



Skagit Land Trust

2012 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.

LAND STEWARDS

The success of the stewardship of our 24 Conservation Areas is directly tied to our Volunteer Land Stewards. Each conservation area has a volunteer or team who act as the property's advocate and guardian as well as regular monitor. Our hats are off to our Land Stewards!

Lloyd Brown – *Mud Lake*

Joost Bussinger & Marianne Kooiman,
Ed & Carolyn Gastellum – *Guemes Mountain*

Brenda Cunningham & Tim Manns –
Barney Lake

Russ Dalton – *Barr Creek*

John Day – *Tope Ryan*

John Freeman – *Grandy Creek*

Pete & Dorothy Haase – *Samish River – Ochs*

Jim Johnson – *Cumberland Creek*

Hal Lee – *Day Creek Slough & Minkler Lake*

Tom Mayes & Tamara Thomas – *Sumner Lake*

Anne & Jack Middleton –
Samish Island – Squires

Heidi Nichols – *Green Road Marsh*

Jim Owens – *Butler Creek*

Sally & Bill Pfeifer – *Pressentin Ranch*

Dick Raisler – *Lyman Slough*

Steffany Raynes & Lin Skavdahl – *Hurn Field*

Douglas Risedorf – *Day Creek Kosbab*

Jim & LaVerne Scheltens – *March Point*

Stan Zyskowski – *Day Creek Berquist &
Day Creek Corp*

On the cover, Rusty Kuntze and Lynne Jordan at Day Creek Forest (purchased in September 2011 by Skagit Land Trust). (back cover) Dragonfly Illustration by Brenda Cunningham

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April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

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Lynne Jordan (2012)**
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Auction Director

General Counsel

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*Managing Editor: Diane Bednarz
Editor: Molly Doran*



FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This report is a snapshot of the type of conservation work your help makes possible. Each year we are humbled by the strong support we receive from our members, partners and volunteers. We are in awe of the breadth and growth of that support around Skagit County and beyond. **Thank you.**

This report focuses on work accomplished in our 2011-12 fiscal year. Our fiscal year begins each April. It was a year of expansion into new areas for us. After many years of renting, we purchased an office with an attached rental for income; a group of hearty and talented souls renovated and landscaped our new office for us; we began a stewardship contract with our great partner The Nature Conservancy WA to share resources and achieve common goals; we hired a second stewardship staff member to help manage our growing number of conservation areas and to assist with getting people out on the land; and we took on several projects with both new and familiar partners that focus on conservation in the urban or near-urban environment.

The latter dovetails with our work to update our conservation strategy which, when completed, will direct us to where our work is most needed looking forward. Many of the iconic Skagit landscapes we together have worked to protect over the past two decades will remain in the strategy - river and other freshwater systems, forests, wildlife habitat, marine shorelines, wetlands, and agricultural lands. A new category is "Places for People in Nature". We will protect the natural and inspirational rural and wild landscapes around Skagit County and we will reach into our cities and urban areas to conserve urban and near-urban jewels. In some ways, this is an act of renewing a founding vision as one of our earliest projects was helping to conserve the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Skagit Land Trust strives to be a dynamic organization. So not only are we developing

a new conservation strategy, but we will also be developing a road map - a new strategic plan - in the next year. We will be reaching out to you, our members and partners, to help us answer questions that will help determine our pace, our range of potential partners, our role as a land owner and as a partner, our leadership role in this community, what opportunities and challenges lie ahead, how



we will fund our work, and how to steward our protected lands to ensure their vitality, forever.

Thank you for your wonderful support and help to ensure that we are saving land for tomorrow. We look forward to another exciting year of conservation with you.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

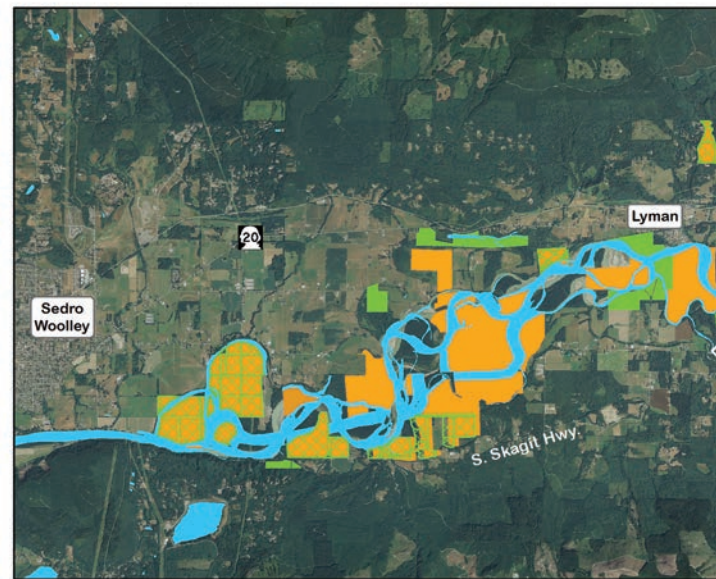
Bob Boudinot, President, Board of Directors

Middle Skagit 20 Years Ago



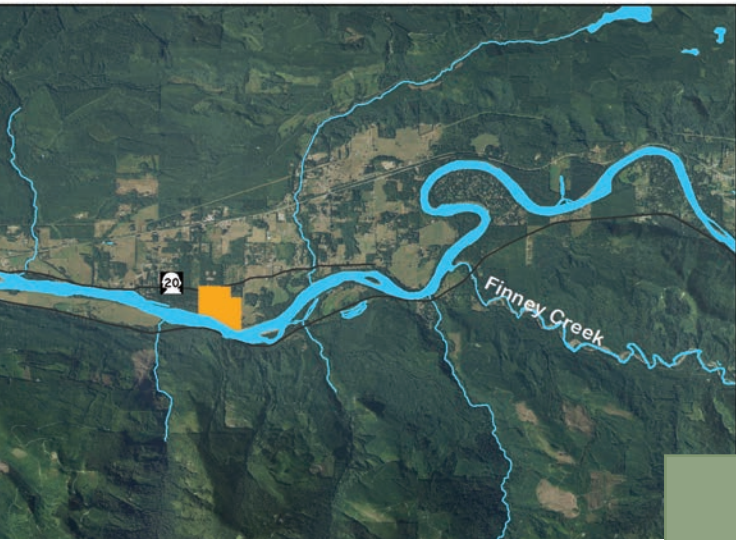
Middle Skagit River Protection

Twenty years ago, when Skagit Land Trust was founded, very little of the Middle Skagit River was permanently protected. The Middle Skagit is the river area between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. Over the past two decades the Trust has worked with many partners including the Skagit Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, Seattle City Light, The Skagit River Systems Cooperative, WA Fish and Wildlife, Skagit County, the US Forest Service and private landowners to protect the best remaining natural shoreline along the Middle and Upper Skagit. State funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board has been a huge help in our collaborative efforts since 2001. Through co-operation with our partners, funders and landowners and by building on each other's successes, many miles of critical natural river shoreline have been protected, forever.



- Skagit Land Trust (SLT) Conservation Area
- Protected by Partners with SLT Assistance
- Other Protected Property (USFS, NRCS, WA)





Middle Skagit - TODAY!



Examples of our 2011 - 2012 conservation work:

Our work along the Skagit River continued this past year with the purchase of three properties near Hurn Field (bottom Left). We assisted Seattle City Light in acquiring a critical property on Jones Creek near Lyman. (bottom middle). Our work on Day Creek expanded as we acquired beautiful Day Creek Forest with its mature forest and salmon stream (bottom right).

for Conservation Easement

State, Seattle City Light

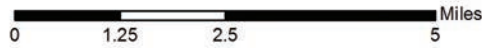


Photo: Christine Kitch



S T E W A R D S H I P



Photo SFEG

(above left) Emerson Highschool students planting trees at Day Creek Forest - what a way to earn school credit! (above right) Regina Wandler, master heron cam cleaner and mopper. (middle) Volunteers search for frog egg masses at Barney Lake. This is part of an inventory of potential habitat for the Oregon Spotted Frog.



Photo Christine Farrow

(right) The boys are back in town! Stan Zyskowski, Rick Machin, Hal Lee, Bob Boudinot, Michael Kirshenbaum and Jim Johnson on a debris removal mission.



Thank you to our many dedicated volunteers



(above) Joost Businger and Marianne Kooiman were honored for their long-term efforts to save Guemes Mountain, by a small plaque on top of the Mountain.



(top right) Land Steward Heidi Nichols helps with an amphibian survey at Cumberland Creek.

(above) PhD student Bashira Chowdhury and helper Ben Lubers doing vegetation monitoring at our Kosbab Conservation Area.



(above) Jane Zillig, Michael Kirshenbaum, Levy Sheltens, Regina Wandler, Jim Sheltens, Gail Sterrett and Paul Ingalls - the super heron nest count experts.

(bottom right) The Leaf crew overseen by The Nature Conservancy helped build the trail to the Barr Creek waterfall.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



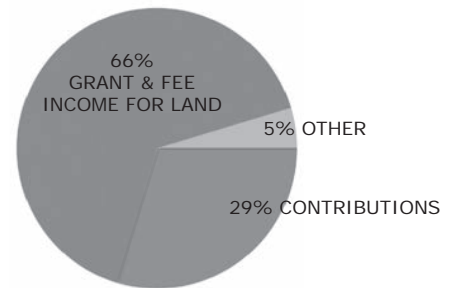
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011 AND 2012 (REVIEWED)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2012	2011
Cash	253,026	313,337
Pledges, receivables, other	139,129	101,679
Investments (for land & stewardship projects)	975,297	1,078,769
Office Building & equipment	273,580	2,637
Conservation Land	4,969,185	4,272,428
Total Assets	6,610,217	5,768,850
Liabilities	36,553	24,103
Net Assets	6,573,664	5,744,747
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,610,217	5,768,850

REVENUE



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

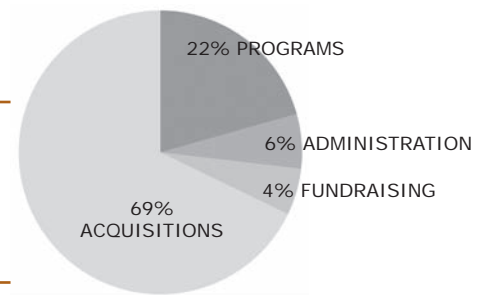
PUBLIC SUPPORT & OTHER REVENUE

Contributions (cash and in-kind) - unrestricted	223,177	228,268
Contributions – restricted for special projects	140,696	140,056
Grant and fee income	823,269	360,474
Investment Income & interest	12,159	128,370
Special events (net)	41,048	30,164
Sales (Natural Skagit, etc)	4,872	7,220
Total Revenue	1,245,221	894,552

EXPENSES

Land, stewardship and education programs	308,015	357,847
Management, fundraising & general	108,289	92,256
Total Expenses	416,304	450,103
Net Income	828,917	444,449

EXPENSES



CAPITAL PURCHASES

Conservation Land Purchases	696,757	452,594
Office Purchase	273,372	0

These abbreviated financial statements for 2012 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, 2012.

(page 6 captions) Our house remodelers were awesome! Some of the crew: (top left to right) Hal Lee, Keith Wiggers and Beau MacGregor, (middle right) Ruth Heft. Landscapers Hella Lee, Janice Martin, Chris Farrow and Brenda Cunningham (bottom right).

(Middle left) Our board rocks and has a great time! Stewardship Director Michael Kirshenbaum with board members (front to back) Janice Martin, John Hunt, Oscar Graham and Curt Miller.

(middle left) John Tursi, a long time Trust supporter, who not only helped to build a bridge between Deception Pass State Park and Fidalgo, but has also been responsible for hundreds of acres of conservation in what he calls "the most beautiful place on earth". Thank you John!

(middle right) Save Guemes Mountain co-chair Paul Beudet and steering committee member David Wertheimer attend the celebration of the opening of the Guemes Mountain Trail. This beautiful trail is now enjoyed by numerous people daily. Many people take advantage of the bike arrangement with Anderson's General Store to get to the trailhead.

(bottom left) Cecile Thomas perfects her ephemeral beach art for people and ocean creatures to enjoy until the next high tide.

Thank you to our supporters

Thank you to
our members
whose
donations
were received
between
April 1, 2011 -
March 31, 2012

thank
you!

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SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW



Thank you Junior Land Stewards!

Girl Scout Troop 52016 helped to plant trees at Mud Lake. This troop has helped with various stewardship and restoration activities at Mud Lake over the past year.

