

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

SKAGIT LAND TRUST



SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

PLACES FOR PEOPLE IN NATURE

OVER 100 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN EDUCATIONAL EVENTS ON OUR LAND, INCLUDING THE FUN FESTIVAL OF FROGS.



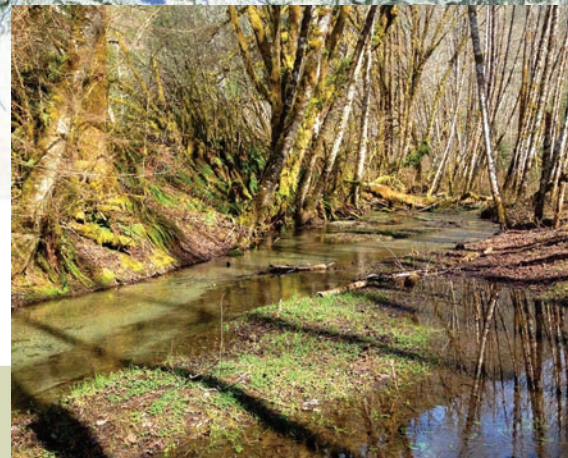
CITIZEN SCIENCE

WITH THE HELP OF MANY PARTNERS WE REPLACED THE VERY POPULAR HERON CAM AT MARCH POINT. CITIZEN SCIENTISTS HELPED US MONITOR HERONS AND AMPHIBIANS, GIVING OVER 1,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME.



OUR AMERICORPS ROCK!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ISABEL BEAVERS WAS A RECIPIENT OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING DRUM MAJOR FOR SERVICE AWARD FOR HER WORK INVOLVING YOUTH IN CONSERVATION.



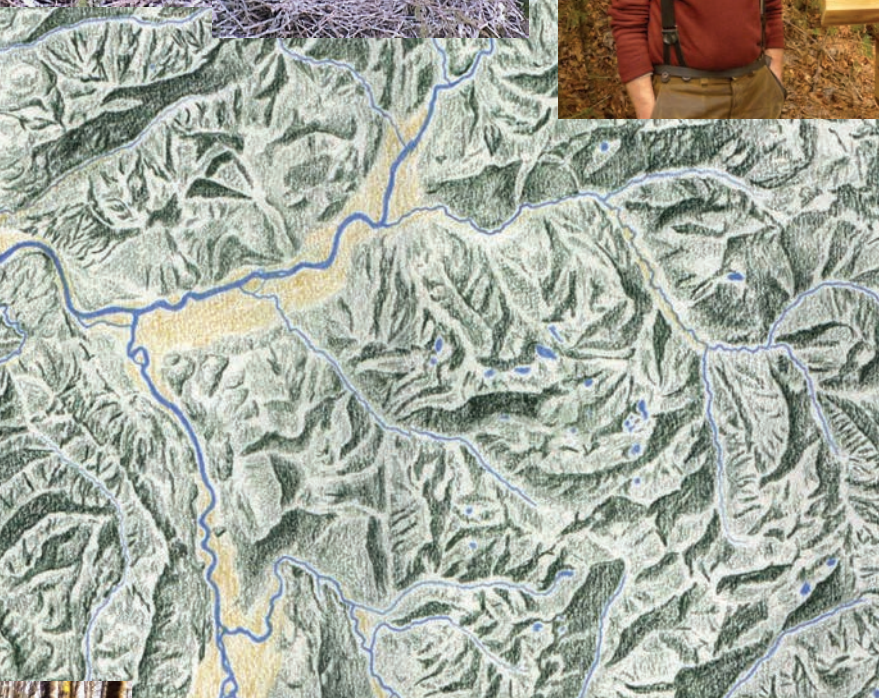
SOUND ECOSYSTEMS

THE TRUST CURRENTLY PROTECTS 6,600 ACRES INCLUDING 30 MILES OF SHORELINE. IN THE PAST YEAR WE EXPANDED THREE OF OUR CONSERVATION AREAS AND ADDED THE BEAUTIFUL CASCADE RIVER PROPERTY (ABOVE), PLUS SECURED FUNDS FOR THE BELL PROPERTY.

YEAR IN REVIEW FY 2013-14

COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS

330 VOLUNTEERS HELPED WITH LAND STEWARDSHIP, MONITORING, HABITAT RESTORATION, TRAIL MAINTENANCE, SPECIAL EVENTS AND GOVERNANCE GIVING 4500 HOURS OF TIME.



MAP BY BRENDA CUNNINGHAM



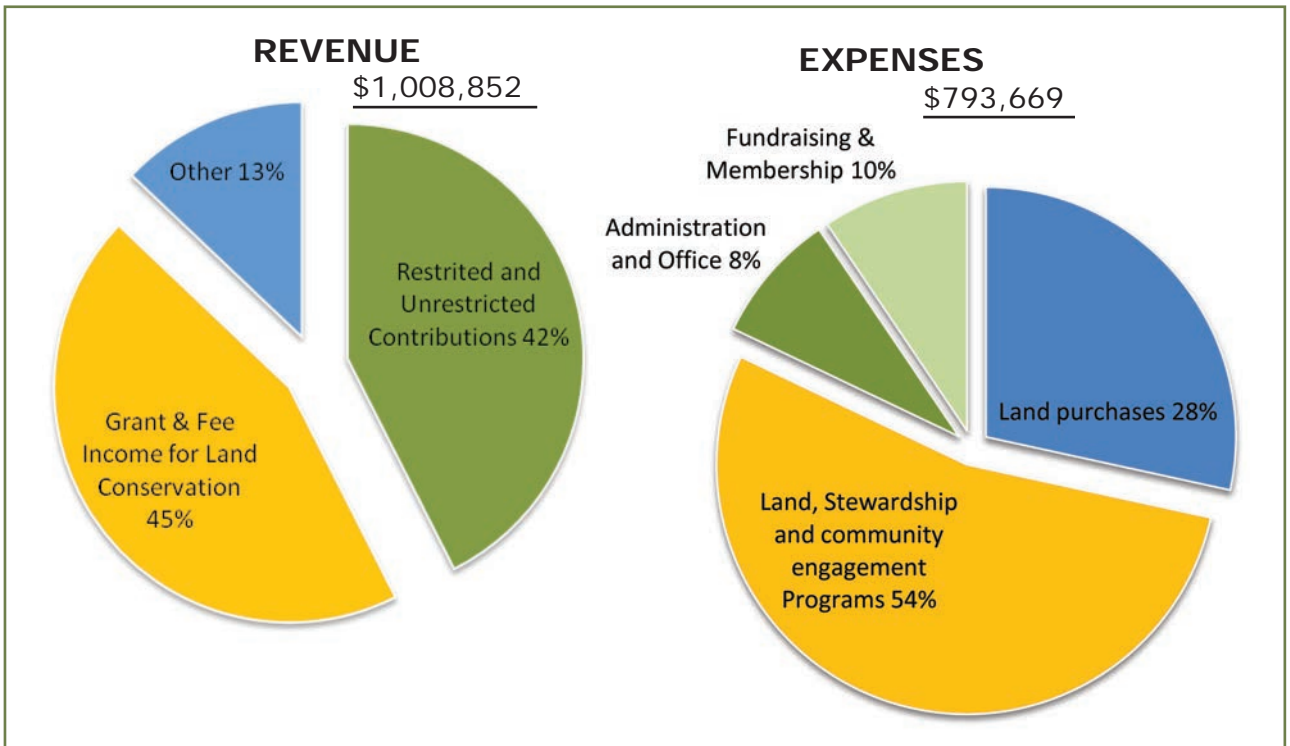
STRONG PARTNERSHIP

WE STEWARDED 12 PRESERVES FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN THE UPPER SKAGIT, SAUK AND CASCADE RIVERS.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEWARDS

A YEAR-LONG PARTNERSHIP WITH EMERSON HIGH SCHOOL CULMINATED WITH MOST OF THE SCHOOL CLEARING TRAILS AT OUR CUMBERLAND CREEK CONSERVATION AREA ON ARBOR DAY.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the year ending March 31 2014 Skagit Land Trust's annual operating budget was \$568,000. \$225,556 more was spent to buy land and an additional \$250,000 was raised to purchase and restore the Bell Property (closed after the fiscal year). Supporters consisted of over 950 households, businesses, foundations and partners. The Trust expanded three conservation areas (Minkler, Hurn and Cumberland) and purchased land on the Cascade River next to the Keller-Karlberg Conservation Easement. Ten projects were begun for future conservation and four projects were undertaken for partners including work to acquire trail easements and land with Skagit County Parks for the future Centennial Trail and Tursi Trail. Other key conservation partners included the Skagit Watershed Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle City Light, Seattle and Skagit Audubon, WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Clarence Stewart Fund of the Skagit Community Foundation. Two families were enormously helpful in securing properties for conservation. The Trust completed phase II of an updated science-based conservation strategy. We managed 25 Trust conservation areas and monitored 32 conservation easements ranging in size from modest to the 1680-acre Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The Trust partnered with The Nature Conservancy to steward 12 of their preserves. Dedicated volunteers helped with wildlife habitat restoration and monitoring on our properties and maintained trails on Guemes Mountain, Barr Creek and the Cumberland Peninsula. The Trust began a habitat restoration project on our Utopia Conservation Area with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Puget Sound Energy; began a project with Skagit County Public Works, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Skagit River System Cooperative to re-establish Cumberland Creek in its natural channel; and began planning for the restoration of Barney Lake/Logan Creek with Ducks Unlimited and Skagit County Public Works. Volunteers and supporters helped to raise funds and in-kind support for a wide range of projects including conservation acquisitions, replacing the heron cam at the March Point Heronry, increasing our work with youth, improving trails and signage, and increasing citizen science partnerships. Many individuals, schools and community groups helped us increase opportunities for experiences that deepen people's relationship with our lands.

** All supporters are listed in our spring 2014 newsletter and board, staff and key volunteers are listed on our website.*



INVOLVED MEMBERS

WE VALUE OUR MEMBERS IDEAS AND SUPPORT. IN THE PAST YEAR 950 FAMILIES, BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS AND PARTNERS SUPPORTED THE TRUST. (PICTURED ABOVE BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:) KEITH WIGGERS, MOLLY DORAN, JANE ZILLIG (FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:) JOHN TURSI, RUTH ADAMITZ, VIRGINIA MURPHY, DORIS HOLMES, AND GLORIA ZILLIG ENJOY A SLIDE SHOW OF PLACES THEY HAVE HELPED TO CONSERVE.



STRATEGIC CONSERVATION

OUR EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION HAS MANY FOUNDATIONS INCLUDING SCIENCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND LONG TERM PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS. OUR UPDATED CONSERVATION STRATEGY WILL HELP US IDENTIFY THE MOST ECOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT AND THE MOST BELOVED LANDS TO PROTECT.

(ABOVE RIGHT) CONSERVATION DIRECTOR MARTHA BRAY TALKS WITH FOREST LANDOWNER KEN OSBORN.



EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE BEST CONSERVATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY WORKING WITH OTHERS TOWARDS COMMON GOALS. WE PARTNERED WITH 40 ORGANIZATIONS AND 35 LANDOWNERS IN THE PAST YEAR. (LEFT) STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR MICHAEL KIRSHENBAUM ON TOP OF GUEMES MOUNTAIN WITH PETE DEWELL OF WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION.



EXPERT GUIDANCE

PROACTIVE, TRANSPARENT, SKILLED AND PASSIONATE ABOUT CONSERVATION - THE TRUST'S BOARD, STAFF AND COMMITTEES ENSURE WE ARE AN EFFICIENT, ETHICAL AND THRIVING ORGANIZATION THAT GETS THINGS DONE.

ENGAGED COMMUNITY

WE HELD 13 TOURS TO EXPAND AND DEEPEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE LANDS WE CONSERVE. COMMUNITY MEMBERS HELPED US RAISE \$250,000 TO PURCHASE THE BELL PROPERTY AND RESTORE IT.





SKAGIT LAND TRUST

Saving Land for Tomorrow

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Mount Vernon, WA 98273
www.skagitlandtrust.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

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EMERSON HIGH SCHOOL AND LYMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP EVENT.

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