

# Skagit Land Trust



2011 Annual Report

## 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.

## CORE VALUES

To accomplish our mission Skagit Land Trust works in a manner that reflects fundamental shared values. We believe in:

**Sound Ecosystems.** The basis for all our conservation work begins with the understanding that a high quality of life requires diverse and resilient ecosystems.

**Sustainable Stewardship.** We strive to be good land stewards committed to the long-term sustainability of native species and natural ecological processes.

**Engaged Volunteers.** Only with the passionate and dedicated efforts of volunteers at all levels of our organization will we be able to fully accomplish our goals.

**Involved Members.** We value our members' ideas and support and strive to keep all members engaged and informed.

**Effective Collaboration.** We recognize that the best conservation is accomplished by working with people and organizations toward common goals.

**Integrity.** We adhere to the highest ethical standards in carrying out our mission, strive for transparency in our operations and accept full accountability for the decisions we make.

On the cover, Sumner Lake (purchased in December 2010 by Skagit Land Trust): (top photo) Keith Wiggers, (insert) Christine Kitch, (Back cover top photo) Christine Kitch, Garry oak.

Printed by Premier Graphics on 100% pc paper.

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April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Members and Partners,

We live in a time where pivotal events are taking place and the future is not set in stone. This can be frightening when thinking of the effects of dwindling resources and an ever-expanding population. But it also means there is opportunity to help shape the future. For most of us, our largest impact is local – and fortunately conserving local lands is exactly what we all do as members, volunteers, staff, board and partners of Skagit Land Trust.

Our perspective at the Trust has always been to take the long view. We encourage you to view the Annual Report through this lens. When we select lands to conserve, we ask ourselves, how will this land add to the community now and in 100 years? Of course we can't predict 100 years out, but we can look at history and surmise a few things: Desirable urban areas around the world have substantial open space in them and surrounding them; We can't save wildlife without saving the land wildlife lives on; Land conservation is not a luxury – it provides society with many life-sustaining resources such as clean air and water and life support systems for food and fiber.



The heart of our mission is *Protect the Best First*. Protecting special places today is a no brainer. It also makes good business sense since it's a lot more cost effective to protect these places now, than to restore them 30 years from now. We also conserve some diamonds in the rough. These lands aren't in the best of natural shape, yet could be and are needed for the big picture. We are grateful to our stewards and volunteers who look after our lands and help to restore the ones in need. Volunteers and wonderful partnerships, such as the one we had this past year with The Washington Trails Association, also make key

conservation areas accessible. We are pleased to say that of the hundreds of volunteer photos we had to choose from, there was not one sad or mad face... some muddy faces, yes.

Our financials show that you've been standing with us during the recession and indeed, our number of supporters has grown. We cannot thank you enough. There will most certainly be fewer grants and less public funding available for conservation for the foreseeable future. The future of beautiful Skagit County depends to a large degree on the foresight and generosity of you and other visionaries who are willing to continue giving so generously. We encourage you to also consider new ways to make gifts, such as a planned gift or legacy gift. To help you understand these options and how these gifts would be used to save land, we have a new website <http://estateplanning.skagitlandtrust.org/>. A card is enclosed for reference or to share.

Yet most of all, this Annual Report is to thank you all. These are your funds and your volunteer hours and this is what you are protecting, forever. Thank you so much.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Molly Doran in black ink.

Bob Boudinot, President, Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of Robert Boudinot in black ink.

# LAND CONSERVATION



Photo: Thais Armstrong



above: Corkery Conservation Easement, Samish Island. right: Landry & Susan Corkery and family added 18 acres to their existing 8-acre easement, protecting a rare Garry Oak stand and extensive marine shoreline and forest. bottom right: Miceli Conservation Easement on Padilla Bay donated in December 2010. below: Harlequin Ducks coastal habitat is in the shallow intertidal zone along rocky coastlines.



Photo: Phil Green

The Trust completed nine conservation projects resulting in 350 acres of land protected. Two of these projects created new Skagit County parks, two protected marine shoreline and rare flora, three protected wildlife habitat for salmon, birds and animals, one conserved the Sumner Lake wetland complex, and one expanded protection of The Anacortes Community Forestlands. The Trust worked with over 20 partners to bring these projects to completion.



Photo: Christine Kitch



Photo: John Scurlock

clockwise from upper left:  
Volunteer Louise Kulzer, water quality specialist, helps measure pH in a bog on a project site. A field trip to Pressentin Ranch on the Skagit River protected in May of 2010 with partners the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Seattle City Light. left: 178-acre Sauk-Suiattle Conservation Area protected with a SRFB grant with partners The Skagit River System Cooperative, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe & Skagit Watershed Council.

# STEWARDSHIP

Skagit Land Trust manages 22 conservation areas that it owns and monitors and defends an additional 32 conservation easements. The Trust also restores and provides public access on some land. In the past year the Trust installed three public trails at conservation areas and accomplished numerous stewardship tasks, including: developing property management plans, tree plantings, invasive species control, general property maintenance and ecological inventory data collection. Additionally, we conducted quarterly monitoring of Trust conservation areas and annual monitoring of conservation easements. 635 individuals assisted the Trust in these and other stewardship activities resulting in 3,530 hours of donated time.



Photo: Christine Kitch



left page from top: John Day, Rick Machin & Michael Kirshenbaum remove a damaged bridge at our Tope Ryan Conservation Area; Volunteer Dante Maybruck reporting for duty; Hal Lee helps to construct the Hegg-Benson trail at Barr Creek; Thistle-pullers Tim Manns and Regina Wandler confront the world's largest garter snake. right page from top left: Marty Barney leads a hike up the newly completed Guemes Mountain trail; Volunteer Rosemary Seifried enjoys the camas on Guemes Mountain; Long-time chair of our stewardship committee, Ralph Heft, passed away in the fall of 2010. The Ralph Heft Stewardship Reserve Fund was named to honor his significant contributions to the Trust's mission and stewardship work; Hurn Field land stewards Steffany Raynes & Lin Skavdahl; Biologist Don Gay leads a field trip at our Hurn Field Conservation Area.



Thankyouourmanydedicatedvolunteers



# OUTREACH



From top left, clockwise: Invaluable volunteers John Freeman, Ellie Rogers & Libby Mills at the annual picnic; Photographer extraordinaire Christine Kitch at Barr Creek; Auction Co-Chair, Fonda Downs helped lead the Trust to a record auction year; SLT Stewardship awards were presented to Washington Trails Association, Guemes Mountain project leaders Alan Carter Mortimer, Pete Dewell, Arlen Bogaards (not pictured) & volunteer Marty Barney; 2011 Blue Heron recipient Marlene Moore being served by board member Steve Johnson & Robyn Johnson; Jane Zillig leads a tour of the new Nichol's Bar County Park with Trust members and Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen. The Trust partnered with Skagit County & the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on this project.



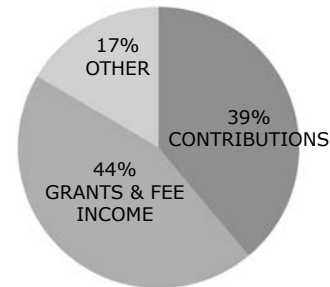
# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011 AND 2010 (REVIEWED)

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2011	2010
Cash	313,337	289,463
Pledges, receivables, other	19,450	62,966
Investments (for land & stewardship projects)	1,078,769	1,152,771
Conservation Land	4,275,065	3,819,834
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,686,621</b>	<b>5,325,034</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>24,103</b>	<b>24,738</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>5,662,518</b>	<b>5,300,296</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>5,686,621</b>	<b>5,325,034</b>

## REVENUE

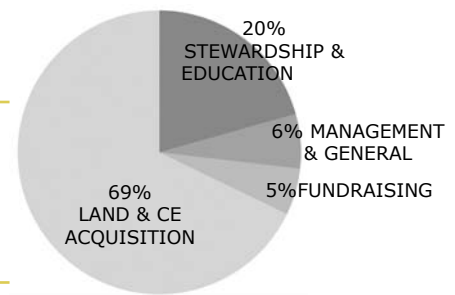


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### PUBLIC SUPPORT & OTHER REVENUE

Contributions (cash and in-kind) - unrestricted	228,927	185,728
Contributions - restricted for special projects	40,797	293,259
Grant and fee income	361,576	409,923
Investment Income & interest	127,268	172,170
Special events (net)	46,535	38,694
Sales (Natural Skagit, etc)	7,220	17,770
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>812,323</b>	<b>1,117,544</b>

## EXPENSES



### EXPENSES

Land, stewardship and education programs	357,847	317,255
Management, fundraising & general	92,256	137,496
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>450,103</b>	<b>454,751</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>362,220</b>	<b>662,793</b>

### CAPITAL PURCHASES

<b>Conservation Land Purchases</b>	<b>455,231</b>	<b>728,989</b>
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These abbreviated financial statements for 2011 are derived from the independent auditor's review submitted to the board of trustees by Jones & Associates LLC, CPAs presenting the financial position of Skagit Land Trust as of March 31, 2011.

## FINANCIAL NOTES

1. Skagit Land Trust purchased 41-acre Pressentin Ranch for \$244,646. 85% of the funds for purchase came from a grant from the Skagit Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to protect Chinook salmon habitat. Seattle City Light provided 15% in-kind match.
2. 45 acres were added to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands bringing the total protected by conservation easements held by Skagit Land Trust to 1680 acres. For each \$1000 raised by the City of Anacortes for the conservation easement program, Skagit Land Trust receives \$25 per acre for monitoring and enforcement. These funds are restricted to stewardship.
3. At Sumner Lake, the Trust purchased 28 acres in a combination of fee land and conservation easement for \$213,041. Funding came from an in lieu of fee settlement and private donations.
4. A trail easement was donated by a neighbor of Guemes Mountain; 18 acres were donated to the existing 8-acre Corkery Conservation Easement on Samish Island; The Trust received the Miceli Conservation Easement on Padilla Bay through a bequest. Per industry standards, the Trust does not book a value for donated easements in our financial records.
5. The Trust secured \$776,000 of SRFB grant funds and worked with landowners to buy or have donated an additional 179 acres of conservation land. We arranged for other agencies to own these properties. Staff time and due diligence to buy the land are recorded as program expenses but the value of the land itself is recorded with the agency now owning the property.

# Thank you to our supporters

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## SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW



Photo: Suzanne Fogarty

### Good bye Lee Mann We miss you.

Over 50 years ago Lee Mann climbed above Cascade Pass and slept under the stars. In the morning hawks were soaring on the ridges, and one lands "...about 10 or 12 feet above my head. And he looked in my eyes, and we had this little exchange. I looked at him and he looked at me, and it seemed to go on for a long time. And finally he's seen enough, and he took to his wings. I thought "That's really amazing!" And I sat up, and here were these beautiful mountains all around, and it was a crystal morning, and a dew had settled overnight, and every blade of grass, every piece of heather was covered with millions and millions of diamonds.

*And I was sitting there in this wonderland with millions of diamonds around me! And here I was - I had it all to myself, it was all mine! And suddenly something in my heart just changed. And I knew that my life was going to be different from there on out. I knew that my life was going to have something to do with the mountains."*

From Lee Mann's talk at Skagit Land Trust's annual meeting March 2010 in Anacortes. The full recording can be found at: <http://americanalps.blogspot.com/2011/07/lee-mann-passing.html>. Lee Mann passed away in July of 2011 after an extraordinary career helping conservation and people as a photographer, teacher and humanitarian. The Trust is honored to be the recipient of the Lee Mann Memorial Fund whose contributions help to protect more of the lands that Lee loved.