2016 FINANCIALS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: $1,037,558

- Grants: 21% ($214,650)
- Investments: 31% ($321,875)
- Donations: 40% ($411,433)
- Land Protection: 37% ($386,275)
- Land Stewardship: 12% ($126,378)
- Fundraising: 8% ($81,796)

USES OF FUNDS

- Land Protection: 37%
- Land Stewardship: 12%
- Fundraising: 8%

Statement of Activities sources and uses of funds represent the fiscal year ending June 2016. This financial information is excerpted from Whatcom Land Trust’s audited financial statements. To obtain a complete copy of the audit by the firm Larson Gross PLLC please contact Whatcom Land Trust at (360) 650-9470.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

THE GUDBRANSON LEGACY

Leandra and Gerry Gudbranson cherished their home near Blaine. For years they lived adjacent to the forest they protected. The 1,500-acre Gudbranson Estate features seasonal forested wetlands, and while combined with other forested lands in the area, this property provided an extensive natural habitat for wildlife.

In 2015, while planning the future of their estate, the Gudbransons decided they would place their beloved property in trust keeping with Whatcom Land Trust for perpetuity. The Trust established permanent conservation easements on the estate to carry out their wishes and ensure the land they loved will never be developed or harvested for timber.

Today, Whatcom Land Trust is happy to fulfill the trust that Leandra and Gerry placed in the organization 25 years ago, and follow through on their belief in our mission, conservation values and vision.

The Gudbranson’s forever gift of 185 acres of Gudbranson Estate features seasonal forested wetlands, and when Leandra and Gerry Gudbranson cherished their home near Blaine.

The Gudbranson legacy supports our mission and allows us to improve the health of our natural ecological systems throughout Whatcom County in partnership with willing private land owners and others using conservation easements and other permanent land protections.

Together, the land protected, conserved and restored represents a diverse tapestry of landscapes, natural resources and special places for all of Whatcom County, today and always.

2015–2016 GROWING PARTNERSHIPS: Our Pathway to Success

Making a Difference on the Land

From Fenton to Jensen Family Forest Park, Riverside to Wildcat Rock, Edith Creek to Ladies of the Lake and other points in between — land stewards removed over 9,000 feet of fencing, re-decked two bridges and planted thousands of native plants and seedlings.

The heart of our stewardship work is maintaining and improving habitat on 57 acres of the Gudbranson Estate, 20 acres of agricultural lands and coastal dunes with the natural resources they share.

The Gudbranson legacy supports our mission and allows us to improve the health of our natural ecological systems throughout Whatcom County in partnership with willing private land owners and others using conservation easements and other permanent land protections.

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS: Our Pathway to Success

- Executive Director
- John D’Onofrio
- Jill Clark
- Morgan Bender-deMoll
- Communications
- Eric Carabba
- Treasurer
- Lynn Berman
- Board Officers
- Environmental Business Council
- Documents and Outreach Director
- Gabe Eggers
- Assistant Treasurer
- Karen Teper
- Stewardship Director
- Morgan Bender-deMoll
- Communications
- Chris Borden
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- Karen Teper

Headquarters, Catalyst, Point Roberts-Lily Point and Califorria Creek. These properties include a number of features desirable to our feathered friends: wetlands, expanses of water, flowing water, forests and fields.

WHATCOM COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS

2015: 158 bird species 2016: 177 bird species

Birds sighted include a grand mélange of Pacific Northwest regulars and visitors, from red-winged blackbirds to Van’s swift and MacGillivray’s warbler, wrens, sparrows, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, robins, towhees, sparrows, flycatchers, sparrows, ducks, doves and kestrels.

Local Businesses

Joining Hands for Conservation

Whatcom Land Trust is honored to collaborate with local businesses, including other local non-profits, to fulfill the trust that Leandra and Gerry placed on their estate.

“Through the partnership with Whatcom Land Trust, our goals for the first time hosted its ‘Welcome Back Salmon’ land stewardship celebration. Helped the Trust extend our outreach to downtown businesses and their employees, local artists, farmers, authors and holiday revelers.

WHATCOM LAND TRUST

412 N. Commercial Street | PO Box 6124
Bellingham, WA 98225 | (360) 650-9470
info@whatcomlandtrust.org | Whatcomlandtrust.org

The North Cascades Audubon Society initiated bird surveys in 2015 on fifteen Whatcom Land Trust owned and easement protected properties throughout Whatcom County. In October 2016, Whatcom Land Trust was honored to sign a memorandum of understanding with the North Cascades Audubon Society to support continued surveys.

With the increase in Whatcom Land Trust land acquisitions and conservation easements, combined with the decline of bird species locally and nationwide, both partners recognize the Trust play an important role in stewarding habitat that has protected species locally and nationwide. It has been a privilege to work alongside the Audubon and Whatcom Land Trust to support our local birds and their habitat.

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ROADMAP TO SUCCESS: A Pathway to Our Future

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY

WHATCOM LAND TRUST CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE

Our vision: Our conservation strategy encompasses broad conservation values prioritized across 7 geographic focal areas. This strategy ensures that our mission serves diverse community interests, partners, enterprises and resources while giving our neighbors a strong voice in helping Whatcom Land Trust protect and care for our lands and resources.

PRIORITY COMMUNITY VALUES

WHATCOM COUNTY PRIORITY AREAS

1 NORTH & MIDDLE FORKS OF THE NOOKSACK RIVER

Partners: Lummi & Nooksack Tribes, Department of Natural Resources, Whatcom County

This priority area is dominated by the North and Middle Forks of the Nooksack and major tributary streams—Canyon Creek, Maple and Middle Forks of the Nooksack and major tributaries. Principal goals: Enhance forest and wetlands habitat, and enhance watershed protections. Principal goals: Protect, enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, and eagle habitat. Principal goals: Protect and enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, and eagle habitat. Principal goals: Protect and enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, and eagle habitat.

2 SOUTH FORK NOOKSACK RIVER VALLEY

Partners: Lummi and Nooksack Tribes, Department of Natural Resources, Whatcom County, Flood Sub-zone

This unique river valley is dominated by forest, floodplain and wetland habitats. All five species of Pacific Salmon are found in the snow-fed tributaries of the Nooksack River, providing drinking water for more than 95,000 Bellingham residents. Its water quality is compromised by pollutants from stormwater runoff, forestry practices, and recreational uses. Principal goals: Protect and enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, forests, and enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, forests.

3 UPPER SOUTH FORK NOOKSACK RIVER

Partners: Lummi & Nooksack Tribes, Department of Natural Resources, Private Timber Companies

Upper South Fork and its major tributaries are a very important fisheries resource for the endangered spring Chinook salmon as well as home to all five species of Pacific salmon. This basin is also important ecologically for elk and eagle habitat. Principal goals: Protect, enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, forests, and enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, forests.

4 LAKE WHATCOM WATERShed

Partners: City of Bellingham, Whatcom County

The glacially-carved 7.6 mile Lake Whatcom provides drinking water for more than 63,000 Bellingham residents. Its water quality is compromised by pollutants from stormwater runoff, forestry practices, and recreational uses. Surrounded by hills, flood use is distributed between residential use, commercial forestry, county park land, and protected watershed land. Principal goals: Limit additional residential development and protect critical habitat and wildlife corridors. Principal goals: Protect large tracts of productive farmland that are under significant threat of development.

5 CHUCKANUT MOUNTAIN

Partners: City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, State Parks, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife

Chuckanut Mountain is a prized recreational area with rich habitat comprised of mature, second growth forests, wetlands, snags, cliffs, caves and wildlife corridors. Private working forests and public parks offer an abundance of multi-use recreation opportunities. Principal goals: Protect, enhance water quality and quantity, habitat, forests.

6 WHATCOM CORE AGRICULTURAL ZONE

Partners: Whatcom County, Whatcom Conservation District, Cities of Lynden, Ferndale, Everson and Nooksack

The core of working farmland of Whatcom County is comprised of 82,000 acres of prime agricultural land and an additional 11,000 acres of land with significant agricultural value. Whatcom County has a goal to maintain the critical area of at least 15,000 acres to sustain a viable agricultural sector. One tool to accomplish this goal is the County’s voluntary Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. Using this tool and working in partnership, Whatcom Land Trust maintains agricultural conservation easements to permanently protect agricultural properties for local food and farmers. Priority in the working core is to link agricultural, wetlands and water resources to maximize food production. Principal goals: Protect large tracts of productive farmland that are under significant threat of development.

7 COASTAL SHORELINES

Partners: Washington State, Department of Fish & Wildlife, City of Bellingham, Lummi & Nooksack Tribes, City of Blaine and Birch Bay Community

Whatcom County has 134 miles of marine shoreline with a diverse range of topography and forms from river deltas and estuaries to foreshore bluffs, sandy beaches, and rocky shorelines. Each unique form provides important habitat and recreational values. Principal goals: Protect critical shoreline habitats such as coastal forests and wetlands and foreshore bluffs, while providing public access where appropriate.