

## IN MEMORY

In memory of Mary Jean Wiegert

In memory of Doug Friesen  
 In memory of their parents  
 In memory of Walter S. Hanowell  
 In memory of Andrew Perkins  
 In honor of C. Dean Martin  
 In memory of Margaret & David Cowling  
 In memory of the Golden Toad  
 In memory of Esther Wood  
 In memory of Happy Days on The Nooksack

## IN HONOR

In honor of Tim & Jade Florets on their wedding  
 In honor of Rebecca Reoich and Dale Johnson on their wedding  
 In Honor of Kelly Kelsey  
 In honor of Frieda Hatten-Beck on her birthday

In honor of Dory Brooking  
 In honor of Naomi & Roger Murphy  
 In honor of Michelle Schraeder  
 In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Warren E. Bergholz  
 In honor of Eric Richardson  
 In honor of Jensen Family Forest  
 In honor of Ryan Holland on his birthday

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## WLT IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY!

As I write this, Whatcom Land Trust is saying goodbye to its 20s. It was thirty years ago that I was dispatched by the Trust for Public Land to help some Whatcom folks establish a land trust. It's hard to believe, but it means that for half my life, this organization has been working to keep Whatcom green. I went on to do a lot of conservation work in those three decades with some of the big names in the field, but the work happening right here at home is as exciting as anything I did with National Audubon or the Trust for Public Land. There are few local land trusts that rival WLT. Our Salmon, Eagle, Elk program conserved miles of freshwater shoreline. Other initiatives have protected one-third of the Lake Whatcom watershed and half the County parks that showcase natural ecosystems. Little kids I met in 1985 are now taking their little kids out to run trails and turn over stones on WLT-protected lands. The payoffs for your support of our work are humbling and inspiring. But wait, we are far from done!

In 2014, WLT launched Farming for Food and Wildlife, an ambitious new initiative centered along the South Fork of the Nooksack River. The Whatcom Community Foundation and an anonymous donor family provided leadership gifts, and their support allowed us to do critical background research and purchase three properties that are the program's cornerstones. Through Farming for Food and Wildlife, WLT's work conserves farmland, expands salmon habitat and wildlife corridors, enhances the river system and reduces the impact of flooding. WLT's innovation was honored this fall by the Washington State Department of Ecology when that agency ranked our funding request fifth on their priority list for the 2015-2017 biennium. If the legislature provides funding, this priority ranking will generate \$3.2 million for conservation and restoration in Whatcom County. I am delighted by this potential opportunity to leverage our donors' leadership gifts so effectively with state funding. If appropriated, the funding will conserve farmland and restore salmon habitat while also boosting our local economy-- local land owners and farmers, real estate and title companies, heavy-equipment operators, landscaping firms, and engineers will all benefit from this program. The early donors to WLT's Farming for Food and Wildlife program will see a more than three-fold return for the Whatcom economy and for the protection of Whatcom's natural assets.

Thank you for another year of your support. There are a lot of green swatches on this map that you can claim as your contributions to a bright and healthy future.

-Craig Lee, Executive Director

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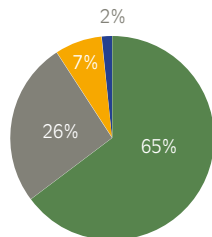
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Five WLT conservation projects near Acme: a dynamic forested wetland, a large habitat restoration undertaking, a future public park, and the first of our Farming for Food and Wildlife sites, Riverstead, in all, 400 contiguous acres protected over 13 years. —Alan Fritzberg, photographer

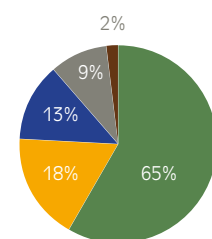
## INFLOWS

Donations and Sponsorships	1,418,225
Grants	573,726
Investment	161,758
Other Income	34,178



## OUTFLOWS

Land Protection	1,084,363
Office Purchase	326,901
Administration	235,351
Fundraising	176,505
Fixed Asset Purchases	33,851



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WLT is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. The supporters thanked here contributed financially, professionally or personally between July 1 2013 and June 30, 2014.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



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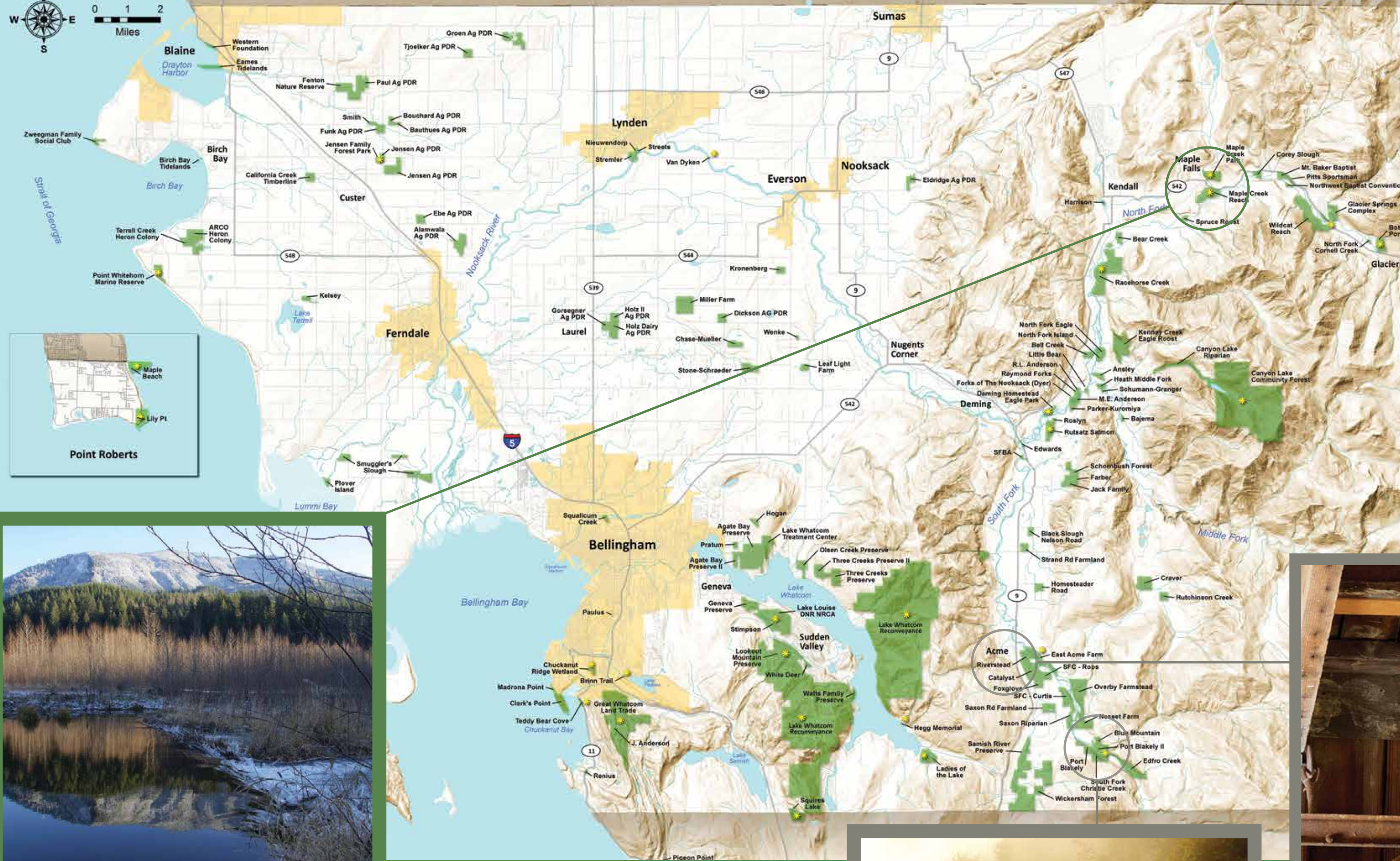
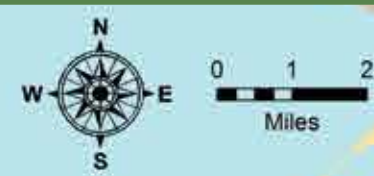
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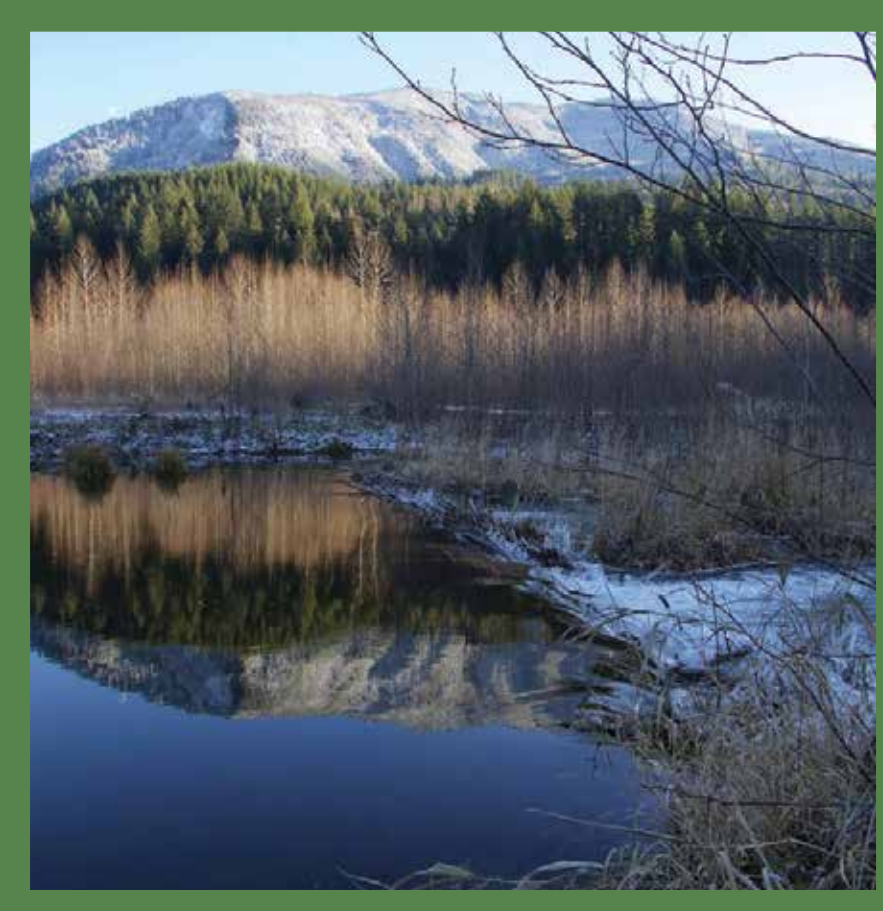
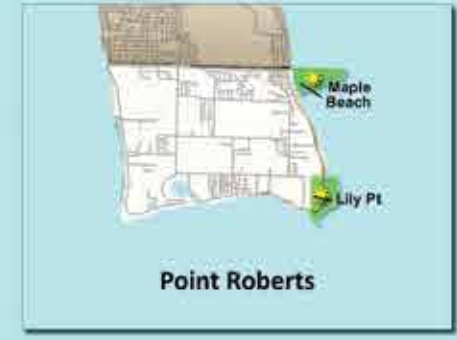


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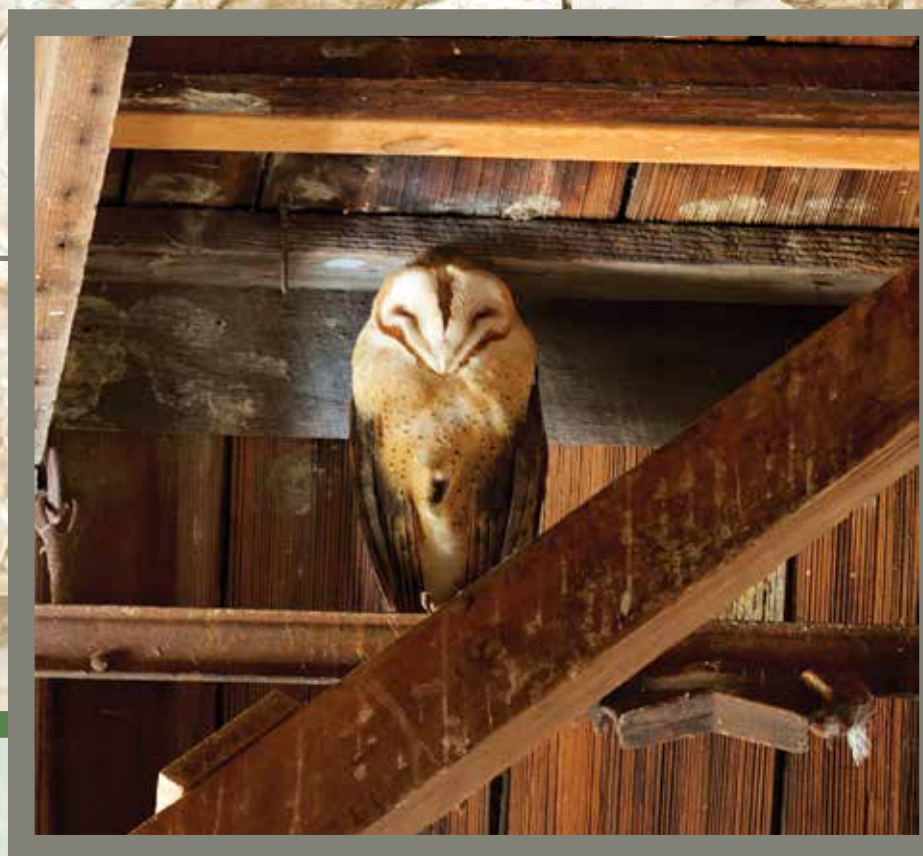
- WLT Conserved Land
- Public Access & Parks

**STATS**

- WLT holds 77 conservation easements on 6,473 acres
- WLT owns 82 properties totaling 3,908 acres.
- WLT has facilitated protection of 10,154 acres
- WLT has protected 13,837 acres of public park land



WLT is restoring habitat at Maple Creek Reach Preserve, expanding salmon habitat with the help of the same beavers that built this dam just downstream.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer



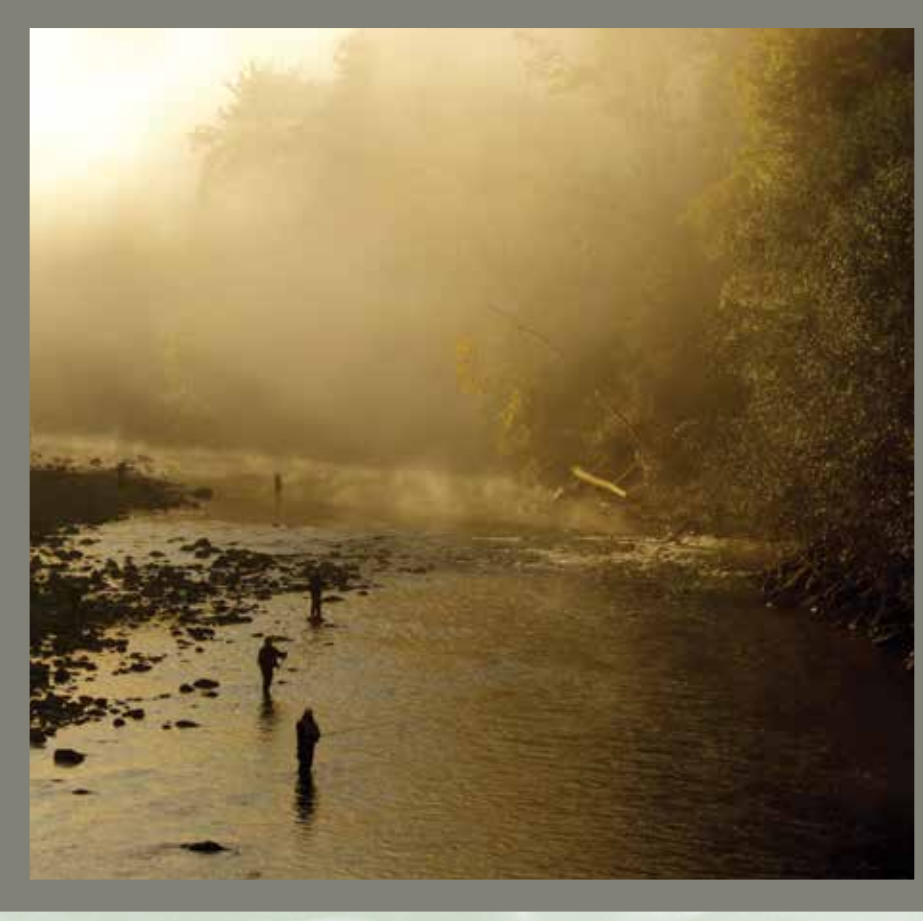
WLT's Farming for Food and Wildlife program benefits this barn owl and many other wild creatures on Riverstead Preserve.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer

**CASCADES TO CHUCKANUTS**

WLT carries out much of its conservation work in a region called the Cascades to Chuckanuts. On this map, you can see the series of foothills (the Chuckanut Range) that spills down from the flanks of Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters, to the shores of Chuckanut Bay. This is the last relatively undeveloped natural corridor linking the Salish Sea to the Cascade Mountains. This unique landscape—forested hills, verdant valleys, rivers, lakes and wetlands—defines the character of our home.

**NORTH FORK**

On the North Fork Nooksack River, WLT focused on three major salmon habitat improvement projects. On Canyon Creek, we moved a levee to provide the creek with more elbow room, creating better conditions for spawning. Just downstream at our Wildcat Reach Preserve, engineered log jams improved conditions in-stream for migrating adult and juvenile fish. At Maple Creek Reach, we restored ditches to their natural state as meandering streams and set the stage for the expansion of the wetland nursery for young Coho. Of course, the benefit of all that work is not solely for salmon. The vitality of salmon leads to the vitality of many plants, animals, birds, and people. We thank our several partners in these projects. And we deeply thank our volunteers who tore out old fencing, hauled debris, planted trees, monitored stream flow, improved trails and maintained good cheer in terrible weather.



WLT protects the forests along the shoreline of the South Fork Nooksack at Christie Creek, helping to ensure that fish populations thrive.

**SOUTH FORK**

On the South Fork WLT advanced its Cascades to Chuckanuts campaign with two acquisitions in the 2013-2014 year. Between them, Christie Creek and Riverstead boast 128 acres, nearly a mile of South Fork shoreline, important tributary streams, elk trails, waterways used by all five Pacific salmon species as well as bull trout and winter steelhead, and habitat for numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Both properties abut existing preserves, magnifying their positive ecological impact.

Joined by volunteers and a Washington Conservation Corps crew, WLT staff commenced restoration of Christie Creek's riparian ecology. In addition to removing derelict structures, our team restored areas where ORV users had installed unauthorized trails and eliminated barriers to fish passage on a Samish River tributary.



**PROTECTING THE NATURE OF WHATCOM COUNTY**