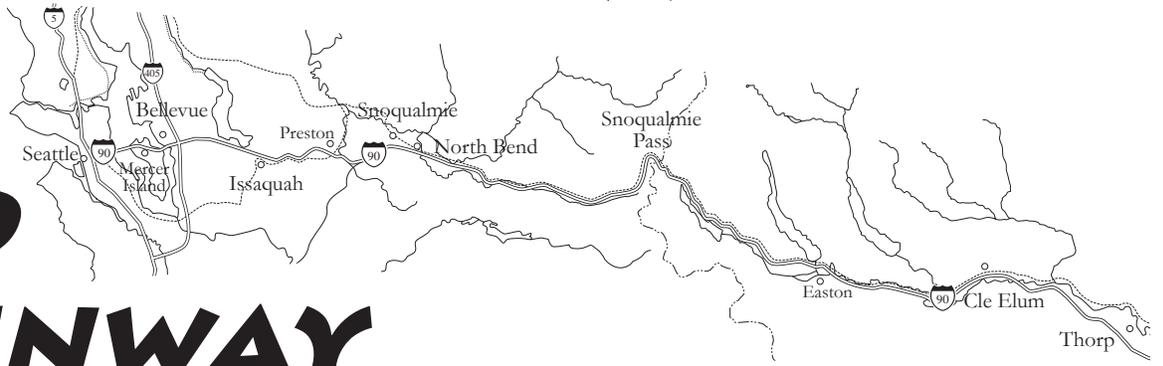


MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY



Linking Forests, Trails and History along I-90 in Washington State

Volume 12, Number 1
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Photo Kevin Geraghty

A shoulder of Preacher Mountain looms over one of the last private parcels along the upper Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Early this month, 120 acres, including the riverbank on both sides, changed hands. See story page 2.

GREENWAY DAYS 2005 SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10-12 - SEE PAGE 3.

Private donors help protect critical riverfront in the Middle Fork Valley

The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River is a 110,000-acre wild forested area that begins just 45 minutes east of Seattle. The river attracts kayakers and canoers, the valley contains miles of trails reaching into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and the river and forests sustain a large wildlife population. Local, state and federal government agencies have been slowly buying out scattered private owners there for the past 10 years, in an effort to sustain the wild qualities of the Middle Fork.

Now, deep in the upper reach of the valley, several private donors have joined with public funders to buy the final private, riverfront parcel in the area that remained unprotected from development. Known as the Moore Oxbow Property, 120 acres were recently purchased for eventual sale to the US Forest Service. They lie roughly two miles upstream from the Taylor River Campground.

“This is almost a mile of riverfront,” says Mark Boyar, of the Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition, “and it includes a complete oxbow of the river. In one stretch, the property straddles both side of the river. Several streams drain into the property and create wetlands and marshy areas. Those are important food sources for wildlife. For people,” Boyar adds, “long, sunny gravel bars are places for fishing, wading and walk-in camping and there are spectacular views of Mt. Garfield. Being the last unprotected riverfront in the upper valley,” he says, “this is a huge milestone.”

The Moore property has history too. It was owned by descendants of W. H. Taylor, after whom the tributary, Taylor River, is named.

“When the owners were ready to sell,” Boyar says, “the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) contacted the owners and began to look for funding. We were very lucky that several private donors could step in to complete the purchase.” Early in January the CLC, under project manager Chip Nevins, purchased the property to hold until



Skunk cabbage flourishes in the Oxbow wetlands.

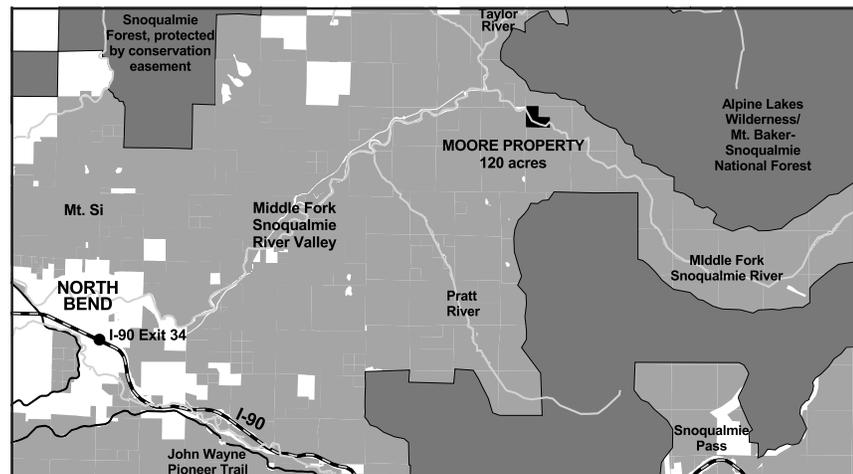
the US Forest Service is ready to acquire it.

Private Donations Fund the River Legacy

Donations by the Mountaineers Foundation, the Osberg Family Trust, the late Patsy Collins and an anonymous donor enabled the CLC to buy the Moore Oxbow. The Osberg Family Trust and the Mountaineers Foundation have also funded public agencies and volunteer groups to tackle the problem of dumping and vandalism in the Middle Fork Valley. In summer 2004, the Osbergs supported the Greenway Trust in removing illegal river access points that enabled people to drive into the river and dump garbage or practice illegal target shooting. Next summer, Mountaineers Foundation funds will support restoration work on the Moore Property.

“Thanks to their generosity,” Boyar says, “we are seeing this spectacular wild place, practically in Seattle’s backyard, reclaimed for wildlife and recreation.”

Boyar also credits the non-profit group Friends of the Trail for rallying volunteers to remove trash from the Moore property and many other sites.



Going to School in the Woods

The Mountains to Sound Greenway on the edge of the Seattle metropolitan area provides an easy escape for outdoor recreation lovers into a green landscape of forests and mountains. But hundreds of thousands of acres of public land along I-90 also constitute an accessible classroom for students from city schools.

“Right now, we are just beginning to explore the ‘classroom’ facet of the Greenway,” says Greenway Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith. “The easy access to backcountry areas that the interstate highway provides suggests plenty of interesting ideas for outdoor education in the future.”

Exploring Forest on the Edge

In the fall of 2004, 607 students in King County schools participated in classroom lessons, and 582 students went on field trips to Tiger Mountain State Forest as part of the Greenway Trust’s environmental education program called “Seeking Solutions.” Designed for 5th through 12th graders, the program sends educator Sally Kentch into classrooms and forests with three units of study that explore the challenges of sustaining a natural environment in balance with the needs of a growing population.

“Forests on the Edge” explores the benefits of keeping forests near the city; “Forests and Fins” illustrates why healthy forests are important to salmon and “Greening up the Greenway” uses biosolids recycling as an example of the quest for sustainable practices.



Washington Middle School students take part in a field lesson at Tiger Mountain State Forest, which includes a hike in the forest and scientific experiments.

Nothing Dull about Dirt

New this year is a fourth curriculum choice: “Savvy about Soil, Wise about Water.” “Students need to understand some basic things about the soil under our feet before they can understand the relationships between growing trees, water quality and healthy salmon habitat.” Kentch says. She received a grant from the Northwest Biosolids Management Association to develop the new curriculum.

“Seeking Solutions” has been offered to schools throughout King County since 1997, supported by a grant from the Wastewater Treatment Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Recently, Kentch received letters from seventh and eighth grade students she had taught at Salmon Bay Middle School in Ballard. One student said, “The trees of Washington...don’t want to be wasted like marshmallows in the hands of small children.” Another said, “It’s hard to find a good compromise between space for nature and space for humans. I have also had a hard time thinking of a compromise, but I came up with a very simple answer: humans need to be more concentrated, thoughtful and way less greedy.” He added ways to achieve that: use both sides of a piece of paper, plant trees, recycle and remind others to do the same.

Teachers can obtain detailed information about “Seeking Solutions” by contacting Sally Kentch at 206-524-1665 or sally.kentch@mtsgreenway.org, or by visiting www.mtsgreenway.org and clicking on Environmental Education.

Second Annual **GREENWAY** **DAYS** festival June 10-12, 2005

Mark your calendars now for the second annual 3-day festival to celebrate the Mountains to Sound Greenway! Take part in events throughout the 100-mile Greenway between Seattle and central Washington:



**Mountains to Sound
Adventure Relay Race**

**Hidden Treasures
Scavenger Hunt, with
prizes**

**Hikes and
interpretive walks**

**Concerts and
Picnics**

**Boat rides and
bicycle trips**



**For more
information about
Greenway Days,
visit
www.mtsgreenway.org**

Artwork by David Horsey.

Lake Easton Lands Protected

About halfway between Snoqualmie Pass and Cle Elum at I-90 exit 70, Lake Easton State Park is a popular getaway for hiking, camping and cross country skiing. In the past two years, much of the view south across the lake was purchased for public ownership.



View from new public land looking north across Lake Easton.

In late 2004, more forested acres were protected. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) purchased development rights to 465 acres of land from Cabin Creek, LLC, for public ownership by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) and Washington State Parks. "There are 89 acres of this acquisition adjacent to the cross-state John Wayne Pioneer Trail, and those will become part of Lake Easton State Park," explains Kent Whitehead, TPL's Project Manager for the acquisition. "The remainder are protected by a WADNR conservation easement so that the owner may conduct limited timber operations but development is precluded." An earlier phase of the project protected 528 acres in 2003.

"Protection of these Lake Easton lands brings together a variety of conservation goals," Whitehead says, "including protecting

habitat in the Yakima River Wildlife Corridor, increasing recreational opportunities, and preserving the outdoor experience for people who frequent the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and Iron Horse State Park. Preservation of this area will enhance trail access and preserve the views along the trail, and from Lake Easton State Park and the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Scenic Byway."

The project also highlights the cooperation among federal and state agencies including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Conservation groups including the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the Cascades Conservation Partnership and TPL, also worked together to protect this landscape. Funding for the 2003 phase came from a US Fish and Wildlife grant and funding for the 2004 phase came from the federal Forest Legacy Program.

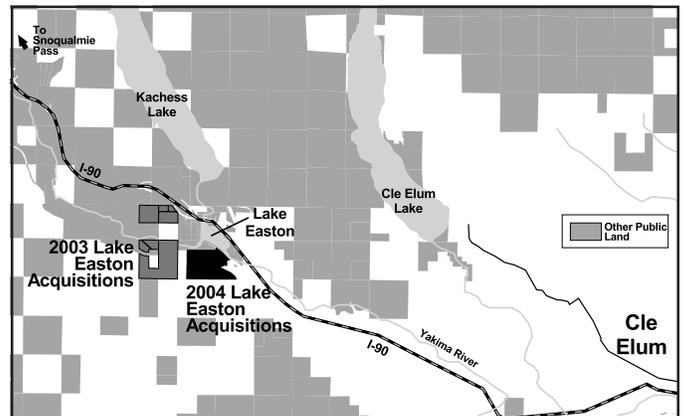


Photo John Graitum

Snoqualmie Tribe Creation Painting Unveiled



In summer 2004, Tom and Gloria Bernard, right, celebrated the unveiling of the Snoqualmie Creation Painting, depicting a creation story of the Snoqualmie Tribe. Artist Chris Hopkins and his wife Jan are on the left. Commissioned by the Bernards, a replica of the original painting is on display at the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum.

Photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum.



Greenway

Connecting People and Landscapes
Through Volunteer Stewardship

Volunteer Program

Field Notes

The work scheduled for 2005, the 10th anniversary of the Greenway Trust's volunteer program, is fitting. Volunteers will look to the future with some new projects as well as revisit sites from the past.

The year kicks off with volunteers and crews at the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area, jumping in to the backlog of 30 miles of trail maintenance. During the winter volunteers will also plant thousands of seedlings at the Mountains to Sound Nursery to restock for future tree planting events.

In spring, the top mile of the Mt. Si Trail will receive some much-needed maintenance. Volunteers will have a long trek ahead of them but hikers will surely appreciate the improvements.

The summer focus, for what may be the final year, will be on linking together more segments of the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail.

Through the summer and into the fall, there will be continued maintenance on restoration sites--including invasive plant removal and more tree planting--on Mercer Island, and in Issaquah and the Upper Snoqualmie Valley.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Sammamish Stewardship Saturday

Saturday, March 12
at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah

10th Annual Volunteer Day in the Greenway

Saturday, May 21
Projects in communities all along I-90
Sponsored by Puget Sound Energy & Asplundh

Check www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer for the latest updates on these events.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2004

Environmental Restoration

Volunteers worked at 23 sites to plant over 16,000 trees and shrubs, and to remove acres of invasive plants. The sites included natural areas along Issaquah Creek, Tibbetts Creek, Gardiner Creek, Kimball Creek, the Snoqualmie River and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

Two miles of abandoned logging roads were removed by young people in the Mountain Works program on Rattlesnake Mountain last summer.

Trail Maintenance and Construction

Young volunteers also worked at Rattlesnake Mountain to continue connecting new segments of the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail.

Other trail improvements included new structures and more gravel on the Mt. Si and Little Si trails, heavy brushing of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, better river access for kayakers along the Mid Fork River, and a new trail connection to complete a loop through Soaring Eagle Park.

Volunteer Involvement

This work was accomplished in 15,560 volunteer hours, the equivalent of a full-time, 4-person crew working for 2 years! The thousands of hardworking people who volunteered their time deserve much thanks for these impressive improvements to the scenery, environmental health and access to recreation in the Mountains to Sound Greenway.



Emily Morgan helped lead a project for 50 Microsoft volunteers at the Mountains to Sound Nursery last fall. "I had fun getting to know these people--they worked so hard! I'm glad I could help them participate in something connected to the outdoors."

NEW AMERICORPS STAFF

Emily Morgan comes to the Greenway Trust through the Washington Service Corps, a division of AmeriCorps. Since she began in October 2004, she has already made a big impact on the volunteer program.

She has tackled everything from routine office work to leading projects on the ground. Several volunteers have commented on how organized and fun she is to work with.

Emi will lead the potting of thousands of trees at the nursery this winter.

See the next page for a list of winter volunteer events!

SEEDLING PLANTING SEASON AT THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND NURSERY



Join us at the nursery!

Saturday, Jan. 15
Monday, Jan. 17
Sunday, Jan. 23
Saturday, Jan. 29
Saturday, Feb. 5



All projects run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Groups and individuals are welcome.

Please R.S.V.P.

by phone: 206-812-0122

email: volunteer@mtsgreenway.org

or on-line at:

www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer

Above and below: This organized team of volunteers from Starbucks potted 920 plants in just one day. This winter volunteers will plant several species of native trees and shrubs including Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, Low Oregon Grape, Black Hawthorn, Serviceberry, Nootka Rose, Indian Plum and others.

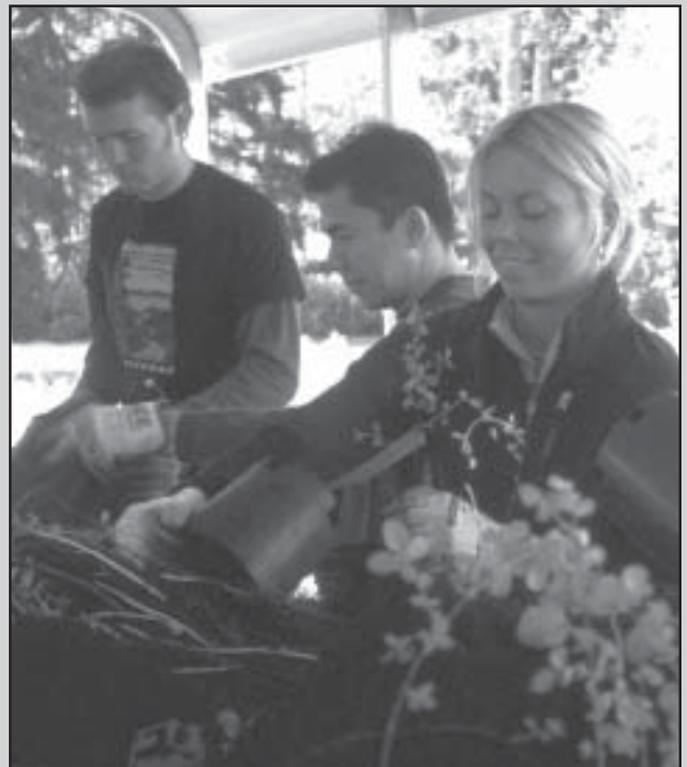
Native trees and shrubs are always needed at Greenway environmental restoration projects. These plants provide food and habitat for wildlife, clean our air and water, and make our natural areas more beautiful.

This winter, volunteers will pot thousands of seedlings into containers for future projects. They will live in the nursery for one or two years before being planted in parks and natural areas all along the I-90 landscape.

Don't let rainy days keep you from joining in the fun! This cold, wet weather is perfect for the baby trees (and, fortunately for humans, most of the work happens outdoors but under the cover of the potting shed).

The Greenway Trust will provide all the tools and plants for the project, and even coffee and hot chocolate to keep your fingers warm. Volunteers should dress for the weather and prepare to get a little grubby. Ideal gloves for tree potting are warm glove liners underneath loose waterproof gloves like those used for washing dishes.

As always, no experience is necessary and volunteers of all ages are welcome. The nursery is located at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah.



Tiger Mountain Trails Need Your Help!

About 35 miles of multiple-use trails wind through the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA), past beautiful forests with views of quiet lakes, mossy stumps from old timber harvests, birds nests and hollowed out trees, an abandoned bus, and other natural and man-made curiosities. Tiger Mountain is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) for multiple uses. One third of the land, about 4,400 acres, is protected as the Tradition Plateau and West Tiger NRCA. The NRCAs are designed for low-impact recreation opportunities and facilities to coexist with a diverse collection of native plants and wildlife. Unlike the rest of the state forest, the trees here are never harvested.

The trails winding through this area are even more special considering their location. Easily accessible from I-90, they are only 20 minutes from a major metropolitan area of 3 million people. An estimated 100,000 people use these trails each year. Tiger Mountain's High Point trailhead is probably the most visited in the state.

All of these feet, wheels and hooves have a big impact on trails. Over time they cause erosion and sedimentation into streams and, where the trail isn't clearly marked, multiple "braided" trails can appear where there should only be one. The winter storms in 2003 and 2004 caused a great deal of damage in addition to the already poor condition of Tiger Mountain Trails.

Unfortunately, the WADNR has experienced serious budget cuts and has not been able to maintain or improve Tiger Mountain Trails in over 4 years. The only maintenance has been emergency work by volunteer groups such as the Washington Trails Association. Without serious maintenance, the DNR could be forced to close trails to protect the safety of users and the ecological resources.

The specific trail maintenance needs were identified in a study done in 2003. In 2004, the WADNR received a King District Trail Maintenance grant and an NRTP (National Recreation and Trails Program) Trail Maintenance grant to get this work done. Because the NRCAs are low-elevation, the work can begin early in 2005.

In 2005, volunteers from the Mountains to Sound Greenway, Washington Trails Association and Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club will start to get things back on track. Volunteers and crews will walk almost every mile of the NRCA trails to repair the trail tread by adding gravel; clean water bars, side ditches and culverts; make

damaged boardwalks useable until they can be replaced; cut back overgrown brush; add better trail signage; build raised trail structures like turnpike and more.

This work will reduce the 5-year backlog of maintenance and, if it continues annually, should to keep trails open, safe and useable and to reduce adverse impacts to NRCA's ecological habitat values for the next 15-20 years. One of the other important improvements will be to bring the loop trail back to ADA standards so that people with disabilities can enjoy this special area.



Many of the trails on Tiger Mountain were originally built by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, and others evolved from old logging roads. Now that these trails are virtual forest highways for the many visitors each year, it's important to keep them well-maintained for environmental quality as well as the safety of people and wildlife.

Join a Tiger Mountain Event!

Volunteers are welcome to participate any Saturday from January 15 - May 21. All events will start at the High Point Trailhead at 9:00 a.m., sharp. Volunteers should plan to stay the whole day and will be back to the trailhead by 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers expect to walk anywhere from 1/2 to 5 miles at each event. Because the strenuousness varies each day, this trail work is appropriate for ages 14 years old and up. Younger volunteers may attend if they are each accompanied by an adult. **Please R.S.V.P. to Kelly Kirkland by phone at 206-812-0122, by email at volunteer@mtsgreenway.org or on-line at: www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer.**

Fun Tiger Facts

- * The most used trails are the Swamp Trail, the Big Tree Trail, the Bus Trail, the Around the Lake Trail and the West Tiger 3 trail.
- * West Tiger 3, one of three peaks, is at elevation 2522. From this public viewpoint you can see as far as Puget Sound.
- * The whole mountain has more than 80 miles of trails which are used by hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and paragliders. One loop trail was even designed according to ADA standards for use by wheelchairs.

2004 GREENWAY PROGRESS

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The annual Mountains to Sound Greenway celebration of achievements on December 1, 2004, was a showcase for accomplishments by many people in the 100-mile Greenway corridor over the year.

EVENT SPONSORS WERE:

Bernard Development Company
CH2M HILL
Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP
HomeStreet Bank
Port Blakely Communities and Port Blakely Tree Farm
Preston Gates and Ellis LLP
Suncadia
Talus

Master of Ceremonies, **Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels**, presented an inspiring list of projects and the people that worked to make them happen:

THORP TO EASTON

- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) acquisition of 548 acres near the confluence of the Cle Elum and Yakima Rivers, as well as Hansen ponds and Cle Elum salmon hatchery improvements – BPA representatives **Scott Nicolai** and **David Byrnes** and Suncadia representative **George Cockill**
- Suncadia purchase of 302 acres above Roslyn for permanent open space – **Peg Bryant** of RIDGE and **Bill Hunt** from Suncadia
- Final two trestles built near Easton to fully John Wayne Pioneer Trail– **Tim Schmidt** from Washington State Parks and **Walt Farrar** of the John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association
- Public land acquisition of 465 acres at Lake Easton State Park and along the John Wayne Pioneer Trail – **Kent Whitehead** of the Trust for Public Land, **Brad Pruitt** representing the Washington State

Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) as well as the Forest Legacy Program that provided funding for the acquisition, and **Charlie Raines** of the Cascades Conservation Partnership

SNOQUALMIE PASS TO SNOQUALMIE VALLEY

- 20 illegal river access sites removed in the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie Valley to prevent unlawful shooting, dumping garbage, drug activity and driving into the river – **Allan Osberg** representing the Osberg Family Trust and **Jim Franzel** of the US Forest Service

added to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area – **Gene Duvernoy** of the Cascade Land Conservancy, **Bonnie Bunning**, WADNR, and **Mike Lowry** and **Craig Lee** as founders of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

- New trailhead at Mt. Si – **Kelly Heintz**, WADNR
- Rebuilding of the first two miles of the popular Mt. Si trail – **Kelly Heintz**, WADNR and **Elizabeth Lunney**, Washington Trails Association
- Meadowbrook Farm riparian habitat improvements – Snoqualmie Mayor **Fuzzy Fletcher**, **Tina Miller** and **Ken Pritchard** of King County Water and Land Resources Division
- New Meadowbrook Farm interpretive center, designed to emulate a Native American longhouse – **Mary Norton** and **Dave Battey** of the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association, **George Cook** from Quadrant Corporation
- Cedar River Watershed Education Center at Rattlesnake Lake interpretive exhibits finished –



Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels presided over an impressive array of 2004 accomplishments in the Greenway.

- New river access points for kayaks along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River – **Tom O'Keefe** representing American Whitewater, **Dave Kimmett** from King County Parks, **Jon Byerly** of the WADNR, and **Nancy Rottle**, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Washington
- Crown Lakes acquisition of 597 acres including 3 gem-like alpine lakes to be

Marie Ruby, City of Seattle and **Joel Sisolak**, Friends of the Cedar River Watershed

- Two miles of trail on Rattlesnake Mountain built, and two miles of unused logging roads removed – **Doug McClelland**, WADNR, **Roberta King**, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, **Tokya Colpitts**, EarthCorps

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY TO ISSAQUAH

- 118 acres of Log Cabin Reach lands protected along Issaquah Creek, 5 miles south of Issaquah – **Mary Maier**, King County Basin Steward; **Faith Roland**, King County Open Space Acquisitions; **Gene Duvernoy**, Cascade Land Conservancy and **Virginia Anderson**, property owner
- Kees Creek salmon habitat improvements including new culvert under Issaquah-Hobart Road, and Tibbetts Creek habitat restoration and water quality improvements near State Route 900 – **Kerry Ritland** from the City of Issaquah, **Su Thieda** of EarthCorps, Issaquah Mayor **Ava Frisinger** and **Ron Paananen**, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Issaquah invasive plant removals – **Chrys Bertolotto**, City of Issaquah
- New trees and shrubs planted along I-90 – **Ron Paananen**, WSDOT
- Quick storm cleanup on Greenway trails in the Issaquah Alps – **Chris Bell**, Washington Trails Association
- New mile of trail through Grand Ridge Open Space – **Dave Kimmett**, King County Parks
- Taylor Mountain Forest recreation plan implemented – **Jack Simonson**, King County Parks
- New Centennial Park in Snoqualmie – **Al Frank**, Snoqualmie Parks Department
- Little Si trail improvements – **Matt Kearns**, REI
- Annual Day in the Greenway volunteer events sponsored by Puget Sound Energy and Asplundh – **Sue McLain**, Puget Sound Energy, **Mic Kavran**, Asplundh

- Stewardship partners help Greenway volunteers on the ground – **Kirk Thomas**, Washington Conservation Program, **Steve Dubiel**, EarthCorps and **John Spring**, Spring Family Trust for Trails

BELLEVUE TO SEATTLE

- New bicycle trail circles the south end of Lake Washington - **Pete Lagerwey**, **Trevor Partap** and **Katherine Casseday** from the Seattle Department of Transportation
- Green Seattle Partnership to save Seattle's urban forests – **Pieter Bohlen**, Cascade Land Conservancy and **Steve Nicholas**, Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment

- Snoqualmie Forest preserves 90,000 acres of forestland, the largest public land acquisition ever in the Greenway – King County Executive **Ron Sims**; **Larry Phillips**, King County Council; **Gene Duvernoy**, Cascade Land Conservancy and **John Davis**, Hancock Timber Resource Group

FIRST ANNUAL GREENWAY DAYS

- First Annual Greenway Discovery Days in June 2004 was a rousing success, thanks to these sponsors – **Sue McLain**, Puget Sound Energy; **Dennis Madsen** and **Will Chin**, REI; **Dave Wise**, The Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer; **Danny Levine**, NationAd Communications and Lexus of Bellevue; King 5 Television; **John Adams** and **Ruth Winbauer**, Port Blakely Communities; **Dan Brewster** and **Trevor Kostanich**, Summit at Snoqualmie; **Ross Bogue**, the Boeing Company; Rowley Properties; **Janet Ray**, AAA; **Nick Henderson**, Suncadia; the Washington Athletic Club and the Talus community in Issaquah.

AWARDS:

Greenway Trust President **Bill Chapman** joined Past President **Sally Jewell** and **Greg Nickels** to close the program with Citation of Merit awards to four people who have made

special commitments to projects in the Mountains to Sound Greenway:

- **Dave Battey**, for his efforts to preserve Meadowbrook Farm and Snoqualmie Valley history
- Snoqualmie Mayor **Fuzzy Fletcher**, for the Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative
- **Faris Taylor**, for first annual Greenway Days
- **Leon Kos**, for first annual Greenway Days and his leadership in Issaquah



Citation of Merit award winners at the December 2004 event were, from left to right, Dave Battey, Fuzzy Fletcher, Leon Kos and Faris Taylor.

- Luther Burbank Park invasive ivy removal
- 7.5-acre addition to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park – **Steve Williams**, manager of Cougar Mountain, **Larry Phillips** and **Carolyn Edmonds** from the King County Council

MAJOR LAND ACQUISITIONS

- Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative preserves lands in the Raging River basin, along the backdrop of Snoqualmie Falls, and along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail – **Gene Duvernoy**, Cascade Land Conservancy, Snoqualmie Mayor **Fuzzy Fletcher**, King County Executive **Ron Sims**

PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #3

TIGER MOUNTAIN



Photo by Larry Hanson

Heading east at Issaquah, Tiger Mountain dominates the view from the I-90 exit 15 overpass. The large, forested mountains south of I-90 from Issaquah east to the State Route 18 interchange, are all part of the 13,000-acre Tiger Mountain State Forest, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The highest of three Tiger Mountain summits, East Tiger, reaches 3004 feet, about the height of Snoqualmie Pass.

Tiger Mountain is divided into protected natural areas and working forests, where harvests provide money for state schools and universities and other services. Historic logging railroad grades now make up many of the trails for hikers, bikers and equestrians. According to the Issaquah Historical Society, the mountain may have been named after Tiger lilies that blossom in Tiger's meadows in the spring.

Two main access points for recreation lead to 80 miles of trails. One is at High Point, on the south side of I-90 at exit 20. The other is at Tiger Summit, about 4 miles south of I-90 on Highway 18. Green Trails Maps publishes a hiking map of Tiger Mountain: www.greentrails.com.

Greenway People:

"In the late 1980s, it became clear that our cities could keep spreading and the great, close-in forests in the foothills of the Cascades could disappear. It seemed like a terrible mistake not to save some for future generations," said Ted Thomsen, one of the founders and significant supporters of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust.

"I had done some hiking," explained Thomsen, "and read Harvey Manning's books on hikes in the Northwest, but I always wanted to get outside more." So he joined the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in 1989. Soon after, a hiker and activist from the club named Jack Hornung recruited him to help find a hiking route from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle.

"I became interested in the Greenway concept then," said Thomsen. "Ralph Owen, Jack Hornung and I spent several months trying to find a route for a public march from Mountains to Sound." The March took place in July 1990 with 85 hikers and succeeded in publicizing the scenery, recreation and wildlife habitat that could be lost without concerted planning and action.

Early Days at the Greenway Trust

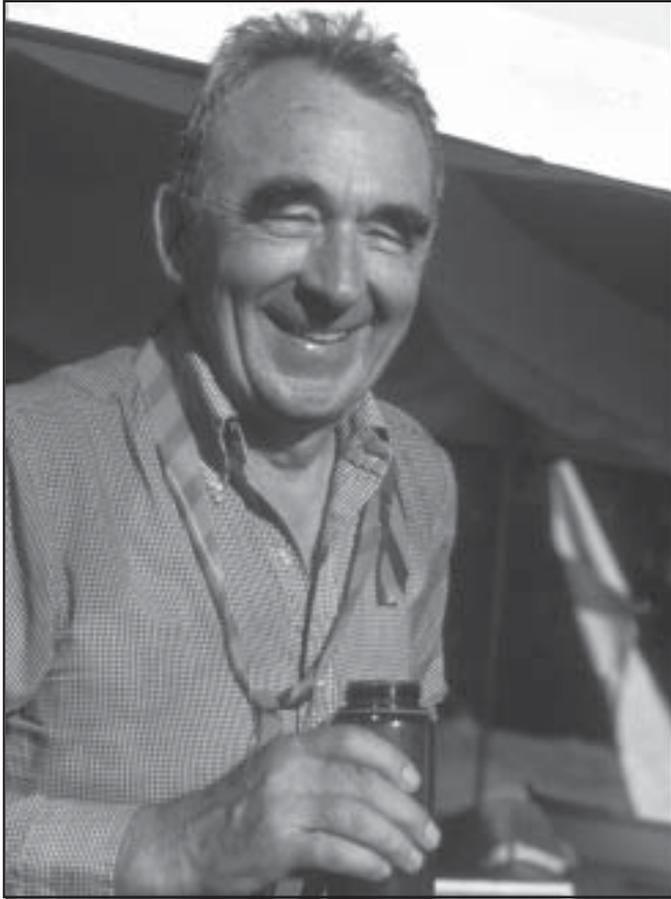
"We formed the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust in 1991 after the public awareness the March produced," Thomsen continued. "Jim Ellis took the lead as founding President. The Trust for Public Land played an essential role in helping start this new organization. Several major corporate donors stepped up to help, including Boeing, Microsoft, Weyerhaeuser, Puget Sound Energy and REI. We had quite a bit of momentum behind us." Thomsen, along with Ellis and then Commissioner of Public Lands, Brian Boyle, signed the original Articles of Incorporation, and Thomsen served as the Greenway Trust's Secretary of the Board until 2003.

Looking at all the success stories in the Greenway over the past 14 years, Thomsen is quite pleased. "We have accomplished more than anyone expected," he proclaimed. "We have protected a significant portion of the forests and trails just outside the greater Seattle area and up over the Cascades. We are on our way to completing an off-road trail between Seattle and central Washington. We're on the right track to make this landscape more well-known in the community so people will continue to care for it in future generations." Thomsen stated that he and his family have been fortunate to be able to be a part of the Greenway effort. "It's a real feeling of accomplishment," he said.

Rattlesnake Ranger

Thomsen has done his share of exploring the Greenway. Dubbed the "Rattlesnake Ranger" by fellow hikers, Thomsen has explored most of Rattlesnake Mountain, just south of North Bend. "I was astounded to see that some of the names I added to my hand-drawn maps ended up permanently on the Green Trails Maps," he said. Names such as Donna's Pinnacle, Owen Creek, Jack's Road and Sally's Swale were names Thomsen assigned to places in recognition of people who had worked to protect the nearby landscape. "I have a future vision of 'hiking by Metro,'" he said, referring to being able to take the bus to a trailhead, hike to another trailhead and return by bus from there.

TED THOMSEN



Ted Thomsen

Thomsen grew up in the small town of Charter Oak, Iowa. “There were 22 in my graduating class,” he laughed, “and two of us went to college, which was quite a lot in those days. Most of the kids stayed on their family farms.” Thomsen spent three years in the Navy and then earned his law degree from Harvard Law School. He spent his whole legal career at the firm now called Perkins Coie, doing legal contract work for Boeing that took him all over the world, and also for Puget Power’s licensing effort for a proposed nuclear power plant in Washington.

World Explorers

Thomsen and his wife of 55 years, Gretchen, have four sons and four grandchildren. “In our retirement, we’re what you might call world travelers,” he said. They have climbed Kilimanjaro, completed a trek around the Annapurna mountain range in Nepal, spent four months backpacking through Southeast Asia, hiked in the Andes in Peru and climbed sand dunes in Morocco. They were among the first non-business travelers allowed in Saudi Arabia, and they bicycled in China and Vietnam before tourists were permitted. Upcoming extended-family trips are planned for a ski vacation at Blackcomb and snorkeling in Belize.

Connecting with the natural world happens in many ways. An artist might notice multiple shades of color, a botanist could offer an explanation of the plant diversity, and a musician would notice bird song. I relearned this lesson on a beautiful spring day while guiding a group of children on an environmental education field trip at Tiger Mountain. One boy’s experience of nature allowed me to broaden the way I interact with the environment.



BIRDS

As the group gathered at the overlook at Tradition Lake, I remained silent allowing them to take in the warm, spring sun, vibrant green deciduous trees juxtaposed with the dark Douglas firs. They noticed the harsh snags looming over the lake and the surface of the water silver and then black from a slight breeze. I started to answer their questions and pose the next bit of information. The familiar imperative honking of Canada Geese started to drown my words and swerve the kids’ attention. With loud incessant calls the geese shhhussed to a stop on the lake. In a split second I realized the young boy next to me had been playing a harmony with the birds, tapping his body and vocalizing to complement what he was hearing. Honks were body slaps; the sibilant sound of webbed feet on water were soft vocalizations. “That’s a filthy rhythm!” he said with a huge, sweet smile.

(filthy=sick=cool=awesome=radical=sweet=bad=wonderful)

- Sally Kentch, environmental educator

RIVER OTTER

The river otter (*Mustela-Lutra canadensis*) is about a fourth in size of the weasel family. Their fur ranges from dark brown to black. They have evolved into aquatic animals, having webbed feet and muscular tails which serve as a rudder. Otters are extremely fast swimmers and can easily catch a fish. Their diet consists mainly of fish and cray fish. A large log in a logjam will often be littered with cray fish shells.



ANIMALS

Otter are both playful and curious. On shore they enjoy running for a short distance and then suddenly dropping down and sliding on their bellies in the snow, or coasting down a steep bank into the water. When they are performing these antics they appear to be smiling. I witnessed an example of their curiosity one time when I was walking along the shoreline of a large pond, which was frozen over with a thin layer of ice. Suddenly, an otter's head broke through the ice and he looked me over. As I progressed along, the head again broke through the ice for another look. This routine took place four times before I left the pond. The soft otter fur is highly prized by the fur industry.

- Morris Jenkins

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Historic Roslyn Cemeteries

In the late nineteenth century, people from all over the world migrated to coal mines in Roslyn and neighboring Cle Elum. While miners worked together in the mines and socialized together in the towns, they lived in their own neighborhoods and were buried in ethnically segregated cemeteries, like this Slovak plot in Roslyn. The last coal mines closed in 1963.



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Protect and enhance a 100-mile corridor of permanent open space lands along Interstate 90 from Seattle to Central Washington. The Greenway embraces city parks and trails, wildlife habitat, working and protected forests, recreational opportunities in nature, local history, scenic beauty, tourism and educational activities that promote a sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment.

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