

# Jefferson Land Trust

2019-20 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY







## TOGETHER, WE'RE ROOTED IN COMMUNITY!

Last year marked Jefferson Land Trust's 30th anniversary. In the fall we gathered together on the lawn of the Old Alcohol Plant to celebrate the impact of our collective work.

### ***What a difference a year makes!***

This year, in the midst of a pandemic, we're gathering online. But rather than doing so in isolation and fear, I'm seeing courage, resiliency, generosity, humor, and a great deal of hope for the future.

Land trusts are only as strong as the communities behind them, and this community is as strong as they come. While it's impossible to list all of the ways I've seen neighbors step up during the pandemic to look out for each other and ensure a healthy future for our shared home, I do want to highlight a few.

When Covid-19 hit at a particularly difficult time for local farmers, many community members recognized their struggles and the threat to our local food system, and immediately enrolled in community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, supported the Farmers Market online,

and donated to our *Strong Farms, Strong Futures* appeal. In just two weeks, we exceeded our fundraising goal with half the gifts going to the Olympic Peninsula Farmers Fund and half to long-term farmland preservation projects.

Then, when our popular spring natural history course, *Tidelands to Timberline*, was canceled due to Covid-19, volunteer naturalists who usually serve as Land Trust guides shared their knowledge online. Thanks to them, the new program *Nature in Your Neighborhood* was born and reached more than 700 people.

I applaud the Land Trust staff, board, and the many tireless volunteers and partners who serve behind the scenes and on committees that guide our work. When we closed our office to the public and transitioned to working online and by phone, they didn't miss a beat. Their resilience and commitment has made it possible for us to forge ahead on multiple fronts.

For example, with their usual blend of creativity and perseverance, our conservation team has completed nine land protection projects since



**Photo left page:** Jefferson Land Trust's 30th Anniversary Celebration, Fall 2019. **Photos right page:** Sarah Spaeth introduces the new Snow Creek Forest Preserve; Sarah Spaeth, Richard Tucker and the Kodama Farm team celebrate signing an agreement in September 2019 to begin creating the conservation easement for Kodama Farm.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS AND SAVE THE LAND PARTNERS

### *Sponsors*

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### *In-Kind Sponsors*

Aldrich's Market

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Marrowstone Vineyards

Old Alcohol Plant

The Resort at Port Ludlow\*

### *Save the Land Partners*

Chimacum Corner Farmstand

Better Properties Tri-Counties LLC

Wayland Constructive

*\*Sponsor and Save the Land Partner*

our last report, the most recent of which is a 25-acre property on the south side of the Duckabush River. They've also continued caring for the land and are preparing to open Valley View Forest to the community for light recreation. I see this forest as a beacon for the future, as it will eventually serve as the entrance to Chimacum Ridge Community Forest – the planning for which continues with community guidance.

Thank you all for continuing to support this work.

Like you, I'm grateful to live here – in a community that cares enough to really step up when necessary to take care of each other and to protect the land on which we all depend.



With Gratitude,

Richard Tucker,  
Executive Director





Photo by Jen Lee Light



## MIDORI FARM: Thriving on Protected Farmland

Jefferson Land Trust has been working to protect farmland in Jefferson County since 2003. With community support, we've protected 14 local farms and are actively working with local farm families to protect five others. One example of the impact of this work is Midori Farm, an organic farm that sits in a fertile floodplain between the Little and Big Quilcene Rivers. Here, farmers Marko Colby and Hanako Myers grow an abundance of vegetables and fruits, alongside a fledgling chestnut orchard.

When Hanako and Marko purchased the land in 2013, they were struck by the lack of available, affordable farmland. This spurred their interest in agricultural land preservation and they began working with the Land Trust to ensure that Midori would remain available for agriculture beyond their lifetimes.

Protecting Midori Farm was a big team effort. Generous community supporters donated \$48,000 to match a grant from the Jefferson County Conservation Futures Fund and permanently protect 16 prime acres of farmland with an agricultural conservation easement held by Jefferson Land Trust.

The economic impact of a conservation easement can be vitally important for new farmers. "We really had to extend ourselves to purchase this land initially. To be able to recuperate a little bit of that investment by putting the land into conservation

and selling the development rights to Jefferson Land Trust gave us a cash injection at a really crucial time. It helped us put in more infrastructure to make our business more efficient and to grow," recalls Marko. This has allowed Midori to lease additional land for farming and hire more employees.

Midori Farm sits on land that was zoned as rural residential, meaning without the easement the land was vulnerable to development as residential units. "It's very comforting to know that what we're creating won't be undone later. We've preserved a really prime piece of agricultural land for future generations."

Keeping local farms thriving is a big win for the community. A strong local agricultural economy creates jobs and makes our community more resilient. It also means that we benefit from having healthy, locally grown food produced by our neighbors — a benefit that we appreciate all the more in the midst of a pandemic.

A big portion of Midori Farm is dedicated to growing vegetables and plant starts that support gardeners across the county. And the farm is especially well known for its sauerkraut and kimchi products. As Marko says, "All those different components of the business have tentacles reaching out into the community in different ways."



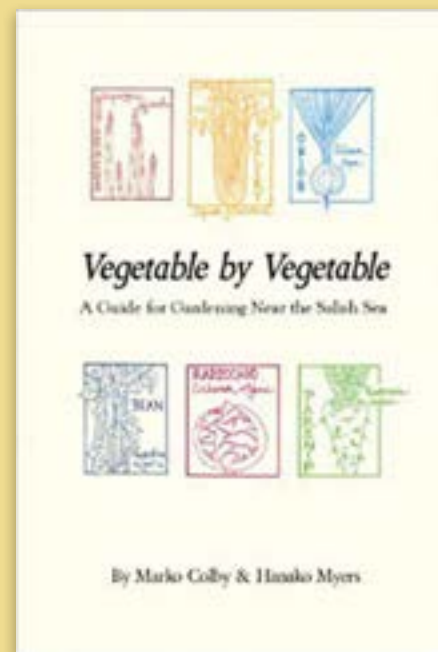
Photo by John Gussman

Marko is reassured by the relationship between local farms and the Land Trust, "I drive around the county and I see the farmland that exists, and I know many of the parcels are protected in agriculture conservation easements. We don't know what's going to happen in the world as we go forward, but all we can do is hope that we're taking good actions now to plant the seeds for things that will continue to grow roots forever."

Many local farms were hit hard by Covid-19 and have had to adapt quickly to the changed economy in order to survive. Recognizing their challenges, members of our community rallied, quickly filling Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and supporting rapid response initiatives like the Land Trust's ***Strong Farms, Strong Futures*** appeal, and the Olympic Peninsula Farmers Fund, which bought pre-purchase contracts from twelve peninsula farms, including Midori, to provide food to local food banks over a period of years.

With continued patronage and protection, our local farms will continue to define our landscapes, feed our families with nourishing food, provide habitat for wildlife, and ensure a secure food pipeline regardless of the challenges that we face as a community.

Find Midori Farm products in local produce aisles, the Port Townsend Farmers Market, or at the Midori Farm farmstand — it's open every day of the year, sunrise to sunset. Visit the farm virtually by watching our recent video and reading the story of this beautiful farm's protection at [www.saveland.org/midori](http://www.saveland.org/midori).



## Local gardeners take note!

Marko and Hanako grow and sell tens of thousands of vegetable and herb seedlings annually to local gardeners. To share their experience and knowledge, they've produced a helpful how-to manual for growing organic vegetables anywhere within a day's walk of the Salish Sea.

*Vegetable by Vegetable* features more than 60 vegetables and herbs. It covers seeding times, water and fertility needs, diseases, pests, and even includes winter gardening and harvest tips.

Read an excerpt & learn more at [midori-farm.com](http://midori-farm.com)



# Nature in Your Neighborhood

In March, stewardship director Erik Kingfisher and a team of volunteer naturalists were gearing up to host the Land Trust's popular *Tidelands to Timberline* natural history course when the stay at home order forced us to cancel the course and rethink our plans.

The two month, in-person course is offered each spring and fills quickly. With eight all-day Friday field trips, homework, and several evening presentations, it's rigorous. Alongside local naturalists, students learn about the natural world around us, diving into topics such as local plants, animals, and ecosystems.

"With our in-person course off the table, we wanted to find a way to stay connected with our community and connect to the natural world at a time when we were all feeling isolated," said Rebekah Korenowsky, the Land Trust's engagement coordinator. Thus began a joyful collaboration between Rebekah and Heather Harding to create a new program. Heather, a long-time Land Trust volunteer and certified interpretive guide, also co-founded the *Tidelands to Timberline* course with Erik Kingfisher and Dave Rugh.

"Initially, we envisioned a series of presentations," said Heather. "Then Rebekah and I began to wonder if it was possible to duplicate some of the depth and field-like experience of *Tidelands to Timberline* in a live online format."

Heather contacted each of the naturalists who guide the in-person day trips and pitched the idea. Even though presenting online was new to almost all of them, they gamely agreed to give it a try. Rebekah, Heather, and the naturalists went to work and, in just a month's time, *Nature in Your Neighborhood* was born.

During May and June, the community was invited to attend free weekly Virtual Nature Walks led by experienced local naturalists, to explore their own

backyards and neighborhoods by focusing on a different topic each week. Additionally, attendees could dive as deeply into that topic as they wanted with supplemental resources and activities designed for all ages, a Facebook community group, an email support line, and an end-of-week wrap up. A team of volunteers responded to community questions by email and through the program's Facebook groups.

And five Extending Your Reach presentations – from geology to wildlife tracking – were also included in the programming, taking viewers beyond their neighborhoods.

By the end of the program, more than 700 people had signed up – a new record! During May and June, we had over 4,000 combined views of the live and recorded Virtual Nature Tours and Extending Your Reach presentations.

"I think the success of *Nature in Your Neighborhood* is a testament to our community's determination to gather during a troubling time. Exploring the natural world together – even when apart – offers camaraderie, solace, and the deep satisfaction that results from shared curiosity and learning," said Land Trust Director of Philanthropy Kate Godman.

As the program came to a close, attendees were invited to flock together by joining the *Nature in Your Neighborhood* project on iNaturalist. At the program finale, called the Potluck of Shared Moments, Kurt Steinbach provided an introduction to and demo of iNaturalist.

If you missed the program, it's not too late to join the fun: there's a *Nature in Your Neighborhood* area on the Land Trust website sharing the recordings and resources from the program so that you can enjoy everything on demand.

Find it at: [www.saveland.org/neighborhood](http://www.saveland.org/neighborhood).



Support for the program was provided by grant funding from the Land Trust Alliance, the James D. Scheinfeld Family Foundation, and individual donors. Finnriver Farm & Cidery partnered with us to host and promote the program in their InCider space. Special thanks to our donors, partners, participants, and especially our presenters!



Images left to right: **Row 1:** Sit Spot Visitors by Chris Stevenson, Ensatina salamander by Dorothy Westlund **Row 2:** Guests in Birds Virtual Nature Walk **Row 3:** Lion Beetle by Coca Sanchez, Nootka rose by Chris Stevenson **Row 4:** Grand fir and Douglas fir by Linda Rhines, Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) by Sarah Fairbank, Northern alligator lizard by Kris Keisel



### **Nature in Your Neighborhood Virtual Nature Walks:**

- Birds with Dave Rugh and Ken Wilson
- Trees with Erik Kingfisher
- Insects with Richard Lewis
- Ferns with Heather Harding
- Amphibians & Reptiles with Geoff Hammerson
- Shrubs with Byron Rot
- Herbaceous Plants with Coca Sanchez and Dana Ecelberger
- Mammals with Darrell and Lorna Smith

### **Extending Your Reach Presentations:**

- Observing as a Naturalist with Ken Wilson
- Geology of the Quimper Peninsula with Michael Machette
- Geomorphology of Puget Sound Shorelines with John Bethel
- Marine Mammals with Dave Rugh
- Wildlife Tracking with Sarah Spaeth

## **Nature in Your Neighborhood BY THE NUMBERS**

- 1,100+ volunteer hours
- 4,000+ live and recorded views
- 16 intrepid presenters
- 700+ curious learners
- 2 dedicated hosts





## OUR FARMS, FISH, & FORESTS...

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Finding things to celebrate seems even more important these days, so we're very pleased to share that — with the support of our community — we've protected some really special places lately, including a few "missing links" that expand existing preserves and wildlife areas.

"Extending and building upon protected land is a priority of the Land Trust because that's where we see the greatest impact," explained Sarah Spaeth, Director of Conservation and Strategic Partnerships. "When we establish contiguous corridors for wildlife habitat and secure these 'missing links,' it benefits even more local fish and wildlife."

This year, a big win was securing the final 10 acres of the newly created 103-acre Snow Creek Forest Preserve. On the banks of Snow Creek, this preserve is home to the vulnerable Hood Canal summer chum salmon. It's now an important piece of a larger wildlife corridor — stretching from the Olympic Mountains to Discovery Bay — that the Land Trust is working with its "Chumsortium" partners to protect and restore.

With funding support from the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and a private family

foundation, we added 25 acres to the Duckabush Riparian Forest Preserve, expanding it to 165 acres. This preserve and other protected land along the Duckbush River benefits numerous salmon species and other wildlife. Over the years, we've worked with many partners to protect this essential waterway that flows from steep mountain slopes to the Duckabush Estuary on Hood Canal. For Sarah, it's also a favorite place to look for signs of wildlife. "I've seen tracks of elk, black bear, bobcat, beaver, river otter, mink, and coyote along the Duckabush," she says. "Seeing these signs gives me a new appreciation for protecting wildlife habitat."

We partner regularly with the Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI) and local landowners along Tarboo Creek to protect one of the most pristine estuaries on Hood Canal. We recently helped add 21 acres to NWI's Tarboo Wildlife Preserve, which is now more than 400 acres.

Further north on Marrowstone Island, the Land Trust worked with a local landowner to protect 35 acres with a conservation easement. This property includes prairie habitat, mature forest, and a string of natural and human-made wetlands,





Images left to right: Late summer at the Duckabush River by Robert Tognoli, Pileated Woodpecker in Quimper Wildlife Corridor by Wendy Feltham, Kodama Farm and Food Forest, Sarah Spaeth admires black bear marks on a tree at Duckabush River by Jessica Plumb

## Flourish with Your Support

complementing other protected places that stretch across the island. In a generous gift to the community and our environment, the landowner donated most of the easement's value.

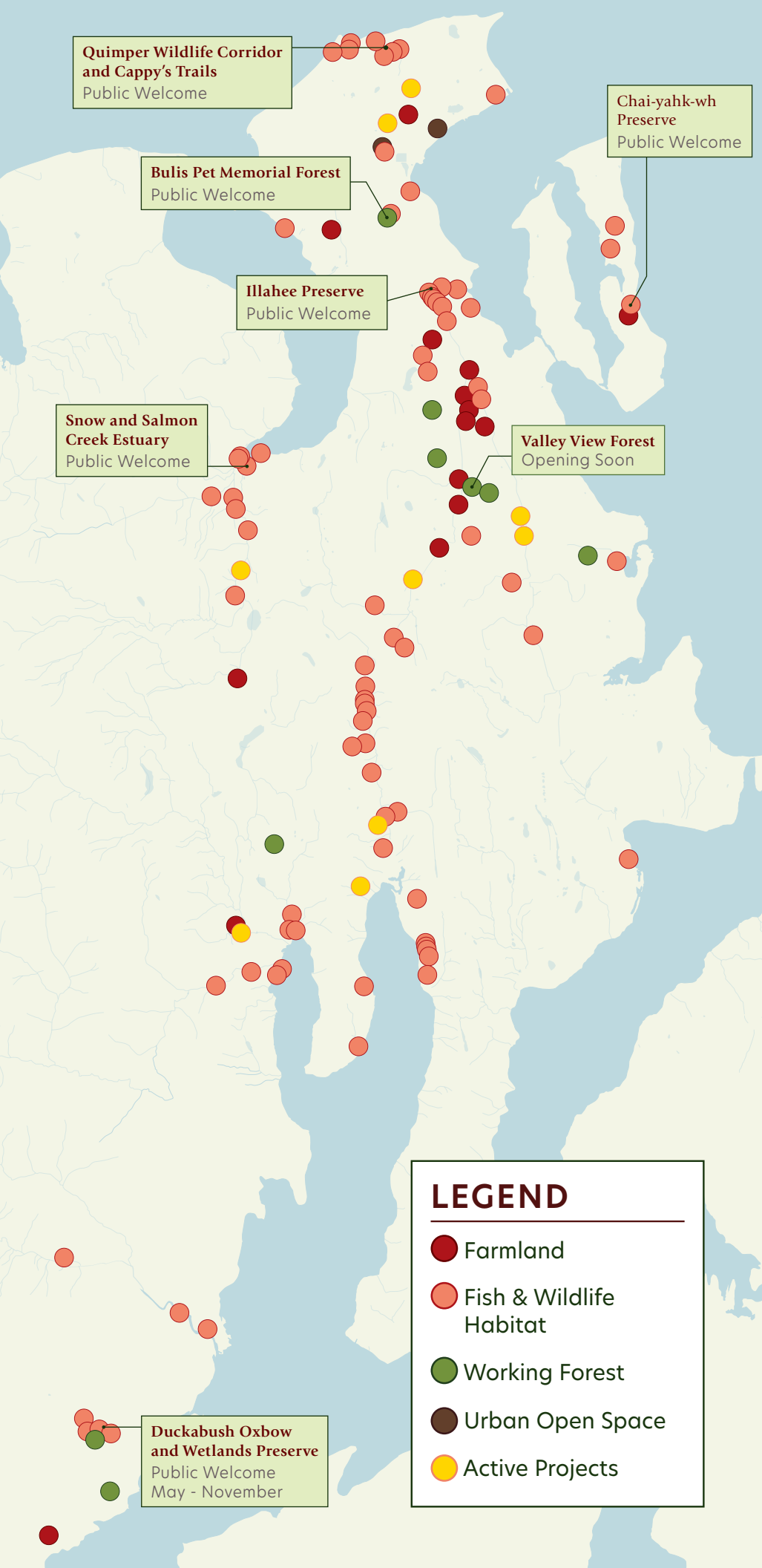
Quimper Wildlife Corridor is a ribbon of green connecting a string of wetlands and forests that provide habitat for over 200 bird species, amphibians, and mammals. Since the 1990s, we've been working to establish this community treasure. With more than 250 acres now protected, our goal of conserving a band of contiguous wildlife habitat in the heart of Port Townsend is now well within reach. In addition to being a haven for wildlife, the corridor and Cappy's Trails are enjoyed by many for hiking, biking, birding, and learning. In late 2019, a mailing to neighbors identified more than 40 landowners in the corridor interested in working with the Land Trust to conserve their properties. As a result, our goal for 2021 is to expand the corridor by an additional 57 acres. We've applied for grant funding from the state and are currently working to secure matching funds.

And in farmland protection news, we expect to finalize easements on two family farms in Beaver

Valley — Ruby Ranch and Kodama Farm & Food Forest — before the end of the year. Both will protect the agricultural future of these farms, and the Kodama easement is especially exciting as we'll be trying something new. "Kodama Farm is owned by young farmers eager to demonstrate how to accommodate farming and beaver and salmon habitat," explained Sarah. "We look forward to seeing if we can strike a healthy balance on this vibrant farm."

We'd like to thank the many community members who participate in the thoughtful and rigorous work of the Conservation Projects Committee. Meeting monthly, they consider and prioritize potential projects and represent the interests of the wider community.

Heartfelt thanks also go to the hundreds of volunteers who help care for and monitor these properties once they're protected, and to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes as researchers, grant writers, photographers, artists, project managers, event planners, and in office support, and to the donors who make all this conservation work possible!



# TOGETHER

we've helped protect  
more than 17,100 acres!



## FARMLAND

1,063 acres | 14 properties



## FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT

10,611 acres | 81 properties



## WORKING FOREST

5,428 acres | 11 properties



## URBAN OPEN SPACE

4 acres | 4 properties

All information calculated through  
September 1, 2020. Only East Jefferson  
County properties shown. The Land Trust has  
also helped protect 7,154 acres of habitat  
with partners in West Jefferson County.



# 2019 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



**61 conservation easements visited** for required annual monitoring



**654 acres of habitat actively** cared for at our preserves



**20 volunteer work parties** held to care for our preserves



**500+ 1st-12th graders engaged** (from all 4 East Jefferson County public school districts)



**144 site visits by staff and volunteers** to monitor and care for nature preserves



**4 pick-up truck loads** of trash removed from various nature preserves



**12 wildlife camera site visits** by trained volunteers at **3** local preserves



**229 volunteers** who shared their time advancing our mission

**4913 hours** they spent volunteering

# 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

## SOURCES OF REVENUE

Gifts and Contributions	\$1,214,888
Special Event Income	\$197,868
Public Grants and Contracts	\$3,740,199
Land/In Kind Contributions	\$490,000
Investment Income	\$131,797

**TOTAL \$5,774,752**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$4,551,652
Fundraising	\$190,391
Management and Administration	\$221,351

**TOTAL \$4,963,394**

## ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$1,614,978
Property	\$5,810,916

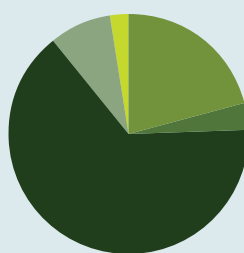
**TOTAL \$7,425,894**

## CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$6,683,814
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,495,172

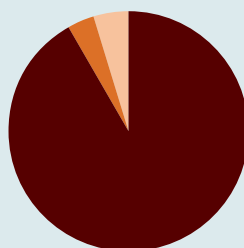
**DIFFERENCE \$811,358**

On August 18, 2020 the firm of Aiken & Sanders, Inc. PS presented its favorable management letter and audited financials for 2019 to Jefferson Land Trust's Board of Directors. The final audited financial statement is available by request via email from Director of Philanthropy Kate Godman at [kgodman@saveland.org](mailto:kgodman@saveland.org).



## 2019 SOURCES OF REVENUE

- Gifts and Contributions
- Special Event Income
- Public Grants and Contracts
- Land/In Kind Contributions
- Investment Income



## 2019 OPERATING EXPENSES

- Program Expenses
- Management and Admin
- Fundraising



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Robin Fitch** President

**Nan Evans** Vice President

**Lucas Hart** Vice President

**Marcia Schwendiman** Treasurer

**Sherry Moller** Secretary

**Craig Britton**

**Kellie Henwood**

**Barry Mitzman**

**Brian Rogers**

**Tom Sanford**

**Marilyn Showalter**

**Rick York**

## STAFF MEMBERS

**Carrie Clendaniel** Preserve Manager

**Kate Godman** Director  
of Philanthropy

**Erik Kingfisher** Stewardship Director

**Rebekah Korenowsky**  
Engagement Coordinator

**Paula McNeas** Finance &  
Administrative Assistant

**Sarah Spaeth** Director of Conservation  
& Strategic Partnerships

**Blaise Sullivan**  
Conservation Assistant

**Richard Tucker** Executive Director

**Stephanie Wiegand**  
Communications Manager

**Sarah Zablocki-Axling**  
Development Manager

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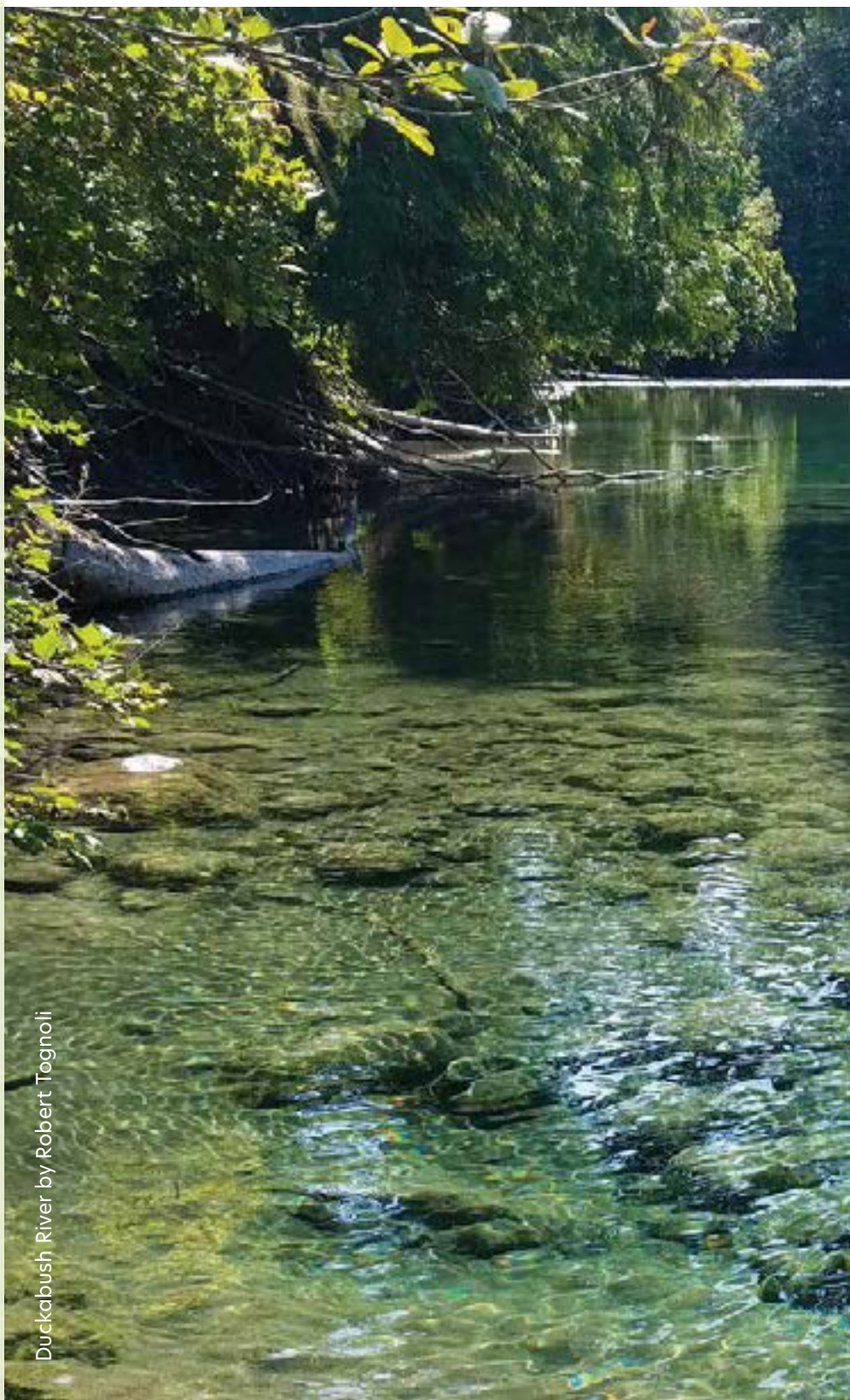
[www.saveland.org](http://www.saveland.org)

## MISSION

Helping the community preserve open space, working lands,  
and habitat forever.

## ABOUT JEFFERSON LAND TRUST

Jefferson Land Trust is a local, nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to preserving the rural character and iconic landscapes of Jefferson County. In partnership with the community, the Land Trust has helped to protect more than 17,100 acres of our area's most important places.



Duckabush River by Robert Tognoli

