



Nisqually Land Trust

35 Years of Conservation



The Nisqually Land Trust protects and stewards lands to permanently benefit the water, fish, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed.

OFFICE

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Old Education Center
100 Brown Farm Road NE
Olympia, WA 98516

MAILING ADDRESS

1420 Marvin Road NE
Suite C PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516-3878

Telephone: 360.489.3400
staff@nisquallylandtrust.org
Website: nisquallylandtrust.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Lovshin, President
Sean Smith, Vice President
Kelsey Hulse, Treasurer
Barbara Samora, Secretary
Craig Davison
Peggen Frank
Hanford McCloud
Clare McCahill
Sunny Thompson
Sally Toteff
Katie Wilcox-Coble
JW Foster, Board Emeritus
Mary Gentry, Board Emeritus
George Walter, Board Emeritus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Grettenberger
Brad Jones
Martin McCallum
Nancy Riordan

STAFF

Jeff Barrett, Finance & Operations Manager
Kim Bredensteiner, Associate Director
Nikki Dizon, Development Manager
Jeanette Dorner, Executive Director
Lindsey Kreiling, Administrative Assistant
Lindsie Lawson, Community Engagement Assistant
Candace McCloud, Administrative Assistant
Jake Pool, Stewardship Manager

SPECIAL PROJECT CONSULTANTS

Joe Kane
Eric Erler

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR



Douglas Aster found on our protected lands. Photo by Jake Pool.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings,

We have much to celebrate and honor this year: The 50th anniversary of the Boldt Decision affirming the treaty rights of Tribes, and the Nisqually Land Trust's 35th year of protecting and stewarding lands in the Nisqually River Watershed.

As a board member and now board president, I am humbled by the work that this small but mighty land trust accomplishes each year. We couldn't do it without you. On behalf of the NLT Board, thank you!

Over the last year together:

- We completed three major acquisition projects, adding to the protection of over 10,000 total acres of conserved land.
- 164 volunteers spent over 1,400 hours working with the NLT staff on projects throughout the watershed.
- 476 unique donors offered financial and in-kind donations to further our work.
- We honored two longtime volunteers and previous board members, Mary Gentry and JW Foster, and welcomed them as Board Emeritus members.
- Completed numerous events, education and outreach activities to build awareness of the importance of our work.

And the year isn't even over yet. Now let's keep the momentum going for the next 35 years!

With Gratitude,

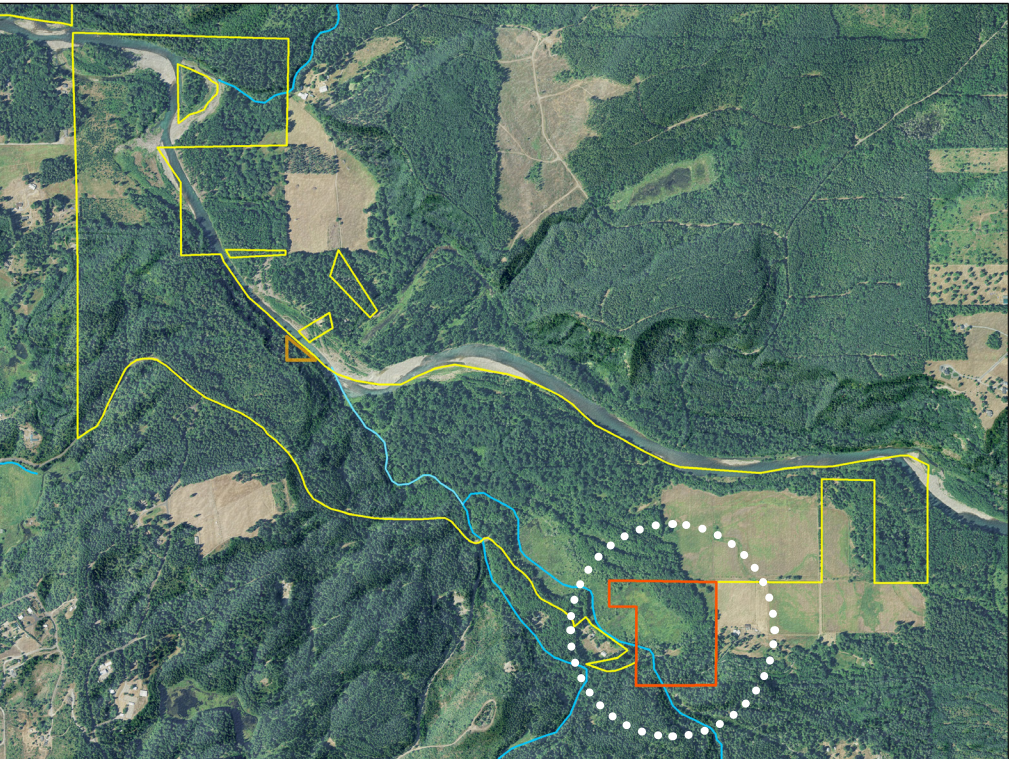


Todd Lovshin,
Board President



Affiliated Organization

Important Off-Channel Wetland System Protected for Salmon Recovery



This acquisition outlined in red on the map completed protection of one of the most valuable off-channel wetlands along the Nisqually River. In total the Powell Creek Preserve is now 555 acres of protected fish and wildlife habitat.

In November 2023, the Land Trust purchased a 32.5-acre property along Powell Creek, in the Nisqually River floodplain, that includes nearly one-quarter mile of salmon-producing shoreline, including spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout, coho and chum salmon and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon.

The property expands the Land Trust's Powell Creek Preserve, a wetland complex that feeds the Nisqually River. The Preserve now totals 555 acres and provides habitat throughout for all four salmonid species. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Land Trust's efforts to conserve Powell Creek and its associated wetland and Nisqually River floodplain began in 1993, when we acquired a 64-acre property for permanent protection. Through the ensuing decades we continued to add land to what became our Powell Creek Preserve and to steadily restore the Preserve over time.

"We are grateful to Thurston County and the landowners for helping make it possible for us to protect this valuable salmon habitat for future generations"

In 2022, nearly 30 years after that initial purchase – and having heard about our work in the area – the landowners of this latest addition approached us with an offer to sell the property at below market value. We then applied to the Thurston County Conservation Futures program for funding and won a grant to purchase the property.

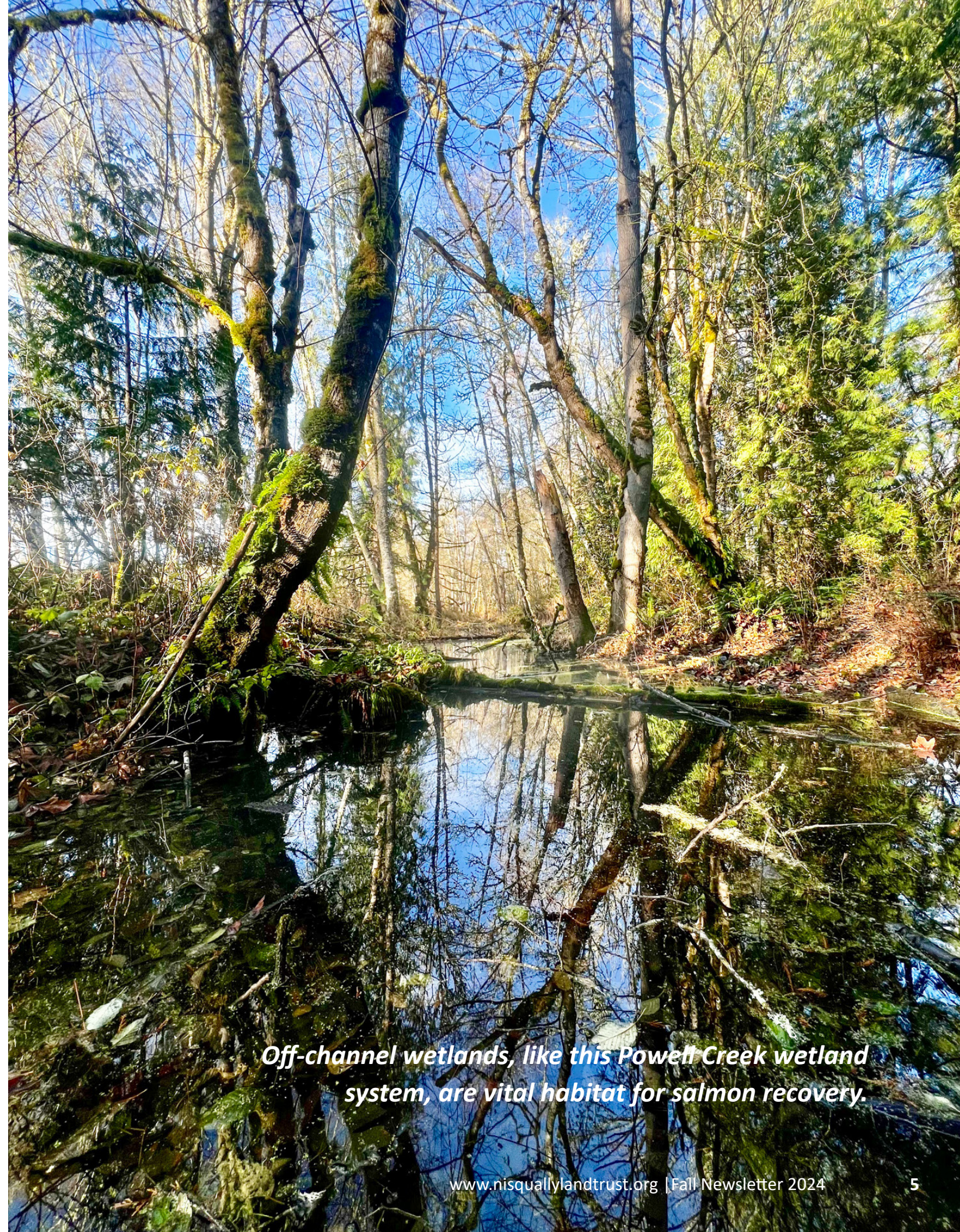
Our mission is to not only protect but also steward our lands in perpetuity, and there are many exciting restoration opportunities with this

particular acquisition.

Managing a large, continuous block of land like the Powell Creek Preserve allows for more ambitious restoration projects and improved outcomes, as our stewardship team is able to monitor and coordinate activity throughout a broader area. We will work closely with our Salmon Recovery partners to further analyze the Powell Creek wetland system and refine our plans for promoting healthy, safe off-channel habitat for juvenile salmon.

A first step for this new property will be demolition and removal of a cabin and outbuildings perched on the floodplain, for which we are now seeking funding.

Thank you to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners and the county's Conservation Futures program for funding this project. Thank you also to our many supporters and partners who helped make it possible.



Off-channel wetlands, like this Powell Creek wetland system, are vital habitat for salmon recovery.

THE BOLDT DECISION 50th ANNIVERSARY

Federal court recognized Tribes as salmon co-managers



Medicine Creek Treaty Tree. Courtesy Lacey Museum

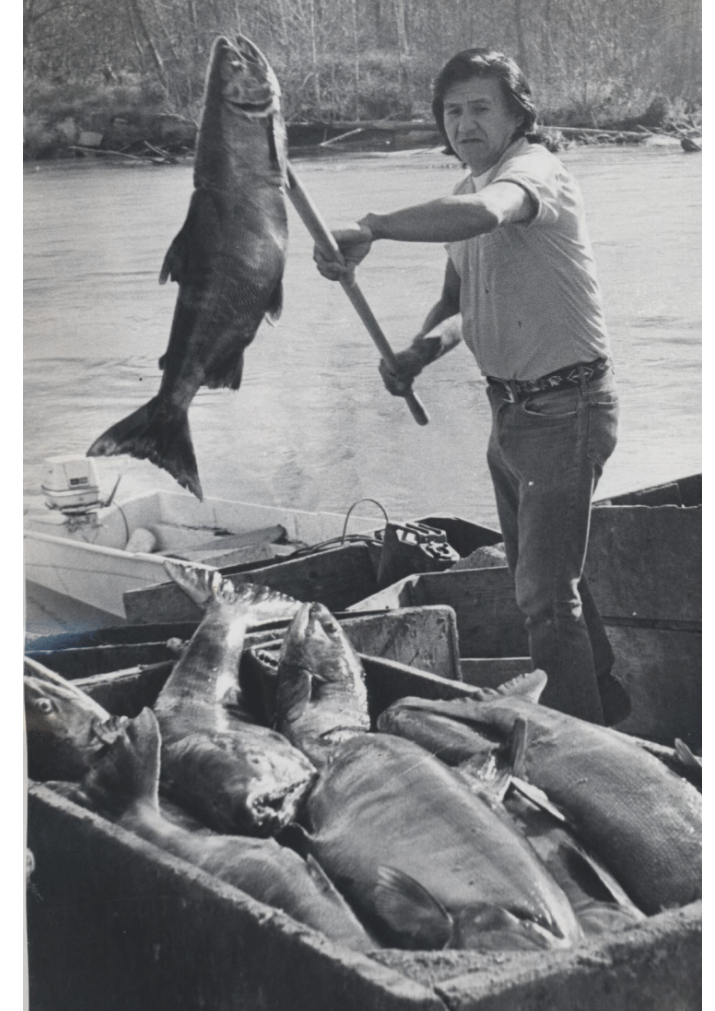
“ You can feel the spirt of the tree, the spark of life in this tree. It was a symbol of a place, and of that treaty. You close your eyes, you can still see the canoes right here. ”
- Billy Frank Jr.



1974

In a historic federal ruling in 1974, Judge George H. Boldt affirmed that Washington Treaty Tribes had reserved rights to half of the harvestable salmon. In addition, his ruling recognized the treaty tribes as sovereign nations that were co-managers of the salmon with the state of Washington.

As a result of this decision, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, a signatory at the Medicine Creek Treaty in 1854, created a new Natural Resources Department that began to implement the co-manager responsibilities under the Boldt Decision. The Department helped lead a watershed-wide community effort to protect and restore the Nisqually. The creation of the Nisqually Land Trust was one outcome of this community initiative.



Billy Frank Jr., photo courtesy of Nisqually Indian Tribe.



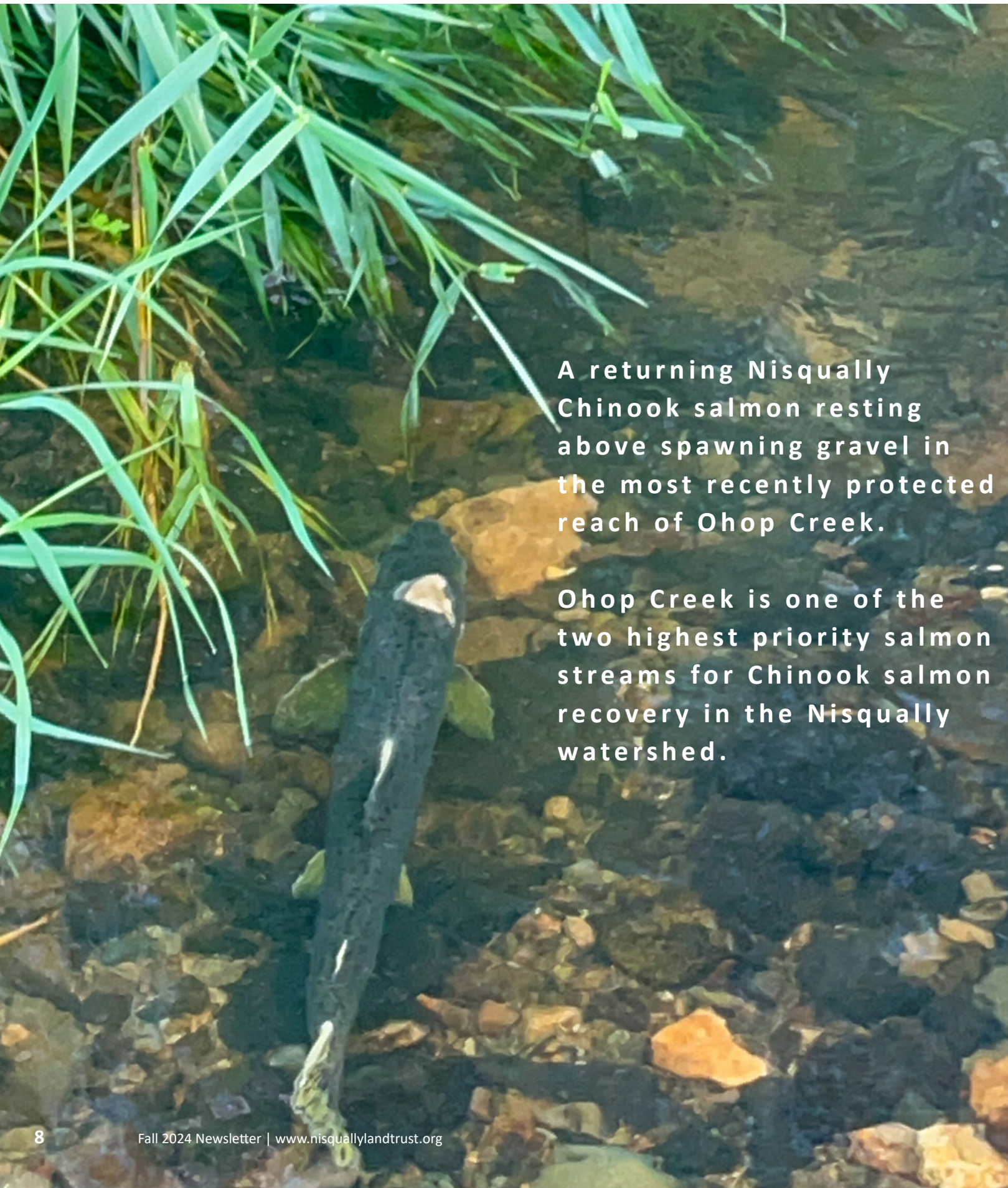
Judge George H. Boldt and Billy Frank Jr., photo courtesy of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

“ Salmon face great challenges during their life journey. With their numbers falling, we have to work harder to help the salmon on their way. As long as they continue to swim upstream, so should we. ”
- Billy Frank Jr.

The Billy Frank Jr. Statue maquette of the statue that will be added to the National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington, D.C., in 2025.



MORE OHOP CREEK SPAWNING HABITAT PROTECTED

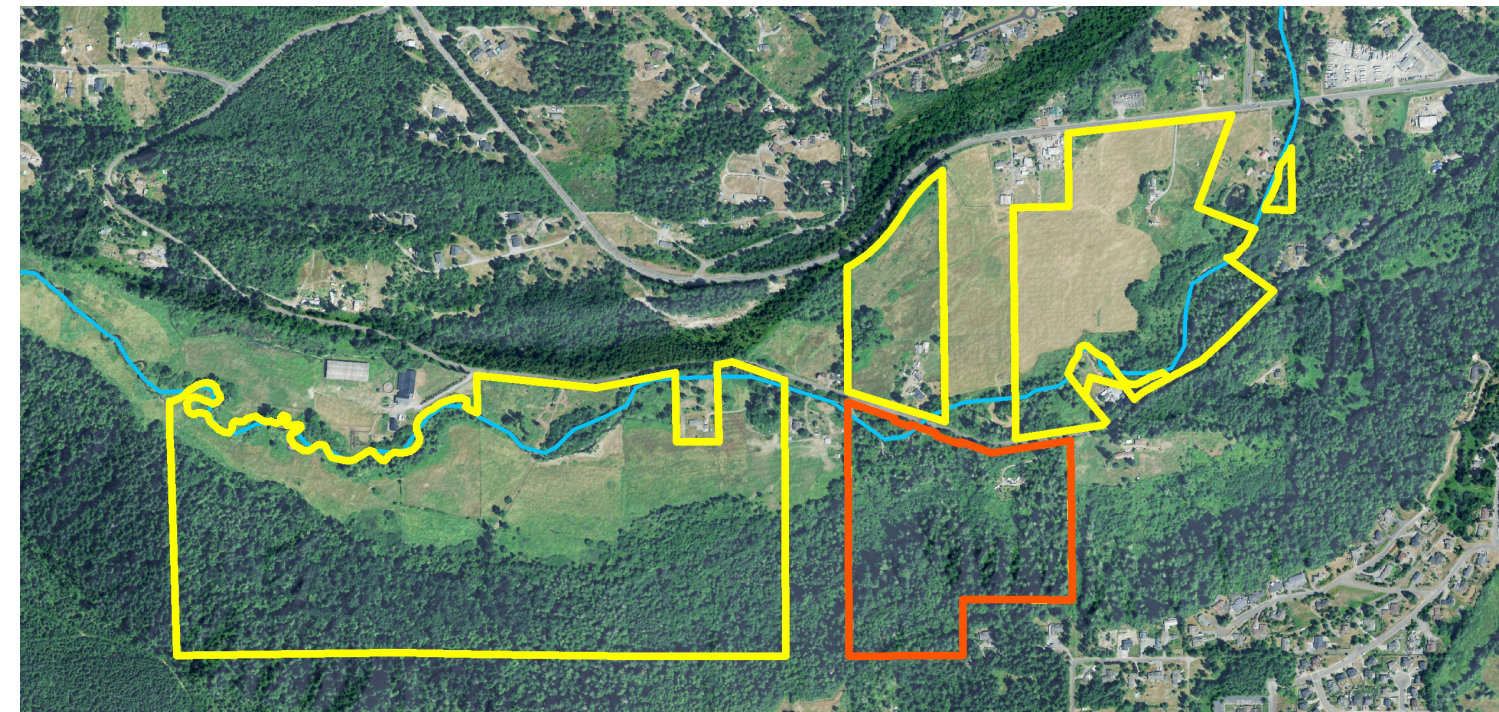


A returning Nisqually Chinook salmon resting above spawning gravel in the most recently protected reach of Ohop Creek.

Ohop Creek is one of the two highest priority salmon streams for Chinook salmon recovery in the Nisqually watershed.

In late 2023 the Land Trust acquired a property totaling just over 34 acres along the middle reach of Ohop Creek, adding it to a block of adjoining protected properties and increasing our protected shoreline lands in Ohop Valley to over 900 acres.

This property has intact native forest vegetation and gravelly spawning sites for Nisqually Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Last fall, Land Trust staff observed Chinook using this area.



The 34-acre property, outlined in red on the map above, protects Ohop Creek shoreline and helps set the stage for the next phase of restoration work with our partners at the Nisqually Tribe and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

The acquisition adds another one-third mile of protected shoreline along this high-priority salmon stream. Since protecting the first mile of Ohop Creek in 2001, the overall shoreline miles we and our partners have protected has now grown to almost 11 miles.

Conservation of the new property is also directly tied to the hydrology of the steep valley slopes that stretch along the south part of it, which contain several significant seeps and springs that run into small slot canyons and ultimately feed into Ohop Creek. Protecting these important water sources is essential to maintaining good streamflow in the creek for Chinook and other salmon.

“We are so pleased to have added this next piece of the puzzle to our growing Ohop Valley protected area,” said Executive Director Jeanette Dorner. “We have been working for the last twenty years to steadily increase protection of the creek, ever since the Nisqually Salmon Recovery strategy first identified it as a priority.”

In addition to protecting the many intact natural features of the property, this acquisition provides an opportunity to work with partners at the Nisqually Tribe and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group to further restore Ohop Creek.

We made the decision to pursue this property quickly last fall, when Land Trust staff noticed it listed online for sale. We used an internal emergency conservation fund to secure the property before it went to another buyer, and we are now applying for grant funding to reimburse the fund, so that it will be available for similar situations in the future.

Gifts for the Nisqually

Remembering Gale Blomstrom and Martha Jensen

It is with a deep sense of loss that we note the passing of our longtime supporter **Gale Blomstrom** earlier this year. Gale had a storied life filled with a loving family, a close circle of friends, and a great love for the outdoors. At a very early age, her family and friends knew that she was “destined for a life of protecting the environment,” and she did just that with a long career in natural resource management with the Washington Department of Ecology.

After her passing, Gale and her husband, Greg Sorlie, left a generous gift to the Land Trust that we were greatly honored to receive. Gale’s profound sense of community and her commitment to conservation of our shared natural legacy will always inspire us. We will miss her and send our sincere condolences to her husband Greg. Thank you for helping us protect our precious Nisqually forever.

Another Land Trust friend, supporter, and fellow conservationist that was lost too soon is **Martha Jensen**. Martha had a love and affinity for the natural world and she, too, spent a career caring for the environment, as a wildlife biologist with the



Martha Jensen

National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During her career, she worked tirelessly to protect threatened or endangered species, including the northern spotted owl, bald eagle, marbled murrelet, Canada lynx, fisher, snowy plover, and streaked horned lark.

Martha also loved exploring the outdoors in all different types of pursuits. She spent much of her time gardening and nurturing native plants and wildlife habitat at her home in the South Sound.

Her brother Evan Jensen and sister-in-law Mary Denend made a significant gift to honor her memory and love of the Nisqually River. Martha will be dearly missed but remembered well for the generous natural legacy she has left and the lasting impact she has made for the wildlife in the Nisqually. We thank her, and her family, for their generosity and vision of a beautiful and wild Nisqually.

We return to the river and the streams, the forests, and to all of nature.



Gale Blomstrom and Greg Sorlie at Polly Zehm's Roots in the Ground Tree Planting .



The Nisqually River in the Land Trust's Upper Watershed Protected Area.

Winter Planting Recap

Over 4,000 New Native Plants Installed

Thanks to our incredible supporters, donors, community partners and volunteers, the Land Trust had a successful planting season, with over 4,400 plants installed across Land Trust properties.

The largest planting effort took place in the Middle Ohop Valley in collaboration with the Nisqually Indian Tribe (NIT) Native Plant Restoration Crew, Nisqually River Education Project (NREP), and Nisqually Stream Stewards. In November and December, NREP led over 1,000 local students in planting over 1,300 native trees and shrubs. Land Trust volunteers, Stream Stewards, and the NIT Crew installed the remaining plants, reaching a grand total of 2,400 plants at this site.

We look forward to continuing the project next year, expanding along the west edge of the property.

Additionally, our partners and the NIT Crew installed 350 plants on the Nisqually Floodplain in our Powell Creek Protected Area. The Tribe also added over 600 potted plants and live stakes along our Yelm Shoreline property.

We concluded the planting season with a live staking project alongside our “Wednesday volunteers.” This group met over several weeks to plant more than 1,300 trees along the Nisqually River and at the mouth of Powell Creek.

This habitat restoration work is essential to our collaborative efforts in salmon recovery and stewardship of the Nisqually Watershed. Thank you to all who participated and made this planting season fun-filled, productive, and inspiring!



We are constantly grateful to have the help of a group of regular volunteers that come out every Wednesday to help steward our lands.

Planting with Subaru Partners

The Hanson Motors Subaru team joined Land Trust staff on a chilly January morning to help restore forest and wildlife habitat in the Nisqually River floodplain on property near the confluence of Powell Creek and the Nisqually River.

In just a few hours, the volunteers planted over 150 trees, building on ongoing plantings at the site.

After the work party, the team spent time along the Nisqually River shoreline, taking in the views and reflecting on the significance of restoration throughout the watershed. It was a great day, complete with muddy hands, smiling faces, and bald-eagle sightings.

“We are grateful to all the folks at Hanson Motors Subaru that came out to help us take care of the river,” said Executive Director Jeanette Dorner. “We appreciate their partnership and commitment to restoring our natural places.”

Left, local students with the Nisqually River Education Project planting trees along Ohop Creek near Eatonville.

Wednesdays Are For Restoration

The Land Trust has many supporters who make our work possible, including a group of dedicated volunteers who join our stewardship team every Wednesday to take care of our properties throughout the watershed.

This group has made a significant impact on our ability to do good stewardship work on our properties. One notable example was their help restoring native plants to the mouth of Powell Creek. For this project, the group teamed up with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) team to harvest and plant over 700 willow and cottonwood live stakes over four weeks.

This group has collectively planted thousands of native trees and shrubs. They have also taken on invasive plant removal, debris cleanup, old fence removal, and other project requests from our Stewardship Manager.

In 2023, they put in 932 hours on our protected lands. This group is equal parts determined and fun: At each session they inspire us to dig up just one more Scotch broom or plant one more tree. We are grateful for their consistency and commitment over the years – this would not be possible without them!



The Hanson Motors Subaru staff and their family helped plant trees along the Nisqually River Shoreline as part of their Subaru Loves the Earth efforts.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Lindsie Lawson
Community Engagement Assistant

Lindsie began working with the Nisqually Land Trust at the end of 2023. She grew up near Dallas, TX and holds a B.A. in Spanish and Global Studies with a minor in Business Administration. Lindsie has interned with non-profit organizations in Itu, Brazil and spent over a year in Malaysia as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and Program Coordinator. She is also a former Spanish Dual Language Teacher, having taught three years in public schools before taking the exciting step to pursue conservation work.

Since moving to Washington in 2022, Lindsie has worked with Nisqually-based organizations assisting with environmental education, water quality testing, invasive plant removal, and more. She has taken a great interest in the history, flora and fauna of the region and is thrilled to be a part of the Land Trust team.



Lindsey Kreiling
Administrative Assistant

Lindsey has enjoyed the beautiful and inspiring PNW since she moved to Olympia in 2005. She is a graduate of The Evergreen State College where she studied Philosophy and Photography. Lindsey had a wonderful career in the restaurant industry, owning and managing multiple restaurants in downtown Olympia for over 15 years. She is thrilled to be joining the team at Nisqually Land Trust to support her community in a new capacity.

Candace says, “My heart belongs to Mt. taqʷuʔmaʔ, from the Nisqually Glacier, where my blended family was created, around the Wonderland Trail, where my roots were planted, to the mouth of the Puget Sound, where my children have grown up. I arrived in the Pacific NW in 1997, and I spent the first 13 years working with WA Department of Social and Health Services. My next adventure was raising 12 kids on the beautiful shores of the Nisqually River. I am beyond excited to be working with the Nisqually Land Trust team to learn about conservation, to grow our conservation network, and to protect the river my family loves so very much.”



Candace McCloud
Administrative Assistant

Land Trust Welcomes Board Emeriti & Says Some Goodbyes

We have had dedicated staff and board members throughout our history. Even as some are now transitioning away they never really leave the Nisquamilly.



JW Foster



Mary Gentry



Lloyd Fetterly

This year the Land Trust Board of Directors were honored to name **JW Foster** and **Mary Gentry** as Board Emeriti. Both JW and Mary served nine years on the Board, the longest tenure allowed under our bylaws.

Their terms marked significant growth for the Land Trust, tripling our landholdings, staff, volunteers, and budget. In this time, the Land Trust also achieved national accreditation and gained widespread recognition as a regional leader in the land-trust movement.

JW Foster's service from 2009 to 2018 included two three-year terms as Board President. Since leaving the Board, JW has remained an active supporter, volunteering regularly at stewardship events, serving on our development committee, and hosting as the master of ceremonies at our Annual Conservation Celebration and Auction.

He, his wife, Nicki, and their kids have collectively dedicated hundreds of hours to planting trees and removing invasive plants throughout the watershed. JW, thank you for your service and commitment to the Land Trust and our community.

Mary's tenure from 2010 to 2019 included five years as vice president. Mary also chaired the Development Committee through 2023, serving as a driving force behind multiple Land Trust events and leading with her

characteristic high energy and enthusiasm. In her time as chair, the Land Trust formed key partnerships with local institutions and organizations and more than doubled its fundraising efforts.

More recently, you may have heard of Mary's "Roots in the Ground" campaign celebrating her 80th birthday. For this special event she invited hundreds of friends to plant trees along the Nisqually River and raised incredible funds for stewardship. Mary's commitment to community-building continues to inspire us and elevate our work. Thank you, Mary, for your dedication to the Nisqually Watershed.

At the end of 2023, **Lloyd Fetterly** stepped down after seven years serving on our Board of Directors. During his tenure, he participated in both the Governance and Lands Committees, contributing his previous experience as a Pierce County attorney.

Lloyd has long been an avid volunteer at Nisqually Land Trust, dedicating hundreds of hours towards land stewardship. He and his wife Patricia continue to support the Land Trust by volunteering in the field and at our annual events, organizing nature walks on our protected lands, and supporting ongoing land acquisitions. Lloyd, thank you for your years of dedication and continued support.

2024 ANNUAL

Conservation Dinner and Auction

OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Watershed Partners



Green Partners



Supporters



Renetta Wilson
Agent

Paul & Shirley Battan

Robert Bass

In-Kind • Cindy Schorno, Fusion Growth Partners
Choro Tomorrow • Hedges Family Estate • Perigee Farms
Top Rung Brewing



You Could Feel the Spirit of the Nisqually in the Room

Record raised, again!

With the generous support of sponsors, item donors, attendees and volunteers, this year's Conservation Celebration & Auction raised a record \$226,000 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 partners came together for a wonderful evening. Our deep thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a huge success!

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

- 23 Kitchens
- 5th Ave Theatre
- Advanced Botanical Resources
- Alderbrook Resort and Spa
- Paul and Shirley Battan
- Paul Beck
- Sherry Buckner
- CalPortland
- Campfire Coffee
- Clear Lake Pottery
- Sue Darius
- Joe Digranes & Linda Chesnut
- Tomas Dizon
- Jeanette Dorner
- Eighth Generation
- Amy C Fisher
- Willie Frank III & Peggen Frank
- Friend of the Land Trust
- Mary & Fred Gentry
- Winter Hill's Estate
- Emily Gladhart
- Gordon's Garden Center
- Bonnie Kavanaugh and Eric Hurlburt
- Kelsey Hulse & Paul Pearson
- Wade Kiekhaefer
- La Bastide Bed & Breakfast
- Lakewold Gardens
- Micah McCarty
- Daydisha McCloud
- Hanford McCloud
- Kathleen Newcomer
- Mathew Nichols
- Nisqually Department of Natural Resources
- Patagonia
- Pioneer Farm Museum & Ohop Indian Village
- Wolf Haven
- Jim & Etsuko Reistroffer
- Mike Ryherd
- Sally Toteff & John Ridgway
- Seattle Kraken & Climate Pledge Arena
- Lydia Shaw
- Eric Slagle
- Stewart's Meats
- David & Jane Stone



- Connie and Dennis Gradoville
- Teri Granger
- Hands On Children's Museum
- Melany Vorass Herrera
- Holroyd Company, Inc.
- Marilyn Jacobs
- Jim Hunter and Associates
- Brad Jones
- Joonbug Yoga
- Tacoma Power
- Tahoma Valley Golf Course
- The Golf Course at Hawks Prairie
- The Home Course
- The Washington Center for the Performing Arts
- Anna Thurston
- Sally E Vogel
- Wellspring Spa at Mt. Rainier
- Mimi Williams



2024 Nisqually River Float Trip

JOIN US FOR A NATURE WALK & RESTORATION PLANTINGS

OCTOBER

Nisqually Community Forest Tour with the Nisqually River Foundation
 Saturday, October 5th at 9:30 am
 Ashford, WA

Northwest Natural Resource Group Forester Jaal Mann. These trips will take us out into nature to learn about forest management, climate adaptation / mitigation techniques, and other sustainable forestry practices taking place right here in the Nisqually Watershed!

Mashel River Engineered Log Jam Restoration Tour

Eatonville, WA
 Friday, October 18th from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Tour the final phase of the Mashel River Engineered Log Jam (ELJ) project. Restoration Biologist Kylie O’Driscoll from the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will lead the tour and talk about the decade-long restoration project to improve habitat for endangered and threatened salmon species.

NOVEMBER

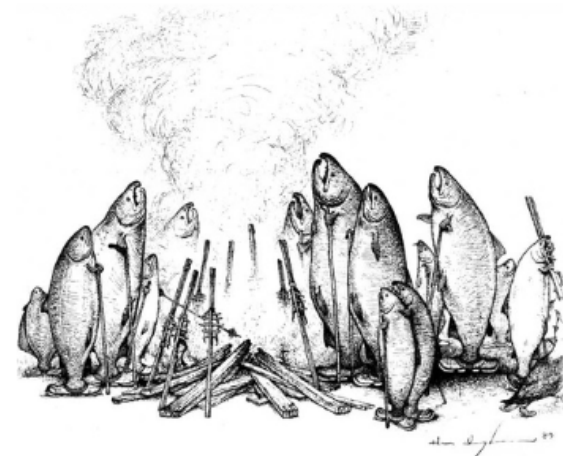
Tree Planting Work Party
 Saturday, November 16th at 9 am
 Near Eatonville, WA

DECEMBER

Tree Planting Work Party
 Saturday, December 7th at 9 am
 Near Eatonville, WA

Visit our website nisquallylandtrust.org to RSVP and learn more.

Annual Membership Meeting and Salmon Bake



Thank you for joining us for a Nisqually salmon dinner and update of Land Trust activities.

See event photos at www.nisquallylandtrust.org.

Thank you to our amazing event sponsor!



In-Kind Donor



Nisqually Indian Tribe

Yelm Prairie Line Trail Opens

The Land Trust has been working with the City of Yelm and Forever Green Trails on an exciting project— extending the Yelm Prairie Line Trail (YPLT) from Thurston County to Pierce County by converting an old railroad trestle into the first bridge across the Nisqually River exclusively for non-motorized use, such as hiking and biking.

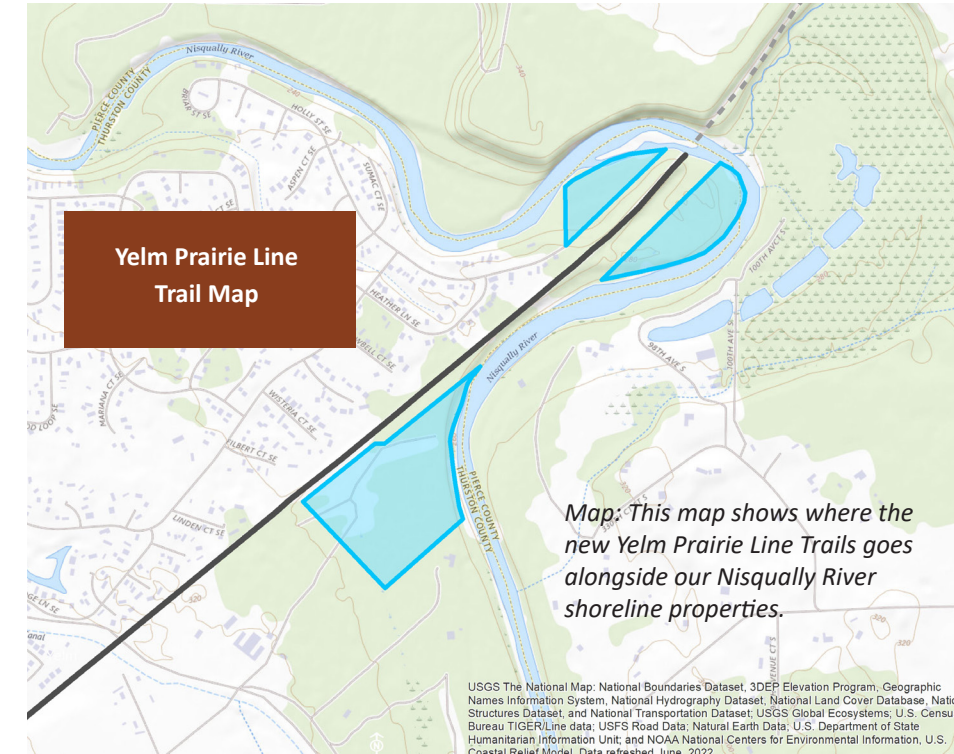
The YPLT is an extension of the Yelm-Tenino Trail, which connects with the popular Chehalis Western Trail. Yelm converted a defunct railroad track that traversed its YPLT property into a pedestrian and bike path that currently ends at the Nisqually River. The city has since won funding to design and build the historic river crossing.

The YPLT runs through three of our properties, which total over 35 acres and are managed as part of our Yelm Shoreline Protected Area. They include over one-third mile of shoreline along the Nisqually River’s Whitewater Reach, rated a highest freshwater priority for protection in the Nisqually Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan and the Nisqually Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Two of the shoreline properties bookend the former tracks on the Thurston County side of the river, while the third adjoins them. All three are undeveloped, with largely intact shoreline, forest, and wetland habitat, and we acquired them many years ago to protect them for salmon recovery.

But in studying their location in the larger landscape, we realized they could also provide a critical missing piece for a potentially historic trail project. We met with City of Yelm staff, Forever Green Trails, and other potential partners, and they took it from there, winning funding on multiple fronts, including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

The Land Trust provided educational trail signage about habitat restoration along the Yelm shoreline and how to respect wildlife and conservation efforts while using the trail. These add to signs created by the City of Yelm about the cultural and historical context of the trail. 🌿



Map: This map shows where the new Yelm Prairie Line Trails goes alongside our Nisqually River shoreline properties.

USGS The National Map; National Boundaries Dataset; 3DEP Elevation Program; Geographic Names Information System; National Hydrography Dataset; National Land Cover Database; National Structures Dataset; and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed June, 2022.



The Land Trust’s Hart property is the boundary of the new trail with future plans for the trail to extend across the trestle bridge.

GRITS PROGRAM GETS STUDENTS OUTSIDE

The Land Trust’s unique partnership with Eatonville School District’s (ESD) Growing Relationships in the Soil (GRITS) program allows students to engage in hands-on learning, connect to the land, and cultivate purpose through their work.

The GRITS farm is located on roughly 3.5 acres of the historic Burwash-Kjelstad Farmstead, the site of one of the earliest European settlements in the Ohop Valley. The Land Trust purchased the property in 2012 as part of the larger multi-phase Ohop Creek Restoration Project.

The GRITS farmhouse and bar sit on slightly higher land out of the creek’s floodplain. Recognizing the historical significance of the site, the Land Trust transferred a portion of the land to the district in 2016. ESD teacher Tod Morrish then worked with Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB) in Olympia to envision a model for the new

Students practice sustainable farming on the GRITS farm.



program, and in 2017 GRITS was born.

Today at GRITS farm, Tod, paraeducator DeAnne Zachary, and their students practice sustainable farming and land stewardship throughout the school year. The group plants

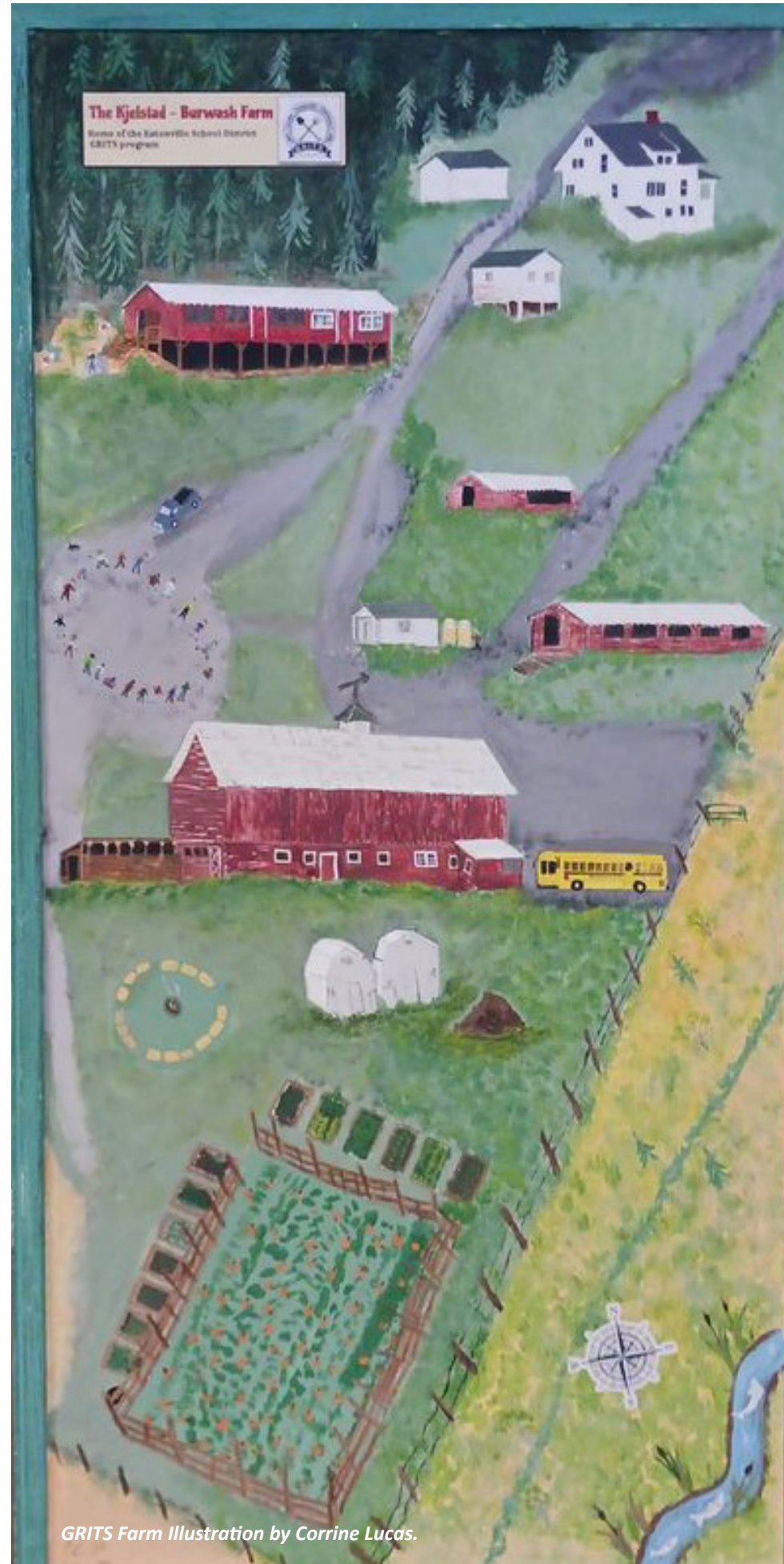
and harvests in late summer, fall, and spring and hosts seasonal community events. “It’s great to have this historic farmland where our students have an opportunity to learn and grow in an outdoor setting that combines real world skills with scientific concepts,” said Tod. “It gives them a unique chance to grow both academically and socially.”

Many students enter the program after finding that traditional academic settings do not support their learning styles or goals. GRITS is an alternative which provides life skills and connection to nature while emphasizing social-emotional learning and community building. To join, interested students must apply, interview, and be recommended by school employees.

While visiting the property, Land Trust staff heard from veteran students who spoke highly of the program and the impact it has had on them.

“Before the program, I wasn’t big on science,” one student said. “I don’t like doing in-class science where it’s very limited. When I can physically see what I’m doing, that’s better for me.” Another student added, “I like that it’s hands-on. I feel like that helps me be more active with nature and feel a part of it.” In addition to working on the farm, the students occasionally walk trails onto the adjacent Nisqually Land Trust lands to observe the creek restoration project.

The Nisqually Land Trust is grateful to be a part of this program, which allows the next generation of conservation-minded individuals to flourish. Thank you to Eatonville School District and Superintendent Jay Brower for your continued support.



GRITS Farm Illustration by Corrine Lucas.



The Land Trust protected the Burwash Farm Property in 2012 and then transferred the historic site to the Eatonville School District.

Nisqually Land Trust
1420 Marvin RD NE
Suite C PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516-3878

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Olympia, WA
Permit No. 107



Connecting Water, Wildlife, Land, and People since 1989

Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsor!



Leave a legacy
that lasts beyond
a lifetime

We can't do this work without the friends of the Nisqually Watershed. Because so much of the Land Trust's work is about ensuring that the places we save today will be protected forever, legacy gifts – gifts left to us in estate plans by visionary donors – are essential. There is no better way to continue to make a permanent difference in land conservation.

Leave a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime.

Call 360.489.3400 ext. 105, or email jeanette@nisquallylandtrust.org to learn more.

OFFICE

100 Brown Farm Road NE
Olympia, WA 98516

MAILING ADDRESS

1420 Marvin Road NE, Suite C PMB 243
Lacey, WA 98516-3878

Telephone: (360) 489-3400 | E-mail: staff@nisquallylandtrust.org