

Jefferson Land Trust

2022-23 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



WITH GRATITUDE



Every day, I wake up grateful. Grateful to live in this beautiful place, and grateful that I get to come into the Jefferson Land Trust office and work with incredible people who are my chosen family. Alongside our wonderful staff and board members, supporters, partners, and volunteers, I feel privileged to take part in the work that unites and

inspires us: protecting and caring for this special place we call home.

Since our founding 34 years ago, the Land Trust has helped protect nearly 18,000 acres of the places that matter most in Jefferson County. This includes salmon habitat, like Chimacum Creek and the Duckabush River. It includes forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat, like the beloved Quimper Wildlife Corridor.

And since expanding our mission in 2003 to incorporate working lands, it includes working forests like Valley View and the local farms that are crucial to our community’s continued cultural, economic, and climate resilience. From farms to fish to forests, all our work helps strengthen our community, both today and into the future. The Land Trust is always hard at work coming up with creative solutions to ensure that our community and our wild places continue to thrive.

We’re using conservation to address a changing climate and build a more resilient community. We’re continuing our focus on farmland protection to safeguard our food security and way of life, with two farms already protected

I’m proud that the Land Trust makes Jefferson County a better place. I know that my involvement with the Land Trust has made me a better person.



More than 300 guests celebrated the farms, fish, and forests of Jefferson County at LandFest 2023, raising more than \$270,000 in support of local community conservation. Photo by Hal Everett.

permanently this year and two more planned for protection in 2024. And I’m especially proud of our ongoing educational outreach work with local schools, helping to inform the next generation of involved citizens who will care for this place.

We’re also pursuing new and exciting projects, like expanding accessibility on our preserves and within our organization. New technology and resources will improve our work and help us measure our success. And a community-driven feedback process will guide the establishment and management of the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest.

This past summer at LandFest, our annual fundraising gala, I was truly moved to meet and hear from so many of our supporters, partners, and volunteers who believe so strongly in the Land Trust and the work we do. LandFest was a beautiful demonstration of how the Land Trust’s many successes are only possible thanks to this community that keeps showing up to support and celebrate local land conservation.

I’m proud that the Land Trust makes Jefferson County a better place. I know that my involvement with the Land Trust has made me a better person.

As you read this report, I hope that you’ll take pride in what we’re accomplishing together.

With gratitude,

Richard Tucker
Executive Director

Cover photo:
Tamanawas Rock is a site of cultural and spiritual significance for the S’Klallam people and other Tribes. In the 1990s, faced with the possibility that this sacred place would be destroyed to build condominiums, the Port Gamble and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribes partnered with Jefferson Land Trust to protect it.
Permission given by Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to photograph this sacred site; photo by John Gussman courtesy of Jefferson County Conservation Futures Funds, which helped fund the protection of Tamanawas Rock.

A Message from Our Board President

“How dear the woods are! You beautiful trees! I love every one of you as a friend.”

L.M. Montgomery wrote these words in *Anne of Avonlea*, and I think it’s safe to say that Jefferson Land Trust supporters share this abiding love for the land.

We’re all deeply committed to taking personal action to protect it. Our love of the land brings us real joy as we reflect on happy memories of spending time in nature with loved ones, and on our great good fortune of living in a place where we’re surrounded by forests that shade and shelter us, local farms that nourish us, and wild landscapes that inspire us.

To deeply love a place also means to be deeply concerned about its future. This love and concern are the drivers behind

all our work with the Land Trust, as we take action to care for this precious place for the generations to come.

On behalf of Jefferson Land Trust’s board and staff members, I’d like to share our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, donors, partners, and sponsors who make our work possible. I’m proud to serve this community and the Land Trust’s mission alongside all of you, knowing that our work together makes such a positive impact on this community we love.

– Brian Rogers



2022-23 BOARD MEMBERS

- Brian Rogers – *President*
- Tim Lawson – *Vice President*
- Craig Britton – *Treasurer*
- Sherry Moller – *Secretary*
- David Brownell
- Nan Evans
- Jane Guiltinan
- Jen Harrison
- Lucas Hart
- Julie Lockhart
- Barry Mitzman
- Tom Sanford
- Marcia Schwendiman
- Edward Thompson, Jr.
- Rick York

STAFF MEMBERS

- Ric Brewer
Community Relations and Events Manager
- Carrie Clendaniel
Preserve Manager
- Kate Godman
Director of Philanthropy
- Erik Kingfisher
Stewardship Director
- Sydney LaRose
Development Assistant
- Paula McNees
Finance Manager
- Marlowe Moser
Stewardship Assistant
- Lilly Schneider
Communications Coordinator
- Sarah Spaeth
Director of Conservation and Strategic Partnerships
- Blaise Sullivan
Conservation Coordinator
- Richard Tucker
Executive Director
- Cristina Villalobos
Office and Preserve Assistant
- Stephanie Wiegand
Communications Manager
- Sarah Zablocki-Axling
Development Manager
- Ash Ross and Trevor Williams
2023 Part-time Field Technicians

The list above includes board members who served from July 1, 2022-present and current staff members.

CONSERVATION PROJECT STEPS



L to R: CPC committee members on an early site visit to evaluate the property in Brinnon recently donated to the Land Trust; Salmon Creek flowing through a property we’re working hard to acquire.



Protecting Land: How We Work

As an accredited land trust, we work with willing landowners and our community to protect land in several ways, including land ownership and voluntary land conservation agreements (conservation easements) on privately owned land.

The most common way land trusts protect land is by placing easements on private land in partnership with the landowners. Conservation easements are voluntary, permanent legal agreements between a landowner and the Land Trust. Each easement is designed for the property it protects, and most often limits development rights while protecting the land’s farming, forestland, and/or habitat values.

Another way we protect land is to buy land or accept the donation of land from a landowner or an estate. We’ll do this for various reasons, such as to create a nature preserve with significant wildlife habitat, to ensure a working forest is managed ecologically, or to protect farmland from subdivision and development until the next farmer can purchase the land.

We also protect land by facilitating restrictive easements (which eliminate

development rights and/or limit building areas) held by other partner agencies like the U.S. Navy or Washington State Parks, or by purchasing land for partners like Jefferson County, the City of Port Townsend, Northwest Watershed Institute, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and local Tribes.

Each of our conservation projects — whether the land is protected by ownership or with an easement — follows a rigorous process of evaluation and vetting, and involves collaboration between Land Trust staff and board members, dedicated community volunteers, and valued partners.

Land protection is also expensive, often requiring the support of donors, granting agencies, and private foundations to help cover the costs of an easement purchase or land acquisition as well as the ongoing care of the land that’s required in perpetuity after protection.

When our conservation staff members are presented with an opportunity to protect land, they first consider how it aligns with our conservation criteria. Broad enough to apply to many different kinds of land, these criteria are used to

rate such things as a property’s adjacency to other protected lands, climate resilience, natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, shoreline values, historical and/or cultural significance, and/or productivity and viability as working land.

If our conservation team believes a property offers significant conservation value, they bring the opportunity to our Conservation Projects Committee (CPC) for discussion. Meeting regularly, this committee comprises a number of Land Trust board and staff members and many dedicated community volunteers. If the CPC is interested in learning more, committee members visit the property to evaluate its conservation values. After the merits of the project are considered, it’s either tabled or recommended for approval by the Land Trust’s Board of Directors.

If the CPC recommends pursuing a project, the project analysis begins. Our conservation staff completes a Conservation Values and Feasibility Analysis to answer such questions as: What funding may be available? Are there any location issues to consider? What will the long-term stewardship requirements be for the land? In short, we look at whether we have the resources to conserve the land and whether we can assume the obligation required to care for, monitor, and protect it forever.

The results of this analysis are presented to our Board. These volunteer community members who govern the Land Trust’s work consider the details of the project and vote on whether the conservation team should pursue due diligence on the project.

If given the go-ahead, our conservation team works on the project for months and often years: meeting with landowners, coordinating funding, hiring appraisers and surveyors, consulting with partners, drafting the conservation easement if necessary, and much more. Once all of the due diligence is completed, but before any easement or land purchase closes, each project goes to the CPC for a final recommendation and then to the Board for a final decision.

Once a property is protected, the important work of stewarding the land begins. Caring for the properties we own takes a great deal of work by staff members and volunteers, some who make multi-year commitments to help manage a preserve and others who attend our twice-monthly work parties.

Our stewardship staff members and trained volunteers make yearly monitoring visits to all of the privately owned properties on which we hold easements, meeting with landowners to ensure that the terms of the easement are being upheld and that the land is thriving.

We’re grateful to the many individual landowners who choose to work with the land Trust to protect their properties forever and to the volunteers who support the process.

If you’re interested in protecting your land, please visit www.saveland.org/save-your-land, call 360.379.9501, email info@saveland.org, or drop by our Uptown Port Townsend office at 1033 Lawrence Street.



Farms, Fish, and Forests: Project Update

Since fall of 2022, we’ve moved forward on a number of exciting conservation projects. Continuing our important work with local farmers, we protected two agricultural properties in Chimacum: Egg And I Angus, a 115-acre historic family farm in Center Valley, and a nearly 40-acre agricultural property in Beaver Valley that will be made available for purchase to a farmer in the future. (Read more about our farmland protection efforts starting on page 9.)

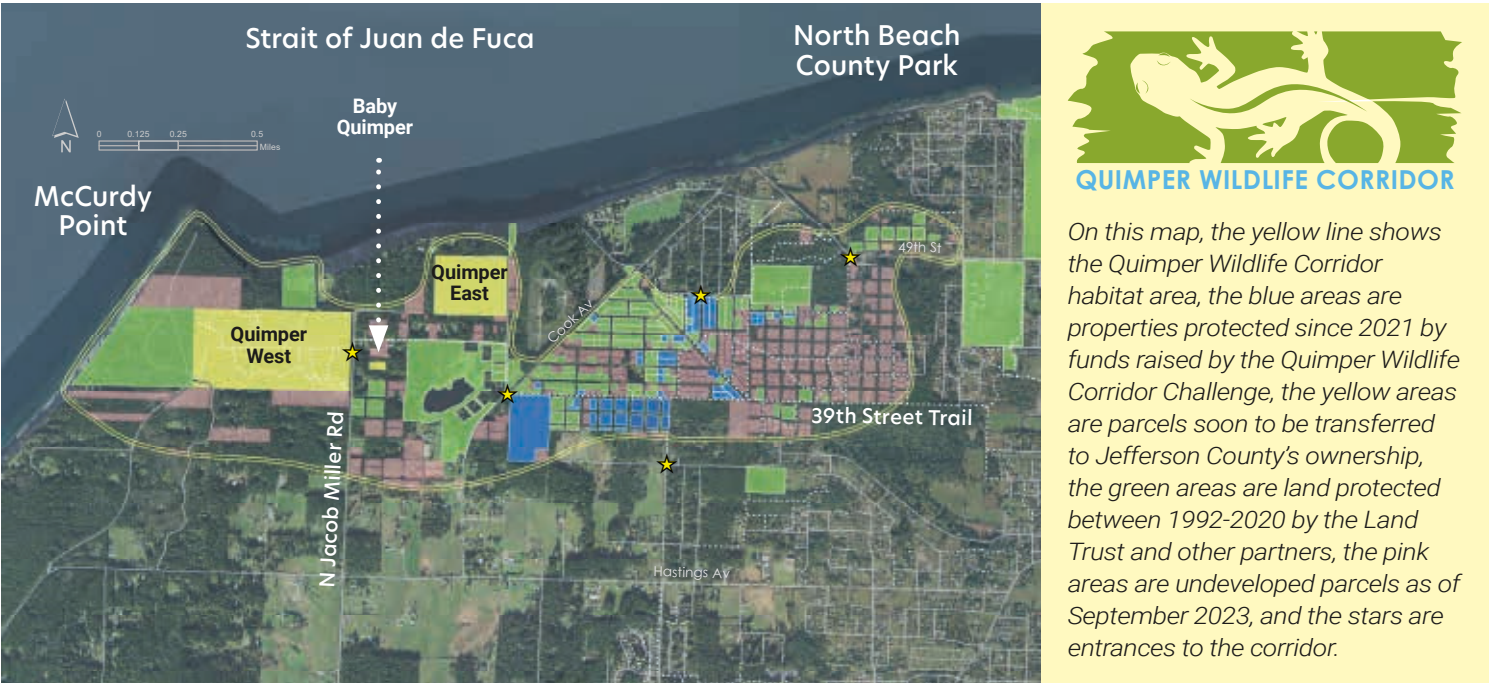
A beautiful 32-acre forested property in Brinnon was generously donated to the Land Trust by a conservation-minded family in November of 2022. The property contains key wildlife habitat, including a sliver of Hood Canal shoreline and areas of mature forest with old-growth characteristics.

We also made remarkable progress in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor, protecting 17 new properties since fall of 2022. (Read more about our recent successes protecting the corridor on page 6.)

In partnership with Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI), the Navy, and many interested landowners, we’ve helped protect almost 1,500 acres in the Tarboo/Dabob Bay watershed over the past two decades to support salmon and other wildlife. Protection is underway for other important properties in this area, including two properties totaling 158 acres, that we’re hoping to protect in partnership with NWI before the end of 2023.

With grant funding in place, we’re also working with a landowner to purchase a beautiful 155-acre forested property with a full mile of Salmon Creek running through it. We’re hopeful that it will close before the end of 2023, adding significantly to our conservation and restoration efforts within the Salmon and Snow Creek Project Area.

Stay tuned for news of many more exciting projects to come.



Generous Community Support Will Double Protected Acreage in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor

The Quimper Wildlife Corridor is one of the Land Trust’s longest-standing projects. Since 1992, we’ve worked with the City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County, passionate volunteers, and other partners to protect this greenbelt parcel by parcel. From 1992 to 2020, Jefferson Land Trust worked with partners to permanently protect 138 acres, as well as to temporarily protect 107 acres of state forestland through a Jefferson County lease with an option to buy.

In 2020, we decided to make a bold and focused effort to ramp up the pace of protection. Our goal was to permanently protect the 107 acres of state forestland as well as other key properties within the corridor to buffer important wetlands and popular trails and to connect additional critical habitat areas of the corridor. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we’ve made remarkable progress.

We began by reaching out to more than 100 landowners to gauge their interest in selling or donating their undeveloped corridor parcels. More than 40 responded positively. Knowing that community fundraising would be critical in allowing us to act fast within a narrow window of opportunity (a window made narrower by increasing development pressures and soaring real estate costs) we launched the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge in early 2021.

The volume of support we received in response to the call demonstrated just how much our community values this special place. More than 450 donors joined the Challenge and, together with grant funding from foundations and public agencies, helped us raise more than \$3.25 million in gifts, grants, and donations of land. Meanwhile, neighbors living near the corridor hosted gatherings to help spread the story of this place and the Land Trust’s effort to protect it.

We want to especially recognize the support of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. In 2020, for the first time ever, the agency opened its Urban Wildlife grant program to land trusts. With positive landowner interest and a solid plan, we applied in 2020 and 2022 and were awarded funding in both years. Community donations acted as the required match for the grants, allowing us to take full advantage of this significant funding source.

Thanks to such broad support, we’ve successfully worked with 30 willing landowners to protect 34 properties totaling more than 45 acres over the last three years, adding key links to the chain of protected land with a focus on both ecological and recreational benefits. (The blue on the map above indicates properties protected by Corridor Challenge funds.)

Thanks to such broad support, we’ve successfully worked with 30 willing landowners to protect 34 properties totaling more than 45 acres



On this map, the yellow line shows the Quimper Wildlife Corridor habitat area, the blue areas are properties protected since 2021 by funds raised by the Quimper Wildlife Corridor Challenge, the yellow areas are parcels soon to be transferred to Jefferson County’s ownership, the green areas are land protected between 1992-2020 by the Land Trust and other partners, the pink areas are undeveloped parcels as of September 2023, and the stars are entrances to the corridor.



Sarah Spaeth’s been working on protecting the Quimper Wildlife Corridor since she was hired in 1996. Our director of conservation is also a gifted baker. Sarah says these are her favorite brownies because they have no grain and are sweetened with honey. She loves the orange flavor, but says they can also be flavored with other dried fruit or coconut.

Soon, we’ll be celebrating a major milestone decades in the making. All the necessary funding is in place to transfer three beautiful forested properties — known as Quimper West, Quimper East, and Baby Quimper — totaling 107 acres from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to Jefferson County ownership for permanent protection. Individual contributions to the Corridor Challenge from Land Trust supporters were matched by a grant from the Jefferson County Conservation Futures Fund to reach the sale price of \$383,000.

Once this transaction takes place, we’ll have more than doubled the number of forever protected acres in the corridor!

With remaining grant funds and continued community support, we’ll work with willing landowners to protect high-priority properties in the corridor into the future. And as our dedicated volunteers and stewardship team members continue caring for the Quimper Wildlife Corridor, we look forward to seeing habitat and forest health improve over time in this treasured place that’s so valued by all of us.



The Quimper Wildlife Corridor is home to hundreds of species of shrubs, trees, animals, and birds. This bobcat was photographed by Anne Owsley at dusk near her home in the corridor.

Bobcats live in rocky areas and conifer forests, where they shelter in wood piles, hollow trees, and downed logs and hunt squirrels, rabbits, mice, and other small mammals.

Using the corridor, wildlife can migrate from Fort Worden to Discovery Bay, and then venture on to the larger forested areas of the Quimper Peninsula.

Bobcat Brownies

Brownie Ingredients

- 4 oz. semisweet chocolate
- 1+ cup (6 oz.) almonds
- ¼ lb. (1 stick) butter, softened
- ½ cup honey
- 3 eggs
- Finely grated rind of 1 large orange

Glaze Ingredients

- 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate
- 2 oz. semisweet chocolate
- 2 oz. (½ stick) butter
- 2 tsp. honey
- Optional: ¼ cup toasted, slivered almonds or 6 pieces of chocolate-covered candied orange rind

For the brownies: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8-inch square pan, line the bottom with foil, and butter the foil. Break the chocolate into small pieces and place it in the top of a double boiler over barely simmering water and stir until melted. Set aside to cool slightly.

Place the almonds in a food processor and grind until fine (about 10-15 seconds).

In a mixer, beat the butter slightly and add the honey with the mixer off. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing well. The mixture will look curdled. Add the melted chocolate and ground almonds and beat until smooth. Remove mixing bowl from the mixer and stir in the orange rind.

Transfer mixture to the baking pan and smooth the top. Bake for 25 minutes. The center of the brownies will appear soft and moist. This is okay.

Cool in the pan on a rack for 30 minutes. Then slide a sharp knife around the perimeter and use another wire rack to invert. Peel off the parchment paper. Allow the brownies to cool completely.

For the glaze: Place the chocolates, butter, and honey in the top of a double boiler over barely simmering water and stir until melted. Replace the hot water in the pan with ice water and continue to stir until the glaze is slightly thick. Do not let it harden.

Slowly pour the glaze over the center top of the brownies. Use a spatula and spread it outward and smooth the top. If desired, sprinkle the top of the brownies with toasted slivered almonds or candied orange rinds.

Cool until glaze hardens completely and then cut with a wet knife into small squares (because the brownies are very rich).



Construction of the new community pavilion at Valley View Forest.

Strong Progress on Our Community Forest

Since 2010, we’ve been working to establish a community forest on Chimacum Ridge that will bring ecological, social, and economic benefits to our community — forever. Now, with the Land Trust planning to purchase the 853-acre property from our partner EFM before the end of 2023, we’re preparing for ownership.

Between 2019 and 2022, a Strategic Vision Framework for Chimacum Ridge Community Forest was developed with support from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and input from a broad spectrum of the local community.

We’re now in the process of finalizing an initial access, recreation, and education plan for the community forest. This new plan will help guide how the community may visit and experience the forest, and was developed with much thoughtful input from teachers, neighbors, local Tribal citizens, and many others.

In October 2022, a variety of these stakeholders participated in a workshop where volunteer architects from the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects helped community members visualize how these ideas could take shape on site. Incorporating this community input, the plan includes initial parking, trail, and viewpoint features to be developed once the Land Trust acquires the property.

We’re also in the process of forming a wholly-owned limited liability company that, as a subsidiary of the Land Trust, will own and manage the property. After publicizing the opportunity widely in the spring of 2023, we recruited seven volunteer community members to serve on the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Board of Managers which, reporting to the Land Trust’s Board, will govern the operations of the community forest.



Students in a week-long Tracking the Wild summer camp with CedarRoot Folk School visited Valley View Forest in August to learn about mountain lions from wildlife biologist Andy Stratton.

The Board of Managers will be supported by three volunteer advisory groups that will be focused respectively on the economic, ecological, and social benefits of the forest. Public recruitment for these volunteer roles will begin in late 2023. The Land Trust is also hiring a full-time community forest manager to oversee the forest’s operations.

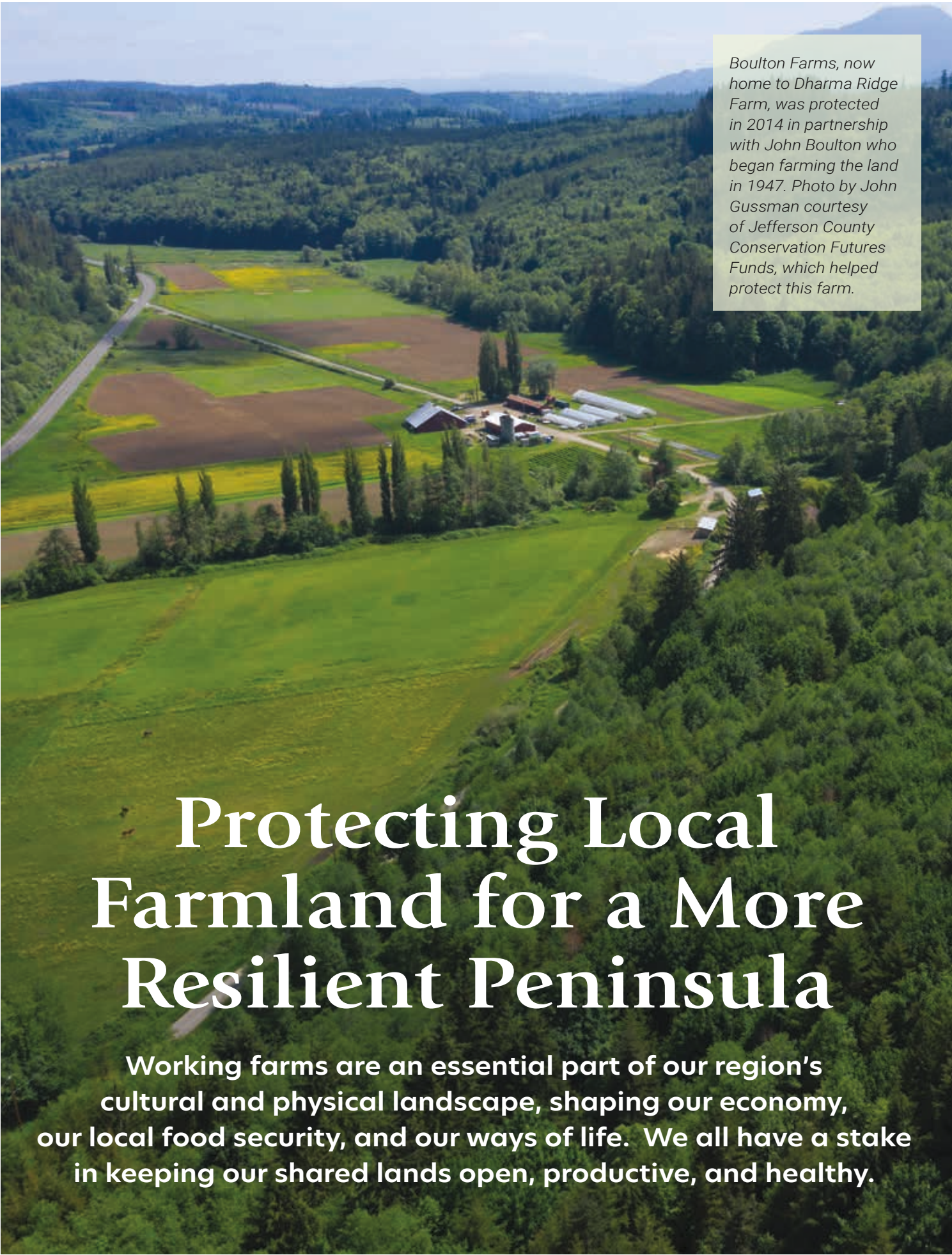
Exciting progress has also been made at the Land Trust’s 65-acre Valley View Forest, which will become the gateway to Chimacum Ridge Community Forest. In 2022, a team of talented joiners contributed more than 500 volunteer hours helping designer-builder Cody Wayland of Wayland Constructive complete a stunning timber frame pavilion that’s now available for community use. The wood used was harvested onsite during our selective harvest in summer 2021. Volunteers and staff members also built a 525-foot wheelchair-accessible trail from the parking lot to the new pavilion.

In November 2022, the Port Townsend Woodworkers Show featured many pieces by local makers using wood from the 2021 harvest — another early glimpse of the exciting possibilities for sustainably harvested forest products that enrich the culture and economy of our region.

Two years after the selective harvest at Valley View, the forest is responding well to increased light and space. In the thinned portion of the forest, we’re observing a greater abundance of native plants on the forest’s floor.

Fundraising is now underway to support both the acquisition of Chimacum Ridge by the end of 2023 and its transformation into a working community forest.

The forest will open to the public sometime in 2025 after the trails, signage, and other visitor infrastructure is in place.



Boulton Farms, now home to Dharma Ridge Farm, was protected in 2014 in partnership with John Boulton who began farming the land in 1947. Photo by John Gussman courtesy of Jefferson County Conservation Futures Funds, which helped protect this farm.

Protecting Local Farmland for a More Resilient Peninsula

Working farms are an essential part of our region’s cultural and physical landscape, shaping our economy, our local food security, and our ways of life. We all have a stake in keeping our shared lands open, productive, and healthy.



Jefferson County's two Farmers Markets, in Chimacum and Port Townsend, are a true community undertaking. More than 90 vendors, including many protected local farms, offer a variety of products from fresh produce, pasture-raised meat, eggs, and fish to artisan prepared food, arts, and crafts. **L:** Photo by Sarah Wright Photography; both photos courtesy of Jefferson County Farmers Markets.

The Importance of Local Farmland

In Jefferson County, thriving farms feed our community in a variety of ways. They give us access to fresh, healthful food that’s grown and produced right here. The joyful exchange of goods grown, produced, and sold by our own neighbors strengthens our ties to one another. Additionally, farms protect our local food security and help to sustain our region’s rural character.

Working farms also benefit our economy by keeping money spent on food inside the county, providing jobs, and attracting tourist dollars from visitors who appreciate our vibrant local food scene and the beauty of rolling fields, picturesque barns, and wide-open vistas. A 2021 special report entitled, *The economic benefits of conserved lands, trails, and parks on the North Olympic Peninsula*, found that, in addition to creating jobs, Jefferson County farms generate \$9.8 million in farm products annually.

Farmland is also beneficial for wildlife, which relies on these open spaces for foraging, migration, and shelter.

As we adapt to a growing population and a changing climate, farms are becoming even more important. Where crops and soils are nurtured, they absorb carbon and help cool our warming planet. Open farmland also retains rainwater, helping to reduce the threat of flooding.

Our Focus on Farmland

The Land Trust was founded in 1989 and for its first 14 years focused primarily on protecting and restoring wildlife and salmon habitat. Then, 20 years ago in 2003, the organization took a broader look at our local landscape and expanded its mission to include protecting working lands — the iconic farms and forests of our area.

By partnering with farmers and ranchers to permanently protect their lands from development, we’re helping them meet their goals, maintain their ways of life, and preserve their legacies. Farmland protection keeps the land intact, productive, more affordable for the next generation of farmers, and forever open to wildlife.

In fact, many of the local farms the Land Trust has protected have also set aside areas specifically for wildlife habitat, such as forested zones and buffers along salmon-bearing creeks.



L to R: Beatriz Galvis, Hector Zapana, Laura Galvis, Pamela Okano, Amy Nakata, Mike Okano, Aleyda Martinez, Ana Galvis, Kay Lancaster, Heather Kawamoto, Vern Nakata, Lindsey Nakata, Tony Kawamoto, and Dick Birnbaum; in front Juan Daniel Castrillon Galvis and beloved guardian dog, Moon, all gathered to celebrate the ownership transition of Kawamoto-Wipala Farm in Quilcene. Photo courtesy of Ana Galvis.



The Nigerian dwarf goats are a favorite during Farm Tour each year at Kodama Farm & Food Forest, where the farmers use regenerative farming practices and have set aside 21 acres as salmon and wildlife habitat. Photo courtesy of Kodama Farm.

Our effort has been very successful. With community support and the partnership of local farm owners, Jefferson Land Trust has permanently protected 20 local farms totaling more than 1,500 acres.

Growing Threats to Farmland

With land prices soaring and a generation of farmers planning to retire, farms are becoming more and more vulnerable throughout the U.S. In fact, approximately 40 percent of the nation’s farmland is owned by people over 65, meaning that up to 370 million acres of farmland could change hands in the next 20 years.

We’re losing these critical lands at an alarming rate. According to American Farmland Trust, every day across the nation 2,000 acres of agricultural land are paved over, fragmented, or converted to uses that jeopardize farming. And these national trends are mirrored here in Jefferson County, where we experienced a 12 percent decline in farmland between 2012 and 2017.

When farmland is taken out of production, it threatens our local food economy and security, our wildlife, the rural character of our landscape, and the opportunity for our children and their children to experience the joys of fresh local food and the many other benefits our local farms have to offer.

Increasing the Pace of Farmland Conservation

As Jefferson County farms change hands, the Land Trust is working hard to ensure that our most productive farmland is not lost to development, and is instead purchased by active farmers with plans to keep the land in production.

The majority of our farm protection has been achieved using traditional land trust tools like government grants, but they can take years to secure. When farm owners want to sell or protect their land, and aren’t in a rush, we can take this approach.

However, if farmland is listed for sale on the open market, we must act fast to protect it using the buy+protect+sell conservation model. In this scenario, land trusts buy important farmland, protect it with an agricultural conservation easement, and then sell the land to the next farmer or rancher at a price that’s reduced because of the conservation easement.

The limiting factor with this model is having access to ready capital when a property meeting our conservation criteria goes on the market or when we’re approached by a landowner looking to sell.

That’s why we’re excited about two new statewide programs designed to support the buy+protect+sell

Farmland Protection Timeline



The timeline below shows the year each farm protection project was completed by the Land Trust. Working lands were officially added as an area of focus to the organization’s mission in 2003.





The 2022 Red Dog Farm team. Photo by Mae Wolfe.

conservation model. The programs work together to accelerate the pace of protecting at-risk farmland and keeping it in production, while also lowering barriers to land access for beginning, veteran, and/or historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

The Farmland Protection and Affordability Investment (FarmPAI) program is offered through the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and provides low-interest loans with extremely favorable terms to qualified conservation entities, like accredited land trusts. The Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) program is offered through the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation and provides funding for agricultural easements on farmland purchased using a FarmPAI loan.

We recently used the FarmPAI program to purchase almost 40 acres of farmland in Chimacum. We'll be placing an easement on the property with funds from FPLA and then eventually selling the protected farmland to the next farmer at the reduced value.

Knowing that funding from these innovative new state programs is limited, we're also working to establish a fund that will help us respond quickly to conservation opportunities important for our region. This will help ensure we remain on the front lines of protecting working farmland, wildlife habitat, and forests in a market stressed by development pressures — increasing access to land for emerging farmers, small business owners, and communities historically excluded.

As we mark 20 years of focused farmland conservation, we're heartened by our successes and by the ongoing support of community members who share our vision of a healthy, resilient Jefferson County nourished by flourishing farms.

Farmland and Climate Resilience

In 2020, we partnered with North Olympic Land Trust to conduct a Land Resilience Study to identify places most likely to retain resilience as our climate changes over time.

To pinpoint the most resilient farmland, we looked for the following characteristics:

- Farmland on which food or fiber is being produced directly for human use
- Farmland with productive, healthy soil that can yield a good harvest
- Farmland with the versatility to produce a wide variety of crops through a long growing season
- Farmland that provides healthy benefits, like creating clean air and filtering the water supply
- Farmland with the ability to regulate and retain water, which is less likely to flood during extreme rainfalls and less likely to experience water scarcity in periods without rain

So far, we've protected a number of farms that have these characteristics. In addition to looking at resilience as a new item in our conservation criteria for projects, we'll continue to track our progress on protecting our county's most resilient farmland.

As part of our ongoing stewardship activities we work in partnership with each easement landowner to create stewardship plans. Many of these plans for protected farmland include goals to improve the land's resilience. Over time, we'll work to add these goals to all the stewardship plans on easement-protected properties and find ways to support our farmer-landowners in continuing to build and improve resilience on their farms.

Together
we've helped protect
almost 18,000 acres!



Farmland

1,510 acres | 20 properties



Fish & Wildlife Habitat

10,927 acres | 88 properties



Working Forest

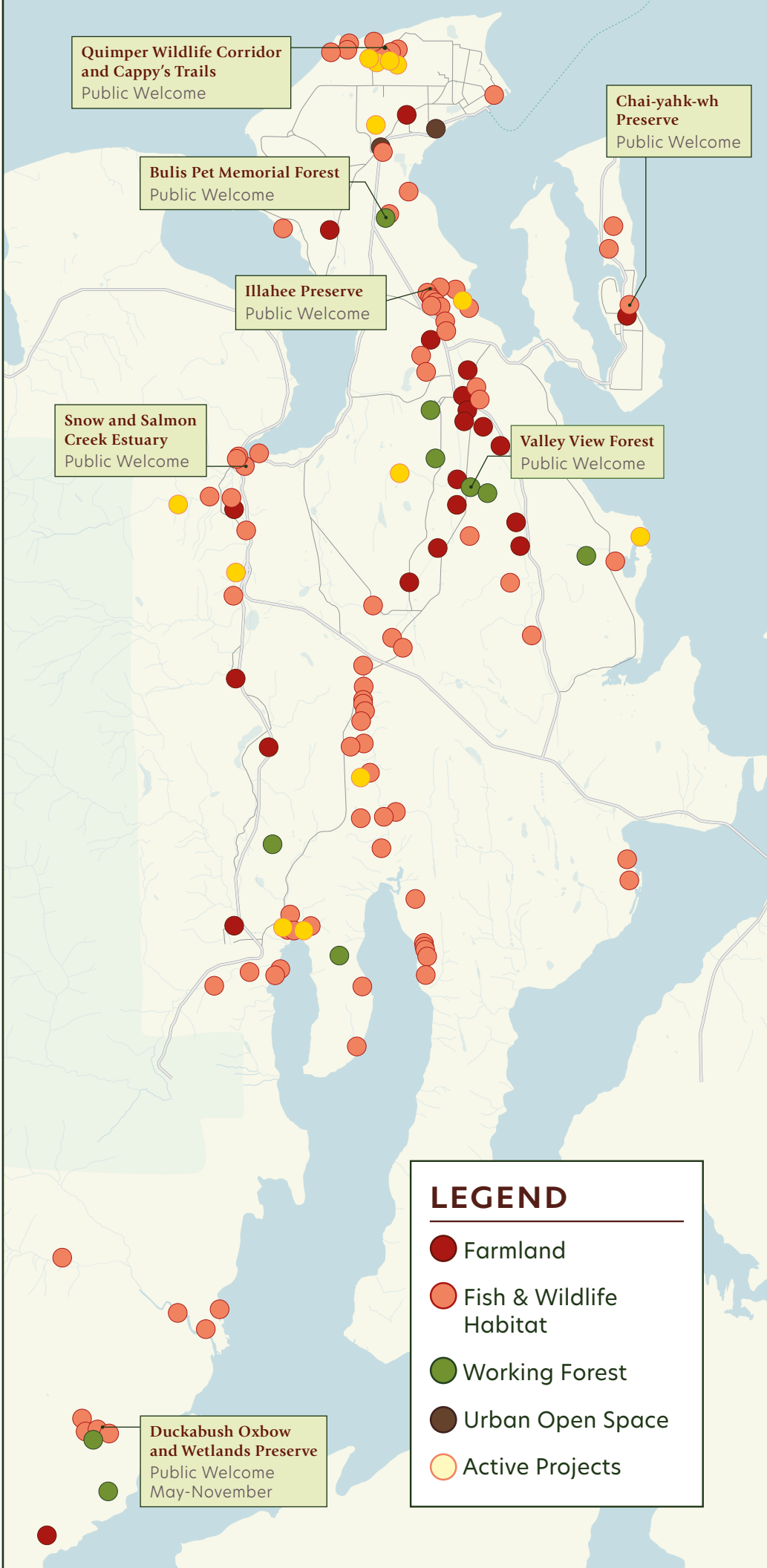
5,524 acres | 11 properties



Urban Open Space

4 acres | 4 properties

All information calculated through September 1, 2023. Only East Jefferson County properties shown. The Land Trust has also helped protect 7,154 acres of habitat with partners in West Jefferson County.





L to R: Staff members from Great Peninsula Conservancy and our stewardship team installing audio recording devices to capture bird song; volunteers putting the finishing touches on the new accessible trail at Illahee Preserve; Kalya Marab of Woodsong Tree Service creating a standing snag for wildlife at Chai-yahk-wh Preserve.

Caring for the Land Together

Caring for our 27 nature preserves is a perpetual commitment and an ongoing, year-round labor of love that's undertaken by the Land Trust's field staff and many amazing volunteers. In the past year, with their help, we've advanced many projects that increase habitat diversity, support wildlife, and welcome visitors to our preserves.

As our properties grow in number, acreage, complexity, and types of use, so too does the amount of work required to care for them. In March 2023, our staff field crew got a big boost with the addition of Ash Ross and Trevor Williams, our part-time field technicians. Through December 2023, they'll continue to help us enhance the habitat at our preserves by doing the hugely important work of removing invasive weeds, maintaining plantings, and more.

One exciting opportunity this year came through the Department of Natural Resources' new Forest Resilience cost-share program, which allowed us to implement important forest health projects on two preserves. At Duckabush Oxbow and Wetlands Preserve we removed a whopping nine acres of invasive Himalayan blackberry, giving the surrounding healthy native forest the room it needs to grow.

We also completed a forest thinning project on 2.5 acres of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor. After volunteers marked small, stressed trees during monthly work parties, our specially trained volunteer chainsaw crew removed them. This makes more water and light available for healthy trees and the ferns and shrubs on the forest floor so that the forest provides even better habitat for native wildlife.

For the second year in a row, we counted on volunteers to collect data for our forest health assessments.

Tracking the current conditions of our forest preserves helps us measure our progress toward our goal of increasing the species and structural diversity needed in healthy, thriving forests.

This summer, in collaboration with our friends and neighbors at Kitsap County's Great Peninsula Conservancy and with the support of a Cornell University grant, we launched a monitoring study that will help us track birds' responses to our forest management activities on our nature preserves.

Mapping the presence of certain indicator bird species with the use of audio recording devices that capture birdsong will help us determine over time whether we're succeeding in creating the diverse habitat conditions that certain birds and other local wildlife need to thrive.

As part of our continued mission to increase accessibility at our preserves, and with funding from Jefferson County's Accessible Community Advisory Committee, we installed a wheelchair-accessible parking spot, trail, Sani-can, and ramp to the existing picnic shelter at our popular Illahee Preserve.

And this fall, we're thrilled to be bringing on three full-time AmeriCorps interns for a 10.5-month engagement. They'll play a pivotal role in our initial year of implementing three ambitious, two-year-long forest health projects funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

At Duckabush Riparian Forest, Thorndyke Forest, and Chai-yahk-wh Preserve we'll create more than 250 key habitat features to benefit wildlife. Standing snags, downed logs, and habitat piles will be supplemented by forest thinning to increase the plant and tree diversity of the native forest.

Supporting Farm Soil Health

This year, Jefferson Land Trust was awarded a Soil Health Stewards Program grant from American Farmland Trust's National Agricultural Land Network.

The \$10,000 grant and week-long training gives Erik Kingfisher and Marlowe Moser of our stewardship team the ability to better evaluate soil conditions on protected local farmland.

Protecting the long-term soil health of our community's working farmland protects the productivity value of those lands — a fundamental component of impactful farmland conservation. Healthy soils are the backbone of productive, profitable, and resilient farmland that farmers, and our community, count on to produce food and fiber year after year — even in a warming climate.

While soil health is already a paramount conservation value in our agricultural conservation easements, this training prepares our stewardship staff to better engage with landowners who manage and care for precious farm soils.

We now have the knowledge and ability to connect farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to helpful technical resources and help them overcome any barriers they're experiencing in adopting new soil health practices.

As part of the grant, Erik and Marlowe attended a multi-day virtual training for land trusts and other agricultural land protection practitioners. The training was designed to explain the benefits of healthy soil, share conservation practices that enhance soil health, and provide other useful information. We're looking forward to sharing what we've learned with our farming partners.

Starting next year, we plan to schedule one-on-one meetings with farmers to help run qualitative rapid in-field assessments to inform their understanding of the soil health on their farms.



Marlowe Moser and Erik Kingfisher of our stewardship team spend a lot of their time in the field meeting with landowners.



Youth Corps students enjoy a lunch break at Duckabush Oxbow and Wetlands Preserve where they pulled blackberry bushes. During lunch, the students also learned about local cougar research from Dylan Bergman, biologist for the Point No Point Treaty Council.

K-12 Education Partnerships

Over the 2022-23 school year, the Land Trust's educational programming helped enrich the in-class learning of hundreds of East Jefferson County students with hands-on field experiences at several of our nature preserves.

For a decade, we've been supporting public school teachers and students with educational programming at no cost to schools. We strive to be responsive to the needs of individual schools, grades, and classrooms with a variety of offerings.

This year, our robust programming served students from first through twelfth grades, and included hosting Port Townsend first- and second-graders' salmon life cycle studies; collaborating with the Washington Native Plant Society on a planting project at Snow Creek Forest Preserve to support Quilcene middle schoolers with their ecosystem science unit; and leading Chimacum fourth- and fifth-graders on field trips to Valley View Forest to learn about forest health and plant diversity.

We also hosted Spring Break Youth Corps, our annual paid internship for high school students. And in June, we were very pleased to welcome back a 2022 Youth Corps alumna, Claire, for a custom-tailored summer internship.

Over the past year, we've also been working with a local education specialist to ensure that our programming is aligned, not only with students' in-class studies, but with state science curriculum standards. We look forward to bringing our current programs into alignment with these standards over the 2023-24 school year.

2022 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



19

volunteer work parties

20

real estate transactions completed valued at more than \$2.9 million





7311

hours worked by 243 volunteers



66



conservation easements visited for required annual monitoring

600



1st-12th graders hosted for outdoor learning on our nature preserves

100

evergreen donors who support the permanent protection and care of conserved lands with regularly scheduled online donations



192

site visits



by staff and volunteers to monitor and care for nature preserves

926



community members welcomed to learn and/or celebrate on the land



450

native trees and shrubs planted

489

new acres protected locally



864



acres of habitat actively cared for at our preserves

34



landowners we've actively worked with on potential land protection projects

Sowing Seeds for the Future

By Katy McCoy and Phil Vogelzang

Making the decision to include Jefferson Land Trust in our estate plans came naturally. We feel strongly about making philanthropy local, and it's hard to think of another organization that has a greater impact on improving the quality of life for people in Jefferson County — currently and into the future.


As the founders and owners of the Chimacum Corner Farmstand since 2010, we're at the literal and figurative crossroads of the local farming community. We see a straight-line connection between the Land Trust making working farms part of their mission in 2003, the organic small farm renaissance that followed, and the economic vibrancy our agricultural community is experiencing today. Food can be a leverage for all kinds of societal good, and Jefferson County is a far richer place thanks to the Land Trust's work.

We care deeply about the environment and are particularly excited about the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest project. The Ridge has the potential to catalyze people into thinking differently about their relationship with the land and to model how a small community can sustainably manage its own forests to provide a stream of economic, social, and cultural benefits.

When it came time to make our estate plans, we asked: What do we care most about? Which organizations do we have a connection with that are doing inspiring work in that area? Jefferson Land Trust's passion, determination, deep partnerships, and amazing track record mean we trust them more than just about any other organization we can think of to make a lasting impact with the resources we leave behind.

Philanthropy is often described in terms of "giving," but it's been our experience that by participating in philanthropy, the universe gives you back so much more. Including the Land Trust in our estate has been uplifting and empowering. It's brought us calmness and clarity, as well as a better sense of why we're here on the planet.

It's a great feeling knowing that even once you're gone, remnants of the life you lived can continue to have a positive effect on the world.



If you'd like to start a conversation about including the Land Trust in your estate plans, please call Sarah Zablocki-Axling at 360.379.9501 or email her at szaxling@saveland.org.



Phil Vogelzang, Katy McCoy, and Turnip (the Chimacum Corner Farmstand mascot) enjoy the views from Mount Constitution on Orcas Island.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
2023 BUSINESS SPONSORS!



SAVE THE LAND PARTNERS

- Better Properties Tri-Counties LLC
- The Food Co-Op
- Chimacum Corner Farmstand
- The Resort at Port Ludlow
- Finnriver Farm & Cidery
- Wayland Constructive



Owen and Sarah Fairbank. Photo by Hal Everett.

Owen and Sarah
Fairbank: 20 Years of
Inspired Service

Since our grassroots beginning 34 years ago, volunteers have been the beating heart and helping hands of Jefferson Land Trust. This year, we recognized two very special volunteers who’ve given two decades of remarkable service to the Land Trust: Sarah and Owen Fairbank.

Over the last 20 years, Sarah and Owen have dedicated countless hours, deep skill, and their whole hearts to the Land Trust’s mission. From administrative work to advising on projects, from chairing committees to training fellow volunteers, from handling complex real estate transactions to fundraising and event planning — the list of roles that Sarah and Owen have not played at Jefferson Land Trust would certainly be shorter than a list of those they have.

When asked about their volunteerism, Sarah and Owen shared their thoughts:

“I think what’s really meaningful and exciting about volunteering at the Land Trust is the type of people that come forward, and the people you get to know. The enthusiasm, the work they’ve done in their lives, their willingness to give and to cooperate,” said Sarah.

“It’s fun being part of a team,” Owen said. “The Land Trust is a good fit for our interests and for our long-term concern about the future. It’s the people, the culture of collaboration and consensus, and the values here that I want to support.”

Together, Owen and Sarah have welcomed countless new friends into the Land Trust community, helping to weave the partnerships so vital to our work. As trusted leaders and treasured friends, they’ve guided the organization as it’s grown — and inspired us all with their warm and giving spirits.

“Owen and Sarah are the type of supporters who do a lot, but don’t seek recognition,” said Executive Director Richard Tucker. “We feel that after 20 years, it’s time to thank them for their outstanding dedication to this organization and our mission.”

Our heartfelt gratitude to Sarah and Owen for their exceptional gift of service to the Land Trust and our greater community!

Want to volunteer with us? Email info@saveland.org or visit www.saveland.org/volunteer.

Fairbank Award for Youth
Environmental Action

We established the Fairbank Award for Youth Environmental Action this year in honor of longtime volunteers Owen and Sarah Fairbank. The inaugural award and accompanying \$500 prize went to Diego Murray, 16, of Eaglemount, for his inspiring leadership as a student educator for CedarRoot Folk School, his actions on behalf of the environment, and his conservation-focused service within his own community.

Diego was announced as the winner at our virtual Conservation Breakfast in March. Congratulations to him and his family!



Diego Murray accepts the Fairbank Award from Richard Tucker after our virtual Conservation Breakfast in March 2023.

2022 Financial Report

Sources of Revenue	
Gifts and Contributions	\$2,904,452
Special Event Income	\$217,666
Public Grants and Contracts	\$805,373
Land and In-kind Contributions	\$979,449
Investment Income	(\$74,371)

TOTAL **\$4,832,569**

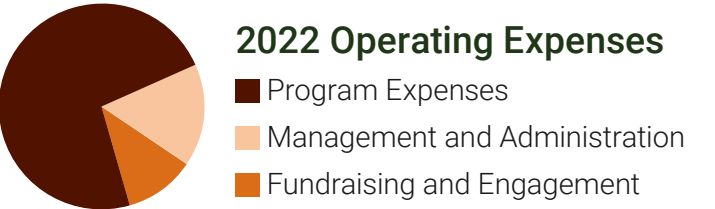
Operating Expenses	
Program Expenses	\$1,960,104
Management and Administration	\$438,537
Fundraising and Engagement	\$300,403

TOTAL **\$2,699,044**

Assets	
Cash and Investments	\$4,738,685
Property	\$7,965,013
Other Assets	\$515,638

TOTAL **\$13,219,336**

Change in Net Assets	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$10,946,589
Net Assets at End of Year	\$13,080,114
DIFFERENCE	\$2,133,525



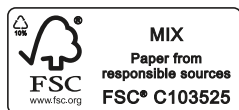
The firm of Aiken & Sanders, Inc. PS presented its favorable management letter and audited financials for 2022. They were accepted by Jefferson Land Trust’s Board of Directors on August 4, 2023. The final audited financial statement is available by request via email from Director of Philanthropy Kate Godman at kgodman@saveland.org.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 963

1033 Lawrence Street,
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360.379.9501
info@saveland.org
www.saveland.org

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



Land Acknowledgment

Jefferson Land Trust acknowledges that the lands we work to preserve are within the traditional Indigenous tribal lands of the S'Klallam, Chemakum, Twana, Suquamish and other Indigenous peoples. These Indigenous peoples are the original stewards of these lands and waters, since time immemorial.

Jefferson Land Trust recognizes that European and American colonization irrevocably changed the homeland and ecosystem of the Tribes, effectively destroying traditional land access and ways of life. We also recognize that the current system of land ownership and private conservation that we operate within has created, and continues to create, negative impacts on many marginalized communities.

Working in conjunction with local Indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, Jefferson Land Trust will recognize this immeasurable disruption and we will strive to lessen the negative impacts of our work, creating a future wherein we seek to deepen our partnerships together and create positive change.