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InLandNEWS



It's in our nature

PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie

Letter from the Executive Director

By Dave Schaub

I don't need to remind anyone that we live in interesting times, and that a lot of the messaging we hear, see, and read is very divisive. We are so often pushed into separate corners, taking sides, defining "us" against "them."

Among the things that I love about working with Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, is that we are constantly on the lookout for the chance to bridge divides. Our approach to conservation includes evaluating opportunities and pursuing those that will create as many connections as possible. Connecting landowners to funding agencies, linking communities through trails, joining pieces of conserved lands, along with introducing children to the natural systems that support life all around them.

Glen Tana is one example of a project that is full of connections: between the Spokane Tribe and Washington State Parks, between Waikiki Springs and the rest of Riverside State Park, between our growing communities and more natural lands to explore. And it's just one example of over 120 completed projects in eastern Washington and north Idaho. We are so grateful for the generous support from people like you who continue to help make these projects happen.

My hope in these divisive times is that you are finding ways to connect to the lands and waters that matter most to you. Furthermore, I hope that your support for INLC helps you feel connected to the promising futures of those places, and to the grateful community that will appreciate them after we are gone.



▲ Dave Schaub and Leyna Bernstein signing the closing documents on the purchase of Glen Tana

▼ Little Spokane River from Glen Tana



PHOTO CREDIT: Lorenzo Menendez

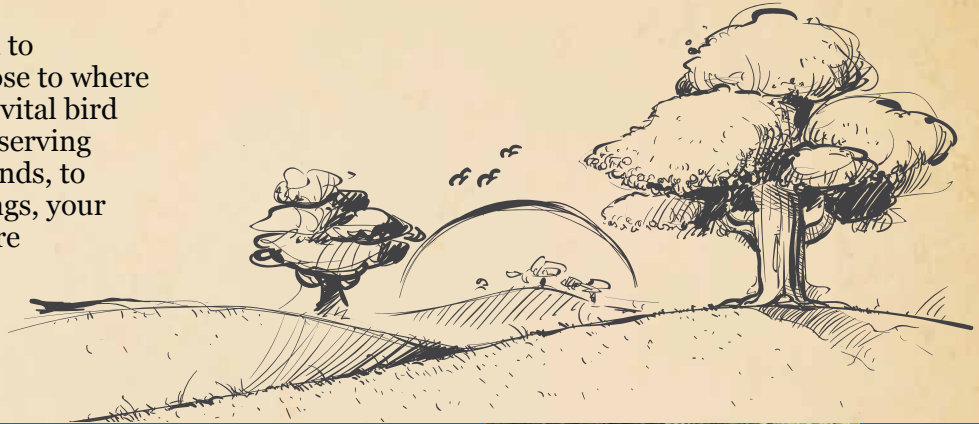
Letter from the President

By Leyna Bernstein

Your Conservancy was founded 33 years ago, in 1991. In another 33 years, the population of our region will have grown exponentially, old landmarks may be long gone, and even the weather could be different. But one thing will be the same. The beautiful lands and waters you've helped us to conserve will still be places where plants and animals can thrive, with the land in its most natural state.

As our region's population grows, the need to permanently preserve the natural lands close to where we live grows too. From helping to protect vital bird habitat at Reardan's Audubon Lake, to preserving hiking and biking trails in the Saltese Uplands, to creating a nature preserve at Waikiki Springs, your support has enabled us to ensure that future populations will be able to enjoy the special places we love.

I like to imagine my grandchildren taking their families to visit the site of Glen Tana, our newest project. Maybe they will camp at the expanded Riverside State Park or learn about salmon at the Spokane Tribe's fish rearing facility. I feel so fortunate to be a part of the campaign to conserve this land for future generations and hope you will join me in permanently protecting this magical place.



Leaders with Loomis:

Volunteer Pat Loomis had the opportunity to chat with some of the Conservancy's influential leaders. Loomis says, "Each one was brimming with positive energy and so much enthusiasm for INLC, the mission and legacy." Hear more from her conversations throughout the newsletter.



Timeline

Your Conservancy collaborates with many people and partners to conserve open space with public access for you to enjoy. These projects are complex, so many are unaware of the Conservancy's involvement. Follow along this timeline of places you can visit because of Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. Do you enjoy visiting any of these beloved lands?

***This timeline is not exhaustive. To learn more about where we work across the Inland Northwest, visit inlandnwland.org**

1993

In 1993, the young Inland Northwest Land Conservancy intervened to save the Liberty Lake Cedar Grove from logging and sale, giving Spokane County Parks time to negotiate a deal to buy it from the owner and secure it for public access and enjoyment.

1994

In 1994, your Conservancy stepped in to safeguard a 103-acre gift of the Holmberg Conservation Area at the eastern foot of the Five Mile Prairie to Spokane County Parks, accepting a position to serve as backup owner if certain conditions are met.



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie

IT'S IN OUR NATURE to preserve habitat

By Lindell Haggin, Conservancy Volunteer



Eons ago, the Little Spokane River Valley was created. For centuries the Spokane Tribe benefited from its bounty. Salmon were abundant in addition to other flora and fauna that helped sustain them. The Spokane Tribe gathered with other tribes there to share their stories.

Over 400 years ago, European trappers and explorers arrived and harvested the furs that were in abundance. They were followed by others who settled and farmed the land. As more people came to this region, the impact became more significant. After multiple dams were put in on the Spokane and Columbia Rivers, there were no longer salmon in the region. But the beauty and natural wonder of the Little Spokane River Valley remained. Fortunately, there were individuals and public entities who recognized the need to protect the area.

Eons ago, the Little Spokane River Valley was created.

Prior to the creation of the Little Spokane River Natural Area in 1985, the public did not have access to the Little Spokane River. In 1900 the Little Spokane River was considered non-navigable, meaning landowners adjacent to the river owned the land under the water and controlled access. After the establishment of the natural area, people can now legally canoe or kayak down that portion of the Little Spokane River.

While the Little Spokane River Natural Area was a great beginning, there were still long stretches of the river that were vulnerable to development. Fortunately, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) was formed by a group of community members passionate about conservation and hired Chris DeForest as its first executive director in 1997. Around this same time, Spokane County initiated its Conservation Futures Fund with the goal to preserve natural habitat that was rapidly disappearing in this growing metropolis. Every few years the money in the Conservation Futures Fund is used to purchase properties nominated for consideration.

In 1996, Ken Haff approached INLC about donating 61 undeveloped acres to the organization. Haff was a developer who had created a conservation subdivision - a development that preserves a large portion of land as open space, while meeting local zoning or density requirements - on the terrace overlooking the Spokane River.

Because of Haff's intent for his land, Chris encouraged the neighboring landowners, Linda Bass and her brother Stan Edburg, to rethink their plans for the adjoining 640 acres. They decided to protect the property rather than subdivide it for residential development.

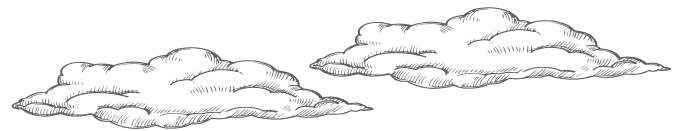
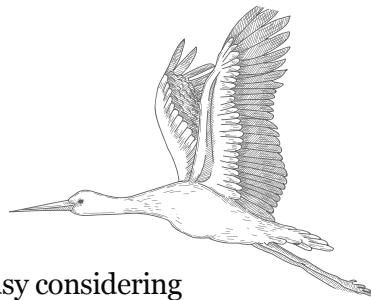
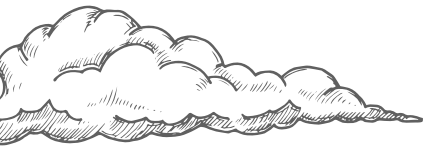


PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie



PHOTO CREDIT: Gillian Rowe

Photo of Van Horn, Edburg, and Bass Conservation Area ▲



there were no other parcels of this size and quality in the city limits

By early 1998, DeForest was busy considering conservation deals, such as Haff's 61 acres, and reviewing nominations for upcoming Conservation Futures funding. Of the thirty, DeForest highly recommended six projects – one being the VanHorn/Edburg/Bass property, 640 acres of natural habitat above the Little Spokane River Natural Area*. INLC helped Haff understand that his acreage would be worth more for recreation and habitat if the VanHorn/Edburg/Bass section were purchased by the County. So, your Conservancy went to work championing the purchase by meeting with State Park staff, leading property tours, and gathering endorsements from numerous individuals and organizations including the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley.

Typically, Park Board meetings are anything but dramatic, but in the fall of 1998 while DeForest was giving a strong endorsement for the VanHorn/Edburg/Bass nomination, Haff stood up and offered to donate his 61 acres to County Parks if they would purchase the VanHorn/Edburg/Bass property. DeForest concluded by noting there were no other parcels of this size and quality in the city limits.

The combined 701 acres of ridgetops and ravines with fabulous views of the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers was approved for purchase. This was a huge commitment for the relatively new Conservation Futures program, but thanks to Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, everyone could see how important this property was. This acquisition not only extended Riverside State Park's Little Spokane River Natural Area, but was a major goal for INLC as an important wildlife connector! Putting the two properties together also made it possible to create what has become an extremely popular seven-mile loop, Knothead Trail, from the Painted Rocks parking area.

*According to the University of Washington's Biodiversity Studio Project, there are two major wildlife corridors in this area and a rich diversity of birds, reptiles, and mammals. Four of the county's eight Great Blue Heron rookeries are close to this property!

Artist Highlight: Carrie Dugovic

Interviewed by Gillian Rowe, Philanthropy and Communications Assistant

What is your favorite way to spend time outdoors?

Can I choose only one? I suppose first would be to stop and take it all in with my senses. The smell of the forest, the breeze on my face, seeing a multitude of colors and hearing the birds. I enjoy hiking and taking photos while doing so. Spending time alone and sharing with friends both bring me much joy.

When did you first get involved with the Conservancy?

About four years ago while exploring potential hiking areas, informational signs indicated that several were conserved and cared for by the Conservancy. I totally believe in what they're doing and want to support their vision. As a leader of the Spokane Women Hiking and Snowshoeing group on Facebook, we explore Conservancy trails year-round and appreciate all that goes into these beautiful areas.

What are some of your favorite properties to explore and pull inspiration?

My absolute favorite is Waikiki Springs. It's only ten minutes from my house and an urban treasure. I can easily hike five miles. The water from the springs emerging from the hillside and the Little Spokane River are stunning. I look for wildlife, including bald eagles, coyotes, deer, moose and many species of birds. I am excited about the addition of Glen Tana.

How does art help you connect to nature?

When I take a photo of a bird, mountain, or river, I study the intricate details before painting it. I am in awe when closely examining a bird's individual feathers and the crevices in a rock. How can we not be? Nature is incredible when we take a moment to not only look at the grandeur, but also the details. I use my photographs as references for my watercolor paintings and pottery.

Anything else you want folks to know about you?

I spent 38 years in Information Technology. I "labeled" myself as left-brained, analytical and logical. I never thought I would be good at art. While some people can naturally sit down and draw, sculpt and paint, these skills can also be learned if one is willing to put in the effort to learn and practice. I am amazed when I sit down with one of my own reference photos and paint shapes, values and textures, and it turns into a work of art that I am pleased with.

"This summer at Art on the Green in Coeur d'Alene, Carrie displayed some of her pieces at the Conservancy's booth. It was incredible to hear about how places the Conservancy has helped protect have inspired her work and how she connects to our mission." - Gillian Rowe



▲ Artist Carrie Dugovic with her pack, Kisper and Bella

Leaders with Loomis:

"Humans evolved to feel a kinship with the natural world. In our modern lives, removed from wild places, it is vital that we connect and spend more time in nature." - Dave Schaub, Executive Director

Pine Bluff – Protected Forever

By Emalee Gillis, Conservancy Volunteer

“I never wanted to see an apartment complex on our land,” said Peggy Clemons who along with Mary Foutz owns a cherished 60-acre parcel that they recently preserved as open space in cooperation with Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC).

“We think it is really important to preserve spaces that are unencumbered with development, especially near urban centers,” said Clemons.

The land that Foutz and Clemons preserved, referred to as the Pine Bluff property, is beautiful. There are gorgeous views of Mount Spokane and the Spokane River. Some areas of the property are forested with ponderosa pine and Douglas Fir. The land includes rocky bluffs, big mossy rocks and open fields. Wildflowers bloom there every year, and the plant life is diverse.

Not only is the land beautiful, but it provides abundant habitat for wildlife. Clemons and Foutz have seen bear, moose, mule and white-tail deer, hawks, owls, pileated woodpeckers- and many other bird species- on the land.

Foutz added, “Habitat is shrinking for wildlife. There is a great deal of human encroachment.”

The Pine Bluff property borders Riverside State Park near Nine Mile Falls. The combined properties form an uninterrupted corridor for wildlife.

“We have seen how much development is occurring in our area,” said Clemons. “All that development shrinks the space for wildlife. By preserving our land, we hope to make a little dent in the available open land for wildlife.”

“I believe we have a responsibility to the earth to care for it,” added Foutz. “By protecting our land, we are helping to care for the flora and fauna of the earth.”

Foutz and Clemons said although they can control the open space character of the Pine Bluff property while they own it, before they began their work with INLC they had no say in how the property would be developed or protected in the future. Putting the conservation easement together allowed them a say in the future uses of the property. It allowed them to extend the value they place on protected spaces to future generations. The two landowners were inspired to preserve their land after they heard about others who worked with the Conservancy.

Future owners of the land will be unable to put any additional structures on it, for example, and INLC will walk the land at least once a year to make sure the wishes of Foutz and Clemons to maintain the land as open space are respected.

Foutz and Clemons shared values with INLC, so the

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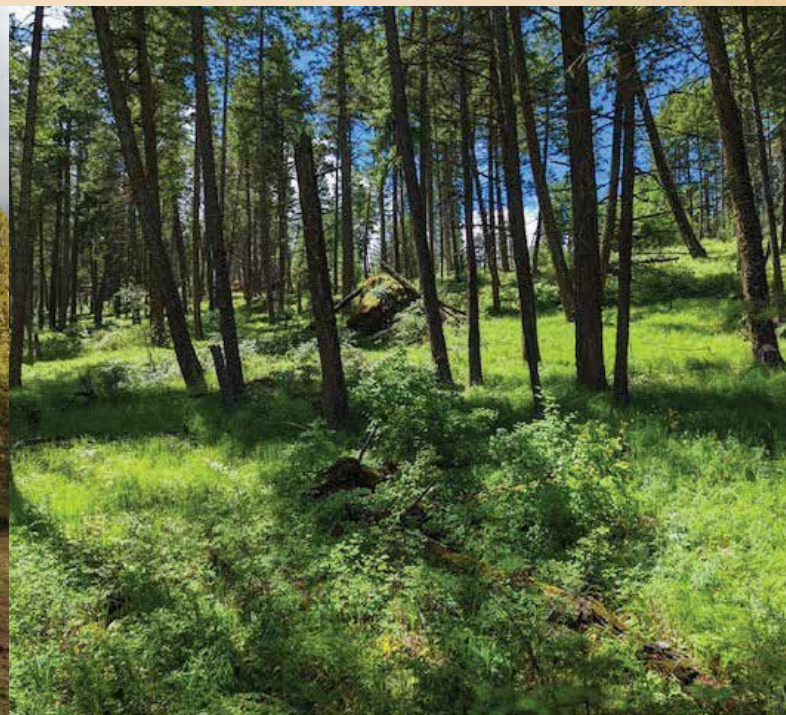




PHOTO CREDIT: Lorenzo Menendez



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie

DID YOU KNOW?

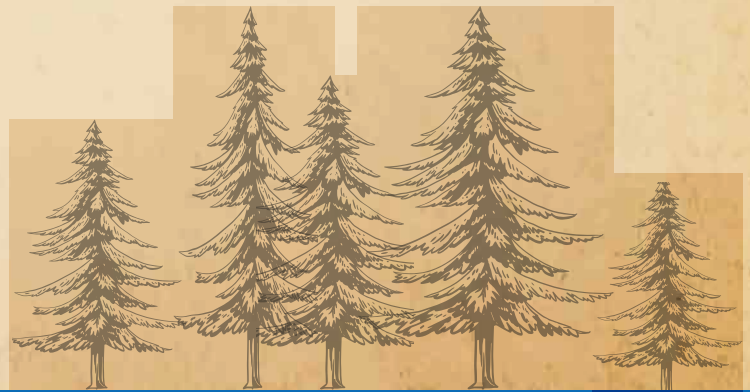
One of the Conservancy's core values is perpetuity – we want the impact of these projects to outlive us! The Conservancy makes annual visits to conservation properties, including Pine Bluff, to build relationships with the landowners and answer questions regarding practices taking place on their land. This is especially important when land changes hands. The Conservancy works to educate future landowners and ensure they abide by the terms of the easement and, if needed, provide legal defense to uphold the legal agreement.

The Conservancy's Public Lands Protection Specialist, Todd Dunfield, notes that what's particularly special about this project for the general public is its proximity to Riverside State Park's Trail 25 – one of the longest trails in the park system, at around 25 miles. "Hikers want to see open, natural spaces along the trail, not a new housing development". Since other large parcels of land border the Pine Bluff property, Dunfield also expresses his excitement for potential future conservation projects in the area.

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two found it easy to work with the organization, though the process did take a few years.

"We are excited that our process is complete," said Clemons. "We feel really good about it and hope others will be inspired to preserve their land, including our neighbors who own similar properties. It's giving back to the earth."



Leaders with Loomis: "The heart and soul of conservation is the love of the land."
- Chris DeForest, Senior Conservationist

1999

In the late 1990s the Conservancy accepted the 51-acre Mirabeau Point property along the Centennial Trail from Inland Empire Paper Company and served as caretaker landowner for several years before deeding it over to the new City of Spokane Valley.

2000

In the late 1990s, INLC championed the creation of the 628-acre Slavin Conservation Area southwest of Spokane, a marvelous potpourri of nature trails, wetlands teeming with birdlife, and fragrant forests. INLC teamed up with the Slavin family and Spokane County Parks to bring it into being.

A Sanctuary for Life

By Jennifer Moss, Conservancy Volunteer
Photos by Lorenzo Menendez

One August morning, I went to Glen Tana for a walk. It had rained earlier, and the air smelled intensely sweet, a mixture of ponderosa pine and dry grasses. I set out on one of the trails behind the house. Wild turkeys suddenly appeared up ahead – first two, then four, then ten. They slowly climbed the hill, pecking as they went. I walked in the opposite direction, leaving the main trail for a path down to the river. There was a slight breeze; the tall cattails rustled. I was headed to a part of the river I often visited on my childhood ramblings, near the elderberry trees and long, lush grass where the deer bed down for the night. As I passed, grasshoppers flew from the path, their wings clicking. Bumblebees worked in the flowering weeds. A small group of quail burst from the brush to my left. I stopped to watch a three-foot-tall anthill; the ants were busy hauling twigs in and out of small holes at its top. Two loud rapid snorts came from somewhere in the trees – a deer. I continued on my way.

When I got to the riverbank, the current was slow, the water clear. A dragonfly skimmed the surface. I could see small, smooth stones and pebbles on the riverbed. I stood for a long time, listening to the water's murmur. When I lived at Glen Tana, this place by the river felt secret and mysterious to me. It was where I first felt the boundary of self and surroundings dissolve – the sensation of being part of a consciousness that was coming from the river, trees, rocks, hills, creatures, and myself. It felt the same now, as if no time had passed, and it brought me to tears. As I turned to leave, I heard the high-pitched call of a hawk. I looked up, and watched the bird slowly fly in ever wider loops overhead. I walked back along the path, thankful to be able to experience Glen Tana again, thankful that it will remain a sanctuary for so much life.

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2003

In the early 2000s, the Conservancy came up with clever ideas that enabled John Pointner to sell his 157-acre Cougar Bay property to become a magnificent nature preserve just miles from downtown Coeur d'Alene.

2005

In 2005 INLC helped the McKenzie family persevere in selling their 406-acre Newman Lake property to Spokane County Parks, ensuring protection of cherished family lands and lush habitat and opening it up for people to enjoy.



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About the Author – Jennifer Moss

“In 1968, when I was two years old, my parents and I moved to Glen Tana farm. We rented an ‘apartment’ from Tannis Semple – a four-bedroom house attached to the main house where Tannis lived. I spent the next seven years at Glen Tana, years that hold a hallowed place in my memory. When I was nine, we moved from Glen Tana to Iowa. It was my first heartbreak.

I moved back to Spokane in the summer of 2021. Without a doubt, the best thing about coming back here was learning that Glen Tana would be preserved and being able to return to it and walk the pastures, trails, hills, and woods I remember so vividly from my childhood. Every time, it’s like stepping into a dream.”

While Glen Tana is not yet open to the public, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy will host a variety of guided hikes and volunteer events on the land starting this Fall. Visit our website at inlandnwland.org/events for opportunities to explore this iconic gem in the Little Spokane River Valley.



2007-2011

During the 2000s, INLC worked hand-in-hand with the landowner and with the Trust for Public Lands to see 1,054 acres overlooking the Spokane Valley become the Antoine Peak Conservation Area.

2015

Thanks to advocacy by INLC’s Eric Erickson, in 2015 the Trautman family sold their 280-acre Nine Mile Falls property along the Centennial Trail to Spokane County Parks, which Riverside State Park now manages.

Stay Connected with your Conservancy

Some Things are Better Left Bare

Dave Sonntag, Conservancy Board Member and Vice President of Marketing, USL Spokane

While a skinny-dip in your favorite lake on a warm summer night is quite freeing, that's not what I'm talking about here. I'm talking about that deep pit in your stomach when you find a housing development where none used to be that changes a once pristine view or memorable hiking trail.

"Some things are better left bare" is a slogan in a new INLC communications campaign. We hope you've seen the messages on social media. We are boldly evolving our approach to reach new audiences and inspire current members to support the "It's In Our Nature" capital campaign.

None of us at INLC are opposed to a home in the country or expanding affordable housing, but we believe in smart growth that is not at the expense of the landscapes, waterways, and biodiversity that make our region special. In addition, you'll see messages inviting you to "Imagine If" your favorite wilderness spot unexpectedly became a construction zone, and to "Adopt an Acre" of the Glen Tana property recently protected in perpetuity by INLC.

Here are ways to participate:

- Submit a photo of your favorite bare and beautiful spot using the hashtag #ItsInOurNature.
- Send a testimonial about local land and waters you love and why you think they should be protected to growe@inlandnwland.org.
- Like and share our campaign messages on social media.
- Make a gift! We are so grateful for your generosity and please know that gifts of every size matter. We are working to recover the costs of preserving Glen Tana so we can protect thousands more acres that are better left bare.

Accreditation

We're excited to share that our accreditation has been renewed! After a rigorous verification process by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy has proven that we have sound finances, practice ethical conduct and responsible governance and can ensure lasting stewardship. A win for conservation and our community!



PHOTO CREDIT: Lorenzo Menendez



"NO" on 2117

This November, Washington voters will decide on Ballot Initiative 2117, which would repeal the Climate Commitment Act. Inland Northwest Land Conservancy has joined an unprecedented, growing coalition of over 450 businesses, land trusts, Tribes, nonprofits, labor unions, and community-based organizations that have come together to oppose I-2117. This initiative is a bad deal for our community -- it would result in more toxic air pollution and take funding away from projects protecting thousands of acres of forest, salmon habitat, farmland, and more across the state. Learn more at no2117.com

2018

In 2018, your Conservancy helped shepherd Inland Empire Paper's sale of 898 acres on Mica Peak to Spokane County Parks, adding to a network of parkland open to the public east of Spokane.

2020

In 2020, INLC secured \$1.5 million in state funding with help from Representative Marcus Ricelli to purchase 94 acres of land slated for development along the Little Spokane River but now turned into a permanent wildlife refuge and network of foot trails, our Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve.

Calling the Salmon Home

By Heidi Lasher, Conservancy Volunteer

In midsummer, paddlers representing tribes from the Upper Columbia River watershed traveled 100 miles in dug-out canoes and kayaks to the flooded shores of Kettle Falls. Hundreds of friends and family members gathered to welcome them and to call the salmon home.

For 80 years, not a single salmon or steelhead has swum its way into the Upper Columbia River to spawn. Yet the tribes of the upper Columbia have never stopped calling them home.

In the Spokane River, salmon migration ended when Little Falls Dam was built in 1910, but it was the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam in 1942 that ended salmon migration in the entire Upper Columbia River basin. The dam blocks more than 40 percent of salmon spawning and rearing habitat. Since then, tribal efforts to return salmon to what's called "the blocked area" have been resolute and persistent. "The Spokane Tribe believes when the salmon return home, we will begin to heal," said Greg Abrahamson, the chairman of the Spokane Tribal Business Council, in a recent news release.

She crossed Wells Dam on the same day that the recreational fisheries opened.

In 2015, the Upper Columbia United Tribes, including the Spokane Tribe of Indians, United Colville Tribes, Kootenai, and Coeur d'Alene Tribes launched a 30-year, multi-phased project to bring the salmon home. "That year, we received about a thousand summer Chinook salmon eggs," recalls Connor Giorgi,

Anadromous Program Manager for the Spokane Tribe. "We had limited capacity to grow the fish, but we incubated them using a recirculating aquaculture system at fisheries. We had a dedicated staff tending to eggs and fry who took water and rocks from Tshimakain Creek to mimic the geochemistry of the creek to imprint on them." Later, the team implanted 753 yearlings with PIT tags and released them into the river.

Antennas located on fish passage facilities all over the Columbia basin detected the fish as they made their journey to the ocean. "About 90 individuals were detected below Chief Joseph Dam," recounts Giorgi. "Then 24 were detected at or downstream of Bonneville Dam. We were floored."

To reach the ocean, yearling salmon above Grand Coulee Dam must swim the bewildering wilderness of Lake Roosevelt, pass over three dams without fish passage, and then reach the anadromous zone, freshwater habitat used for reproduction, where they pass over nine more dams. Along the way, they fall prey to pike minnow, walleye, bass, and all matter of birds. No one knew if the fish would survive the journey to the ocean, nor if any would make it back home again.

"Two years later, a fish was detected at Bonneville Dam," says Giorgi. "We followed her as she crossed each dam on her way back up the Columbia River basin. She crossed Wells Dam on the same day that the recreational fisheries opened. We called our



▲ Salmon release with the Spokane Tribe at Glen Tana

▲ Conservancy volunteers, Mark and Jocelyn Merhab, sorting eggs at the Spokane Fish Hatchery

co-managers downstream to keep an eye out for the fish, and two weeks later, the Colville Tribe said they found our fish at the Chief Joseph Hatchery.”

Inspired by the strength of the salmon and the dedication of area tribes, INLC is working with the Spokane and other local tribes to support their efforts to return salmon into the Upper Columbia River system. As a keystone species, salmon play an essential role in the regional ecology, providing food and nutrients to bears, birds, humans, and even forests.

“The continued protection and restoration of our aquatic habitat will be critical over the next twenty years as we work on phase two implementation,” explains Giorgi. “We want to acclimate fish to the Spokane River Watershed and Little Spokane, so they have the smell of home in their minds, and ultimately the drive to return there. Securing the land at Glen Tana will give the tribe that opportunity.” This salmon, who found her way home, was the first of many that have been returned to the watershed. Her

hide was preserved, and her remains were put back in the creek.

“This salmon who found her way home is a story that paints the bigger picture of why the Conservancy’s work to protect places like Glen Tana is so important! Salmon are strong and resilient. They fight to survive. But after generations of habitat loss and a changing climate, they need our help. The Glen Tana project opens opportunities for Spokane Tribal Fisheries to bring salmon back to their native waterways by the tens of thousands—elevating and accelerating the vital work of restoring native runs of this keystone species. For tribes, for fish, animals, and plants, for all who call this region home.”

- Carol Corbin, Conservancy Philanthropy and Communications Director

FUN FACT

Did you know? Anadromous fish, like salmon, migrate from freshwater rivers to the ocean and back to reproduce in the exact stream they were born in!



Leaders with Loomis:

“Land conservation brings people together, results are visible. Restoration projects are important as they bring about a lasting legacy.

- Debra Schultz, Conservancy Board Member and Founder

2022

In 2022, INLC guided 89 acres of land in the Beacon Hill area into permanent conservation, land available for people to enjoy, through a series of transactions involving Avista and Spokane County and the City of Spokane.

In 2022, the Conservancy used its Conservation Opportunity Fund to buy 55 acres of the Saltese Uplands that recreationists were using but were actually privately owned and vulnerable to development, then sold the land to Spokane County Parks to expand the Saltese Uplands Conservation Area between Spokane and Liberty Lake.



Planting for the future

Photos and story by Mitchell Clark, Conservancy Volunteer

This summer, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy completed work on a native plant nursery at the Glen Tana property. The project, which provides ideal conditions for up to 4,000 plants, will help with conservation efforts by the Conservancy and partners like the Spokane Regional Tribes, Washington State Parks, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Creating the nursery was no small feat. First, preserve manager Steven Eddington had to level the ground where the nursery would go - a difficult task, given the relatively steep 5% grade. He built a retaining wall out of railroad ties, filled it with gravel, and covered it with tarp. Then, Steven built a hoop house that will hold shade cloth, protecting plants that can't withstand full sun exposure.

Finally, the team built a heavy-duty exclusion fence around the nursery, to protect plants from herbivores commonly seen at the Glen Tana property. Steven decided to use extra-tall T-posts, which will let the Conservancy add additional height to the fence in months where heavy snow may allow deer and moose to get over the fence.

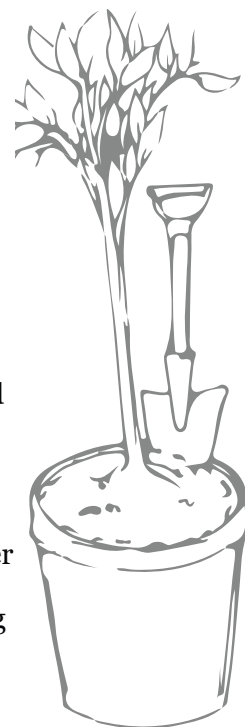
The nursery also features a six-sprinkler irrigation system, which can automatically water the plants based on a predetermined schedule. Brian Walker, a biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (who operates his own backyard nursery), helped build the irrigation system by digging a trench with a mini excavator.

Construction was not without its setbacks. First, there was a delay in shipping materials, which pushed the construction from the Fall of 2023 to Spring of 2024. Then, in February, there was a break-in at the Glen Tana property, where the Conservancy work truck and thousands of dollars' worth of equipment were stolen.

With volunteer season just around the corner, it was vital the Conservancy raise enough funds to replace the equipment. As many times before, the community rallied to help. Local business, Clearwater Paper pledged \$20,000 if the Conservancy could raise \$10,000, and dedicated Conservancy members delivered.

With the funds to replace the stolen equipment secured, and Spring moving in, Steven could again start work on the nursery. Still, there were roadblocks. Construction plans changed a few times to protect wetlands on the edge of the property and to account for features of the land that weren't evident until the crew started leveling.

As the nursery neared completion, nature itself provided a stark reminder of why conservation projects like this are necessary in the face of a changing climate. Temperatures routinely reached over 100 degrees during the





week that Steven, Conservation Intern Emma Watkins, and volunteers were building the exclusion fence meant to keep plants safe from hungry wildlife.

But your Conservancy pushed forward and on July 12th, the nursery was finally finished. The field that was once an empty horse pasture is now home to a native plant nursery with gates that will allow for easy access by Conservancy staff and partners. The nursery is currently home to thousands of native plants, potted by volunteers throughout the spring. Here they'll have everything they need to grow safely to maturity, before being planted throughout the region.

The nursery has a bright future ahead of it. Even with the plants volunteers prepared this spring, there's still room for more. Steven has considered seeding the area surrounding the nursery with native grasses like great basin wild rye, to further restore the area to be closer to its natural state.



Every step of the process required immense dedication from volunteers, partners, and supporters. Without your help, the Conservancy wouldn't have been able to complete this project that's so important for our region's future.

2023

In 2023, your Conservancy bought the 1,060 acre Glen Tana property along two miles of the Little Spokane River from the family that had owned it for a century, forestalling unwanted development and allowing for a future of Spokane Tribe and Washington State Parks ownership and the return someday of native salmon runs and expanded hiking trails.





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For more information visit our website at www.inlandnwland.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [InlandNWLand](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie

Save the Date

Tuesday, December 3rd

For Common Ground, our annual celebration of local conservation. Join us in Spokane on Tuesday, December 3 in the Community Building lobby to mingle with staff and meet other Conservancy supporters who are just as passionate about our local natural spaces as you are

Register for this free event, or learn more at:

InlandNWLand.org/event/Common-Ground-2024

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:



3,650

Native trees planted since last thank-a-thon



58

Legacy givers (those who've named INLC in their estate plans)



5-87

Age range of volunteers who worked with us this year



22,534

Visitors to Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve so far this year