

FALL/WINTER
2009

washington

wildlands

CONSERVING
50
YEARS
WASHINGTON





Washington State Director
Karen Anderson

Dear friends,

As we look back on 50 years of Nature Conservancy work in Washington, I'm struck by the ability of people with vision, creativity and persistence to accomplish great things. We've grown from a small group of

volunteers gathering in each other's living rooms to figure out how to save small bits and pieces of endangered habitat to an organization tackling the most pressing issues facing our planet today. We're now conserving lands and waters where people live, work and play, so that nature will continue to thrive and sustain us.

It's your generous support that has enabled the Conservancy to tackle the big issues—restoring Puget Sound, working for healthy forests on the east Cascade slopes, rebuilding healthy salmon populations.

Thank you for your vision, creativity and commitment in supporting this work for the past 50 years. Wait till you see what we can do together for the next 50! Sincerely,

washington wildlands

FALL/WINTER 2009

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THE MISSION OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



SHARE YOUR OWN STORIES

How did you get involved in the Conservancy? Do you have a story about protecting Washington's lands and waters? A story about an encounter with nature that inspired your own efforts at conservation? Please contact Robin Stanton at rstanton@tnc.org. Share with us, and we'll share it on our Web site.



photo © Keith Lazelle

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

50 Years of Conservation Grounded in Science

by Robin Stanton

Some people are inspired by mountain vistas, towering cliffs or endless forests. Art Kruckeberg gets rhapsodic over a bog.

"It was wonderful," said Kruckeberg, a giant in the world of botany and academia. "It was a perfect sphagnum bog, with peat, flowering plants, the typical stunted forest, highly acidic soil." Kruckeberg recalls walking around Carlisle Bog, near Copalis, with Thornton Thomas, an early chairman of the Washington Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and figuring out how to preserve this special place.

Fifty years ago, a small group including Kruckeberg, Thomas and Dr. Victor Scheffer, another academic giant, gathered in a Bellevue living room to talk about how to save some of Washington's important ecological treasures. They incorporated as a chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1959 and went to work.

They scoured the state, identifying places where rare plant and animal communities flourished. Kruckeberg and Ira Philip Lloyd chaired the Survey Committee. They identified Carlisle Bog, Point of Arches, Cypress Island, Dishman Hills near Spokane, Mima Mounds south of Olympia, Nisqually River

Delta, Swan Creek Canyon in Tacoma, Yakima River Canyon, Green River Gorge, Waldron Island and other areas scattered across the state, and started working to preserve these special places.

The Conservancy has grown and changed since its beginnings, both globally and in Washington. Rather than "protecting bits and pieces of nature for scientific and educational purposes," as a 1964 article in *The Seattle Times* described it, the Conservancy now seeks to protect whole functioning ecosystems so that nature and people can continue to thrive.

That change in focus is apparent on a global scale, as the Conservancy works to restore coral reefs, to prevent deforestation in Brazil, to preserve functioning wetlands even as China dams the Yangtze River. The Conservancy is also working to build a global commitment to strengthen natural systems that provide clean air and water, support local economies and protect all of us from the devastating effects of climate change.

That change in focus is also apparent here in Washington, as the Conservancy works with partners on the east slopes of the Cascades to restore the vast pine and oak forests to health, in Ellsworth Creek

MORE HISTORY ONLINE

Go online to see more stories about how the Conservancy and its volunteers and donors have preserved Washington's best places over the last 50 years. nature.org/washington/50

PHOTO COVER CREDITS
Front: Devin Rice, Doug King, Keith Lazelle, Scott Church, Nancy Sefton, Charles Gurche, Lee Trivette
Back: Gary Luhm

Washington Wildlands saved the following resources by using New Leaf Reincarnation Matte and New Leaf Opaque, made with 100% recycled fiber and an average of 68% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free, and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates.

TREES fully grown	WATER gallons	ENERGY million BTUs	WASTE pounds	GASES pounds
44	9,645	20	2,110	3,565

Calculated based on research done by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

photo © John Marshall

NATURE CONSERVANCY WASHINGTON TIMELINE



and the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge to restore coastal old-growth forests, and in the Skagit River Delta to ensure that salmon, shorebirds, eagles and farmers can all continue to thrive.

In the 50 years since that small group gathered in Bellevue, the Conservancy has helped to protect more than 550,000 acres in this state. The Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 102 million acres around the world.

Washington staff, members and donors have played a role in global efforts as well. Together we've supported conservation in Papua New Guinea, Chile, Ecuador, British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest and Australia. David Weekes, state director from 2001 to 2008, helped get the Conservancy's fledgling China program on its feet, serving as senior advisor to staff and partners in that vast country.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PERSISTENCE

These are common themes that run through the stories of how lands and waters around the state have been preserved for future generations.

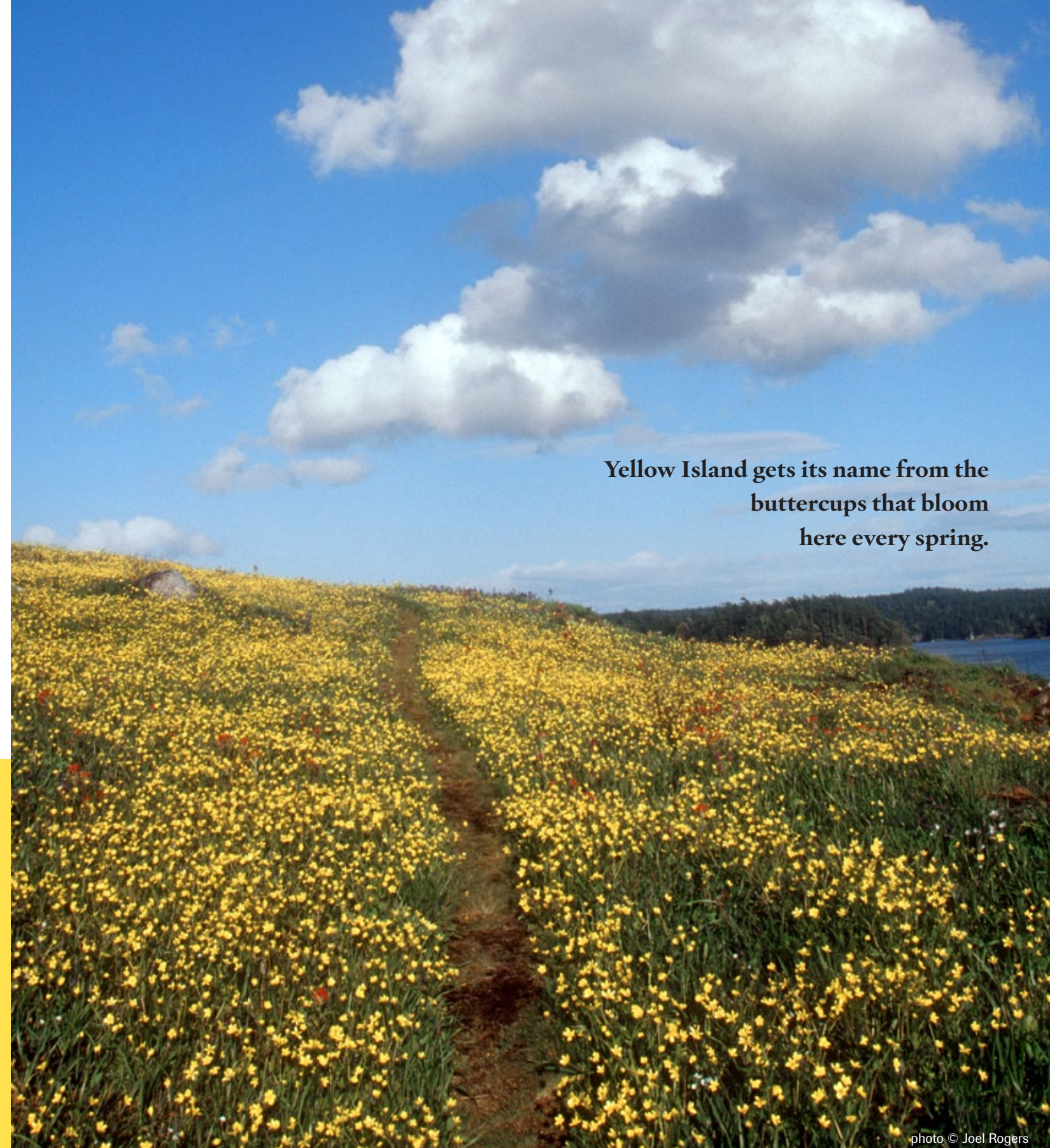
From the beginning, Conservancy leaders recognized that effective conservation requires many

approaches and many partners. "Early on, we put a major emphasis on establishing public funding mechanisms," said Maggie Coon, whose 20-year career with the Conservancy was spent largely in Washington. "That means we've helped to preserve a lot of land that we don't own."

One of the most successful public conservation efforts is the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), which turned 20 in 2009. The Conservancy, under the leadership of the first Washington director, Elliot Marks, spearheaded a coalition that wrote the legislation establishing this state program. The WWRP has raised more than a billion dollars for conservation and protected more than 350,000 acres across the state.

The Conservancy also led the effort to establish the state's Natural Areas Program, which to date has put nearly 130,000 acres of Washington's extraordinary natural diversity into public protection.

Beyond advocating for public conservation efforts, the Conservancy has broken ground in creating new kinds of partnerships. For example, by bringing together local, state and federal government and private landowners, we've been successful in controlling the invasive cordgrass *Spartina*, which had overtaken tens of thousands of acres of saltwater estuaries in Willapa Bay and north Puget Sound. *(continued on p.6.)*



Yellow Island gets its name from the buttercups that bloom here every spring.

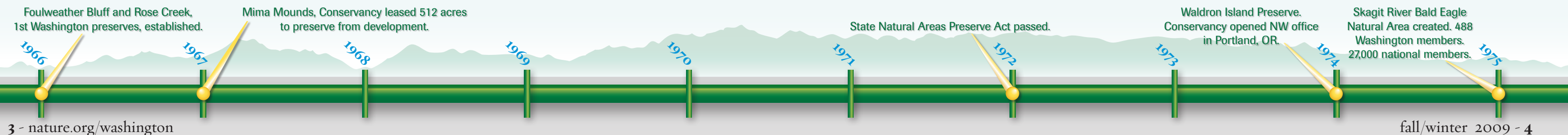
THE LEGACY OF YELLOW ISLAND

by Joel Rogers

In the heart of the San Juan Islands lies an 11-acre island of wildflower savannas and old-growth firs surrounded by a rock-ribbed intertidal sea. This is Yellow Island, the jewel of the "Islands of Life," the first major campaign of the then-new Washington Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. In 1979, Joe and Sally Hall chose to sell Yellow Island to the Conservancy because they wanted it to be preserved as it was when Sally's parents, Lew and Elizabeth "Tib" Dodd, homesteaded in 1947.

For 30 years the Conservancy has honored the Dodd and Hall family legacy, preserving, restoring and expanding what the Dodds began. The Conservancy's Phil Green has been the steward of Yellow Island for 11 years, maintaining the driftwood and stone homestead built by Lew, daily recording the island's natural history, and lighting controlled burns to preserve the centuries-old grassland and wildflower habitat. With 1,500 visitors every year, the island is now the centerpiece of the Conservancy's marine conservation efforts in the San Juans.

photo © Joel Rogers





The Hanford Nuclear Reservation, left undisturbed because of its role in producing atomic weapons, is a refuge for increasingly rare arid lands plant and animal communities.

photo © Joel Rogers

SAVE THE REACH

by Joel Rogers

In 1985, Laura Smith joined the small staff of the Conservancy to preserve significant habitats in Eastern Washington. She found a huge reserve teeming with wildlife and unique plant communities on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Reservation is the 586-square-mile site where plutonium was produced during World War II in the race to develop the atomic bomb. The shrub-steppe habitat, bisected by the Columbia River, remained undisturbed from 1943 until 1986, when forces for development began to push for dredging the Hanford Reach, the last undammed, free-flowing, salmon-spawning stretch of the 1,214-mile Columbia River.

Smith pulled together local environmental and sports groups, federal and state agencies and tribes to

create a regionwide voice to “Save the Reach.” They prevented the dredging and involved the National Park Service by seeking Wild and Scenic River designation. Bills were introduced in Congress, blocked and re-introduced. For 15 years, Smith lent her Conservancy expertise to efforts to preserve the Reach.

In the waning days of the Clinton administration, environmentalists pressed him to protect the Reach using the U.S. Antiquities Act. In June of 2000, Smith and her tight-knit community celebrated Clinton’s designation of the 195,000 acres along 51 undammed miles of the river as the Hanford Reach National Monument. “They never lost focus, never lost hope and never lost their sense of humor,” she said. The Reach was saved.

(continued from p. 3) *Spartina* spreads across otherwise productive mudflats, destroying habitat for marine life, salmon and birds like teal and dunlin and threatening vital shellfish populations. It took 25 years and millions of dollars, but this menace has been reduced from more than 20,000 acres to less than 100. Monitoring and eradication will continue.

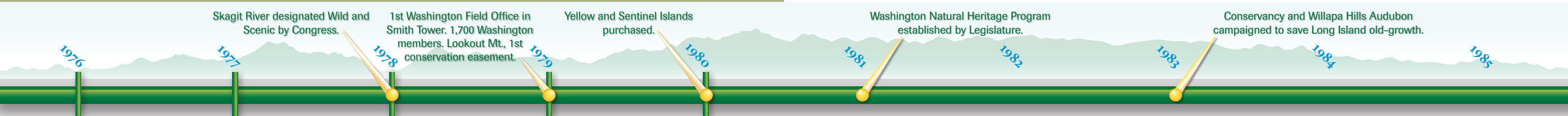
On the Skagit River, a broad collaboration including state and federal agencies, Skagit Land Trust and Seattle City Light was initiated by the Conservancy in 1975. Together these partners have protected and restored more than 10,000 acres of habitat for salmon and eagles, which has led to a resurgence in the population of bald eagles. On January 3, 2007, eagle counters tallied 580 of the iconic raptors on the 10-mile stretch of river from Marblemount to

Rockport, the heart of the Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area.

CREDIBILITY THROUGH SCIENCE

From the initial surveys conducted by Kruckeberg, Scheffer and others, the Conservancy has used the best science available to identify where and how to do conservation work for the greatest effect. Early volunteers scouted the places they knew as teachers and students to have ecological significance, and documented the plant and animal communities that inhabited those places.

Efforts to preserve our state’s biodiversity have continued in collaboration with government and academic partners. In 2007, Conservancy scientists completed an enormous task—creating *(continued on p. 8)*





Foulweather Bluff, purchased in 1966, continues to draw young naturalists into the adventure of exploring the world around them.

photo © Paul Joseph Brown

From Love of Plants Blooms a Lifelong Career



Horticultural Icon Helped Launch Washington Program

by Barbara French

At nearly 90, Art Kruckeberg strides through his garden with a walking staff carved from the branch of a towering dawn redwood. The stick serves as both walking aid and pointer as he introduces visitors to his extraordinary botanical collection, more than 1,000 species of native and exotic rare plants from all over the world packed into a four-acre Shoreline lot where he and his wife, Mareen, raised five children. Now that garden is a botanical reserve and open to the public.

Kruckeberg is a giant in botany, a noted academic and author of important scholarly and popular books, including *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* and *Best Wildflower Hikes, Washington*. He has devoted his life to conservation. Kruckeberg was one of several people who started the Washington Program of The Nature Conservancy. "I was told by my father that academics have a responsibility to the public," he said. "I've tried to remember that."

The Conservancy has grown dramatically since those humble beginnings, but Kruckeberg isn't surprised. "I knew there was no place to go but up." Today, as we face environmental threats on a planetary scale, he remains "cautiously optimistic," he said. "We must continue to cultivate an ethic of conservation."

(continued from p. 6) assessments for the nine ecoregions that cover Washington and extend beyond our borders into neighboring states and provinces. An ecoregion is a large area of land or water defined by its distinct climate, geology and native species. Assessing even one of them is a heroic task.

For example, in one ecoregion alone (the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin), a binational team looked at more than 500 species, including prairie butterflies, orca whales, streaked horned larks, western pond turtles, pocket gophers, sandhill cranes and western gray squirrels.

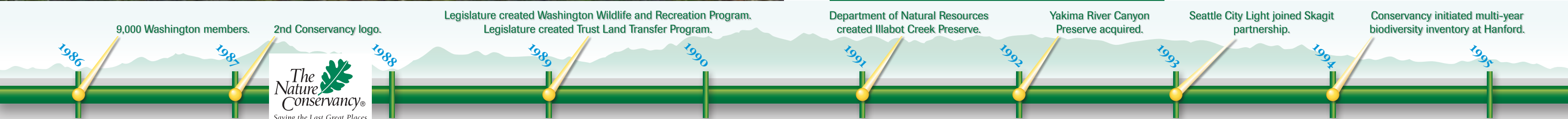
The team also looked at the wide range of plant communities, habitat types and natural systems in the ecoregion: oak woodlands, marine shorelines, prairies, bluffs and streams. All this information is mapped using sophisticated geospatial software, so that we can understand where these species and habitats exist and what threatens them.

Conservancy scientists worked for more than 10 years with many partners to create the assessments for all nine Washington ecoregions. These assessments are now available online to help conservationists and planners gauge where best to preserve biodiversity. They're being used by public agencies as well as other organizations in Washington and other states to protect our natural heritage.

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

The Conservancy has been blessed with remarkable donors throughout its history. In the late 1970s, Portland heiress and sculptor Marie Louise Feldenheimer wrote a \$500,000 check to enable the Conservancy to buy Point of Arches, on the Olympic Coast. When the Conservancy sold the property to the Olympic National Park, the proceeds helped to establish the Land Preservation Fund, a Conservancy revolving fund for acquisitions around the world.

Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen gave a \$5 million challenge grant in 1997 for forest conservation that enabled the Conservancy to buy Ellsworth Creek Preserve, near Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.



This launched efforts in this state to understand how to re-create the characteristics of a coastal old-growth forest on logged-over land.

Priscilla “Patsy” Bullitt Collins was a force for good in the Northwest, supporting city culture, providing aid and housing for the needy, and protecting the region’s wilderness and wild waters. Her legacy to the Conservancy will make its efforts far more effective and powerful for generations.

When she died in 2003, she left \$28 million to the Conservancy, to be divided among international, U.S. and Northwest conservation efforts. The Washington Program administers the Northwest Conservation Fund, which supports innovative, high-impact research for on-the-ground stewardship in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, British Columbia and Northern California.

The projects funded by her gift have far-reaching impact. The newest project is testing a natural biological control for cheatgrass, a nasty invasive that has devastated more than 50 million acres of grasslands across the United States, wiping out native grasses and

making these vast regions more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. The native bacteria we’re testing in partnership with Washington State University offers hope to save the grasslands.

CONSERVATION FOR THE FUTURE

As the Conservancy looks forward to the next 50 years, we again have new leadership. Karen Anderson, an experienced leader in both the for-profit and nonprofit worlds, took the helm in February. “This is a pivotal time in our lives and in the life of our planet,” she said. “We have unprecedented opportunities to tackle the big conservation questions—climate change, threats to fresh water and our oceans, threats to our own health and well-being.”

Under Anderson’s leadership, the Washington Program is focusing its efforts to have the greatest conservation impact. “We have a shared responsibility to protect our natural world,” she said. “We must make smarter choices and pass on to future generations the beauty, wildlife and natural resources we have today.”

The Conservancy has been working to knit together the Tieton River Canyon into public ownership and restore the forests to health so wildlife like this northern pygmy-owl can thrive.

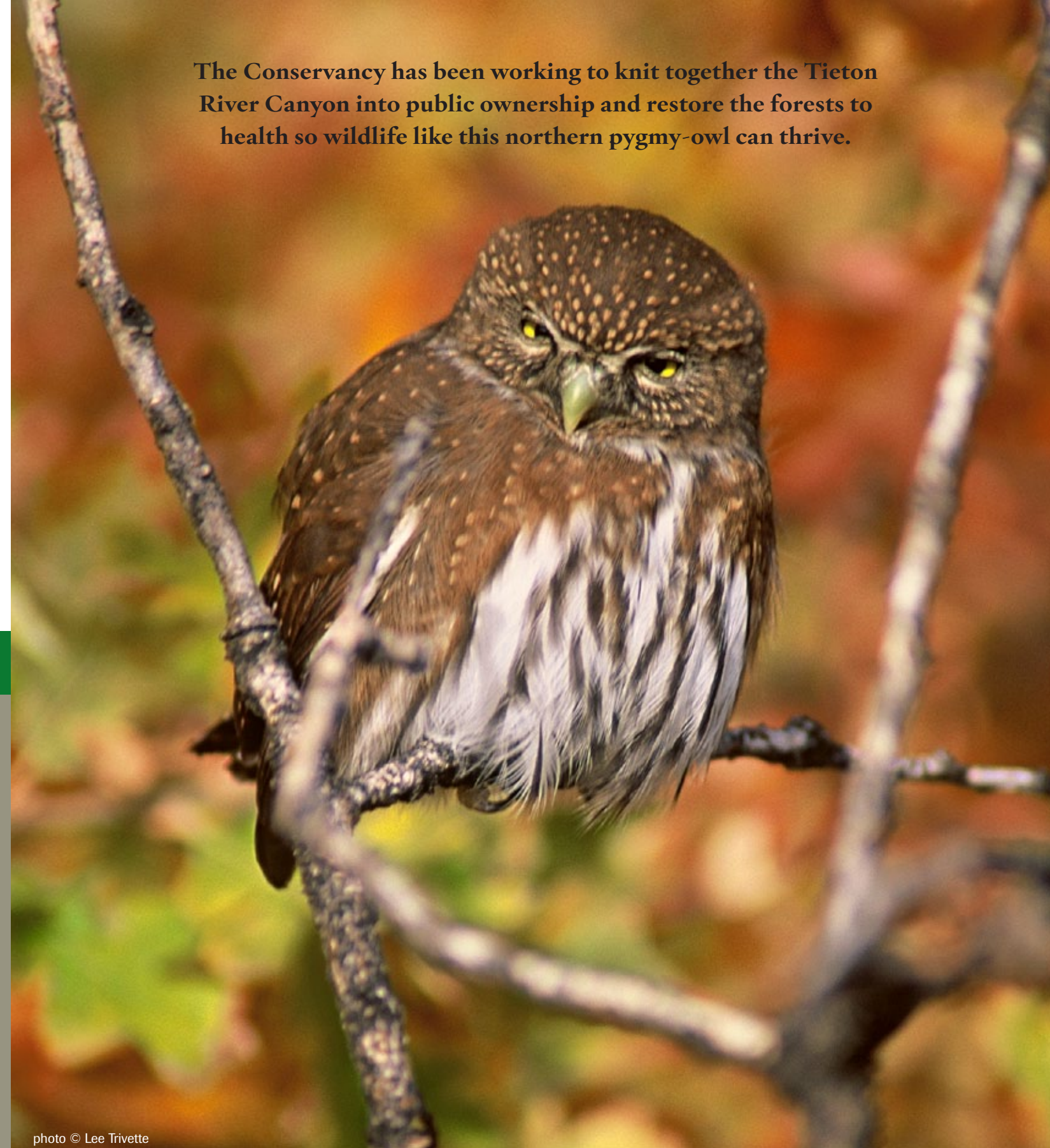


photo © Lee Trivette

PHILANTHROPIST THINKS BIG by Melissa Laird



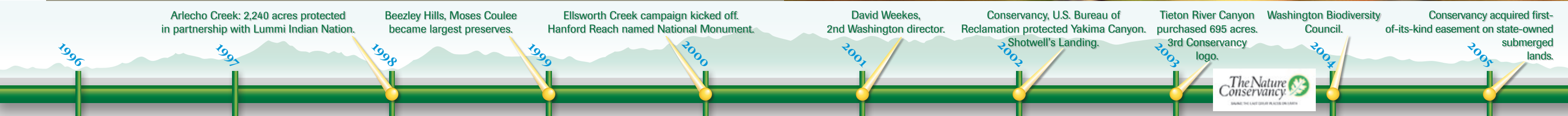
Nancy Nordhoff became involved with The Nature Conservancy when the Skinner Foundation, made up of members of her family, provided funding for the Washington Chapter’s first Seattle office, which opened in 1979. She cofounded CityClub in Seattle and

then on Whidbey Island founded Hedgebrook, the women’s writing retreat, and the Goosefoot Community Fund, which enhances the cultural, environmental and economic vitality of south Whidbey.

When the Conservancy began to help the Whidbey community protect Ebey’s Landing, Nordhoff immediately recognized the importance of that landscape. “There was something very attractive about this one-of-a-kind area, from both the historical and farming points of view. It grabbed me. The beach and bluff were signature pieces.”

She made a \$1 million leadership gift that helped stimulate members of the Whidbey Island community to step up with matching dollars so that the Conservancy could retain the forest as part of the 17,500 acre-Ebey’s Historic Reserve.

“Blazing the trail through leadership gifts does work,” Nordhoff said.



Conservation Actions

Shown on this map are areas within Washington where The Nature Conservancy currently works or has contributed to conservation projects.

- Nature Conservancy Preserve
- Conservation easement—voluntary land use agreement
- Conservancy Project
- Conservancy support through advocacy
- Transfer to other agency
- ▲ Cities

NAP – Natural Area Preserve

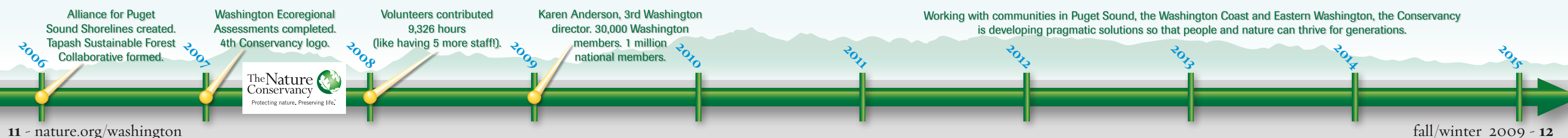
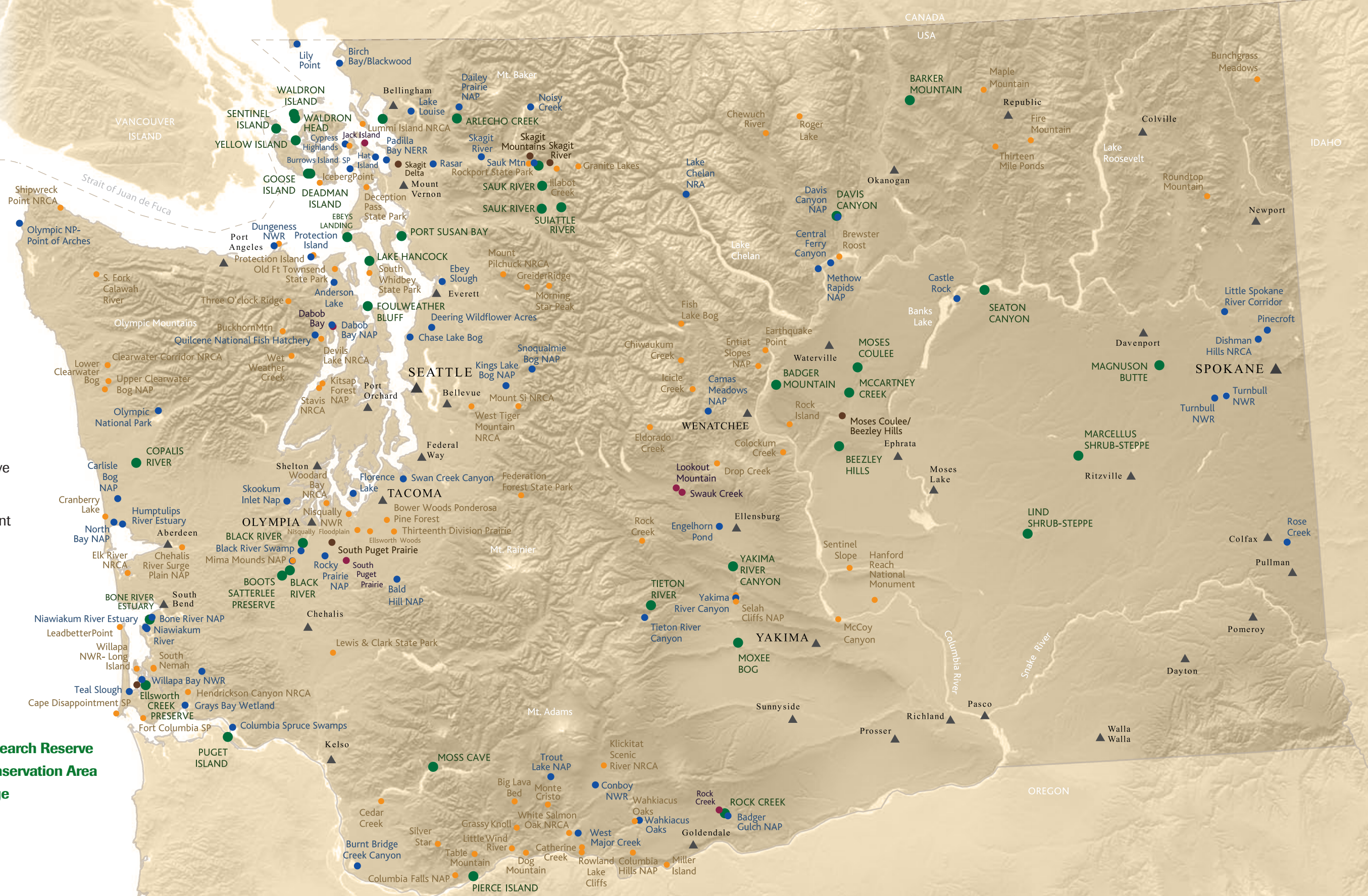
NERR– National Estuarine Research Reserve

NRCA – Natural Resource Conservation Area

NWR – National Wildlife Refuge

SP – State Park

USFS – US Forest Service



THE BEST LEGACY - a better world

After much soul searching, many of our members find that they are troubled about the world that their children or grandchildren will inherit. In addition to providing for their families, donors often choose to invest a portion of their estate in preserving the natural world for future generations.

In this, our 50th anniversary year, we celebrate decades of preservation and visionary conservationists who have named The Nature Conservancy as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Together, we can accomplish our shared goal of conserving lands and waters close to home and around the world. If you have named The Nature Conservancy in your will, trust or retirement plan, please fill out the form below so we can welcome you to our Legacy Club.

AFTER A LIFETIME OF RESTORING NATURE, COUPLE GIVES A GIFT TO THE FUTURE.

If you've marveled at the towering cedars on the Big Beaver Trail at Ross Lake, if you've thrilled to the carpet of wildflowers at Cascade Pass, if you've enjoyed the North Cascades National Park, you owe a debt of gratitude to Margaret and Joe Miller. The couple volunteered for much of their adult lives in the park, ultimately revegetating Cascade Pass. Their work spanned more than 25 years and influenced restoration throughout the West.



One of their first tasks was to hike into Big Beaver Valley and document the old-growth cedars. "The trees there were so old, the forest floor plants were growing right up the sides of the trees," Margaret recalled. Their efforts ultimately led to a decision against raising the level of the lake and flooding the valleys surrounding it.

Their second big project was restoration of the alpine meadows obliterated after decades of trampling at Cascade Pass. Joe and Margaret hiked in and packed out all the accumulated garbage, took

cuttings of wildflowers and gathered native grass seeds. They started the plants in their own greenhouse and packed them back out to the pass for replanting. Their techniques were so successful that they were adopted by other parks throughout the West.

The Millers have also made lasting contributions to conservation as the first donors of a life income gift to The Nature Conservancy's Washington Program. A life income gift is a donation that generates income to a donor for his or her entire lifetime and then goes to the Conservancy to fund its work.

They were drawn to the Conservancy through the people they met, including Fayette Krause, the first Washington land steward and a comrade in the effort to save Big Beaver Valley.

"We knew we had to get a group of people willing to stand up and act, or nature would not be conserved," Margaret said. "We put our shoulders to the wheel and worked together."

By choosing this form of giving, Margaret said, she and Joe, who died in 2007, have been able to enjoy a comfortable retirement while knowing that their values and the conservation and restoration they've accomplished will live on into the future.

Financial information about The Nature Conservancy may be obtained by contacting us at 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203 (800) 628-6860, or as stated below.

FLORIDA - A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CH - 694; Georgia - The following information will be sent upon request: (A) A full and fair description of the charitable program for which the solicitation campaign is being carried out and, if different, a full and fair description of the programs and activities of the charitable organization on whose behalf the solicitation is being carried out; (B) A financial statement or summary which shall be consistent with the financial statement required to be filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to Code Section 43-17-5; Maryland - Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies from the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401; Michigan: MICS-6446; Mississippi - The official registration and financial information of The Nature Conservancy may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. NEW JERSEY: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charity/chardir.htm. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT; New York - Upon request, a copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing to the Charities Bureau at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271; North Carolina - Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State; Pennsylvania - The official registration and financial information of The Nature Conservancy may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement; Virginia - Financial statements are available from State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218; Washington - The notice of solicitation as required by the Charitable Solicitation Act is on file at Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483; West Virginia - Residents may obtain a summary from: Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration with any of these states does not imply endorsement.

photo © Jeff Compton

photo © Joel Rogers

**To learn more about bequests or annuities to benefit the Conservancy, send this form to:
The Nature Conservancy, Brenda Tinchler, 1917 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101,
or call Brenda at (206) 343-4344, ext. 389, or e-mail btinchler@tnc.org.**

Name: _____ Phone (optional): _____
Address: _____ e-mail (optional): _____
City, State, Zip: _____

I would like more information on updating my will or getting started with estate planning.
 I would like to learn more about life income gifts that would pay me lifetime income.
 I would like to designate my legacy gift to Washington.
 I have already named The Nature Conservancy in my estate plan. Please send Legacy Club information.

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