

SKAGIT LAND TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

YEAR IN REVIEW FY 2014-15



ENGAGED MEMBERS

WITH THE HELP OF 1,500 ACTIVE MEMBERS, 300 VOLUNTEERS AND 70+ PARTNERS & LANDOWNERS, THE AMOUNT OF LAND AND HABITAT PROTECTED BY SKAGIT LAND TRUST HAS GROWN TO OVER 6,700 ACRES, INCLUDING MORE THAN 31 MILES OF SHORELINE.



LAND STEWARDSHIP

OVER 300 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 1,500 HOURS TO HELP RESTORE AND CARE FOR THE TRUST'S 25 CONSERVATION AREAS AND MONITOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND PARTNER PROPERTIES THROUGHOUT SKAGIT COUNTY.



RETURNING CUMBERLAND CREEK TO ITS HISTORIC CHANNEL RESTORED 4,000 FEET OF SALMON HABITAT AND HIGHLIGHTED NATURE'S RESILIENCE.



SKAGIT LAND TRUST MANAGES STEWARDSHIP MONITORING AT 13 NATURE CONSERVANCY SKAGIT COUNTY PROPERTIES INCLUDING THE SOUTH CASCADE PRESERVE (RIGHT).



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THE TRUST SHARED INFORMATION AT FESTIVALS SUCH AS THE SKAGIT RIVER SALMON FESTIVAL (LEFT) AND AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO GATHER INPUT ON OUR CONSERVATION GOALS AS WELL AS SHARE RESOURCES SUCH AS NEARBY CONSERVATION AREAS TO VISIT. TRUST STAFF AND BOARD ALSO SERVED ON 10 LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES.



PHOTO BY ELVIRA BUTLER



SAVING LAND

THE TRUST COMPLETED FOUR CONSERVATION PROJECTS, BEGAN 12 NEW PROJECTS, AND ASSISTED 5 PARTNERS IN LAND CONSERVATION PROTECTION PROJECTS.



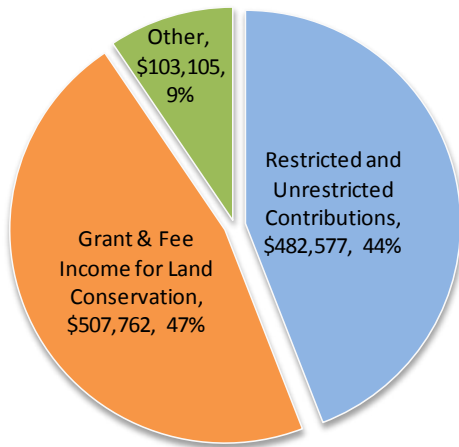
TOP LEFT: THE BISHOP PARCEL ADDED TO THE TRUST'S UTOPIA CONSERVATION AREA

MIDDLE RIGHT: THE NEW ILLABOT CREEK CONSERVATION EASEMENT

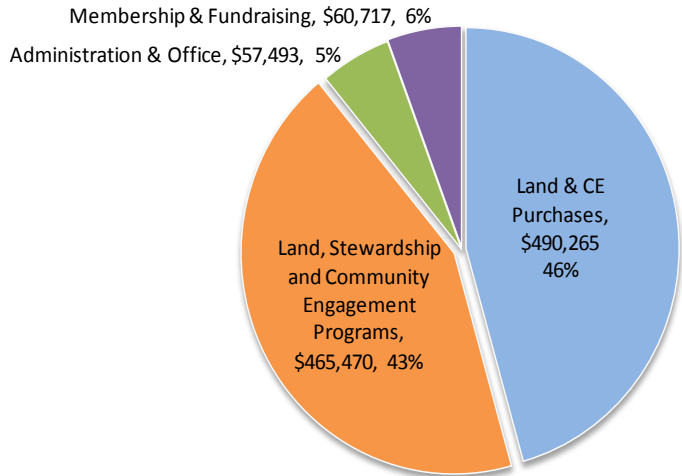
BOTTOM RIGHT: FURTHERING PROGRESS ON THE FUTURE TURSI TRAIL ON FIDALGO ISLAND WITH CONSERVATION PARTNERS.



Revenue - \$1,093,444



Expenses - \$1,073,945



For the year ending March 31, 2015, the Trust's annual operating budget was \$583,680 which included costs for all land stewardship and restoration, community outreach, and land conservation due diligence and planning. The Trust also spent \$490,265 on conservation land and easement purchases.

2014-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Added the 16-acre Bell Property to the Barney Lake Conservation Area** on the edge of Mount Vernon. Major funding was provided by the North American Wetland Conservation Act, Seattle Audubon's Martin Miller Fund, the Skagit Community Foundation, the Norcliffe Foundation and 263 generous donors
- **Completed a 100-acre Conservation Easement on Illabot Creek.** Funding was provided by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the WA Department of Ecology. Skagit County Public Works will restore the shoreline in 2015-16.
- **Added the 43-acre Bishop property to our Utopia Conservation Area.** Funding was provided by SRFB and match provided by Seattle City Light. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Skagit River Systems Cooperative will restore this property in 2015-16.
- **Secured more land for the future Centennial Trail** from Big Rock to Clear Lake and worked towards the future Tursi Trail with partners Skagit County Parks and Deception Pass State Park.
- **Returned Cumberland Creek to its historic channel,** creating and restoring over 3/4 mile of salmon habitat in a joint effort with Skagit County Public Works, US Army Corps of Engineers and Skagit River Systems Cooperative.
- **Achieved accreditation renewal with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.** Accreditation ensures that Skagit Land Trust meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust and ensures that our conservation efforts are permanent.
- **Expanded the Trust's Youth in Conservation Program** with the assistance of grants from the Satterberg Foundation and other generous donors.
- **Created a new Conservation Strategy** that provides an updated framework for identifying and selecting the most important land conservation projects in Skagit County.

More information on our projects and Skagit Land Trust's 2014 IRS 990 form and audit can be found at www.skagitlandtrust.org.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

VOLUNTEERS MONITORED AMPHIBIAN HABITAT AND GREAT BLUE HERON NESTING & FORAGING BEHAVIORS AT SEVERAL CONSERVATION AREAS. CITIZEN SCIENTISTS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE HEALTH AND ALERT SCIENTISTS TO CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT.



EXPANDED YOUTH IN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

100 + YOUTH OF ALL AGES FROM LOCAL CLASSROOMS AND YOUTH GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN MULTIPLE STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE.





PO Box 1017
 1020 S Third Street
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 www.skagitlandtrust.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Mount Vernon, WA
 Permit No. 195



MISSION STATEMENT

Skagit Land Trust conserves wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.

SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

- | | |
|--|--|
| Brenda Cunningham
President
Mount Vernon | Karen Krub
Conservation Chair
La Conner |
| Sara Young
Vice President
Mount Vernon | Rusty Kuntze
Development Chair
Bay View |
| Janice Martin
Secretary
Bow | Harold Lee
Mount Vernon |
| John Hunt
Treasurer
Anacortes | Mark Linnemann
Guemes Island |
| Bob Boudinot
Mount Vernon | Curtis A. Miller
Public Policy Chair
Fir Island |
| Ron Feld
Mount Vernon | Barbara Trask
Concrete |
| Carolyn Gastellum
Anacortes | Warren Walz
Anacortes |
| Jana Hanson (2015)
Mount Vernon | Russ Weiser
Burlington |
| Steven H. Johnson
Stewardship Chair
Anacortes | Keith Wiggers
Facilities Chair
Burlington |
| | Anne Winkes
Conway |



PHOTO BY CHRIS FARROW

THE ADDITION OF THE BELL PROPERTY TO THE BARNEY LAKE CONSERVATION AREA CONSERVED A SCENIC STRETCH OF NOOKACHAMPS CREEK THAT IS ALSO A HAVEN FOR FISH, BIRDS, AND AMPHIBIANS.

STAFF

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Molly Doran
Executive Director | Martha Bray
Conservation Director | Lisa Miller
Community Stewardship Assistant |
| Isabel Beavers (2014)/Kay Anagnostos (2015)
AmeriCorps | Lynne Jordan
Development & Communications Director | Kari Odden
Conservation Planner |
| Diane Bednarz
Administration & Publications | Michael Kirshenbaum
Stewardship Director | Regina Wandler
Stewardship Associate |
| | | Jane Zillig
Land Specialist |

GENERAL COUNSEL

Bradford E. Furlong, P.S.
 EDITOR: Lynne Jordan
 MANAGING EDITOR: Diane Bednarz