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CONSERVATION CONNECTION

SPRING 2019 | V.27, NO.1

INLAND NORTHWEST LAND CONSERVANCY



ON THE HOME STRETCH:

Breathtaking Forests,
Meadows, Wetlands, and
a Trout Stream Soon-to-be
Protected Forever

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy is delighted to announce its next conservation easement. This incredible property, in Pend Oreille County, is truly unique. The land provides abundant wildlife habitat, a healthy forest, scenic views, and, most importantly, a glorious trout stream. Thanks to the anonymous landowner and the Conservancy, the property will be protected both from clearcutting and development. Given the size, this pristine wilderness could easily have been divided into ten or more residential lots—with roads, utilities, and a potential cellular communications tower, forever impacting the abundant wildlife who call it home.

This acreage serves as a buffer against development for Forest Service land, which borders it for three-quarters of a mile. In keeping with many easements, the owner has retained a small area for a home and outbuildings. As always, the owner has exclusive use and control of access to the property. The land is actually five parcels, but now it cannot be divided. The owner, who treasures the tranquility of the place, has tended the forests, meadows, and streams for over 25 years, and likes to spend time thinning the trees, pruning branches, and walking the property lines—in the winter, cross-country skiing along the roads through the woods.

The property is in the foothills of the Selkirk Mountains, where

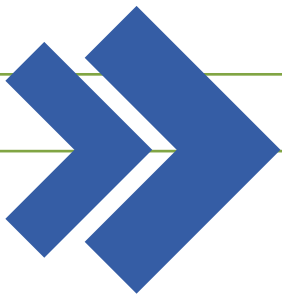
mountain streams emerge to replenish the rivers. Its diverse forest has trees of varied heights and ages. The property also has a large pond, an old orchard, broad alder wetlands, open floodplains, and stream corridors. A substantial cold, clear, shaded creek tumbles out of the mountain as it bisects the property. This is a native trout stream that flows into the Pend Oreille River and in turn into the Columbia River, providing water for much of the western United States.

The landowner eloquently states:



My wish is that this land remain with this definition for all of its historical stakeholders: the dominating tall groves, the creek and riparian zone, the pond and its forested island, the high overlooks, the scattered clearings, the varied stakeholder habitats (including a modicum for man). They all offer quiet, peaceful, secluded solitude for sitting, thinking, communing, retreating, and studying. This land shall be as enduring as the adjacent 1.1 million-acre Colville National Forest. 🌲

INLC could not be more grateful to play a part in protecting this stunning property that is a haven for wildlife and a source of clean water for many. To the anonymous landowner, we heartily say, "Thank you."



KALISPEL NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Kalispel Tribe, or the “People of the Pend Oreille River,” is a truly significant conservation partner, particularly since the tribe’s Natural Resources Department (KNRD) and INLC have similar goals: protecting land and water in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. For the Kalispel, the specific focus is the Pend Oreille River drainage.

According to Deane Osterman (Executive Director of Natural Resources), tribal members need to be able to “engage in the same cultural practices as their ancestors.” Because the Kalispel’s original territory was much larger than it is now, the Natural Resources Department works to acquire and restore ancestral lands to their natural state. They cannot do it alone, but must collaborate, an inherent tribal value, with innumerable partners including federal and state government agencies, small municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

Natural resources are so important to the Kalispel that in 1992 they formed the Natural Resources Department. It has been extremely successful, protecting nearly 5,500 acres (beyond the original reservation) as well as three miles of Pend Oreille River shoreline and many miles of related tributary and confluences, including land on both Goose Creek and the upper west branch of the Priest River, for a grand total of over five miles of critical stream habitat preserved for native fish.

First and foremost, the KNRD is successfully improving habitat for native bull trout and cutthroat trout through not only acquiring wildlife habitat for the cold, clear water these trout need, but also facilitating upstream fish passage and retrofitting the tribe’s fish hatchery to accommodate coldwater species. (See the “Creature Feature: Bull Trout” and the *Spokesman Review* article, <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/feb/20/major-fish-recovery-project-in-ne-washington-and-i/>) KNRD has also collaboratively created the Pend Oreille River Water Trail. A huge victory, in conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is the virtual elimination of the invasive, predatory northern pike in the Pend Oreille River. Outreach activities, led by Mike Lithgow, Information and Outreach Coordinator, include interactions with youth (tribal and otherwise), in-school presentations, and field trips with tribal experts.

INLC is a crucial collaborative partner, with many shared activities and projects over 20 years. As Ray Entz, Director of Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources and past INLC board member, explains, the

two organizations “pass projects back and forth. If somebody is more interested in an easement, and want to retain ownership, then that card gets dealt over to INLC. And if INLC has someone who just wants to sell, then that card gets passed over to me.”

Looking forward, KNRD will continue to work on acquiring, restoring, and protecting land and water. Bull trout recovery is long-term project, as well as developing the education-focused Indian Creek Community Forest. Mike states, “we want little kids touching little conifer needles.” At INLC, we look forward to continuing our wonderful work with the Kalispel Tribe and their Natural Resources Department. 🌲

- (Pictured L-R) **Ray Entz**—Director of Wildlife & Terrestrial Resources, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Mike Lithgow**—Information and Outreach Coordinator, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Dave Schaub**—Executive Director, INLC
- Deane Osterman**—Executive Director of Natural Resources, Kalispel Tribe of Indians





BULL TROUT HAVE ALWAYS been important to Kalispel families, who specialized in harvesting and processing them for their extremely high food value. Like all salmonids, bull trout have a fleshy adipose fin located between the dorsal fin and the slightly forked caudal fin (tail). Their backs and sides are typically olive-green/brown with small light cream to crimson colored spots. The belly is often pale yellow or white. The pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins have a white leading edge and the dorsal fin lacks markings, appearing opaque.

Historically abundant in the Pend Oreille River, adult bull trout would migrate out of Lake Pend Oreille and then swim into tributary streams to spawn, with the progeny eventually returning to the lake. This migration pattern was, however, eliminated with the construction of Albeni Falls Dam in 1952 just upstream of the Idaho-Washington state-line. The abundance of bull trout is currently very low in the Pend Oreille watershed; they are now listed as “threatened” under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Several factors have contributed to their decline in the Pend Oreille River: habitat degradation on the river and within the tributaries; human-made fish passage barriers into tributaries to the Pend Oreille River; non-native fish species introductions and management (eastern brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout); and the construction and operation of three hydroelectric facilities on the main stem of the Pend Oreille River. Since bull trout are extremely sensitive to environmental disturbance, they are an indicator species for environmental change.

Bull trout and the habitat that historically sustained them are just as important to the Kalispel Tribe today as they once were. 🐟

Kalispel Tribe

**RETIREMENT
PLAN ACCOUNT
REQUIRED MINIMUM
DISTRIBUTION**

A WONDERFUL WAY to support INLC is to donate all or part of your retirement account’s “required minimum distribution” (RMD) to the Conservancy. Most IRAs call for RMDs when the owner turns 70½. This amount is typically taxed unless it is given to one or more qualified charities. The contribution needn’t be large for INLC to benefit. Truly, any amount is appreciated.

Wes Hanson has donated part of his RMD to the Conservancy for the past two years. Wes explains, “Doing this helps fund the Conservancy’s essential work and reduces my taxable income. Both the Conservancy and I benefit greatly from this donation.”



To contribute in this way, just let your retirement plan account holder know that you want to donate to INLC, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of Washington in 1991 and registered as a nonprofit charitable organization in Washington and Idaho.

Inland Northwest Land Trust dba Inland NW Land Conservancy

**35 West Main Avenue, Suite 210
Spokane, WA 99201**

.....Tax ID No: 91-1510539

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

CASEY BRAZIL



INLC IS DELIGHTED TO welcome Casey Brazil to the board of directors. A Partner and Director of Brokerage for Kiemle Hagood, he is a perfect fit for the Conservancy’s increasing real estate needs. Among many other professional awards, in 2016 Casey was named a “Rising Star” by Spokane’s Journal of Business.

Since he works with farming families, who typically own forest and farm lands, Casey says, “I bring the perspective of how someone who owns a lot of land might benefit from a conservation easement.” Eager to help grow both INLC’s donor base and the amount of land protected, he is already arranging events to publicize INLC in the northern Idaho community.

Conservation is a natural focus for Casey, a life-long resident of the Pacific Northwest. A graduate of Washington State University, in the Spokane area (where he moved in 2005) he regularly hikes at Liberty Lake Park and Conservation Areas, as well as Mica Peak.

Because Casey cherishes the outdoors, he wants to protect it for future generations and believes volunteering for INLC is the ideal way to do just that. 🐟





35 W. Main Avenue | Suite 210 | Spokane WA, 99201
 Please make a difference and donate today
www.inlandnwland.org | 509-328-2939

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Our Mission: Inland Northwest Land Conservancy connects people to nature by conserving the lands and water on which life depends.

17,838

acres of protected land in our region

35

partner projects

22

miles of protected streams

35

miles of protected shoreline

55

conservation easements



Thank you for partnering with us to achieve these important goals.

Make a Gift Today

We're making great progress in the Rimrock to Riverside project. Your donation will help us connect Palisades Park to Riverside State Park. Please donate at inlandnwland.org/membership

JOIN US!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat March 30, 9:00 AM - Hike/Snowshoe Mica Peak

Sat April 6, 9:00 AM - Rimrock to Riverside Hike, with Jack Nisbet and Tina Wynecoop

Sun April 7, 2:00 PM - Mountain Bike Beacon Hill with Evergreen East

Tue & Wed April 9 & 10 - Evening drawing classes with Wes Hanson

Sat April 20, 9:00 AM - Hike Antoine Peak

Sun April 21, Noon - Hike the South Hill Bluffs

Mon April 22, 9:00 AM - Earth Day Knothead Trail Hike

Please visit our website at inlandnwland.org for information on these and other upcoming events.