50 Volunteers planted 800 trees in just under an hour (!!!) at Pressentin Conservation Area. Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and the Skagit River System Cooperative co-sponsored the event to help restore the riparian area and create a better home for wild salmon.

Pressentin Conservation Area was purchased by Skagit Land Trust in 2010. There are walking trails through the riparian area and directly to the banks of the Skagit. This special place is surrounded by private property, but will never be developed thanks to supporters and staff of Skagit Land Trust.
English Ivy… *pip, pip!*

English ivy was introduced to North America in the early 1800’s as an ornamental plant. In fact, invasive and non-invasive species of ivy are still sold as ornamentals. Ivy’s beauty, easy propagation, and ability to grow in shade make it a good decorative garden plant, but these characteristics also allow some species to be aggressive invasives. In Pacific Northwest forests, ivy can cover large areas of the ground, crowding and shading out native herbs and seedlings. It also grows on trees, competing with them for water and sunlight. The weight and wind-catching shape of ivy can topple a full grown tree.

**Removing Ivy:**
* ▶ Pull the ivy deliberately from the ground, slowly easing out as much of the roots as possible.
* ▶ Work from the outer edges of an infested area in towards the middle.
* ▶ Cut ivy that is growing up trees at eye level and then remove all the ivy from that point *down* and out in a 3-foot radius. Trying to remove ivy above your head is dangerous— it can cause limbs to break and fall.
* ▶ Ideally, ivy is bagged and removed from a site, but this is not always possible or practical. Alternately, pile pulled ivy on a layer of cardboard to prevent re-rooting.

**Safety Considerations:**
* ▶ Ivy roots can be deeper and stronger than you’d expect! Pulling too hard may cause back or other injuries. Instead, ask a friend to help or simply remove that which you can pull safely.
* ▶ You can easily get poked in the eye by brush limbs when trying to reach ivy on the ground… protective glasses are a good idea!

If you spot ivy on your property, contact Skagit Land Trust. We are available to offer information, tools, and hands-on help!
I visit Barr Creek often and do the requisite quarterly formal reports. But I’ve had a nagging feeling that I might not be doing my job completely. What should I be looking for as I inspect my area or other properties under the Trust’s protection?

The public is allowed to visit the Trust lands with some limitations. The expectation is that visitors will “leave no trace”, but there certainly have been inappropriate uses taking place—illegal dumping, illegal camping, firewood poaching. But what else?

To answer that, I fired up the Google Machine and also consulted two law enforcement officers who have dealt with resource protection on public lands in western Washington and elsewhere. The following are just some of the activities which might be taking place on our entrusted lands.

But, first a note about flagging tape: Skagit Land Trust uses orange and blue to mark property boundaries. Flagging might still be present from contracted land survey work, wildlife inventories, or from marking salmon reds in adjacent waters. However, it might also delineate a trail to a harvest site, or may be part of grid harvesting. Check it out.

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**Illegal Harvesting on Public Properties**

*What to Look For and What To Do About It*

*Russ Dalton, Barr Creek Conservation Area Volunteer Land Steward*

People who pick brush for a living look for parts of wild plants used by floral companies to accent their flower arrangements. Specialty products harvested from Northwest forests—including moss, salal, huckleberry, beargrass, evergreen boughs, and ferns—once were a low-class sideshow to logging, picked by rural folks in need of extra bucks. It since has swelled to a mammoth industry that brings in at least a quarter-billion dollars a year—nearly one-fourth the size of the apple industry. Brush pickers bushwhack through forestland 365 days a year, gleaning specific greens from it. Each year around Christmas time, they trim limbs off evergreen trees. The boughs are made into wreaths.

The Hiawatha Corporation is a giant in the Northwest floral greens business. Up to 65 container loads are shipped domestically and overseas each week, much of it to Europe. More than 250 companies in Washington are involved in picking, buying or shipping these products.

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**Brush Picking**

*What to Look For:*

- Moss scraped off of trees
- Plant stems tied off in bunches
- Bunches of plants in bales
- Groups of pickers, often dropped off in vans

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**Decorations**

*What to Look For:*

- Cut stumps and drag marks
- Cut trees or limbs that have been high-graded for the best boughs, the remainders being discarded

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**Firewood**

*What to Look For:*

- Cut stumps
- Drag marks, wheel marks
- Piles of wood waste and sawdust
- Listen for chainsaws
- Trees flagged, notched, or blazed for relocation after reconnaissance

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4 The Understory
WHAT TO DO:
→ If you encounter anything that looks wrong, think first of your own safety. Back away and report what you saw.
→ Call Skagit Land Trust staff.
→ If you deem it an emergency, call the Skagit County Sheriff’s office.
→ Record license plate numbers. Law enforcement regards this as invaluable information.
→ Take photos and/or GPS readings.
→ For a problem area, a cheap game camera might be a good tool.
*Most visits to Trust properties will be benign and welcome. However, Stewards do act as the eyes and ears for the Trust. Be observant. Be safe. Have fun!

Now, if only people would slip in and harvest ivy, scotch broom, knotweed and Himalayan blackberry!
UPCOMING EVENTS WITH SKAGIT LAND TRUST:

*December 16th*– Hurn Conservation Area Ivy Pull

*January 15th*– Annual Member’s Meeting: Fidalgo Bay Resort

*March 7th*– 9th Annual Auction and Dinner: St. Joseph Center, Mt. Vernon

*March through June*– Amphibian Monitoring!

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**Skagit Land Trust Conservation Areas and Their (Lovely) Land Stewards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Stewards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barney Lake</td>
<td>Kendon Light, Tim Manns &amp; Brenda Cunningham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barr Creek</td>
<td>Russ Dalton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butler Creek</td>
<td>Jim Owens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland Creek</td>
<td>Jim Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Creek (Berquist &amp; Forest)</td>
<td>Stan Zyskowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Creek Kosbab</td>
<td>Jim Fukuyama</td>
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<td>Day Creek Slough</td>
<td>Hal Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandy Creek</td>
<td>John Freeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Road Marsh</td>
<td>Heidi Nichols</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guemes Mountain</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Carolyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastellum, Ian Woofenden, Kit Harma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurn Field</td>
<td>Steffany Raynes &amp; Lin Skavdahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyman Slough</td>
<td>Dick Raisler</td>
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<tr>
<td>March Point</td>
<td>LaVerne &amp; Jim Scheltens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minkler Lake</td>
<td>Hal Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mud Lake</td>
<td>Lloyd Brown</td>
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<td>Pressentin</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Sally Pfeifer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samish—Ochs</td>
<td>Pete Haase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samish—Squires</td>
<td>Jack &amp; Anne Middleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Skagit</td>
<td>Amy Gouley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumner Lake</td>
<td>Tami Thomas &amp; Tom Mayes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tope Ryan</td>
<td>John Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utopia</td>
<td>Ned Currance</td>
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