FALL 2022 | Vol. 32, No. 2

InLandNEWS

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Taste of the West Page 4

YOUR impact in 2022 inside

From the Director's Desk

I've been thinking a lot about "legacy" over the past few months. Not the grandiose kind, but rather the ordinary kind. The kind we all help to shape. "What do we want our efforts to add up to? What do we want to leave to those who come next?" As a community that cherishes nature and is experiencing accelerating growth, we are truly in the middle of a watershed moment of collectively shaping the legacy we will be leaving to those who come next.

The Conservancy has recently lost two important friends: former board president Carl Griffin, and one of our founders and longtime champions, Doug Pineo. These two shared a conservation commitment driven, in part, by their love of upland birds. Both unabashedly fought for habitat protection. And they share a legacy of having pushed, strengthened, and celebrated our work of regional land conservation.

What kind of legacy do you want to create?

As fall returns with its golden light, lengthening shadows, and turning leaves, I invite you to take some time to reflect on this question of what kind of legacy you want to leave. As a friend and supporter of the Conservancy, you are part of an organization that is deepening our community's love of nature by conserving, caring for, and connecting with lands and waters essential to life in the Inland Northwest. There is much work to do in pursuit of our vision of interconnected natural habitats supporting thriving populations of native plants and animals, respected, and enjoyed by all who call this region home. What a legacy to leave the generations to come.

A legacy of love for wild things is one of the best gifts we can leave for coming generations.



CARE FOR

5 plant species found and identified during Bio Blitz events

In this issue of our newsletter, we share some of the impacts that your generosity helped to achieve over the past year. These are benchmarks of the legacy that we are co-creating, and are indicators that, with a growing community of support we will continue to protect the best of the Inland Northwest for years to come.

Thank you! Dave Schaub, Executive Director

Would you like to learn more about including the protection of local lands and waters in your estate plan? Call or email Dave at dschaub@inlandnwland.org or (509) 328-2939



PHOTO CREDIT: Wayne Jordan



Welcome Home!

By Jon Jonckers - https://jonjonckersphotography.format.com

For the first time in over a century, anadromous salmon swam in the Little Spokane River and Hangman Creek. Thanks to the incredible efforts and investments from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) and Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC), salmon reintroduction shone a spotlight on myriad new opportunities and potential for protected lands and waters in the Inland Northwest.

Spokane Tribal Fisheries began water quality projects back in 1998.

Completed in 1910, Little Falls Dam on the Spokane River was a marvel for its time. Sadly, it also marked the end for salmon in the upper Spokane River watershed, including all of Coeur d'Alene Lake, as well as the Little Spokane River and Latah Creek. After a hundred years of the environmental impact of the loss of this keystone species, many are fighting to bring them back. Salmon reintroduction has been a complex issue for decades. But new collaborations and targeted projects are changing the way people think about salmon and other wildlife in the region.

Spokane Tribal Fisheries began water quality projects back in 1998. By partnering with the Kalispel, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene and Colville Tribes, and Washington

Upper Columbia United Tribes are working in phases to restore fish passage.

Department of Fish and Wildlife, they set ambitious goals aimed at protecting and improving water quality and fisheries. Since 2001, the Water & Fish Program combined its efforts with the Bonneville Power Administration and the EPA. Some projects are clinical habitat assessments. Some are water samples in remote regions. Others include surveying miles of each stream for fish barriers or limiting factors. Altogether, these projects created a wealth of vital information.

These projects revealed just how connected ALL of the conservation projects are with each other. Armed with this research, UCUT has taken a collaborative, and science-based approach to promoting fish, water, wildlife, and diverse habitat. They manage nearly two million acres of reservation land and influence at least 14 million acres of aboriginal territories, 500 miles of waterways, 40 interior lakes, and 30 dams and reservoirs. UCUT is working in phases to restore fish passage. They have already completed Phase 1. The next phase includes testing and feasibility studies.

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These recently released, tagged salmon were near their breeding cycle (the final stage in a salmon's life). The feasibility study focused on spawning. Sadly, none of them could return to the sea. However, tribal biologists reported that nine fish attempted to spawn. Of those nine, female fish were guarding two redds, indicating they had laid eggs in those locations. As the Conservancy and other conservationminded organizations, policy-makers, and community members support UCUT's efforts, we look forward to a day when the river is once again teeming with healthy native fish, and tribes can celebrate once more the spirit of the salmon that sustained them for time immemorial.





people participated in the "Spokane happy dance" after Spokane Tribal Fisheries released 51 Chinook salmon in the Little Spokane River

Huckleberry Mule

Rose Richardson, Stewardship Director

 2oz vodka (Huckleberry vodka or huckleberry syrup boosts the flavor)
 12 Doug fir needles, roughed up (instead of lime)
 Fresh (or frozen) huckleberries, as desired
 Ginger beer to the top
 Fresh mint (Catmint, foraged from almost anywhere) to garnish

This fresh take on a classic beverage maximizes flavors unique to the Inland Northwest. Give it a try at your next campfire party or family get-together this winter!





▲ Fall colors on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. The Conservancy is working to protect land along the Coeur d'Alene River, allowing restoration and clean-up of historic mining wastes that have long polluted these beautiful waters.

Lake Pend Oreille, with the Green Monarch Mountains in the backdrop, contributes millions of gallons of water to the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer every day.

On Aquifer Time

By Mitchell Clark

Most of us spend the majority of our time thinking about the near future; making plans for the next few hours, days, and weeks, or worrying about things that'll be happening a few months from now. There's nothing wrong with this, of course -- our grand designs for our lives would be very hard to achieve if we were constantly forgetting to make dinner or run errands -- but it does mean that when we try to think about what kind of legacy we want to leave, we're a little out of practice.

Thankfully, we can turn to nature as inspiration; there are plenty of processes where a single cycle takes place over a timespan that's longer than all but the most forwardthinking people are capable of planning for. Consider, for example, the water in the Inland Northwest. A large part of our regional identity is based on it, and how it flows through rivers, streams, and tributaries. Water powers our cities, provides habitats for animals and opportunities for recreation, and is woven into the very fabric of our infrastructure. The waterways loom large in our cultures as well. One of Spokane's nicknames is "River City," and the tribe the area's named after got most of their food from waterways throughout the region.

One of the greatest sources of water in the region is the Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Covering **370 square miles**, it supplies the water we use for drinking, agricultural, and industrial needs. In addition, the aquifer provides the Spokane River with hundreds of millions of gallons of water each day. In return, the river acts as the aquifer's largest source of recharge water when aquifer levels drop, giving back water that will flow through the path of cobbles, gravel, and boulders that have been deposited and shaped over an almost unimaginable timespan – millions and millions of years.

The decisions we make about managing our water today will have effects that reach far into the future.

Water running through the aquifer is on its own long journey. It can flow up to 50 or 60 feet per day, a pace that makes it one of the fastest in the US. But when considered from a human perspective, it can seem almost glacial; if you poured a cup of water into Lake Pend Oreille or Hayden Lake, it would take nearly a decade before bubbling up, cold and crystal clear, at Waikiki Springs. The decisions we make about how to manage our water here in the Inland Northwest today will have effects that reach far into the future.

This is part of what makes your support of conservation so special. It's a rare opportunity for us to make an impact that will last far into the future, bringing life and resilience to our community, flowing beneath our wilderness, forests, meadows, and neighborhoods-like our precious aquifer.

CONSERVE

39 new acres of wetland protected

Transitions: An Excerpt from Windblown I

By Heidi Lasher

High in the Bitterroots, the St. Joe River spans the width of a long stride, then a hop, now a fallen Douglas Fir. In summer, a boy stands waist-deep in the lower river, holding a fly rod high in the air. Yellow filament makes a cursive figure-eight, landing soft hackle on the surface, a tasty morsel hiding a tiny brass hook. Below him, the river pools into a giant lake. Here the mountains kneel and basalt that once spilled from earth's molten center pokes skyward.

I am standing on one such rock, between highland and lowland, larch forests and desert scrub, batholith, and sand. To the west, flood-exposed rock and rubble mark a scar that rips diagonally across the middle of Washington State, still healing after ten thousand years. To the south, fir gives way to pine, pine to grass. Cooled basalt lies under ten feet of sandy loam, topped with eight inches of friable dark-brown dust known as loess. Loam and loess, foam and froth, a ghost ocean, undulating in lentil and wheat, remembering waves and beaches from some distant epoch.

The expansive view reminds me of the boy, how he's grown. Earth churns in perpetual motion, the landscape shifts, lifts, and blows away. We live in a stop-motion frame in the earth's story. Our whole life, a transition from one form to another.



"Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes" by Amalia Fisch from Windblown I

About Writing the Land: Windblown I

This anthology is a collection of conserved lands from across the North American continent. Each of the 11 chapters contains poems, photos, and information about actual conserved properties from a land conservation organization. Every page celebrates the beauty and value of lands of all kinds including forests, islands, prairies, farms, ranches, parks, and waterways. Explore lands you've not yet seen, or re-explore familiar territory through art. Either way, we hope you are inspired.

WRITING THE LAND: WINDBLOWN I

> EDITED BY LIS MCLOUGHLIN, PHD FOREWORD BY STEPHEN C. TROMBULAK, PHD

This holiday season, give the gift of inspiration and the promise of land protected forever with this beautiful anthology that celebrates the place you love!



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Available at: InlandNWLand.org



Bird's Eye View: Through time and space

By Caroline Woodwell

Imagine, for a moment, that you are a Mallard duck.

You are flying from Spokane toward Coeur d'Alene. Mallards like you fly between 200 and 4,000 feet above the ground. With eyes on either side of your head, you can see 340 degrees: above, below, behind, and in front. Today, stretching out in front of you is the Spokane River, shimmering in the sun as it flows west. This was a landscape etched more than 13,000 years ago when Glacial Lake Missoula burst through a 2,000-foot-high ice dam on the Clark Fork, releasing a torrent of water that scoured a system of canyons, channels, hummocks and small lakes for hundreds of miles to the west. The land that emerged from those floods, laced with streams, potholes, and lakes, and teeming with insects, larvae, flies, seeds, stems, and roots of pond plant life, was good for ducks, other waterfowl, and migrating birds like you!

Just over one hundred years ago, white settlers began to clear forests and drain wetlands for agriculture, build railroads and mine the nearby hills, turning Spokane and Coeur d'Alene into a commercial hub. What did that do to your habitat?

We can see a great example at Saltese Lake, situated between Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake, in the shadow of Mica Peak. In 1890 farmers drained this lake and wetland to grow hay. That means that fifty years ago, your ancestor ducks would have seen fields of stubble and herds of cattle as they flew across the valley from the Spokane River.

In 2019, however, Spokane County and a group of conservation organizations (including the Conservancy), began to acquire the hayfields. They refilled the lake and restored the wetland. On your flight today, you turn right with the river and fly across the valley landing, as your ancestors did, on Saltese Lake. You find yourself among many birds, both waterfowl and upland species, all part of an annual migration of tens of thousands of birds who stop at the new (old) lake. You are looking at small willows, cottonwoods, and native grasses. You sit in the midst of thousands of acres of protected land from Liberty Lake to Mica Peak and the Dishman Hills.

The familiar cacophony of birds around you on this wetland wasn't available to your predecessors 100, 50, or even just five years ago. But it's available now. Now this protected and restored land is here for you, for generations of Mallards who will follow you, and to all the other species of migrating birds moving across the landscape of the Inland Northwest.

PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Roth

Young goslings will face a lifetime of navigating **A** changing environments as they migrate each year.

PHOTO CREDIT: Tim O'Brien

A Great Blue Heron at Saltese Flats. 🔺



In the summer of 2022, your Conservancy completed an agreement on the Naccarato property, protecting it forever from development and adding an additional 53 acres of protected land in the Saltese complex.

YOUR impact in the 2021-22 fiscal year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022





Use of Funds

Stewardship and Engagement 29%

Operations 20%



Use of Funds: \$1,062,281 80% of funds went back to the land, protecting and caring for special places you love.

Land Protection 51%



CONSERVE

- 25,583: Feet of new protected shoreline
- 890: New acres of protected land
- **119:** Acres transferred to public ownership for the enjoyment of our community forever

READ MORE ABOUT OUR LAND PROTECTION WORK ON PAGE 14

CARE FOR

- **7,010:** Hours of volunteer work to restore and protect local lands and waters • **\$232,000:** Value of volunteer time spent in our protected places
 - **5252,000:** value of volunteer time spent in our prot
 - 5,500: Pounds of garbage removed

MEET THREE GENERATIONS OF CONSERVANCY VOLUNTEERS ON PAGE 11

CONNECT

- 4: Benches installed at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve
- •8-82: Age range of volunteers who worked with us this year
- 28,000: Visitors to Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve

LOCAL TRIBES WORK TO BRING SALMON HOME PAGE 3



Legacy Giving: Your "North Star"

By Jennifer J. Hicks

Just as the North Star, Polaris guided early sailors as they navigated the oceans, following your personal "North Star" means that you are living in alignment with your values.

We each have values relative to every aspect of our lives, including charitable giving. When we choose to give to a cause that matters to us it means that we are expressing our values through our generosity.

Following your personal "North Star" means that you are living in alignment with your values.

By supporting the work of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, we are conveying love for the natural environment. Our commitment to preserving the clean air, water, and scenic beauty of our region means we value the natural world and know of its incredible importance in our lives.

> Jennifer J. Hicks, CAP[®] CFRE, Principal, Glenrose Philanthropy Advisors, is based in Spokane Washington. She helps people find their 'North Star' and clarify the key values that will inform their charitable giving and legacy creation.

When we give thoughtfully and strategically to causes and charities that are meaningful to us, we can create a deeper purpose in our lives. This can naturally lead to forming a beautiful legacy that reflects our inmost values. Building a legacy does not come by accident. It takes reflection, time, sacrifice, and effort, and it is something that should start as early as possible.

If these values mirror your own, reach out to us about building your legacy through a planned gift to the Conservancy. dschaub@inlandnwland.org or (509) 328-2939



INLC's values:



Love of Nature: Our work is driven by a deep love of the natural world and its processes.

Perpetuity: We steward our lands and resources so that our work outlives us.



Discernment: We make choices based in science that maximize our enduring conservation impact.



Collaboration: We build relationships and deliver results.



The Truscott Model: "Not good for the rocking chair"

By Kasey Bader

Based on the six degrees of separation, if you live in Spokane there is a good chance you know someone familiar with a house Cliff Truscott had a hand in building or you attended a Spokane Public School during his time as a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Cliff retired in 1993 after 30 years in the school system, but that doesn't mean he's slowed down. In fact, the first time I spoke to him, the 82-year-old was in the middle of putting siding on a house and asked if I could call back in a few hours. I would later learn the house belongs to his son and is the 35th home he's built since '67. The stats are impressive, but Cliff is matter-of-fact and humble about his record of accomplishments. "I like to work. I'm a great believer in the philosophy of, 'use it or lose it," he explained, "I'm not good for the rocking chair."

"I'm a great believer in the philosophy of, 'use it or lose it." -Cliff Truscott

Cliff joined Community Conservation Manager Todd Dunfield on a trail building project in spring of 2022 and fell in love with the work. When he came back, he brought help.

Cliff's daughter, Janeen, shares her father's penchant for hard work so when she learned about the opportunity to build new trails with the Conservancy, it turned into a family affair. Cliff alongside Janeen and her sons, Eric and Steven, showed up at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve ready to move rock and break ground. As kids, Eric and Steven helped their grandfather at his Christmas tree farm during



Pictured left to right: Eric, Steven and Janeen Leachman, and Cliff Truscott ready for work at Waikiki Springs last April.

the holiday season but haven't had many recent opportunities to work with him until trail building. Eric continues to help the Conservancy at Waikiki Springs, enjoying the steady and cathartic nature of building trails, and while he mirrors his grandfather's work ethic, he also shares an interest in getting to know the other volunteers. "Everyone is from different walks of life and my grandpa always takes the time to share stories and learn new tidbits about someone's background. I think



Cliff Truscott stands atop a hill in Waikiki Springs during a springtime trail-building event.

that's because he allows people to be themselves and they're comfortable around him. It's fun to listen to." That seems to be part of the secret sauce for Cliff's tireless ways- Find what brings you joy and stay busy doing it, but slow down enough to be present and connect with others along the way.

Every pursuit keeps him busy, but if the project includes time spent with family and benefits those around him, Cliff is all the happier for it. That common thread weaves its way through my conversations with the family. "He invests in the people around him. He believes taking an interest in others and giving back leads to a better community, and he strives to do that

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through his actions," Eric shared. "Inevitably any time someone learns I'm his grandson they dive right into a story about a time he helped them out and enriched their lives or did something to make them happy." Whether Cliff is shoveling snow off a driveway for a neighbor, completing another house for a family to call home, or making progress on the Waikiki Springs trail system, it's with the intention of building a stronger community. Perhaps that drive and motivation are influenced by his memories of growing up in Spokane himself. "I'd like to see something left here so future generations can have the same thing I did growing up with the Dishman area as my playground," he reflects. "I hope kids living here today will get that same experience."

Since last June, 70 volunteers including Cliff and his family, have spent over 1,300 hours building the trails at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve. These trails are used daily for hiking, biking, birding, and exploring. I imagine

Find what brings you joy and stay busy doing it, but slow down enough to be present and connect with others along the way.

Cliff, along with the other volunteers, would agree it's worth putting in the steadfast work to care for natural spaces like Waikiki Springs so friends and family can enjoy them, forever. If there is a formula to follow when doing the work that guarantees an earnest effort and commitment to the community will pay off for generations, the Truscott Model seems like a great place to start. Who knows, you may find yourself working right next to Cliff and can pick up some words of wisdom along the way.

CONNECT 8-82 age range of volunteers who worked with us this year

We are growing! Welcome, Steven Eddington

A native of Bothell, Washington, Steven Eddington joins the Conservancy as Stewardship Assistant because of a lifelong love affair with nature that began on the banks of North Creek. Exploring the creek and getting to know all the plants, animals, and bugs that lived there taught Steven that he wanted to protect places like the Creek so others could fall in love with nature too. An avid gardener, Steven spends most of his time cultivating 25 different species of fruits and vegetables in only 900 square feet, yielding food for him—and friends and family—for most of the year. Steven looks forward to working with the Conservancy team to care for protected lands and waters far into the future.





Steven Eddington at Lake Louise in Banff National Park.



Sing it out!

Local artist and musician Olivia Brownlee shares her love of our shared home through song in this piece, written just for Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. Listen to it on our YouTube channel or visit Olivia's Patreon: Patreon.com/obrownlee

Trickle Treacle - Ode to Wilderness



-From "This Is Where You Live - Songs Inspired In Spokane, 2022"

for more music, visit oliviabrownlee.com for more nature, visit outdoors

A Forever Farm

By Carol Corbin

In 1948, a war veteran and his wife loaded all their possessions and a newborn daughter in a pickup truck and left North Dakota for Seattle. Life as the manager of a grain elevator in the harsh climate of the great plains wasn't the future they wanted for themselves or their children. But when they woke up in Coeur d'Alene, ID on one of their stopovers, Frank and Gloria Andrews knew they'd found their forever home.

They purchased land at the east end of Fernan Lake with a two-story log house, a shop, and a couple of other outbuildings and began to build their life. Quickly learning that the hot summers and lack of irrigation meant that farming wasn't viable, they began raising cattle, and then in the 1960s, trees. Their daughter Cathy remembers helping her father as he tended the property and bottle-fed calves and riding her pony all over the hillside. She spent hours fishing and the whole family pitched in to work the garden that provided much of their food.

In the mid-90s, after their children had grown up, moved away, and had families of their own, Frank and Gloria attended an event hosted by Wes Hanson. A longtime supporter and "conservation angel" of Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, Wes had recently put a conservation agreement on his land and eagerly shared his story of his love of the land and his dedication to protecting it for the future. Frank passed away in 1997 and although Gloria loved and tenderly cared for the house, the tree farm was too much for her to manage. Nevertheless, she stayed in the family home until she was 92.

Gloria and her children decided that putting the land into conservation was what their husband and father would have wanted. In order to keep the couple's savings intact for Gloria's use as long as she needed it, the family decided the conservation agreement would go into place upon her passing. They reached out to Inland Northwest Land Conservancy to make initial plans for the conservation agreement, and when Gloria passed away in April of 2021, the agreement became a reality. Conservancy Senior Conservationist Chris DeForest worked with the Andrews heirs and an anonymous donor who generously utilized a Qualified Charitable Distribution* (see page 15) to cover the stewardship costs associated with the legal agreement.

Cathy believes that connection to the land is something that is painfully absent in the experience of most people in the US and that protecting places like her childhood home from becoming yet another subdivision will give other families a chance to experience the simple, nature-connected life she had as a child. With the legal agreement in place, everything was filed for the sale of the land in June of 2022. The new owners are moving to Idaho from out of state and are eager to learn about the land's





history and how they can care for it as lovingly as the Andrews have for decades. "I hope they will be blessed by being here as much as we have," Cathy says as she speaks of the grief of letting go, tempered with the comfort that the forests, streams, and meadows will be protected by the Conservancy forever.

*Qualified Charitable Distribution:

People over 70 1/2 years of age are allowed to make up to \$100,000 in charitable donations through an IRA, each year, to a tax-exempt charity. Talk to your tax attorney about maximizing your charitable impact through your appreciated assets this year.



A moody view of a meandering creek at the Andrews property, protected forever by your Conservancy.





CONSERVE

new protected places—2 in Spokane County, 2 in Kootenai County, and 1 in Stevens County

This poem about the Andrews' farm, was written by a friend and neighbor and is shared with the permission of her surviving spouse.

Frank's Valley

These are the sights and sounds of Frank's Valley-Memories and echoes of children's laughter, the chattering of squirrels in the old barn's rafters. Room and board for a wayward bird named Pidge, the big truck working high on the East ridge. Dogs like Bandit, Sam and Tromp who found a fine home, a place for the turkey and quail to roam. Eagle, Raven and Osprey soaring in flight, the old sawmill working late into the night. The old green Jeep chugging up the hill, the chirping of chickadees and wrens are heard still. From high in the air above moss-covered rock, soars the mighty hunter, the Red-tailed hawk. Black bear visiting the old apple tree, and horses in the pasture running free. Hoot owls conversing from high in the pines, a place where the sun always manages to shine. A very safe refuge for elk and deer, the wild yellow rose will always grow here. Hundreds of ladybugs and handfuls of oak, the sounds of the frogs in the Spring when they croak. Where the whispering coo-coo of the Mourning Dove, assures us this place will always be filled with Love. Fog hanging over Fernan Lake seen from afar, -Frank's Valley-

Forever the home of October Glory and the Shooting Star *With love, Simone, Fall 1997*

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Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

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For more information visit our website at **www.inlandnwland.org** or follow us on **Facebook** at **InlandNWLand.**

You're invited! Common Ground 2022

Join us for Common Ground on **Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m.** This celebration of local land protection will feature diverse voices telling the stories of conservation from the last year. You will also see the impact of your involvement in the future of our work. **You make a difference**, and this evening will show you how!

> Light appetizers and beverages will be served at this free event. Please register to save your spot. InlandNWLand.org/Common-Ground



YOUR SUPPORT IN THE LAST YEAR MEANS:

7,010 hours of volunteer time







