## **Funds Distribution Report**

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

8802 27th Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

## **Recipient Organization:**

## **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

#### Address:

1429 Avenue D, PMB 198 Snohomish, WA 98290

#### **Contact:**

(425) 610-8027

https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org

### **Organization's General Goals:**

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Date of Award: Level:

2017 Q1 \$5,001 to \$7,500

### **Specific Use for This Award:**

For more information, please read the attached report from Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



425-610-8027 www.pilchuckaudubon.org

May 23, 2018

Ms. Marilyn Sheldon Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund 8802 – 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Final Report by Pilchuck Audubon Society Smart Growth Program for June 2017-18

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

The mission of Pilchuck Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of the Earth's biological diversity. The mission of the Smart Growth Program is to work with Snohomish County local governments to achieve more livable, sustainable urban communities and protection of our resource and rural lands, air and water quality and wildlife habitat through education, outreach, advocacy and activism regarding land use comprehensive planning and development regulations. We represent over 1200 citizens in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

Thank you for the grant we received in June 2017 for to help support the work of the Smart Growth Program. This letter is our final report about the goals we set out to achieve for this grant and the outcomes.

Goal 1: Ensure new comprehensive plan policies and regulations for Snohomish County and its cities meet the goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA) that will stop unnecessary urban growth area expansions, provide for more sustainable growth opportunities, ensure protection of our rural and resource lands, and direct more growth into areas prime for transit-oriented redevelopment in cities and in the county's urban center areas.

A great deal of my time during this grant cycle was spent on several comprehensive plan issues. The most important, and which I spent the most time, was two private landowner requests to amend the comprehensive plan to allow for around 280 acres to be included in the Southwest Urban Growth Area (UGA), taking rural land and turning it into more low density single family residential development, which would create more transportation and environmental issues,

and which clearly did not meet the criteria of the GMA, the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040, Snohomish County's countywide planning policies or the county's own General



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Policy Plan. In addition, the proponents of the UGA expansion proposals put in a proposal to change a policy in the county's countywide planning policies to allow for UGA land swaps, an attempt to allow for the 280 UGA expansion proposals by reducing existing UGA boundaries in other areas of the county. The Smart Growth Director worked hard to stop these two unnecessary urban growth area expansions and to stop the policy change. After attending numerous county briefings, 5 public hearings, sending out action alerts for comment to our membership and supporters, writing and publishing and op-ed to the Everett Herald in collaboration with Futuewise, and meeting and advocating our position with each of the council members, we were successful in stopping both of these attempts that would have increased urban sprawl onto our rural and resource lands.

Another issue that came to conclusion on May 23, 2018 was the Multi-Residential Rezone along Highway 99 between Everett City Limits to the north and State Route 525 to the south, that will provide more transit oriented development, affordable housing, and more density using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) credits to protect Snohomish County agricultural lands. to work on that began three years ago, and which we hope will be concluded at their May 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing. We worked with Forterra and others to ensure the new regulations would be adopted in 2018 after years of delay. This is a first step in more rezones along this important transit corridor, especially with Community Transit's investments in their SWIFT rapid bus lines, and its connections to Sound Transit and Light Link Rail station in Lynnwood.

We also are working with Futurewise on comments for upcoming public hearings with Snohomish County planning commission and county council on the changes the county will be implementing in light of the Hirst decision.

Futurewise and Pilchuck Audubon Society have just filed an appeal to the Court of Appeals on Snohomish County's 2015 Critical Area Regulations update, on two issues: landslide regulations and water availability in rural areas.

Goal 2: Continue work as a member of the Executive Committee for the Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS). The SLS has been together working diligently on net gains for both salmon habitat protection and farming in the Stillaguamish and Skykomish-Snohomish River basins since 2010. The Smart Growth Executive Director was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the committee in January 2018. The Executive Committee includes a balance of both salmon habitat restoration interests (Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribes, Ducks Unlimited and Pilchuck Audubon Society) with the agriculture interests (currently farmers Brian Bookey, Tristan Klesick,



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and Monte Marti, Executive Director of the Snohomish Conservation District). Terry Williams and Trian Klesick are the co-chairs. The committee has accomplished and are continuing to work on reach-level scale projects and funding sources to achieve net gains. We recently established a website through Snohomish County where we can better educate and inform the public of the work we have done and want to continue to do. That website is <a href="mailto:snohomishcountywa.gov/2194/Sustainable-Lands-Strategy">snohomishcountywa.gov/2194/Sustainable-Lands-Strategy</a>.

# Goal 3: Continue work on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) opportunities as part of the stakeholder committee called Everett Transit District Alliance (ESDA).

The work of ESDA is evolving and expanding. We recently applied for and received our federal non-profit status. Our membership is currently at 53, consisting of businesses, organizations, special districts and interested parities, who are working towards transforming the Everett Station District into a sustainable transit oriented development neighborhood, that will include affordable housing, commercial development bringing needed services to the area, and making the neighborhood better connected to the other areas of the city. becoming a non-profit organization and increasing our membership and networks. We started a new website at <a href="https://www.everettstationdistrict.com">www.everettstationdistrict.com</a>. With the passage of Sound Transit 3, knowing that light rail will reach Everett in the next 15 years, ESDA is in a unique position to influence decision making and investments in the area. The experience the Smart Growth Director brings to the committee in terms of coalition building, comprehensive plan policy and development regulations, advocacy and outreach, working with elected decision makers and capacity building of an organization has been appreciated by the committee.

Goal 4: serving as one of the few NGO representatives in our area on the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Implementation Committee for Puget Sound Partnership, working to restore Puget Sound.

While still a member, I have not been as active on this committee as I would have like during the last year. Funding issues have prevented me from working on all the goals this last year.

Goal 5: Working toward establishing a Hedgerow pilot project to protect water quality and provide bird, fish and other wildlife habitat.

While this continues to be an important issue for Pilchuck Audubon Society, funding issues have forced us to delay this work.



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If you have any questions about this report or would like more detailed information about anything, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 425-923-8625 or email me at <a href="mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org">execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>.

Again, thank you for all your support over the years, and I hope we will continue to receive support in 2018.

Most sincerely,

Kristin Kelly

Smart Growth Executive Director

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execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org