



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Skagit Land Trust

ADDRESS: 1020 South 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

CONTACT: (360) 428-7878; <http://www.skagitlandtrust.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Skagit Land Trust conserves wildlife habitat, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space, wetlands, and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award was used for operational costs.

For more information, please see the attached report by Skagit Land Trust.

All photos submitted courtesy of Skagit Land Trust.



disclaimer: These reports are at times summaries of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

All photos submitted courtesy of Skagit Land Trust.





August 1 , 2016

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Attention: Marilyn Sheldon
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271 USA

Re: \$3000 grant, final report
Q2 2015 14.2.

Dear Marilyn and all of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund,

Thank you for the generous [REDACTED] operating grant that Skagit Land Trust (The Trust) received on August 20th, 2015. This helped us conserve, strategically, the most important natural areas in Skagit County for the future. In 24 years Skagit Land Trust has conserved 7000 acres of land, including over 33 miles of shoreline. With your help, this past year we added two more miles of shoreline and 170 acres of conserved land. We restored over 300 acres of land for wildlife habitat. We engaged in collaborative conservation with over 33 partners. **Our work this past year assisted by you impacts over 2300 people annually** who visit these lands and or voluntary to steward them. People of all ages use our lands. **We have an extensive youth stewardship program with over 224 participants this past year.** Of course all of the Pacific Northwest community and the fish and wildlife who we share this earth with, benefit from conservation of natural land. The board and staff of Skagit Land Trust are grateful to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for the major role you play. Our combined conservation successes assists our entire community, the wildlife the land supports and future generations. Thank you.

I would like to share with you a few **examples of how your support helped** make this an outstanding, innovative year for Skagit Land conservation. Here are several of our recent goals and examples of completed projects, helped by your grant.

Goal: Ramp up collaborative conservation

Working to Protect Elk Habitat in Skagit County

Skagit Land Trust is one of the key landowners of elk habitat in the Skagit Valley. This past year we added two properties used by elk and we worked to improve elk habitat. We work in cooperation with others to ensure there is an adequate and healthy North Cascades elk population in the Skagit. Two of our most important partners are the Stillaguamish Tribe and the Tulalip Tribes natural resource programs. We permitted these programs to use our properties for elk collaring and have received excellent information for them on data collected on the health, movement, habits, numbers, and range of the herd. This helped us focus on where else we should conserve land to help elk and alleviate elk/human conflicts. We also worked with the tribes to design plans to enhance habitat on several of our conservation areas. Finally, we participated in public processes - including contacting the Governor's office, DFWF and our state representatives - to make the case why **decisions on elk in the Skagit must be science-based.**



Goal: Increase Conservation of Lands in Need of Restoration:

Protecting and Restoring land on the wild Cascade River

Size of the property does not always equal the impact of conservation. The Trust manages over a mile of the beautiful Cascade River, so it may not seem like headline news that we purchased 4.5 acres of land along the river this past year. But pictures tell the story. This small property had three buildings, many trailers, cars - all in disrepair - leaking septic systems and an enormous amount of trash. All of this was headed for the river. After buying the property, we demolished all structures and removed tons of debris from site. We replanted the river shoreline with native vegetation so

that this property will add to the ecological integrity of the Cascade River instead of threatening it. The scenic Cascade River lies on the edge of the National Forest leading to popular Cascade Pass in North Cascades National Park. **The river provides critical habitat for Spring and Summer Chinook, Bull Trout and Steelhead as well as Coho, Sockeye, and Pink salmon.**



Goal: Connect People and Nature

Protected land for a new trail and wildlife corridor on Fidalgo Island

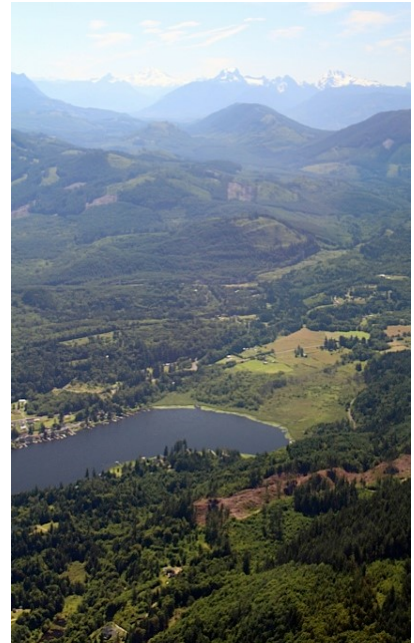
A trail and wildlife corridor project - long a community dream - now connects the Deception Pass State Park to the Anacortes Community Forestlands. The new Tursi Trail, named after Anacortes resident John Tursi who came to the area as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps and helped expand conservation locally, will extend the park's Pass Lake Trail to the southern reach of the Forest Lands. Skagit Land Trust, Skagit County Parks and Recreation and Deception Pass State Park worked with local landowners for almost five years to acquire voluntary trail easements and key properties for this trail. Volunteer and professional installed the trail in the spring of 2016.



Goal: Increase ecosystem-based conservation projects

Big Lake's Wetlands Protected as a Conservation Area

Skagit Land Trust purchased 67 acres of critical wetland habitat at the south end of Big Lake in the spring of 2016 and is managing it as a conservation area for salmon, steelhead, birds and amphibians. **This is our fourth conservation area in the Nookachamps.** At the intersection where Lake Creek coming from Lake McMurray flows into Big Lake, the land looks like the swamps of story books. Skunk cabbage leaves reach thigh-high, ferns and mushrooms adorn half-sunken logs, and birds swoop over the shallow waters looking for lunch. These are some of the largest remaining intact wetlands in the Nookachamps watershed. The combination of extensive emergent, scrub shrub and forested wetlands as well as the numerous braided creeks running through the wetlands, provide breeding and feeding areas for numerous neo-tropical migrant birds and waterfowl, as well as resident bird species. The creeks themselves hold high quality steelhead and Coho habitat. Based on historic photos, the wetlands appear to have been undisturbed over quite some time. This is an exceptional opportunity for conservation.



Goal: Expand protection of unique and sensitive wildlife habitats

March Point Heronry Conservation Area

A 17- acre forest on Fidalgo Island's March Point is the location of the largest Great Blue Heron rookery in the Western United States, hosting over 500 nest sites and 2000 birds. The Trust has owned and managed 3.5 acres of this forest as a wildlife sanctuary for decades however only 1/3 of the nests are on our land. After almost a decade of negotiations, this past year we successfully added a 5-acre conservation easement on an adjacent property and negotiating a 4 acre permanent protection agreement with another neighboring landowner. In all, 80% of the nesting habitat will be conserved through these actions. Skagit Land Trust has a well developed citizen science monitoring program for this heronry which will now encompass the majority of nesting habitat.



All of us at Skagit Land Trust thank you and all of the Tulalip Tribes and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for your help and support. You are making a large difference to the natural areas of Skagit County and the Skagit Watershed and the people and wildlife who call it home. Thank you so much.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly D." followed by a horizontal line.

Molly Doran
Executive Director, Skagit Land Trust