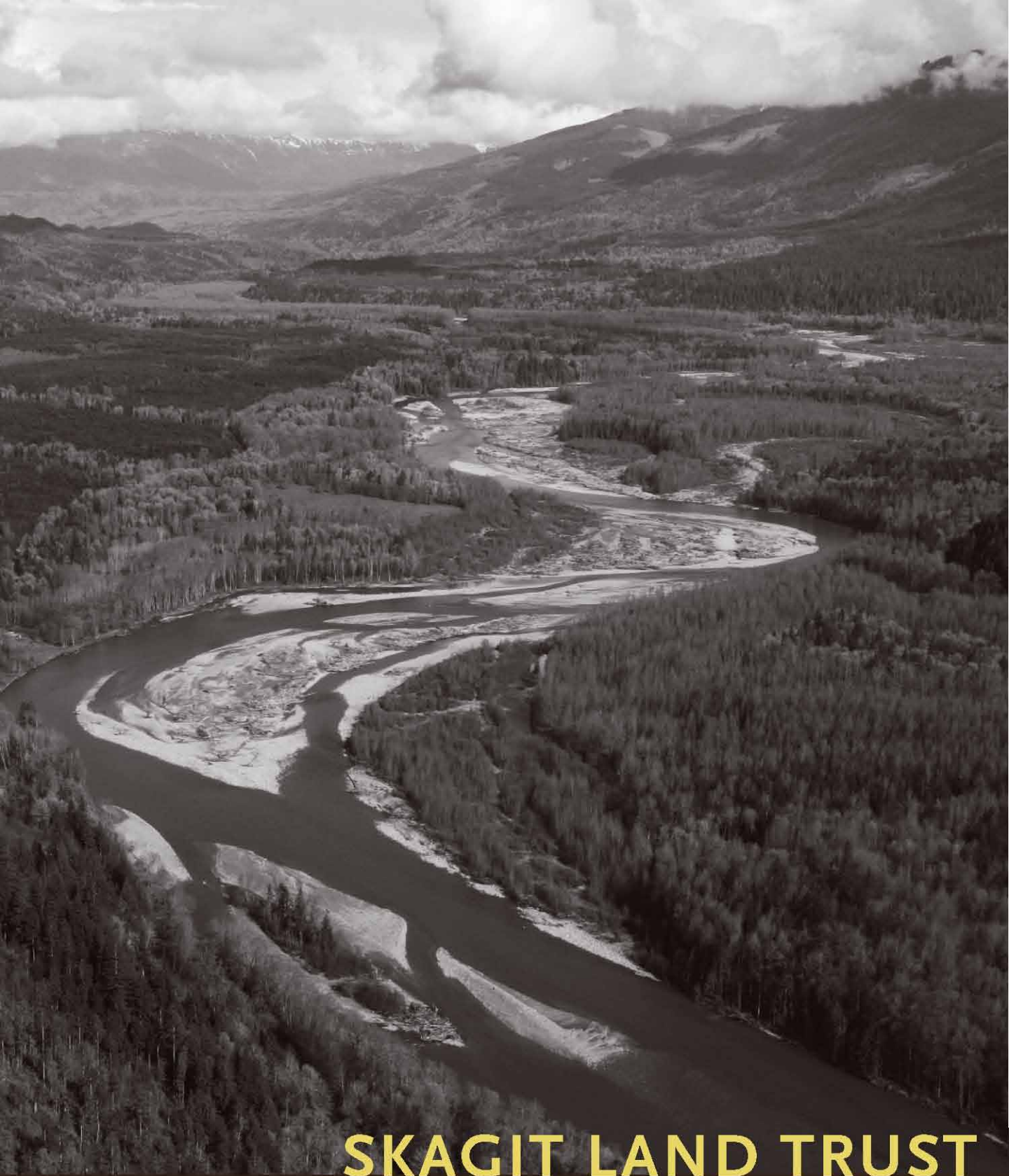




SKAGIT LAND TRUST

'09 ANNUAL REPORT

SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

The background is a solid yellow color with a large, stylized, light-yellow graphic of a bird, possibly a duck or goose, in profile, facing right. The bird's head, neck, and back are visible, with its wings slightly tucked. In the bottom right corner, there are stylized, light-yellow shapes representing foliage or reeds.

SKAGIT LAND TRUST

protects 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been a remarkable year. In May of 2009, Skagit Land Trust became the 2nd land trust in Washington to receive Land Trust Accreditation from the National Land Trust Alliance.

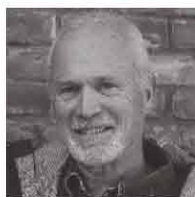
By working with many partners and focusing on regional priorities, Skagit Land Trust continues to be a leader of extensive salmon habitat protection on the Skagit River east of Sedro-Woolley. On the marine side of the county we are culminating a hugely successful campaign to save Guemes Mountain in partnership with The San Juan Preservation Trust and a local steering committee. Due to this campaign as well as our many community events and the publishing of Natural Skagit, Skagit Land Trust is now supported by over 1000 families and individuals, businesses, tribal groups, government agencies, and foundations. Stewarding and managing our owned Conservation Areas and Conservation Easements this past year involved volunteers of all ages. As one staff noted, this downturn year has been pretty busy!

Huge credit for the success of this year's accomplishments go to the staff at the Trust. Their enthusiasm and professionalism did not waver as the budget got tighter. The Trust's board and our counsel gave freely of their time and expertise helping to fill in where needed. And our members, supporters, partners and volunteers have been exceptional. From the Guemes steering and event committees and our 1000 donor families and businesses to the 200 volunteers who helped with stewardship of our properties and special events to our many conservation partners – thank you. It takes a community as generous as this to save land for tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Molly D." followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This has been an amazingly successful year, particularly given the uncertainty of the times and the state of the economy. We have much to be proud of and hopeful about – new lands

protected, new donors opening their checkbooks, and new volunteers giving of their time. When added to our existing base of support, the foundation for further good works is strengthened yet again as we move forward into the coming year.

I do want to remind us all that although we are extremely gratified in our efforts to raise 2.2 million dollars to save Guemes Mountain, every one of those dollars went directly to the campaign and related expenses. Skagit Land Trust continues to depend on each and every one of us to support the ongoing work of the office and its dedicated staff. Both governmental and private grants to the Trust are markedly down this year and consequently we need to have members and friends “dig a little deeper” to insure the doors stay open and the vital work continues. As William James once said, “the greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” And that is certainly our mission at the Trust - protecting and maintaining what makes this place so very special; and doing it for the generations to come. It is our dollars that help insure that the mission becomes a reality. The work never stops, but the rewards are breathtaking.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rusty" in a stylized, cursive script.

Rusty Kuntze, President

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: LAND CONSERVATION

After a successful fundraising campaign with hundreds of generous gifts and with assistance of a grant from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we secured the beautiful mature forested property called Barr Creek on Sauk Mountain.

PHOTO © ANDREW CLINE

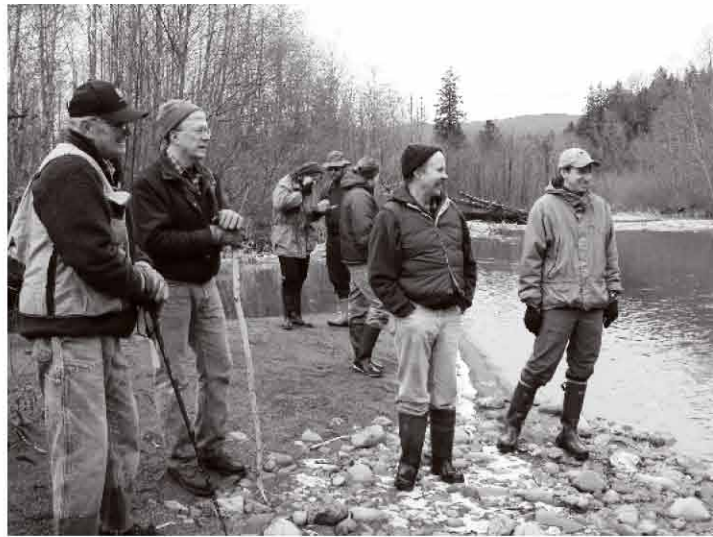
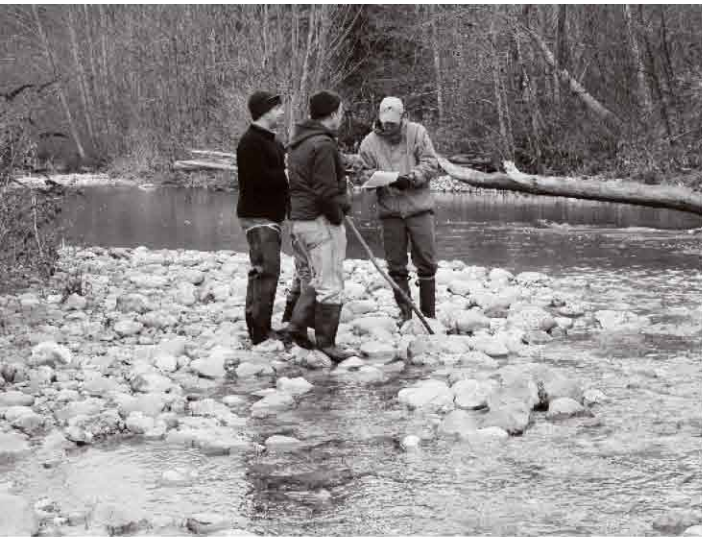


We were fortunate to have Jim Harris lead a hike on the Barr Creek property at the dedication ceremony. Not only did Jim grow up in the Upper Skagit, he was one of its best and most beloved historians. Jim Harris passed away this summer but Jim will always be associated with Sauk Mountain. Above: Kermit and Doris Johnson pose with Reverend Gregory Rickel at the Barr Creek dedication.



SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

In the past year we secured four properties for salmon in the Middle and Upper Skagit River with grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and in collaboration with the Skagit Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy and Seattle City Light. To date, Skagit Land Trust has protected 23 miles of shoreline habitat on the river – our partners have also protected numerous miles. The goal is to protect enough that the river can run naturally and create a clean water environment for fish, wildlife and the community.



The Turner Conservation Easement on Mount Erie adjacent to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands was completed through the generosity of Bill and Sally Turner.



We continued our extremely successful partnership with Friends of the Forest and the City of Anacortes to bring acres protected in the forest lands to 1635.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: STEWARDSHIP



Skagit Land Trust works in partnership with local organizations and agencies to steward vital lands. This tree planting with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group helped restore salmon habitat at a private property on which Skagit Land Trust holds a conservation easement that protects both farmland and salmon habitat.

FROM PLANTING TREES TO COUNTING HERON NESTS, THE TRUST MONITORS AND STEWARDS THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN SKAGIT COUNTY



Over 100 volunteers joined Skagit Land Trust at 12 different field events to help restore and protect our 19 conservation areas. From helping to count heron nests to working hard to plant trees to enhance salmon habitat, volunteers are essential to Skagit Land Trust's stewardship program. The backbone of the stewardship effort is the dedicated team of Volunteer Land Stewards – individuals who agree to “adopt” a conservation area and help monitor and maintain these beautiful places. The pictures at left show land stewards and volunteers working hard at the Minkler Lake and Tope Ryan Conservation Areas to restore an old pasture to native habitat, far left: Sue Edelberg, middle: Michael Kirshenbaum, center: Rick Machin and Jim Johnson.



Volunteers gather every winter to count heron nests – and the occasional heron egg. The number of nests on Trust property has grown from approximately 100 to almost 300 over the past ten years.

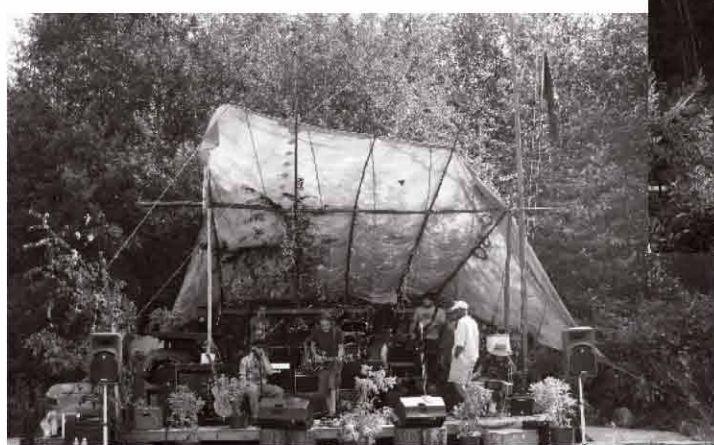


Skagit Land Trust's March's Point Conservation Area features the largest single colony of Great Blue Heron nests in Puget Sound. The Trust has worked closely with Leadership Skagit and the Padilla Bay Breazeale Interpretive Center to establish a “heron cam” which posts live images of nesting herons on the web.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: OUTREACH



The interpretive sign installed at Cascadian Farm (MIDDLE LEFT) was an instant success. **BELOW:** The first of many ice-cream eaters who will enjoy learning about the land that is protected in front of them. **LEFT:** Jim and Harlyn Meyer, conservationists and managers of Cascadian Farm.



Events from the rocking Guemes Island Picnic (**LEFT**) to the sublime Garden Party By The Bay helped to raise both awareness and funds for land conservation in relaxed, fun ways.

CREATING A COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS OF CONSERVATION



Skagit Land Trust published Natural Skagit in November of 2008 with the help of a steering committee and many volunteers. It was an instant local best seller with 2500 copies sold in the first ten months. **BELOW:** The steering committee.



Skagit Land Trust worked with Future Environmental Leaders from Sedro-Woolley Highschool on Stewardship and education projects, including a cleanup and trail project at Cumberland Creek.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

WHERE WE'VE COME FROM — WHERE WE'RE GOING

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTHA BRAY, SKAGIT LAND TRUST'S CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Martha Bray settled in the Skagit Valley in 1978. “This place had great resonance for me, and still does, with its big verdant floodplain bounded by the wildness of the North Cascades.” She notes that since her arrival, the population of Skagit County has almost doubled and is projected to double again in less than 50 years. “The changes brought on by this growth could drain the resilience and vitality out of the landscape, but it doesn’t have to be that way. I am so glad to have work that lets me push back against this loss.” Martha came to Skagit Land Trust in 1996, when the Trust was all volunteer run. “That was a lucky day for me, when I had lunch with Keith [Wiggers], Gene [Murphy] and Harold [Christenson] (and I didn’t even realize it was a job interview!)”

Highlights of her 13 years at the Trust include the first capital campaign in 1998 to purchase Hurn Field. “This was a turning point for the Trust – the community gave so generously. Now there’s routinely dozens of elk in the meadow where people get to watch them.” Martha says another giant step was in 2001, with an \$800,000 loan from The Nature Conservancy, the Trust purchased lands that included Skiyou and Deadman Islands. “And then, partnering with the Forest Service, we were able to pay it all back

with interest. That project catapulted us to a whole new level, and was the beginning of our incredibly successful work to protect the Middle Skagit floodplain.” Most recently, she says, “I loved the Guemes Campaign. What a compelling story – this tiny island community, against the odds, raises \$2,000,000 for their revered mountaintop!”

Of the future: “The pace of change is so fast,” says Martha. “The impact of population growth paired with climate change is a speeding train on its way. We need to ensure that all the working pieces of the ecosystem are preserved. This means providing enough undisturbed habitat in the right places for native species to adapt.” She notes that accommodating growth will require much denser residential development, which means that “it’s very important to protect accessible beautiful places where people can be in nature.” And finally, “we also have to conserve the working landscapes that produce food, fiber and income for people along with habitat!”

“The Trust has made huge strides on all these fronts,” Martha says, “but we need to expand the tool box and be very strategic.” She admits it’s a big challenge, “but look how far we’ve come – Skagit Land Trust is in a great place to face the future!”



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APRIL 1, 2008 TO MARCH 31, 2009

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SAFECO

We did it! Guernes Mountain was purchased October 1, 2009 after a hugely successful community fundraising campaign. Now Skagit Land Trust and the San Juan Preservation Trust are working on management plans, trails and property stewardship.

PHOTO © STEVEN BUSINGER

We are grateful to our members whose donations were received between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

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Reeves

IN-KIND

Ace Hardware
Adrift Restaurant
Debbie Aldrich
Aleutian Boatworks
Anacortes Cinemas
Anacortes Meats
Thais Armstrong – Art by Thais
ArtScan.com
Bayside Sweets & Treats
Bertha Bridge
Big Lake Trees
Sarah Bishop & John Mailhiot
Bliss Dog Yoga
Glenn & Teddy Bordner
Breadfarm
Brown Lantern Alehouse
Bunnies By the Bay
Burton Jewelers
Ellen Bynum and Stewart Toshach
Calico Cupboard Cafe & Bakery
Cameron's Living Room Dining
Capelli Salon
Cascade Mall
Charley's Greenhouse
Cheesecake Cafe'
Christianson's Nursery
Colonial Manor Baking
Commodore Stewart
Compass Wines
Consumer Rental Center
Costco
Cottons
Brenda Cunningham & Tim
Manns
Carole Cunningham
Donatello Flowers & Gifts
Dr. Dennis Edmonds, DDS
Niabi & Brian Drew
Edison Eye Art Gallery
Edison Tavern
Edward K. Newbold
Elisabeth's Cottage By The Sea
Epicure
Farm to Market Bakery
Kathleen Faulkner
Ron Feld & Lorna Klemanski
Friends of Skagit County
Bradford E. Furlong, P.S.
Gere-a-Deli

Greek Islands Restaurant
Phil Green
Shirley Haley
Janet Hamilton
Happy Donuts
Hedlin Farms
Highland Animal Clinic
Hoyle Speech-Language Services
Impressions Salon
Paul Ingalls
Clayton James
Jean's Plant Farm
Peter Jepson
Johnson Outdoors
Shelley Johnson
June Jordan
K & J Catering
Karl's Paints
Kerstins Restaurant
Christine Kitch & David Farrow
Krispy Kreme
Rusty Kuntze and Libby Mills
Trevor Kyle
La Conner Country Inn
George Lawson
Lee Mann Photography
Leonard, Boudinot & Skodje
Cora & Mark Lijek
Lincoln Theatre Center
Foundation
Little Mountain Pottery
Lost Arrow Arborists
Lowell Garden Design
Malliard's Landing Nursery
Mark & Alison Hitchcock
Mark's on Pine
Mary Davis Lighting
Darren Maybruck
Annie Martin McCool Gallery
Jeremy Means
Mike & Jean's Berry Farm
James & Marlene Moore
Mountaineers Books
Museum of Northwest Art
Native Springs
Nell Thorn Restaurant
Next Chapter Books
North Cascades Institute
Megan Scott O'Bryan
Beth Owens
Jim Owens
Tom Pasma
Pasek Cellars
Penguin Coffee
Phil Green
Pickford Cinema
Premier Graphics
Mary Revello
River & Main Merchants
Rebecca Rosencrans
Julie Rousseau
Ruby Sue's Tea & Treasures
Rumours Hair Design
Linda Sanford
San Juan Toffee Company
Sauk Mountain Pottery
Belinda & Bruce Schuster
John Scurlock
Dr. Luther Schutz
Nicole Scott

Sedro-Woolley Earth Corps Club
Seeds Bistro & Bar
Sempre Italiano
Shop Curator
Skagit Cycle Center
Skagit River Boutique
Skagit Valley Publishing
Skagit Soils
Skagit Valley Gardens
Skagit Valley Healing Arts
Skagit Wild Bird Supply
Slough Food
Linda Speck
Step Outside
Studio 29
Stratum Group
Ona Strikas
Linda Summers
Sunbreak Greetings
Suzanne Fogarty Photography
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Thai House
The Galley Restaurant & Bar
Theatre Arts Guild
Ryan Walters
Warren and Linda Walz
Watermark Book Co
Russ Weiser
Well's Nursery
Brian and Dyani Wetcher
Wild Thyme Personal Chef Service
Jan & Keith Wiggers
Wilson Picture Frames, Inc
Jan Wilson
Wyman Park
Laura Wynn & Theo Antikas
Andrea Xaver
Xtra Special Cakes

NATURAL SKAGIT

Thank you to the 97 volunteer contributors who made *Natural Skagit* possible. Photographers, writers and teams are recognized in the book.

GUERMES MOUNTAIN CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the many and generous supporters who have contributed to date to the Guermes Mountain Project on Guermes Island. We will be sending out a flyer listing all contributions.

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MARCH 31, 2009
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009 (AUDITED) AND 2008 (REVIEWED)

STATEMENTS OF

FINANCIAL POSITION

	2009	2008
Cash	221,188	359,354
Pledges, receivables, other	413,855	118,629
Investments (for land & stewardship projects)	990,657	1,201,268
Conservation Land	3,030,845	2,543,616
Total Assets	4,656,545	4,222,867
Liabilities	19,040	35,988
Net Assets	4,637,505	4,186,879
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,656,545	4,222,867

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT & OTHER REVENUE

Contributions (cash and in-kind) – unrestricted	144,739	236,519
Contributions – restricted for special projects	476,448	380,364
Grant and fee income	839,486	149,613
Investment Income and interest	(197,153)	44,030
Special events (net)	31,700	0
Book sales	76,113	0
Total Revenue	1,371,333	810,526

EXPENSES

Conservation easement purchases	403,000	0
Land and stewardship programs	387,757	326,569
Management and fundraising	130,132	137,247
Total Expenses	920,707	463,816
Net Income	450,626	346,710

CAPITAL PURCHASES

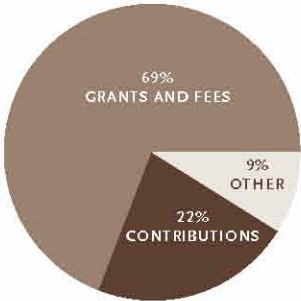
Equipment	0	1,033
Land	838,000	0

The condensed financial statement presented above reflect Skagit Land Trust's financial statement for the year ending March 31, 2009 which have been audited by Judy C. Jones & Associates, LLC Certified Public Accountants.

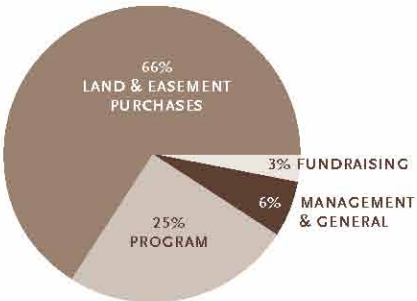
FINANCIAL NOTES

- Guernes Mountain campaign pledges received by SLT on March 31st 2009 were a total of \$340,426.
- A \$403,000 grant was received from the Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6 funds) to assist the Trust in purchasing the Barr Creek property. Skagit Land Trust matched this grant with \$223,065.
A \$71,352 grant was received from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for the Jungers (Cumberland) acquisition. Skagit Land Trust matched this with \$12,591. A \$195,500 grant was received from SRFB for the Day Creek (Berquist) acquisition. It was matched by \$35,000 of in-kind support by Seattle City Light.
- The market value of the Barr Creek property was diminished by \$403,000 following the placement of a permanent conservation easement on this property. The CE is held by DNR.
- The Trust purchased the Barr Creek and Day Creek Conservation areas plus and an in-holding in Cumberland Peninsula (Jungers). There were two conservation easement donations. Conservation easement donations are carried at no market value on the Trust's accounts per accounting recommendations.

REVENUE



EXPENSES





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MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
WWW.SKAGITLANDTRUST.ORG

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BELOW: BARR CREEK PROPERTY © CHRISTINE KITCH
ON THE COVER: SAUK RIVER © JOHN SCURLOCK

'09 ANNUAL REPORT

"The greatest use of life is
to spend it for something
that will out last it."

—WILLIAM JAMES