

WINTER 2019 | Vo. 27, No. 3

InLandNEWS



**SAVING CANYON
MARSH, pg. 1-2**

ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE

Photo by Jon Jonckers

TOP PRIORITY: Saving Canyon Marsh

Right in our back yard, Canyon Marsh, in the lower Coeur d’Alene River Basin, is an important bird and animal wetland haven. Jon Isacoff of Gonzaga University says it is “ecologically unique.”

Canyon Marsh, however, is in grave danger. Bicyclists on the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes have seen dead Tundra Swans on their otherwise idyllic rides because every year, hundreds of swans die along the banks of the Coeur d’Alene River. The marsh, with its mosaic of different water elevations and plant species, is a highly used, exceptional feeding and resting ground for throngs of migrating waterfowl. Yet, the bottom of the river and adjacent floodplains are laden with huge quantities of heavy metals that have been spilled into the river upstream. For a century these wetlands received a toxic kiss of heavy metals—such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, and zinc—from mining in the Silver Valley. Long-necked Tundra Swans feed in deep muds and ingest large amounts of these poisonous metals along with their food.

Other birds and fish and creatures higher on the food chain are also poisoned. As Christy Johnson-Hughes of U.S. Fish and Wildlife explains, the contamination “has a big impact” because not only do people eat the fish, but the contamination occurs “where people live, people play, and people work.”

Fortunately, with your help there is a solution. The Conservancy is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Ducks Unlimited, and additional state and federal agencies to save the swans and restore Canyon Marsh and other injured floodplains.

First, is INLC and willing landowners. Before remediation and restoration can begin, INLC must ensure that the land is forever protected from development. This summer, Doug Walker and Jamie Hass, veterinarians and outdoors enthusiasts, dedicated their 162 acres to wildlife by

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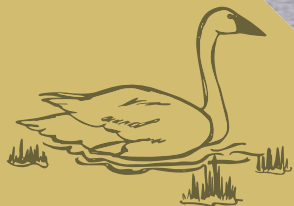
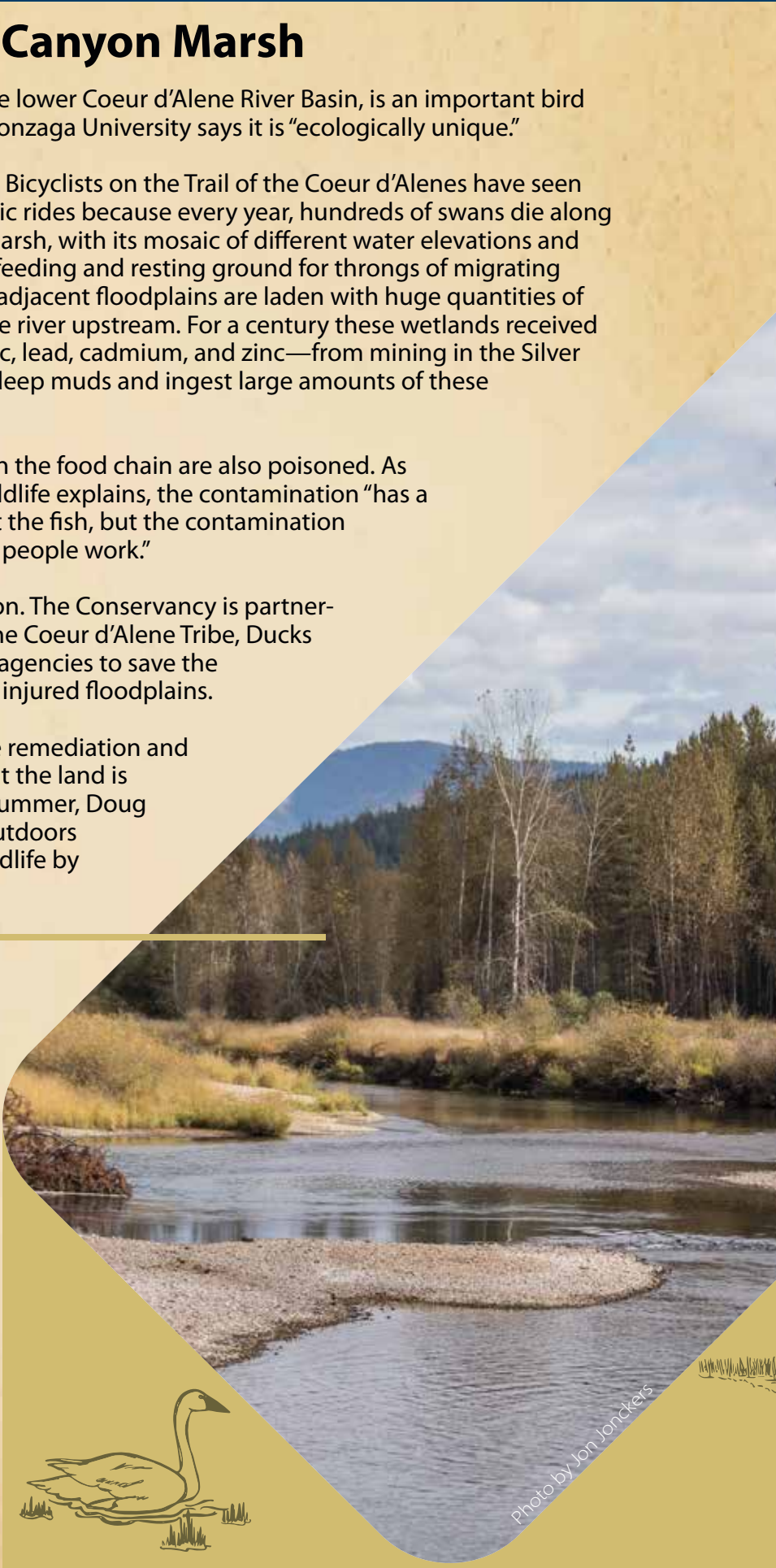


Photo by Jon Jonckers

Saving Canyon Marsh

A nearby property owner, a tough-skinned Idahoan, with tears in his eyes said that he’s participating in this program “cuz I don’t want to see another swan die on my land.”



Photo by Jon Jonckers



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signing a conservation agreement. Doug Walker writes, “I feel like the best future for this land is as restored wetlands for waterfowl and other critters. It is my hope that this project becomes one that protects and enhances what I love about life in north Idaho.”

The conservation and cleanup of this irreplaceable habitat benefits the wildlife who rely for their survival on these lands, and enriches thousands of people. Although not open to the public, you can view Canyon Marsh by biking on the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes; boating on the Coeur d’Alene River; or driving on I-90, Highway 3 near Rose Lake, or, for best viewing, on South River Road in Cataldo, Idaho.

We are on our way to protecting over 1,000 acres in the Coeur d’Alene River corridor, so that much of this area, including Canyon Marsh, can again teem with wildlife, safely feeding in the marshlands. With your help, we can achieve this goal.

by Catherine Henze,
Volunteer



Rimrock to Riverside Palisades Park Expansion

The boy in the photo is learning about the wonders of this amazing public area from geologist Nigel Davies. His curiosity has been ignited. When you visit, yours will be too.



IGNITE YOUR CURIOSITY: Rimrock to Riverside

Take a hike in Palisades Park! Palisades Park is 700 acres and Riverside State Park is 9,000 acres. They are separated by 120 acres of private land. Soon, with your support, we will close the gap and make them all open to the public. You could then walk a full 11 miles on a beautiful nature trail from downtown Spokane to Nine Mile Falls.

You can easily visit the park. Start at the parking lot on the north side of West Greenwood Road. Follow Rimrock Drive, a 16-foot wide, smooth, flat, handicap accessible road that is no longer open to motorized vehicles. Walk north for about three quarters of a mile and you will find a bench, named "Patsy's Place." Continue another quarter of a mile until you come to a second bench. It's another mile to Houston Road (total of two miles) where you reach the end of Palisades Park.

There are breathtaking, panoramic views from Spokane to Idaho, with the city of Spokane and the Spokane River to the east, and Mount Spokane and Five-Mile Prairie to the northeast.

The area is a sanctuary for wildlife. You will encounter an abundance of hawks, woodpeckers, and tiny Pygmy Nuthatches. You may see Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees mob and harass the predatory Cooper's Hawks and Great Horned Owls so they will leave the area.

Now, imagine the glorious day when you can walk another mile through these wonders to the southern edge of Riverside State Park. With your support, and initiated by the dedicated members of Palisades NW, an additional 100-plus acres of private land is slated to become part of Palisades Park, filling the gap between Palisades and Riverside parks.

Although the connecting land, which we call "Rimrock to Riverside," is currently private we look to the day when it will be public. For now, see our website for guided hikes and stay tuned for ways you can be involved and enjoy the land.

FASCINATING PLANTS: Rimrock to Riverside



While you're in Palisades Park, notice some of the area's fascinating plants. Becky Brown of EWU says to look to the rocks to see spike moss, from one of the most ancient lineages of vascular plants (400 million years). But don't trample on it! Tule (hard stem bulrush) is also fascinating, and grows in the pond on the corner of Houston and Grove (currently not part of Palisades Park, and not open to the public). Northwest tribes used this culturally important plant to weave mats for their shelters. Next are the bunchgrasses. A special one, *Danthonia unispicata*, has hairy sheaths that catch the light and look like alternating fuzzy strips. In the water, you'll find bladderwort, a carnivorous plant that catches aquatic organisms with tiny bladders. Its yellow flowers rise above the water. And finally be sure to see the arguably prettiest flower in Palisades Park, Missouri Iris. It has petals with delicate purple veins that serve as guides for pollinators. You can see the Missouri Iris in bloom late May to June, and bladderwort in June. The rest, you can see any time.

by Becky Brown
EWU

LARRY SMALL: Patsy's Place

Dave Schaub and Larry Small were sitting on a comfortable bench made of thick planks of recycled material. From their location at the south end of Palisades Park they looked east toward Greenwood Memorial Terrace and downtown Spokane. As they casually chatted, an elderly man walked up to admire the bench. He asked if the men knew anything about the plaque, "Patsy's Place." After an OK nod from Larry, Dave said, "Well, we actually do." Larry clarified, "Patsy was my wife, and this bench is in her honor."

The bench, and another one just beyond, are tributes to Larry's devotion to his wife, and to the mission of INLC. In fact, the Rimrock to Riverside project is made possible only with Larry's generous contribution. A former board member, he donates to INLC because "the natural beauty of our area is being threatened both by climate change and development in rural areas. This makes the mission of the Conservancy even more important." We could not be more grateful to Larry for his generous support of INLC's mission of preserving habitat, protecting water, and connecting people to nature.



...CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE BY CONSERVING THE LANDS AND WATERS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE

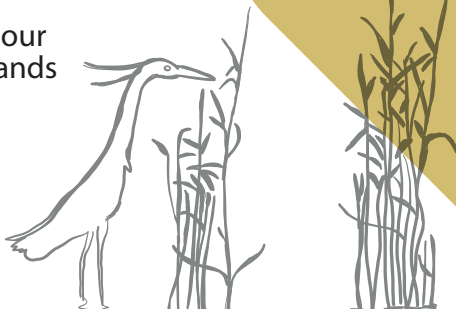
FROM 8 TO 80: We are INLC

One of the unexpected pleasures of my work as executive director has been the connections that I've been able to make with individuals who are moved to invest in our mission of permanently protecting essential lands in the Inland Northwest. When I took this job I worried that fundraising might feel burdensome, or like an intrusion into people's personal, financial decision-making. Instead, I've come to find that there is real "heart work" in helping to connect people with their passions and to help them find ways to make a lasting difference. Fundraising isn't transactional; it is relational. I am strengthened, and our work is buoyed by the confidence, faith and aspirations of our supporters.

Two of these relationships are especially notable. Larry Small and Xander Bost are at opposite ends of their journeys as conservation philanthropists. Larry is in his 80s, and Xander is 8. Larry, a long-time supporter is making significant, legacy gifts. Xander, a newcomer, recently made his first gift with money that he raised at his "Animal Carnival" birthday party. While these differences are notable, their similarities are much more profound. Both have a deep love for the lands, waters and critters of the Inland Northwest; both are convinced that conservation is crucial to our collective well-being; and both have faith that INLC is effective in delivering on this work.

It is my great joy to work with Xander and Larry, and all of you, as we come together to protect our region's essential lands and waters. You fuel my hope by connecting with and honoring these lands through your contributions: large and small, newcomers and lifetime members. Thank you for joining us in this work.

by Dave Schaub,
Executive Director



THE BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT: "Helping Animals Near Me"

"I want to help animals that live near me," Xander, my then almost 8-year-old son shared when I asked him what was important to him as we were planning for his August birthday celebrations. That request led us on quite the adventure in which he ended up helping to raise over \$4,000 for Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. It was a request that also made his mom and dad extremely proud.

You see, Xander shares with me an extreme love of parties and will plan them for months in advance, his favorite party always being the one that celebrates his birthday. He will get into even the smallest details helping me design the decorations, put together invitations, and create favors that his friends will like. This year his theme was "Animal Carnival" as animals have been a huge passion of his over the course of his life, but especially this year. He wondered if there was a way that the party could also help animals, not just celebrate them.

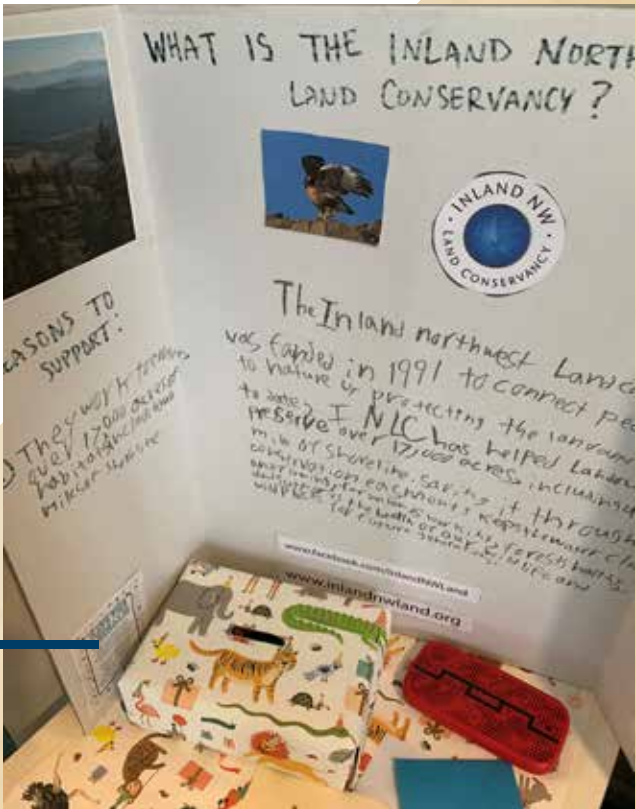
We decided to put a note on each of his invitations sharing his hope to help Inland Northwest Land Conservancy and asking for a donation to INLC in lieu of gifts. Xander had hiked at nearly all of the trails that INLC helped to support and we read further that those efforts helped support the wildlife in the local area.

For his party Xander made a poster explaining, in his own words with help from the INLC website, what INLC does for the area. He also created a donation box where people were able to give as much or as little to anonymously. Xander's guests brought their coin banks, cards decorated with drawn animals, and donations that helped reach \$115. The party was a huge success!

INLC then gave Xander the gift of opportunity. He was asked if he would like to come speak about his decision to donate at their yearly fundraiser dinner. Xander stood up in front of a crowd full of adults and shared about why he decided to donate to INLC. The attendees were then given the opportunity to help match his donation. What started out as a young boy's desire to do what he could for the animals in our local area has now sparked a desire to help even more. Thank you INLC and to all those who helped match Xander's donation.

by Jenni Bost,
Proud Mama of Xander

Xander made a poster explaining, in his own words with help from the INLC website, what INLC does for the area. He also created a donation box where people were able to give.





“ I am so glad to be here, taking action for the people and places that I love. I hope to see you out on the land in the future. Let’s get our hands dirty together. ”

WELCOME: Rose Richardson

Coming to us in October, 2019 as our Conservation and Stewardship Specialist, Rose was previously a stewardship associate for Whatcom Land Trust, where she developed systems for easement monitoring and volunteer engagement. Here is her message:

“My name is Rose and I’m an activist. When I say that, I mean that I enjoy taking action for the things I believe in. Climate Change and human development are to the point where conversation and debate have become outdated, and decisive action is a necessity. This is why I’m thrilled to be serving the mission of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. In the most fundamental way, INLC is taking action against climate change and leading the charge to protect our lands from development. Critical, beautiful lands, at risk of becoming developed or poisoned, are being set aside for habitat, water quality, carbon sequestration, and recreation. If that isn’t action, I don’t know what is.

The next step is to restore those lands to their ultimate health. That’s where I’m happy to come in. A scientific approach, met with some volunteer tenacity, can encourage habitats to return to a more natural state, store an astounding amount of carbon, purify waters, and bring our communities together. Many goals, met by simple action. I am so glad to be here, taking action for the people and places that I love. I hope to see you out on the land in the future. Let’s get our hands dirty together.”

by Rose Richardson,
Conservation and Stewardship Specialist



RIVER TO RIDGES: Trail Map Available

INLC released a brand new trail map of the Spokane area in September meant for those who are new to our community or new to hiking. The new “River to Ridges” trail map is for sale at Mountain Gear, Northwest Outdoors, the REI Co-Op, and the INLC office for \$5.00. Many of the trails are loops and include lands that were conserved with help by the Conservancy. Pick one up today. They make great gifts for friends and family.



You are INLC! Ways to Give

.....
what others have done to give...



Sustaining Membership
make automatic gifts monthly or quarterly directly from your bank account



Gifts

- Name INLC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, or 401(k)
- Stock
- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your 401(k) or IRA
- Land for conservation or sale
- Include INLC in your will



Volunteer
INLC has many opportunities throughout the year to volunteer.

This important work needs you. If any of these giving methods interest you, please contact Jolene at 509-328-2939 or juddman@inlandnwland.org. Thank you!



ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

INLC’s newest initiative is the Enhanced Stewardship program, which can be broken down into three fundamental parts: building landscape knowledge, climate action planning, and serving our community.

Analyzing the changes to the landscape over time will help us strategize future protection and restoration. This will involve working with local experts and partners to get a better picture of our landscape. It will also involve support from local citizen scientists to monitor lands closely for important climate indicators.

By definition, Climate Action is a strategic effort to reduce emissions, sequester carbon, protect and restore resilient landscapes, and promote careful resource use through education. We aim to be a leader within our Inland Northwest community in Climate Action, using specialized restoration tactics, calculated carbon capture, and carefully prioritizing our protection efforts. And as the climate changes, our methods will too, to ensure that our Climate Action plans are truly effective.

The third component may be the most important: serving our community. We believe that getting people outside in the fresh air, among the trees, and on the water is critical for building

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TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!

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community and connectivity, so we’re creating more opportunities to do so! We’re going to boost the number of hikes, work parties, citizen science trips, Field Fridays, and implement a land steward program. INLC wants to ensure that the outdoors is accessible to everyone and that there are lots of opportunities to do good work for the land.

Protecting critical habitats from development is a big, first step in the right direction! But there is so much more we can do to enhance those lands, combat climate change, and serve our community. Together, we can make great things happen!

by Rose Richardson,
Conservation and Stewardship Specialist

- Three fundamental parts to the Enhanced Stewardship Programs:
- Building landscape knowledge
 - Climate action planning
 - Serving our community





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For more information visit our website at www.inlandnwland.org or visit us on Facebook at [InlandNWLand](https://www.facebook.com/InlandNWLand).

Holiday OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
6:00-8:00 PM

Wolff Auditorium at Jepson
Gonzaga University

PLEASE JOIN US
CASUAL EVENING
LIGHT FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
NEW LOCATION!

Help celebrate the successes
of the past year and learn about what's coming for 2020.

You can also meet our newest staff member, Rose Richardson.

There is no charge to attend, but please register at
<http://bit.ly/INLCHoliday> so we know how many people to expect.

Any questions or to RSVP contact:
Jolene Uddman: 509-328-2939 | juddman@inlandnwland.org