



WHIDBEY  
CAMANO  
LAND TRUST



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## DEAR WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST MEMBERS,

**2010** presented us with the opportunity to rescue the Trillium Community Forest from foreclosure. This was the last chance to save one square mile of island forest forever. In the eyes of many, we were attempting the impossible; but with your support and encouragement we reached Above and Beyond and saved the forest now and for all future generations.

Your words, actions, and donations enabled us to go Above and Beyond the impressive. You clearly and eloquently spoke to the greater Puget Sound community and said open space and forests and wildlife habitat are important, the environment is important, quality of life matters, future generations matter.

And the Trillium Community Forest was not our only investment on your behalf. Your membership and donations also supported land protection, stewardship, and habitat restoration all around Whidbey and Camano Islands. They also laid the foundation for more than 16 projects expected to close in 2011—farmland, forests, wetlands, prairie, tidelands, open space, and scenic vistas.

All of this happened because of you. This work provided an outstanding return on your investment in lands that will be enjoyed for their environmental, economic, and community benefits long into the future.

Thank you for the depth and breadth of your support. With such encouragement, we will continue to journey Above and Beyond.



**Tom Cahill**  
*Board President*



**Patricia Powell**  
*Executive Director*



# ABOVE AND BEYOND

Above and Beyond describes the Land Trust's achievements in 2010. The Land Trust and the community exceeded all expectations during a brutal recession by raising \$4.1 million to buy a 654-acre forest. Along the way, we built scores of new partnerships—with organizations, businesses, and caring community members.

But Above and Beyond is even more than the success story of the Trillium Community Forest. Since 2003, with your help we have annually accomplished remarkable projects with relatively few resources. As we reflect on 2010, we realized that Above and Beyond is actually standard operating procedure for the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and our community. In addition to the Trillium Community Forest campaign, we made important progress on more than two dozen other, high-priority land projects on Whidbey and Camano Islands.

In fact, the stage is now set in 2011 to protect 16 more extraordinary properties, including conservation easements on 530 acres (these lands remain privately-owned and managed) and acquisition of 350 acres of wetlands and tidelands, as well as 60 acres of upland old-growth forest and prairie.

How can a small staff and volunteer board do so much? Because you, our members, care enough to provide the financial support we need to do our work. This Annual Report highlights the fuller picture of the amazing year of 2010.

Thank you for helping to protect the nature of Whidbey and Camano Islands—Above and Beyond what sometimes seems possible.



# 2010 LAND PROTECTION

The Land Trust's work is guided by our Land Protection Priorities Plan. The plan directs us to save the most significant and threatened landscapes—those vital to protecting the nature, health, and integrity of our precious islands. We protect the things you care about—clean water, scenic views, beach access, wildlife habitat, farms that provide local food, and places you can visit to enjoy being out and active in natural settings.

Land conservation is a complicated business. It takes time, good relationships, money, and expertise. Highlighted is some of the work we did in 2010. Explore projects in more detail by visiting our website at [www.wclt.org/projects](http://www.wclt.org/projects).



## Dugualla Bay Properties

A state salmon grant paid for scientific analysis at our Dugualla Bay properties, located northeast of Oak Harbor. The Land Trust set the stage to re-establish a critically-needed refuge for juvenile salmon by working with stakeholders and conducting site studies and engineering analyses.

Above: Collecting fish data at the project site.

Photo by Cheryl Lowe



## Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

The Land Trust continued its focus on securing funds to protect ten critical lands (E) at risk of being lost to development, including rare prairie, an amazing old-growth forest, nationally-significant wetlands, and working farmlands. Nearly \$5 million in grant applications were submitted to permanently protect iconic Ebey's Reserve landscapes.

Above: Farm on Penn Cove in Ebey's Reserve.

Photo by Mark Sheehan



## Historic Farmland

Protecting working farmland is an ongoing priority for the Land Trust. For two years, we have worked to secure the funding needed to buy development rights on two prime Ebey's Reserve properties. In 2010, we completed the many complex real estate steps needed to "close the deal," signing legal agreements that will pay off when these two fantastic farm projects close in the first part of 2011. Above: David Engle will restore his historic family house with the sale proceeds.

Photo by Chris Hilton



## Livingston Bay

The Land Trust launched a new effort to protect clean water and important bird and salmon habitat at Livingston Bay on Camano Island. We started by developing relationships with landowners and neighbors, which is essential to the success of all land protection projects. We are also working with government agencies that fund land and water conservation.

Photo by Mark Sheehan



## Naas Natural Area Preserve

We planted 30,000 prairie plants, including 4,000 camas bulbs, in our Naas Preserve south of Coupeville. After five years of diligent prairie-restoration work, the population of the nearly extinct golden paintbrush has grown from 59 plants to over 2,000! Above: Locally-owned Pioneer Tree Service removed trees invading the prairie to prepare for planting.

Photo by Mark Sheehan



## Save the Forest Now

Hundreds donated to this whirlwind campaign and saved the 654-acre property near Freeland, now officially called the Trillium Community Forest. Protecting the largest, private contiguous island forest provides many public benefits—homes for wildlife and a corridor for their travel, protection of the upper sections of three watersheds, opportunities for non-motorized public recreation, and, as pictured in the photo, plenty of space to learn from nature.

Photo by Cheryl Lowe



## People On Our Lands

During 2010, we held 27 work parties, where 84 hard-working volunteers donated over 850 hours to plant trees, remove weeds, and maintain trails at a dozen Land Trust properties. Also, 27 guided tours, new trail maps, and interpretive kiosks encouraged people to be actively involved in lands they helped protect. Above: Volunteers at Hammons Preserve near Clinton.

Photo by Cheryl Lowe

- Land Protection Projects
- Tours
- Work Parties

Note: Numbers in circles indicate the number of tours or work parties at that site

## 2010 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed real-estate work to spend \$735,000 for two farmland conservation easements on 99 acres in Ebey's Reserve, closing early 2011.
- Completed major work to acquire a conservation easement on the 170-acre Au Sable property south of Coupeville, closing in 2011.
- Secured \$1,324,000 in local, state, federal, and private grant funding to buy development rights on farmland and protect old-growth, prairie, coastal, and wetland properties.
- Applied for \$6 million in five state and two federal grants to permanently protect 510 acres, including Ebey's Reserve farmland and riparian habitat at Crockett Lake and Livingston Bay.
- Connected people to the land. Led 27 educational tours and organized 27 work parties. Trained 13 site stewards to oversee Land Trust properties.
- Continued restoring wetlands and forests at six Land Trust-protected properties as well as rare plants and native prairie at the Naas Preserve.
- Doubled Land Trust membership from 843 to 1,696 households.
- Generated 102 newspaper articles, 15 television reports, 17 radio spots, 50 on-line reports, and 29 support letters to the editor.
- Received 36,000 visits to our website ([www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org)) and 27,000 visits to the [SaveTheForestNow.org](http://SaveTheForestNow.org) (Trillium) website.
- Evaluated more than 20 potential conservation easement donations.
- Applied to achieve national accreditation as a land trust of excellence.
- ...*Oh, and by the way...* raised more than \$4 million to save and protect the **Trillium Community Forest!** Immediately began work on stewardship of the forest.

*For other achievements, please see our website [www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org)*



## TRILLIUM: OUR COMMUNITY'S FOREST FOREVER!

When 2010 dawned, the year's work plan did not include the Trillium Community Forest. Yet, the challenge of conserving this land gave all of us the opportunity to do what many thought was impossible.

We did it together. Endorsements. Fundraisers. Interviews. Tours. Letters to the editor. Regional and national media coverage. A total of \$4.1 million raised from more than 1,500 donations, including \$500,000 from the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and a \$300,000 bridge loan from the Bullitt Foundation.

What happened behind the scenes? In the Land Trust's commitment to our mission of conserving land forever for public benefit, we had built up a Reserve Fund for hard times. Then along came the Trillium property—a large, intact forest, rich in wildlife, a source of clean water, near South Whidbey State Park, loved by the community, and available through foreclosure.

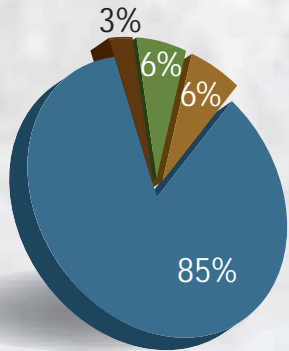
School children raised money and retired people on fixed incomes gave stretch gifts. The Land Trust's Board of Directors voted to join these donors and spend our Reserve Fund to take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The community's broad support and the Board's decision convinced our largest donor to join with us and make permanent stewardship of the forest a reality.

654 acres—protecting wildlife habitat, water, open space and trails. A seemingly impossible fundraising goal met.

Our community's forest forever.

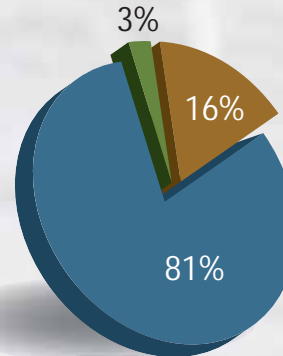


# 2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Where our support came from

- Restricted Donations for Projects
- Government & Other Grants for Projects
- Membership Donations for Operations
- Land & Conservation Easement Donations

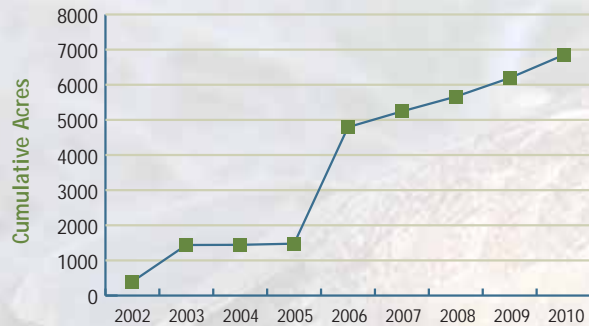


What we did with that support

- Protect Land (Market Value of all lands protected)
- Program Expenses (Land Protection, Stewardship, and Outreach Costs)
- Operations (Administration, Fundraising, and Membership Services)

## 8-YEAR COMPARISON

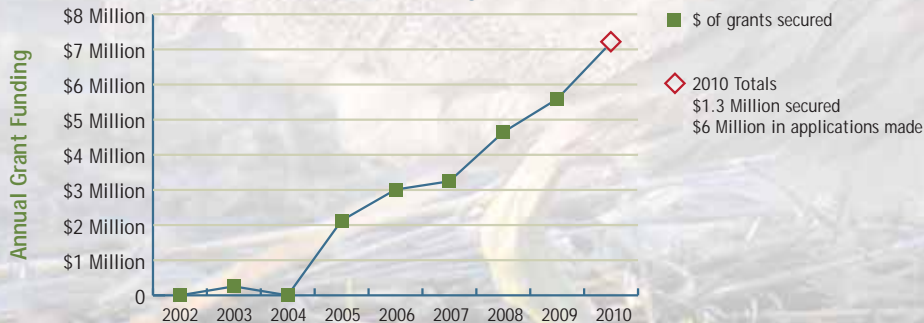
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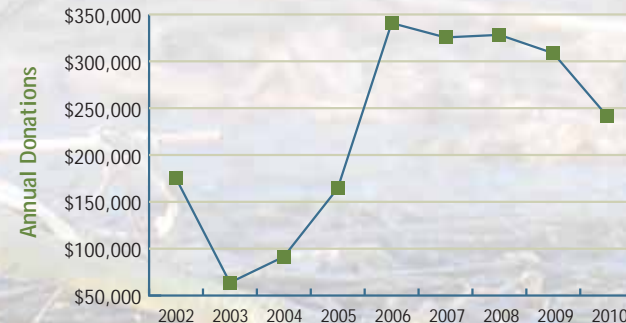
Number of Projects



Grant Funding



Donations to Operations





## 2010 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, Tom Cahill, *Freeland*  
Vice President, Lenny Corin, *Oak Harbor*  
Secretary, Todd Peterson, *Clinton*  
Treasurer, Paul Goldfinger, *Langley*

### Board Members

Sandy Barney, *Freeland*  
Joani Boose, *Langley*  
Tom Campbell, *Langley*  
Larry Harris, *Freeland*  
Grant Heiken, *Freeland*  
Mully Mullally, *Langley*  
Dan Pedersen, *Langley*  
Dave Pinkham, *Camano Island*

### Staff

Jan Graham, Development Associate  
Elizabeth Guss, Director of Outreach and Development  
Chris Hilton, Land Protection Specialist  
Jessica Larson, Stewardship Associate  
Cheryl Lowe, Land Steward  
Patricia Powell, Executive Director  
Danielle Rideout, Program Associate  
Carrie Viers, Operations Manager

Photo by Cheryl Lowe

## MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO NATURE

In 2010, we saw an extraordinary community response to the **Save the Forest Now** campaign. Over 1,500 people donated money by check, credit card, multi-year pledge, and transferred stock. Others challenged their friends and neighbors with the promise of matching funds or held novel fundraising events.

The campaign also sparked a donation of two residential building lots in King County that we can now sell. The generous individual who gave us these "trade lands" did so without restriction, so that the sale proceeds can be used to protect and steward additional lands. All these generous and diverse gifts allow us to advance the Land Trust's mission to protect the nature of Whidbey and Camano Islands. Thank you for your past and future gifts.



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This brochure is printed with soy-based inks using a chemistry-free, computer-to-plate process. The paper is Endeavor 80 lb. cover by Advantage Grades. This paper is Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC), elemental chlorine free (ECF) and features high recycled content compared to both foreign and domestic grades (50% overall/15% post-consumer). The mill is a "clean mill" with a sustainability charter. *Printed by Graphics Plus. Designed by Rhizome Design.*

Front Cover: Juvenile Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
ALL BIRD PHOTOS: Craig Johnson