

# 2023-24

## *Impact Report*

NORTH OLYMPIC  
Land Trust



*Farms • Fish • Forests*





Farms



Fish



Forests

# A Place Worth Protecting

We are so fortunate to live, work, and play on this landscape of unparalleled wonders. The North Olympic Peninsula is defined by its productive beauty, rich human culture, and important natural resilience to climate change.

The love that people have for this place also makes it special. Time and time again, our community has demonstrated what it means to *love where you live*. Because of your steadfast support, we achieved some amazing things for conservation in 2023:

- 99 acres of land permanently protected including prime farmland soils at Mid Valley Farm and Dungeness Hub and critical wildlife corridors at Wood Duck Hollow.
- Native prairie creation and restoration underway at two different sites.
- Over \$200,000 raised by our community during Harvest season, one of the largest fundraising successes in the organization's history.
- 120 volunteers collectively spent over 1,600 hours blazing trails, pulling weeds, and so much more.

If you have not heard the news already, Tom Sanford began a medical leave of absence in May of this year. Following Land Trust policy, I resigned from my role as Board President and the Board voted for me to step in as Acting Executive Director. We are wishing the best for Tom in his

recovery and are hopeful for his return to work later this year. Until then, I am happy to be able to support this great organization, staff, and community.

I am proud to share this Impact Report with you that highlights recent Land Trust accomplishments. As you learn more about these projects and their impact, I hope you will take pride in the difference we are making together. We could not do this without your intention, voice, and support.

2024 has already been a great success, with the protection of No Goat Farm in the spring. Some of our biggest farmland conservation projects to date are on the horizon and we can't wait until we can share more details with you. I am so honored to help lead this organization, and grateful that you make it all possible. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

With sincere thanks,

Erika Lindholm  
Acting Executive Director



**Cover:** Elk in the fields at Wonderland & the 80, which our community permanently protected in 2019. Photo by John Gussman.



## Honoring History & the Future

North Olympic Land Trust works to conserve lands that are on the traditional and ancestral lands of the indigenous people who have lived on the North Olympic Peninsula since time immemorial, and who continue to lead in environmental stewardship.

This area is the homeland of five Sovereign Tribes—the chalá-at (Hoh), q<sup>w</sup>idiččaʔa·tx̌ (Makah), k<sup>w</sup>oʔlí-yot' (Quileute), stə́tʰəm nəx<sup>w</sup>sʰáy'əm' (Jamestown S'Klallam), and ʔéʔt̚x̌<sup>w</sup>aʔ nəx<sup>w</sup>sʰáy'əm' (Lower Elwha Klallam)—peoples who have lived here since time immemorial.

We express our respect and gratitude to the Tribal Elders and members for their enduring principles of reciprocity, care and protection of the North Olympic Peninsula, and for teaching us about this place.

We are deeply appreciative of our relationship with the sovereign Tribes of the Peninsula and commit to working together to protect these lands and habitats for all future generations. Recognizing the negative impacts of colonization on Tribes' access to traditional lands, we strive to understand this damage and support Tribes' cultures and ways of living.

We are grateful to this land, these rivers, the Salish Sea, and the Pacific Ocean for their benevolence and their beauty. We recognize that we benefit by conserving and stewarding these habitats alongside the Tribes that call the Peninsula home who have cared for it for millennia.

We recognize every Tribe has its own history, culture, geographical range and language. We encourage you to visit [Native-Land.ca](http://Native-Land.ca) to learn about the many Tribes of the Olympic Peninsula.

## Where We Work

Since 1990, we have permanently protected nearly 4,000 acres of land across Clallam County.







## New Office on Peabody

With heartfelt gratitude, we said farewell to our office on Front Street, where Sound Community Bank generously hosted us for seven years. Their support allowed us to focus our resources on our mission, propelling significant growth in our organization and our community's conservation efforts. We wouldn't be where we are today without their invaluable contribution – thank you, Sound Community Bank!



We're excited to embark on a new chapter. Now, our home is 319 S Peabody Street, Unit B in Port Angeles.

Known as the Lindberg Building for the local architecture firm who built it, United Way of Clallam County is the new owner of the building and rents space to North Olympic Land Trust and Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center. Our rent helps fund United Way's community grant programs! As a nonprofit hub, this new environment fosters connection, strengthens our commitment to community, and allows us to amplify our impact through shared resources and ideas.

**Left:** The entrance to the Lindberg Building on Peabody Street, Clallam County's newest nonprofit hub. **Right Top & Bottom:** This spring's fawns, who frequent the office's lawn. Photos by Jesse Greet.



# A Growing Team

When the Land Trust Board passed its 2022-2026 strategic plan, we expected growing demand for permanent land conservation in Clallam County would require us to add land protection staff in 2025. We soon found that opportunities for additional conservation of habitat and working lands in some of the most iconic places on the North Olympic Peninsula were coming faster than we anticipated.

The increase in demand for conservation in our area coupled with our growing success in securing government funding for the purchase of lands and conservation easements led us to expedite our planned growth to meet this community need. Thanks to your support we were able to expand our staff a year earlier than planned!

Our Land Protection Specialist Role evolved from a part-time to full-time role allowing us to move conservation projects through the pipeline at a faster pace. Jesse Greer was hired for the new position in March 2024. Jesse comes to us from Colorado where he worked with hundreds of landowners through Boulder County's Conservation Easement Program.

The capacity of our land management staff also increased with the addition of our new part-time, seasonal Property Management Technician position. Noah Mohmand was hired in his role in May 2024. He comes to us with a couple of seasons working for the Washington Conservation Corps under his belt. Noah is helping care for our conservation areas across the county throughout the summer.

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**Left:** Jesse Greer, Land Protection Specialist.

**Right:** Noah Mohmand, Property Management Technician



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendy Clark Getzin  
*President*

Richard Tucker  
*Vice President*

Steve Burkett  
*Treasurer*

Jack Williams  
*Secretary*

Jason Bausher

Bobbie Clawson

Julie Knobel

Kim Sager-Fradkin

Anna Swanberg

Karen Westwood

## STAFF

Mike Auger  
*Conservation Director*

Jesse Greer  
*Land Protection Specialist*

Courtney Bornsworth  
*Land Manager*

Julie Anne Hopkins  
*Conservation Easement Steward*

Erika Lindholm  
*Acting Executive Director*

Delana Lopez  
*Office Manager*

Noah Mohmand  
*Property Management Technician*

Tom Sanford  
*Executive Director, on leave*

Lexi Wagor  
*Community Relations Manager*

Alex Wilson  
*Development Director*

Updated July 1, 2024





# Native Prairies

## Returning an Ecosystem to the Landscape

Looking at the Olympic Peninsula, it's easy to assume that these stunning landscapes have remained unchanged for centuries. But there is at least one vital ecosystem missing. Prairies were once bountiful here—supplying food and items for trade for Tribes across the Pacific Northwest.

Today, only fragmented remnants of these prairies remain. Since European colonization began here around the 1850's, nearly all of these magnificent habitats have vanished, swallowed up by urbanization, farmland, and pastures.

The decimation of prairies has had a ripple effect on local environments and cultures. Golden paintbrush, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, and other pollinators, birds, and mammals are in peril. Not to mention, the loss of culture-defining first foods like camas. As a land trust that conserves farmlands that were once prairie, we feel a responsibility to learn from the past and support these precious ecosystems.

Through active management of the Lyre Conservation Area, we became aware of prairie species growing out of a long dormant seed bank and began to pursue the restoration of native prairie habitats. Thanks to funding from the Charlotte Martin Foundation and the Land Trust Alliance, we've been able to work in deep partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, biologists, historians, and more to enhance and create prairie habitats on two properties that we manage—the Lyre Conservation Area near Joyce and a property we are calling Lower Dungeness Prairie in Sequim.

**Top Left:** Common camas blooming at the Lower Dungeness Prairie. Photo by Lexi Wagor.

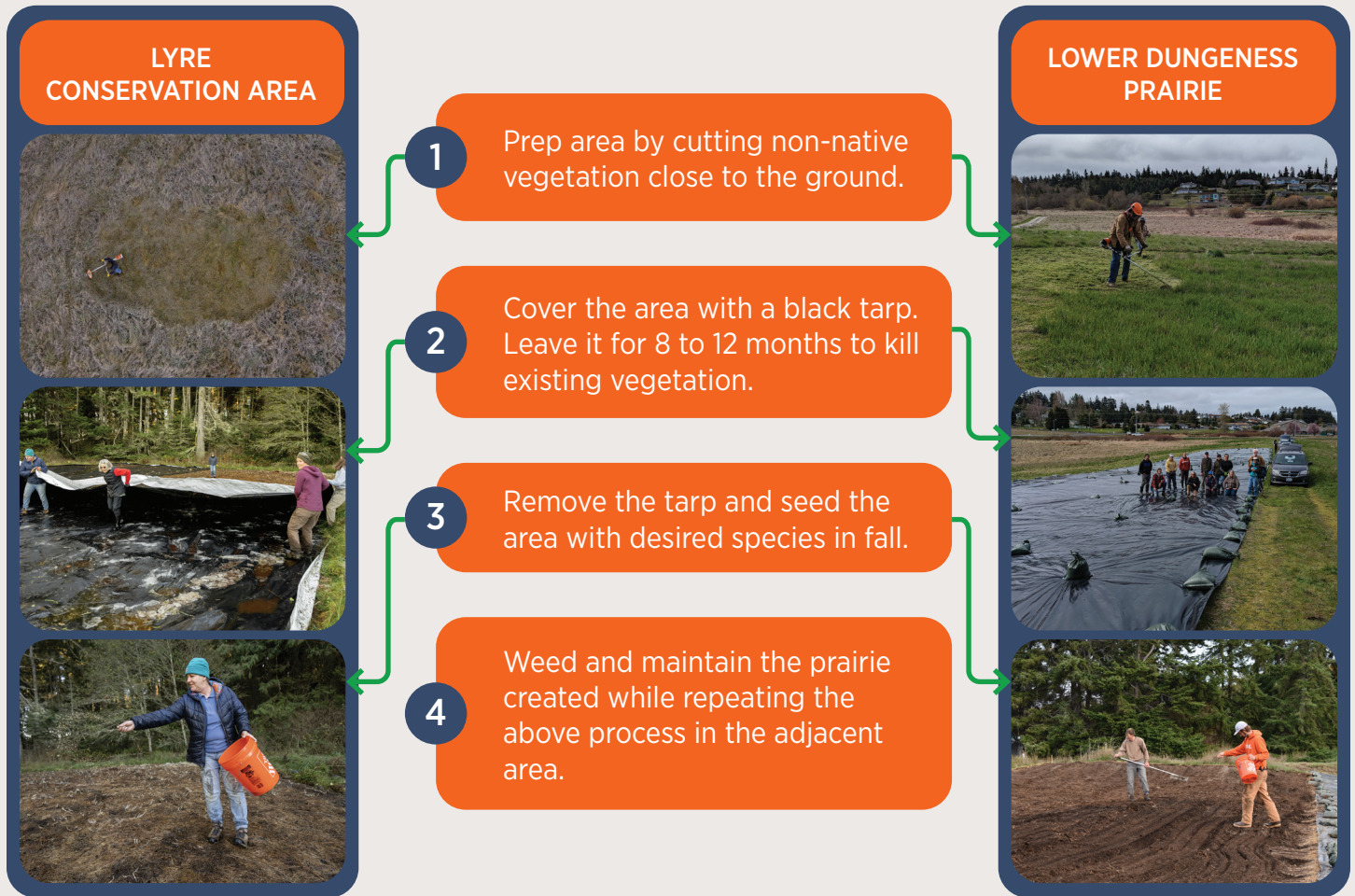
**Bottom Left:** Globe gilia and farewell-to-spring at Lower Dungeness Prairie. Photo by Courtney Bornsworth.

**Bottom Right:** Volunteers prep the prairie at the Lyre Conservation Area for expansion. Photo by John Gussman.



# Prairie Creation: The Leap Frog Method

While our two sites are very different, we're using the same process in both locations. This method allows us to grow the size of the prairie while managing it at a rate sustainable for staff and volunteers.



While we are excited to have had our first blooms, this method is experimental. Less than one year into this ongoing effort, our volunteers have done a wonderful job so far. We are excited for the future of these places and the lessons we will learn!







## No Goat Farm

Clallam County farms are a cornerstone of our community, providing us with fresh produce and animal products, jobs, and scenic open space. With your support, we're taking action to ensure they are here for generations to come. We're so excited to announce that, as of March 29th, 2024, No Goat Farm is protected forever!

Using local donations as match, we were able to secure funding from Washington Department of Ecology's Floodplains by Design Program through the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County's Conservation Futures Fund to place a conservation easement on No Goat Farm. The next time you are at the intersection of Towne Road and Woodcock Road, look for the big "Preserved Farmland" sign at No Goat Farm.



**Top:** A bird's eye view of No Goat Farm. Photo by John Gussman. **Bottom Right:** Volunteer Steve Langely installing the sign at No Goat Farm. Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins.



No Goat Farm is the most recent addition to a rich tapestry of over 800 acres of farmland and habitat protected by our community in the Dungeness area over the last 34 years.

The USDA noted that in Clallam County there was a 35% decline in acres of farmland between 2012 and 2022. This rapid loss led the Land Trust to commit to doubling the pace of farmland conservation over the next decade, all while continuing to protect vital fish & wildlife habitat. Thanks to your support, we're matching this pace!

With the conservation of No Goat Farm, we've reached a fantastic milestone: 26 local farms permanently protected! This achievement wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our community. Together, we're not just protecting land but also local ways of life.



## The Details on No Goat Farm:

- Just over 23 acres of prime farmland soils protected forever with a conservation easement
- No longer the threat of being developed into eight homesites

### No Goat Farm and Other Conserved Lands



### Legend

- ☐ No Goat Farm
- ☐ All Conserved Lands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

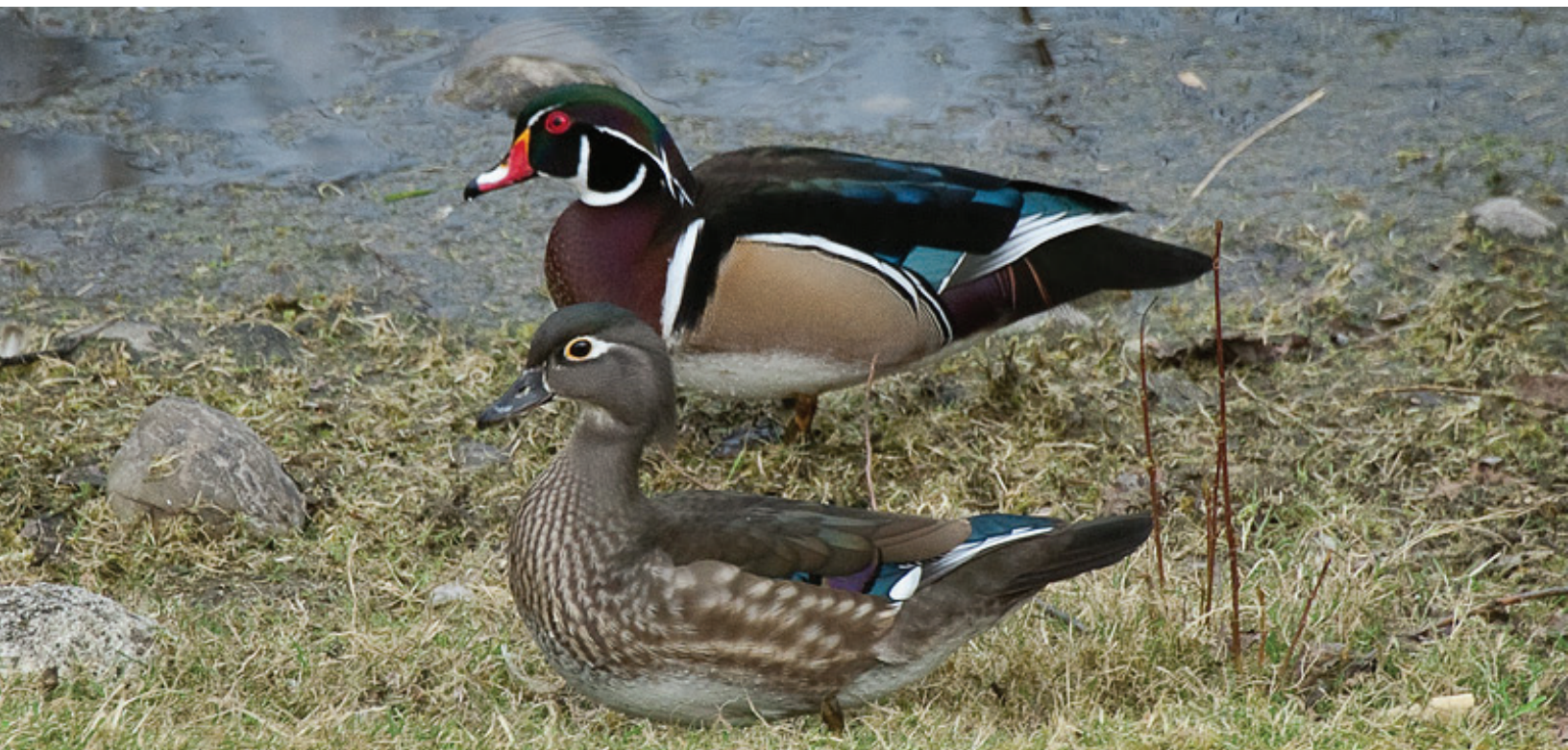


NORTH OLYMPIC  
Land Trust

*Farms • Fish • Forests*





A pair of breeding wood ducks that reside at one of the ponds of Wood Duck Hollow. Photo by Charlotte Watts.

## Wood Duck Hollow

In December 2023, we permanently protected critically important habitat in the scenic foothills of Blyn–Wood Duck Hollow. The story of Wood Duck Hollow is one of a deep love and commitment to this place we call home.

Today, Wood Duck Hollow is home to diverse landscapes and a regenerating forest that provides vital habitat to a number of creatures large and small. When Charlotte Watts moved there in 1990, she was met with a land that had been poorly managed for timber and livestock. “The forest had been clear cut and only small trees surrounded the acreage. There were fences with barbed wire. The property had been used by livestock. But there was a pond with ducks, scraggly willows, and poplars. I could see the soul of the property,” said Watts.



### The Details on Wood Duck Hollow:

- 33 acres of wildlife habitat protected in Blyn, including two ponds, wetlands throughout, mature forestland, and an open field.
- A wildlife corridor for iconic creatures such as bobcat, black bear, cougar, elk, and more.



She and her late partner Charlotte McElroy, along with a whole community of folks helping and teaching them, diligently and lovingly stewarded the land over many years doing everything from replanting native trees to raising wood ducks. Their impressive restoration work has led to some important notoriety. Wood Duck Hollow is proudly a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation, a WA State Pesticide Free Zone, and a Xerces Society Pollinator Habitat.

Charlotte M. was a major force in the ultimate conservation of Wood Duck Hollow, having first attempted to permanently conserve it back in 2013. The protection of Wood Duck Hollow has been nearly a decade in the making, with both Charlottes playing a huge role in conserving this vital habitat forever. Charlotte Watts generously donated this easement and we are incredibly grateful for her dedication to conservation on the Olympic Peninsula.

When signing the final paperwork to donate her easement and protect Wood Duck Hollow forever, Charlotte W. said, “I love this land and all that it has brought me. When I acquired it, it was devastated by clear cuts and livestock.

***“Wood Duck Hollow officially has a conservation easement on it, held by North Olympic Land Trust. Long after I’m gone, this land will continue to be protected, and that means the birds, bees, bobcats and bears I love will continue to find refuge at Wood Duck Hollow.”***

***- Charlotte Watts***

Today, I look out and see the power of time and the will to leave a place better than you found it.”

Wood Duck Hollow is now our farthest-east conserved land, adding to the rich patchwork of working and wild lands protected by our community.

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**Left:** Courtney Bornsworth, *Land Manager*, assesses the forest conditions on a site visit to Wood Duck Hollow. Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins. **Right:** A hummingbird, one of many bird species present, on the property. Photo by Charlotte Watts.







# Coming Together to Safeguard Farmland

On September 30th, 2023, 250 community members gathered at the 21st Annual Harvest Celebration at the Holladay Barn in Dungeness in support of protecting farmland. Together, we shared a truly amazing meal made by local hands with ingredients grown by local hands – a reminder of the many ways farmland nourishes us. Over 40 volunteers put a collective 160 hours into making this beautiful day a success.

In late August 2023, we shared an ambitious goal – to raise \$192,000 for local land conservation through community led 1:1 match donations. Just a month and a half later, we not only met our fundraising goal, but exceeded it. **This community raised over \$200,000 for land conservation last harvest season** - making it one of the largest fundraising efforts in the organization's history. Over 178 households contributed to this amazing effort. **Thank you!**

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**Right Top:** Guests enjoy a local lunch in the Holladay Barn during Harvest Celebration. Photo by Katrina Shelby. **Right Bottom:** A packed crowd listens to the announcement of the Farmer of the year award. Photo by Katrina Shelby. **Bottom Left:** From left to right: Benji (he/him), Jenson (they/them), and Eli (they/them) of SisterLand Farms.

## 2023 Farmer of the Year: SisterLand Farms

In recognition of their inspirational commitment to land stewardship, environmental innovation, community building, and local entrepreneurship, **SisterLand Farms was honored with the 2023 Farmer of the Year Award.**

The farm grows enough food to feed around 45 families per week, processes tons of kitchen waste each year, donates fresh food to area food banks, and employs and educates a growing team of future farmers—each a minority in their field. And they do it all on less than one acre of regeneratively-grown vegetable beds.

The folks running the operation, will be the first to tell you that what they do is about more than just harvesting delicious tomatoes and salad greens.



Visit them online at [sisterlandfarms.com](https://sisterlandfarms.com) to learn more about their work.



# 2024 Out Standing in the Field Award: Tim McNulty

Tim McNulty, a poet, conservationist, and nature writer that has made his home on the Olympic Peninsula since 1972, was honored with the 11th Outstanding in the Field Award for his work to connect people and place and encourage environmental action through his writing. He is the author of ten poetry books and twelve books of natural history, including *Salmon, Cedar, Rock & Rain: Washington's Olympic Peninsula* and *Olympic National Park: A Natural History*.

**Right:** Tom Sanford (right), Land Trust *Executive Director*, presents Tim (left) with the Out Standing in the Field Award. Photo by Katrina Shelby.



## Collaborative Storytelling For Conservation

We were thrilled to celebrate with our community at our 16th annual Conservation Breakfast on April 6th, 2024. Over the years, this gathering has become our community's largest celebration of local land conservation. This year, we brought together over 300 people to hear from a panel of brilliant storytellers featured in *Salmon, Cedar, Rock, & Rain: Washington's Olympic Peninsula*, published by Braided River in 2023.

Art and writing help us bridge the gap between humans and the natural world, igniting passion for conservation and inspiring action to protect our home. We were so moved by the passionate words shared by speakers Wendy Sampson, Loni

Grinnell-Greninger, David Guterson, Lynda V. Mapes, and Tim McNulty about what this place means to them and why it so important to protect it. We left profoundly touched by the deep care that our community shows for our shared home, along with a deep-rooted hope for the future of the Olympic Peninsula.

But the inspiration didn't stop there! A generous anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 match challenge, and thanks to your incredible support, we surpassed that goal! Together, we raised over \$18,165 that morning. With the match the total rises to \$28,165 for local conservation efforts!

**Left:** Delana Lopez, Land Trust *Office Manager*, and Christy Smith, United Way of Clallam County *Executive Director*, greet guests. **Middle:** Our speaker panel presenting.

**Right:** A packed Vern Burton Community Center shows their support for conservation. All photos by Katrina Shelby.



# 2023 Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position

(Balance Sheet)  
as of December 31, 2023

### Assets

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents      | 270,943   |
| Receivables (what we are owed) | 12,300    |
| Investments                    | 3,036,540 |
| Land                           | 6,085,914 |
| Conservation Easements         | 83        |
| Other Assets                   | 28,622    |

**9,434,402**

### Liabilities (what we owe)

**31,249**

### Net Assets (equity)

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Undesignated                 | 244,407   |
| Operating Reserve            | 593,865   |
| Stewardship Fund             | 1,744,355 |
| Opportunity Fund             | 789,066   |
| Sustainable Agriculture Fund | 151,162   |
| Conservation Lands           | 5,880,298 |

**9,403,153**

### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

**9,434,402**

## Statement of Activities

(Profit and Loss Statement)

### Revenue

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Government Grants            | 870,287 |
| Individual Donations         | 526,550 |
| Business Contributions       | 14,898  |
| Foundation Grants            | 56,082  |
| In-Kind Easements            | 400,000 |
| In-Kind Goods and Services   | 35,158  |
| Realized Investment Income   | 63,302  |
| Unrealized Investment Income | 342,729 |

**2,309,006**

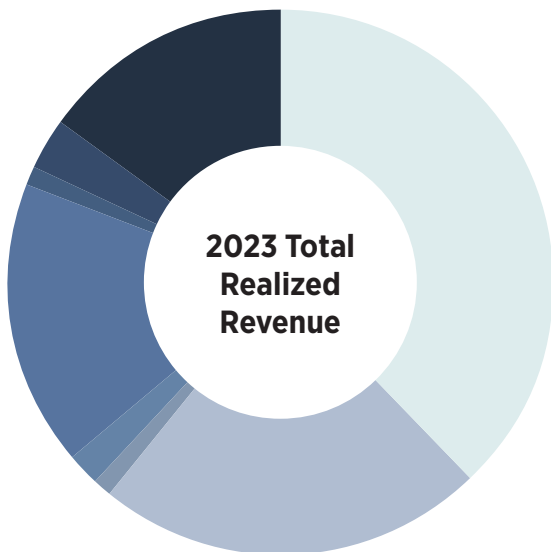
### Expense

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Easement Stewardship | 61,761    |
| Land Management      | 69,153    |
| Land Protection      | 1,386,462 |
| Community Engagement | 125,958   |
| Administration       | 135,051   |
| Fundraising          | 185,703   |

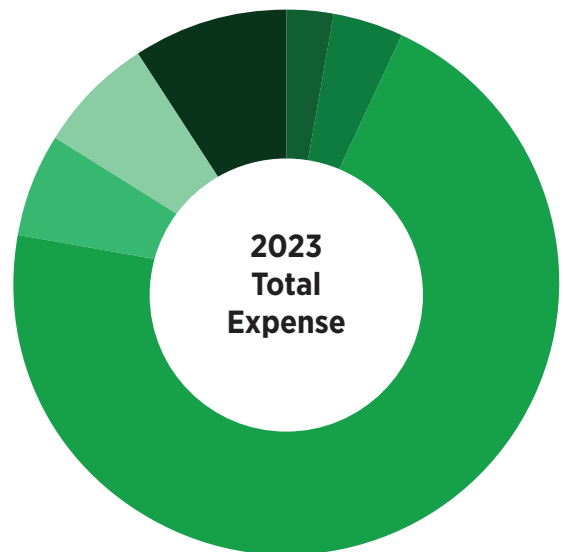
**1,964,088**

### Change in Net Assets

**344,918**



- Government Grants
- Individual Donations
- Business Contributions
- Foundation Grants
- In-Kind Easements
- In-Kind Goods and Services
- Realized Investment Income
- Unrealized Investment Income



- Easement Stewardship
- Land Management
- Land Protection
- Community Engagement
- Administration
- Fundraising



# Thank You to Our Supporters

Without you, none of this would be possible. Whether you've donated funds or your time, you are the backbone of our organization and community. Together, we will continue to conserve the beautiful North Olympic Peninsula.

## Corporation, Business, Nonprofit, and Foundation Contributors:

- Barhop Brewing
- Bella Italia
- Botanica
- The Burning Foundation
- Camaraderie Cellars
- Charlotte Martin Foundation
- Core GIS, LLC
- Country Aire Natural Food
- Draper Law
- Ennis Arbor Farm
- Fogtown Coffee Bar
- Goodness Teas
- Horizons Foundation
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe'
- Katrina Shelby Photography
- Land Trust Alliance
- Lila's Kitchen - The Bar Car
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's
- Barrette Family Fund
- Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers
- Olympic Peninsula Surveying & Drafting, Inc
- Olympic Wilderness Foundation
- Pacific Pantry
- Port Angeles Garden Club
- Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles Harbor
- Satterberg Foundation
- Sequim Valley Properties, LLC
- SisterLand Farms
- Sound Community Bank
- Stratum Group
- Sunny Farms Country Store
- Suzi Schuenemann, real estate broker at John L. Scott Realty
- Wilder Auto
- Wind Rose Cellars

## John Willits Legacy Circle

Those who commit to support conservation forever through their estate plans.



## Evergreen Donors

Those who support the protection and care of conservation lands through monthly donations.

**Above:** The entrance to the Legacy Grove Trail at the Lyre Conservation Area. Photo by Courtney Bornsworth.



# Your Land Trust by the Numbers

Visitors fishing at the Lyre Conservation Area during a negative tide. Photo by John Gussman.



# 4

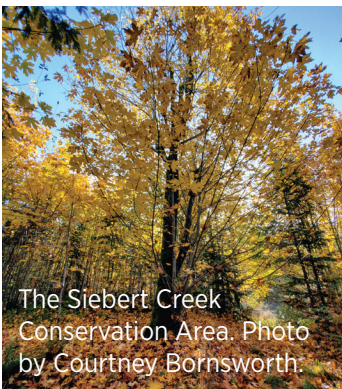
CONSERVATION  
AREAS WITH  
PUBLIC TRIALS



# 26

LOCAL FARMS  
CONSERVED

The Sequim elk herd grazes at the Land Trust's Wonderland & the 80 conservation easement. Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins.

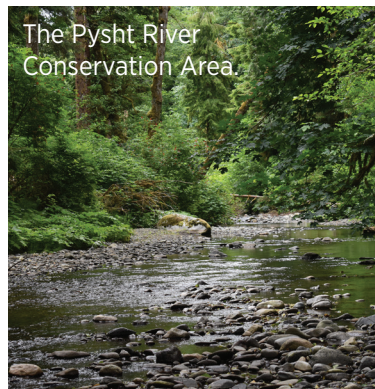


The Siebert Creek Conservation Area. Photo by Courtney Bornsworth.

# 96

PROPERTIES  
PERMANENTLY  
PROTECTED

The Pysht River  
Conservation Area.



# 460

ACRES OF  
WORKING  
FORESTLAND

# 120

VOLUNTEERS GAVE  
1,600 hours  
IN 2023



Students from Peninsula College practice plant identification at the Lower Dungeness Prairie with Courtney Bornsworth (left). Photo by Lexi Wagor.



# Mission

To conserve the land and natural resources that continue to be the foundation of our culture, economy, and way of life.

## NORTH OLYMPIC Land Trust



*Farms • Fish • Forests*



TO LEARN MORE | TO EXPLORE | TO DONATE  
**northolympiclandtrust.org**

Your support today enables our community to continue protecting farmland, forests, and river habitat on the North Olympic Peninsula - **forever.**

North Olympic Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization, tax ID 91-1500378.

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PO Box 2945 (mailing)  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
(360) 417-1815  
info@northolympiclandtrust.org

## Get Involved

You make local conservation possible. You can support North Olympic Land Trust by:

- Attending our events
- Volunteering with us.
- Visiting our Conservation Areas.
- Signing up for our newsletter.
- Making a donation.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.



A big leaf maple stands sentinel over the trail at the Lyre Conservation Area.  
Photo by John Gussman.



NORTH OLYMPIC  
Land Trust



*Farms • Fish • Forests*

Land Trust staff  
conduct a forest health  
assessment at the  
Calawah Conservation  
Area in Forks.  
Photo by Lexi Wagor

