

Landscapes

News from North Olympic Land Trust, Winter 2024

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

northolympiclandtrust.org

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Calawah Conservation Area/Courtney Bornsworth

Bear claw marks near Blue Mountain/Julie Anne Hopkins



Swans in Dungeness/John Gussman

Volunteers building the trail at Calawah Conservation Area/
Courtney Bornsworth

Invest in Permanence

Dear friend,

Election years remind us that politicians and public opinion change. Conservation through the Land Trust is different—conservation commitments are “in perpetuity” (a legal term for “forever”). Your support allows us to “forever protect” our incredible landscape, including *working lands* (that also protect local jobs) and *habitat*.

Donate today to support conservation on the Peninsula by visiting our website (northolympiclandtrust.org) or by sending in your donation with the enclosed remit envelope!

To accomplish our conservation goals, we work with willing landowners to conserve their lands. This year, our efforts have targeted several projects we are very excited about. Because land deals require confidentiality between the parties during negotiations, we cannot share with you the specifics, but here’s what we can share about what we have been up to:

- We are working with the owners of two farms in Sequim-Dungeness, both featuring USDA Prime soil on productive farmlands with access to irrigation. The largest farm is “quintessentially Sequim”—with soaring eagles and verdant fields set against an Olympic backdrop. Your support protects local farmlands and farming jobs—thank you!
- Multiple landowners are working with us to donate conservation interests in their lands. Donated conservation interests have associated costs, in particular the “in perpetuity” stewardship costs we calculate

for every project—even donated lands—because we are responsible for stewarding these lands over the centuries. As a donor, you can rest assured that the lands you help us protect are backed by dedicated funds for their perpetual care and maintenance

- Calawah River Conservation Area is now open to the public, featuring a lovely trail that brings folks right to the river. Situated within Forks’ City Limits, Calawah River Conservation Area provides free outdoor recreational spaces for the community of Forks and anyone who visits. Free public spaces require additional care, from trail maintenance to managing misuse. Your support helps cover costs associated with maintaining and improving public access—including the stewardship investment necessary to maintain free public access in perpetuity.

We could not do this work without the support of folks like you—every donation helps us protect more of the lands we love. Your choice to invest in this land and these waters—to protect them not for yourself but for the sake of every living thing now and in the future—is what truly empowers us.



Thank you,

Alex Wilson, *Development Director*

P.S. If you’re interested in donating a car, securities, through a donor advised fund, or a gift of land, contact me at (360) 417-1815 x3 or Alex@northolympiclandtrust.org.



Thank you to our sponsors!

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Conservation Success: No Goat Farm

In April, No Goat Farm was permanently protected thanks to local donations and support from the Washington Department of Ecology, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, and Clallam County’s Conservation Futures Fund. This 23-acre conservation easement ensures this farmland will be here for generations to come.

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. With this recent addition, the community has reached a significant milestone of 26 local farms permanently protected. This achievement is attributed to the generous support of the community, which is not only preserving land but also local ways of life.

Save the dates for these Land Trust events

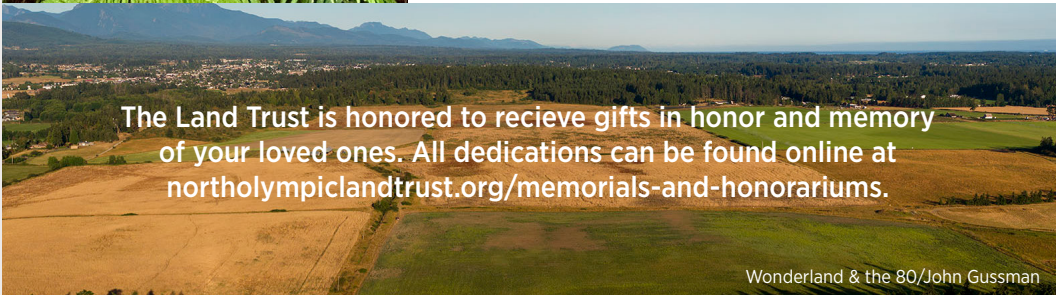
Dec 30 **Holiday Open House**
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm | Land Trust Office

Enjoy cookies, spread well-wishes, and share ideas as we transition to a new year full of exciting opportunities!

Apr 5 **17th Annual Conservation Breakfast**
Doors: 9:00 am, Presentation: 10:00 am | Field Arts & Events Hall

Learn about how wildlife tracking changes the way that you see the world around you from our keynote speaker David Moskowitz, professional wildlife tracker, author, photographer, and outdoor educator.

For a full list of upcoming events and outings, visit us online at northolympiclandtrust.org/events.



Lyre Conservation Area: Celebrating a Decade of Protection

With the help of many local partners and supporters like you, the Land Trust acquired the 280-acre Lyre Conservation Area near Joyce in late 2014. At the time, it was the largest land protection project in our history.

A majority of the property is a cathedral of green, with iconic trees like Douglas fir and western redcedar reaching towards the sky and a thick understory of ferns and shrubs filling the gaps. Near the shore, the forest reveals its coastal character with Sitka spruce, grand fir, and massive bigleaf maple. These uplands are a haven for wildlife.

The Lyre River system, fed by Lake Crescent, is used by coho, chum, and Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, and steelhead for spawning. It’s the only stream on the Olympic Peninsula with a winter chum run. The Lyre Conservation Area protects the estuary at the mouth of the river as well as undisturbed tide-flats, kelp beds, and half a mile of Strait of Juan de Fuca shoreline. Nearshore areas like this provide essential habitat for young salmon as they grow, forage, and prepare for survival in the open ocean.

This area is rich in local history. Like every river mouth in the region, it had heavy Tribal activity prior to colonization. In 1891, Gettysburg, a bustling logging settlement, was established and years later it was a family’s

homestead. When the Land Trust protected the property in 2014, a crew from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe removed the remaining dilapidated infrastructure. Since that time, hundreds of volunteers have created and maintained recreational amenities, planted thousands of native species, and removed countless invasive weeds. Today, the Lyre Conservation Area hosts thousands of visitors a year—from walkers to surfers to bikers to fisherfolk.

We’re looking at the future of the Lyre Conservation Area with an eye on the past, integrating modern conservation methods with traditional ecological knowledge. With the help of our community, we’re stewarding the lush, diverse forest towards old-growth conditions and keeping this property free to visit every day of the year. The shoreline will remain in its natural state in perpetuity, forever changing with every storm and king tide. Near the beach, we’re helping return a near-lost ecosystem to the landscape. Small remnant patches of native prairie plants are being enhanced, while we slowly create a new native prairie in the large meadow that was most recently a pasture.

2024 marks the first 10-years of protection at the Lyre Conservation Area, and we cannot wait to see what the next decade, even century, will bring. **Thank you for protecting and caring for this incredible place!**