



California Creek Estuary and Whatcom Land Trust protected lands, June 2018

Drone Footage



Whatcom Land Trust Set to Expand Drayton Harbor Shoreline Access

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BELLINGHAM – On December 31st, 2018 Whatcom Land Trust closed on a 1-acre residential property located in the Drayton Harbor watershed adjacent to the previously acquired 11.5-acre property purchased in June 2017. This property may seem small, yet it adds significant shoreline access in addition to the adjacent property.

In June 2017, Whatcom Land Trust partnered with the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District to purchase 11.5 acres along the California Creek Estuary. This property provides significant habitat protection for critical bird and salmon species native to northern Washington. This property also provides a connecting link for completing the Birch Bay to Blaine Trail. Ted Morris, past Director of the Blaine- Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2, says that “creating more trails is the number one request from the public in this area and we are working hard to fulfill that request.” With plans to eventually transfer the property to the Park and Recreation District while continuing to hold an easement on the property, the Trust is pleased to be the catalyst for creating this new future park along the northern-most shoreline in Whatcom County. The Rose Foundation for Communities and for the Environment is providing additional funding to protect and restore critical salmon, wildlife and tideland habitat and wetlands on the property.

Whatcom Land Trust, with the support of its partners, acquired this additional property in order to expand public access along Drayton Harbor. The Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District has agreed to contribute to the purchase with eventual plans to demolish the homes, and locate the park infrastructure (parking restrooms, etc.) onto this new location, further from the estuary, thus better protecting sensitive habitat.

About Whatcom Land Trust

Whatcom Land Trust has protected more than 20,000 acres in Whatcom County through fee-purchase and conservation easements, working with willing landowners and conservation partners. To date, the Trust protects approximately 430 acres of coastal lands, including Lily Point Marine Reserve in Point Roberts, Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve near Cherry Point, and Clarks Point and Teddy Bear Cove near Chuckanut Drive.

About the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2

The mission of the Park and Recreation District in Blaine and Birch Bay is to provide recreational opportunities, maintain sites that enhance our quality of life, and preserve the natural and recreational resources of the District. Director Ted Morris has envisioned a trail spanning from the Birch Bay to Blaine, providing residents and visitors the ability to safely recreate throughout the natural areas in northern Whatcom County.



A group of Kayakers paddling back from Drayton Harbor into California Creek, June 2018
Photo: Ted Morris

