

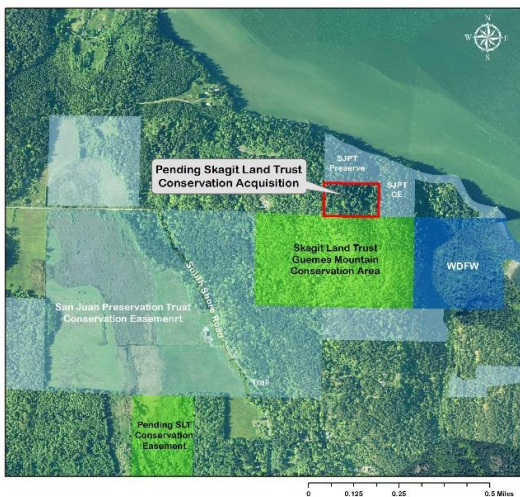
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Photos and map available upon request

Guemes Forever - Two Milestones Reached, One to Go! Skagit Land Trust moves forward in purchase of 9.5 acres on Guemes Mountain

Skagit Land Trust (the Trust) is pleased to announce that over 100 generous families, individuals, foundations and the board of Skagit Land Trust have joined together to help us reach two important milestones on our *Guemes Forever* campaign. We now have funds to enter into a binding purchase and sale agreement for the 9.5 acre forested property on the north side of our Guemes Mountain Conservation Area. Purchasing this property preserves the outstanding views from the summit of the mountain and conserves mature forest habitat for the benefit of our community, birds and wildlife. The Trust has also raised funds to undertake landowner outreach on Guemes Island. We will collaborate on conservation options with willing landowners who own properties with high conservation value. Thank you to all the generous donors who reached deep to help us meet these milestones.

One important goal remains - raising \$25,000 in Guemes stewardship funding. Good stewardship of conserved lands is one of the greatest gifts we can give current and future generations of people and wildlife. The final goal of the *Guemes Forever* campaign is to raise funds for stewardship and trail work for Skagit Land Trust's protected lands on Guemes Island. The Trust is a community supported non-profit organization and for every property we own and manage, we gain the obligation to take care of the land forever. We need stewardship funds to address issues ranging from small tasks such as fixing a gate or dealing with a downed tree on a trail; to larger projects such as removing invasive plant species, or building and caring for trails; to really big issues we might face such as damage to the actual land itself.

The Trust is very fortunate to have a dedicated cadre of stewardship volunteers on Guemes Island - people such as Kit Harma, Ian Woofenden, Ed and Carolyn Gastellum, Joost Businger and Marianne Kooiman, and many trail volunteers and stewards. They assist us enormously in offsetting annual stewardship costs, yet spending money to care for conservation lands is essential. As the Trust expands conservation land holdings on Guemes Mountain and elsewhere on Guemes Island, we expand our stewardship obligations. Donor gifts made to the Guemes Island Fund are placed in a reserve fund which can only be used for stewardship of lands on Guemes Island. Community members can also help by volunteering with Skagit Land Trust – visit skagitlandtrust.org to learn more about ways to get involved in local land conservation and stewardship.



Skagit Land Trust is a community-supported non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve wildlife habitat, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space, wetlands, and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations. With the support of over 1,500 households, businesses, foundations, partners, and volunteers, to date we have conserved over 6,700 acres of natural lands including 31 miles of shoreline. Visit skagitlandtrust.org for more information.