



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

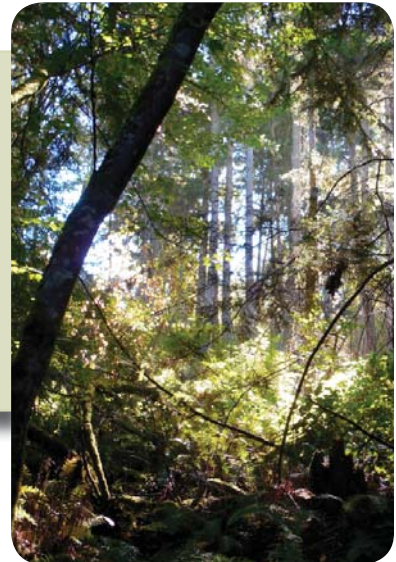


# YEAR IN REVIEW FY 2015-16

April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

## Expanding Island Views and Wildlife Habitat

Thanks to 100+ community donors, Skagit Land Trust added 9.5 acres of forest to the Guemes Mountain Conservation Area in October 2015. The addition of this lush forestland on the north side of the mountain preserves a spectacular view and vital wildlife habitat today and for the future.



## Protecting Marine Shorelines in Perpetuity

A 2015 grant enabled the Trust to develop tools for coastal conservation and reach out to marine shoreline landowners. One of the first successes occurred in 2016 when Win and Elaine Anderson donated a 36-acre conservation easement on their Guemes Island property. This beautiful place hosts a diversity of habitats – wetlands, a creek, forestland, and over 850 feet of marine shoreline.



## Making Trail Connections Happen

Skagit Land Trust assisted Skagit County Parks & Recreation in securing trail easements across private lands with willing landowners to connect Deception Pass State Park to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands on Fidalgo Island. In 2016, volunteers helped build the 1.1 mile John Tursi Trail, which provides an important trail connection and beautiful hike along the Pacific Northwest Trail.



*Front page: Top - Big Lake Wetlands; amphibian monitoring at Green Road Marsh. Middle - geology walk in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands; Elysium Conservation Easement. Bottom - view from atop Guemes Mountain. Illustrations by Brenda Cunningham.*

## Safeguarding the March Point Heronry

In 2016, the Trust completed a voluntary conservation easement agreement with Quattro Corporation to conserve 5.5 acres of forest important for March Point's Great Blue Heron megacolony. Adjacent to the Trust's March Point Heronry property - and in an increasingly industrialized area - over 80% of the largest heronry on the West Coast is now protected forever.



## Leaving a Little Mountain Legacy

Ginny Darvill added 25 more acres to the conservation easement with Skagit Land Trust on her property on the south side of Mount Vernon's Little Mountain Park. Now 39 acres of forestland with a public trail leading to the park is protected forever for wildlife and for people.



## Preserving Barney Lake Forestland

In March 2016, Quadrant Corporation donated land along College Way to Skagit Land Trust. This forested wetland is in very good condition with intact native vegetation and now becomes a part of the Barney Lake Conservation Area.



## Conserving Big Lake Wetlands

Skagit Land Trust received funding from Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board, WA Department of Ecology, the federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and donations from members and the Big Lake community to conserve 67 acres of Big Lake wetland habitat important for fish and other wildlife.



## Protecting Skagit River Habitat in Hamilton

The Trust's new partnership with the WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Town of Hamilton is protecting Skagit River shoreline habitat and providing willing landowners with eligible properties in the floodplain an opportunity to sell their land at current fair market value. One landowner has sold his land and two others have signed agreements. Under this partnership, Hamilton will own and manage the land for public benefit and salmon habitat.

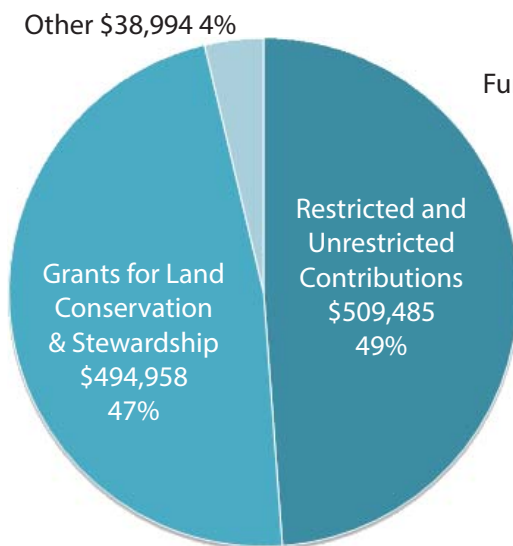
## Saving Cascade River Shoreline

In 2015, the Trust acquired the South Cascade River Conservation Area with 800 feet of shoreline that provides critical salmon habitat. In all, the Trust now protects and stewards over 147 acres of land and 5,700 feet of Cascade River shoreline.

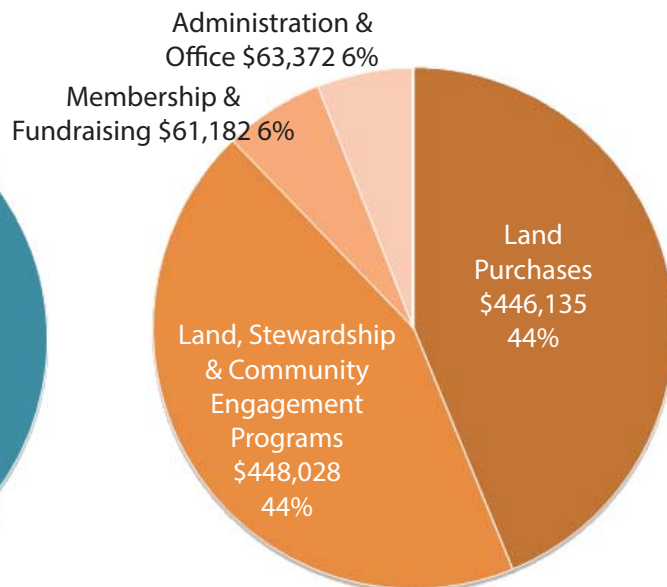


## FINANCIALS 2015-16 *For Year Ending March 31, 2016*

### Revenue \$1,043,437



### Expenses \$1,018,717



For the year ending March 31, 2016, the Trust's annual operating budget was \$618,322 which included costs for all land stewardship and restoration, community outreach, and land conservation due diligence and planning. The Trust also received two conservation land donations valued at \$314,200.

# Caring for Skagit's Natural Areas 2015-16

**7,700** Trees and shrubs planted

**5,450** Hours volunteered on the land

**400** Youth land stewardship participants

**100** Trash bags of invasive plants removed

**39** Conservation Areas actively stewarded



**6,800** Total acres of land saved

**1,500** Current supporters

**620** Trust event participants

**300** Stewardship & event volunteers

**33** Total shoreline miles protected

**18** Community presentations

**1** You - thank you!





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

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

### 2015-16 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Sara Young,</b><br><i>President<br/>Conway</i>                 | <b>Karen Krub</b><br><i>La Conner</i>        |
| <b>Mark Linnemann,</b><br><i>Vice President<br/>Guemes Island</i> | <b>Rusty Kuntze</b><br><i>Bay View</i>       |
| <b>John Hunt,</b> <i>Treasurer<br/>Anacortes</i>                  | <b>Harold Lee</b><br><i>Mount Vernon</i>     |
| <b>Anne Winkes,</b><br><i>Secretary<br/>Conway</i>                | <b>Curtis A. Miller</b><br><i>Fir Island</i> |
| <b>Brenda Cunningham</b><br><i>Mount Vernon</i>                   | <b>Kit Rawson</b><br><i>Mount Vernon</i>     |
| <b>Carolyn Gastellum</b><br><i>Anacortes</i>                      | <b>Barbara Trask</b><br><i>Concrete</i>      |
| <b>Jim Glackin</b><br><i>Mount Vernon</i>                         | <b>Warren Walz</b><br><i>Anacortes</i>       |
| <b>Jana Hanson</b><br><i>Anacortes</i>                            | <b>Russ Weiser</b><br><i>Burlington</i>      |
| <b>Steven H. Johnson</b><br><i>Anacortes</i>                      | <b>Keith Wiggers</b><br><i>Burlington</i>    |



An enthusiastic group enjoyed a native & edible plant walk with Marlee Mountain at the Barr Creek Conservation Area.

### STAFF

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Molly Doran</b><br><i>Executive Director</i>                             | <b>Michael Kirshenbaum</b><br><i>Stewardship Director</i>        |
| <b>Martha Frankel</b><br><i>Administrative Assistant</i>                    | <b>Lisa Miller</b><br><i>Community<br/>Stewardship Assistant</i> |
| <b>Lynne Jordan</b><br><i>Development &amp;<br/>Communications Director</i> | <b>Kari Odden</b><br><i>Conservation Specialist</i>              |

GENERAL COUNSEL  
**Bradford E. Furlong, P.S.**

### Volunteer Land Stewards

- |                                  |                                   |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Brenda Cunningham<br>& Tim Manns | Phil Kincare<br>Hal Lee           | Kinsey Shilling<br>Tami Thomas &<br>Tom Mayes |
| Russ Dalton                      | Kendon Light                      | Richard & Carol                               |
| John Day                         | Anne & Jack Middleton             | Treston                                       |
| John Freeman                     | Heidi Nichols                     | Jim & Ranae                                   |
| Jim Fukuyama                     | Jim Owens                         | Watson  |
| Carolyn & Ed<br>Gastellum        | Dick Raisler                      | Ian Woofenden                                 |
| Pete Haase                       | Steffany Raynes &<br>Lin Skavdahl | Stan Zyskowski                                |
| Kit Harma                        | LaVerne &                         |   |
| Jim Johnson                      | Jim Scheltens                     |   |