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CONSERVATION CONNECTION

WINTER 2018 | V.26, NO.3

INLAND NORTHWEST LAND CONSERVANCY



**OUR
CONSERVATION
WORK IS
EXPANDING**

Careful observers of INLC have probably noticed some new language and direction changes from the organization over the past year. OK, maybe you don't have to be *that* careful an observer to have noticed that the Conservancy is increasing its focus on people in nature. We've added it to our mission (Connecting people to nature...), we've embarked on a high-visibility public land conservation project (Rimrock to Riverside), and we've added a new position to our staff: Community Conservation Program Manager (thrilled to have Todd Dunfield on board!). We've made this move carefully and intentionally, grounded in our belief that one of the most effective ways to grow conservation values is to encourage personal relationships with the natural world.

Rest assured, however, that this move is not being made at the sacrifice of our ongoing success in permanently protecting valuable habitats – forests, wetlands, and grasslands – across our region. In fact, our pace

of permanent land and water conservation is accelerating. This year we are on track to protect over 3500 acres of land in the Inland Northwest including a working forest in Pend Oreille County, a working farm on the Palouse, future restored wetlands to provide safe feeding grounds for tundra and trumpeter swans in the Coeur d'Alene River corridor, forest and grasslands that buffer miles of shoreline along the Spokane River, and yes, lands where people will one day be able to recreate.

We recognize that much of the threat to natural habitats and working lands stems from our collective distancing from the natural world. Our belief is that by providing more opportunities for people to fall in love with nature that we will galvanize the increased protection of it. So rest assured, INLC's increased emphasis on people doesn't come at the expense of our commitment to protecting nature, it comes *because* of it!

Dave Schaub, Executive Director

WHERE TO TAKE IT IN THE COMING YEAR



“Community conservation” has risen in importance and popularity across the nation over the past few years as land trusts have realized the importance of conserving that which has the greatest relevancy to the local community. This fall I was hired to begin this important work in our region. My goal is to expand INLC’s work to include a full calendar of opportunities to get out on the local trails and waterways and to visit the lands that have been conserved over the past three decades.

The paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould spoke to the heart of community conservation when he wrote, “We will not fight to save what we do not love.” Trails are one important vehicle for getting people out and connected with conservation, as is youth programming and other opportunities that bring in new partners and friends.

Community conservation is also an invitation for the community to be heard. We would love to hear more about the places in and around Spokane and the conservation topics that are special to you. It is through hearing from our old friends, new partners, and long standing members that we will learn of the top priorities for our community.

I look forward to sharing more with you about current project areas around Spokane. Each of these three project areas involve different partners but share the same genesis: local neighbors and recreationists approaching INLC for help to conserve these areas located within a few minutes’ drive from downtown Spokane. Our top objectives for the community conservation program in 2019 will be:

- Rimrock to Riverside just west of downtown next to Palisades Park,
- Waikiki Springs in North Spokane along the shores of the Little Spokane River, and
- Beacon Hill greenspace which is much loved by the biking community and currently being considered for development.

Todd Dunfield, Community Conservation Program Manager

The Conservancy has tapped \$1.2million from the Restoration Partnership <https://www.restorationpartnership.org/> to restore and protect hundreds of acres of land along the Coeur d’Alene River between Harrison and Cataldo in Idaho. In the coming year, four landowners will dedicate their lands to conservation and cleanup.

The result will be 500-700 acres of clean, safe feeding habitat every spring for huge flocks of migrating birds, including ducks and tundra swans. Our friends at the US Fish and Wildlife Service spent years identifying the floodplains where a century of Silver Valley mining and flooding had sent toxic sediments downstream. These damaged lands harmed birds that fed in the shallows. But they could be cleaned up and made into safe habitat, without the likelihood that new floods would recontaminate them. Many of these lands are along the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes, which runs from Mullan to Plummer. The Service approached the Conservancy about teaming up to clean up these lands, restore them to lush clean wetlands, and protect them forever from being busted up and developed. The landowners are eager to participate. When asked why, one of them said softly “Because I don’t want any more swans to die on my land.”

Chris DeForest, Conservation Director

It's Great for the SWANS

Tundra Swans photo by Ron Dexter





SACHEEN SPRINGS



When Avista went looking for the most pristine wildlife habitat, wetlands and old growth forest in the Little Spokane River watershed, it found Sacheen Springs and bought it.

And when Avista went looking for an outfit to guarantee the land's permanent protec-

tion, it came to Inland Northwest Land Conservancy.

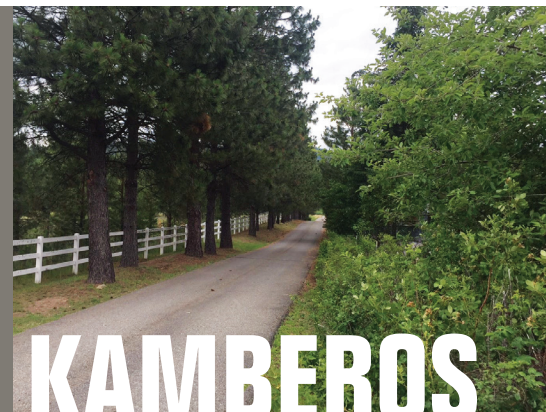
In June 2018, the Conservancy finalized a permanent conservation agreement on 109 acres on the Little Spokane River near Sacheen Lake and Newport Washington. Deep woods contribute cold clear water to the river through undulating wetlands. Half of the property has marshes and meadows; the rest

is dense shadowy forests. Two big islands of old growth cedar, pines, larch and firs center the wetlands and provide sanctuaries for all kinds of birds, mammals, and creatures unseen. This includes butterflies, hummingbirds, and flocks of migratory waterfowl.

— Heaven on earth! —

AT THE TOE OF RATHDRUM MOUNTAIN, a spring bursts forth every year and courses across the Kamberos family land...until it vanishes into the deep gravels of the great Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley aquifer. A year later....we drink that water in Spokane. Today...that source is protected forever.

The original homestead dates to the 1860s, and the Dochios family bought it in 1930. Dr. Mary Dochios Kamberos inherited her 47 acres in 1974. Fifteen years ago Dr. Mary's family contacted the Conservancy to learn about ways to ensure that her land could never become another victim of sprawl. In late 2017, Dr. Mary's Chicago attorney called. Dr. Mary had passed away but in her will, had directed her attorney to create a permanent protection to prohibit any future development and protect the natural habitat of her land. The Conservancy swung into action and, in June 2018, we carried out Dr. Mary's last wishes. Her land on the outskirts of Rathdrum, seen by thousands of motorists a day, shall forever remain a haven for wildlife, a place of beauty, and a source of clean water for future generations.



KAMBEROS



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27 Celebrating YEARS OF CONSERVATION

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

16,772 acres of protected land in our region

35 miles of protected shoreline

22 miles of protected streams

52 conservation easements

35 partner projects



Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday January 22

5:00-7:00PM

Magic Lantern Theater,
25 W. Main Ave., Spokane

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Catherine Henze, Volunteer of the Year
Barbara Morkill, Office Volunteer
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And many,
many more