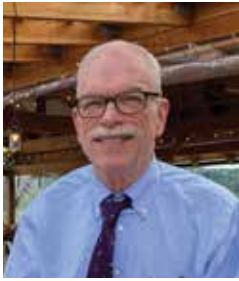


Jefferson Land Trust

2021-22 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



WITH GRATITUDE



When I moved to Port Townsend in 2015 to become Executive Director of Jefferson Land Trust, I joined a community with a passion for the outdoors, a thirst for learning, and unwavering generosity. These qualities have been demonstrated over the last couple of years as you've stepped up in so many

ways to support the Land Trust and conservation in our region.

Because of your steadfast support, we had the confidence in 2021 to begin the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge, our plan to more than double the number of acres permanently protected in this place so treasured by our community and so important to local water quality and wildlife.

With the Challenge, we've acquired more than 32 new acres that protect Cappy's Trails and the corridor's critical wetlands. And we're now working in partnership with Jefferson County to purchase 107 acres of forested land from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, permanently protecting this land forever.

Access to affordable farmland has been a growing concern of ours for more than a decade. Land Trust conservation easements have helped make many local farms more affordable for the next generation of farmers. At Kawamoto Farm in Quilcene, in addition to protecting the farm, we partnered with the Kawamoto family, Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative, and a group of engaged community members to help select the next farmers who will keep the farm productive while honoring the cultural heritage and history of this historic Japanese American dairy.

The Chimacum Ridge Community Forest project is our most ambitious and impactful project to date. With plans to purchase the 853-acre Chimacum Ridge Forest by the end of 2023, we've been working hard with partners and the community to design a plan for public access, recreation, and forest education. And a dedicated team of talented volunteers are using lumber harvested on site to build an outdoor pavilion on our Valley View Forest Preserve — the future entrance to Chimacum Ridge Community Forest.

Returning to hosting in-person events this year has been extremely refreshing. There's nothing I and other Land

Cover photo: View of Discovery Bay and the Snow and Salmon Creek Estuary, which is critical habitat for endangered summer chum salmon, and other fish and wildlife.

Since 2002, we've worked with local landowners and partners to protect and restore more than 400 acres of farmland and critical salmon habitat in the Discovery Bay area.

Currently, we're working to protect additional shoreline parcels and a large property on Salmon Creek.

Photo by John Gussman.

A Message from Our Board President



We're celebrating another great year at the Land Trust! As the president of Jefferson Land Trust's Board of Directors, I'd like to thank all of you who have participated in

Land Trust activities over the last year in support of the Land Trust's mission.

My thanks go out to the preserve stewards and volunteers who help us care for our preserves, to the landowners we've partnered with on easements and purchases, to the terrific staff members who've managed to make incredible progress, to my fellow board and committee members who've persevered through countless hours on Zoom, and to all of you who've donated time, money, and

property to keep our vision of forever lands moving forward.

Your volunteer activity pays the civic rent that keeps our community vibrant. The land that sustains us — the farms, forests, and wildlife habitat — gives so much to us. And we reciprocate by giving back to preserve and care for our most productive lands. Our work together is becoming more important as we face the challenges of a changing climate and growing development pressures that threaten the land.

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 looking over Chimacum all the way to Discovery Bay, by John Gussman.

Trust staff members enjoy as much as being out on the land with friends, partners, and supporters.

For the first time in three years, our popular *Tidelands to Timberline* course offered students the opportunity to learn about the natural history of this extraordinary area from a team of skilled naturalists. Our new Monthly Meanders program is also getting people out on the land on nature walks. These group walks — on Land Trust-owned nature preserves and private land protected by conservation easements — are led by local naturalists and Land Trust team members.

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, we're once again engaging local schools in East Jefferson County through our K-12 education partnerships. Our education program, which offers local students rich outdoor learning experiences, was more active and robust than ever this past school year.

I hope that as you look through this report and learn more about these initiatives and others, and their collective impact, you'll take pride in what your local land trust is accomplishing. Without your support, volunteerism, partnership, and vision, none of this is possible.

Thank you! It's hard to fully express my deep appreciation for this community and how wonderful it is to work on your behalf conserving and caring for places that matter in Jefferson County.

With gratitude,

Richard Tucker
Executive Director

2021-22 BOARD MEMBERS

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The list above includes board members who served from July 1, 2021-present and current staff members.



Aerial view of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor, by John Gussman.

PROTECTING THE QUIMPER WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS



Our community's effort to protect the Quimper Wildlife Corridor and Cappy's Trails is unique in many ways. At Jefferson Land Trust and across the nation, most land protection projects involve working with a single landowner to protect a large parcel of land. However, with hundreds of small parcels across the corridor owned by different individual landowners, conserving the Quimper Wildlife Corridor and Cappy's Trails is a much more complex proposition.

Piecing together dozens of small parcels and a few large ones into a landscape of protection has taken partnership, perseverance, hope, and decades of hard work. But, although the work is time consuming and costly, this true community effort is paying off as a greenbelt of protected wetlands and trails continues to grow over time.

The idea for the Quimper Wildlife Corridor came about in 1992 when then Evergreen College student Kathleen Mitchell conducted a feasibility study for a wildlife corridor on the Quimper Peninsula.

Seeing Kathleen's findings and recognizing the positive aspects of keeping the land in its natural state, the City of Port Townsend, local researchers, community members, Jefferson County, and Jefferson Land Trust formed a partnership and began building the backbone of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.

For the first 28 years, from 1992 to 2020, these partners permanently protected 138 acres in the corridor.

Additionally, three state-owned forested properties, totaling 107 acres, were temporarily protected with long-term leases by Jefferson County.

In 2020, recognizing the limited window of opportunity to continue adding to the corridor, the Land Trust reached out to more than 100 landowners to see who might be willing to sell or donate their undeveloped parcels for protection. More than 40 private landowners indicated an interest in working with us to permanently protect their land, so we launched the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge fundraising campaign in early 2021 at our Conservation Breakfast.

The campaign has been wildly successful. Thanks to more than 400 community donors and support from foundations and public agencies, we raised more than \$1.87 million in gifts, grants, and donations of land — surpassing our original goal of \$1.76 million!

This outpouring of generosity from our community has helped us acquire 32 additional acres — in 17 real estate transactions — increasing the amount of permanently protected corridor land by more than 23 percent in just 18 months. And there's still enough campaign dollars for us to work with five more willing landowners to protect their land by late October.

What's next? We have a number of willing landowners interested in protecting 25 additional acres of undeveloped land in the corridor. To protect them, we have a state

grant under review. If this funding is awarded, we'll work to acquire these remaining acres over the coming years.

In addition to the privately owned parcels, we're also working to permanently protect the three beautiful forested properties — Quimper West, Quimper East, and Baby Quimper (shown on the map below) — by facilitating their transfer to permanent Jefferson County ownership. We estimate the cost of transferring these 107 acres of state-owned forestland will be just over \$420,000. With a county grant of \$205,000 and individual donations of \$9,500, we have more than half of what's needed, and fundraising is underway to secure the remainder.

We're also working with the City of Port Townsend to update our shared management plan for the corridor. The plan guides our work to care for this place so valued by our community.

A big thank you to our committed partners and the countless community advocates, volunteers, donors, and willing landowners who've joined the Land Trust in protecting and caring for this precious natural resource for almost three decades.

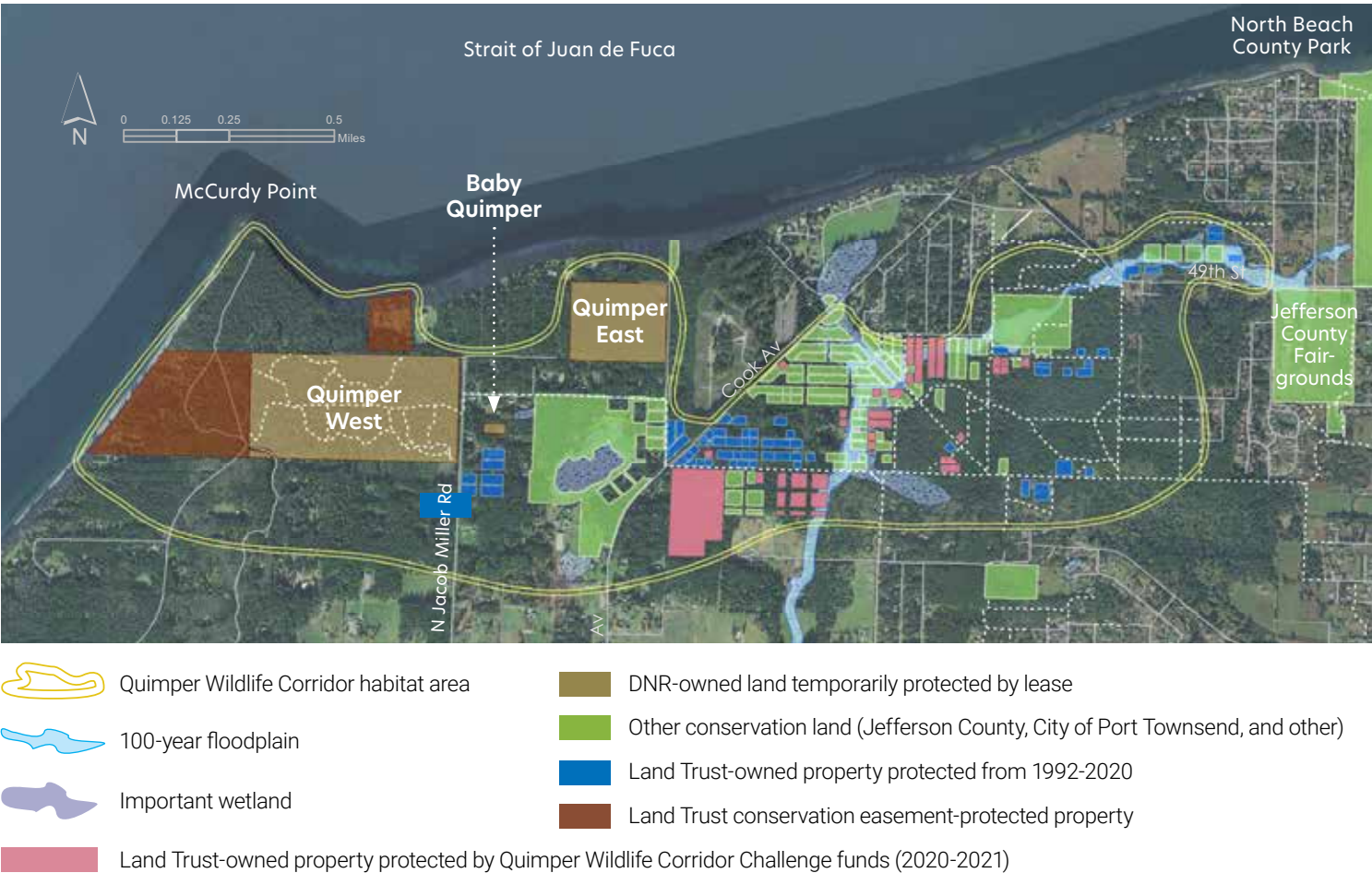
To learn more about our plans and our progress, or to support this community effort by making a gift, please visit the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge online at www.saveland.org/corridor-challenge today.

Why is Protecting this Place So Important?

Linking six wetlands along a 100-year floodplain and natural drainage basin, this forested greenbelt prevents flooding and filters stormwater. This natural system protects water quality in local aquifers and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where 70 percent of Puget Sound's seabird populations nest on nearby Protection Island.

The connected forests, meadows, and wetlands are home to hundreds of species of shrubs, trees, animals, and birds. Using the corridor, wildlife can travel from Fort Worden to Discovery Bay, and then venture on to the larger forested areas of the Quimper Peninsula.

And the miles of trails that weave through it offer easy access to nature within Port Townsend's city limits and act as neighborhood connectors and important non-motorized transportation routes. Thousands of residents, visitors, and students enjoy walking, biking, birding, and nature study on Cappy's Trails each year.





Kawamoto Farm: Keeping Local Farms in Production

Thriving local farms are essential for the health and resilience of our community. They give us access to fresh food, promote healthy water systems and soil, support local wildlife, add to our economy, and help sustain the rural character of Jefferson County that’s such a draw for residents and visitors alike.

With access to farmland becoming more challenging locally and across the nation, keeping farmland accessible and productive is more important than ever.

Since 2003, the Land Trust has partnered with local farm families, the community, funding agencies, and Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative to preserve farmland and support farmers in our county. By purchasing conservation easements, the Land Trust helps keep the land available for agriculture, while being able to compensate the landowner for the loss of development rights.

These easements ensure that prime farmland is not developed, provide a capital boost to local farm businesses, and help keep the land affordable for the next generation of farmers.

In 2020, the Kawamoto family, who had owned and worked their 148-acre dairy and forest for three generations, reached out to the Land Trust to discuss ways we could work together to help facilitate the sale of the farm and ensure its continued agricultural production. With the help of generous donors and the Navy’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program, the Land Trust protected the land with two easements that remove some development rights and ensure the forest is managed in a way that prioritizes conservation of natural resources.

Then the Land Trust partnered with the Kawamoto family, Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative, and local agriculture and food-sector professionals to create an open and

equitable selection process to identify the farm’s next owners.

After reviewing more than 64 letters of interest, reading 14 full proposals, and speaking with five finalists — and with the support of the Kawamoto family — Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative offered the Galvis, Pinzón,

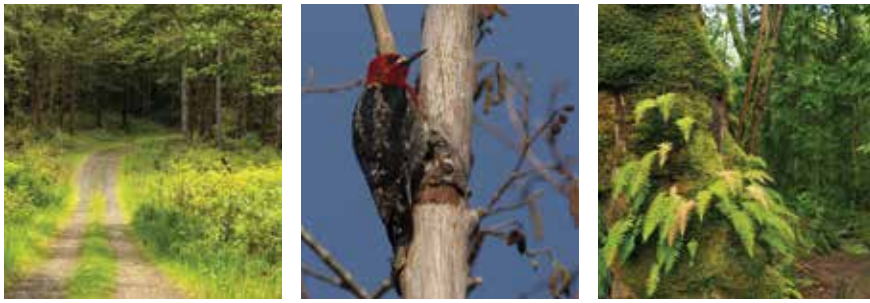
Walker Collective the opportunity to purchase the farm at a price made more accessible because of the easements.

The Collective’s members, Ana, Brent, Juan, and Natalia, bring with them three decades of combined experience in vegetable farming, animal husbandry, and sustainable agriculture education in California, and a vision for the farm as a center of sustainable and organic farming practice.

We’re thankful to the Kawamoto family and the generous donors who helped the Land Trust take rapid action to protect the Kawamoto Farm, and look forward to sharing more news about this exciting transition as the new owners settle in and begin bringing the farm back into production.



Left page: Aerial view of Kawamoto Farm in Quilcene, photo by John Gussman; Kawamoto family members at LandFest 2022. **Right page L to R:** Chimacum Ridge Forest trail, photo by John Gussman; Red-breasted Sapsucker in Chimacum Ridge Forest, photo by Tim Lawson/LEO; Licorice fern growing on maple tree in Chimacum Ridge Forest, photo by Tim Lawson/LEO; Volunteers Steve, Tim, and John working on the joinery for the Valley View Forest pavilion.



Laying the Groundwork for Chimacum Ridge Community Forest

Since 2010, the Land Trust has been making steady progress toward creating a community forest on Chimacum Ridge. Once we raise the funds to purchase the forest in 2023, it will be managed to provide recreation and education opportunities, support a rich diversity of plants and wildlife, and create long-term economic, cultural, and social benefits for our community.

With the help of partners and volunteers, we're currently working on a number of initiatives to prepare the Land Trust for ownership and inform our eventual management of the property as a community forest.

The Land Trust's stewardship team and members of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program have been meeting regularly with the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Advisory Team — a group of 24 community volunteers.

Their goal is to draft a Recreation, Access, and Education Plan for Chimacum Ridge that can be shared with the whole community for input at the end of 2022. The plan will outline the types of activities to be allowed in the forest and identify the infrastructure — including trails, signage, parking, and more — that will be needed to accommodate those activities. Volunteers from the Washington Association of Landscape Architects have also agreed to create a final site plan for Chimacum Ridge Community Forest.

Meanwhile, improvements are underway at adjacent Valley View Forest, which will eventually become part of Chimacum Ridge Community Forest and serve as its entrance and trailhead. Thanks to the assistance of Cody Wayland of Wayland Constructive and an amazing volunteer effort (see story at right), wood from last year's selective harvest is being used to build a timber frame pavilion at Valley View Forest.

A one-tenth-mile accessible trail will be constructed from the parking lot to the pavilion this fall with the help of a Washington Conservation Corps crew and many volunteers. Our partners at DASH (Disability Awareness Starts Here!) helped us with an initial site assessment for the trail, provided accessible guidelines (wide, packed gravel, no sharp turns or steep grades) for its construction, and will conduct a final trail review.

Our thanks go out to the many volunteers, supporters, and partners who are really putting the "community" into the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest by helping with these preparations and initiatives! Stay tuned for more developments to come.

An Epic Volunteer Effort

Our volunteers are amazing. Each year, they generously contribute thousands of hours of their time caring for nature preserves, serving on our board and committees, taking photos, sharing their knowledge of natural history, and more. If we identify a need, our volunteers step up to help. There's nothing we've asked that's been too big for them to tackle...

And this time we're talking BIG!

A team of highly skilled local craftsmen — Steve Habersetzer, Tim Lawson, and John Edwards — are volunteering their time and expertise on a project that will have a lasting impact at Valley View Forest.



The three are working on an open-air, timber frame pavilion, large enough to host a class of students, that will serve as a welcoming community gathering and learning space.

Since June, Steve, Tim, and John have been working 20 hours a week cutting the joinery in the beams and posts that were milled by Cody Wayland from trees harvested at Valley View Forest. Later this year, the wood will be used to build the pavilion in a big, sunny clearing.

Tim, who serves on our board and is one of the founders of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, recruited the team, all of whom taught at the school. Despite his own woodworking experience, Tim says he's very much an apprentice on this project.

John, a past Land Trust Volunteer of the Year, is an experienced residential builder, carpenter, project manager, and woodworker. And Steve, a former Land Trust board member, has decades of experience as a boat builder, carpenter, and contractor. He's constructed many large timber frame structures, including those on his organic farm, where he's been generously sharing his tools and shop space for this project.

We're very grateful to all three of them and look forward to the pavilion's ribbon cutting in 2023.



Left: Franny at Midori Farm. **Above:** Franny with Hanako and Theo the farm kid; Franny in the field with her canine pal Lollo.

Introducing Midori Farm's Franny!

There's a lot going on at Midori Farm, which was protected by the Land Trust, in partnership with the farm's owners Hanako Myers and Marko Colby, in 2017. The couple met at the Port Townsend Farmers Market in 2006 and started the farm in 2008. Midori Farm grows and sells more than 100,000 seedlings every year. They also cultivate 12 acres of organic vegetables and produce a popular selection of delicious traditionally fermented sauerkraut and kimchi.

In addition to their awesome farm staff, Hanako and Marko have some four-legged help. Franny, an eight-year-old border collie, is an important member of the Midori Farm team. She keeps watch over the farm in general and protects the farm animals from predators, including eagles, coyotes, and the occasional cougar.

Franny — also known as Franny Pie and FP — takes her job very seriously and is relentless about her work. Hanako says, "When the ground is frozen in the winter she's been known to work until the pads of her feet are worn off clean."

Although Franny has slowed down a bit, when she was younger she was almost always in a full sprint, and getting her to come in to eat and rest was difficult. Franny, whose favorite playmates are fellow canine Lollo and two-year-old farm kid Theo, loves playing keep-away

"Franny has quietly shaped so much of the personality of the little world around her. Her spirit and the spirit of Midori Farm are inseparable from each other, and it's impossible to imagine the farm without her."

– Hanako Myers

with sticks, blades of grass, microscopic shreds of straw, or anything else she can find in the field. She also adores playing Frisbee and slinkily following the cats around, and she can often be found resting in the shade near wherever Hanako is working.

Her favorite treat is cat food and she's quick to finish up anything the Midori Farm cats leave behind. Franny's also been known to steal dessert. On one memorable occasion, while left alone in the kitchen during a farm gathering, Franny ate an entire pumpkin pie, jumping onto the table to get it and licking the plate clean.

According to Hanako, although Franny's working face often sports a frothy and ferocious expression, she's actually a very sweet and loving dog. Anyone who takes time to say hello with open arms will be met with her signature hug and some tender nuzzling.

The Midori farm stand at 10 Old State Highway in Quilcene is open 24 hours a day.

Together

we've helped protect
more than 17,500 acres!



Farmland

1,318 acres | 17 properties



Fish & Wildlife Habitat

10,826 acres | 85 properties



Working Forest

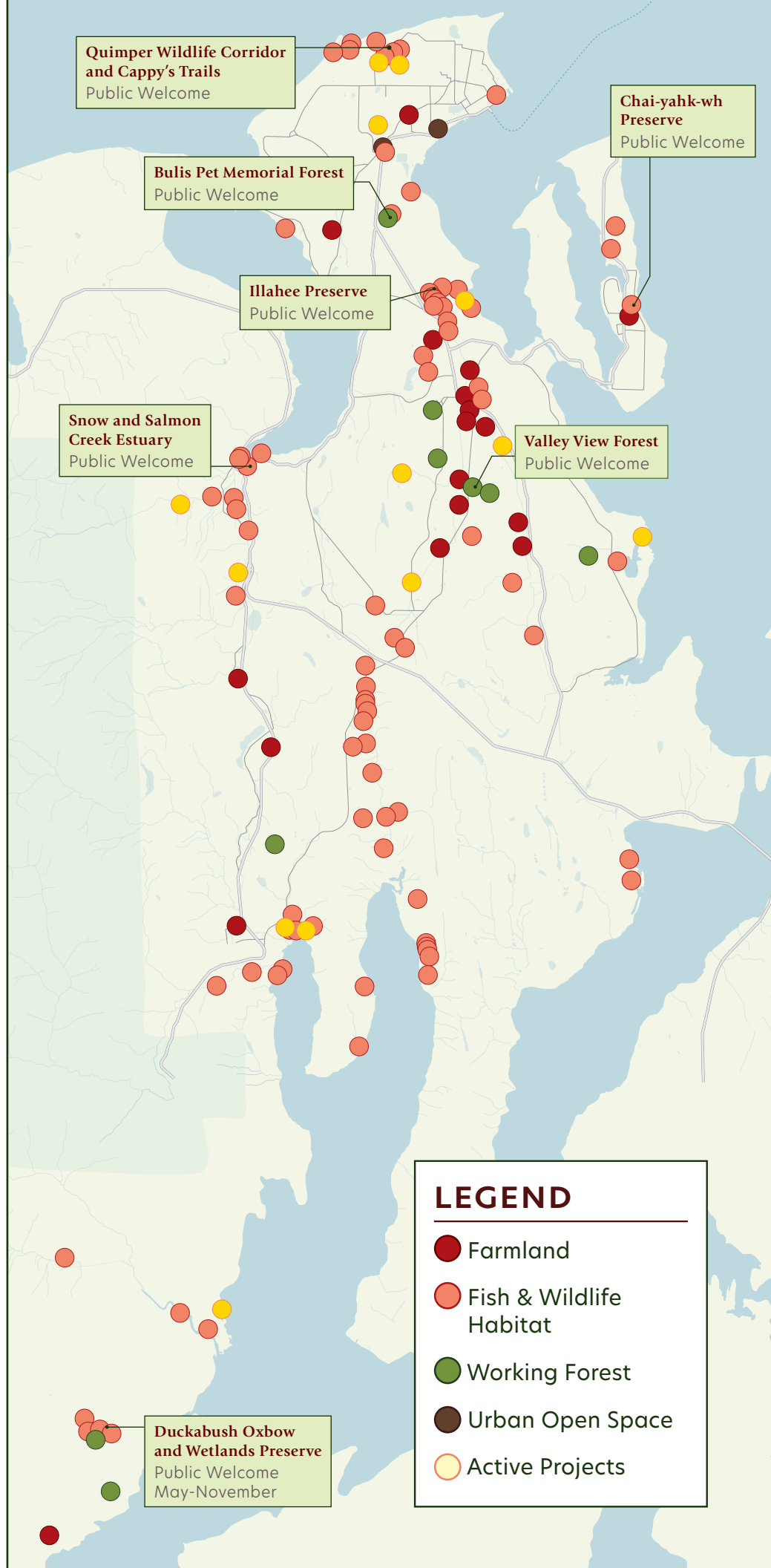
5,428 acres | 10 properties



Urban Open Space

4 acres | 4 properties

All information calculated through
September 1, 2022. 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



CARING FOR THE LAND TOGETHER

The Land Trust's 26 preserves support all of us — animals, plants, and people — so it's important that we support them in return. Our stewardship staff members, volunteers, and community partners have been working hard to care for the land, and marking many important milestones along the way.

Valley View Forest opened to the public in 2020. This 65-acre forest property will eventually be the entrance/trailhead for Chimacum Ridge Community Forest, which we plan to purchase in 2023. Guided by input and decision making from a wide circle of community members, this forest will provide long-term ecological, economic, cultural, and social benefits, while supporting a rich diversity of native species.

In summer 2021, we piloted our selective forest harvest at Valley View: a huge undertaking, involving lots of people, planning, and learning opportunities. Volunteers selected healthy trees to remain in the forest, marking others to be removed to promote growth of the remaining trees and new seedlings, create conditions for a healthier understory, and diversify habitat for wildlife.

As part of the harvest, we offered 16 local nonprofit, education, community, and Tribal partners a free tree each to use in support of their missions.

As we care for the land on our preserves over time, it's important to understand how our stewardship activities are helping us meet our long-term conservation goals.

That's why we recently developed a wetland health assessment that was conducted for the first time this year by a team of volunteers. Like the forest health and stream health assessments we've been using for some time, the new wetland health assessment allows us to check certain indicators to see how our preserves are changing, and helps us plan for the future.

Thanks to grant funding, we were able to hire wetland consultants to create science-based assessment protocols for the variety of freshwater wetlands we protect and care for. We plan to repeat these assessments every five years.

Forest bird populations rely on a variety of woody debris for perching, nesting, and foraging habitat. However, in looking at data from forest health assessments conducted in 2018 and 2019, we found that many of our forested preserves lacked these key features. Without human intervention, these natural wood features can take hundreds of years to develop.

To address this, in 2021, with the help of dedicated volunteers, we began creating downed logs and standing snags as part of our wildlife habitat enhancement activities at Duckabush Riparian Forest Preserve, Snow Creek Forest Preserve, and Chai-yahk-wh Preserve. By creating more of this important structural diversity today, we're promoting forest bird, insect, amphibian, and plant populations far into the future.



This year, we were excited to see thousands of trees planted from 2014-2017 on our preserves reach what we call the “free to grow” stage. To each seedling we plant, we make a commitment of approximately seven years of regular monitoring, protection, and maintenance, until the trees are finally tall enough to grow on their own and outcompete invasive weeds for resources.

These native trees and shrubs, so important to rebuilding ecological health, are now positioned to thrive, and have 10+ years to begin forming a shady canopy before we enter the next phase – creating standing snags, downed logs, and adding a mix of plant ages and species to their environment.

Also this year, volunteers and staff members began counting visitors at some of our preserves so we can better understand how people are using our trails and how this may affect nearby wildlife. We were surprised to learn just how many visits our preserves actually get – an interior trail in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor (Cappy’s Trails) sees approximately 14,000 visits a year.

Left page: Preserve stewards Wendy Feltham and Eileen Cooney scouted the trail and did some trimming before leading a Monthly Meander at Quimper West Preserve; Two Washington Conservation Corps crew members create woody debris habitat, photo by Owen French. **Above:** Volunteer Herb Tracy takes a selfie with Preserve Assistant Cristina Villalobos while installing a wildlife camera at Chai-yahk-wh Preserve.

Conservation Easement Monitoring and Stewardship Support Visits

Another essential way we care for the land is by annually visiting each of the private properties protected by conservation easements held by the Land Trust – currently 67 properties totaling 4,263 acres.

Each year, staff members and trained volunteers make the rounds, meeting with landowners to discuss the ecological conditions and features on their protected lands. On these visits, we work to develop and strengthen relationships with these important partners, looking for signs of wildlife, suggesting ways to address invasive weeds or other conditions, and carefully checking each property to ensure that the parameters of the conservation easement are being followed.

If any conservation values are damaged or at risk, or if there’s a violation of the terms of the easement, it’s the Land Trust’s obligation to work with the landowners to bring about compliance. Most of the time, however, we’re pleased to see these properties thriving under the protection of the conservation easements and the careful stewardship of the property owners.



Left: Stewardship Director Erik Kingfisher and landowner Margo Gregory viewing an old, complex, and diverse riverside forest in the protected zone of Margo’s Duckabush River easement-protected property.

Below: Roosevelt elk in the Dosewallips Valley seen on a monitoring visit. Photos by Tim Lawson/LEO.





YOUTH EDUCATION: FOSTERING A LIFELONG LOVE FOR THE NATURAL WORLD

Since 2013, Jefferson Land Trust has partnered with local schools to build youth education programs that support teachers in the work they're already doing in the classroom and encourage local kids to view the natural world with wonder and curiosity.

Over the 2021-22 school year, we were thrilled to work with dedicated volunteers, partners, and educators in the Port Townsend, Chimacum, and Quilcene school districts to serve more than 450 students from first grade through high school with hands-on learning on preserves we've protected in their communities.

At Salish Coast Elementary School, first and second graders learned about the Salish Sea ecosystem, visiting Illahee Preserve in the fall to observe healthy salmon habitat and returning salmon. Throughout the year, with help from our partners at North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), the students raised baby salmon (fry) in a classroom tank, and returned to Illahee in the spring to release them into Chimacum Creek.

Meanwhile, in a comprehensive, year-long program, Port Townsend third grade students, with students from the second-fifth grade OPEPO program, learned all about birds, with two field trips to the Quimper Wildlife Corridor. An array of in-class bird-based activities led by teachers included writing, drawing, science projects, and daily bird feeder observations. The project culminated

with students creating a public web page with a call to action to take steps here at home to help birds survive and thrive. Find a link to it at [**www.saveland.org/salish-coast-birds**](http://www.saveland.org/salish-coast-birds).

Beginning with in-class lessons, Port Townsend fourth grade students focused on forest diversity and climate resilience, learning about forest layers, seeds and seedlings, and more. Land Trust staff led them on a forest health hike in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.

At Blue Heron Middle School, sixth grade students learned about forest diversity and conducted a forest health assessment in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor. At the end of the seven-week program, they presented their findings of the corridor's forest health to the City of Port Townsend's Parks, Recreation, Trees and Trails Advisory Board.

Seventh graders at both Blue Heron and Chimacum Schools participated with NOSC and the Land Trust in Real Learning Real Work engineering program projects. The project-based learning program helps students hone their problem solving skills through actual work planning and implementing a tangible community project.

Each class designed and implemented its own salmon habitat restoration planting at the Snow/Salmon Creek Unit of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's North Olympic Wildlife Area.

The Chimacum Pi program serves fourth-eighth graders. During a two-week program on forest health and diversity, students took field trips to Valley View Forest, where they conducted a forest health assessment and completed a blackberry removal project.

With Quilcene School, in partnership with Washington Native Plant Society, we helped lead eighth graders through a year-long, statewide pilot project of a new ecosystem science unit. During field trips to our Snow Creek Forest Preserve, along with in-class lessons, students designed and implemented their own native plant species diversity restoration project.

This spring, we brought back our Spring Break Youth Corps paid internship program. A hardy group of high

school students from Kitsap and Jefferson counties spent their spring break learning about forestry and land management from community experts. They also completed a variety of projects — from weed removal to setting up wildlife cameras — on five of our preserves.

Coming out of the pandemic, we've seen an increased interest in education programs that get students outside to learn, socialize, and build skills they can apply to the real world. Going forward, we'll continue improving these programs to better suit the needs of students and teachers and ensure the content connects to state-level learning curriculum and guidelines. And by streamlining our programming from first grade all the way through middle school, each new year of learning will build upon that of the previous year.



Left page L to R: Two students from Blue Heron Middle School doing a forest health assessment in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor; Students from Quilcene on a field trip with Preserve Manager Carrie Clendaniel at Snow Creek Forest Preserve. **Right page left and bottom right:** Port Townsend students studying birds in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor; **Top right:** Two Spring Break Youth Corps students pulling tansy ragwort at one of our preserves, photo by Claire Moe.



View of Quilcene Bay, where we're working with local landowners to protect the watershed, photo by John Gussman.

Measuring Our Climate Resilience Efforts

The lands we work hard to protect and care for are already facing the stresses of a changing climate. Given the scale of the challenges we face, it's clear that more must be done to improve climate resilience and reduce the impacts of climate change in our region.

To better inform this aspect of our work, Jefferson Land Trust partnered with neighboring North Olympic Land Trust in 2020 to conduct a Land Resilience Study, which is helping both organizations make targeted land protection and management decisions in support of climate resilience and sustainability across the Olympic Peninsula.

Working with expert GIS contractor Core GIS — along with the best available spatial planning data and science — we looked closely at our land base to identify the places likely to retain features that suggest continued resiliency as our summers become hotter and drier, and our winters warmer and wetter. Some examples include forested and agricultural lands that sequester carbon and retain moisture; natural lands with diverse topography within known wildlife corridors; and open spaces near population centers.

Focusing on protecting places with these features will help us build ecological, economic, and social resilience now and into the future, while supporting the habitat areas that have the best chance of preserving some of the unique biodiversity that has existed here for thousands of years.

In analyzing the data, we were pleased to learn that there are many areas on the Olympic Peninsula with these diverse features, including land that Jefferson Land Trust has already protected. More recently, we've been working

to develop metrics that will help us set targets and measure our progress toward protecting the places that are key to a resilient future.

We'll measure such things as:

- The acres of prime agricultural soils and local farmland protected that are critical to sustaining a vibrant agricultural community and local, independent food economy;
- The acres of forestland protected that sequester carbon, retain moisture, clean the air and water, and invigorate our economy with timber and other products; and
- Whether the wildlife corridors we're protecting ensure that local wildlife has access to and the ability to traverse the Quimper Peninsula, the Tarboo Valley, and move from the lowlands to the uplands in our region.

Once finished, we plan to share our approach with other land trusts so they can adopt similar strategies in their planning. We also have a new opportunity to take collective action and work together to identify cross-county projects and opportunities to share the study's findings throughout our communities.

We're grateful for the support of the Land Trust Alliance, Sustainable Path Foundation, and generous community donors that made this project possible, as well as the foundational work and effort undertaken by other agencies upon which our spatial analysis is built.

Learn more about the Land Resilience Study and our findings at: www.saveland.org/land-resilience-study.

Learning from and Listening to our Neighbors

Since time immemorial, the Nəxʷsááyəm' (S'Klallam) and other Indigenous peoples have been caring for the land Jefferson Land Trust now works to protect.

At our virtual Conservation Breakfast in March 2022, *Listening to the Land: Understanding the Indigenous Landscape of Jefferson County*, special guests from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and moderator David Brownell held a compelling discussion about the past, present, and future of land conservation, focusing on traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge in East Jefferson County.

The conversation highlighted the fact that for centuries before colonization the land was carefully and successfully managed by local Tribes for food and other resources, and that this management had a positive ecological impact on species and habitat diversity.

During the event, Tribal citizens spoke passionately about a challenge experienced by countless Indigenous communities: an increasing lack of access to their usual and accustomed territories for harvest of traditional cultural resources, such as food, medicine, and weaving materials.

This conversation reinforced the Land Trust's commitment to use our tools and resources to support Tribal community



Cedar bark harvested at Valley View Forest by local S'Klallam Tribal citizens using traditional methods.

needs; for example, we're currently working with Tribal citizens to formalize permanent access to our nature preserves for the purpose of traditional cultural practices and harvests of cedar bark and more.

We're also inviting Tribal partners into conversations about our conservation projects to identify where we can support Tribal priorities, and finding alignment in our values that can mutually benefit our missions, our communities, and the land.

Moving Forward on a Conservation Burial Program

For a number of years, a working committee made up of Jefferson Land Trust board members, volunteers, and staff members has been exploring the concept of developing a conservation burial program in our community. The program will provide local natural burial options and allow for the scattering of ashes, while also supporting the restoration and perpetual care of our wilderness.

After researching various models, speaking with experts in the field, and determining that there was enough community interest, the Land Trust's Board of Directors granted approval for the organization to move forward.

This year, the Land Trust's board initiated the formation of the Olympic Wildland Burial Grounds LLC — a wholly owned subsidiary of Jefferson Land Trust with its own Board of Managers.

Currently, the Olympic Wildland Burial Grounds' Board of Managers is actively seeking and evaluating

properties that may be suitable for wildland cemetery and memorial forest services. They're also working with local and state officials to address zoning and other complex permitting requirements.

True to the nature and intent of conservation burial, the land selected will also provide an opportunity to restore and improve natural habitat. Finding a property that allows for deep reflection and remembrance of our loved ones while also delivering on the Land Trust's mission to preserve habitat forever is our goal.

Community interest in this program continues to be high and the Olympic Wildland Burial Grounds' Board of Managers is working as fast as possible to bring this new program into being, with the aim of being ready to launch by 2025.

Learn more and sign up to be kept informed of our progress at www.saveland.org/conservation-burial.

2021 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



21 volunteer
work parties

13 real
estate
transactions
completed valued at more
than \$2 million

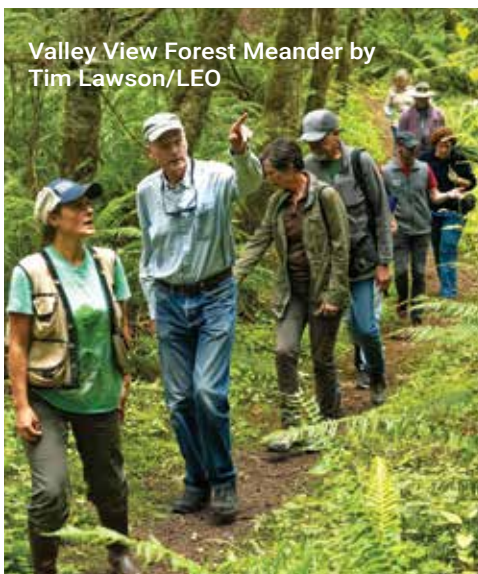


65



conservation
easements visited
for required annual
monitoring

Valley View Forest Meander by
Tim Lawson/LEO



797



acres of
habitat actively
cared for at our
preserves

Pacific Wren by Tim Lawson/LEO



215 site
visits



by staff and volunteers to monitor
and care for nature preserves

281 new acres
protected





3,599

hours worked by
152 volunteers

9

habitat
improvement
projects
completed
on 5
preserves



Rough-skinned Newt by
Geoffrey Hammerson

5

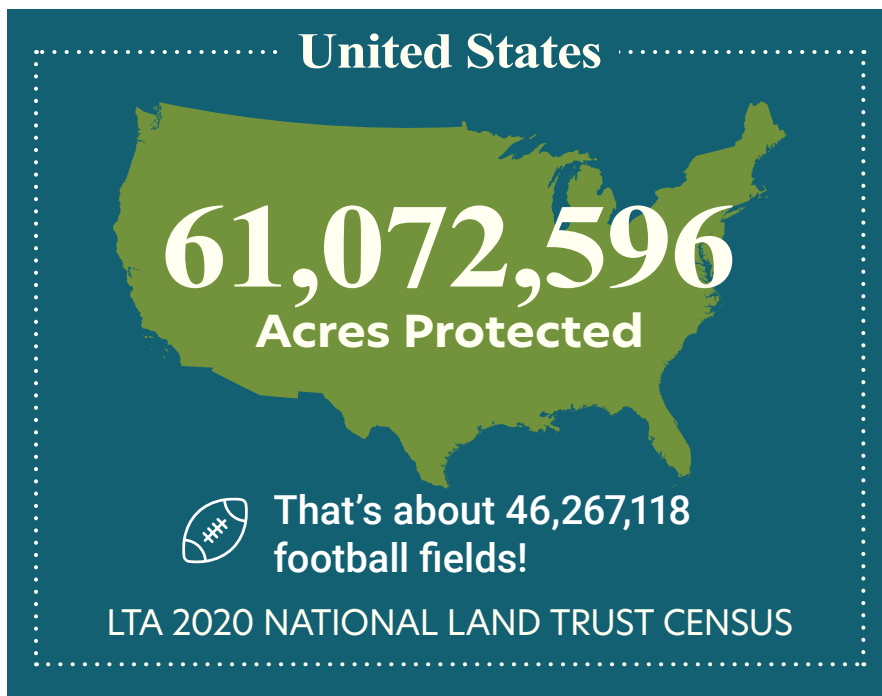
trails

improved,
maintained, or
prepared for
building



And We're Not Working Alone...

Jefferson Land Trust is part of a much bigger movement. Nationally, land trusts have collectively protected **over 61 million acres of land** – more than all our national parks combined!



This is just one data point from the 2020 National Land Trust Census, conducted every five years by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national land conservation organization that represents more than 950 member land trusts, including ours. The results of this most recent census show that we're part of something bigger and that, when people come together to support land trusts, our local actions can make an enormous impact.

The 61+ million acres of land protected across the nation represents an increase of 15 million acres since 2010. The data from the 2020 census also show that local land trusts like Jefferson Land Trust are leading the way in land preservation – **70% of the growth in land protected since 2015** was achieved by local and state land trusts. **More than 16.7 million people** visited land trust properties in 2020 (more than double the amount reported in 2015) and **6.4 million** were served through land trust programs. And all of this is made possible with the help of **233,574 volunteers, 12,716 staff members, and 13,672 board members** who work with their communities to protect the places that matter most.

Across the nation, land trusts are harnessing the power of community-driven conservation to address some of the greatest challenges now facing our country. We're managing and mitigating the harmful effects caused by a changing climate; providing public access to land; protecting habitat for the benefit of wildlife; supporting farmers, farmland, and food systems; protecting precious natural resources, like fresh water, clean air, and native trees and plants; and ensuring that open spaces, wild places, and working lands will forever remain available for future generations.

You can read the full census results and learn more about how land trusts are changing the world on LTA's new "Find a Land Trust" website: www.findalandtrust.org.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 BUSINESS SPONSORS!



Kristin Manwaring Insurance



SAVE THE LAND PARTNERS



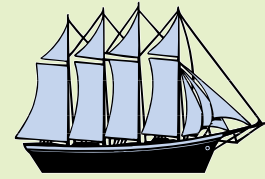
PORT LUDLOW
golf marina. inn. home.



Wayland
Constructive
Build a Story



Better Properties
Tri-Counties LLC



PORT LUDLOW

golf marina. inn. home.

The Resort at Port Ludlow — an Enduring Partner

Six stand-out local companies are *Save the Land* partners for the Land Trust (see logos at bottom left). These generous, community-minded businesses support us in an ongoing and sustaining way, and educate their customers about our work in Jefferson County.

The Resort at Port Ludlow has been a *Save the Land* partner since 2014. At the award-winning Fireside Restaurant, guests are treated to sweeping views of Ludlow Bay, a daily menu featuring the bounty of our local farms, and an opportunity to support the Land Trust. In fact, each patron's bill includes a donation to Jefferson Land Trust, and unless customers opt out, every meal supports our work to protect places that matter in Jefferson County.

Development Manager Sarah Zablocki-Axling, who manages the *Save the Land* partner program for the Land Trust, is always impressed by Chef Dan Ratigan's enthusiasm for the program and appreciates the natural connection he sees between the local food he serves and farmland conservation.

"Chef Dan's superpower is knowing what's in season at each local farm and creating an amazing menu to feature local food and farmers," says Sarah. "He also educates the Fireside's team about the Land Trust and the local farms, so they can speak knowledgeably about both to their customers, creating a wide ripple effect of support."

Additionally, whenever the Fireside Restaurant team caters our LandFest summer gala, they use as much local food as possible in designing the menu.

Interested in becoming a *Save the Land* partner or a business sponsor? Contact Sarah Zablocki-Axling at 360.379.9501 x108.



Community members explore the Quimper Wildlife Corridor on a recent Monthly Meander (led by Owen and Sarah Fairbank).

Powered by Community

The Land Trust's work is community powered. It's made possible by our volunteer work crews, educators, guides, and community committee and board members, and by generous individual, foundation, and government donors — all eager to help advance conservation in our county.

Our audited financial reports reflect a healthy organization that's growing to meet the demands of the moment and the challenges of our time with new strategies and proven solutions. Our volunteers, donors, and funders are powering this momentum, and we're deeply grateful.

If you're reading about the Land Trust for the first time in this report, we encourage you to find a place to dig in and connect — as a volunteer and/or as a donor. Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure are vital to our continued conservation success, and promise the lifelong satisfaction that comes with helping to build a brighter future for Jefferson County's iconic farms, fish, and forests. **Thank you!**

Leaving a Legacy

Each year, the Land Trust receives generous estate gifts from supporters who love the land. These gifts help build a permanent legacy of protected wildlife habitat, farms, and forests that will nourish future generations of our community. We're sincerely thankful to these friends of the Land Trust and their families for their forethought and care. To include Jefferson Land Trust in your estate plans, please contact Development Manager, Sarah Zablocki-Axling, at szaxling@saveland.org.

2021 Financial Report

Sources of Revenue

Gifts and Contributions	\$2,957,158
Special Event Income	\$197,415
Public Grants and Contracts	\$720,657
Land and In-kind Contributions	\$382,400
Investment Income	\$162,538

TOTAL \$4,420,168

Operating Expenses

Program Expenses	\$1,018,681
Management and Administration	\$308,619
Fundraising and Engagement	\$223,460

TOTAL \$1,550,760

Assets

Cash and Investments	\$2,507,500
Property	\$7,419,071
Other Assets	\$1,202,322

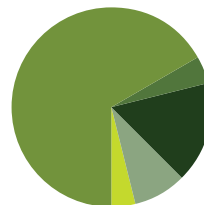
TOTAL \$11,128,893

Change in Net Assets

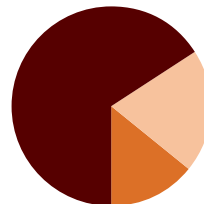
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$8,077,181
Net Assets at End of Year	\$10,946,589

DIFFERENCE \$2,869,408

2021 Sources of Revenue



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



2021 Operating Expenses

- Program Expenses
- Management and Administration
- Fundraising and Engagement

On June 21, 2022 the firm of Aiken & Sanders, Inc. PS presented its favorable management letter and audited financials for 2021 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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*Helping the community preserve
open space, working lands, and
habitat forever.*



Local student studying birds in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.



I feel so fortunate to
live in a place where the
natural environment
and special places are
so valued. Long live
Jefferson Land Trust!

– Noreen Parks, Land Trust supporter