

SKAGIT UPDATE

FALL 2025



Protecting Salmon Habitat in Nookachamps Watershed

Protecting salmon habitat motivates many of the conservation projects we undertake at Skagit Land Trust (SLT or the Trust). Our recent purchase of 15 new acres for our East Fork Nookachamps Conservation Area is no exception. This diverse wetland just east of the Barney Lake Conservation Area contributes to a major tributary that provides habitat for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. A population of steelhead trout also relies on these waters to wend their way home.

"The property's wetlands are an integral part of Nookachamps Creek and very fishy, serving as habitat and a food source", says Skagit Land Trust's Conservation Project Manager Kari Odden, "I think that our conservation partners were just as excited about this property's protection as SLT!"

The new conservation area features 850 feet of creek shoreline and nearly nine acres of year-round wetlands that stretch like a lifeline alongside Nookachamps Creek. The remaining property is lush, forested uplands, adding even more richness to the landscape. The forested shoreline is shady, with many insects and lots of decaying wood that support salmon on their journey.

A recent assessment by Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and Skagit County Public Works confirms that this area is productive for salmon and a key piece of functioning floodplain. The report notes that the valley floor once may have been a large wetland without a single, permanent channel. Even today, the creek runs freely across this property during highwater events.

"Upper Skagit Indian Tribe has identified the floodplain wetlands where Turner Creek and East Fork Nookachamps Creek converge as high priority for salmon," explains Rick Hartson, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe's Habitat Services Manager. "Skagit Land Trust's acquisition preserves some of the best existing habitat in this area and helps maintain options for reach-scale restoration."

Continued on page 3...

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Members and Partners,

In the United States, we lose about 150 acres of natural land and 40 acres of farmland every hour -- the equivalent of Olympic National Park and most of Yosemite every year. Once it's gone, we can't get it back. To make progress we must focus and plan.

Every five years we update our Strategic Direction to clarify goals and guide our work. In addition to our core mission, this plan identifies ways to meet evolving ecosystem and community needs. Here are a few goals from our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan:

1. Act Now for a Climate-Resilient Future

Protect and restore climate-smart lands that will thrive for generations. Plant climate-resilient forests. Restore lands with an evolving climate in mind. Educate. Get people involved.



On Guemes Mountain, a carefully designed trail helps protect the sensitive balds while allowing people to enjoy the view.

2. Protect Corridors for Wildlife

To thrive, wildlife needs interconnected lands. We want to protect the connected landscapes that will sustain species. By linking forests, farms, rivers, and conservation lands, we'll also preserve options on how these lands add to ecosystem needs, and economic and community values.

3. Stewardship: Caring for Land, Together

Protecting land is just the beginning -- caring for it is forever. We're inviting our community to see stewardship as an investment in healthy ecosystems, engaged communities, and enduring beauty. We'll continue to build the long-term support needed to keep these lands thriving.

4. Conservation and Agriculture, Working Hand-in-Hand

Farms and conservation can grow together. Our innovative agricultural conservation easements give farmers the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions while protecting soil, water and habitat. We need lands far into the future that provide food and fiber and support ecosystems.

5. Shaping Policy for Lasting Impact

Conservation doesn't stop at the fence line. By helping shape public policy, we can multiply the benefits of planning decisions for all generations. From advancing green spaces and trails that link our communities to advocating for planning using best available science and local knowledge including climate impacts, we'll help advance plans and decisions that match our environment and community needs.

6. Public Access that Protects Nature First

We know people love connecting with nature. That's why we're designing public access carefully -- with wildlife and ecosystem health as the top priority. Our focus: family-friendly trails, especially near population centers, clear education on responsible use, and partnerships.

7. Expanding Our Circle of Community

Conservation is for everyone. We're broadening our outreach by providing resources in Spanish, engaging outdoor sporting communities, expanding partnerships, and deepening youth involvement through schools, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

With your help, together, we'll ensure conservation reflects -- and benefits -- the full diversity of the Skagit.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

...Nookachamps continued from page 1





Sunlight dapples the mossy floor of this newly conserved forest.

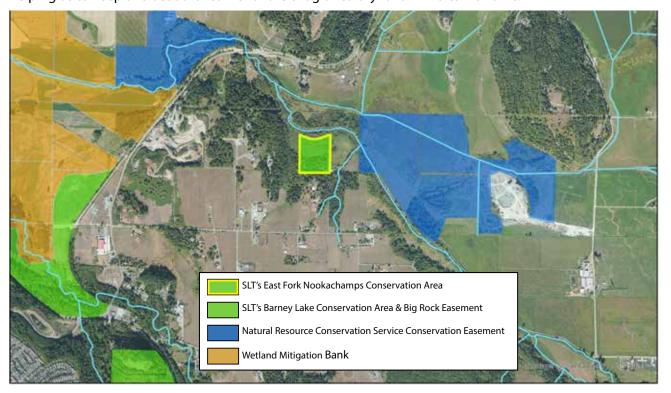
SLT staff Max Morange visits to begin making a management plan.

Our partners at Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) are also excited about this property's protection. It complements their salmon habitat restoration work upstream, where they have been removing fish blockages and replanting native species along Kennedy Creek, a small tributary feeding into the Nookachamps.

"We are working with landowners and tribal and county partners to enhance habitat for salmon, trout, lamprey, and all the other aquatic and wetland species that use this area," says SFEG's Project Lead, Yuki Reiss. "The purchase of this property by Skagit Land Trust expands our potential restoration footprint on the East Fork Nookachamps."

The purchase of this conservation area was made possible thanks to the support of our members, Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Skagit Watershed Council partners. Special thanks to Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group for connecting us with the landowners when they expressed interest in conservation.

The Nookachamps Wildlife Corridor runs from the Skagit River to southern Big Lake and beyond. Together, we've strengthened this corridor by creating a more resilient, interconnected landscape for wildlife to thrive. Thank you for helping us to keep this beautiful corner of the Skagit healthy for all who call it home.



Annual Report -- Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025

Thanks to the support from you and other members, volunteers, landowners, and partners of many kinds, we have been able to protect more than 11,000 acres and 49 miles of shoreline since Skagit Land Trust (SLT or the Trust) was founded. We have assisted in protecting thousands of acres more.

You helped the Trust finish another great year of conservation, stewardship, and community building. Following are some highlights from a deeply rewarding year.

Skagit Land Trust members supporting the Trust at our Lands We Love Social and Fundraiser.

CONSERVING LAND

Spring 2024: SLT expanded our Samish Island Conservation Area by adding a small but valuable piece of shoreline habitat. The new addition brought the total protected land on the approach and entrance to Samish Island to 171 acres.

Fall 2024: On the Cascade River near Marblemount, we purchased seven acres. This property protects 285 feet of the river and 450 feet of Lyric Creek. These are both salmonbearing. With this addition, SLT now protects 241 acres along the Cascade River, complementing other conserved lands in this Wild and Scenic River system.

Winter 2024-25: Working with a local landowner, a permanent Conservation Easement in the Birdsview area was donated to SLT, safeguarding another 122 acres of forests, fields, and farmland. These and other lands, together, function as a critical wildlife corridor. This landscape connects the Skagit River with surrounding uplands, giving elk, cougars, bears, and countless other species the space they need to move freely and adapt to changing conditions.









Spring 2025: SLT worked with landowners on Samish Bay who love their land and wanted to see all but their homesite protected. With federal grant assistance, we were able to purchase a Conservation Easement. This 128-acre property at the confluence of Edison Slough and Samish Bay is actively farmed for part of the year and then serves as bird habitat during the winter. It has 1.2 miles of marine shoreline. All these aspects are now protected under the Conservation Easement.

By conserving these lands together with thoughtful landowners, we are securing the rhythms of migration, farming, and natural processes that shape our communities and ways of life. Each conservation project is a stitch in the fabric of the Skagit, creating a landscape where nature and community can thrive side by side.

STEWARDING THE SKAGIT

This past year, SLT's Stewardship Committee, land stewards, staff, and volunteers provided thousands of hours of thoughtful care to the lands entrusted to us. Highlights include:

Worked in partnerships with multiple local organizations including WA Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Skagit River System Cooperative to plant trees, manage invasive weeds, and restore natural features of Skagit Land Trust's conservation areas.



Samish Island Restoration leadership team discusses the project.



SLT and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group volunteers team up to plant native trees at Day Creek Forest in January 2025.

Completed Phase 1 of the Samish Island Restoration Project:

In partnership with Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, we contracted Blue Coast Engineering to help us with the first phase of restoration planning. The goal of this project is to restore tidal wetlands to the site in a way that improves community resilience to coastal storms. Phase 1 broadly evaluated the feasibility of habitat restoration and identified the major ecological, structural and community resilience issues that will need to be studied and addressed in future project phases. The Phase 1 report can be found on Samish Island Conservation Area property page on the SLT website.

Hosted 28 work parties. 230 amazing work party volunteers dug out hundreds of pounds of invasive plants and planted 5,435 native trees, shrubs, and live stakes. Volunteers, land stewards, and work crews logged 2,230 hours caring for Trust lands.







Volunteers removing invasive plants at Jackman Creek (left), Fidalgo Bay Graber (center), and Skagit River South Fork (right).



Beyond planting and restoration work, there is the ongoing effort of addressing day-to-day stewardship challenges as they arise. From responding to incidents on our properties to removing abandoned vehicles, SLT staff worked on a wide range of issues and projects to ensure the lands we've protected with your help will remain healthy for generations to come.

Pictured left: Stewardship committee pays a visit to the Samish River wetlands.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

SLT's outreach programs created diverse, meaningful opportunities for over 2,250 community members of all ages to engage with nature, conservation, and each other:

167 volunteers contributed 1,365 hours to support our outreach events.

78 people participated in bird-related events at our Samish Island Conservation Area. Our Swanrises and Goodnight Swans at Barney Lake welcomed another **182 community members** to celebrate the beauty of trumpeter swans.



Skagit Land Trust staff Stacy Dahl greets second graders and chaperones on a field trip at SLT's Utopia Conservation Area.



Skagit Land Trust volunteer Libby Mills leads a birding walk at Samish Island Conservation Area.



Community members wait for trumpeter swans to take off from Barney Lake wetland.

SLT's Speaker Series drew over 175 participants, who gathered to learn from experts on the History of Environmental Change in Skagit County, Beavers in Washington State, and Hiking Close to Home.

15 community members monitored herons at our March Point Heronry, watching nests, recording when eggs were laid, and tracking chicks as they grew through the summer. Their observations told the story of a successful nesting year and gave us valuable information on local great blue herons.

SLT started a new partnership with Woodland Park Zoo. Through the Zoo's Amphibians of Washington project, volunteers gathered and logged egg mass data in iNaturalist. This data builds a statewide picture of biodiversity and gives us insight into the health of our wetlands.



Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth program participants prepare to canoe at Heart Lake.

We also **connected with 2,000 youth** through the following outreach programs:

- For the eighth year, SLT welcomed second-grade students to our Utopia Conservation Area for nature-oriented field trips.
- We coordinated six conservation-focused field trips for the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program.
- We continued our work with Mount Vernon High School's AP Environmental Science students at Barney Lake, monitoring water quality.
- We added new field trips with the Mount Baker Boys & Girls Club and with Skagit Wild & Free, a local homeschool group.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Impact By The Numbers







7,011 hours worked by **466** volunteers



92Conservation Areas & Easements managed





local youth engaged with us during events or field trips

1,500 Households supported Skagit Land Trust with a gift for local conservation



Partnered with 145 different organizations to conserve and steward land



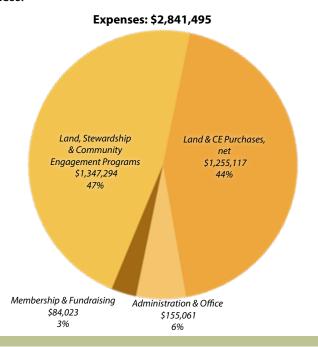
Financial Report for April 2024-March 2025

Skagit Land Trust received a clean audit for our fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. The Trust's general operating and program expenses were \$1,586,378. We also spent \$1,255,117 to purchase conservation easements and land. The Trust received Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.

SLT's funding comes from diverse sources, which helps to provide financial stability and sustainability. About 50% of our income came from 1,500 member and supporter households and businesses. Funds to purchase land were assisted by state, federal and foundation grants. The stewardship program, which cares for SLT's lands, is partially funded by interest and dividends from reserves. Member donations also help fund this work.

Not accounted for in the numbers are conservation land and conservation easement donations and the value of volunteer time -- both of which are fundamental to our success.

Revenue: \$3,010,748 Grants & Gifts Restricted to Specific Land & Stewardship Projects \$842,599 28% **Unrestricted Gifts** and Income \$666,640 **Grants for Land Purchases &** Stewardship \$998,694 33% Stewardship Funds Interest & Dividends \$392,695 Other Income \$110,120



Those We've Lost

Over the past year, the Trust lost some valued supporters, including board members, charter members, land donors, land stewards, longtime contributors, and members of our Cedar Legacy Circle. They worked with the Trust and many community partners to conserve special places across Skagit County. We honor these members for their efforts, which live on in the natural legacies they have protected for future generations.



























Top row: Charles Givens, Ellen Blair, Gregory Springs, James Armagost, Pete Dewell, Doris Kohler, Dorothy Haase Bottom row: Mac Madenwald, Mark Schuck, Renee Shain, Jim Johnson, Chris Brown, Tom Robbins Not pictured: Rebecca (Becky) Brown, Derek Hart, Robert Huet, Lowell Knutson, Gordi Middleton, Richard (Dick) Staples. We are grateful for their contributions to our community. They are remembered.

In Honor and Memorial Gifts (September 5, 2024 - September 5, 2025)

In memory of Diane Altwein Ramona Hammerly

In memory of Belulah Anderson Robert Anderson

In memory of Jim Armagost Kathryn Armagost

In memory of Susan Barrett Patricia & Neil Jorgensen

In honor of Birch Beaudet & David Wertheimer

Ann Magnano & Sheri Boddy Ellen Wertheimer & Mark Rahdert

In memory of Ronald Bernstein Keith Schreiber

In honor of Heather Bickford & Rick Haley

Veronica Hinkes

In honor and memory of Ellen Blair

Andrea Petzel **Anonymous Friends** Barbara & Ross Craigie Bill Bode & Kate Grinde Carl Minor Caryn Jorgensen Chris Gordon Craig Johnson **Daniel Rochberg**

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John Blair Julee Johnson

Kara-Lee Ruotolo & Andrew Bae Karen Phillips

Karen Troianello Katherine Bostick Kerstin (Amaradhi) Gleim

Linda Benson Liz Herron

Margaret Kammerud Margaret Wepprecht Mark Schlichting Mary & Dean Brett

Megan Rice Patricia Blair Rachel Godino

Rena Bussinger **Robin Williams** Sandra Bruton

Sarah Eisemon Soumya Sastry Stephen & Marla Morrow

Susan Bussinger Susan Wright

Tamar Shusteff Taryn Fransen

In memory of Ric Boge Kari Boge

In honor of Oceanna Boulanger Tiffany Dequaine

In honor of Michael Brondi Stephen Crider

In honor of Wendy Brown David Brown

In memory of Chris Brown Morty Cohen & Kathryn Cavil

In memory of Rebecca Brown **Dwight Small**

Jane Hadley & Roy Robinson Janet Hietter Linda Lewis Mary Bateman Richard Macdonald Shannon Phillips Spinnaker Trust

In memory of Robert Burden James Burden

In honor of Sarah Calderon & Joe Magee Dolly Chugh

In memory of Harold Christenson

Charles Christenson Karen & Doug Radcliffe

In honor of Stacy Dahl Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis

In honor of Carrie Dalton Kelly Bush & Russell Dalton

In honor of Matt Dalton Kelly Bush & Russell Dalton

In memory of Bruce Daniel Malcolm Daniel & Darryl Morrison

In honor of Robin Dearling Valerie Berg

In honor of Bob Decker Cheryl Decker

In honor of Daryll & Joyce Deritis Barbara Petersen

In memory of Sue Ehler

Leah Rice Linda Zielinski Matt & Bonnie Kerschbaum Morty Cohen & Kathryn Cavil Pattie Hutchins

In memory of Ben & Lois Engelbright Annette Woolsey & Jim Shiflett Skip & Kathy Stevens

WWW.SKAGITLANDTRUST.ORG 8 SKAGIT UPDATE In memory of Molly Bliss Epstein

Heidi & Mark Epstein

In memory of David Farrow

Christine Farrow

In memory of Rita & Don Fisher

David & Joanne Witiak

In memory of James Ford

Jim & Joyce Anderson

In memory of Joan Graves Vanderhoof

Andrew & Marie Vanderhoof

In memory of Dorothy Haase

Molly Doran & Andrew Cline

In memory of Jeff Hale

Joseph Garcia & Karen Copetas

In memory of Dave Hansen

Fran Hansen

In memory of Derek Hart

Karen Lewis-Hart

In memory of Roxann Heffelfinger

Peter Heffelfinger

In memory of Jean & Sue Ellen Heflin

Ann Chadwick Reid & Tom Theisen

In memory of Ralph Heft

Lisa & Paul Nissley

In honor of Steve Hinton

Fric Hinton

In memory of Robert Huet

Linda Castell

In memory of Roger Hulbush

Gail Corbin

In memory of John & Linda Hunt

Diane Bednarz & Peter Jepson

Marcia Hunt

Martha Wilson Steven Thompson

In honor of Marcia Hunt

James Hunt

In honor of The Hunt Family

Nathan Moore

In memory of Martha Jensen

Ken Berg & Jan Weydemeyer

In memory of Jim Johnson

Amelia Johnson-Ali Anne & Jack Middleton Hella & Hal Lee

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Luanne Pasik Tim Manns & Brenda Cunningham

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Gordon & Barbara Jonsen

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In memory of Lowell Knutson

Esther Sunde Gayle West

Georganne Robertson Jerry Sells & Linda Larson

Kristine Knutson

Lawrence O'Donnell

Nancy Winder

In memory of Gerald Koffel

Jane Koffel-Jones

In honor of Sandra Krot & Peter

Remick

Mary Ellla & Lee Luft

In honor of Deron Lord

Elyse Lord

In memory of Tom Loveiov

Phoebe Barnard & John Bowey

In honor of Kevin Lyon

Gwen Piercey

In memory of Mac Madenwald

Chuck Howell & Charlene Day

Clay Wilcox

Gerri & John Gunn

John & Marie Erbstoeszer

Nancy Estvold

Phil & Carolynne Wright

Steve & Robyn Johnson

Teri & John McLachlan

In honor of Natalie Magnus

Keith Magnus

In memory of Claudia Maple

Charles Maple & Family

In memory of Roland Matthews

Linda Ballantine

In memory of Anne McCracken

Scott & Susan Magorien

In memory of Mic McDonald

Miles McDonald

In memory of Rodger Melville

Marion Melville

In honor of Brooks & Kelly Middleton

Anne & Jack Middleton

In memory of Gordi Middleton

Judith Middleton

In memory of Margaret Murphy

Anne & Dennis Murphy-Malinak

In memory of Gene Murphy

Homer & Rosette Dawson

In memory of Sean Murphy

Paulette Murphy

In memory of Archie & Jo Nelson

Eric Nelson

In memory of Dick Nelson

Linda Nelson

In memory of Fran Odden

Miriam Odden

In honor of Therese Ogle

Birch Beaudet Jane Brandt

In honor of Ann & Dennis Olason

Nadene Frazier-Westphall

In memory of Simon Ottenberg

Carol Ottenberg

In memory of Kit Rawson

Karen & Jim Vedder

Kate & Wayne Lunceford Katherine Rawson & Bernard duBreuil

In honor of Graham Rawson

Kimberlei Rawson

In memory of Bill & Betty Rockwell

Ken & Catherine Rockwell

In memory of Leslie Salkeld

David & Kerrie Salkeld

In honor of Mark & Marlene Schuck

Liz & Michael Bart

In memory of Delbert & Enid Sell

Sue Sell

In memory of Gregory Springs

Patricia Kuxhaus Sally Pagh

In memory of Richard Staples

Victoria Abrams

In memory of Arnold & Mary Stewart

Cheryl Stewart

In honor of Swan Road Neighborhood

Walter & Cathy Pfahl

In memory of Richard & Erik **Tjersland**

Shirley Tjersland

In honor of Jim Walker

Skyline Garden Club

In honor of Dan West

Marjorie Lucks & Dorian West

In memory of James Wilkie

Anne Wells

In memory of Jess & Maude Willard

Neudorfer Foundation

In memory of Kyle Willis

Linda Speck & Ken Willis

In honor of Ken & Anne Winkes Mary Winkes

In memory of Julian & Gertrude

Yearsley John Yearsley

In memory of Patricia Young

Diane Welp

In memory of Guthrie Zempel

Diane Kaplan

In memory of Dale Zeretzke

In memory of Gloria Zillig Elizabeth & Michael Jackets

Joyce Davis Spector

Current Business Supporters & Partners

Business Supporters

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Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Arne Svendsen Trucking Inc.

Banner Bank Blue Coast Engineering **Buri Funston Mumford PLLC**

Calvoso Restoration Christianson's Nursery

Convergence Financial Partners Dunbar Gardens Eco-Restore Ecological Consulting &

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NW Habitat Management ReCompose Re-Use Consulting Samish Indian Nation Schuh Farms Seaport Books Silfab Solar Skagit Audubon Society Skagit Law Group PLLC Skagit Valley Food Co-op Seattle Opera Skagit Wild Bird Supply Stratum Group The Eastman Company The Stone Cottage Union Block Bistro

Valley Vintage Watermark Book Co Wiggins Nursey

Grants, Foundations, & Project Partners

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Anacortes Parks & Recreation Anonymous Foundation(s) **Beavers Northwest** Benevity Online Giving **Catholic Housing Services**

Coast Salish Youth Coalition

Skagit County Dike Districts 5 & 12 Dog Woods **Ducks Unlimited**

FarthCorps Edgewater Garden Club of Samish Island Evergreen Islands Fidalgo Fly Fishers

Friends of the Forest George & Audrey Rasmussen Family Foundation Ghost Inspector, Inc Glacier Peak Institute Guemes Island Ferry Trail Project

Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund Heron Forage Monitoring Program

Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation

Leadership Skagit Linnemann Family Foundation Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Mount Vernon Police Department National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Natural Resources Conservation Service Neudorfer Foundation North Cascades Institute

Northwest WA Estate Planning Council PACCAR Foundation Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve PayPal Giving Fund Puget Sound Energy

Puget Sound Energy Foundation Salish Sea School

Samish Island Community Center

Samish Indian Nation

Seattle City Light

Samish Island Resilient Access Committee San Juan Preservation Trust

Skagit Audubon Society Skagit Conservation District Skagit County Parks and Recreation Skagit County Public Works Skagit Drainage and Irrigation Districts

Consortium LLC

Skagit Climate Science Consortium Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Skagit Marine Resources Committee Skagit River Bald Eagle Action Team Skagit River System Cooperative Skagit Watershed Council

Skyline Garden Club Spinnaker Trust

Starbucks Neighborhood Grants

Starlight Fund

Stillaguamish Tribe, Natural Resources Dept

Temcov Foundation The Burning Foundation The Nature Conservancy **Towne Foundation**

Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Dept.

Tulip Valley Gardeners United Way of King County Upper Skagit Indian Tribe USDA Farm Service Agency **US Forest Service**

Washington Association of Land Trusts

WA Dept of Ecology

WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife WA Dept of Natural Resources

WA Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program WA Native Plant Society, Salal Chapter Washington Opportunity Fund WA Recreation and Conservation Office WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board

WA Service Corps WA State Parks – Deception Pass State Park

WA State Conservation Corps

Washington Wild

Washington Trails Association Whatcom Community Foundation

Whatcom Land Trust Woodland Park Zoo

Current Individual Members

Every effort was made to ensure all members are listed correctly. If you discover any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we can make a correction.

Djana Bock & Mark Shurtleff

Teresa & Leo Bodensteiner

Margaret Boettcher & Lucia

Susan Bocek

Enriquez

Janet Boge

Kari Boge

Judith Bogataj

Megan Bogue

Robert Bohlin

Dennis Bolton

Ros Bond & Jill Marsden

Pauline & Bill Bonner

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Joanne Abelson & Chris Goelz Victoria Abrams Erin Adair Brian Adams & Kecia Fox Don & Sue Adams Gordon Adams **BJ Adams Evelyn Adams**

Robert Adler & Ruth Bachrach Mohamed Ahmed Kathleen & Thor Albro Kathryn Alexandra

Eric Allan Susan Allen Jill Allen Bruce Allen Nick Allison

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Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter

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MJ Andrak Montserrat Andrude **Anonymous Donors Barry Antler**

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Dennis & Christine Barnes Joev Barragan Anne & Bob Barry Liz & Michael Bart Claudia Basso Anne Basye Mary Bateman

Birch Beaudet & David Wertheimer

Miles Becker Diane Bednarz & Peter Jepson Lvnn Beebe & Bill Halstenrud

Cookson Beecher Allison Beezer & Cynthia Ferrucci

Patti Benson Linda Benson Sydney Benson Ken Berg & Jan Weydemeyer

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Hannah Black Claude & Annie Blackburn Megan Blackerd

Amber Blackwood Jenna Blade John Blair Jay Blair Patricia Blair David & Chervll Blair Cathryn & Graeme Blake Mary Blanchard

Robert & Marie Blits Elizabeth Blosten & Tom Linder Brian Bluhm

Steven & Kathryn Bluhm

Paul Blum & Alison Zak

Noah Booker Teddie Bordner Carol Boss Michael Boss

Brett Bossert Katherine Bostick **Bob & Nina Boudinot David Boudinot** Marlene Boudreaux **Christine Bourne** Robert & Victoria Bourns Renate Bowers Ashley Bowie Jon & Ann Bowman

Bonnie Bowman Judy Bown Jodi Boyden Janet & Tom Boyhan Evie Bovkan Anne Braaten Jenna Brade Ryan Bradley Lucy Bradshaw **Dorothy Bradshaw**

Cynthia Bradshaw Mary Brady Mariana Brandt Jane Brandt

Kalman Brauner & Amy Carlson Phyllis Bravinder Martha Bray & John Day

Alan Breen Lee Brei Heather Brennan Lisa Brenskelle Mary & Dean Brett Peggy Bridgman Rose & John Brierley Barbara Brock

Richard Brocksmith & Eleven Vexler

Walter Brodie & Linda Versage Ann Brodie-Knope

Frik Brookes Jodi Broughton Paul & Mary Brower Jeff Brown & Margaret Catzen-

Kristin Brown & Neil Joyce Michael Brown & Michelle

McEachern

Mildred Brown & Bob Salmons Gary & Susan Brown Joyce Brown

David Brown Wendy Brown Patricia Brown Richard & Jean Brown Hannah Brown Jessica Brown Kathleen Brueger

Cath Brunner & Eric Riedel Paulette Brunner

70e Brunson Sandra Bruton Joe Bucek & Mary Heath Kurt & Janice Buchanan

John Buchanan William & Elisabeth Buchman

Phyllis Buckridge Sidney Budd Jennifer Bunke Karen Bunney Sarah Burch James Burden Joseph Burdock Phillip Burger Cvnthia Burica Jeffrey & Robin Burn Kelly Bush & Russell Dalton Rena Bussinger

Susan Bussinger Suzanne Butler Glenn & Janice Butler Fund Richard Butler Coleman Byrnes Yeni Cabellero

Ann & Carl Cady Laura Cailloux Ann & Donald Caldwell Samantha Calkins Ron Campbell Bonnie Campbell Teala Canehel Debra Cannon Rebecca Cannon Stefanie Caranza Augusto Cardoso Bob Carey & Kari Odden

Janice & Alan Carle

Beth Carlyle-Askew

Tommy Carney BI Carol

Tom Carpenter & Marina King Katie Carson & Chuck

Groesbeck

Betty Carteret & Eric Shen Nichole Carubia & Caleb

Reynolds Joan Casev Bea & Jim Cashetta Kim Cashon Smith Linda Castell Elixa Castellanos Rocio Castillo-Foell Janet Cater Kimberly Cauvel

Mark & Penny Chapman Erin Charles Anne Chase-Stapleton

Lindsay Chavarn Lessa Chiaraluce Anne Childs & Stephen

Thornton Emma Chinchak Kathleen & James Chorey Shirley Christenson Charles Christenson Lauren & Keaton Christian

Dolly Chuah

Jim Ciecko & Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko

Tony Cienfuegos Junior Bill & Edie Clark Robert & Shirley Clark

Jeff Clark Kim Clarkin

Dionne & Richard Clasen

Steve Clay Linda Cline Clare Cloutier Harold & Martha Clure

Eileen Coan & Ross McConahey Galen Cobbs Carolyn Cochran

Rob Coffey & Deborah North Morty Cohen & Kathryn Cavil

Julia Cohen Asher & Cindy Cohen Wendy Cole

Maggie & Larry Collinge Alice Collingwood Mike & Cindy Collins Bettiiean Collins

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Encouraging a Sense of Place in the Skagit

It has been a busy summer for Skagit Land Trust's Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program. Local youth and their families biked the Kulshan Trail to downtown Mount Vernon during the Tulip Festival, paddled Glacier Peak Institute canoes across Heart Lake (below left), set sail with the Salish Sea School on a naturalist-led boat trip (bottom right), and spent the night immersed in nature at North Cascades Institute's Mountain School (below right).





Through these field trips, SLT staff worked to build safe spaces for participants to step outside of their comfort zones and connect with nature in new ways. While canoeing at Heart Lake, some children seemed hesitant -- they had not been in a canoe before and were unsure about joining the adventure. Several kids felt the same way as they embarked on the 'big canoe' at Mountain School.

Staff were able to support participants as they braved these new experiences. Each trip offered more than just an adventure. They helped youth deepen their sense of place in the Skagit, encouraging a connection to local ecosystems, landscapes, and one another.

Through shared experiences outdoors, the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program supports the next generation in becoming adults who care for the places where they live.



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Improving Wildlife Habitat and Community Access

This summer, the Trust's stewardship team advanced several exciting projects:

- Phase Two of the Samish Island Restoration Project began. This phase includes undertaking detailed modeling to assess salt marsh restoration potential.
- Staff completed an accessibility audit of six of our trail networks. This audit lays the groundwork for clearer communications and other improvements that will make it easier for more people to explore the lands we protect.
- Planning began on an upgraded Land Steward Program that will better support volunteers who care for our properties.
- The Trust partnered with many conservation partners to plant trees, manage weeds, and sustain past restoration efforts.







Each of these projects and collaborations supports healthier habitats and deeper connections between people and places in the Skagit.

Above: Volunteers survey their work at Cascade River South. Left: Volunteers pause for a break from trail building at Big Rock. Bottom left: Samish Island work party participants gather for a planting demonstration.

Bottom right: Volunteers pose proudly with invasive plants they removed from Utopia Conservation Area.



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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.

SKAGIT LAND TRUST

Saving Land for Tomorrow

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Upcoming Events

Salmon-Spotting and Nature Walk @ **Cumberland Creek Conservation Area** Saturday, September 27th @12PM-3PM

Blue-Tube Removal Work Party @ **Tope Ryan Conservation Area** Friday, October 17th @ 9AM-12PM

Fish War Film Screening @ Lincoln TheaterSaturday, November 15th **@** 7PM

Invasive Removal Work Party

@ Minkler Lake Conservation Area
Friday, November 21st @ 9AM - 12PM



The lands conserved and protected by Skagit Land Trust have been inhabited and stewarded by numerous tribes and Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We recognize and respect the inherent, indigenous, and treaty rights of the Coast Salish People who have deep and abiding connections to these places. We seek to partner with local tribes as we conserve and care for these lands and waters.