

SPRING 2022 | Vol. 31, No. 1

InLandNEWS



Inside: Nature's resilient relationships

PHOTO CREDIT: Aaron Theisen

Letter from the Executive Director

The resilient web we weave...

There's a lot of talk these days about "resilience." Climate resilience. Community resilience. Personal resilience. Increasingly we point to the ways in which our systems are thriving or crumbling as indicators of resilience.

At this point, it's starting to feel clichéd to point out the ways in which the last couple of years have been stressful. Between the pandemic, our polarized politics, runaway real estate prices, ongoing injustices, supply-chain issues, and now a war in Europe (not to mention ongoing, unchecked climate change, species extinctions, and plastics!), our collective strain seems to be reaching new levels of absurdity.

We continue to build relationships and identify the connections that strengthen our webs of resilience.

So, how do we know whether we are resilient enough? Well, I guess, the truth is we don't. So instead, we look for signs of strength, indicators of flexibility, the ways in which we demonstrate the "capacity to adapt or transform in the face of change." (Folke, 2016) We continue to build relationships and identify the connections that strengthen our webs of resilience.

Here at the Conservancy, we are developing new tools and practices to help focus our land protection work on the most resilient lands in our region – those places that will provide vital habitat long into the future, and the special places that keep our families and loved ones happy and healthy. This is in pursuit of our vision of interconnected natural habitats throughout our region – a web of natural lands supporting thriving populations of native plants and animals. We also are striving for continued relationship-building with all of you – our network of supporters,

partners, and conservation advocates – a web of people who respect and enjoy these natural lands. If the resilience of a system can be measured by a count of relationships, we are on the right track. As a member of our "web of resilience," you are linked to permanent conservation relationships with 66 private landowners with another 14 in the works for the coming year. You are tied to 54 volunteer land stewards who help serve as additional eyes, ears, and advocates out on public conservation lands. And you are connected to thousands of community members who generously contribute to the conservation of regional lands.

If your resilience is bolstered by your direct connection with natural lands and the people who care for them, you've come to the right organization. Thank you for being part of our web of connections. Certainly, we are more resilient together than we are apart. ■

-Sincerely, Dave Schaub



PHOTO CREDIT: Nick James



Return

By Caroline Woodwell, Conservancy Volunteer

Humans get to choose. We are born, we're raised, and when we go out into the world, we make a home where there's a job, a spouse, recreational opportunities, natural beauty. Whether we recognize it or not, most of us have had something to say about where we are going to live and where we are likely to die.

Not so for the mighty salmon.

The course of life for salmon, both female and male, is governed by a powerful instinct; the drive to return to its place of birth to spawn the next generation of salmon. That cycle, established over the six million years since salmon appeared on Earth, is at the heart of the ecological processes that have defined the rivers and streams, the patterns of wildlife, and patterns of human settlement in the Inland Northwest over generations.

Salmon are important culturally and ecologically in large part because they are anadromous: born in freshwater, they grow to maturity in saltwater, then return to freshwater to spawn and die. This puts them in the tributaries, streams, rivers, and ocean of the Pacific Northwest. It means that, at every stage of their lives, they are easily available to humans. It also means they are an integral part of the ecological processes of the region.

Ecological significance

Salmon increase the ecological richness of streams and tributaries by carrying nitrogen from one place to another. Plants require nitrogen to grow. In fact, nitrogen is one of the limiting factors for plant growth. Limited nitrogen means limited plant growth, and plants are the sole source of photosynthesis, which turns energy from the sun into fuel for life on Earth. No nitrogen? No plants, no photosynthesis, no life.

Spokane Riverkeeper Jerry White says when salmon leave saltwater and go upriver to spawn and die, their tissue is full of ocean nitrogen. When they die, that nitrogen is released into the soil where it acts as a fertilizer for green plants.

"Nitrogen drives the ecosystem," he says. When salmon bring nitrogen, "you see a more vibrant riparian vegetation, you see insects that thrive, macroinvertebrates, and that in turn feeds other small fish including the progeny of the fish that spawned."

Salmon are considered by many to be a keystone species in the Pacific Northwest. Their absence in the upper reaches of the Columbia River Basin has changed the distribution of other species, including birds such as eagles and kingfishers, and mammals such as otters.

Many have speculated, Mr. White says, that damming the North Fork of the Clearwater ended one of the last sources of salmon for the remnant grizzly bear population in that part of Montana and Idaho.

Cultural significance

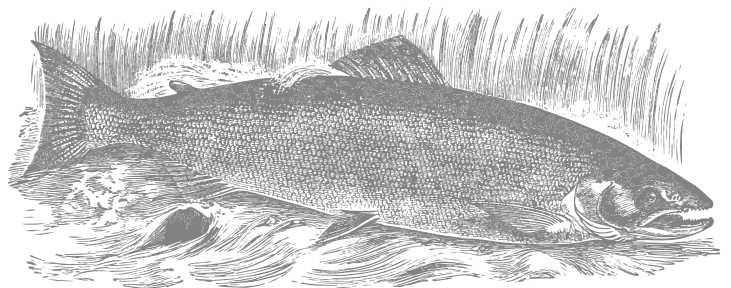
Last summer, your Conservancy joined the Spokane Tribe of Indians in a release of 50 chinook salmon into the Little Spokane River near the Waikiki Spring Trailhead. The project is part of a larger salmon reintroduction project undertaken by the Upper Columbia United Tribes, who are working to reintroduce salmon to the streams and tributaries of the Upper Columbia Basin.

They are not advocating for dam removal, says Brent Nichols, Division Director at Spokane Tribal Fisheries. Instead, they are "recreating what was once here, within the given parameters we have, under operational constraints from the hydropower system." That means capturing salmon as they begin their journey to fresh water, trucking them around the dams, and setting them free in the tributaries where they will spawn and die. Tagging the young salmon before those fish head downriver allows scientists to track how many make it downriver and back up.

Is it possible to recreate the salmon fishery by working around the dams? They don't know yet what the end result will be, Mr. Nichols said. But, "We want healthy, sustainable, harvestable populations of salmon for this area."

What awaits the mighty salmon?

In the end, it's not just the ecological function filled by salmon that matters, it's the cultural and spiritual role as well. Back in August when the Conservancy joined the Spokane Tribe near Waikiki Springs for a salmon release, Spokane Tribal Councilwoman Monica Tonasket noted the spiritual importance. "Salmon, for us, it's kind of a spiritual experience," she said. "Those salmon have a spirit." ■



For the full article about how the lives of salmon and Inland Northwest ecosystems are inextricably intertwined, visit our blog at InlandNWLand.org/News



PHOTO CREDIT: Ben Tobin

Beulah Preserve: To Love and to Care For

By Kasey Bader, Donor Relations Specialist

Every spring in a ravine by the house, a coyote den comes to life with a litter of scrappy pups ready to play and explore. The yard, once a barley field, is lively again with birds where the carefully planted bushes took root, and coneflowers, flax, arnica, and penstemon now blanket the ground. The wildflower seeds were scattered by hand as an invitation in hopes the birds would feel welcomed and safe to return. A ponderosa pine down the hill, fondly known as Grandfather Tree, looks out over the family land. This land is full of rich, vibrant life, home to Linda, Tom, and all the wild things they welcome to call it home too. This haven is Beulah Preserve.

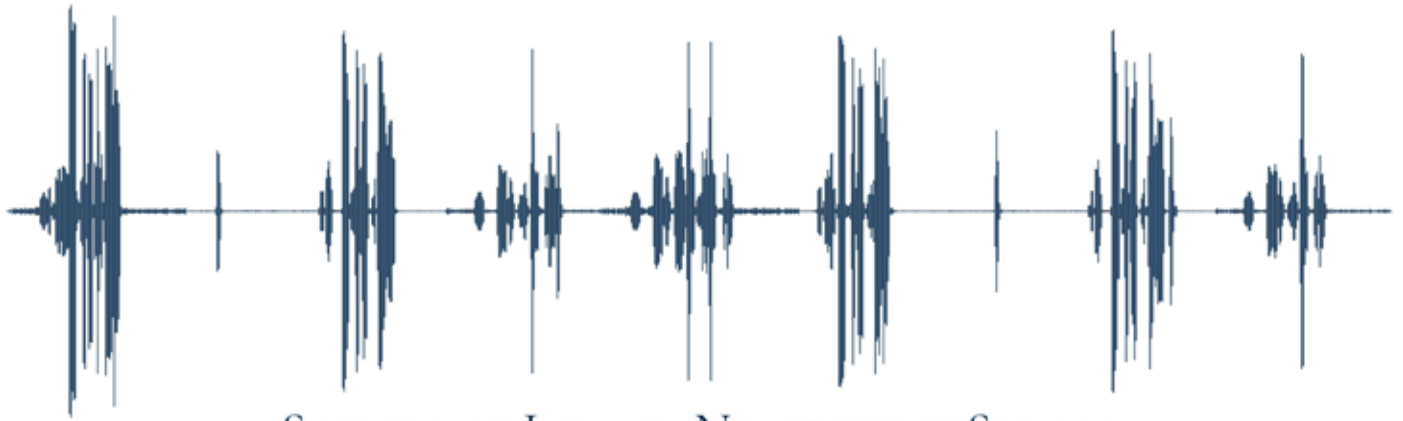
The word Beulah comes from a biblical passage about having the closest possible relationship to the land and in Hebrew translates to “married to.” A relationship to the land can look like many things. For Tom, it’s trekking to the highest point of the property in winter to admire the clear views of the Hangman Valley to the west and Big Rocks of Dishman Hills to the north. For Linda, it’s quieting a restless grandchild in her arms on the porch while gazing at the full moon as an owl sings a nighttime tune. We may become accustomed to the beauty and connectedness of nature if we never immerse ourselves in a field of native grasses or walk along the seasonal stream that feeds into a larger watershed. Maintaining an intimate connection to the land is part of what Linda and Tom believe is their responsibility as landowners, and what they took to heart when they decided to put Beulah Preserve in a conservation agreement.

The legal agreement protects Beulah forever and reflects the profound love and care Tom and Linda feel for this special place. It also speaks to their concern for surrounding lands affected by growth and development. They hope Beulah Preserve will encourage nearby neighbors to consider their own relationship to the land and begin thinking about what caring for a property means for the connectedness and longevity of the

natural world. “It is not just for one piece of land, no matter how large or small, or one person or family. It is about all of us and all of the earth,” Tom shares. Instead of buildings and housing developments, imagine a corridor of protected riverbanks and meadows along Hangman Creek from Lake Coeur d’Alene to the Spokane River where wildlife raise their young in the spring and trees offer shelter and safety for birds. Meandering creeks and streams flow through as part of a healthy watershed without disruption, and on one of these connecting lands known as Beulah Preserve, future generations can look down the hill from the house to see Grandfather Tree standing tall for as long as it may live. ■



Tom feeds his cat, Scout, at their home, the Beulah Preserve.



SOUNDS OF INLAND NORTHWEST SPRING



Download the Free SoundWave Picture app in the Play Store or the Apple App store to listen to springtime's call here in the Inland Northwest.



© J. Hammond

..... SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

We have added

3

new protected
properties

total

730
new acres

about the area of Central Park
in New York City

Including:

- shoreline of the Coeur d'Alene River
- land in the Hangman Creek watershed
- the Avista-owned and managed north shore of Lake Spokane

Protecting these beautiful places is another step in our mission to conserve, care for, and connect with lands and waters essential to life in the Inland Northwest.

The Pace of Change

By Heidi Lasher, Conservancy Volunteer

When I met Harvey Brown and his wife Rosemarie Bisiar in the Saltese Uplands parking area, Harvey was loading a 30-pound pack onto his back. Rosemarie had slung a large camera bag over her shoulder. I must have looked alarmed, as I had more modest expectations for our hike.

"The pack helps me slow down," Harvey said as he offered his hand. "Otherwise I walk too fast." Harvey has deep dimples, softly crumpling eyelids, and a wide smile. "When I'm in better shape I carry 60 pounds." Rosemarie locked the car and solemnly nodded confirmation. She and I settled into a pace, trailing Harvey, and the taut leash of my two-year-old lab.

When I told them that I wanted to talk about conservation and beavers, Harvey immediately spun a couple of beaver stories. He had grown up in Eastern Oregon with a father who worked for Fish and Wildlife and sometimes relocated beavers. "We'd have up to 30 or 40 beavers in the backyard," he said. "Once, as a representative of the Beaver State, my father brought some beavers to the 1939 World's Fair in San Francisco," he chuckled. Apparently, the animals chewed through an ill-conceived wooden pen before moving on to munch the Bonsai trees from the Japan exhibit. "He nearly started World War II a few years early!"

I asked whether they thought beaver might come to Saltese Flats one day. They both turned to look at the newly restored wetland in the flats below us. In late autumn, the land was nearly dry with only two small ponds on the west and north end, but it looked promising. Harvey nodded, "If we can bring back habitat, I bet the beavers would come."

Rosemarie and Harvey have seen a lot of changes since they moved to the Spokane Valley in 1991. "Our neighbors used to ride horses up the hill behind our house,"

motioned Harvey, pointing to a hillside across from Saltese covered in a patchwork of new construction.

"We were pretty involved in the growth management planning process," added Rosemarie. "There was a big effort to rezone farmland into urban reserve, but no plan for parks. We've been losing it all so fast." For a moment, the three of us stood and looked out over the valley where construction crews were actively building homes in former agricultural plots.

Growth has been steady in the Spokane Valley since 2003 and the market is currently, according to RedFin, a Seattle-based real estate brokerage, "hot." A hot real estate market drives up prices, making it difficult to conserve otherwise developable land. The opportunity to acquire Saltese Uplands arose when the privately-owned land went into foreclosure after the mortgage crisis in 2008. The land was

continued to page 13 >



▼ The Conservancy's Land Protection Committee visited the Saltese Expansion project area last fall.

▲ Harvey and Rosemarie on one of their many local hikes.



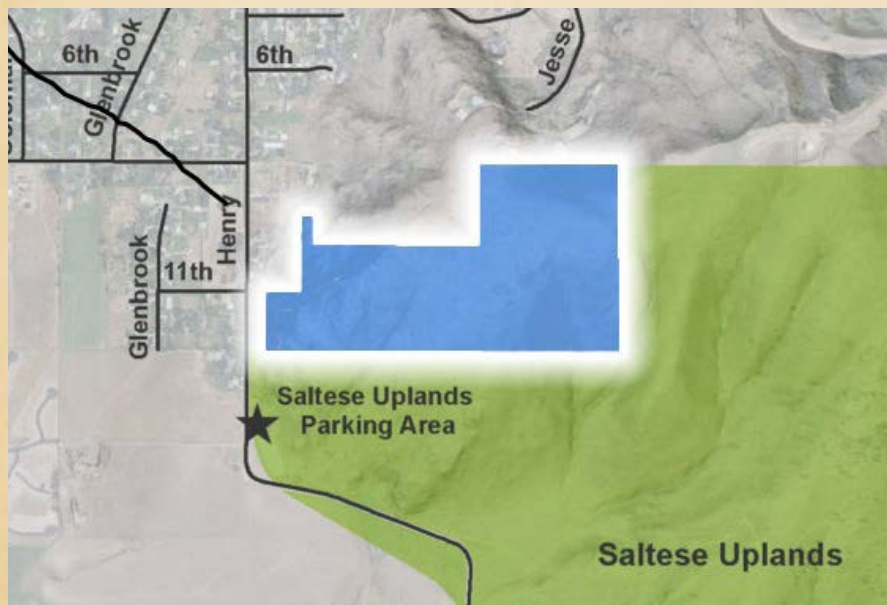
Conservation Futures Updates

Rimrock to Riverside and the Saltese Expansion

Many of the lands we protect are based on relationships years in the making. And some of them seem to happen overnight. Such is the contrast between our Rimrock to Riverside and Saltese expansion project areas. In the case of Rimrock to Riverside (land situated between Palisades Park to the south and Riverside State Park to the north), local homeowners worked for decades to protect the connecting land, reaching out to the Conservancy in 2018. Utilizing our relationships and connections in the community, 30 years of experience in working with private landowners and public land managers, and lots of hard work, we were able to help bring this project over the finish line. Thanks to a number one slot in the County Conservation Futures nomination line-up, this year the land will move into public ownership and management and the money invested to protect the land through the Conservancy will go back into other projects that protect key public access areas in the Inland Northwest.

On the other side of the coin, the Saltese expansion project was an opportunity that presented itself quickly and required a response. Thanks to the support of our dedicated members, we were able to move almost immediately to purchase the 55-acre parcel, protecting it from development and acting as a bridge owner until the County purchases it, also later this year, as it sits in the number two slot of nominated Conservation Futures land.

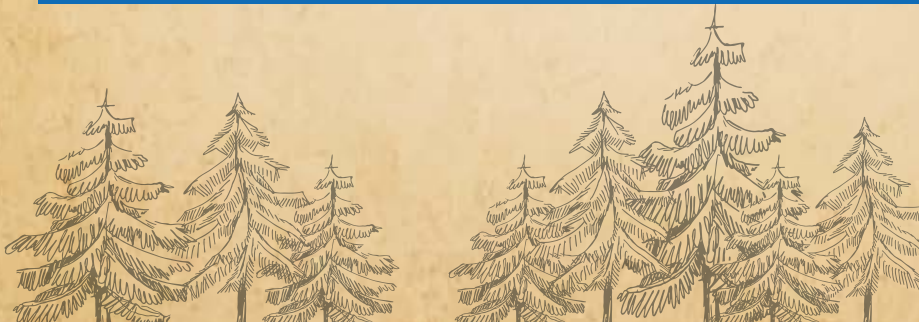
Your investment in the Conservancy is one that will continue to pay dividends for decades to come. Your support means that the Conservancy team can respond to opportunities that have been built on decades of relationships, and ones that pop up and require immediate action. Thank you for trusting us with your investment in your personal values—whether those are clean air and water, healthy communities, safe habitat for animals, or protected green space to help combat climate change. Thank you for making an investment in forever! ■



The section in blue, located between Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake, is the Saltese Expansion Area, 55 acres that will soon be under ownership and management of Spokane County.



The section in orange, Rimrock to Riverside, will one day connect the green spaces of Palisades City Park and Riverside State Park.



When Land is Lost

By Carol Corbin, Director of Philanthropy and Communications

The Rathdrum Prairie is disappearing. Houses are cropping popcorn-style atop the aquifer.* Long-time residents of the area, conservationists, and community leaders watch in consternation and dismay as lauded economic growth in our sleepy little corner of the Northwest consumes acre upon acre of once verdant agricultural land.

The Rathdrum Prairie is a case study of what happens when land is lost. It is a snapshot of what happens when traditional conservation is not enough. It is also a template of how a community can activate to create a culture of conservation. The importance of homes and economic growth can peacefully coexist with the protection of spaces that give us clean air and water, provide homes to wildlife, and create the living backdrop we all love in our Inland Northwest home.

The Rathdrum Prairie is a case study of what happens when land is lost.

Since nature doesn't recognize geopolitical boundaries like state lines, this place where open space and water resources converge with rapid development is a puzzle that belongs to all of us in the Inland Northwest.

One of the most well-known funding mechanisms for conservation in Washington State is the County Conservation Futures program. However, increases in real estate costs without a corresponding increase in Conservation Futures funding have hobbled counties across the state in their ability to keep pace with development. Early in 2022, conservation leaders in King County and other counties in Washington came together to draft HB 1672, legislation aimed at exempting the County Conservation Futures program from a levy lid of 1% annually. HB 1672 would have enabled commissioners in individual counties to assess

the need and public support for County Conservation Futures and levy taxes accordingly.

While many legislators recognize the importance of protected green space and access to trails and recreation as a contributor to public health and quality of life, many were concerned that HB 1672 would be viewed as a property tax increase. Others concluded that counties were already able to increase their Conservation Futures revenue through voter approval and that a bill clarifying the ability of elected officials to set the levy rate outside the 1% limit was unnecessary. And thus, HB 1672 died in committee. "The 1% limit still remains a major problem for Conservation Futures and other county property tax levies," says David Patton with the Trust for Public Lands, "so our coalition members will assess our educational and legislative strategy over the interim, and remain in touch with you all on future efforts."

So, what does Washington state's Conservation Futures program have to do with the Rathdrum Prairie? The Rathdrum Prairie does not align with Spokane County conservation goals, or those of your Conservancy. But that doesn't mean it's not important.

According to long-time Conservancy supporter and land advocate Wes Hanson, Kootenai County Open Space coalition brings together landowners, community leaders, and concerned citizens to find ways to save what is left of the prairie. Currently pursuing three different ways of protecting land, they are working to build a Countywide Public Land Program through a bond issue of \$50 million. They are also working to create Recreation Districts in Kootenai County allowing for a property tax-funded program like Washington's Conservation Futures, that would fund the purchase and protection of land for public access. And thirdly, they are establishing a 501(c)(3)



Once a significant agricultural landscape, the Rathdrum Prairie is rapidly succumbing to housing development.

PHOTO CREDIT: Kasey Bader

whose board would be instrumental in identifying area landowners who might be interested in conservation agreements that would permanently protect their land and help to defray some of the costs associated with setting up those agreements.

This community-wide approach, looking at multiple funding mechanisms, engaging stakeholders, and tapping into established programs designed to protect land is a valiant and laudable effort. Some, like Wes Hanson, recognize the critical timeliness of this work. If anything can save the remaining pockets of the Rathdrum Prairie, this sort of collaboration is it.

As land is caught up in the tide of economic growth, development, and an influx of people who love the outdoors, it is not enough to rely simply on a county property tax, a handful of non-profits, or well-intentioned private citizens. The Inland Northwest needs a groundswell of support for sustainable development that takes water and air quality into account, development that provides healthy homes for people *and* animals. Our legislators and elected officials need to know that parks, trails, trees, rivers, and streams are vital to us, their constituents.

“But now,’ says the Once-ler, ‘now that you’re here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

-Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

It is time to show up at community planning meetings, fill out surveys that come from your local jurisdictions, write to your congresspeople, senators, and commissioners. Tell them why nature, trails, basalt cliffs, marmots, and lazy creeks are important to you. Insist that policies, budgets, legislation, and taxes prioritize parks, open space, and conservation. ■

*The Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley aquifer provides drinking water for over 600,000 people in the rapidly growing Inland Northwest.

To find out how you can best advocate on behalf of the Rathdrum Prairie, please contact Dave Callahan with Kootenai County Community Development at dcallahan@kcgov.us.

The Rathdrum Prairie

By Wes Hanson, Land Advocate

Fifty years ago, I bicycled across Canada and into Washington. I pedaled from Old Town to Moscow. Idaho was different then, filled with open space and forests. Except for towns, houses were scattered, and traffic was minimal. I vividly recall pedaling down U.S. 95 from Highway 53 to Coeur d’Alene. U.S. 95 was what is now Government Way. West of it was farmland and the open Rathdrum Prairie.

The current U.S. 95 did not exist, and I believe that bucolic scene is how local people thought Idaho would remain. But land was sold. The highway was built. Yield signs were replaced by single stoplights that multiplied into today’s traffic frenzy. U.S. 95 became a congested city street, and a Rathdrum Prairie interstate highway is now being designed. The Rathdrum Prairie was transected by multi-laned streets filled with sprawling housing developments and businesses. All this happened in fifty years with little thought or planning about what Kootenai County would look like. This was a sad outcome caused by development silencing the deep needs of people and communities and the lack of balanced planning.

We need open space. We need places where red tail hawks soar and meadowlark calls pierce passing cars. Sometimes we think there is no stopping progress and nature will endure unaided. Neither is true. Human progress can be guided to beneficial ends. Nature’s creatures need open space and habitats preserved. We need places like the Rathdrum Prairie and its open space to remind us we are connected to the natural world and each other in ways the mind sometimes denies but the heart knows.

I write this remembrance to examine what happened and to suggest a better future. We need to look inside now and ask why we live here and what needs to happen to make our lives worth living. ■



Chicken Fried Morel Mushrooms with Braised Greens and Gravy

By Chef Adam Hegsted

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morels | <input type="checkbox"/> Braised Greens; below | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cup buttermilk | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 egg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Flour; below | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Gravy; below | <input type="checkbox"/> ½-1 cup oil for frying | |

1. Mix together buttermilk, egg, and 2 tablespoons of chicken flour.
2. Set up a breading station, one bowl with chicken flour, one bowl with the buttermilk mix, and a bowl or pan to place the breaded mushrooms.
3. Place mushrooms into flour dredge, shake off excess flour, then into buttermilk mix. Shake off extra buttermilk and place back into the chicken flour. Shake off excess flour and place breaded mushrooms onto a pan or a bowl.
4. Heat a large cast-iron pan with oil over medium heat. Test the heat of the oil by dropping in a little batter. If it sizzles and floats to the top, the oil is ready. Place mushrooms into the oil, careful not to overload the pan with too many. There should be some space in between the mushrooms.
5. Cook mushrooms until browned on one edge, about 2 minutes, and turn over using tongs. Repeat on four sides.
6. While mushrooms are cooking, set out a paper towel on which to place mushrooms.
7. Remove mushrooms from oil and shake off excess oil, place onto a paper towel.
8. To plate, lay down a pile of braised greens, then mushrooms on top, then drizzle with a little or a lot of the mushroom gravy.

Chicken Flour

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 cups flour | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tablespoon baking powder | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tsp. oregano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ cups Cornstarch | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tsp. ground sage | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp. mustard powder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cup Rice Flour | <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ tsp. ground ginger | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp. paprika |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tsp. salt | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp. granulated garlic | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ tsp. pepper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp. onion powder | | |

1. Mix together and set aside

Mushroom Gravy

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 tablespoons oil | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tablespoon garlic, minced | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 lb mixed mushrooms, chopped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 oz. dried mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ cup flour | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 ounces beef or veggie broth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 teaspoons salt | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tablespoons soy sauce or liquid aminos | <input type="checkbox"/> ⅛ teaspoon pepper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ teaspoon dry mustard | <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ cup dry white wine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 medium onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ cup heavy cream with 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed in | | |

1. Combine 1/2 cup flour, salt, pepper, and dry mustard; toss with mushrooms to coat thoroughly.
2. Heat oil over medium-high heat in a large pan. Add mushrooms and cook. Once browned, remove from pan and add garlic and onions. Cook until translucent and aromatic.
3. Add broth, soy sauce, Worcestershire, and white wine while stirring and removing small bits off the bottom of the pot. Add cream and cornstarch mixture. Add mushrooms back in and cook for 5-10 minutes over medium-low heat while stirring occasionally. Use as is or puree. Hold warm until ready to use.

Braised Greens

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-8 ounces wild greens (if possible) stinging nettles, lamb lettuce, miners lettuce, dandelion, arugula, mustard greens or anything else (spinach or kale will work as well) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 teaspoon olive oil | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 large clove garlic, chopped | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cup broth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tablespoon honey | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tablespoon white wine | <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ teaspoon chile flakes |

1. Wash the greens and remove tough stems. Cut or break greens into smaller pieces.
2. Heat a pan over high heat; reduce heat to medium-high, add the oil and sauté the garlic for 30 seconds until it is aromatic and translucent. Add the greens, and sauté for 1 minute until blistering.
3. Stir in the broth, honey, white wine & chile flakes; cover, and cook 8 to 10 minutes, until greens are soft.

Adam's connection to local lands and waters:

We rely heavily on our region's bounty which is directly correlated to our land and water use. This is part of what our restaurants are about and what sets them apart from others or corporate-style restaurants. Our job at the restaurants is to take the local produce and ingredients, show off their regional identity, seasonality, and place and do our best to prepare them in a way that highlights those things. We want people who visit our restaurants to have a specific experience related to the Inland Northwest. So if it's morel season, you will find them on our menus. If we can get stinging nettles, they will be on our menu. We think the restaurant should reflect the season and its location. This is done through the foods and drinks we serve. I go out regularly to find foraged foods for our restaurants and my family. I love the experience of going out our back door, literally, and finding food right under my feet. It's an amazing feeling and we happen to live in a place where those things are abundant and growing around us. It's almost like finding new things every season and being excited for those things to pop up.



Chef Adam Hegsted

Visit [InlandNWLand.org/news/](https://inlandnwland.org/news/) for Adam's biography

I have been interested in wild foods my whole life. Starting at a young age my older brother and I researched wild foods and passing that knowledge on to my kids and colleagues now is something I value as well. I think people are afraid of things that grow in the wild, but once you know and have met a few, they become easy to spot. I hope that more people get out and taste the wild. Then maybe we will see it in all restaurants.

Foraging 101: M.O.R.E.L.

- M- Management status of land:** Only forage on lands where it is legal to do so. Check regulations of public lands, and receive permission from landowners before stepping foot on private land.
- O- One-hundred percent sure:** Use three or more points of ID to identify a plant to avoid mistakenly harvesting lookalikes that can be dangerous if ingested or applied to the skin.
- R- Rare plants must stay put:** Plants need to be left alone if they are a rare species. Do your research before harvesting!
- E- Educate yourself:** Before venturing out, know the species of your area, where and when they grow, and when it's safest for the plant to be harvested.
- L- Leave most, take a little:** Responsible harvesting means being conservative. Only taking 1/10 to 1/3 of what's available, and leaving the rest for pollinators and plant reproduction.

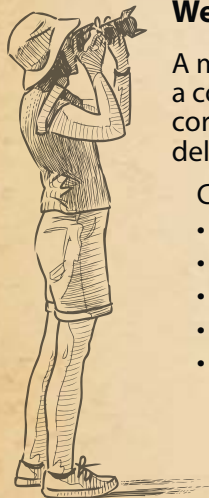


Spring on the Rim

Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**A friend of nature is a friend of ours!
But maybe we haven't met yet.**

**Bring your friends to Rimrock to Riverside on Saturday, May 14.
We want to meet them!**



A morning of facilitated outdoor experiences (see below) will culminate in a community celebration of the permanent protection of this wildlife corridor, complete with live music by local musician Ian Arnold, and delicious food for purchase from Good 'Dilla food truck.

Choose from:

- Outdoor photography
- Yoga
- Nature bathing
- Mountain biking
- Trail running
- Wildflower hike
- Bird watching
- Horseback riding
- Nature journaling
- Gravel biking
- Foraging
- Geology hike
- And more!

Activities are free but registration is required.
Inlandnwland.org/spring_on_the_rim



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Roth





A view of the Saltese Flats at sunset.

Rosemarie and Harvey in Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia.

< continued from page 6

nominated to Conservation Futures in 2010 and acquired by Spokane County Parks in 2011. Around the same time, the Spokane County Utilities Department acquired 580 acres of historic wetland—land that had been drained and used for farming—in an adjacent plot below the uplands. Other partners, like Ducks Unlimited, have been helping restore waterfowl habitat, and the Conservancy placed a conservation agreement on part of the wetlands and recently added 55 acres to the uplands. Put together, the 1500 acres (about twice the area of Central Park in New York City) that comprise the Saltese Conservation Area has become popular for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and bird watching, and perhaps more importantly, has provided habitat for waterfowl, birds of prey, and dozens of smaller species that, together, are coalescing into a functional ecosystem. Harvey stopped to take a picture

of a red tail hawk spiraling above us.

“We’ve been hiking on this land for thirty years. We’ve seen stakes in the ground several times, marking off land for development, but a lot of people fought for this land,” he said. He and Rosemarie pointed off to the east, toward Liberty Lake. “Ideally, we’ll be able to connect this to Liberty Lake and Mica Peak, but the window is closing.”

We squinted at the eastern horizon, already dotted with homes, and envisioned a passage through backyards and estates. As they walked on, I hustled to keep up. ■

If you enjoyed this story, join the author for a guided nature journaling experience in Rimrock to Riverside on May 14. Register at InlandNWLand.org/Events

Express your love for nature

How's your haiku hobby?

Finding ways to express our love of nature can help us pause and find gratitude for the world around us. Why not take a moment to write a haiku about something in your natural world? Here's one from our Associate Director, Vicki Egesdal about her relationship with water.

**Drip, drop, rushing roar
Ageless, timeless, racing pour
Flowing, finds a way**

Haiku: A poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.

Your nature haiku here

Share your haiku with us at communications@inlandnwland.org
or post it to social media and tag @inlandnwland

Upcoming Events

Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve Bio Blitz Sunday, May 1

One of the best ways to understand the landscape is to get out on it to look at vegetation, listen for birds, gauge tree growth, analyze waterbodies, and take soil moisture samples. And that is what we will be doing during our spring Bio Blitz at Waikiki Springs!



Learn about the flora and fauna of Spokane's newest nature preserve at a Bio Blitz.

National Trails Day Liberty Lake Cedar Grove Hike

Saturday, June 4 (National Trails Day)

Celebrate National Trails Day by hiking with us on one of the most beautiful trails in Spokane County! The turnaround point for this out-and-back hike is at the majestic and historic Liberty Lake Cedar Grove, a place Inland Northwest Land Conservancy was instrumental in protecting forever.



PHOTO CREDIT: Nick James

A bridge spans the creek in the Liberty Lake Cedar Grove.

Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve Community Picnic

Saturday, June 11

Many years ago, Indigenous tribes used the confluence of the Little Spokane and Spokane Rivers as a gathering place. Bring your family, friends, and a picnic lunch when you visit Waikiki Springs.



PHOTO CREDIT: Nick James

The Little Spokane River meanders through Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve and Wildlife Area in north Spokane.

Register for one of our upcoming events on our website at InlandNWLand.org/events.
Email info@inlandnwland.org with questions.

New Board Members



Sally Pritchard

Retired Non-profit Leader

Sally Pritchard retired in 2020 after a career of working for local nonprofits, most recently as the Vice President of Community Impact for Spokane County United Way. Sally has extensive nonprofit board experience and a deep commitment to preserving the regional ecosystem. "As a long-time member of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, I am impressed with its strategic vision, commitment to partnerships, and increasing impact." Sally enjoys running, hiking, swimming, and backpacking in the Inland Northwest, and aspires to get better at bird and plant identification.



Dave Sonntag

Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Dave Sonntag leads marketing and communications at Gonzaga University and serves on the University's Executive Leadership Team. Prior to that Dave worked at Eastern Washington University and two regional marketing and public relations firms. In his leisure time, Dave enjoys spending time with his family, and outdoor pursuits including mountain biking, fly fishing, paddle boarding, boating, skiing, hiking, and backpacking.



Sandy Emerson

Real Estate Appraiser, Emerson Valuation

J.A. "Sandy" Emerson grew up on the lake, graduated from the University of Idaho and served as an Army Facilities Engineer in Germany (South Bavaria) before returning with his family to northern Idaho. Sandy was a real estate broker and later executive director of the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce. He is a real estate appraiser, focusing on land valuations for timberlands and waterfront properties. His lifelong interests in outdoor recreational activities make preservation and protection of our area's natural resources a priority in his life.

Wear Your Conservancy Pride on Your Sleeve!

Well, ok, on your head. Or your hip. Whatever suits your fancy! Check out INLC-branded merchandise on our website or at Rambleraven Gear Trader, 3220 N Division St. Our products are sustainably sourced and printed by ESI Sportswear, a locally owned and operated company. You can also kick-start every day knowing you are helping the local environment by subscribing to Grounds for Good, organic coffee from Spokane's own Roast House.

Visit our website to learn more.
inlandnwland.org/conservancy-gear/



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Roth



Inland Northwest Land Conservancy
35 W. Main Ave., Ste. 210
Spokane, WA 99201
509.328.2939

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 28

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Bradley

President

Leyna Bernstein

Vice President

Jake Williamson

Treasurer

Toni Pessemier

Secretary

Brian Behler

Lindsay Chutas

Sandy Emerson

Julie Johnson

Vange Ocasio Hochheimer

Sally Pritchard

Debra Schultz

Dave Sonntag

STAFF

Dave Schaub

Executive Director

Kasey Bader

Donor Relations Specialist

Carol Corbin

Philanthropy & Communications Director

Mike Crabtree

Land Protection Specialist

Chris DeForest

Senior Conservationist

Todd Dunfield

Community Conservation Program Manager

Vicki Egesdal

Associate Director

Rose Richardson

Stewardship Director

FIND US ON:



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

During the Month of May

Welcome NEW members!

All new members who join the Conservancy for \$50 or more, from May 1-May 31, 2022, will receive their very own Inland Northwest Land Conservancy Silipint, a fun and sustainable way to show your support of local lands and waters.



Your financial support makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the Inland Northwest every day!

YOUR SUPPORT IN THE LAST YEAR MEANS:



5

salmon redds in the Little Spokane River



54

active volunteer land stewards



1,000s

milkweed seeds planted with famous German rock band, Milky Chance



3,748

linear feet of trail built