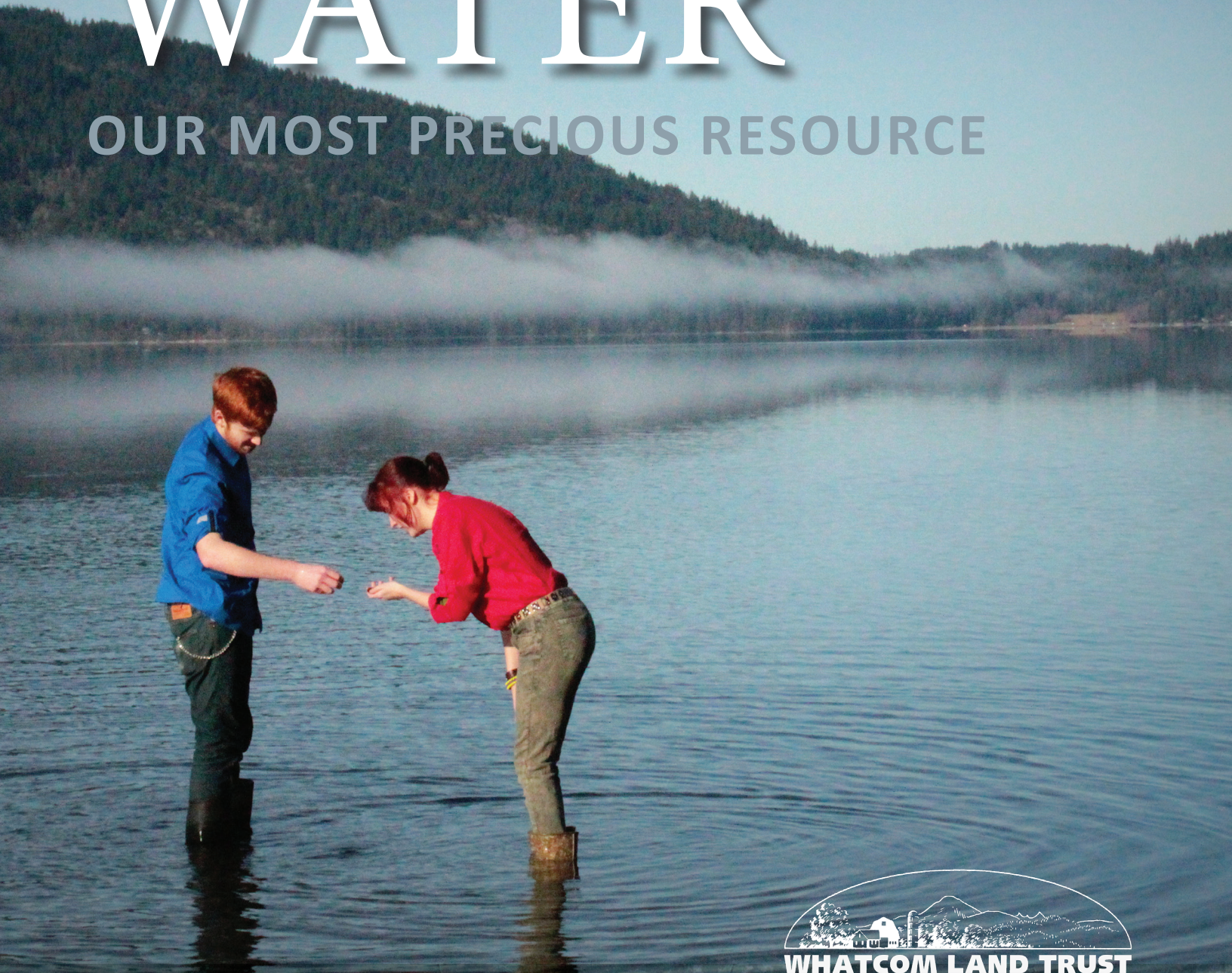


# WATER

OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE



LOVE THIS LAND

# THE Steward



## A Dynamic Balance

### Connecting Whatcom County's Land and Water

From the smallest tributary streams to the largest flowing rivers, water connects all of us here in Whatcom County. Between the high mountain creeks of the Cascades to the estuarine habitats of the Puget Sound, and every wetland, river and lake in between, there is no doubt that life here revolves around the water which surrounds us. Whether it is being used to irrigate crops, water dairy cows, support all five species of Pacific Salmon, or purely for its recreational and aesthetic values, water is critical in supporting both the economic and ecological aspects of this beautiful place we call home.

Nearly all of Whatcom Land Trust's properties, conservation easements, and partnerships revolve around protecting what is arguably the most important natural resource on which all life depends. As we face the challenges of increasing populations, habitat degradation, and an ever changing climate, protecting water and

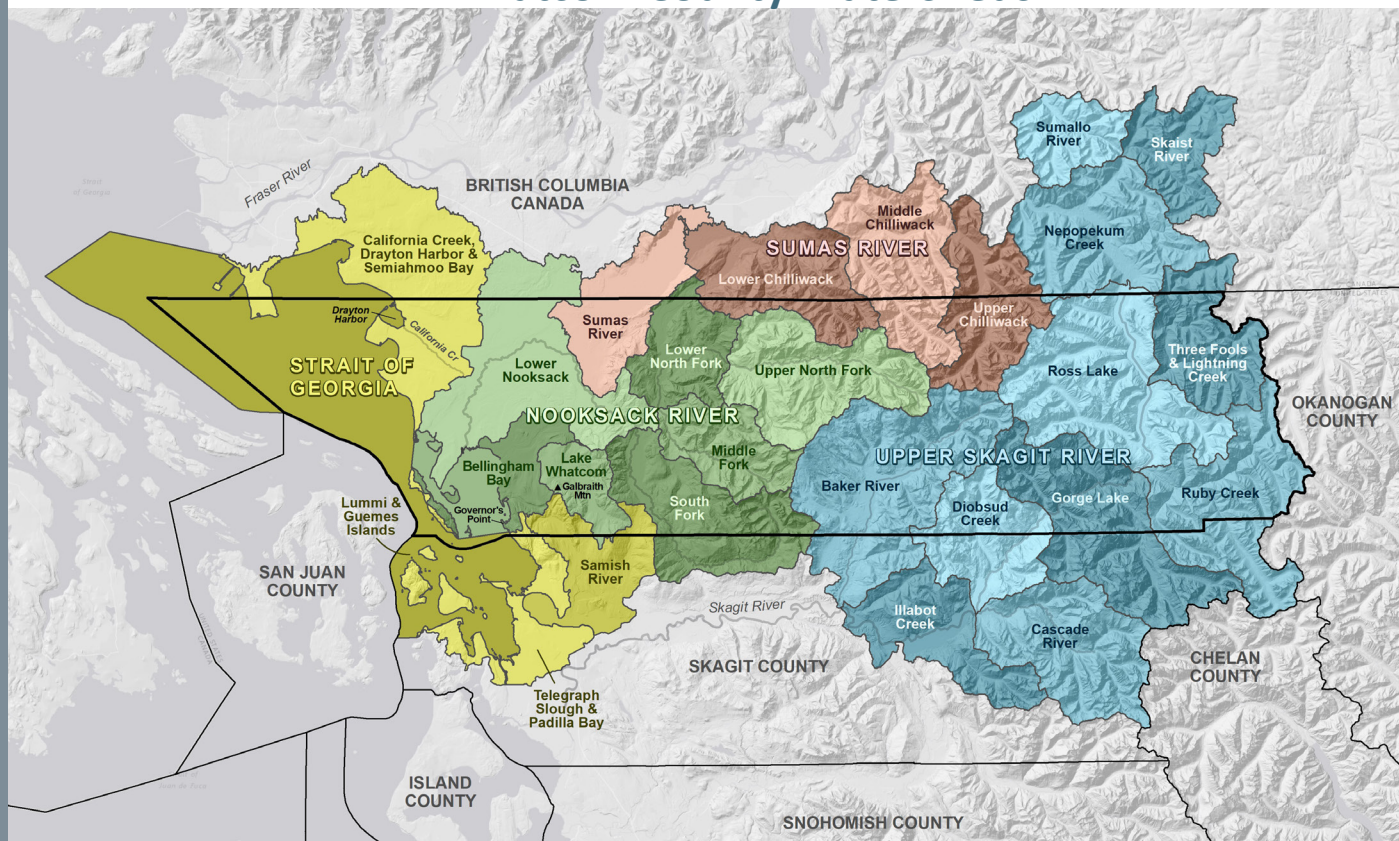
protecting land become increasingly intertwined and urgent.

This issue of *The Steward* highlights Whatcom Land Trust's numerous partnerships, all with the common goal of preserving and protecting water resources in Whatcom County. Watershed health in the South Fork Nooksack River valley, unleashing the free flow of the Middle Fork Nooksack River, innovative technologies in clean water recovery on a large dairy farm, estuarine restoration to aid in the recovery of Drayton Harbor, and success stories from the past, present and future all encompass our shared vision for a healthy, prosperous Whatcom County.

With education, collaboration and persistence, the future of water quality here can be one of hope and celebration for generations to come.

Cover: Lake Whatcom Watershed

# Whatcom County Watersheds



## STORIES IN THESE WATERSHEDS



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**W**hatcom County is comprised of 17 different watersheds; each essential to our way of life here. From Drayton Harbor to the South Fork Nooksack River, these watersheds define our ability to utilize the abundant natural resources which surround us. Water is free-flowing, paying no attention to the local, state and national boundaries we have created, making collaborative protection efforts ever more important. Our activities within these watersheds determine the quality of the lakes, rivers, streams, and bays which shape our quality of life here. Whatcom Land Trust works diligently to protect our most precious natural resource, water, for future generations here in Whatcom County.



## It's All in the Watershed

### Planning for the future of the South Fork Valley

Nestled between the eastern slope of Stewart Mountain and the Foothills of the Cascades, the South Fork Nooksack River flows through a valley dominated by farms, floodplain forests, and wetlands. Because it relies on snow melt from the Twin Sisters, rather than glacial melt, the South Fork is more susceptible to water quality issues related to low flows in the late summer. Land use within the South Fork Nooksack Valley is primarily a combination of commercial forestry and agriculture creating a dynamic community throughout the valley. Every aspect of life here is water dependent.

Water issues in the South Fork are primarily tied to seasonal changes in hydrology driven by precipitation and snow pack. Human factors and a changing climate are exacerbating the natural fluctuations in water quantity that have shaped the Valley's ecosystem. Expanding the riparian forest and restoring wetland habitat within the historic floodplain will help improve both water quantity and quality within the South Fork Nooksack River.

Returning healthy forests along the South Fork and its tributaries is essential to maintaining cool, clean, and consistently flowing water. Mature trees help to shade the water and stabilize the soil, keeping the water cool and preventing sediment

from eroding into the stream. These trees also contribute to the amount of woody debris in the water creating larger pools for both salmon habitat and cold water storage. Lengthening timber harvest rotations could be one of the most effective ways to increase instream flow in the South Fork Nooksack River. Recent hydrological modeling work suggests that the impact of allowing a forest to grow 100 years (above the current average of around 40 years) would increase water flow by fifty percent in the summer time, when flows are low and the demand for water is high.

Floodplain reconnection and wetland restoration are key components of improving watershed health within the South Fork Nooksack River. Wetland systems provide excellent flood control by allowing more water to be stored out of the main river channel and underground. Recharging groundwater and the slow release of water from wetlands creates more availability of water later in the summer for fish, farms, and people. Groundwater also tends to be colder than surface flows and when exchanged with the river can substantially lower overall water temperatures in the South Fork. Whatcom Land Trust is working to protect Duck Pond and Mustoe Marsh, two wetland complexes providing benefits to water health in the South Fork.



## Water Protection in the South Fork

**Past:** Whatcom Land Trust, and its partners have been very successful in protecting land along the South Fork Nooksack with property acquisitions, conservation easements and restoration efforts. Edfro Creek, Nessel Farm, and Riverstead are just a few of the projects working to preserve riparian and wetland habitats within the SFNV.

**Present:** Skookum Creek provides 22 percent of the August streamflow to the South Fork and with 33 percent of its watershed located within the current high elevation snow zone, its cold water is critical to salmon and other species who utilize the South Fork. Whatcom Land Trust is currently in the process of acquiring over 1,200 acres of land along Skookum Creek to restore and protect in perpetuity.

**Future:** There is always work to be done when it comes to protecting our precious water resources here in Whatcom County. Whatcom Land Trust is constantly on the lookout for new, innovative projects which meet the goal of providing clean, cold, consistent water for all.

Today, the South Fork Community is working hard to collaborate on issues affecting their watershed. The South Fork Nooksack River Community Watershed Project began in January of 2017 with funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create a framework for education and dialog around water issues within the South Fork Nooksack Valley. Local residents were looking for a way to become more informed about water issues within their community and advocated for open dialog on how to conserve all of the aspects which make the area special. Whatcom Land Trust was one of many South Fork Valley property owners and neighbors to participate in this process along with the Nooksack Tribe, Whatcom County, and local citizens. In September 2017, participants in the planning project formed the South Fork Watershed Education Committee with the goal of organizing public forums to inform the community on topics such as water quality, forestry and agriculture in relationship to watershed health.

Substantial research has been completed on the South Fork Watershed, plans are evolving, and education is ongoing. The South Fork Nooksack Valley community and its many partners, including Whatcom Land Trust, are on their way to finding solutions which will balance land use and water quality for the future generations of plants, wildlife, and people who call this place home.

If you are interested in learning more please visit the South Fork Community Watershed Project's website: [southforknoosack.com](http://southforknoosack.com)



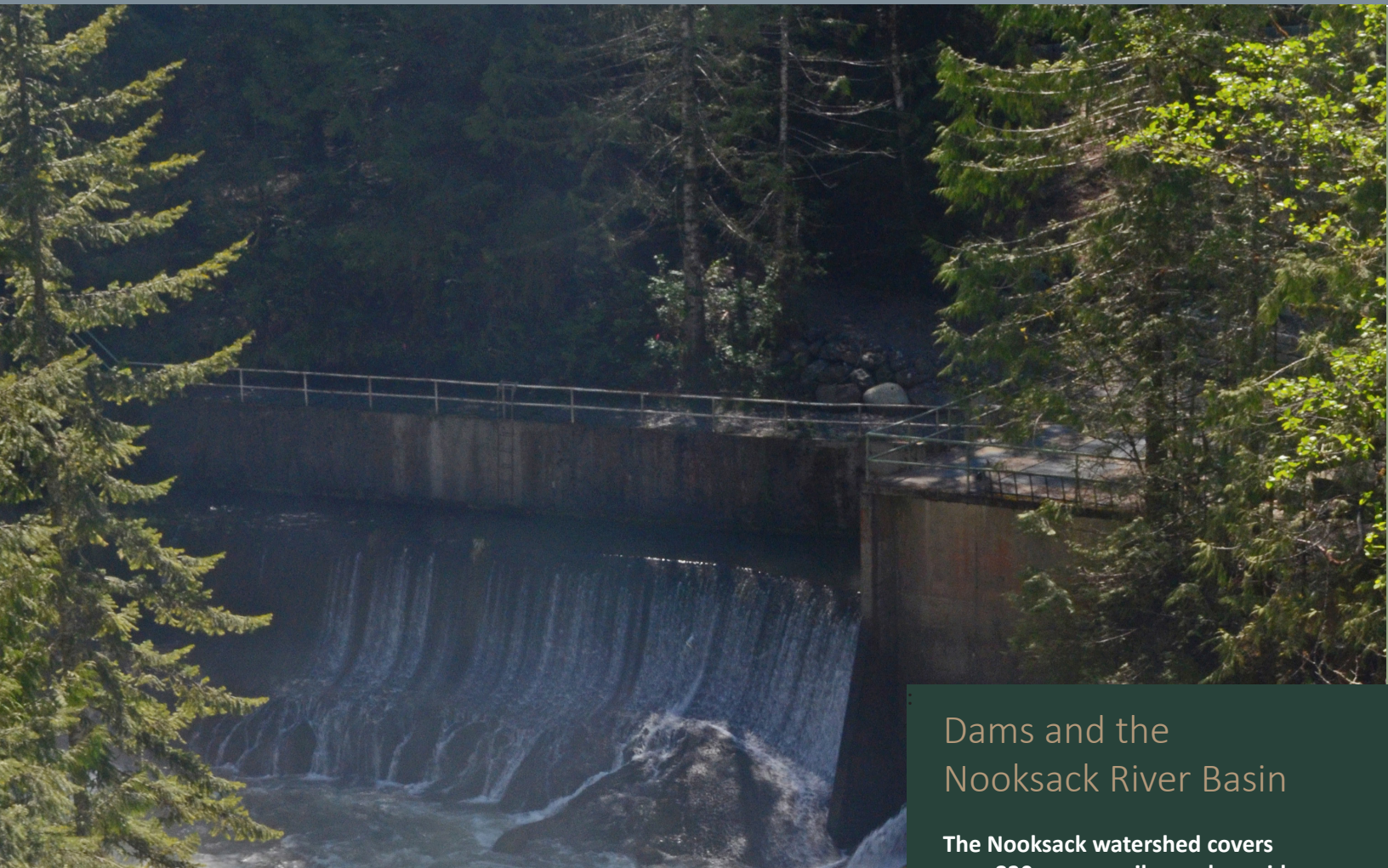
Frog egg mass



## Free Flow Unleashing the Middle Fork

**T**he dam is located eight miles upstream of where the Middle Fork leaves the mainstem Nooksack River. Traveling past the Heath, Schumann Granger and Bajema conservation easements held by the Whatcom Land Trust, and the recently purchased properties at the confluence of the Middle Fork and Canyon Creek, and above a steep, inaccessible canyon of rapids named Icebox Paradise, Landslide, and Leap of Faith, you find the City of Bellingham's Middle Fork Nooksack diversion dam. Keep moving upstream and you will pass Clearwater, Warm, and Ridley Creeks and find yourself on the eastern Deming Glacier on Mount Baker, headwaters of the Middle Fork. Built in the early 1960's to divert water supply from the Middle Fork to Lake Whatcom, the dam today is broken and un-used. But at some thirty feet high and 150 feet in length it effectively blocks sixteen miles of historically available habitat for Chinook, steelhead and bull trout. All three are federally

listed on the Endangered Species Act. Currently the City, Tribes, state and federal resource agencies, salmon restoration organizations, and now American Rivers and the Paul Allen Foundation are seeking to remove this dam and retain water supply diversion by mid-2019. Removal of this dam on the Middle Fork has been listed as the most critical salmon improvement project, and the project with the ability to provide the largest benefit for salmon, under the 2005 Water Resource Inventory Area #1 (WRIA 1) Salmon Recovery Plan. The partners above are seeking additional funding for a removal estimated to cost \$13 million, about \$5 million of which is in hand. A current proposal to the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund could fill the remaining gap. For additional information go to <https://www.cob.org/services/environment/restoration/middlefork/>



## Dams and the Nooksack River Basin

**The Nooksack watershed covers over 830 square miles and provides habitat for all five species of native Pacific Salmon. It is a regional outdoor recreation haven and is directly linked to the health and quality of life in Whatcom County. Amazingly, except for the abandoned diversion dam on the Middle Fork and the Nooksack Falls Project on the North Fork, the entire watershed is free-flowing.**

Check out Brett Baunton's stunning Wild and Scenic Nooksack slideshow: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/10yvnSkx6qmae/>



As a downstream landowner on the Middle Fork Nooksack, as an organization deeply involved in salmon restoration and habitat protection, and as a partner in Whatcom County's Salmon Restoration Funding Board, the Trust fully supports the City's Middle Fork Nooksack River Fish Passage Project. As well, the dam is centrally located within the 350,000-acre Cascades to Chuckanuts (C2C) Conservation Corridor, Whatcom County's immediate environment, and the last relatively undeveloped corridor linking the shores of Puget Sound with the Cascades and Columbia Basin. The Trust has focused on protecting the C2C area since our beginning, and has pursued land purchase, conservation easements, and facilitations with partners which have permanently protected Canyon Lake Community Forest, Squires Lake, Chuckanut Mountain Park, Lake Whatcom and Lookout Mountain Parks, and other properties. Governors Point, now protected through the generosity of a private donor, and the Trust's current work to purchase 1,250 acres along Skookum Creek, are also located in the C2C Corridor.

For more information on the Nooksack, please read *Wild Nooksack: Celebrating a Free-flowing Beauty* in the May 2018 edition of *Adventures Northwest*, or go to <http://www.wildnooksack.com/>



## Farming Into The Future

### Water Conservation at Coldstream Farms

Coldstream Farms began in 1978 when Jeff Rainey bought a piece of property along the South Fork of the Nooksack River and in the early 2000's, Galen Smith married into the Coldstream family and took over day to day management of the business. In its forty years of operation, this family owned and operated dairy farm has gone through numerous changes, yet one thing that hasn't is their commitment to the South Fork Valley community. Whether it's leasing land from neighbors to grow crops for feed, partnering with other farmers who raise Coldstream's heifers just down the road, or selling their dried manure as compost to local farms for natural fertilizer, Coldstream makes every effort to uphold the integrity and way of life within the Valley.

Coldstream leases seven properties from Whatcom Land Trust, mainly for hay production. Since 2015, the dairy has leased our Saxon Road Farm property to grow silage and graze cows. An unnamed tributary of the South Fork runs through the 54-acre property and while the field is farmed regularly, the stream is protected for Coho salmon habitat;

an excellent example of farms and fish coexisting together. This partnership allows Galen to run a successful business with happily grazing cows and Whatcom Land Trust to protect and preserve farmable land in the South Fork Valley.

Ever mindful of increasing the farm's sustainability, in 2012 the farm underwent a major renovation and expansion to accommodate future growth. With a current population of around 1,500 cows, facility improvements have now grown its potential to expand upwards of 2,200 cows. "By focusing on recycling, automation, creating zero waste and reducing our impact on the environment, we are able to maintain a thriving business model and grow to meet market demand," says Galen Smith.

By investing in such technologies as a more efficient enclosed feed facility, an automated rotary milking parlor, manure drying system, and heat exchanger, Coldstream is a great model to show how it is possible to be a successful business and a responsible steward of the environment.





“THE LAND TRUST HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE THAN WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND SAY ‘HERE IS WHAT WE ARE THINKING, DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS?’”

GALEN SMITH  
COLDSTREAM FARMS

In June 2018 Coldstream Farms earned an opportunity to up it's ante. In partnership with Regenix, a Whatcom County based agricultural waste solutions company, Coldstream was awarded a \$930,305 grant from the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to evaluate innovative membrane technology which will turn manure into non-toxic products for re-use on the farm or to be sold to other markets. Nothing in the process will be wasted or discarded.

The clean water membrane technology system will use reverse osmosis and nanofiltration to separate cow manure into chemical free fertilizer and clean, dischargeable water. This water will be utilized for drinking water for the cows, watering crops, and more. Public Utility District #1 and State Department of Ecology staff are working on a permitting process that could potentially deliver the new clean water to the South Fork Nooksack.

For both Coldstream Farms, and Whatcom Land Trust, a main aim of protecting agriculture in Whatcom County is to keep things local. This technology will

allow the dairy to not only reduce their waste, create a benefit for the South Fork Nooksack and its watershed, and continue to support other South Fork Valley farmers, but also help maintain the natural systems which support our cherished farms, people and wildlife.

## GETTING ONTO LAND

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP EXPANDING LOCAL FARM BUSINESS

Earlier this year Whatcom Land Trust provided Katie Pencke and Matthew McDermott, owners of Alluvial Farms, with a final piece of gap financing to purchase 48-acres on Goodwin Road in Everson to scale up their growing pasture-raised pork business. Whatcom Land Trust's unique financing tool may offer other Whatcom County farm entrepreneurs the chance to strengthen and expand their local farm business using conservation easements to protect ag land, watershed health and wildlife habitat.

Read more about Alluvial Farms' story here: <https://bit.ly/2MZR7al>



# Mountain to Sea

## Other Watershed Success Stories



### GALBRAITH MOUNTAIN: PARTNERSHIPS AND PERSEVERANCE IN THE LAKE WHATCOM WATERSHED

On July 24th 2018, the dream of permanent public access on Galbraith Mountain became a reality with the purchase and sale agreement of both recreation and conservation easements on over 2,000 acres of the mountain. This victory has been a long time coming. With numerous partnerships and consistent perseverance, this win-win-win for recreation, conservation, and continued economic development is possible at last.

For over twenty years, Galbraith Mountain has been enjoyed by families, dog walkers, runners, hikers, bikers, and others as a recreational haven just a short drive from the City of Bellingham. While many have been utilizing this wonderful area for years, few may be aware of the story behind public access on Galbraith. For decades the land has been utilized for commercial forestry and in the past, access was granted by the private property owners on a voluntary basis.

Decades of uncertainty concerning access to the mountain fostered partnerships between former property owner Vern Paulus of Polygon Financial, current owner Rob Janicki of Galbraith Tree Farm, Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and Whatcom Land Trust.

Vern was instrumental in the start of these negotiations because he understood the community value of Galbraith and had a willingness to talk about potential solutions for the mountain. Whatcom County Parks & Recreation was key in leading negotiations in the early years, but more recently passed this role to the City. Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville, City Council, City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department staff, and the City's legal team were vital in securing access to Galbraith. The Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition has been a persistent advocate in gaining permanent protection on Galbraith with their continuous effort of building and maintaining trails on the mountain, they have seen this process through from beginning to end. Local community members were essential in helping the Trust raise money used for purchasing the easements. Finally, there was Galbraith Tree Farm, a private commercial landowner with the same vision and interest in promoting outdoor recreation. Without them, this would not have happened.

This truly is a victory that our entire community can share, take pride in and continue to enjoy for future generations.

*For more information about the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition visit: [wmbcmtb.org](http://wmbcmtb.org)*



## CALIFORNIA CREEK ESTUARY: HELPING RESTORE DRAYTON HARBOR

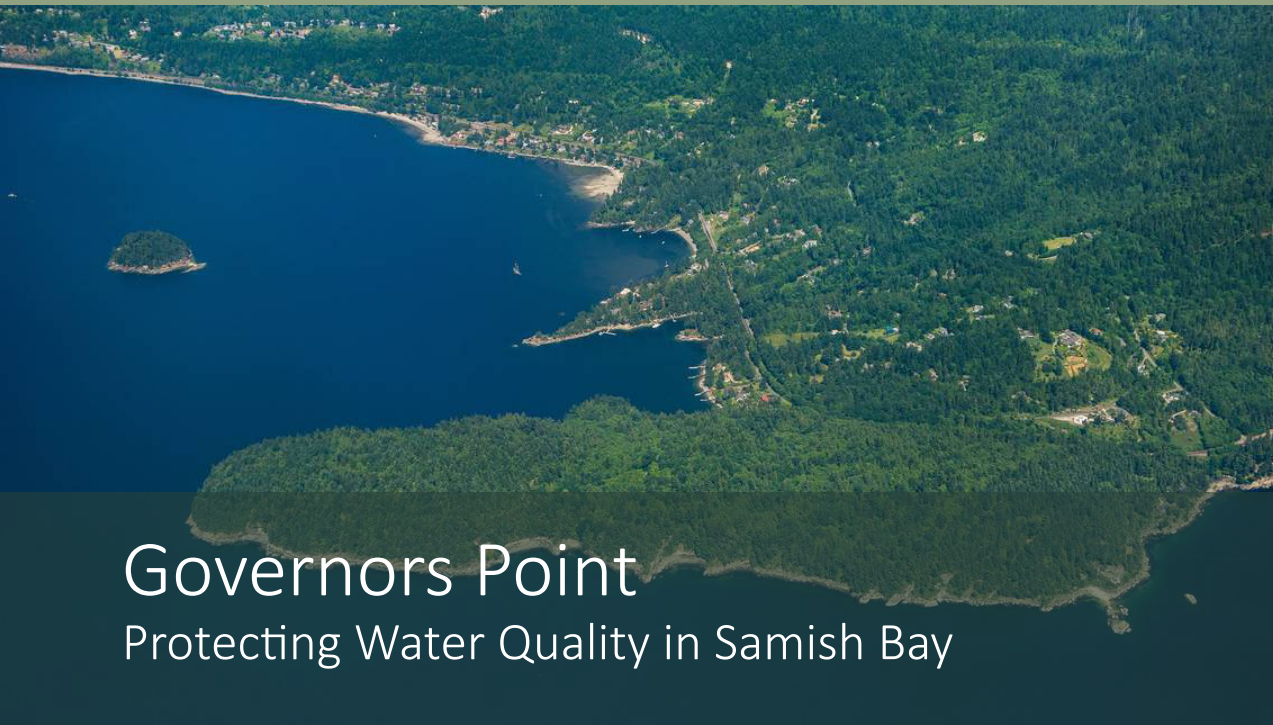
Estuarine habitats are some of the most critical in Whatcom County. They connect the arteries of Whatcom County, which are the rivers and streams, with the heart of the Puget Sound. A unique blend of salt and freshwater makes these areas excellent habitat for numerous birds such as Bald eagles, Great Blue heron and multiple species of loons, grebes and scoters. They are also a gateway for multiple fish species who transition between freshwater and saltwater at some point in their lives. This includes cutthroat and bull trout, winter run steelhead, and chum and Coho salmon. Water quality within estuaries is incredibly important to the survival of all of these species and is dependent on the activities and runoff upstream as well as the condition of the riparian habitat along the estuary itself.

In Blaine, where California Creek enters Drayton Harbor, there is a bright future for estuarine habitat in Whatcom County. In June of 2017, Whatcom Land Trust purchased 11.5 acres of land at the confluence of California Creek and Drayton Harbor. This acquisition was made possible from grants, a bridge loan from the Conservation Fund, a donation from the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2 and donations from Whatcom Land Trust patrons. A \$25,000 grant from the Rose Foundation is allowing the Trust to remove two aging buildings on the property which are taking up space and could be utilized for

native habitat. The demolition was completed in September 2018. The Trust also received a grant from National Resources Conservation Service for restoration including invasive species control, native species planting and the addition of woody debris along the shoreline. Restoration will begin in the fall 2018, however, restoration work parties will begin spring 2019. The California Creek sub-basin makes up 40% of the total Drayton Harbor watershed which means the restoration of this site will benefit water quality in Whatcom County on a larger scale.

Restoration is just the beginning of the community benefit this property provides. Eventually the Trust will transfer the land to the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2 to be turned into a public park equipped with restroom facilities, kayak launch and trails around the property. For the Park District, this property provides a missing piece in the long term goal to create a continuous off road walking and cycling trail from Birch Bay to the Canadian border. This property will provide public access, educational and stewardship opportunities in one of the most beautiful coastal areas of Drayton Harbor as well as permanent protection forever. The California Creek property is a critical piece in the larger puzzle of improving water quality throughout Whatcom County and is an excellent example of how Whatcom Land Trust works to preserve and protect land, water and natural resources with the help of local partners for our entire community's benefit.





## Governors Point Protecting Water Quality in Samish Bay

**W**hatcom Land Trust conserves special lands in Whatcom County by working with willing owners. For decades Whatcom Land Trust has sought a willing owner of Governors Point, an iconic 125-acre wooded peninsula separating Bellingham and Samish Bays. In February of this year, Randy Bishop purchased Governors Point for \$5.7 million dollars, and the Land Trust finally found an owner not only willing but insistent and eager to conserve a substantial part of Governors Point.

Shortly after purchasing the property, Bishop sought out the Land Trust and serious conversations began. Early on, he said he felt privileged to own such a magnificent property and would respect both the community and the environment when making his proposal. We have heard such proclamations from other developers, but Randy Bishop has proven true to his words and beyond what we ever expected.

Rather than telling us what he might be willing to do, Bishop asked, “what does the Land Trust want on Governors Point.” The question started a conversation about a nature reserve with significant conservation and public access values and led to a visit to the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve. A walk in the woods is worth a thousand words.

Rather than the allowed 25 residences, Bishop will build 16 custom designed homes, one at a time. He describes his plans for “a limited number of architecturally rich, small footprint homes” clustered on the west side of the peninsula:

*“I envision that the homes would be limited in size to under 2900 square feet not visible in any way from Chuckanut Drive, and would be sited with respect to limit their visual interruption of the beautiful natural landscape. Natural materials, green roofs and site nestling would all be maximized in service of this idea. Each of the homes would be designed by our architecture studio Omer Arbel Office in Vancouver and built out over many years. Part of the architecture brief would be quality over size, site respect over ego and sublime over flashy. The idea is to consider architecture and landscape as one and the same thing... not as opposed to each other.”*

Each year the public will be allowed an architectural tour of the homes.

When told that it sounded like he saw the property as a canvas for his artistic expression, Bishop responded, “Yes, that’s about right.”



As a complement to the residential development, Bishop has committed to donating at least two-thirds of Governors Point to Whatcom Land Trust for a nature reserve. The nature reserve will include a two-plus mile loop foot trail providing public access to the prime beach on the east and west side of Governors Point and to the far northern point of the peninsula. The east and west beaches will also be accessed by self-propelled watercraft such as kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

Cooperation and mutuality has marked progress at Governors Point. When Whatcom Land Trust expressed a desire that the public have trail access to the views at the tip of the property, Bishop readily shifted the residential lot line bisecting the tip so that the public trail could skirt the whole end of the peninsula. This change also confirmed Bishop's commitment that no residences be visible from Chuckanut Drive. Bishop's aesthetic sensibilities will permeate the Nature Reserve as well as the residential development. He has reserved the right to design any built features in the nature reserve such as signs, handrails and bridges. When we said that we probably could not afford those designs, Bishop agreed to pay anything above the normal cost of the feature.

Bishop's original commitment to the nature reserve property donation was contingent on Bellingham providing city water to the homes on Governors Point and the County's grant of necessary development permits. The most uncertain of these contingencies was the provision of city water. Under a Bellingham ordinance, the City Council has the authority to supply city water beyond the city limits and urban growth boundaries if the Council determines that to do so is in the best interest of Bellingham. This is a strictly political decision.

Because Bishop's proposal for Governors Point created very substantial public benefits, including conservation of a mature coastal forest and the last opportunity in Whatcom County for quality saltwater shoreline public access, Whatcom Land Trust decided to actively support Bishop's application for City water. On June 4, 2018, with the Mayor's support, the Bellingham City Council unanimously approved provision of city water to 16 homes and two supplemental locations on Governors Point. Because of Bellingham's population density and proximity to the property, the plans for Governors Point would largely benefit Bellingham's citizens.

Though Bishop and Whatcom Land Trust have a signed agreement detailing the future of Governors Point, donation of the nature reserve will not occur for another year and a half because of the administrative process for obtaining residential development approvals from the Whatcom County Planning Department.

Our relationship with Randy Bishop has not been one of the developer pushing for development and the Whatcom Land Trust pushing for conservation and public access. Instead, we have worked together as partners toward a shared vision for the future of Governors Point. We have appreciated Bishop's respect for the environment and community and his architectural vision for modest homes compatible with this special landscape. He has been enthusiastic about the nature reserve, both the conservation of a mature coastal forest and extensive public access, and his firm's design of the built elements is sure to marry the two sides of Governors Point into a cohesive and special relationship.

Looking at the Twin Sisters from Skookum Creek in the Cascades to Chuckanuts Natural Area

# Skookum Creek

## Working to Protect a Crown Jewel of the C2C



Imagine a natural area overflowing with cultural, environmental, recreational and aesthetic values and potential.

**Skookum embodies all this and more.**

The Skookum Creek Conservation Corridor is a visionary project – 1,400 acres of potential and promise in the Cascades to Chuckanuts region. Less about what is a heavily timbered area, and more about what it might become. Less about the existing number of salmon, and more about what is needed to guarantee this iconic species prospers in the South Fork Nooksack River. This opportunity is about creating a buffer against increasing temperatures and regenerating a healthy old growth forest over the next 100 years and beyond.

**A vision where nature will prevail.**

Skookum Creek is healthy and already moving towards this vision, and like other amazing properties you have partnered with the Trust to protect - Canyon Lake Community Forest, Stimpson Family Nature Reserve - and just recently Galbraith Mountain and Governor's Point - its future tells a hopeful story.

**The protection of Skookum Creek is one of the most urgent land conservation efforts in Whatcom Land Trust's history.**

Protecting Skookum is an opportunity for all of us to do something powerful for conservation and for our community. To protect Skookum forever, we need your vision, confidence, and your financial support today! **Join us. Skookum is in your hands.**

**Skookum means:**

### **A rare opportunity**

Since our start in 1984, Whatcom Land Trust has been the key local organization to turn our community's conservation dreams into reality, in this case purchasing and protecting Skookum Creek for future generations.

### **Local control**

When Whatcom Land Trust approached Weyerhaeuser, we knew we had a rare opportunity to act as a trusted community leader to bring diverse people and interests together to amplify the public benefit of acquisition of Skookum Creek.

### **Success in sight**

This is one of the largest ever public campaign for Whatcom Land Trust and we are pleased to report that, as of September, we have successfully raised \$3 million toward our \$4.2 million goal.



**Your investment in the Skookum Campaign will bring lasting benefits for people and wildlife**

- By January 2019 permanent protection of more than 1,250 acres and 2.3 miles of Skookum Creek and 150 additional acres at Duck Pond for a total of 1,400 acres
- Initiation of a new 100-year vision for Skookum Creek by changing land use priority from active forestry to conservation
- Long-term protection of Skookum Creek’s headwaters and tributary streams to ensure watershed health, buffer for climate resilience, and maintain natural system functions
- Guaranteed public access and improved recreation use
- Partnerships will augment landscape connectivity and future protections with adjacent conservation areas in Arlecho Creek Old-Growth Reserve and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

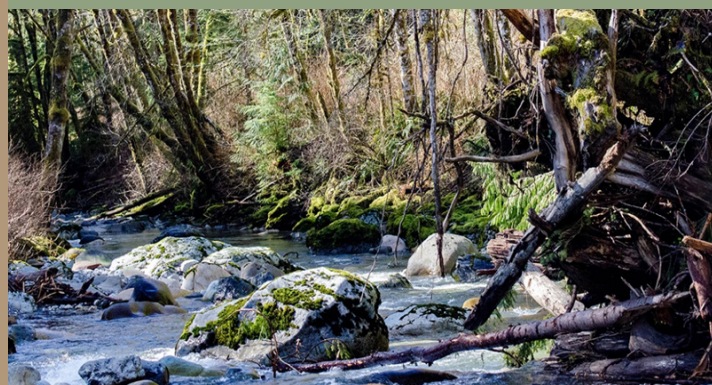
Join us today! Your gifts – your time, your passion, your support – will result in big impact with multiple benefits for generations of species and people. Give a gift, get involved, and keep apprised of campaign progress at [whatcomlandtrust.org/skookum\\_creek](http://whatcomlandtrust.org/skookum_creek)

“Permanent protection to those areas that provide cold water to the river system is going to have a big impact to the long term health of the South Fork Nooksack watershed.”



Jen O’Neal, MS  
Senior Fish Biologist  
Natural Systems Design

Watch short videos from expert like Jenn O’Neal and read about projected impacts of Skookum’s conservation priorities at [whatcomlandtrust.org/skookum\\_creek](http://whatcomlandtrust.org/skookum_creek)



“This purchase is one of the largest near-term conservation opportunities in the Cascades to Chuckanuts Natural Area and has outsized significance to water quality, quantity and habitat benefits to all the living communities that rely on the South Fork Nooksack.”

The Nature Conservancy, Owner/Steward  
Arlecho Creek Old-Growth Reserve



**WHATCOM LAND TRUST**

Protecting the *Nature* of Whatcom County

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The mission of Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.

**Photo Credits:** Brett Baunton, Chris Behee, Rich Bowers, Alan Fritzberg, Amanda McKay, Eric Mickelson, Solvei Metcalf, Karen Parker, David Scherrer



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

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FIELD FRIDAYS



WORK PARTIES



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

## WATER, LAND, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

The reason we are able to protect the thousands of acres of land and waters in our care is due to our dedicated corps of volunteer land stewards and donors. In the first half of this year alone, almost 70 trained Volunteer Land Stewards spent more than 1,000 hours monitoring Whatcom Land Trust properties around the county. Many of these same volunteers additionally participated at our Work Party and Field Friday activities. Without these passionate and truly inspirational members of our community, the quality of stewardship on our lands would not be the same. We couldn't be more fortunate to work with such a precious resource.

For more information on volunteer opportunities visit our website at: [whatcomlandtrust.org](http://whatcomlandtrust.org)