon habitat. She also represents several Tribes as a Washington state contract lobbyist. Peggen continues to be inspired by her late father-in-law Billy Frank Jr.'s vision of protecting the water and the river.



Brian Sullivan

BRIAN SULLIVAN

After serving the Land Trust in just about every possible role – as a volunteer, a board member, board treasurer, and board president, Brian Sullivan stepped down from board duties in January. Brian was our steady, consensus-building leader, and we look back on considerable accomplishments during his term on the board.

Brian helped develop our sustainable investing policy and oversee our first investments into carbon free and sustainable markets. During his tenure, the Nisqually Community Forest concept became a reality. Working hard with the Land Trust staff, Brian saw the land under protection in the watershed grow significantly.

Luckily for all of us, Brian did not step down as a friend, mentor, or ear to run ideas by. He may even come back in a year or two. And we hope he'll still occasionally offer us one of his outstanding desserts when we can all get together again, in person. Thanks Brian!



Addie Schlusel

ADDIE SCHLUSSEL

After three and a half years with the Land Trust, Land Steward Addie Schlusel moved back east in February to take the position of Stream Monitoring Coordinator at the Rock River Coalition in southern Wisconsin. Addie joined the Land Trust in 2017 as our Volunteer Coordinator, through the WA Service Corps program. She then transitioned to the Stewardship Assistant position in 2018, and was promoted to Land Steward in 2019. She brought a can-do attitude to all her work at the Land Trust, and was always willing to share veggies from her garden. We are sure that she will have great adventures in the Midwest. Thanks Addie!

**NEW BOARD MEMBER
HANFORD MCCLOUD**

Greetings, my name is Hweqwidi Hanford McCloud. My parents are Joyce McCloud (Wells), Nisqually, and Don McCloud Jr., Puyallup. My maternal grandparents are Rosie Wells Chum (Gillie), Wishcum/Wasco, Richard A Wells Sr., Nisqually, and great grandparents are Amy Andrews, Wishcum/Wasco,

Hiram Wahpat, Yakama, Josephine Wells (Skamink), Nisqually, and William Wells Sr., Nisqually. My paternal grandparents are Janet McCloud (Renecker) and Don McCloud Sr., and great grandparents Mamie Henry-McCoy, Suquamish/Tulalip, Angeline McCloud-Frank (Tobin), Nisqually/Yakama, and Andrew McCloud Sr. Andrew McCloud, Sr. passed away when my Sapa Don was young, and Sapa was raised by Willie Frank, Sr., "Grampa Frank," Nisqually.

I grew up here in Nisqually and in Yelm. Growing up here on the reservation was a good experience--learning about our tribal sovereignty, our self-governance, and knowing our treaty rights as a hunter, diver, and fisherman. I love to be outdoors in the woods, on the river, and in a canoe on the Salish Sea. As an artist, I love to weave baskets and hats of our people that we made for thousands of years. I come from a basket weaver family, as my Great Grandmother was a weaver, among many things she did. My mom taught me at the age of 12 to gather bark from the trees and how to take care of the trees, because that's why they are here, to weave baskets also because I was always in trouble at school at home. Making baskets and hats has changed my life for the better. I also grew up making paddles and carving small things out of cedar wood and yellow cedar wood.

My father carves, my grandfather was a carver of canoe, and a leader. I get my leadership skills, among other skills, from him. I currently hold the 6th Tribal Council Chair for the Nisqually Nation. I have worked for Nisqually all my life, holding different positions and working for some awesome departments within our Tribe. I love our culture and traditions that drive me to do better for my community. 🌿

**Oregon grape, Oregon grape-holly, or Oregon holly-grape?**

When Land Trust AmeriCorps member Susanah Prenoveau planted her first Oregon grape she felt an instant affinity with it. She's now planted hundreds and sees the plant everywhere. They are commonly mistaken for holly (they are a holly-leaved berberry), but once you know them, it's not hard to tell them apart.

This Oregon state flower has leathery, evergreen leaves, yellow flowers, and blue berries. It's not related to holly or grape. To avoid misunderstanding, some call it Oregon grape-holly or Oregon holly-grape.

It grows easily in harsh conditions with little sunlight and water but also likes full sun and moist soil. It contains Berberine used for medicinal purposes such as wound treatment and its berries can be made into jelly. Popular in urban landscaping due to its pollutant tolerance, you can try it as a border for your garden to deter unwanted visitors with its prickly leaves. Found in the understory of Douglas fir forests, it's easy to see on Land Trust properties. Right now, they are flowering, so look for berries soon!

Meet Our Volunteers



We are so grateful to our volunteers who have supported us in various ways throughout this unusual season. Although we had to cancel events and rethink how to work in the field, office, and online last year, you waited it out with us, and soon enough we were back together on Zoom and in the field continuing our conservation work. Despite the challenges, from Jan 2020 to April 2021, we had over 500 volunteers donate more than 3,400 hours! Thank you for all that you have done throughout the years and continue to do in giving back and staying connected with the land, water, people, and wildlife of the Nisqually River.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 - 2021 VOLUNTEERS

OVER 1000 HOURS

James Reistroffer

Over 500 HOURS

Dwight & Sharon
Bergquist-Moody
Lloyd Fetterly
Etsuko Reistroffer
Brian Sullivan
James Terry

OVER 300 HOURS

Roger Andrascik
John Blair
JW Foster
Ed Kenney
Martin McCallum
Kathy Mix

250-299 HOURS

Rosa Beth Gibson
Jill Heine

Butch Hennings
Daniel Miszewski
George Walter

200-249 Hours

Liam Coyle
Nicki Foster
Brad Jones
Meredith Rafferty
Sean Smith

150-199 HOURS

Alex Chaney
Ann Genn
John Grettenberger
Mike Hargrove
Frank Hudik
Ellis Orjala
Crow Vecchio

100-149 HOURS

Mary Gentry

Tom Ginsburg
Margaret Hansen
Mark Hunter
Thomas Murphy
Suzanne Nelson
Charlie Ware

50-99 HOURS

AmeriCorps NCCC
Warren Bergh
Chas Dreyfus
Ralph Gross
Nancy Higgins
Ann House
Kyla Housman
Jim Ison
Michelle Penick
Sunny Thompson
Katie Wilcox

10-49 HOURS

Brendan Allen

Dre Aparicio
Patricia Ashley
Charley Barron
Robert Berman
Andrew Boyd
Justin Brown
Michele Buckley
Will Carsh
Cathy Cook
Kathy Cook
Lucy Cook
Kristin Craig
Steve Cross
Mackenzie Davidson
Tom Eaton
Lynn Hennings
Mark Higgins
Keith Kusler
Sara LeHoullier
Shawna Merricks
James Miller
John Murtfeldt

Fawn Murphy
Alexandra Pilch
Jane Poole
Rebecca Post
Nancy Riordan
Kaylyn Rosmaryn
Diann Sheldon
Larissa Swanson
Monique Taylor
John Titland
Gwen Tollefson
Dan Tufford
Naomi Simmons
Suzanne Simons
Toria Van Horst
Karin Van Vlack
Alberto Villela
Diana Willie
Brandon Yares
Mona Yurk 

You make our work possible! To join us for upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit [nisquallylandtrust.org](https://www.nisquallylandtrust.org).
Did we miss your name? Please contact us at 360.489.3400 or at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org



By George Walter - Ann Ryherd passed unexpectedly in late November 2020. It was and still is a tremendous shock to her family and to all of us in her extensive network of friends. We send our most sincere condolences to those who are mourning her passing.

Ann served as a Nisqually Land Trust board member and Treasurer for several critical years in our development. These were the years when we transitioned to a fully staffed organization with serious budget demands. Ann, because of her many years of experience in state government with financial management and related fields, served NLT well and in many ways was responsible for the good financial position we are in today.

People have asked me how I managed to find such good people to help develop the land trust. Here's a part of the story and, you won't be surprised, it involves Billy Frank Jr. Billy's wife Sue Crystal served in multiple positions in state government and Ann was her friend and colleague. Sue and Billy had a large circle of friends and, among the many social activities the group planned, was attending the land trust's annual dinner and auction. When Ann retired and had some "spare time," I asked whether she would be interested in joining the board and, wonderfully enough, she agreed. Since then, Ann and her husband Mike have been very generous supporters of the land trust.

I didn't realize it when we started our Nisqually Land Trust experience. But I now see it as a never-ending canoe journey. People jump in and paddle, moving us ever forward. I appreciate Ann Ryherd; she was a wonderful paddler!

2021 CONSERVATION CELEBRATION & AUCTION



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THE NISQUALLY WATERSHED ONE OF
THE BEST-PROTECTED WATERSHEDS
IN THE STATE.

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CONSERVATION EVENT A SUCCESS!

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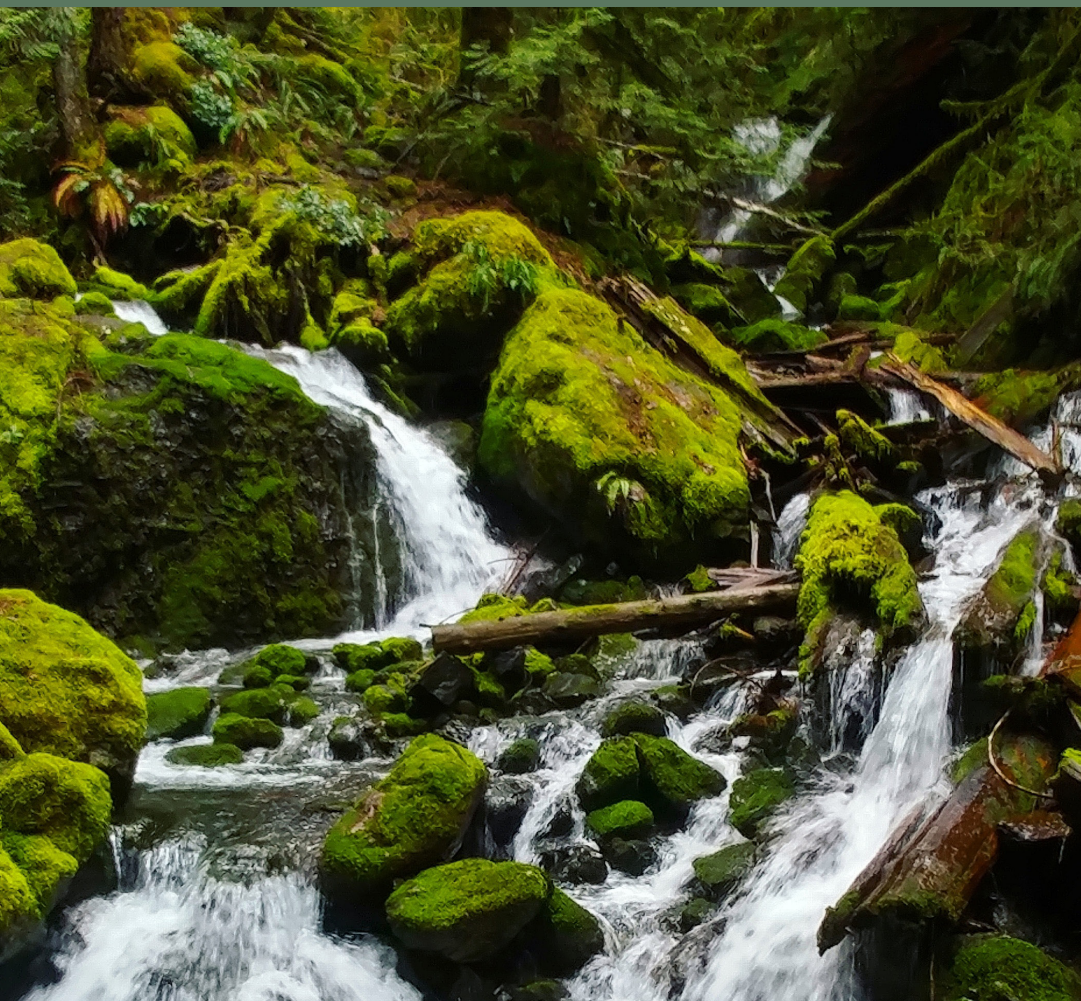
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Olympia, WA

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Connecting Water, Wildlife, Land, and People since 1989



FOREVER FUND
PROTECT. RESTORE. STEWARD.

Our Forever Fund is an opportunity to directly support restoration and stewardship of our conservation lands. The Land Trust has protected over 8,800 acres in the Nisqually River Watershed. We are now dedicated stewards of these precious wild places. We ask you to join us in our commitment to care for these lands that we love and call home.

You can still make a donation to help us reach our goal of raising \$60,000 by visiting us online at nisquallylandtrust.org. Or call us at 360.489.3400 for more information. Thanks!

