



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Whatcom Land Trust

Address:
412 N Commercial St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Mailing Address:
PO Box 6131
Bellingham, WA 98227

Contact:
(360) 650-9470
www.whatcomlandtrust.org

Organization's General Goals:

The mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.

Date of Award: 2020 Q4
Level: \$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Whatcom Land Trust.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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6/18/2020



Dear Marilyn,

I am pleased to share our Annual Report with you. Each of the projects and stories represent the full range of Whatcom Land Trust's mission – to preserve, protect, and engage the community in our shared heritage of land. From restoration of wildlife habitat and watershed protections, to farmland, open space and new parks for our growing community, Whatcom Land Trust is at the heart of collaborative new land protections and resource management to benefit generations of people and species. We hope you enjoy reading the report, and see yourself and your collective gifts represented in stories, images, people and our future.

We had every intention of getting this report in your hands sooner but the coronavirus pandemic careened into Whatcom County and, like you, we responded to more urgent needs to keep our community safe, healthy and responsive for people and organizations on the front line and those who are suffering. We have heard from so many people how grateful they are to have Trust-protected property to visit and be appropriately socially distanced, enjoying wild places where they can find solace, peace, and solid ground amid so much uncertainty.

In spite of the upheavals, staff has been working from home on new project development, writing grants and stewardship plans, sharing the Land Trust's story and keeping our volunteers and supporters engaged remotely and online. Some of our current projects include:

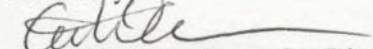
- Expansion of California Creek Park- in March we purchased an additional 43-acres of coastal wetland forest next to our existing property and we received a grant for \$900,000 to buy an additional 40-acres of upstream from CA Creek Estuary. Collectively, these will create a permanent sanctuary for juvenile salmon, migratory shorebirds and other wildlife.
- We just signed a \$3 Million purchase agreement with Weyerhaeuser to acquire an additional 1,000-acres of riparian forest in the upper Skookum Creek watershed.

I have enclosed some recent press coverage of two projects of note – a land donation by Neal and Ann Koblitz that will permanently protect over 60 acres of wooded steep slopes in the Lake Whatcom Water, and notice of a US Fish & Wildlife Foundation Coastal Wetlands Grant to purchase 40 additional acres in the California Creek Watershed.

All these successes are possible because our generous community values the wildlife habitat, farmland, shorelines, watersheds, open space and park lands and experiences the benefits permanent protection of land provides for today and for future generations. Thanks to you for your part in complementing our community's generous support with your gifts.

I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress and hope we can count on your continued support.

Gratefully,


Gabe Epperson, Executive Director



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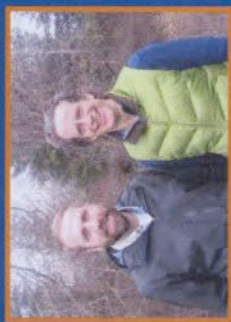
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECT | STEWARD | IMAGINE



LETTER FROM

THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Following the hugely successful year of 2018 when Whatcom Land Trust protected 3,339-acres with projects like Skookum Creek and Galbraith Mountain, 2019 was focused on smaller acquisitions, stewardship of our protected lands and on a big leadership transition.

After giving the Board nine months' notice, our beloved Executive Director, Rich Bowers retired in February and our long-time Conservation Director, Gabe Epperson, was hired as his successor. In his conservation role Gabe led the effort to define the Trust's conservation vision for the future. He also led successful projects to protect more than twenty properties including California Creek, Galbraith and Skookum Creek. His even-tempered and collaborative leadership style make him a great fit for our organization. With Gabe's leadership the Board is looking forward to continued land protection achievements, to building a Stewardship Reserve Fund that will guarantee a source of funding for stewardship into the decades ahead and to the continued coalescing of our staff, Board and volunteers into a gracefully coordinated team to implement our community's vision for a sustainable future.

Gabe began his tenure as Executive Director on February 1, 2020 and almost immediately was faced with the challenge of leading in this strange and anxious time of COVID-19.

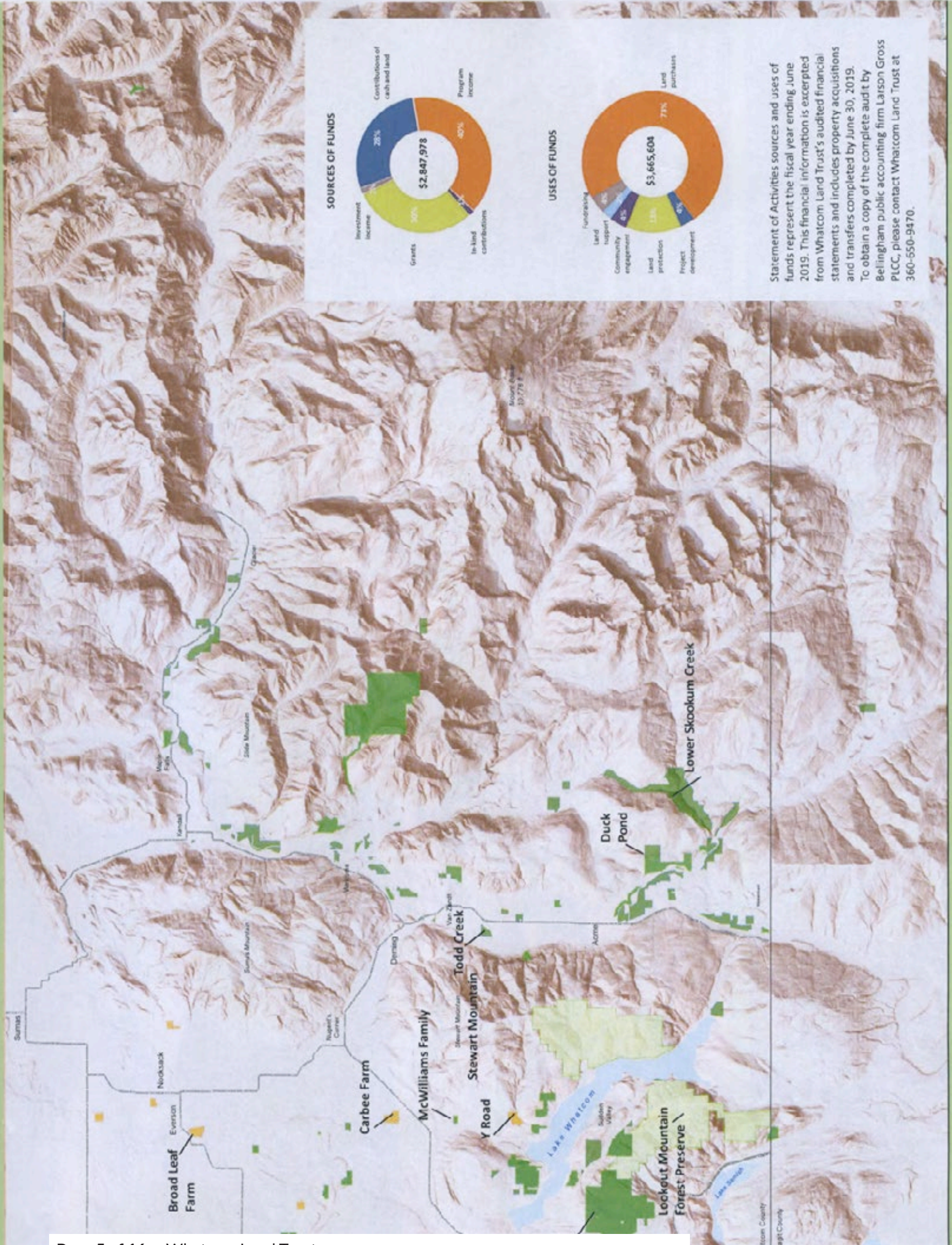
We are fortunate to have Gabe's thoughtful, collaborative pragmatism at the helm in these uncharted waters. The implications of this crisis for your Land Trust are significant. Working together, the Board, Gabe and staff will safeguard the resiliency and sustainability of the Trust and honor our core commitments to the lands we hold. We must maintain the trust and good will of our community. We will remain responsive to conservation opportunities as they arise.

Working in collaboration with you, our partners in government, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, and many businesses, your Trust has set aside more than 24,000 acres of parks and protected forests, river floodplain, stream corridor, saltwater shoreline and rich farmland. What we have created is enduring and important to so many in this precarious season. Together we have conserved land to which we can return again and again to be immersed in beauty, to be nourished in body and to be filled in spirit now and for generations to come.

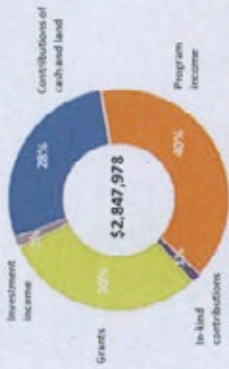
We look forward to working with each of you to conserve, protect and steward our shared natural heritage.

Chris Moench, President Board of Directors and Gabe Epperson, Executive Director

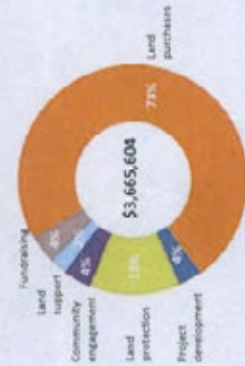




SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS



Statement of Activities sources and uses of funds represent the fiscal year ending June 2019. This financial information is excerpted from Whatcom Land Trust's audited financial statements and includes property acquisitions and transfers completed by June 30, 2019. To obtain a copy of the complete audit by Bellingham public accounting firm Larson Gross PLLC, please contact Whatcom Land Trust at 360-550-9470.



Washington Conservation Corps staff Rose Richardson and Stewardship Director Jenn Mackey inspect a washed up cedar tree at Todd Creek.

Coho fry in Todd Creek

TODD CREEK: PROTECTING WATER FOR THE FUTURE

Whatcom Land Trust's new 59-acre property protects a section of Todd Creek, one of many South Fork Nooksack River tributaries that run east from Stewart Mountain through steep-sloped forests, wetlands, farms and rural properties. This 2019 acquisition near Van Zandt is a patchwork of forests, pastures, and wetlands bisected by the salmon-bearing Todd Creek, and is part of the Land Trust's strategy to connect key landscapes to maintain the integrity of their water resources. The impact of this strategy is perhaps most evident in the South Fork Valley, where wild fluctuations – from seasonal flooding to summer drought – stress watershed health. This long-awaited purchase is a key piece of the property puzzle the Land Trust is growing to safeguard future health in the South Fork Nooksack, which is home to all five Pacific salmon species, including the federally-listed Chinook, and a vital shared resource for farmers and the rural community. In the coming year, Whatcom Land Trust will be partnering with the Nooksack Indian Tribe to remove invasive plants and restore Todd Creek, including volunteer work parties for community members.



Dakota Creek flowing through the Carruthers property

CARRUTHERS EASEMENT

Fulfilling a prospective donor's last wish can be bittersweet. Bob Carruthers turned to Whatcom Land Trust to protect the natural value of his 30-acre farm property in Custer, which includes a portion of Dakota Creek, beautiful views of Mount Baker, horses and pasture land. In addition to the conservation easement, the Trust helped to facilitate a retained life estate and caretaker before Bob's passing, fulfilling a wish to protect his animals during their lifetime and his land in perpetuity. Eventually, the estate gift will transfer to the Land Trust. In the meantime, we will protect the riparian areas for water quality and quantity with a goal to improve the Drayton Harbor Watershed which lies downstream.



McWilliams Family property

"By making the gift of a conservation easement, we are permanently protecting and keeping intact the pasture, forest and wetlands and eliminating future development."

- Nancy Kuehnoel, Conservation Easement donor

MCWILLIAMS EASEMENT; CONSERVING RURAL CHARACTER

Nancy Kuehnoel wanted to make a gift of a lifetime – a gift honoring the lifetime of her grandparents, Elsie and Charley McWilliams. Nancy's great-grandfather and Charley's father, Walter J. McWilliams, purchased the property in 1902 and gave the 19.5-acre farm between Stewart and Squaticum Mountains to his only son. The property passed through the generations. For many years, Nancy and her family have cared for and maintained the land – its open pasture, forest and wetlands – while witnessing the rural character of its surrounding landscape slowly give way to development. Nancy and her husband, Mark Proulx, sought out Whatcom Land Trust and learned that they could permanently protect the conservation value and rural character of the property. "If we ever decide to sell the property, the easement keeps alive the conservation values my family worked so hard to preserve," said Nancy.

"The Ag PDR provides security that the land will remain in farming forever."

- Dusty Williams



Dusty Williams of Broad Leaf Farm

BROAD LEAF FARM

Owner Dusty Williams added a third easement this year to his 65.5-acre farm which borders the main stem of the Nooksack River in Everson. Dusty is well known for cultivating a diverse array of organic crops, installing a solar array that generates 25% of farm energy needs, and leasing land to and mentoring the next generation of farmers.

CARBEE FARM

73-acre dairy farm east of Bellingham owned and operated by the Harold and Ellen Carbee family. A portion of salmon-bearing Anderson Creek borders its open pastures and forested wetlands. Conservation efforts focus on balancing the health of the creek, pastureland and forest with maintaining a thriving dairy business.

NEPTUNE/ SIGURDSON OPEN SPACE

15-acre agricultural open space in Ferndale, historically in corn production, is not currently in active cultivation. The Ag PDR removes three development rights and preserves the property's agricultural value and potential in perpetuity.

Y ROAD FORESTRY EASEMENT

88-acre recreation land bordering Lake Whatcom Park, abundant with multi-use trails popular with equestrians. Historically managed for active forestry and recently purchased by the Department of Natural Resources, a forestry easement now connects recreational access to Stewart Mountain while conservation efforts aim to protect and improve the health of salmon-bearing Olson Creek riparian zone and tributary streams.

Whatcom Land Trust added four easements to its portfolio in 2019, for a total of over 1,700 acres of working lands protected in perpetuity since our start in the 1980s. Since 2002 the Trust has managed Whatcom County's Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights (Ag PDR) program in partnership with private landowners and other resource and forestry managers. The Ag PDR program provides one-time compensation to farmers and foresters for the value of the property's development potential. In exchange property owners benefit from more working capital, more opportunities for the next generation of farmers and foresters, and a robust, diverse, and well-supported local farm economy. The community benefits from the permanent value of farmland and forests, their soils and water resources, the preservation of our agricultural heritage and way of life, and availability of local food grown by local farmers.

FARM AND FORESTRY EASEMENTS

List of attendees and affiliations.

Photo from Left to right:

Ted Morris – Director, Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2
Shelli Moore – Commissioner, Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2
Luanne Van Werven – WA State Representative, 42nd District
Barry Wenger – Rose Foundation Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee Member
Caitlin Guthrie – Conservation Fund
Kaylee Galloway – Community Liaison, Mt Vernon office for U.S. Congresswomen Susan DelBene
Rich Bowers – Executive Director, Whatcom Land Trust
Sharon Shewmake – WA State Representative, 42nd District
Nick Norton – Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts
Jennifer Mackey – Stewardship Director, Whatcom Land Trust
Michael Penuelas – Legislative Assistant for Sharon Shewmake
Betsy Robblee – Outreach and Policy Manager, Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition
Gabe Epperson – Conservation Director, Whatcom Land Trust

WHATCOM LAND TRUST



August 2019 Legislative Tour to learn about the benefits of the future California Creek Estuary Park.

In 2019 the Blaine-Birch Bay community's dream of a new marine park came closer to becoming reality, thanks to Whatcom Land Trust, Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2 (BBPRD2), and support from our Washington State congressional delegation. Since the initial land purchase in June 2017 and second adjacent parcel purchase in December 2018, the Land Trust has completed significant salmon habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and other improvements on 12.5 acres of lower California Creek in partnership with Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, and Whatcom Conservation District, in part with a grant from the Rose Foundation's Stewardship & Mitigation Fund and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Funding. Concurrently, BBPRD2 applied for and was awarded two grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to assist in park infrastructure and public access, including a boat launch, parking, restrooms, and trails. In recognition, BBPRD2 and the Trust co-hosted a property tour for legislators and funders in August. Now, this beautiful and ecologically important place where people meet nature is permanently protected, and closer to beginning the next phase of its life as BBPRD2's California Creek Estuary Park.

CALIFORNIA CREEK ESTUARY: PREPARING FOR A PARK



Volunteer Land Steward Vic Knox looks out over lower Skookum Creek during a Field Friday event.

IMPACTS

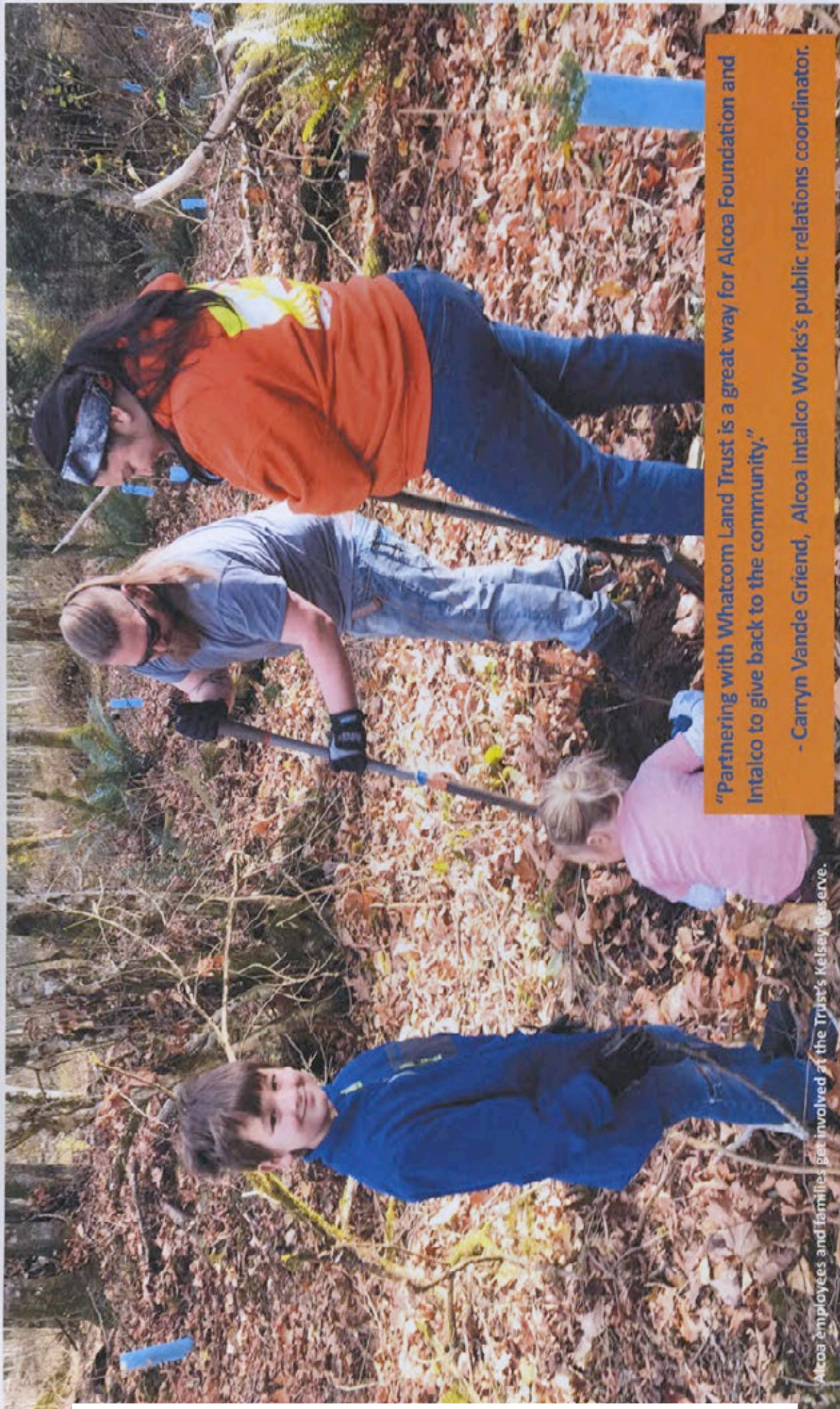
Total Acres Protected = **24,413**

Total Conservation Easements = **93 properties totaling 9,275 acres**

Total Land Trust Owned = **93 properties totaling 4,275 acres**

Recorded Volunteer Hours for 2019= **5,551.75**
Total Number of Volunteer Land Stewards = **120**
Total Number of Volunteers = **770**
Native Trees and Shrubs Planted in 2019= **10,431**
Invasive Species Removed in 2019= **4,131 square feet**

If you would like to learn more about our Field Fridays, Work Parties, Volunteer Land Steward Program, or other volunteer opportunities, visit our website at: whatcomlandtrust.org



Alcoa employees and families get involved at the Trust's Kelsey Reserve.

"Partnering with Whatcom Land Trust is a great way for Alcoa Foundation and Intalco to give back to the community."

- Carryn Vande Griend, Alcoa Intalco Works's public relations coordinator.

WHERE EMPLOYEES COUNT: BUSINESS AND LAND CONSERVATION

A strong community is a healthy, connected community, one that reflects diverse and shared values that help to define our quality of life. Safe, clean drinking water. Farmland for local healthy food and farmers. Open space and wild places for employees and their families to enjoy. This shared vision links Whatcom Land Trust with members of our business community whose giving priorities reflect those of their employees. Since 2018 Ferndale's Alcoa Intalco Works has been an integral Land Trust partner, providing both funds and employee power to restore acres of property to improve wildlife habitat and watershed health throughout Whatcom County. Additionally partnered with American Forests over the last two years, more than two acres along Butler Creek, northeast of Lake Terrell at the Trust's Kelsey Reserve, were planted with native trees. This year, the Alcoa Foundation provided funds, an employees day of volunteer work to help restore more than an acre of habitat along Canyon Lake Creek at the Trust's Lower Middle Fork Complex near Welcome. "At the end of the day we can step back, see the impact of the work we've done, and know we're investing in our environment for years to come," said Carryn Vande Griend, Alcoa Intalco Works's public relations coordinator.



Galbraith Mountain Work Party Partnered with Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition and City of Bellingham

SHARING A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Whatcom County is filled with beauty, and many people value our community's access to the outdoors. For years, Galbraith Mountain has been utilized by mountain bikers, hikers, runners, and others to immerse themselves in the woods on a large network of trails near Bellingham. In 2018, Galbraith was permanently protected with recreation and conservation easements on over 2,000 acres of the mountain in partnership with the City of Bellingham and Galbraith Tree Farm. Once its protection in perpetuity was ensured, partnerships not only expanded but they also strengthened towards our common goal of protecting the places we all love for future generations. Galbraith is just one success story demonstrating the collaboration with members across our community. Year after year, we continue to steward lands we helped to protect and lend a helping hand in summer trail work with several organizations including Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, Washington Trails Association, and REI. When members of the community come together and work cooperatively to achieve their vision, we can accomplish many things. The Whatcom Land Trust strives to bring people together so that we can preserve the land we love, now and into the future.

BUSINESS PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION










Acme Farm & Kitchen	Brett Baunton	Tim Fischer, IF-G, LLC	RMC Architects
Alluvial Farms	Photography	Greenbean Bookkeeping	Regenis, an Ardigar Company
Applied Digital Imaging	Broadview Farms	Hardware Sales	San Juan Preservation Trust
A-bonwright Tree Services	Cascade Joinery	Healthy Pet	Southern Exposure
Aslan Brewing	Cedarville Farm	Herrera Environmental	Environmental
Avenue Bread	Chrysalis Inn	Consulting	Stockton's Paint
Axis of Hope Flower Wheels	Coldstream Farms	K'ul Chocolate	Stone's Throw Brewery
The Bagelry	Community Food Co-op	Kulshan Brewing	Taylor Shellfish
Barkley Company	Community Strength	Kulshan Services LLC	Turner Photography
Bay City Supply	Painters	Larson Gross	Twin Brooks Creamery
Bellewood Acres	Courtney Excavating	LT/Milky Way	Village Books
Bellingham Cider Company	Culligan of Bellingham	Lummi Island Wild	Wandering Waters Farm
Liz Vennos, MD	Diehl Ford	Lummi Island Heritage Trust	Wild World
Bellingham Dermatology	Edaleen Farm	Mount Baker Imaging	Communications
Birch Equipment	Evolve Chocolates	The Mount Bakery	Wild & Scenic River Tours
Black Drop Coffeehouse	Fairhaven Village Inn	Northwest Surveying	
Boundary Bay Brewery	Family Care Network	Old World Deli	
Bandywine Kitchen	Fida go Coffee	Outer Island Excursions	

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY



John and Joan in mountain bliss.

John and close friends were Joan's passions. Throughout her successful career as a pioneer in computer science in California's Bay Area, to her active retirement in Whatcom County since 1990, Joan generously supported organizations dedicated to conservation and preservation of the natural world.

Whatcom Land Trust was high on her giving priorities, in life and in her untimely passing in April 2016. Joan's gifts have helped to purchase and protect the lands, waterways, birds and nature that brought Joan joy and meaning. A bequest from Joan's estate will keep the special places that Joan loved thriving for generations.

LEGACY GIFTS

Legacy gifts keep conservation values dear to you and your loved ones alive in perpetuity. Have you thought about including Whatcom Land Trust in your will, retirement plan, or life insurance policy? It's one of the simplest steps you can take to protect the Lands You Love for future generations, and is as easy as signing your name.

Let us show you how you can plan today to help nature tomorrow and make a world of difference for our community. Contact Jill Clark at jill@whatcomlandtrust.org and (360) 746-3423.

A DEEP BOW OF GRATITUDE

There is a gift within this trauma of pandemic, the beauty and solace of the land. We go outdoors to gardens, parks, trails and wild places.

The Land Trust's Board and staff celebrate all of you who have so generously given to the Land Trust's work! It is said that the health of a community can be measured by the health of the land on which it lives. By taking part in the work of the Land Trust you are taking direct action to root that relationship in reciprocity. The land gives us clean water, fresh air, nutritious food, places to exercise our bodies and feed our spirits. In the face of relentless pressure from humanity, through the Land Trust we pledge to the land our stewardship. Together we have conserved land to which we can return again and again to be immersed in beauty, nourished in body and filled in spirit. Now and for generations to come. Thank you.

Chris Moench – President, Board of Directors

HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

IN HONOR

In honor of Sara Strampson Brenner

Anonymous

In honor of Jill Clark

Amy McVine

In honor of the Clark family
Laurie Satabek, Satabek Real Estate

In honor of Dennis Conner

Walt Burkett & Jill Clark

Low Christie & Tom Koffler

Cathy & Steve Levoq

In honor of Elaine Erickson & Carla Galloway

Albie & Kathryn Jarvis

In honor of my family

Angela Shumbaugh

In honor of Julie Hubner

Barbara Clday

In honor of Janet Lighner & Ed Bennett

Roberta Vollemdorf

In honor of Rand Jack

Anonymous

Susan Holland & Anthony Ickes

Robert Jack and family

In honor of Janet Lighner & Ed Bennett

Roberta Vollemdorf

In honor of Chris Moench & Jerry Hahn

Katherine Lawrence

In honor of my parents

Lucia Ellis

In honor of Andrew Perkins

John Frey & Debra Anderson-Frey

In honor of Annie Perouse & Bob Lemmon

Margaret Vanderberg

In honor of Michelle Schneider

Sobin Barber

In honor of Roger Weiss

Janice & James Dougherty

Cherie Rock

In honor of John & Margaret Wall

Doug Seibald & Holly Wolf-Sekeld

In honor of Richard and Elsie Zernowicz

Julie Carpenter

IN MEMORY

In memory of Tony Arntson

Helen Arntson & Paul Campbell

In memory of Jerry Rajama

Karen & Jerry Gilliam

In memory of Marilyn Ballard

Jennifer Ballard

In memory of John Belisle

Mary & John Gullies

Leah Belisle Hertl

Joanne & Dennis Paradise

Kevin Pawlowski, Furness Equipment Co.

Karen & John Steernema

In memory of Eric Braun

Maureen & Rick Braun

In memory of Jerry Bloomfield

Keith Erowald

In memory of Don Jensen

Elizabeth Brown

Rosemary Esser

In memory of Rob Keller

Loelle Constan

George Lawren

Pat Kurlberg

Merrill Lewis

Trish Navarre

Mary Lou Stiers & Kenneth Fox

In memory of Nathan Kronenberg

Kathryn Ulter Batchelor

Corinne Gimbel-Levine & Henry Levine

Sara & Robert Watson

Sylvia & John Williams

In memory of John Lewis

Gwen E. Parker

In memory of Cynthia Miller

Helen & David Miller

In memory of Dorothy & Robert Meyer

Denise Meyer

In memory of the Orans

Alma Laurie Watson Lamb

In memory of Richard Parker

Gwen E. Parker

In memory of Rebecca Beech

Sandra Barte

Kathryn Ulter Batchelor

Rich and Stephanie Bowers

John Birns & Julie Fleetwood

Walter Brodin and Linda Versage

Mary Chaney & Michael Miter

John Davies & Carol Kumeleawa

Jo Ann Pedman

Sara Hill & Rod Burton

Addie Jacobson

Dana & Rand Jack

Dale Johnson

Elizabeth Kernem

Virginia & Mike McBride

Sue Marshall

Joyce & Robert Myer

Mary & Keith Nelson

Sharon & Gordon Needell

Less Osborne

Diane Rappaport

Reich Family Trust

Doris & Gene Reich

Andrea Schmidt & Lumly

Nicolas & Henry Shorer

Rebecca's friends at Whatcom Land

Title

Jennifer Wright

In memory of Judy Russo

Sal Russo

In memory of Bruce Smith

Dean & Mary Brent

Gourie & Tim Buckley

Joyce & Terry Busch

Camie Case

Pat Kneiser

Michelle Krepcha & Susan Wright

League of Women Voters Bellingham

Whatcom County

Erma & David Maus

Ann Morris

Janette & Robert Morse

Patricia Morse

Joan and Michael Moye

Martha Mulholland

Carol & Don Salisbury

Carolyn Scott

Mark A. Taylor

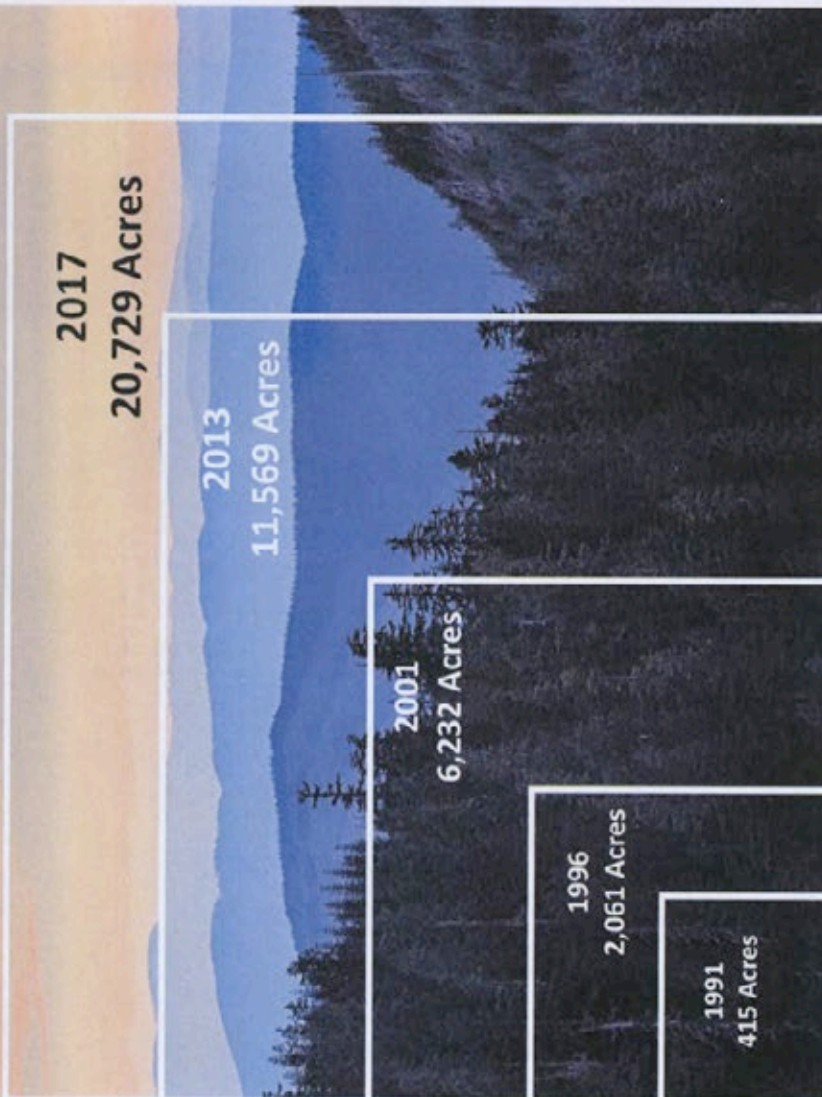
Richard Taylor

Jane & Homer Tree

Remember or honor a loved one with a memorial or honorary gift in recognition of their love of the land.
Contact: Jill Clark, Philanthropy Director at (360) 746-3423 to learn more.



Today: 24,413 Acres Protected



The mission of Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.



Photo Credits: Rich Bowers, Cheryl Crooks, Alan Fritzborg, Jennifer Mackey, Karen Parker, Lauren Sackett.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

It is because of your strong support that new land protections for the Lake Whatcom Watershed, upper Skookum Creek, east Stewart Mountain, Governors Point, and the future California Creek Estuary Park in Birch Bay will move toward completion.

GROWING A NATURAL LEGACY OF WHATCOM'S SPECIAL PLACES

Each of the many successes enjoyed by the Whatcom Land Trust were made possible by each of you.

Of the total acres protected to date through conservation easements, land purchases and facilitations – including 349 new acres in 2019, you have made the following possible:

- » 47 miles of protected marine, river and lake shorelines
- » 11,473 acres in the Lake Whatcom watershed
- » 1,438 acres of working agricultural lands
- » 13,837 acres of parklands

Thank you for making this, and so much more possible.