

Day Creek Conservation Area

More than 100 Acres Protected on the Skagit River

Skagit Land Trust has preserved more salmon habitat and shoreline on the Skagit River. Day Creek Conservation Area is located at the confluence of Day Creek and the Skagit River, and includes approximately 7,500 feet of shoreline on the mainstem river and adjacent sloughs.

The 110 acre parcel of floodplain land which now forms the preserve was purchased by the Trust from Kim and Janet Sundstrom. It consists of approximately 75 acres of mixed riparian woodland and 35 acres of cropland. The Sundstroms ran a successful dairy operation on the property from 1979 until 2001, when they decided to get out of the dairy business. They have, however, retained 40 acres of their farm, which includes upland areas along Walberg Road with an existing house and barn, as well as much of the productive cropland, which is currently leased to potato farmers.

The purchase price of \$273,000 includes covenants prohibiting future new residential development on the Sundstrom's remaining upland. The purchase was made possible through grants from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which provided 85 percent of the funds. The remainder of the funds for purchasing this property came from Skagit Land Trust, and were raised from donations and memberships.

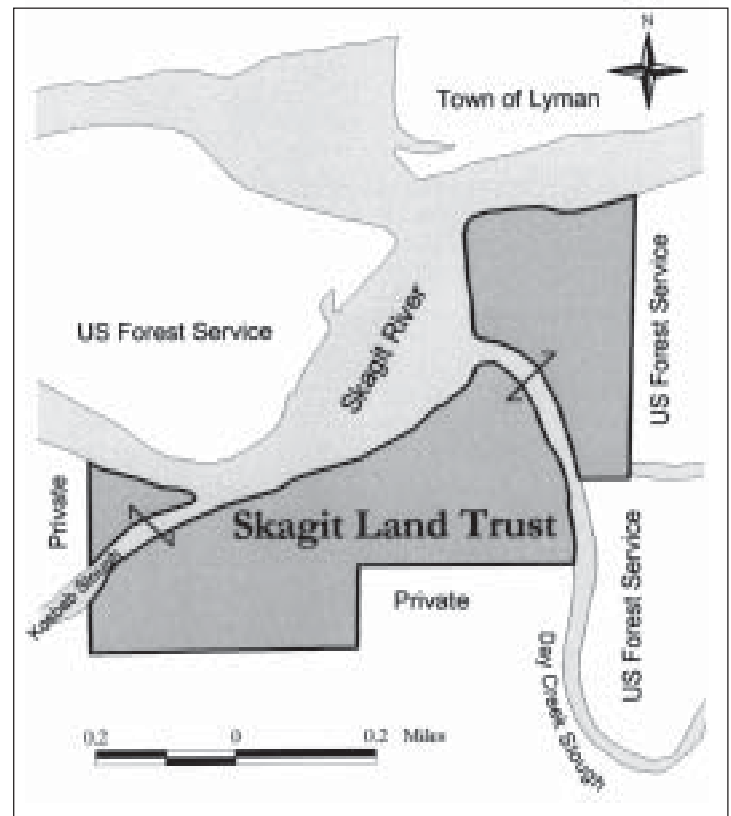
The property includes the mouth of Day Creek and a significant side-channel of the Skagit River, locally referred to as Kosbab Slough. Day Creek meanders through a broad, flat valley that has a low gradient for an extended distance, enabling fish to spawn over five miles upstream. The creek was historically very important for salmon production. Although it has suffered from extensive past timber harvest in the upper watershed, it is still used by coho, Chinook, pink and sockeye salmon, as well as steelhead and rainbow trout. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group is currently

working on a restoration feasibility study for Day Creek to determine the best options for restoring the stream's productivity.

In order to help enhance this habitat, the Skagit System Cooperative has committed to assisting the Trust with replanting and maintaining a riparian buffer on the property. This kind of assistance from our conservation partners is invaluable since Skagit Land Trust must cover the costs of stewarding this and other properties we own.

Salmon Habitat Recovery grants received for land purchase do not cover any of the long-term stewardship expenses.

- Continued on next page -



Day Creek Conservation Area

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Skagit Update

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Letter from the Executive Director

In this newsletter we are pleased to tell you about important habitat protection that your membership helped us achieve on Day Creek. The protection of this property continues to knit together a corridor of salmon habitat on the Skagit River, giving healthy wild fish populations one more foothold to recover. With a corridor of properties protected along the shoreline of the Skagit River for salmon, we are realizing the wonderful additional value of helping to protect resting and foraging areas for elk and other wildlife. Skagit Land Trust's role in protecting habitat for elk began in 1999 when we fundraised to purchase 50 acres at Hurn Field on Highway 20. The US Forest Service said if we accomplished this, they would protect the adjacent 77 acres of the Ann Wolford park. The interconnection of protection successes strengthens vital strands in the web of life. Thank you for helping us sow the seeds of conservation wider with each piece of land we preserve, enabling our community to enjoy dramatic landscapes and the wildlife they hold.



New Conservation Area Continued...

The property is adjacent to lands owned by the U.S. Forest Service to the north and east, and so adds significantly to a larger network of protected habitat. A large band of elk roam through this bottom land. Because of remote location and extensive surrounding wildlands, it is excellent habitat for many other wildlife species using the lowland forest and the extensive network of wetlands and sloughs in the area.



Skagit Land Trust Staff and Volunteers



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

Skagit Land Trust needed to simplify our logo so it no longer required multiple printing screens to achieve its professional look. Jeanne Glick, co-owner of Printwise, generously gave a donation for the development of a new logo. Mindi Brock, graphic designer at Printwise gathered our input and created our logo. Little did we know what the logo development process is like – imagine designing your family crest with all of your family and cousins involved! With Mindi's help we succeeded-although there were close calls such as the moment where we at the Trust seesawed between an elk, an eagle, a heron, a tree, the river...how about an eagle alighting from the back of an elk about to snatch a heron?? We loved the eagle but now, the eagle has landed, with its mission accomplished of guarding Skagit Land Trust for its first eleven years.



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More than 100
Acres Protected
on the Skagit
River.

Saving Land for Tomorrow

Upcoming Volunteer Events:

November 22 Visit beautiful Samish Island and pull English ivy off of native Douglas-fir trees on a property protected with a Conservation Easement. This property is also home to a bald eagle nest and is on the edge of a great blue heron nesting colony. For those interested, the ivy pull will be followed by a tour of the forest and a peek at the heron nests. This is a great way to learn about Conservation Easements and help native species.

December 13 Annual Nest count of the March Point Heronry. This always popular event takes place at the largest heron-nesting site in Western North America. Teams spend the day documenting the heron's use of this nationally significant site.

February 21 Tree planting along the Skagit River. Help our partners reforest a pasture isolated by flood waters. This pasture is no longer accessible for farming and is becoming overgrown with weeds. The field and an adjacent riparian forest are protected by a Conservation Easement. This is an opportunity to improve the conditions in our watershed by restoring trees to this lovely area.

If you are interested in any of these events, please call the Trust's Land Specialist, Brenda Cunningham at (360) 428-7878 or visit our website for more details. It is a great opportunity to get outside with a wonderful group of people, to see what types of properties the Trust protects and to help the Trust protect even more.

December 9th

Save the date, Tues. Dec. 9th
for the Skagit Land Trust
Open House.
More information coming!

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tion this holi-
day.

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