



Skagit Land Trust Volunteer Land Steward Position Description

Mission: "To protect wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines throughout the mainland and islands of Skagit County for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations."

Volunteer land stewards are vital to insuring preservation of the outstanding values for which the property was acquired. Effective stewardship requires a long-term commitment to the land, which can be best achieved when an individual adopts a property and provides stewardship for successive years.

The following is a description of a land steward's responsibilities; however, each property has a unique set of characteristics and management objectives that need to be implemented and monitored.

Required Land Steward Tasks

The following tasks are essential to the Trust being responsible land-owners.

- **Monitoring:** Visit the property once per quarter as a formal monitoring visit. Additional visits do not require reports unless a change or concern has been observed.
- **Reporting:** After each visit complete a Monitoring Report and send to the Trust. Inform the Trust of incidents of property intrusions and changing conditions as soon as they are detected. Reporting on "no change" is just as valuable as reporting on problems.
- **Consultation:** Be available to consult with the Trust about land management goals and objectives for property. Be available for a one-year or two-year review/evaluation of your Land Steward role.
- **Resignation:** Notify Trust staff prior to leaving your position with as much time as possible.

Additional Land Steward Activities

Based on your interest and skills, there are many other stewardship tasks with which the Trust could use assistance. Conducting these tasks are not required to be a land steward, but assistance with as many of them as possible is greatly appreciated:

Public Contact:

- Contact neighboring landowners and users of the property to offer information about the Trust, its management objectives for the property, and any restrictions on use of the property.
- Conduct tours of the property on an “as needed basis”.

Property Maintenance and Restoration:

- Minor trail clearing/brushing.
- Litter pickup on the property.
- Property boundary marker maintenance.
- Sign maintenance. The Trust can provide materials and labor for sign repairs.
- Help coordinate special events on the property, such as weed pulling and tree planting parties.

Monitoring: (in addition to the **required monitoring**, see **Required Land Steward Tasks**)

- Accompany Trust staff and board members on annual monitoring visits.
- Establish long-term trend photo points.
- Take photographs of property from established photo points for long-term records.

Management Planning:

- Assist staff, board members and other volunteers in the development, monitoring and maintenance of the property management plan.

Meetings:

- Meet semi-annually with the other volunteer land stewards to help each other address management challenges.

Scientific Surveys for Baseline Data File:

- Work with Trust staff to compile lists of birds, amphibians, or other natural history features onsite.

If this position is of interest to you or someone you know, please contact a Stewardship staff member at (360) 428-7878 or volunteer@skagitlandtrust.org.