

Jefferson Land Trust

2020-21 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE AND PURPOSE

In early 2020, when it became clear that we'd have to limit access to our office, cancel our in-person events, and begin working differently, I was uncertain what this would mean for Jefferson Land Trust and our community.

Knowing our community as I do, I shouldn't have worried. You all stepped up and showed up in so many ways — with helpful encouragement, active virtual participation, creative volunteerism, and generous financial support. In fact, thanks to you, the Land Trust entered 2021 stronger, full of hope, and more resolved than ever to protect the places that matter locally.

We kicked off the year with the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge, an ambitious fundraising effort to raise the almost \$1.8 million that will allow us to work with willing landowners to permanently protect up to 164 acres in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.

Once again, you responded, and have helped us raise more than \$1.4 million (a combination of cash and land donations) in support of this endeavor to date. These funds have allowed our conservation team to begin working with eight willing landowners, initiate appraisals on 12 key properties, and close escrow on eight top-priority acquisitions. More are expected to close this fall as we continue to make progress toward our fundraising goal.

This year, we also made strides on a number of new initiatives. After careful research by our conservation burial working committee and with input from the

community, our board approved moving forward with the creation of a conservation burial program. We plan to have a wildland cemetery for green burials and a memorial forest for the scattering of cremated remains — both of which will offer end-of-life options that support our community's conservation values.

In partnership with North Olympic Land Trust, we worked with Core GIS to accumulate geospatial data for our region that will allow both of our organizations to be even more effective in our future land protection and stewardship activities in the face of climate change.

We've also made strong progress toward the creation of the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest. With a grant of \$3 million from Washington state, a new strategic vision framework designed with community input, and a pilot selective harvest at Valley View Forest this summer, the possibilities of the community forest are coming into focus. We're hopeful we'll raise all the funds needed to purchase the forest by the end of 2023, and will keep you posted on opportunities to help us realize this vision in the year ahead.

For a Land Trust, it's a really good time to have hope, a feeling of resolve, solid plans, and a supportive community. President Biden's executive order committing to the conservation of 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 (known as **30X30**) is an ambitious call to action for our nation.

I'm proud that land trusts will play a critical role in protecting such land and in keeping it healthy and

Message from Our Board President



We're now 18 months into the pandemic — and what a time it's been for all of us. As the president of Jefferson Land Trust's board of directors, I'd like to thank all who have participated in Land Trust activities through this challenging time.

Thanks to the stewards who help us care for our preserves, to the landowners we've partnered with on easements, to the terrific staff who have managed to make incredible progress, to my fellow board and committee members who have persevered through countless hours on Zoom, and to all of you who have donated time and money to keep our vision of forever lands.

It's gratifying to see how staff and volunteers work together with willing landowners and project partners to make a difference right now and for years into the future. We're seeing in a dramatic way how climate change is affecting the local environment and increasing demand for land in this region, which is driving up prices — for farmers, for families, and for habitat.

We know we must continue to take action if we're going to preserve what we value here on the Peninsula, and I'm grateful for your partnership in this work.

Thank you.

— Brian Rogers



View of the Olympic Mountains from the top of Chimacum Ridge. Photo by Kerry Tremain/LEO.

productive. In fact, voluntary land conservation by landowners in partnership with local land trusts will be essential if we are to protect an additional 400 million acres nationwide by 2030.

What's most exciting to me about this initiative is that the conservation will reflect local goals and priorities in communities across the country. Land trusts are uniquely qualified to respond to local needs, conserving lands that provide clean air and water, natural climate resiliency, sustainable food and fiber, important wildlife habitat, and equitable access to open spaces for respite, recreation, and sustenance.

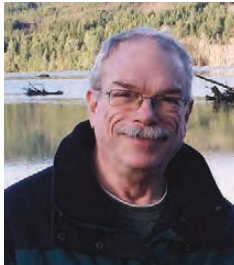
The nation's land trusts have conserved approximately 60 million acres in the past 40 years, and together they are conserving between 1 and 2 million acres each year. Clearly, we'll need to accelerate our work if we are to help our nation reach the **30X30** goal.

We'll need to be even more creative, effective, bold, and ambitious. I believe our community and our Land Trust are ready to accept and meet this challenge.

Collectively and individually, our actions matter now more than ever before. I'm grateful for your continued support of private land conservation.

With gratitude,

Richard Tucker
Executive Director



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Brian Rogers – *President*
- Nan Evans – *Vice President*
- Lucas Hart – *Vice President*
- Marcia Schwendiman – *Treasurer*
- Sherry Moller – *Secretary*
- Craig Britton
- Brent Butler
- Robin Fitch
- Kellie Henwood
- Barry Mitzman
- Tom Sanford
- Marilyn Showalter
- Rick York

CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS

- Carrie Clendaniel
Preserve Manager
- Kate Godman
Director of Philanthropy
- Erik Kingfisher
Stewardship Director
- Tali Hamilton
Stewardship Assistant
- Paula McNees
Finance Manager
- Lilly Schneider
Communications Coordinator
- Sarah Spaeth
Director of Conservation and Strategic Partnerships
- Blaise Sullivan
Conservation and Stewardship Coordinator
- Richard Tucker
Executive Director
- Stephanie Wiegand
Communications Manager
- Sarah Zablocki-Axling
Development Manager

MISSION

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

Cover Photo: Bigleaf maple tree on Chimacum Ridge by Robert Tognoli/LEO.



FARMS, FISH, AND FORESTS FLOURISH WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With your support, Jefferson Land Trust flourishes — and so do our local farms, fish, and forests. We're excited to share some of the places you helped conserve and care for in Jefferson County this past year.

Just before ringing in the new year, the Land Trust helped permanently protect 80 acres of the Mahan farm and forest, adding to the patchwork of protected properties in the Quilcene Headwaters-to-Bay project, funded by Jefferson County Conservation Futures Program and the US Navy. Jakeway Creek flows toward Quilcene Bay, through forestland and pasture on the Mahan farm, making it a unique example of a property that contains forestland, farmland, and sensitive wildlife habitat so important to the health of Quilcene Bay.

We also permanently protected two key properties at the head of Discovery Bay, thanks to grant funding and our longstanding partnership with North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC). NOSC will soon begin restoration work on the Lucky Deer Trading Post property and has future plans for restoration at two of our Snow Creek preserves.

To aid us in our long-term stewardship work, a Washington Conservation Corps crew, hosted by NOSC, came out to Snow Creek Forest Preserve last winter to create downed logs to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, while also improving conditions for seedlings. NOSC also partnered with us to protect Kodama Farm & Food Forest, where they're working to restore 21 acres of salmon habitat along Chimacum Creek.

In more great farmland news, we finalized protection on Chimacum's Ruby Ranch, and secured the funds necessary to protect the historic Hannan cattle farm

(in Chimacum), a mother-and-daughter-run operation, and Kawamoto Farm (in Lake Leland), a former dairy founded by Japanese-American farmers 100 years ago. Conservation easements purchased by the Land Trust, in addition to easements from the US Navy, ensure that these hundreds of protected acres will remain available as working farmland forever.

Throughout the year, our stewardship team and hardy volunteers got their hands dirty working on trails and caring for Jefferson County's wild lands. The teams took care of tree plantings at Duckabush Oxbow and Wetlands Preserve and at Lower Donovan Creek, and also made important progress on managing invasive weeds at these and other preserves.

And we started 2021 by launching the next phase of protection of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor. The corridor — 3.5 miles of forest, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and trails that stretch from Fort Worden to McCurdy Point — is a treasured resource and refuge that we are working hard to protect as development pressures continue to grow around it. This year brought the opportunity to work with up to 40 willing landowners to permanently protect more than 160 acres, including helping facilitate the transfer of two large Department of Natural Resources' parcels to Jefferson County ownership.

Thanks to strong community support for the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge, the first property acquisitions in this next phase of work have already closed. If you'd like to add your support, please contact Kate Godman, Director of Philanthropy at 360.379.9501, ext 102 or give online at www.saveland.org/corridor-challenge.



Left page: Kodama farmers Ben, Grace, and Matt; River the Kodama farm dog **Right page:** Quimper Wildlife Corridor bluff by John Gussman; Kawamoto Farm; Spotted Towhee at Chimacum Ridge by Kerry Tremain/LEO.

Sarah Spaeth: 25 Years of Vision, Creativity, and Leadership

In 1996, seven years after its founding, Jefferson Land Trust hired Sarah Spaeth as a project coordinator for the Quimper Wildlife Corridor project. A quarter century later, we have her to thank for helping the Land Trust conserve more than 17,000 acres of Jefferson County's most important places.

Sarah's 25 years at the Land Trust have transformed us into "the little land trust that could," known around the country for innovation and outsized accomplishments. She's engrained a spirit of fearlessness into our organization. To Sarah's way of thinking, no project is too big.

Once the Land Trust's first-ever full-time employee, Sarah currently serves as Director of Conservation and Strategic Partnerships. Ambitious in her vision and creative in her approach, she's overseen projects on Chimacum, Salmon, and Snow creeks; the Duckabush and Dosewallips rivers; Discovery, Tarboo, and Quilcene bays; Chimacum Ridge; and many of our beloved local family farms.

With a wealth of knowledge and an open heart, she draws together landowners, farmers, tribal members, governmental and nonprofit agencies, partners, and

community members toward shared goals of wildlife conservation and community resilience.

Sarah's 25-year legacy of environmental and community conservation is a gift to all who visit and value wild lands in the Pacific Northwest. In this anniversary year, please join us in offering Sarah deep gratitude as well as hearty congratulations on her extraordinary and impactful accomplishments. ***Thank you Sarah!***



Together

we've helped protect
more than 17,400 acres!



Farmland

1,318 acres | 17 properties



Fish & Wildlife Habitat

10,714 acres | 90 properties



Working Forest

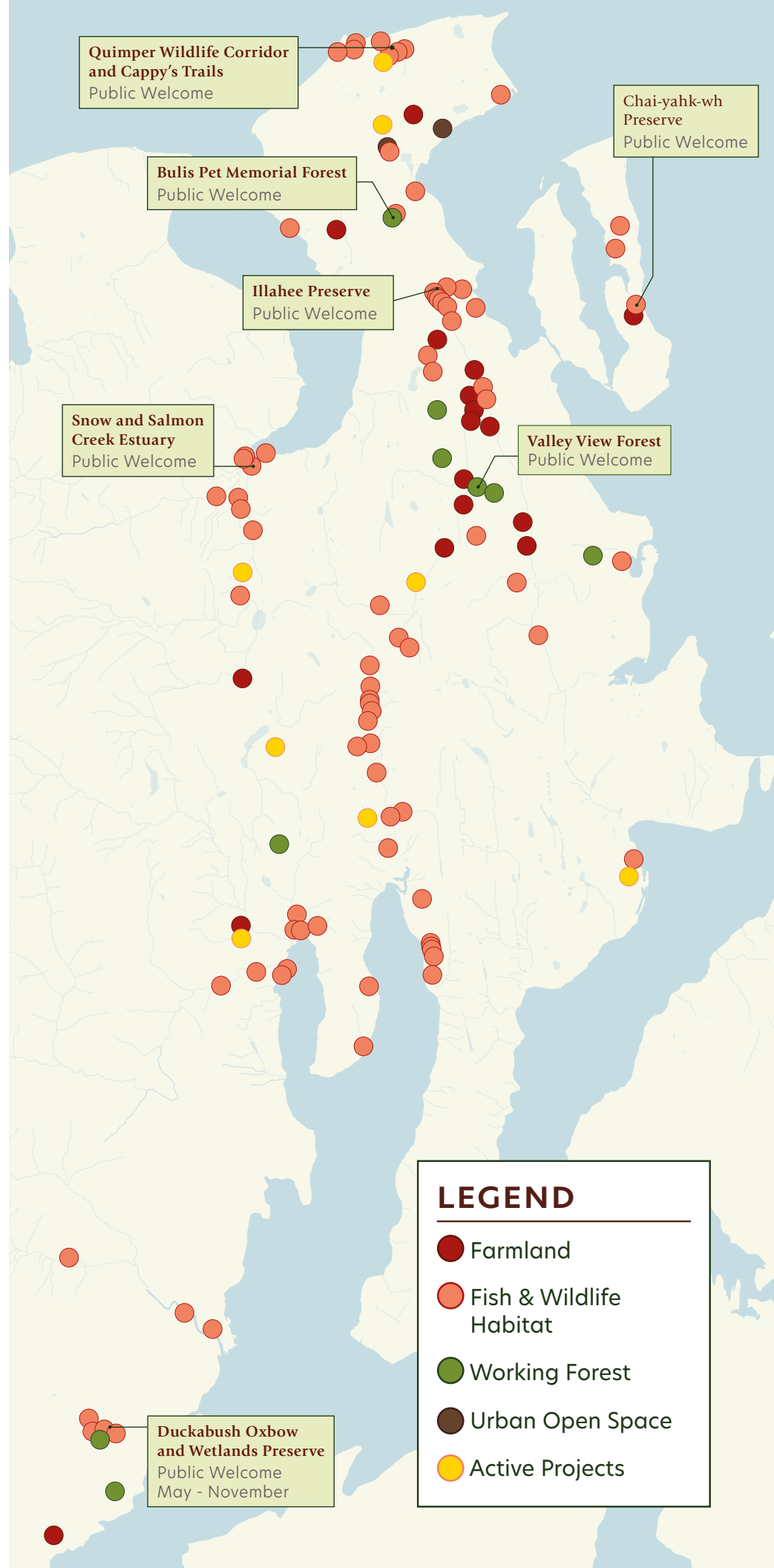
5,428 acres | 11 properties



Urban Open Space

4 acres | 4 properties

All information calculated through October 1, 2021. Only East Jefferson County properties shown. The Land Trust has also helped protect 7,154 acres of habitat with partners in West Jefferson County.



LEGEND

- Farmland
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Working Forest
- Urban Open Space
- Active Projects



Envisioning a Forest for All, Forever

Chimacum Ridge Community Forest will be deeply connected to its community, locally controlled and managed, free and open to all people and creatures, and will model regenerative relationships with the land.



A FOREST AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Rising between Center and Beaver valleys in Chimacum is a forested landform locally referred to as Chimacum Ridge. Located near the main population centers of the county, within the traditional territory of the Nəxʷsáxáyəm' (S'Klallam), and Aqokúlo or Čéməqəm (Chemakum), it's home to a portion of the headwaters of salmon-bearing Chimacum Creek, and is connected to the rich farmland of Center and Beaver valleys by several seasonal tributaries.

Jefferson Land Trust has been working to help protect this iconic, 853-acre property since 2010, and through many partnerships has ensured it will always remain undeveloped and managed as healthy timberland. Now, the Land Trust is working with the community to finally acquire and help transform Chimacum Ridge into a community forest designed to provide ecological, social, and economic benefits to the region forever.

Over the course of 2020, Jefferson Land Trust, staff from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, and 30+ members of our community worked together to develop a Strategic Vision Framework to define the purpose of this community forest. Meeting regularly via Zoom during the first six months of the pandemic lockdown, the group hammered out a mission for the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest, set a long-term vision for what the community forest should be, and defined a series of values that will guide the forest's future use, management, and care.

"Community Forests are forestlands that are owned and managed on behalf of local people to provide them secure and reliable access to the ecological, social, and economic benefits produced by forests."

Mission: The mission of Chimacum Ridge Community Forest is to sustain and share the ecological, cultural, and economic benefits of this community-driven, working forest for generations to come.

Vision: Chimacum Ridge Community Forest is a resilient forest for all, connecting communities and modeling regenerative relationships with the land.

Values:
The values of Chimacum Ridge Community Forest are rooted in the community, and are directly tied to the social, ecological, and economic benefits the forest is designed to provide.





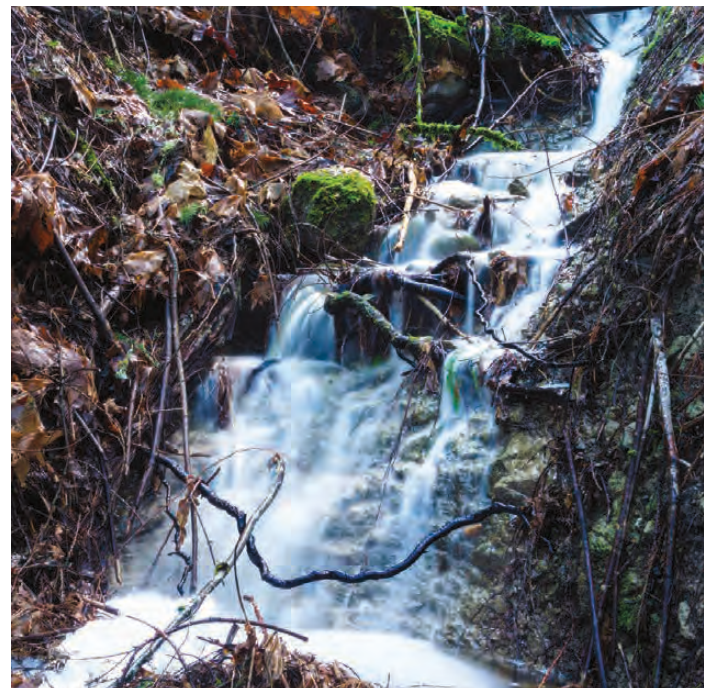
Community Benefits:

Chimacum Ridge Community Forest will balance ecological priorities with economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for the long-term good of the community. Our hope is that it will become a model that inspires the creation of other community forests across the Olympic Peninsula and beyond, while also:

- Preserving wildlife habitat and a diversity of plant and animal life
- Keeping our air clean, water pure, and night sky dark
- Protecting our local farms and food from runoff and pollution
- Stimulating economic development by providing a local source of timber for boat builders and specialty wood-products manufacturers
- Supporting partner nonprofits and local tribes with wood and harvests of non-timber products like cedar bark, cedar tips, and cranberries
- Creating new recreational opportunities for all — especially families
- Offering learning and programming opportunities for students and school groups
- Sequestering carbon

Jefferson Land Trust has until 2023 to purchase Chimacum Ridge from its current owner, EFM, and transform it into an active community forest that provides a source of local timber and non-timber products to our local economy; serves as a welcoming place for rich recreational, artistic, and educational experiences to all members of our community; inspires new local enterprise development; and becomes a home for traditional cultural activities.

Read the full Strategic Vision Framework online at www.saveland.org/forest-vision.



Left page: Stewardship Director Erik Kingfisher and friends from Port Gamble and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribes visiting the ancient cranberry bog on Chimacum Ridge by Tim Lawson/LEO; a young community member and his father mark a tree to be left in place during the Valley View Forest harvest by John Goldwood **Right page:** Valley View harvest operations; Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk at Chimacum Ridge by Tim Lawson/LEO; Seasonal tributary on Chimacum Ridge by Tim Lawson/LEO.

PILOTING A COMMUNITY FOREST HARVEST

In the spring and summer of 2021, we piloted the community forestry model at adjacent 65-acre Valley View Forest, which will eventually become the gateway to Chimacum Ridge.

Community volunteers gathered at Valley View Forest in Chimacum to mark trees in a 10-acre area. The group learned from Preserve Manager Carrie Clendaniel the criteria used to determine which trees to keep and which to harvest. Volunteers were careful to select a healthy mix of tree species — maple, alder, cedar, fir, and more — and to consider spacing between trees to facilitate the strong growth of a healthy understory, including the next generation of tree seedlings.

Jefferson Land Trust offered a tree free of charge to 16 local nonprofit, education, community, and tribal partners and invited local tribes to harvest cedar bark, traditionally used to make tools, baskets, hats, and regalia.

With this selective harvest, we were excited to explore how our vision of a community forest on Chimacum Ridge can work in practice. With careful design, we aim to create a healthy forest that's home to a rich diversity of plant and animal life. This forest will also provide our community with local timber and other products, and with natural recreation and education opportunities.

We'd like to thank our community volunteers and local partners for their help with this pilot harvest, and look forward to working with our whole community in the years to come to realize the full vision of a new path forward in forestry.

Funding News:

In 2021, we secured \$3 million to help acquire Chimacum Ridge through a grant from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office's Community Forestry Program — a big step forward made possible thanks to work by the Northwest Community Forest Coalition, Washington Association of Land Trusts, and Sustainable Northwest, as well as the advocacy of Senator Van der Wege and Representatives Chapman and Tharinger. And big thanks go out to all of the community members who wrote to the Governor in support of this project.

Stay tuned for a community-wide opportunity to help bring the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest vision to life, coming in 2022.



Top: An experienced team felled selective trees by hand at Valley View Forest by Tim Lawson/LEO **Bottom:** At Valley View Forest, a friend from the Port Gamble SKlallam Tribe harvests cedar bark, a cultural tradition of the tribe that's passed down from generation to generation.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 BUSINESS SPONSORS!



Private Foundations Provide Big Support

Jefferson Land Trust is honored to partner with individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations who want to make this world a better place. One such family foundation has been supporting the work of the Land Trust for more than 20 years. The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of nature, including wildlife and their required habitats.

When asked why the Foundation has supported the Land Trust for so many years, Trustee Ellen Ferguson shared, "Jefferson Land Trust is the gold standard in terms of protecting treasured lands in Jefferson County, whether forest or farmlands. At the Ferguson Foundation we admire and applaud the inspired work of the Land Trust, accomplished through authentic community-centered collaborations, deep listening, and a love of the land and its inhabitants. We're excited to continue partnering and supporting the Land Trust in its current and future endeavors that benefit the people, wildlife, and lands of very special Jefferson County."

The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation



2020 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

1,570



attendees at virtual events
connecting people to the land
(plus thousands of on-demand views)

129 site visits

by staff and volunteers
to monitor and care for
nature preserves



Photo by Wendy Feltham

62 
conservation
easements
visited for required
annual monitoring

210 acres
protected



 700
native trees and
shrubs planted

722 acres of habitat
actively cared for 
at our preserves 

5



real estate
transactions
completed
valued at almost
\$1.4 million



4,394

hours worked by
141 volunteers

LEO and the Land Trust: a Natural Collaboration

The League of Extraordinary Observers (LEO) is a small group of accomplished photographers whose stunning images of Jefferson County's natural history support us and other nonprofits in preserving land and habitat.

Now a project of Northwind Art, LEO was formed in 2018. "It seemed to us that having access to better photography would be useful for the efforts of environmental organizations," says founder Kerry Tremain. Indeed: their work features prominently on our website and in eNews, thank-you cards, and other publications — helping us tell the stories of the natural places we protect and care for.

They're currently working on a book and exhibition about Chimacum Ridge and the surrounding community.

LEO members include Allison Beezer, Jean Erreca, Brian Goodman, Chris Jones, Tim Lawson, Robert Tognoli, Kerry Tremain, and others. Learn more about LEO at www.leophoto.org.



Members of LEO practicing flying a drone at a farm on the Beaver Valley side of Chimacum Ridge. Photo by Robert Tognoli/LEO.

Our Volunteers Make a Huge Impact!

We're honored to recognize the many volunteers who joined us this past year in caring for places that matter in Jefferson County and supporting our mission. Our volunteers overcame pandemic obstacles to contribute in so many individual ways — and made a huge difference.

In a year of lockdowns and travel restrictions, Land Trust nature preserves were important places of respite for our community and they welcomed a lot of visitors. Our volunteers sprang into action, pulling invasive weeds, helping staff maintain plantings and trails, and marking trees in preparation for our selective timber harvest at Valley View Forest.

Many volunteer Preserve Stewards helped make up for the pause in Land Trust-organized work parties by leading their own.

Some volunteers built and installed bird nest boxes and planted native conifer seedlings on Land Trust preserves. Others set up data collection projects, continued trail work at Chai-yahk-wh Preserve and Valley View Forest, built and organized storage and shop space, and maintained mechanical equipment.

And it wasn't all glamorous field work. Board and committee members, grant writers, researchers, artists, and so many other passionate volunteers generously gave more than 4,000 hours of their valuable time to the Land Trust last year.

We're so grateful to you all!

To join our volunteer corps, please contact Sarah Zablocki-Axling via email at info@saveland.org or by phone at 360.379.9501, extension 108.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LOCAL CONSERVATION

In addition to offering a wealth of environmental, health, community, and recreational benefits, conservation also offers significant economic benefits. A study, *The economic benefits of conserved lands, trails, and parks on the North Olympic Peninsula*, published in January 2021 by The Trust for Public Land in partnership with Jefferson Land Trust and North Olympic Land Trust, finds that working and conserved lands generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits each year.

On the North Olympic Peninsula, working and conserved lands:

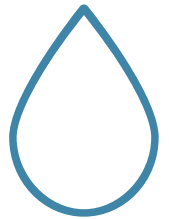
Store \$4.23 billion of carbon and remove \$168 million of carbon from the atmosphere annually.



Lower air-quality-related healthcare and pollution control costs by **\$25.8 million annually**.



Absorb 1.2 billion cubic feet of water and filter 82,300 tonnes of pollutants, resulting in \$1.09 million in stormwater management value each year.



In Jefferson County, working lands:

Support the forest economy that provides 271 direct jobs and **\$17.4 million in wages** each year.



Generate **\$9.8 million in farm products** and **\$1.6 million in commercial fish** landings (fish and shellfish that are landed and sold) annually.



Conserved lands also attract tourist dollars to our region:

In Jefferson County, nonlocal visitors to state parks spend **\$29.8 million in our county's economy** and support 244 jobs annually.



On the North Olympic Peninsula, nonlocal visitors to the Olympic National Park and state parks **spend \$306 million annually** in the region's economy.



This study helps Jefferson Land Trust and our partners demonstrate the economic value of conservation in our region, which is essential for securing public funds.

To learn more and download the report, visit www.saveland.org/economic-benefits.

Strategic Decision Making with Spatial Climate Data

Jefferson Land Trust is continually looking for ways to improve and advance land conservation and restoration in concert with our community. To make the most of our resources and funds, we establish partnerships, keep an eye on new research, and seek new data and tools to make us even more effective.

Climate change is a lens through which land trusts are increasingly viewing their work. This lens has us more focused than ever on resilience — the ability to adapt or be flexible in the face of change.

As we anticipate a shift to drier, hotter summers and warmer, wetter winters, we need to protect lands that have the ability to rebound after climate-related impacts, like summer droughts. At the same time, we have to promote resilience on the lands we've already protected.

But how do we know which lands will be most resilient?

Last year, using funding from the Land Trust Alliance and Sustainable Path Foundation, we partnered with North Olympic Land Trust to engage Core GIS in Seattle to assemble the best available climate models and climate science data for our region.

This data will be used as the foundation of our climate strategy. With it, we can more precisely identify lands that have the best chance of adapting to the conditions of 2100 and beyond. Knowing this, we can work to protect this land today and take measures that better prepare it for the future.

Using this data, we've updated our project selection criteria to make climate resiliency a strategic priority as we evaluate new and active projects. We're also assessing our preserves and easement lands to identify resiliency threats and opportunities for improvement.

We look forward to sharing this data with our partners and community in the year to come. Together, we can prepare for what's ahead and take positive action to lessen the impacts and threats of a changing climate.

2020 Financial Report

Sources of Revenue

Contributions	\$719,924
Special Event Income	\$219,984
Public Grants and Contracts	\$1,315,167
Investment Income	\$90,440
TOTAL	\$2,345,515

Operating Expenses

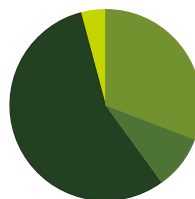
Program	\$1,233,983
Administration	\$205,689
Fundraising and Engagement	\$323,834
TOTAL	\$1,763,506

Assets

Cash & Investments	\$1,126,728
Property	\$6,130,919
Other Assets	\$1,040,427
TOTAL	\$8,298,074

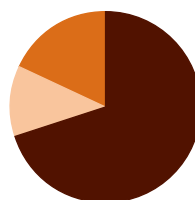
Change in Net Assets

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$7,495,172
Net Assets at End of Year.	\$8,077,181
DIFFERENCE	\$582,009



2020 Sources of Revenue

- Gifts and Contributions
- Special Event Income
- Public Grants and Contracts
- Investment Income



2020 Operating Expenses

- Program Expenses
- Management and Admin
- Fundraising and Engagement

On August 17, 2021 the firm of Aiken & Sanders, Inc. PS presented its favorable management letter and audited financials for 2020 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.



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“
Preserving the natural world
as we know it is the best investment
we can make. If we don't do it, it's
lost. When we think about what we
want to leave behind for the children,
for future generations, there really
is nothing better than to invest in
the world we're leaving behind. The
payoff will be beyond enormous.

– Jon Toof, Land Trust volunteer and supporter

