Thank you for another year of your support. There are a lot of green swatches on the map that all will benefit from this program. The early donors to WLT’s Farming for Food and Wildlife have already helped to conserve farmland and restore salmon habitat while also providing a home for many other species of wildlife. As I write this, WLT is having a birthday! 

WLT IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY!

As I write this, Whatcom Land Trust is saying goodbye to its 20th. It was thirty years ago that I was dispatched by the Trust for Public Land to help found Whatcom Land Trust. It was a brand new entity, and the idea of land trusts was relatively unknown. But there was a sense of urgency and the need to act quickly to conserve land that was threatened by development. Whatcom Land Trust was formed in 1990, and it has been a leader in the conservation movement ever since. In 2014, WLT launched Farming for Food and Wildlife, an ambitious new program that will help to conserve farmland and restore salmon habitat while also providing a home for many other species of wildlife.

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**NORTH FORK**

On the North Fork Nooksack River, WLT focused on three major salmon habitat improvement projects. On Canyon Creek, we moved a levee to provide the creek with more elbow room, creating better conditions for spawning. Just downstream at our Wildcat Reach Preserve, engineered log jams improved conditions in-stream for migrating adult and juvenile fish. At Maple Creek Reach, we restored ditches to their natural state as meandering streams and set the stage for the expansion of the wetland nursery for young Coho. Of course, the benefit of all that work is not solely for salmon. The vitality of salmon leads to the vitality of many plants, animals, birds, and people. We thank our several partners in these projects. And we deeply thank our volunteers who tore out old fencing, hauled debris, planted trees, monitored stream flow, improved trails and maintained good cheer in terrible weather.

**SOUTH FORK**

On the South Fork WLT advanced its Cascades to Chuckanuts campaign with two acquisitions in the 2013-2014 year. Between them, Christie Creek and Riverstead boast 128 acres, nearly a mile of South Fork shoreline, important tributary streams, elk trails, waterways used by all five Pacific salmon species as well as bull trout and winter steelhead, and habitat for numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Both properties abut existing preserves, magnifying their positive ecological impact.

**STATS**

WLT holds 77 conservation easements on 6,473 acres
WLT owns 82 properties totaling 3,908 acres.
WLT has facilitated protection of 10,154 acres
WLT has protected 13,837 acres of public park land

**CASCADES TO CHUCKANUTS**

WLT carries out much of its conservation work in a region called the Cascades to Chuckanuts. On this map, you can see the series of foothills (the Chuckanut Range) that spills down from the flanks of Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters, to the shores of Chuckanut Bay. This is the last relatively undeveloped natural corridor linking the Salish Sea to the Cascade Mountains. This unique landscape—forested hills, verdant valleys, rivers, lakes and wetlands—defines the character of our home.

**PROTECTING THE NATURE OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

WLT is restoring habitat at Maple Creek Reach Preserve, expanding salmon habitat with the help of the same beavers that built the dam just downstream.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer

WLT protects the forests along the shoreline of the South Fork Nooksack at Christie Creek, helping to ensure that fish populations thrive.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer

WLT’s Farming for Food and Wildlife program benefits this barn owl and many other wild creatures on Riverstead Preserve.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer

WLT restored the forests along the shoreline of the South Fork Nooksack at Christie Creek, helping to ensure that fish populations thrive.—Alan Fritzberg, photographer

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